

By Mr. LUGAR (for himself, Mr. ROBERTS, Mr. BURNS, and Mr. SANTORUM):

S. 2894. A bill to provide tax and regulatory relief for farmers and to improve the competitiveness of American agricultural commodities and products in global markets; to the Committee on Finance.

THE RURAL AMERICA PROSPERITY ACT OF 2000

Mr. LUGAR. Mr. President, I rise today to introduce the Rural America Prosperity Act of 2000. I am pleased that Senator ROBERTS, Senator SANTORUM, and Senator BURNS have joined as cosponsors of this bill.

A Republican controlled Congress in 1996 produced a sweeping reform of farm programs. Farmers were no longer told by the government what crops they had to plant. Farmers were no longer forced by the government to idle part of their land. That farm bill disentangled farmers from government controls and enabled them to make production decisions based on market signals.

Freeing farmers from excessive, and often counterproductive, government controls is an important step, but we should do more to give farmers the tools they need to succeed. Specifically, we need to work to open foreign markets for our agricultural commodities and products, ease the tax and regulatory burden, and provide new risk management tools for farmers.

There are three tax provisions in this legislation that I have long advocated as crucial to the financial health of farmers. First is the repeal of the estate tax. A repeal of this tax, which has prevented some farms from being passed from one generation to the next, is essential. We are proposing the same 10-year phase-out of the estate tax which Congress just passed, and the President has promised to veto. Excluding capital gains from the sale of farmland would put production agriculture on the same footing as homeowners who benefit from a capital gains exclusion for their home. The deduction of health care insurance costs is needed for farmers and others who are self-employed.

Recently Congress provided over \$8 billion to improve the federal crop insurance program. While crop insurance is an important risk management tool, today we offer two other risk management tools for farmers—*income averaging* and *FARRM* accounts. Two years ago Congress made *income averaging* a permanent risk management tool for farmers when calculating taxes. Unfortunately, the interaction between *income averaging* and the alternative minimum tax has prevented many farmers from receiving the benefit of *income averaging*. This bill fixes that problem. Under this bill, farmers will be able to contribute up to 20 percent of annual farm income into a *FAARM* account and deduct this amount from

their taxes. This is an excellent tool for managing financial volatility associated with farming.

We also address regulatory reform in our bill. We are seeking a review of existing and proposed regulations to determine the cost of compliance for farmers, ranchers and foresters. We want to determine if there are more cost-effective ways for farmers, ranchers and foresters to achieve the objectives of these regulations.

Finally, we must do more to help develop new markets abroad for our farm commodities and agricultural products. Opportunity lies in developing countries where growing wealth allows for increased demand for meat and processed commodities. Authorizing fast-track authority for the President to negotiate international trade agreements may be the single most important thing we can do to facilitate exports.

We also need to address sanctions. Sanctions that prohibit the export of U.S. agricultural products into the sanctioned country are often morally indefensible because they deny necessities to people, not the offending government. Such sanctions also deny markets for U.S. agricultural products which are then captured by our competitors.

This legislation represents what I believe is necessary to further the historic reforms initiated in the farm bill 4 years ago. I urge my colleagues to cosponsor this bill. I will continue to encourage my colleagues and the Administration to work to enact these proposals.

ADDITIONAL COSPONSORS

S. 345

At the request of Mr. ALLARD, the name of the Senator from North Dakota (Mr. CONRAD) was added as a cosponsor of S. 345, a bill to amend the Animal Welfare Act to remove the limitation that permits interstate movement of live birds, for the purpose of fighting, to States in which animal fighting is lawful.

S. 499

At the request of Mr. FRIST, the name of the Senator from Missouri (Mr. ASHCROFT) was added as a cosponsor of S. 499, a bill to establish a congressional commemorative medal for organ donors and their families.

S. 510

At the request of Mr. CAMPBELL, the name of the Senator from Colorado (Mr. ALLARD) was added as a cosponsor of S. 510, a bill to preserve the sovereignty of the United States over public lands and acquired lands owned by the United States, and to preserve State sovereignty and private property rights in non-Federal lands surrounding those public lands and acquired lands.

