

109TH CONGRESS
2^D SESSION

H. R. 5128

To authorize the Secretary of the Interior and the Secretary of Agriculture to make grants to facilitate the establishment of the National Ag Science Center in Stanislaus County, California.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

APRIL 6, 2006

Mr. CARDOZA (for himself, Mr. RADANOVICH, and Ms. MATSUI) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Agriculture

A BILL

To authorize the Secretary of the Interior and the Secretary of Agriculture to make grants to facilitate the establishment of the National Ag Science Center in Stanislaus County, California.

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. SHORT TITLE.**

4 This Act may be cited as the “National Ag Science
5 Center Act of 2006”.

6 **SEC. 2. FINDINGS.**

7 Congress finds the following:

1 (1) The State of California is a preeminent pro-
2 ducer of more than 350 different agricultural com-
3 modities, including more than 90 percent of all of
4 the tomatoes and grapes produced in the United
5 States, all of the commercial almonds, dates, figs, ol-
6 ives, cling peaches, prunes and raisins produced in
7 the United States, and one out of every five glasses
8 of milk consumed in the United States.

9 (2) California is the leading State in terms of
10 agricultural exports, annually shipping more than \$7
11 billion dollars worth of agricultural commodities
12 around the world.

13 (3) The total investment by California's 78,500
14 farms in terms of direct and indirect economic im-
15 pact is staggering, and, if California is going to keep
16 its agricultural industry strong and vibrant, it must
17 focus on the needs of farmers who are valuable con-
18 tributors to the economic, social, and cultural life of
19 the State and the United States.

20 (4) Since 1945, agricultural land has been rap-
21 idly disappearing across California, as soil erosion,
22 urbanization, the growth of deserts, and salinization
23 have all contributed to loss of productive farmland.
24 If these trends continue, California will no longer be
25 able to supply food for its population, let alone the

1 United States, and will be unable to export food to
2 the rest of the world.

3 (5) As Americans grow more and more de-
4 tached from the great agrarian history of the United
5 States, fewer Americans understand the funda-
6 mental importance of agriculture to American soci-
7 ety.

8 (6) Educating young Americans about agri-
9 culture and its importance to the United States na-
10 tion is an investment that will pay off in future ben-
11 efits.

12 (7) Greater public understanding and apprecia-
13 tion of the importance of agriculture to California,
14 the United States, and the world is needed to secure
15 a positive future, in which the United States can
16 rely on healthy food that is produced domestically.
17 Citizens of all ages, especially youth, must play a
18 meaningful, hands-on role in determining the future
19 of California agriculture.

20 (8) As planners, conservationists, and other in-
21 terested persons around the State of California orga-
22 nize to help protect agricultural resources, the pro-
23 posed National Ag Science Center in Stanislaus
24 County, California, is preparing to educate and alert
25 future generations about the need to preserve agri-

1 cultural land and to foster an understanding of the
2 importance of agriculture. The mission of the Na-
3 tional Ag Science Center will be to provide exciting
4 and fun agricultural learning opportunities and re-
5 sources in order for young people to learn how a vi-
6 brant agricultural economy is necessary for a vibrant
7 society, and to assure a bright future for all aspects
8 of the agriculture industry. The National Ag Science
9 Center will prepare young Americans for career and
10 leadership opportunities in agriculture.

11 (9) According to findings of the Center for
12 Public Policy Studies at California State University,
13 Stanislaus, the National Ag Science Center will cre-
14 ate or support up to 359 new local jobs, create or
15 support up to \$57,500,000 in economic activity and
16 \$15,200,000 in labor income through construction of
17 the new facility, generate as much as \$8,500,000 in
18 total annual economic activity, and result in as much
19 as \$3,400,000 in total annual labor income.

20 (10) On September 14, 2005, the Yosemite
21 Community College District Board, in Stanislaus
22 County, California, voted unanimously to approve
23 the dedication of a 3.5 acre site on the West Cam-
24 pus of Modesto Community College for the National
25 Ag Science Center.

1 (11) Establishment of the National Ag Science
2 Center is in the national interest, as the proposed
3 Center will enable future generations to help assure
4 a healthy and profitable place for agriculture in the
5 economy of California and the United States.

6 **SEC. 3. ASSISTANCE FOR ESTABLISHMENT OF NATIONAL**
7 **AG SCIENCE CENTER, STANISLAUS COUNTY,**
8 **CALIFORNIA.**

9 (a) ASSISTANCE AUTHORIZED.—Using such funds as
10 may be appropriated pursuant to the authorization of ap-
11 propriations in subsection (d), the Secretary of the Inte-
12 rior and the Secretary of Agriculture shall make grants
13 to the Ag Science Center, Inc., in Stanislaus County, Cali-
14 fornia, to cover a portion of the costs of establishing the
15 National Ag Science Center, including costs relating to the
16 design, planning, construction, furnishing, equipping, and
17 expansion of the Center.

18 (b) GRANT PROPOSAL.—To receive a grant under
19 subsection (a), the Ag Science Center, Inc. shall submit
20 to the Secretary of the Interior or the Secretary of Agri-
21 culture, or to both Secretaries, a proposal for the use of
22 the grant funds, which shall include detailed plans for the
23 design, construction, furnishing, equipping, and expansion
24 of the National Ag Science Center.

1 (c) LIMITATION ON GRANT AMOUNTS.—The portion
2 of the costs described in subsection (a) covered by grants
3 made under this section shall not exceed 33 percent of
4 the total costs to establish the Center.

5 (d) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There is
6 authorized to be appropriated to the Secretary of the Inte-
7 rior and the Secretary of Agriculture \$10,000,000 to make
8 grants under this section. Amounts so appropriated shall
9 remain available until expended.

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