

the Federal Communications Commission from establishing rules authorizing the operation of new, low power FM radio stations.

S. 2231

At the request of Mr. COVERDELL, the names of the Senator from Mississippi (Mr. COCHRAN) and the Senator from Maine (Ms. SNOWE) were added as cosponsors of S. 2231, a bill to provide for the placement at the Lincoln Memorial of a plaque commemorating the speech of Martin Luther King, Jr., known as the "I Have A Dream" speech.

S. 2232

At the request of Mr. GRAHAM, the name of the Senator from Virginia (Mr. ROBB) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2232, a bill to promote primary and secondary health promotion and disease prevention services and activities among the elderly, to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to add preventive benefits, and for other purpose.

S. 2235

At the request of Ms. COLLINS, the name of the Senator from New York (Mr. SCHUMER) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2235, a bill to amend the Public Health Act to revise the performance standards and certification process for organ procurement organizations.

S. 2262

At the request of Ms. SNOWE, her name was added as a cosponsor of S. 2262, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to institute a Federal fuels tax holiday.

S. 2265

At the request of Mrs. HUTCHISON, the names of the Senator from Oklahoma (Mr. NICKLES), the Senator from Louisiana (Ms. LANDRIEU), and the Senator from New Mexico (Mr. DOMENICI) were added as cosponsors of S. 2265, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to preserve marginal domestic oil and natural gas well production, and for other purposes.

S. CON. RES. 60

At the request of Mr. FEINGOLD, the name of the Senator from New Hampshire (Mr. SMITH) was added as a cosponsor of S. Con. Res. 60, a concurrent resolution expressing the sense of Congress that a commemorative postage stamp should be issued in honor of the U.S.S. *Wisconsin* and all those who served aboard her.

S. CON. RES. 96

At the request of Mr. SARBANES, the name of the Senator from Connecticut (Mr. DODD) was added as a cosponsor of S. Con. Res. 96, concurrent resolution recognizing and honoring members of the American Hellenic Educational Progressive Association (AHEPA) who are being awarded the AHEPA Medal for Military Service in the Armed Forces of the United States.

S. RES. 271

At the request of Mr. WELLSTONE, the names of the Senator from Arkansas (Mr. HUTCHINSON) and the Senator from

Florida (Mr. MACK) were added as cosponsors of S. Res. 271, a resolution regarding the human rights situation in the People's Republic of China.

S. RES. 276

At the request of Mr. REED, the name of the Senator from Maryland (Ms. MIKULSKI) was added as a cosponsor of S. Res. 276, a resolution to express the sense of the Senate that the conferees on the Violent and Repeat Juvenile Offender Accountability and Rehabilitation Act should submit the conference report on the bill before April 20, 2000, and include the gun safety amendments passed by the Senate.

AMENDMENTS SUBMITTED

LEGISLATION TO IMPROVE THE FEDERAL CROP INSURANCE ACT

LUGAR (AND OTHERS)
AMENDMENT NO. 2887

Mr. LUGAR (for himself, Mr. HARKIN, Mr. ROBERTS, Mr. KERREY, and Mr. GRAMS) proposed an amendment to the bill (S. 2251) to amend the Federal Crop Insurance Act to improve crop insurance coverage, to provide agriculture producers with choices to manage risk, and for other purposes; as follows:)

On page 2, strike the table of contents and insert the following:

Sec. 1. Short title; table of contents.

TITLE I—CROP INSURANCE COVERAGE

Sec. 101. Quality adjustment.

Sec. 102. Prevented planting.

Sec. 103. Payment of portion of premium by Corporation.

Sec. 104. Assigned yields.

Sec. 105. Multiyear disaster actual production history adjustment.

Sec. 106. Noninsured crop disaster assistance program.

Sec. 107. Crop insurance coverage for rice.

TITLE II—RESEARCH AND PILOT PROGRAMS

Sec. 201. Research and pilot programs.

Sec. 202. Research and development contracting authority.

Sec. 203. Choice of risk management options.

Sec. 204. Risk management innovation and competition pilot program.

Sec. 205. Education and research.

Sec. 206. Conforming amendments.

