

“(A) agricultural producers;
“(B) creditors of producers (as applicable);
and

“(C) persons directly affected by actions of the Department of Agriculture.”; and

(2) by adding at the end the following:

“(d) DEFINITION OF MEDIATION SERVICES.—In this section, the term ‘mediation services’, with respect to mediation or a request for mediation, may include all activities related to—

“(1) the intake and scheduling of cases;

“(2) the provision of background and selected information regarding the mediation process;

“(3) financial advisory and counseling services (as appropriate) performed by a person other than a State mediation program mediator; and

“(4) the mediation session.”.

(b) USE OF MEDIATION GRANTS.—Section 502(c) of the Agricultural Credit Act of 1987 (7 U.S.C. 5102(c)) is amended—

(1) by striking “Each” and inserting the following:

“(1) IN GENERAL.—Each”; and

“(2) by adding at the end the following:

“(2) OPERATION AND ADMINISTRATION EXPENSES.—For purposes of paragraph (1), operation and administration expenses for which a grant may be used include—

“(A) salaries;

“(B) reasonable fees and costs of mediators;

“(C) office rent and expenses, such as utilities and equipment rental;

“(D) office supplies;

“(E) administrative costs, such as workers’ compensation, liability insurance, the employer’s share of Social Security, and necessary travel;

“(F) education and training;

“(G) security systems necessary to ensure the confidentiality of mediation sessions and records of mediation sessions;

“(H) costs associated with publicity and promotion of the mediation program;

“(I) preparation of the parties for mediation; and

“(J) financial advisory and counseling services for parties requesting mediation.”.

(c) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—Section 506 of the Agricultural Credit Act of 1987 (7 U.S.C. 5106) is amended by striking “2000” and inserting “2005”.

HARKIN AMENDMENT NO. 4011

Mr. KOHL (for Mr. HARKIN) proposed an amendment to the bill, H.R. 4461, supra; as follows:

On page 13, line 16, strike “\$121,350,000” and insert “\$120,650,000”.

On page 15, line 2, strike “\$494,744,000” and insert “\$494,044,000”.

On page 17, line 8, strike “\$426,504,000” and insert “\$427,204,000”.

DASCHLE AMENDMENT NO. 4012

Mr. KOHL (for Mr. DASCHLE) proposed an amendment to the bill, H.R. 4461, supra; as follows:

On page 75, between lines 16 and 17, insert the following:

SEC. 740. GOOD FAITH RELIANCE.—The Food Security Act of 1985 is amended by inserting after section 1230 (16 U.S.C. 3830) the following:

“SEC. 1230A. GOOD FAITH RELIANCE.

“(a) IN GENERAL.—Except as provided in subsection (d) and notwithstanding any other provision of this chapter, the Secretary shall provide equitable relief to an owner or operator that has entered into a contract under this chapter, and that is sub-

sequently determined to be in violation of the contract, if the owner or operator in attempting to comply with the terms of the contract and enrollment requirements took actions in good faith reliance on the action or advice of an authorized representative of the Secretary.

“(b) TYPES OF RELIEF.—The Secretary shall—

“(1) to the extent the Secretary determines that an owner or operator has been injured by good faith reliance described in subsection (a), allow the owner or operator to do any one or more of the following—

“(A) to retain payments received under the contract;

“(B) to continue to receive payments under the contract;

“(C) to keep all or part of the land covered by the contract enrolled in the applicable program under this chapter;

“(D) to reenroll all or part of the land covered by the contract in the applicable program under this chapter;

“(E) or any other equitable relief the Secretary deems appropriate; and

“(2) require the owner or operator to take such actions as are necessary to remedy any failure to comply with the contract.

“(c) RELATION TO OTHER LAW.—The authority to provide relief under this section shall be in addition to any other authority provided in this or any other Act.

“(d) EXCEPTION.—This section shall not apply to a pattern of conduct in which an authorized representative of the Secretary takes actions or provides advice with respect to an owner or operator that the representative and the owner or operator know are inconsistent with applicable law (including regulations).”.

