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Agricultural Trade Promotion Program

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General Comment

I believe this is a very necessary program for the agricultural development of our country. It is no secret that the agricultural industry is hurting due to the lack of trade to our international markets. Currently farmers have no control of these decisions that heavily affect their business and overall their profit. Giving agriculturists the opportunity to help their industry in the international market can only be good for the industry as well as the world. There are people overseas that rely heavily on the food that we grow here in the United States and it should be our duty to make sure that they receive that food. Holding food back to negotiate trade deals is something unheard of for the common man. Agriculturists just want to have a market for their products that they worked hard to produce. The Agricultural Trade Promotion Program gives farmers and other agriculturist a chance to sell their product. With this promotion, agriculturists can promote and advertise their commodities in a number of different ways. This ranges from advertising themselves to investing money into advertising. The program overall puts the power into their hands to an extent. This can also help with the trade negotiations. If we as farmers convince other countries that they want our commodities and that they cannot run their country without the food that we produce, that just gives the president

more leverage when it comes to making the best trade deals for our country. For the government, it is literally free advertisement for them to make their trade deals seem more appealing to other countries. I do agree with the proposition by the FAS however that information needs to be collected on communication and promotions offered to other countries, especially during these times that negotiations are being made. I don't believe that it should be regulated unless it gets really out of control to the point that the country is in danger because of it, but accurate documentation is needed. I don't think it should be regulated because of the fact that farmers are struggling to find an international market for their grain anyway. More restrictions would only hurt them. This is why this program is created; to help save the commodity market. Finding a way to submit forms to the FAS needs to be easy to promote the program. If there is loads of paperwork that needs to be done to be reimbursed by the FAS for their contribution to the foreign agricultural market, then it will only discourage them from trying to support their supporters in building up the market. Overall, this program has great potential to help the agricultural community drive out of this small depression that we are in with our foreign agricultural commodity markets. Agriculture is an industry that drives America and we need help keeping that alive. Supporting those that support the agriculture industry is important for the well-being of the economy and its people. That is why I think this program is great for the American people.