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TFI, ARA praise anti-meth legislation

Washington—The Fertilizer Institute and the Agricultural Retailers Association on Jan. 27 praised the Combat Meth Act (S. 103) introduced by Sens. Jim Talent (R-Mo.), Dianne Feinstein (DCalif.), and Chuck Grassley (R-Iowa). If enacted, the legislation would regulate the sale of pseudoephedrine by keeping products that contain it behind a pharmacy counter and by allowing only a pharmacist or pharmacy technician to sell such products. The bill would add pseudoephedrine to the Controlled Substances Act and classify it as a Schedule V drug, limiting consumers to six grams of the product at one time and nine grams over a 30-day period from a pharmacist. In addition, consumers would be required to present proof of identification and sign for the medicine upon purchase. “Since you can’t make meth without pseudoephedrine, this legislation will help keep anhydrous ammonia in the hands of America’s farmers and out of the hands of those with criminal intent.” said TFI President Kraig R. Naasz. Added ARA President Jack Eberspacher, “We believe that this legislation, in conjunction with the voluntary efforts being made by the fertilizer industry...are critical to ultimately winning the war against illicit drug production.” Currently, Oklahoma is the only state to have passed legislation limiting the sale of products containing pseudoephedrine. Since doing so, seizures of clandestine meth labs have declined by about 80 percent, state officials said. Kansas, Iowa, Missouri, Washington and Wyoming have similar legislation pending in their state legislatures. Several senators are co-sponsoring the legislation, and Rep. Roy Blunt (R-Mo.) is sponsoring companion legislation in the U.S. House of Representatives.