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## **News Release - 1975-04-17**

E. De la Garza

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**Congress of the United States**  
**House of Representatives**  
**Washington, D.C. 20515**

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

17 April 1975

WASHINGTON, D C -- Rep Kika de la Garza said today in the House of Representatives that U S agriculture must have top priority, "in practice as well as in policy," for adequate supplies of energy for the full range of its operations.

In a report to the House on public hearings held recently by the House Agriculture Subcommittee he heads, Congressman de la Garza said testimony by various witnesses from agriculture-related industries and government agencies showed that the fuel needs of farmers are not receiving adequate attention in Federal energy programs.

"This is a matter of the utmost seriousness," he declared. "Priority energy provision for agriculture is the official policy of the Federal Government. But our farmers still face energy-related shortages as well as high prices for the fuel and other petroleum products they must have to survive."

The South Texas Congressman pointed out that about 10 percent of the total energy consumed in the United States is used by the agricultural sector in production, processing, transportation, marketing and retailing. He added that no other farmers in the world have as high a rate of productivity as American farmers.

"The energy needs of American farmers must be supplied," he told his House colleagues. "If contradictions in policies of Federal agencies tend to weaken that policy, those contradictions must be eliminated."