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## **Senate Passes Farm Bill With Rural Definition Provision**

After three years of contentious negotiations, the Senate voted this afternoon 68 to 32 in favor of the Farm Bill, which includes a Rural Definition provision ([Section 6208](#)). The legislation now goes to the President for his signature, and the White House has said that he will sign the bill into law.

As we mentioned before, the provision extends current law through the 2020 Census and will increase the population threshold from 25,000 to 35,000 once it becomes effective on October 1, 2014. This will help ensure that low-income families--particularly those living in metro counties--will have access to critical USDA resources and programs. In addition, it will provide much-needed certainty to rural housing developers and organizations.

This is an enormous victory for the National Rural Housing Coalition. Congratulations on our hard-fought success!

Thank you for your support,

Sarah Mickelson