TITLE III—ADMINISTRATION

Sec. 301. Board of Directors of Corporation.

Sec. 302. Good farming practices.

Sec. 303. Sanctions for program noncompliance and fraud.

Sec. 304. Oversight of agents and loss adjusters.

Sec. 305. Adequate coverage for States.

Sec. 306. Records and reporting.

Sec. 307. Fees for plans of insurance.

Sec. 308. Limitation on double insurance.

Sec. 309. Specialty crops.

Sec. 310. Federal Crop Insurance Improvement Commission.

Sec. 311. Highly erodible land and wetland conservation.

Sec. 312. Projected loss ratio.

Sec. 313. Compliance with State licensing requirements.

TITLE IV—MISCELLANEOUS PROVISIONS

Sec. 401. Improved risk management education.

Sec. 402. Sense of the Senate regarding the Federal crop insurance program.

TITLE V—EFFECTIVE DATES;
TERMINATION OF AUTHORITY

Sec. 501. Effective dates.

Sec. 502. Termination of authority.

On page 7, strike lines 13 through 15 and insert the following:

“(F) CROP YEARS.—This paragraph shall apply to each of the 2001 through 2004 crop years.”

On page 10, line 2, strike “or greater than 75 percent” and insert “75, 80, or 85 percent”.

On page 13, line 5, strike “or greater than”.

On page 13, strike lines 20 through 22 and insert the following:

“(F) In the case of additional coverage equal to 80 percent of the recorded or appraised average yield indemnified at 100 percent of the expected market price, or a comparable coverage for a plan of insurance that is not based on yield, the amount shall be equal to the sum of—

“(i) 38 percent of the amount of the premium established for coverage at 80 percent of the recorded or appraised average yield indemnified at 100 percent of the expected market price under subsection (d)(2)(D)(i); and

“(ii) the amount of operating and administrative expenses determined under subsection (d)(2)(D)(ii).

“(G) In the case of additional coverage equal to 85 percent of the recorded or appraised average yield indemnified at 100 percent of the expected market price, or a comparable coverage for a plan of insurance that is not based on yield, the amount shall be equal to the sum of—

“(i) 28 percent of the amount of the premium established for coverage at 85 percent of the recorded or appraised average yield indemnified at 100 percent of the expected market price under subsection (d)(2)(D)(i); and

“(ii) the amount of operating and administrative expenses determined under subsection (d)(2)(D)(ii).

“(H) Subparagraphs (A) through (G) shall apply to each of fiscal years 2001 through 2004.”

On page 23, after line 25, add the following:

SEC. 107. CROP INSURANCE COVERAGE FOR RICE.

Section 508(a) of the Federal Crop Insurance Act (7 U.S.C. 1508(a)) (as amended by section 102(a)) is amended by adding at the end the following:

“(8) SPECIAL PROVISIONS FOR RICE.—Notwithstanding any other provision of this title, beginning with the 2001 crop of rice, the Corporation shall offer plans of insurance, including prevented planting coverage and replanting coverage, under this title that cover losses of rice resulting from failure of irrigation water supplies due to drought and saltwater intrusion.”

On page 25, line 13, strike “and”.

On page 25, line 15, strike the period at the end and insert a semicolon.

On page 25, between lines 15 and 16, insert the following:

“(H) subject to paragraph (7), after October 1, 2000, salmon; and

“(I) subject to paragraph (7), after October 1, 2000, loss of or damage to trees or fruit affected by plum pox virus (commonly known as ‘sharka’), including quarantined trees or fruit.

On page 27, line 2, strike “\$20,000,000” and insert “\$10,000,000”.

On page 27, line 4, strike “\$40,000,000” and insert “\$30,000,000”.

On page 27, line 6, strike “\$60,000,000” and insert “\$50,000,000”.

On page 27, line 8, strike “\$80,000,000” and insert “\$60,000,000”.

On page 27, line 10, insert “(3)(H),” after “(3)(G),”.

On page 32, line 17, strike "and".

On page 32, line 20, strike the period and insert "; and".

On page 32, between lines 20 and 21, insert the following:

"(IV) results in not less than 10 percent of payments being made to producers in States with significant agricultural sectors and traditionally low rates of participation in the Federal crop insurance program.

