

(A) under a qualifying contract before the date on which the Secretary cancels the contract or redetermines the rate under subsection (b)(1), substitutes a Producer Price Index under subsection (b)(2), or modifies the contract under subsection (b)(3); or

(B) under a timber sale contract, including a qualifying contract, before the date on which the Secretary adjusts the contract term under subsection (c).

(2) RELEASE OF LIABILITY.—In the written request for any option provided under subsections (b) and (c), a timber purchaser shall release the United States from all liability, including further consideration or compensation, resulting from—

(A) the cancellation of a qualifying contract of the purchaser or rate redetermination under subsection (b)(1), the substitution of a Producer Price Index under subsection (b)(2), the modification of the contract under subsection (b)(3) or a determination by the Secretary not to provide the cancellation, redetermination, substitution, or modification; or

(B) the modification of the term of a timber sale contract (including a qualifying contract) of the purchaser under subsection (c) or a determination by the Secretary not to provide the modification.

(3) LIMITATION.—Subject to subsection (b)(1)(A), the cancellation of a qualifying contract by the Secretary under subsection (b)(1) shall release the timber purchaser from further obligation under the canceled contract.

**SEC. 8402. HISPANIC-SERVING INSTITUTION AGRICULTURAL LAND NATIONAL RESOURCES LEADERSHIP PROGRAM.**

(a) DEFINITION OF HISPANIC-SERVING INSTITUTION.—In this section, the term “Hispanic-serving institution” has the meaning given that term in section 502(a)(5) of the Higher Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 1101a(a)(5)).

(b) GRANT AUTHORITY.—The Secretary of Agriculture may make grants, on a competitive basis, to Hispanic-serving institutions for the purpose of establishing an undergraduate scholarship program to assist in the recruitment, retention, and training of Hispanics and other under-represented groups in forestry and related fields.

(c) USE OF GRANT FUNDS.—Grants made under this section shall be used to recruit, retain, train, and develop professionals to work in forestry and related fields with Federal agencies, such as the Forest Service, State agencies, and private-sector entities.

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

**TITLE IX—ENERGY**

**SEC. 9001. ENERGY.**

(a) IN GENERAL.—Title IX of the Farm Security and Rural Investment Act of 2002 (7 U.S.C. 8101 et seq.) is amended to read as follows:

## “TITLE IX—ENERGY

### “SEC. 9001. DEFINITIONS.

“Except as otherwise provided, in this title:

“(1) ADMINISTRATOR.—The term ‘Administrator’ means the Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency.

“(2) ADVISORY COMMITTEE.—The term ‘Advisory Committee’ means the Biomass Research and Development Technical Advisory Committee established by section 9008(d)(1).

“(3) ADVANCED BIOFUEL.—

“(A) IN GENERAL.—The term ‘advanced biofuel’ means fuel derived from renewable biomass other than corn kernel starch.

“(B) INCLUSIONS.—Subject to subparagraph (A), the term ‘advanced biofuel’ includes—

“(i) biofuel derived from cellulose, hemicellulose, or lignin;

“(ii) biofuel derived from sugar and starch (other than ethanol derived from corn kernel starch);

“(iii) biofuel derived from waste material, including crop residue, other vegetative waste material, animal waste, food waste, and yard waste;

“(iv) diesel-equivalent fuel derived from renewable biomass, including vegetable oil and animal fat;

“(v) biogas (including landfill gas and sewage waste treatment gas) produced through the conversion of organic matter from renewable biomass;

“(vi) butanol or other alcohols produced through the conversion of organic matter from renewable biomass; and

“(vii) other fuel derived from cellulosic biomass.

“(4) BIOBASED PRODUCT.—The term ‘biobased product’ means a product determined by the Secretary to be a commercial or industrial product (other than food or feed) that is—

“(A) composed, in whole or in significant part, of biological products, including renewable domestic agricultural materials and forestry materials; or

“(B) an intermediate ingredient or feedstock.

“(5) BIOFUEL.—The term ‘biofuel’ means a fuel derived from renewable biomass.

“(6) BIOMASS CONVERSION FACILITY.—The term ‘biomass conversion facility’ means a facility that converts or proposes to convert renewable biomass into—

“(A) heat;

“(B) power;

“(C) biobased products; or

“(D) advanced biofuels.

“(7) BIOREFINERY.—The term ‘biorefinery’ means a facility (including equipment and processes) that—

“(A) converts renewable biomass into biofuels and biobased products; and

“(B) may produce electricity.

“(8) BOARD.—The term ‘Board’ means the Biomass Research and Development Board established by section 9008(c).

“(9) 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).

“(10) INSTITUTION OF HIGHER EDUCATION.—The term ‘institution of higher education’ has the meaning given the term in section 102(a) of the Higher Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 1002(a)).

“(11) INTERMEDIATE INGREDIENT OR FEEDSTOCK.—The term ‘intermediate ingredient or feedstock’ means a material or compound made in whole or in significant part from biological products, including renewable agricultural materials (including plant, animal, and marine materials) or forestry materials, that are subsequently used to make a more complex compound or product.

“(12) RENEWABLE BIOMASS.—The term ‘renewable biomass’ means—

“(A) materials, pre-commercial thinnings, or invasive species from National Forest System land and public lands (as defined in section 103 of the Federal Land Policy and Management Act of 1976 (43 U.S.C. 1702)) that—

“(i) are byproducts of preventive treatments that are removed—

“(I) to reduce hazardous fuels;

“(II) to reduce or contain disease or insect infestation; or

“(III) to restore ecosystem health;

“(ii) would not otherwise be used for higher-value products; and

“(iii) are harvested in accordance with—

“(I) applicable law and land management plans; and

“(II) the requirements for—

“(aa) old-growth maintenance, restoration, and management direction of paragraphs (2), (3), and (4) of subsection (e) of section 102 of the Healthy Forests Restoration Act of 2003 (16 U.S.C. 6512); and

“(bb) large-tree retention of subsection (f) of that section; or

“(B) any organic matter that is available on a renewable or recurring basis from non-Federal land or land belonging to an Indian or Indian tribe that is held in trust by the United States or subject to a restriction against alienation imposed by the United States, including—

“(i) renewable plant material, including—

“(I) feed grains;

“(II) other agricultural commodities;

“(III) other plants and trees; and

“(IV) algae; and

“(ii) waste material, including—

“(I) crop residue;

“(II) other vegetative waste material (including wood waste and wood residues);

“(III) animal waste and byproducts (including fats, oils, greases, and manure); and

“(IV) food waste and yard waste.

“(13) RENEWABLE ENERGY.—The term ‘renewable energy’ means energy derived from—

“(A) a wind, solar, renewable biomass, ocean (including tidal, wave, current, and thermal), geothermal, or hydroelectric source; or

“(B) hydrogen derived from renewable biomass or water using an energy source described in subparagraph (A).

“(14) SECRETARY.—The term ‘Secretary’ means the Secretary of Agriculture.

**“SEC. 9002. BIOBASED MARKETS PROGRAM.**

“(a) FEDERAL PROCUREMENT OF BIOBASED PRODUCTS.—

“(1) DEFINITION OF PROCURING AGENCY.—In this subsection, the term ‘procuring agency’ means—

“(A) any Federal agency that is using Federal funds for procurement; or

“(B) a person that is a party to a contract with any Federal agency, with respect to work performed under such a contract.

“(2) PROCUREMENT PREFERENCE.—

“(A) IN GENERAL.—

“(i) PROCURING AGENCY DUTIES.—Except as provided in clause (ii) and subparagraph (B), after the date specified in applicable guidelines prepared pursuant to paragraph (3), each procuring agency shall—

“(I) establish a procurement program, develop procurement specifications, and procure biobased products identified under the guidelines described in paragraph (3) in accordance with this section; and

“(II) with respect to items described in the guidelines, give a procurement preference to those items that—

“(aa) are composed of the highest percentage of biobased products practicable; or

“(bb) comply with the regulations issued under section 103 of Public Law 100–556 (42 U.S.C. 6914b–1).

“(ii) EXCEPTION.—The requirements of clause (i)(I) to establish a procurement program and develop procurement specifications shall not apply to a person described in paragraph (1)(B).

“(B) FLEXIBILITY.—Notwithstanding subparagraph (A), a procuring agency may decide not to procure items described in that subparagraph if the procuring agency determines that the items—

“(i) are not reasonably available within a reasonable period of time;

“(ii) fail to meet—

“(I) the performance standards set forth in the applicable specifications; or

“(II) the reasonable performance standards of the procuring agencies; or

“(iii) are available only at an unreasonable price.

“(C) MINIMUM REQUIREMENTS.—Each procurement program required under this subsection shall, at a minimum—

“(i) be consistent with applicable provisions of Federal procurement law;

“(ii) ensure that items composed of biobased products will be purchased to the maximum extent practicable;

“(iii) include a component to promote the procurement program;

“(iv) provide for an annual review and monitoring of the effectiveness of the procurement program; and

“(v) adopt 1 of the 2 policies described in subparagraph (D) or (E), or a policy substantially equivalent to either of those policies.

