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Jilka vows to fight Obama Farm Bill cuts, Huelskamp 'bought' by D.C. special interest group dedicated to ending direct payments

SALINA, Kan. – First district congressional candidate Alan Jilka vows to oppose attempts by the Obama administration to drastically reduce direct payments to farmers, and cuts to crop-insurance companies. He also remains critical of opponent Tim Huelskamp's financial ties to a Washington, D.C. special interest group committed to ending direct payments that has invested more than \$120,000 toward Huelskamp's candidacy.

"From his first day on the job, the President has made clear his intentions to cut support for farmers. That is unacceptable. I will fight this and ensure our farmers are protected," Jilka said.

According to budget officials, direct payments would be cut by \$2.5 billion, an additional \$8 billion in cuts by overhauling the crop insurance industry would be expected in the same 10-year period.

Jilka continues to call out Tim Huelskamp for his ties to the Club for Growth, a Washington, D.C. special interest group out to entirely abolish direct payments to farmers. The Club for Growth Web site currently carries more than 20 articles calling for the elimination of farm subsidies. Among the group's claims are that direct payments '*distort the agricultural economy*' and that '*farm subsidies impede our ability to expand international trade.*'

"We must prevent Tim Huelskamp and Barack Obama from eliminating safety nets for farmers," Jilka said.

"Tim Huelskamp has been bought by an anti-farmer Washington, D.C. special interest group dedicated to ending direct payments. It is a direct conflict of interest for a Kansas politician to align with this group. The next Congressman from Kansas' first district will sit on the Agriculture Committee in Washington and our farmers must know that their representative is looking out for their best interest and not those of a group dedicated to ending direct payments."

A spokesperson for Huelskamp admits the CFG spent \$110,000 on TV commercials attacking their primary opponent Jim Barnett. Huelskamp flatly denied receiving money directly from the special interest group. However, FEC records show \$9,558 in direct expenditures from Club for Growth to the Huelskamp campaign between September and December 2009, making them his largest campaign contributor.

"With the atmospheric changes in Kansas, there is no guarantee that the drought that hit Russia this year couldn't happen in Kansas. We must protect our farmers," Jilka said.

The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Agency, a federal agency monitoring conditions of the oceans and the atmosphere,

reported July 15 that January through June of this year were the hottest six months on record. In Kansas, more than 2,300 hundred cattle perished in July due to extreme heat and humidity. This year the Russian wheat harvest was so decimated by the worst drought on record that the Russian government ended wheat exports for the remainder of the year.

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