

109TH CONGRESS
2^D SESSION

S. 3746

To authorize the Secretary of the Interior and the Secretary of Agriculture to make grants to facilitate the establishment of the National Ag Science Center in Stanislaus County, California.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

JULY 27 (legislative day, JULY 26), 2006

Mrs. BOXER (for herself and Mrs. FEINSTEIN) introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry

A BILL

To authorize the Secretary of the Interior and the Secretary of Agriculture to make grants to facilitate the establishment of the National Ag Science Center in Stanislaus County, 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. SHORT TITLE.**

4 This Act may be cited as the “National Ag Science
5 Center Act of 2006”.

6 **SEC. 2. FINDINGS.**

7 Congress finds that—

1 (1) the State of California (referred to in this
2 Act as the “State”) is a preeminent producer of
3 more than 350 different agricultural commodities,
4 including—

5 (A) more than 90 percent of all of the to-
6 matoes and grapes produced in the United
7 States;

8 (B) all of the commercial almonds, dates,
9 figs, olives, cling peaches, prunes, and raisins
10 produced in the United States; and

11 (C) 1 out of every 5 glasses of milk con-
12 sumed in the United States;

13 (2) California is the leading State in terms of
14 agricultural exports, annually shipping more than
15 \$7,000,000,000 worth of agricultural commodities
16 around the world;

17 (3) the direct and indirect economic impact of
18 the total investment by the 78,500 farms in the
19 State is staggering;

20 (4) if the State is going to keep the agricultural
21 industry of the State strong and vibrant, the State
22 must focus on the needs of agricultural producers
23 who are valuable contributors to the economic, so-
24 cial, and cultural life of the State and the United
25 States.

1 (5) since 1945, agricultural land has been rap-
2 idly disappearing across the State, with soil erosion,
3 urbanization, the growth of deserts, and salinization
4 all contributing to the loss of productive farmland in
5 the State;

6 (6) if the trends described in paragraph (5)
7 continue, the State will be unable—

8 (A) to supply food for the population of
9 the State, let alone the United States; or

10 (B) to export food to the rest of the world;

11 (7) as people in the United States grow more
12 and more detached from the great agrarian history
13 of the United States, fewer people in the United
14 States understand the fundamental importance of
15 agriculture to the society of the United States;

16 (8) educating young people in the United States
17 about agriculture and the importance of agriculture
18 to the United States is an investment that would
19 pay off in future benefits;

20 (9) greater public understanding and apprecia-
21 tion of the importance of agriculture to the State,
22 the United States, and the world is needed to secure
23 a positive future in which the United States can rely
24 on healthy food that is produced domestically;

1 (10) citizens of all ages, especially youth, must
2 play a meaningful, hands-on role in determining the
3 future of agriculture in the State;

4 (11) as planners, conservationists, and other in-
5 terested persons throughout the State organize to
6 help protect agricultural resources, the proposed Na-
7 tional Ag Science Center (referred to in this Act as
8 the “Center”) in Stanislaus County, California, is
9 preparing—

10 (A) to educate and alert future generations
11 about the need to preserve agricultural land;
12 and

13 (B) to foster an understanding of the im-
14 portance of agriculture;

15 (12) the mission of the National Ag Science
16 Center would be to—

17 (A) provide exciting and fun agricultural
18 learning opportunities and resources in order
19 for young people to learn how a vibrant agricul-
20 tural economy is necessary for a vibrant society;
21 and

22 (B) ensure a bright future for all aspects
23 of the agriculture industry;

1 (13) the Center would prepare young people in
2 the United States for career and leadership opportu-
3 nities in agriculture;

4 (14) according to findings of the Center for
5 Public Policy Studies at California State University,
6 Stanislaus, the Center would—

7 (A) create or support up to 359 new local
8 jobs;

9 (B) create or support up to \$57,500,000 in
10 economic activity and \$15,200,000 in labor in-
11 come through construction of the new facility;

12 (C) generate as much as \$8,500,000 in
13 total annual economic activity; and

14 (D) result in as much as \$3,400,000 in
15 total annual labor income;

16 (15) on September 14, 2005, the Yosemite
17 Community College District Board, in Stanislaus
18 County, California, voted unanimously to approve
19 the dedication of a 3.5-acre site on the West Cam-
20 pus of Modesto Community College for the Center;
21 and

22 (16) establishment of the Center is in the na-
23 tional interest, because the proposed Center would
24 enable future generations to help ensure a healthy

1 and profitable place for agriculture in the economy
2 of the State and the United States.

3 **SEC. 3. ASSISTANCE FOR ESTABLISHMENT OF NATIONAL**
4 **AG SCIENCE CENTER, STANISLAUS COUNTY,**
5 **CALIFORNIA.**

6 (a) ASSISTANCE AUTHORIZED.—Using amounts
7 made available under subsection (c), the Secretary of the
8 Interior and the Secretary of Agriculture shall provide to
9 the entity known as “Ag Science Center, Inc.,” in
10 Stanislaus County, California, grants to pay not more
11 than a total of 33 percent of the total costs of establishing
12 the National Ag Science Center, including any costs relat-
13 ing to the design, planning, construction, furnishing,
14 equipping, and expansion of the Center.

15 (b) GRANT PROPOSAL.—

16 (1) IN GENERAL.—To receive a grant under
17 subsection (a), Ag Science Center, Inc., shall submit
18 to the Secretary of the Interior, the Secretary of Ag-
19 riculture, or the Secretary of the Interior and the
20 Secretary of Agriculture, a proposal for the use of
21 the grant funds.

22 (2) INCLUSIONS.—A grant proposal submitted
23 under paragraph (1) shall include detailed plans for
24 the design, construction, furnishing, equipping, and
25 expansion of the Center.

1 (c) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There is
2 authorized to be appropriated to the Secretary of the Inte-
3 rior and the Secretary of Agriculture to make grants
4 under subsection (a) \$10,000,000, to remain available
5 until expended.

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