Arizona Legislature Calls on U.S. Farm Service Agency to Open Additional Arizona Offices to Better Serve Farmers and Ranchers

STATE CAPITOL, PHOENIX – The Arizona Legislature has passed HCM 2009, a bipartisan concurrent memorial, sponsored by State Representative David Cook, calling on the Farm Service Agency (FSA) to open additional offices in the state to better serve farmers and ranchers.

“FSA offices provide a multitude of programs and services that are critically important for our farmers and ranchers, including guidance on obtaining federal assistance,” said Representative Cook. “But I’ve heard from many that current locations are not always as responsive and knowledgeable on local needs as they should be. So, we’re asking the FSA to reevaluate where its offices are located and to open additional offices to ensure they are best serving customers and communities of interest in Arizona.”

The FSA is within the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) and overseen by the U.S. Secretary of Agriculture. State and county field offices are responsible for implementing farm policy through FSA programs. The FSA supports American farmers and ranchers with farm commodity programs, management, and loans. It also implements ad hoc disaster programs and administers the Conservation Reserve Program. There are currently nine FSA service centers in Arizona and one state office located in Phoenix.

The memorial will be transmitted to the USDA Secretary and the FSA Administrator officially requesting the FSA to:

- Evaluate the current locations of Arizona FSA offices to determine where additional FSA offices are needed;
- Evaluate how the FSA could better support all Arizona farmers and ranchers by locating FSA offices closer to farmers and ranchers; and
- Open additional FSA offices where needed, including in Globe.

David Cook is a Republican member of the Arizona House of Representatives serving Legislative District 8, which includes areas of Pinal and Gila Counties. Follow him on Twitter at @RepDavidCook.

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