

**PART A—TEXT OF THE AMENDMENT IN THE NATURE OF A  
SUBSTITUTE TO BE CONSIDERED AS AN ORIGINAL BILL**

Strike all after the enacting clause and insert the following:

**AMENDMENT IN THE NATURE OF A SUBSTITUTE  
TO H.R. 4785, AS REPORTED  
OFFERED BY M. \_\_\_\_\_**

Strike all after the enacting clause and insert the following:

1 **SECTION 1. HOME STAR ENERGY EFFICIENCY LOAN PRO-**  
2 **GRAM.**

3 (a) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

4 (1) ELIGIBLE PARTICIPANT.—The term “eligi-  
5 ble participant” means a homeowner who receives fi-  
6 nancial assistance from a qualified financing entity  
7 to carry out qualifying energy savings measures pur-  
8 suant to this section, and who is not also a qualified  
9 consumer under section 2.

10 (2) QUALIFIED FINANCING ENTITY.—The term  
11 “qualified financing entity” means a State, political  
12 subdivision of a State, tribal government, electric  
13 utility, natural gas utility, nonprofit or community-  
14 based organization, energy service company, retailer,  
15 or any other entity that—

16 (A) meets the eligibility requirements of  
17 this section; and

1 (B) is designated by the Governor of a  
2 State in accordance with subsection (f)(1),  
3 except that an entity that is an eligible entity under  
4 section 2 shall not be a qualified financing entity.

5 (3) QUALIFIED LOAN PROGRAM MECHANISM.—

6 The term “qualified loan program mechanism”  
7 means a mechanism for the establishment and oper-  
8 ation of a loan program that is—

9 (A) administered by a qualified financing  
10 entity; and

11 (B) funded in significant part—

12 (i) by funds provided by or overseen  
13 by a State; or

14 (ii) through the energy loan program  
15 of the Federal National Mortgage Associa-  
16 tion.

17 (4) QUALIFYING ENERGY SAVINGS MEASURE.—

18 The term “qualifying energy savings measure”  
19 means a measure listed under subsection (c)(1) or  
20 (2) or stipulated in a whole-house analysis under  
21 subsection (c)(3).

22 (b) ESTABLISHMENT.—The Secretary of Energy  
23 shall establish a Home Star Energy Efficiency Loan Pro-  
24 gram under which the Secretary of Energy shall offer  
25 loans at zero percent interest to States to support finan-

1 cial assistance provided by qualified financing entities for  
2 the installation of qualifying energy savings measures.

3 (e) ENERGY EFFICIENCY MEASURES AND STAND-  
4 ARDS.—The Secretary of Energy, in consultation with the  
5 Secretary of Agriculture, shall publish—

6 (1) not later than 90 days after the date of en-  
7 actment of this Act, a master list of residential en-  
8 ergy efficiency measures determined to be cost-effec-  
9 tive, readily available from commercial sources, to be  
10 permanently installed in a residence, and capable of  
11 supporting measurement and verification of the en-  
12 ergy savings that results from their adoption;

13 (2) additions to such a list, approved by the  
14 Secretary of Energy, of other residential energy effi-  
15 ciency measures that are—

16 (A) recommended by the Secretary of Agri-  
17 culture;

18 (B) calculated to achieve sufficient energy  
19 savings that they will achieve a simple payback  
20 within 10 years or less; and

21 (C) permanently installed in a residence;

22 (3) specifications for whole-house energy per-  
23 formance analyses simulating energy use before and  
24 after a retrofit utilizing measures from the master  
25 list published pursuant to paragraphs (1) and (2)

1 and such other permanent structural measures as  
2 can be demonstrated, when installed and operated as  
3 intended, to improve residential energy efficiency in  
4 a manner that can be determined with confidence to  
5 be cost-effective and to recover their own cost in en-  
6 ergy cost savings within the term of a proposed loan;  
7 and

8 (4) a protocol for measurement and verification  
9 of the energy savings that have resulted from any  
10 and all energy efficiency measures taken with re-  
11 spect to a residence and financed in whole or in part  
12 pursuant to this title.

