



The Farm, Nutrition, and Community Investment Act of 2007
Focus on Farm and Ranch Land Protection Provisions

What is it?: The Farm, Nutrition, and Community Investment Act, H.R. 2144, advances, among other conservation programs, critical farm and ranch land protection initiatives in the 2007 Farm Bill. It is intended to highlight and promote specific land protection priorities during the debate on the 2007 Farm Bill. Congresswoman Rosa DeLauro (D-CT) and Congressman Wayne Gilchrest (R-MD) in the House of Representatives introduced the bill. There will be a similar version introduced in the Senate by Senator Charles Schumer (D-NY).

What does the bill do to advance farm and ranch land protection? The bill proposes a number of important farm and ranch land protection provisions including:

- Tripling funding for the Farm and Ranch Land Protection Program (FRPP) from roughly \$100 million to \$300 million annually.
- Reforming FRPP to reduce duplicative and burdensome federal regulations.
- Distributing FRPP funds as grants to "qualified" state and local agricultural land protection programs and land trusts to apply toward eligible projects using their own selection criteria, procedures and easement provisions.
- Eliminating the federal capital gains tax on agricultural conservation easement sales.
- Strengthening the Farmland Protection Policy Act to ensure that federally funded projects (i.e., transportation, sewer, water and other) are not unnecessarily converting productive agricultural lands.
- Creating a National Agricultural Lands Commission to study the importance of protecting an adequate agricultural land base to our Nation's homeland security, food security, energy security, environmental quality and quality of life, and to develop recommendations for the federal government to encourage the retention of agricultural land at the national, state and local levels.
- Establishing a "Debt for Agricultural Conservation Easements" program that would forgive farmers' USDA debt in exchange for conveyance of a permanent agricultural conservation easement.
- Providing grants to support state and local planning for agriculture initiatives.
- Eliminating the Adjusted Gross Income (AGI) limitation for conservation programs.

What should I do to support the bill's recommendations?: Please [take action today](#) by going to the American Farmland Trust action center (www.farmland.org/action) and faxing or e-mailing your representative to sign on to the Farm, Nutrition, and Community Investment Act (H.R. 2144)

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