

Mr. PACKARD. Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. THORNTON. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

I rise to express my appreciation to the conference for following the instructions of this House and instructing action on the conference report and to commend the chairman, the gentleman from California [Mr. PACKARD], for his efforts.

Mr. Speaker, I have no requests for time, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. PACKARD. Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Without objection, the previous question is ordered on the conference report.

There was no objection.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the conference report.

Pursuant to clause 7 of rule XV, the yeas and nays are ordered.

Pursuant to clause 5 of rule I, further proceedings on the conference report will be postponed.

CONFERENCE REPORT ON H.R. 3603, AGRICULTURE, RURAL DEVELOPMENT, FOOD AND DRUG ADMINISTRATION, AND RELATED AGENCIES APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 1997

Mr. SKEEN. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that it be in order at any time to consider a conference report to accompany the bill (H.R. 3603) making appropriations for Agriculture, Rural Development, Food and Drug Administration and Related Agencies programs for the fiscal year ending September 30, 1997, and for other purposes, that all points of order against the conference report and against its consideration be waived, and that the conference report be considered as read when called up.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from New Mexico?

There was no objection.

Mr. SKEEN. Mr. Speaker, pursuant to the order of the House of today, I call up the conference report on the bill (H.R. 3603) making appropriations for Agriculture, Rural Development, Food and Drug Administration, and Related Agencies programs for the fiscal year ending September 30, 1997, and for other purposes.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the order of the House of today, the conference report is considered as having been read.

(For conference report and statement, see proceedings of the House of Tuesday, July 30, 1996, at page H9368.)

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman from New Mexico [Mr. SKEEN] and the gentleman from Illinois [Mr. DURBIN] each will control 30 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from New Mexico [Mr. SKEEN].

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. SKEEN. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks on the conference report to accompany H.R. 3603, and that they may include tabular and extraneous material.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from New Mexico?

There was no objection.

Mr. SKEEN. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

I will be brief and ask that my formal remarks be inserted in the RECORD. This conference report is almost the same as the bill that passed the House on June 12.

Mr. Speaker, this conference agreement has programs that benefit every one of our constituents and their lives every day no matter where they live or what they do. I respectfully ask that we get an "aye" vote on the conference agreement on H.R. 3603.

Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to present to you today the conference agreement for H.R. 3603, a bill making appropriations for Agriculture, Rural Development, Food and Drug Administration, and related agencies programs for fiscal year 1997.

This is a solid bipartisan bill which advances both the goals of budget reduction and the support of a large number of programs important to the health and safety of the American people.

Going into conference with the Senate, our bills were \$316 million apart in discretionary spending, with the House having the lower mark. The leadership of both committees split the difference, giving the House an additional \$158 million.

This conference agreement is essentially the same as the bill that passed the House on June 12. The additional money added in the conference has gone almost entirely for rural development, research and education programs all of which have high priority and long-term benefits.

I want to emphasize, Mr. Speaker, that this agreement is right on our required spending targets. Discretionary spending is at \$12.96 billion which is \$350 million less than fiscal year 1996. Mandatory spending is at \$39.9 billion which is \$9.9 billion less than the current year. Total spending in the bill is \$52.8 billion

which is \$10.2 billion less than the current year and \$5.6 billion below the administration request.

Mr. Speaker and Members of the House, this agreement supports programs which benefit every one of your constituents every day, no matter if they live in rural America, the suburbs or in our great cities.

It supports the food stamp program, the Women, Infants and Children feeding program, school lunch, school breakfast, elderly feeding programs, and other essential services.

Our rural development funding brings clean water, affordable housing, jobs, and economic growth to rural America.

Our research programs support the finest and most efficient agricultural system in the world. This system not only delivers an abundance of food to the American consumer but this year it creates a more than \$30 billion trade surplus in agricultural products, meaning jobs in the food processing, transportation and service industries in every State.

This conference report also supports the Food and Drug Administration and the food safety and inspection service which protect our supply of food, medicines and medical devices. I want to point out, Mr. Chairman, that this agreement fully funds the food safety and inspection service as it launches the most comprehensive change ever in our Federal meat and poultry inspection system.

Mr. Speaker, I do want to point out one matter than I know is of concern to a number of Members and that is the formula grants to 1890's colleges and Tuskegee University. For the fiscal year 1997, cuts were made in extension grants using an across-the-board formula with last year's grants as a base. There was an error in the calculation of the grant formula for 1890's colleges and Tuskegee University. I have discussed this with representatives of these institutions and I want to assure them and my colleagues that I will work to correct this error at the first opportunity.

Finally, Mr. Speaker, I mentioned at the start that this is a bipartisan effort and I want to point out that the distinguished ranking member of the subcommittee, Mr. DURBIN, successfully added a package of reforms to the rural housing programs which have been needed for quite some time. These reforms are not only good for rural Americans in need of housing but they are good for the taxpayer as well.

Mr. Speaker, I thank you and your colleagues for the opportunity to appear before you here today. I believe this will be the first domestic conference report to clear the Congress. On behalf of the Agriculture Appropriations Subcommittee, I respectfully ask for the support of all my colleagues in the House. Vote "yes" on the conference report for H.R. 3603.

**AGRICULTURE, RURAL DEVELOPMENT, FOOD AND DRUG ADMINISTRATION, AND RELATED AGENCIES
APPROPRIATIONS BILL, 1997 (H.R. 3603)**

