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## **Jilka: Farm Bureau abandons Kansas farmers with Huelskamp endorsement; calls on opponent to return \$110,000 to Washington, D.C. special interest group dedicated to ending farm subsidies**

SALINA, Kan — First district congressional candidate Alan Jilka today responded to the Farm Bureau endorsement of his opponent Tim Huelskamp by calling on him to repay over \$110,000 to a Washington D.C. special interest group devoted to abolishing farm subsidies.

“With this endorsement, the Farm Bureau has abandoned Kansas farmers,” Jilka said.

The Club for Growth, which features more than 20 articles on its website condemning farm subsidies, is Huelskamp’s top campaign donor, with \$110,065 in campaign expenditures. According to Federal Election Commission records, the group’s political action committee paid most of the money to an ad agency in Maryland to run attack ads against Huelskamp’s primary opponent Jim Barnett. The group endorsed Huelskamp in September 2009.

“Agriculture is the backbone of the Kansas economy. It’s unfortunate that an anti-farmer special interests group devoted to destroying our way of life can have so much influence over a candidate. Tim Huelskamp should immediately return the money this special interest group has donated to him, reject their endorsement, and renounce their position that farm subsidies are hurting America,” Jilka said.

When questioned about the endorsement by a reporter from KSAL radio, Huelskamp denied the relationship with the PAC.

The groups claims that farm subsidies ‘distort the agricultural economy’ and are ‘nothing more than an income distribution program.’ The group also claims ‘the notion that we need farm subsidies to protect the country are absurd.’

Jilka takes exception to one claim in particular made by the PAC that ‘farm subsidies impede our ability to expand international trade.’

“It is an absurd, irresponsible statement,” Jilka said. “Members of congress that are bought and sold by

special interest groups like the Club for Growth. These groups are the reason America struggles to expand our foreign markets for farmers.”

The PAC (once referred to by former Republican Presidential candidate Mike Huckabee as ‘the Club for Greed’) was fined \$350,000 by the Federal Elections Commission in 2007 for failing to register as a political committee.

“These special interests in Washington are the reason that government is broken,” Jilka said. "Lobbyists sitting back in their million dollar offices in Washington D.C. writing checks to influence elections in Kansas represents everything that is wrong with politics today.”

Supplemental information:

[Club for Growth FEC report](#)

[Club for Growth press release regarding farm subsidies.](#)

[Club for Growth endorses Huelskamp.](#)

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