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AFFI Lauds Final Passage of Farm Bill Adding Frozen Fruits and Vegetables into Popular School Snack Program

McLean, VA – The [American Frozen Food Institute](#) (AFFI) today applauded final congressional approval of a new Farm Bill that expands a popular U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) snack program to enable schools to serve healthy frozen fruit and vegetable snacks.

The U.S. Senate approved the Farm Bill today by a vote of 68-32, following passage by the U.S. House of Representatives last week. The bill expands USDA's Fresh Fruit and Vegetable Program to include a new one-year, \$5 million pilot program that allows elementary schools in five states to test the efficacy of serving canned, dried and frozen fruits and vegetables as snacks to low-income school children during the 2014-2015 school year.

Findings from the USDA-administered pilot program will enable Congress to consider the benefits of permanently expanding the USDA program to include all forms of fruits and vegetables – including frozen – during next year's reauthorization of the *Child Nutrition Act*.

"On behalf of U.S. frozen fruit and vegetable producers, AFFI commends Congress for taking this important step towards establishing a new long-term initiative to improve childhood nutrition by providing schools with the opportunity to offer children the widest possible variety of healthy fruit and vegetable snacks, including frozen," said AFFI President and CEO Kraig R. Naasz.

"The results of a new, landmark study from the [University of Georgia](#) recently highlighted how frozen fruits and vegetables are as rich in nutrients, and often more so, than fresh," said Naasz referring to a new [Frozen Food Foundation](#)-commissioned study.

"We encourage President Obama to sign this bipartisan nutrition legislation, and look forward to working with USDA and school nutritionists to implement this program and further promote healthy eating in schools," concluded Naasz.

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The American Frozen Food Institute is the national trade association promoting and representing the interests of all segments of the frozen food industry. AFFI works to foster industry development and growth, and advocates before legislative and regulatory entities on the industry's behalf. More information can be found at www.affi.org.