

WASHINGTON - U.S. Rep. Jo Bonner (R-AL) today made the following statement regarding the new federal drought relief package announced by U.S. Agriculture Secretary Mike Johanns:

“The drought has been devastating to our farmers in southwest Alabama,” said Bonner, who is a member of the House Committee on Agriculture. “Over the last year, agricultural producers have experienced widespread loss beginning with the hurricanes of last season. Our agriculture community consists of proud, patriotic Americans who do not complain when Mother Nature deals them a bad hand, but now they need our help. I commend Secretary Johanns for providing this much needed relief to Alabama’s farmers.”

Secretary Johanns announced the federal government is providing \$780 million in emergency drought aid to be distributed across the country to help manage drought and weather related production challenges. The majority of the funding, \$700 million, is early payments of money already due to cotton, grain, soybean, and peanut producers. The package also includes a new \$50 million program for livestock producers impacted by drought.