

APRIL 15, 2026

**RULES COMMITTEE PRINT 119–22**  
**TEXT OF H.R. 7567, THE FARM, FOOD, AND**  
**NATIONAL SECURITY ACT OF 2026**

**[Showing the text of H.R. 7567, as ordered reported by the  
Committee on Agriculture, with modifications.]**

**1 SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE; TABLE OF CONTENTS.**

2 (a) **SHORT TITLE.**—This Act may be cited as the  
3 “Farm, Food, and National Security Act of 2026”.

4 (b) **TABLE OF CONTENTS.**—The table of contents for  
5 this Act is as follows:

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- Sec. 12006. Ensuring the free movement of livestock-derived products in interstate commerce.
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- Sec. 12201. Office of Homeland Security.
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- Sec. 12402. Report on personnel.
- Sec. 12403. Improvements to United States Drought Monitor.
- Sec. 12404. Reports on land access and farmland ownership data collection.
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- Sec. 12409. Qualified renewable biomass.
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- Sec. 12412. Rio Grande Valley agricultural water interagency working group.
- Sec. 12413. Cost-share grants for rollover protection structures.

**1 SEC. 2. DEFINITIONS.**

**2 In this Act:**

1 (1) DEPARTMENT.—The term “Department”  
2 means the Department of Agriculture.

3 (2) SECRETARY.—The term “Secretary” means  
4 the Secretary of Agriculture.

## 5 **TITLE I—COMMODITIES**

### 6 **SEC. 1001. SUSPENSION OF PERMANENT PRICE SUPPORT** 7 **AUTHORITY.**

8 Section 1602 of the Agricultural Act of 2014 (7  
9 U.S.C. 9092) is amended by striking “2023” each place  
10 it appears and inserting “2031”.

### 11 **SEC. 1002. TREE ASSISTANCE PROGRAM.**

12 (a) DEFINITIONS.—Section 1501(e)(1) of the Agri-  
13 cultural Act of 2014 (7 U.S.C. 9081(e)(1)) is amended—

14 (1) in subparagraph (A), by inserting “or bien-  
15 nial” after “annual”; and

16 (2) in subparagraph (B), by inserting “or pest”  
17 after “insect”.

18 (b) ECONOMIC VIABILITY.—Section 1501(e)(2)(A) of  
19 the Agricultural Act of 2014 (7 U.S.C. 9081(e)(2)(A)) is  
20 amended—

21 (1) by striking clauses (i) and (ii); and

22 (2) by striking “to provide assistance—” and  
23 inserting “to provide assistance under subpara-  
24 graphs (A) and (B) of paragraph (3) to eligible or-  
25 chardists and nursery tree growers that planted

1 trees for commercial purposes but lost the trees or  
2 the trees no longer produce an economically viable  
3 crop as a result of a natural disaster, as determined  
4 by the Secretary.”.

5 (c) ASSISTANCE.—Section 1501(e)(3) of the Agricul-  
6 tural Act of 2014 (7 U.S.C. 9081(e)(3)) is amended in  
7 the matter before subparagraph (A) by striking “and (5)”  
8 and inserting “, (5), (6), and (7)”.

9 (d) REQUIREMENTS WITH RESPECT TO ASSIST-  
10 ANCE.—Section 1501(e) of the Agricultural Act of 2014  
11 (7 U.S.C. 9081(e)) is amended by adding at the end the  
12 following:

13 “(6) TIMING REQUIREMENTS.—An eligible or-  
14 chardist or nursery tree grower shall agree, as a  
15 condition on receipt of assistance under this sub-  
16 section, to carry out any replacement and rehabilita-  
17 tion activities for which such assistance is provided  
18 not later than—

19 “(A) 2 years after the application for such  
20 assistance is approved; or

21 “(B) if the period specified in subpara-  
22 graph (A) is not adequate for tree survival, at  
23 such time as is necessary to ensure tree sur-  
24 vival.

25 “(7) ALTERNATIVES USED IN REPLANTING.—

1           “(A) IN GENERAL.—An eligible orchardist  
2 or nursery tree grower receiving assistance  
3 under this subsection with respect to tree loss  
4 may use such assistance to replant using—

5                   “(i) an alternative variety from the  
6 variety used prior to the loss;

7                   “(ii) an alternative stand density from  
8 the stand density used prior to the loss;  
9 and

10                   “(iii) an alternative location than was  
11 used prior to the loss.

12           “(B) COST SHARE LIMITATIONS WITH RE-  
13 SPECT TO ALTERNATIVES.—The assistance pro-  
14 vided by the Secretary to eligible orchardists  
15 and nursery tree growers—

16                   “(i) for losses described in subpara-  
17 graph (A)(i), shall be an amount that is  
18 not greater than the amount the eligible  
19 orchardist or nursery tree grower would re-  
20 ceive if the eligible orchardist or nursery  
21 tree grower planted the variety lost;

22                   “(ii) for losses described in subpara-  
23 graph (A)(ii) shall be an amount that is  
24 not greater than the amount the eligible  
25 orchardist or nursery tree grower would re-

1           ceive if the eligible orchardist or nursery  
2           tree grower planted the stand density lost;  
3           and

4                   “(iii) for losses described in subpara-  
5                   graph (A)(iii), shall be an amount that is  
6                   not greater than the amount the eligible  
7                   orchardist or nursery tree grower would re-  
8                   ceive if the eligible orchardist or nursery  
9                   tree grower planted the location in which  
10                  the loss occurred.”.

11           (e) DEADLINE FOR NOTICE REGARDING APPLICA-  
12           TION STATUS.—Section 1501(e) of the Agricultural Act  
13           of 2014 (7 U.S.C. 9801(e)) is further amended by adding  
14           at the end the following:

15                   “(8) DEADLINE FOR NOTICE REGARDING AP-  
16                   PLICATION STATUS.—Not later than 120 days after  
17                   receiving an application for assistance under this  
18                   subsection, the Secretary shall—

19                           “(A) approve or deny such application; and

20                           “(B) notify the applicant of such approval  
21                           or denial.”.

22           (f) INITIAL PAYMENTS UNDER TREE ASSISTANCE  
23           PROGRAM.—Section 1501(e) of the Agricultural Act of  
24           2014 (7 U.S.C. 9081(e)) is amended by adding at the end  
25           the following:

1           “(9) INITIAL PAYMENTS.—

2                   “(A) IN GENERAL.—An eligible orchardist  
3 or nursery tree grower may opt to receive an  
4 initial assistance payment with respect to losses  
5 described in paragraph (2) before incurring the  
6 costs described in paragraph (3) relating to  
7 such losses.

8                   “(B) AMOUNT.—An initial assistance pay-  
9 ment under subparagraph (A) shall be in an  
10 amount that is equal to the fair market value  
11 of the estimated costs described in paragraph  
12 (3) that the eligible orchardist or nursery tree  
13 grower is likely to incur with respect to losses  
14 described in paragraph (2), as determined by  
15 the Secretary.

16                   “(C) SUBSEQUENT PAYMENT.—

17                           “(i) IN GENERAL.—In the case of an  
18 eligible orchardist or nursery tree grower  
19 that opts to receive an initial payment  
20 under subparagraph (A) with respect to  
21 losses described in paragraph (2), the Sec-  
22 retary shall, as soon as practicable after  
23 providing such initial payment, provide a  
24 subsequent payment to the eligible or-

1 orchardist or nursery tree grower in an  
2 amount equal to—

3 “(I) the payment amount the eli-  
4 gible orchardist or nursery tree grow-  
5 er would have received with respect to  
6 such losses under paragraph (3) or  
7 pursuant to paragraph (5); minus

8 “(II) the initial payment amount  
9 provided to such eligible orchardist or  
10 nursery tree grower under subpara-  
11 graph (B) with respect to such losses.

12 “(ii) OVERPAYMENT.—If an initial  
13 payment under subparagraph (B) with re-  
14 spect to losses described in paragraph (2)  
15 is greater than the amount an eligible or-  
16 chardist or nursery tree grower would have  
17 received under paragraph (3) or pursuant  
18 to paragraph (5) for such losses, such eli-  
19 gible orchardist or nursery tree grower  
20 shall repay the Secretary the excess  
21 amount.

22 “(D) SUNSET.—The authority to make  
23 payments under this paragraph shall terminate  
24 on September 30, 2035.”.

1 **SEC. 1003. SPECIALTY CROP EMERGENCY ASSISTANCE**  
2 **FRAMEWORK.**

3 (a) IN GENERAL.—The Federal Agriculture Improve-  
4 ment and Reform Act of 1996 is amended by inserting  
5 after section 196 (7 U.S.C. 7333) the following:

6 **“SEC. 196A. SPECIALTY CROP EMERGENCY ASSISTANCE**  
7 **FRAMEWORK.**

8 “(a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall establish a  
9 framework to provide direct assistance to producers of  
10 specialty crops the production of which was impacted by  
11 an adverse event (including an economic crisis or market  
12 disruption), as determined by the Secretary, in accordance  
13 with this section.

14 “(b) PAYMENT CALCULATION.—In determining a  
15 payment calculation for purposes of direct assistance to  
16 a producer of specialty crops under subsection (a), the  
17 Secretary shall calculate payments based on—

18 “(1) the producer’s sales of specialty crops for  
19 a calendar year that precedes the year in which the  
20 adverse event described in such subsection occurred  
21 or the average of such sales over a set of consecutive  
22 calendar years that precedes the year in which such  
23 adverse event occurred, as determined by the Sec-  
24 retary; multiplied by

25 “(2) a payment factor the Secretary deter-  
26 mines, subject to the availability of funds, to address

1 losses of such specialty crops from such adverse  
2 event.

3 “(c) SPECIAL RULES.—Subject to subsection (d), in  
4 providing direct assistance pursuant to this section, the  
5 Secretary shall consider—

6 “(1) the higher value of specialty crops;

7 “(2) the greater input costs required to grow  
8 specialty crops; and

9 “(3) diverse types of legal entities and struc-  
10 tures used by specialty crop producers.

11 “(d) LIMITATIONS.—

12 “(1) TOTAL AMOUNT.—

13 “(A) IN GENERAL.—Except as provided in  
14 subparagraph (B), the total amount of pay-  
15 ments received, directly or indirectly, by a per-  
16 son or legal entity (except a qualified pass-  
17 through entity) (as such terms are defined in  
18 section 1001(a) of the Food Security Act of  
19 1985 (7 U.S.C. 1308(a))) for any crop year  
20 under this section may not exceed the amount  
21 specified in subsection (b) of section 1001 of  
22 the Food Security Act of 1985 (7 U.S.C. 1308),  
23 as adjusted pursuant to subsection (i) of such  
24 section 1001.

1           “(B) EXCEPTION.—In the case of a person  
2           or legal entity with an average gross income (as  
3           calculated under section 1001D(b)(4)(B) of the  
4           Food Security Act of 1985 (7 U.S.C. 1308–  
5           3a(b)(4)(B))) for which greater than or equal  
6           to 75 percent of the average derives from farm-  
7           ing, ranching, or silviculture activities—

8                   “(i) subparagraph (A) shall not apply;  
9                   and

10                   “(ii) the total maximum amount of  
11                   payments received, directly or indirectly,  
12                   by such person or legal entity for any crop  
13                   year under this section shall be set by the  
14                   Secretary, except such amount may not be  
15                   less than \$900,000.

16           “(2) NOTIFICATION OF INTERESTS; ELIGI-  
17           BILITY; DENIALS.—Sections 1001A(a), 1001B, and  
18           1001C of the Food Security Act of 1985 (7 U.S.C.  
19           1308–1(a); 1308–2; 1308–3) shall apply to a pro-  
20           ducer of a specialty crop under this section in the  
21           same manner as such sections apply to a person or  
22           legal entity with respect to a covered commodity, ex-  
23           cept to the extent such sections relate to the applica-  
24           tion of subsections (b) through (d) of section  
25           1001A.”.

1 (b) PAYMENT LIMITATION CONFORMING AMEND-  
2 MENT.—Section 1001D(b) of the Food Security Act of  
3 1985 (7 U.S.C. 1308–3a(b)) is amended—

4 (1) in paragraph (2)(E), by inserting “or  
5 196A” after “section 196”; and

6 (2) in paragraph (4)(A)(i)(II), by inserting “or  
7 196A” after “section 196”.

8 **SEC. 1004. ASSISTANCE IN THE FORM OF BLOCK GRANTS.**

9 (a) IN GENERAL.—Subtitle E of title I of the Agricul-  
10 tural Act of 2014 (7 U.S.C. 9081 et seq.) is amended by  
11 adding at the end the following:

12 **“SEC. 1502. ASSISTANCE IN THE FORM OF BLOCK GRANTS.**

13 “(a) IN GENERAL.—In the case additional funds  
14 made available after the date of the enactment of this sec-  
15 tion for covered losses, the Secretary may make assistance  
16 for such losses available in the form of block grants.

17 “(b) COVERED LOSSES.—In this section, the term  
18 ‘covered losses’ means losses—

19 “(1) of revenue, quality, or production of crops,  
20 trees, bushes, vines, poultry or livestock as a con-  
21 sequence of a natural disaster (as determined by the  
22 Secretary); and

23 “(2) for which assistance is not available pursu-  
24 ant to any other Federal law.”.

