

Commission shall complete a review of the agreements, contracts, and transactions of the facility not later than 180 days after that effective date to determine whether any such agreement, contract, or transaction performs a significant price discovery function.

## TITLE XIV—MISCELLANEOUS

### Subtitle A—Socially Disadvantaged Producers and Limited Resource Producers

#### SEC. 14001. IMPROVED PROGRAM DELIVERY BY DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE ON INDIAN RESERVATIONS.

Section 2501(g)(1) of the Food, Agriculture, Conservation, and Trade Act of 1990 (7 U.S.C. 2279(g)(1)) is amended—

(1) in the first sentence—

(A) by striking “Agricultural Stabilization and Conservation Service, Soil Conservation Service, and Farmers Home Administration offices” and inserting “Farm Service Agency and Natural Resources Conservation Service”; and

(B) by inserting “where there has been a need demonstrated” after “include”; and

(2) by striking the second sentence.

#### SEC. 14002. FORECLOSURE.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Section 331A of the Consolidated Farm and Rural Development Act (7 U.S.C. 1981a) is amended:

(1) by inserting “(a)” after “SEC. 331A.”; and

(2) by adding at the end the following:

“(b) MORATORIUM.—

“(1) IN GENERAL.—Subject to the other provisions of this subsection, effective beginning on the date of the enactment of this subsection, there shall be in effect a moratorium, with respect to farmer program loans made under subtitle A, B, or C, on all acceleration and foreclosure proceedings instituted by the Department of Agriculture against any farmer or rancher who—

“(A) has pending against the Department a claim of program discrimination that is accepted by the Department as valid; or

“(B) files a claim of program discrimination that is accepted by the Department as valid.

“(2) WAIVER OF INTEREST AND OFFSETS.—During the period of the moratorium, the Secretary shall waive the accrual of interest and offsets on all farmer program loans made under subtitle A, B, or C for which loan acceleration or foreclosure proceedings have been suspended under paragraph (1).

“(3) TERMINATION OF MORATORIUM.—The moratorium shall terminate with respect to a claim of discrimination by a farmer or rancher on the earlier of—

“(A) the date the Secretary resolves the claim; or

“(B) if the farmer or rancher appeals the decision of the Secretary on the claim to a court of competent jurisdiction, the date that the court renders a final decision on the claim.

“(4) FAILURE TO PREVAIL.—If a farmer or rancher does not prevail on a claim of discrimination described in paragraph (1), the farmer or rancher shall be liable for any interest and offsets that accrued during the period that loan acceleration or foreclosure proceedings have been suspended under paragraph (1).”.

(b) FORECLOSURE REPORT.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 1 year after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Inspector General of the Department of Agriculture (referred to in this subsection as the “Inspector General”) shall determine whether decisions of the Department to implement foreclosure proceedings with respect to farmer program loans made under subtitle A, B, or C of the Consolidated Farm and Rural Development Act (7 U.S.C. 1922 et seq.) to socially disadvantaged farmers or ranchers during the 5-year period preceding the date of the enactment of this Act were consistent and in conformity with the applicable laws (including regulations) governing loan foreclosures.

(2) REPORT.—Not later than 1 year after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Inspector General shall submit to the Committee on Agriculture of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry of the Senate a report that describes the determination of the Inspector General under paragraph (1).

**SEC. 14003. RECEIPT FOR SERVICE OR DENIAL OF SERVICE FROM CERTAIN DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE AGENCIES.**

Section 2501A of the Food, Agriculture, Conservation, and Trade Act of 1990 (7 U.S.C. 2279–1) is amended by adding at the end the following new subsection:

“(e) RECEIPT FOR SERVICE OR DENIAL OF SERVICE.—In any case in which a current or prospective producer or landowner, in person or in writing, requests from the Farm Service Agency, the Natural Resources Conservation Service, or an agency of the Rural Development Mission Area any benefit or service offered by the Department to agricultural producers or landowners and, at the time of the request, also requests a receipt, the Secretary shall issue, on the date of the request, a receipt to the producer or landowner that contains—

“(1) the date, place, and subject of the request; and

“(2) the action taken, not taken, or recommended to the producer or landowner.”.

**SEC. 14004. OUTREACH AND TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE FOR SOCIALLY DISADVANTAGED FARMERS OR RANCHERS.**

(a) OUTREACH AND TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE PROGRAM.—

(1) PROGRAM REQUIREMENTS.—Paragraph (2) of section 2501(a) of the Food, Agriculture, Conservation, and Trade Act of 1990 (7 U.S.C. 2279(a)) is amended to read as follows:

“(2) REQUIREMENTS.—The outreach and technical assistance program under paragraph (1) shall be used exclusively—

“(A) to enhance coordination of the outreach, technical assistance, and education efforts authorized under agriculture programs; and

“(B) to assist the Secretary in—

“(i) reaching current and prospective socially disadvantaged farmers or ranchers in a linguistically appropriate manner; and

“(ii) improving the participation of those farmers and ranchers in Department programs, as reported under section 2501A.”.

(2) GRANTS AND CONTRACTS UNDER PROGRAM.—Section 2501(a)(3) of the Food, Agriculture, Conservation, and Trade Act of 1990 (7 U.S.C. 2279(a)(3)) is amended—

(A) in subparagraph (A), by striking “entity to provide information” and inserting “entity that has demonstrated an ability to carry out the requirements described in paragraph (2) to provide outreach”; and

(B) by adding at the end the following new subparagraph:

“(D) REPORT.—The Secretary shall submit to the Committee on Agriculture of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry of the Senate, and make publicly available, an annual report that includes a list of the following:

“(i) The recipients of funds made available under the program.

“(ii) The activities undertaken and services provided.

“(iii) The number of current and prospective socially disadvantaged farmers or ranchers served and outcomes of such service.

“(iv) The problems and barriers identified by entities in trying to increase participation by current and prospective socially disadvantaged farmers or ranchers.”.

(3) FUNDING AND LIMITATION ON USE OF FUNDS.—Section 2501(a)(4) of the Food, Agriculture, Conservation, and Trade Act of 1990 (7 U.S.C. 2279(a)(4)) is amended—

(A) by striking subparagraph (A) and inserting the following new subparagraph:

“(A) IN GENERAL.—Of the funds of the Commodity Credit Corporation, the Secretary shall make available to carry out this section—

“(i) \$15,000,000 for fiscal year 2009; and

“(ii) \$20,000,000 for each of fiscal years 2010 through 2012.”.

(B) by adding at the end the following new subparagraph:

“(C) LIMITATION ON USE OF FUNDS FOR ADMINISTRATIVE EXPENSES.—Not more than 5 percent of the amounts made available under subparagraph (A) for a fiscal year may be used for expenses related to administering the program under this section.”.

(b) ELIGIBLE ENTITY DEFINED.—Section 2501(e)(5)(A)(ii) of the Food, Agriculture, Conservation, and Trade Act of 1990 (7 U.S.C. 2279(e)(5)(A)(ii)) is amended by striking “work with socially disadvantaged farmers or ranchers during the 2-year period” and inserting “work with, and on behalf of, socially disadvantaged farmers or ranchers during the 3-year period”.

**SEC. 14005. ACCURATE DOCUMENTATION IN THE CENSUS OF AGRICULTURE AND CERTAIN STUDIES.**

Section 2501 of the Food, Agriculture, Conservation, and Trade Act of 1990 (7 U.S.C. 2279) is amended by adding at the end the following:

“(h) ACCURATE DOCUMENTATION.—The Secretary shall ensure, to the maximum extent practicable, that the Census of Agriculture and studies carried out by the Economic Research Service accurately document the number, location, and economic contributions of socially disadvantaged farmers or ranchers in agricultural production.”.

**SEC. 14006. TRANSPARENCY AND ACCOUNTABILITY FOR SOCIALLY DISADVANTAGED FARMERS OR RANCHERS.**

Section 2501A of the Food, Agriculture, Conservation, and Trade Act of 1990 (7 U.S.C. 2279–1) is amended by striking subsection (c) and inserting the following new subsections:

“(c) COMPILATION OF PROGRAM PARTICIPATION DATA.—

“(1) ANNUAL REQUIREMENT.—For each county and State in the United States, the Secretary of Agriculture (referred to in this section as the ‘Secretary’) shall annually compile program application and participation rate data regarding socially disadvantaged farmers or ranchers by computing for each program of the Department of Agriculture that serves agricultural producers and landowners—

“(A) raw numbers of applicants and participants by race, ethnicity, and gender, subject to appropriate privacy protections, as determined by the Secretary; and

“(B) the application and participation rate, by race, ethnicity, and gender, as a percentage of the total participation rate of all agricultural producers and landowners.

“(2) AUTHORITY TO COLLECT DATA.—The heads of the agencies of the Department of Agriculture shall collect and transmit to the Secretary any data, including data on race, gender, and ethnicity, that the Secretary determines to be necessary to carry out paragraph (1).

“(3) REPORT.—Using the technologies and systems of the National Agricultural Statistics Service, the Secretary shall compile and present the data compiled under paragraph (1) for each program described in that paragraph in a manner that includes the raw numbers and participation rates for—

“(A) the entire United States;

“(B) each State; and

“(C) each county in each State.

“(4) PUBLIC AVAILABILITY OF REPORT.—The Secretary shall maintain and make readily available to the public, via website and otherwise in electronic and paper form, the report described in paragraph (3).

“(d) LIMITATIONS ON USE OF DATA.—

“(1) PRIVACY PROTECTIONS.—In carrying out this section, the Secretary shall not disclose the names or individual data of any program participant.

“(2) AUTHORIZED USES.—The data under this section shall be used exclusively for the purposes described in subsection (a).

“(3) LIMITATION.—Except as otherwise provided, the data under this section shall not be used for the evaluation of individual applications for assistance.”.

**SEC. 14007. OVERSIGHT AND COMPLIANCE.**

The Secretary, acting through the Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights of the Department of Agriculture, shall use the reports described in subsection (c) of section 2501A of the Food, Agriculture, Conservation, and Trade Act of 1990 (7 U.S.C. 2279–1), as amended by section 14006, in the conduct of oversight and evaluation of civil rights compliance.

**SEC. 14008. MINORITY FARMER ADVISORY COMMITTEE.**

(a) ESTABLISHMENT.—Not later than 18 months after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of Agriculture shall establish an advisory committee, to be known as the “Advisory Committee on Minority Farmers” (in this section referred to as the “Committee”).

(b) DUTIES.—The Committee shall provide advice to the Secretary on—

- (1) the implementation of section 2501 of the Food, Agriculture, Conservation, and Trade Act of 1990 (7 U.S.C. 2279);
- (2) methods of maximizing the participation of minority farmers and ranchers in Department of Agriculture programs; and
- (3) civil rights activities within the Department as such activities relate to participants in such programs.

(c) MEMBERSHIP.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—The Committee shall be composed of not more than 15 members, who shall be appointed by the Secretary, and shall include—

(A) not less than four socially disadvantaged farmers or ranchers (as defined in section 2501(e)(2) of the Food, Agriculture, Conservation, and Trade Act of 1990 (7 U.S.C. 2279(e)(2)));

(B) not less than two representatives of nonprofit organizations with a history of working with minority farmers and ranchers;

(C) not less than two civil rights professionals;

(D) not less than two representatives of institutions of higher education with demonstrated experience working with minority farmers and ranchers; and

(E) such other persons as the Secretary considers appropriate.

(2) EX-OFFICIO MEMBERS.—The Secretary may appoint such employees of the Department of Agriculture as the Secretary considers appropriate to serve as ex-officio members of the Committee.

**SEC. 14009. NATIONAL APPEALS DIVISION.**

Section 280 of the Department of Agriculture Reorganization Act of 1994 (7 U.S.C. 7000) is amended—

(1) by striking “On the return” and inserting the following:

“(a) IN GENERAL.—On the return”; and

(2) by adding at the end the following:

“(b) REPORTS.—

“(1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 180 days after the date of the enactment of this subsection, and every 180 days thereafter, the head of each agency shall submit to the Committee on Agriculture of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry of the Senate, and publish on the website of the Department, a report that includes—

“(A) a description of all cases returned to the agency during the period covered by the report pursuant to a final determination of the Division;

“(B) the status of implementation of each final determination; and

“(C) if the final determination has not been implemented—

“(i) the reason that the final determination has not been implemented; and

“(ii) the projected date of implementation of the final determination.

“(2) UPDATES.—Each month, the head of each agency shall publish on the website of the Department any updates to the reports submitted under paragraph (1).”.

