

105TH CONGRESS  
2D SESSION

# H. R. 4113

To assist the efforts of farmers and cooperatives seeking to engage in value-added processing of agricultural goods.

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## IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

JUNE 23, 1998

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

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## A BILL

To assist the efforts of farmers and cooperatives seeking to engage in value-added processing of agricultural goods.

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. EXTENSION PROGRAMS FOR SMALL- AND ME-**

4                       **DIUM-SIZED FARM OPERATIONS.**

5       Section 502(d) of the Rural Development Act of 1972  
6 (7 U.S.C. 2662(d)) is amended—

7               (1) by inserting “(1)” before “Small farm ex-  
8       tension”; and

9               (2) by adding at the end the following new  
10       paragraph:

1       “(2) To ensure the continued viability of small- and  
2 medium-sized farm operations, extension programs should  
3 emphasize market development education and technical  
4 assistance for operators of small- and medium-sized farms  
5 in addition to production assistance. Such extension ef-  
6 forts should be directed at exploring new marketing ave-  
7 nues for such farms, such as direct farm-to-consumer  
8 markets, local value-added processing, and farmer-owned  
9 cooperatives, and at developing entrepreneurial training  
10 and development in natural resource-based industries.”.

11 **SEC. 2. TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE.**

12       Section 793(c)(1) of the Federal Agriculture Im-  
13 provement and Reform Act of 1996 (7 U.S.C.  
14 2204f(c)(1)) is amended by adding at the end the follow-  
15 ing:

16               “(E) TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE.—The Sec-  
17               retary may use the funds in the Account to pro-  
18               vide technical assistance related to any rural  
19               development activity for which funds may be  
20               provided from the Account under this para-  
21               graph.”.

1 **SEC. 3. PRIORITY FOR FARMER-OWNED VALUE-ADDED**  
2 **PROCESSING FACILITIES.**

3 Section 310B of the Consolidated Farm and Rural  
4 Development Act (7 U.S.C. 1932) is amended by adding  
5 at the end the following new subsection:

6 “(h) PRIORITY FOR FARMER-OWNED VALUE-ADDED  
7 PROCESSING FACILITIES.—In approving applications for  
8 loans and grants authorized under this section, section  
9 306(a)(11), and other applicable provisions of this title (as  
10 determined by the Secretary), the Secretary shall give a  
11 high priority to applications for projects that encourage  
12 farmer-owned value-added processing facilities.”.

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