Public Law 99-409
99th Congress

An Act

To authorize the Secretary of Agriculture to make grants for the purpose of establishing institutes of rural technology development.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. That this Act may be cited as the "Rural Industrial Assistance Act of 1986".

SEC. 2. Section 310B of the Consolidated Farm and Rural Development Act (7 U.S.C. 1932) is amended by—

(1) adding at the end of subsection (a) the following: "No loan may be made, insured, or guaranteed under this subsection that exceeds $25,000,000 in principal amount."; and

(2) effective on October 1, 1986, adding at the end thereof the following:

"(f)(1) The Secretary may make grants under this subsection to public and nonprofit private institutions for the purpose of enabling them to establish and operate centers of rural technology development that have, as a primary objective, the improvement of the economic condition of rural areas by promoting the development (through technological innovation and adaptation of existing technology) and commercialization of (A) new products that can be produced in rural areas, and (B) new processes that can be used in such production.

"(2) Grants under this subsection may be made on a competitive basis. In making grants, the Secretary shall give preference to applicants that will establish centers for rural technology in areas that have (A) few industries and agribusinesses, (B) high levels of unemployment, (C) high rates of out-migration of people, business, and industries, and (D) low levels of per capita income.

"(3) If grants are to be made under this subsection, the Secretary shall issue regulations implementing this subsection that shall include provisions for the monitoring and evaluation of the rural technology development activities carried out by institutions that receive grants under this subsection."

Approved August 28, 1986.