On page 41, line 17, strike "516(b)(2)(C)" and insert "516(a)(2)(C)".

On page 44, strike line 19 and insert the following:

period at the end and inserting "; and"; and

On page 45, strike line 2 and insert the following:

fiscal year."

On page 45, strike line 3 and insert the following:

SEC. 204. RISK MANAGEMENT INNOVATION AND COMPETITION PILOT PROGRAM.

Section 522 of the Federal Crop Insurance Act (as amended by section 203(a)) is amended by adding at the end the following:

"(d) RISK MANAGEMENT INNOVATION AND COMPETITION.—

"(1) PURPOSE.—The purpose of the pilot program established under this subsection is to determine what incentives are necessary to encourage approved insurance providers to—

"(A) develop and offer innovative risk management products to producers;

"(B) rate premiums for risk management products; and

"(C) competitively market the risk management products.

"(2) ESTABLISHMENT.—

"(A) IN GENERAL.—The Corporation shall establish a pilot program under which approved insurance providers may propose for approval by the Board risk management products involving—

"(i) loss of yield or revenue insurance coverage for 1 or more commodities (including commodities that are not insurable under this title as of the date of enactment of this section, but excluding livestock);

"(ii) rates of premium for the risk management product; or

"(iii) underwriting systems for the risk management product.

"(B) SUBMISSION TO BOARD.—The Board shall review and approve a risk management product before the risk management product may be marketed under this subsection.

"(C) DETERMINATION BY BOARD.—The Board may approve a risk management product for subsidy and reinsurance under this title if the Board determines that—

"(i) the interests of producers of commodities are adequately protected by the risk management product;

"(ii) premium rates charged to producers are actuarially appropriate (within the meaning of section 508(h)(3)(E));

"(iii) the underwriting system of the risk management product is appropriate and adequate;

"(iv) the proposed risk management product is reinsured under this title, is reinsured through private reinsurance, or is self-insured;

"(v) the size of the proposed pilot area is adequate;

"(vi) insurance protection against the risk covered by the proposed risk management product is not generally available from private plans of insurance that are not covered by this title; and

"(vii) such other requirements of this title as the Board determines should apply to the risk management product are met.

"(D) CONFIDENTIALITY.—

"(i) IN GENERAL.—All information concerning a risk management product shall be considered to be confidential commercial or

financial information for the purposes of section 552(b)(4) of title 5, United States Code.

"(ii) STANDARD.—If information concerning a risk management product of an approved insurance provider could be withheld by the Secretary under the standard for privileged or confidential information pertaining to trade secrets and commercial or financial information under section 552(b)(4) of title 5, United States Code, the information shall not be released to the public.

"(3) MARKETING OF RISK MANAGEMENT PRODUCTS.—

"(A) DEFINITION OF ORIGINAL PROVIDER.—In this paragraph, the term 'original provider' means an approved insurance provider that submits a risk management product to the Board for approval under paragraph (2).

"(B) AUTHORITY TO MARKET.—If the Board approves a risk management product under paragraph (2), subject to subparagraph (C), only the original provider may market the risk management product.

"(C) FEE.—

"(i) IN GENERAL.—An approved insurance provider (other than the original provider) that desires to market a risk management product shall pay a fee to the original provider for the right to market the risk management product.

"(ii) AMOUNT.—The original provider shall determine the amount of the fee under clause (i)."

SEC. 205. EDUCATION AND RESEARCH.

Section 522 of the Federal Crop Insurance Act (as amended by section 204) is amended by adding at the end the following:

"(e) EDUCATION AND RESEARCH.—

"(1) IN GENERAL.—Subject to the amounts made available under paragraph (4), the Corporation shall establish the programs described in paragraphs (2) and (3), respectively, for each of fiscal years 2002 through 2004.

"(2) EDUCATION AND INFORMATION PROGRAM.—The Corporation shall establish a program of education and information for producers in States with traditionally low rates of participation in the Federal crop insurance program.

"(3) RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM.—The Corporation shall establish a program of research and development to develop new approaches to increasing participation by producers in States with traditionally low rates of participation in the Federal crop insurance program.

