



The Fertilizer Institute

Nourish, Replenish, Grow

**For Immediate Release:
March 23, 2007**

**Contact: Kathy Mathers
(202) 515-2703**

TFI Lauds House Homeland Security Committee Introduction of “Secure Handling of Ammonium Nitrate Act of 2007”

Rep. Thompson Praised for Championing Bill that Establishes Federal Regulatory System for Registration and Recordkeeping on Sales of Ammonium Nitrate Fertilizer

Washington, D.C. – The Fertilizer Institute (TFI) today lauded Rep. Bennie Thompson (D-Miss.), chairman of the House Homeland Security Committee, for his leadership in introducing the “Secure Handling of Ammonium Nitrate Act of 2007.” The bill would require the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) to create a regulatory system to help keep ammonium nitrate out of the hands of those with criminal intent. Co-sponsors of this bill are Reps. James R. Langevin (D-R.I.), Bob Etheridge (D-N.C.), Sheila Jackson Lee (D-Texas), Loretta Sanchez (D-Calif.), Peter T. King (R-N.Y.), Michael McCaul (R-Texas) and Charles Dent (R-Pa.).

“TFI strongly supports this effort to create a common-sense system for ensuring that ammonium nitrate remains safe for its intended beneficial purpose as a plant nutrient,” said TFI President Ford B. West. “We thank Rep. Thompson for his efforts on behalf of the nation’s agribusiness sector and the farmer customers it serves.”

Specifically, the bill would require all producers, sellers and purchasers who take custody to register with DHS. In addition, the bill would require producers and sellers to maintain records of all sales for three years, including name, address, phone number and registration number to who sold to, and date and quantity of ammonium nitrate sold. The bill, which does not preempt state law, requires all thefts or unexplained losses be reported to federal law enforcement within 24 hours.

- more -

TFI Lauds House Committee Approval of Ammonium Nitrate Security Act

March 23, 2007

Page 2

“This legislation builds on fertilizer retailers ongoing voluntary ammonium nitrate security efforts by creating a uniform national system for tracking the purchases of ammonium nitrate,” said West. “We thank Rep. Thompson for his commitment to agriculture and security.”

-30-

The Fertilizer Institute represents the nation’s fertilizer industry. Producers, retailers, trading firms and equipment manufacturers which comprise its membership are served by a full time Washington, D.C., staff in various legislative, educational and technical areas as well as with information and public relations programs.