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PRESS RELEASE

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Contact: Keiana Barrett
(202) 226-8119

THE CONGRESSIONAL BLACK CAUCUS LAUDS

PASSAGE OF FARM BILL

**CBC Members voted 100% in favor of improving American
nutrition programs.**

Washington, D.C.- "I am most proud of the Congressional Black Caucus of the 110th Congress. Since the commencement of this Congress, CBC Members have helped draft and pass legislation which supports our commitment to America. The passage of this bill represents a sizeable victory for American families, particularly female heads of households. This bill will help build healthier and stronger families, by improving nutrition and access to affordable dietary options. The bill boosts funding for renewable energy programs by 600 percent, encourages the production of renewable energy and, ultimately, energy independence," said Congresswoman Carolyn C. Kilpatrick (D-MI), Chairwoman of the Congressional Black Caucus.

H.R. 2419, the Farm, Nutrition, and Bioenergy Act of 2007, offers significant improvements to the Food Stamp Program, 1890 land-grant institutions, and improves access to programs for Socially Disadvantaged Farmers and Ranchers. This bill also includes language to address outstanding claims from African American farmers through the case *Pigford v. Veneman*.

"This farm bill is a reasonable approach to securing the nation's food and fiber supply," said Homeland Security Chairman Bennie Thompson (D-MS). "Chairman Colin Peterson has worked in good faith with a diverse cross-section of Members to ensure that a respectable balance is restored to our agricultural programs, including those intended to increase conservation efforts."

The CBC worked closely with Agricultural Committee Chairman Peterson to include key provisions:

- Raising the minimum authorization level for 1890s extension;
- Allowing deserving *Pigford* claimants an opportunity to have their cases heard to redress civil rights abuses against Black Farmers;
- Mandatory funding of section 2501 Socially Disadvantaged Farmers and Ranchers Outreach Program;
- Raising the minimum authorization level of Evens-Allen for 1890s research;