

RTCP Revitalization Act

Sponsored by Senators Mazie K. Hirono (D-HI) and Dan Sullivan (R-AK)

Purpose: To provide mandatory funding from the Commodity Credit Corporation (CCC) for the U.S. Department of Agriculture Reimbursement Transportation Cost Payment (RTCP) Program.

Need: The [RTCP program](#) was established in Section 1621 of the 2008 Farm Bill (Public Law 110–234), “Geographically Disadvantaged Farmers and Ranchers.” This authorized such sums as necessary for fiscal years (FY) 2009 through 2012 and set the cap for the Secretary to administer no more than \$15 million for this program in any fiscal year.

The program began in 2010 and is in its 15th year. The 2014 Farm Bill amended the RTCP program to authorize such sums as necessary for FY 2009 and each succeeding fiscal year.

The program is made available to producers in Hawaii, Alaska, and the following territories and areas:

- Commonwealth of Puerto Rico
- Guam
- American Samoa
- Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands
- Federated States of Micronesia
- Republic of the Marshall Islands
- Republic of Palau
- Virgin Islands of the United States

Historic funding for the RTCP program follows:

- FY 2010: \$2.6 million
- FY 2011-2021: \$2 million
- FY 2022: \$3 million
- FY 2023: \$4 million
- FY 2024: \$3.5 million

Solution: Due to chronic underfunding as well as increasing transportation costs for producers in these geographically isolated areas, more funding is needed. This bill does the following:

1. Provides mandatory funding for RTCP, starting with \$10 million in FY 2026, increasing by \$1 million each year to \$15 million in FY 2031, and then provides \$15 million each fiscal year thereafter;
2. Removes the \$15 million payment cap for any given fiscal year that is currently in statute;
3. Provides language saying that the Secretary may not impose a cap to individual producer payments for any fiscal year that program funds exceed demand; and
4. Retains the authority for appropriators to fund the program.