

Statutory Establishment of the Office of Tribal Relations

- Establish an **Office of Tribal Relations**.
- **Authorization** for \$10,000,000 appropriation.

GAO Study “Credit Deserts”

- An examination on the nature of **commercial credit** on Indian Reservations.

TITLE II-Conservation

- **Protect and preserve program purpose** and function regardless of any restructure or consolidation of Conservation Programs.
- Incentivize landowners to keep land coming out of **CRP in forage production**.

TITLE III-Trade

Marketing and Promotion.

- Fix for the Market Access Program in Foreign Ag Service to allow IAC to focus on solely American Indian produced food products. The present MAP agreement between IAC and FAS is authorized through: (Conference Report, Sec. 122. Marketing Assistance Program [MAP], c. Eligible Trade Organizations, page 1014) *“The Senate Bill defines eligible trade organizations to include U.S. or regional agricultural trade organizations that promote but do not profit directly from specific sales of agricultural commodities; a private organization that contributes significantly to U.S. export market development; or a tribal or inter-tribal organization that promotes the export and sale of one or more Native American products.”*
- The intent of this language needs to be strengthened by stating in law that “a tribal or intertribal organization that promotes the export and sale of one or more trademark certified Native American products.”

TITLE V Credit

- **Youth Loan** Participation should never jeopardize future participation.
- Remove **Borrower Eligibility** limitations on those who have received Debt Settlement.
- Establish a Socially Disadvantaged **Interest Rate** that is lower than the standard Farm Loan Program Rates.
- Increase the term on **chattel loans** to “up to 15 years” with adequate security plan.
- **Progressively structure loans** to maximize borrower success, not for expedited repayment.
- Reduce reliance on **Annual Operating Loans** by amortizing first year operating expenses.
- Non-adverse **Disaster Write Down** to mitigate declared disaster effects.
- Call for a moratorium on **Borrower Graduation** requirement pending GAO report.

- Elimination of all **Credit Elsewhere** determinations pending GAO report.
- **Loan Limits** need to be reexamined to align with real estate and operating costs.
- Allow producer to gift deed the down payment amount to the purchaser in the **Downpayment Loan Program**
- Make special provisions for **FSA Guaranteed Loans from non-typical lenders:** Tribal Credit, CDFI, Credit Unions.
- Use of Federal **Bankruptcy** Statutes shouldn't bar future participation in loan programs.
- Tax Break to banks on income derived on **guaranteed loans.**
- **Cap Loan Origination Fees 1%**
- Broaden **eligible uses** of loan funds: subsistence, common land use, traditional ag use.
- Eliminate **Credit History** requirement for loans that are 120% secured.
- Develop a handbook that is a required course of study for FLO's on the reservation.
- Make permanent the **Council for Native Farming and Ranching.**
- The **Fractionated Land Loan Program** shall be amended as follows:
- *The first section of Public Law 91-229 (25 U.S.C. 488) is amended--*
- *(1) by striking 'That the Secretary' and inserting the following:*
- **'SECTION 1. LOANS TO PURCHASERS OF HIGHLY FRACTIONATED LAND.**
- *'(a) In General- The Secretary'; and*
- *(2) by adding at the end the following:*
- *'(b) Highly Fractionated Land-*
- *'(1) IN GENERAL- Subject to paragraph (2), the Secretary of Agriculture may make and insure loans in accordance with section 309 of the Consolidated Farm and Rural Development Act (7 U.S.C. 1929) to eligible purchasers of highly fractionated land or to intermediaries in order to establish revolving loan funds for the purchase of fractionated land.*
- *'(2) EXCLUSION- Section 4 shall not apply to trust land, restricted tribal land, or tribal corporation land that is mortgaged in accordance with paragraph(1).*

TITLE VI-Rural Development

Maintain all present American Indian Programs and set asides. Apply Substantially Underserved Trust Areas to all of the RD Mission Areas.

RD Demographics

Break demographics down to School Districts rather than counties in order to get a more accurate picture of poverty rates and income levels.

TITLE VII—RESEARCH AND RELATED MATTERS

- Reinstitute **Consultative Review Panel** from 1990 Farm Bill.
- IAC Maintains the position that a base of 85 programs is still the benchmark that needs to be reached. Original request was for 6.5 million but more funding is needed in today's economy. Cost for 85 agents=\$15 million.
- During the review of the Research Title, discussion was held regarding the detrimental effects of the change in focus within NIFA from education to research. Refocus to make Ag. Education and Youth Development mandatory for FRTEP Agents with the program designed by the Tribes.

Miscellaneous

- Continued Authorization and funding of OSDFR. (2501)