13 (d) ELIGIBILITY OF QUALIFIED FINANCING ENTI-  
14 TIES.—To be eligible to participate in the Home Star  
15 Loan Program, a qualified financing entity shall—

16 (1) offer a financing product under which eligi-  
17 ble participants may pay over time for the cost to  
18 the eligible participant (after all applicable Federal,  
19 State, local, and other rebates or incentives are ap-  
20 plied) of installations described in subsection (b);

21 (2) require all financed installations to be per-  
22 formed by contractors in a manner that meets build-  
23 ing code requirements and other appropriate min-  
24 imum standards;

1           (3) establish standard underwriting criteria to  
2 determine the eligibility of Home Star Loan Pro-  
3 gram applicants, which criteria shall be consistent  
4 with—

5           (A) with respect to unsecured consumer  
6 loan programs, standard underwriting criteria  
7 used under the energy loan program of the  
8 Federal National Mortgage Association; or

9           (B) with respect to secured loans or other  
10 forms of financial assistance, commercially rec-  
11 ognized best practices applicable to the form of  
12 financial assistance being provided (as deter-  
13 mined by the designated entity administering  
14 the Home Star Loan Program in the State);  
15 and

16           (4) undertake particular efforts to make such  
17 loans available in public use microdata areas that  
18 have a poverty rate of 12 percent or more in a pro-  
19 portion of total loans made at least equal to the pro-  
20 portion the number of residents in such areas bears  
21 to the total population of the area served by that  
22 qualified financing entity.

23           (e) ALLOCATION.—In allocating 75 percent of the  
24 loan funds made available to States for each fiscal year  
25 under this section, the Secretary of Energy shall use the

1 formula used to allocate funds to States to carry out State  
2 energy conservation plans established under part D of title  
3 III of the Energy Policy and Conservation Act (42 U.S.C.  
4 6321 et seq.), with appropriate modifications to reflect the  
5 funds to be provided in States for loans under section 2.  
6 In allocating the remaining 25 percent of the loan funds  
7 made available to States for each fiscal year under this  
8 section, the Secretary of Energy may vary the result of  
9 the formula to recognize and reward those States that  
10 make the best progress in providing loans to low-income  
11 areas pursuant to subsection (d)(4).

12 (f) QUALIFIED FINANCING ENTITIES.—Before mak-  
13 ing funds available to a State under this section, the Sec-  
14 retary of Energy shall require the Governor of the State  
15 to provide to the Secretary of Energy a letter of agreement  
16 that the State—

17 (1) will use the funds provided pursuant to this  
18 section solely as provided in this section;

19 (2) has 1 or more qualified financing entities  
20 that meet the requirements of this section;

21 (3) has established, or has required its des-  
22 ignated qualified financing entities to establish, a  
23 qualified loan program mechanism that—

1 (A) will use a quality assurance program  
2 or another appropriate methodology to ensure  
3 energy savings;

4 (B) incorporates an effective repayment  
5 mechanism, which may include—

6 (i) on-utility-bill repayment;

7 (ii) tax assessment or other form of  
8 property assessment financing;

9 (iii) municipal service charges;

10 (iv) energy or energy efficiency serv-  
11 ices contracts;

12 (v) energy efficiency power purchase  
13 agreements;

14 (vi) unsecured loans applying the un-  
15 derwriting requirements of the energy loan  
16 program of the Federal National Mortgage  
17 Association; or

18 (vii) alternative contractual repayment  
19 mechanisms that have been demonstrated  
20 to have appropriate risk mitigation fea-  
21 tures;

22 (4) will provide, in a timely manner, all infor-  
23 mation regarding the administration of the Home  
24 Star Loan Program as the Secretary of Energy may

1       require to permit the Secretary of Energy to meet  
2       program evaluation requirements; and

3               (5) will commit to the full repayment of the  
4       loaned funds to the Secretary of Energy by a date  
5       not later than 20 years from the date of the loan  
6       closing.

