

**Cardoza—Amendment to Create an Agricultural Biofuels Internship Program**

This amendment would authorize USDA to create an internship pilot program to train the next generation of professionals in renewable energy, ethanol, biomass and other biofuels. In order to participate, interns must be an upper-level student or graduate student pursuing a degree in agriculture at an accredited university in a state with a substantial farm-based economy.

There is a state matching requirement of \$2 for every \$1 the federal government may contribute to this pilot project.

This amendment is subject to annual appropriations.

**AMENDMENT TO FARM BILL**  
**OFFERED BY MR. CARDOZA OF CALIFORNIA**

At the appropriate place in the bill, insert the following new section:

1 **SEC. \_\_\_\_.** **AGRICULTURAL BIOFUELS FROM BIOMASS IN-**  
2 **TERNSHIP PILOT PROGRAM.**

3 (a) **ESTABLISHMENT.**—The Secretary of Agriculture  
4 shall establish a structured, academically-oriented intern-  
5 ship pilot program (in this section referred to as the “Pro-  
6 gram”) to provide students from universities in California,  
7 Iowa, Missouri, Georgia, Minnesota, and other states with  
8 substantial farm-based economies with the opportunity to  
9 work within the Department of Agriculture, Congress and  
10 legislative branch agencies, other Federal departments  
11 agencies, corporations, and nonprofit institutions on mat-  
12 ters pertaining to policies regarding renewable energy, in-  
13 cluding the conversion of biomass and other agricultural  
14 products to produce ethanol and other biofuels.

15 (b) **ELIGIBILITY.**—To be eligible for an internship  
16 under subsection (a) a student shall—

17 (1) be a third or fourth year undergraduate  
18 student or a graduate student at an accredited col-  
19 lege or university in California, Iowa, Missouri,

1 Georgia, Minnesota, or another State with a sub-  
2 stantial farm-based economy that commits matching  
3 funds in accordance with subsection (g);

4 (2) be a United States citizen;

5 (3) be pursuing an undergraduate or graduate  
6 program in agriculture and related supporting sub-  
7 jects with direct relevance to the subject of bio-  
8 refinery, biofuels, and renewable energy; and

9 (4) meet any other conditions or requirements  
10 that the Secretary considers necessary.

11 (c) PRIORITIES OF INTERNSHIP PILOT PROGRAM.—

12 In administering the Program (including in the selection  
13 of students to participate in the Program), the Secretary  
14 shall prioritize the following activities and placements:

15 (1) Structured internship experiences that fea-  
16 ture direct, hands-on assistance to policy makers en-  
17 gaged in the development and implementation of ag-  
18 riculture and related supporting policies and legisla-  
19 tion, with direct relevance to the subject of bio-  
20 refinery, biofuels, and renewable energy.

21 (2) Internship and academic seminar programs  
22 that provide a combination of workforce training, ex-  
23 periential education, and leadership development de-  
24 signed specifically for the Department of Agriculture  
25 and Congress, with regard to agriculture-based bio-

1 refinery, biofuels, and related renewable energy poli-  
2 cies.

3 (3) Establishment of regional and state net-  
4 works that partner with the agricultural business,  
5 government and academic communities to enhance  
6 the prospects for providing financial assistance to  
7 students, particularly minority students, from col-  
8 leges and universities in each participating rural  
9 state who are from economically disadvantaged back-  
10 grounds.

11 (4) Internship and academic seminar programs  
12 that focus on agriculture-based research, develop-  
13 ment, and policies addressing new technologies to  
14 enhance agriculture production and enhanced eco-  
15 nomic development in the agriculture sector of the  
16 United States.

17 (d) ADMINISTRATION OF THE PILOT PROGRAM.—  
18 The Secretary, in consultation with other executive and  
19 legislative branch officials, shall administer the Program.  
20 The Secretary may engage the services of an experienced,  
21 nonprofit, nonpartisan professional internship and aca-  
22 demic seminar organization with extensive experience in  
23 developing and carrying out Washington-based or other  
24 State-based internship programs and State-based financial

1 assistance initiatives for interns to assist in carrying out  
2 the Program.

3 (e) SCHOLARSHIPS AND OTHER ASSISTANCE FOR IN-  
4 TERNSHIPS.—The Secretary may make available to under-  
5 graduate and graduate students participating in the Pro-  
6 gram scholarships or other types of financial assistance,  
7 including funds to cover the cost of housing, per diem liv-  
8 ing expenses, transportation, tuition and other educational  
9 expenses, and related costs, that would allow participation  
10 by eligible undergraduate and graduate students from eco-  
11 nomically-disadvantaged backgrounds within the Program  
12 States.

13 (f) LONGITUDINAL STUDIES AND REPORTING RE-  
14 QUIREMENTS.—

15 (1) LONGITUDINAL STUDIES AND EVALUATION  
16 OF INTERNSHIP PROGRAM.—In developing and im-  
17 plementing the Program, the Secretary shall carry  
18 out such longitudinal studies and program evalua-  
19 tions as he or she deems appropriate to ensure that  
20 the program is administered in a cost-effective man-  
21 ner and has specific milestones, objectives, and re-  
22 sults quantified with regard to such Program.

23 (2) REPORTING REQUIREMENTS.—The Sec-  
24 retary shall to the Committee on Agriculture of the  
25 House of Representatives and the Committee on Ag-

1       riculture, Nutrition, and Forestry of the Senate peri-  
2       odic reports regarding the development and imple-  
3       mentation of the Program, including the longitudinal  
4       studies and evaluations required under paragraph  
5       (1).

6       (g) STATE MATCHING REQUIREMENT.—As a condi-  
7       tion of receiving an internship under the Program, the  
8       State in which the student receiving the internship is pur-  
9       suing an undergraduate or graduate degree shall provide  
10      matching funds in the amount of one dollar for every two  
11      dollars provided by the Secretary under the Program.

12      (h) FEDERAL CONTRIBUTION LIMIT.—The Secretary  
13      may not expend more than \$200,000 in any fiscal year  
14      to provide internships to students pursuing an under-  
15      graduate or graduate degree in any particular State.

16      (i) APPLICATION OF FUNDS.—The Secretary shall, to  
17      the maximum extent practicable, use funds made available  
18      under subsection (j) to provide scholarships and the other  
19      forms of financial assistance described in subsection (e)  
20      directly attributable to the participation in the Program  
21      by students from rural, economically-disadvantaged back-  
22      grounds.

23      (j) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There  
24      are authorized to be appropriated such sums as may be  
25      necessary to carry out this section.