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POCKET VETO
(EFF. MIDNIGHT 1/4/75)
MEMO OF DISAPPROVAL
(DATED 1/3/75) - Janned 1/4/75

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON
December 30, 1974

ACTION
Last day - Saturday
January 4

MEMORANDUM FOR THE PRESIDENT
FROM: KEN COLE
SUBJECT: Enrolled Bill: Agriculture
Conservation Program, S.3943

BACKGROUND

This bill is the annual attempt of Chairman Poage and Jamie Whitten to extend for another year the Rural Environmental Assistance Program (REAP) and the Rural Environmental Conservation Program (RECP). This bill will make \$125 million available which otherwise will lapse on December 31 of this year.

Your Administration has proposed the rescission or lapsing of all uncommitted REAP and RECP funds and is proposing the termination of these programs, beginning in fiscal year 1975.

ARGUMENTS FOR SIGNING

This bill is needed to stimulate agricultural production and reduce the diversion of agricultural land to other uses.

You have received telegrams urging you to sign this bill from Representatives John Paul Hammerschmidt and John Young.

ARGUMENTS FOR POCKET VETO

While these programs were needed in the past and have been successful, federal involvement is no longer necessary because net farm income is now high and many of these practices are considered as income-enhancing techniques by the farmers. Furthermore, farmers have been given ample opportunity to request such funding assistance.

Conservation projects which have been delayed because of weather or other uncontrollable circumstances, will continue to be funded, even if you pocket veto this bill. Other Department of Agriculture programs can be used to fund these kinds of conservation programs.



STAFF AND AGENCY POSITIONS

The following recommend signature:

None

The following recommend pocket veto:

Roy Ash (see enrolled bill memo. at Tab A)
Ken Cole
Phil Areeda (defers to OMB)
Max Friedersdorf
Department of Agriculture

DECISION - S.3943

Sign (Tab B) _____

Pocket veto NR3 _____

(Sign Memorandum of Disapproval
at Tab C approved by Paul Theis)





EXECUTIVE OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT
OFFICE OF MANAGEMENT AND BUDGET
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20503

DEC 28 1974

MEMORANDUM FOR THE PRESIDENT

Subject: Enrolled Bill S. 3943 - Agriculture conservation
programs
Sponsor - Sen. Clark (D) Iowa

Last Day for Action

January 4, 1975 - Saturday

Purpose

Extends by 1 year the time for using funds appropriated to carry out the 1973 Rural Environmental Assistance Program and the 1974 Rural Environmental Conservation Program.

Agency Recommendations

Office of Management and Budget	Disapproval (Memorandum of Disapproval attached)
Department of Agriculture	Disapproval (Memorandum of Disapproval attached)

Discussion

S. 3943 would extend from December 31, 1974, to December 31, 1975, the time within which farmers may request and receive approval of cost-sharing assistance under the 1973 Rural Environmental Assistance Program (REAP) and the 1974 Rural Environmental Conservation Program (RECP). In addition to approximately \$30 million of 1973 funds and approximately \$10 million of 1974 funds which remained unobligated at the end of the sign-up period, this bill would also be applicable to the \$85 million of 1974 funds which you requested the



Congress to rescind in your November 29 message on rescission and deferrals (Congress failed to act favorably on that request). Unless this enrolled bill is approved, these funds which total \$125 million will not be available beyond December 31, 1974.

Under REAP and RECP, the costs of installing such conservation practices as terrace systems, vegetative cover, streambank stabilization, etc., are shared with the farmer on a 50-50 basis. This authority was originally established in 1935 under the old Agricultural Conservation Program (ACP), when farm income was at an all-time low. While conservation was a purpose at that time, it was only a secondary objective as cost sharing not only caused the farmer to initiate conservation practices which he may not otherwise have followed, but it also increased the production capability of his land and thereby provided a substantial increase in his income. Since net farm income is now near an all-time high, many of these practices are looked upon by most farmers as income-enhancing techniques well worth doing without Federal assistance. It was for these reasons that the program was terminated in December 1972 as a low priority program in response to Congressional insistence that Federal outlays be held within certain limits. This was not a new undertaking, as every President since Truman has made annual efforts to either eliminate or reduce the program.

