



Amendments to H.R. 1947 – Federal Agriculture Reform and Risk Management Act of 2013 (Lucas, R-OK)

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Amendments are being considered under H.Res 271. This rule allows the Speaker to declare the House resolved to the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union for consideration of H.R. 1947. The rule allows for the consideration of amendments under the five-minute rule. All points of order against amendments printed in part B of the report of the Committee on Rules are waived. The rule allows for the consideration of amendments en bloc. Amendments en bloc shall be debatable for 20 minutes equally divided. At the conclusion of consideration of the bill for amendment, the Committee shall rise and report the bill to the House. Any Member may demand a separate vote in the House on any amendment adopted in the Committee of the Whole. The rule allows for one motion to recommit with or without instructions.

According to the RSC staff analysis, the FARRM Act is not subject to a point of order not because the Rule waives it, but because the FARRM Act is not inconsistent with the budget. Under precedent of the House, a point of order cannot be raised if the authorizing bill makes progress towards the budget target. The House-passed budget instructs the House Agriculture Committee to find a little more than \$200 billion in savings over ten years. The FARRM Act, which authorizes over a five year period, scores a net savings of \$33 billion over ten years.

Brooks (R-AL) #178: The amendment terminates funding for the Emerging Markets Program after September 30, 2013. This program is authorized for \$10,000,000 annually.¹ See the [RSC's Legislative Bulletin](#) for more information on this program. Heritage Action for America, Citizens Against Government Waste and the National Taxpayers Union support this amendment. The amendment text can be [found here](#).

Conaway (R-TX) #160: In any fiscal year in which funds are not authorized, the amendment reduces funds for the Thrifty Food Plan by 10 percent. Citizens Against Government Waste is supporting this amendment. The text of the amendment can be [found here](#).

¹ Sec. 1542. (d)(1)(H)

Butterfield (D-NC) #204: The amendment expands what SNAP benefits can be used to purchase to include “items of personal hygiene for household use.” Using SNAP benefits for these purchases is currently restricted under the program. The text of the amendment can be [found here](#).

Marino (R-PA) #168: The amendment directs the GAO to conduct a pilot program to collect the data that is currently required to be reported under federal law, regarding SNAP transactions. The pilot program shall be carried out in nine states that the Comptroller General selects. The pilot program shall conclude after the expiration of the nine-month period, and before the expiration of the 1-year period, beginning on the date of enactment. At the conclusion of the program, the GAO shall describe the extent that the data collected can be analyzed under current reporting requirement to identify the aggregate number, and cost of, each specific food item purchased with SNAP. The GAO will also indicate what additional information should be collected in order to obtain that information, and they will make recommendations necessary to improve current reporting requirements. This report shall be publically available. The text of the amendment can be [viewed here](#). This amendment is opposed by the Food Marketing Institute, National Grocers Association, American Beverage Association, and the Grocery Manufacturers Association. This amendment is supported by Americans for Limited Government.

Schweikert (R-AZ) #198: The amendment eliminates the Healthy Food Financing Initiative. The underlying legislation authorizes \$125,000,000 to remain available until expended for the initiative. The initiative has very similar goals as the SNAP, the Community Food Projects Programs, and the Emergency Food Assistance Program. See the [RSC’s Legislative Bulletin](#) for more information. CCAGW is supporting passage of this amendment. The text of the amendment can be [found here](#).

Tierney (D-MA), Keating (D-MA), Markey (D-MA), Lynch (D-MA), Bishop (D-NY), Shea-Porter (D-NH) #78: The amendment expands Emergency Loans to commercial fisherman. Currently, all seafood is regulated under FDA, not USDA. The text of the amendment can be [found here](#).

Polis (D-CO), Blumenauer (D-OR), Massie (R-KY) #192: Notwithstanding the Controlled Substances Act, the amendment allows institutions of higher education to grow or cultivate industrial hemp if the hemp is grown for purposes of agricultural research or other academic research, and the growing of hemp is allowed under the laws of the state. The text of the amendment can be [found here](#).

Garamendi (D-CA), Gibson (R-NY) #86: Under the Forest Legacy Program, the amendment authorizes states to allow qualified organizations to acquire, hold, and manage conservation easements. The text of the amendment can be [found here](#).

