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111TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 2170

To direct the Secretary of Agriculture to establish a program to provide covered institutions loans for conversion to use of biomass for energy generation.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

APRIL 29, 2009

Mr. FORTENBERRY introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Agriculture

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A BILL

To direct the Secretary of Agriculture to establish a program to provide covered institutions loans for conversion to use of biomass for energy generation.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. LOAN PROGRAM FOR CONVERSION TO BIOMASS ENERGY GENERATION.

(a) ESTABLISHMENT.—The Secretary of Agriculture shall establish a program to provide zero-interest loans to covered institutions for capital costs for converting to the use of biomass for energy generation.

(b) USE OF LOAN FUNDS.—The Secretary shall ensure that a covered institution receiving a loan under the program established under subsection (a) will use woody biomass for not less than 75 percent of the energy generation resulting from the conversion to the use of biomass for such generation.

(c) REVOLVING FUND.—

(1) ESTABLISHMENT.—There is established in the Treasury a revolving fund for the program established under subsection (a).

(2) USE OF AMOUNTS IN FUND.—The Secretary shall use the amounts in the revolving fund established under paragraph (1) to carry out the program established under subsection (a).

(3) DEPOSITS.—The Secretary shall deposit amounts received as payment on loans provided under the program established under subsection (a) into the revolving fund established under paragraph (1).

(4) INITIAL DEPOSIT.—Of the funds of the Commodity Credit Corporation, the Secretary shall make available $100,000,000 to the revolving fund established under paragraph (1).

(d) DEFINITIONS.—In this section—

(1) COVERED INSTITUTION.—The term ''covered institution'' means—

(A) an institution of higher education (as defined in section 101 of the Higher Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 1001));

(B) a public or private elementary or secondary school; or

(C) a hospital.

(2) SECRETARY.—The term ''Secretary'' means the Secretary of Agriculture.

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