

March 2008

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 2770	Referred to Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.	3/13/2008	Senator Dianne Feinstein (CA)	A bill to amend the Federal Meat Inspection Act to strengthen the food safety inspection system by imposing stricter penalties for the slaughter of nonambulatory livestock.
HB 4040	Passed Senate in lieu of S. 2663 with an amendment.	11/1/2007	Congressman Bobby Rush (IL-1)	Consumer Product Safety Modernization Act
HB 5620	Referred to Committees on Energy and Commerce, and Agriculture.	3/13/2008	Congressman Bruce Braley (IA-1)	To establish a program to assure the safety of fresh produce intended for human consumption, and for other purposes.
HB 5636	Referred to the House Committee on Energy and Commerce.	3/13/2008	Congressman John Lewis (GA-5)	To establish a comprehensive process to inform American consumers about food and product recalls, and for other purposes.

Future Technologies and Infrastructure Investments

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
HB 5351	Received in the Senate	2/12/2008	Congressman Charles Rangel (NY-15)	Renewable Energy and Energy Conservation Tax Act of 2008
SB 2642	Referred to the Committee on Finance.	2/14/2008	Senator Amy Klobuchar (MN)	A bill to establish a national renewable energy standard, to extend and create renewable energy tax incentives.

Agriculture's Global Competitiveness and Profitability

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
HB 5264	Became Public Law No: 110-191	2/07/2008	Congressman Charles Rangel (NY-15)	Trade Preference Extension Act of 2008
SB 2691	Referred to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry	03/04/2008	Senator Christopher Bond (MO)	A bill to amend the Federal Crop Insurance Reform and Department of Agriculture Reorganization Act of 1994 to provide enhanced agricultural input into Federal rulemakings, and for other purposes.
SB 2726	Referred to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry	03/06/2008	Senator Robert Casey (PA)	A bill to amend the Emergency Food Assistance Act of 1983 to require the Secretary of Agriculture to help offset the costs of intrastate transportation, storage, and distribution of bonus commodities provided to States and food assistance agencies under the emergency food assistance program.

Economic Opportunities in Rural Areas

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 2786	Referred to the Committee on Finance	03/18/2008	Senator Chuck Grassley (IA)	A bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to improve access to health care under the Medicare program for beneficiaries residing in rural areas.

Environmental and Natural Resource Issues

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 2669	Referred to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.	02/26/2008	Senator Olympia Snowe (ME)	A bill to provide for the implementation of a Green Chemistry Research and Development Program, and for other purposes.
SB 2730	Referred to Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.	03/06/2008	Senator Pete Domenici (NM)	Clean Energy Investment Bank Act of 2008

SB 2739	Placed on Senate Legislative Calendar No 616 under General Orders.	03/10/2008	Senator Jeff Bingaman (NM)	Consolidated Natural Resources Act of 2008
SB 2728	Referred to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.	03/06/3008	Senator Johnny Isakson (GA)	A bill to establish the Twenty-First Century Water Commission to study and develop recommendations for a comprehensive water strategy to address future water needs.
HB 5587	Referred to the House Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.	03/11/2008	Congressman Jon Lewis (GA-5)	To direct the Secretary of the Army to conduct a comprehensive study of long-term water management in the southeastern United States.

Other Legislation

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
HB 5578	Referred to Committees on Agriculture, and Foreign Affairs	03/11/2008	Congressman Collin Peterson (MN-7)	To extend agricultural programs beyond March 15, 2008, to suspend permanent price support authorities beyond that date, and for other purposes.
SB 2745	Became Public Law No: 110-196	03/12/2008	Senator Tom Harkin (IA)	A bill to extend agricultural programs beyond March 15, 2008, to suspend permanent price support authorities beyond that date, and for other purposes.
HB 5618	Referred to the House Committee on Natural Resources.	03/13/2008	Congresswoman Madeleine Z. Bordallo (GU)	To reauthorize and amend the National Sea Grant College Program Act, and for other purposes.