**SEC. 14010. REPORT OF CIVIL RIGHTS COMPLAINTS, RESOLUTIONS, AND ACTIONS.**

Each year, the Secretary shall—

(1) prepare a report that describes, for each agency of the Department of Agriculture—

(A) the number of civil rights complaints filed that relate to the agency, including whether a complaint is a program complaint or an employment complaint;

(B) the length of time the agency took to process each civil rights complaint;

(C) the number of proceedings brought against the agency, including the number of complaints described in paragraph (1) that were resolved with a finding of discrimination; and

(D) the number and type of personnel actions taken by the agency following resolution of civil rights complaints;

(2) submit to the Committee on Agriculture of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry of the Senate a copy of the report; and

(3) make the report available to the public by posting the report on the website of the Department.

**SEC. 14011. SENSE OF CONGRESS RELATING TO CLAIMS BROUGHT BY SOCIALLY DISADVANTAGED FARMERS OR RANCHERS.**

It is the sense of Congress that all pending claims and class actions brought against the Department of Agriculture by socially disadvantaged farmers or ranchers (as defined in section 355(e) of the Consolidated Farm and Rural Development Act (7 U.S.C. 2003(e)), including Native American, Hispanic, and female farmers or ranchers, based on racial, ethnic, or gender discrimination in farm program participation should be resolved in an expeditious and just manner.

**SEC. 14012. DETERMINATION ON MERITS OF PIGFORD CLAIMS.**

(a) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

(1) CONSENT DECREE.—The term “consent decree” means the consent decree in the case of *Pigford v. Glickman*, approved by the United States District Court for the District of Columbia on April 14, 1999.

(2) DEPARTMENT.—The term “Department” means the Department of Agriculture.

(3) PIGFORD CLAIM.—The term “Pigford claim” means a discrimination complaint, as defined by section 1(h) of the consent decree and documented under section 5(b) of the consent decree.

(4) PIGFORD CLAIMANT.—The term “Pigford claimant” means an individual who previously submitted a late-filing request under section 5(g) of the consent decree.

(b) DETERMINATION ON MERITS.—Any Pigford claimant who has not previously obtained a determination on the merits of a Pigford claim may, in a civil action brought in the United States District Court for the District of Columbia, obtain that determination.

(c) LIMITATION.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Subject to paragraph (2), all payments or debt relief (including any limitation on foreclosure under subsection (h)) shall be made exclusively from funds made available under subsection (i).

(2) MAXIMUM AMOUNT.—The total amount of payments and debt relief pursuant to actions commenced under subsection (b) shall not exceed \$100,000,000.

(d) INTENT OF CONGRESS AS TO REMEDIAL NATURE OF SECTION.—It is the intent of Congress that this section be liberally construed so as to effectuate its remedial purpose of giving a full determination on the merits for each Pigford claim previously denied that determination.

(e) LOAN DATA.—

(1) REPORT TO PERSON SUBMITTING PETITION.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 120 days after the Secretary receives notice of a complaint filed by a claimant under subsection (b), the Secretary shall provide to the claimant a report on farm credit loans and noncredit benefits, as appropriate, made within the claimant’s county (or if no documents are found, within an adjacent county as determined by the claimant), by the Department during the period beginning on January 1 of the year preceding the period covered by the complaint and ending on December 31 of the year following the period.

(B) REQUIREMENTS.—A report under subparagraph (A) shall contain information on all persons whose application for a loan or benefit was accepted, including—

- (i) the race of the applicant;
- (ii) the date of application;
- (iii) the date of the loan or benefit decision, as appropriate;
- (iv) the location of the office making the loan or benefit decision, as appropriate;
- (v) all data relevant to the decisionmaking process for the loan or benefit, as appropriate; and
- (vi) all data relevant to the servicing of the loan or benefit, as appropriate.

(2) NO PERSONALLY IDENTIFIABLE INFORMATION.—The reports provided pursuant to paragraph (1) shall not contain any information that would identify any person who applied for a loan from the Department.

(3) REPORTING DEADLINE.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall—

(i) provide to claimants the reports required under paragraph (1) as quickly as practicable after the Secretary receives notice of a complaint filed by a claimant under subsection (b); and

(ii) devote such resources of the Department as are necessary to make providing the reports expeditiously a high priority of the Department.

(B) EXTENSION.—A court may extend the deadline for providing the report required in a particular case under paragraph (1) if the Secretary establishes that meeting the deadline is not feasible and demonstrates a continuing effort and commitment to provide the required report expeditiously.

(f) EXPEDITED RESOLUTIONS AUTHORIZED.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Any person filing a complaint under this section for discrimination in the application for, or making or servicing of, a farm loan, at the discretion of the person, may seek liquidated damages of \$50,000, discharge of the debt that was incurred under, or affected by, the 1 or more programs that were the subject of the 1 or more discrimination claims that are the subject of the person's complaint, and a tax payment in the amount equal to 25 percent of the liquidated damages and loan principal discharged, in which case—

(A) if only such damages, debt discharge, and tax payment are sought, the complainant shall be able to prove the case of the complainant by substantial evidence (as defined in section 1(l) of the consent decree); and

(B) the court shall decide the case based on a review of documents submitted by the complainant and defendant relevant to the issues of liability and damages.

(2) NONCREDIT CLAIMS.—

(A) STANDARD.—In any case in which a claimant asserts a noncredit claim under a benefit program of the Department, the court shall determine the merits of the claim in accordance with section 9(b)(i) of the consent decree.

(B) RELIEF.—A claimant who prevails on a claim of discrimination involving a noncredit benefit program of the Department shall be entitled to a payment by the Department in a total amount of \$3,000, without regard to the number of such claims on which the claimant prevails.

(g) ACTUAL DAMAGES.—A claimant who files a claim under this section for discrimination under subsection (b) but not under subsection (f) and who prevails on the claim shall be entitled to actual damages sustained by the claimant.

(h) LIMITATION ON FORECLOSURES.—Notwithstanding any other provision of law, during the pendency of a Pigford claim, the Secretary may not begin acceleration on or foreclosure of a loan if—

(1) the borrower is a Pigford claimant; and



(2) makes a prima facie case in an appropriate administrative proceeding that the acceleration or foreclosure is related to a Pigford claim.

(i) FUNDING.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Of the funds of the Commodity Credit Corporation, the Secretary shall make available for payments and debt relief in satisfaction of claims against the United States under subsection (b) and for any actions under subsection (g) \$100,000,000 for fiscal year 2008, to remain available until expended.

(2) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—In addition to funds made available under paragraph (1), there are authorized to be appropriated such sums as are necessary to carry out this section.

(j) REPORTING REQUIREMENTS.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 180 days after the date of the enactment of this Act and every 180 days thereafter until the funds made available under subsection (i) are depleted, the Secretary shall submit to the Committee on the Judiciary of the House of Representatives and the Committee on the Judiciary of the Senate a report that describes the status of available funds under subsection (i) and the number of pending claims under subsection (f).

(2) DEPLETION OF FUNDS REPORT.—In addition to the reports required under paragraph (1), the Secretary shall submit to the Committee on the Judiciary of the House of Representatives and the Committee on the Judiciary of the Senate a report that notifies the Committees when 75 percent of the funds made available under subsection (i)(1) have been depleted.

(k) TERMINATION OF AUTHORITY.—The authority to file a claim under this section terminates 2 years after the date of the enactment of this Act.

**SEC. 14013. OFFICE OF ADVOCACY AND OUTREACH.**

(a) IN GENERAL.—The Department of Agriculture Reorganization Act of 1994 is amended by inserting after section 226A (7 U.S.C. 6933) the following:

**“SEC. 226B. OFFICE OF ADVOCACY AND OUTREACH.**

“(a) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

“(1) BEGINNING FARMER OR RANCHER.—The term ‘beginning farmer or rancher’ has the meaning given the term in section 343(a) of the Consolidated Farm and Rural Development Act (7 U.S.C. 1991(a)).

“(2) OFFICE.—The term ‘Office’ means the Office of Advocacy and Outreach established under this section.

“(3) SOCIALLY DISADVANTAGED FARMER OR RANCHER.—The term ‘socially disadvantaged farmer or rancher’ has the meaning given the term in section 2501(e) of the Food, Agriculture, Conservation, and Trade Act of 1990 (7 U.S.C. 2279(e)).

“(b) ESTABLISHMENT AND PURPOSE.—

“(1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall establish within the executive operations of the Department an office to be known as the ‘Office of Advocacy and Outreach’—

“(A) to improve access to programs of the Department;

and

“(B) to improve the viability and profitability of—

“(i) small farms and ranches;

“(ii) beginning farmers or ranchers; and

“(iii) socially disadvantaged farmers or ranchers.

“(2) DIRECTOR.—The Office shall be headed by a Director, to be appointed by the Secretary from among the competitive service.

“(c) DUTIES.—The duties of the Office shall be to ensure small farms and ranches, beginning farmers or ranchers, and socially disadvantaged farmers or ranchers access to, and equitable participation in, programs and services of the Department by—

“(1) establishing and monitoring the goals and objectives of the Department to increase participation in programs of the Department by small, beginning, or socially disadvantaged farmers or ranchers;

“(2) assessing the effectiveness of Department outreach programs;

“(3) developing and implementing a plan to coordinate outreach activities and services provided by the Department;

“(4) providing input to the agencies and offices on programmatic and policy decisions;

“(5) measuring outcomes of the programs and activities of the Department on small farms and ranches, beginning farmers or ranchers, and socially disadvantaged farmers or ranchers programs;

“(6) recommending new initiatives and programs to the Secretary; and

“(7) carrying out any other related duties that the Secretary determines to be appropriate.

“(d) SOCIALLY DISADVANTAGED FARMERS GROUP.—

“(1) ESTABLISHMENT.—The Secretary shall establish within the Office the Socially Disadvantaged Farmers Group.

“(2) OUTREACH AND ASSISTANCE.—The Socially Disadvantaged Farmers Group—

“(A) shall carry out section 2501 of the Food, Agriculture, Conservation, and Trade Act of 1990 (7 U.S.C. 2279); and

“(B) in the case of activities described in section 2501(a) of that Act, may conduct such activities through other agencies and offices of the Department.

“(3) SOCIALLY DISADVANTAGED FARMERS AND FARMWORKERS.—The Socially Disadvantaged Farmers Group shall oversee the operations of—

“(A) the Advisory Committee on Minority Farmers established under section 14009 of the Food, Conservation, and Energy Act of 2008; and

“(B) the position of Farmworker Coordinator established under subsection (f).

“(4) OTHER DUTIES.—

“(A) IN GENERAL.—The Socially Disadvantaged Farmers Group may carry out other duties to improve access to, and participation in, programs of the Department by socially disadvantaged farmers or ranchers, as determined by the Secretary.

“(B) OFFICE OF OUTREACH AND DIVERSITY.—The Office of Advocacy and Outreach shall carry out the functions and duties of the Office of Outreach and Diversity carried out by the Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights as such

functions and duties existed immediately before the date of the enactment of this section.

“(e) SMALL FARMS AND BEGINNING FARMERS AND RANCHERS GROUP.—

“(1) ESTABLISHMENT.—The Secretary shall establish within the Office the Small Farms and Beginning Farmers and Ranchers Group.

“(2) DUTIES.—

“(A) OVERSEE OFFICES.—The Small Farms and Beginning Farmers and Ranchers Group shall oversee the operations of the Office of Small Farms Coordination established by Departmental Regulation 9700-1 (August 3, 2006).

“(B) BEGINNING FARMER AND RANCHER DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM.—The Small Farms and Beginning Farmers and Ranchers Group shall consult with the National Institute for Food and Agriculture on the administration of the beginning farmer and rancher development program established under section 7405 of the Farm Security and Rural Investment Act of 2002 (7 U.S.C. 3319f).

“(C) ADVISORY COMMITTEE FOR BEGINNING FARMERS AND RANCHERS.—The Small Farms and Beginning Farmers and Ranchers Group shall coordinate the activities of the Group with the Advisory Committee for Beginning Farmers and Ranchers established under section 5(b) of the Agricultural Credit Improvement Act of 1992 (7 U.S.C. 1621 note; Public Law 102–554).

“(D) OTHER DUTIES.—The Small Farms and Beginning Farmers and Ranchers Group may carry out other duties to improve access to, and participation in, programs of the Department by small farms and ranches and beginning farmers or ranchers, as determined by the Secretary.

“(f) FARMWORKER COORDINATOR.—

“(1) ESTABLISHMENT.—The Secretary shall establish within the Office the position of Farmworker Coordinator (referred to in this subsection as the ‘Coordinator’).

