

110TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 2428

To enhance the efficiency of bioenergy and biomass research and development programs through improved coordination and collaboration between the Department of Agriculture, the Department of Energy, and land-grant colleges and universities, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

MAY 22, 2007

Mr. EDWARDS (for himself, Mr. LAMPSON, and Mr. COSTA) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Agriculture

A BILL

To enhance the efficiency of bioenergy and biomass research and development programs through improved coordination and collaboration between the Department of Agriculture, the Department of Energy, and land-grant colleges and universities, and for other purposes.

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. BIOFUELS RESEARCH INITIATIVE.**

4 (a) SHORT TITLE.—This section may be cited as the
5 “Biofuels Research Initiative Act of 2007”.

6 (b) RESEARCH, EXTENSION, AND EDUCATIONAL
7 PROGRAMS ON BIOBASED ENERGY TECHNOLOGIES AND

1 PRODUCTS.—Title IX of the Farm Security and Rural In-
2 vestment Act of 2002 (7 U.S.C. 8101 et seq.) is amended
3 by adding at the end the following:

4 **“SEC. 9011. RESEARCH, EXTENSION, AND EDUCATIONAL**
5 **PROGRAMS ON BIOBASED ENERGY TECH-**
6 **NOLOGIES AND PRODUCTS.**

7 “(a) PURPOSES.—The purposes of the programs es-
8 tablished under this section are—

9 “(1) to enhance national energy security
10 through the development, distribution, and imple-
11 mentation of biobased energy technologies;

12 “(2) to promote diversification in, and the envi-
13 ronmental sustainability of, agricultural production
14 in the United States through biobased energy and
15 product technologies;

16 “(3) to promote economic diversification in
17 rural areas of the United States through biobased
18 energy and product technologies; and

19 “(4) to enhance the efficiency of bioenergy and
20 biomass research and development programs
21 through improved coordination and collaboration be-
22 tween the Department of Agriculture, the Depart-
23 ment of Energy, and the land-grant colleges and
24 universities.

25 “(b) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

1 “(1) LAND-GRANT COLLEGES AND UNIVER-
2 SITIES.—The term ‘land-grant colleges and univer-
3 sities’ means—

4 “(A) 1862 Institutions (as defined in sec-
5 tion 2 of the Agricultural Research, Extension,
6 and Education Reform Act of 1998 (7 U.S.C.
7 7601));

8 “(B) 1890 Institutions (as defined in sec-
9 tion 2 of that Act) and West Virginia State
10 College; and

11 “(C) 1994 Institutions (as defined in sec-
12 tion 2 of that Act).

13 “(2) SECRETARY.—The term ‘Secretary’ means
14 the Secretary of Agriculture.

15 “(c) ESTABLISHMENT.—To carry out the purposes
16 described in subsection (a), the Secretary shall establish
17 programs under which—

18 “(1) the Secretary shall provide grants to the
19 lead land grant university for each of the regional
20 consortiums with the lead university selected based
21 on criteria in subsection (e); and

22 “(2) the consortium shall use the grants in ac-
23 cordance with this section.

24 “(d) GRANTS TO A CONSORTIUM.—The Secretary
25 shall use amounts made available for a fiscal year under

1 subsection (j) to provide a grants in equal amounts to the
2 lead land grant university for each of the regional consor-
3 tiums with the lead university selected based on criteria
4 in subsection (e):

5 “(e) CRITERIA FOR CONSORTIUM MEMBERSHIP.—To
6 be a member of a consortium, a university must have the
7 following attributes:

8 “(1) Demonstrated history, capability and intel-
9 lectual property in germplasm development, includ-
10 ing but not limited to genetics, plant breeding, and
11 molecular techniques.

12 “(2) Production logistics, including but not lim-
13 ited to cropping systems, harvesting technologies,
14 storage technologies, and transportation systems.

15 “(3) Economic and policy analysis, including
16 but not limited to probabilistic forecasts, economic
17 feasibility, and business plans.

18 “(4) Environmental assessment, including but
19 not limited to life-cycle analysis, climate change as-
20 sessment, air quality, and water use evaluations of
21 bioenergy production systems.

22 “(5) Facilities, including but not to facilities for
23 genomics, plant breeding, crop production, crop
24 processing, equipment design and fabrication, equip-
25 ment testing, and environmental testing.

1 “(6) Academic and research capabilities in
2 plant science, agronomy, soil science, plant physi-
3 ology, plant pathology, entomology, engineering, ag-
4 ricultural engineering, and agricultural economics.

5 “(7) Management capabilities in academics, re-
6 search administration, intellectual property develop-
7 ment, contract management, Federal procurement,
8 and agricultural technology transfer.

9 “(f) REGIONAL CONSORTIUM GROUPS.—Each of the
10 following shall be considered a regional consortium group
11 for the purposes of this Act:

12 “(1) NORTH-CENTRAL CONSORTIUM.—A north-
13 central university consortium for the region com-
14 posed of the States of Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Min-
15 nesota, Montana, Nebraska, North Dakota, South
16 Dakota, Wisconsin, and Wyoming.

