

103^D CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 941

To encourage soil and water protection and energy conservation among farmers, ranchers, forest industry, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

FEBRUARY 17, 1993

Mr. CAMP (for himself, Mr. HENRY, and Mr. HOBSON) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Agriculture

A BILL

To encourage soil and water protection and energy conservation among farmers, ranchers, forest industry, and for other purposes.

1 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*
2 *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

3 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

4 This Act may be cited as the “Soil and Water Protec-
5 tion Act of 1992”.

6 **SEC. 2. FINDINGS.**

7 The Congress finds that—

8 (1) farmers, ranchers, and foresters have a
9 sound understanding of protecting the Nation’s rich
10 natural resources;

1 (2) soil and water damage and contamination
2 have occurred and may occur in the future;

3 (3) energy shortages have occurred and may
4 occur in the future;

5 (4) farmers, ranchers, and foresters are energy
6 driven enterprises in conjunction with substantial
7 soil and water usage;

8 (5) farmers, ranchers and foresters can sub-
9 stantially make more efficient energy expenditures
10 using energy saving management techniques;

11 (6) practices such as fertility management, con-
12 servation tillage, and integrated pest management
13 will provide future generations the enjoyment of im-
14 proved environmental conditions such as better
15 ground and surface water quality and soil fertility;

16 (7) saving and conserving energy will benefit
17 the public land; and

18 (8) Federal agricultural policies and programs
19 influence sound energy conservation and environ-
20 mental objectives.

21 **SEC. 3. FEDERAL ENERGY CONSERVATION PROGRAM.**

22 (a) ESTABLISHMENT.—The Secretary of Agriculture,
23 acting through the Soil Conservation Service, shall estab-
24 lish a Federal energy conservation program.

1 (b) CRITERIA.—The Federal energy conservation
2 program shall target and promote more efficient energy
3 use in, and the conservation of energy with respect to, till-
4 age practices, chemical and fertilizer management, irriga-
5 tion management, livestock facility management, horti-
6 culture, and wood utilization. The Secretary shall provide
7 grants and technical and educational assistance for
8 projects in eligible States including (but not limited to)
9 projects for—

10 (1) demonstrating the advantages of conserva-
11 tion tillage practices that promote energy efficiency
12 and conservation;

13 (2) training, pest scouting, and soil sampling in
14 order to promote education concerning prescription
15 application of animal manures, fertilizers, lime, soil
16 conditioners and pesticide usage;

17 (3) improving the efficient use of irrigation sys-
18 tems to reduce energy consumption;

19 (4) managing livestock facilities for energy con-
20 servation;

21 (5) managing horticultural facilities for energy
22 conservation; and

23 (6) improving efficiency in utilization of wood,
24 including milling of forest products and the use of
25 wood for production of energy.

1 **SEC. 4. FEDERAL GRANTS.**

2 (a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary, through the Soil
3 Conservation Service, shall make grants to individuals or
4 institutions that present to the Secretary an application
5 and a plan for the energy conservation project—

6 (1) which was developed in consultation with an
7 individual recognized by the Secretary to have exper-
8 tise in energy conservation; and

9 (2) that is within an eligible State which has an
10 energy conservation program.

11 (b) ADVICE FROM STATE AGRICULTURE ENERGY
12 CONSERVATION REVIEW PANEL.—In making grants
13 under this section, the Secretary shall take into consider-
14 ation the advice received from the State agriculture energy
15 conservation review panel pursuant to section 6(c)(2).

16 (c) LIMITATIONS.—(1) Except as provided in para-
17 graph (2), the Federal grant under this section for a
18 project may not exceed \$5,000.

19 (2) In the case of a project in which a school, hos-
20 pital, or other similar institution that is improving its en-
21 ergy efficiency by converting its heating system to a wood
22 burning system, the Federal grant may not exceed
23 \$150,000.

24 (3) Funds made available under this Act may not be
25 used to pay for labor costs associated with a project.

1 (4) Grants for a project may not be made until after
2 receipts have been provided to the Secretary for the actual
3 cost incurred for the project.