“(2) DUTIES.—The Secretary shall delegate to the Coordinator responsibility for the following:

“(A) Assisting in administering the program established by section 2281 of the Food, Agriculture, Conservation, and Trade Act of 1990 (42 U.S.C. 5177a).

“(B) Serving as a liaison to community-based nonprofit organizations that represent and have demonstrated experience serving low-income migrant and seasonal farmworkers.

“(C) Coordinating with the Department, other Federal agencies, and State and local governments to ensure that farmworker needs are assessed and met during declared disasters and other emergencies.

“(D) Consulting within the Office and with other entities to better integrate farmworker perspectives, concerns, and interests into the ongoing programs of the Department.

“(E) Consulting with appropriate institutions on research, program improvements, or agricultural education opportunities that assist low-income and migrant seasonal farmworkers.

“(F) Assisting farmworkers in becoming agricultural producers or landowners.

“(3) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There are authorized to be appropriated such sums as are necessary to carry out this subsection for each of fiscal years 2009 through 2012.”.

(b) CONFORMING AMENDMENT.—Section 296(b) of the Department of Agriculture Reorganization Act of 1994 (7 U.S.C. 7014(b)), as amended by section 7511(b), is further amended—

(1) in paragraph (5), by striking “; or” and inserting “;”;  
(2) in paragraph (6), by striking the period and inserting “; or”; and

(3) by adding at the end the following new paragraph:  
“(7) the authority of the Secretary to establish in the Department the Office of Advocacy and Outreach in accordance with section 226B.”.

## Subtitle B—Agricultural Security

### SEC. 14101. SHORT TITLE.

This subtitle may be cited as the “Agricultural Security Improvement Act of 2008”.

### SEC. 14102. DEFINITIONS.

In this subtitle:

(1) AGENT.—The term “agent” means a nuclear, biological, chemical, or radiological substance that causes agricultural disease or the adulteration of products regulated by the Secretary of Agriculture under any provision of law.

(2) AGRICULTURAL BIOSECURITY.—The term “agricultural biosecurity” means protection from an agent that poses a threat to—

(A) plant or animal health;

(B) public health as it relates to the adulteration of products regulated by the Secretary of Agriculture under any provision of law that is caused by exposure to an agent; or

(C) the environment as it relates to agriculture facilities, farmland, and air and water within the immediate vicinity of an area associated with an agricultural disease or outbreak.

(3) AGRICULTURAL COUNTERMEASURE.—The term “agricultural countermeasure”—

(A) means a product, practice, or technology that is intended to enhance or maintain the agricultural biosecurity of the United States; and

(B) does not include a product, practice, or technology used solely in response to a human medical incident or public health emergency not related to agriculture.

(4) AGRICULTURAL DISEASE.—The term “agricultural disease” has the meaning given the term by the Secretary.

(5) AGRICULTURAL DISEASE EMERGENCY.—The term “agricultural disease emergency” means an incident of agricultural disease that requires prompt action to prevent significant damage to people, plants, or animals.

(6) AGROTERRORIST ACT.—The term “agroterrorist act” means an act that—

(A) causes or attempts to cause—

- (i) damage to agriculture; or
  - (ii) injury to a person associated with agriculture;
- and
- (B) is committed or appears to be committed with the intent to—
- (i) intimidate or coerce a civilian population; or
  - (ii) disrupt the agricultural industry in order to influence the policy of a government by intimidation or coercion.
- (7) ANIMAL.—The term “animal” has the meaning given the term in section 10403 of the Animal Health Protection Act of 2002 (7 U.S.C. 8302).
- (8) DEPARTMENT.—The term “Department” means the Department of Agriculture.
- (9) DEVELOPMENT.—The term “development” means—
- (A) research leading to the identification of products or technologies intended for use as agricultural countermeasures to protect animal health;
  - (B) the formulation, production, and subsequent modification of those products or technologies;
  - (C) the conduct of in vitro and in vivo studies;
  - (D) the conduct of field, efficacy, and safety studies;
  - (E) the preparation of an application for marketing approval for submission to an applicable agency; or
  - (F) other actions taken by an applicable agency in a case in which an agricultural countermeasure is procured or used prior to issuance of a license or other form of Federal Government approval.
- (10) PLANT.—The term “plant” has the meaning given the term in section 411 of the Plant Protection Act of 2000 (7 U.S.C. 7702).
- (11) QUALIFIED AGRICULTURAL COUNTERMEASURE.—The term “qualified agricultural countermeasure” means an agricultural countermeasure that the Secretary, in consultation with the Secretary of Homeland Security, determines to be a priority in order to address an agricultural biosecurity threat.

## CHAPTER 1—AGRICULTURAL SECURITY

### SEC. 14111. OFFICE OF HOMELAND SECURITY.

(a) ESTABLISHMENT.—There is established within the Department the Office of Homeland Security (in this section referred to as the “Office”).

(b) DIRECTOR.—The Office shall be headed by a Director of Homeland Security, who shall be appointed by the Secretary.

(c) RESPONSIBILITIES.—The Director of Homeland Security shall—

- (1) coordinate all homeland security activities of the Department, including integration and coordination of inter-agency emergency response plans for—
  - (A) agricultural disease emergencies;
  - (B) agroterrorist acts; and
  - (C) other threats to agricultural biosecurity;
- (2) act as the primary liaison on behalf of the Department with other Federal departments and agencies on the coordination of efforts and interagency activities pertaining to agricultural biosecurity; and

(3) advise the Secretary on policies, regulations, processes, budget, and actions pertaining to homeland security.

**SEC. 14112. AGRICULTURAL BIOSECURITY COMMUNICATION CENTER.**

(a) **ESTABLISHMENT.**—The Secretary shall establish a communication center within the Department to—

(1) collect and disseminate information and prepare for an agricultural disease emergency, agroterrorist act, or other threat to agricultural biosecurity; and

(2) coordinate activities described in paragraph (1) among agencies and offices within the Department.

(b) **RELATION TO EXISTING DHS COMMUNICATION SYSTEMS.**—

(1) **CONSISTENCY AND COORDINATION.**—The communication center established under subsection (a) shall, to the maximum extent practicable, share and coordinate the dissemination of timely information with the Department of Homeland Security and other communication systems of appropriate Federal departments and agencies.

(2) **AVOIDING REDUNDANCIES.**—Paragraph (1) shall not be construed to impede, conflict with, or duplicate the communications activities performed by the Secretary of Homeland Security under any provision of law.

(c) **AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.**—There is authorized to be appropriated such sums as may be necessary to carry out this section for each of fiscal years 2008 through 2012.

**SEC. 14113. ASSISTANCE TO BUILD LOCAL CAPACITY IN AGRICULTURAL BIOSECURITY PLANNING, PREPAREDNESS, AND RESPONSE.**

(a) **ADVANCED TRAINING PROGRAMS.**—

(1) **GRANT ASSISTANCE.**—The Secretary shall establish a competitive grant program to support the development and expansion of advanced training programs in agricultural biosecurity planning and response for food science professionals and veterinarians.

(2) **AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.**—There are authorized to be appropriated to the Secretary such sums as may be necessary to carry out this subsection for each of fiscal years 2008 through 2012.

(b) **ASSESSMENT OF RESPONSE CAPABILITY.**—

(1) **GRANT AND LOAN ASSISTANCE.**—The Secretary shall establish a competitive grant and low-interest loan assistance program to assist States in assessing agricultural disease response capability.

(2) **AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.**—There is authorized to be appropriated to carry out this subsection \$25,000,000 for each of fiscal years 2008 through 2012.

**CHAPTER 2—OTHER PROVISIONS**

**SEC. 14121. RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT OF AGRICULTURAL COUNTERMEASURES.**

(a) **GRANT PROGRAM.**—

(1) **COMPETITIVE GRANT PROGRAM.**—The Secretary shall establish a competitive grant program to encourage basic and applied research and the development of qualified agricultural countermeasures.

(2) **WAIVER IN EMERGENCIES.**—The Secretary may waive the requirement under paragraph (1) that a grant be provided on a competitive basis if—

(A) the Secretary has declared a plant or animal disease emergency under the Plant Protection Act (7 U.S.C. 7701 et seq.) or the Animal Health Protection Act (7 U.S.C. 8301 et seq.); and

(B) waiving the requirement would lead to the rapid development of a qualified agricultural countermeasure, as determined by the Secretary.

(b) **AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.**—There is authorized to be appropriated to carry out this section \$50,000,000 for each of fiscal years 2008 through 2012.

**SEC. 14122. AGRICULTURAL BIOSECURITY GRANT PROGRAM.**

(a) **COMPETITIVE GRANT PROGRAM.**—The Secretary shall establish a competitive grant program to promote the development of teaching programs in agriculture, veterinary medicine, and disciplines closely allied to the food and agriculture system to increase the number of trained individuals with an expertise in agricultural biosecurity.

(b) **ELIGIBILITY.**—The Secretary may award a grant under this section only to an entity that is—

(1) an accredited school of veterinary medicine; or

(2) a department of an institution of higher education with a primary focus on—

(A) comparative medicine;

(B) veterinary science; or

(C) agricultural biosecurity.

(c) **PREFERENCE.**—The Secretary shall give preference in awarding grants based on the ability of an applicant—

(1) to increase the number of veterinarians or individuals with advanced degrees in food and agriculture disciplines who are trained in agricultural biosecurity practice areas;

(2) to increase research capacity in areas of agricultural biosecurity; or

(3) to fill critical agricultural biosecurity shortage situations outside of the Federal Government.

(d) **USE OF FUNDS.**—

(1) **IN GENERAL.**—Amounts received under this section shall be used by a grantee to pay—

(A) costs associated with the acquisition of equipment and other capital costs relating to the expansion of food, agriculture, and veterinary medicine teaching programs in agricultural biosecurity;

(B) capital costs associated with the expansion of academic programs that offer postgraduate training for veterinarians or concurrent training for veterinary students in specific areas of specialization; or

(C) other capacity and infrastructure program costs that the Secretary considers appropriate.

(2) **LIMITATION.**—Funds received under this section may not be used for the construction, renovation, or rehabilitation of a building or facility.

(e) **AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.**—There are authorized to be appropriated sums as are necessary to carry out this section

for each of fiscal years 2008 through 2012, to remain available until expended.

## Subtitle C—Other Miscellaneous Provisions

### SEC. 14201. COTTON CLASSIFICATION SERVICES.

Section 3a of the Act of March 3, 1927 (7 U.S.C. 473a), is amended to read as follows:

#### “SEC. 3a. COTTON CLASSIFICATION SERVICES.

“(a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary of Agriculture (referred to in this section as the ‘Secretary’) shall—

“(1) make cotton classification services available to producers of cotton; and

“(2) provide for the collection of classification fees from participating producers or agents that voluntarily agree to collect and remit the fees on behalf of producers.

“(b) FEES.—

“(1) USE OF FEES.—Classification fees collected under subsection (a)(2) and the proceeds from the sales of samples submitted under this section shall, to the maximum extent practicable, be used to pay the cost of the services provided under this section, including administrative and supervisory costs.

“(2) ANNOUNCEMENT OF FEES.—The Secretary shall announce a uniform classification fee and any applicable surcharge for classification services not later than June 1 of the year in which the fee applies.

“(c) CONSULTATION.—

“(1) IN GENERAL.—In establishing the amount of fees under this section, the Secretary shall consult with representatives of the United States cotton industry.

“(2) EXEMPTION.—The Federal Advisory Committee Act (5 U.S.C. App.) shall not apply to consultations with representatives of the United States cotton industry under this section.

“(d) CREDITING OF FEES.—Any fees collected under this section and under section 3d, late payment penalties, the proceeds from the sales of samples, and interest earned from the investment of such funds shall—

“(1) be credited to the current appropriation account that incurs the cost of services provided under this section and section 3d; and

“(2) remain available without fiscal year limitation to pay the expenses of the Secretary in providing those services.

“(e) INVESTMENT OF FUNDS.—Funds described in subsection (d) may be invested—

“(1) by the Secretary in insured or fully collateralized, interest-bearing accounts; or

“(2) at the discretion of the Secretary, by the Secretary of the Treasury in United States Government debt instruments.

“(f) LEASE AGREEMENTS.—Notwithstanding any other provision of law, the Secretary may enter into long-term lease agreements that exceed 5 years or may take title to property (including through purchase agreements) for the purpose of obtaining offices to be used for the classification of cotton in accordance with this Act,



if the Secretary determines that action would best effectuate the purposes of this Act.

“(g) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—To the extent that financing is not available from fees and the proceeds from the sales of samples, there are authorized to be appropriated such sums as are necessary to carry out this section.”.

