

104TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 383

To amend the National Agricultural Weather Information System Act of 1990 to improve the collection and distribution of weather information to assist agricultural producers.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

JANUARY 4, 1995

Mr. TRAFICANT introduced the following bill; which was referred to the
Committee on Agriculture

A BILL

To amend the National Agricultural Weather Information System Act of 1990 to improve the collection and distribution of weather information to assist agricultural producers.

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. WEATHER INFORMATION COLLECTION AND**
4 **DISTRIBUTION TO AGRICULTURAL PRODUC-**
5 **ERS THROUGH THE NATIONAL WEATHER**
6 **SERVICE.**

7 (a) COLLECTION AND DISTRIBUTION.—Section 1638
8 of the National Agricultural Weather Information System

1 Act of 1990 (7 U.S.C. 5852) is amended by adding at
2 the end the following new subsection:

3 “(e) COLLECTION AND DISTRIBUTION OF INFORMA-
4 TION TO PRODUCERS.—

5 “(1) COOPERATIVE PROJECT.—As one of the
6 cooperative projects authorized by subsection (b)(1),
7 the Secretary of Agriculture shall enter into an
8 agreement with the Secretary of Commerce to use
9 Weather Service Offices and Weather Service Fore-
10 cast Offices to collect, organize, and distribute infor-
11 mation aimed at meeting the short-term and long-
12 term weather and climate information needs of agri-
13 cultural producers.

14 “(2) INFORMATION COLLECTION.—The Sec-
15 retaries shall develop a system for the collection by
16 the National Weather Service of weather and climate
17 information that is relevant to agricultural producers
18 and available through the Agricultural Weather Of-
19 fice and other Federal agencies, State agricultural
20 weather information systems and other State pro-
21 grams, colleges and universities, and the private
22 weather consulting sector.

23 “(3) METHODS OF DISTRIBUTION.—Weather
24 and climate information collected under this sub-

1 section shall be distributed to agricultural producers
2 through the use of—

3 “(A) weekly publications containing weath-
4 er forecasts and other information regarding
5 anticipated temperatures and precipitation lev-
6 els;

7 “(B) toll-free and local telephone numbers
8 that agricultural producers can call to obtain
9 immediate information to assist with specific
10 day-to-day production activities; and

11 “(C) such other methods as the Secretaries
12 consider to be appropriate to distribute such
13 weather and climate information to agricultural
14 producers in a timely manner.”.

15 (b) REPORT.—Not later than one year after the date
16 of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of Agriculture
17 and the Secretary of Commerce shall jointly submit a re-
18 port to the Congress analyzing the effectiveness of the co-
19 operative project required by section 1638(e) of the Na-
20 tional Agricultural Weather Information System Act of
21 1990, as added by subsection (a), in providing relevant
22 weather and climate information to agricultural producers.
23 The report shall include a description of the number of
24 agricultural producers who obtained weather information

1 through the project and an estimate of whether the project
2 improved farm profitability for participating producers.

3 (c) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There is
4 authorized to be appropriated to carry out section 1638(e)
5 of the National Agricultural Weather Information System
6 Act of 1990, as added by subsection (a), \$2,000,000 for
7 fiscal year 1996.

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