“(D) CASE-BY-CASE POLICY.—

“(i) IN GENERAL.—Subject to subparagraph (B) and except as provided in clause (ii), a procuring agency adopting the case-by-case policy shall award a contract to the vendor offering an item composed of the highest percentage of biobased products practicable.

“(ii) EXCEPTION.—Subject to subparagraph (B), an agency adopting the policy described in clause (i) may make an award to a vendor offering items with less than the maximum biobased products content.

“(E) MINIMUM CONTENT STANDARDS.—Subject to subparagraph (B), a procuring agency adopting the minimum content standards policy shall establish minimum biobased products content specifications for awarding contracts in a manner that ensures that the biobased products content required is consistent with this subsection.

“(F) CERTIFICATION.—After the date specified in any applicable guidelines prepared pursuant to paragraph (3), contracting offices shall require that vendors certify that the biobased products to be used in the performance of the contract will comply with the applicable specifications or other contractual requirements.

“(3) GUIDELINES.—

“(A) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary, after consultation with the Administrator, the Administrator of General Services, and the Secretary of Commerce (acting through the Director of the National Institute of Standards and Technology), shall prepare, and from time to time revise, guidelines for the use of procuring agencies in complying with the requirements of this subsection.

“(B) REQUIREMENTS.—The guidelines under this paragraph shall—

“(i) designate those items (including finished products) that are or can be produced with biobased products (including biobased products for which there is only a single product or manufacturer in the category) that will be subject to the preference described in paragraph (2);

“(ii) designate those intermediate ingredients and feedstocks that are or can be used to produce items that will be subject to the preference described in paragraph (2);

“(iii) automatically designate items composed of intermediate ingredients and feedstocks designated

under clause (ii), if the content of the designated intermediate ingredients and feedstocks exceeds 50 percent of the item (unless the Secretary determines a different composition percentage is appropriate);

“(iv) set forth recommended practices with respect to the procurement of biobased products and items containing such materials;

“(v) provide information as to the availability, relative price, performance, and environmental and public health benefits of such materials and items; and

“(vi) take effect on the date established in the guidelines, which may not exceed 1 year after publication.

“(C) INFORMATION PROVIDED.—Information provided pursuant to subparagraph (B)(v) with respect to a material or item shall be considered to be provided for another item made with the same material or item.

“(D) PROHIBITION.—Guidelines issued under this paragraph may not require a manufacturer or vendor of biobased products, as a condition of the purchase of biobased products from the manufacturer or vendor, to provide to procuring agencies more data than would be required to be provided by other manufacturers or vendors offering products for sale to a procuring agency, other than data confirming the biobased content of a product.

“(E) QUALIFYING PURCHASES.—The guidelines shall apply with respect to any purchase or acquisition of a procurement item for which—

“(i) the purchase price of the item exceeds \$10,000;

or

“(ii) the quantity of the items or of functionally-equivalent items purchased or acquired during the preceding fiscal year was at least \$10,000.

“(4) ADMINISTRATION.—

“(A) OFFICE OF FEDERAL PROCUREMENT POLICY.—The Office of Federal Procurement Policy, in cooperation with the Secretary, shall—

“(i) coordinate the implementation of this subsection with other policies for Federal procurement;

“(ii) annually collect the information required to be reported under subparagraph (B) and make the information publicly available;

“(iii) take a leading role in informing Federal agencies concerning, and promoting the adoption of and compliance with, procurement requirements for biobased products by Federal agencies; and

“(iv) not less than once every 2 years, submit to Congress a report that—

“(I) describes the progress made in carrying out this subsection; and

“(II) contains a summary of the information reported pursuant to subparagraph (B).

“(B) OTHER AGENCIES.—To assist the Office of Federal Procurement Policy in carrying out subparagraph (A)—

“(i) each procuring agency shall submit each year to the Office of Federal Procurement Policy, to the maximum extent practicable, information concerning—

“(I) actions taken to implement paragraph (2);

“(II) the results of the annual review and monitoring program established under paragraph (2)(C)(iv);

“(III) the number and dollar value of contracts entered into during the year that include the direct procurement of biobased products;

“(IV) the number of service and construction (including renovations) contracts entered into during the year that include language on the use of biobased products; and

“(V) the types and dollar value of biobased products actually used by contractors in carrying out service and construction (including renovations) contracts during the previous year; and

“(ii) the General Services Administration and the Defense Logistics Agency shall submit each year to the Office of Federal Procurement Policy information concerning, to the maximum extent practicable, the types and dollar value of biobased products purchased by procuring agencies.

“(C) PROCUREMENT SUBJECT TO OTHER LAW.—Any procurement by any Federal agency that is subject to regulations of the Administrator under section 6002 of the Solid Waste Disposal Act (42 U.S.C. 6962) shall not be subject to the requirements of this section to the extent that the requirements are inconsistent with the regulations.

“(b) LABELING.—

“(1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary, in consultation with the Administrator, shall establish a voluntary program under which the Secretary authorizes producers of biobased products to use the label ‘USDA Certified Biobased Product’.

“(2) ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA.—

“(A) CRITERIA.—

“(i) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 90 days after the date of the enactment of the Food, Conservation, and Energy Act of 2008 and except as provided in clause (ii), the Secretary, in consultation with the Administrator and representatives from small and large businesses, academia, other Federal agencies, and such other persons as the Secretary considers appropriate, shall issue criteria (as of the date of enactment of that Act) for determining which products may qualify to receive the label under paragraph (1).

“(ii) EXCEPTION.—Clause (i) shall not apply to final criteria that have been issued (as of the date of enactment of that Act) by the Secretary.

“(B) REQUIREMENTS.—Criteria issued under subparagraph (A) shall—

“(i) encourage the purchase of products with the maximum biobased content;

“(ii) provide that the Secretary may designate as biobased for the purposes of the voluntary program established under this subsection finished products that contain significant portions of biobased materials or components; and

“(iii) to the maximum extent practicable, be consistent with the guidelines issued under subsection (a)(3).

“(3) USE OF LABEL.—The Secretary shall ensure that the label referred to in paragraph (1) is used only on products that meet the criteria issued pursuant to paragraph (2).

“(c) RECOGNITION.—The Secretary shall—

“(1) establish a program to recognize Federal agencies and private entities that use a substantial amount of biobased products; and

“(2) encourage Federal agencies to establish incentive programs to recognize Federal employees or contractors that make exceptional contributions to the expanded use of biobased products.

“(d) LIMITATION.—Nothing in this section shall apply to the procurement of motor vehicle fuels, heating oil, or electricity.

“(e) INCLUSION.—Effective beginning on the date that is 90 days after the date of enactment of the Food, Conservation, and Energy Act of 2008, the Architect of the Capitol, the Sergeant at Arms of the Senate, and the Chief Administrative Officer of the House of Representatives shall consider the biobased product designations made under this section in making procurement decisions for the Capitol Complex.

“(f) NATIONAL TESTING CENTER REGISTRY.—The Secretary shall establish a national registry of testing centers for biobased products that will serve biobased product manufacturers.

“(g) REPORTS.—

“(1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 180 days after the date of enactment of the Food, Conservation, and Energy Act of 2008 and each year thereafter, the Secretary shall submit to Congress a report on the implementation of this section.

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

“(A) a comprehensive management plan that establishes tasks, milestones, and timelines, organizational roles and responsibilities, and funding allocations for fully implementing this section; and

“(B) information on the status of implementation of—

“(i) item designations (including designation of intermediate ingredients and feedstocks); and

“(ii) the voluntary labeling program established under subsection (b).

“(h) FUNDING.—

“(1) MANDATORY FUNDING.—Of the funds of the Commodity Credit Corporation, the Secretary shall use to provide mandatory funding for biobased products testing and labeling as required to carry out this section—

“(A) \$1,000,000 for fiscal year 2008; and

“(B) \$2,000,000 for each of fiscal years 2009 through 2012.

“(2) DISCRETIONARY FUNDING.—In addition to any other funds made available to carry out this section, there is authorized to be appropriated to carry out this section \$2,000,000 for each of fiscal years 2009 through 2012.



**“SEC. 9003. BIOREFINERY ASSISTANCE.**

“(a) **PURPOSE.**—The purpose of this section is to assist in the development of new and emerging technologies for the development of advanced biofuels, so as to—

“(1) increase the energy independence of the United States;

“(2) promote resource conservation, public health, and the environment;

“(3) diversify markets for agricultural and forestry products and agriculture waste material; and

“(4) create jobs and enhance the economic development of the rural economy.

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

“(1) **ELIGIBLE ENTITY.**—The term ‘eligible entity’ means an individual, entity, Indian tribe, or unit of State or local government, including a corporation, farm cooperative, farmer cooperative organization, association of agricultural producers, National Laboratory, institution of higher education, rural electric cooperative, public power entity, or consortium of any of those entities.

“(2) **ELIGIBLE TECHNOLOGY.**—The term ‘eligible technology’ means, as determined by the Secretary—

“(A) a technology that is being adopted in a viable commercial-scale operation of a biorefinery that produces an advanced biofuel; and

“(B) a technology not described in subparagraph (A) that has been demonstrated to have technical and economic potential for commercial application in a biorefinery that produces an advanced biofuel.

