



Hansen McGovern Sandlin  
 Hastings (FL) McHugh Sanford  
 Hastings (WA) McIntosh Sawyer  
 Hayes McIntyre Schakowsky  
 Hayworth McKeon Scott  
 Hefley McKinney Sensenbrenner  
 Herger Meehan Serrano  
 Hill (IN) Meek (FL) Sessions  
 Hill (MT) Meeks (NY) Shadegg  
 Hinojosa Menendez Shaw  
 Hobson Metcalf Shays  
 Hoefel Mica Sherman  
 Hoekstra Millender-Sheldon Sherwood  
 Holden McDonald Shimkus Shows  
 Holt Miller (FL) Shuster  
 Horn Miller, Gary Simpson  
 Hostettler Minge Siskiyou  
 Houghton Mink Skeen  
 Hoyer Moakley Skelton  
 Hunter Hutchinson Mollohan Smith (MI)  
 Hyde Moran (VA) Smith (NJ)  
 Inslee Morella Smith (TX) Smith (WA)  
 Isakson Murtha Snyder  
 Jackson (IL) Myrick Souder  
 Jackson-Lee (TX) Napolitano Spence  
 Jenkins Neal Spratt  
 John Nethercutt Stabenow  
 Johnson (CT) Ney Stark  
 Johnson, E. B. Northup Stearns  
 Johnson, Sam Norwood Stump  
 Jones (NC) Nussle Stupak  
 Jones (OH) Obey Sununu  
 Kanjorski Olver Sweeney  
 Kaptur Ortiz Talent  
 Kasich Owens Tanner  
 Kelly Oxley Tauscher  
 Kennedy Packard Tauzin  
 Kildee Pallone Taylor (NC)  
 Kilpatrick Pascrell Terry  
 King (NY) Paul Thornberry  
 Kingston Klecza Payne Thune  
 Klink Lampson Pease Thurman  
 Knollenberg Lantos Pomeroy Tiahrt  
 Kolbe Largent Porter Tierney  
 Kuykendall Larson Portman Toomey  
 LaFalce Latham Price (NC) Towns  
 LaHood LaTourette Pryce (OH) Trahan  
 Lampson Lazio Quinn Upton  
 Lantos Largent Radanovich Velazquez  
 Larson Latham Rangel Vento  
 Latham LaTourette Price (NC) Vitter  
 Lazio Leach Radanovich Walden  
 Lantos Largent Rahall Walsh  
 Larson Latham Rangel Watkins  
 Latham LaTourette Regula Watt (NC)  
 Lazio Leach Radanovich Reyes Watts (OK)  
 Lantos Largent Reynolds Waxman  
 Larson Latham Rivers Weiner  
 Lantos Largent Rodriguez Weldon (FL)  
 Larson Latham Roemer Weldon (PA)  
 Lantos Largent Rogan Wexler  
 Larson Latham Rogers Weygand  
 Lantos Largent Rohrbacher Whitfield  
 Larson Latham Ros-Lehtinen Wicker  
 Larson Latham Rothman Wilson  
 Larson Latham Roukema Wise  
 Larson Latham Roybal-Allard Wolf  
 Larson Latham Royce Woolsey  
 Larson Latham Rush Wynn  
 Larson Latham Ryan (WI) Young (AK)  
 Larson Latham Ryun (KS) Young (FL)  
 Larson Latham Sanders

## NAYS—43

Aderholt Hilleary Ramstad  
 Baird Hilliard Riley  
 Borski Hinckey Sabo  
 Brady (PA) Hooley Schaffer  
 Brown (OH) Hulshof Slaughter  
 Capuano Kucinich Stenholm  
 Clay LoBiondo Strickland  
 Costello Markey Taylor (MS)  
 Crane McDermott Thompson (CA)  
 DeFazio McNulty Thompson (MS)  
 English Miller, George Visclosky  
 Filner Moran (KS) Waters  
 Gibbons Oberstar Weller  
 Gutierrez Pastor  
 Gutknecht Pickett

NOT VOTING—15  
 Boswell Green (WI) Peterson (MN)  
 Cubin Istook Phelps  
 DeLay Jefferson Scarborough  
 Dixon Kind (WI) Thomas  
 Gordon Nadler Wu

## □ 1133

So the Journal was approved.

