

IDAHO POTATO PULSE



Brought to you by the Idaho Potato Commission
Website: www.idahopotato.com

Please see the Press Release below. Congressman Simpson successfully fought off an attempt to remove language from the Agricultural Appropriations Bill that would restore potatoes in the WIC program

From: Press, Simpson [<mailto:Simpson.Press@mail.house.gov>]

Sent: Thursday, May 29, 2014 1:24 PM

Subject: Simpson's Potato Language Included in House Appropriations Bill



News from Congressman Mike Simpson



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Contact Nikki Watts – (208) 334-1953

May 29, 2014

Simpson's Potato Language Included in House Appropriations Bill *Language allows fresh potatoes in WIC*

Washington, D.C. – Idaho Congressman Mike Simpson's language to include fresh potatoes in the Women, Infants, and Children (WIC) nutrition program passed the House Appropriations Committee today. The language was included in the Fiscal Year 2015 House Agriculture Appropriations bill which passed 31-18. Simpson is a member of the committee and voted in favor of the bill.

Congressman Simpson's language allows states to include fresh, white potatoes in the WIC nutrition program administered by the U.S. Department of Agriculture. Congressman Simpson successfully thwarted an attempt to strike his provision from the bill.

"Fresh potatoes have been excluded from the WIC program despite their widely known nutritional value," said Simpson. "This bill corrects the exclusion of fresh potatoes and allows WIC participants to make wholesome food choices for their young families."

Potatoes are currently excluded from the WIC program despite being nutrient dense, affordable, low in calories, and free of fat, cholesterol, and sodium. A medium-sized potato contains more potassium than a banana and is a good source of dietary fiber—both of which are "nutrients of

concern,” meaning those nutrients most lacking in Americans’ diets, according to USDA’s current Dietary Guidelines for Americans.

The bill now awaits consideration by the full House of Representatives.

To view Congressman Simpson defending fresh potatoes in the House Appropriations Committee, visit <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=CA2Ivy2YvMs&feature=youtu.be>

###