**SEC. 14202. DESIGNATION OF STATES FOR COTTON RESEARCH AND PROMOTION.**

Section 17(f) of the Cotton Research and Promotion Act (7 U.S.C. 2116(f)) is amended—

(1) by striking “(f) The term” and inserting the following:

“(f) COTTON-PRODUCING STATE.—

“(1) IN GENERAL.—The term”;

(2) by striking “more, and the term” and all that follows through the end of the subsection and inserting the following: “more.

“(2) INCLUSIONS.—The term ‘cotton-producing State’ includes—

“(A) any combination of States described in paragraph (1); and

“(B) effective beginning with the 2008 crop of cotton, the States of Kansas, Virginia, and Florida.”.

**SEC. 14203. GRANTS TO REDUCE PRODUCTION OF METHAMPHETAMINES FROM ANHYDROUS AMMONIA.**

(a) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

(1) ELIGIBLE ENTITY.—The term “eligible entity” means—

(A) a producer of agricultural commodities;

(B) a cooperative association, a majority of the members of which produce or process agricultural commodities; or

(C) a person in the trade or business of—

(i) selling an agricultural product (including an agricultural chemical) at retail, predominantly to farmers and ranchers; or

(ii) aerial and ground application of an agricultural chemical.

(2) NURSE TANK.—The term “nurse tank” shall be considered to be a cargo tank (within the meaning of section 173.315(m) of title 49, Code of Federal Regulations, as in effect as of the date of the enactment of this Act).

(b) GRANT AUTHORITY.—The Secretary may make a grant to an eligible entity to enable the eligible entity to obtain and add to an anhydrous ammonia fertilizer nurse tank a physical lock or a substance to reduce the amount of methamphetamine that can be produced from any anhydrous ammonia removed from the nurse tank.

(c) GRANT AMOUNT.—The amount of a grant made under this section to an eligible entity shall be the product obtained by multiplying—

(1) an amount not less than \$40 and not more than \$60, as determined by the Secretary; and

(2) the number of fertilizer nurse tanks of the eligible entity.

(d) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There is authorized to be appropriated to the Secretary to make grants under this

section \$15,000,000 for the period of fiscal years 2008 through 2012.

**SEC. 14204. GRANTS TO IMPROVE SUPPLY, STABILITY, SAFETY, AND TRAINING OF AGRICULTURAL LABOR FORCE.**

(a) **DEFINITION OF ELIGIBLE ENTITY.**—In this section, the term “eligible entity” means an entity described in section 379C(a) of the Consolidated Farm and Rural Development Act (7 U.S.C. 2008q(a)).

(b) **GRANTS.**—

(1) **IN GENERAL.**—To assist agricultural employers and farmworkers by improving the supply, stability, safety, and training of the agricultural labor force, the Secretary may provide grants to eligible entities for use in providing services to assist farmworkers who are citizens or otherwise legally present in the United States in securing, retaining, upgrading, or returning from agricultural jobs.

(2) **ELIGIBLE SERVICES.**—The services referred to in paragraph (1) include—

(A) agricultural labor skills development;

(B) the provision of agricultural labor market information;

(C) transportation;

(D) short-term housing while in transit to an agricultural worksite;

(E) workplace literacy and assistance with English as a second language;

(F) health and safety instruction, including ways of safeguarding the food supply of the United States; and

(G) such other services as the Secretary determines to be appropriate.

(c) **LIMITATION ON ADMINISTRATIVE EXPENSES.**—Not more than 15 percent of the funds made available to carry out this section for a fiscal year may be used to pay for administrative expenses.

(d) **AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.**—There are authorized to be appropriated such sums as are necessary to carry out this section for each of fiscal years 2008 through 2012.

**SEC. 14205. AMENDMENT TO THE RIGHT TO FINANCIAL PRIVACY ACT OF 1978.**

Section 1113(k) of the Right to Financial Privacy Act of 1978 (12 U.S.C. 3413(k)) is amended—

(1) by striking the subsection heading and inserting the following:

“(k) **DISCLOSURE NECESSARY FOR PROPER ADMINISTRATION OF PROGRAMS OF CERTAIN GOVERNMENT AUTHORITIES.**—”; and

(2) by striking paragraph (2) and inserting the following:

“(2) Nothing in this title shall apply to the disclosure by the financial institution of information contained in the financial records of any customer to any Government authority that certifies, disburses, or collects payments, where the disclosure of such information is necessary to, and such information is used solely for the purpose of—

“(A) verification of the identity of any person or proper routing and delivery of funds in connection with the issuance of a Federal payment or collection of funds by a Government authority; or

“(B) the investigation or recovery of an improper Federal payment or collection of funds or an improperly negotiated Treasury check.

“(3) Notwithstanding any other provision of law, a request authorized by paragraph (1) or (2) (and the information contained therein) may be used by the financial institution or its agents solely for the purpose of providing information contained in the financial records of the customer to the Government authority requesting the information, and the financial institution and its agents shall be barred from redisclosure of such information. Any Government authority receiving information pursuant to paragraph (1) or (2) may not disclose or use the information, except for the purposes set forth in such paragraph.”.

**SEC. 14206. REPORT ON STORED QUANTITIES OF PROPANE.**

(a) REPORT.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 240 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of Homeland Security (referred to in this section as the “Secretary”) shall submit to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry of the Senate and the Committee on Agriculture of the House of Representatives a report describing the effect of interim or final regulations issued by the Secretary pursuant to section 550(a) of the Department of Homeland Security Appropriations Act, 2007 (6 U.S.C. 121 note; Public Law 109–295), with respect to possession of quantities of propane that meet or exceed the screening threshold quantity for propane established in the final rule under that section.

(2) INCLUSIONS.—The report under paragraph (1) shall include a description of—

(A) the number of facilities that completed a top screen consequence assessment due to possession of quantities of propane that meet or exceed the listed screening threshold quantity for propane;

(B) the number of agricultural facilities that completed the top screen consequence assessment due to possession of quantities of propane that meet or exceed the listed screening threshold quantity for propane;

(C) the number of propane facilities initially determined to be high risk by the Secretary;

(D) the number of propane facilities—

(i) required to complete a security vulnerability assessment or a site security plan; or

(ii) that submit to the Secretary an alternative security program;

(E) the number of propane facilities that file an appeal of a finding under the final rule described in paragraph (1); and

(F) to the extent available, the average cost of—

(i) completing a top screen consequence assessment requirement;

(ii) completing a security vulnerability assessment; and

(iii) completing and implementing a site security plan; and

(3) FORM.—The report under paragraph (1) shall be submitted in unclassified form, but may include a classified annex.

(b) EDUCATIONAL OUTREACH.—Not later than 30 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary shall conduct educational outreach activities for rural facilities that may be required to complete a top screen consequence assessment due to possession of propane in a quantity that meets or exceeds the listed screening threshold quantity for propane.

**SEC. 14207. PROHIBITIONS ON DOG FIGHTING VENTURES.**

(a) IN GENERAL.—Section 26 of the Animal Welfare Act (7 U.S.C. 2156) is amended—

(1) in subsection (a)—

(A) in paragraph (1), by striking “, if any animal in the venture was moved in interstate or foreign commerce”; and

(B) in the heading of paragraph (2), by striking “STATE” and inserting “STATE”;

(2) in subsection (b)—

(A) by striking “(b) It shall be” and inserting the following:

“(b) BUYING, SELLING, DELIVERING, POSSESSING, TRAINING, OR TRANSPORTING ANIMALS FOR PARTICIPATION IN ANIMAL FIGHTING VENTURE.—It shall be”; and

(B) by striking “transport, deliver” and all that follows through “participate” and inserting “possess, train, transport, deliver, or receive any animal for purposes of having the animal participate”;

(3) in subsection (c)—

(A) by striking “(c) It shall be” and inserting the following:

“(c) USE OF POSTAL SERVICE OR OTHER INTERSTATE INSTRUMENTALITY FOR PROMOTING OR FURTHERING ANIMAL FIGHTING VENTURE.—It shall be”; and

(B) by inserting “advertising an animal, or an instrument described in subsection (e), for use in an animal fighting venture,” after “for purposes of”;

(4) in subsection (d), by striking “(d) Notwithstanding” and inserting the following:

“(d) VIOLATION OF STATE LAW.—Notwithstanding”;

(5) in subsection (e), by striking “(e) It shall be” and inserting the following:

“(e) BUYING, SELLING, DELIVERING, OR TRANSPORTING SHARP INSTRUMENTS FOR USE IN ANIMAL FIGHTING VENTURE.—It shall be”;

(6) in subsection (f)—

(A) by striking “(f) The Secretary” and inserting the following:

“(f) INVESTIGATION OF VIOLATIONS BY SECRETARY; ASSISTANCE BY OTHER FEDERAL AGENCIES; ISSUANCE OF SEARCH WARRANT; FORFEITURE; COSTS RECOVERABLE IN FORFEITURE OR CIVIL ACTION.—The Secretary”; and

(B) in the last sentence—

(i) by striking “by the United States”;

(ii) by inserting “(1)” after “owner of the animals”;

and

(iii) by striking “proceeding or in” and inserting “proceeding, or (2) in”;

(7) in subsection (g)—

(A) by striking “(g) For purposes of” and inserting the following:

“(g) DEFINITIONS.—In”;

(B) in paragraph (1), by striking “any event” and all that follows through “entertainment” and inserting “any event, in or affecting interstate or foreign commerce, that involves a fight conducted or to be conducted between at least 2 animals for purposes of sport, wagering, or entertainment,”;

(C) by striking paragraph (2);

(D) in paragraph (5)—

(i) by striking “dog or other”; and

(ii) by striking “; and” and inserting a period;

and

(E) by redesignating paragraphs (3) through (5) as paragraphs (2) through (4), respectively;

(8) by redesignating subsections (h) and (i) as subsections (i) and (j), respectively;

(9) in subsection (i) (as so redesignated), by striking “(i)(1)

The provisions” and inserting the following:

“(i) CONFLICT WITH STATE LAW.—

“(1) IN GENERAL.—The provisions”;

(10) in subsection (j) (as so redesignated), by striking “(j)

The criminal” and inserting the following:

“(j) CRIMINAL PENALTIES.—The criminal”;

(11) in subsection (g)(6), by striking “(6) the conduct” and inserting the following:

“(h) RELATIONSHIP TO OTHER PROVISIONS.—The conduct”.

(b) ENFORCEMENT OF ANIMAL FIGHTING PROHIBITIONS.—Section 49 of title 18, United States Code, is amended by striking “3 years” and inserting “5 years”.

**SEC. 14208. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE CONFERENCE TRANSPARENCY.**

(a) REPORT.—

(1) REQUIREMENT.—Not later than September 30 of each year, the Secretary of Agriculture shall submit to the Committee on Agriculture of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry of the Senate, a report on conferences sponsored or held by the Department of Agriculture or attended by employees of the Department of Agriculture.

(2) CONTENTS.—Each report under paragraph (1) shall contain—

(A) for each conference sponsored or held by the Department or attended by employees of the Department—

(i) the name of the conference;

(ii) the location of the conference;

(iii) the number of Department of Agriculture employees attending the conference; and

(iv) the costs (including travel expenses) relating to such conference; and

(B) for each conference sponsored or held by the Department of Agriculture for which the Department

awarded a procurement contract, a description of the contracting procedures related to such conference.

(3) EXCLUSIONS.—The requirement in paragraph (1) shall not apply to any conference—

(A) for which the cost to the Federal Government was less than \$10,000; or

(B) outside of the United States that is attended by the Secretary or the Secretary's designee as an official representative of the United States government.

(b) AVAILABILITY OF REPORT.—Each report submitted in accordance with subsection (a) shall be posted in a searchable format on a Department of Agriculture website that is available to the public.

(c) DEFINITION OF CONFERENCE.—In this section, the term “conference”—

(1) means a meeting that—

(A) is held for consultation, education, awareness, or discussion;

(B) includes participants from at least one agency of the Department of Agriculture;

(C) is held in whole or in part at a facility outside of an agency of the Department of Agriculture; and

(D) involves costs associated with travel and lodging for some participants; and

(2) does not include any training program that is continuing education or a curriculum-based educational program, provided that such training program is held independent of a conference of a non-governmental organization.

