

By Mr. Kulik of Worthington, petition of Stephen Kulik and others relative to the establishment of a loan program for farmers for marketing agricultural products grown in the Commonwealth. Environment, Natural Resources and Agriculture.

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

PETITION OF:

Stephen Kulik
Peter V. Kocot
John W. Scibak
James B. Eldridge

Christine E. Canavan
Jennifer M. Callahan
Anne M. Gobi

In the Year Two Thousand and Seven.

AN ACT TO PROTECT FARM VIABILITY.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Court assembled, and by the authority of the same, as follows:

1 MassDevelopment is hereby authorized and directed to establish,
2 subject to appropriation, a loan program, to be administered in con-
3 sultation with the commissioner of the department of agricultural
4 resources, to provide loans on favorable terms and conditions to
5 farmers and groups of farmers for the following purposes:— mar-
6 keting of agricultural products grown in Massachusetts; develop-
7 ment of agricultural producer cooperatives; development or
8 improvement of innovative agricultural enterprises, including but
9 not limited to enterprises producing value-added or organically pro-
10 duced agricultural products; execution of business plans approved
11 by the commissioner of the department of agricultural resources pur-
12 suant to the Farm Viability Enhancement Program or similar pro-
13 grams; compliance with environmental laws or regulations; and
14 agricultural activities undertaken by qualified beginning farmers. In
15 establishing the loan program authorized under this section, Mass-
16 Development shall utilize, to the extent practicable and appropriate
17 to making available loans on favorable terms and conditions for the
18 purpose described in this section, arrangements with private lending

19 institutions involving linked deposits, loan guarantees, sharing of
20 administrative costs, and other means deemed appropriate by Mass-
21 Development.