

Stallings blasts Hansen for negative farm bill vote

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Richard Stallings, Democratic 2nd congressional district nominee, Friday sharply criticized Republican Congressman George Hansen's negative vote on the Agriculture Appropriation Bill last week.

He said "it does not reflect the interests of Idaho's agriculture community, or those concerned with improving the state's environmental quality, or even the citizenry at large."

Stallings said that Hansen's excuse for his negative vote was the fact it contained money for food stamps.

"If there were an objectionable part, Hansen, who claims to have power in the House Agriculture Committee, should have deleted this provision in committee," responded Stallings.

"The overwhelming benefits of this bill far exceed the disadvantages. It funded Food and Drug Administration, Soil Conservation Services, Rural Electrification Administration programs and the Agricultural Stabilization and Conservative Services. There was even some funding for development of overseas markets which in my opinion is the ultimate way of solving the agricultural crisis."

He noted that despite Hansen's negative vote,

the bill was approved by an overwhelming 264-105.

"The funding of the Food and Drug Administration helps enforce quality standards for food production and safety standards for drug research, as well as various food programs for the truly needy," added Stallings."

Stallings also questioned Hansen's no vote because of the implications such a vote has on improving the state's and nation's economy.

Stallings also drew a sharp contrast between their approaches in solving the problems of Idaho.

He described Hansen, to use a football analogy, "a defensive player. He breaks up plays. He votes no.

"He is a very poor offensive player. He cannot get the whole team to work together to complete a long pass. He's too much a loner, too much in the spotlight by himself.

"I believe the problems of today need some offensive plays, some positive actions. Some 75,000 Idahoans are looking, or have given up looking, for jobs."

Stallings noted that Hansen also voted no on the entire appropriation bill for the Department of Transportation.