7       (g) USE OF FUNDS.—Funds made available to States  
8       for carrying out the Home Star Loan Program may be  
9       used to support financing mechanisms offered by qualified  
10      financing entities to eligible participants, including—

11             (1) interest rate reductions to interest rates as  
12      low as zero percent;

13             (2) loan loss reserves or other forms of credit  
14      enhancement;

15             (3) revolving loan funds from which qualified fi-  
16      nancing entities may offer direct loans; or

17             (4) other debt instruments necessary—

18               (A) to use available funds to obtain appro-  
19      priate leverage through private investment; and

20               (B) to support widespread deployment of  
21      energy efficiency programs.

22       (h) USE OF REPAID FUNDS.—In the case of a revolv-  
23      ing loan fund described in subsection (g)(3), a qualified  
24      financing entity may use funds repaid by eligible partici-  
25      pants under the Home Star Loan Program to provide fi-

1 nancial assistance for additional eligible participants for  
2 installations described in subsection (b) in a manner that  
3 is consistent with this section.

4 (i) ADMINISTRATIVE COSTS.—A State may permit a  
5 qualified financing entity to charge interest of 3 percent  
6 to cover the costs of loan administration and personnel  
7 and program management, or for establishing a loan loss  
8 reserve.

9 (j) REPORTING REQUIREMENTS.—The Secretary of  
10 Energy shall report to the Congress on the implementation  
11 of this title, including the energy savings and cost savings  
12 estimated to be achieved, not later than 1 year after the  
13 date of enactment of this Act, and again by not later than  
14 2 years after the date of enactment of this section.

15 (k) ASSESSMENT BY GOVERNMENT ACCOUNTABILITY  
16 OFFICE.—The Comptroller General shall, by not later  
17 than 18 months after the date of enactment of this Act,  
18 prepare and submit to the Congress an analysis and report  
19 determining—

20 (1) the actual taxpayer funds made available  
21 for the program created in this section;

22 (2) the actual amounts of such funds made  
23 available to eligible participants or qualified con-  
24 sumers in the program created in this section;

1 (3) the extent of measured and verified residen-  
2 tial energy savings achieved and expected to be  
3 achieved on an ongoing basis as a function of this  
4 program;

5 (4) the extent to which funds were made avail-  
6 able to support commercial or industrial energy effi-  
7 ciency measures under this program;

8 (5) the extent to which funds made available  
9 were expended for training, administration, program  
10 support by contractors, or trade association activities  
11 under this program; and

12 (6) the consistency and rigor of the standards  
13 for energy efficiency and for measurement and  
14 verification adopted and implemented by this pro-  
15 gram.

16 (1) AUTHORIZATION.—There are authorized to be ap-  
17 propriated for purposes of this section \$850,000,000 for  
18 each of fiscal years 2010 through 2014, which shall re-  
19 main available until expended.

20 **SEC. 2. RURAL ENERGY SAVINGS PROGRAM.**

21 (a) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

22 (1) ELIGIBLE ENTITY.—The term “eligible enti-  
23 ty” means—

24 (A) any public or cooperative electric util-  
25 ity that is eligible to borrow from the Rural

1 Utilities Service electrification program author-  
2 ized under the Rural Electrification Act of  
3 1936 (7 U.S.C. 901 et seq.) that serves a rural  
4 area;

5 (B) any current borrower of the Rural  
6 Utilities Service electrification program author-  
7 ized under that Act; or

8 (C) any entity primarily owned or con-  
9 trolled by an entity described in subparagraph  
10 (A) or (B).

11 (2) ENERGY EFFICIENCY MEASURE.—The term  
12 “energy efficiency measure”, with respect to prop-  
13 erty served by an eligible entity, means a fixed struc-  
14 tural improvement and investment in a cost-effec-  
15 tive, commercial off-the-shelf technology to reduce  
16 residential energy use that is either—

17 (A) included in the master list published  
18 under section 1(c)(1) and (2); or

19 (B) stipulated in a whole-house simulation  
20 conducted pursuant to section 1(c)(3).

