Tobacco draft

Draft of Legislative Language to Implement LEAF-LUGAR Compromise

Not later than 6 months after the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary of Agriculture shall develop and submit to Congress a legislative proposal which provides long-term economic assistance to tobacco farmers and tobacco dependent communities.

(a) CONSULTATION. -- In carrying out this subtitle, the Secretary shall consult with tobacco growers, warehousemen, governors of tobacco states, Congress and appropriate local officials. In addition, consideration should be given to public comments through the Administrative Procedures Act, including town hall meetings and other processes to receive input and proposals.

(b) CONSIDERATIONS. -- In developing such legislation, the Secretary shall consider:

(1) Economic impact upon tobacco farmers and tobacco dependent communities of reduced tobacco consumption and changes in national tobacco policy effected by the National Tobacco Policy and Youth Smoking Reduction Act.

(2) Long-standing federal and state policies to promote and support the cultivation of tobacco.

(3) The impact of lower tobacco prices on public health and the achievement of the purposes of this act.

(4) Fairness to non-tobacco commodity growers and agriculture dependent communities.

(5) The needs of both burley and flue-cured tobacco growers and tobacco dependent communities.

(c) ECONOMIC IMPACT.-- To the extent practicable, the legislation shall:

(1) Mitigate the economic impact of reduced tobacco consumption and changes in national tobacco policy upon farmers and tobacco dependent communities, including appropriate and cost-effective worker assistance and education, etc. Include common provisions from the "Long-Term Economic Assistance for Farmers Act" and "Tobacco Transition Act".

(2) Provide for appropriate buy-out of tobacco quota

(3) Help achieve the purposes of the "National Tobacco Policy and Youth Smoking Reduction Act".

(d) LIMITATIONS. -- The legislation, to maximum extent practicable, shall:

(1) Expend for the benefit of tobacco farmers and their communities, no more than $25 billion over 25 years.

(2) Provide that termination shall not go into effect before seven years, if such legislation proposes to terminate the tobacco quota program.

(3) Provide for an annual review by the Secretary and expedited congressional consideration of termination legislation should the Secretary submit such legislation after 7 years and the quota program was not initially terminated.

(e) EXPEDITED CONSIDERATION.-- (I do not know what is intended by this language).

(f) FUNDING.--The amounts reserved under the "National Tobacco Policy and Youth Smoking Reduction Act" shall remain available to implement the provision of this Act until expended.

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