

111TH CONGRESS  
1ST SESSION

# H. R. 3524

To amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to provide an exclusion from the gross estate for certain farmlands and lands subject to qualified conservation easements, and for other purposes.

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## IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

JULY 31, 2009

Mr. THOMPSON of California (for himself and Mr. SALAZAR) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Ways and Means

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## A BILL

To amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to provide an exclusion from the gross estate for certain farmlands and lands subject to qualified conservation easements, and for other purposes.

1 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*  
2 *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

3 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

4 This Act may be cited as the “Family Farm Preser-  
5 vation and Conservation Estate Tax Act”.

1 **SEC. 2. EXCLUSION FROM GROSS ESTATE FOR CERTAIN**  
2 **FARMLAND SO LONG AS FARMLAND USE**  
3 **CONTINUES.**

4 (a) IN GENERAL.—Part III of subchapter A of chap-  
5 ter 11 of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 (relating to  
6 gross estate) is amended by inserting after section 2033  
7 the following new section:

8 **“SEC. 2033A. EXCLUSION OF CERTAIN FARMLAND SO LONG**  
9 **AS USE AS FARMLAND CONTINUES.**

10 “(a) IN GENERAL.—In the case of an estate of a de-  
11 cedent to which this section applies, if the executor makes  
12 the election described in subsection (f), the value of the  
13 gross estate shall not include the adjusted value of quali-  
14 fied farmland included in the estate.

15 “(b) ESTATES TO WHICH SECTION APPLIES.—This  
16 section shall apply to an estate if—

17 “(1) the decedent was (at the date of the dece-  
18 dent’s death) a citizen or resident of the United  
19 States, and

20 “(2) during the 8-year period ending on the  
21 date of the decedent’s death there have been periods  
22 aggregating 5 years or more during which—

23 “(A) the qualified farmland was owned by  
24 the decedent or a member of the decedent’s  
25 family, and

1           “(B) there was material participation  
2           (within the meaning of section 2032A(e)(6)) by  
3           the decedent or a member of the decedent’s  
4           family in the operation of such farmland, except  
5           that ‘material participation’ shall also include  
6           any rental of real estate and related property  
7           between the estate of the decedent or any suc-  
8           cessor thereto and any tenant so long as the  
9           tenant uses the real estate and related property  
10          to produce agricultural or horticultural com-  
11          modities, including but not limited to livestock,  
12          bees, poultry, orchards and woodlands, timber  
13          and fur-bearing animals and wildlife on such  
14          farmland.

15          Rules similar to the rules of paragraphs (4) and (5)  
16          of section 2032A(b) shall apply for purposes of sub-  
17          paragraph (B).

18          “(c) DEFINITIONS AND SPECIAL RULE.—For pur-  
19          poses of this section—

20                 “(1) QUALIFIED FARMLAND.—The term ‘quali-  
21                 fied farmland’ means any real property or other  
22                 property related to the farm operation—

23                         “(A) which is located in the United States,

24                         “(B) which is used as a farm for farming  
25                         purposes, and

1           “(C) which was acquired from or passed  
2           from the decedent to a qualified heir of the de-  
3           cedent and which, on the date of the decedent’s  
4           death, was being so used by the decedent or a  
5           member of the decedent’s family.

6           “(2) MEMBER OF FAMILY.—A member of a  
7           family, with respect to any individual, means—

8                   “(A) a member of the family (as defined  
9                   by section 2031A(e)(2)), and

10                   “(B) includes—

11                           “(i) a lineal descendant of any spouse  
12                           described in subparagraph (D) of section  
13                           2032A(e)(2),

14                           “(ii) a lineal descendant of a sibling of  
15                           a parent of such individual,

16                           “(iii) a spouse of any lineal descend-  
17                           ant described in clause (ii), and

18                           “(iv) a lineal descendant of a spouses  
19                           described in clause (iii).

20           “(3) ADJUSTED VALUE.—The term ‘adjusted  
21           value’ means the value of farmland for purposes of  
22           this chapter (determined without regard to this sec-  
23           tion), reduced by the amount deductible under para-  
24           graph (3) or (4) of section 2053(a).

1           “(4) OTHER TERMS.—Any other term used in  
2 this section which is also used in section 2032A shall  
3 have the same meaning given such term by section  
4 2032A.

5           “(d) TAX TREATMENT OF DISPOSITIONS AND FAIL-  
6 URES TO USE FOR FARMING PURPOSES.—

7           “(1) IMPOSITION OF RECAPTURE TAX.—If, at  
8 any time after the decedent’s death—

9                   “(A) the qualified heir disposes of any in-  
10 terest in qualified farmland (other than by a  
11 disposition to a member of his family), or

12                   “(B) the qualified heir ceases to use the  
13 real property which was acquired (or passed)  
14 from the decedent as a farm for farming pur-  
15 poses,

16 then there is hereby imposed a recapture tax on  
17 such disposition or cessation of use.