Marino (R-PA) #170: The amendment repeals the Biodiesel Fuel Education Program. The underlying legislation authorizes \$2,000,000 per fiscal year for the program. This is another competitive grant program eligible to nonprofits for the educational of governmental and private entities that operate vehicle fleets.² Taxpayers for Common Sense and Citizens Against Government Waste support this amendment. The National Taxpayers Union is scoring this amendment. The text of the amendment can be [found here](#).

² <http://www.crs.gov/pages/Reports.aspx?PRODCODE=R41985&Source=search>

McClintock (R-CA) #92: The amendment repeals the Farmers Market and Local Food Promotion Program. The underlying legislation extends the authorization through fiscal year 2018, and provides \$30,000,000 in mandatory funding as well as the authorization for \$10,000,000 for the program each fiscal year subject to appropriation. Heritage Action and the National Taxpayers Union are supporting this amendment. Citizens Against Government Waste is supporting this amendment. The text of the amendment can be [found here](#).

Gibson (R-NY), Grimm (R-NY), Hanna (R-NY), Maloney (D-NY), Collins (R-NY) #45: The amendment strikes section 10010 of the underlying bill. That section added “olive oil” to the list of commodities regulated by import controls. CBO stated this provision was a private-sector mandate. Further, CBO stated “The bill would require imports of olive oil to meet the same standards as olive oil produced in the United States if a marketing order for olive oil is established. Imports would have to be inspected to ensure compliance with the standards of such a marketing order. Because 15,000 to 20,000 lots of olive oil are imported annually, the costs of those inspections could amount to tens of millions of dollars per year, if a marketing order is established.” CBO’s statement can be [viewed here](#). Heritage Action and the National Taxpayers Union are supporting this amendment. The text of the amendment can be [found here](#).

Walorski (R-IN): The amendment strikes language in the bill that lifts the stay on USDA’s rule regarding the Christmas Tree Tax. Therefore, the amendment keeps the Christmas Tree Tax from coming into effect. Under USDA’s proposed rule, producers and importers of fresh cut Christmas trees would pay an initial assessment of \$0.15 per tree, which would be paid to the proposed Christmas Tree Promotion Board to carry out research and promotion activities. CBO estimates this provision will result in an increase in revenue of \$10,000,000 over the 2014-2013 period. Heritage Action and the National Taxpayers Union are supporting this amendment. The text of the amendment can be [found here](#).

Courtney (D-CT), Wittman (R-VA) #25: The amendment adds farmed shellfish to the list of specialty crops that are allowed to receive specialty crop block grants. The text of the amendment can be [viewed here](#).

Kind (D-WI), Petri (R-WI), Blumenauer (D-OR), Conyers (D-MI), Cooper (D-TN), DeFazio (D-OR), McGovern (D-MA), Radel (R-FL), Sensenbrenner (R-WI), Waxman (D-CA) #149: The amendment prohibits the Commodity Credit Corporation from paying a crop insurance premium to any person or legal entity with an adjusted gross income (AGI) of more than \$250,000. The amendment also contains a per person subsidy cap of \$50,000. The amendment caps the overall rate of return for crop insurance providers at 12 percent of retained premium. The amendment also places a cap on the total reimbursements for administrative and operating costs for the 2013 reinsurance year at \$900,000,000. The amendment also discloses crop insurance premium subsidies to the public. This amendment is similar to H.R. 1995. Heritage Action is scoring in favor of this amendment. The R Street Institute, Citizens Against Government Waste and the National Taxpayers Union supportive of this amendment. The text of the amendment can be [viewed here](#).

Carney (D-DE), Radel (R-FL) #1: The amendment strikes Section 11012 of the underlying bill. This sections requires any savings from the Standard Reinsurance Agreement to be funneled back to increase the obligations of the Commodity Credit Corporation. The National Taxpayers

Union is scoring in favor of this amendment. The R Street Institute is in support of this amendment. The text of the amendment can be [found here](#).

