

NATIONAL CORN GROWERS ASSOCIATION

632 Cepi Drive
Chesterfield, Missouri 63005
www.ncga.com

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

For more information contact:
Janice Tolley Walters, NCGA, 202-628-7001
walters@dc.ncga.com

NCGA Encouraged by Senate Passage of Pending Free Trade Agreements

WASHINGTON (October 12, 2011) -- National Corn Growers Association President Garry Niemeyer released the following statement in response to the Senate's passage of the pending free trade agreements with Korea, Colombia and Panama:

"NCGA is encouraged to see the U.S. Senate act swiftly following House passage of these FTAs. The strong bipartisan vote shows senators understand the importance and potential benefits to America's corn farmers of free trade agreements with Korea, Colombia and Panama.

"Earlier this year, NCGA provided testimony to the Senate Finance Committee citing Panama as an example of lost market share. Corn exports to the country peaked in 2008 and have since dropped 20 percent. This market erosion was due in part to a lack of progress on the Panama FTA. As a farmer, it has been frustrating to see other nations achieve access to markets over U.S. corn and corn products. We are pleased to see action was taken today on Panama, as well and Korea and Colombia."

###

Founded in 1957, the National Corn Growers Association represents 36,000 dues-paying corn farmers nationwide. NCGA and its 48 affiliated state organizations work together to create and increase opportunities for their members and their industry.