21 (3) FARM EFFICIENCY MEASURE.—The term  
22 “farm efficiency measure” means an energy saving  
23 application that is a fixed improvement installed in  
24 or attached to a building or structure on a farm at  
25 a total loan value for that farm of \$50,000 or less;

1 that is not otherwise an energy efficiency measure,  
2 and that would achieve energy savings sufficient to  
3 repay the cost of the measure in 10 years or fewer.

4 (4) QUALIFIED CONSUMER.—The term “quali-  
5 fied consumer” means a consumer served by an eli-  
6 gible entity that has the ability to repay a loan made  
7 under subsection (d), as determined by an eligible  
8 entity, and who has not accepted any loan as an eli-  
9 gible participant pursuant to section 1.

10 (5) QUALIFIED ENTITY.—The term “qualified  
11 entity” means any organization that the Secretary of  
12 Agriculture determines has significant experience in  
13 providing eligible entities with—

14 (A) advice on energy, environmental, en-  
15 ergy efficiency, and information research and  
16 technology;

17 (B) training, education, and consulting;

18 (C) guidance in energy and operational  
19 issues and rural community and economic de-  
20 velopment; and

21 (D) other relevant assistance, as deter-  
22 mined by the Secretary of Agriculture.

23 (6) RURAL AREA.—The term “rural area”  
24 means any area other than—

1 (A) a city or town that has a population of  
2 greater than 50,000 inhabitants; and

3 (B) any urbanized area contiguous and ad-  
4 jacent to a city or town described in subpara-  
5 graph (A).

6 (b) ESTABLISHMENT.—The Secretary of Agriculture,  
7 acting through the Rural Utility Service, shall establish  
8 the Rural Star Energy Savings Program for the purpose  
9 of making loans to eligible entities that agree to accept  
10 the loan funds authorized pursuant to this section to make  
11 loans to qualified consumers for the purpose of imple-  
12 menting residential energy efficiency measures or farm ef-  
13 ficiency measures approved by the Secretary of Agri-  
14 culture.

15 (c) LOANS TO ELIGIBLE ENTITIES.—

16 (1) LOANS AUTHORIZED.—Subject to para-  
17 graph (2), the Secretary of Agriculture shall make  
18 loans to an eligible entity that agrees that the loan  
19 funds will be used to make loans to qualified con-  
20 sumers as described in subsection (d) for the pur-  
21 pose of implementing one or more energy efficiency  
22 measures, or a farm efficiency measure in response  
23 to an application by an eligible entity.

24 (2) LIST, PLAN, AND MEASUREMENT AND  
25 VERIFICATION REQUIRED.—

1 (A) IN GENERAL.—As a condition to re-  
2 ceiving a loan under paragraph (1), an eligible  
3 entity shall—

4 (i) establish a list of energy efficiency  
5 measures or farm efficiency measures ex-  
6 pected to decrease energy use or costs of a  
7 qualified consumer from the master list  
8 published under section 1(c)(1) and (2);

9 (ii) establish a procedure to identify to  
10 the Secretary of Agriculture any specific  
11 farm efficiency measures for which the eli-  
12 gible entity seeks authority to make a loan;

13 (iii) prepare an implementation plan  
14 for use of the loan funds to ensure that a  
15 loan to a qualified consumer is for energy  
16 efficiency investments that will achieve sav-  
17 ings sufficient to service the loan during  
18 the term of the loan; and

19 (iv) provide for appropriate measure-  
20 ment and verification as prescribed by the  
21 Secretary of Agriculture to ensure the ac-  
22 tual use and effectiveness of the energy ef-  
23 ficiency loans made by the eligible entity.

