

**WEEKLY LEGISLATIVE SUMMARY FOR:**

**June 12, 2000**

Office of Legislative Affairs  
Room 5121 South Agriculture Bldg.  
(202) 720-2771  
For additional information contact:  
Tia G. Young  
Douglas J. McKalip  
F. Brian Moore

**LAST WEEK:**

**APPROPRIATIONS** – No action was taken this week on the FY 2001 Agriculture Appropriations Bill H.R. 4461.

**FREEDOM TO E-FILE** – The House cleared S. 777 (the Freedom to E-File Act) on Tuesday June 6<sup>th</sup> by a voice vote. The bill passed the Senate on May 18<sup>th</sup>. The bill gives farmers the option of filing electronically instead of going to a USDA field office. The bill also directs the Department to post information on programs, and other information on the Internet. All forms and retrievable information must be available via the Internet within two years. The bill is now cleared for the President’s signature.

**LEGISLATION OF NOTE** – The NRCS Legislative Affairs identifies and tracks legislation of particular interest to NRCS and conservation. This information is available on the NRCS Legislative Affairs web-site under the heading LEGISLATION OF NOTE. The address for the Legislative Affairs web-site is as follows:  
<http://www.nhq.nrcs.usda.gov/LA/LAhome.html>

**NEW LEGISLATION -**

The following Bills of significance to NRCS and conservation have been introduced.

<b>BILL</b>	<b>MEMBER</b>	<b>PURPOSE</b>
S. 2503	Daschle (D-SD) / Lugar (R-IN)	To authorize States to regulate MTBE’s and to provide funds to the Environmental Protection Agency from the Leaking Underground Storage Tank Trust Fund be distributed to States. (The Renewable Fuels Act)
H.R. 4523	Smith, (R-MI)	To amend the Agricultural Market Transition Act to permit a producer to lock in a loan deficiency payment rate for a portion of a crop.
H.R. 2524	Smith, (R-MI)	To amend the Agricultural Market Transition Act to increase the number of farmers eligible for nonrecourse marketing assistance loans or loan deficiency payments and the amount of production for which such loans and payments are available.

**THIS WEEK:**

**TMDL FIELD HEARING** – Department Operations, Oversight, Nutrition and Forestry Subcommittee (Chairman Goodlatte, R-VA) of the House Agriculture Committee will hold a field hearing on the impact of the Environmental Protection Agency’s Total Maximum Daily Load rules on agriculture and silviculture. The regulations would set maximum daily limits on the amount of certain discharges into waterways.

June 12<sup>th</sup>                      10:00 a.m.                      Rivershead High School, Staunton, VA

**INDIAN AGRICULTURE** – The Senate Indian Affairs Committee (Chairman Campbell, R-CO) will hold a hearing on a bill that would encourage efficient use of federal funds earmarked for Indian agriculture issues.

June 14<sup>th</sup>                      9:30 a.m.                      485 Russell Bldg.

**ETHANOL AND THE CLEAN AIR ACT** – The Clean air, Wetlands, Private Property and Nuclear Safety Subcommittee (Chairman Inhofe, R-OK) of the Senate Environment and Publics Works Committee will hold a hearing on the environmental benefits and impacts of ethanol under the Clean Air Act.

June 14<sup>th</sup>                      9:30 a.m.                      406 Dirksen Bldg.

**AGENCY POWER** – The national Economic Growth, Natural Resources and Regulatory Affairs Subcommittee (chairman McIntosh, R-IN) of the House Government Reform Committee will hold a hearing on whether Congress delegates too much power to executive agencies.

June 14<sup>th</sup>                      2:00 p.m.                      2247 Rayburn Bldg.

=====

**LOOKING AHEAD:**

**CONSERVATION AND REINVESTMENT ACT (CARA)**– The Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee (Chairman Murkowski, R-Alaska) will mark up legislation that would allocate part of the royalties from offshore drilling to conservation activities. The Committee is scheduled to mark up the following legislation: S. 2123, H.R. 701, and S. 25. The House passed H.R. 701 on May 18<sup>th</sup>.

June 21<sup>st</sup>                      9:30a.m.                      366 Dirksen Bldg.

This markup was originally scheduled for June 14<sup>th</sup>.

**EPA AND WATER POLLUTION** – The House Agriculture Committee (Chairman Combest, R-TX) will hold a hearing on the Environmental Protection Agency’s proposed rules and legislation on the impact of TMDL’s.

June 28<sup>th</sup>

10:00 a.m.

1300 Longworth Bldg.

=====