	FY 1996 Enacted	FY 1997 Estimate	House	Senate	Conference	Conference compared with enacted
TITLE I - AGRICULTURAL PROGRAMS						
Production, Processing, and Marketing						
Office of the Secretary	10,227,000	10,336,000	2,836,000	2,836,000	2,836,000	-7,391,000
Executive Operations:						
Chief Economist	3,948,000	4,292,000	4,231,000	4,231,000	4,231,000	+283,000
National Appeals Division	11,846,000	13,363,000	11,718,000	11,718,000	11,718,000	-128,000
Office of Budget and Program Analysis	5,899,000	5,986,000	5,986,000	5,986,000	5,986,000	+87,000
Office of Small and Disadvantaged Business Utilization		804,000				
Total, Executive Operations	21,693,000	24,445,000	21,935,000	21,935,000	21,935,000	+242,000
Chief Financial Officer	4,133,000	4,437,000	4,283,000	4,283,000	4,283,000	+150,000
Office of the Assistant Secretary for Administration	596,000	613,000	613,000	613,000	613,000	+17,000
Agriculture buildings and facilities (USDA)	135,774,000	149,635,000	125,548,000	144,053,400	144,053,000	+8,279,000
Payments to GSA	(89,971,000)	(103,754,000)	(103,754,000)	(103,754,000)	(103,754,000)	(+13,783,000)
Building operations and maintenance	(20,216,000)	(20,294,000)	(16,794,000)	(16,794,000)	(16,794,000)	(-3,422,000)
Repairs, renovations, and construction	(25,587,000)	(25,587,000)	(5,000,000)	(23,505,400)	(23,505,000)	(-2,082,000)
Advisory committees (USDA)	650,000	856,000				-650,000
Hazardous waste management	15,700,000	15,700,000	15,700,000	15,700,000	15,700,000	
Departmental administration	27,986,000	29,137,000	28,304,000	30,529,000	30,529,000	+2,543,000
Office of the Assistant Secretary for Congressional Relations	3,797,000	3,842,000	3,728,000	3,668,000	3,668,000	-129,000
Office of Communications	8,198,000	8,317,000	8,138,000	8,138,000	8,138,000	-60,000
Office of the Inspector General	63,639,000	64,523,000	63,028,000	63,028,000	63,028,000	-611,000
Office of the General Counsel	27,680,000	29,249,000	27,749,000	27,749,000	27,749,000	-111,000
Office of the Under Secretary for Research, Education and Economics	520,000	540,000	540,000	540,000	540,000	+20,000
Economic Research Service	53,131,000	54,947,000	54,176,000	53,109,000	53,109,000	-22,000
National Agricultural Statistics Service	81,107,000	102,624,000	100,221,000	98,121,000	100,221,000	+19,114,000
Agricultural Research Service	710,000,000	728,853,000	702,831,000	722,839,800	716,826,000	+6,826,000
Buildings and facilities	30,200,000	80,100,000	59,800,000	59,200,000	69,100,000	+38,900,000
Total, Agricultural Research Service	740,200,000	808,953,000	762,431,000	782,039,800	785,926,000	+45,726,000
Cooperative State Research, Education, and Extension Service:						
Research and education activities	421,929,000	418,572,000	411,849,000	419,370,000	421,504,000	-425,000
Native Americans Institutions Endowment Fund	(4,600,000)	(4,600,000)	(4,600,000)	(4,600,000)	(4,600,000)	
Buildings and facilities	57,838,000		30,449,000	55,868,000	61,591,000	+3,753,000
Extension Activities	427,750,000	423,488,000	409,670,000	431,122,000	425,520,000	-2,230,000
Total, Cooperative State Research, Education, and Extension Service	907,517,000	842,060,000	851,968,000	906,160,000	908,615,000	+1,098,000
Office of the Assistant Secretary for Marketing and Regulatory Programs	605,000	618,000	618,000	618,000	618,000	+13,000
Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service:						
Salaries and expenses	431,921,000	439,033,000	435,428,000	432,103,000	434,909,000	+2,988,000
AQI user fees 1/	(100,254,000)	(100,000,000)	(98,000,000)	(98,000,000)	(98,000,000)	(-2,254,000)
Buildings and facilities	8,757,000	3,200,000	3,200,000	3,200,000	3,200,000	-5,557,000
Total, Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service	440,678,000	442,233,000	438,628,000	435,303,000	438,109,000	-2,569,000
Agricultural Marketing Service:						
Marketing Services	46,517,000	48,311,000	37,592,000	46,767,000	38,507,000	-8,010,000
New user fees	(3,887,000)		(3,887,000)	(3,887,000)	(3,887,000)	
(Limitation on administrative expenses, from fees collected)	(58,461,000)	(59,012,000)	(59,012,000)	(59,012,000)	(59,012,000)	(+551,000)
Funds for strengthening markets, income, and supply (transfer from section 32)	10,451,000	10,576,000	10,576,000	10,576,000	10,576,000	+125,000
Payments to states and possessions	1,200,000	1,200,000	1,200,000	1,200,000	1,200,000	
Total, Agricultural Marketing Service	58,168,000	60,087,000	49,368,000	58,543,000	50,283,000	-7,885,000
Grain Inspection, Packers and Stockyards Administration	23,058,000	24,595,000	22,728,000	23,928,000	23,128,000	+70,000
Inspection and Weighing Services (limitation on administrative expenses, from fees collected)	(42,784,000)	(43,207,000)	(43,207,000)	(43,207,000)	(43,207,000)	(+423,000)
Office of the Under Secretary for Food Safety	440,000	576,000	446,000	446,000	446,000	+6,000
Food Safety and Inspection Service	544,906,000	574,000,000	574,000,000	557,697,000	574,000,000	+29,084,000
Lab accreditation fees 2/	(1,000,000)	(1,000,000)	(1,000,000)	(1,000,000)	(1,000,000)	
Total, Production, Processing, and Marketing	3,170,583,000	3,252,323,000	3,156,986,000	3,239,037,000	3,257,527,000	+88,944,000
Farm Assistance Programs						
Office of the Under Secretary for Farm and Foreign Agricultural Services	549,000	572,000	572,000	572,000	572,000	+23,000
Farm Service Agency:						
Salaries and expenses	795,000,000	820,495,000	746,440,000	725,000,000	746,440,000	-48,560,000
(Transfer from export loans)	(589,000)	(623,000)	(589,000)	(589,000)	(589,000)	
(Transfer from P.L. 480)	(745,000)	(783,000)	(745,000)	(783,000)	(745,000)	
(Transfer from ACIF)	(208,446,000)	(209,485,000)	(208,446,000)	(208,446,000)	(208,446,000)	
Total, salaries and expenses	(1,004,780,000)	(1,031,386,000)	(956,220,000)	(934,818,000)	(956,220,000)	(-48,560,000)

**AGRICULTURE, RURAL DEVELOPMENT, FOOD AND DRUG ADMINISTRATION, AND RELATED AGENCIES
APPROPRIATIONS BILL, 1997 (H.R. 3603) — continued**

	FY 1996 Enacted	FY 1997 Estimate	House	Senate	Conference	Conference compared with enacted
State mediation grants	2,000,000	3,000,000	.....	2,000,000	2,000,000	.....
Dairy indemnity program	100,000	100,000	100,000	100,000	100,000	.....
Outreach for socially disadvantaged farmers and ranchers	1,000,000	3,000,000	1,000,000	1,000,000	1,000,000	.....
Total, Farm Service Agency	798,100,000	826,595,000	747,540,000	728,100,000	749,540,000	-48,560,000
Agricultural Credit Insurance Fund Program Account:						
Loan authorizations:						
Farm ownership loans:						
Direct	(60,000,000)	(50,000,000)	(50,000,000)	(50,000,000)	(50,000,000)	(-10,000,000)
Guaranteed	(550,000,000)	(650,000,000)	(550,000,000)	(550,000,000)	(550,000,000)	.....
Subtotal	(610,000,000)	(700,000,000)	(600,000,000)	(600,000,000)	(600,000,000)	(-10,000,000)
Operating loans:						
Direct	(550,000,000)	(445,071,000)	(445,071,000)	(445,071,000)	(445,071,000)	(-104,929,000)
Guaranteed unsubsidized	(1,700,000,000)	(1,750,000,000)	(1,700,000,000)	(1,700,000,000)	(1,700,000,000)	.....
Guaranteed subsidized	(200,000,000)	(250,000,000)	(200,000,000)	(200,000,000)	(200,000,000)	.....
Subtotal	(2,450,000,000)	(2,445,071,000)	(2,345,071,000)	(2,345,071,000)	(2,345,071,000)	(-104,929,000)
Indian tribe land acquisition loans	(750,000)	(1,000,000)	(1,000,000)	(1,000,000)	(1,000,000)	(+250,000)
Emergency disaster loans	(100,000,000)	.....	(25,000,000)	(75,000,000)	(25,000,000)	(-75,000,000)
Boll weevil Loans .....	.....	.....	.....	(15,384,000)	(34,653,000)	(+34,653,000)
Credit sales of acquired property .....	.....	(50,000,000)	(25,000,000)	(25,000,000)	(25,000,000)	(+25,000,000)
Total, Loan authorizations	(3,160,750,000)	(3,196,071,000)	(2,996,071,000)	(3,061,455,000)	(3,030,724,000)	(-130,028,000)
Loan subsidies:						
Farm ownership:						
Direct	14,034,000	5,920,000	5,920,000	5,920,000	5,920,000	-8,114,000
Guaranteed	20,019,000	26,065,000	22,055,000	22,055,000	22,055,000	+2,036,000
Subtotal	34,053,000	31,985,000	27,975,000	27,975,000	27,975,000	-6,078,000
Farm operating:						
Direct	75,185,000	59,150,000	59,150,000	59,150,000	59,150,000	-16,035,000
Guaranteed unsubsidized	18,360,000	19,775,000	19,210,000	19,210,000	19,210,000	+850,000
Guaranteed subsidized	17,960,000	23,100,000	18,480,000	18,480,000	18,480,000	+520,000
Subtotal	111,505,000	102,025,000	96,840,000	96,840,000	96,840,000	-14,665,000
Indian tribe land acquisition	206,000	54,000	54,000	54,000	54,000	-152,000
Emergency disaster	32,080,000	.....	6,365,000	19,095,000	6,365,000	-25,715,000
Boll weevil loans subsidy .....	.....	.....	.....	2,000,000	499,000	+499,000
Credit sales of acquired property .....	.....	5,080,000	2,530,000	2,530,000	2,530,000	+2,530,000
Total, Loan subsidies	177,844,000	139,124,000	133,764,000	148,494,000	134,263,000	-43,581,000
ACIF expenses:						
Salaries and expenses	208,935,000	209,485,000	208,446,000	208,446,000	208,446,000	-489,000
Administrative expenses	12,606,000	12,606,000	12,600,000	12,600,000	12,600,000	-6,000
Total, ACIF expenses	221,541,000	222,091,000	221,046,000	221,046,000	221,046,000	-495,000
Total, Agricultural Credit Insurance Fund	399,385,000	361,215,000	354,810,000	369,540,000	355,309,000	-44,076,000
(Loan authorization)	(3,160,750,000)	(3,196,071,000)	(2,996,071,000)	(3,061,455,000)	(3,030,724,000)	(-130,028,000)
Office of Risk Management .....	.....	.....	62,198,000	70,000,000	64,000,000	+64,000,000
Total, Farm Assistance Programs	1,198,034,000	1,188,382,000	1,165,120,000	1,168,212,000	1,169,421,000	-28,613,000
Corporations						
Federal Crop Insurance Corporation:						
Federal crop insurance corporation fund	1,263,708,000	1,591,000,000	1,591,000,000	1,591,000,000	1,591,000,000	+327,292,000
Commodity Credit Corporation Fund:						
Reimbursement for net realized losses	10,400,000,000	1,500,000,000	1,500,000,000	1,500,000,000	1,500,000,000	-8,900,000,000
Hazardous waste (limitation on administrative expenses)	(5,000,000)	(15,750,000)	(5,000,000)	(5,000,000)	(5,000,000)	.....
Total, Corporations	11,663,708,000	3,091,000,000	3,091,000,000	3,091,000,000	3,091,000,000	-8,572,708,000
Total, title I, Agricultural Programs	18,032,325,000	7,531,705,000	7,413,106,000	7,498,249,000	7,517,948,000	-8,514,377,000
(By transfer)	(209,780,000)	(210,891,000)	(209,780,000)	(209,818,000)	(209,780,000)	.....
(Loan authorization)	(3,160,750,000)	(3,196,071,000)	(2,996,071,000)	(3,061,455,000)	(3,030,724,000)	(-130,028,000)
(Limitation on administrative expenses)	(106,245,000)	(117,969,000)	(107,219,000)	(107,219,000)	(107,219,000)	(+974,000)
TITLE II - CONSERVATION PROGRAMS						
Office of the Under Secretary for Natural Resources and Environment						
.....	677,000	693,000	693,000	693,000	693,000	+16,000