“(c) **ASSISTANCE.**—The Secretary shall make available to eligible entities—

“(1) grants to assist in paying the costs of the development and construction of demonstration-scale biorefineries to demonstrate the commercial viability of 1 or more processes for converting renewable biomass to advanced biofuels; and

“(2) guarantees for loans made to fund the development, construction, and retrofitting of commercial-scale biorefineries using eligible technology.

“(d) **GRANTS.**—

“(1) **COMPETITIVE BASIS.**—The Secretary shall award grants under subsection (c)(1) on a competitive basis.

“(2) **SELECTION CRITERIA.**—

“(A) **IN GENERAL.**—In approving grant applications, the Secretary shall establish a priority scoring system that assigns priority scores to each application and only approve applications that exceed a specified minimum, as determined by the Secretary.

“(B) **FEASIBILITY.**—In approving a grant application, the Secretary shall determine the technical and economic feasibility of the project based on a feasibility study of the project described in the application conducted by an independent third party.

“(C) **SCORING SYSTEM.**—In determining the priority scoring system, the Secretary shall consider—

“(i) the potential market for the advanced biofuel and the byproducts produced;

“(ii) the level of financial participation by the applicant, including support from non-Federal and private sources;

“(iii) whether the applicant is proposing to use a feedstock not previously used in the production of advanced biofuels;

“(iv) whether the applicant is proposing to work with producer associations or cooperatives;

“(v) whether the applicant has established that the adoption of the process proposed in the application will have a positive impact on resource conservation, public health, and the environment;

“(vi) the potential for rural economic development;

“(vii) whether the area in which the applicant proposes to locate the biorefinery has other similar facilities;

“(viii) whether the project can be replicated; and

“(ix) scalability for commercial use.

“(3) COST SHARING.—

“(A) LIMITS.—The amount of a grant awarded for development and construction of a biorefinery under subsection (c)(1) shall not exceed an amount equal to 30 percent of the cost of the project.

“(B) FORM OF GRANTEE SHARE.—

“(i) IN GENERAL.—The grantee share of the cost of a project may be made in the form of cash or material.

“(ii) LIMITATION.—The amount of the grantee share that is made in the form of material shall not exceed 15 percent of the amount of the grantee share determined under subparagraph (A).

“(e) LOAN GUARANTEES.—

“(1) SELECTION CRITERIA.—

“(A) IN GENERAL.—In approving loan guarantee applications, the Secretary shall establish a priority scoring system that assigns priority scores to each application and only approve applications that exceed a specified minimum, as determined by the Secretary.

“(B) FEASIBILITY.—In approving a loan guarantee application, the Secretary shall determine the technical and economic feasibility of the project based on a feasibility study of the project described in the application conducted by an independent third party.

“(C) SCORING SYSTEM.—In determining the priority scoring system for loan guarantees under subsection (c)(2), the Secretary shall consider—

“(i) whether the applicant has established a market for the advanced biofuel and the byproducts produced;

“(ii) whether the area in which the applicant proposes to place the biorefinery has other similar facilities;

“(iii) whether the applicant is proposing to use a feedstock not previously used in the production of advanced biofuels;

“(iv) whether the applicant is proposing to work with producer associations or cooperatives;

“(v) the level of financial participation by the applicant, including support from non-Federal and private sources;

“(vi) whether the applicant has established that the adoption of the process proposed in the application will have a positive impact on resource conservation, public health, and the environment;

“(vii) whether the applicant can establish that if adopted, the biofuels production technology proposed in the application will not have any significant negative impacts on existing manufacturing plants or other facilities that use similar feedstocks;

“(viii) the potential for rural economic development;

“(ix) the level of local ownership proposed in the application; and

“(x) whether the project can be replicated.

“(2) LIMITATIONS.—

“(A) MAXIMUM AMOUNT OF LOAN GUARANTEED.—The principal amount of a loan guaranteed under subsection (c)(2) may not exceed \$250,000,000.

“(B) MAXIMUM PERCENTAGE OF LOAN GUARANTEED.—

“(i) IN GENERAL.—Except as otherwise provided in this subparagraph, a loan guaranteed under subsection (c)(2) shall be in an amount not to exceed 80 percent of the project costs, as determined by the Secretary.

“(ii) OTHER DIRECT FEDERAL FUNDING.—The amount of a loan guaranteed for a project under subsection (c)(2) shall be reduced by the amount of other direct Federal funding that the eligible entity receives for the same project.

“(iii) AUTHORITY TO GUARANTEE THE LOAN.—The Secretary may guarantee up to 90 percent of the principal and interest due on a loan guaranteed under subsection (c)(2).

“(C) LOAN GUARANTEE FUND DISTRIBUTION.—Of the funds made available for loan guarantees for a fiscal year under subsection (h), 50 percent of the funds shall be reserved for obligation during the second half of the fiscal year.

“(f) CONSULTATION.—In carrying out this section, the Secretary shall consult with the Secretary of Energy.

“(g) CONDITION ON PROVISION OF ASSISTANCE.—

“(1) IN GENERAL.—As a condition of receiving a grant or loan guarantee under this section, an eligible entity shall ensure that all laborers and mechanics employed by contractors or subcontractors in the performance of construction work financed, in whole or in part, with the grant or loan guarantee, as the case may be, shall be paid wages at rates not less than those prevailing on similar construction in the locality, as determined by the Secretary of Labor in accordance with sections 3141 through 3144, 3146, and 3147 of title 40, United States Code.

“(2) AUTHORITY AND FUNCTIONS.—The Secretary of Labor shall have, with respect to the labor standards described in

paragraph (1), the authority and functions set forth in Reorganization Plan Numbered 14 of 1950 (5 U.S.C. App) and section 3145 of title 40, United States Code.

“(h) FUNDING.—

“(1) MANDATORY FUNDING.—Of the funds of the Commodity Credit Corporation, the Secretary shall use for the cost of loan guarantees under this section, to remain available until expended—

“(A) \$75,000,000 for fiscal year 2009; and

“(B) \$245,000,000 for fiscal year 2010.

“(2) DISCRETIONARY FUNDING.—In addition to any other funds made available to carry out this section, there is authorized to be appropriated to carry out this section \$150,000,000 for each of fiscal years 2009 through 2012.

**“SEC. 9004. REPOWERING ASSISTANCE.**

“(a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall carry out a program to encourage biorefineries in existence on the date of enactment of the Food, Conservation, and Energy Act of 2008 to replace fossil fuels used to produce heat or power to operate the biorefineries by making payments for—

“(1) the installation of new systems that use renewable biomass; or

“(2) the new production of energy from renewable biomass.

“(b) PAYMENTS.—

“(1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary may make payments under this section to any biorefinery that meets the requirements of this section for a period determined by the Secretary.

“(2) AMOUNT.—The Secretary shall determine the amount of payments to be made under this section to a biorefinery after considering—

“(A) the quantity of fossil fuels a renewable biomass system is replacing;

“(B) the percentage reduction in fossil fuel used by the biorefinery that will result from the installation of the renewable biomass system; and

“(C) the cost and cost effectiveness of the renewable biomass system.

“(c) ELIGIBILITY.—To be eligible to receive a payment under this section, a biorefinery shall demonstrate to the Secretary that the renewable biomass system of the biorefinery is feasible based on an independent feasibility study that takes into account the economic, technical and environmental aspects of the system.

“(d) FUNDING.—

“(1) MANDATORY FUNDING.—Of the funds of the Commodity Credit Corporation, the Secretary shall use to make payments under this section \$35,000,000 for fiscal year 2009, to remain available until expended.

“(2) DISCRETIONARY FUNDING.—In addition to any other funds made available to carry out this section, there is authorized to be appropriated to carry out this section \$15,000,000 for each of fiscal years 2009 through 2012.

**“SEC. 9005. BIOENERGY PROGRAM FOR ADVANCED BIOFUELS.**

“(a) DEFINITION OF ELIGIBLE PRODUCER.—In this section, the term ‘eligible producer’ means a producer of advanced biofuels.

“(b) PAYMENTS.—The Secretary shall make payments to eligible producers to support and ensure an expanding production of advanced biofuels.

“(c) CONTRACTS.—To receive a payment, an eligible producer shall—

“(1) enter into a contract with the Secretary for production of advanced biofuels; and

“(2) submit to the Secretary such records as the Secretary may require as evidence of the production of advanced biofuels.

“(d) BASIS FOR PAYMENTS.—The Secretary shall make payments under this section to eligible producers based on—

“(1) the quantity and duration of production by the eligible producer of an advanced biofuel;

“(2) the net nonrenewable energy content of the advanced biofuel, if sufficient data is available, as determined by the Secretary; and

“(3) other appropriate factors, as determined by the Secretary.

“(e) EQUITABLE DISTRIBUTION.—The Secretary may limit the amount of payments that may be received by a single eligible producer under this section in order to distribute the total amount of funding available in an equitable manner.

“(f) OTHER REQUIREMENTS.—To receive a payment under this section, an eligible producer shall meet any other requirements of Federal and State law (including regulations) applicable to the production of advanced biofuels.