“(e) APPLICABILITY OF RELIEF.—Relief under this section shall be available for contracts in effect on January 1, 2000 and for a subsequent contracts.”.

FEINGOLD AMENDMENT NO. 4013

Mr. KOHL (for Mr. FEINGOLD) proposed an amendment to the bill, H.R. 4461, supra; as follows:

On page 89, after line 19, add the following:

SEC. 1111. AVAILABILITY OF DATA ON IMPORTED HERBS.—The Secretary of Agriculture and the Secretary of the Treasury, shall publish and otherwise make available (including through electronic media) data collected monthly by each Secretary on herbs imported into the United States.

ROBB AMENDMENT NO. 4014

Mr. KOHL (for Mr. ROBB) proposed an amendment to the bill, H.R. 4461, supra; as follows:

On page 15, line 6, before the period, insert: “: Provided, That this paragraph should not apply to research on the medical, biotechnological, food, and industrial uses of tobacco”.

WARNER AMENDMENT NO. 4015

(Ordered to lie on the table.)

Mr. WARNER submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill, H.R. 4461, supra; as follows:

On page 75, between lines 16 and 17, insert the following:

SEC. 7___ . COMPETITION IN CONTRACTING FOR TRAINING SERVICES.—(a) IN GENERAL.—Section 1669 of the Food, Agriculture, Conservation, and Trade Act of 1990 (7 U.S.C. 5922) is repealed.

(b) TRANSITION PROVISION.—Any order or agreement entered into under that section shall continue in effect until the date of ter-

mination of the order or agreement but may not be renewed.

NOTICES OF HEARINGS

COMMITTEE ON ENERGY AND NATURAL RESOURCES

Mr. MURKOWSKI. Mr. President, I would like to announce for the information of the Senate and the public that the oversight hearing originally scheduled for Thursday, July 20, 2000, at 9:30 a.m., before the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources, has been rescheduled. The purpose of this hearing is to receive testimony from representatives of the U.S. General Accounting Office on their investigation of the Cerro Grande Fire in the State of New Mexico, and from Federal agencies on the Cerro Grande Fire and their fire policies in general.

The hearing will take place on Thursday, July 27, 2000, at 9:30 a.m., in room SD-366 of the Dirksen Senate Office Building in Washington, DC.

Because of the limited time available for the hearing, witnesses may testify by invitation only. However, those wishing to submit written testimony for the hearing record should send two copies of their testimony to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources, U.S. Senate, SD-364 Dirksen Senate Office Building, Washington, DC 20510-6150.

For further information, please contact Jim O’Toole or Kevin Clark of the Committee staff at (202) 224-6969.

COMMITTEE ON ENERGY AND NATURAL RESOURCES

SUBCOMMITTEE ON FORESTS AND PUBLIC MANAGEMENT

Mr. CRAIG. Mr. President, I would like to announce for the public that a hearing has been scheduled before the Subcommittee on Forests and Public Land Management of the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

The hearing scheduled for July 21, 2000, at 9:30 a.m., to receive testimony on the Draft Environmental Impact Statement implementing the October 1999 announcement by President Clinton to review approximately 40 million acres of national forest lands for increased protection, has been postponed until Wednesday, July 26, 2000, at 2:30 pm. The hearing will take place in lieu of the previously scheduled hearing to receive testimony on potential timber sale contract liability incurred by the government as a result of timber sale contract cancellations. The hearing will take place in room SD-366 of the Dirksen Senate Office Building in Washington, DC.

Those who wish to submit written statements should write to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources, U.S. Senate, Washington, DC 20510. For further information, please call Mark Rey at (202) 224-6170.

PRIVILEGE OF THE FLOOR

Mr. HARKIN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that privilege of the floor be granted to a member of my staff, Jay Smith, during the pendency of the Agriculture appropriations bill.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. HARKIN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the privilege of the floor be granted to James Dunn of my staff during the pendency of the Agriculture appropriations bill.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. HATCH. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that Bruce Artim, a fellow in my office, be granted the privilege of the floor for this session of Congress.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.