**AGRICULTURE, RURAL DEVELOPMENT, FOOD AND DRUG ADMINISTRATION, AND RELATED AGENCIES
APPROPRIATIONS BILL, 1997 (H.R. 3603) — continued**

	FY 1996 Enacted	FY 1997 Estimate	House	Senate	Conference	Conference compared with enacted
Natural Resources Conservation Service:						
Conservation operations	629,988,000	662,910,000	619,392,000	638,954,000	619,742,000	-10,244,000
Watershed surveys and planning	14,000,000	19,188,000	10,762,000	14,000,000	12,381,000	-1,619,000
Watershed and flood prevention operations	100,000,000	116,036,000	101,036,000	101,036,000	101,036,000	+1,036,000
Emergency appropriations (P.L. 104-134)	80,514,000	.....	.....	.....	.....	-80,514,000
Resource conservation and development	29,000,000	29,377,000	29,377,000	29,377,000	29,377,000	+377,000
Forestry incentives program	6,325,000	6,325,000	6,325,000	6,325,000	6,325,000	.....
Colorado River Basin salinity control program	2,681,000	.....	.....	.....	.....	-2,681,000
Wetlands reserve program	77,000,000	188,000,000	.....	.....	.....	-77,000,000
National Natural Resources Conservation Service Foundation .....	.....	500,000	.....	.....	.....	.....
Total, Natural Resources Conservation Service	939,508,000	1,022,336,000	766,892,000	789,692,000	768,861,000	-170,645,000
Farm Service Agency:						
Agricultural conservation program	75,000,000	.....	.....	.....	.....	-75,000,000
Water quality incentives program	(11,000,000)	(15,000,000)	.....	.....	.....	(-11,000,000)
Conservation reserve program	1,781,785,000	1,924,850,000	.....	.....	.....	-1,781,785,000
Emergency appropriations (P.L. 104-134)	30,000,000	.....	.....	.....	.....	-30,000,000
Total, Farm Service Agency	1,886,785,000	1,924,850,000	.....	.....	.....	-1,886,785,000
Total, title II, Conservation Programs	2,826,968,000	2,947,879,000	767,585,000	790,385,000	769,554,000	-2,057,414,000
TITLE III - RURAL ECONOMIC AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMS						
Office of the Under Secretary for Rural Development	588,000	588,000	588,000	588,000	588,000	+20,000
Rural Housing Service:						
Rural Housing Insurance Fund Program Account:						
Loan authorizations:						
Low-income housing (sec. 502)	(1,000,000,000)	(1,320,000,000)	(1,000,000,000)	(1,000,000,000)	(1,000,000,000)	.....
Unsubsidized guaranteed	(1,700,000,000)	(2,300,000,000)	(2,300,000,000)	(2,300,000,000)	(2,300,000,000)	(+600,000,000)
Housing repair (sec. 504)	(35,000,000)	(35,000,000)	(35,000,000)	(35,000,000)	(35,000,000)	.....
Farm labor (sec. 514)	(15,000,000)	(16,482,000)	(15,000,000)	(15,000,000)	(15,000,000)	.....
Rental housing (sec. 515)	(150,000,000)	(58,854,000)	(58,854,000)	(58,854,000)	(58,854,000)	(-91,346,000)
Site loans (sec. 524)	(600,000)	(600,000)	(600,000)	(600,000)	(600,000)	.....
Self-help housing land development fund	(603,000)	(600,000)	(600,000)	(600,000)	(600,000)	(-3,000)
Credit sales of acquired property .....	.....	(75,000,000)	(50,000,000)	(50,000,000)	(50,000,000)	(+50,000,000)
Emergency appropriations (P.L. 104-134)	(38,960,000)	.....	.....	.....	.....	(-38,960,000)
Total, Loan authorizations	(2,940,163,000)	(3,806,336,000)	(3,459,854,000)	(3,459,854,000)	(3,459,854,000)	(+519,691,000)
Loan subsidies:						
Single family (sec. 502):						
Direct	145,833,000	109,560,000	83,000,000	83,000,000	83,000,000	-62,833,000
Unsubsidized guaranteed	2,890,000	6,210,000	6,210,000	6,210,000	6,210,000	+3,320,000
Housing repair (sec. 504)	14,193,000	11,081,000	11,081,000	11,081,000	11,081,000	-3,112,000
Farm labor (sec. 514)	8,629,000	7,565,000	6,885,000	6,885,000	6,885,000	-1,744,000
Rental housing (sec. 515):						
Direct	82,035,000	28,987,000	28,987,000	28,987,000	28,987,000	-53,048,000
Unsubsidized guaranteed	(1,000,000)	.....	(1,000,000)	(1,000,000)	(1,000,000)	.....
Self-help housing land development fund	31,000	17,000	17,000	17,000	17,000	-14,000
Credit sales of acquired property .....	.....	6,088,000	4,050,000	4,050,000	4,050,000	+4,050,000
Emergency appropriations (P.L. 104-134)	6,500,000	.....	.....	.....	.....	-6,500,000
Total, Loan subsidies	260,111,000	169,518,000	140,230,000	140,230,000	140,230,000	-119,881,000
RHIF administrative expenses	385,889,000	366,205,000	366,205,000	366,205,000	366,205,000	-19,684,000
Rental assistance program:						
(Sec. 521)	535,000,000	487,970,000	487,970,000	487,970,000	487,970,000	-47,030,000
(Sec. 502(c)(5)(D))	5,900,000	5,900,000	5,900,000	5,900,000	5,900,000	.....
Total, Rental assistance program	540,900,000	493,870,000	493,870,000	493,870,000	493,870,000	-47,030,000
Total, Rural Housing Insurance Fund	1,186,900,000	1,029,593,000	1,000,305,000	1,000,305,000	1,000,305,000	-186,595,000
(Loan authorization)	(2,940,163,000)	(3,806,336,000)	(3,459,854,000)	(3,459,854,000)	(3,459,854,000)	(+519,691,000)
Community Facility Loans Program Account:						
Loan authorizations:						
Direct	(200,000,000)	.....	.....	.....	.....	(-200,000,000)
Guaranteed	(75,000,000)	.....	.....	.....	.....	(-75,000,000)
Total, Loan authorizations	(275,000,000)	.....	.....	.....	.....	(-275,000,000)
Loan subsidies:						
Direct	34,880,000	.....	.....	.....	.....	-34,880,000
Guaranteed	3,555,000	.....	.....	.....	.....	-3,555,000
Total, Loan subsidies	38,435,000	.....	.....	.....	.....	-38,435,000
Administrative expenses	8,836,000	.....	.....	.....	.....	-8,836,000