24 (B) REVISION OF LIST OF ENERGY EFFI-  
25 CIENCY MEASURES.—An eligible entity may up-

1 date the list required under subparagraph  
2 (A)(i) to account for efficiency technologies  
3 added to the master list published under section  
4 1(c)(1) pursuant to section 1(c)(2), or farm ef-  
5 ficiency measures approved by the Secretary of  
6 Agriculture.

7 (C) EXISTING ENERGY EFFICIENCY PRO-  
8 GRAMS.—An eligible entity that, on or before  
9 the date of the enactment of this Act, has al-  
10 ready established an energy efficiency program  
11 for qualified consumers may submit an existing  
12 list of energy efficiency measures or farm effi-  
13 ciency measures, implementation plans, or  
14 measurement and verification systems to satisfy  
15 the requirements of subparagraph (A) to the  
16 Secretary of Agriculture and may use such list  
17 until and unless such list is inconsistent with  
18 the measures published pursuant to section  
19 1(c)(1) and (2).

20 (3) LOAN TERMS FOR LOANS TO ELIGIBLE EN-  
21 TITIES.—

22 (A) NO INTEREST.—A loan made to an eli-  
23 gible entity under paragraph (1) shall bear no  
24 interest.

1 (B) REPAYMENT.—With respect to a loan  
2 under paragraph (1)—

3 (i) the term shall not exceed 20 years  
4 from the date the loan is closed; and

5 (ii) except as provided in subpara-  
6 graph (D), the repayment of each advance  
7 shall be amortized for a period not to ex-  
8 ceed 10 years.

9 (C) AMOUNT OF ADVANCES.—Any advance  
10 of loan funds to an eligible entity in any single  
11 year shall not exceed 30 percent of the ap-  
12 proved loan amount.

13 (D) SPECIAL ADVANCE FOR START-UP AC-  
14 TIVITIES.—

15 (i) IN GENERAL.—In order to assist  
16 an eligible entity in defraying initial start-  
17 up costs, the Secretary of Agriculture shall  
18 allow an eligible entity to request a special  
19 advance.

20 (ii) AMOUNT OF SPECIAL ADVANCE.—  
21 No eligible entity may receive a special ad-  
22 vance under this subparagraph for an  
23 amount that is greater than 4 percent of  
24 the loan amount received by the eligible en-  
25 tity under paragraph (1).

1 (iii) REPAYMENT.—The repayment of  
2 the special advance shall be required with-  
3 in 10 years after the special advance is  
4 made and, at the election of the eligible en-  
5 tity, may be deferred to the end of the 10-  
6 year period.

7 (E) LIMITATION ON ADVANCES.—All ad-  
8 vances shall be made under a loan described in  
9 paragraph (1) within the first 10 years of the  
10 term of the loan.

11 (d) LOANS TO QUALIFIED CONSUMERS.—

12 (1) TERMS OF LOANS.—Loans made by an eli-  
13 gible entity to qualified consumers using loan funds  
14 provided by the Secretary of Agriculture under sub-  
15 section (c)—

16 (A) may bear interest, not to exceed three  
17 percent, to be used by the eligible entity for  
18 purposes such as establishing a loan loss re-  
19 serve and to offset personnel and program costs  
20 of the eligible entity to provide the loans;

21 (B) shall finance only energy efficiency  
22 measures or farm efficiency measures for the  
23 purpose of decreasing energy usage or costs of  
24 a qualified consumer by an amount such that a  
25 loan term of not more than 10 years will

1 achieve a simple payback of the amount in-  
2 vested;

3 (C) shall not be used to fund purchases of,  
4 or modifications to, personal property unless  
5 the personal property—

6 (i) is or becomes attached to real  
7 property as a fixture; or

8 (ii) is a manufactured home;

9 (D) shall be repaid through charges added  
10 to the electric bill for the property for, or at  
11 which energy efficiency measures are or will be  
12 implemented, except that this requirement shall  
13 not be construed to prohibit—

14 (i) the voluntary prepayment of a loan  
15 by the owner of the property; or

16 (ii) the use of any additional repay-  
17 ment mechanisms that are—

18 (I) demonstrated to have appro-  
19 priate risk mitigation features, as de-  
20 termined by the eligible entity; or

21 (II) required if the qualified con-  
22 sumer is no longer a customer of the  
23 eligible entity; and

24 (E) shall require an energy audit to deter-  
25 mine the impact of proposed energy efficiency

1           measures on the energy costs and consumption  
2           of the qualified consumer.