In December of 1973, however, a U.S. District Court ordered that the 1973 program be reinstated and that the funds remain available until December 1974. In accordance with that decision, USDA operated the 1973 program concurrently with a more restrained 1974 program with sign-up and approval available through December 1974.

Although the Senate Agriculture and Forestry Committee reported S. 3943 without holding hearings, Agriculture opposed the bill in reports to both the Senate and House on the basis that:

1. farmers had been given ample opportunity to request such funding assistance; and,
2. those farmers who have started approved conservation practices during the current year but are unable to complete these activities because of weather or other adverse circumstances will be permitted to complete these practices during next year.



Furthermore, the Administration has proposed the rescission or lapsing of all uncommitted REAP and RECP funds and is proposing the termination of these programs beginning in fiscal year 1975. The basic Administration viewpoint is that Federal involvement in such programs is no longer necessary.

However, in its report on S. 3943, the Senate Agriculture and Forestry Committee argued that:

"The current need to increase agricultural production, the loss of farmland to other uses, especially urban, transportation and recreation, and the critical levels of forest and water resources is putting additional burdens on existing resources and clearly points out that the need for full implementation and, in fact, expansion of soil and water conservation programs is now greater than ever before."

* * * * *

"When it appeared that Federal assistance for conservation work was ending in 1973, many contractors went into other specialties or reduced their operations. Then when the programs were reinstated by the courts and two years' appropriations were scheduled for one year, there were not enough contractors left in the business to do the work - even if the weather had been ideal"

The bill passed by a voice vote in the Senate and on suspension in the House.

In its views letter on the enrolled bill, Agriculture reiterates its previously noted objections on S. 3943 and recommends that you disapprove the enrolled bill. In addition, Agriculture's recently enacted fiscal year 1975 appropriation Act also contains funds for these Agricultural conservation programs. Thus, unless this bill is disapproved, there could be three separate programs in operation leading to confusion on the part of the farmers and administrative difficulties in its operation.



For the reasons set forth above, we strongly support Agriculture's veto recommendation. These programs are beyond the point where they produce a reasonable return on the taxpayers dollars and would complicate our efforts to keep the 1975-1976 budget within an acceptable balance.

We have prepared and attached for your consideration a revised Memorandum of Disapproval which we recommend for your issuance in lieu of the one prepared by Agriculture.


for Director

Enclosures



THE WHITE HOUSE

ACTION MEMORANDUM

WASHINGTON

LOG NO.:

Date: December 28, 1974

Time: 7:00 p.m.

FOR ACTION: Norm Ross
 Max Friedersdorf *ve to*
 Phil Areeda *defer omB*
 Paul Theis *oh*

cc (for information): Warren Hendriks
 Jack Marsh
 Jerry Jones

FROM THE STAFF SECRETARY

DUE: Date: Monday, December 30

Time: 1:00 p.m.

SUBJECT:

Enrolled Bill S. 3943 - Agriculture Conservation Programs

ACTION REQUESTED:

- | | |
|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> For Necessary Action | <input type="checkbox"/> For Your Recommendations |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Prepare Agenda and Brief | <input type="checkbox"/> Draft Reply |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> For Your Comments | <input type="checkbox"/> Draft Remarks |

REMARKS:

Please return to Judy Johnston, Ground Floor West Wing



PLEASE ATTACH THIS COPY TO MATERIAL SUBMITTED.

If you have any questions or if you anticipate a delay in submitting the required material, please telephone the Staff Secretary immediately.

K. R. COLE, JR.
For the President

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

Veto

MEMORANDUM FOR: WARREN HENDRIKS
FROM: *Vern Loeffler* MAX L. FRIEDERSDORF
SUBJECT: Action Memorandum - Log No.
Enrolled Bill S. 3943

The Office of Legislative Affairs concurs in the attached proposal and has no additional recommendations.

Attachment



THE WHITE HOUSE

ACTION MEMORANDUM

WASHINGTON

LOG NO.:

Date: December 28, 1974

Time: 7:00 p.m.

FOR ACTION: Norm Ross
Max Friedersdorf ✓
Phil Areeda
Paul Theis

cc (for information): Warren Hendriks
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Jerry Jones

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|---|---|
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| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> For Your Comments | <input type="checkbox"/> Draft Remarks |

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K. R. COLE, JR.
For the President

THE WHITE HOUSE

ACTION MEMORANDUM

WASHINGTON

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DUE: Date: Monday, December 30

Time: 1:00 p.m.

