

JOINT EXPLANATORY STATEMENT OF THE COMMITTEE OF CONFERENCE
Corresponding Language To Sec. 9012. Forest Biomass For Energy Of The Conference
Report To Accompany H. R. 2419, the 2008 Farm Bill

consider the economic viability of the proposed biomass crop. The Managers do not intend that BCAP contract acreage provide all the feedstock necessary to supply a biomass conversion facility.

It is the Managers' intent that if the establishment or annual payment to a producer is reduced under this section, that the Secretary may vary the amount of payment reduction based on the reason for reducing the payment. It is also the intent of the Managers that establishment and annual payments are to be reduced by an appropriate amount in the case where a portion of an eligible crop is not sold or intended to be sold to the biomass conversion facility.

The Managers direct the Secretary to provide a report to Congress on how information gathered under this Section was disseminated. The Managers urge the Secretary to utilize the Best Practices database created in Section 7207 of this Act and to utilize the expertise of institutions of higher education and Agriculture Innovation Centers to collect such information.

(52) Forest biomass for energy

The House bill requires the Secretary of Agriculture, through the Forest Service, to conduct a competitive research and development program to encourage use of forest biomass for energy. The House bill provides \$15,000,000 per year for fiscal year 2008-2012 in mandatory funding. (Section 9019) *Note that there are 2 sections numbered 9019 in the House bill.*

The Senate amendment is similar to the House bill but does not provide mandatory funding for the program. (Section 9001)

The Conference substitute adopts the House provision with amendments. It authorizes \$15,000,000 per year for fiscal year 2009 through fiscal year 2012. (Section 9001, new Section 9012 of FSRIA)

As part of this program, the Managers encourage the Secretary to work closely with the Pine Genome Initiative (PGI), which would promote healthy forests and the development of new biofuels technology.

(53) Community wood energy program.

The House bill provides grants for community wood energy systems. (Section 9019) *Note that there are 2 sections numbered 9019 in the House bill.*

The Senate amendment is similar to the House provision. (Section 9001)

The Conference substitute adopts the Senate provision with amendments. It authorizes \$5,000,000 per year for fiscal year 2009 through fiscal year 2012. (Section 9001, new Section 9013)

(54) Supplementing corn as an ethanol feedstock

The House bill requires the Secretary of Agriculture to establish a program to make grants of not to exceed \$1,000,000 each to no more than 20 universities for a 3-year program of demonstration of supplementing corn as an ethanol feedstock with sweet sorghum and switchgrass. (Section 9020)