“(g) FUNDING.—

“(1) MANDATORY FUNDING.—Of the funds of the Commodity Credit Corporation, the Secretary shall use to carry out this section, to remain available until expended—

“(A) \$55,000,000 for fiscal year 2009;

“(B) \$55,000,000 for fiscal year 2010;

“(C) \$85,000,000 for fiscal year 2011; and

“(D) \$105,000,000 for fiscal year 2012.

“(2) DISCRETIONARY FUNDING.—In addition to any other funds made available to carry out this section, there is authorized to be appropriated to carry out this section \$25,000,000 for each of fiscal years 2009 through 2012.

“(3) LIMITATION.—Of the funds provided for each fiscal year, not more than 5 percent of the funds shall be made available to eligible producers for production at facilities with a total refining capacity exceeding 150,000,000 gallons per year.

**“SEC. 9006. BIODIESEL FUEL EDUCATION PROGRAM.**

“(a) ESTABLISHMENT.—The Secretary shall, under such terms and conditions as the Secretary determines to be appropriate, make competitive grants to eligible entities to educate governmental and private entities that operate vehicle fleets, other interested entities (as determined by the Secretary), and the public about the benefits of biodiesel fuel use.

“(b) ELIGIBLE ENTITIES.—To receive a grant under subsection (b), an entity shall—

“(1) be a nonprofit organization or institution of higher education;

“(2) have demonstrated knowledge of biodiesel fuel production, use, or distribution; and

“(3) have demonstrated the ability to conduct educational and technical support programs.

“(c) CONSULTATION.—In carrying out this section, the Secretary shall consult with the Secretary of Energy.

“(d) FUNDING.—Of the funds of the Commodity Credit Corporation, the Secretary shall use to carry out this section \$1,000,000 for each of fiscal years 2008 through 2012.

**“SEC. 9007. RURAL ENERGY FOR AMERICA PROGRAM.**

“(a) ESTABLISHMENT.—The Secretary, in consultation with the Secretary of Energy, shall establish a Rural Energy for America Program to promote energy efficiency and renewable energy development for agricultural producers and rural small businesses through—

“(1) grants for energy audits and renewable energy development assistance; and

“(2) financial assistance for energy efficiency improvements and renewable energy systems.

“(b) ENERGY AUDITS AND RENEWABLE ENERGY DEVELOPMENT ASSISTANCE.—

“(1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall make competitive grants to eligible entities to provide assistance to agricultural producers and rural small businesses—

“(A) to become more energy efficient; and

“(B) to use renewable energy technologies and resources.

“(2) ELIGIBLE ENTITIES.—An eligible entity under this subsection is—

“(A) a unit of State, tribal, or local government;

“(B) a land-grant college or university or other institution of higher education;

“(C) a rural electric cooperative or public power entity;

and

“(D) any other similar entity, as determined by the Secretary.

“(3) SELECTION CRITERIA.—In reviewing applications of eligible entities to receive grants under paragraph (1), the Secretary shall consider—

“(A) the ability and expertise of the eligible entity in providing professional energy audits and renewable energy assessments;

“(B) the geographic scope of the program proposed by the eligible entity in relation to the identified need;

“(C) the number of agricultural producers and rural small businesses to be assisted by the program;

“(D) the potential of the proposed program to produce energy savings and environmental benefits;

“(E) the plan of the eligible entity for performing outreach and providing information and assistance to agricultural producers and rural small businesses on the benefits of energy efficiency and renewable energy development; and

“(F) the ability of the eligible entity to leverage other sources of funding.

“(4) USE OF GRANT FUNDS.—A recipient of a grant under paragraph (1) shall use the grant funds to assist agricultural producers and rural small businesses by—

“(A) conducting and promoting energy audits; and

“(B) providing recommendations and information on how—

“(i) to improve the energy efficiency of the operations of the agricultural producers and rural small businesses; and

“(ii) to use renewable energy technologies and resources in the operations.

“(5) LIMITATION.—Grant recipients may not use more than 5 percent of a grant for administrative expenses.

“(6) COST SHARING.—A recipient of a grant under paragraph (1) that conducts an energy audit for an agricultural producer or rural small business under paragraph (4) shall require that, as a condition of the energy audit, the agricultural producer or rural small business pay at least 25 percent of the cost of the energy audit, which shall be retained by the eligible entity for the cost of the energy audit.

“(c) FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE FOR ENERGY EFFICIENCY IMPROVEMENTS AND RENEWABLE ENERGY SYSTEMS.—

“(1) IN GENERAL.—In addition to any similar authority, the Secretary shall provide loan guarantees and grants to agricultural producers and rural small businesses—

“(A) to purchase renewable energy systems, including systems that may be used to produce and sell electricity; and

“(B) to make energy efficiency improvements.

“(2) AWARD CONSIDERATIONS.—In determining the amount of a loan guarantee or grant provided under this section, the Secretary shall take into consideration, as applicable—

“(A) the type of renewable energy system to be purchased;

“(B) the estimated quantity of energy to be generated by the renewable energy system;

“(C) the expected environmental benefits of the renewable energy system;

“(D) the quantity of energy savings expected to be derived from the activity, as demonstrated by an energy audit;

“(E) the estimated period of time for the energy savings generated by the activity to equal the cost of the activity;

“(F) the expected energy efficiency of the renewable energy system; and

“(G) other appropriate factors.

“(3) FEASIBILITY STUDIES.—

“(A) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary may provide assistance in the form of grants to an agricultural producer or rural small business to conduct a feasibility study for a project for which assistance may be provided under this subsection.

“(B) LIMITATION.—The Secretary shall use not more than 10 percent of the funds made available to carry out this subsection to provide assistance described in subparagraph (A).

“(C) AVOIDANCE OF DUPLICATIVE ASSISTANCE.—An entity shall be ineligible to receive assistance to carry out a feasibility study for a project under this paragraph

if the entity has received other Federal or State assistance for a feasibility study for the project.

“(4) LIMITS.—

“(A) GRANTS.—The amount of a grant under this subsection shall not exceed 25 percent of the cost of the activity carried out using funds from the grant.

“(B) MAXIMUM AMOUNT OF LOAN GUARANTEES.—The amount of a loan guaranteed under this subsection shall not exceed \$25,000,000.

“(C) MAXIMUM AMOUNT OF COMBINED GRANT AND LOAN GUARANTEE.—The combined amount of a grant and loan guaranteed under this subsection shall not exceed 75 percent of the cost of the activity funded under this subsection.

“(d) OUTREACH.—The Secretary shall ensure, to the maximum extent practicable, that adequate outreach relating to this section is being conducted at the State and local levels.

“(e) LOWER-COST ACTIVITIES.—

“(1) LIMITATION ON USE OF FUNDS.—Except as provided in paragraph (2), the Secretary shall use not less than 20 percent of the funds made available under subsection (g) to provide grants of \$20,000 or less.

“(2) EXCEPTION.—Effective beginning on June 30 of each fiscal year, paragraph (1) shall not apply to funds made available under subsection (g) for the fiscal year.

“(f) REPORT.—Not later than 4 years after the date of enactment of the Food, Conservation, and Energy Act of 2008, the Secretary shall submit to Congress a report on the implementation of this section, including the outcomes achieved by projects funded under this section.

“(g) FUNDING.—

“(1) MANDATORY FUNDING.—Of the funds of the Commodity Credit Corporation, the Secretary shall use to carry out this section, to remain available until expended—

“(A) \$55,000,000 for fiscal year 2009;

“(B) \$60,000,000 for fiscal year 2010;

“(C) \$70,000,000 for fiscal year 2011; and

“(D) \$70,000,000 for fiscal year 2012.

“(2) AUDIT AND TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE FUNDING.—

“(A) IN GENERAL.—Subject to subparagraph (B), of the funds made available for each fiscal year under paragraph (1), 4 percent shall be available to carry out subsection (b).

“(B) OTHER USE.—Funds not obligated under subparagraph (A) by April 1 of each fiscal year to carry out subsection (b) shall become available to carry out subsection (c).

“(3) DISCRETIONARY FUNDING.—In addition to any other funds made available to carry out this section, there is authorized to be appropriated to carry out this section \$25,000,000 for each of fiscal years 2009 through 2012.

“SEC. 9008. BIOMASS RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT.

“(a) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

“(1) BIOBASED PRODUCT.—The term ‘biobased product’ means—

“(A) an industrial product (including chemicals, materials, and polymers) produced from biomass; or



“(B) a commercial or industrial product (including animal feed and electric power) derived in connection with the conversion of biomass to fuel.

“(2) DEMONSTRATION.—The term ‘demonstration’ means demonstration of technology in a pilot plant or semi-works scale facility, including a plant or facility located on a farm.

“(3) INITIATIVE.—The term ‘Initiative’ means the Biomass Research and Development Initiative established under subsection (e).

“(b) COOPERATION AND COORDINATION IN BIOMASS RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT.—

“(1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary of Agriculture and the Secretary of Energy shall coordinate policies and procedures that promote research and development regarding the production of biofuels and biobased products.

“(2) POINTS OF CONTACT.—To coordinate research and development programs and activities relating to biofuels and biobased products that are carried out by their respective departments—

“(A) the Secretary of Agriculture shall designate, as the point of contact for the Department of Agriculture, an officer of the Department of Agriculture appointed by the President to a position in the Department before the date of the designation, by and with the advice and consent of the Senate; and

“(B) the Secretary of Energy shall designate, as the point of contact for the Department of Energy, an officer of the Department of Energy appointed by the President to a position in the Department before the date of the designation, by and with the advice and consent of the Senate.