1 (b) CLERICAL AMENDMENT.—The table of contents  
2 for the Agricultural Act of 2014 is amended by inserting  
3 after the item relating to section 1501 the following:

“1502. Assistance in the form of block grants.”.

4 **SEC. 1005. DAIRY-RELATED EXTENSIONS.**

5 (a) FORWARD PRICING.—Section 1502 of the Food,  
6 Conservation, and Energy Act of 2008 (7 U.S.C. 8772)  
7 is amended by striking subsection (e).

8 (b) INDEMNITY PROGRAM.—Section 3 of Public Law  
9 90–484 (7 U.S.C. 4553) is amended by striking “2023”  
10 and inserting “2031”.

11 (c) PROMOTION AND RESEARCH.—Section 113(e)(2)  
12 of the Dairy Production Stabilization Act of 1983 (7  
13 U.S.C. 4504(e)(2)) is amended by striking “2023” and  
14 inserting “2031”.

15 **SEC. 1006. MANDATORY REPORTING OF DAIRY PRODUCT**  
16 **PROCESSING COSTS.**

17 Section 273 of the Agricultural Marketing Act of  
18 1946 (7 U.S.C. 1637b) is amended—

19 (1) in subsection (b)—

20 (A) in paragraph (1)—

21 (i) in subparagraph (A)(ii), by strik-  
22 ing “and” at the end;

23 (ii) in subparagraph (B), by striking  
24 the period at the end and inserting “;  
25 and”; and

1 (iii) by adding at the end the fol-  
2 lowing:

3 “(C) for each manufacturer required to re-  
4 port under subparagraph (A) for any product,  
5 require that manufacturer to report production  
6 cost and product yield information, as deter-  
7 mined by the Secretary, for all products proc-  
8 essed in the same facility or facilities.”;

9 (B) in paragraph (2)(A), by inserting  
10 “products and” after “those”;

11 (2) in subsection (c)(3)(B), by inserting “, sub-  
12 ject to subsection (b)(1),” after “of information”;

13 (3) in subsection (d)—

14 (A) in the subsection heading, by striking  
15 “ELECTRONIC REPORTING” and inserting “RE-  
16 PORTING”;

17 (B) in paragraph (1)—

18 (i) in the heading, by striking “ELEC-  
19 TRONIC REPORTING” and inserting “RE-  
20 PORTING”; and

21 (ii) by striking “this section” and in-  
22 serting “subparagraphs (A) and (B) of  
23 subsection (b)(1)”;

1 (C) in paragraph (2), by striking “this sec-  
2 tion” and inserting “subparagraphs (A) and  
3 (B) of subsection (b)(1)”; and

4 (D) by adding at the end the following:

5 “(3) DAIRY PRODUCT PROCESSING COSTS.—Not  
6 later than 2 years after the date of enactment of  
7 this paragraph, and every 2 years thereafter, the  
8 Secretary shall publish a report containing the infor-  
9 mation obtained under subparagraph (C) of sub-  
10 section (b)(1), subject to the conditions described in  
11 subsection (b)(2).”;

12 (4) by redesignating subsection (e) as sub-  
13 section (f); and

14 (5) by adding after subsection (d) the following:

15 “(e) REGULATION.—Any actions taken by the Sec-  
16 retary under this section shall not be subject to review  
17 under Executive Order 12866 (58 Fed. Reg. 51735) or  
18 any successor order.”.

19 **SEC. 1007. DAIRY REPORTS.**

20 Paragraph (4) of section 301 of the Dairy Production  
21 Stabilization Act of 1983 (7 U.S.C. 4514) is amended by  
22 striking “Not later” and all that follows through “an an-  
23 nual report” and inserting “With respect to each calendar  
24 year beginning after the date of the enactment of the  
25 Farm, Food, and National Security Act of 2026, a report

1 (which shall be submitted not later than 18 months after  
2 the last day of such calendar year)”.

3 **SEC. 1008. PROCESSING OF CERTAIN LOANS.**

4 (a) **MARKETING ASSISTANCE LOANS.**—Section 1204  
5 of the Agricultural Act of 2014 (7 U.S.C. 9034) is amend-  
6 ed by adding at the end the following:

7 “(j) **EFFECT OF LAPSE IN APPROPRIATIONS.**—The  
8 servicing of a marketing assistance loan under section  
9 1201 by an officer or employee of the Department shall  
10 be deemed, for purposes of section 1342 of title 31, serv-  
11 ices for emergencies involving the safety of human life or  
12 the protection of property.”.

13 (b) **LOANS UNDER SUGAR PROGRAM.**—Section  
14 156(d) of the Federal Agriculture Improvement and Re-  
15 form Act of 1996 (7 U.S.C. 7272(d)) is amended by add-  
16 ing at the end the following:

17 “(4) **EFFECT OF LAPSE IN APPROPRIATIONS.**—  
18 The servicing of a loan under this section by an offi-  
19 cer or employee of the Department shall be deemed,  
20 for purposes of section 1342 of title 31, services for  
21 emergencies involving the safety of human life or the  
22 protection of property.”.

23 **SEC. 1009. STORAGE FACILITY LOANS.**

24 Section 1614(a) of the Food, Conservation, and En-  
25 ergy Act of 2008 (7 U.S.C. 8789(a)) is amended—

1 (1) by striking “funds for producers” and in-  
2 serting the following: “funds for—

3 “(1) producers”; and

4 (2) by striking the period at the end and insert-  
5 ing “; and”; and

6 (3) by adding at the end the following:

7 “(2) producers to construct or upgrade storage  
8 facilities for propane that is primarily used for agri-  
9 cultural production (as such term is defined in sec-  
10 tion 4279.2 of title 7, Code of Federal Regulations  
11 (as in effect on the date of the enactment of this  
12 paragraph)).”.

13 **SEC. 1010. STRENGTHENING DOMESTIC FOOD PRODUCTION**  
14 **SUPPLY CHAINS.**

15 (a) IN GENERAL.—Subtitle C of title I of the Agricul-  
16 tural Act of 2014 (Public Law 113–79) is amended by  
17 adding at the end the following:

18 **“SEC. 1302. STRENGTHENING DOMESTIC FOOD PRODUC-**  
19 **TION SUPPLY CHAINS.**

20 “(a) IN GENERAL.—With respect to any Federal pol-  
21 icy that would impact the administration of the programs  
22 described in this subtitle or any rule, policy, or guidance  
23 issued pursuant to such programs, the preservation and  
24 strengthening of the domestic production described in sub-  
25 section (b) shall be a priority objective of the President.

1       “(b) DOMESTIC PRODUCTION DESCRIBED.—The do-  
2       mestic production described in this subsection is the pro-  
3       duction of an agricultural commodity—

4               “(1) described in this subtitle; and

5               “(2) from which a food ingredient that serves  
6       an important function throughout the domestic food  
7       production supply chain is derived.”.

8       (b) CLERICAL AMENDMENT.—The table of contents  
9       for the Agricultural Act of 2014 is amended by inserting  
10      after the item relating to section 1301 the following:

    “1302. Strengthening domestic food production supply chains.”.

11   **SEC. 1011. REGULATIONS.**

12      (a) ADMINISTRATION.—Section 1601(c) of the Agri-  
13      cultural Act of 2014 (7 U.S.C. 9091(c)) is amended—

14              (1) in paragraph (2), by striking “this title, sec-  
15      tions 11003 and 11017, title I of the Agriculture  
16      Improvement Act of 2018 and the amendments  
17      made by that title, and section 10109 of that Act”  
18      and inserting “a covered provision of law”; and

19              (2) by adding at the end the following:

20              “(4) COVERED PROVISION OF LAW DEFINED.—  
21      In this subsection, the term ‘covered provision of  
22      law’ means—

23              “(A) this title and sections 11003 and  
24              11017;

1           “(B) title I of the Agriculture Improve-  
2           ment Act of 2018 and the amendments made  
3           by that title, and section 10109 of that Act;  
4           and

5           “(C) title I of the Farm Food and Na-  
6           tional Security Act of 2026 and the amend-  
7           ments made by that title.”.

8           (b) LOAN IMPLEMENTATION.—Section 1614(d) of  
9           the Agricultural Act of 2014 (7 U.S.C. 9097(d)) is amend-  
10          ed—

11           (1) in paragraph (1), by striking “subtitle B”  
12          the first place it appears and all that follows  
13          through the period at the end and inserting “a cov-  
14          ered provision of law.”;

15           (2) in paragraph (2)—

16           (A) by striking “of subtitles B or C”; and

17           (B) by striking “under subtitles B or C”  
18          and inserting “under the repayment provi-  
19          sions”; and

20           (3) by adding at the end the following:

21           “(3) DEFINITIONS.—In this subsection:

22           “(A) COVERED PROVISION OF LAW.—The  
23          term ‘covered provision of law’ means—

24           “(i) subtitle B or C or the amend-  
25          ments made by subtitle B or C;

1           “(ii) the amendments made by sub-  
2           title B or C of the Agriculture Improve-  
3           ment Act of 2018, except with respect to  
4           the assistance provided under sections  
5           1207(c) and 1208; and

6           “(iii) section 156 of the Federal Agri-  
7           cultural Improvement and Reform Act of  
8           1996 (7 U.S.C. 7272).

9           “(B) REPAYMENT PROVISIONS.—The term  
10          ‘repayment provisions’ means the repayment re-  
11          quirements under—

12                  “(i) subtitle B or C; or

13                  “(ii) section 156 of the Federal Agri-  
14                  cultural Improvement and Reform Act of  
15                  1996 (7 U.S.C. 7272).”.

16   **SEC. 1012. RESTORATION OF TOBACCO AS AGRICULTURAL**  
17                           **COMMODITY IN COMMODITY CREDIT COR-**  
18                           **PORATION CHARTER ACT.**

19          Section 5 of the Commodity Credit Corporation Char-  
20   ter Act (15 U.S.C. 714c) is amended by striking “(other  
21   than tobacco)” each place such term appears.

1           **TITLE II—CONSERVATION**  
2                   **Subtitle A—Definitions**

3   **SEC. 2001. DEFINITIONS.**

4           Section 1201(a) of the Food Security Act of 1985  
5 (16 U.S.C. 3801(a)) is amended—

6                   (1) in the matter preceding paragraph (1), by  
7           striking “subtitles A through I:” and inserting “sub-  
8           titles A through J:”;

9                   (2) in paragraph (14), by striking “term ‘In-  
10          dian tribe’ has the meaning given the term” and in-  
11          serting “terms ‘Indian tribe’ and ‘Indian Tribe’ have  
12          the meaning given those terms”;

13                   (3) by redesignating paragraphs (20) through  
14          (27) as paragraphs (22) through (29), respectively;

15                   (4) by inserting after paragraph (19) the fol-  
16          lowing:

17                   “(20)   PRECISION   AGRICULTURE.—The term  
18          ‘precision agriculture’ means managing, tracking, or  
19          reducing crop or livestock production inputs, includ-  
20          ing seed, feed, fertilizer, chemicals, water, and time,  
21          at a heightened level of spatial and temporal granu-  
22          larity and biological targeting to improve efficiencies,  
23          reduce waste, and maintain environmental quality.

24                   “(21)   PRECISION   AGRICULTURE   TECH-  
25          NOLOGY.—The term ‘precision agriculture tech-

1 nology’ means any technology (including targeted in-  
2 puts and the equipment that is necessary for the de-  
3 ployment of such technology) that directly contrib-  
4 utes to a reduction in, or improved efficiency of, in-  
5 puts used in crop or livestock production, includ-  
6 ing—

7 “(A) Global Positioning System-based or  
8 geospatial mapping technology;

9 “(B) satellite or aerial imagery technology;

10 “(C) yield monitors;

11 “(D) soil mapping technology;

12 “(E) sensors for gathering data on crop,  
13 soil, or livestock conditions;

14 “(F) Internet of Things and telematics  
15 technologies;

16 “(G) data management software and ad-  
17 vanced analytics;

18 “(H) network connectivity products and  
19 solutions;

20 “(I) Global Positioning System guidance or  
21 auto-steer systems;

22 “(J) variable rate technology for applying  
23 inputs, such as section control; and

24 “(K) any other technology, as determined  
25 by the Secretary, that directly contributes to a

1 reduction in, or improved efficiency of, the use  
2 of crop or livestock production inputs, which  
3 may include seed, feed, fertilizer, soil amend-  
4 ments, chemicals, water, and time.”; and

5 (5) by adding at the end the following:

6 “(30) WILDLIFE HABITAT CONNECTIVITY.—

7 The term ‘wildlife habitat connectivity’ means the  
8 degree to which landscape or habitat elements facili-  
9 tate native species movement among seasonal habi-  
10 tats.”.

11 **SEC. 2002. MITIGATION BANKING.**

12 Section 1222(k)(1)(B) of the Food Security Act of  
13 1985 (16 U.S.C. 3822(k)(1)(B)) is amended to read as  
14 follows:

15 “(B) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIA-  
16 TIONS.—There is authorized to be appropriated  
17 to the Secretary to carry out this paragraph  
18 \$5,000,000 for each of fiscal years 2027  
19 through 2031.”.

