



DEPUTY SECRETARY OF DEFENSE
1010 DEFENSE PENTAGON
WASHINGTON, DC 20301-1010

JUN 11 2010

The Honorable Thomas J. Vilsack
Secretary of Agriculture
U.S. Department of Agriculture
Washington, DC 20250

Dear Mr. Secretary:

Thank you for your April 11, 2010, letter requesting Department of Defense cooperation in implementing a provision of the Food, Conservation, and Energy Act of 2008 (Farm Bill) requiring Federal agencies to participate in the BioPreferred Program, a government-wide effort to increase purchase and use of biobased products.

Enclosed is the memorandum to the Defense community, informing the requirements and program offices and the procurement officials of the need to purchase biobased products and services. As previously stated in my response to your letter of February 27, 2009, the Department has taken steps to support the Biobased Products Preference Program.

We look forward to continue working with you and your staff on this important initiative.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "B. Babson", is located in the lower right quadrant of the page.

Enclosure:
As stated





DEPUTY SECRETARY OF DEFENSE
1010 DEFENSE PENTAGON
WASHINGTON, DC 20301-1010

JUN 11 2010

MEMORANDUM FOR: SEE DISTRIBUTION

SUBJECT: Implementation of Section 9002 of the Food, Conservation, and Energy Act of 2008 (Public Law 110-246)

The Secretary of Agriculture requests the Department's cooperation in implementing Section 9002 provision of the Food, Conservation, and Energy Act of 2008 (the Act known as the Farm Bill) which requires Federal agencies to participate in the BioPreferred Program, a government-wide effort to increase purchase and use of biobased products.

I strongly support green procurement programs. By participating in the BioPreferred Program, the Department of Defense can address three important efforts: (1) climate change impact reduction; (2) energy and environmental security; and (3) economic development.

Federal agency participation in this program is mandated by the Energy Act and the Federal Acquisition Regulation (FAR), specifically in Subpart 23.4, "Use of Recovered Materials and Biobased Products." Additionally, on October 5, 2009, President Obama signed Executive Order 13514, "Federal Leadership in Environmental, Energy, and Economic Performance." Section 2(h) of the Executive Order establishes Federal government requirements for sustainable acquisition. It is DoD policy that each organization initiating contracting actions or credit card purchases is responsible for complying with green purchasing mandates, including those for biobased products in accordance with the requirements of FAR Subpart 23.4. The purchase of biobased products is one way to help reduce greenhouse gas emissions and improve our environment.

The Department of Agriculture, which is the lead agency for the Federal Government, has designated a total of 42 biobased items or product categories representing nearly 5,600 individual products, for Federal procurement. Tools and resources are readily available at www.biopREFERRED.gov. They include a BioPreferred catalog, model contract templates, free web-based training, model green source selection evaluation factors, and procurement forecast with biobased icon.



OSD 05441-10



The Department is working on a FAR case that supports the Office of Federal Procurement Policy requirement for the collection and reporting of contract actions related to the purchase and use of biobased products. The General Services Administration is leading work teams to identify the product service codes to institutionalize the collection of the data in the Federal Procurement Data System.

I expect all procurement personnel in coordination with requirements and program personnel to fully support green procurement programs, including the BioPreferred Program.



DISTRIBUTION:

**SECRETARIES OF THE MILITARY DEPARTMENTS
CHAIRMAN OF THE JOINT CHIEFS OF STAFF
UNDER SECRETARIES OF DEFENSE
DEPUTY CHIEF MANAGEMENT OFFICER
COMMANDERS OF THE COMBATANT COMMANDS
ASSISTANT SECRETARIES OF DEFENSE
GENERAL COUNSEL OF THE DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE
DIRECTOR, OPERATIONAL TEST AND EVALUATION
DIRECTOR, COST ASSESSMENT AND PROGRAM EVALUATION
INSPECTOR GENERAL OF THE DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE
ASSISTANTS TO THE SECRETARY OF DEFENSE
DIRECTOR, ADMINISTRATION AND MANAGEMENT
DIRECTOR, NET ASSESSMENT
DIRECTORS OF THE DEFENSE AGENCIES
DIRECTORS OF THE DOD FIELD ACTIVITIES**

DEPUTY SECRETARY OF DEFENSE
1010 DEFENSE PENTAGON
WASHINGTON DC 20301-1010

OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE
SECRETARIAT, USDA

2010 JUN 14 P 3:48

OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE
SECRETARIAT, USDA

2010 JUN 14 P 3:49

Honorable Thomas J. Vilsack
Secretary of Agriculture
Department of Agriculture
Jamie L. Whitten Federal Building
1400 Independence Avenue, SW, Room 200-A
Washington, D.C. 20250