“(c) BIOMASS RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT BOARD.—

“(1) ESTABLISHMENT.—There is established the Biomass Research and Development Board to carry out the duties described in paragraph (3).

“(2) MEMBERSHIP.—The Board shall consist of—

“(A) the point of contacts of the Department of Energy and the Department of Agriculture, who shall serve as cochairpersons of the Board;

“(B) a senior officer of each of the Department of the Interior, the Environmental Protection Agency, the National Science Foundation, and the Office of Science and Technology Policy, each of whom shall have a rank that is equivalent to the rank of the points of contact; and

“(C) at the option of the Secretary of Agriculture and the Secretary of Energy, other members appointed by the Secretaries (after consultation with the Board).

“(3) DUTIES.—The Board shall—

“(A) coordinate research and development activities relating to biofuels and biobased products—

“(i) between the Department of Agriculture and the Department of Energy; and

“(ii) with other departments and agencies of the Federal Government;

“(B) provide recommendations to the points of contact concerning administration of this title;

“(C) ensure that—

“(i) solicitations are open and competitive with awards made annually; and

“(ii) objectives and evaluation criteria of the solicitations are clearly stated and minimally prescriptive, with no areas of special interest; and

“(D) ensure that the panel of scientific and technical peers assembled under subsection (e) to review proposals is composed predominantly of independent experts selected from outside the Departments of Agriculture and Energy.

“(4) FUNDING.—Each agency represented on the Board is encouraged to provide funds for any purpose under this section.

“(5) MEETINGS.—The Board shall meet at least quarterly.

“(d) BIOMASS RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT TECHNICAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE.—

“(1) ESTABLISHMENT.—There is established the Biomass Research and Development Technical Advisory Committee to carry out the duties described in paragraph (3).

“(2) MEMBERSHIP.—

“(A) IN GENERAL.—The Advisory Committee shall consist of—

“(i) an individual affiliated with the biofuels industry;

“(ii) an individual affiliated with the biobased industrial and commercial products industry;

“(iii) an individual affiliated with an institution of higher education who has expertise in biofuels and biobased products;

“(iv) 2 prominent engineers or scientists from government or academia who have expertise in biofuels and biobased products;

“(v) an individual affiliated with a commodity trade association;

“(vi) 2 individuals affiliated with environmental or conservation organizations;

“(vii) an individual associated with State government who has expertise in biofuels and biobased products;

“(viii) an individual with expertise in energy and environmental analysis;

“(ix) an individual with expertise in the economics of biofuels and biobased products;

“(x) an individual with expertise in agricultural economics;

“(xi) an individual with expertise in plant biology and biomass feedstock development;

“(xii) an individual with expertise in agronomy, crop science, or soil science; and

“(xiii) at the option of the points of contact, other members.

“(B) APPOINTMENT.—The members of the Advisory Committee shall be appointed by the points of contact.

“(3) DUTIES.—The Advisory Committee shall—

“(A) advise the points of contact with respect to the Initiative; and

“(B) evaluate and make recommendations in writing to the Board regarding whether—

“(i) funds authorized for the Initiative are distributed and used in a manner that is consistent with the objectives, purposes, and considerations of the Initiative;

“(ii) solicitations are open and competitive with awards made annually;

“(iii) objectives and evaluation criteria of the solicitations are clearly stated and minimally prescriptive, with no areas of special interest;

“(iv) the points of contact are funding proposals under this title that are selected on the basis of merit, as determined by an independent panel of scientific and technical peers predominantly from outside the Departments of Agriculture and Energy; and

“(v) activities under this title are carried out in accordance with this title.

“(4) COORDINATION.—To avoid duplication of effort, the Advisory Committee shall coordinate its activities with those of other Federal advisory committees working in related areas.

“(5) MEETINGS.—The Advisory Committee shall meet at least quarterly.

“(6) TERMS.—Members of the Advisory Committee shall be appointed for a term of 3 years.

“(e) BIOMASS RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT INITIATIVE.—

“(1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary of Agriculture and the Secretary of Energy, acting through their respective points of contact and in consultation with the Board, shall establish and carry out a Biomass Research and Development Initiative under which competitively awarded grants, contracts, and financial assistance are provided to, or entered into with, eligible entities to carry out research on and development and demonstration of—

“(A) biofuels and biobased products; and

“(B) the methods, practices, and technologies, for the production of biofuels and biobased products.

“(2) OBJECTIVES.—The objectives of the Initiative are to develop—

“(A) technologies and processes necessary for abundant commercial production of biofuels at prices competitive with fossil fuels;

“(B) high-value biobased products—

“(i) to enhance the economic viability of biofuels and power;

“(ii) to serve as substitutes for petroleum-based feedstocks and products; and

“(iii) to enhance the value of coproducts produced using the technologies and processes; and

“(C) a diversity of economically and environmentally sustainable domestic sources of renewable biomass for conversion to biofuels, bioenergy, and biobased products.

“(3) TECHNICAL AREAS.—The Secretary of Agriculture and the Secretary of Energy, in consultation with the Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency and heads of other appropriate departments and agencies (referred to in this subsection as the ‘Secretaries’), shall direct the Initiative in the 3 following areas:

“(A) FEEDSTOCKS DEVELOPMENT.—Research, development, and demonstration activities regarding feedstocks and feedstock logistics (including the harvest, handling, transport, preprocessing, and storage) relevant to production of raw materials for conversion to biofuels and biobased products.

“(B) BIOFUELS AND BIOBASED PRODUCTS DEVELOPMENT.—Research, development, and demonstration activities to support—

“(i) the development of diverse cost-effective technologies for the use of cellulosic biomass in the production of biofuels and biobased products; and

“(ii) product diversification through technologies relevant to production of a range of biobased products (including chemicals, animal feeds, and cogenerated power) that potentially can increase the feasibility of fuel production in a biorefinery.

“(C) BIOFUELS DEVELOPMENT ANALYSIS.—

“(i) STRATEGIC GUIDANCE.—The development of analysis that provides strategic guidance for the application of renewable biomass technologies to improve sustainability and environmental quality, cost effectiveness, security, and rural economic development.

“(ii) ENERGY AND ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT.—Development of systematic evaluations of the impact of expanded biofuel production on the environment (including forest land) and on the food supply for humans and animals, including the improvement and development of tools for life cycle analysis of current and potential biofuels.

“(iii) ASSESSMENT OF FEDERAL LAND.—Assessments of the potential of Federal land resources to increase the production of feedstocks for biofuels and biobased products, consistent with the integrity of soil and water resources and with other environmental considerations.

“(4) ADDITIONAL CONSIDERATIONS.—Within the technical areas described in paragraph (3), the Secretaries shall support research and development—

“(A) to create continuously expanding opportunities for participants in existing biofuels production by seeking synergies and continuity with current technologies and practices;

“(B) to maximize the environmental, economic, and social benefits of production of biofuels and derived biobased products on a large scale; and

“(C) to facilitate small-scale production and local and on-farm use of biofuels, including the development of small-scale gasification technologies for production of biofuel from cellulosic feedstocks.

“(5) ELIGIBILITY.—To be eligible for a grant, contract, or assistance under this section, an applicant shall be—

“(A) an institution of higher education;

“(B) a National Laboratory;

“(C) a Federal research agency;

“(D) a State research agency;

“(E) a private sector entity;

“(F) a nonprofit organization; or

“(G) a consortium of 2 or more entities described in subparagraphs (A) through (F).

“(6) ADMINISTRATION.—

“(A) IN GENERAL.—After consultation with the Board, the points of contact shall—

“(i) publish annually 1 or more joint requests for proposals for grants, contracts, and assistance under this subsection;

“(ii) require that grants, contracts, and assistance under this section be awarded based on a scientific peer review by an independent panel of scientific and technical peers;

“(iii) give special consideration to applications that—

“(I) involve a consortia of experts from multiple institutions;

“(II) encourage the integration of disciplines and application of the best technical resources; and

“(III) increase the geographic diversity of demonstration projects; and

“(iv) require that the technical areas described in each of subparagraphs (A), (B), and (C) of paragraph (3) receive not less than 15 percent of funds made available to carry out this section.

“(B) COST SHARE.—

“(i) RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT PROJECTS.—

“(I) IN GENERAL.—Except as provided in subclause (II), the non-Federal share of the cost of a research or development project under this section shall be not less than 20 percent.

“(II) REDUCTION.—The Secretary of Agriculture or the Secretary of Energy, as appropriate, may reduce the non-Federal share required under subclause (I) if the appropriate Secretary determines the reduction to be necessary and appropriate.

“(ii) DEMONSTRATION AND COMMERCIAL PROJECTS.—The non-Federal share of the cost of a demonstration or commercial project under this section shall be not less than 50 percent.

“(C) TECHNOLOGY AND INFORMATION TRANSFER.—The Secretary of Agriculture and the Secretary of Energy shall ensure that applicable research results and technologies from the Initiative are—

“(i) adapted, made available, and disseminated, as appropriate; and

“(ii) included in the best practices database established under section 1672C(e) of the Food, Agriculture, Conservation, and Trade Act of 1990.