3           (2) CONTRACTORS.—In addition to any other  
4           qualified general contractor, eligible entities may  
5           serve as general contractors.

6           (3) USE OF OTHER ENERGY EFFICIENCY IN-  
7           CENTIVES.—Energy efficiency incentives made avail-  
8           able under any other Act, including rebates, grants,  
9           or any other payments, may be used to reduce the  
10          amount of a loan made under this subsection to  
11          qualified consumers in order to meet the require-  
12          ment of paragraph (1)(B).

13          (e) MEASUREMENT, VERIFICATION, TRAINING, AND  
14          TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE.—

15                 (1) DUTIES OF THE SECRETARY.—The Sec-  
16                 retary of Agriculture—

17                         (A) shall establish an implementation and  
18                         measurement and verification advisory com-  
19                         mittee consisting of representatives of eligible  
20                         entities and qualified entities;

21                         (B) may enter into cooperative agreements  
22                         with qualified entities to provide technical as-  
23                         sistance and training to the employees of eligi-  
24                         ble entities to carry out this section; and

1 (C) shall establish a process to compile and  
2 maintain a directory of energy efficiency audi-  
3 tors that are used by eligible entities to carry  
4 out this section.

5 (2) EXCEPTION.—

6 (A) The Secretary of Agriculture shall not  
7 utilize the authority provided under this sub-  
8 section or subsection (j) to—

9 (i) develop, adopt, or implement a  
10 public labeling system that rates and com-  
11 pares the energy performance among quali-  
12 fied consumers; or

13 (ii) require the public disclosure of an  
14 energy performance evaluation or rating  
15 developed for any qualified consumer.

16 (B) Nothing in this paragraph shall pre-  
17 clude—

18 (i) the computation, collection, or use,  
19 by the Secretary of Agriculture, eligible en-  
20 tity, or qualified entity for the purposes of  
21 aggregating information on the rating and  
22 comparison of the energy performance  
23 among qualified consumers with and with-  
24 out energy efficiency features or on energy  
25 performance evaluation or rating;

1 (ii) the use and publication of aggregate  
2 data (without identifying individual  
3 qualified consumers) based on information  
4 referred to in clause (i) to determine or  
5 demonstrate the performance of this pro-  
6 gram; or

7 (iii) the provision of information re-  
8 ferred to in clause (i) with respect to a  
9 qualified consumer:

10 (I) to the State, eligible con-  
11 sumer, eligible entity, or qualified en-  
12 tity, as necessary to enable carrying  
13 out this title; or

14 (II) for purposes of prosecuting  
15 fraud and abuse.

16 (f) FAST START DEMONSTRATION PROJECTS.—The  
17 Secretary of Agriculture shall, not later than 90 days after  
18 the enactment of this section, enter into agreements with  
19 eligible entities (or groups of eligible entities) that have  
20 established an energy efficiency program described in sub-  
21 section (c)(2)(C) to establish an energy efficiency loan  
22 demonstration projects consistent with the purposes of  
23 this section that—

24 (1) implement approaches to energy audits and  
25 investments in energy efficiency measures or farm

1 efficiency measures that yield measurable and pre-  
2 dictable savings;

3 (2) use measurement and verification processes  
4 to determine the effectiveness of energy efficiency  
5 loans made by eligible entities;

6 (3) include training for employees of eligible en-  
7 tities, including any contractors of such entities, to  
8 implement or oversee the activities described in  
9 paragraphs (1) and (2);

10 (4) provide for the participation of a majority  
11 of eligible entities in a State;

12 (5) reduce the need for generating capacity;

13 (6) provide efficiency loans to—

14 (A) not fewer than 20,000 consumers, in  
15 the case of a single eligible entity; or

16 (B) not fewer than 80,000 consumers, in  
17 the case of a group of eligible entities; and

18 (7) serve areas where 15 percent or more of  
19 consumers reside—

20 (A) in manufactured homes; or

21 (B) in housing units that are more than 50  
22 years old.

