

## **Amendment 798 to prohibit funding for the purchase of new vehicles**

This bill would allow USDA to purchase brand new passenger motor vehicles and expand its fleet.

In this economic climate when Congress is forced to make difficult budgetary decisions, Congress must find ways to reduce spending.

Cutting back the federal appetite to spend means the agencies must do more with less. In this case, forgoing the purchase new vehicles is a reasonable way to start.

**Overall, the federal vehicle fleet has grown tremendously over the past five years.**

There are over 662,000 cars, vans, sport-utility vehicles, trucks, buses, and ambulances owned or leased by the federal government and consuming approximately one million gallons of fuel per day.

Since 2006, the number of vehicles owned or leased by the federal government has grown by 5 percent or 32,000.

Approximately 63,794 vehicles were purchased in FY 2010 by government agencies. For its own part, USDA's total inventory included 45,110 vehicles at the cost of over \$218 million

The U.S. government spent \$1.2 billion on purchasing 414 million gallons of fuel used in government vehicles that drove 5.1 billion miles.<sup>1</sup>

**As an agency more generally, USDA is massive and needs to reduce its reach rather than expand it.**

Already, USDA employs 120,000 people in 16,000 offices and field locations. The agency notes that if it were a private company, it would be the sixth largest in the United States. Today there is one USDA employee for every eight farmers (those listing their principle source of income), or overall, one USDA employee for every 18 farms.

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<sup>1</sup> <http://www.gsa.gov/portal/content/102943#<!--010-->Federal>

Especially considering the heights of our national debt, Congress should first look to limit agency passenger vehicles as a way to conserve resources.