“(f) ADMINISTRATIVE SUPPORT AND FUNDS.—

“(1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary of Energy and the Secretary of Agriculture may provide such administrative support and funds of the Department of Energy and the Department of Agriculture to the Board and the Advisory Committee as

are necessary to enable the Board and the Advisory Committee to carry out their duties under this section.

“(2) OTHER AGENCIES.—The heads of the agencies referred to in subsection (c)(2)(B), and the other members of the Board appointed under subsection (c)(2)(C), are encouraged to provide administrative support and funds of their respective agencies to the Board and the Advisory Committee.

“(3) LIMITATION.—Not more than 4 percent of the amount made available for each fiscal year under subsection (h) may be used to pay the administrative costs of carrying out this section.

“(g) REPORTS.—For each fiscal year for which funds are made available to carry out this section, the Secretary of Energy and the Secretary of Agriculture shall jointly submit to Congress a detailed report on—

“(1) the status and progress of the Initiative, including a report from the Advisory Committee on whether funds appropriated for the Initiative have been distributed and used in a manner that is consistent with the objectives and requirements of this section;

“(2) the general status of cooperation and research and development efforts carried out at each agency with respect to biofuels and biobased products; and

“(3) the plans of the Secretary of Energy and the Secretary of Agriculture for addressing concerns raised in the report, including concerns raised by the Advisory Committee.

“(h) FUNDING.—

“(1) MANDATORY FUNDING.—Of the funds of the Commodity Credit Corporation, the Secretary of Agriculture shall use to carry out this section, to remain available until expended—

“(A) \$20,000,000 for fiscal year 2009;

“(B) \$28,000,000 for fiscal year 2010;

“(C) \$30,000,000 for fiscal year 2011; and

“(D) \$40,000,000 for fiscal year 2012.

“(2) DISCRETIONARY FUNDING.—In addition to any other funds made available to carry out this section, there is authorized to be appropriated to carry out this section \$35,000,000 for each of fiscal years 2009 through 2012.

**“SEC. 9009. RURAL ENERGY SELF-SUFFICIENCY INITIATIVE.**

“(a) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

“(1) ELIGIBLE RURAL COMMUNITY.—The term ‘eligible rural community’ means a community located in a rural area (as defined in section 343(a)(13)(A) of the Consolidated Farm and Rural Development Act (7 U.S.C. 1991(a)(13)(A))).

“(2) INITIATIVE.—The term ‘Initiative’ means the Rural Energy Self-Sufficiency Initiative established under this section.

“(3) INTEGRATED RENEWABLE ENERGY SYSTEM.—The term ‘integrated renewable energy system’ means a community-wide energy system that—

“(A) reduces conventional energy use; and

“(B) increases the use of energy from renewable sources.

“(b) ESTABLISHMENT.—The Secretary shall establish a Rural Energy Self-Sufficiency Initiative to provide financial assistance

for the purpose of enabling eligible rural communities to substantially increase the energy self-sufficiency of the eligible rural communities.

“(c) GRANT ASSISTANCE.—

“(1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall make grants available under the Initiative to eligible rural communities to carry out an activity described in paragraph (2).

“(2) USE OF GRANT FUNDS.—An eligible rural community may use a grant—

“(A) to conduct an energy assessment that assesses the total energy use of all energy users in the eligible rural community;

“(B) to formulate and analyze ideas for reducing energy usage by the eligible rural community from conventional sources; and

“(C) to develop and install an integrated renewable energy system.

“(3) GRANT SELECTION.—

“(A) APPLICATION.—To be considered for a grant, an eligible rural community shall submit an application to the Secretary that describes the ways in which the community would use the grant to carry out an activity described in paragraph (2).

“(B) PREFERENCE.—The Secretary shall give preference to those applications that propose to carry out an activity in coordination with—

“(i) institutions of higher education or nonprofit foundations of institutions of higher education;

“(ii) Federal, State, or local government agencies;

“(iii) public or private power generation entities;

or

“(iv) government entities with responsibility for water or natural resources.

“(4) REPORT.—An eligible rural community receiving a grant under the Initiative shall submit to the Secretary a report on the project of the eligible rural community.

“(5) COST-SHARING.—The amount of a grant under the Initiative shall not exceed 50 percent of the cost of the activities described in the application.

“(d) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There is authorized to be appropriated to carry out this section \$5,000,000 for each of fiscal years 2009 through 2012.

**“SEC. 9010. FEEDSTOCK FLEXIBILITY PROGRAM FOR BIOENERGY PRODUCERS.**

“(a) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

“(1) BIOENERGY.—The term ‘bioenergy’ means fuel grade ethanol and other biofuel.

“(2) BIOENERGY PRODUCER.—The term ‘bioenergy producer’ means a producer of bioenergy that uses an eligible commodity to produce bioenergy under this section.

“(3) ELIGIBLE COMMODITY.—The term ‘eligible commodity’ means a form of raw or refined sugar or in-process sugar that is eligible to be marketed in the United States for human consumption or to be used for the extraction of sugar for human consumption.

“(4) ELIGIBLE ENTITY.—The term ‘eligible entity’ means an entity located in the United States that markets an eligible commodity in the United States.

“(b) FEEDSTOCK FLEXIBILITY PROGRAM.—

“(1) IN GENERAL.—

“(A) PURCHASES AND SALES.—For each of the 2008 through 2012 crops, the Secretary shall purchase eligible commodities from eligible entities and sell such commodities to bioenergy producers for the purpose of producing bioenergy in a manner that ensures that section 156 of the Federal Agriculture Improvement and Reform Act (7 U.S.C. 7272) is operated at no cost to the Federal Government by avoiding forfeitures to the Commodity Credit Corporation.

“(B) COMPETITIVE PROCEDURES.—In carrying out the purchases and sales required under subparagraph (A), the Secretary shall, to the maximum extent practicable, use competitive procedures, including the receiving, offering, and accepting of bids, when entering into contracts with eligible entities and bioenergy producers, provided that such procedures are consistent with the purposes of subparagraph (A).

“(C) LIMITATION.—The purchase and sale of eligible commodities under subparagraph (A) shall only be made in crop years in which such purchases and sales are necessary to ensure that the program authorized under section 156 of the Federal Agriculture Improvement and Reform Act (7 U.S.C. 7272) is operated at no cost to the Federal Government by avoiding forfeitures to the Commodity Credit Corporation.

“(2) NOTICE.—

“(A) IN GENERAL.—As soon as practicable after the date of enactment of the Food, Conservation, and Energy Act of 2008 and each September 1 thereafter through September 1, 2012, the Secretary shall provide notice to eligible entities and bioenergy producers of the quantity of eligible commodities that shall be made available for purchase and sale for the crop year following the date of the notice under this section.

“(B) REESTIMATES.—Not later than the January 1, April 1, and July 1 of the calendar year following the date of a notice under subparagraph (A), the Secretary shall reestimate the quantity of eligible commodities determined under subparagraph (A), and provide notice and make purchases and sales based on such reestimates.

“(3) COMMODITY CREDIT CORPORATION INVENTORY.—

“(A) DISPOSITIONS.—

“(i) BIOENERGY AND GENERALLY.—Except as provided in clause (ii), to the extent that an eligible commodity is owned and held in inventory by the Commodity Credit Corporation (accumulated pursuant to the program authorized under section 156 of the Federal Agriculture Improvement and Reform Act (7 U.S.C. 7272)), the Secretary shall—

“(I) sell the eligible commodity to bioenergy producers under this section consistent with paragraph (1)(C);



“(II) dispose of the eligible commodity in accordance with section 156(f)(2) of that Act; or

“(III) otherwise dispose of the eligible commodity through the buyback of certificates of quota entry.

“(ii) PRESERVATION OF OTHER AUTHORITIES.—Nothing in this section limits the use of other authorities for the disposition of an eligible commodity held in the inventory of the Commodity Credit Corporation for nonfood use or otherwise in a manner that does not increase the net quantity of sugar available for human consumption in the United States market, consistent with section 156(f)(1) of the Federal Agriculture Improvement and Reform Act (7 U.S.C. 7272(f)(1)).

“(B) EMERGENCY SHORTAGES.—Notwithstanding subparagraph (A), if there is an emergency shortage of sugar for human consumption in the United States market that is caused by a war, flood, hurricane, or other natural disaster, or other similar event, the Secretary may dispose of an eligible commodity that is owned and held in inventory by the Commodity Credit Corporation (accumulated pursuant to the program authorized under section 156 of the Federal Agriculture Improvement and Reform Act (7 U.S.C. 7272)) through disposition as authorized under section 156(f) of that Act or through the use of any other authority of the Commodity Credit Corporation.

“(4) TRANSFER RULE; STORAGE FEES.—

“(A) GENERAL TRANSFER RULE.—Except with regard to emergency dispositions under paragraph (3)(B) and as provided in subparagraph (C), the Secretary shall ensure that bioenergy producers that purchase eligible commodities pursuant to this section take possession of the eligible commodities within 30 calendar days of the date of such purchase from the Commodity Credit Corporation.

