

110TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 293

To authorize the Secretary of Agriculture to provide financial assistance for the construction, improvement, and rehabilitation of farmers markets.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

JANUARY 5, 2007

Ms. KAPTUR (for herself, Mr. BLUMENAUER, Mr. BOSWELL, Mr. FARR, Mrs. JONES of Ohio, Mr. KIND, Mr. KUCINICH, Mr. MARSHALL, Ms. MCCOLLUM of Minnesota, Mr. MORAN of Virginia, Ms. SLAUGHTER, Ms. WOOLSEY, and Mr. CONYERS) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Agriculture

A BILL

To authorize the Secretary of Agriculture to provide financial assistance for the construction, improvement, and rehabilitation of farmers markets.

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 “Farmers Markets In-
5 frastructure Assistance Act of 2007”.

1 **SEC. 2. INFRASTRUCTURE FUNDING FOR FARMERS MAR-**
2 **KETS.**

3 (a) **IN GENERAL.**—In addition to exercising authority
4 to make loans and loan guarantees under other law, the
5 Secretary shall make loans, loan guarantees, and grants
6 to public agencies and nonprofit organizations for the con-
7 struction of new farmers markets, or the improvement or
8 rehabilitation of existing farmers markets.

9 (b) **ELIGIBILITY.**—To be eligible to receive a loan,
10 loan guarantee, or grant under subsection (a) with respect
11 to a farmers market the public agency or nonprofit organi-
12 zation involved shall—

13 (1) demonstrate financial need as determined
14 by the Secretary; and

15 (2) commit to reserving at least 50 percent of
16 the floor area of the farmers market for the sale of
17 products that are produced locally, as determined by
18 the Secretary, by farmers, ranchers, or aquaculture,
19 mariculture, or fisheries operators, or by associa-
20 tions of farmers, ranchers, or such operators.

21 (c) **COST SHARING.**—

22 (1) **GRANTS.**—The amount of a grant shall not
23 exceed 25 percent of the cost of the activity funded
24 under subsection (a).

25 (2) **MAXIMUM AMOUNT OF COMBINED GRANT**
26 **AND LOAN.**—The combined amount of a grant and

1 loan made or guaranteed shall not exceed 80 percent
2 of the cost of the activity funded under subsection
3 (a).

4 (d) INTEREST RATE.—

5 (1) IN GENERAL.—A loan made by the Sec-
6 retary under subsection (a) shall bear interest at the
7 rate equivalent to the rate of interest charged on
8 Treasury securities of comparable maturity on the
9 date the loan is approved.

10 (2) DURATION.—The interest rate for each loan
11 will remain in effect for the term of the loan.

12 (e) FUNDING.—Of the funds of the Commodity Cred-
13 it Corporation, the Secretary shall make available to carry
14 out this section \$50,000,000 for each of fiscal years 2007
15 through 2012.

16 (f) EFFECTIVE DATE.—This Act shall take effect 60
17 days after the date of the enactment of this Act.

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