AMENDMENT TO H.R. 1 OFFERED BY MR. MELANCON OF LOUISIANA

At the appropriate place in the bill, insert the following new section:

1	SEC AGRICULTURAL DISASTER ASSISTANCE TRANSI-
2	TION.
3	(a) FEDERAL CROP INSURANCE ACT.—Section
4	531(g) of the Federal Crop Insurance Act (7 U.S.C.
5	1531(g)) is amended by adding at the end the following:
6	"(7) 2008 transition assistance.—
7	"(A) IN GENERAL.—Eligible producers on
8	a farm described in subparagraph (A) of para-
9	graph (4) that tailed to timely pay the appro-
10	priate fee described in that subparagraph shall
11	be eligible for assistance under this section in
12.	accordance with subparagraph (B) if the eligi-
13	ble producers on the farm—
14	"(i) pay the appropriate fee described
15	in paragraph (4)(A) not later than 90 days
<u>1</u> 6	after the date of enactment of this para-
17	graph; and
18	"(ii)(I) in the case of each insurable
19	commodity of the eligible producers on the

1	rarm, excluding grazing land, agree to on
2	tain a policy or plan of insurance unde
3	subtitle A (excluding a crop insurance pilo
4	program under that subtitle) for the nex
5	insurance year for which crop insurance is
6	available to the eligible producers on the
7	farm at a level of coverage equal to 70 per
8	cent or more of the recorded or appraised
9	average yield indemnified at 100 percent o
10	the expected market price, or an equivalen
11 .	coverage; and
12	"(II) in the case of each noninsurable
13	commodity of the eligible producers on the
14	farm, agree to file the required paperwork
15	and pay the administrative fee by the ap-
16	plicable State filing deadline, for the non-
17	insured crop assistance program for the
18	2009 crop year.
19	"(B) Amount of assistance.—Eligible
20	producers on a farm that meet the require-
21	ments of subparagraph (A) shall be eligible to
22	receive assistance under this section as if the el-
23	igible producers on the farm—
24	"(i) in the case of each insurable com-
25	modity of the eligible producers on the

1	farm, had obtained a policy or plan of in-
2	surance for the 2008 crop year at a level
3	of coverage not to exceed 70 percent or
. 4	more of the recorded or appraised average
5	yield indemnified at 100 percent of the ex-
6	pected market price, or an equivalent cov-
7	erage; and
8	"(ii) in the case of each noninsurable
9	commodity of the eligible producers on the
10	farm, had filed the required paperwork,
11	and paid the administrative fee by the ap-
12	plicable State filing deadline, for the non-
13	insured crop assistance program for the
14	2008 crop year, except that in determining
15	yield under that program, the Secretary
16	shall use a percentage that is 70 percent.
17	"(C) EQUITABLE RELIEF.—Except as pro-
18	vided in subparagraph (D), eligible producers
19	on a farm that met the requirements of para-
20	graph (1) before the deadline described in para-
21	graph (4)(A) and received, or are eligible to re-
22	ceive, a disaster assistance payment under this
23	section for a production loss during the 2008
24	crop year shall be eligible to receive an addi-
25	tional amount equal to the greater of—

1	"(i) the amount that would have been
2	calculated under subparagraph (B) if the
3	eligible producers on the farm had paid the
4	appropriate fee under that subparagraph;
5	or
6	"(ii) the amount that would have been
7	calculated under subparagraph (A) of sub-
8	section (b)(3) if—
9	"(I) in clause (i) of that subpara-
10	graph, '120 percent' is substituted for
11	'115 percent'; and
12	"(II) in clause (ii) of that sub-
13	paragraph '125' is substituted for
14	'120 percent'.
15	"(D) LIMITATION.—For amounts made
16	available under this paragraph, the Secretary
17	may make such adjustments as are necessary to
18	ensure that no producer receives a payment
19	under this paragraph for an amount in excess
20	of the assistance received by a similarly situated
21	producer that had purchased the same or high-
22	er level of crop insurance prior to the date of
23	enactment of this paragraph.
24	"(E) AUTHORITY OF THE SECRETARY.—
25	The Secretary may provide such additional as-

1	sistance as the Secretary considers appropriate
2	to provide equitable treatment for eligible pro-
.3	ducers on a farm that suffered production
4	losses in the 2008 crop year that result in
5	multiyear production losses, as determined by
6	the Secretary.
7	"(F) LACK OF ACCESS.—Notwithstanding
8	any other provision of this section, the Sec-
9	retary may provide assistance under this section
10	to eligible producers on a farm that—
11	"(i) suffered a production loss due to
12	a natural cause during the 2008 crop year;
13	and
14	"(ii) as determined by the Secretary—
15	"(I)(aa) except as provided in
16	item (bb), lack access to a policy or
17	plan of insurance under subtitle A; or
18	"(bb) do not qualify for a written
19	agreement because 1 or more farming
20	practices, which the Secretary has de-
21	termined are good farming practices,
22	of the eligible producers on the farm
23	differ significantly from the farming
24	practices used by producers of the