20 **Subtitle B—Conservation Reserve**  
21 **Program**

22 **SEC. 2101. CONSERVATION RESERVE.**

23 (a) IN GENERAL.—Section 1231(a) of the Food Se-  
24 curity Act of 1985 (16 U.S.C. 3831(a)) is amended by  
25 striking “2023” and inserting “2031”.

1 (b) ELIGIBLE LAND.—Section 1231(b) of the Food  
2 Security Act of 1985 (16 U.S.C. 3831(b)) is amended—

3 (1) in paragraph (1)(B), by striking “the date  
4 of enactment of the Agriculture Improvement Act of  
5 2018” and inserting “the date of enactment of the  
6 Farm, Food, and National Security Act of 2026”;  
7 and

8 (2) in paragraph (7)(A), by striking “Sep-  
9 tember 30, 2017, or September 30, 2018” and in-  
10 sserting “September 30, 2025, or September 30,  
11 2026”.

12 (c) ENROLLMENT.—

13 (1) MAXIMUM ACREAGE ENROLLED.—Section  
14 1231(d)(1)(E) of the Food Security Act of 1985 (16  
15 U.S.C. 3831(d)(1)(E)) is amended by striking “fis-  
16 cal year 2023” and inserting “each of fiscal years  
17 2023 through 2031”.

18 (2) GRASSLANDS.—Section  
19 1231(d)(2)(A)(ii)(III) of the Food Security Act of  
20 1985 (16 U.S.C. 3831(d)(2)(A)(ii)(III)) is amended  
21 by striking “2023” and inserting “2031”.

22 (3) STATE ENROLLMENT RATES.—Section  
23 1231(d)(4) of the Food Security Act of 1985 (16  
24 U.S.C. 3831(d)(4)) is amended by striking “2019

1 through 2023” and inserting “2026 through 2031”  
2 each place it appears.

3 (4) CONTINUOUS ENROLLMENT PROCEDURE.—  
4 Section 1231(d)(6)(B) of the Food Security Act of  
5 1985 (16 U.S.C. 3831(d)(6)(B)) is amended to read  
6 as follows:

7 “(B) LIMITATION.—For purposes of apply-  
8 ing the limitations in paragraph (1), the Sec-  
9 retary shall, to the maximum extent practicable,  
10 enroll and maintain not fewer than 8,600,000  
11 acres of land under subparagraph (A) by Sep-  
12 tember 30, 2031.”.

13 **SEC. 2102. FARMABLE WETLAND PROGRAM.**

14 Section 1231B(a)(1) of the Food Security Act of  
15 1985 (16 U.S.C. 3831b(a)(1)) is amended by striking  
16 “2023” and inserting “2031”.

17 **Subtitle C—Environmental Quality**  
18 **Incentives Program**

19 **SEC. 2201. DEFINITIONS.**

20 Section 1240A(6)(B)(v) of the Food Security Act of  
21 1985 (16 U.S.C. 3839aa–1(6)(B)(v)) is amended by in-  
22 serting “(including the adoption of precision agriculture  
23 practices and the acquisition of precision agriculture tech-  
24 nology)” after “planning”.

1 **SEC. 2202. ESTABLISHMENT AND ADMINISTRATION.**

2 (a) PAYMENTS.—

3 (1) SPECIAL RULE INVOLVING PAYMENTS FOR  
4 FOREGONE INCOME.—Section 1240B(d)(3)(F) of the  
5 Food Security Act of 1985 (16 U.S.C. 3839aa–  
6 2(d)(3)(F)) is amended by inserting “and wildlife  
7 habitat connectivity” before “; or”.

8 (2) OTHER PAYMENTS.—Section 1240B(d)(6)  
9 of the Food Security Act of 1985 (16 U.S.C.  
10 3839aa–2(d)(6)) is amended—

11 (A) by striking “A producer shall” and in-  
12 serting the following:

13 “(A) PAYMENTS UNDER THIS SUBTITLE.—  
14 Except as provided in paragraph (9), a pro-  
15 ducer shall”; and

16 (B) by adding at the end the following:

17 “(B) CONSERVATION LOAN AND LOAN  
18 GUARANTEE PROGRAM PAYMENTS.—

19 “(i) IN GENERAL.—A producer receiv-  
20 ing payments for practices on eligible land  
21 under the program may also receive a loan  
22 or loan guarantee under section 304 of the  
23 Consolidated Farm and Rural Develop-  
24 ment Act to cover costs for the same prac-  
25 tices on the same land.

1           “(ii) NOTICE TO PRODUCER.—The  
2           Secretary shall inform a producer partici-  
3           pating in the program in writing that they  
4           may apply to receive a loan or loan guar-  
5           antee under section 304 of the Consoli-  
6           dated Farm and Rural Development Act as  
7           it relates to costs of implementing prac-  
8           tices under this program.”.

9           (3) INCREASED PAYMENTS FOR HIGH-PRIORITY  
10          PRACTICES.—Section 1240B(d)(7) of the Food Se-  
11          curity Act of 1985 (16 U.S.C. 3839aa–2(d)(7)) is  
12          amended—

13                 (A) in the paragraph heading, by inserting  
14                 “STATE-DETERMINED” before “HIGH-PRI-  
15                 ORITY”; and

16                 (B) in subparagraph (A)—

17                         (i) in clause (iii), by striking “or” at  
18                         the end;

19                         (ii) in clause (iv), by striking the pe-  
20                         riod at the end and inserting a semicolon;  
21                         and

22                         (iii) by adding at the end the fol-  
23                         lowing:

24                                 “(v) addresses the conservation and  
25                                 restoration of wildlife habitat, including

1 wildlife habitat connectivity and wildlife  
2 migration corridors; or

3 “(vi) increases carbon sequestration  
4 or reduces greenhouse gas emissions, in-  
5 cluding emissions of methane and nitrous  
6 oxide.”.

7 (4) INCREASED PAYMENTS FOR PRECISION AG-  
8 RICULTURE.—Section 1240B(d) of the Food Secu-  
9 rity Act of 1985 (16 U.S.C. 3839aa–2(d)) is amend-  
10 ed by adding at the end the following:

11 “(8) INCREASED PAYMENTS FOR PRECISION AG-  
12 RICULTURE PRACTICES.—Notwithstanding para-  
13 graph (2), the Secretary may increase the amount  
14 that would otherwise be provided for a practice  
15 under this subsection to not more than 90 percent  
16 of the costs associated with adopting precision agri-  
17 culture practices and acquiring precision agriculture  
18 technology for the purpose of implementing con-  
19 servation practices.”.

20 (5) COST-SHARE PAYMENTS FOR GRASSLAND.—  
21 Section 1240B(d) of the Food Security Act of 1985  
22 (16 U.S.C. 3839aa–2(d)) is further amended by  
23 adding at the end the following:

1           “(9) COST-SHARE PAYMENTS FOR GRASSLAND  
2 ENROLLED IN THE CONSERVATION RESERVE PRO-  
3 GRAM.—

4           “(A) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary may  
5 provide payments under the program for costs  
6 associated with planning, design, materials,  
7 equipment, installation, labor, management,  
8 maintenance, or training, for the purpose of a  
9 wildlife corridor, with respect to eligible land  
10 that is—

11           “(i) enrolled in the conservation re-  
12 serve program under section  
13 1231(d)(2)(A); and

14           “(ii) of ecological significance, as de-  
15 scribed in section 1231(d)(2)(B)(iii).

16           “(B) LIMITATION.—A producer shall not  
17 be eligible for payments under subparagraph  
18 (A) for a practice if the producer receives pay-  
19 ments or other benefits for the same practice on  
20 the same land under this title.”.

21           (b) ALLOCATION OF FUNDING.—Section 1240B(f)(1)  
22 of the Food Security Act of 1985 (16 U.S.C. 3839aa-  
23 2(f)(1)) is amended by striking “2023” and inserting  
24 “2031”.

1 (c) WATER CONSERVATION OR IRRIGATION EFFI-  
2 CIENCY PRACTICE.—Section 1240B(h)(1) of the Food Se-  
3 curity Act of 1985 (16 U.S.C. 3839aa–2(h)(1)) is amend-  
4 ed—

5 (1) in subparagraph (B), by striking “; or” and  
6 inserting a semicolon;

7 (2) in subparagraph (C), by striking the period  
8 and inserting “; or”; and

9 (3) by adding at the end the following:

10 “(D) the adoption of precision agriculture  
11 practices or the acquisition of precision agri-  
12 culture technology to achieve water conservation  
13 and energy efficiency.”.

14 (d) PAYMENTS FOR CONSERVATION PRACTICE RE-  
15 LATED TO ORGANIC PRODUCTION.—Section  
16 1240B(i)(3)(A)(ii) of the Food Security Act of 1985 (16  
17 U.S.C. 3839aa–2(i)(3)(A)(ii)) is amended by striking  
18 “2019 through 2023, \$140,000” and inserting “2027  
19 through 2031, \$200,000”.

20 (e) CONSERVATION INCENTIVE CONTRACTS.—Sec-  
21 tion 1240B(j)(2)(A)(i) of the Food Security Act of 1985  
22 (16 U.S.C. 3839aa–2(j)(2)(A)(i)) is amended by inserting  
23 “(which may include the adoption of precision agriculture  
24 practices and the acquisition of precision agriculture tech-  
25 nology)” after “incentive practices”.

1 (f) SOUTHERN BORDER INITIATIVE.—Section 1240B  
2 of the Food Security Act of 1985 (16 U.S.C. 3839aa–2)  
3 is amended by adding at the end the following:

4 “(k) SOUTHERN BORDER INITIATIVE.—

5 “(1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall provide  
6 payments under the program to producers to imple-  
7 ment conservation practices on covered lands of such  
8 producers that address and repair covered damage  
9 that may contribute to a natural resource concern or  
10 problem.

11 “(2) CONTRACT TERM.—In the case of a con-  
12 tract under the program entered into for the imple-  
13 mentation of practices described in paragraph (1),  
14 such contract shall have a term of 1 year.

15 “(3) DEFINITIONS.—In this subsection:

16 “(A) COVERED DAMAGE.—The term ‘cov-  
17 ered damage’ means damage to agricultural  
18 land or farming infrastructure.

19 “(B) COVERED LAND.—The term ‘covered  
20 land’ means eligible land in a county at or near  
21 the southern border of the United States, as de-  
22 termined by the Secretary.”.

1 **SEC. 2203. LIMITATION ON PAYMENTS.**

2 Section 1240G of the Food Security Act of 1985 (16  
3 U.S.C. 3839aa–7) is amended by striking “2019 through  
4 2023” and inserting “2027 through 2031”.

5 **SEC. 2204. CONSERVATION INNOVATION GRANTS AND PAY-**  
6 **MENTS.**

7 (a) **COMPETITIVE GRANTS FOR INNOVATIVE CON-**  
8 **SERVATION APPROACHES.**—Section 1240H(a) of the Food  
9 Security Act of 1985 (16 U.S.C. 3839aa–8(a)) is amend-  
10 ed—

11 (1) by amending paragraph (1) to read as fol-  
12 lows:

13 “(1) **GRANTS.**—Out of the funds made available  
14 to carry out this subchapter, the Secretary may  
15 award competitive grants that are intended to stimu-  
16 late development and evaluation of new and innova-  
17 tive approaches to leveraging the Federal investment  
18 in environmental enhancement and protection, in  
19 conjunction with agricultural production or forest re-  
20 source management, through the program, including  
21 grants for the development and evaluation of new  
22 and innovative technologies that may be incor-  
23 porated into conservation practice standards.”; and

24 (2) in paragraph (2)(H), by inserting before the  
25 period “(including precision agriculture practices  
26 and precision agriculture technologies)”.

1 (b) ON-FARM CONSERVATION INNOVATION  
2 TRIALS.—Section 1240H(c)(1)(B)(i) of the Food Security  
3 Act of 1985 (16 U.S.C. 3839aa–8(c)(1)(B)(i)) is amend-  
4 ed—

5 (1) in subclause (VI), by striking “and” at the  
6 end; and

7 (2) by inserting after subclause (VII) the fol-  
8 lowing:

9 “(VIII) perennial production sys-  
10 tems, including agroforestry and pe-  
11 rennial forages and grain crops; and”.

12 (c) REPORTING AND DATABASE.—Section  
13 1240H(d)(2)(A) of the Food Security Act of 1985 (16  
14 U.S.C. 3839aa–8(d)(2)(A)) is amended—

15 (1) in clause (i)—

16 (A) by inserting “, including both manage-  
17 ment and structural conservation practices,”  
18 after “conservation practices”; and

19 (B) by striking “and” at the end;

20 (2) by redesignating clause (ii) as clause (iii);

21 (3) by inserting after clause (i) the following:

22 “(ii) data that may be used to evalu-  
23 ate new and emerging technologies and  
24 recommendations for State and regional

1 applications of such new and emerging  
2 technologies; and”;

3 (4) in clause (iii), as so redesignated, by insert-  
4 ing “for consideration under the streamlined process  
5 developed under section 1242(h)(3)” before the pe-  
6 riod at the end.