**AGRICULTURE, RURAL DEVELOPMENT, FOOD AND DRUG ADMINISTRATION, AND RELATED AGENCIES
APPROPRIATIONS BILL, 1997 (H.R. 3603) — continued**

	FY 1996 Enacted	FY 1997 Estimate	House	Senate	Conference	Conference compared with enacted
Very low-income housing repair grants	24,800,000	24,800,000				-24,800,000
Emergency appropriations (P.L. 104-134)	1,100,000					-1,100,000
Rural housing for domestic farm labor	10,000,000	10,000,000				-10,000,000
Mutual and self-help housing grants	12,650,000	26,000,000	26,000,000	26,000,000	26,000,000	+13,350,000
Rural community fire protection grants	2,000,000					-2,000,000
Compensation for construction defects	495,000					-495,000
Rural housing preservation grants	11,000,000	11,000,000				-11,000,000
Rural housing assistance program 3/		136,435,000	73,190,000	136,435,000	130,433,000	+130,433,000
Subtotal, grants and payments	62,145,000	208,335,000	99,190,000	162,435,000	156,433,000	+94,288,000
RHS expenses:						
Administrative expenses	46,583,000	89,660,000	53,889,000	66,354,000	60,743,000	+14,160,000
(Transfer from RHIF)	(377,074,000)	(366,205,000)	(366,205,000)	(366,205,000)	(366,205,000)	(-10,869,000)
(Transfer from ACIF)	(171,000)					(-171,000)
(Transfer from CFLP)	(6,731,000)					(-6,731,000)
Total, RHS expenses	(432,558,000)	(455,865,000)	(420,094,000)	(432,559,000)	(426,948,000)	(-5,611,000)
Total, Rural Housing Service	1,342,898,000	1,327,588,000	1,153,384,000	1,229,094,000	1,217,481,000	-125,418,000
(Loan authorization)	(3,215,163,000)	(3,806,336,000)	(3,459,854,000)	(3,459,854,000)	(3,459,854,000)	(+244,691,000)
Rural Business-Cooperative Service:						
Rural Business and Industry Loans Program Account:						
Loan authorization: Guaranteed	(500,000,000)					(-500,000,000)
Loan subsidy: Guaranteed	6,437,000					-6,437,000
Administrative expenses	14,868,000					-14,868,000
Rural Development Loan Fund Program Account:						
(Loan authorization)	(37,544,000)	(80,000,000)	(40,000,000)	(37,544,000)	(37,544,000)	
Loan subsidy	22,395,000	36,928,000	18,400,000	17,270,000	17,270,000	-5,125,000
Administrative expenses	1,476,000					-1,476,000
Rural Economic Development Loans Program Account:						
Direct loans (limitation on obligations)	(12,865,000)	(14,000,000)	(12,865,000)	(12,865,000)	(12,865,000)	
Direct subsidy	3,729,000	3,095,000	2,830,000	2,830,000	2,830,000	-899,000
Administrative expenses	654,000	699,000	654,000	654,000	654,000	
Alternative Agricultural Research and Commercialization						
Revolving Fund	6,500,000	6,975,000	6,000,000	10,000,000	7,000,000	+500,000
Rural business enterprise grants	45,000,000					-45,000,000
Appropriate technology transfer for rural areas	2,300,000	1,300,000				-2,300,000
Rural business-cooperative assistance 3/		53,750,000	51,400,000	53,750,000	51,400,000	+51,400,000
RBCS expenses:						
Salaries and expenses	9,013,000	27,068,000	25,680,000	25,680,000	25,680,000	+16,667,000
(Transfer from RBILP)	(14,747,000)					(-14,747,000)
(Transfer from RDLFP)	(1,476,000)					(-1,476,000)
(Transfer from REDLP)	(654,000)	(699,000)	(654,000)	(654,000)	(654,000)	
Total, RBCS expenses	(25,890,000)	(27,767,000)	(26,334,000)	(26,334,000)	(26,334,000)	(+444,000)
Total, Rural Business-Cooperative Service	112,372,000	129,815,000	104,964,000	110,184,000	104,834,000	-7,538,000
(By transfer)	(16,877,000)	(699,000)	(654,000)	(654,000)	(654,000)	(-16,223,000)
(Loan authorization)	(537,544,000)	(80,000,000)	(40,000,000)	(37,544,000)	(37,544,000)	(-500,000,000)
Rural Utilities Service:						
Rural Electrification and Telecommunications Loans						
Program Account:						
Loan authorizations:						
Direct loans:						
Electric 5%	(90,000,000)	(125,000,000)	(125,000,000)	(125,000,000)	(125,000,000)	(+35,000,000)
Telephone 5%	(70,000,000)	(75,000,000)	(75,000,000)	(75,000,000)	(75,000,000)	(+5,000,000)
Subtotal	(160,000,000)	(200,000,000)	(200,000,000)	(200,000,000)	(200,000,000)	(+40,000,000)
Treasury rate: Telephone	(300,000,000)	(300,000,000)	(300,000,000)	(300,000,000)	(300,000,000)	
Muni-rate: Electric	(525,000,000)	(600,000,000)	(525,000,000)	(525,000,000)	(525,000,000)	
FFB loans:						
Electric, regular	(300,000,000)	(400,000,000)	(300,000,000)	(300,000,000)	(300,000,000)	
Telephone	(120,000,000)	(120,000,000)	(120,000,000)	(120,000,000)	(120,000,000)	
Subtotal	(420,000,000)	(520,000,000)	(420,000,000)	(420,000,000)	(420,000,000)	
Total, Loan authorizations	(1,405,000,000)	(1,620,000,000)	(1,445,000,000)	(1,445,000,000)	(1,445,000,000)	(+40,000,000)
Loan subsidies:						
Direct loans:						
Electric 5%	21,168,000	3,625,000	3,625,000	3,625,000	3,625,000	-17,543,000
Telephone 5%	13,958,000	1,193,000	1,193,000	1,193,000	1,193,000	-12,765,000
Subtotal	35,126,000	4,818,000	4,818,000	4,818,000	4,818,000	-30,308,000

