



Take Action Now to Support Sustainable Agriculture!

May 26, 2011

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Urge Your State Senator to Support On-Farm Renewable Energy

Please call your State Senator today to ask them to vote for the Renewable Energy Equity Act (SB 489). Next week the bill will voted on in the Senate. This is a critical moment to keep this important bill moving towards passage and help farmers be part of California's green energy future.

SB 489 would make it easier for farmers and ranchers to develop innovation renewable energy projects by allowing them to easily and effectively get those projects connect to the grid. The Renewable Energy Equity Act will help California produce homegrown clean, renewable energy and reduce our state's greenhouse gas emissions.

**Make your voice heard and support sustainable agricultural solutions to climate change.
Please call your State Senator today.**

It's easy to call, and takes only 2 minutes:

Go to <http://www.legislature.ca.gov/port-zipsearch.html> and type in your zip code. Call the Sacramento office number of your State Senator. Ask to speak to the staff person who handles agriculture issues.

The message is simple. "I am a constituent of Senator _____ and I am calling to ask him/her to support SB 489, the Renewable Energy Equity Act. SB 489 will help

California reach its renewable energy goals, and help the state's agricultural producers develop clean renewable energy."

Report your call:

Please let us know you called. Drop us a line to: info@calclimateag.org.

For more information, go to: www.calclimateag.org



Walnut shells ready to be turned into energy

Tell Your Federal Senator to Reject the House Ag Budget Bill

On Tuesday afternoon, the House Agriculture Appropriations Subcommittee adopted a government funding bill that if passed would turn back decades of progress to achieve a more sustainable and just food and farming system.

The 2012 bill makes a second round of steep cuts to conservation, extension, research, renewable energy, and rural development programs. And just like in fiscal year 2011, none of the cuts are directed at crop subsidies, the largest federal agricultural spending item. The bill takes a total of \$2.7 billion (13.4%) out of the food and agriculture budget including:

- Farm bill conservation funding would be cut by nearly \$1 billion. The bill would even force USDA to break contracts it has already signed with farmers enrolled in the

Conservation Stewardship Program!

- Sustainable Agriculture Research and Education program (SARE) funding would be cut by \$3 million. The Agriculture and Food Research Initiative (AFRI) would be cut by \$40 million.
- Value-Added Producer Grant (VAPG) program would be cut by \$6.4 million. Rural Micro-lending program would be completely eliminated.
- The Renewable Energy for America Program (REAP) and the Biomass Crop Assistance (BCAP) would both be completely eliminated.
- Doing the bidding of multinational meat and poultry conglomerates, the bill forbids USDA from using any funds to write or publish the Grain Inspection Packers and Stockyards Administration (GIPSA) rule to make livestock and poultry markets fairer and more competitive, a rule Congress in directed USDA to write as part of the 2008 Farm Bill.

Call Your Senators. Tell them to reject the House Agricultural Appropriations Bill. Tell them to support full funding for farm bill conservation programs, to reject jobs and growth-killing cuts to research, energy and rural development programs, and to stand up for farmers by protecting the GIPSA rule from meat packer interference.

It's easy to call:

Go to Congress.org and type in your zip code. Click on your Senator's name, and then on the contact tab for their DC phone number. You can also call the Capitol Switchboard and ask to be directly connected to your Senator's office: 202-224-3121.

To learn more, see a recent [blog by the National Sustainable Agriculture Coalition](#).

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