

DOL Drops Youth Farm Labor Rule

Kansas Senator Jerry Moran is welcoming the U.S. Labor Department's decision to withdraw a proposed rule designed to protect youth who work on farms, calling it a major victory for farmers and ranchers.

Moran, a Republican, released a statement Thursday evening celebrating the Labor Department's decision to abandon the proposed rule, which he says would have fundamentally altered the future of agriculture in this country. He said the proposed rule would have restricted family farm operations by prohibiting youth under the age of 16 from participating in common farming practices.

In announcing it was dropping its proposal Thursday, the Labor Department noted it would not pursue the matter during the duration of the Obama Administration. The agency says it will work with groups such as the American Farm Bureau Federation and Future Farmers of America to reduce accidents involving young people.

Officials earlier argued new rules were needed because farming is among the nation's most dangerous occupations.