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**(Neb.) - Smith Statement on Misguided Child Labor Rule**

By: John Thayer Posted at: 04/25/2012 09:58 AM

**Washington, DC** – Congressman Adrian Smith (R-NE) released the following statement after it was reported the Department of Labor was moving forward with its proposal to limit youth involvement in agriculture:

**“The Labor Department’s decision shows how out of touch this Administration is with Rural America and our way of life,”** said Smith. **“This rule will not only prevent youth from working on a family farm, but there are concerns it will also stop young people from participating in educational programs like 4-H and FFA, or even make it illegal to help a neighbor in need.”**

On September 2, 2011, the Department of Labor published a Notice of Proposed Rulemaking which dramatically would alter current child labor laws as they relate to agriculture. On December 16, 2011, Smith [signed a bipartisan letter](#) along with 152 bipartisan Members of Congress urging Labor Secretary Hilda Solis to re-evaluate a proposed rule, which would place burdensome restrictions on youth participation in agriculture. In October, Smith signed a bipartisan letter with 77 other House Members which secured an extension of the public comment period on the rule.

Smith serves as co-chairman of the Congressional Rural Caucus and as co-chairman of the Modern Agriculture Caucus.