

CONFERENCE REPORT ON H.R. 2559,
AGRICULTURAL RISK PROTECTION ACT

SPEECH OF

HON. F. JAMES SENSENBRENNER, JR.

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 25, 2000

Mr. SENSENBRENNER. Mr. Speaker, I would like to provide a more detailed explanation—including a section-by-section analysis—of the Biomass Research and Development (R&D) Act of 2000 included as Title III of H.R. 2559, the Agricultural Risk Reduction Act.

The Biomass R&D Act of 2000 combines features of three separate bills that were referred to the Committee on Science: Title I of S. 935 and H.R. 2827, the National Sustainable Fuels and Chemicals Act of 1999; and H.R. 2819, the Biomass Research and Development Act of 1999. This important piece of legislation would help fund the research, development, and demonstration (RD&D) necessary to bring to market affordable biobased industrial products, including fuels, chemicals, building materials, or electric power or heat produced from biomass.

I want to express my appreciation to many Members of the House and Senate for all of their hard work in crafting the Biomass R&D Act of 2000. This includes: the Ranking Minority Member (Mr. HALL of Texas) and Mr. UDALL of Colorado of the House Committee on Science; the Chairman (Mr. COMBEST) and Ranking Minority Member (Mr. STENHOLM) of the House Committee on Agriculture; the Chairman (Mr. EWING) and Ranking Minority Member (Mr. CONDIT) of the House Committee on Agriculture's Subcommittee on Risk Management, Research and Specialty Crops; the Chairman (Mr. LUGAR) and Ranking Minority Member (Mr. HARKIN) of the Senate Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition and Forestry; and the Chairman (Mr. MURKOWSKI) and Ranking Minority Member (Mr. BINGAMAN) of the Senate Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

SECTION-BY-SECTION ANALYSIS—BIOMASS RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT (R&D) ACT OF 2000—(TITLE IV OF H.R. 2559, THE AGRICULTURAL RISK REDUCTION ACT)

SECTION 401. SHORT TITLE.

Section 401 cites Title III as the "Biomass Research and Development Act of 2000" (hereafter, "Act").

SECTION 402. FINDINGS.

Section 2 lists 13 findings.

SECTION 403. DEFINITIONS.

Section 403 defines ten terms: (1) "Advisory Committee," (2) "Biobased Industrial Product," (3) "Biomass," (4) "Board," (5) "Initiative," (6) "Institution of Higher Education," (7) "National Laboratory," (8) "Point of Contact," (9) "Processing," and (10) "Research and Development."

The term "biomass" means "any organic matter that is available on a renewable or recurring basis, including agricultural crops and trees, wood and wood wastes and residues, plants (including aquatic plants), grasses, residues, fibers, and animal wastes, municipal wastes, and other waste materials." The conferees gave specific consideration to a proposal to exclude old-growth timber and unsegregated municipal solid waste (garbage) from the definition of bio-

mass, and rejected the proposal as being scientifically unsound.

Also, the term "research and development" means "research, development, and demonstration." Department of Energy (DOE) activities conducted under this Act are subject to the cost-sharing provisions of section 3002 of the Energy Policy Act of 1992 (Public Law 102-486).

SECTION 404. COOPERATION AND COORDINATION IN BIOMASS RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT

Section 404 mandates cooperation and coordination between the Secretary of Agriculture and the Secretary of Energy with respect to policies and procedures that promote R&D leading to the production of biobased industrial products. In order to facilitate this cooperation and coordination, a senior official in each of the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) and DOE is to be designated as a "point of contact." The points of contact are to assist in arranging interlaboratory and site-specific supplemental agreements for research, development, and demonstration projects relating to biobased industrial products; serve as co-chairpersons of the Board; administer the Initiative; and respond in writing to each recommendation of the Advisory Committee.

SECTION 405. BIOMASS RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT BOARD.

Section 405 requires the Secretaries of Energy and Agriculture to jointly establish the Biomass Research and Development Board to coordinate programs within and among departments and agencies of the Federal Government for the purpose of promoting the use of biobased industrial products. This Board is to supercede the Interagency Council on Biobased Products and Bioenergy established by Executive Order 13134. This section also specifies the Board's: (b) membership, (c) duties, (d) funding, and (e) frequency of meetings.

