

110TH CONGRESS  
1ST SESSION

# H. R. 2428

To enhance the efficiency of bioenergy and biomass research and development programs through improved coordination and collaboration between the Department of Agriculture, the Department of Energy, and land-grant colleges and universities, and for other purposes.

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## IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

MAY 22, 2007

Mr. EDWARDS (for himself, Mr. LAMPSON, and Mr. COSTA) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Agriculture

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## A BILL

To enhance the efficiency of bioenergy and biomass research and development programs through improved coordination and collaboration between the Department of Agriculture, the Department of Energy, and land-grant colleges and universities, and for other purposes.

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. BIOFUELS RESEARCH INITIATIVE.**

4       (a) SHORT TITLE.—This section may be cited as the  
5       “Biofuels Research Initiative Act of 2007”.

6       (b) RESEARCH, EXTENSION, AND EDUCATIONAL  
7       PROGRAMS ON BIOBASED ENERGY TECHNOLOGIES AND

1 PRODUCTS.—Title IX of the Farm Security and Rural In-  
2 vestment Act of 2002 (7 U.S.C. 8101 et seq.) is amended  
3 by adding at the end the following:

4 **“SEC. 9011. RESEARCH, EXTENSION, AND EDUCATIONAL**  
5 **PROGRAMS ON BIOBASED ENERGY TECH-**  
6 **NOLOGIES AND PRODUCTS.**

7 “(a) PURPOSES.—The purposes of the programs es-  
8 tablished under this section are—

9 “(1) to enhance national energy security  
10 through the development, distribution, and imple-  
11 mentation of biobased energy technologies;

12 “(2) to promote diversification in, and the envi-  
13 ronmental sustainability of, agricultural production  
14 in the United States through biobased energy and  
15 product technologies;

16 “(3) to promote economic diversification in  
17 rural areas of the United States through biobased  
18 energy and product technologies; and

19 “(4) to enhance the efficiency of bioenergy and  
20 biomass research and development programs  
21 through improved coordination and collaboration be-  
22 tween the Department of Agriculture, the Depart-  
23 ment of Energy, and the land-grant colleges and  
24 universities.

25 “(b) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

1           “(1) LAND-GRANT COLLEGES AND UNIVER-  
2           SITIES.—The term ‘land-grant colleges and univer-  
3           sities’ means—

4                   “(A) 1862 Institutions (as defined in sec-  
5                   tion 2 of the Agricultural Research, Extension,  
6                   and Education Reform Act of 1998 (7 U.S.C.  
7                   7601));

8                   “(B) 1890 Institutions (as defined in sec-  
9                   tion 2 of that Act) and West Virginia State  
10                  College; and

11                  “(C) 1994 Institutions (as defined in sec-  
12                  tion 2 of that Act).

13           “(2) SECRETARY.—The term ‘Secretary’ means  
14           the Secretary of Agriculture.

15           “(c) ESTABLISHMENT.—To carry out the purposes  
16           described in subsection (a), the Secretary shall establish  
17           programs under which—

18                   “(1) the Secretary shall provide grants to the  
19                   lead land grant university for each of the regional  
20                   consortiums with the lead university selected based  
21                   on criteria in subsection (e); and

22                   “(2) the consortium shall use the grants in ac-  
23                   cordance with this section.

24           “(d) GRANTS TO A CONSORTIUM.—The Secretary  
25           shall use amounts made available for a fiscal year under

1 subsection (j) to provide a grants in equal amounts to the  
2 lead land grant university for each of the regional consor-  
3 tiums with the lead university selected based on criteria  
4 in subsection (e):

5 “(e) CRITERIA FOR CONSORTIUM MEMBERSHIP.—To  
6 be a member of a consortium, a university must have the  
7 following attributes:

8 “(1) Demonstrated history, capability and intel-  
9 lectual property in germplasm development, includ-  
10 ing but not limited to genetics, plant breeding, and  
11 molecular techniques.

12 “(2) Production logistics, including but not lim-  
13 ited to cropping systems, harvesting technologies,  
14 storage technologies, and transportation systems.

15 “(3) Economic and policy analysis, including  
16 but not limited to probabilistic forecasts, economic  
17 feasibility, and business plans.

18 “(4) Environmental assessment, including but  
19 not limited to life-cycle analysis, climate change as-  
20 sessment, air quality, and water use evaluations of  
21 bioenergy production systems.

22 “(5) Facilities, including but not to facilities for  
23 genomics, plant breeding, crop production, crop  
24 processing, equipment design and fabrication, equip-  
25 ment testing, and environmental testing.

1           “(6) Academic and research capabilities in  
2           plant science, agronomy, soil science, plant physi-  
3           ology, plant pathology, entomology, engineering, ag-  
4           ricultural engineering, and agricultural economics.

5           “(7) Management capabilities in academics, re-  
6           search administration, intellectual property develop-  
7           ment, contract management, Federal procurement,  
8           and agricultural technology transfer.

9           “(f) REGIONAL CONSORTIUM GROUPS.—Each of the  
10          following shall be considered a regional consortium group  
11          for the purposes of this Act:

12           “(1) NORTH-CENTRAL CONSORTIUM.—A north-  
13          central university consortium for the region com-  
14          posed of the States of Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Min-  
15          nesota, Montana, Nebraska, North Dakota, South  
16          Dakota, Wisconsin, and Wyoming.