## 7 **Subtitle D—Conservation** 8 **Stewardship Program**

### 9 **SEC. 2301. CONSERVATION STEWARDSHIP PROGRAM.**

10 Section 1240J(b) of the Food Security Act of 1985  
11 (16 U.S.C. 3839aa–22(b)) is amended—

12 (1) in paragraph (1), in the matter preceding  
13 subparagraph (A), by inserting “and except as pro-  
14 vided in paragraph (3),” after “paragraph (2),”; and

15 (2) by adding at the end the following:

16 “(3) COST-SHARE PAYMENTS FOR GRASSLAND  
17 ENROLLED IN THE CONSERVATION RESERVE PRO-  
18 GRAM.—

19 “(A) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary may  
20 provide payments under the program for costs  
21 associated with planning, design, materials,  
22 equipment, installation, labor, management,  
23 maintenance, or training, for the purpose of a  
24 wildlife corridor, with respect to eligible land  
25 that is—

1 “(i) enrolled in the conservation re-  
2 serve program under section  
3 1231(d)(2)(A); and

4 “(ii) of ecological significance, as de-  
5 scribed in section 1231(d)(2)(B)(iii).

6 “(B) LIMITATION.—A producer shall not  
7 be eligible for payments under subparagraph  
8 (A) for a conservation activity if the producer  
9 receives payments or other benefits for the  
10 same conservation activity on the same land  
11 under this title.

12 “(C) EMERGENCY GRAZING AND HAYING  
13 ACCESS PRESERVED.—No priority resource con-  
14 cern, practice, or incentive pertaining to res-  
15 toration and enhancement of wildlife habitat  
16 connectivity and wildlife migration corridors on  
17 the acres described above will prevent or alter  
18 emergency grazing and haying access for grass-  
19 land acres enrolled in the conservation reserve  
20 program.”.

21 **SEC. 2302. DUTIES OF THE SECRETARY.**

22 (a) CONSERVATION STEWARDSHIP PAYMENTS.—Sec-  
23 tion 1240L(c) of the Food Security Act of 1985 (16  
24 U.S.C. 3839aa–24(c)) is amended—

1 (1) in paragraph (2)(A), by inserting before the  
2 period “(including increased costs associated with  
3 planning and adopting precision agriculture con-  
4 servation activities and acquiring precision agri-  
5 culture technology)”;

6 (2) by adding at the end the following:

7 “(6) MINIMUM PAYMENT.—The amount of an  
8 annual payment under the program shall be not less  
9 than \$4,000.”.

10 (b) SUPPLEMENTAL PAYMENTS FOR RESOURCE-  
11 CONSERVING CROP ROTATIONS AND ADVANCED GRAZING  
12 MANAGEMENT.—Section 1240L(d) of the Food Security  
13 Act of 1985 (16 U.S.C. 3839aa–24(d)) is amended—

14 (1) in the subsection heading, by striking “AND  
15 ADVANCED GRAZING MANAGEMENT” and inserting  
16 “, ADVANCED GRAZING MANAGEMENT, AND PRECI-  
17 SION AGRICULTURE”;

18 (2) in paragraph (2)—

19 (A) in subparagraph (A), by striking “;  
20 or” and inserting a semicolon;

21 (B) in subparagraph (B), by striking the  
22 period at the end and inserting “; or”; and

23 (C) by adding at the end the following:

24 “(C) precision agriculture conservation ac-  
25 tivities.”; and

1           (3) in paragraph (3), by striking “or advanced  
2           grazing management” and inserting “, advanced  
3           grazing management, or precision agriculture con-  
4           servation activities”.

5           (c) PAYMENT LIMITATIONS.—Section 1240L(f) of  
6           the Food Security Act of 1985 (16 U.S.C. 3839aa–24(f))  
7           is amended by striking “2019 through 2023” and insert-  
8           ing “2027 through 2031”.

9           **SEC. 2303. STATE ASSISTANCE FOR SOIL HEALTH.**

10          Subchapter B of chapter 4 of subtitle D of title XII  
11          of the Food Security Act of 1985 (16 U.S.C. 3839aa–21  
12          et seq.) is amended by adding at the end the following:

13          **“SEC. 1240L–2. STATE ASSISTANCE FOR SOIL HEALTH.**

14          “(a) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

15                 “(1) ELIGIBLE INDIAN TRIBE.—The term ‘eligi-  
16                 ble Indian Tribe’ means an Indian Tribe that is—

17                         “(A) implementing a soil health program  
18                         for the area over which the Indian Tribe has ju-  
19                         risdiction; and

20                         “(B) meeting or exceeding performance  
21                         measures established by the Indian Tribe for  
22                         the soil health program.

23                 “(2) ELIGIBLE STATE.—The term ‘eligible  
24                 State’ means a State that is—

1           “(A) implementing a soil health program  
2           for the State; and

3           “(B) meeting or exceeding performance  
4           measures established by the State for the soil  
5           health program.

6           “(3) SOIL HEALTH PROGRAM.—The term ‘soil  
7           health program’ means a program to improve soil  
8           health on agricultural land that—

9           “(A) is broadly consistent with the soil  
10          health principles of the Natural Resources Con-  
11          servation Service, as determined by the Sec-  
12          retary; and

13          “(B) may include—

14                 “(i) technical assistance;

15                 “(ii) financial assistance;

16                 “(iii) on-farm research and dem-  
17                 onstration;

18                 “(iv) education, outreach, and train-  
19                 ing;

20                 “(v) monitoring and evaluation; or

21                 “(vi) such other components as the  
22                 Secretary determines appropriate.

23          “(b) AVAILABILITY AND PURPOSE OF GRANTS.—For  
24          fiscal years 2027 through 2031, the Secretary shall make  
25          grants to eligible States and eligible Indian Tribes for the

1 purpose of improving soil health on agricultural lands  
2 through the implementation of State and Tribal soil health  
3 programs.

4 “(c) APPLICATIONS.—

5 “(1) IN GENERAL.—To receive a grant under  
6 this section, an eligible State or eligible Indian Tribe  
7 shall submit to the Secretary an application at such  
8 time, in such a manner, and containing such infor-  
9 mation as the Secretary shall require, which shall in-  
10 clude—

11 “(A) a description of performance meas-  
12 ures to be used to evaluate the State or Tribal  
13 soil health program and the results of any ac-  
14 tivities carried out using grant funds received  
15 under this section; and

16 “(B) an assurance that grant funds re-  
17 ceived under this section will supplement the  
18 expenditure of State or Tribal funds in support  
19 of soil health, rather than replace such funds.

20 “(2) TRIBAL OPTION.—An Indian Tribe shall  
21 have the option, at the sole discretion of the Indian  
22 Tribe, to be incorporated into the application of an  
23 eligible State.

24 “(d) GRANTS.—

1           “(1) AMOUNT.—The amount of a grant to an  
2           eligible State or eligible Indian Tribe under this sec-  
3           tion for a fiscal year may not exceed the lower of—

4                   “(A) \$5,000,000; or

5                   “(B) as applicable—

6                           “(i) 50 percent of the cost of imple-  
7                           menting the State soil health program in  
8                           the fiscal year; or

9                           “(ii) 75 percent of the cost of imple-  
10                           menting the Tribal soil health program in  
11                           the fiscal year.

12           “(2) TERM.—A grant under this section shall  
13           be for 1 year, and may be renewed annually.

14           “(e) AUDITS AND REVIEWS.—An eligible State or eli-  
15           gible Indian Tribe receiving a grant under this section  
16           shall submit to the Secretary—

17                   “(1) for each year for which the State or Indian  
18                   Tribe receives such a grant, the results of an audit  
19                   of the expenditures of the grant funds; and

20                   “(2) at such intervals as the Secretary shall es-  
21                   tablish, a review and evaluation of the State or Trib-  
22                   al soil health program.

23           “(f) EFFECT OF NONCOMPLIANCE.—If the Secretary,  
24           after reasonable notice to an eligible State or eligible In-  
25           dian Tribe receiving a grant under this section, finds that

1 the State or Indian Tribe has failed to comply with the  
2 terms of the grant, the Secretary may disqualify, for 1  
3 or more years, the State or Indian Tribe from receipt of  
4 future grants under this section.

5 “(g) FUNDING.—Of the funds made available to  
6 carry out this subchapter, \$100,000,000 shall be available  
7 in each of fiscal years 2027 through 2031 to carry out  
8 this section.

9 “(h) ADMINISTRATION.—

10 “(1) DEPARTMENT.—The Secretary may not  
11 use more than 3 percent of the funds made available  
12 to carry out this section for a fiscal year for admin-  
13 istrative expenses.

14 “(2) STATES OR INDIAN TRIBES.—An eligible  
15 State or eligible Indian Tribe receiving a grant  
16 under this section may not use more than 7 percent  
17 of the granted funds for a fiscal year for administra-  
18 tive expenses.”.

## 19 **Subtitle E—Other Conservation** 20 **Programs**

### 21 **SEC. 2401. CONSERVATION OF PRIVATE GRAZING LAND.**

22 Section 1240M(e) of the Food Security Act of 1985  
23 (16 U.S.C. 3839bb) is amended by striking “2023” and  
24 inserting “2031”.

1 **SEC. 2402. FERAL SWINE ERADICATION AND CONTROL PRO-**  
2 **GRAM.**

3 (a) FERAL SWINE ERADICATION AND CONTROL PRO-  
4 GRAM.—Chapter 5 of subtitle D of title XII of the Food  
5 Security Act of 1985 (16 U.S.C. 3839bb et seq.) is amend-  
6 ed by inserting after section 1240M the following:

7 **“SEC. 1240N. FERAL SWINE ERADICATION AND CONTROL**  
8 **PROGRAM.**

9 “(a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall establish a  
10 feral swine eradication and control program (in this sec-  
11 tion referred to as the ‘program’) to respond to the threat  
12 feral swine pose to agriculture, native ecosystems, and  
13 human and animal health.

14 “(b) DUTIES OF THE SECRETARY.—In carrying out  
15 the program, the Secretary shall—

16 “(1) study and assess the nature and extent of  
17 damage to the threatened areas caused by feral  
18 swine;

19 “(2) develop methods to eradicate or control  
20 feral swine in the threatened areas;

21 “(3) develop methods to restore damage caused  
22 by feral swine; and

23 “(4) provide financial assistance to agricultural  
24 producers in threatened areas.

1           “(c) ASSISTANCE.—The Secretary may provide finan-  
2 cial assistance to agricultural producers under the pro-  
3 gram to implement methods to—

4           “(1) eradicate or control feral swine in the  
5 threatened areas; and

6           “(2) restore damage caused by feral swine.

7           “(d) COORDINATION.—The Secretary shall ensure  
8 that the Natural Resources Conservation Service and the  
9 Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service coordinate for  
10 purposes of this section through State technical commit-  
11 tees established under section 1261(a).

12          “(e) COST SHARING.—

13           “(1) FEDERAL SHARE.—The Federal share of  
14 the costs of activities under the program may not  
15 exceed 75 percent of the total costs of such activi-  
16 ties.

17           “(2) IN-KIND CONTRIBUTIONS.—The non-Fed-  
18 eral share of the costs of activities under the pro-  
19 gram may be provided in the form of in-kind con-  
20 tributions of materials or services.

21          “(f) THREATENED AREA DEFINED.—In this section,  
22 the term ‘threatened area’ means an area of a State in  
23 which feral swine have been identified as a threat to agri-  
24 culture, native ecosystems, or human and animal health,  
25 as determined by the Secretary.

1 “(g) FUNDING.—

2 “(1) MANDATORY FUNDING.—Of the funds of  
3 the Commodity Credit Corporation, the Secretary  
4 shall use to carry out this section \$75,000,000 for  
5 the period of fiscal years 2019 through 2023,  
6 \$15,000,000 for fiscal year 2024, and \$150,000,000  
7 for the period of fiscal years 2025 through 2031.

8 “(2) DISTRIBUTION OF FUNDS.—Of the funds  
9 made available under paragraph (1)—

10 “(A) 40 percent shall be allocated to the  
11 Natural Resources Conservation Service to  
12 carry out the program, including the provision  
13 of financial assistance to producers for on-farm  
14 trapping and technology related to capturing  
15 and confining feral swine; and

16 “(B) 60 percent shall be allocated to the  
17 Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service to  
18 carry out the program, including the use of es-  
19 tablished, and testing of innovative, population  
20 reduction methods.

21 “(3) LIMITATION ON ADMINISTRATIVE EX-  
22 PENSES.—Not more than 10 percent of funds made  
23 available under this section may be used for admin-  
24 istrative expenses of the program.

1       “(h) COORDINATION AND COOPERATION WITH A  
2 LAND-GRANT COLLEGE OR UNIVERSITY.—

3           “(1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall direct  
4 the Natural Resources Conservation Service and the  
5 Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service to enter  
6 into a contract with 1 or more land-grant colleges or  
7 universities to assist with the program in achieving  
8 its goals.