SECTION 406. BIOMASS RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT TECHNICAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE.

Section 406 establishes the Biomass Research and Development Technical Advisory Committee, which is to supercede the Advisory Committee on Biobased Products and Bioenergy established by Executive Order 13134. This section also specifies: (b) the Advisory Committee's membership and appointment process; (c) duties; (d) coordination; (e) frequency of meetings; and (f) terms. With respect to terms, section 406(f) specifies that members of the Advisory Committee shall be appointed for a term of 3 years, except that—(1) 1/3 of the members initially appointed shall be appointed for a term of 1 year; and (2) 1/3 of the members initially appointed shall be appointed for a term of 2 years.

SECTION 407. BIOMASS RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT INITIATIVE.

Section 407(a) requires the Secretary of Agriculture and the Secretary of Energy, acting through their respective points of contact and in consultation with the Biomass Research and Development Board, to establish and carry out a Biomass Research and Development Initiative under which competitively awarded grants, contracts, and other financial assistance are provided to, or entered into with, eligible entities to carry out research, development, and demonstration on biobased industrial products.

Other provisions of Section 407 address: (b) the purposes of grants, contracts, and other financial assistance under this section; (c) eligible entities; (d) uses of grants, contract, and assistance; (e) technology and information transfer to agricultural users; and (f) authorization of appropriations.

Section 407(c)(2)(D) requires that preference be given to applications for grants,

contract, and assistance under this section that: (i) involve a consortia of experts from multiple institutions; and (ii) encourage the integration of disciplines and application of the best technical resources. However, this "preference" is not meant to negate the requirements of Section 407(c)(2)(D) requiring that "grants, contracts, and assistance under this section be awarded competitively, on the basis of merit, after the establishment of procedures that provide for scientific peer review by an independent panel of scientific and technical peers".

Section 407(f) provides that in addition to funds appropriated for biomass R&D under the general authority of the Secretary of Energy (which may also be used to carry out this Act), there are authorized to be appropriated to the Department of Agriculture to carry out this Act \$49.0 million for each of fiscal years 2000 through 2005.

SECTION 408. ADMINISTRATIVE SUPPORT AND FUNDS.

To the extent administrative support and funds are not provided by other agencies under section 408(b), section 408(a) authorizes the Secretary of Energy and the Secretary of Agriculture to provide such administrative support and funds of DOE and USDA to the Board and the Advisory Committee as are necessary to enable the Board and the Advisory Committee to carry out this Act. Section 408(c) provides that not more than 4 percent of the amount appropriated for each fiscal year under section 407(f) may be used to pay the administrative costs of carrying out this Act.

SECTION 409. REPORTS.

Section 409 specifies the Act's reporting requirements, which include: (a) an initial report and (b) annual reports.

SECTION 410. TERMINATION OF AUTHORITY.

Section 410 terminates the authority under this Act on December 31, 2005.

TRIBUTE TO SAUL ZAENTZ

HON. BILL PASCHELL, JR.

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 6, 2000

Mr. PASCHELL. Mr. Speaker, I would like to call to your attention the deeds of the acclaimed film producer, Saul Zaentz of Passaic, New Jersey, who was feted on Friday, May 19, 2000. It is only fitting that the Second Ward Educational and Charitable Foundation, Inc. in cooperation with the Passaic Board of Education celebrate the dedication of the auditorium at the William B. Cruise Memorial School Number 11 as the Saul Zaentz Auditorium because of his remarkable talents and contributions to the entertainment industry and society as a whole. He is honored for his professional successes and never forgetting his roots.

Saul Zaentz was born on February 28, 1921 in Passaic. He has produced only eight movies since 1975, yet three have won the best picture Oscar. These are *The English Patient* (1996), *Amadeus* (1984), and *One Flew over the Cuckoo's Nest* (1975). In addition, his film *The Unbearable Lightness of Being* (1988) was nominated for multiple Oscars. He has a three-film version of the J.R.R. Tolkien epic *Lord of the Rings* trilogy in production. The first of the three, *The Fellowship of the Ring*, is due out in December of 2000. In 1978, he produced an animated film version of the book.