"(4) FUNDING.—From amounts made available under section 516(a)(2)(C) for the choice of risk management options pilot program, the Corporation shall transfer to—

"(A) the education and information program established under paragraph (2)—

"(i) \$5,000,000 for fiscal year 2002;

"(ii) \$6,000,000 for fiscal year 2003; and

"(iii) \$7,000,000 for fiscal year 2004; and

"(B) the research and development program established under paragraph (3), \$3,000,000 for each of fiscal years 2002 through 2004."

SEC. 206. CONFORMING AMENDMENTS.

On page 65, line 23, strike "section 102(a)" and insert "section 107".

On page 65, line 25, strike "(8)" and insert "(9)".

On page 72, lines 18 and 19, strike "section 204(a)(2)" and insert "section 206(a)(2)".

On page 77, strike lines 1 through 7 and insert the following:

"(2) PURCHASE DURING INSURANCE PERIOD.—A producer of a specialty crop may purchase new coverage or increase coverage levels for the specialty crop at any time during the insurance period, subject to a 30-day waiting period and an inspection by the insurance provider to verify acceptability by the insurance provider, if the Corporation determines

that the risk associated with the crop can be adequately rated.

On page 79, strike line 8 and all that follows through page 91, line 11, and insert the following:

SEC. 310. FEDERAL CROP INSURANCE IMPROVEMENT COMMISSION.

Section 515 of the Federal Crop Insurance Act (7 U.S.C. 1515) is amended to read as follows:

"SEC. 515. FEDERAL CROP INSURANCE IMPROVEMENT COMMISSION.

"(a) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

"(1) COMMISSION.—The term 'Commission' means the Federal Crop Insurance Improvement Commission established by subsection (b).

"(b) ESTABLISHMENT OF COMMISSION.—There is established a Commission to be known as the 'Federal Crop Insurance Improvement Commission'.

"(c) MEMBERSHIP.—

"(1) IN GENERAL.—The Commission shall be composed of the following 13 members:

"(A) The Under Secretary for Farm and Foreign Agricultural Services of the Department.

"(B) The manager of the Corporation.

"(C) The Chief Economist of the Department or a person appointed by the Chief Economist.

"(D) An employee of the Office of Management and Budget, appointed by the Director of the Office of Management and Budget.

"(E) A representative of the National Association of Insurance Commissioners, experienced in insurance regulation, appointed by the Secretary.

"(F) Representatives of 4 approved insurance providers or related organizations that provide advisory or analytical support to the crop insurance industry, appointed by the Secretary.

"(G) 2 agricultural economists from academia, appointed by the Secretary.

"(H) 2 representatives of major farm organizations and farmer-owned cooperatives, appointed by the Secretary.

"(2) TIME OF APPOINTMENT.—The members of the Commission shall be appointed not later than 60 days after the date of enactment of the Risk Management for the 21st Century Act.

"(3) TERM.—A member of the Commission shall serve for the life of the Commission.

"(d) DUTIES.—The Commission shall review and make recommendations concerning the following issues:

"(1) The extent to which approved insurance providers should bear the risk of loss for federally subsidized crop insurance.

"(2) Whether the Corporation should—

"(A) continue to provide financial assistance for the benefit of agricultural producers by reinsuring coverage written by approved insurance providers; or

"(B) provide assistance in another form, such as by acting as an excess insurer.

"(3) The extent to which development of new insurance products should be undertaken by the private sector, and how to encourage such development.

"(4) How to focus research and development of new insurance products to include the development of—

"(A) new types of products such as combined area and yield and whole farm revenue coverages; and

"(B) insurance products for specialty crops.

"(5) The use by the Corporation of private sector resources under section 507(c).

"(6) The progress of the Corporation in reducing administrative and operating costs of approved insurance providers under section 508(k)(5).

“(7) The identification of methods, and of organizational, statutory, and structural changes, to enhance and improve—

“(A) delivery of reasonably priced crop insurance products to agricultural producers;

“(B) loss adjustment procedures;

“(C) good farming practices;

“(D) the establishment of premiums; and

“(E) compliance with this title (including regulations issued under this title, the terms and conditions of insurance coverage, and adjustments of losses).

