

113TH CONGRESS  
1ST SESSION

# H. R. 1273

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

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## IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

MARCH 19, 2013

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

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## 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  
7 “2012” and inserting “2012 and for each of  
8 fiscal years 2014 through 2018”; 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 2014 through 2018.”.

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