SUBJECT:

Enrolled Bill S. 3943 - Agriculture Conservation Programs

ACTION REQUESTED:

- For Necessary Action
- For Your Recommendations
- Prepare Agenda and Brief
- Draft Reply
- For Your Comments
- Draft Remarks

REMARKS:

Please return to Judy Johnston, Ground Floor West Wing

2 defer to OMB
P. Areeda NC



PLEASE ATTACH THIS COPY TO MATERIAL SUBMITTED.

If you have any questions or if you anticipate a delay in submitting the required material, please telephone the Staff Secretary immediately.

K. R. COLE, JR.
For the President

MEMORANDUM OF DISAPPROVAL

I am withholding my approval from S. 3943, a bill "To extend the time for using funds appropriated to carry out the 1973 Rural Environmental Assistance Program and the 1974 Rural Environmental Conservation Program."

The bill would extend from December 31, 1974 to December 31, 1975, the time within which farmers may request and receive approval of cost-sharing assistance under the 1973 Rural Environmental Assistance Program (REAP) and the 1974 Rural Environmental Conservation Program (RECP). In total, this bill would make \$125,000,000 available to farmers for water and soil conservation practices which would otherwise not be available beyond December 31, 1974.

In my judgment, this bill is not necessary because sufficient cost-share funds have been made available for producers to finance sound conservation practices. Those producers that were interested in participating in these programs have had adequate time to request and receive approval of these cost-share funds by the end of December 1974. I understand that in the case of those farmers who have started approved conservation practices during the allotted time and were unable to complete them because of weather or other uncontrollable circumstances, they will be permitted to complete these practices and receive cost-sharing assistance during 1975.



This Administration shares the view that REAP and RECP have made important contributions to conservation and the rural environment. However, the programs have long ago achieved their objectives. These programs were initiated in the 1930's to supplement farmers' incomes and provide incentives to farmers to install soil and water conservation practices. They were successful in demonstrating the value of conservation as a good farming practice. Many of the practices supported by the programs are profitable without Federal assistance and the supplementary income from this source has diminished in importance at a time when net farm income is near an all-time high.

It is therefore, my earnest opinion that this bill is both unnecessary and unjustified, and on that basis I am constrained to withhold my approval.

THE WHITE HOUSE

January , 1975





DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY
WASHINGTON, D. C. 20250

Honorable Roy L. Ash
Director, Office of Management
and Budget

December 27, 1974

Dear Mr. Ash:

In reply to the request of your office, the following report is submitted on the enrolled bill S. 3943, "To extend the time for using funds appropriated to carry out the Rural Environmental Assistance Program (REAP) and the Rural Environmental Conservation Program (RECP)."

The Department recommends that the President disapprove the bill.

The Department believes that the bill is unnecessary. Extending the 1973 and 1974 programs to December 31, 1975, would provide approximately \$125 million additional cost sharing assistance to farmers. It is estimated that \$30 million will be unobligated on the 1973 and \$95 million on the 1974 program as of December 31, 1974. The administration is proposing no program for 1975. This action is justified since net farm income in 1974 is second only to the record high registered in 1973, and is expected to continue strong. In addition, the value of preserving our soil and water resources has been proven to farmers through the years since 1936. With average farm income at high levels relative to the past, and with the necessity for more prudent use of tax payer dollars, farmers are in a better position to meet the cost of resource conservation from their own income and should be expected to do so.

It is estimated that an additional \$85,000,000 would be needed in appropriations for fiscal year 1975 if the bill is approved.

Sincerely,


CLAYTON YEUTTER
Acting Secretary



To the Senate:

I return herewith, without my approval, S. 3943 entitled "An Act to extend the time for using funds appropriated to carry out the 1973 Rural Environmental Assistance Program and the 1974 Rural Environmental Conservation Program."

This bill authorizes and directs the Secretary of Agriculture to extend the time within which producers may request and receive approval for cost-sharing assistance under the 1973 Rural Environmental Assistance Program (REAP) and the 1974 Rural Environmental Conservation Program (RECP), as authorized by sections 7 to 15, 16(a) and 17 of the Soil Conservation and Domestic Allotment Act, as amended, and Title X of the Agricultural Act of 1970, as amended, until December 31, 1975.