17 “(2) SOUTHEASTERN CONSORTIUM.—A south-
18 eastern university consortium for the region com-
19 posed of—

20 “(A) the States of Alabama, Florida, Geor-
21 gia, Kentucky, Mississippi, North Carolina,
22 South Carolina, Tennessee, and Virginia;

23 “(B) the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico;
24 and

25 “(C) the United States Virgin Islands.

1 “(3) SOUTH-CENTRAL CONSORTIUM.—A south-
2 central university consortium for the region com-
3 posed of the States of Arkansas, Colorado, Kansas,
4 Louisiana, Missouri, New Mexico, Oklahoma, and
5 Texas.

6 “(4) WESTERN CONSORTIUM.—A western uni-
7 versity consortium for the region composed of—

8 “(A) the States of Alaska, Arizona, Cali-
9 fornia, Hawaii, Idaho, Nevada, Oregon, Utah,
10 and Washington; and

11 “(B) territories and possessions of the
12 United States (other than the territories re-
13 ferred to in subparagraphs (B) and (C) of para-
14 graph (2)).

15 “(5) NORTHEASTERN CONSORTIUM.—A north-
16 eastern university consortium for the region com-
17 posed of the States of Connecticut, Delaware, Mas-
18 sachusetts, Maryland, Maine, Michigan, New Hamp-
19 shire, New Jersey, New York, Ohio, Pennsylvania,
20 Rhode Island, Vermont, and West Virginia.

21 “(g) USE OF FUNDS.—

22 “(1) UNIVERSITY CONSORTIUM.—Of the funds
23 made available for a fiscal year to a consortium
24 under subsection (d), the consortium member shall
25 use not more than 25 percent of the amount for ad-

1 ministration to support excellence in science, engi-
2 neering, and economics at each regional consortium
3 to promote the purposes described in subsection (a)
4 through each applicable State agricultural experi-
5 ment station, cooperative extension services, and rel-
6 evant educational programs of the regional consor-
7 tium member.

8 “(2) GRANTS TO LAND-GRANT COLLEGES AND
9 UNIVERSITIES.—Each regional university consortium
10 shall use the funds that remain available for a fiscal
11 year after expenditures made under paragraph (1)
12 to provide competitive grants to Agricultural and
13 Land Grant colleges and universities in the region of
14 the consortium as follows:

15 “(A) Not less than 30 percent of the funds
16 to conduct, consistent with the purposes de-
17 scribed in subsection (a), multi-institutional and
18 multi-State research, extension, and educational
19 programs on technology development.

20 “(B) Not less than 30 percent of the funds
21 to conduct, consistent with the purposes de-
22 scribed in subsection (a), multi-institutional and
23 multi-State integrated research, extension, and
24 educational programs on technology implemen-
25 tation.

1 “(3) INDIRECT COSTS.—A university consor-
2 tium may not recover the indirect costs of making
3 grants under paragraph (2) to other land-grant col-
4 leges and universities.

5 “(h) PLAN.—Subject to the availability of funds
6 under subsection (j), each university consortium, in co-
7 operation with other land-grant colleges and universities
8 and private industry in accordance with paragraph (2),
9 shall jointly develop and submit to the Secretary, for ap-
10 proval, a plan for addressing at the State and regional
11 levels the bioenergy, biomass, and gasification research
12 priorities of the Department of Agriculture and the De-
13 partment of Energy for making grants under paragraphs
14 (1) and (2) of subsection (e).

15 **“SEC. 9012. BIO ENERGY CONSORTIUM.**

16 “(a) ESTABLISHMENT.—The Secretary of Agri-
17 culture shall establish a Bio Energy Consortium led by
18 5 universities selected by the Secretary that meet criteria
19 of excellence across a wide range of expertise, experience,
20 and reputation. These universities shall have responsibility
21 for regional and disciplinary organization across the
22 United States to identify talents and expertise that con-
23 tributes to advancing biomass for energy and incorporate
24 teams to address priority issues and to accelerate biomass
25 for energy technologies. The lead universities are respon-

1 sible for avoiding redundancy, bringing the best science
2 to address issues and developing an integrated nationwide
3 program. Identification of the best science for selected
4 areas of research may be structured under a peer review
5 competitive process developed by the 5 lead universities.

6 “(b) EXTERNAL ADVISORY GROUP.—The Bio Energy
7 Consortium and each of the 5 lead universities selected
8 under subsection (a) shall each—

9 “(1) be advised by external advisory group se-
10 lected by the regional consortium and be comprised
11 of stakeholders in the region and that have broad
12 range of expertise; and

13 “(2) submit an annual report to the advisory
14 group defining the research, extension, and teaching
15 programs and accomplishments during of each entity
16 submitting a report during the year for which the
17 report is submitted.

18 “(c) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There
19 is authorized to be appropriated to the Secretary to carry
20 out this section \$50,000,000 for each of fiscal years 2008
21 through 2017.”

○