S. 1140

At the request of Mrs. BOXER, the name of the Senator from Massachusetts (Mr. KENNEDY) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1140, a bill to require the Secretary of Labor to issue regulations to eliminate or minimize the significant risk of needlestick injury to health care workers.

S. 1191

At the request of Mr. DORGAN, the name of the Senator from Nevada (Mr. BRYAN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1191, a bill to amend the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act to provide for facilitating the importation into the United States of certain drugs that have been approved by the Food and Drug Administration, and for other purposes.

S. 1239

At the request of Mr. GRAHAM, the name of the Senator from Utah (Mr. HATCH) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1239, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to treat spaceports like airports under the exempt facility bond rules.

S. 1472

At the request of Mr. ASHCROFT, his name was added as a cosponsor of S. 1472, a bill to amend chapters 83 and 84 of title 5, United States Code, to modify employee contributions to the Civil Service Retirement System and the Federal Employees Retirement System to the percentages in effect before the statutory temporary increase in calendar year 1999, and for other purposes.

S. 1555

At the request of Mr. DOMENICI, the name of the Senator from Louisiana (Ms. LANDRIEU) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1555, a bill to provide sufficient funds for the research necessary to enable an effective public health approach to the problems of youth suicide and violence, and to develop ways to intervene early and effectively with children and adolescents who suffer depression or other mental illness, so as to avoid the tragedy of suicide, violence, and longterm illness and disability.

S. 1810

At the request of Mrs. MURRAY, the name of the Senator from Arkansas (Mr. HUTCHINSON) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1810, a bill to amend title 38, United States Code, to clarify and improve veterans' claims and appellate procedures.

S. 1919

At the request of Mr. DODD, the names of the Senator from Massachusetts (Mr. KERRY), the Senator from Montana (Mr. BAUCUS) and the Senator from Vermont (Mr. JEFFORDS) were added as cosponsors of S. 1919, a bill to permit travel to or from Cuba by United States citizens and lawful resident aliens of the United States.

S. 1941

At the request of Mr. DODD, the names of the Senator from Montana

(Mr. BAUCUS) and the Senator from Nevada (Mr. BRYAN) were added as cosponsors of S. 1941, a bill to amend the Federal Fire Prevention and Control Act of 1974 to authorize the Director of the Federal Emergency Management Agency to provide assistance to fire departments and fire prevention organizations for the purpose of protecting the public and firefighting personnel against fire and fire-related hazards.

S. 2018

At the request of Mrs. HUTCHISON, the name of the Senator from North Dakota (Mr. CONRAD) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2018, a bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to revise the update factor used in making payments to PPS hospitals under the medicare program.

S. 2033

At the request of Mr. KERRY, the name of the Senator from California (Mrs. FEINSTEIN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2033, a bill to provide for negotiations for the creation of a trust fund to be administered by the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development or the International Development Association to combat the AIDS epidemic.

S. 2387

At the request of Mr. LEAHY, the name of the Senator from California (Mrs. FEINSTEIN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2387, a bill to improve global health by increasing assistance to developing nations with high levels of infectious disease and premature death, by improving children's and women's health and nutrition, by reducing unintended pregnancies, and by combating the spread of infectious diseases, particularly HIV/AIDS, and for other purposes.

S. 2408

At the request of Mr. BINGAMAN, the names of the Senator from Louisiana (Ms. LANDRIEU), the Senator from Michigan (Mr. LEVIN), the Senator from New Jersey (Mr. LAUTENBERG), the Senator from Hawaii (Mr. AKAKA), the Senator from Arkansas (Mrs. LINCOLN), and the Senator from Nevada (Mr. BRYAN) were added as cosponsors of S. 2408, a bill to authorize the President to award a gold medal on behalf of the Congress to the Navajo Code Talkers in recognition of their contributions to the Nation.

S. 2434

At the request of Mr. L. CHAFEE, the name of the Senator from Louisiana (Ms. LANDRIEU) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2434, a bill to provide that amounts allotted to a State under section 2401 of the Social Security Act for each of fiscal years 1998 and 1999 shall remain available through fiscal year 2002.

