

**Congress of the United States**  
**Washington, DC 20515**

March 13, 2020

The Honorable Sanford Bishop  
Chairman  
Subcommittee on Agriculture, Rural  
Development, FDA and Related Agencies  
House Committee on Appropriations  
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Jeff Fortenberry  
Ranking Member  
Subcommittee on Agriculture, Rural  
Development, FDA and Related Agencies  
House Committee on Appropriations  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairman Bishop and Ranking Member Fortenberry:

We write to express our support for robust funding of energy programs in the *Fiscal Year 2021 Departments of Agriculture, Rural Development, Food and Drug Administration, and Related Agencies Act*. Your prompt attention to this matter is greatly appreciated.

United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) energy programs authorized in the recently enacted bipartisan *Agriculture and Nutrition Act of 2018* (P.L. 115-334) will help improve our nation's energy security and economic development. In addition to diversifying our energy supply with renewable energy sources, these programs help rural communities support good paying jobs, advance domestic manufacturing, and address our changing environment.

Every state utilizes USDA's energy programs. These programs include support for advanced biofuels, biopower, bioproducts, biogas, wind, solar, hydroelectric, hydrogen, energy storage, and energy efficiency projects in our communities. At a time of low farm incomes and uncertainty in foreign markets, investing in impactful cost-sharing programs improves the bottom line for rural areas while securing a more sustainable future.

USDA's energy programs are cross-cutting, cost-effective, and revitalize the rural economy. These include the Biobased Markets Program ("Biopreferred"), the Biorefinery Assistance Program, the Biomass Crop Assistance Program, the Biomass Research & Development Initiative, the Bioenergy Program for Advanced Biofuels, the Biodiesel Fuel Education Program, the Carbon Utilization and Biogas Education Program, and the Rural Energy for America Program ("REAP").

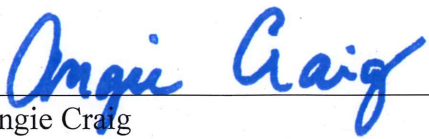
Because of its incredible popularity, REAP is typically oversubscribed, demonstrating the need for ongoing and greater support. We strongly encourage the Subcommittee to provide full discretionary funding that includes dedicated support for commercial but underserved technologies such as biogas and farm-scale distributed wind.

The development of the FY 2021 appropriations bill comes at a critical time as the USDA proceeds with ongoing implementation of programmatic changes authorized in the 2018 Farm

Bill. This bipartisan legislation expanded the scope of these programs to enhance support for new and innovative technologies while addressing pressing rural and societal needs, such as carbon utilization, energy storage, and greater adoption of ag-based renewable energy. We believe these programs represent economically and technically feasible approaches to meeting our nation's economic development, energy security, and environmental policy objectives.

Again, please support and provide robust funding for USDA energy programs. Thank you for your kind consideration.

Sincerely,



Angie Craig  
Member of Congress



Mike Bost  
Member of Congress

---

**FY2021 USDA Ag Energy Programs**  
**List of Signatories**  
**March 13, 2020**

Angie Craig  
Mike Bost  
Cindy Axne  
Don Bacon  
Donald S. Beyer Jr.  
Cheri Bustos  
Sean Casten  
Emanuel Cleaver, II  
James Comer  
TJ Cox  
Danny K. Davis  
Rodney Davis  
Peter DeFazio  
Diana DeGette  
Antonio R. Delgado  
Mark DeSaulnier  
Abby Finkenauer  
Bill Foster  
Jennifer González-Colón  
Jim Hagedorn

Vicky Hartzler  
Alcee L. Hastings  
Jahana Hayes  
Ann McLane Kuster  
Susie Lee  
Dave Loebsack  
Ben Ray Lujan  
Roger Marshall, M.D.  
Jimmy Panetta  
Collin C. Peterson  
Mike Quigley  
Cedric L. Richmond  
Mary Gay Scanlon  
David Scott  
Elissa Slotkin  
Darren Soto  
Abigail D. Spanberger  
Filemon Vela  
Mike Gallagher  
Alma S. Adams, Ph.D.  
Stacey E. Plaskett