**SEC. 14209. FEDERAL INSECTICIDE, FUNGICIDE, AND RODENTICIDE ACT AMENDMENTS.**

(a) PAYMENT OF EXPENSES.—Section 17(d) of the Federal Insecticide, Fungicide, and Rodenticide Act (7 U.S.C. 136o(d)) is amended—

(1) by striking “The Administrator” and inserting the following:

“(1) IN GENERAL.—The Administrator”; and

(2) by adding at the end the following new paragraph:

“(2) DEPARTMENT OF STATE EXPENSES.—Any expenses incurred by an employee of the Environmental Protection Agency who participates in any international technical, economic, or policy review board, committee, or other official body that is meeting in relation to an international treaty shall be paid by the Department of State.”.

(b) CONTAINER RECYCLING.—Section 19(a) of the Federal Insecticide, Fungicide, and Rodenticide Act (7 U.S.C. 136q(a)) is amended by adding at the end the following new paragraph:

“(4) CONTAINER RECYCLING.—The Secretary may promulgate a regulation for the return and recycling of disposable pesticide containers used for the distribution or sale of registered pesticide products in interstate commerce. Any such regulation requiring recycling of disposable pesticide containers shall not apply to antimicrobial pesticides (as defined in section 2) or other pesticide products intended for non-agricultural uses.”.

**SEC. 14210. IMPORTATION OF LIVE DOGS.**

(a) IN GENERAL.—The Animal Welfare Act is amended by adding after section 17 (7 U.S.C. 2147) the following:

**“SEC. 18. IMPORTATION OF LIVE DOGS.**

“(a) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

“(1) IMPORTER.—The term ‘importer’ means any person who, for purposes of resale, transports into the United States puppies from a foreign country.

“(2) RESALE.—The term ‘resale’ includes any transfer of ownership or control of an imported dog of less than 6 months of age to another person, for more than de minimis consideration.

“(b) REQUIREMENTS.—

“(1) IN GENERAL.—Except as provided in paragraph (2), no person shall import a dog into the United States for purposes of resale unless, as determined by the Secretary, the dog—

“(A) is in good health;

“(B) has received all necessary vaccinations; and

“(C) is at least 6 months of age, if imported for resale.

“(2) EXCEPTION.—

“(A) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary, by regulation, shall provide an exception to any requirement under paragraph (1) in any case in which a dog is imported for—

“(i) research purposes; or

“(ii) veterinary treatment.

“(B) LAWFUL IMPORTATION INTO HAWAII.—Paragraph (1)(C) shall not apply to the lawful importation of a dog into the State of Hawaii from the British Isles, Australia, Guam, or New Zealand in compliance with the applicable regulations of the State of Hawaii and the other requirements of this section, if the dog is not transported out of the State of Hawaii for purposes of resale at less than 6 months of age.

“(c) IMPLEMENTATION AND REGULATIONS.—The Secretary, the Secretary of Health and Human Services, the Secretary of Commerce, and the Secretary of Homeland Security shall promulgate such regulations as the Secretaries determine to be necessary to implement and enforce this section.

“(d) ENFORCEMENT.—An importer that fails to comply with this section shall—

“(1) be subject to penalties under section 19; and

“(2) provide for the care (including appropriate veterinary care), forfeiture, and adoption of each applicable dog, at the expense of the importer.”.

(b) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendment made by subsection (a) takes effect on the date of the enactment of this Act.

**SEC. 14211. PERMANENT DEBARMENT FROM PARTICIPATION IN DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE PROGRAMS FOR FRAUD.**

(a) IN GENERAL.—Subject to subsection (b), the Secretary of Agriculture shall permanently debar an individual, organization, corporation, or other entity convicted of a felony for knowingly defrauding the United States in connection with any program administered by the Department of Agriculture from any subsequent participation in Department of Agriculture programs.

(b) EXCEPTIONS.—

(1) SECRETARY DETERMINATION.—The Secretary may reduce a debarment under subsection (a) to a period of not less than 10 years if the Secretary considers it appropriate.

(2) FOOD ASSISTANCE.—A debarment under subsection (a) shall not apply with respect to participation in domestic food assistance programs (as defined by the Secretary).

**SEC. 14212. PROHIBITION ON CLOSURE OR RELOCATION OF COUNTY OFFICES FOR THE FARM SERVICE AGENCY.**

(a) TEMPORARY PROHIBITION.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Subject to paragraph (2), until the date that is two years after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of Agriculture may not close or relocate a county or field office of the Farm Service Agency.

(2) EXCEPTION.—Paragraph (1) shall not apply to—

(A) an office that is located not more than 20 miles from another office of the Farm Service Agency; or

(B) the relocation of an office within the same county in the course of routine leasing operations.

(b) LIMITATION ON CLOSURE; NOTICE.—

(1) LIMITATION.—After the period referred to in subsection (a)(1), the Secretary shall, before closing any office of the Farm Service Agency that is located more than 20 miles from another office of the Farm Service Agency, to the maximum extent practicable, first close any offices of the Farm Service Agency that—

(A) are located less than 20 miles from another office of the Farm Service Agency; and

(B) have two or fewer permanent full-time employees.

(2) NOTICE.—After the period referred to in subsection (a)(1), the Secretary of Agriculture may not close a county or field office of the Farm Service Agency unless—

(A) not later than 30 days after the Secretary proposes to close such office, the Secretary holds a public meeting regarding the proposed closure in the county in which such office is located; and

(B) after the public meeting referred to in subparagraph (A), but not less than 90 days before the date on which the Secretary approves the closure of such office, the Secretary notifies the Committee on Agriculture and the Committee on Appropriations of the House of Representatives, the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry and the Committee on Appropriations of the Senate, each Senator representing the State in which the office proposed to be closed is located, and the member of the House of Representatives who represents the Congressional district in which the office proposed to be closed is located of the proposed closure of such office.

**SEC. 14213. USDA GRADUATE SCHOOL.**

(a) IN GENERAL.—Section 921 of the Federal Agriculture Improvement and Reform Act of 1996 (7 U.S.C. 2279b) is amended—

(1) in the heading, to read as follows:



**“SEC. 921. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE EDUCATIONAL, TRAINING, AND PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT ACTIVITIES.”; and**

(2) by striking subsection (b) and inserting the following new subsection:

**“(b) OPERATION AS NONAPPROPRIATED FUND INSTRUMENTALITY.—**

**“(1) CEASE OPERATIONS.—**Not later than October 1, 2009, the Secretary of Agriculture shall cease to maintain or operate a nonappropriated fund instrumentality of the United States to develop, administer, or provide educational training and professional development activities, including educational activities for Federal agencies, Federal employees, non-profit organizations, other entities, and members of the general public.

**“(2) TRANSITION.—**

**“(A) IN GENERAL.—**The Secretary of Agriculture is authorized to use funds available to the Department of Agriculture and such resources of the Department as the Secretary considers appropriate (including the assignment of such employees of the Department as the Secretary considers appropriate) to assist the General Administrative Board of the Graduate School in the conversion of the Graduate School to an entity that is non-governmental and not a nonappropriated fund instrumentality of the United States, including such privatization activities not otherwise inconsistent with law or regulation.

**“(B) TERMINATION OF AUTHORITY.—**The authority under paragraph (1) shall terminate on the earlier of—

**“(i) the completion of the transition of the Graduate School to an entity that is non-governmental and not a nonappropriated fund instrumentality of the United States, as determined by the Secretary; or**

**“(ii) September 30, 2009.”.**

**(b) PROCUREMENT PROCEDURES.—**Notwithstanding the amendments made by subsection (a), effective on the date of the enactment of this Act, the Graduate School of the Department of Agriculture shall be subject to Federal procurement laws and regulations in the same manner and subject to the same requirements as a private entity providing services to the Federal Government.

**SEC. 14214. FINES FOR VIOLATIONS OF THE ANIMAL WELFARE ACT.**

Section 19(b) of the Animal Welfare Act (7 U.S.C. 2149(b)) is amended in the first sentence by striking “not more than \$2,500 for each such violation” and inserting “not more than \$10,000 for each such violation”.

**SEC. 14215. DEFINITION OF CENTRAL FILING SYSTEM.**

Section 1324(c)(2) of the Food Security Act of 1985 (7 U.S.C. 1631(c)(2)) is amended—

(1) in subparagraph (C)(ii)(II), by inserting after “such debtors” the following: “, except that the numerical list containing social security or taxpayer identification numbers may be encrypted for security purposes if the Secretary of State provides a method by which an effective search of the encrypted numbers may be conducted to determine whether the farm product at issue is subject to 1 or more liens”; and

(2) in subparagraph (E)—

(A) by striking “paragraph (C)” and inserting “subparagraph (C)”; and

(B) by inserting before the semicolon at the end the following: “except that—

“(i) the distribution of the portion of the master list may be in electronic, written, or printed form; and

“(ii) if social security or taxpayer identification numbers on the master list are encrypted, the Secretary of State may distribute the master list only—

“(I) by compact disc or other electronic media that contains—

“(aa) the recorded list of debtor names; and

“(bb) an encryption program that enables the buyer, commission merchant, and selling agent to enter a social security number for matching against the recorded list of encrypted social security or taxpayer identification numbers; and

“(II) on the written request of the buyer, commission merchant, or selling agent, by paper copy of the list to the requestor”.

**SEC. 14216. CONSIDERATION OF PROPOSED RECOMMENDATIONS OF STUDY ON USE OF CATS AND DOGS IN FEDERAL RESEARCH.**

(a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary of Agriculture shall—

(1) review—

(A) any independent reviews conducted by a nationally recognized panel of experts of the use of Class B dogs and cats in federally supported research to determine how frequently such dogs and cats are used in research by the National Institutes of Health; and

(B) any recommendations proposed by such panel outlining the parameters of such use; and

(2) submit to the Committee on Agriculture of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry of the Senate a report on how recommendations referred to in paragraph (1)(B) can be applied within the Department of Agriculture to ensure such dogs and cats are treated in accordance with regulations of the Department of Agriculture.

(b) CLASS B DOGS AND CATS DEFINED.—In this section, the term “Class B dogs and cats” means dogs and cats obtained from a Class “B” licensee, as such term is defined in section 1.1 of title 9, Code of Federal Regulations.

**SEC. 14217. REGIONAL ECONOMIC AND INFRASTRUCTURE DEVELOPMENT.**

(a) IN GENERAL.—Title 40, United States Code, is amended—

(1) by redesignating subtitle V as subtitle VI; and

(2) by inserting after subtitle IV the following:

## “Subtitle V—Regional Economic and Infrastructure Development

“Chapter .....	
“151. GENERAL PROVISIONS .....	15101
“153. REGIONAL COMMISSIONS .....	15301
“155. FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE .....	15501
“157. ADMINISTRATIVE PROVISIONS .....	15701

### “CHAPTER 1—GENERAL PROVISIONS

“Sec.  
“15101. Definitions.

#### “§ 15101. Definitions

“In this subtitle, the following definitions apply:

“(1) COMMISSION.—The term ‘Commission’ means a Commission established under section 15301.

“(2) LOCAL DEVELOPMENT DISTRICT.—The term ‘local development district’ means an entity that—

“(A)(i) is an economic development district that is—

“(I) in existence on the date of the enactment of this chapter; and

“(II) located in the region; or

“(ii) if an entity described in clause (i) does not exist—

“(I) is organized and operated in a manner that ensures broad-based community participation and an effective opportunity for local officials, community leaders, and the public to contribute to the development and implementation of programs in the region;

“(II) is governed by a policy board with at least a simple majority of members consisting of—

“(aa) elected officials; or

“(bb) designees or employees of a general purpose unit of local government that have been appointed to represent the unit of local government; and

“(III) is certified by the Governor or appropriate State officer as having a charter or authority that includes the economic development of counties, portions of counties, or other political subdivisions within the region; and

“(B) has not, as certified by the Federal Cochairperson—

“(i) inappropriately used Federal grant funds from any Federal source; or

“(ii) appointed an officer who, during the period in which another entity inappropriately used Federal grant funds from any Federal source, was an officer of the other entity.

“(3) FEDERAL GRANT PROGRAM.—The term ‘Federal grant program’ means a Federal grant program to provide assistance in carrying out economic and community development activities.

“(4) INDIAN TRIBE.—The term ‘Indian tribe’ has the meaning given the term in section 4 of the Indian Self-Determination and Education Assistance Act (25 U.S.C. 450b).

“(5) NONPROFIT ENTITY.—The term ‘nonprofit entity’ means any organization described in section 501(c) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 and exempt from taxation under 501(a) of that Code that has been formed for the purpose of economic development.

“(6) REGION.—The term ‘region’ means the area covered by a Commission as described in subchapter II of chapter 157.

## “CHAPTER 2—REGIONAL COMMISSIONS

“Sec.

“15301. Establishment, membership, and employees.

“15302. Decisions.

“15303. Functions.

“15304. Administrative powers and expenses.