S. 2585

At the request of Mr. GRAHAM, the name of the Senator from Connecticut (Mr. LIEBERMAN) was added as a co-

sponsor of S. 2585, a bill to amend titles IV and XX of the Social Security Act to restore funding for the Social Services Block Grant, to restore the ability of the States to transfer up to 10 percent of TANF funds to carry out activities under such block grant, and to require an annual report on such activities by the Secretary of Health and Human Services.

S. 2615

At the request of Mr. KENNEDY, the names of the Senator from Minnesota (Mr. WELLSTONE), the Senator from California (Mrs. BOXER) and the Senator from Hawaii (Mr. INOUE) were added as cosponsors of S. 2615, a bill to establish a program to promote child literacy by making books available through early learning and other child care programs, and for other purposes.

S. 2639

At the request of Mr. KENNEDY, the name of the Senator from South Carolina (Mr. HOLLINGS) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2639, a bill to amend the Public Health Service Act to provide programs for the treatment of mental illness.

S. 2696

At the request of Mr. CONRAD, the names of the Senator from Maine (Ms. SNOWE), the Senator from Florida (Mr. GRAHAM), and the Senator from Florida (Mr. MACK) were added as cosponsors of S. 2696, a bill to prevent evasion of United States excise taxes on cigarettes, and for other purposes.

S. 2718

At the request of Mr. SMITH of New Hampshire, the name of the Senator from West Virginia (Mr. ROCKEFELLER) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2718, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to provide incentives to introduce new technologies to reduce energy consumption in buildings.

S. 2731

At the request of Mr. FRIST, the name of the Senator from Connecticut (Mr. LIEBERMAN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2731, a bill to amend title III of the Public Health Service Act to enhance the Nation's capacity to address public health threats and emergencies.

S. 2733

At the request of Mr. SANTORUM, the names of the Senator from Minnesota (Mr. GRAMS), the Senator from New York (Mr. SCHUMER), and the Senator from Minnesota (Mr. WELLSTONE) were added as cosponsors of S. 2733, a bill to provide for the preservation of assisted housing for low income elderly persons, disabled persons, and other families.

S. 2739

At the request of Mr. LAUTENBERG, the name of the Senator from Utah (Mr. HATCH) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2739, a bill to amend title 39, United States Code, to provide for the issuance of a semipostal stamp in order to afford the public a convenient way

to contribute to funding for the establishment of the World War II Memorial.

S. 2779

At the request of Mr. SANTORUM, the name of the Senator from Maine (Ms. SNOWE) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2779, a bill to provide for the designation of renewal communities and to provide tax incentives relating to such communities, to provide a tax credit to taxpayers investing in entities seeking to provide capital to create new markets in low-income communities, and to provide for the establishment of Individual Development Accounts (IDAs), and for other purposes.

S. 2793

At the request of Mr. HOLLINGS, the names of the Senator from Maine (Ms. SNOWE), the Senator from Alabama (Mr. SHELBY), and the Senator from Mississippi (Mr. LOTT) were added as cosponsors of S. 2793, a bill to amend the Communications Act of 1934 to strengthen the limitation on holding and transfer of broadcast licenses to foreign persons, and to apply a similar limitation to holding and transfer of other telecommunications media by or to foreign governments.

S. 2857

At the request of Mr. LEAHY, the name of the Senator from Illinois (Mr. DURBIN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2857, a bill to amend title 11, United States Code, to exclude personally identifiable information from the assets of a debtor in bankruptcy.

S. 2858

At the request of Mr. GRAMS, the name of the Senator from Vermont (Mr. JEFFORDS) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2858, a bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to ensure adequate payment rates for ambulance services, to apply a prudent layperson standard to the determination of medical necessity for emergency ambulance services, and to recognize the additional costs of providing ambulance services in rural areas.

S. 2868

At the request of Mr. FRIST, the name of the Senator from Pennsylvania (Mr. SANTORUM) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2868, a bill to amend the Public Health Service Act with respect to children's health.

