

109TH CONGRESS  
2D SESSION

# H. R. 4897

To reauthorize the Renewable Energy Systems and Energy Efficiency Improvements Program of the Department of Agriculture through fiscal year 2011 and to increase the annual level of Commodity Credit Corporation funding for the program.

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## IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

MARCH 7, 2006

Mr. UDALL of Colorado (for himself and Mr. LATHAM) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Agriculture

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## A BILL

To reauthorize the Renewable Energy Systems and Energy Efficiency Improvements Program of the Department of Agriculture through fiscal year 2011 and to increase the annual level of Commodity Credit Corporation funding for the program.

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 “Renewable Energy  
5       Systems and Energy Efficiency Improvements Program  
6       Act of 2006”.

1 **SEC. 2. FINDINGS.**

2 Congress makes the following findings:

3 (1) Having an affordable, reliable, and plentiful  
4 energy supply is critical to the United States econ-  
5 omy.

6 (2) Current and future risks to United States  
7 energy security are increasing at the same time that  
8 domestic and global energy demands are growing ex-  
9 ponentially.

10 (3) The greatest strength of United States agri-  
11 culture has always been the entrepreneurial strength  
12 of its farmers and ranchers, and this entrepreneurial  
13 strength can be harnessed to increase United States  
14 energy security.

15 (4) The development of a broad range of renew-  
16 able energy sources, including wind power, biomass,  
17 ethanol, biodiesel, and solar, offers the potential for  
18 farmers and ranchers to develop additional sources  
19 of income, for rural businesses and communities to  
20 prosper, and for the United States to lessen its de-  
21 pendence on imported oil.

22 (5) Support is growing for the “25 by 25 objec-  
23 tive”, which envisions that by 2025, farm and ranch  
24 lands in the United States will provide at least 25  
25 percent of the energy consumed in the United  
26 States.

1           (6) Section 9006 of the Farm Security and  
2       Rural Investment Act of 2002 (7 U.S.C. 8106) es-  
3       tablished the Renewable Energy Systems and En-  
4       ergy Efficiency Improvements Program, which is the  
5       keystone of the Act's energy title and the first agri-  
6       cultural program to promote broad renewable energy  
7       and energy efficiency measures for the farm and  
8       rural business sectors.

9           (7) The Renewable Energy Systems and Energy  
10      Efficiency Improvements Program has already been  
11      a success, providing grants and loans to farmers,  
12      ranchers, and rural businesses to help them install  
13      renewable energy systems and make energy effi-  
14      ciency improvements.

15          (8) During its first two years in operation, the  
16      Renewable Energy Systems and Energy Efficiency  
17      Improvements Program leveraged approximately \$44  
18      million in grants into more than \$300 million in  
19      clean energy projects, including 250 megawatts of  
20      wind power, 67 anaerobic digesters, 8 biofuels proc-  
21      essing facilities, 85 energy efficiency projects, and a  
22      range of other proven energy efficiency technologies.

23          (9) The Renewable Energy Systems and Energy  
24      Efficiency Improvements Program enjoys strong bi-  
25      partisan support in Congress and among a broad

1 range of farm, environmental, and sustainable en-  
2 ergy organizations.

3 (10) Growing interest in the Renewable Energy  
4 Systems and Energy Efficiency Improvements Pro-  
5 gram is evidenced by the 63 percent increase in the  
6 number of applications from 2004 to 2005 for as-  
7 sistance under the program, but the shortfall in  
8 funding allowed only 40 percent of applications to be  
9 funded in 2005 (versus 70 percent in 2004).

10 (11) Section 1301 of the Deficit Reduction Act  
11 of 2005 (Public Law 109–171; 120 Stat. 4) reduces  
12 fiscal year 2007 funding for the Renewable Energy  
13 Systems and Energy Efficiency Improvements Pro-  
14 gram from \$23 million to \$3 million.

15 **SEC. 3. REAUTHORIZATION OF RENEWABLE ENERGY SYS-**  
16 **TEMS AND ENERGY EFFICIENCY IMPROVE-**  
17 **MENTS PROGRAM.**

18 Section 9006(f) of the Farm Security and Rural In-  
19 vestment Act of 2002 (7 U.S.C. 8106(f)), as amended by  
20 section 1301 of the Deficit Reduction Act of 2005 (Public  
21 Law 109–171; 120 Stat. 4), is further amended by strik-  
22 ing “\$3,000,000 for fiscal year 2007” and inserting  
23 “\$46,000,000 for each of fiscal years 2007 through  
24 2011”.

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