“15305. Meetings.

“15306. Personal financial interests.

“15307. Tribal participation.

“15308. Annual report.

### “§ 15301. Establishment, membership, and employees

“(a) ESTABLISHMENT.—There are established the following regional Commissions:

“(1) The Southeast Crescent Regional Commission.

“(2) The Southwest Border Regional Commission.

“(3) The Northern Border Regional Commission.

“(b) MEMBERSHIP.—

“(1) FEDERAL AND STATE MEMBERS.—Each Commission shall be composed of the following members:

“(A) A Federal Cochairperson, to be appointed by the President, by and with the advice and consent of the Senate.

“(B) The Governor of each participating State in the region of the Commission.

“(2) ALTERNATE MEMBERS.—

“(A) ALTERNATE FEDERAL COCHAIRPERSON.—The President shall appoint an alternate Federal Cochairperson for each Commission. The alternate Federal Cochairperson, when not actively serving as an alternate for the Federal Cochairperson, shall perform such functions and duties as are delegated by the Federal Cochairperson.

“(B) STATE ALTERNATES.—The State member of a participating State may have a single alternate, who shall be appointed by the Governor of the State from among the members of the Governor’s cabinet or personal staff.

“(C) VOTING.—An alternate member shall vote in the case of the absence, death, disability, removal, or resignation of the Federal or State member for which the alternate member is an alternate.

“(3) COCHAIRPERSONS.—A Commission shall be headed by—

“(A) the Federal Cochairperson, who shall serve as a liaison between the Federal Government and the Commission; and

“(B) a State Cochairperson, who shall be a Governor of a participating State in the region and shall be elected by the State members for a term of not less than 1 year.

“(4) CONSECUTIVE TERMS.—A State member may not be elected to serve as State Cochairperson for more than 2 consecutive terms.

“(c) COMPENSATION.—

“(1) FEDERAL COCHAIRPERSONS.—Each Federal Cochairperson shall be compensated by the Federal Government at level III of the Executive Schedule as set out in section 5314 of title 5.

“(2) ALTERNATE FEDERAL COCHAIRPERSONS.—Each Federal Cochairperson’s alternate shall be compensated by the Federal Government at level V of the Executive Schedule as set out in section 5316 of title 5.

“(3) STATE MEMBERS AND ALTERNATES.—Each State member and alternate shall be compensated by the State that they represent at the rate established by the laws of that State.

“(d) EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR AND STAFF.—

“(1) IN GENERAL.—A Commission shall appoint and fix the compensation of an executive director and such other personnel as are necessary to enable the Commission to carry out its duties. Compensation under this paragraph may not exceed the maximum rate of basic pay established for the Senior Executive Service under section 5382 of title 5, including any applicable locality-based comparability payment that may be authorized under section 5304(h)(2)(C) of that title.

“(2) EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR.—The executive director shall be responsible for carrying out the administrative duties of the Commission, directing the Commission staff, and such other duties as the Commission may assign.

“(e) NO FEDERAL EMPLOYEE STATUS.—No member, alternate, officer, or employee of a Commission (other than the Federal Cochairperson, the alternate Federal Cochairperson, staff of the Federal Cochairperson, and any Federal employee detailed to the Commission) shall be considered to be a Federal employee for any purpose.

### “§ 15302. Decisions

“(a) REQUIREMENTS FOR APPROVAL.—Except as provided in section 15304(c)(3), decisions by the Commission shall require the affirmative vote of the Federal Cochairperson and a majority of the State members (exclusive of members representing States delinquent under section 15304(c)(3)(C)).

“(b) CONSULTATION.—In matters coming before the Commission, the Federal Cochairperson shall, to the extent practicable, consult with the Federal departments and agencies having an interest in the subject matter.

“(c) QUORUMS.—A Commission shall determine what constitutes a quorum for Commission meetings; except that—

“(1) any quorum shall include the Federal Cochairperson or the alternate Federal Cochairperson; and

“(2) a State alternate member shall not be counted toward the establishment of a quorum.

“(d) PROJECTS AND GRANT PROPOSALS.—The approval of project and grant proposals shall be a responsibility of each Commission and shall be carried out in accordance with section 15503.

### “§ 15303. Functions

“A Commission shall—

“(1) assess the needs and assets of its region based on available research, demonstration projects, investigations,

assessments, and evaluations of the region prepared by Federal, State, and local agencies, universities, local development districts, and other nonprofit groups;

“(2) develop, on a continuing basis, comprehensive and coordinated economic and infrastructure development strategies to establish priorities and approve grants for the economic development of its region, giving due consideration to other Federal, State, and local planning and development activities in the region;

“(3) not later than one year after the date of the enactment of this section, and after taking into account State plans developed under section 15502, establish priorities in an economic and infrastructure development plan for its region, including 5-year regional outcome targets;

“(4)(A) enhance the capacity of, and provide support for, local development districts in its region; or

“(B) if no local development district exists in an area in a participating State in the region, foster the creation of a local development district;

“(5) encourage private investment in industrial, commercial, and other economic development projects in its region;

“(6) cooperate with and assist State governments with the preparation of economic and infrastructure development plans and programs for participating States;

“(7) formulate and recommend to the Governors and legislatures of States that participate in the Commission forms of interstate cooperation and, where appropriate, international cooperation; and

“(8) work with State and local agencies in developing appropriate model legislation to enhance local and regional economic development.

**“§ 15304. Administrative powers and expenses**

“(a) POWERS.—In carrying out its duties under this subtitle, a Commission may—

“(1) hold such hearings, sit and act at such times and places, take such testimony, receive such evidence, and print or otherwise reproduce and distribute a description of the proceedings and reports on actions by the Commission as the Commission considers appropriate;

“(2) authorize, through the Federal or State Cochairperson or any other member of the Commission designated by the Commission, the administration of oaths if the Commission determines that testimony should be taken or evidence received under oath;

“(3) request from any Federal, State, or local agency such information as may be available to or procurable by the agency that may be of use to the Commission in carrying out the duties of the Commission;

“(4) adopt, amend, and repeal bylaws and rules governing the conduct of business and the performance of duties by the Commission;

“(5) request the head of any Federal agency, State agency, or local government to detail to the Commission such personnel as the Commission requires to carry out its duties, each such detail to be without loss of seniority, pay, or other employee status;

“(6) provide for coverage of Commission employees in a suitable retirement and employee benefit system by making arrangements or entering into contracts with any participating State government or otherwise providing retirement and other employee coverage;

“(7) accept, use, and dispose of gifts or donations or services or real, personal, tangible, or intangible property;

“(8) enter into and perform such contracts, cooperative agreements, or other transactions as are necessary to carry out Commission duties, including any contracts or cooperative agreements with a department, agency, or instrumentality of the United States, a State (including a political subdivision, agency, or instrumentality of the State), or a person, firm, association, or corporation; and

“(9) maintain a government relations office in the District of Columbia and establish and maintain a central office at such location in its region as the Commission may select.

“(b) FEDERAL AGENCY COOPERATION.—A Federal agency shall—

“(1) cooperate with a Commission; and

“(2) provide, to the extent practicable, on request of the Federal Cochairperson, appropriate assistance in carrying out this subtitle, in accordance with applicable Federal laws (including regulations).

“(c) ADMINISTRATIVE EXPENSES.—

“(1) IN GENERAL.—Subject to paragraph (2), the administrative expenses of a Commission shall be paid—

“(A) by the Federal Government, in an amount equal to 50 percent of the administrative expenses of the Commission; and

“(B) by the States participating in the Commission, in an amount equal to 50 percent of the administrative expenses.

“(2) EXPENSES OF THE FEDERAL COCHAIRPERSON.—All expenses of the Federal Cochairperson, including expenses of the alternate and staff of the Federal Cochairperson, shall be paid by the Federal Government.

“(3) STATE SHARE.—

“(A) IN GENERAL.—Subject to subparagraph (B), the share of administrative expenses of a Commission to be paid by each State of the Commission shall be determined by a unanimous vote of the State members of the Commission.

“(B) NO FEDERAL PARTICIPATION.—The Federal Cochairperson shall not participate or vote in any decision under subparagraph (A).

“(C) DELINQUENT STATES.—During any period in which a State is more than 1 year delinquent in payment of the State’s share of administrative expenses of the Commission under this subsection—

“(i) no assistance under this subtitle shall be provided to the State (including assistance to a political subdivision or a resident of the State) for any project not approved as of the date of the commencement of the delinquency; and

“(ii) no member of the Commission from the State shall participate or vote in any action by the Commission.

“(4) EFFECT ON ASSISTANCE.—A State’s share of administrative expenses of a Commission under this subsection shall not be taken into consideration when determining the amount of assistance provided to the State under this subtitle.

**“§ 15305. Meetings**

“(a) INITIAL MEETING.—Each Commission shall hold an initial meeting not later than 180 days after the date of the enactment of this section.

“(b) ANNUAL MEETING.—Each Commission shall conduct at least 1 meeting each year with the Federal Cochairperson and at least a majority of the State members present.

“(c) ADDITIONAL MEETINGS.—Each Commission shall conduct additional meetings at such times as it determines and may conduct such meetings by electronic means.

**“§ 15306. Personal financial interests**

“(a) CONFLICTS OF INTEREST.—

“(1) NO ROLE ALLOWED.—Except as permitted by paragraph (2), an individual who is a State member or alternate, or an officer or employee of a Commission, shall not participate personally and substantially as a member, alternate, officer, or employee of the Commission, through decision, approval, disapproval, recommendation, request for a ruling, or other determination, contract, claim, controversy, or other matter in which, to the individual’s knowledge, any of the following has a financial interest:

“(A) The individual.

“(B) The individual’s spouse, minor child, or partner.

“(C) An organization (except a State or political subdivision of a State) in which the individual is serving as an officer, director, trustee, partner, or employee.

“(D) Any person or organization with whom the individual is negotiating or has any arrangement concerning prospective employment.

“(2) EXCEPTION.—Paragraph (1) shall not apply if the individual, in advance of the proceeding, application, request for a ruling or other determination, contract, claim controversy, or other particular matter presenting a potential conflict of interest—

“(A) advises the Commission of the nature and circumstances of the matter presenting the conflict of interest;

“(B) makes full disclosure of the financial interest;

and

“(C) receives a written decision of the Commission that the interest is not so substantial as to be considered likely to affect the integrity of the services that the Commission may expect from the individual.

“(3) VIOLATION.—An individual violating this subsection shall be fined under title 18, imprisoned for not more than 1 year, or both.

“(b) STATE MEMBER OR ALTERNATE.—A State member or alternate member may not receive any salary, or any contribution to, or supplementation of, salary, for services on a Commission from a source other than the State of the member or alternate.

“(c) DETAILED EMPLOYEES.—



“(1) IN GENERAL.—No person detailed to serve a Commission shall receive any salary, or any contribution to, or supplementation of, salary, for services provided to the Commission from any source other than the State, local, or intergovernmental department or agency from which the person was detailed to the Commission.

“(2) VIOLATION.—Any person that violates this subsection shall be fined under title 18, imprisoned not more than 1 year, or both.

“(d) FEDERAL COCHAIRMAN, ALTERNATE TO FEDERAL COCHAIRMAN, AND FEDERAL OFFICERS AND EMPLOYEES.—The Federal Cochairman, the alternate to the Federal Cochairman, and any Federal officer or employee detailed to duty with the Commission are not subject to this section but remain subject to sections 202 through 209 of title 18.

“(e) RESCISSION.—A Commission may declare void any contract, loan, or grant of or by the Commission in relation to which the Commission determines that there has been a violation of any provision under subsection (a)(1), (b), or (c), or any of the provisions of sections 202 through 209 of title 18.

#### “§ 15307. Tribal participation

“Governments of Indian tribes in the region of the Southwest Border Regional Commission shall be allowed to participate in matters before that Commission in the same manner and to the same extent as State agencies and instrumentalities in the region.

#### “§ 15308. Annual report

“(a) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 90 days after the last day of each fiscal year, each Commission shall submit to the President and Congress a report on the activities carried out by the Commission under this subtitle in the fiscal year.

“(b) CONTENTS.—The report shall include—

“(1) a description of the criteria used by the Commission to designate counties under section 15702 and a list of the counties designated in each category;

“(2) an evaluation of the progress of the Commission in meeting the goals identified in the Commission’s economic and infrastructure development plan under section 15303 and State economic and infrastructure development plans under section 15502; and

“(3) any policy recommendations approved by the Commission.

### “CHAPTER 3—FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE

“Sec.

“15501. Economic and infrastructure development grants.

