

AMERICAN FEDERATION OF LABOR AND CONGRESS OF INDUSTRIAL ORGANIZATIONS



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LEGISLATIVE ALERT!

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October 31, 2011

The Honorable Jack Kingston, Chairman
House Committee on Appropriations
Agriculture, Rural Development, Food and Drug
Administration Subcommittee
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Herb Kohl, Chairman
Senate Committee on Appropriations
Agriculture, Rural Development, Food and Drug
Administration Subcommittee
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Chairmen Kingston and Kohl:

The AFL-CIO urges conferees to the FY12 Agriculture Appropriations Bill to retain a common-sense reporting requirement, one which was first included by House Republicans in the FY04 bill:

“Provided, That no funds made available by this appropriation may be obligated for FAIR Act or Circular A-76 activities until the Secretary has submitted to the Committees on Appropriations of both Houses of Congress and the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform of the House of Representatives a report on the Department's contracting out policies, including agency budgets for contracting out.”

As the House subcommittee noted in FY04 report language, the information in such reports is “essential to the Committee conducting its oversight responsibilities.” This provision simply requires the Department of Agriculture to submit a report to the Congress before beginning OMB Circular A-76 privatization studies. The requirement came about because of concerns that the department had failed to take into account the significant costs of carrying out A-76 privatization studies, as documented by the Government Accountability Office.

Thank you for your consideration of our position.

Sincerely,

William Samuel, Director
Government Affairs Department