

consideration. Drainage is absolutely necessary in the Red River Valley, and necessary drainage of farmland in the swampbuster provision is compatible with it if administered properly.

Mr. Chairman, I want to close these remarks with a few comments on the current sugar program. The current sugar program has been a very successful part of the 1985 farm bill. It has provided the consumers of America with a dependable supply of sugar at a stable price. I cannot think of a better recommendation for a farm program than that.

I could go into much more detail on the economic impact of the sugar industry here in Minnesota and eastern North Dakota, but in the limited time you have today I will leave a recently released report from North Dakota State University with you. The report indicates that the sugarbeet industry in eastern North Dakota and Minnesota has an economic impact of \$1 billion. It provides 14,898 full-time equivalent jobs, and in excess of 15,000 part-time jobs.

One comment on the impact of the drought. If the present dry conditions continue, the 1988 sugarbeet crop will be impacted just like all the other crops growing here. If rain comes soon, and timely rains continue through the months ahead, a fair crop can still be realized. The NDSU report explains the economic impact in great detail.

We want to emphasize to you and your committee the need to continue the present sugar program in the 1990 farm bill. Thank you, Mr. Chairman, for the opportunity to appear today, and thank you for coming to Moorhead.

[The prepared statement of Mr. Sylvester appears at the conclusion of the hearing.]

The CHAIRMAN. Thank you very much, sir.

Mr. Rudningen.

STATEMENT OF GARY W. RUDNINGEN, PRESIDENT, MINNESOTA ASSOCIATION OF WHEAT GROWERS

Mr. RUDNINGEN. Mr. Chairman, and members of the committee, my name is Gary Rudningen. I am a wheat farmer from Murdoch, Minnesota. I am president of the Minnesota Wheat Growers Association, and I am also today speaking on behalf of the National Association of Wheat Growers.

I much appreciate the opportunity to comment on the conservation title of the farm bill, and to explain some of the problems farmers are encountering with the implementation of the swampbuster and conservation compliance provisions of the law.

As a farmer, I am well aware of the need to maintain and conserve our land resources which are basis for the largest industry in our country, agriculture. But there are many different views on how we should maintain these resources. These different views have been addressed, and the choice has been made to use legislation to require the majority of U.S. farmers to maintain these resources.

I am here today in order to report to you on how this new and far reaching legislation will affect wheat farmers, and also be present to testify the case for minor changes in this legislation. I would like this testimony to be put in the Federal registry in com-