9           “(2) ELIGIBLE LAND-GRANT COLLEGES AND  
10 UNIVERSITIES.—A land-grant college or university is  
11 eligible to enter into a contract under paragraph (1)  
12 if such college or university—

13           “(A) has developed and implemented a sys-  
14 tem of evaluating damages from feral swine and  
15 effectiveness of control efforts in response to  
16 the Agriculture Improvement Act of 2018 (Pub-  
17 lic Law 115–334);

18           “(B) shows evidence of a strong working  
19 relationship with Wildlife Services in the Ani-  
20 mal and Plant Health Inspection Service; and

21           “(C) has maintained a State-funded, non-  
22 Federal Wildlife Services program that has an  
23 active cooperative agreement with Wildlife Serv-  
24 ices in the Animal and Plant Health Inspection

1 Service within the structure of the Land Grant  
2 University System.

3 “(3) ROLE OF THE LAND-GRANT COLLEGE OR  
4 UNIVERSITY.—A land-grant college or university  
5 that enters into a contract under paragraph (1)  
6 shall, as a condition on entering into such a con-  
7 tract, assist the program by acting as a strategic,  
8 neutral entity that is able to advance the program  
9 beyond the expertise of the Department to achieve  
10 the stated goals of the program by—

11 “(A) identifying and carrying out research  
12 on novel methods of feral swine control and  
13 land remediation;

14 “(B) assisting in establishing strategic  
15 areas for feral swine control based on data col-  
16 lected in response to the Agriculture Improve-  
17 ment Act of 2018;

18 “(C) coordinating and collaborating be-  
19 tween field staff, programmatic staff, and re-  
20 search staff within the Natural Resources Con-  
21 servation Service and the Animal and Plant  
22 Health Inspection Service; and

23 “(D) establishing and consulting with the  
24 Department on research goals and priorities in  
25 the program.

1           “(4) FUNDING.—Funding made available under  
2           (g)(2) shall be available to fund activities under this  
3           subsection, as determined by the Secretary.

4           “(5) LAND-GRANT COLLEGE OR UNIVERSITY  
5           DEFINED.—In this subsection, the term ‘land-grant  
6           college or university’ has the meaning given the term  
7           ‘land-grant colleges and universities’ in section 1404  
8           of the National Agricultural Research, Extension,  
9           and Teaching Policy Act of 1977 (7 U.S.C. 3103).”.

10          (b) REPEAL.—Section 2408 of the Agriculture Im-  
11          provement Act of 2018 (7 U.S.C. 8351 note) is repealed.

12          (c) CLERICAL AMENDMENT.—The table of contents  
13          in section 1(b) of the Agriculture Improvement Act of  
14          2018 is amended by striking the item relating to section  
15          2408.

16       **SEC. 2403. WATERSHED PROTECTION AND FLOOD PREVEN-**  
17       **TION ACT.**

18          (a) ASSISTANCE TO LOCAL ORGANIZATIONS.—

19                (1) IN GENERAL.—Section 3(a) of the Water-  
20                shed Protection and Flood Prevention Act (16  
21                U.S.C. 1003(a)) is amended by redesignating para-  
22                graph (6) as paragraph (7) and inserting after para-  
23                graph (5) the following:

1           “(6) to provide technical and financial assist-  
2           ance for remedial actions in accordance with sub-  
3           section (c); and”.

4           (2) ASSISTANCE FOR REMEDIAL ACTIONS;  
5           STREAMLINING.—Section 3 of the Watershed Pro-  
6           tection and Flood Prevention Act (16 U.S.C. 1003)  
7           is amended by adding at the end the following:

8           “(c) ASSISTANCE FOR REMEDIAL ACTIONS.—

9           “(1) IN GENERAL.—In carrying out subsection  
10          (a)(6), the Secretary may provide technical and fi-  
11          nancial assistance to local organizations for remedial  
12          actions for a completed work of improvement in-  
13          stalled under this Act with respect to which—

14                 “(A) deterioration of a structural compo-  
15                 nent of the work of improvement is occurring at  
16                 an abnormal rate, including situations in which  
17                 such deterioration is due to a design deficiency  
18                 or to site conditions that were unknown at the  
19                 time of installation of the work of improvement;

20                 “(B) the planned service life of the work of  
21                 improvement exceeds the service life of a struc-  
22                 tural component of such work of improvement;  
23                 or

24                 “(C) structural damage to such work of  
25                 improvement, or to a structural component of

1           such work of improvement, was caused by a  
2           storm event that exceeded the maximum storm  
3           event for which the work of improvement was  
4           designed.

5           “(2) COST SHARE.—Financial assistance pro-  
6           vided under this subsection shall be provided in ac-  
7           cordance with the cost-share rate established in the  
8           agreement with the local organization for the work  
9           of improvement.

10          “(d) STREAMLINING.—The Secretary shall, on an on-  
11 going basis—

12           “(1) engage with relevant Federal agencies to  
13           reduce or eliminate regulatory, policy, or procedural  
14           barriers to timely provision of assistance under this  
15           Act;

16           “(2) provide for streamlined procedures relating  
17           to coordination with other Federal or State agencies  
18           for required reviews and permitting of projects pur-  
19           suant to this Act, and ensure such procedures are  
20           commensurate with the size and scale of the  
21           projects;

22           “(3) conduct an assessment of internal Depart-  
23           ment of Agriculture planning, technical support, and  
24           approvals to determine best practices to be used for  
25           the purpose of maximizing the decisionmaking au-

1       thority of State conservationists with respect to ap-  
2       provals required for projects under this Act; and

3               “(4) prioritize the use of agreements and con-  
4       tracting authorities under this Act to provide fund-  
5       ing to local organizations for the planning, design,  
6       and construction of works of improvement.”.

7       (b) DATA.—Section 13 of the Watershed Protection  
8       and Flood Prevention Act (16 U.S.C. 1010) is amended  
9       to read as follows:

10    **“SEC. 13. DATA.**

11       “(a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall collect and  
12       maintain, and make publicly available—

13               “(1) data, on a national and State-by-State  
14       basis, concerning—

15                       “(A) expenditures for the individual flood  
16                       control and conservation measures for which as-  
17                       sistance is provided under this Act; and

18                       “(B) the expected flood control or environ-  
19                       mental (including soil erosion) benefits that will  
20                       result from the implementation of such meas-  
21                       ures; and

22               “(2) data, with respect to each project for  
23       which assistance is provided under this Act, con-  
24       cerning—

1           “(A) total allocated and expended funds  
2           for planning, design, construction, remedial ac-  
3           tions, and rehabilitation; and

4           “(B) contracts and agreements entered  
5           into by the Secretary with a local organization  
6           to provide services, including—

7                   “(i) the services provided through  
8                   such contracts and agreements;

9                   “(ii) the total funds allocated to such  
10                  contracts and agreements; and

11                  “(iii) any modifications or adjust-  
12                  ments made to such contracts and agree-  
13                  ments.

14           “(b) PROHIBITION.—The Secretary may not make  
15           publicly available under this section an agreement entered  
16           into with an individual landowner, operator, or occupier  
17           under this Act, or any disaggregated information that  
18           identifies such individual landowner, operator, or occu-  
19           pier.”.

20           (c) REHABILITATION OF STRUCTURAL MEASURES  
21           NEAR, AT, OR PAST THEIR EVALUATED LIFE EXPECT-  
22           ANCY.—

23                   (1) COST SHARE ASSISTANCE FOR REHABILITA-  
24           TION.—Section 14(b) of the Watershed Protection

1 and Flood Prevention Act (16 U.S.C. 1012(b)) is  
2 amended—

3 (A) in paragraph (2), by striking “65 per-  
4 cent” and inserting “90 percent”; and

5 (B) by adding at the end the following:

6 “(4) RELATION TO REQUIREMENTS OF AU-  
7 THORIZED PROJECTS.—A rehabilitation project for  
8 which assistance is provided under this section shall  
9 not be subject to—

10 “(A) the requirement under section 2 that  
11 a project contain benefits directly related to ag-  
12 riculture, including rural communities, that ac-  
13 count for at least 20 percent of the total bene-  
14 fits of the project; or

15 “(B) section 4(5).”.

16 (2) FUNDING.—Section 14(h)(2)(E) of the Wa-  
17 tershed Protection and Flood Prevention Act (16  
18 U.S.C. 1012(h)(2)(E)) is amended by striking  
19 “2023” and inserting “2031”.

20 **SEC. 2404. EMERGENCY CONSERVATION PROGRAM.**

21 Section 401 of the Agricultural Credit Act of 1978  
22 (16 U.S.C. 2201) is amended—

23 (1) in subsection (b)—

1 (A) in the subsection heading, by inserting  
2 “AND OTHER EMERGENCY CONSERVATION  
3 MEASURES” after “FENCING”;

4 (B) by amending paragraph (1) to read as  
5 follows:

6 “(1) IN GENERAL.—With respect to a payment  
7 to an agricultural producer under subsection (a) for  
8 the repair or replacement of fencing, or for other  
9 emergency measures to rehabilitate farmland or to  
10 repair or replace a farmland or conservation struc-  
11 ture, the Secretary shall give the agricultural pro-  
12 ducer the option of receiving—

13 “(A) before carrying out such replacement  
14 or rehabilitation, not more than 75 percent of  
15 the payment for such replacement or rehabilita-  
16 tion, which shall be based on the fair market  
17 value of the replacement or rehabilitation, as  
18 determined by the Secretary; and

19 “(B) before carrying out such repair, not  
20 more than 50 percent of the payment for such  
21 repair, which shall be based on the fair market  
22 value of the repair, as determined by the Sec-  
23 retary.”; and

24 (C) by adding at the end the following:

1           “(3) NEW OR EMERGING TECHNOLOGIES.—Re-  
2       pair or replacement of fencing under this section  
3       may include updating of fencing to new or emerging  
4       technology if such updating does not increase the  
5       cost of the repair or replacement.”; and

6           (2) by adding at the end the following:

7       “(c) WILDFIRES.—A wildfire that causes damage  
8       with respect to which a payment may be made under sub-  
9       section (a) includes any wildfire that is not caused natu-  
10      rally, including a wildfire that is caused by the Federal  
11      Government, if the damage is caused by the spread of the  
12      fire due to natural causes.”.

13   **SEC. 2405. EMERGENCY WATERSHED PROGRAM.**

14       (a) FLOODPLAIN EASEMENTS.—Section 403(b) of  
15      the Agricultural Credit Act of 1978 (16 U.S.C. 2203(b))  
16      is amended—

17           (1) by redesignating paragraphs (1) and (2) as  
18      paragraphs (5) and (6), respectively;

19           (2) by inserting before paragraph (5), as so re-  
20      designated, the following:

21           “(1) EASEMENT RESTORATION.—The Secretary  
22      is authorized to restore appropriate vegetative cover,  
23      hydrological functions, and other functions and val-  
24      ues of the land subject to a floodplain easement ac-  
25      quired under subsection (a).

1           “(2) EASEMENT MAINTENANCE.—The Sec-  
2           retary is authorized to monitor, maintain, and en-  
3           hance appropriate vegetative cover, hydrological res-  
4           toration measures, and other restoration measures  
5           on land subject to a floodplain easement acquired  
6           under subsection (a).

7           “(3) CONTRACTS AND AGREEMENTS.—In car-  
8           rying out paragraphs (1) and (2), the Secretary  
9           may—

10                   “(A) enter into contracts with landowners;

11                   and

12                   “(B) enter into agreements with States,  
13                   nongovernmental organizations, and Indian  
14                   Tribes.

15           “(4) COMPATIBLE USE AUTHORITY.—The Sec-  
16           retary may authorize a landowner to carry out ac-  
17           tivities on land subject to a floodplain easement ac-  
18           quired under subsection (a) that are—

19                   “(A) compatible uses necessary to carry  
20                   out paragraph (1) or (2); or

21                   “(B) compatible economic uses (including  
22                   such activities as hunting and fishing, managed  
23                   timber harvest, water management, or periodic  
24                   haying or grazing) if such uses are consistent  
25                   with the long-term protection of the floodplain

1 functions and values for which the easement  
2 was acquired.”; and

3 (3) in paragraph (6), as so redesignated, by  
4 striking “paragraph (1)” and inserting “paragraph  
5 (5)” each place it appears.

6 (b) **LEVEL OF RESTORATION.**—Section 403 of the  
7 Agricultural Credit Act of 1978 (16 U.S.C. 2203) is  
8 amended by adding at the end the following:

9 “(c) **LEVEL OF RESTORATION.**—In carrying out this  
10 section, the Secretary may undertake measures that in-  
11 crease the level of protection above that which would be  
12 necessary to address the immediate impairment of the wa-  
13 tershed if the Secretary determines that such restoration  
14 is in the best interest of the long-term health of the water-  
15 shed and the long-term protection of the watershed from  
16 repetitive impairments.”.

17 **SEC. 2406. NATIONAL AGRICULTURE FLOOD VULNER-**  
18 **ABILITY STUDY.**

19 Not later than 2 years after the date of enactment  
20 of this Act, the Secretary shall submit to the Committee  
21 on Agriculture of the House of Representatives and the  
22 Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry of the  
23 Senate a national agriculture flood vulnerability report  
24 containing the results of a Conservation Effects Assess-

1 ment Project assessment of flood risk on agricultural  
2 lands, including—

3 (1) an analysis of economic losses of crops and  
4 livestock resulting from flooding under different re-  
5 currence scenarios;

6 (2) an analysis of the downstream effects of  
7 mitigation activities carried out as part of a water-  
8 shed management approach;

9 (3) an analysis of available Federal and State  
10 data relating to flood risk, as applicable to agricul-  
11 tural land, including data relating to riverine flood-  
12 ing, coastal flooding, storm surge, extreme precipita-  
13 tion, and flash flooding; and

14 (4) a description of ongoing producer-level con-  
15 servation practices and broader government initia-  
16 tives to manage the effects of flooding and flood risk  
17 within and across watersheds, and recommendations  
18 for additional practices and initiatives to further ad-  
19 dress such effects and risk.

