



June 8, 2005

Amendments to the Agriculture, Rural Development, Food and Drug Administration, and Related Agencies Appropriations Act for Fiscal Year 2006 (H.R. 2744)

- 1) **Weiner / McCotter Amendment** (15 minutes)
- 2) **Rehberg Amendment** (5 minutes)
- 3) **Hinchey Amendment** (5 minutes)
- 4) **Sweeney Amendment** (5 minutes)
- 5) **Likely Vote on Blumenauer Amendment** (5 minutes)

Weiner/McCotter (D-NY/R-MI). Reduces by \$21 million, funds available for the acquisition of a Common Computing Environment for the Natural Resources Conservation Service, and increases by \$19 million, funds made available for Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service, Salaries and Expenses.

According to the sponsor, the amendment “boosts funding for the Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) by \$19 million to fight invasive species nationwide that cause billions of [dollars of] ecological and economic devastation each year.” Additionally, the sponsor lists the following invasive species the funding would help fight: Asian Longhorned Beetle, Emerald Ash Borer, Sudden Oak Death, Cactus Moth, Boll Weevil

Rehberg (R-MT). Strikes the following section from the bill: “None of the funds appropriated or otherwise made available by this Act shall be used for the implementation of Country of Origin Labeling for meat or meat products.”

The section this amendment would strike from the bill relates to the implementation of what the sponsor calls “the onerous” Mandatory Country of Origin Labeling Program that was included in the 2002 Farm Bill. The language in the underlying appropriations bill would delay the implementation until October 1, 2007. The Rehberg amendment would strike the delaying language and have the labeling program begin in 2006.

Hinchey (D-NY). Prohibits funds to be used “to grant a waiver of a financial conflict of interest requirement pursuant to section 505(n)(4) of the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act for any voting member of an advisory committee or panel of the Food and Drug Administration” or to “make a certification under section 208(b)(3) of title 18, United States Code, for any voting.”

The FDA may currently appoint scientists to an advisory committee in which they may have a conflict of interest by granting a waiver of the rule prohibiting such appointments. The sponsor,

sites as an example of waivers granted, that 10 of 32 scientists on FDA's Cox-2 advisory panel "had ties to manufacturers of the drugs." Had their votes been eliminated, the sponsor argues, two of the three drugs in that class would have been voted down by the panel, instead of receiving narrow support. Another FDA advisory committee reviewing silicon breast implants, the sponsor says, included a scientist who had made a promotional video for a manufacturer of the implants. Finally, three of 11 scientists on an advisory committee "evaluating the link between antidepressants and suicide had been paid consultants for antidepressant manufacturers." According to the sponsor of the amendment, the current procedure has resulted in the public losing "confidence in the integrity of FDA advisory committees." The amendment would disallow any waivers.

Sweeney (R-NY). Inserts the following at the end of the bill: "None of the funds made available in this Act may be used to pay the salaries or expenses of personnel to inspect horses intended for slaughter, horse carcasses, or horse meat under the Federal Meat Inspection Act (21 U.S.C. 601 et seq.) or the Federal Agriculture Improvement and Reform Act of 1996 (Public Law 104-127)."

According to the sponsor, "This amendment will stop the slaughter of horses.... This amendment will prohibit USDA from issuing inspections on horses intended for slaughter. Without these inspections, the slaughter plants could not sell horsemeat for human consumption."

Blumenauer (D-OR)/Flake (R-AZ). Inserts the following at the end of the bill: "None of the funds appropriated or otherwise made available by this Act may be used to pay the salaries and expenses of personnel who make loans available under section 156 of the Federal Agriculture Improvement and Reform Act of 1996 (7 U.S.C. 7272) to processors of domestically grown sugarcane at a rate in excess of 17 cents per pound for raw cane sugar or to processors of domestically grown sugar beets at a rate in excess of 21.6 cents per pound for refined beet sugar."

According to the sponsor, the amendment "will reduce payments to the Sugar Loan Program by approximately six percent." Additionally, the sponsor states, "The US sugar program is one of the most archaic and egregious policies instituted by the federal government. The program artificially raises the price of sugar, harming US companies and consumers, and preventing poor and developing nations from competing in the global marketplace. US consumers alone pay an additional \$1 billion each year for food products because of the current sugar policy."

7 U.S.C. 7272 directs the Secretary of Agriculture to make loans available to processors of domestically grown sugarcane at a rate equal to 18 cents per pound for raw cane sugar, and to make loans available to processors of domestically grown sugar beets at a rate equal to 22.9 cents per pound for refined beet sugar. Additionally, the statute permits the Secretary of Agriculture to reduce the loan rate for domestically grown sugarcane and sugar beets if the Secretary determines that negotiated reductions in export subsidies and domestic subsidies provided for sugar of other major sugar growing, producing, and exporting countries in the aggregate exceed the commitments made as part of the Agreement on Agriculture.

This document was created with Win2PDF available at <http://www.daneprairie.com>.
The unregistered version of Win2PDF is for evaluation or non-commercial use only.