1	same crop in other regions of the
2	United States; and
3	"(II) are not eligible for the non-
4	insured crop disaster assistance pro-
5	gram established by section 196 of the
6	Federal Agriculture Improvement and
7	Reform Act of 1996 (7 U.S.C.
8	7333).".
9	(b) TRADE ACT OF 1974.—Section 901(g) of the
10	Trade Act of 1974 (19 U.S.C. 2497(g)) is amended by
11	adding at the end the following:
12	"(7) 2008 TRANSITION ASSISTANCE.—
13	"(A) IN GENERAL.—Eligible producers on
14	a farm described in subparagraph (A) of para-
15	graph (4) that failed to timely pay the appro-
16	priate fee described in that subparagraph shall
17	be eligible for assistance under this section in
18	accordance with subparagraph (B) if the eligi-
19	ble producers on the farm—
20	"(i) pay the appropriate fee described
21	in paragraph (4)(A) not later than 90 days
22	after the date of enactment of this para-
23	graph; and
24	"(ii)(I) in the case of each insurable
25	commodity of the eligible producers on the

1	farm, excluding grazing land, agree to ob-
2	tain a policy or plan of insurance under
3	the Federal Crop Insurance Act (7 U.S.C.
4	1501 et seq.) (excluding a crop insurance
5	pilot program under that Act) for the next
6	insurance year for which crop insurance is
7	available to the eligible producers on the
8	farm at a level of coverage equal to 70 per-
9	cent or more of the recorded or appraised
10	average yield indemnified at 100 percent of
11	the expected market price, or an equivalent
12	coverage; and
13	"(II) in the case of each noninsurable
14	commodity of the eligible producers on the
15	farm, agree to file the required paperwork,
16	and pay the administrative fee by the ap-
17	plicable State filing deadline, for the non-
18	insured crop assistance program for the
19	2009 crop year.
20	"(B) AMOUNT OF ASSISTANCE.—Eligible
21	producers on a farm that meet the require-
22	ments of subparagraph (A) shall be eligible to
23	receive assistance under this section as if the el-
24 :	igible producers on the farm—

1	"(i) in the case of each insurable com-
2	modity of the eligible producers on the
3	farm, had obtained a policy or plan of in-
4	surance for the 2008 crop year at a level
5	of coverage not to exceed 70 percent or
6	more of the recorded or appraised average
7	yield indemnified at 100 percent of the ex-
8	pected market price, or an equivalent cov-
9	erage; and
10	"(ii) in the case of each noninsurable
11	commodity of the eligible producers on the
12	farm, had failed the required paperwork,
13	and paid the administrative fee by the ap-
14	plicable State filing deadline, for the non-
15	insured crop assistance program for the
16	2008 crop year, except that in determining
17	yield under that program, the Secretary
18	shall use a percentage that is 70 percent.
19	"(C) Equitable relief.—Except as pro-
20	vided in subparagraph (D), eligible producers
21	on a farm that met the requirements of para-
22	graph (4)(A) and received, or are eligible to re-
23	ceive, a disaster assistance payment under this
24	section for a production loss during the 2008

1	crop year shall be eligible to receive an addi-
.2	tional amount equal to the greater of—
3.	"(i) the amount that would have been
4	calculated under subparagraph (B) if the
5	eligible producers on the farm had paid the
6	appropriate fee under that subparagraph;
7	\mathbf{or}
8	"(ii) the amount that would have been
9	calculated under subparagraph (A) of sub-
10	section (b)(3) if—
11	"(I) in clause (i) of that subpara-
12	graph, '120 percent' is substituted for
13	'115 percent'; and
14	"(II) in clause (ii) of that sub-
15	paragraph, '125' is substituted for
16	'120 percent'.
17	"(D) LIMITATION.—For amounts made
18	available under this paragraph, the Secretary
19	may make such adjustments as are necessary to
20	ensure that no producer receives a payment
21	under this paragraph for an amount in excess
22	of the assistance received by a similarly situated
23	producer that had purchased the same or high-
24	er level of crop insurance prior to the date of
25	enactment of this paragraph.

