



May 22nd, 2007

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NAUFRP Members:

See information below from the Board on Agriculture of NASULGC and its outside consulting team at Cornerstone. The key development here is that as I mentioned in emails to several of you last week, efforts to combine Forest Service Research and ARS under one roof with CSREES as originally contemplated by CREATE-21 are now being scaled back. Congressman John Barrow of Georgia introduced a revised version of CREATE-21 yesterday as H.R. 2398. Below are links to that bill and to the Research Title discussion draft released by the House Agriculture Committee. This Research Title includes the necessary 5 year extension of the authorization of RREA along with authorization for many other CSREES programs. McIntire-Stennis has a permanent authorization and so no extension is needed in the Research Title of the Farm Bill. In 2002, we did get sense of the Congress language in the Forestry Title of the Farm Bill expressing the importance of the McIntire-Stennis program and NAUFRP under the leadership of Executive Committee Member Steven Daley Laursen has been working on similar language for the Forestry Title for this year. The House Agriculture Committee has not yet released a Forestry Title draft. If you have questions about Farm Bill developments, please feel free to email me or give me a call. On the Appropriations side, I am hearing that the House Appropriations Committee intends to delay the FY 08 Agriculture Appropriations bill for several more weeks while the Farm Bill is being considered because if the impact the new Farm Bill might have on appropriations. While the Agriculture Appropriations bill is traditionally one of the early bills to be considered during the annual appropriations process, this year the Ag appropriations bill may be one of the last bills marked up by the Committee.

Randy Nuckolls
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From: Fred Hutchison [mailto:fhh@cgagroup.com]
Sent: Tuesday, May 22, 2007 11:56 AM
Subject: ACTION ALERT -- Immediate Attention Requested!

ACTION ALERT - HOUSE COSPONSORS NEEDED! !

This is to alert you to two developments that occurred late yesterday with respect to CREATE-21 and the Research Title of the Farm Bill.

1. House Bill Introduced - H.R. 2398

Rep. John Barrow has introduced a revised version of the CREATE-21 legislation. H.R.

2398 drops ARS, ERS, and Forest Service R&D from the USDA reorganization but retains the other key elements of CREATE-21. The bill also includes NASULGC's other Farm Bill proposals. **NOTE:** The House Agriculture Committee has indicated no interest in agency mergers as initially proposed in CREATE-21. Therefore we strongly encourage the land-grant system's support of H. R. 2398.

Barrow, a member of the House Agriculture Committee was joined by two other members of that panel - Reps. David Scott (D-GA) and Zack Space (D-OH) - and Rep. Sanford Bishop, Jr. as original cosponsors. **It is critical that we throw the entire weight of the land-grant system behind securing additional cosponsors to H.R. 2398 this week!**

LINKS:

H.R. 2398 >> www.create-21.org/documents/PDF/HR2398.pdf

Summary >> www.create-21.org/documents/PDF/HR2398_Summary.pdf

ACTION ITEM: Contact your House members and ask them to cosponsor H.R. 2398! Agriculture Committee members are particularly important!

2. Subcommittee "Discussion Draft" Unveiled

The other major development yesterday was the release by the House Agriculture Subcommittee on Conservation, Credit, Energy, and Research of draft of language for the Research Title of the Farm Bill. The draft was reviewed by the Cornerstone team and we have provided extensive comments back to staff. This discussion draft could likely change before the subcommittee markup (expected today and tomorrow) and will also be subject to significant discussion and possible further revision in the two to three weeks between the subcommittee and full committee markups.

LINKS:

Discussion Draft >> <http://agriculture.house.gov/inside/Legislation/110/Research.pdf>

Summary >> <http://agriculture.house.gov/inside/Legislation/110/ResearchSecbySec.pdf>

Comments >> www.create-21.org/documents/PDF/discussion_comments.pdf

As you can see, some of the key elements of CREATE-21 have been included in the discussion draft while others have not. However, this is only the starting point in the legislative process and with your continued assistance, further improvements are possible.

The best way for you to influence this process in the immediate future is to encourage House members to cosponsor H.R. 2398. The more support we build for H.R. 2398, the more leverage we gain within the Agriculture Committee to include more of the specifics of CREATE-21, and the many related provisions, in the final Farm Bill product.

Again, it is important to note that the subcommittee and full committee chairmen and staff have released the discussion draft as a starting point and they fully expect and intend to further refine and add to the legislation before and/or during the

subcommittee and full committee markups.

We need your immediate assistance. Call you representatives and ask them to cosponsor H.R. 2398.

Thank you for your support and assistance.

Sincerely,

The CREATE-21 Co-Chairs:

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