“(B) PAYMENT OF STORAGE FEES PROHIBITED.—

“(i) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall, to the maximum extent practicable, carry out this section in a manner that ensures no storage fees are paid by the Commodity Credit Corporation in the administration of this section.

“(ii) EXCEPTION.—Clause (i) shall not apply with respect to any commodities owned and held in inventory by the Commodity Credit Corporation (accumulated pursuant to the program authorized under section 156 of the Federal Agriculture Improvement and Reform Act (7 U.S.C. 7272)).

“(C) OPTION TO PREVENT STORAGE FEES.—

“(i) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary may enter into contracts with bioenergy producers to sell eligible commodities to such producers prior in time to entering into contracts with eligible entities to purchase the eligible commodities to be used to satisfy the contracts entered into with the bioenergy producers.

“(ii) SPECIAL TRANSFER RULE.—If the Secretary makes a sale and purchase referred to in clause (i), the Secretary shall ensure that the bioenergy producer that purchased eligible commodities takes possession

of such commodities within 30 calendar days of the date the Commodity Credit Corporation purchases the eligible commodities.

“(5) RELATION TO OTHER LAWS.—If sugar that is subject to a marketing allotment under part VII of subtitle B of title III of the Agricultural Adjustment Act of 1938 (7 U.S.C. 1359aa et seq.) is the subject of a payment under this section, the sugar shall be considered marketed and shall count against a processor’s allocation of an allotment under such part, as applicable.

“(6) FUNDING.—The Secretary shall use the funds, facilities, and authorities of the Commodity Credit Corporation, including the use of such sums as are necessary, to carry out this section.

**“SEC. 9011. BIOMASS CROP ASSISTANCE PROGRAM.**

“(a) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

“(1) BCAP.—The term ‘BCAP’ means the Biomass Crop Assistance Program established under this section.

“(2) BCAP PROJECT AREA.—The term ‘BCAP project area’ means an area that—

“(A) has specified boundaries that are submitted to the Secretary by the project sponsor and subsequently approved by the Secretary;

“(B) includes producers with contract acreage that will supply a portion of the renewable biomass needed by a biomass conversion facility; and

“(C) is physically located within an economically practicable distance from the biomass conversion facility.

“(3) CONTRACT ACREAGE.—The term ‘contract acreage’ means eligible land that is covered by a BCAP contract entered into with the Secretary.

“(4) ELIGIBLE CROP.—

“(A) IN GENERAL.—The term ‘eligible crop’ means a crop of renewable biomass.

“(B) EXCLUSIONS.—The term ‘eligible crop’ does not include—

“(i) any crop that is eligible to receive payments under title I of the Food, Conservation, and Energy Act of 2008 or an amendment made by that title; or

“(ii) any plant that is invasive or noxious or has the potential to become invasive or noxious, as determined by the Secretary, in consultation with other appropriate Federal or State departments and agencies.

“(5) ELIGIBLE LAND.—

“(A) IN GENERAL.—The term ‘eligible land’ includes agricultural and nonindustrial private forest lands (as defined in section 5(c) of the Cooperative Forestry Assistance Act of 1978 (16 U.S.C. 2103a(c))).

“(B) EXCLUSIONS.—The term ‘eligible land’ does not include—

“(i) Federal- or State-owned land;

“(ii) land that is native sod, as of the date of enactment of the Food, Conservation, and Energy Act of 2008;

“(iii) land enrolled in the conservation reserve program established under subchapter B of chapter 1 of subtitle D of title XII of the Food Security Act of 1985 (16 U.S.C. 3831 et seq.);

“(iv) land enrolled in the wetlands reserve program established under subchapter C of chapter 1 of subtitle D of title XII of that Act (16 U.S.C. 3837 et seq.); or

“(v) land enrolled in the grassland reserve program established under subchapter D of chapter 2 of subtitle D of title XII of that Act (16 U.S.C. 3838n et seq.).

“(6) ELIGIBLE MATERIAL.—

“(A) IN GENERAL.—The term ‘eligible material’ means renewable biomass.

“(B) EXCLUSIONS.—The term ‘eligible material’ does not include—

“(i) any crop that is eligible to receive payments under title I of the Food, Conservation, and Energy Act of 2008 or an amendment made by that title;

“(ii) animal waste and byproducts (including fats, oils, greases, and manure);

“(iii) food waste and yard waste; or

“(iv) algae.

“(7) PRODUCER.—The term ‘producer’ means an owner or operator of contract acreage that is physically located within a BCAP project area.

“(8) PROJECT SPONSOR.—The term ‘project sponsor’ means—

“(A) a group of producers; or

“(B) a biomass conversion facility.

“(b) ESTABLISHMENT AND PURPOSE.—The Secretary shall establish and administer a Biomass Crop Assistance Program to—

“(1) support the establishment and production of eligible crops for conversion to bioenergy in selected BCAP project areas; and

“(2) assist agricultural and forest land owners and operators with collection, harvest, storage, and transportation of eligible material for use in a biomass conversion facility.

“(c) BCAP PROJECT AREA.—

“(1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall provide financial assistance to producers of eligible crops in a BCAP project area.

“(2) SELECTION OF PROJECT AREAS.—

“(A) IN GENERAL.—To be considered for selection as a BCAP project area, a project sponsor shall submit to the Secretary a proposal that includes, at a minimum—

“(i) a description of the eligible land and eligible crops of each producer that will participate in the proposed BCAP project area;

“(ii) a letter of commitment from a biomass conversion facility that the facility will use the eligible crops intended to be produced in the proposed BCAP project area;

“(iii) evidence that the biomass conversion facility has sufficient equity available, as determined by the Secretary, if the biomass conversion facility is not operational at the time the proposal is submitted to the Secretary; and

“(iv) any other appropriate information about the biomass conversion facility or proposed biomass conversion facility that gives the Secretary a reasonable assurance that the plant will be in operation by the time that the eligible crops are ready for harvest.

“(B) BCAP PROJECT AREA SELECTION CRITERIA.—In selecting BCAP project areas, the Secretary shall consider—

“(i) the volume of the eligible crops proposed to be produced in the proposed BCAP project area and the probability that such crops will be used for the purposes of the BCAP;

“(ii) the volume of renewable biomass projected to be available from sources other than the eligible crops grown on contract acres;

“(iii) the anticipated economic impact in the proposed BCAP project area;

“(iv) the opportunity for producers and local investors to participate in the ownership of the biomass conversion facility in the proposed BCAP project area;

“(v) the participation rate by—

“(I) beginning farmers or ranchers (as defined in accordance with section 343(a) of the Consolidated Farm and Rural Development Act (7 U.S.C. 1991(a))); or

“(II) socially disadvantaged farmers or ranchers (as defined in section 2501(e) of the Food, Agriculture, Conservation, and Trade Act of 1990 (7 U.S.C. 2279(e)));

“(vi) the impact on soil, water, and related resources;

“(vii) the variety in biomass production approaches within a project area, including (as appropriate)—

“(I) agronomic conditions;

“(II) harvest and postharvest practices; and

“(III) monoculture and polyculture crop mixes;

“(viii) the range of eligible crops among project areas; and

“(ix) any additional information, as determined by the Secretary.

“(3) CONTRACT.—

“(A) IN GENERAL.—On approval of a BCAP project area by the Secretary, each producer in the BCAP project area shall enter into a contract directly with the Secretary.

“(B) MINIMUM TERMS.—At a minimum, contracts shall include terms that cover—

“(i) an agreement to make available to the Secretary, or to an institution of higher education or other entity designated by the Secretary, such information as the Secretary considers to be appropriate to promote the production of eligible crops and the development of biomass conversion technology;

“(ii) compliance with the highly erodible land conservation requirements of subtitle B of title XII of the Food Security Act of 1985 (16 U.S.C. 3811 et seq.) and the wetland conservation requirements of subtitle C of title XII of that Act (16 U.S.C. 3821 et seq.);

“(iii) the implementation of (as determined by the Secretary)—

“(I) a conservation plan; or

“(II) a forest stewardship plan or an equivalent plan; and

“(iv) any additional requirements the Secretary considers appropriate.

“(C) DURATION.—A contract under this subsection shall have a term of up to—

“(i) 5 years for annual and perennial crops; or

“(ii) 15 years for woody biomass.

“(4) RELATIONSHIP TO OTHER PROGRAMS.—In carrying out this subsection, the Secretary shall provide for the preservation of cropland base and yield history applicable to the land enrolled in a BCAP contract.

“(5) PAYMENTS.—

“(A) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall make establishment and annual payments directly to producers to support the establishment and production of eligible crops on contract acreage.

“(B) AMOUNT OF ESTABLISHMENT PAYMENTS.—The amount of an establishment payment under this subsection shall be up to 75 percent of the costs of establishing an eligible perennial crop covered by the contract, including—

“(i) the cost of seeds and stock for perennials;

“(ii) the cost of planting the perennial crop, as determined by the Secretary; and

“(iii) in the case of nonindustrial private forestland, the costs of site preparation and tree planting.

“(C) AMOUNT OF ANNUAL PAYMENTS.—

“(i) IN GENERAL.—Subject to clause (ii), the amount of an annual payment under this subsection shall be determined by the Secretary.

