

106TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

H. R. 4691

To amend the farmland protection program of the Department of Agriculture to facilitate a regional approach to the acquisition of permanent conservation easements in the Chino Basin in the State of California.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

JUNE 19, 2000

Mr. BACA introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Agriculture

A BILL

To amend the farmland protection program of the Department of Agriculture to facilitate a regional approach to the acquisition of permanent conservation easements in the Chino Basin in the State of California.

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. REGIONAL APPROACH TO FARMLAND PROTEC-**
4 **TION IN CHINO BASIN, CALIFORNIA.**

5 Section 388 of the Federal Agriculture Improvement
6 and Reform Act of 1996 (Public Law 104–127; 16 U.S.C.
7 3830 note), as amended by the Conservation and Rein-

1 vestment Act of 2000 (H.R. 701), is further amended by
2 adding at the end the following new subsection:

3 “(h) DEMONSTRATION OF REGIONAL APPROACH TO
4 CONSERVATION EASEMENTS.—

5 “(1) CHINO BASIN DEFINED.—In this sub-
6 section, the term ‘Chino Basin’ means the area
7 within the counties of San Bernardino and River-
8 side, California, bounded by Interstate 10 on the
9 north, State Route 71 on the west, State Route 91
10 on the south, and a line 2 miles east of Interstate
11 15 on the east, as well as lands outside of the
12 boundaries of the area but within 10 miles of the
13 boundaries.

14 “(2) DEMONSTRATION PROGRAM.—In imple-
15 menting the farmland protection program required
16 by this Act, the Secretary of Agriculture may carry
17 out a conservation easement demonstration program
18 in the Chino Basin to provide matching grants
19 under subsection (a) on a regional basis to facilitate
20 the acquisition, in a coordinated manner, of perma-
21 nent conservation easements on multiple parcels
22 within the Chino Basin to preserve agricultural land
23 while allowing for development within the Chino
24 Basin.

1 “(3) REGIONAL CONSERVATION PLAN.—To be
2 eligible for grants under the demonstration program,
3 one or more eligible entities located in the Chino
4 Basin shall adopt and submit to the Secretary a re-
5 gional conservation easement plan specifying how
6 the goals specified in paragraph (2) will be furthered
7 in the Chino Basin.”.

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