

SUFC Policy Working Group Notes May 17, 2013

Participating: John B., Rebecca A., Cara B., Nick T., Alice E., Becky T., Jen H., Faith C.

FARM BILL:

- Senate version to hit the floor on Monday (*potentially* to be voted on Tuesday, 5/21/13)
- House version to hit the floor in June, (HR 1947?)

Gen'l Comments:

- Overall, conservation pieces fared better in the Senate (as expected) vs. the House.
- American Forest Foundation has a good 'side-by-side' comparison: [Attached](#).
- There is a \$12 billion dollar gap in the nutrition program – assuming both pass off the floor and go into conference, this will have to be addressed – impacting other programs.
- Sunsets were removed U&CF program (in one version, potentially both). To be confirmed.

TREES Act (How to get some traction)

Goal: To get Senate Companion Bill for TREES Act

In an effort to generate ideas on how to achieve this goal, the WG began by brainstorming about who has contacts with potential interest on Senate side AND put together talking points for how to address “no new funds” mindset/heavy lift.

Timeline: Make appointments for early-mid summer with identified Senate offices.

Initial Senate suggestions thrown out on call:

- Work with Matsui's office to see how good their relationship is with CA senators
- Cardin (MD) expressed interested in supporting
- Senator Charles Schumer, New York
- Senator Casey, PA
- Senator Portman, Ohio (staffer Katie)

NOTE: ACTrees/SUFC had past relationship with American Public Power Association @ initial energy conservation legislation. They might have a potential interest and be willing to leverage relationships to move this forward on the Senate side. <http://www.publicpower.org/>

ACTION ITEMS:

- Cara and Becky checking on sunset/cap version of Farm Bill

- Becky to draft excel spreadsheet of potential Senate Champions for TREES Act; post to Google shared docs
- **All** brainstorming on talking pts addressing “new program question” – come to next call ready to share
- Danielle to reach out to Jill and identify contact at APPA.
- Next call: May 31st (start drafting talking points and push forward on compiled Senate leads re: TREES Act)