

## **SUBCOMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION**

### **Department of Energy Renewable Energy Assistance**

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To: Ways and Means Full Committee  
From: Natural Resources Subcommittee  
Carrier: Senator Anderson

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On March 3rd, the Natural Resources Subcommittee recommended approval of the submission of a retroactive federal grant application from the Department of Energy to the U.S. Department of Agriculture, in the amount of \$100,000 for renewable energy assistance grants.

The USDA's Rural Energy for America Program has made funding available through Energy Audit and Renewable Energy Development Assistance Grants. These grants would provide aid to farms, ranches and rural small businesses in obtaining energy efficiency audits. The grants would fund up to 75% of the costs to conduct the audit, with the other 25% covered by the grant recipient. The Department anticipates that around 26 audits could be conducted with the available funding.

This is a competitive grant and does not require a match, but the Department can contribute staff time as an in-kind match. The grant application was due February 1st, with award notifications expected in April. The Department provided the required 10-day notification letter to the Legislature, but due to the timing of the notification and the start of the 2021 legislative session, this request is retroactive. If the grant is awarded, the Department will work with the Legislative Fiscal Office to determine additional limitation needs for the 2021-23 biennium.

The Natural Resources Subcommittee recommends approval.