20 **SEC. 2407. STUDY ON ENVIRONMENTAL BENEFITS OF WIN-**  
21 **TER WHEAT AS A COVER CROP.**

22 The Secretary, acting through the Chief of the Nat-  
23 ural Resources Conservation Service, shall submit to the  
24 Committee on Agriculture of the House of Representatives  
25 the results of a study on the environmental benefits of

1 using winter wheat as a cover crop, including use as a  
2 cover crop that is removed during harvest.

## 3 **Subtitle F—Funding and** 4 **Administration**

### 5 **SEC. 2501. COMMODITY CREDIT CORPORATION.**

6 (a) ANNUAL FUNDING.—Section 1241(a) of the Food  
7 Security Act of 1985 (16 U.S.C. 3841(a)) is amended—

8 (1) in paragraph (1)—

9 (A) in subparagraph (A), by striking  
10 “2019 through 2023” and inserting “2027  
11 through 2031”; and

12 (B) in subparagraph (B), by striking  
13 “2019 through 2023” and inserting “2027  
14 through 2031”;

15 (2) in paragraph (3)(A), by striking clauses (i)  
16 through (vi) and inserting the following:

17 “(i) \$2,530,000,000 for fiscal year  
18 2027;

19 “(ii) \$2,730,000,000 for fiscal year  
20 2028;

21 “(iii) \$3,130,000,000 for fiscal year  
22 2029;

23 “(iv) \$3,175,000,000 for fiscal year  
24 2030; and

1 “(v) \$3,255,000,000 for fiscal year  
2 2031; and”;

3 (3) by adding at the end the following:

4 “(5) The forest conservation easement program  
5 under subtitle I, using, to the maximum extent prac-  
6 ticable—

7 “(A) \$25,000,000 for fiscal year 2027;

8 “(B) \$50,000,000 for fiscal year 2028;

9 “(C) \$50,000,000 for fiscal year 2029;

10 “(D) \$50,000,000 for fiscal year 2030;

11 and

12 “(E) \$65,000,000 for fiscal year 2031.

13 “(6) The regional conservation partnership pro-  
14 gram under subtitle J, to the maximum extent prac-  
15 ticable—

16 “(A) \$450,000,000 for fiscal year 2027;

17 “(B) \$450,000,000 for fiscal year 2028;

18 “(C) \$450,000,000 for fiscal year 2029;

19 “(D) \$450,000,000 for fiscal year 2030;

20 and

21 “(E) \$450,000,000 for fiscal year 2031.”.

22 (b) REGIONAL EQUITY.—Section 1241(e)(1) of the  
23 Food Security Act of 1985 (16 U.S.C. 3841(e)(1)) is  
24 amended by striking “subtitle I” and inserting “subtitle  
25 J”.

1 (c) ACCEPTANCE AND USE OF CONTRIBUTIONS FOR  
2 PUBLIC-PRIVATE PARTNERSHIPS.—Section 1241(f) of the  
3 Food Security Act of 1985 (16 U.S.C. 3841(f)) is amend-  
4 ed—

5 (1) in paragraph (6)(A)(ii), by inserting “of”  
6 before “any terms”; and

7 (2) in paragraph (9)—

8 (A) by amending subparagraph (A) to read  
9 as follows:

10 “(A) subtitle D (except for subchapter B  
11 of chapter 1 of such subtitle), subtitle H, sub-  
12 title I, or subtitle J;”;

13 (B) in subparagraph (B), by striking the  
14 semicolon and inserting “; or”;

15 (C) by striking subparagraph (C); and

16 (D) by redesignating subparagraph (D) as  
17 subparagraph (C).

18 (d) REPORT ON PROGRAM ENROLLMENTS AND AS-  
19 SISTANCE.—Section 1241(i) of the Food Security Act of  
20 1985 (16 U.S.C. 3841(i)) is amended—

21 (1) in the matter preceding paragraph (1), by  
22 striking “2019 through 2023” and inserting “2027  
23 through 2031”; and

1           (2) in paragraph (2)(E), by striking “section  
2           1265B(b)(2)(B)(ii)” and inserting “section  
3           1265B(b)(2)(A)(iii)”.

4 **SEC. 2502. DELIVERY OF TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE.**

5           (a) DEFINITIONS.—Section 1242(a) of the Food Se-  
6           curity Act of 1985 (16 U.S.C. 3842(a)) is amended—

7           (1) by redesignating paragraph (2) as para-  
8           graph (3); and

9           (2) by inserting after paragraph (1) the fol-  
10          lowing:

11           “(2) NON-FEDERAL CERTIFYING ENTITY.—The  
12          term ‘non-Federal certifying entity’ means a non-  
13          Federal entity, an Indian Tribe, or a State agency  
14          described in subparagraph (B), (C), or (D) of sub-  
15          section (e)(4) that has entered into an agreement  
16          under subsection (e)(5)(D).”.

17          (b) PURPOSE OF TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE.—Section  
18          1242(b) of the Food Security Act of 1985 (16 U.S.C.  
19          3842(b)) is amended by inserting “timely,” after “con-  
20          sistent,”.

21          (c) NON-FEDERAL ASSISTANCE.—Section 1242(d) of  
22          the Food Security Act of 1985 (16 U.S.C. 3842(d)) is  
23          amended by inserting “(including private sector entities)”  
24          after “Department or non-Federal entities”.

1 (d) CERTIFICATION OF THIRD-PARTY PROVIDERS.—  
2 Section 1242(e) of the Food Security Act of 1985 (16  
3 U.S.C. 3842(e)) is amended—

4 (1) in paragraph (2), by striking “Food, Con-  
5 servation, and Energy Act of 2008” and inserting  
6 “Farm, Food, and National Security Act of 2026”;

7 (2) by amending paragraph (3)(A) to read as  
8 follows:

9 “(A) ensure that persons (including com-  
10 mercial entities, nonprofit entities, State or  
11 local governments or agencies, and other Fed-  
12 eral agencies) with expertise in the technical as-  
13 pects of conservation planning, watershed plan-  
14 ning, environmental engineering, conservation  
15 practice design, implementation, and evaluation,  
16 and any other technical skills determined appro-  
17 priate by the Secretary, are eligible to become  
18 approved providers of the technical assistance;”;  
19 and

20 (3) by striking paragraphs (4) and (5) and in-  
21 serting the following:

22 “(4) CERTIFICATION.—A third-party provider  
23 may be certified to provide technical assistance  
24 under this section only—

1           “(A) through a certification process admin-  
2           istered by the Secretary, acting through the  
3           Chief of the Natural Resources Conservation  
4           Service;

5           “(B) by a non-Federal entity (other than  
6           a State agency or an Indian Tribe) approved by  
7           the Secretary under paragraph (5) to certify a  
8           third-party provider;

9           “(C) by an Indian Tribe approved by the  
10          Secretary under paragraph (5) to certify a  
11          third-party provider; or

12          “(D) by a State agency that—

13                 “(i) has statutory authority to certify,  
14                 administer, or license professionals in one  
15                 or more fields of natural resources, agri-  
16                 culture, or engineering; and

17                 “(ii) is approved by the Secretary  
18                 under paragraph (5) to certify a third-  
19                 party provider.

20          “(5) NON-FEDERAL CERTIFYING ENTITY.—

21                 “(A) ESTABLISHMENT OF APPROVAL  
22                 PROCESS.—Not later than 180 days after the  
23                 date of enactment of the Farm, Food, and Na-  
24                 tional Security Act of 2026, the Secretary shall  
25                 establish a process to approve a non-Federal

1           entity (including a State agency and an Indian  
2           Tribe), to become a non-Federal certifying enti-  
3           ty.

4           “(B) APPROVAL.—Not later than 60 days  
5           after the date on which the Secretary receives  
6           an application by a non-Federal entity to certify  
7           third-party providers under this section, the  
8           Secretary shall make a decision on whether to  
9           approve such application.

10          “(C) ELIGIBILITY.—In carrying out sub-  
11          paragraph (B), the Secretary shall take into  
12          consideration—

13                 “(i) the ability of the applicable non-  
14                 Federal entity to assess the qualifications  
15                 of a third-party provider and to certify  
16                 third-party providers at scale;

17                 “(ii) the experience of the applicable  
18                 non-Federal entity in working with third-  
19                 party providers and eligible participants;

20                 “(iii) the expertise of the applicable  
21                 non-Federal entity in the technical skills  
22                 described in paragraph (3)(A); and

23                 “(iv) such other qualifications as the  
24                 Secretary determines to be appropriate.

1           “(D) AGREEMENT.—Upon approving an  
2 application under this paragraph, the Secretary  
3 shall enter into an agreement with the non-Fed-  
4 eral entity to become a non-Federal certifying  
5 entity.

6           “(E) DUTIES OF NON-FEDERAL CERTI-  
7 FYING ENTITIES.—In certifying third-party pro-  
8 viders under this section, a non-Federal certi-  
9 fying entity shall—

10           “(i) assess the ability of a third-party  
11 provider to appropriately provide technical  
12 assistance to eligible participants for speci-  
13 fied practices and conservation activities;

14           “(ii) provide training to ensure that a  
15 third-party provider is qualified to provide  
16 technical assistance upon certification by  
17 the non-Federal certifying entity; and

18           “(iii) submit to the Secretary, in a  
19 timely manner, information on—

20           “(I) each third-party provider  
21 certified by the non-Federal certifying  
22 entity, for inclusion on the registry of  
23 certified third-party providers main-  
24 tained by the Secretary; and

1                   “(II) each third-party provider  
2                   the certification of which is withdrawn  
3                   by the non-Federal certifying entity.

4                   “(6) TIMELY DECISIONS.—

5                   “(A) CERTIFICATION BY SECRETARY.—Not  
6                   later than 30 days after the date on which the  
7                   Secretary receives an application from a third-  
8                   party provider to be certified under the process  
9                   described in paragraph (4)(A) for particular  
10                  practices and conservation activities, the Sec-  
11                  retary shall—

12                  “(i) make a final decision with respect  
13                  to such application; and

14                  “(ii) if the final decision is to certify  
15                  the third-party provider, include the name  
16                  of the certified third-party provider on the  
17                  registry of certified third-party providers  
18                  maintained by the Secretary.

19                  “(B) CERTIFICATION BY NON-FEDERAL  
20                  CERTIFYING ENTITY.—Not later than 10 days  
21                  after the date on which the Secretary receives  
22                  a notification from a non-Federal certifying en-  
23                  tity that a third-party provider was certified,  
24                  pursuant to subparagraph (B), (C), or (D) of  
25                  paragraph (4), for particular practices and con-

1           servant activities, the Secretary shall include  
2           the name of the certified third-party provider  
3           on the registry of certified third-party providers  
4           maintained by the Secretary.

5           “(7) STREAMLINED CERTIFICATION.—Not later  
6           than 180 days after the date of enactment of the  
7           Farm, Food, and National Security Act of 2026, the  
8           Secretary shall establish a streamlined process for  
9           the Secretary and non-Federal certifying entities to  
10          use to certify under this section a third-party pro-  
11          vider that has a relevant professional certification  
12          for particular practices and conservation activities,  
13          as determined by the Secretary.”.

14          (e) ADMINISTRATION.—Section 1242(f) of the Food  
15          Security Act of 1985 (16 U.S.C. 3842(f)) is amended—

16               (1) in paragraph (1), by striking “each of the  
17               programs specified in section 1241” and inserting  
18               “conservation programs administered by the Sec-  
19               retary”;

20               (2) in paragraph (2), in the matter preceding  
21               subparagraph (A), by inserting “or a non-Federal  
22               certifying entity” before “under this section”;

23               (3) by amending paragraph (3) to read as fol-  
24               lows:

1           “(3) UPDATE OF CERTIFICATION PROCESS BY  
2           THE SECRETARY.—Not later than 1 year after the  
3           date of enactment of the Farm, Food, and National  
4           Security Act of 2026, and periodically thereafter, the  
5           Secretary shall—

6                   “(A) review the certification processes  
7                   under paragraphs (4)(A) and (7) of subsection  
8                   (e);

9                   “(B) make any adjustments considered  
10                  necessary by the Secretary to—

11                           “(i) increase the number of third-  
12                           party providers delivering technical assist-  
13                           ance; and

14                           “(ii) improve the quality of technical  
15                           assistance delivered by third-party pro-  
16                           viders;

17                   “(C) conduct outreach to, and receive  
18                   input on the barriers for third-party providers  
19                   to become certified under this section from—

20                           “(i) third-party providers that are, or  
21                           have been, certified under this section; and

22                           “(ii) other interested parties associ-  
23                           ated with eligible participants; and

24                   “(D) set a target rate of utilization of  
25                   third-party providers to deliver technical assist-

1           ance across all conservation programs adminis-  
2           tered by the Secretary.”;

3           (4) in paragraph (4)(A)(i), by inserting “(in-  
4           cluding maintenance)” after “implementation”;

5           (5) by striking paragraph (5) and inserting the  
6           following:

7           “(5) PAYMENT AMOUNT.—

8           “(A) IN GENERAL.—For payments pro-  
9           vided by the Secretary under paragraph (2) or  
10          (3) of subsection (c), the Secretary shall deter-  
11          mine payment amounts for technical assistance  
12          provided by third-party providers, which shall  
13          be at rates equivalent to, but that do not ex-  
14          ceed, the cost to the Secretary of providing  
15          technical assistance directly to an eligible par-  
16          ticipant.