“(e) COMMISSION OPERATIONS.—

“(1) CHAIRPERSON; VOTING.—The Under Secretary for Farm and Foreign Agricultural Services of the Department of Agriculture shall—

“(A) serve as Chairperson of the Commission; and

“(B) vote in the case of a tie.

“(2) MEETINGS.—The Commission shall meet regularly, but not less than 6 times per year.

“(3) DISCLOSURE.—To the extent that the records, papers, or other documents received, prepared, or maintained by the Commission are subject to public disclosure, the documents shall be available for public inspection and copying at the Office of Risk Management.

“(f) FINAL REPORT.—

“(1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 2 years after the date of enactment of the Risk Management for the 21st Century Act, the Commission shall submit to the Committee on Agriculture of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry of the Senate a final report on the review under subsection (d).

“(2) COPIES.—The Commission shall provide copies of the final report to—

“(A) the Secretary; and

“(B) the Board.

“(3) INTERIM REPORTS.—To expedite completion of the work of the Commission, the Commission may submit 1 or more interim reports or reports on 1 or more of the issues to be reviewed.

“(g) TERMINATION.—The Commission shall terminate on the earlier of—

“(1) 60 days after the date on which the Commission submits the final report under subsection (f); or

“(2) September 30, 2004.

“(h) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There are authorized to be appropriated such sums as are necessary to carry out this section.”

On page 92, strike lines 7 through 13 and insert the following:

SEC. 312. PROJECTED LOSS RATIO.

Section 506(o) of the Federal Crop Insurance Act (7 U.S.C. 1506(o)) is amended by striking paragraph (2) and inserting the following:

“(2) PROJECTED LOSS RATIO.—The Corporation shall take such actions, including the establishment of adequate premiums, as are necessary to improve the actuarial soundness of Federal multiperil crop insurance made available under this title to achieve—

“(A) during the period beginning on October 1, 1998, and ending with the 2001 crop year, an overall projected loss ratio of not greater than 1.075; and

“(B) beginning with the 2002 crop year, an overall projected loss ratio of not greater than 1.0.”

SEC. 313. COMPLIANCE WITH STATE LICENSING REQUIREMENTS.

Section 508 of the Federal Crop Insurance Act (7 U.S.C. 1508) (as amended by section 206(a)(1)) is amended by adding at the end the following:

“(n) COMPLIANCE WITH STATE LICENSING REQUIREMENTS.—Any person that sells or solicits the purchase of a policy or plan of in-

surance or adjusts losses under this title, including catastrophic risk protection, in any State shall be licensed and otherwise qualified to do business in that State, and shall comply with all State regulation of such sales and solicitation activities (including commission and anti-rebating regulations), as required by the appropriate insurance regulator of the State in accordance with the relevant insurance laws of the State.”

TITLE IV—MISCELLANEOUS PROVISIONS

SEC. 401. IMPROVED RISK MANAGEMENT EDUCATION.

Title IV of the Agricultural Research, Extension, and Education Reform Act of 1998 (7 U.S.C. 7621 et seq.) is amended by adding at the end the following:

“SEC. 409. IMPROVED RISK MANAGEMENT EDUCATION FOR AGRICULTURAL PRODUCERS.

“(a) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

“(1) CENTER.—The term ‘Center’ means a Risk Management Education Coordinating Center established under subsection (c)(1).

“(2) LAND-GRANT COLLEGE.—The term ‘land-grant college’ means any 1862 Institution, 1890 Institution, or 1994 Institution.

“(b) PROGRAM.—

“(1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall carry out a program to improve the risk management skills of agricultural producers, including the owners and operators of small farms, limited resource producers, and other targeted audiences, to make informed risk management decisions.

“(2) PURPOSE.—The program shall be designed to assist a producer to develop the skills necessary—

“(A) to understand the financial health and capability of the producer’s operation to withstand price fluctuations, adverse weather, environmental impacts, diseases, family crises, and other risks;

“(B) to understand marketing alternatives, how various commodity markets work, the use of crop insurance products, and the price risk inherent in various markets; and

“(C) to understand legal, governmental, environmental, and human resource issues that impact the producer’s operation.

