



Thomas A. Schatz
President

June 19, 2012

U.S. Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Senator,

You are considering S. 3240, the Agriculture Reform, Food, and Jobs Act of 2012. The legislation eliminates some wasteful programs, such as the Average Crop Revenue Election (ACRE) program, direct payments, and counter-cyclical payments, but many profligate programs are left largely unreformed and new ones have been created. Although the Council for Citizens Against Government Waste (CCAGW) opposes S. 3240 in its entirety, we urge you to support the following motions and amendments that will be offered to the Farm Bill:

- Sen. Mike Lee's (R-Utah) motion to recommit the bill to the Agriculture Committee with instructions to limit spending to fiscal year 2008 levels, which would cut \$250 billion from the current proposed legislation.
- Amendment #2167 offered by Sen. Charles Grassley (R-Iowa) to limit marketing loan gains and loan deficiency payments to individuals or entities to \$75,000.
- Amendment #2181 offered by Sen. Rand Paul (R-Ky.) to limit payments or other benefits to individuals or entities with an average adjusted gross income that exceeds \$250,000.
- Amendment #2195 offered by Sen. Kelly Ayotte (R-N.H.) to require the Government Accountability Office to issue a report on crop insurance fraud.
- Amendment #2199 offered by Sen. John McCain (R-Ariz.) to eliminate the duplicative USDA catfish inspection office.
- Amendment #2214 offered by Sen. Tom Coburn (R-Okla.) to prohibit the use of public funds for political party conventions and to provide the return of previously distributed funds to the Treasury for deficit reduction.
- Amendment #2238 offered by Sen. Robert Casey (D-Pa.) to require a feasibility study of establishing 2 classes of milk, a fluid class and a manufacturing class, to replace the 4-class system.
- Amendment #2268 offered by Sen. Jim DeMint (R-S.C.) to prohibit loan guarantees in the farm bill.
- Amendment #2289 offered by Sen. Tom Coburn (R-Okla.) to reduce the Market Access Program by 20 percent.

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- Amendment #2293 offered by Sen. Tom Coburn (R-Okla.) to end conservation payments to millionaires.
- Amendment #2439 offered by Sens. Tom Coburn (R-Okla.) and Richard Durbin (D-Ill.) to reduce the level of federal premium support for crop insurance participants with an adjusted gross income over \$750,000 by 15 percentage points for all buy-up policies beyond catastrophic coverage.
- Amendment #2432 offered by Sen. Saxby Chambliss (R-Ga.) to eliminate funding for the Farmers Market Promotion Program.
- Amendment #2433 offered by Sen. Pat Toomey (R-Pa.) to reform the sugar program by reversing onerous provisions that were passed in 2008, while improving program administration and transparency.
- Amendment #2444 offered by Sen. Susan Collins (R-Maine) to require a feasibility study of transitioning the Federal Milk Marketing Orders system to a competitive pricing system.

CCAGW opposes the following amendment:

- Amendment #2190 offered by Sen. Olympia Snowe (R-Maine), which sets price controls, picks winners and losers, and inhibits a free dairy market.

Senators should use the Farm Bill as an opportunity to address duplication, cut wasteful spending, and make reforms to allow the free market to function efficiently. All votes on S. 3240 will be among those considered in CCAGW's *2012 Congressional Ratings*.

Sincerely,

Thomas Schatz