**AGRICULTURE, RURAL DEVELOPMENT, FOOD AND DRUG ADMINISTRATION, AND RELATED AGENCIES
APPROPRIATIONS BILL, 1997 (H.R. 3603) — continued**

	FY 1996 Enacted	FY 1997 Estimate	House	Senate	Conference	Conference compared with enacted
Treasury rate: Telephone	60,000	60,000	60,000	60,000	60,000	.....
Muni-rate, electric.....	56,858,000	32,280,000	28,245,000	28,245,000	28,245,000	-28,613,000
FFB loans: Electric, regular	2,520,000	3,720,000	2,790,000	2,780,000	2,790,000	+270,000
Total, Loan subsidies	94,564,000	40,878,000	35,913,000	35,913,000	35,913,000	-58,651,000
RETLF administrative expenses	29,982,000	33,070,000	29,982,000	29,982,000	29,982,000	.....
Total, Rural Electrification and Telecommunications						
Loans Program Account.....	124,548,000	73,948,000	65,895,000	65,895,000	65,895,000	-58,651,000
(Loan authorization)	(1,405,000,000)	(1,620,000,000)	(1,445,000,000)	(1,445,000,000)	(1,445,000,000)	(+40,000,000)
Rural Telephone Bank Program Account:						
Direct loans (limitation on obligations)	(175,000,000)	(175,000,000)	(175,000,000)	(175,000,000)	(175,000,000)	.....
Direct loan subsidy	5,023,000	2,328,000	2,328,000	2,328,000	2,328,000	-2,695,000
RTB administrative expenses	3,541,000	3,500,000	3,500,000	3,500,000	3,500,000	-41,000
Distance learning and medical link grants and loans	7,500,000	20,261,000	7,500,000	10,000,000	9,000,000	+1,500,000
Solid waste management grants, rural water and waste disposal grants, and water and waste disposal facility loans (administrative expenses)	12,740,000	.....	.....	.....	.....	-12,740,000
Rural utilities assistance program 3/	487,868,000	661,560,000	496,868,000	656,742,000	566,935,000	+79,067,000
Emergency appropriations (P.L. 104-134)	11,000,000	.....	.....	.....	.....	-11,000,000
RUS expenses:						
Salaries and expenses	18,449,000	33,873,000	33,195,000	33,195,000	33,195,000	+14,746,000
Electric and telephone loans (by transfer)	(29,982,000)	(33,070,000)	(29,982,000)	(29,982,000)	(29,982,000)	.....
Rural telephone bank (by transfer)	(3,541,000)	(3,500,000)	(3,500,000)	(3,500,000)	(3,500,000)	(-41,000)
Agricultural Credit Insurance Fund Program Account (by transfer)	(318,000)	.....	.....	.....	.....	(-318,000)
Rural partnership (by transfer)	(12,623,000)	.....	.....	.....	.....	(-12,623,000)
Total, RUS expenses	(64,913,000)	(70,443,000)	(66,877,000)	(66,877,000)	(66,877,000)	(+1,764,000)
Total, Rural Utilities Service	670,667,000	795,470,000	609,286,000	771,660,000	680,853,000	+10,186,000
(By transfer)	(48,464,000)	(36,570,000)	(33,482,000)	(33,482,000)	(33,482,000)	(-12,982,000)
(Loan authorization)	(1,405,000,000)	(1,620,000,000)	(1,445,000,000)	(1,445,000,000)	(1,445,000,000)	(+40,000,000)
(Limitation on obligations)	(175,000,000)	(175,000,000)	(175,000,000)	(175,000,000)	(175,000,000)	.....
Total, title III, Rural Economic and Community Development Programs	2,126,508,000	2,253,461,000	1,868,222,000	2,111,526,000	2,003,756,000	-122,750,000
(By transfer)	(449,317,000)	(403,474,000)	(400,341,000)	(400,341,000)	(400,341,000)	(-48,976,000)
(Loan authorization)	(5,157,707,000)	(5,506,336,000)	(4,944,854,000)	(4,942,398,000)	(4,942,398,000)	(-215,309,000)
(Limitation on obligations)	(187,865,000)	(188,000,000)	(187,865,000)	(187,865,000)	(187,865,000)	.....
TITLE IV - DOMESTIC FOOD PROGRAMS						
Office of the Under Secretary for Food, Nutrition and Consumer Services	440,000	554,000	454,000	554,000	454,000	+14,000
Food and Consumer Service:						
Child nutrition programs	2,348,166,000	3,251,215,000	3,218,844,000	3,221,044,000	3,219,544,000	+871,378,000
Discretionary spending .....	.....	4,000,000	.....	.....	.....	.....
Transfer from section 32.....	5,597,858,000	5,413,453,000	5,433,753,000	5,433,753,000	5,433,753,000	-164,105,000
Total, Child nutrition programs	7,946,024,000	8,668,668,000	8,652,597,000	8,654,797,000	8,653,297,000	+707,273,000
Special supplemental nutrition program for women, infants, and children (WIC).....	3,729,807,000	3,780,000,000	3,729,807,000	3,729,807,000	3,729,807,000	.....
Reserve .....	.....	100,000,000	.....	.....	.....	.....
(By transfer)	(4,000,000)	.....	.....	.....	.....	(-4,000,000)
Food stamp program:						
Expenses	25,954,828,000	26,353,555,000	26,341,029,000	26,347,029,000	26,344,029,000	+389,201,000
Reserve	500,000,000	2,461,200,000	100,000,000	1,000,000,000	100,000,000	-400,000,000
Nutrition assistance for Puerto Rico.....	1,143,000,000	1,174,000,000	1,174,000,000	1,174,000,000	1,174,000,000	+31,000,000
Total, Food stamp program	27,597,828,000	29,988,755,000	27,615,029,000	28,521,029,000	27,618,029,000	+20,201,000
Commodity assistance program	166,000,000	172,000,000	166,000,000	166,000,000	166,000,000	.....
Food donations programs for selected groups:						
Needy family program.....	65,000,000	65,000,000	65,000,000	1,250,000	1,250,000	-63,750,000
Elderly feeding program.....	150,000,000	150,000,000	140,000,000	140,000,000	140,000,000	-10,000,000
Total, Food donations programs	215,000,000	215,000,000	205,000,000	141,250,000	141,250,000	-73,750,000
Food program administration	107,769,000	110,982,000	104,487,000	107,769,000	106,128,000	-1,641,000
The Center for Nutrition Policy and Promotion.....	.....	4,470,000	.....	.....	.....	.....
Total, Food and Consumer Service	39,762,428,000	43,039,875,000	40,472,920,000	41,320,652,000	40,414,511,000	+652,083,000
Total, title IV, Domestic Food Programs.....	39,762,868,000	43,040,429,000	40,473,374,000	41,321,206,000	40,414,965,000	+652,097,000

**AGRICULTURE, RURAL DEVELOPMENT, FOOD AND DRUG ADMINISTRATION, AND RELATED AGENCIES
APPROPRIATIONS BILL, 1997 (H.R. 3603) — continued**

