

Senate Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry

TITLE IX - ENERGY

The Senate Republican Farm Bill Framework for Title IX aims to expand markets, create new opportunities for producers and support rural businesses in implementing new energy efficiency measures that result in cost savings and increased profitability. The Republican Framework also streamlines the application process for USDA energy programs, improves access to programs and spurs investment in rural economies.

- Strengthens the **BioPreferred program** by increasing the number and volume of **biobased federal procurement contracts**.
- Directs the Secretary to consider increasing the **minimum biobased content** for each designated product category by up to 5% every five years.
- **Strengthens reporting** of biobased products that are purchased through online federal procurement systems.
- Directs the Secretary of Commerce to **develop North American Industry Classification System (NAICS) product codes for biobased products**.
- Directs USDA to establish a **strategy for advancing the production of sustainable aviation fuel**.
- Clarifies that **sustainable aviation fuel** is an eligible technology under the 9003 program.
- **Increases transparency and provides certainty** to 9003 program applicants by establishing a technical review agreement that specifies clear outcomes and timelines that applicants need to achieve in order to secure funding.
- **Restores a grant component** to develop, construct or retrofit pilot or demonstration-scale biorefineries.
- Makes the following improvements to the Rural Energy for America Program (REAP) that will **reduce energy costs for producers and improve profitability**:
 - **Increases the eligible project size to \$50 million**.
 - **Increases the federal cost-share to 50%**, further reducing barriers for beginning, socially disadvantaged and veteran farmers and ranchers.
 - Creates a new **covered rebate pilot program** to meet immediate producer needs incurred outside the application period.
 - Makes available **grants to organizations that provide technical assistance** to producers and rural small businesses applying for REAP awards.
 - Requires a **simplified application process** for projects less than \$50,000.