4 **SEC. 5. ALLOCATION AMONG ELIGIBLE STATES.**

5 The Secretary shall allocate funds made available to
6 carry out this Act for a fiscal year to each State which
7 is eligible for assistance. The allocation among States shall
8 be equitable, based on the following:

9 (1) The number and size of farms.

10 (2) The potential for energy conservation.

11 (3) The number and size of forest industries.

12 The Secretary may allocate up to 25 percent of the
13 funds allocated to any State with substantial forest indus-
14 try to forest energy conservation projects.

15 **SEC. 6. STATE PARTICIPATION AND ASSISTANCE.**

16 (a) ELIGIBLE STATE.—The Secretary may provide
17 assistance under this Act in a fiscal year for projects in
18 a State which, before the beginning of that fiscal year—

19 (1) submits to the Secretary a plan describing
20 in detail how the State will cooperate with the Unit-
21 ed States in carrying out this Act, including provid-
22 ing for—

23 (A) encouragement to persons to partici-
24 pate in the energy conservation program;

1 (B) criteria to be used for recommending
2 projects to be funded by the program; and

3 (C) individuals with expertise in energy ef-
4 ficiency to advise program participants on en-
5 ergy conservation matters; and

6 (2) has established an agriculture energy con-
7 servation review panel in accordance with subsection
8 (c).

9 (b) COST SHARE.—The State may offer assistance
10 and services in cooperation with the Secretary to enhance
11 energy conservation efforts under this Act.

12 (c) STATE AGRICULTURE ENERGY CONSERVATION
13 REVIEW PANEL.—(1) An eligible State, together with the
14 United States, shall establish an energy conservation re-
15 view panel comprised of 6 members as follows:

16 (A) The head of the State agricultural agency,
17 or his designee.

18 (B) The State forester or equivalent State offi-
19 cial, or his designee.

20 (C) The president of that State's Association of
21 Conservation Districts, or his designee.

22 (D) The State conservationist of the Soil Con-
23 servation Service for that State, or his designee.

24 (E) The Cooperative Research Service Director
25 for that State, or his designee.

1 (F) The Cooperative Extension Director for the
2 State, or his designee.

3 (2) The State agriculture energy conservation review
4 panel shall advise and recommend to the Secretary those
5 projects that meet the requirements of this Act. In provid-
6 ing such advice and recommendations, the panel shall re-
7 view and evaluate each project using the criteria referred
8 to in subsection (a)(1)(B).

9 **SEC. 7. DEMONSTRATIONS, EDUCATION, AND TECHNICAL**
10 **ASSISTANCE.**

11 (a) AGRICULTURAL EXPERIMENT STATIONS.—The
12 Secretary shall establish and maintain demonstrations of
13 energy-saving and energy efficient practices at agricultural
14 experiment stations that can be implemented by agri-
15 culture procedures and the public.

16 (b) EXTENSION SERVICE.—The Secretary, through
17 the Extension Service, shall disseminate informational and
18 educational materials and conduct demonstrations and
19 training sessions.

20 (c) TECHNICAL AND MATERIAL ASSISTANCE.—In
21 carrying out the Federal energy conservation program, the
22 Secretary, acting through the Soil Conservation Service,
23 shall provide such technical and material assistance to
24 participants as the Secretary determines appropriate.

1 **SEC. 8. REPORT.**

2 Not later than March 31, 1994 and annually there-
3 after, the Secretary shall submit a report to the Congress
4 describing the results of the Federal energy conservation
5 program. In particular, the report shall include—

6 (1) the number and identification of States par-
7 ticipating in the program;

8 (2) a description of the projects for which
9 grants were made pursuant to the program;

10 (3) the energy efficiency practices performed
11 and the estimated amount of conservation energy
12 use as a result of the program; and

13 (4) the number of States expected to participate
14 in the program the next fiscal year.

15 **SEC. 9. AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.**

16 There is authorized to be appropriated \$150,000,000
17 for each of the fiscal years 1994 through 1996 to carry
18 out this Act.

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