18           “(2) AMOUNT OF RECAPTURE TAX.—The  
19 amount of the tax imposed by paragraph (1) shall  
20 be the excess of—

21                   “(A) the tax which would have been im-  
22 posed by section 2001 on the estate of the dece-  
23 dent but determined as if such estate included  
24 the interest in qualified farmland described in  
25 paragraph (1) which was so disposed of or

1           ceased to be so used, reduced by the credits al-  
2           lowable against such tax, over

3           “(B) the tax imposed by section 2001 on  
4           the estate of the decedent, reduced by such  
5           credits.

6           For purposes of this paragraph, the value of the in-  
7           terest in qualified farmland specified in subpara-  
8           graph (A) shall be the adjusted value of such inter-  
9           est as of the date of the disposition or cessation of  
10          such interest described in paragraph (1).

11          “(3) REGULATIONS.—The Secretary may pre-  
12          scribe such regulations as may be necessary or ap-  
13          propriate to carry out this subsection, including reg-  
14          ulations requiring record keeping and information  
15          reporting, except that the Secretary may not impose  
16          a lien on the estate of the decedent or qualified  
17          farmland for such purposes.

18          “(e) APPLICATION OF OTHER RULES.—Rules similar  
19          to the rules of subsections (e) (other than paragraph (13))  
20          thereof, (f), (g), (h), and (i) of section 2032A shall apply  
21          for purposes of this section.

22          “(f) ELECTION.—The election under this subsection  
23          shall be made on or before the due date (including exten-  
24          sions) for filing the return of tax imposed by section 2001  
25          and shall be made on such return.”.

1 (b) CLERICAL AMENDMENT.—The table of sections  
 2 for part III of subchapter A of chapter 11 of such Code  
 3 is amended by inserting after the item relating to section  
 4 2033 the following new item:

“Sec. 2033A. Exclusion of certain farmland so long as use as farmland con-  
 tinues.”.

5 (c) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendments made by  
 6 this section shall apply to estates of decedents dying after  
 7 the date of the enactment of this Act.

8 **SEC. 3. TEMPORARY EXCLUSION OF QUALIFIED CONSERVA-**  
 9 **TION EASEMENTS.**

10 (a) IN GENERAL.—Part III of subchapter A of chap-  
 11 ter 11 of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 (relating to  
 12 gross estate), as amended by section 2, is amended by in-  
 13 serting after section 2033A the following new section:

14 **“SEC. 2033B. TEMPORARY EXCLUSION OF QUALIFIED CON-**  
 15 **SERVATION EASEMENTS.**

16 “(a) IN GENERAL.—In the case of an estate of a de-  
 17 cedent to which this section applies, if the executor makes  
 18 the election described in subsection (d)—

19 “(1) the value of the gross estate shall not in-  
 20 clude the value of land subject to a qualified con-  
 21 servation easement included in the estate, but

22 “(2) a tax under subsection (b) shall apply.

23 “(b) TAX TREATMENT OF DISPOSITIONS AND FOR  
 24 USE INCOMPATIBLE WITH CONSERVATION EASEMENT.—

1           “(1) IMPOSITION OF RECAPTURE TAX.—If, at  
2 any time after the decedent’s death—

3           “(A) the qualified heir disposes of any in-  
4 terest in the land described in subsection (a)(1)  
5 (other than by a disposition to a member of his  
6 family), or

7           “(B) the qualified heir uses any portion of  
8 the land described in subsection (a)(1) in a  
9 manner which violates the terms of such ease-  
10 ment,

11 then there is hereby imposed a recapture tax on  
12 such disposition or use.

13           “(2) AMOUNT OF RECAPTURE TAX.—The  
14 amount of the tax imposed by paragraph (1) shall  
15 be the excess of—

16           “(A) the tax which would have been im-  
17 posed by section 2001 on the estate of the dece-  
18 dent, determined as if—

19           “(i) section 2031(c) did not apply,  
20 and

21           “(ii) as if such estate included the in-  
22 terest described in paragraph (1)(A) or the  
23 portion described in paragraph (1)(B), as  
24 applicable,

1 reduced by the credits allowable against such  
2 tax, over

3 “(B) the tax imposed by section 2001 on  
4 the estate of the decedent, reduced by such  
5 credits.

6 For purposes of this paragraph, the value of any in-  
7 terest in land or portion of land subject to a quali-  
8 fied conservation easement shall be the fair market  
9 value of such interest or portion as of the date of  
10 the disposition or use of such interest or portion de-  
11 scribed in paragraph (1).