We believe that the bill is unnecessary. Producers have had greater opportunity for conservation cost-share program assistance during 1974 than at anytime since 1943. More than \$300 million of obligational authority was available through the end of December 31, 1974. Extending the 1973 and 1974 programs to December 31, 1975, would provide approximately \$125 million for cost-sharing.

We understand the concern to preserve this nations's critical soil and water resources to meet the needs of present and future generations. But, we must also face the overwhelming problem of how best to utilize available dollars to meet the nations total economic and human resource needs. Each government program and its level of funding must be carefully evaluated in relation to the total need for government funds.

During the 38 years that cost-sharing conservation program (s) (ACP - REAP RECP) have operated, billions of dollars have flowed into Rural America.

The funds were used to bolster purchasing power of farmers during the



depression years of the 1930's and also to encourage the conservation of this nations rich natural resources. But the economics of agriculture today are vastly different from that which prevailed in the 1930's or even just a few years ago. Net farm income in 1974 is second only to the record high registered in 1973, and is expected to continue strong. In addition, the value of preserving our soil and water resources has been proven to farmers through the years since 1936. With average farm income at high levels, relative to the past, and with the necessity for more prudent use of taxpayer dollars, farmers are in a better position to meet the cost of resource conservation from their own income and should be expected to do so.

Because of the above listed factors, I do not believe that ^{it} is in the best interest of the Government, affected agricultural producers or American taxpayers to approve this bill.



THE WHITE HOUSE

ACTION MEMORANDUM

WASHINGTON

LOG NO.:

Date: December 28, 1974

Time: 7:00 p.m.

FOR ACTION: Norm Ross
 Max Friedersdorf
 Phil Areeda
 Paul Theis ✓ X 12/31/74

cc (for information): Warren Hendriks
 Jack Marsh
 Jerry Jones

OK/MS

FROM THE STAFF SECRETARY

DUE: Date: Monday, December 30

Time: 1:00 p.m.

SUBJECT:

Enrolled Bill S. 3943 - Agriculture Conservation Programs

ACTION REQUESTED:

 For Necessary Action For Your Recommendations Prepare Agenda and Brief Draft Reply For Your Comments Draft Remarks

REMARKS:

Please return to Judy Johnston, Ground Floor West Wing



1974 DEC 30 AM 8 45

PLEASE ATTACH THIS COPY TO MATERIAL SUBMITTED.

If you have any questions or if you anticipate a delay in submitting the required material, please telephone the Staff Secretary immediately.

K. R. COLE, JR.
 For the President

MEMORANDUM OF DISAPPROVAL

I am withholding my approval from S. 3943, a bill
"to extend the time for using funds appropriated to
carry out the 1973 Rural Environmental Assistance Program
and the 1974 Rural Environmental Conservation Program."

The bill would extend from December 31, 1974, to
December 31, 1975, the time within which farmers may request
and receive approval of cost-sharing assistance under the
1973 Rural Environmental Assistance Program (REAP) and the
1974 Rural Environmental Conservation Program (RECP). In
total, this bill would make \$125,000,000 available to
farmers for water and soil conservation practices which
would otherwise not be available beyond December 31, 1974.

In my judgment, this bill is not necessary because
sufficient cost-share funds have been made available for
producers to finance sound conservation practices. Those
producers ~~that were~~ interested ~~in participating~~ in these
programs have had adequate time to request and receive
approval of these cost-share funds by the end of December 1974.
I understand that ~~in the case of~~ those farmers, who have
started approved conservation practices during the allotted
time and were unable to complete them because of weather or
other uncontrollable circumstances, ~~they~~ will be permitted
to complete these practices and receive cost-sharing
assistance during 1975.



This Administration shares the view that REAP and RECP have made important contributions to conservation and the rural environment. However, the programs have long ago achieved their objectives. These programs were initiated in the 1930's to supplement farmers' incomes and provide incentives to farmers to install soil and water conservation practices. They were successful in demonstrating the value of conservation as a good farming practice. Many of the practices supported by the programs are profitable without Federal assistance and the supplementary income from this source has diminished in importance at a time when net farm income is near an all-time high.

It is, therefore, my earnest opinion that this bill is both unnecessary and unjustified, and on that basis I ~~am~~ ~~constrained to~~ withhold by approval.

THE WHITE HOUSE

January , 1975





EXECUTIVE OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT
OFFICE OF MANAGEMENT AND BUDGET
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20503

To
Mr. Hubbard
12-28-74

DEC 28 1974

MEMORANDUM FOR THE PRESIDENT

Subject: Enrolled Bill S. 3943 - Agriculture conservation programs
Sponsor - Sen. Clark (D) Iowa

Last Day for Action

January 4, 1975 - Saturday

Purpose

Extends by 1 year the time for using funds appropriated to carry out the 1973 Rural Environmental Assistance Program and the 1974 Rural Environmental Conservation Program.

Agency Recommendations

Office of Management and Budget

Disapproval (Memorandum of Disapproval attached)

Department of Agriculture

Disapproval (Memorandum of Disapproval attached)

Discussion

S. 3943 would extend from December 31, 1974, to December 31, 1975, the time within which farmers may request and receive approval of cost-sharing assistance under the 1973 Rural Environmental Assistance Program (REAP) and the 1974 Rural Environmental Conservation Program (RECP). In addition to approximately \$30 million of 1973 funds and approximately \$10 million of 1974 funds which remained unobligated at the end of the sign-up period, this bill would also be applicable to the \$85 million of 1974 funds which you requested the



Robert Vento

1/3/75

MEMORANDUM OF DISAPPROVAL

I am withholding my approval from S. 3943, a bill "to extend the time for using funds appropriated to carry out the 1973 Rural Environmental Assistance Program and the 1974 Rural Environmental Conservation Program."

The bill would extend from December 31, 1974, to December 31, 1975, the time within which farmers may request and receive approval of cost-sharing assistance under the 1973 Rural Environmental Assistance Program (REAP) and the 1974 Rural Environmental Conservation Program (RECP). In total, this bill would make \$125,000,000 available to farmers for water and soil conservation practices which would otherwise not be available beyond December 31, 1974.

In my judgment, this bill is not necessary because sufficient cost-share funds have been made available for producers to finance sound conservation practices. Those producers interested in these programs have had adequate time to request and receive approval of these cost-share funds by the end of December 1974. I understand that those farmers, who have started approved conservation practices during the allotted time and were unable to complete them because of weather or other uncontrollable circumstances, will be permitted to complete these practices and receive cost-sharing assistance during 1975.

This Administration shares the view that REAP and RECP have made important contributions to conservation and the rural environment. However, the programs have long ago achieved their objectives. These programs were initiated in the 1930's to supplement farmers' incomes and provide incentives to farmers to install soil and water conservation practices. They were successful in



demonstrating the value of conservation as a good farming practice. Many of the practices supported by the programs are profitable without Federal assistance and the supplementary income from this source has diminished in importance at a time when net farm income is near an all-time high.

It is, therefore, my earnest opinion that this bill is both unnecessary and unjustified, and on that basis I withhold my approval.

Gerard R. Ford

THE WHITE HOUSE,
January 3, 1975



AGRICULTURE CONSERVATION PROGRAMS

—————
OCTOBER 4, 1974.—Ordered to be printed
—————

Mr. EASTLAND, from the Committee on Agriculture and Forestry,
submitted the following

REPORT

[To accompany S. 3943]

The Committee on Agriculture and Forestry, to which was referred the bill (S. 3943) to extend the time for using funds appropriated to carry out the Rural Environmental Assistance Program (REAP) and the Rural Environmental Conservation Program (RECP) for the fiscal years ending June 30, 1973, and June 30, 1974, having considered the same, reports favorably thereon with amendments and recommends that the bill as amended do pass.

SHORT EXPLANATION

S. 3943 extends the time for using the funds authorized in fiscal years 1973 and 1974, for the Rural Environmental Assistance Program (REAP) and the Rural Environmental Conservation Program (RECP), to December 31, 1975.

COMMITTEE AMENDMENT

The Committee's amendment strikes all after the enacting clause and inserts in lieu thereof a substitute. The amendment is clarifying in nature and makes it clear that producers may—until December 31, 1975—request and receive approval for cost-sharing assistance under the 1973 Rural Environmental Assistance Program and the 1974 Rural Environmental Conservation Program.

BACKGROUND AND NEED

Soil and water conservation has long been recognized as critical to the well-being of this Nation and especially agriculture. The unanimous support of this concept is demonstrated by the fact that the origi-



nal enacting legislation, the Soil Conservation Act of 1935, passed both Houses of Congress without a dissenting vote. Since that time Congress has moved repeatedly to maintain soil and water conservation programs when various administrations attempted to reduce or eliminate such programs in favor of short term budget benefits.

The foresight and wisdom of the conservation programs in the past has never been more evident than today, as the Nation faces increasing pressure on its agricultural resource base.

The current need to increase agricultural production, the loss of farmland to other uses, especially urban, transportation and recreation, and the critical levels of forest and water resources is putting additional burdens on existing resources and clearly points out that the need for full implementation and, in fact, expansion of soil and water conservation programs is now greater than ever before.

In spite of a national awareness of need for conservation, the administration terminated the 1973 program and impounded the 1974 program funds for budgetary reasons. However, the intent of Congress is quite clear that the authorized funds were and are intended for use in accepted soil and water conservation programs. This position was further enforced by the Federal court ruling on December 28, 1973, that termination of these programs or impoundment of authorized funds was illegal and that the programs must be reinstated and funds expended as intended.

As a result of this court action, the Department of Agriculture is permitting farmers to earn 1973 REAP cost-sharing money during 1974 as well as 1974 RECP cost-sharing payments. However, it will be impossible for farmers during 1974 to do all the conservation work for which cost sharing is available under the 1973 and 1974 programs.

The program for using both the 1973 and 1974 funds was not announced until late April 1974. Compounding the problems caused by late announcement and two programs being administered simultaneously, the Midwest experienced three months of excessive rainfall in March, April, and May, causing ground conditions that prohibited significant fieldwork.

When it appeared that Federal assistance for conservation work was ending in 1973, many contractors went into other specialties or reduced their operations. Then when the programs were reinstated by the courts and two years' appropriations were scheduled for one year, there were not enough contractors left in the business to do the work—even if the weather had been ideal. Additionally, there is much tillable ground that needs conservation work still under cultivation, and the work cannot begin until after the 1974 crop is harvested.

The heavy rains in the past few months have not only contributed to the difficulty of doing conservation work, but they have made the need for such work even greater.

At this time there is still some \$50 million of the 1973 program that has not been committed and about \$85 million remaining in the 1974 program. Therefore, to comply with the original intent of Congress, to maintain our precious soil and water resources, and to comply with the court order, the program period must be extended.

By extending the 1973 and 1974 programs until December 31, 1975, the Department of Agriculture and farmers will have the necessary time to utilize fully the funds authorized in fiscal 1973 and 1974 for acceptable practices of soil and water conservation included in the Rural Environmental Assistance Program and the Rural Environmental Conservation Program that are vital for continued resource conservation.

COST ESTIMATE

In accordance with section 252 of the Legislative Reorganization Act of 1970, the Committee estimates that no additional costs will be incurred by the Federal Government in the current and five subsequent fiscal years as a result of this legislation because all funds that will be expended were authorized in fiscal 1973 and fiscal 1974.

○

Ninety-third Congress of the United States of America

AT THE SECOND SESSION

*Begun and held at the City of Washington on Monday, the twenty-first day of January,
one thousand nine hundred and seventy-four*

An Act

To extend the time for using funds appropriated to carry out the 1973 Rural Environmental Assistance Program and the 1974 Rural Environmental Conservation Program.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, That notwithstanding any other provision of law or regulation issued by the Secretary of Agriculture, the time within which producers may request and receive approval for cost-sharing assistance under the 1973 Rural Environmental Assistance Program and the 1974 Rural Environmental Conservation Program (as authorized by sections 7 to 15, 16(a), and 17 of the Soil Conservation and Domestic Allotment Act, as amended, and title X of the Agricultural Act of 1970, as amended) is extended to December 31, 1975, and funds appropriated for such programs shall remain available for making payments to eligible producers until December 31, 1976, for practices carried out during the period July 1, 1972, to December 31, 1975.

Speaker of the House of Representatives.

*Vice President of the United States and
President of the Senate.*

JANUARY 4, 1975

Office of the White House Press Secretary

THE WHITE HOUSE

MEMORANDUM OF DISAPPROVAL

I am withholding my approval from S. 3943, a bill "to extend the time for using funds appropriated to carry out the 1973 Rural Environmental Assistance Program and the 1974 Rural Environmental Conservation Program."

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In my judgment, this bill is not necessary because sufficient cost-share funds have been made available for producers to finance sound conservation practices. Those producers interested in these programs have had adequate time to request and receive approval of these cost-share funds by the end of December 1974. I understand that those farmers, who have started approved conservation practices during the allotted time and were unable to complete them because of weather or other uncontrollable circumstances, will be permitted to complete these practices and receive cost-sharing assistance during 1975.

This Administration shares the view that REAP and RECP have made important contributions to conservation and the rural environment. However, the programs have long ago achieved their objectives. These programs were initiated in the 1930's to supplement farmers' incomes and provide incentives to farmers to install soil and water conservation practices. They were successful in demonstrating the value of conservation as a good farming practice. Many of the practices supported by the programs are profitable without Federal assistance and the supplementary income from this source has diminished in importance at a time when net farm income is near an all-time high.

It is, therefore, my earnest opinion that this bill is both unnecessary and unjustified, and on that basis I withhold my approval.

GERALD R. FORD

THE WHITE HOUSE,
JANUARY 3, 1975

#

December 24, 1974

Dear Mr. Director:

The following bills were received at the White House on December 24th:

S.J. Res. 40 ✓	S. 3481 ✓	H.R. 8958 ✓	H.R. 14600 ✓
S.J. Res. 133 ✓	S. 3548 ✓	H.R. 8981 ✓	H.R. 14689 ✓
S.J. Res. 262 ✓	S. 3934 ✓	H.R. 9182 ✓	H.R. 14718 ✓
✓S. 251 ✓	✓S. 3943 ✓	H.R. 9199 ✓	✓H.R. 15173 ✓
S. 356 ✓	S. 3976 ✓	H.R. 9588 ✓	✓H.R. 15223 ✓
S. 521 ✓	S. 4073 ✓	H.R. 9654 ✓	✓H.R. 15229 ✓
S. 544 ✓	✓S. 4206 ✓	H.R. 10212 ✓	✓H.R. 15322 ✓
S. 663 ✓	✓H.J. Res. 1178 ✓	✓H.R. 10701 ✓	H.R. 15977 ✓
✓S. 754 ✓	✓H.J. Res. 1180 ✓	✓H.R. 10710 ✓	✓H.R. 16045 ✓
S. 1017 ✓	✓H.R. 421 ✓	✓H.R. 10827 ✓	✓H.R. 16215 ✓
S. 1083 ✓	H.R. 1715 ✓	✓H.R. 11144 ✓	H.R. 16596 ✓
✓S. 1296 ✓	H.R. 1820 ✓	✓H.R. 11273 ✓	✓H.R. 16925 ✓
S. 1418 ✓	H.R. 2208 ✓	✓H.R. 11796 ✓	✓H.R. 17010 ✓
S. 2149 ✓	✓H.R. 2933 ✓	✓H.R. 11802 ✓	H.R. 17045 ✓
S. 2446 ✓	H.R. 3203 ✓	✓H.R. 11847 ✓	✓H.R. 17085 ✓
S. 2807 ✓	H.R. 3339 ✓	✓H.R. 11897 ✓	✓H.R. 17468 ✓
S. 2854 ✓	H.R. 5264 ✓	✓H.R. 12044 ✓	✓H.R. 17558 ✓
S. 2888 ✓	H.R. 5463 ✓	✓H.R. 12113 ✓	H.R. 17597 ✓
S. 2994 ✓	✓H.R. 5773 ✓	✓H.R. 12427 ✓	✓H.R. 17628 ✓
✓S. 3022 ✓	H.R. 7599 ✓	✓H.R. 12884 ✓	✓H.R. 17655 ✓
S. 3289 ✓	H.R. 7684 ✓	✓H.R. 13022 ✓	
S. 3358 ✓	H.R. 7767 ✓	✓H.R. 13296 ✓	
S. 3359 ✓	H.R. 8214 ✓	✓H.R. 13869 ✓	
S. 3394 ✓	H.R. 8322 ✓	H.R. 14449 ✓	
✓S. 3433 ✓	H.R. 8591 ✓	✓H.R. 14461 ✓	

Please let the President have reports and recommendations as to the approval of these bills as soon as possible.

Sincerely,

Robert D. Linder
Chief Executive Clerk

The Honorable Roy L. Ash
Director
Office of Management and Budget
Washington, D. C.

