

From: "steven.hasstedt@diego.af.mil%inter2" <steven.hasstedt@diego.af.mil>
Subject: Farm Bill 2007 Official Comments - 09/06/2005 09:41 AM CDT
Date Sent: 09/06/2005 09:41:11 CDT
Date Received: 09/06/2005 09:43:00 CDT

Email: steven.hasstedt@diego.af.mil

FirstName: Steven

LastName: Hasstedt

Address1: Det 1, 715 AMOG (AMC)

Address2: PSC 466 Box 32

City: FPO AP

State:

zipcode: 96595

Question1: Continue to support voluntary land withdrawal/habitat programs and ensure the Joint Committee on Taxation does not eliminate property tax deductions for conservation easements.

Question2: Encourage the development of alternative bio-fuels as an incentive to push away from our non-renewable, fossil fuel based economy. Our labor rates can't compete with 3rd world competitors, time to refocus on our ingenuity and inventiveness while preserving the farming/ranching heritage.

Question3: Cut back on farm insurance programs and price incentives that predominantly benefit corporate farms. Payments for lost crops along water drainages, tiled wetlands, etc. should be eliminated to discourage planting in these areas in the first place. Incentivize these areas for habitat, water purification/buffers, etc.

Question4: Continue and EXPAND the Conservation Reserve Program and its many federal and state sister programs! CRP is vital to preserving and protecting farmland from development and through programs like the CRP, these private lands are not only vital for the stewardship of our natural resources, but they become accessible to the public through programs like walk in hunting areas, waterfowl production areas, etc.

Question5: Continue to fund and expand CRP and capture/advertise to the general public the tremendous boost hunters, fishermen, and other sportsmen provide to rural economies. Many no longer hunt due to the paucity of quality public land to hunt and the general reticence of many private landowners to allow walk in hunters -- focus on the positive aspects and expand these programs, making hunting, birding, etc. more accessible to bring in more money to rural towns.

Question6: Focusing more on conservation and the stewardship and biodiversity aspects associated with CRP and soil bank type programs. Equally important focus on infrastructure development and new technology exploration on renewable, bio-fuel alternatives to petroleum. Ethanol isn't going to cut it in its current form, let's get this into the public eye and beyond the "Bio-Willy" jokes into something our nation can use and profit from while enhancing rural economies. Tap a viable, renewable energy source as an alternative to petroleum and we'll have no problem marketing to either domestic or foreign markets.