

AMENDMENT

OFFERED BY MR. VASQUEZ OF NEW MEXICO

After section 10012, insert the following (and redesignate the following sections accordingly):

1 **SEC. 10013. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE FUNDING AND**
2 **OFFICES.**

3 (a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary of Agriculture
4 shall—

5 (1) immediately after the enactment of this Act,
6 unfreeze funding for and implement all written
7 agreements and contracts entered into by the Secretary of Agriculture prior to the date of enactment
8 of this Act;
9

10 (2) as rapidly as possible after the enactment of
11 this Act, pay all past due amounts owed by the Secretary of Agriculture under agreements and contracts described in paragraph (1);
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13

14 (3) not cancel any signed agreement or contract
15 with a farmer or an entity providing assistance to
16 farmers, unless the farmer or entity has failed to
17 comply with the terms and conditions of the contract; and
18

1 (4) not close any Farm Service Agency county
2 office, Natural Resources Conservation Service field
3 office, Rural Development Local Service Center, or
4 any county service center.

5 (b) EXCEPTIONS.—This section does not apply with
6 respect to—

7 (1) an office that is located not more than 20
8 miles from another office of the Natural Resources
9 Conservation Service, the Farm Service Agency, a
10 Rural Development area, or any county service cen-
11 ter; or

12 (2) the relocation of an office within the same
13 county in the course of routine leasing operations.

