VETO OF H.R. 3564

MESSAGE

FROM

THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES

VETOING

H.R. 3564, A BILL TO REQUIRE THE SECRETARY OF AGRICULTURE TO MAKE AN EARLIER ANNOUNCEMENT OF THE 1984 CROP FEED GRAIN PROGRAM AND OF THE 1985 CROP WHEAT AND FEED GRAIN PROGRAMS

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WASHINGTON: 1983
To the House of Representatives:

I am returning herewith without my approval H.R. 3564, "To re-
quire the Secretary of Agriculture to make an earlier announcement of
the 1984 crop feed grain program and of the 1985 crop wheat and feed
grain programs."

H.R. 3564 directs the Secretary of Agriculture to announce the 1984
and 1985 feed grain programs no later than September 30 of the pre-
ceding year and to announce the 1985 wheat program no later than
July 1, 1984. Current law sets November 15 as the announcement date
for feed grains; the wheat program announcement date in current law
is August 15. Thus, in each case the announcements would have to
be made approximately six weeks earlier than the current law now
requires.

The main purpose of acreage adjustment programs is to assist pro-
ducers in adjusting supplies to meet demand. When projecting the
supply/demand situation for the next crop year, it is essential to have
the best possible information about the current crop year, while giving
due consideration to producers’ planning needs. Sound estimates of
production as well as timely announcements are a vital component for
designing successful programs. Good program design ultimately serves
the best interests of producers, consumers, and taxpayers.

The Administration is sympathetic to the need for making acreage
adjustment program announcements as early as possible. When condi-
tions warrant, the Secretary of Agriculture will continue the ongoing
practice of announcing commodity programs before the statutory
deadlines. However, when the appropriate program decision is not
obvious, it is essential that the Secretary retain the discretion to
announce wheat as late as August 15 and feed grains as late as
November 15.

This flexibility will enable the Secretary to respond quickly to
unforeseen circumstances, such as drought or early frost. Without
this flexibility, the mandate in H.R. 3564 could either exacerbate a
surplus supply situation and needlessly increase budget outlays by
substantial amounts or unnecessarily create a grain shortage and cause
food prices to increase sharply.

Ronald Reagan.

The White House, August 12, 1983.

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