	FY 1996 Enacted	FY 1997 Estimate	House	Senate	Conference	Conference compared with enacted
TITLE V - FOREIGN ASSISTANCE AND RELATED PROGRAMS						
Foreign Agricultural Service:						
Direct appropriation.....	115,802,000	132,875,000	124,208,000	134,295,000	131,295,000	+ 15,493,000
(Transfer from Commodity Credit Corporation).....	(5,176,000)					(-5,176,000)
(Transfer from export loans).....	(2,792,000)	(3,231,000)	(2,792,000)	(3,231,000)	(3,231,000)	(+ 439,000)
(Transfer from P.L. 480).....	(1,005,000)	(1,035,000)	(1,005,000)	(1,035,000)	(1,035,000)	(+ 30,000)
Total, Program level.....	(124,775,000)	(137,141,000)	(128,005,000)	(138,561,000)	(135,561,000)	(+ 10,786,000)
Public Law 480 Program Account:						
Title I - Credit sales:						
Program level.....	(316,342,000)	(232,849,000)	(230,305,000)	(232,849,000)	(240,805,000)	(-75,537,000)
Direct loans.....	(291,342,000)	(218,944,000)	(218,400,000)	(218,944,000)	(226,900,000)	(-64,442,000)
Ocean freight differential.....	25,000,000	13,905,000	13,905,000	13,905,000	13,905,000	-11,095,000
Title II - Commodities for disposition abroad:						
Program level.....	(821,100,000)	(837,000,000)	(837,000,000)	(837,000,000)	(837,000,000)	(+ 15,900,000)
Appropriation.....	821,100,000	837,000,000	837,000,000	837,000,000	837,000,000	+ 15,900,000
Title III - Commodity grants:						
Program level.....	(50,000,000)	(40,000,000)	(29,500,000)	(40,000,000)	(29,500,000)	(-20,500,000)
Appropriation.....	50,000,000	40,000,000	29,500,000	40,000,000	29,500,000	-20,500,000
Loan subsidies.....	236,182,000	179,082,000	177,000,000	179,082,000	185,589,000	-50,573,000
Salaries and expenses:						
General Sales Manager.....	1,005,000	1,035,000	1,005,000	1,035,000	1,035,000	+ 30,000
Farm Service Agency.....	745,000	783,000	745,000	783,000	745,000	
Subtotal.....	1,750,000	1,818,000	1,750,000	1,818,000	1,780,000	+ 30,000
Total, Public Law 480:						
Program level.....	(1,187,442,000)	(1,109,849,000)	(1,096,805,000)	(1,109,849,000)	(1,107,305,000)	(-80,137,000)
Appropriation.....	1,134,012,000	1,071,805,000	1,059,155,000	1,071,805,000	1,067,774,000	-66,238,000
CCC Export Loans Program Account:						
Loan guarantees:						
Short-term export credit.....	(5,200,000,000)	(5,000,000,000)	(5,500,000,000)	(5,500,000,000)	(5,500,000,000)	(+ 300,000,000)
Intermediate-term export credit.....	(500,000,000)	(500,000,000)				(-500,000,000)
Loan subsidy.....	374,347,000	390,000,000	390,000,000	390,000,000	390,000,000	+ 15,653,000
Salaries and expenses (Export Loans):						
General Sales Manager.....	2,792,000	3,231,000	2,792,000	3,231,000	3,231,000	+ 439,000
ASCS.....	589,000	623,000	589,000	589,000	589,000	
Total, CCC Export Loans Program Account.....	377,728,000	393,854,000	393,381,000	393,820,000	393,820,000	+ 16,092,000
Total, title V, Foreign Assistance and Related Programs.....	1,627,542,000	1,598,534,000	1,576,744,000	1,599,920,000	1,592,889,000	-34,653,000
(By transfer).....	(8,973,000)	(4,266,000)	(3,797,000)	(4,266,000)	(4,266,000)	(-4,707,000)
TITLE VI - RELATED AGENCIES AND FOOD AND DRUG ADMINISTRATION						
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES						
Food and Drug Administration						
Salaries and expenses, direct appropriation.....	819,971,000	823,771,000	819,971,000	819,971,000	819,971,000	
Prescription drug user fee act.....	(84,723,000)	(87,528,000)	(87,528,000)	(87,528,000)	(87,528,000)	(+ 2,805,000)
Mammography clinics user fee.....	(13,000,000)	(13,403,000)	(13,403,000)	(13,403,000)	(13,403,000)	(+ 403,000)
Total, Program level.....	(917,694,000)	(924,702,000)	(920,902,000)	(920,902,000)	(920,902,000)	(+ 3,208,000)
Buildings and facilities.....	12,150,000	8,350,000	21,350,000	21,350,000	21,350,000	+ 9,200,000
Rental payments.....	46,294,000	46,294,000	46,294,000	46,294,000	46,294,000	
Total, Food and Drug Administration.....	878,415,000	878,415,000	887,615,000	887,615,000	887,615,000	+ 9,200,000
DEPARTMENT OF THE TREASURY						
Financial Management Service: Payments to the Farm Credit System Financial Assistance Corporation.....	15,453,000	10,290,000	10,290,000	10,290,000	10,290,000	-5,163,000
INDEPENDENT AGENCIES						
Commodity Futures Trading Commission.....	53,601,000	56,601,000	55,101,000	56,601,000	55,101,000	+ 1,500,000
Farm Credit Administration (limitation on administrative expenses).....		(37,478,000)	(37,478,000)		(37,478,000)	(+ 37,478,000)
Total, title VI, Related Agencies and Food and Drug Administration.....	947,469,000	945,306,000	953,006,000	954,506,000	953,006,000	+ 5,537,000

**AGRICULTURE, RURAL DEVELOPMENT, FOOD AND DRUG ADMINISTRATION, AND RELATED AGENCIES
APPROPRIATIONS BILL, 1997 (H.R. 3603) — continued**

	FY 1996 Enacted	FY 1997 Estimate	House	Senate	Conference	Conference compared with enacted
TITLE VIII - SUPPLEMENTAL APPROPRIATIONS AND RESCISSIONS, FY 1996						
DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE						
Farm Service Agency						
Agricultural Credit Insurance Fund Program Account:						
Loan subsidy: Emergency disaster loans (contingent emergency appropriation).....				25,000,000	32,244,000	+32,244,000
Loan authorization: Emergency disaster loans				(85,208,000)	(110,000,000)	(+ 110,000,000)
DEPARTMENT OF THE TREASURY						
Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms:						
Salaries and expenses				12,011,000	12,011,000	+ 12,011,000
Internal Revenue Service:						
Information systems (rescission)				-16,500,000	-16,500,000	-16,500,000
Total, title VIII, Supplemental Appropriations and Rescissions, FY 1996 (net)				20,511,000	27,755,000	+27,755,000
Scorekeeping adjustments.....	-235,780,000	127,050,000	-368,000,000	-396,511,000	-437,755,000	-201,975,000
Grand total:						
New budget (obligational) authority.....	63,087,896,000	58,444,364,000	52,684,037,000	53,899,792,000	52,842,118,000	-10,245,780,000
Fiscal year 1997	(63,087,896,000)	(58,444,364,000)	(52,684,037,000)	(53,879,281,000)	(52,814,363,000)	(-10,273,535,000)
Fiscal year 1996 (net)				(20,511,000)	(27,755,000)	(+ 27,755,000)
Appropriations				(12,011,000)	(12,011,000)	(+ 12,011,000)
Contingent emergency appropriation.....				(25,000,000)	(32,244,000)	(+ 32,244,000)
Rescissions.....				(-16,500,000)	(-16,500,000)	(-16,500,000)
(By transfer)	(672,070,000)	(618,631,000)	(613,918,000)	(614,425,000)	(614,387,000)	(-57,683,000)
(Loan authorization)	(14,018,457,000)	(14,202,407,000)	(13,440,825,000)	(13,589,061,000)	(13,583,122,000)	(-435,335,000)
(Limitation on administrative expenses)	(106,245,000)	(155,447,000)	(144,697,000)	(107,219,000)	(144,697,000)	(+ 38,452,000)
(Limitation on obligations).....	(187,865,000)	(189,000,000)	(187,865,000)	(187,865,000)	(187,865,000)	

1/ Such sums as available from AQI user fee account for FY 1996. In addition, \$24,857,000 is anticipated from farm bill direct appropriations.

