

112TH CONGRESS  
2D SESSION

# H. R. 4012

To amend the Food, Conservation, and Energy Act of 2008 to establish  
a community-supported agriculture promotion program.

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## IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

FEBRUARY 9, 2012

Mr. WELCH (for himself, Mr. MCGOVERN, and Ms. PINGREE of Maine) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Agriculture

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## A BILL

To amend the Food, Conservation, and Energy Act of 2008  
to establish a community-supported agriculture promotion 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 “Community-Supported  
5 Agriculture Promotion Act”.

1 **SEC. 2. COMMUNITY-SUPPORTED AGRICULTURE PRO-**  
 2 **MOTION PROGRAM.**

3 Subtitle A of title X of the Food, Conservation, and  
 4 Energy Act of 2008 (122 Stat. 2097; Public Law 110–  
 5 246) is amended by adding at the end the following:

6 **“SEC. 10110. COMMUNITY-SUPPORTED AGRICULTURE PRO-**  
 7 **MOTION PROGRAM.**

8 “(a) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

9 “(1) CSA.—The term ‘CSA’ means a farm op-  
 10 erated in a manner consistent with community-sup-  
 11 ported agriculture, as defined by the Secretary.

12 “(2) NONPROFIT ORGANIZATION.—The term  
 13 ‘nonprofit organization’ means an organization,  
 14 group, institute, or institution that qualifies as an  
 15 organization described in section 501(c) of the Inter-  
 16 nal Revenue Code of 1986, and is exempt from tax-  
 17 ation under section 501(a) of that Code.

18 “(3) PROGRAM.—The term ‘Program’ means  
 19 the Community-Supported Agriculture Promotion  
 20 Program established under subsection (b).

21 “(4) UNDERSERVED COMMUNITY.—The term  
 22 ‘underserved community’ means a community (in-  
 23 cluding an urban or rural community or an Indian  
 24 tribe) that, as determined by the Secretary, has—

25 “(A) limited access to affordable, healthy  
 26 foods, including fresh fruits and vegetables;

1                   “(B) a high incidence of a diet-related dis-  
2                   ease (including obesity) as compared to the na-  
3                   tional average;

4                   “(C) a high rate of hunger or food insecu-  
5                   rity; or

6                   “(D) severe or persistent poverty.

7           “(b) ESTABLISHMENT.—The Secretary shall carry  
8   out a program, to be known as the ‘Community-Supported  
9   Agriculture Promotion Program’, to promote community-  
10 supported agriculture.

11           “(c) PROGRAM PURPOSES.—The purposes of the Pro-  
12 gram are—

13                   “(1) to assist in the improvement or expansion  
14                   of existing CSAs;

15                   “(2) to assist in the development of new CSAs;

16                   “(3) to enhance the economic viability of agri-  
17                   cultural producers;

18                   “(4) to enhance the relationship between con-  
19                   sumers and agricultural producers;

20                   “(5) to encourage outreach and education ac-  
21                   tivities that develop consumer interest in CSA par-  
22                   ticipation;

23                   “(6) to assist in the development, improvement,  
24                   or expansion of innovative delivery and distribution

1 programs that stimulate consumer interest in CSA  
2 participation; and

3 “(7) to assist in the development, improvement,  
4 and expansion of multifarm CSAs that—

5 “(A) allow agricultural producers to con-  
6 centrate on the production of a few crops or the  
7 development of value-added products; and

8 “(B) stimulate consumer interest in CSA  
9 participation by offering an increased variety of  
10 products.

11 “(d) ELIGIBLE ENTITIES.—An entity shall be eligible  
12 to receive a grant under the Program if the entity is—

13 “(1) a nonprofit organization;

14 “(2) an extension service program operated  
15 through an institution of higher education (as de-  
16 fined in section 101 of the Higher Education Act of  
17 1965 (20 U.S.C. 1001));

18 “(3) an agricultural producer;

19 “(4) a State or local government;

20 “(5) a public benefit corporation; or

21 “(6) such other entity as the Secretary may  
22 designate.

23 “(e) CRITERIA AND GUIDELINES.—

1           “(1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall estab-  
2       lish criteria to evaluate and rank proposed projects  
3       under the Program.

4           “(2) PREFERENCE.—In developing the criteria,  
5       the Secretary shall emphasize support for—

6                   “(A) public entities and nonprofit organi-  
7                   zations that propose in an application to pro-  
8                   vide substantial financial and technical assist-  
9                   ance directly to CSAs from individual- or fam-  
10                  ily-operated farms;

11                  “(B) CSAs from individually operated or  
12                  family-operated farms;

13                  “(C) the expansion of CSAs into under-  
14                  served communities;

15                  “(D) CSAs operated by or employing vet-  
16                  erans (as defined in section 101 of title 38,  
17                  United States Code); and

18                  “(E) the development, improvement, or ex-  
19                  pansion of innovative delivery and distribution  
20                  programs that stimulate consumer interest in  
21                  CSA participation.

22       “(f) FUNDING.—

23           “(1) IN GENERAL.—Of the funds of the Com-  
24       modity Credit Corporation, the Secretary shall use  
25       to carry out this section—

1                   “(A) \$10,000,000 for fiscal year 2012;

2                   “(B) \$12,000,000 for each of fiscal years

3                   2013 through 2015; and

4                   “(C) \$15,000,000 for each fiscal years

5                   2016 through 2018.

6                   “(2) INTERDEPARTMENTAL COORDINATION.—

7                   In carrying out this subsection, the Secretary shall

8                   ensure, to the maximum extent practicable, coordi-

9                   nation between the applicable agencies.”.

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