

Walz Amendment to Cooperative Conservation Partnership Initiative

Background— The Cooperative Conservation Partnership Initiative (CCPI) is a voluntary program established to promote conservation partnerships and provide technical and financial resources on conservation priorities in watersheds of special significance.

Under CCPI, funds are awarded to State and local governments and agencies; Indian Tribes; and non-governmental organizations that work with agricultural producers. Funding can be provided through any combination of farm bill conservation programs and projects may combine program objectives. For example, a project might create riparian buffer areas and also conduct nutrient and pest management on nearby land that remains in crop production.

Walz Amendment— The Walz amendment adds to the list of eligible projects those that simultaneously address rural community development opportunities and environmental enhancement.

Many rural communities treasure their pristine land, water and habitat as valuable economic development assets. As our rural communities promote conservation, Congress should ensure that worthwhile projects that promote community development and agrotourism are not left behind.

AMENDMENT TO FARM BILL
OFFERED BY MR. WALZ OF MINNESOTA

In section 1243 of the Food Security Act of 1985 (16 U.S.C. 3843), relating to the cooperative conservation partnership initiative being added by section 2403, insert before the semicolon at the end of subsection (a)(1), the following: “, including special projects and initiatives that also address community and economic development needs and opportunities”.

In section 1243 of the Food Security Act of 1985 (16 U.S.C. 3843), relating to the cooperative conservation partnership initiative being added by section 2403, insert at the end of subsection (e)(2) the following new subparagraphs:

- 1 “(L) links resource and environmental ob-
2 jectives with community development or
3 agrotourism objectives that can be improved as
4 a result of addressing the resources of concern;
5 “(M) demonstrates innovation in linking
6 environmental and community development ob-
7 jectives; and

1 “(N) addresses the needs of beginning
2 farmers and ranchers and socially disadvan-
3 taged farmers and ranchers.”.

In section 1243 of the Food Security Act of 1985
(16 U.S.C. 3843), relating to the cooperative conserva-
tion partnership initiative being added by section 2403,
redesignate subsection (h) as subsection (i) and insert
after subsection (g) the following new subsection :

4 “(h) INCENTIVE AND BONUS PAYMENTS.—

5 “(1) AVAILABILITY.—Applications submitted
6 under subsection (d)(2) may include proposals for
7 special incentive and bonus payments, consistent
8 with the statutory purposes of the programs in-
9 volved, to producers that—

10 “(A) restore land, water, or habitat as a
11 community development asset; or

12 “(B) provide public access to enrolled land.

13 “(2) CRITERIA.—The Secretary shall develop
14 and publish criteria for providing special incentive or
15 bonus payments to producers under paragraph (1).”.