Radel (R-FL) #12: The amendment repeals the authorization of the National Sheep Industry Improvement Center. The underlying legislation extends the authorization through fiscal year 2018, and continues the mandatory authorization of \$1,000,000 per fiscal year, with an additional \$10,000,000 subject to appropriations. The Sheep Center is a government entity that researches, promotes, and markets for sheep and goat-related industries. It was founded in 1996, privatized in 2006, de-privatized in 2008.^[1] Considering that humans have been successfully promoting sheep and goats for several millennia, Members have expressed the repeal of this program as a means to increase savings. The Club for Growth is scoring in favor of this amendment. The National Taxpayers Union is scoring in support of this amendment. Citizens Against Government Waste is supporting passage of this amendment. The text of the amendment can be [found here](#).

Walberg (R-MI) #97: The amendment strikes section 12312 of the bill, which adds “natural stone” to the list of commodity products that can petition the USDA for the issuance of a promotion and research order. Under a typical check-off program, domestic producers are assessed a mandatory fee that is collected and used for promotion and research activities. The fee is determined by the industry when developing their petition to USDA. Examples of check-off programs include Got Milk?, The Incredible Edible Egg and the proposed “Christmas Tree Tax.” Heritage Action and Citizens Against Government Waste are supporting this amendment. The text of the amendment can be [found here](#).

Pitts (R-PA), Davis (R-IL), Goodlatte (R-VA), Blumenauer (D-OR) #13: The amendment reforms the sugar program. The amendment lowers the effective support level for raw cane sugar to 18.00¢/lb (currently the level is 20.94¢/lb).

The amendment reauthorizes the Flexible Marketing Allotments for sugar, and amends the underlying law to state that the Secretary shall maintain adequate domestic supplies at reasonable prices, taking into account all sources of domestic supply, including imports. The amendment allows the Secretary to amend or suspend the Flexible Marketing Allotments if the Secretary deems it appropriate taking into account the interests of consumers, food industry workers, businesses, and agricultural producers, as well as the competitiveness of domestically produced and imported foods containing sugar.

The amendment repeals current tariff-rate quotas (TRQs) for raw and refined sugar, and replaces them with requirements that the Secretary: (1) establish TRQs at no less than the minimum required under international agreements; (2) adjust TRQs “to provide adequate supplies at reasonable prices”; (3) seek to achieve a 15.5 percent ending stocks-to-use ratio; (4) adjust this stocks-to-use target if necessary to avoid either forfeitures or unreasonably high prices; and (5) consider the interests of consumers, workers, businesses (including small businesses), and agricultural producers as decisions about TRQs are made.

The amendment also repeals the Feedstock Flexibility Program. While dormant, if active this program would subsidize the use of sugar for ethanol production through federal purchases of

surplus sugar for resale to ethanol producers. See the [RSC's Legislative Bulletin](#) for more information on the USDA's sugar program. The text of the amendment can be [found here](#). Heritage Action, the U.S. Chamber of Commerce, the Club for Growth, National Taxpayers Union, and the National Association of Manufacturers are scoring in favor of the amendment. The amendment is also supported by the National Foreign Trade Council, Inc. Citizens Against Government Waste and the R Street Institute.

Goodlatte (R-VA), Scott (D-GA), Collins (R-NY), Moran (D-VA), Duffy (D-WI), Polis (D-CO), Coffman (R-CO), Meeks (D-NY), DeGette (D-CO), Issa (R-CA), Session (R-TX), Lee (D-CA) #194: The amendment reforms dairy policy by eliminating the dairy support programs and replacing them with a new revenue insurance program based on margins. The amendment removes the Dairy Market Stabilization Program (commonly referred to as "supply management"). Under the new system, a dairy producer selects the amount of milk production, up to 80 percent of the operation's milk production, and may buy margin protection in 50 cent increments from \$4.00 to \$8.00 per hundredweight. The dairy producer is allowed to change coverage levels annually and they can cover any new additional production from the previous year. Heritage Action and the National Taxpayers Union are supporting this amendment. The text of the amendment can be [viewed here](#).