“15502. Comprehensive economic and infrastructure development plans.

“15503. Approval of applications for assistance.

“15504. Program development criteria.

“15505. Local development districts and organizations.

“15506. Supplements to Federal grant programs.

#### “§ 15501. Economic and infrastructure development grants

“(a) IN GENERAL.—A Commission may make grants to States and local governments, Indian tribes, and public and nonprofit organizations for projects, approved in accordance with section 15503—

“(1) to develop the transportation infrastructure of its region;

“(2) to develop the basic public infrastructure of its region;

“(3) to develop the telecommunications infrastructure of its region;

“(4) to assist its region in obtaining job skills training, skills development and employment-related education, entrepreneurship, technology, and business development;

“(5) to provide assistance to severely economically distressed and underdeveloped areas of its region that lack financial resources for improving basic health care and other public services;

“(6) to promote resource conservation, tourism, recreation, and preservation of open space in a manner consistent with economic development goals;

“(7) to promote the development of renewable and alternative energy sources; and

“(8) to otherwise achieve the purposes of this subtitle.

“(b) ALLOCATION OF FUNDS.—A Commission shall allocate at least 40 percent of any grant amounts provided by the Commission in a fiscal year for projects described in paragraphs (1) through (3) of subsection (a).

“(c) SOURCES OF GRANTS.—Grant amounts may be provided entirely from appropriations to carry out this subtitle, in combination with amounts available under other Federal grant programs, or from any other source.

“(d) MAXIMUM COMMISSION CONTRIBUTIONS.—

“(1) IN GENERAL.—Subject to paragraphs (2) and (3), the Commission may contribute not more than 50 percent of a project or activity cost eligible for financial assistance under this section from amounts appropriated to carry out this subtitle.

“(2) DISTRESSED COUNTIES.—The maximum Commission contribution for a project or activity to be carried out in a county for which a distressed county designation is in effect under section 15702 may be increased to 80 percent.

“(3) SPECIAL RULE FOR REGIONAL PROJECTS.—A Commission may increase to 60 percent under paragraph (1) and 90 percent under paragraph (2) the maximum Commission contribution for a project or activity if—

“(A) the project or activity involves 3 or more counties or more than one State; and

“(B) the Commission determines in accordance with section 15302(a) that the project or activity will bring significant interstate or multicounty benefits to a region.

“(e) MAINTENANCE OF EFFORT.—Funds may be provided by a Commission for a program or project in a State under this section only if the Commission determines that the level of Federal or State financial assistance provided under a law other than this subtitle, for the same type of program or project in the same area of the State within region, will not be reduced as a result of funds made available by this subtitle.

“(f) NO RELOCATION ASSISTANCE.—Financial assistance authorized by this section may not be used to assist a person or entity in relocating from one area to another.

**“§ 15502. Comprehensive economic and infrastructure development plans**

“(a) STATE PLANS.—In accordance with policies established by a Commission, each State member of the Commission shall submit a comprehensive economic and infrastructure development plan for the area of the region represented by the State member.

“(b) CONTENT OF PLAN.—A State economic and infrastructure development plan shall reflect the goals, objectives, and priorities identified in any applicable economic and infrastructure development plan developed by a Commission under section 15303.

“(c) CONSULTATION WITH INTERESTED LOCAL PARTIES.—In carrying out the development planning process (including the selection of programs and projects for assistance), a State shall—

“(1) consult with local development districts, local units of government, and local colleges and universities; and

“(2) take into consideration the goals, objectives, priorities, and recommendations of the entities described in paragraph (1).

“(d) PUBLIC PARTICIPATION.—

“(1) IN GENERAL.—A Commission and applicable State and local development districts shall encourage and assist, to the maximum extent practicable, public participation in the development, revision, and implementation of all plans and programs under this subtitle.

“(2) GUIDELINES.—A Commission shall develop guidelines for providing public participation, including public hearings.

**“§ 15503. Approval of applications for assistance**

“(a) EVALUATION BY STATE MEMBER.—An application to a Commission for a grant or any other assistance for a project under this subtitle shall be made through, and evaluated for approval by, the State member of the Commission representing the applicant.

“(b) CERTIFICATION.—An application to a Commission for a grant or other assistance for a project under this subtitle shall be eligible for assistance only on certification by the State member of the Commission representing the applicant that the application for the project—

“(1) describes ways in which the project complies with any applicable State economic and infrastructure development plan;

“(2) meets applicable criteria under section 15504;

“(3) adequately ensures that the project will be properly administered, operated, and maintained; and

“(4) otherwise meets the requirements for assistance under this subtitle.

“(c) VOTES FOR DECISIONS.—On certification by a State member of a Commission of an application for a grant or other assistance for a specific project under this section, an affirmative vote of the Commission under section 15302 shall be required for approval of the application.

**“§ 15504. Program development criteria**

“In considering programs and projects to be provided assistance by a Commission under this subtitle, and in establishing a priority ranking of the requests for assistance provided to the Commission, the Commission shall follow procedures that ensure, to the maximum extent practicable, consideration of—

“(1) the relationship of the project or class of projects to overall regional development;

“(2) the per capita income and poverty and unemployment and outmigration rates in an area;

“(3) the financial resources available to the applicants for assistance seeking to carry out the project, with emphasis on ensuring that projects are adequately financed to maximize the probability of successful economic development;

“(4) the importance of the project or class of projects in relation to the other projects or classes of projects that may be in competition for the same funds;

“(5) the prospects that the project for which assistance is sought will improve, on a continuing rather than a temporary basis, the opportunities for employment, the average level of income, or the economic development of the area to be served by the project; and

“(6) the extent to which the project design provides for detailed outcome measurements by which grant expenditures and the results of the expenditures may be evaluated.

**“§ 15505. Local development districts and organizations**

“(a) GRANTS TO LOCAL DEVELOPMENT DISTRICTS.—Subject to the requirements of this section, a Commission may make grants to a local development district to assist in the payment of development planning and administrative expenses.

“(b) CONDITIONS FOR GRANTS.—

“(1) MAXIMUM AMOUNT.—The amount of a grant awarded under this section may not exceed 80 percent of the administrative and planning expenses of the local development district receiving the grant.

“(2) MAXIMUM PERIOD FOR STATE AGENCIES.—In the case of a State agency certified as a local development district, a grant may not be awarded to the agency under this section for more than 3 fiscal years.

“(3) LOCAL SHARE.—The contributions of a local development district for administrative expenses may be in cash or in kind, fairly evaluated, including space, equipment, and services.

“(c) DUTIES OF LOCAL DEVELOPMENT DISTRICTS.—A local development district shall—

“(1) operate as a lead organization serving multicounty areas in the region at the local level;

“(2) assist the Commission in carrying out outreach activities for local governments, community development groups, the business community, and the public;

“(3) serve as a liaison between State and local governments, nonprofit organizations (including community-based groups and educational institutions), the business community, and citizens; and

“(4) assist the individuals and entities described in paragraph (3) in identifying, assessing, and facilitating projects and programs to promote the economic development of the region.

**“§ 15506. Supplements to Federal grant programs**

“(a) FINDING.—Congress finds that certain States and local communities of the region, including local development districts,

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may be unable to take maximum advantage of Federal grant programs for which the States and communities are eligible because—

“(1) they lack the economic resources to provide the required matching share; or

“(2) there are insufficient funds available under the applicable Federal law with respect to a project to be carried out in the region.

“(b) FEDERAL GRANT PROGRAM FUNDING.—A Commission, with the approval of the Federal Cochairperson, may use amounts made available to carry out this subtitle—

“(1) for any part of the basic Federal contribution to projects or activities under the Federal grant programs authorized by Federal laws; and

“(2) to increase the Federal contribution to projects and activities under the programs above the fixed maximum part of the cost of the projects or activities otherwise authorized by the applicable law.

“(c) CERTIFICATION REQUIRED.—For a program, project, or activity for which any part of the basic Federal contribution to the project or activity under a Federal grant program is proposed to be made under subsection (b), the Federal contribution shall not be made until the responsible Federal official administering the Federal law authorizing the Federal contribution certifies that the program, project, or activity meets the applicable requirements of the Federal law and could be approved for Federal contribution under that law if amounts were available under the law for the program, project, or activity.

“(d) LIMITATIONS IN OTHER LAWS INAPPLICABLE.—Amounts provided pursuant to this subtitle are available without regard to any limitations on areas eligible for assistance or authorizations for appropriation in any other law.

“(e) FEDERAL SHARE.—The Federal share of the cost of a project or activity receiving assistance under this section shall not exceed 80 percent.

“(f) MAXIMUM COMMISSION CONTRIBUTION.—Section 15501(d), relating to limitations on Commission contributions, shall apply to a program, project, or activity receiving assistance under this section.

**“CHAPTER 4—ADMINISTRATIVE PROVISIONS**

“SUBCHAPTER I—GENERAL PROVISIONS

“Sec. 15701. Consent of States.

“Sec. 15702. Distressed counties and areas.

“Sec. 15703. Counties eligible for assistance in more than one region.

“Sec. 15704. Inspector General; records.

“Sec. 15705. Biannual meetings of representatives of all Commissions.

“SUBCHAPTER II—DESIGNATION OF REGIONS

“Sec. 15731. Southeast Crescent Regional Commission.

“Sec. 15732. Southwest Border Regional Commission.

“Sec. 15733. Northern Border Regional Commission.

“SUBCHAPTER III—AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS

“Sec. 15751. Authorization of appropriations.

“SUBCHAPTER I—GENERAL PROVISIONS

“§ 15701. Consent of States

“This subtitle does not require a State to engage in or accept a program under this subtitle without its consent.

“§ 15702. Distressed counties and areas

“(a) DESIGNATIONS.—Not later than 90 days after the date of the enactment of this section, and annually thereafter, each Commission shall make the following designations:

“(1) DISTRESSED COUNTIES.—The Commission shall designate as distressed counties those counties in its region that are the most severely and persistently economically distressed and underdeveloped and have high rates of poverty, unemployment, or outmigration.

“(2) TRANSITIONAL COUNTIES.—The Commission shall designate as transitional counties those counties in its region that are economically distressed and underdeveloped or have recently suffered high rates of poverty, unemployment, or outmigration.

“(3) ATTAINMENT COUNTIES.—The Commission shall designate as attainment counties, those counties in its region that are not designated as distressed or transitional counties under this subsection.

“(4) ISOLATED AREAS OF DISTRESS.—The Commission shall designate as isolated areas of distress, areas located in counties designated as attainment counties under paragraph (3) that have high rates of poverty, unemployment, or outmigration.

“(b) ALLOCATION.—A Commission shall allocate at least 50 percent of the appropriations made available to the Commission to carry out this subtitle for programs and projects designed to serve the needs of distressed counties and isolated areas of distress in the region.

“(c) ATTAINMENT COUNTIES.—

“(1) IN GENERAL.—Except as provided in paragraph (2), funds may not be provided under this subtitle for a project located in a county designated as an attainment county under subsection (a).

“(2) EXCEPTIONS.—

“(A) ADMINISTRATIVE EXPENSES OF LOCAL DEVELOPMENT DISTRICTS.—The funding prohibition under paragraph (1) shall not apply to grants to fund the administrative expenses of local development districts under section 15505.

“(B) MULTICOUNTY AND OTHER PROJECTS.—A Commission may waive the application of the funding prohibition under paragraph (1) with respect to—

“(i) a multicounty project that includes participation by an attainment county; and

“(ii) any other type of project, if a Commission determines that the project could bring significant benefits to areas of the region outside an attainment county.

“(3) ISOLATED AREAS OF DISTRESS.—For a designation of an isolated area of distress to be effective, the designation shall be supported—

“(A) by the most recent Federal data available; or

“(B) if no recent Federal data are available, by the most recent data available through the government of the State in which the isolated area of distress is located.

**“§ 15703. Counties eligible for assistance in more than one region**

“(a) LIMITATION.—A political subdivision of a State may not receive assistance under this subtitle in a fiscal year from more than one Commission.

“(b) SELECTION OF COMMISSION.—A political subdivision included in the region of more than one Commission shall select the Commission with which it will participate by notifying, in writing, the Federal Cochairperson and the appropriate State member of that Commission.

“(c) CHANGES IN SELECTIONS.—The selection of a Commission by a political subdivision shall apply in the fiscal year in which the selection is made, and shall apply in each subsequent fiscal year unless the political subdivision, at least 90 days before the first day of the fiscal year, notifies the Cochairpersons of another Commission in writing that the political subdivision will participate in that Commission and also transmits a copy of such notification to the Cochairpersons of the Commission in which the political subdivision is currently participating.

