

105TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

H. R. 4508

To amend the Agricultural Act of 1970 to authorize the provision of monetary assistance for the purpose of alleviating the distress of agricultural producers caused by natural disasters.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

AUGUST 6, 1998

Mr. STENHOLM (for himself, Mrs. EMERSON, Mr. LUCAS of Oklahoma, Mr. JOHNSON of Wisconsin, Mr. BERRY, Mr. FROST, Mr. EDWARDS, Mr. THOMPSON, Mrs. CLAYTON, Mrs. THURMAN, Mr. POMEROY, Mr. BISHOP, Mr. BOSWELL, Mr. HINOJOSA, Mr. SANDLIN, Mr. BALDACCI, Mr. TURNER, Mr. RODRIGUEZ, Mr. MCINTYRE, and Mr. BOYD) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Agriculture

A BILL

To amend the Agricultural Act of 1970 to authorize the provision of monetary assistance for the purpose of alleviating the distress of agricultural producers caused by natural disasters.

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 “Temporary Emergency
5 Agriculture Relief Act of 1998”.

1 **SEC. 2. USE OF AUTHORITY UNDER DISASTER RESERVE**
2 **LAW TO PROVIDE MONETARY ASSISTANCE TO**
3 **ALLEVIATE DISTRESS OF AGRICULTURAL**
4 **PRODUCERS CAUSED BY NATURAL DISAS-**
5 **TERS.**

6 (a) **FUNDING SOURCES AND USE OF FUNDS.**—Sec-
7 tion 813 of the Agricultural Act of 1970 (7 U.S.C. 1427a)
8 is amended—

9 (1) by striking subsections (b) and (d);

10 (2) by redesignating subsections (c), (e), (f),
11 (g), and (h) as subsections (b), (c), (d), (e), and (f),
12 respectively;

13 (3) in subsection (b) (as so redesignated), by
14 striking “the President” and inserting “the Sec-
15 retary”;

16 (4) in subsection (f) (as so redesignated), by
17 adding at the end the following new sentence: “Any
18 funds appropriated for the purposes of this section
19 may be used, at the discretion of the Secretary, to
20 make cash payments to agricultural producers for
21 the purpose of alleviating distress caused by a natu-
22 ral disaster.”; and

23 (5) by adding at the end the following new sub-
24 section:

25 “(g) The Secretary may use the funds, facilities, and
26 authorities of the Commodity Credit Corporation to make

1 cash payments to agricultural producers for the purpose
2 of alleviating distress caused by a natural disaster.”.

3 (b) ASSISTANCE FOR AGRICULTURAL PRODUCERS.—

4 Subsection (a) of such section is amended by inserting “of
5 agricultural producers” after “distress”.

6 (c) RELATIONSHIP TO FEDERAL CROP INSURANCE

7 PROGRAM.—Such section is further amended by inserting
8 after subsection (g), as added by subsection (a)(5), the
9 following new subsection:

10 “(h) In providing assistance using funds made avail-
11 able under subsection (f) or (g), the Secretary shall ensure
12 that the provision of such assistance—

13 “(1) is consistent with the objectives of the
14 Federal Crop Insurance Program; and

15 “(2) does not undermine participation in the
16 Federal Crop Insurance Program.”.

17 (d) PERIOD OF AUTHORIZATION.—Such section is

18 further amended by inserting after subsection (h), as
19 added by subsection (c), the following new subsection:

20 “(i) The authority to make cash payments to agricul-
21 tural producers using funds made available under sub-
22 section (g) expires on September 30, 1999.”.

23 (e) COVERAGE FOR 1998 LOSSES.—In using section

24 813 of the Agricultural Act of 1970 (7 U.S.C. 1427a),

25 as amended by this section, to provide monetary assistance

1 to alleviate the distress of agricultural producers caused
2 by natural disasters, the Secretary of Agriculture shall in-
3 clude losses occurring in 1998.

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