17           “(2) SOUTHEASTERN CONSORTIUM.—A south-  
18          eastern university consortium for the region com-  
19          posed of—

20           “(A) the States of Alabama, Florida, Geor-  
21          gia, Kentucky, Mississippi, North Carolina,  
22          South Carolina, Tennessee, and Virginia;

23           “(B) the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico;  
24          and

25           “(C) the United States Virgin Islands.

1           “(3) SOUTH-CENTRAL CONSORTIUM.—A south-  
2           central university consortium for the region com-  
3           posed of the States of Arkansas, Colorado, Kansas,  
4           Louisiana, Missouri, New Mexico, Oklahoma, and  
5           Texas.

6           “(4) WESTERN CONSORTIUM.—A western uni-  
7           versity consortium for the region composed of—

8                   “(A) the States of Alaska, Arizona, Cali-  
9                   fornia, Hawaii, Idaho, Nevada, Oregon, Utah,  
10                  and Washington; and

11                  “(B) territories and possessions of the  
12                  United States (other than the territories re-  
13                  ferred to in subparagraphs (B) and (C) of para-  
14                  graph (2)).

15           “(5) NORTHEASTERN CONSORTIUM.—A north-  
16           eastern university consortium for the region com-  
17           posed of the States of Connecticut, Delaware, Mas-  
18           sachusetts, Maryland, Maine, Michigan, New Hamp-  
19           shire, New Jersey, New York, Ohio, Pennsylvania,  
20           Rhode Island, Vermont, and West Virginia.

21           “(g) USE OF FUNDS.—

22                  “(1) UNIVERSITY CONSORTIUM.—Of the funds  
23                  made available for a fiscal year to a consortium  
24                  under subsection (d), the consortium member shall  
25                  use not more than 25 percent of the amount for ad-

1       ministration to support excellence in science, engi-  
2       neering, and economics at each regional consortium  
3       to promote the purposes described in subsection (a)  
4       through each applicable State agricultural experi-  
5       ment station, cooperative extension services, and rel-  
6       evant educational programs of the regional consor-  
7       tium member.

8               “(2) GRANTS TO LAND-GRANT COLLEGES AND  
9       UNIVERSITIES.—Each regional university consortium  
10      shall use the funds that remain available for a fiscal  
11      year after expenditures made under paragraph (1)  
12      to provide competitive grants to Agricultural and  
13      Land Grant colleges and universities in the region of  
14      the consortium as follows:

15              “(A) Not less than 30 percent of the funds  
16      to conduct, consistent with the purposes de-  
17      scribed in subsection (a), multi-institutional and  
18      multi-State research, extension, and educational  
19      programs on technology development.

20              “(B) Not less than 30 percent of the funds  
21      to conduct, consistent with the purposes de-  
22      scribed in subsection (a), multi-institutional and  
23      multi-State integrated research, extension, and  
24      educational programs on technology implemen-  
25      tation.

1           “(3) INDIRECT COSTS.—A university consor-  
2           tium may not recover the indirect costs of making  
3           grants under paragraph (2) to other land-grant col-  
4           leges and universities.

5           “(h) PLAN.—Subject to the availability of funds  
6           under subsection (j), each university consortium, in co-  
7           operation with other land-grant colleges and universities  
8           and private industry in accordance with paragraph (2),  
9           shall jointly develop and submit to the Secretary, for ap-  
10          proval, a plan for addressing at the State and regional  
11          levels the bioenergy, biomass, and gasification research  
12          priorities of the Department of Agriculture and the De-  
13          partment of Energy for making grants under paragraphs  
14          (1) and (2) of subsection (e).

15       **“SEC. 9012. BIO ENERGY CONSORTIUM.**

16          “(a) ESTABLISHMENT.—The Secretary of Agri-  
17          culture shall establish a Bio Energy Consortium led by  
18          5 universities selected by the Secretary that meet criteria  
19          of excellence across a wide range of expertise, experience,  
20          and reputation. These universities shall have responsibility  
21          for regional and disciplinary organization across the  
22          United States to identify talents and expertise that con-  
23          tributes to advancing biomass for energy and incorporate  
24          teams to address priority issues and to accelerate biomass  
25          for energy technologies. The lead universities are respon-



1 sible for avoiding redundancy, bringing the best science  
2 to address issues and developing an integrated nationwide  
3 program. Identification of the best science for selected  
4 areas of research may be structured under a peer review  
5 competitive process developed by the 5 lead universities.

6 “(b) EXTERNAL ADVISORY GROUP.—The Bio Energy  
7 Consortium and each of the 5 lead universities selected  
8 under subsection (a) shall each—

9 “(1) be advised by external advisory group se-  
10 lected by the regional consortium and be comprised  
11 of stakeholders in the region and that have broad  
12 range of expertise; and

13 “(2) submit an annual report to the advisory  
14 group defining the research, extension, and teaching  
15 programs and accomplishments during of each entity  
16 submitting a report during the year for which the  
17 report is submitted.

18 “(c) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There  
19 is authorized to be appropriated to the Secretary to carry  
20 out this section \$50,000,000 for each of fiscal years 2008  
21 through 2017.”

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