2/ In addition to appropriation.

3/ The Administration proposed funding for this account under the name "Rural performance partnership program".

Mr. SKEEN. Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. DURBIN. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I would first like to salute the chairman of this committee, Mr. SKEEN, who has done an extraordinarily good job over the last 2 years under very difficult circumstances. As I have said before, this is the most bipartisan subcommittee in the House. I think that that is the case because of the leadership of Mr. SKEEN. I have enjoyed serving with him. It has been a tough job for him and the entire staff. He has done an excellent job in preparing this conference committee report.

We have responded to the need to reduce spending. We have done it. We have done it in a way that will not imperil food and fiber production across America. It will cause some discomfort, I am sure. The cutbacks will affect some people, but I think we have done our job in a responsible way.

Mr. Speaker, I yield 30 seconds to the gentleman from Ohio [Mr. TRAFICANT].

Mr. TRAFFICANT. Mr. Speaker, I commend the gentleman. We will be missing him, certainly, in the next Congress but certainly hoping we will still be able to deal with him.

I would just like to put the committee on notice to be concerned about certain imports of products that are damaging American farmers. Mexican tomatoes coming in here at \$2 being dumped, when it costs \$6 for Florida farmers to produce them, Australian beef coming down through Canada. We are damaging and destroying many beef producers in our country.

I would just like to place the committee on notice to take a look at these issues. I believe that our agriculture policies are hurting many farmers at this point and we need more oversight.

Mr. POMEROY. Mr. Speaker, I rise to speak on the conference report for the fiscal year 1997 Agriculture Appropriations Act. In general this conference report represents a vast improvement from the bill that passed the House earlier this year. Among the most important improvements from the point-of-view of North Dakota was the elimination of the sugar price cap included in the House passed bill. This important improvement is a validation of the 7-year commitment to sugar producers made by Congress when it passed the new farm bill this spring. The conferees also restored \$2 million in funding for State Agriculture Mediation Grant program which aids farmers in settling debt disputes. Finally the conferees agreed to increase funding for the grain inspection, packer and stockyards administration so it can implement recommendations from the recent Commission on Concentration in Agriculture. These are important victories for North Dakota producers and for farm families nationwide.

I am quite disappointed, however, by the conferees' decision to leave out a remedy for our Nation's barley producers which was included during Senate consideration of the bill. The Senate, during debate on the fiscal year 1997 appropriations bill, included language to move \$20 million from payments in the years

1999–2002—\$5 million each year—to fiscal year 1998 in order to make up for this year's shortfall. This represented a step toward fulfilling the promises made to barley producers earlier this year. The conferees, however, decided to eliminate this important and needed provision from the final conference report.

This fix was needed to live up to the promises made during the farm bill debate earlier this year. Barley producers were promised a transition payment of 46 cents per bushel under the production flexibility contracts. From November until April this estimate stood as the payment barley producers expected from participation in the new program. Many made financial and planting plans based on this figure.

Once the new farm bill was signed into law, however, barley producers discovered an error had been made in estimating the payments. Barley would now be eligible for a 32-cent payment, over a 30-percent decrease from the promised amount, and a much steeper decrease from the estimates promised to other commodities. Nationwide this decrease amounts to over \$20 million in lost income to barley producers in 1997.

The decision by the conferees to reject the temporary fix adopted by the Senate only reaffirms the unfair treatment of barley farmers, and should not stand. I will continue to search for a way to correct his error that will leave many barley producers shortchanged under the new farm bill.

Mr. FAZIO of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 3603, the Agriculture appropriations bill for fiscal year 1997.

The appropriations process historically has been a process emphasizing bipartisanship, compromise, and camaraderie. No bill emphasizes those attributes more than this bill, and no team of Chair and ranking member puts those attributes on display better than the team of JOE SKEEN and DICK DURBIN for the past 3 years. It has been a pleasure to be associated with them and their bipartisan handiwork in this bill.

H.R. 3603 is not a perfect bill. The discretionary spending in this bill is \$350 million below fiscal year 1996 and \$1.1 billion less than President Clinton requested.

We really have to ask ourselves how long we expect to continue this trend and believe it somehow has no impact. Over a number of years, we have cut back our trade promotion efforts, our commitment to rural development, and our agricultural research and extension activities. The impact is being felt by our farmers, our rural communities, and our land-grant institutions. In addition, USDA is feeling the squeeze as it provides services to our farmers and farm communities, and as it carries out its important missions of animal and plant inspection and food safety.

These are worrisome long-term trends that I hope will be addressed in the years to come, but JOE SKEEN and DICK DURBIN have done a good job with this conference report under demanding circumstances.

Fortunately, cooler heads in the leadership prevailed, and we were able to achieve a more generous final allocation that increased the House bill by \$158 million. The majority of this money was allocated to unmet needs of our rural communities—both rural housing loans, and water and sewer loans.

I was also pleased that the conferees included a House provisions, authored by our

colleague MARCY KAPTUR, to require farmers actually to plant a crop to receive payments under the new farm bill. This was a common-sense provision, and it was revised to take into account disasters, conservation uses and other sensible exceptions, but it is an important affirmation of our intentions in the 1996 farm bill.

I have particular praise for several items of importance to California agriculture and to my district.

First, funds have been included for an important integrated pest management research facility at the University of California at Davis.

Recent passage of the pesticides and food safety bill after a long stalemate is a reflection that the use of agricultural pesticides and the effect on health are of the greatest concern to the American public. Minimizing the use of pesticides while continuing the crop yields that Americans expect which, in turn, produce such low cost food products must continue to be a priority.

It is imperative that we have the up-to-date facilities to develop effective methods to deal with pests, especially in California. California has been the Nation's top agricultural producer since 1948, and America depends upon the wide variety of agricultural commodities that are produced. Yet, in a State where a new pest is introduced every 60 days, we are particularly susceptible to pest infestation. This facility will support and accelerate research needed for environmentally compatible pest management strategies.

Second, the bill includes mandatory funds for the Market Access Program [MAP].

Agriculture exports, projected to exceed \$50 billion again this year—up from \$43.5 billion for fiscal year 1994—are vital to the United States. And there is probably no more important tool for export promotion than MAP, especially for California's specialty crop production.

Third, the conference agreement has put the additional allocation to good use with regard to research and extension activities and support for our land-grant institutions. Agricultural research will take on even greater importance in the years to come as farmers make the transition to a full market-oriented farm economy envisioned by the 1996 farm bill.

In that light, it is important that we sustain and hopefully increase our commitment to research through the agricultural research stations of the Agricultural Research Service, thought the formula funding for our land-grant institutions, and through the special grants and competitive grants in the Cooperative State Research Education and Extension Service. Only through such investments can we maintain the U.S. lead in agriculture and enable it to continue its significant and positive impact on our economy.

In summary, this is a good bill given our budgetary circumstances and given the many needs and many issues within the committee's jurisdiction. I commend Chairman JOE SKEEN and ranking member DICK DURBIN for their efforts in support of American agriculture, and I urge my colleagues to support the conference report on H.R. 3603, the Agriculture appropriations bill for fiscal year 1997.

Mr. WALSH. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 3603 and its accompanying conference report that provides funding for Agriculture, Rural Development, Food and Drug Administration and related agencies programs

for fiscal year 1997. I want to commend subcommittee chairman SKEEN and ranking member Mr. DURBIN for their leadership and fine work in crafting this difficult bill. I also would like to thank the subcommittee staff for their diligence and for the long hours they spent putting together this bill.

This bill provides \$53.3 billion for Agricultural appropriations. This represents a reduction of \$10.3 billion from last year's level. Discretionary spending in our bill has been reduced by \$350 million, forcing our subcommittee to make some difficult choices. We have had to consolidate and reduce spending on a number of rural development and rural housing programs and spending in this bill is still woefully inadequate to meet the needs of those rural communities seeking water and sewer loans.