S. CON. RES. 60

At the request of Mr. FEINGOLD, the names of the Senator from Washington (Mrs. MURRAY), the Senator from Rhode Island (Mr. REED), the Senator from Oregon (Mr. WYDEN), the Senator from Arkansas (Mrs. LINCOLN), and the Senator from North Carolina (Mr. EDWARDS) were added as cosponsors of S. Con. Res. 60, a concurrent resolution expressing the sense of Congress that a commemorative postage stamp should be issued in honor of the U.S.S. Wisconsin and all those who served aboard her.

S. J. RES. 48

At the request of Mr. CAMPBELL, the names of the Senator from Louisiana (Mr. BREAU), the Senator from Virginia (Mr. WARNER), the Senator from Ohio (Mr. DEWINE), the Senator from Maryland (Ms. MIKULSKI), the Senator from Nebraska (Mr. HAGEL), the Senator from West Virginia (Mr. ROCKEFELLER), the Senator from Pennsylvania (Mr. SPECTER), the Senator from New York (Mr. SCHUMER), the Senator from Maine (Ms. COLLINS), the Senator from Colorado (Mr. ALLARD), the Senator from South Carolina (Mr. HOLLINGS), the Senator from Virginia (Mr. ROBB), the Senator from Minnesota (Mr. GRAMS), the Senator from New Jersey (Mr. TORRICELLI), and the Senator from South Dakota (Mr. DASCHLE) were added as cosponsors of S. J. Res. 48, a joint resolution calling upon the President to issue a proclamation recognizing the 25th anniversary of the Helsinki Final Act.

S. RES. 133

At the request of Mr. JOHNSON, his name was added as a cosponsor of S. Res. 133, a resolution supporting religious tolerance toward Muslims.

S. RES. 212

At the request of Mr. ABRAHAM, the name of the Senator from Mississippi (Mr. COCHRAN) was added as a cosponsor of S. Res. 212, a resolution to designate August 1, 2000, as "National Relatives as Parents Day."

S. RES. 301

At the request of Mr. THURMOND, the names of the Senator from Texas (Mr. GRAMM) and the Senator from Tennessee (Mr. FRIST) were added as cosponsors of S. Res. 301, a resolution designating August 16, 2000, as "National Airborne Day."

S. RES. 329

At the request of Mr. L. CHAFEE, the name of the Senator from Texas (Mrs. HUTCHISON) was added as a cosponsor of S. Res. 329, a resolution urging the Government of Argentina to pursue and punish those responsible for the 1994 attack on the AMIA Jewish Community Center in Buenos Aires, Argentina.

AMENDMENT NO. 3702

At the request of Ms. COLLINS, the name of the Senator from Maine (Ms. SNOWE) was added as a cosponsor of amendment No. 3702 proposed to H.R. 4577, a bill making appropriations for the Departments of Labor, Health and Human Services, and Education, and related agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2001, and for other purposes.

AMENDMENT NO. 3811

At the request of Mr. LIEBERMAN, the name of the Senator from Vermont (Mr. LEAHY) was added as a cosponsor of amendment No. 3811 proposed to H.R. 4578, a bill making appropriations for the Department of the Interior and related agencies for the fiscal year end-

ing September 30, 2001, and for other purposes.

AMENDMENTS SUBMITTED

AGRICULTURE, RURAL DEVELOPMENT, FOOD AND DRUG ADMINISTRATION, AND RELATED AGENCIES APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2001

MCCAIN (AND OTHERS)
AMENDMENT NO. 3917

(Ordered to lie on the table.)

Mr. MCCAIN (for himself, Mr. GREGG, and Mr. SCHUMER) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by them to the bill (H.R. 4461) making appropriations for Agriculture, Rural Development, Food and Drug Administration and Related Agencies programs for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2001, and for other purposes; as follows:

On page 75, between lines 16 and 17, insert the following:

SEC. 7. SUGAR PROGRAM.—None of the funds appropriated or otherwise made available by this Act may be used to pay the salaries and expenses of personnel of the Department of Agriculture to carry out section 156 of the Agricultural Market Transition Act (7 U.S.C. 7272).

CAMPBELL (AND OTHERS)
AMENDMENT NO. 3918

(Ordered to lie on the table.)