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

Stated for:

Mr. THOMAS. Mr. Speaker, on rollcall No. 459, had I been present, I would have voted "yea."

## AGRICULTURAL RISK PROTECTION ACT OF 1999

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. NUSSLE). Pursuant to House Resolution 308 and rule XVIII, the Chair declares the House in the Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union for the consideration of the bill, H.R. 2559.

## □ 1135

## IN THE COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE

Accordingly, the House resolved itself into the Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union for the consideration of the bill (H.R. 2559) to amend the Federal Crop Insurance Act, to strengthen the safety net for agricultural producers by providing greater access to more affordable risk management tools and improve protection from production and income loss, to improve the efficiency and integrity of the Federal crop insurance program, and for other purposes, with Mr. LATOURETTE in the chair.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The CHAIRMAN. Pursuant to the rule, the bill is considered as having been read the first time.

Under the rule, the gentleman from Texas (Mr. COMBEST) and the gentleman from Texas (Mr. STENHOLM) each will control 30 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Texas (Mr. COMBEST).

Mr. COMBEST. Mr. Chairman, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Chairman, today we consider H.R. 2559, the Agriculture Risk Protection Act of 1999. This important legislation was approved by a voice vote in the subcommittee and the full committee and enjoys broad bipartisan support from colleagues representing farmers and ranchers from all regions of the country. Equally important, I am pleased to report that this bill fully complies within the budget resolution approved by the Congress earlier this year.

As my colleagues know, this country's farmers and ranchers are not experiencing the prosperity that other Americans enjoy today. Confronted by adverse weather and low prices, they are facing a second year of extreme economic crisis.

Mr. Chairman, there are two ways a farmer or rancher can lose money. That is where a strong farm safety net is needed. The culprits are low prices

and lost production, and, sadly, both of these culprits are at work again this year.

On the price side of the equation, just as examples, cotton is expected to receive the lowest price in 13 years; wheat the lowest in 22 years; and soybeans the lowest in a quarter century. Fortunately, in an effort to avert a financial disaster in farm country, the House and Senate are working together to provide an emergency farm relief package.

Mr. Chairman, I believe the short-term assistance provided in the fiscal year 2000 agricultural appropriations bill is urgently needed and will bring our Nation's farmers and ranchers at least some peace of mind. But make no mistake, ad hoc relief of any kind will not bring about a long-term solution to chronic problems. That is why I have announced the committee's intention to convene a series of hearings early next year to evaluate current and future American farm policy. By providing our farmers and ranchers an opportunity to fully participate in this process, we will steer clear of the kind of fixes in farm policy that are made in haste and ultimately do more harm than good.

On the other side of the equation, there is something Congress can do now about severe crop losses that each year rob farmers and ranchers of their livelihood. After more than 8 months of input from farmers and ranchers on the problems with crop insurance, Congress is in a position to act.

The Federal crop insurance program was created in 1938, but it was not a case where the government intruded on the private sector thinking it could do better. Instead, the program came about because countless private sector attempts at crop insurance had failed miserably. Without a Federal commitment, the widespread losses associated with natural disasters would make something as fundamental as insurance protection simply unavailable to our farmers.

Unfortunately, during its 61 years of existence, this critical program has been both underfunded and seriously undermined by ad hoc disaster. This dual policy has fueled a vicious cycle that has not saved taxpayers money but cost them countless billions. By underfunding the crop insurance program, farmer-paid premiums have been unaffordable, leading to a Nation of underinsured farmers at best and uninsured farmers at worst.

For years, the practical effect of this policy has been that farmers who do not buy crop insurance or buy too little leave Congress little choice but to enact ad hoc disaster bills; and in the following year, farmers who had insured their crops the year before decide not to, trusting that Congress will once again come through.

This vicious cycle has seriously undermined the crop insurance program. It has eroded program participation and fueled the need for Congress to