“(c) COORDINATING CENTERS.—

“(1) ESTABLISHMENT AND PURPOSE.—The Secretary shall establish a Risk Management Education Coordinating Center in each of 5 regions of the United States (as determined by the Secretary) to administer and coordinate the provision of risk management education to producers and their families under the program in that region.

“(2) SITE SELECTION.—

“(A) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall locate the Center for a region at—

“(i) a risk management education coordinating office of the Cooperative State Research, Education, and Extension Service that is in existence at a land-grant college on the date of enactment of this section; or

“(ii) an appropriate alternative land-grant college in the region approved by the Secretary.

“(B) LAND-GRANT COLLEGES.—To be selected as the location for a Center, a land-grant college must have the demonstrated capability and capacity to carry out the priorities, funding distribution requirements, and reporting requirements of the program.

“(d) COORDINATING COUNCIL.—

“(1) ESTABLISHMENT.—Each Center shall establish a coordinating council to assist in establishing the funding and program priorities for the region for which the Center was established.

“(2) MEMBERSHIP.—Each council shall consist of a minimum of 5 members, including representatives from—

“(A) public organizations;

“(B) private organizations;

“(C) agricultural producers; and

“(D) the Regional Service Offices of the Risk Management Agency in that region.

“(e) CENTER ACTIVITIES.—

“(1) INSTRUCTION FOR RISK MANAGEMENT PROFESSIONALS.—Each Center shall coordinate the offering of intensive risk management instructional programs, involving classroom learning, distant learning, and field training work, for professionals who work with agricultural producers, including professionals who are—

“(A) extension specialists;

“(B) county extension faculty members;

“(C) private service providers; and

“(D) other individuals involved in providing risk management education.

“(2) EDUCATION PROGRAMS FOR PRODUCERS.—Each Center shall coordinate the provision of educational programs, including workshops, short courses, seminars, and distant-learning modules, to improve the risk management skills of agricultural producers and their families.

“(3) DEVELOPMENT AND DISSEMINATION OF MATERIALS.—Each Center shall coordinate the efforts to develop new risk management education materials and the dissemination of such materials.

“(4) COORDINATION OF RESOURCES.—

“(A) IN GENERAL.—Each Center shall make use of available and emerging risk management information, materials, and delivery systems, after careful evaluation of the content and suitability of the information, materials, and delivery systems for producers and their families.

“(B) USE OF AVAILABLE EXPERTISE.—To assist in conducting the evaluation under subparagraph (A), each Center shall use available expertise from land-grant colleges, non-governmental organizations, government agencies, and the private sector.

“(f) GRANTS.—

“(1) SPECIAL GRANTS.—Each Center shall reserve a portion of the funds provided under this section to make special grants to land-grant colleges and private entities in the region to conduct 1 or more of the activities described in subsection (e).

“(2) COMPETITIVE GRANTS.—Each Center shall reserve a portion of the funds provided under this section to conduct a competitive grant program to award grants to both public and private entities that have a demonstrated capability to conduct 1 or more of the activities described in subsection (e).

“(g) NATIONAL AGRICULTURE RISK EDUCATION LIBRARY.—The National Agriculture Risk Education Library shall—

“(1) serve as a central agency for the coordination and distribution of risk management educational materials; and

“(2) provide a means for the electronic delivery of risk management information and materials.

“(h) FUNDING PROVISIONS.—

“(1) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There is authorized to be appropriated to carry out this section \$30,000,000 for fiscal year 2001 and each subsequent fiscal year.

“(2) DISTRIBUTION.—

“(A) NATIONAL AGRICULTURE RISK EDUCATION LIBRARY.—For each fiscal year, of the funds made available to carry out this section, 2.5 percent shall be distributed to the National Agriculture Risk Education Library.

“(B) CENTERS.—For each fiscal year, the remainder of the funds made available to carry out this section shall be distributed equally among the Centers.

“(C) ADMINISTRATION BY LAND-GRANT COLLEGES.—The land-grant college at which a Center is located shall be responsible for administering and disbursing funds described

in subparagraph (B), in accordance with applicable State and Federal financial guidelines, for activities authorized by this section.