12 “(3) REGULATIONS.—The Secretary may pre-  
13 scribe such regulations as may be necessary or ap-  
14 propriate to carry out this subsection, including reg-  
15 ulations requiring record keeping and information  
16 reporting, except that the Secretary may not impose  
17 a lien on the estate of the decedent, land subject to  
18 a qualified conservation easement, or qualified con-  
19 servation easement for such purposes.

20 “(c) LAND SUBJECT TO QUALIFIED CONSERVATION  
21 EASEMENT.—For purposes of this section, the terms ‘land  
22 subject to a qualified conservation easement’ and ‘quali-  
23 fied conservation easement’ have the meanings given such  
24 terms by section 2031(c)(8).

1       “(d) ELECTION.—The election under this subsection  
2 shall be made on or before the due date (including exten-  
3 sions) for filing the return of tax imposed by section 2001  
4 and shall be made on such return.”.

5       (b) CLERICAL AMENDMENT.—The table of sections  
6 for subchapter B of chapter 62 of such Code is amended  
7 by adding at the end the following new item:

“Sec. 2033B. Temporary exclusion of qualified conservation easements.”.

8       (c) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendments made by  
9 this section shall apply to estates of decedents dying after  
10 the date of the enactment of this Act.

11 **SEC. 4. MODIFICATION OF DEFINITION OF QUALIFIED CON-**  
12 **SERVATION EASEMENT.**

13       (a) IN GENERAL.—Subparagraph (B) of section  
14 2031(c)(8) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 is  
15 amended by striking “and the restriction on the use of  
16 such interest described in section 170(h)(2)(C) shall in-  
17 clude a prohibition on more than a de minimis use for  
18 a commercial recreational activity”.

19       (b) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendments made by  
20 this section shall apply to estates of decedents dying after  
21 the date of the enactment of this Act.

1 **SEC. 5. MODIFICATION OF RULES RELATING TO VALU-**  
2 **ATION OF CERTAIN FARM, ETC., REAL PROP-**  
3 **ERTY.**

4 (a) DISPOSITION OF INTEREST SUBJECT TO QUALI-  
5 FIED CONSERVATION EASEMENT.—Subparagraph (A) of  
6 section 2032A(c)(1) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986  
7 is amended by striking “family)” and inserting “family  
8 or by a disposition to any other person when such interest  
9 in real property is subject to a qualified conservation ease-  
10 ment (as defined in section 2031(c)(8)(B))”.

11 (b) WOODLANDS SUBJECT TO MANAGEMENT  
12 PLAN.—Paragraph (2) of section 2032A(c) of such Code  
13 is amended by adding at the end the following new sub-  
14 paragraph:

15 “(F) EXCEPTION FOR WOODLANDS SUB-  
16 JECT TO MANAGEMENT PLAN.—Subparagraph  
17 (E) shall not apply to any disposition or sever-  
18 ance of standing timber on a qualified woodland  
19 that is made pursuant to—

20 “(i) a written forest management plan  
21 developed by a credentialed professional  
22 forester,

23 “(ii) a written forest management  
24 plan that is equivalent to a forest steward-  
25 ship plan, or

1                   “(iii) a third-party audited forest cer-  
2                   tification system or similar land manage-  
3                   ment protocol.”.

4           (c) SALE OF CONSERVATION EASEMENT NOT A DIS-  
5 POSITION.—Paragraph (8) of section 2032A(e) of such  
6 Code is amended—

7           (1) by striking “A qualified” and inserting  
8           “Neither a qualified”, and

9           (2) by inserting “nor a sale of a conservation  
10           easement limiting the use of qualified real property”  
11           after “otherwise”.

12          (d) FARM DEFINED.—Paragraph (4) of section  
13 2032A(e) of such Code is amended by striking “orchards  
14 and woodlands” and inserting “orchards, woodlands, and  
15 properties managed to provide habitat in support of fish  
16 and wildlife dependent recreation”.

17          (e) FARMING PURPOSE DEFINED.—Paragraph (5) of  
18 section 2032A(e) of such Code is amended—

19           (1) in subparagraph (A) by inserting “, silvicol-  
20           tural,” after “agricultural”, and

21           (2) by striking “and” at the end of subpara-  
22           graph (B), by striking the period at the end of sub-  
23           paragraph (C) and inserting “, and”, and by adding  
24           at the end the following:

1           “(D) creating, restoring, enhancing, or  
2           maintaining habitat for the purpose of gener-  
3           ating revenue from nature-oriented recreational  
4           opportunities, including hunting, fishing, wild-  
5           life observation, and related fish and wildlife de-  
6           pendent recreation.”.

7           (f) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendments made by  
8           this section shall apply to estates of decedents dying after  
9           the date of the enactment of this Act.

○