

112TH CONGRESS  
2D SESSION

# H. R. 6034

To provide for the establishment of a task force to conduct a study to analyze the challenges faced by agricultural areas and rural communities designated as an area having special flood hazards for purposes of the National Flood Insurance Program.

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## IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

JUNE 27, 2012

Mr. GARAMENDI (for himself, Mr. DANIEL E. LUNGREN of California, Ms. RICHARDSON, Mr. LOEBSACK, Mr. STARK, and Mr. THOMPSON of California) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Financial Services

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## A BILL

To provide for the establishment of a task force to conduct a study to analyze the challenges faced by agricultural areas and rural communities designated as an area having special flood hazards for purposes of the National Flood Insurance 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 “Advancing Agricultural  
5       Floodplain Management Act of 2012”.

1 **SEC. 2. TASK FORCE TO ADVANCE AGRICULTURAL FLOOD-**  
2 **PLAIN MANAGEMENT IN THE NATIONAL**  
3 **FLOOD INSURANCE PROGRAM.**

4 (a) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

5 (1) AGRICULTURAL AREAS AND RURAL COMMU-  
6 NITIES.—The term “agricultural areas and rural  
7 communities” refers to areas where substantially all  
8 of the land-use is agricultural along with commu-  
9 nities that are located in an area where a substantial  
10 portion of the economy, currently is and historically  
11 was, based on agricultural production.

12 (2) ADMINISTRATOR.—The term “Adminis-  
13 trator” means the Administrator of the Federal  
14 Emergency Management Agency.

15 (3) SECRETARY.—The term “Secretary” means  
16 the Secretary of Agriculture.

17 (b) ESTABLISHMENT; STUDY.—The Administrator  
18 and the Secretary shall jointly establish a task force that  
19 shall conduct a study to analyze the challenges faced by  
20 agricultural areas and rural communities designated as an  
21 area having special flood hazards for purposes of the Na-  
22 tional Flood Insurance Program under the National Flood  
23 Insurance Act of 1968 (42 U.S.C. 4001 et seq.).

24 (c) MEMBERSHIP.—The task force shall consist of 13  
25 members, including the Administrator and Secretary, or

1 their designees. All other members shall be appointed  
2 jointly by the Administrator and the Secretary as follows:

3           (1) One individual who is a representative of a  
4           national farm organization or a national agricultural  
5           commodities organization.

6           (2) One individual who is a representative of  
7           the insurance industry or the financial and banking  
8           industry.

9           (3) One individual who is a representative of a  
10          national floodplain management organization or a  
11          national organization of flood and stormwater man-  
12          agement agencies.

13          (4) One individual who is a representative of  
14          agricultural floodplain interests.

15          (5) Three local landowners or farmers (or both)  
16          or representatives from local flood control associa-  
17          tions in impacted areas, including the Central Valley  
18          of California, the Mississippi Valley, and the Mis-  
19          souri Valley.

20          (6) Two individuals who are elected officials of  
21          units of general local governments who represent ag-  
22          ricultural areas and rural communities.

23          (7) Two individuals who have an interest or ex-  
24          pertise in the issues specified in subsection (b).

1 (d) CO-CHAIRS.—The Administrator and the Sec-  
2 retary, or their designees, shall serve as co-chairs of the  
3 task force.

4 (e) STAFF.—The Administrator and the Secretary  
5 may detail, on a reimbursable basis, any of the personnel  
6 of such agencies to the task force to assist the task force  
7 in carrying out its duties under this section.

8 (f) REPORT.—Not later than one year after the ap-  
9 pointment of the members of task force, the task force  
10 shall submit to the Committee on Financial Services and  
11 the Committee on Agriculture of the House of Representa-  
12 tives and the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban  
13 Affairs and the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and  
14 Forestry of the Senate a report regarding the study con-  
15 ducted pursuant to subsection (b) that shall include any  
16 findings and conclusions of the study and recommended  
17 changes to the National Flood Insurance Program to  
18 strengthen the economic viability and vitality of agricul-  
19 tural areas and rural communities. The report shall in-  
20 clude an analysis and recommendations regarding the fol-  
21 lowing:

22 (1) Impacts of the building restrictions of the  
23 National Flood Insurance Program on the repair, re-  
24 habilitation, replacement, construction, or alteration  
25 of agricultural production structures and repair, re-

1 habilitation, construction, or replacement of associ-  
2 ated rural community properties supporting the agri-  
3 cultural economy of the agricultural areas and rural  
4 communities.

5 (2) Changes to the National Flood Insurance  
6 Act of 1968, regulations, or policy that might miti-  
7 gate the impacts identified under paragraph (1).

8 (3) The feasibility, advantages, and disadvan-  
9 tages of the establishment of a new National Flood  
10 Insurance Program flood zone for agricultural areas  
11 and rural communities.

12 (4) Options for the National Flood Insurance  
13 Program to offer lower cost insurance in agricultural  
14 areas and rural communities due to lower losses as-  
15 sociated with low-density population and structures  
16 of the rural area.

17 (5) Financial implications to the National Flood  
18 Insurance Program if lower cost flood insurance was  
19 offered by the National Flood Insurance Program to  
20 agricultural areas and rural communities.

21 (6) Premiums paid to and claims paid by the  
22 National Flood Insurance Program in agricultural  
23 areas and rural communities since the creation of  
24 the National Flood Insurance Program and a com-  
25 parison of these figures to those in urban areas.

1           (7) The potential impacts to economy and life  
2       safety from the allowance of in-fill construction or  
3       building expansion in agricultural areas and rural  
4       communities.

5       (g) TERMINATION.—The task force shall terminate  
6   120 days after the date of the submission of the report  
7   under subsection (f).

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