17          “(B) CONSIDERATIONS.—In determining  
18          payment amounts under subparagraph (A), the  
19          Secretary shall consider specialized equipment,  
20          frequency of site visits, training, travel and  
21          transportation, and such other factors as the  
22          Secretary determines to be appropriate.

23          “(C) EXCLUSION.—A payment provided  
24          under subsection (c)(3) shall be excluded from  
25          calculations relating to any cost-sharing re-

1           quirements of the applicable conservation pro-  
2           gram under which the payment was provided.

3           “(6) TRANSPARENCY.—Not later than 1 year  
4           after the date of enactment of the Farm, Food, and  
5           National Security Act of 2026, and periodically  
6           thereafter, the Secretary shall make publicly avail-  
7           able information on—

8                   “(A) funds obligated to third-party pro-  
9           viders through—

10                           “(i) contracts entered into between el-  
11                           igible participants and individual third-  
12                           party providers; and

13                           “(ii) agreements with public and pri-  
14                           vate sector entities to secure third-party  
15                           technical assistance;

16                   “(B) the certification process under this  
17           section, including—

18                           “(i) the number of third-party pro-  
19                           viders certified by the Secretary;

20                           “(ii) the number of non-Federal certi-  
21                           fying entities approved by the Secretary;

22                           “(iii) the number of third-party pro-  
23                           viders certified by non-Federal certifying  
24                           entities (other than State agencies and In-  
25                           dian Tribes);

1 “(iv) the number of third-party pro-  
2 viders certified by Indian Tribes;

3 “(v) the number of third-party pro-  
4 viders certified by State agencies; and

5 “(vi) the number of third-party pro-  
6 viders certified through the streamlined  
7 certification process described in sub-  
8 section (e)(7);

9 “(C) how third-party providers contribute  
10 to the quality and effectiveness of conservation  
11 practices implemented and adopted through  
12 conservation programs administered by the Sec-  
13 retary, and what improvements are needed; and

14 “(D) the target rate of utilization of third-  
15 party providers set under paragraph (3)(D) and  
16 how actual rate of utilization compares to the  
17 target rate.”; and

18 (6) by adding at the end the following:

19 “(7) SOIL HEALTH PLANNING.—The Secretary  
20 shall emphasize the use of third-party providers in  
21 providing technical assistance for soil health plan-  
22 ning, including planning related to the use of cover  
23 crops, precision agriculture practices, comprehensive  
24 nutrient management planning, and other innovative  
25 plans.”.

1 (f) REVIEW OF CONSERVATION PRACTICE STAND-  
2 ARDS.—Section 1242(h) of the Food Security Act of 1985  
3 (16 U.S.C. 3842(h)) is amended—

4 (1) in the subsection heading, by striking “RE-  
5 VIEW” and inserting “ESTABLISHMENT AND RE-  
6 VIEW”;

7 (2) in paragraph (1)—

8 (A) by amending subparagraph (A) to read  
9 as follows:

10 “(A) not later than 1 year after the date  
11 of enactment of the Farm, Food, and National  
12 Security Act of 2026, and at least every 5 years  
13 thereafter, complete a review of each conserva-  
14 tion practice standard, including engineering  
15 design specifications;”;

16 (B) in subparagraph (C), by striking  
17 “and” at the end;

18 (C) by amending subparagraph (D) to read  
19 as follows:

20 “(D) evaluate opportunities to increase  
21 flexibility in conservation practice standards in  
22 a manner that integrates new and innovative  
23 technologies that provide equivalent or im-  
24 proved natural resource benefits compared to

1 the standards in effect at the time of the re-  
2 view;” and

3 (D) by adding at the end the following:

4 “(E) provide a process for public input on  
5 each conservation practice standard under such  
6 review, including a process for consideration of  
7 State and local input;

8 “(F) publicly post a summary of any input  
9 received under subparagraph (E) and any deci-  
10 sions made relating to such input; and

11 “(G) revise any conservation practice  
12 standard based on the results of such review, as  
13 determined appropriate by the Secretary, and  
14 publish any such revised standard.”;

15 (3) by amending paragraph (3) to read as fol-  
16 lows:

17 “(3) PROCESS FOR ESTABLISHMENT OF IN-  
18 TERIM AND NEW CONSERVATION PRACTICE STAND-  
19 ARDS.—

20 “(A) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 1 year  
21 after the date of enactment of the Farm, Food,  
22 and National Security Act of 2026, the Sec-  
23 retary shall develop a streamlined process under  
24 which the Secretary shall establish interim con-

1           servantion practice standards and new conserva-  
2           tion practice standards.

3           “(B) DEVELOPMENT.—In developing the  
4           streamlined process under subparagraph (A),  
5           the Secretary shall—

6                   “(i) ensure that the public can engage  
7                   with the Department of Agriculture, in-  
8                   cluding by recommending interim conserva-  
9                   tion practice standards; and

10                   “(ii) establish—

11                           “(I) the types of data, metrics,  
12                           and other relevant information that  
13                           are necessary for the establishment of  
14                           interim conservation practice stand-  
15                           ards and new conservation practice  
16                           standards;

17                           “(II) the process by which an in-  
18                           terim conservation practice standard  
19                           may become a new conservation prac-  
20                           tice standard; and

21                           “(III) specific requirements for  
22                           an expedited review of a new con-  
23                           servantion practice for the purpose of  
24                           establishing a new conservation prac-  
25                           tice standard for such practice.

1           “(C) CONSIDERATIONS.—In establishing  
2 an interim conservation practice standard or a  
3 new conservation practice standard under this  
4 subsection, the Secretary shall consider—

5           “(i) input from State technical com-  
6 mittees on recommendations that identify  
7 innovations or advancements in conserva-  
8 tion practices;

9           “(ii) technological advancements, in-  
10 cluding advancements from projects devel-  
11 oped under section 1240H;

12           “(iii) State and local input in the  
13 form of—

14           “(I) recommendations for interim  
15 conservation practice standards; and

16           “(II) partnership-led proposals  
17 for new and innovative techniques to  
18 facilitate implementing agreements  
19 and grants under this title; and

20           “(iv) input from native entities in the  
21 form of information relating to native tra-  
22 ditional ecological knowledge that can in-  
23 form conservation practice standards.

24           “(D) INNOVATIVE TECHNOLOGY PRI-  
25 ORITY.—In reviewing conservation practice

1 standards under this subsection, the Secretary  
2 shall prioritize the review of interim conserva-  
3 tion practice standards and new conservation  
4 practice standards that integrate innovative  
5 technologies, including—

6 “(i) precision agriculture technologies;

7 “(ii) biological fertilizers, biostimu-  
8 lants, enhanced efficiency fertilizers, and  
9 other tools determined by the Secretary to  
10 reduce nutrient loss;

11 “(iii) animal feed additives;

12 “(iv) perennial production systems, in-  
13 cluding agroforestry and perennial forages  
14 and grain crops; and

15 “(v) any other innovative technology,  
16 as determined by the Secretary.

17 “(E) TRANSPARENCY.—The Secretary  
18 shall make available on a public website a de-  
19 tailed description of the process for recom-  
20 mending, reviewing, and establishing interim  
21 conservation practice standards and new con-  
22 servation practice standards under this para-  
23 graph.”;

24 (4) in paragraph (4)—

1 (A) in the matter preceding subparagraph

2 (A)—

3 (i) by striking “Agriculture Improve-  
4 ment Act of 2018” and inserting “Farm,  
5 Food, and National Security Act of 2026”;  
6 and

7 (ii) by striking “a report on” and in-  
8 serting “a report detailing”;

9 (B) in subparagraph (A), by striking “ad-  
10 ministrative” and inserting “streamlined”;

11 (C) in subparagraph (B), by striking  
12 “and” at the end;

13 (D) in subparagraph (C), by striking the  
14 period at the end and inserting “; and”; and

15 (E) by adding at the end the following:

16 “(D) any other information the Secretary  
17 determines useful to improve such streamlined  
18 process for reviewing and establishing conserva-  
19 tion practice standards.”; and

20 (5) by adding at the end the following:

21 “(5) OFFICE OF CONSERVATION INNOVATION.—

22 “(A) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall  
23 establish within the Office of the Chief of the  
24 Natural Resources Conservation Service an Of-  
25 fice of Conservation Innovation (referred to in

1           this paragraph as the ‘Office’) which shall be  
2           under the direct supervision of the Chief.

3           “(B) DUTIES.—The Office shall—

4                   “(i) provide support to the Chief in  
5                   meeting the requirements of this sub-  
6                   section; and

7                   “(ii) encourage innovation in con-  
8                   servation practices through—

9                           “(I) revisions of existing con-  
10                           servation practice standards;

11                           “(II) recommendations of interim  
12                           conservation practice standards; and

13                           “(III) recommendations of new  
14                           conservation practice standards.

15           “(C) STAFF.—The Chief shall detail to the  
16           Office not more than 6 employees of the De-  
17           partment of Agriculture who are technical spe-  
18           cialists that possess an understanding of con-  
19           ventional, organic, and other production tech-  
20           niques, representing—

21                   “(i) agronomy and agroecology (in-  
22                   cluding soil health, biological nutrient  
23                   sources, and compatible cover cropping  
24                   systems);

1                   “(ii) grazing lands ecology (including  
2                   rangeland, pastureland, and grazed forest  
3                   land);

4                   “(iii) animal husbandry (including  
5                   animal nutrition and feed management);

6                   “(iv) water conservation, drainage  
7                   water management, and irrigation engi-  
8                   neering technology;

9                   “(v) agricultural engineering (includ-  
10                  ing animal waste management, energy, and  
11                  structural measures); and

12                  “(vi) forest ecology and agroforestry.

13                  “(6) FUNDING.—The Secretary shall use fund-  
14                  ing from the annual appropriations for conservation  
15                  operations of the Natural Resources Conservation  
16                  Service to carry out this subsection.”.

17                  (g) DIRECT HIRE AUTHORITY.—Section 1242 of the  
18                  Food Security Act of 1985 (16 U.S.C. 3842) is amended  
19                  by adding at the end the following:

20                  “(j) NRCS DIRECT HIRE AUTHORITY.—

21                  “(1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary may ap-  
22                  point, without regard to the provisions of subchapter  
23                  I of chapter 33 of title 5, United States Code (other  
24                  than sections 3303 and 3328 of such title), qualified  
25                  candidates, as described in paragraph (2), directly to

1 positions within the Natural Resources Conservation  
2 Service that provide technical assistance under con-  
3 servation programs administered by the Natural Re-  
4 sources Conservation Service.

5 “(2) QUALIFICATIONS.—Paragraph (1) applies  
6 to a candidate who—

7 “(A) is qualified to provide the technical  
8 assistance described in paragraph (1), as deter-  
9 mined by the Secretary; and

10 “(B) meets qualification standards estab-  
11 lished by the Office of Personnel Manage-  
12 ment.”.

13 (h) ADDRESSING BARRIERS TO WILDLIFE HABITAT  
14 CONNECTIVITY.—Section 1242 of the Food Security Act  
15 of 1985 (16 U.S.C. 3842) is further amended by adding  
16 at the end the following:

17 “(k) ADDRESSING BARRIERS TO WILDLIFE HABITAT  
18 CONNECTIVITY.—

19 “(1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall—

20 “(A) to the maximum extent practicable,  
21 fully incorporate nonstructural methods to con-  
22 trol livestock distribution, such as virtual fence-  
23 ing, into the conservation practice standards;  
24 and

1           “(B) provide for the appropriate range of  
2           conservation practices and resource mitigation  
3           measures available to landowners using non-  
4           structural methods described in subparagraph  
5           (A).

6           “(2) AVAILABILITY OF ADEQUATE TECHNICAL  
7           ASSISTANCE.—The Secretary shall ensure that ade-  
8           quate technical assistance is available for the imple-  
9           mentation of—

10           “(A) nonstructural methods described in  
11           paragraph (1)(A); and

12           “(B) other practices that support wildlife  
13           habitat connectivity through Federal conserva-  
14           tion programs.”.

15   **SEC. 2503. ADMINISTRATIVE REQUIREMENTS FOR CON-**  
16                           **SERVATION PROGRAMS.**

17           (a) TENANT PROTECTIONS.—Section 1244(d) of the  
18   Food Security Act of 1985 (16 U.S.C. 3844(d)) is amend-  
19   ed by striking “I.” and inserting “J.”.

20           (b) ACREAGE LIMITATIONS.—Section 1244(f) of the  
21   Food Security Act of 1985 (16 U.S.C. 3844(f)) is amend-  
22   ed—

23           (1) by amending paragraph (1) to read as fol-  
24   lows:

1           “(1) LIMITATION.—The Secretary shall not en-  
2 roll more than 25 percent of the cropland in any  
3 county in the conservation reserve program estab-  
4 lished under subchapter B of chapter 1 of subtitle  
5 D and wetland reserve easements under section  
6 1265C.”;

7           (2) in paragraph (2)—

8           (A) in the matter preceding subparagraph  
9 (A), by striking “paragraph (1)(A)” and insert-  
10 ing “paragraph (1)”; and

11           (B) in subparagraph (A), by striking  
12 “and” at the end and inserting “or”;

13           (3) in paragraph (3), by striking “paragraph  
14 (1)(A)” and inserting “paragraph (1)”; and

15           (4) in paragraph (4)(B), by striking “classes  
16 IV” and inserting “classes III”.

