

112TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

H. R. 5825

To amend the Farm Security and Rural Investment Act of 2002 to reauthorize and improve the Rural Energy for America Program.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

MAY 17, 2012

Mr. WELCH (for himself and Mr. WALZ of Minnesota) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Agriculture

A BILL

To amend the Farm Security and Rural Investment Act of 2002 to reauthorize and improve the Rural Energy for America 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 “Rural Energy Improve-
5 ment Act”.

6 **SEC. 2. RURAL ENERGY FOR AMERICA PROGRAM.**

7 Section 9007 of the Farm Security and Rural Invest-
8 ment Act of 2002 (7 U.S.C. 8107) is amended—

9 (1) in subsection (c)—

1 (A) by redesignating paragraphs (2), (3),
2 and (4) as paragraphs (3), (4), and (5), respec-
3 tively;

4 (B) by inserting after paragraph (1) the
5 following new paragraph:

6 “(2) TIERED APPLICATION PROCESS.—In car-
7 rying out this subsection, the Secretary shall estab-
8 lish a three-tiered application, evaluation, and over-
9 sight process that varies based on the cost of the
10 proposed project with the process most simplified for
11 projects referred to in subparagraph (A), more com-
12 prehensive for projects referred to in subparagraph
13 (B), and most comprehensive for projects referred to
14 in subparagraph (C). The three tiers for such proc-
15 ess shall be as follows:

16 “(A) TIER 1.—Projects for which the cost
17 of the project funded under this subsection is
18 not more than \$80,000.

19 “(B) TIER 2.—Projects for which the cost
20 of the project funded under this subsection is
21 more than \$80,000 but less than \$200,000.

22 “(C) TIER 3.—Projects for which the cost
23 of the project funded under this subsection is
24 \$200,000 or more.”;

1 (C) in paragraph (3) (as redesignated by
 2 subparagraph (A)), by striking paragraph (F)
 3 and inserting the following new subparagraph:

4 “(F) the natural resource conservation
 5 benefits of the renewable energy system; and”;

6 (D) in paragraph (4) (as so redesign-
 7 nated)—

8 (i) in subparagraph (A), by inserting
 9 “in amounts not to exceed \$100,000 per
 10 grant” after “in the form of grants”; and

11 (ii) by striking subparagraph (C); and

12 (E) by adding at the end the following new
 13 paragraph:

14 “(6) REQUIREMENT.—In carrying out this sub-
 15 section, the Secretary shall not require a second
 16 meter for on-farm residential portions of rural
 17 projects connected to a power grid.”;

18 (2) in subsection (f)—

19 (A) by striking “Not later” and inserting
 20 the following:

21 “(1) IN GENERAL.—Not later”; and

22 (B) by adding at the end the following new
 23 paragraph:

24 “(2) SUBSEQUENT REPORT.—Not later than 4
 25 years after the date of the enactment of the Rural

1 Energy Improvement Act, the Secretary shall submit
2 to Congress a report on activities carried out under
3 this section, including the outcomes achieved by
4 projects funded under this section.”; and

5 (3) in subsection (g)—

6 (A) in paragraph (1)(D), by striking “for
7 fiscal year 2012” and inserting “for each of fis-
8 cal years 2012 through 2017”; and

9 (B) in paragraph (3)—

10 (i) by striking “this section
11 \$25,000,000” and inserting “this sec-
12 tion—

13 “(A) \$25,000,000”;

14 (ii) at the end of subparagraph (A)
15 (as designated by clause (i)), by striking
16 the period and inserting “; and”; and

17 (iii) by adding at the end the fol-
18 lowing new subparagraph:

19 “(B) \$100,000,000 for each of fiscal years
20 2013 through 2017.”.

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