

112TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

S. 2225

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

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

MARCH 22, 2012

Mr. FRANKEN (for himself and Mr. HARKIN) introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry

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. RURAL ENERGY FOR AMERICA PROGRAM.**

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

6 (1) in subsection (b)(2)—

7 (A) in subparagraph (C), by striking

8 “and” at the end;

1 (B) by redesignating subparagraph (D) as
 2 subparagraph (E); and

3 (C) by inserting after subparagraph (C)
 4 the following:

5 “(D) a nonprofit organization; and”;

6 (2) in subsection (c)—

7 (A) by striking paragraph (1) and insert-
 8 ing the following:

9 “(1) LOAN GUARANTEE AND GRANT PRO-
 10 GRAM.—

11 “(A) IN GENERAL.—In addition to any
 12 similar authority, the Secretary shall provide
 13 loan guarantees and grants to agricultural pro-
 14 ducers and rural small businesses—

15 “(i) to purchase renewable energy sys-
 16 tems, including—

17 “(I) systems that may be used to
 18 produce and sell electricity, such as
 19 for agricultural or residential pur-
 20 poses; and

21 “(II) unique components of re-
 22 newable energy systems; and

23 “(ii) to make energy efficiency im-
 24 provements.

25 “(B) TIERED APPLICATION PROCESS.—

1 “(i) IN GENERAL.—In providing loan
2 guarantees and grants under this sub-
3 section, the Secretary shall use a 3-tiered
4 application process that reflects the sizes
5 of proposed projects in accordance with
6 this subparagraph.

7 “(ii) TIER 1.—The Secretary shall es-
8 tablish a separate application process for
9 projects for which the cost of the activity
10 funded under this subsection is not more
11 than \$80,000.

12 “(iii) TIER 2.—The Secretary shall
13 establish a separate application process for
14 projects for which the cost of the activity
15 funded under this subsection is greater
16 than \$80,000 but less than \$200,000.

17 “(iv) TIER 3.—The Secretary shall es-
18 tablish a separate application process for
19 projects for which the cost of the activity
20 funded under this subsection is equal to or
21 greater than \$200,000.

22 “(v) APPLICATION PROCESS.—The
23 Secretary shall establish an application,
24 evaluation, and oversight process that is

1 most simplified for tier I projects and more
 2 comprehensive for each subsequent tier.”;

3 (B) in paragraph (2)—

4 (i) in subparagraph (C), by inserting
 5 “and public health” before “benefits”; and

6 (ii) by striking paragraph (F) and in-
 7 serting the following:

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

10 (C) in paragraph (3)—

11 (i) in subparagraph (A), by inserting
 12 “in an amount not to exceed \$100,000 per
 13 grant” after “in the form of grants”; and

14 (ii) by striking subparagraph (C);

15 (D) in paragraph (4)(C), by striking “75
 16 percent of the cost” and inserting “all eligible
 17 costs”; and

18 (E) by adding at the end the following:

19 “(5) REQUIREMENT.—In carrying out this sec-
 20 tion, the Secretary shall not require a second meter
 21 for on-farm residential portions of rural projects
 22 connected to the grid.”;

23 (3) in subsection (f)—

24 (A) by striking “Not later” and inserting
 25 the following:

1 “(1) IN GENERAL.—Not later”; and

2 (B) by adding at the end the following:

3 “(2) SUBSEQUENT REPORT.—Not later than 4
4 years after the date of enactment of this paragraph,
5 the Secretary shall submit to Congress a report on
6 activities carried out under this section, including
7 the outcomes achieved by projects funded under this
8 section.”; and

9 (4) in subsection (g)—

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

13 (B) in paragraph (3)—

14 (i) by striking “this section
15 \$25,000,000” and inserting “this sec-
16 tion—

17 “(A) \$25,000,000”;

18 (ii) by striking the period at the end
19 and inserting a “; and”; and

20 (iii) by adding at the end the fol-
21 lowing:

22 “(B) \$100,000,000 for each of fiscal years
23 2013 through 2017.”.

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