



UNITED STATES SENATE COMMITTEE ON
**AGRICULTURE, NUTRITION,
& FORESTRY**

U.S. SENATOR DEBBIE STABENOW, CHAIRWOMAN

Energy

The Rural Prosperity and Food Security Act keeps *farmers farming and rural communities strong* by lowering energy costs for farmers, ranchers, small businesses, and families. It creates good paying jobs in the bioeconomy, promotes home-grown biofuels, and tackles the climate crisis by reducing greenhouse gas emissions on and off the farm. This bill continues the historic investments in clean, renewable energy in the Inflation Reduction Act.

Lowering Costs for Farmers, Small Businesses, and Rural Communities:

The bill continues funding for the popular, bipartisan **Rural Energy for America Program** (REAP), providing resources for farmers, small businesses, and rural communities to install renewable energy systems and energy efficiency improvements. It focuses on providing a new source of revenue for farmers, and clean, renewable energy for the broader community. This is a win for farmers and a win for climate.

The bill also promotes the development of **agrivoltaic** projects, protecting soil health and keeping farmland in production while harvesting valuable renewable energy in rural communities.

Together, the bill lowers energy costs and generates new sources of income while reducing carbon emissions that contribute to the climate crisis.

Building a Strong Bioeconomy:

The bill positions our country as a world leader in the Bioeconomy. It supports biobased innovation through the development of new renewable chemicals, biobased plastics, and other products that reduce our dependence on petroleum while expanding markets for domestic commodities.

The bill makes critical improvements to the BioPreferred program, designed to increase Federal procurement of biobased products and provide voluntary labeling information to consumers.

The bill doubles mandatory funding for BioPreferred from \$3 million per year to \$6 million per year and continues mandatory funding for the biomanufacturing guaranteed loans.

The bill improves financing for the manufacturing of biobased products and the refining of renewable chemicals and advanced biofuels like sustainable aviation fuel. It supports the biofuels industry that will be critical as we strengthen energy security at home and transition away from foreign fossil fuels.

Across the country, biobased products have grown into a \$489 billion industry that supports more than 4 million good-paying American jobs. This creates a stable market for farmers that is vital to rural economies, U.S. energy security, and meeting our commitment to tackle the climate crisis.