



DOE and USDA Interagency Research Act

Senator Ben Ray Luján and Senator John Hoeven

The DOE and USDA Interagency Research Act **promotes cross-cutting and collaborative interagency research** on activities such as carbon sequestration, rural technology development, biofuels, invasive species management, and energy storage. This partnership will:

- maximize our return on investment of limited federal research dollars and improve our ability to address key agricultural research needs,
- improve our competitiveness on agricultural research and development compared to China and the EU, and
- build on successful DOE-USDA initiatives like Regional Feedstock Partnerships and Bioenergy Research Centers.

Background: DOE and the USDA have an established history of partnering to address multidisciplinary research challenges. For example, coordinating on fundamental genomics and early-stage biomass research has helped the USDA and DOE overcome the challenges inherent in developing low-cost, high-efficiency biofuels. At the same time, our competitors have rapidly increased spending on agricultural research and development, and we are now being outspent by both China and the European Union.

Summary of the legislation: DOE and USDA are required to collaborate on activities including environmental science, biofuels, energy storage, invasive species management, electric grid modernization, and rural technology development. The bill also would require the agencies to report to Congress on those efforts. This legislation leverages the DOE National Lab system to help USDA meet the wide-ranging challenges facing the agricultural sector, stewardship of public lands, and economic opportunity in rural America. While a number of DOE and USDA research collaboration initiatives have been formalized through various laws and agreements **this legislation would codify this essential research partnership** in its entirety.

Rep. Frank Lucas and Rep. Zoe Lofgren introduced the companion bill in the House, and the bill overwhelmingly passed out of the House Science and Agriculture committees with bipartisan support.

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