

TEXT OF AMENDMENTS

SA 2459. Mr. CASEY submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 3240, to reauthorize agricultural programs through 2017, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the end of title IV, add the following:

SEC. 4208. ENCOURAGING LOCALLY AND REGIONALLY PRODUCED FOOD.

(a) **COMMODITY PURCHASE STREAMLINING.**—The Secretary may allow a school food authority with low annual commodity entitlement values, as determined by the Secretary, to substitute for the allotment of the school food authority for commodities commonly referred to as “USDA Foods” if—

(1) the option is requested by the eligible school food authority;

(2) the Secretary determines that the option will reduce Federal and State administrative costs; and

(3) the option will provide the eligible school food authority with greater flexibility to purchase locally and regionally produced foods.

(b) **FARM-TO-SCHOOL DEMONSTRATION PROJECTS.**—

(1) **IN GENERAL.**—The Secretary shall establish not less than 10 farm-to-school demonstration programs under which school food authorities, agricultural producers producing for local and regional markets, and other farm-to-school stakeholders collaborate with the Agricultural Marketing Service to obtain food for school meals from local agricultural producers rather than through other agricultural and food programs of the Secretary.

(2) **REQUIREMENTS.**—

(A) **IN GENERAL.**—A demonstration program under this subsection shall, to the maximum extent practicable—

(i) facilitate and increase the purchase of unprocessed and minimally processed locally and regionally produced agricultural commodities and products to be served in school meal programs;

(ii) test methods to improve procurement, transportation, and meal preparation processes;

(iii) assess whether administrative costs can be saved through increased school authority flexibility to source locally and regionally produced agricultural commodities and foods; and

(iv) undertake rigorous evaluation and share information about results, including cost savings, with the Department of Agriculture, school food authorities, agricultural producers producing for local and regional markets, and the general public.

(B) **PLANS.**—The Secretary shall require demonstration project participants to provide plans that detail compliance with this subsection.

(3) **DURATION.**—The Secretary shall determine the appropriate period of time for each demonstration program.

(4) **COORDINATION.**—The Secretary shall coordinate among relevant agencies of the Department of Agriculture and nongovernmental organizations with appropriate expertise to facilitate the provision of training and technical assistance necessary to the successful implementation of demonstration programs under this subsection.

(5) **DIVERSITY AND BALANCE.**—In establishing the demonstration programs under this subsection, the Secretary shall, to the maximum extent practicable, ensure—

(A) geographical diversity;

(B) that at least ½ of the demonstration programs are completed in collaboration with school food authorities with relatively small annual commodity entitlements, as determined by the Secretary;

(C) at least ½ of demonstration programs are completed in rural or tribal communities; and

(D) equitable treatment of school food authorities with a high percentage of students participating in the free or reduced price lunch program under the Richard B. Russell National School Lunch Act (42 U.S.C. 1751 et seq.).

SA 2460. Mrs. FEINSTEIN submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by her to the bill S. 3240, to reauthorize agricultural programs through 2017, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

In section 11001, after subsection (b) insert the following:

(c) **SUPPLEMENTAL, WEATHER INDEX-BASED INSURANCE.**—Section 508(c) of the Federal Crop Insurance Act (7 U.S.C. 1508(c)) is amended by adding at the end the following:

“(11) **SUPPLEMENTAL, WEATHER INDEX-BASED INSURANCE.**—

“(A) **IN GENERAL.**—The Corporation may consider and approve applications, consistent with procedures for products submitted under subsection (h), submitted by private companies to provide supplemental, weather index-based insurance products that are not reinsured under this subtitle to producers as an alternative to the coverage provided under this section to determine whether the products can provide enhanced coverage for producers than is otherwise available under this section.

“(B) **PAYMENT OF PORTION OF PREMIUM BY CORPORATION.**—

“(i) **IN GENERAL.**—Subject to subparagraph (F), if the Corporation determines that supplemental, weather index-based insurance products offered by private companies meet the conditions described in subparagraph (A), the Corporation may pay a portion of the premium for a producer to purchase a product that is not reinsured under this subtitle from a private company for an equivalent level of coverage under this section.

“(ii) **ADMINISTRATION.**—Any premium assistance under clause (i)—

“(I) shall be determined by the Corporation; and

“(II) may be based on, as determined by the Corporation—

“(aa) a percentage of premium;

“(bb) a percentage of expected loss determined pursuant to a reasonable actuarial methodology; or

“(cc) a fixed dollar amount per acre.

“(C) **ELIGIBLE PROVIDERS.**—Before providing premium assistance to producers to purchase supplemental, index-based coverage from a private company under this paragraph, the Corporation shall verify that the private company—

“(i) has adequate experience developing and managing similar index-based products for crop producers (including adequate resources, experience, and assets) or sufficient reinsurance, to meet the obligations of the private company under this paragraph;

“(ii) has adequate experience to sell and administer index-based or similar products;

“(iii) possesses a sufficient insurance credit rating from an appropriate credit rating bureau; and

“(iv) has approval from each State in which the company intends to make the supplemental insurance products of the company available.

“(D) **OVERSIGHT.**—The Corporation shall develop and publish procedures to administer a supplemental, index-based insurance option for producers under this paragraph that—

“(i) require each applicable private company to report sales, acreage and claim data,

and any other data the Corporation determines to be appropriate, to allow the Corporation to evaluate product pricing and performance;

“(ii) allow each participating private company exclusive rights, ownership of intellectual property, and protection of confidential information with respect to the insurance offered under this paragraph; and

“(iii) contain such other requirements as the Corporation determines necessary to ensure that—

“(I) the interests of producers are protected; and

“(II) the program operates in an actuarially sound manner.

“(E) **SELECTION LIMITATION.**—A producer shall be allowed to select supplemental coverage annually and may not select both weather index-based coverage under this paragraph and any other supplemental coverage offered under other provisions of this section.

“(F) **BASELINE SAVINGS.**—

“(i) **IN GENERAL.**—The Corporation may not offer premium assistance for producers to purchase private company weather index-based supplemental coverage under this paragraph unless the Corporation determines that offering private company coverage will result in savings against baseline spending estimates for the supplemental coverage option provided by the Office of Management and Budget.

“(ii) **ADMINISTRATIVE EXPENSES.**—In addition to any other available funds, the Corporation shall use savings derived from offering supplemental coverage from private companies to cover administrative costs associated with evaluating and approving private company coverage under this subsection.”.

NOTICE OF HEARING

COMMITTEE ON ENERGY AND NATURAL RESOURCES

Mr. BINGAMAN. Mr. President, I would like to announce for the information of the Senate and the public an addition to a previously announced hearing before the Subcommittee on National Parks. The hearing will be held on Wednesday, June 27, 2012, at 3 p.m., in room SD-366 of the Dirksen Senate Office Building.

In addition to the other measures previously announced, the Committee will also consider:

S. 3078, a bill to direct the Secretary of the Interior to install in the area of the World War II Memorial in the District of Columbia a suitable plaque or an inscription with the words that President Franklin D. Roosevelt prayed with the United States on June 6, 1944, the morning of D-Day.

Because of the limited time available for the hearing, witnesses may testify by invitation only. However, those wishing to submit written testimony for the hearing record should send it to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources, United States Senate, 304 Dirksen Senate Office Building, Washington, DC 20510 6150, or by email to Jake_Mccook@energy.senate.gov.

For further information, please contact Sara Tucker (202) 224-6224 or Jake McCook (202) 224-9313.