Fortenberry (R-NE) #93: This section strikes section 1603 (page 146, beginning on line 8, "Payment Limitations") and establishes a new section 1603 regarding Payment Limitations. The new section limits the total amount of payments received directly or indirectly by a person or legal entity³ for any crop year for one or more covered commodities and peanuts under title I of the Federal Agricultural Reform and Risk Management Act of 2013 to \$125,000 (\$250,000 for a married couple). It requires the Secretary of Agriculture to ensure that irrevocable trusts are legitimate entities not created for the purpose of avoiding such a payment limitation. Also, it requires eligible recipients to be "partners or members making a significant contribution of personal labor" and those the Secretary considers to be actively engaged in farming because of a significant contribution of management to a farming operation taking into account the size and complexity of the farming operation, the management requirements customarily required by similar farming operations, and whom does not use the management contribution to qualify as actively engaged in more than 1 farming operation. Heritage Action and the National Taxpayers Union are in favor of this amendment. The R Street Institute and Citizens Against Government Waste are also in support of this amendment. The text of the amendment can be found [here](#).

Huelskamp (R-KS), Goodlatte (R-VA), Neugebauer (R-TX), Jordan (R-OH), DeSantis (R-FL), Stewart (R-UT), Bentivolio (R-MI) #151: The amendment applies mandatory work requirements to all able-bodied adults receiving SNAP. Adults would be required to participate in two days of supervised job search (eight hours per day) at the program site, and five days of off-site activity (eight hours per day). The individual is prohibited from refusing, without good cause, an offer of employment. Adults who fail to comply will be subject to a sanction period (minimum of

³ Defined by the amendment as an organization that (subject to the requirements of the amendment and section 1001A of the Food Security Act of 1985) is eligible to receive a payment; a corporation, joint stock company, association, limited partnership, limited liability company, limited liability partnership, charitable organization, estate, irrevocable trust, grantor of a revocable trust, or other similar entity; and an organization that is participating in a farming operation as a partner in a general partnership or as a participant in a joint venture. It does not include a general partnership or joint venture.

two months) with suspended SNAP benefits. The amendment also repeals the waiver that allows states to exempt their able bodied adults without dependents (ABWADS) population from work requirements. The amendment also eliminates the Nutrition Education Grant Program. The amendment decouples the existing relationship between SNAP and the Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP). The work requirements in this amendment are identical to those in the [RSC's State Nutrition Assistance Flexibility Act](#), which are supported by the Heritage Foundation. Heritage Action and the National Taxpayers Union are scoring in favor of this amendment. Citizens Against Government Waste is supporting passage of this amendment. The text of the amendment can be [viewed here](#).

Southerland (R-FL), Westmoreland (R-GA), Kingston (R-GA), Bentivolio (R-MI), Schweikert (R-AZ) #101: The amendment reduces the authorization for the SNAP Nutrition Education Program to \$372 million each fiscal year. This is a decrease in \$3 million, from \$375 million.

The amendment directs the Secretary to carry out pilot projects within the SNAP program. Any state may operate a pilot project that is described here, however it is not a requirement. These pilot projects shall apply to the entire state. If a state decides to operate a pilot project, their waiver for able-bodied adults without dependents (ABWADS) is void.

When a state agrees to operate a work requirement program, the state shall agree to carry out the program for at least three years, have a robust data collection system, and the state will ensure that the pilot project offers a work activity to certain adults. The work requirements shall be mandatory to adults, except those with one or more dependent children under one year old, or under six years old in cases where child care is unavailable. The adult must participate in 20 hour per week of a work activity, with includes job searching or one of ten other work activities defined. These requirements will apply to individuals who up to the ages of 60. The state has the option to assign penalties to nonparticipants without good causes. The legislation makes exemptions for the work requirements in certain cases, including where there is a disabled family member in the household.

Within 90 days after the end of FY 2014, and annually thereafter, the Secretary shall submit a report to Congress regarding the status of each pilot project that was carried out by the states. The report shall also describe the impact, and public benefit outcomes, of the work requirements.

The Secretary shall make available up to \$1,000,000 for each fiscal year 2014 through 2014 for the program evaluations, and they shall also make available amounts equal to ½ of the accumulated supplemental nutrition assistance benefit dollars saved over each year for bonus grants to the states. Citizens Against Government Waste is supporting passage of this amendment. The text of the amendment can be [viewed here](#).