“(3) PROHIBITION ON CONSTRUCTION.—

“(A) LOCATION OF CENTERS.—Each Center shall be located in a facility in existence on the date of enactment of this section.

“(B) PROHIBITION.—Funds provided under this section shall not be used to carry out construction of any facility.

“(i) EVALUATION.—The Secretary, acting through the Cooperative State Research, Education, and Extension Service, shall evaluate the activities of each Center to determine whether the risk management skills of agricultural producers and their families are improved as a result of their participation in educational activities financed using funds made available under subsection (h).”.

SEC. 402. SENSE OF THE SENATE REGARDING THE FEDERAL CROP INSURANCE PROGRAM.

It is the sense of the Senate that—

(1) farmer-owned cooperatives play a valuable role in achieving the purposes of the Federal Crop Insurance Act (7 U.S.C. 1501 et seq.) by—

(A) encouraging producer participation in the Federal crop insurance program;

(B) improving the delivery system for crop insurance; and

(C) helping to develop new and improved insurance products;

(2) the Risk Management Agency, through its regulatory activities, should encourage efforts by farmer-owned cooperatives to promote appropriate risk management strategies among their membership;

(3) partnerships between approved insurance providers and farmer-owned cooperatives provide opportunity for agricultural producers to obtain needed insurance coverage on a more competitive basis and at a lower cost;

(4) the Risk Management Agency is following an appropriate regulatory process to ensure the continued participation by farmer-owned cooperatives in the delivery of crop insurance;

(5) efforts by the Risk Management Agency to finalize regulations that would incorporate the currently approved business practices of cooperatives participating in the Federal crop insurance program should be commended; and

(6) not later than 180 days after the date of enactment of this Act, the Federal Crop Insurance Corporation should complete promulgation of the proposed rule entitled “General Administrative Regulations; Premium Reductions; Payment of Rebates, Dividends, and Patronage Refunds; and Payments to Insured-Owned and Record-Controlling Entities”, published by the Federal Crop Insurance Corporation on May 12, 1999 (64 Fed. Reg. 25464), in a manner that—

(A) effectively responds to comments received from the public during the rule-making process;

(B) provides an effective opportunity for farmer-owned cooperatives to assist the members of the cooperatives to obtain crop insurance and participate most effectively in the Federal crop insurance program;

(C) incorporates the currently approved business practices of farmer-owned cooperatives participating in the Federal crop insurance program; and

(D) protects the interests of agricultural producers.

TITLE V—EFFECTIVE DATES; TERMINATION OF AUTHORITY

SEC. 501. EFFECTIVE DATES.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Except as provided in subsections (b) and (c)(2) and section 502(a), this Act and the amendments made by this

Act take effect on the date of enactment of this Act.

On page 92, line 15, insert “subsection (c)(2) and” after “carry out”.

On page 92, line 17, strike “204” and insert “206”.

Beginning on page 92, strike line 23 and all that follows through page 93, line 9, and insert the following:

(2) INDEMNITY PAYMENTS FOR CERTAIN PRODUCERS OF DURUM WHEAT.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—Except as otherwise provided in this paragraph, notwithstanding section 508(c)(5) of the Federal Crop Insurance Act (7 U.S.C. 1508(c)(5)), a producer of durum wheat that purchased a 1999 Crop Revenue Coverage wheat policy by the sales closing date prescribed in the actuarial documents in the county where the policy was sold shall receive an indemnity payment in accordance with the policy.

(B) BASE AND HARVEST PRICES.—The base price and harvest price under the policy shall be determined in accordance with the Commodity Exchange Endorsement for wheat published by the Federal Crop Insurance Corporation on July 14, 1998 (63 Fed. Reg. 37829).

(C) REINSURANCE.—Subject to subparagraph (B), notwithstanding section 508(c)(5) of the Federal Crop Insurance Act (7 U.S.C. 1508(c)(5)), the Corporation shall provide reinsurance with respect to the policy in accordance with the Standard Reinsurance Agreement.

