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## Farm Bill Increases Funding & Partnerships for Biobased

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Washington, D.C. - The Biobased Products Coalition (BPC) praised the Senate and House-passed 2018 Farm Bill Conference Agreement that offers important BPC-supported approaches for biobased product manufacturers, farmers and other allied organizations to grow America's biobased economy.

In an 87-13 vote, The Senate passed the Agriculture Improvement Act of 2018, commonly called the Farm Bill, on December 11. Today, the House has approved the Farm Bill in a vote of 369 to 47.

The BPC is pleased that Congress, following the noteworthy support and leadership of Senate Agriculture Committee Chairman Pat Roberts and Ranking Member Debbie Stabenow, recognized the importance of funding the Biobased Market Program. The Biobased Market Program (Section 9002 of the Farm Bill) is the only Farm Bill Energy Title Program to receive an increase in funding. The program will receive \$3 million in mandatory funding per year for five years, for a total of \$15 million.

Overall Energy Title mandatory funding is significantly reduced relative to the 2014 Farm Bill. The Biobased Market Program is one of only three Energy Title programs that will continue to receive mandatory funding beyond 2020.

As recommended by BPC, the Biobased Market Program is elevated to become part of USDA's Rural Development Agency. The transition to the Rural Development Agency creates new opportunities for USDA to work closely with the U.S. biobased

manufacturing industry on mission-driven strategies to increase demand for America's biobased products.

Therefore, the Farm Bill includes BPC-advocated language that directs USDA to establish and promote public-private partnership frameworks for Biobased Market Program activities that increase U.S. purchasing of biobased products. Allocating funding to support public-private partnerships would allow biobased manufacturers and allied stakeholders to identify potential customers -ranging from military bases to private-sector fleets and facilities -to design and implement effective outreach. The Farm Bill also encourages USDA to further promote and give a preference to the procurement of agricultural biobased products within USDA Rural Development, including rural housing and rural electrification. These actions will expand on USDA's current efforts that include working with federal agencies and their contractors to buy biobased products.

The bill further instructs USDA to update the eligibility criteria used to determine which renewable chemicals qualify to receive the "USDA Certified Biobased Product" label within 180 days of enactment, establish guidelines for an integrated and expedited process by which biobased products can be determined eligible for Federal Procurement preference and approved for the "USDA Certified Biobased Product" label, and work with the Secretary of the Department of Commerce to develop North American Industry Classification System (NAICS) codes for renewable chemical manufacturers and producers of biobased products.

Additionally, the bill streamlines the BioPreferred product designation and biobased label certification process. It also limits other agencies from imposing procurement limitations more restrictive than the BioPreferred Program. It instructs USDA to develop education and outreach efforts to assist stakeholders in navigating the federal procurement and voluntary labeling programs.

Biobased product manufacturers and allied organizations launched the Biobased Products Coalition to focus and coordinate industry efforts to improve the federal biobased program and promote other favorable federal policies. The BPC provides a forum for biobased manufacturers of all sizes as well as farmer and other trade associations to present a unified industry voice on federal policy.

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## About BPC

Biobased product manufacturers and allied organizations launched the Biobased Products Coalition in 2007 to focus and coordinate industry efforts to improve the federal biobased program and promote other favorable federal policies. The BPC provides a forum for biobased manufacturers of all sizes as well as farmer and other trade associations to present a unified industry voice on federal policy.

<http://biobasedcoalition.com>

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