Mr. CAMPBELL (for himself, Mr. DORGAN, and Mr. CONRAD) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by them to the bill, H.R. 4461, supra, as follows:

On page 50, line 22, before the period, insert the following: "Provided further, That, of the funds made available under this heading, (1) \$7,300,000 shall be used to purchase bison for the Food Distribution Program on Indian Reservations established under section 4(b) of the Food Stamp Act of 1977 (7 U.S.C. 2013(b)) and to provide a mechanism for the purchases from Native American producers and cooperative organizations, and (2) \$1,700,000 shall be used for the construction and installation of refrigeration facilities".

WELLSTONE AMENDMENTS NOS.
3919-3924

(Ordered to lie on the table.)

Mr. WELLSTONE submitted six amendments intended to be proposed by him to the bill, H.R. 4461, supra; as follows:

AMENDMENT NO. 3919

On page 48, strike lines 12 through 16 and insert the following:

"(7 U.S.C. 612c) *Provided*, That, of the funds made available under this heading, \$1,500,000 shall be transferred to and merged with the appropriation for "Food and Nutrition Service, Food Program Administration" for studies and evaluations: *Provided further*, That not more than \$500,000 of the amount transferred under the preceding proviso shall be available to conduct, not later than 180 days after the date of enactment of this Act, a

study, based on all available administrative data and onsite inspections conducted by the Secretary of Agriculture of local food stamp offices in each State, of (1) any problems that households with eligible children have experienced in obtaining food stamps, and (2) reasons for the decline in participation in the food stamp program, and to report the results of the study to the Committee on Agriculture of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry of the Senate: *Provided further*, That of the funds made available under this heading, up to \$6,000,000 shall be for".

AMENDMENT NO. 3920

On page 75, between lines 16 and 17, insert the following:

SEC. 7. SUMMER FOOD SERVICE PROGRAM FOR CHILDREN.

(a) PAYMENT RATES.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Section 13(b)(1)(B) of the Richard B. Russell National School Lunch Act (42 U.S.C. 1761(b)(1)(B)) is amended—

(A) in clause (i), by striking "\$1.97" and inserting "\$2.41";

(B) in clause (ii), by striking "\$1.13" and inserting "\$1.34"; and

(C) in clause (iii), by striking "46 cents" and inserting "63 cents".

(2) ADJUSTMENTS.—Section 13(b)(1)(C) of the Richard B. Russell National School Lunch Act (42 U.S.C. 1761(b)(1)(C)) is amended by striking "1997" and inserting "2001".

(b) STARTUP AND EXPANSION COSTS.—Section 13 of the Richard B. Russell National School Lunch Act (42 U.S.C. 1761) is amended by inserting after subsection (h) the following:

(i) STARTUP AND EXPANSION COSTS.—

"(1) DEFINITIONS.—In this subsection:

"(A) SERVICE INSTITUTION.—The term 'service institution' means an institution or organization described in paragraph (1)(B) or (7) of subsection (a).

"(B) SUMMER FOOD SERVICE PROGRAM FOR CHILDREN.—The term 'summer food service program for children' means a program authorized by this section.

(2) FUNDING.—

"(A) IN GENERAL.—Out of any moneys in the Treasury not otherwise appropriated, the Secretary of the Treasury shall provide to the Secretary for fiscal year 2001 and each fiscal year thereafter \$1,500,000 to make payments under this subsection.

"(B) ENTITLEMENT.—The Secretary shall be entitled to receive the funds and shall accept the funds.

"(3) USE.—The Secretary shall use the funds to make payments on a competitive basis and in the following order of priority (subject to other provisions of this subsection), to State educational agencies in a substantial number of States for distribution to service institutions to assist the service institutions with nonrecurring expenses incurred in—

"(A) initiating a summer food service program for children; or

"(B) expanding a summer food service program for children.

"(4) ADDITIONAL FUNDING.—Payments received under this subsection shall be in addition to payments to which State agencies are entitled under other provisions of this section and section 4(b) of the Child Nutrition Act of 1966 (42 U.S.C. 1773(b)).

"(5) ELIGIBILITY.—To be eligible to receive a payment under this subsection, a State educational agency shall submit to the Secretary a plan to initiate or expand summer food service programs for children conducted