

Waste Action Alert

*A publication of the RSC Sunset Caucus from co-chairs Kevin Brady (R-TX) and Jason Chaffetz (R-UT)
Rep. Tom Price (R-GA), RSC Chairman*

Eliminate Mohair Subsidies

October 21, 2009

Program or Item Targeted: Federal subsidies for mohair.

Annual Cost of Program or Item: About \$1 million per year.

Background on Program or Item to Be Sunseted: Federal price support for mohair was first enacted in 1947. The National Wool Act of 1954 established direct payments for wool and mohair producers. The purpose of the program was to encourage production of wool because it was considered an essential and strategic commodity. No similar purpose was stated for the mohair program. In 2008, the farm bill re-authorized marketing assistance loans and loan deficiency payments for wool and mohair producers for crop years 2008 to 2012. (*Congressional Research Service, RS20896*)

Why This Program or Item Is Wasteful: Government has no compelling economic or strategic reason to support mohair prices. Supply, demand, and price for mohair should be determined by the free market.

Legislative Steps Taken So Far: Rep. Jason Chaffetz (R-UT) has introduced H.R. 2914, which would amend the Food, Conservation, and Energy Act of 2008 to terminate marketing assistance loans and loan deficiency payments for mohair producers.

Support for the Legislative Steps Taken: The co-sponsors of H.R. 2914 are Reps. Akin, Bartlett, Brady (TX), Burton, Cole, Flake, Foxx, Hensarling, Hoekstra, Issa, Jordan, Lamborn, Marchant, Murphy (PA-18), Pitts, Posey, Price (GA), Scalise, Turner, and Weiner.

MEMBER ACTION ITEM: Rep. Chaffetz urges Members to co-sponsor H.R. 2914 by contacting Mike Jerman in Rep. Chaffetz' office at mike.jerman@mail.house.gov.

If you would like to participate in eliminating wasteful programs with the RSC Sunset Caucus, please e-mail brad.watson@mail.house.gov.

If you have a bill or amendment to highlight in the next Waste Action Alert please contact ryan.tronovitch@mail.house.gov.

Note: Not every item featured in the Waste Action Alerts is necessarily endorsed by the RSC. These Alerts highlight the individual initiatives of members of the RSC Sunset Caucus.

*"The RSC Sunset Caucus uncovers government waste and seeks to eliminate it,
working to sunset programs that taxpayers shouldn't be paying for."*