

TITLE VIII

INVESTING IN AMERICAN SECURITY, GROWTH, AND  
OPPORTUNITY

SEC. 801. *Research and Education Activities.*—An additional \$145,350,000 is provided for research and education activities of the National Institute of Food and Agriculture. Specifically, \$12,000,000 is provided for Hatch Act; \$2,000,000 for McIntire-Stennis Cooperative Forestry Act; \$3,000,000 for Research at 1890 Institutions; \$125,000,000 for the Agriculture and Food Research Initiative to focus on proposals related to pollinator health and antimicrobial resistance; and \$3,350,000 for Sustainable Agriculture Research and Education.

SEC. 802. *Extension Activities.*—An additional \$17,000,000 is provided for extension activities of the National Institute of Food and Agriculture. Specifically, \$15,000,000 is provided for Smith-Lever Act and \$2,000,000 for Extension Services at 1890 Institutions.

SEC. 803. *Watershed and Flood Prevention Operations.*—An additional \$100,000,000 is provided for Watershed and Flood Prevention Operations. This program provides technical and financial assistance to States, local governments and tribes (project sponsors) to plan and implement authorized watershed project plans for watershed protection, flood mitigation, erosion reduction and other purposes. There are currently over 1,300 active or completed watershed projects in every State.

SEC. 804. *Affordable Multi-Family Housing Preservation.*—An additional \$106,000,000 is provided (through two programs) to rehabilitate aging rural multi-family housing projects and to provide incentives for project owners to remain in the affordable housing program. Currently, USDA's multi-family housing program includes over 14,000 projects, containing over 425,000 units of affordable rural rental housing. However, many projects are 30 years old, and owners are pre-paying or mortgages are maturing, and projects are thereby leaving the program. When properties leave the program low-income tenants could face unmanageable rent increases. An additional \$30,000,000 in section 515 low-interest loans is provided for property repair and rehabilitation. Also, an additional \$76,000,000 is provided for the Multi-Family Housing Revitalization Pilot. This pilot program provides other financial tools (including zero interest rate loans, and grants) for project rehabilitation, and housing vouchers.

SEC. 805. *Rural Water and Waste Water.*—An additional \$70,000,000 is provided for grants for construction and repair of clean water and sanitary waste disposal systems for small, remote rural communities. Assistance is available for communities under 10,000 in population, lacking adequate clean water and/or sanitary waste disposal capacity. Backlogs of applications and pre-applications for this assistance typically exceed \$2,000,000,000. This funding will assist approximately 117,000 rural residents to receive improved clean water and waste disposal service.

SEC. 806. *Healthy Food Financing Initiative.*—An additional \$11,750,000 is provided for the Administration's Healthy Food Financing Initiative [HFFI], to help reduce obesity and promote more nutritious eating habits across the country. HFFI provides incen-

tives, through loans and grants to nonprofit organizations, State and local government agencies, and businesses, to attract grocery stores, farmers markets, food cooperatives, etc. to locate in “food deserts.” Through this initiative, low-income households will have better access to healthful, nutritious food. Furthermore, the initiative will promote job creation and income generation in low-income areas.

**SEC. 807. *School Meal Equipment Grants and Summer Electronic Benefit Transfer.***—An additional \$10,000,000 is provided for school meal equipment grants. This program provides grants for school districts to purchase equipment to help make healthier school meals. These equipment purchases are long-term investments that help schools serve healthier meals, improve food safety, expand access to school meal programs and improve energy efficiency. Examples of equipment purchased include ovens, freezer/cooler combinations, vegetable sinks, and additional serving lines that keep food warmer and improve the presentation of fruits and vegetables.

In 2009, USDA solicited requests and received requests for \$640,000,000. To date, \$160,000,000 has been providing including \$100,000,000 from ARRA. There are significant unmet needs throughout the country. This is further compounded by new rules requiring healthy school meals through the Healthy Hunger-Free Kids Act.

An additional \$50,900,000 is provided for the Summer Electronic Benefit Transfer. The purpose of this program is to provide access to food for low-income children during the summer months when schools are not in regular session by providing the families of low-income children with benefits similar to SNAP and WIC, giving them more resources to use at retail food stores.

The Committee recommends USDA include areas heavily impacted by drought in the Summer EBT Demonstration Project.

**SEC. 808. *The Emergency Food Assistance Program.***—An additional \$5,000,000 is provided for The Emergency Food Assistance Program to support food banks and other feeding organizations with transportation, storage, and administrative expenses for distributing USDA purchased commodities.

**SEC. 809. *Food for Peace Title II Grants.***—An additional \$50,000,000 is provided for Food for Peace Title II Grants. This is the primary program that responds to emergencies and is mainly targeted to vulnerable populations in response to malnutrition, famine, natural disasters, and civil strife. Non-emergency assistance is provided through PVOs, cooperatives, and intergovernmental organizations and is geared towards meeting economic development needs that address chronic food shortages and food insecurity. The funding will allow for an additional 34,000 metric tons to serve an additional 1.3 million beneficiaries.

**SEC. 810. *McGovern-Dole International Food for Education and Child Nutrition Program Grants, Local and Regional Pilot.***—An additional \$10,000,000 is provided to begin the local and regional pilot program. These funds will allow for grants to eligible organizations such as PVOs and intergovernmental organizations to carry out projects that consist of local and regional procurement of commodities to respond to a food crises or disaster. Evaluations of the 2008 Farm Bill pilot concluded that LRP could lower costs and im-

prove the timeliness of food aid delivery. Preference shall be given to projects already participating in the McGovern-Dole Program.

SEC. 811. *Food and Drug Administration*.—An additional \$103,000,000 is provided for the Food and Drug Administration. This amount will fully fund the budget request. As requested in the budget, this increase would go towards food safety training for FDA inspectors in preparation for full FSMA implementation; food safety training for State and localities; education and technical assistance for industry; implementation of the Foreign Supplier Verification Program which requires importers to verify that food imported into the United States meets strict standards; implementation of FDA Safety and Innovation Act; funding for the President's initiative on Combating Antibiotic Resistance Bacteria to evaluate antibacterial drugs, streamline clinical trials, and phase out the use of medically important antimicrobials in food producing animals; and funding for the precision medicine to help FDA keep pace with scientific advancements in personalized medicine and help speed the development of promising new therapeutics.

SEC. 812. The section would provide an additional \$191,000,000 by eliminating the Environmental Quality Incentives Program CHIMP. The section would also provide an additional \$20,000,000 by eliminating the Biomass Crop Assistance Program CHIMP.

SEC. 813. This section includes language limiting the availability of funds in this title until enactment of the Bipartisan Budget Act of 2015, an act increasing the post-sequester discretionary caps contained in the Budget Control Act of 2011.