23 (g) ADDITIONAL AUTHORITY.—The authority pro-  
24 vided in this section is in addition to any authority of the

1 Secretary of Agriculture to offer loans under any other  
2 law.

3 (h) EFFECTIVE PERIOD.—Except as otherwise pro-  
4 vided in this section, the loans and other expenditures re-  
5 quired to be made under this section are authorized to  
6 be made during each of fiscal years 2010 through 2014.

7 (i) REGULATIONS.—

8 (1) IN GENERAL.—Except as otherwise pro-  
9 vided in this subsection, not later than 180 days  
10 after the date of enactment of this section, the Sec-  
11 retary of Agriculture shall promulgate such regula-  
12 tions as are necessary to implement this section.

13 (2) PROCEDURE.—The promulgation of the reg-  
14 ulations and administration of this section shall be  
15 made without regard to—

16 (A) chapter 35 of title 44, United States  
17 Code (commonly known as the “Paperwork Re-  
18 duction Act”); and

19 (B) the Statement of Policy of the Sec-  
20 retary of Agriculture effective July 24, 1971  
21 (36 Fed. Reg. 13804), relating to notices of  
22 proposed rulemaking and public participation in  
23 rulemaking.

24 (3) CONGRESSIONAL REVIEW OF AGENCY RULE-  
25 MAKING.—In carrying out this section, the Secretary

1 of Agriculture shall use the authority provided under  
2 section 808 of title 5, United States Code.

3 (4) INTERIM REGULATIONS.—Notwithstanding  
4 paragraphs (1) and (2), to the extent regulations are  
5 necessary to carry out any provision of this section,  
6 the Secretary of Agriculture shall implement such  
7 regulations through the promulgation of an interim  
8 rule.

9 (j) AUDIT OF PROGRAM.—The Secretary of Agri-  
10 culture shall conduct an audit of the program authorized  
11 by this section to ensure that the funds provided to eligible  
12 entities under this section are used in accordance with the  
13 purpose of this section.

14 (k) REPORTING REQUIREMENTS.—The Secretary of  
15 Agriculture shall report to the Congress on the implemen-  
16 tation of this Act, including the energy savings and costs  
17 savings estimated to be achieved, not later than 1 year  
18 after the date of enactment of this Act, and again not later  
19 than 2 years after the date of enactment of this Act.

20 (l) ASSESMENT BY GOVERNMENT ACCOUNTABILITY  
21 OFFICE.—The Comptroller General shall, by not later  
22 than 18 months after the date of enactment of this Act,  
23 prepare and submit to the Congress an analysis and report  
24 determining—

1 (1) the actual taxpayer funds made available  
2 for the program created in this section;

3 (2) the actual amounts of such funds made  
4 available to eligible entities for qualified consumers  
5 in the program created in this section;

6 (3) the extent of measured and verified energy  
7 savings achieved and expected to be achieved on an  
8 ongoing basis as a function of the program created  
9 in this section;

10 (4) the extent to which funds made available  
11 were expended for training, administration, and pro-  
12 gram support by eligible entities and qualified enti-  
13 ties under the program created in this section; and

14 (5) the consistency and rigor of the standards  
15 for energy efficiency and for measurement and  
16 verification adopted and implemented by program  
17 created in this section.

18 (m) AUTHORIZATION.—There are authorized to be  
19 appropriated for purposes of this section \$150,000,000 for  
20 each of fiscal years 2010 through 2014, which shall re-  
21 main available until expended.

