International Summit on Ag and Food Transportation

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House Agriculture Committee
December 2, 2008
Food, Conservation and Energy Act of 2008

• Commodity title
  – Continued storage payments for cotton, with 10% reduction from CY06 level for 2008-2011 & 20% reduction from CY06 level for 2012
  – Continued storage payments for peanuts
  – Continuation of on-farm storage facility loan program for wheat and feed grains
Commodity Title:

– Fruit and vegetable planting pilot program:

• 9,000 acres in Illinois, Indiana, Michigan and Wisconsin;
• 1,000 acres in Iowa;
• 34,000 acres in Minnesota; and
• 4,000 acres in Ohio

• Acre for acre reduction in DCP base where producers utilize
Studies on transportation

• Section 6206 in rural development title:
  – Joint USDA/DOT study on truck/rail/barge
  – To examine:
    • Role in delivery of ag inputs, movement to market, delivery of biofuels & feedstocks for electricity generation, location of grain elevators/biofuel plants, manufacturing/rural development
    • Capacity, competition, reliability and cost
    • Investment + dispute resolution
Studies on transportation

Section 6206 continued:

– USDA’s Ag Marketing Service has contracted with Washington State University
– Hoping to finish data collection & analysis by December
– Working level draft done by March/April
– Final policy-level review & clearance in June
Transportation studies continued

• Section 9002 in energy title - Biofuels
Infrastructure Study:

– Done jointly with DOE, EPA and DOT
– Has been delegated to the Office of Energy Policy and New Uses in Office of Chief Economist
– No starting date yet
– Includes: assessment of needs + recommendations for meeting those needs and best ways to meet them, including funding
– Builds on Sections 243 and 245 in EISA if available
Research Title

- Section 7137 – New Era Rural Technology Program – training for forestry and bioenergy areas – has authorization for appropriations

- Section 7207 - Ag Bioenergy Feedstock and Energy Efficiency research & extension – authorization for appropriations
Research title continued

• Section 7311 – Specialty Crop Research Initiative
  – Has money available and already did one round of grants in FY08

• Section 7529 – Agriculture & Rural Transportation Research/Education
  – Authorization for appropriations
  – Research & education grants to address rural transportations & logistical needs of ag producers and related rural businesses
Energy Title

• Section 9003
  – Added loan guarantees to existing biorefinery grant program – NOFA & ANPRM in Federal Register on 11/19
  – Mandatory funding for guarantees for construction or retrofitting
  – Advanced biofuels only
Energy Title continued

• Section 9004 – Repowering Assistance
  – Fund to help install systems that use renewable biomass for heat/power at existing biofuel plants

• Section 9006 – Biodiesel Education Program
  – Continued program
Energy Title continued

• Section 9007 – Rural Energy for America Program
  – Energy efficiency & renewable energy development
  – Ag producers & rural small businesses

• Section 9011 – Biomass Crop Assistance Program
  – Two parts – Project areas to grow dedicated energy crops + payments for delivery of renewable biomass to conversion facilities
Horticulture & Organic Agriculture

• Section 10403 – Grant Program to Improve Movement of Specialty Crops
  – Authorization for appropriations

• Several other sections aimed at dealing with plant pest and health issues

• Several sections on infrastructure & transportation issues

• RFS2

• Biodiesel standards