.1	"(E) AUTHORITY OF THE SECRETARY.—
2	The Secretary may provide such additional as-
3	sistance as the Secretary considers appropriate
, 4	to provide equitable treatment for eligible pro-
5	ducers on a farm that suffered production
6	losses in the 2008 crop year that result in
7.	multiyear production losses, as determined by
8 .	the Secretary.
9	"(F) LACK OF ACCESS.—Notwithstanding
10	any other provision of this section, the Sec-
11 ·	retary may provide assistance under this section
12	to eligible producers on a farm that—
13	"(i) suffered a production loss due to
14	a natural cause during the 2008 crop year;
15.	and
16	"(ii) as determined by the Secretary—
17	"(I)(aa) except as provided in
18	item (bb), lack access to a policy or
19	plan of insurance under subtitle A; or
20	"(bb) do not qualify for a written
21	agreement because 1 or more farming
22 .	practices, which the Secretary has de-
23	termined are good farming practices,
24	of the eligible producers on the farm
25	differ significantly from the farming

1	practices used by the producers of the
2	same crop in other regions of the
3	United States; and
4	"(II) are not eligible for the non-
5	insured crop disaster assistance pro-
6	gram established by section 196 of the
7	Federal Agriculture Improvement and
8	Reform Act of 1996 (7 U.S.C.
9	7333).".
10	(c) Emergency Loans.—
11	(1) In General.—For the principal amount of
12	direct emergency loans under section 321 of the
13	Consolidated Farm and Rural Development Act (7
14	U.S.C. 1961), \$200,000,000.
15	(2) DIRECT EMERGENCY LOANS.—For the cost
16	of direct emergency loans, including the cost of
17	modifying loans, as defined in section 502 of the
18	Congressional Budget Act of 1974 (2 U.S.C. 661a),
19	\$28,440,000, to remain available under September
20	30, 2010.
21	(d) 2008 AQUACULTURE ASSISTANCE.—
22	(1) DEFINITIONS.—In this subsection:
23	(A) ELIGIBLE AQUACULTURE PRO-
24	DUCER.—The term "eligible aquaculture pro-
25	ducer" means an aquaculture producer that

1	during the 2008 calendar year, as determined
2	by the Secretary—
3	(i) produced an aquaculture species
4	for which feed costs represented a substan-
5	tial percentage of the input costs of the
6	aquaculture operation; and
7	(ii) experienced a substantial price in-
8	crease in feed costs above the previous 5-
9	year average.
10	(B) Secretary.—The term "Secretary"
11	means the Secretary of Agriculture.
12	(2) Grant program.—
13	(A) IN GENERAL.—Of the funds of the
14	Commodity Credit Corporation, the Secretary
15	shall use not more than \$100,000,000, to re-
16	main available until September 30, 2010, to
17	carry out a program of grants to States to as-
18	sist eligible aquaculture producers for losses as-
19	sociated with high feed input costs during the
20	2008 calendar year.
21	(B) NOTIFICATION.—Not later than 60
22	days after the date of enactment of this Act,
23	the Secretary shall notify the State department
24	of agriculture (or similar entity) in each State
25	of the availability of funds to assist eligible

1	aquaculture producers, including such terms as
2	determined by the Secretary to be necessary for
3	the equitable treatment of eligible aquaculture
4	producers.
5	(C) Provision of grants.—
6	(i) In general.—The Secretary shall
7	make grants to States under this sub-
8	section on a pro rata basis based on the
9	amount of aquaculture feed used in each
10	State during the 2007 calendar year, as
11	determined by the Secretary.
12	(ii) Timing.—Not later than 120 days
13	after the date of enactment of this Act, the
14	Secretary shall make grants to States to
15	provide assistance under this subsection.
16	(D) REQUIREMENTS.—The Secretary shall
17	make grants under this subsection only to
18	States that demonstrate to the satisfaction of
19	the Secretary that the State will—
20	(i) use grant funds to assist eligible
21	aquaculture producers;
22	(ii) provide assistant to eligible aqua-
23	culture producers not later than 60 days
24	after the date on which the State receives
25	grant funds; and

1	(iii) not later than 30 days after the
2	date on which the State provides assistance
3	to eligible aquaculture producers, submit to
4	the Secretary a report that describes—
5	(I) the manner in which the
6	State provided assistance;
7 :	(II) the amounts of assistant pro-
8	vided per species of aquaculture; and
9	(III) the process by which the
10	State determined the levels of assist-
11	ance to eligible aquaculture producers.
12	(3) REDUCTION IN PAYMENTS.—An eligible
13	aquaculture producer that receives assistance under
14	this subsection shall not be eligible to receive any
15	other assistance under the supplemental agricultural
16	assistance program established under section 531 of
17	the Federal Crop Insurance Act (7 U.S.C. 1531)
18	and section 901 of the Trade Act of 1974 (19
19	U.S.C. 2497) for any losses in 2008 relating to the
20	same species of aquaculture.
21	(4) REPORT TO CONGRESS.—Not later than
22	180 days after the date of enactment of this Act, the
23	Secretary shall submit to the appropriate committees
24	of Congress a report that

1	(A) describes in detail the manner in which
2 .	this subsection has been carried out; and
3	(B) includes the information reported to
4	the Secretary under paragraph (2)(D)(iii).
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