

110TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

S. 944

To require that an independent review of the efficiency and effectiveness of all headquarters offices of the Farm Service Agency of the Department of Agriculture be carried out prior to the closure of any county offices.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

MARCH 20, 2007

Mr. THUNE introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry

A BILL

To require that an independent review of the efficiency and effectiveness of all headquarters offices of the Farm Service Agency of the Department of Agriculture be carried out prior to the closure of any county offices.

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. INDEPENDENT REVIEW.**

4 (a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary of Agriculture (re-
5 ferred to in this Act as the “Secretary”) shall enter into
6 a contract with an independent reviewing authority se-
7 lected by the Secretary to carry out an independent review
8 of the efficiency and effectiveness of operations at all

1 headquarters offices of the Farm Service Agency, includ-
2 ing—

3 (1) all State offices;

4 (2) the National Headquarters office in Wash-
5 ington, D.C.;

6 (3) the Kansas City office; and

7 (4) the Salt Lake City office.

8 (b) REQUIREMENTS.—The review described in sub-
9 section (a) shall include a review for each office of—

10 (1) management practices;

11 (2) information technology purchases and
12 deliverables;

13 (3) software development;

14 (4) contractor hiring practices and related cost-
15 savings; and

16 (5) such other factors as the independent re-
17 viewing authority considers to be relevant to the effi-
18 ciency and effectiveness of operations at each office.

19 (c) REPORT.—Not later than 30 days after the date
20 of completion of the independent review, the independent
21 reviewing authority shall submit to the Secretary, the
22 Committee on Agriculture of the House of Representa-
23 tives, and the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and
24 Forestry of the Senate a report that contains—

1 (1) a description of the results of the study;
2 and

3 (2) recommendations for improving the effi-
4 ciency and effectiveness of operations at each office.

5 (d) PROHIBITION.—The Secretary may not close or
6 consolidate any county office of the Farm Service Agency
7 before the date on which the Secretary determines that
8 each headquarters office has implemented the rec-
9 ommendations for that office described in subsection
10 (c)(2).

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