

Washington, D.C. – Congressman Jeff Fortenberry has successfully amended the House Agriculture Appropriations Act to enhance the Rural Energy for America Program (REAP). REAP promotes renewable energy and energy self-sufficiency developments in rural America by funding a wide range of renewable energy projects that stimulate rural economies, help create jobs, and address environmental concerns. The bipartisan amendment was cosponsored by Rep. Tim Walz of Minnesota.

"Rural America can help lead the way to America's independent energy future," Fortenberry said. "This amendment helps rural communities integrate energy efficient technologies with small-scale systems using renewable sources, such as biofuels, biomass, geothermal, solar, and wind. These efforts are increasingly important in light of high fuel prices. They decrease our reliance on foreign oil, conserve natural resources while protecting the environment, and create new economic opportunities for farmers and rural entrepreneurs."

Specifically, this amendment transfers \$1 million from the U.S. Department of Agriculture Office of the Chief Information Officer to the Rural Energy for America Program.

Fortenberry is chairman of the House Agriculture Committee's Department Operations, Oversight, and Credit Subcommittee.

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