

106TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 3217

To assist the efforts of farmers and cooperatives seeking to engage in value-added processing of agricultural goods.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

NOVEMBER 4, 1999

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

A BILL

To assist the efforts of farmers and cooperatives seeking
to engage in value-added processing of agricultural goods.

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. EXTENSION PROGRAMS FOR SMALL- AND ME-**
4 **DIUM-SIZED FARM OPERATIONS.**

5 Section 502(d) of the Rural Development Act of 1972
6 (7 U.S.C. 2662(d)) is amended—

7 (1) by inserting “(1)” before “Small farm ex-
8 tension”; and

9 (2) by adding at the end the following new
10 paragraph:

1 “(2) To ensure the continued viability of small- and
 2 medium-sized farm operations, extension programs should
 3 emphasize market development education and technical
 4 assistance for operators of small- and medium-sized farms
 5 in addition to production assistance. Such extension ef-
 6 ferts should be directed at exploring new marketing ave-
 7 nues for such farms, such as direct farm-to-consumer
 8 markets, local value-added processing, and farmer-owned
 9 cooperatives, and at developing entrepreneurial training
 10 and development in natural resource-based industries.”.

11 **SEC. 2. PRIORITY FOR FARMER-OWNED VALUE-ADDED**
 12 **PROCESSING FACILITIES.**

13 Section 310B of the Consolidated Farm and Rural
 14 Development Act (7 U.S.C. 1932) is amended by adding
 15 at the end the following new subsection:

16 “(h) PRIORITY FOR FARMER-OWNED VALUE-ADDED
 17 PROCESSING FACILITIES.—In approving applications for
 18 loans and grants authorized under this section, section
 19 306(a)(11), and other applicable provisions of this title (as
 20 determined by the Secretary), the Secretary shall give a
 21 high priority to applications for projects that encourage
 22 farmer-owned value-added processing facilities.”.

○