“(d) INCLUSION OF APPALACHIAN REGIONAL COMMISSION.—In this section, the term ‘Commission’ includes the Appalachian Regional Commission established under chapter 143.

**“§ 15704. Inspector General; records**

“(a) APPOINTMENT OF INSPECTOR GENERAL.—There shall be an Inspector General for the Commissions appointed in accordance with section 3(a) of the Inspector General Act of 1978 (5 U.S.C. App.). All of the Commissions shall be subject to a single Inspector General.

“(b) RECORDS OF A COMMISSION.—

“(1) IN GENERAL.—A Commission shall maintain accurate and complete records of all its transactions and activities.

“(2) AVAILABILITY.—All records of a Commission shall be available for audit and examination by the Inspector General (including authorized representatives of the Inspector General).

“(c) RECORDS OF RECIPIENTS OF COMMISSION ASSISTANCE.—

“(1) IN GENERAL.—A recipient of funds from a Commission under this subtitle shall maintain accurate and complete records of transactions and activities financed with the funds and report to the Commission on the transactions and activities.

“(2) AVAILABILITY.—All records required under paragraph (1) shall be available for audit by the Commission and the Inspector General (including authorized representatives of the Commission and the Inspector General).

“(d) ANNUAL AUDIT.—The Inspector General shall audit the activities, transactions, and records of each Commission on an annual basis.

**“§ 15705. Biannual meetings of representatives of all Commissions**

“(a) IN GENERAL.—Representatives of each Commission, the Appalachian Regional Commission, and the Denali Commission shall meet biannually to discuss issues confronting regions suffering

from chronic and contiguous distress and successful strategies for promoting regional development.

“(b) CHAIR OF MEETINGS.—The chair of each meeting shall rotate among the Commissions, with the Appalachian Regional Commission to host the first meeting.

“SUBCHAPTER II—DESIGNATION OF REGIONS

“§ 15731. Southeast Crescent Regional Commission

“The region of the Southeast Crescent Regional Commission shall consist of all counties of the States of Virginia, North Carolina, South Carolina, Georgia, Alabama, Mississippi, and Florida not already served by the Appalachian Regional Commission or the Delta Regional Authority.

“§ 15732. Southwest Border Regional Commission

“The region of the Southwest Border Regional Commission shall consist of the following political subdivisions:

“(1) ARIZONA.—The counties of Cochise, Gila, Graham, Greenlee, La Paz, Maricopa, Pima, Pinal, Santa Cruz, and Yuma in the State of Arizona.

“(2) CALIFORNIA.—The counties of Imperial, Los Angeles, Orange, Riverside, San Bernardino, San Diego, and Ventura in the State of California.

“(3) NEW MEXICO.—The counties of Catron, Chaves, Dona Ana, Eddy, Grant, Hidalgo, Lincoln, Luna, Otero, Sierra, and Socorro in the State of New Mexico.

“(4) TEXAS.—The counties of Atascosa, Bandera, Bee, Bexar, Brewster, Brooks, Cameron, Coke, Concho, Crane, Crockett, Culberson, Dimmit, Duval, Ector, Edwards, El Paso, Frio, Gillespie, Glasscock, Hidalgo, Hudspeth, Irion, Jeff Davis, Jim Hogg, Jim Wells, Karnes, Kendall, Kenedy, Kerr, Kimble, Kinney, Kleberg, La Salle, Live Oak, Loving, Mason, Maverick, McMullen, Medina, Menard, Midland, Nueces, Pecos, Presidio, Reagan, Real, Reeves, San Patricio, Shleicher, Sutton, Starr, Sterling, Terrell, Tom Green Upton, Uvalde, Val Verde, Ward, Webb, Willacy, Wilson, Winkler, Zapata, and Zavala in the State of Texas.

“§ 15733. Northern Border Regional Commission

“The region of the Northern Border Regional Commission shall include the following counties:

“(1) MAINE.—The counties of Androscoggin, Aroostook, Franklin, Hancock, Kennebec, Knox, Oxford, Penobscot, Piscataquis, Somerset, Waldo, and Washington in the State of Maine.

“(2) NEW HAMPSHIRE.—The counties of Carroll, Coos, Grafton, and Sullivan in the State of New Hampshire.

“(3) NEW YORK.—The counties of Cayuga, Clinton, Essex, Franklin, Fulton, Hamilton, Herkimer, Jefferson, Lewis, Madison, Oneida, Oswego, Seneca, and St. Lawrence in the State of New York.

“(4) VERMONT.—The counties of Caledonia, Essex, Franklin, Grand Isle, Lamoille, and Orleans in the State of Vermont.



“SUBCHAPTER III—AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS

“§ 15751. Authorization of appropriations

“(a) IN GENERAL.—There is authorized to be appropriated to each Commission to carry out this subtitle \$30,000,000 for each of fiscal years 2008 through 2012.

“(b) ADMINISTRATIVE EXPENSES.—Not more than 10 percent of the funds made available to a Commission in a fiscal year under this section may be used for administrative expenses.”

(b) CLERICAL AMENDMENT TO TABLE OF SUBTITLES.—The table of subtitles for chapter 40, United States Code, is amended by striking the item relating to subtitle V and inserting the following:  
“V. REGIONAL ECONOMIC AND INFRASTRUCTURE DEVELOPMENT ....15101  
“VI. MISCELLANEOUS .....17101”.

(c) CONFORMING AMENDMENTS TO INSPECTOR GENERAL ACT.—Section 11 of the Inspector General Act of 1978 (5 U.S.C. App.) is amended—

(1) in paragraph (1), by striking “or the President of the Export-Import Bank;” and inserting “the President of the Export-Import Bank; or the Federal Cochairpersons of the Commissions established under section 15301 of title 40, United States Code;”; and

(2) in paragraph (2), by striking “or the Export-Import Bank,” and inserting “the Export-Import Bank, or the Commissions established under section 15301 of title 40, United States Code,”.

(d) EFFECTIVE DATE.—This section, and the amendments made by this section, shall take effect on the first day of the first fiscal year beginning after the date of the enactment of this Act.

**SEC. 14218. COORDINATOR FOR CHRONICALLY UNDERSERVED RURAL AREAS.**

(a) ESTABLISHMENT.—The Secretary of Agriculture shall establish a Coordinator for Chronically Underserved Rural Areas (in this section referred to as the “Coordinator”), to be located in the Rural Development Mission Area.

(b) MISSION.—The mission of the Coordinator shall be to direct Department of Agriculture resources to high need, high poverty rural areas.

(c) DUTIES.—The Coordinator shall consult with other offices in directing technical assistance, strategic regional planning, at the State and local level, for developing rural economic development that leverages the resources of State and local governments and non-profit and community development organizations.

(d) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There are authorized to be appropriated to the Secretary such sums as necessary to carry out this section for fiscal years 2008 through 2012.

**SEC. 14219. ELIMINATION OF STATUTE OF LIMITATIONS APPLICABLE TO COLLECTION OF DEBT BY ADMINISTRATIVE OFFSET.**

(a) ELIMINATION.—Section 3716(e) of title 31, United States Code, is amended to read as follows:

“(e)(1) Notwithstanding any other provision of law, regulation, or administrative limitation, no limitation on the period within which an offset may be initiated or taken pursuant to this section shall be effective.

“(2) This section does not apply when a statute explicitly prohibits using administrative offset or setoff to collect the claim or type of claim involved.”.

(b) APPLICATION OF AMENDMENT.—The amendment made by subsection (a) shall apply to any debt outstanding on or after the date of the enactment of this Act.

**SEC. 14220. AVAILABILITY OF EXCESS AND SURPLUS COMPUTERS IN RURAL AREAS.**

In addition to any other authority, the Secretary of Agriculture may make available to an organization excess or surplus computers or other technical equipment of the Department of Agriculture for the purposes of distribution to a city, town, or local government entity in a rural area (as defined in section 343(a)(13)(A) of the Consolidated Farm and Rural Development Act).

**SEC. 14221. REPEAL OF SECTION 3068 OF THE WATER RESOURCES DEVELOPMENT ACT OF 2007.**

Effective upon the date of enactment of this Act, section 3068 of the Water Resources Development Act of 2007 (Public Law 110-114; 121 Stat. 1123), and the item relating to section 3068 in the table of contents of that Act, are repealed.

**SEC. 14222. DOMESTIC FOOD ASSISTANCE PROGRAMS.**

(a) DEFINITION OF SECTION 32.—In this section, the term “section 32” means section 32 of the Act of August 24, 1935 (7 U.S.C. 612c).

(b) TRANSFER TO FOOD AND NUTRITION SERVICE.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Amounts made available for a fiscal year to carry out section 32 in excess of the maximum amount calculated under paragraph (2) shall be transferred to the Secretary, acting through the Administrator of the Food and Nutrition Service, to be used to carry out the Richard B. Russell National School Lunch Act (42 U.S.C. 1751 et seq.).

(2) MAXIMUM AMOUNT.—The maximum amount calculated under this paragraph for a fiscal year is the sum of—

- (A)(i) in the case of fiscal year 2009, \$1,173,000,000;
- (ii) in the case of fiscal year 2010, \$1,199,000,000;
- (iii) in the case of fiscal year 2011, \$1,215,000,000;
- (iv) in the case of fiscal year 2012, \$1,231,000,000;
- (v) in the case of fiscal year 2013, \$1,248,000,000;
- (vi) in the case of fiscal year 2014, \$1,266,000,000;
- (vii) in the case of fiscal year 2015, \$1,284,000,000;
- (viii) in the case of fiscal year 2016, \$1,303,000,000;
- (ix) in the case of fiscal year 2017, \$1,322,000,000;

and

(x) for fiscal year 2018 and each fiscal year thereafter, the amount made available for the preceding fiscal year, as adjusted to reflect changes for the 12-month period ending on the preceding November 30 in the Consumer Price Index for All Urban Consumers published by the Bureau of Labor Statistics of the Department of Labor; and

(B) any transfers for the fiscal year from section 32 to the Department of Commerce under the Fish and Wildlife Act of 1956 (16 U.S.C. 742a et seq.).

(c) FRESH FRUIT AND VEGETABLE PROGRAM.—Of amounts made available to carry out section 32 under subsection (b)(2)(A), the

Secretary shall transfer for use to carry out the fresh fruit and vegetable program under section 19 of the Richard B. Russell National School Lunch Act the amounts specified in subsection (i) of that section.

(d) **WHOLE GRAIN PRODUCTS.**—Of amounts made available to carry out section 32 under subsection (b)(2)(A), the Secretary shall use to carry out section 4305 \$4,000,000 for fiscal year 2009.

(e) **MAINTENANCE OF FUNDING.**—The funding provided under subsections (c) and (d) shall supplement (and not supplant) other Federal funding (including section 32 funding) for programs carried out under—

- (1) the Richard B. Russell National School Lunch Act (42 U.S.C. 1751 et seq.), except for section 19 of that Act;
- (2) the Emergency Food Assistance Act of 1983 (7 U.S.C. 7501 et seq.); and
- (3) section 27 of the Food Stamp Act of 1977 (7 U.S.C. 2036).

**SEC. 14223. TECHNICAL CORRECTION.**

Section 923(1)(B) of the Federal Agriculture Improvement and Reform Act of 1996 (7 U.S.C. 2206a(1)(B)) is amended by striking “as defined in section 316(b) of the Higher Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 1059c(b))” and inserting “as defined in section 502(a)(5) of the Higher Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 1101a(a)(5))”.

## **TITLE XV—TRADE AND TAX PROVISIONS**

**SEC. 15001. SHORT TITLE; ETC.**

(a) **SHORT TITLE.**—This title may be cited as the “Heartland, Habitat, Harvest, and Horticulture Act of 2008”.

(b) **AMENDMENTS TO 1986 CODE.**—Except as otherwise expressly provided, whenever in this title an amendment or repeal is expressed in terms of an amendment to, or repeal of, a section or other provision, the reference shall be considered to be made to a section or other provision of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986.

### **Subtitle A—Supplemental Agricultural Disaster Assistance From the Agricultural Disaster Relief Trust Fund**

**SEC. 15101. SUPPLEMENTAL AGRICULTURAL DISASTER ASSISTANCE.**

(a) **IN GENERAL.**—The Trade Act of 1974 (19 U.S.C. 2101 et seq.) is amended by adding at the end the following:

#### **“TITLE IX—SUPPLEMENTAL AGRICULTURAL DISASTER ASSISTANCE**

**“SEC. 901. SUPPLEMENTAL AGRICULTURAL DISASTER ASSISTANCE.**

“(a) **DEFINITIONS.**—In this section: