

December 2009 – January 2010

The Council Caller

Legislative Issue

The Council on Food, Agricultural, and Resource Economics (C-FARE) is a non-profit organization dedicated to strengthening the application of economics to food, agricultural, and resource issues at the national level. *The Council Caller, Legislative Issue* is a monthly e-newsletter provided by C-FARE with informational updates for agricultural and applied economists.

Consumer Concerns, Food, Health and Safety

To view the legislation visit <http://thomas.loc.gov/>, select the option that will allow you to search by Bill Number.

Bill Number	Status	Date Introduced	Sponsor	Bill Summary and Link
SB 2758	Referred to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.	11/9/2009	Senator Debbie Stabenow (MI)	A bill to amend the Agricultural Research, Extension, and Education Reform Act of 1998 to establish a national food safety training, education, extension, outreach, and technical assistance program for agricultural producers, and for other purposes.
SB 2805	Referred to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.	11/19/2009	Senator Arlen Specter (PA)	A bill to amend the Food and Nutrition Act of 2008 to increase the amount made available to purchase commodities for the emergency food assistance program in fiscal year 2010.
SB 2819	Referred to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.	11/30/2009	Senator Dianne Feinstein (CA)	Processed Food Safety Act of 2009
SB 2792	Referred to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.	11/19/2009	Senator Kirsten Gillibrand (NY)	E. Coli Eradication Act of 2009
HB 4148	Referred to the Committee on Education and Labor, the Committee on Energy and Commerce, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker.	11/19/2009	Congressman David Loebsack (IA-2)	To amend the Richard B. Russell National School Lunch Act to improve and expand direct certification procedures for the national school lunch and school breakfast programs, and for other purposes.
HB 4333	Referred to the Committee on Education and Labor, the Committee on Energy and Commerce, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker.	12/16/2009	Congressman Sam Farr (CA-1)	To amend the Richard B. Russell National School Lunch Act to improve the health and well-being of school children, and for other purposes.
SB 510	Placed on Senate Legislative Calendar No. 247 under General Orders.	03/03/2009	Senator Richard Durbin (IL)	A bill to amend the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act with respect to the safety of the food supply.

Future Technologies and Infrastructure Investments

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Bill Number	Status	Date Introduced	Sponsor	Bill Summary and Link
SB 1733	Committee on Environment and Public Works. Ordered to be reported with an amendment in the nature of a substitute favorably.	9/30/2009	Senator John Kerry (MA)	A bill to create clean energy jobs, promote energy independence, reduce global warming pollution, and transition to a clean energy economy.
SR 379	Referred to the Committee on Foreign Relations.	12/17/2009	Senator Kirsten Gillibrand (NY)	A resolution to express the sense of the Senate regarding the protection of intellectual property rights for clean energy and environmental technology.
HB 3598	Received in the Senate and referred to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.	9/17/2009	Congressman Bart Gordon (TN-6)	To ensure consideration of water intensity in the Department of Energy's energy research, development, and demonstration programs to help guarantee efficient, reliable, and sustainable delivery of energy and water resources.
SB 2773	Committee on Energy and Natural Resources Subcommittee on Energy. Hearings held.	11/16/2009	Senator Susan Collins (ME)	A bill to require the Secretary of Energy to carry out a program to support the research, demonstration, and development of commercial applications for offshore wind energy, and for other purposes.
HB 3909	Referred to the Subcommittee on Energy and Environment.	10/26/2009	Congresswoman Deborah Halvorson (IL-11)	To enhance the energy security of the United States by encouraging investments in renewable and alternative energy and to authorize appropriations for research in and development of fungible biofuels.
SB 1933	Referred to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.	10/27/2009	Senator Jeff Bingaman (NM)	A bill to establish an integrated Federal program that protects, restores, and conserves natural resources by responding to the threats and effects of climate change, and for other purposes.

Agriculture's Global Competitiveness and Profitability

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Bill Number	Status	Date Introduced	Sponsor	Bill Summary and Link
HR 987	Referred to the House Committee on Ways and Means.	12/16/2009	Congressman Rodney Frelinghuysen (NJ-11)	Recognizing the importance of trade to the United States economy and the importance of passing free trade agreements with Colombia, South Korea, and Panama.
HB 977	Placed on the Union Calendar, Calendar No. 223.	2/11/2009	Congressman Collin Peterson (MN-7)	To amend the Commodity Exchange Act to bring greater transparency and accountability to commodity markets, and for other purposes.

HR 964	On agreeing to the resolution Agreed to by the Yeas and Nays: 238 - 186 (Roll no. 952).	12/10/2009	Congressman Ed Perlmutter (CO-7)	Providing for further consideration of the bill (H.R. 4173) to provide for financial regulatory reform, to protect consumers and investors, to enhance Federal understanding of insurance issues, to regulate the over-the-counter derivatives markets, and for other purposes.
HB 4177	Referred to the Committee on Agriculture, the Committee on Appropriations, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker.	12/2/2009	Congressman Marion Berry (AR-1)	To provide emergency disaster assistance to certain agricultural producers that suffered losses during 2009, to provide emergency disaster assistance to certain livestock producers that suffered losses during 2008 or 2009, and for other purposes.
SB 2821	Referred to the Committee on Finance.	12/1/2009	Senator Sherrod Brown (OH)	Trade Reform, Accountability, Development, and Employment Act of 2009
SB 2810	Referred to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.	11/20/2009	Senator Thad Cochran (MS)	A bill to require the Secretary of Agriculture to provide emergency disaster assistance to certain agricultural producers that suffered losses during the 2009 calendar year.
SB 1783	Referred to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.	10/14/2009	Senator Al Franken (MN)	A bill to amend the Agricultural Marketing Act of 1946 to provide for country of origin labeling for dairy products.

Economic Opportunities in Rural Areas

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Bill Number	Status	Date Introduced	Sponsor	Bill Summary and Link
SB 2880	Referred to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.	12/14/2009	Senator Kirsten Gillibrand (NY)	A bill to amend the Rural Electrification Act of 1936 to establish an Office of Rural Broadband Initiatives in the Department of Agriculture, and for other purposes.

Environmental and Natural Resource Issues

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Bill Number	Status	Date Introduced	Sponsor	Bill Summary and Link
SB 2835	Referred to the Committee on Foreign Relations.	12/3/2009	Senator John Kerry (MA)	A bill to reduce global warming pollution through international climate finance, investment, and for other purposes.
HB 4159	Referred to the Committee on Agriculture.	12/1/2009	Congressman Rush Holt (NJ-12)	School Environment Protection Act of 2009
SB 2791	Referred to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.	11/18/2009	Senator Jeff Merkley (OR)	Forest Harvest Opportunity Act

SB 2798	Referred to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.	11/18/2009	Senator Mark Udall (CO)	A bill to reduce the risk of catastrophic wildfire through the facilitation of insect and disease infestation treatment of National Forest System and adjacent land, and for other purposes.
SB 2791	Referred to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.	11/18/2009	Senator Jeff Merkley (OR)	Forest Harvest Opportunity Act

Other Legislation

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Bill Number	Status	Date Introduced	Sponsor	Bill Summary and Link
HB 2997	Became Public Law No: 111-80	6/23/2009	Congressman Rosa DeLauro (CT-3)	Making appropriations for Agriculture, Rural Development, Food and Drug Administration, and Related Agencies programs for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2010, and for other purposes.
HB 3183	Became Public Law No: 111-85	7/13/2009	Congressman Ed Pastor (AZ-4)	Making appropriations for energy and water development and related agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2010, and for other purposes.