(D) VOIDING OF BULLETIN.—Bulletin MGR-99-004, issued by the Administrator of the Risk Management Agency of the Department of Agriculture, is void.

(E) EFFECTIVE DATE.—This paragraph takes effect on October 1, 2000.

On page 93, line 10, strike “sec. 402.” and insert “sec. 502.”.

On page 94, strike lines 1 and 2 and insert the following:

1508(a) is amended by redesignating paragraph (8) (as added by section 107) and paragraph (9) (as added by section 305) as paragraph (7) and paragraph (8), respectively.

On page 94, line 5, strike “203” and insert “205”.

On page 94, line 24, strike “subsection (c)” and insert “subsections (c), (d), and (e)”.

WELLSTONE AMENDMENT NO. 2888

Mr. WELLSTONE proposed an amendment to the bill, S. 2251, supra; as follows:

On page 92, strike lines 7 through 13 and insert the following:

TITLE IV—MISCELLANEOUS PROVISIONS

SEC. 401. SENSE OF CONGRESS ON RALLY FOR RURAL AMERICA AND RURAL CRISIS.

(a) FINDINGS.—Congress finds that—

(1) on March 20-21, 2000, thousands of rural citizens, working families, and those representing the environmental and religious communities traveled to Washington, D.C., to participate in the Rally for Rural America;

(2) a broad coalition of over 30 farm, environmental, and labor organizations that are concerned that rural America has been left behind during this time of prosperity participated in organizing the Rally for Rural America;

(3) although the majority of America has reaped the benefits of the strong economy, rural Americans are facing their toughest times in recent memory;

(4) the record low prices on farms and ranches of the United States have rippled throughout rural America causing rural communities to face numerous challenges, including—

(A) a depressed farm economy;

(B) an escalation of mergers and acquisitions;

(C) a loss of businesses and jobs on rural main street;

(D) erosion of health care and education;

(E) a decline in infrastructure;

(F) a reduction of capital investments; and

(G) a loss of independent family farmers;

(5) the Rally for Rural America urged Congress to reform the Federal Agriculture Improvement and Reform Act of 1996 (Public Law 104-127) to formulate rural policies in a manner that will alleviate the agricultural price crisis, ensure fair and open markets, and encourage fair trade;

(6) thousands of rural citizens have advocated farm policies that include—

(A) a strong safety net for all agricultural producers;

(B) competitive markets;

(C) an investment in rural education and health care;

(D) protection of natural resources for the next generation;

(E) a safe and secure food supply;

(F) revitalization of our farm families and rural communities; and

(G) fair and equitable implementation of government programs;

(7) because agricultural commodity prices are so far below the costs of production, eventually family farmers will no longer be able to pay their bills or provide for their families;

(8) anti-competitive practices and concentration are a cause of concern for American agriculture;

(9) rural America needs a fair and well reasoned farm policy, not unpredictable and inequitable disaster payments;

(10) disaster payments do not provide for real, meaningful change; and

(11) the economic conditions and pressures in rural America require real change.

(b) SENSE OF CONGRESS.—It is the sense of Congress that—

(1) the participants in the Rally for Rural America are commended and their pleas have been heard; and

(2) Congress should respond with a clear and strong message to the participants and rural families that Congress is committed to giving the crisis in agriculture, and all of rural America, its full attention by reforming rural policies in a manner that will—

(A) alleviate the agricultural price crisis;

(B) ensure competitive markets;

(C) invest in rural education and health care;

(D) protect our natural resources for future generations; and

(E) ensure a safe and secure food supply for all.

TITLE V—EFFECTIVE DATES; TERMINATION OF AUTHORITY

SEC. 501. EFFECTIVE DATES.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Except as provided in subsections (b) and (c)(2) and section 502(a), this Act and the amendments made by this Act take effect on the date of enactment of this Act.

On page 93, line 10, strike “Sec. 402.” and insert “Sec. 502.”.

AUTHORITY FOR COMMITTEES TO MEET

COMMITTEE ON COMMERCE, SCIENCE, AND TRANSPORTATION

Mr. GRASSLEY. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate Committee on Commerce, Science, and transportation be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Wednesday, March 22, 2000, at 9:30 a.m.