Fortunately, there are many positive areas in this bill that deserve special recognition. For one, we were finally successful in reforming the section 515 low-income housing program. This multifamily rural rental housing program assists elderly, disabled and low-income working families in securing affordable housing. In this bill we have extended the section 515 program for another year and have permitted funding to be used for construction of new affordable housing units. This program has been in need of reform for years and I am hopeful that these overdue changes will enable us to operate this program more efficiently so that we will be able to provide increased funding to the program in future years.

In this bill we have also significantly increased spending on nutrition and feeding programs. We have provided \$8.7 billion for child nutrition programs such as the school lunch and school breakfast programs and \$27.6 billion for food stamps. The important WIC program is funded at last year's level of \$3.73 billion. With the large carryover balances in the WIC account, we are within reach of full funding for WIC, a goal that I believe is shared by all Members of Congress.

We have also provided the administration's full request of \$574 million for the Food Safety and Inspection Service. Ensuring the safety of our Nation's food supply is one of the highest priorities in this bill. We are committed to providing the Food Safety and Inspection Service with the needed funding required to maintain the current inspection system while providing the needed investments required to implement the new hazard analysis and critical control point [HACCP] meat and poultry inspection system.

This bill also provides critical resources to the Natural Resources Conservation Service that will enable them to provide planning and technical assistance for watershed projects and to help farmers implement conservation compliance plans on highly erodible lands. We need to do a better job in controlling soil erosion and protecting environmentally sensitive crop lands. We do that in our bill by providing strong funding levels for conservation operations, the conservation reserve program, the wetlands reserve program and the newly created environmental quality incentives program [EQUIP].

One of my major regrets in this bill is the failure to include the Northern Forest Stewardship Act in the agriculture appropriations conference report. The Northern Forest Stewardship Act is bipartisan legislation that positively balances the environmental and economic fu-

ture of resource-dependent communities in northern New England and New York. This bill represents a carefully, crafted compromise based on the recommendations of the northern forest land council. Foresters, conservationists, and recreationists have worked together to develop a plan of action that protects the scenic and wildlife resources of the region while preserving the economic timber base of the region and without infringing on the rights of landowners. We must protect and enhance the forest health, forest economies and community development of these northern forests for current and future generations. I strongly support this consensus approach to preserving our treasured natural resources.

The decision by the Agriculture Appropriation Subcommittee conferees to not include riders, or potentially controversial authorization language on our bill, led our subcommittee to reluctantly drop the Northern Forest Stewardship Act from the conference report. Nevertheless, I plan on continuing to work closely with my northeastern colleagues to find a way that expedites passage of the Northern Forest Stewardship Act in this Congress.

In spite of my reservations on a few specific provisions in the bill I believe that the bill overall is a good one. We have done the best we can with the resources available to us and I urge Members to support this bill and yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. DURBIN. Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. SKEEN. Mr. Speaker, I want to express my appreciation for the remarks that were made by the ranking member and say that he set a good example for me and we followed through on exactly that kind of demeanor. I, too, want to say to him that he has been a delight to work with and is certainly a great gentleman in this body and we will see what happens after the election.

Mr. Speaker, I have no further requests for time, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Without objection, the previous question is ordered on the conference report.

There was no objection.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the conference report.

Pursuant to clause 7 of rule XV, the yeas and nays are ordered.

Pursuant to clause 5 of rule I, further proceedings on the conference report will be postponed until after the vote on the legislative branch appropriations conference report.

CONFERENCE REPORT ON H.R. 3754, LEGISLATIVE BRANCH APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 1997

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The pending business is the question of agreeing to the conference report on the bill, H.R. 3754.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the conference report.

Pursuant to the provisions of clause 7 of rule XV, the yeas and nays are ordered.

The Chair will reduce to 5 minutes the time for the next electronic vote.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—yeas 397, nays 22, not voting 14, as follows:

[Roll No. 386]

YEAS—397

Abercrombie	Diaz-Balart	Inglis
Ackerman	Dickey	Jackson (IL)
Allard	Dicks	Jackson-Lee
Andrews	Dingell	(TX)
Archer	Dixon	Jefferson
Armey	Doggett	Johnson (CT)
Bachus	Dooley	Johnson (SD)
Baesler	Doolittle	Johnson, E. B.
Baker (CA)	Dornan	Johnson, Sam
Baker (LA)	Doyle	Jones
Baldacci	Dreier	Kanjorski
Ballenger	Duncan	Kaptur
Barcia	Dunn	Kasich
Barr	Durbin	Kelly
Barrett (NE)	Edwards	Kennedy (MA)
Barrett (WI)	Ehlers	Kennedy (RI)
Bartlett	Ehrlich	Kennelly
Barton	English	Kildee
Bass	Ensign	Kim
Bateman	Evans	King
Becerra	Everett	Kingston
Beilenson	Ewing	Kleczka
Bentsen	Farr	Klink
Bereuter	Fattah	Klug
Berman	Fawell	Knollenberg
Bevill	Fazio	Kolbe
Bilbray	Fields (LA)	LaFalce
Billakis	Fields (TX)	LaHood
Bishop	Flake	Lantos
Bliley	Flanagan	Largent
Blumenauer	Foglietta	Latham
Blute	Foley	LaTourrette
Boehlert	Forbes	Laughlin
Boehner	Fowler	Lazio
Bonilla	Fox	Leach
Bonior	Frank (MA)	Levin
Bono	Franks (CT)	Lewis (CA)
Borski	Franks (NJ)	Lewis (GA)
Boucher	Frelinghuysen	Lewis (KY)
Brewster	Frisa	Lightfoot
Browder	Frost	Lincoln
Brown (CA)	Funderburk	Linder
Brown (FL)	Furse	Lipinski
Brown (OH)	Galleghy	Livingston
Bryant (TN)	Gejdenson	Lofgren
Bryant (TX)	Gekas	Longley
Bunn	Gephardt	Lowe
Bunning	Geren	Lucas
Burr	Gibbons	Luther
Burton	Gilchrest	Maloney
Buyer	Gillmor	Manton
Callahan	Gilman	Manzullo
Calvert	Gonzalez	Markley
Camp	Goodlatte	Martinez
Campbell	Goodling	Martini
Canady	Gordon	Mascara
Cardin	Goss	Matsui
Castle	Graham	McCarthy
Chabot	Greene (UT)	McCollum
Chambliss	Greenwood	McCrery
Christensen	Gunderson	McDermott
Chrysler	Gutierrez	McHale
Clay	Gutknecht	McHugh
Clayton	Hall (OH)	McInnis
Clement	Hall (TX)	McIntosh
Clinger	Hamilton	McKeon
Clyburn	Hancock	McKinney
Coburn	Hansen	McNulty
Collins (GA)	Harman	Meehan
Collins (IL)	Hastert	Meek
Collins (MI)	Hastings (FL)	Menendez
Combest	Hastings (WA)	Metcalf
Condit	Hayes	Meyers
Costello	Hayworth	Mica
Cox	Hefley	Millender-
Coyne	Hefner	McDonald
Cramer	Heineman	Miller (FL)
Crane	Herger	Minge
Crapo	Hilleary	Mink
Cremeans	Hilliard	Moakley
Cubin	Hinchey	Molinar
Cummings	Hobson	Mollohan
Cunningham	Hoekstra	Montgomery
Danner	Hoke	Moorhead
Davis	Holden	Moran
de la Garza	Horn	Morella
Deal	Hostettler	Myers
DeFazio	Houghton	Myrick
DeLauro	Hoyer	Neal
DeLay	Hunter	Nethercutt
Dellums	Hutchinson	Neumann
Deutsch	Hyde	Ney