“(ii) REDUCTION.—The Secretary shall reduce an annual payment by an amount determined to be appropriate by the Secretary, if—

“(I) an eligible crop is used for purposes other than the production of energy at the biomass conversion facility;

“(II) an eligible crop is delivered to the biomass conversion facility;

“(III) the producer receives a payment under subsection (d);

“(IV) the producer violates a term of the contract; or

“(V) there are such other circumstances, as determined by the Secretary to be necessary to carry out this section.

“(d) ASSISTANCE WITH COLLECTION, HARVEST, STORAGE, AND TRANSPORTATION.—

“(1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall make a payment for the delivery of eligible material to a biomass conversion facility to—

“(A) a producer of an eligible crop that is produced on BCAP contract acreage; or

“(B) a person with the right to collect or harvest eligible material.

“(2) PAYMENTS.—

“(A) COSTS COVERED.—A payment under this subsection shall be in an amount described in subparagraph (B) for—

“(i) collection;

“(ii) harvest;

“(iii) storage; and

“(iv) transportation to a biomass conversion facility.

“(B) AMOUNT.—Subject to paragraph (3), the Secretary may provide matching payments at a rate of \$1 for each \$1 per ton provided by the biomass conversion facility, in an amount equal to not more than \$45 per ton for a period of 2 years.

“(3) LIMITATION ON ASSISTANCE FOR BCAP CONTRACT ACREAGE.—As a condition of the receipt of annual payment under subsection (c), a producer receiving a payment under this subsection for collection, harvest, storage or transportation of an eligible crop produced on BCAP acreage shall agree to a reduction in the annual payment.

“(e) REPORT.—Not later than 4 years after the date of enactment of the Food, Conservation, and Energy Act of 2008, 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 a report on the dissemination by the Secretary of the best practice data and information gathered from participants receiving assistance under this section.

“(f) FUNDING.—Of the funds of the Commodity Credit Corporation, the Secretary shall use to carry out this section such sums as are necessary for each of fiscal years 2008 through 2012.

**“SEC. 9012. FOREST BIOMASS FOR ENERGY.**

“(a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary, acting through the Forest Service, shall conduct a competitive research and development program to encourage use of forest biomass for energy.

“(b) ELIGIBLE ENTITIES.—Entities eligible to compete under the program under this section include—

“(1) the Forest Service (acting through Research and Development);

“(2) other Federal agencies;

“(3) State and local governments;

“(4) Indian tribes;

“(5) land-grant colleges and universities; and

“(6) private entities.

“(c) PRIORITY FOR PROJECT SELECTION.—In carrying out this section, the Secretary shall give priority to projects that—

“(1) develop technology and techniques to use low-value forest biomass, such as byproducts of forest health treatments and hazardous fuels reduction, for the production of energy;

“(2) develop processes that integrate production of energy from forest biomass into biorefineries or other existing manufacturing streams;

“(3) develop new transportation fuels from forest biomass; and

“(4) improve the growth and yield of trees intended for renewable energy production.

“(d) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There is authorized to be appropriated to carry out this section \$15,000,000 for each of fiscal years 2009 through 2012.

**“SEC. 9013. COMMUNITY WOOD ENERGY PROGRAM.**

“(a) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

“(1) COMMUNITY WOOD ENERGY PLAN.—The term ‘community wood energy plan’ means an assessment of—

“(A) available feedstocks necessary to supply a community wood energy system; and

“(B) the long-term feasibility of supplying and operating a community wood energy system.

“(2) COMMUNITY WOOD ENERGY SYSTEM.—

“(A) IN GENERAL.—The term ‘community wood energy system’ means an energy system that—

“(i) primarily services public facilities owned or operated by State or local governments, including schools, town halls, libraries, and other public buildings; and

“(ii) uses woody biomass as the primary fuel.

“(B) INCLUSIONS.—The term ‘community wood energy system’ includes single facility central heating, district heating, combined heat and energy systems, and other related biomass energy systems.

“(b) GRANT PROGRAM.—

“(1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary, acting through the Chief of the Forest Service, shall establish a program to be known as the ‘Community Wood Energy Program’ to provide—

“(A) grants of up to \$50,000 to State and local governments (or designees) to develop community wood energy plans; and

“(B) competitive grants to State and local governments to acquire or upgrade community wood energy systems.

“(2) CONSIDERATIONS.—In selecting applicants for grants under paragraph (1)(B), the Secretary shall consider—

“(A) the energy efficiency of the proposed system;

“(B) the cost effectiveness of the proposed system; and

“(C) other conservation and environmental criteria that the Secretary considers appropriate.

“(3) USE OF PLAN.—A State or local government applying to receive a competitive grant described in paragraph (1)(B) shall submit to the Secretary as part of the grant application the applicable community wood energy plan.

“(c) LIMITATION.—A community wood energy system acquired with grant funds provided under subsection (b)(1)(B) shall not exceed an output of—

“(1) 50,000,000 Btu per hour for heating; and

“(2) 2 megawatts for electric power production.

“(d) MATCHING FUNDS.—A State or local government that receives a grant under subsection (b) shall contribute an amount of non-Federal funds towards the development of the community wood energy plan, or acquisition of the community wood energy systems that is at least equal to the amount of grant funds received by the State or local government under that subsection.

“(e) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There is authorized to be appropriated to carry out this section \$5,000,000 for each of fiscal years 2009 through 2012.”.

(b) CONFORMING AMENDMENT.—The Biomass Research and Development Act of 2000 (7 U.S.C. 8601 et seq.) is repealed.

**SEC. 9002. BIOFUELS INFRASTRUCTURE STUDY.**

(a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary of Agriculture, the Secretary of Energy, the Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency, and the Secretary of Transportation (referred to in this section as the “Secretaries”), shall jointly conduct a study that includes—

- (1) an assessment of the infrastructure needs for expanding the domestic production, transport, and distribution of biofuels given current and likely future market trends;
- (2) recommendations for infrastructure needs and development approaches, taking into account cost and other associated factors; and
- (3) a report that includes—
  - (A) a summary of infrastructure needs;
  - (B) an analysis of alternative development approaches to meeting the needs described in subparagraph (A), including cost, siting, and other regulatory issues; and
  - (C) recommendations for specific infrastructure development actions to be taken.

(b) SCOPE OF STUDY.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—In conducting the study described in subsection (a), the Secretaries shall address—

- (A) current and likely future market trends for biofuels through calendar year 2025;
- (B) current and future availability of feedstocks;
- (C) water resource needs, including water requirements for biorefineries;
- (D) shipping and storage needs for biomass feedstock and biofuels, including the adequacy of rural roads; and
- (E) modes of transportation and delivery for biofuels (including shipment by rail, truck, pipeline or barge) and associated infrastructure issues.

(2) CONSIDERATIONS.—In addressing the issues described in paragraph (1), the Secretaries shall consider—

- (A) the effects of increased tank truck, rail, and barge transport on existing infrastructure and safety;
- (B) the feasibility of shipping biofuels through pipelines in existence as the date of enactment of this Act;
- (C) the development of new biofuels pipelines, including siting, financing, timing, and other economic issues;
- (D) the implications of various biofuel blend levels on infrastructure needs;
- (E) the implications of various approaches to infrastructure development on resource use and conservation;
- (F) regional differences in biofuels infrastructure needs; and
- (G) other infrastructure issues, as determined by the Secretaries.

(c) IMPLEMENTATION.—In carrying out this section, the Secretaries —

- (1) shall—
  - (A) consult with individuals and entities with interest or expertise in the areas described in subsection (b);



(B) to the extent available, use the information developed and results of the related studies authorized under sections 243 and 245 of the Energy Independence and Security Act of 2007 (Public Law 110–140; 121 Stat. 1540, 1546)); and

(C) submit to Congress the report required under subsection (a)(3), including—

(i) in the Senate—

(I) the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry;

(II) the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation;

(III) the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources; and

(IV) the Committee on Environment and Public Works; and

(ii) in the House of Representatives—

(I) the Committee on Agriculture;

(II) the Committee on Energy and Commerce;

(III) the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure; and

(IV) the Committee on Science and Technology; and

(2) may issue a solicitation for a competition to select a contractor to support the Secretaries.

**SEC. 9003. RENEWABLE FERTILIZER STUDY.**

(a) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 1 year after the date of receipt of appropriations to carry out this section, the Secretary shall—

(1) conduct a study to assess the current state of knowledge regarding the potential for the production of fertilizer from renewable energy sources in rural areas, including—

(A) identification of the critical challenges to commercialization of rural production of nitrogen and phosphorus-based fertilizer from renewables;

(B) the most promising processes and technologies for renewable fertilizer production;

(C) the potential cost-competitiveness of renewable fertilizer; and

(D) the potential impacts of renewable fertilizer on fossil fuel use and the environment; 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 describing the results of the study.

(b) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There is authorized to be appropriated to carry out this section \$1,000,000 for fiscal year 2009.

## **TITLE X—HORTICULTURE AND ORGANIC AGRICULTURE**

**SEC. 10001. DEFINITIONS.**

In this title:

(1) SPECIALTY CROP.—The term “specialty crop” has the meaning given the term in section 3 of the Specialty Crops