

104TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 197

To encourage the use of remote sensing to promote better agricultural management in the United States.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

JANUARY 4, 1995

Mr. SMITH of Michigan (for himself and Mr. EHLERS) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Agriculture and, in addition, to the Committee on Science, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned

A BILL

To encourage the use of remote sensing to promote better agricultural management in the United States.

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. REMOTE SENSING FOR AGRICULTURAL AND**
4 **RESOURCE MANAGEMENT.**

5 (a) FINDINGS.—The Congress finds that—

6 (1) the use of remote sensing data is potentially
7 a valuable resource to anticipate potential food, feed,
8 and fiber shortages or excesses, and to provide this

1 information to the agricultural community in time to
2 assist farmers with planting decisions;

3 (2) remote sensing data can be useful to predict
4 impending famine problems and forest infestations
5 in time to allow remedial action;

6 (3) remote sensing data can inform the agricul-
7 tural community as to the condition of crops and the
8 land which sustains those crops;

9 (4) remote sensing data can be useful to allow
10 farmers to apply pesticides, nutrients, and water,
11 among other inputs, the farmlands in the exact
12 amounts necessary to maximize crop yield, thereby
13 reducing agricultural costs and minimizing potential
14 harm to the environment;

15 (5) remote sensing data can be valuable, when
16 received on a timely basis, in determining the needs
17 of additional plantings of a particular crop or a sub-
18 stitute crop; and

19 (6) the National Aeronautics and Space Admin-
20 istration, using the expertise of the Earth Observa-
21 tions Commercialization Applications Program, and
22 the Department of Agriculture should work in tan-
23 dem to aid farmers to obtain data conducive to
24 sound agricultural management and greater crop
25 yields.

1 (b) INFORMATION DEVELOPMENT.—The Secretary of
2 Agriculture and the Administrator of the National Aero-
3 nautics and Space Administration, maximizing private
4 funding and involvement, shall provide farmers and other
5 interested persons with timely information, through re-
6 mote sensing, on crop conditions, fertilization and irriga-
7 tion needs, pest infiltration, soil conditions, projected food,
8 feed, and fiber production, and any other information
9 available through remote sensing.

10 (c) ENHANCED REMOTE SENSING PROGRAM.—

11 (1) The Secretary of Agriculture and the Ad-
12 ministrator of the National Aeronautics and Space
13 Administration shall jointly evaluate the need for a
14 radar imaging platform that could enhance United
15 States remote sensing capability by providing infor-
16 mation and data relating to agricultural resources,
17 and which may have other commercial and research
18 applications.

19 (2) In the event that there is a finding of need
20 for a platform as set forth in subsection (1), the
21 Secretary of Agriculture and the Administrator of
22 the National Aeronautics and Space Administration
23 shall jointly develop a proposal, which maximizes
24 private funding and involvement in the launch and
25 operation of such platform, and in the management

1 and dissemination of the data from such platform.

2 The Secretary and the Administrator shall jointly
3 submit the proposal, within thirty days of its devel-
4 opment, to the House Committee on Agriculture, the
5 Senate Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and
6 Forestry, the House Committee on Science, and the
7 Senate Committee on Commerce, Science, and
8 Transportation.

9 (d) TRAINING.—The Secretary of Agriculture and the
10 Administrator of the National Aeronautics and Space Ad-
11 ministration shall jointly develop a proposal to inform
12 farmers and other prospective users concerning the use
13 and availability of remote sensing data.

14 (e) SUNSET.—The provisions of this Act shall expire
15 five years after the date of its enactment.

○