17           (c) REVIEW AND GUIDANCE FOR PRACTICE COSTS  
18 AND PAYMENT RATES.—

19           (1) IN GENERAL.—Section 1244(j)(1) of the  
20 Food Security Act of 1985 (16 U.S.C. 3844(j)(1))  
21 is amended—

22           (A) in the matter preceding subparagraph  
23 (A), by striking “Not later than 1 year after  
24 the date of enactment of the Agriculture Im-  
25 provement Act of 2018, and not later than Oc-

1           tober 1 of each year thereafter, the Secretary  
2           shall” and inserting “The Secretary shall estab-  
3           lish a process under which the Secretary shall  
4           annually”;

5           (B) by amending subparagraph (A) to read  
6           as follows:

7           “(A) review, with respect to each State,  
8           the actual practice costs and rates of payments  
9           (or, where actual practice costs and rates of  
10          payments are not available, estimates of such  
11          practice costs and rates) made to producers  
12          pursuant to programs under this title for prac-  
13          tices on eligible land; and”;

14          (C) in subparagraph (B)—

15               (i) in clause (ii), by striking “and” at  
16               the end;

17               (ii) by redesignating clause (iii) as  
18               clause (iv);

19               (iii) by inserting after clause (ii) the  
20               following:

21                       “(iii) accounts for the variability in  
22                       costs of implementing practices on eligible  
23                       land under this title; and”;

1 (iv) in clause (iv), as so redesignated,  
2 by striking “regional, State, and” and in-  
3 serting “State and”.

4 (2) GUIDANCE; REVIEW.—Section 1244(j)(2) of  
5 the Food Security Act of 1985 (16 U.S.C.  
6 3844(j)(2)) is amended—

7 (A) in subparagraph (A), by striking “esti-  
8 mates for”; and

9 (B) in subparagraph (B)—

10 (i) in clause (i), by striking “and” at  
11 the end;

12 (ii) by redesignating clause (ii) as  
13 clause (iii);

14 (iii) by inserting after clause (i) the  
15 following:

16 “(ii) monitoring for and identifying  
17 significant variability in practice costs in  
18 each year; and”;

19 (iv) in clause (iii), as so redesignated,  
20 by inserting “and, when appropriate,  
21 adopting any recommendations made by  
22 such State technical committee” after  
23 “that State”.

24 (3) EFFECT ON EXISTING CONTRACTS.—Sec-  
25 tion 1244(j) of the Food Security Act of 1985 (16

1 U.S.C. 3844(j)) is amended by adding at the end the  
2 following:

3 “(3) EFFECT ON EXISTING CONTRACTS.—In  
4 order to provide rates of payments that are commen-  
5 surate with the costs of implementing practices pur-  
6 suant to programs under this title, the Secretary  
7 shall establish processes and procedures for updating  
8 rates of payments under a contract or agreement in  
9 effect under this title to reflect the appropriate prac-  
10 tice costs and rates of payments determined under  
11 paragraph (2)(B) for the year in which the practice  
12 is implemented.”.

13 (d) SOURCE WATER PROTECTION THROUGH TAR-  
14 GETING OF AGRICULTURAL PRACTICES.—Section 1244(n)  
15 of the Food Security Act of 1985 (16 U.S.C. 3844(n))  
16 is amended—

17 (1) in paragraph (2)—

18 (A) in subparagraph (A)—

19 (i) by redesignating clause (ii) as  
20 clause (iii);

21 (ii) in clause (i), by striking the  
22 “and” at the end; and

23 (iii) by inserting after clause (i) the  
24 following:

1                   “(ii) identify in each State a source  
2                   water protection coordinator who shall be  
3                   responsible for coordinating such collabora-  
4                   tion with community water systems under  
5                   this subsection; and”;

6                   (B) in subparagraph (B), by striking  
7                   “under subparagraph (A)(ii)” and inserting  
8                   “under subparagraph (A)(iii)”;

9                   (2) by adding at the end the following:

10                   “(4) PUBLICLY AVAILABLE INFORMATION.—Be-  
11                   ginning on the date of enactment of the Farm,  
12                   Food, and National Security Act of 2026, the Sec-  
13                   retary, acting through the Chief of the Natural Re-  
14                   sources Conservation Service, shall make publicly  
15                   available—

16                   “(A) an annual report that details—

17                   “(i) for each local priority area identi-  
18                   fied under paragraph (2)(A)(i)—

19                   “(I) the conservation programs  
20                   under which assistance is provided  
21                   pursuant to paragraph (1);

22                   “(II) the practices implemented  
23                   pursuant to paragraph (1); and

24                   “(III) the number of contracts  
25                   and acres devoted to such practices;

1 “(ii) for each conservation program  
2 administered by the Secretary—

3 “(I) the amount of funds obli-  
4 gated and expended for practices im-  
5 plemented pursuant to paragraph (1);  
6 and

7 “(II) information regarding the  
8 status of compliance with paragraph  
9 (3); and

10 “(iii) the practices, by State, that are  
11 receiving increased incentives and higher  
12 payment rates under paragraph (2)(A)(iii);  
13 and

14 “(B) through an interactive map, aggre-  
15 gated data detailed under subparagraph (A).”.

16 (e) ENCOURAGEMENT OF HABITAT CONNECTIVITY  
17 AND WILDLIFE CORRIDORS.—Section 1244 of the Food  
18 Security Act of 1985 (16 U.S.C. 3844) is amended by  
19 adding at the end the following:

20 “(q) ENCOURAGEMENT OF HABITAT CONNECTIVITY  
21 AND WILDLIFE CORRIDORS.—In carrying out any con-  
22 servation program administered by the Secretary, the Sec-  
23 retary may, as appropriate, encourage the use of conserva-  
24 tion practices that support the development, restoration,

1 and maintenance of habitat connectivity and wildlife cor-  
2 ridors.”.

3 **Subtitle G—Agricultural**  
4 **Conservation Easement Program**

5 **SEC. 2601. DEFINITIONS.**

6 Section 1265A of the Food Security Act of 1985 (16  
7 U.S.C. 3865a) is amended—

8 (1) by striking paragraph (2);

9 (2) by redesignating paragraphs (3) through  
10 (7) as paragraphs (2) through (6), respectively; and

11 (3) in paragraph (3)(A), as so redesignated, by  
12 amending clause (i) to read as follows:

13 “(i) that is subject to a pending offer  
14 for purchase of an agricultural land ease-  
15 ment from an eligible entity;”.

16 **SEC. 2602. AGRICULTURAL LAND EASEMENTS.**

17 (a) AVAILABILITY OF ASSISTANCE.—Section  
18 1265B(a) of the Food Security Act of 1985 (16 U.S.C.  
19 3865b) is amended—

20 (1) in paragraph (1), by striking “in eligible  
21 land;” and inserting “on eligible land; and”;

22 (2) in paragraph (2), by striking “(iv); and”  
23 and inserting “(iii).”; and

24 (3) by striking paragraph (3).

25 (b) COST-SHARE ASSISTANCE.—

1           (1) SCOPE OF ASSISTANCE AVAILABLE.—Sec-  
2           tion 1265B(b)(2) of the Food Security Act of 1985  
3           (16 U.S.C. 3865b(b)(2)) is amended—

4                   (A) by amending subparagraph (A) to read  
5           as follows:

6                           “(A) FEDERAL SHARE.—

7                                   “(i) IN GENERAL.—An agreement de-  
8                                   scribed in paragraph (4) shall provide for  
9                                   a Federal share determined by the Sec-  
10                                  retary of an amount not to exceed 65 per-  
11                                  cent of the fair market value of the agri-  
12                                  cultural land easement, as determined by  
13                                  the Secretary using—

14   “(I) the Uniform Standards of  
15   Professional Appraisal Practice;

16   “(II) an areawide market anal-  
17    ysis or survey; or

18   “(III) another industry-approved  
19    method.

20   “(ii) SOCIALLY DISADVANTAGED  
21    FARMERS AND RANCHERS EXCEPTION.—In  
22    the case of eligible land with respect to  
23    which a socially disadvantaged farmer or  
24    rancher holds an ownership interest of not  
25    less than 50 percent, the Secretary may

1 provide an amount not to exceed 90 per-  
2 cent of the fair market value of the agri-  
3 cultural land easement.

4 “(iii) GRASSLANDS EXCEPTION.—In  
5 the case of grassland of special environ-  
6 mental significance, as determined by the  
7 Secretary, the Secretary may provide an  
8 amount not to exceed 75 percent of the  
9 fair market value of the agricultural land  
10 easement.”;

11 (B) in subparagraph (B)—

12 (i) by amending clause (i) to read as  
13 follows:

14 “(i) IN GENERAL.—Under the agree-  
15 ment, the eligible entity shall provide a  
16 non-Federal share that is equivalent to the  
17 remainder of the fair market value of the  
18 agricultural land easement not provided by  
19 the Secretary under subparagraph (A).”;

20 (ii) by striking clause (ii);

21 (iii) by redesignating clause (iii) as  
22 clause (ii); and

23 (iv) in clause (ii), as so redesignated,  
24 in the matter preceding subclause (I), by

1 striking “subparagraph” and inserting  
2 “paragraph”; and

3 (C) by inserting after subparagraph (B)

4 the following:

5 “(C) LOWER COST-SHARE OPTION.—

6 “(i) IN GENERAL.—Notwithstanding  
7 paragraph (4)(C)(v), an eligible entity may  
8 elect to enter into an agreement under  
9 paragraph (4) in which the terms and con-  
10 ditions of an agricultural land easement  
11 funded under the agreement do not include  
12 a right of enforcement for the Secretary if  
13 the eligible entity agrees to a Federal  
14 share that does not exceed 25 percent of  
15 the fair market value of the agricultural  
16 land easement, as determined by the Sec-  
17 retary under subparagraph (A).

18 “(ii) MINIMUM TERMS AND CONDI-  
19 TIONS.—Under an agreement described in  
20 clause (i), an eligible entity shall be au-  
21 thorized to use its own terms and condi-  
22 tions for agricultural land easements so  
23 long as the Secretary determines such  
24 terms and conditions—

1                   “(I) are consistent with the pur-  
2                   poses of the program; and

3                   “(II) permit effective enforce-  
4                   ment of the conservation purposes of  
5                   such easements.

6                   “(iii) ENTITY ENFORCEMENT.—Under  
7                   an agreement described in clause (i), the  
8                   Secretary shall require the terms and con-  
9                   ditions for the agricultural land easement  
10                  to include a right of enforcement for the  
11                  eligible entity.

12                  “(iv) CASH CONTRIBUTION.—Under  
13                  an agreement described in clause (i), the  
14                  eligible entity shall provide cash resources  
15                  in an amount that is not less than 50 per-  
16                  cent of the fair market value of the agri-  
17                  cultural land easement, as determined by  
18                  the Secretary under subparagraph (A).”.

19                  (2) EVALUATION AND RANKING OF APPLICA-  
20                  TIONS.—Section 1265B(b)(3) of the Food Security  
21                  Act of 1985 (16 U.S.C. 3865b(b)(3)) is amended by  
22                  adding at the end the following:

23                  “(F) POOLING OF APPLICATIONS.—The  
24                  Secretary may evaluate and rank applications  
25                  submitted by eligible entities for the purchase

1 of agricultural land easements from landowners  
2 who are socially disadvantaged farmers or  
3 ranchers separately from applications submitted  
4 for the purchase of agricultural land easements  
5 from other landowners.”.

6 (3) AGREEMENTS WITH ELIGIBLE ENTITIES.—  
7 Section 1265B(b)(4) of the Food Security Act of  
8 1985 (42 U.S.C. 3865b(b)(4)) is amended—

9 (A) in subparagraph (C)—

10 (i) by striking clause (iii);

11 (ii) by redesignating clauses (iv) and  
12 (v) as clauses (iii) and (iv), respectively;

13 (iii) in clause (iii), as so redesignated,  
14 by striking the “and” at the end;

15 (iv) in clause (iv), as so redesignated,  
16 by striking the period at the end and in-  
17 serting “;”; and

18 (v) by adding at the end the following:

19 “(v) include a right of enforcement for  
20 the Secretary that—

21 “(I) may be used only if the  
22 terms and conditions of the easement  
23 are not enforced by the eligible entity;  
24 and

1 “(II) does not extend to a right  
2 of inspection unless—

3 “(aa)(AA) the holder of the  
4 easement fails to provide moni-  
5 toring reports in a timely man-  
6 ner; or

7 “(BB) the Secretary has a  
8 reasonable and articulable belief  
9 that the terms and conditions of  
10 the easement have been violated;  
11 and

12 “(bb) prior to the inspection,  
13 the Secretary notifies the eligible  
14 entity and the landowner of the  
15 inspection and provides a reason-  
16 able opportunity for the eligible  
17 entity and the landowner to par-  
18 ticipate in the inspection; and

19 “(vi) include a right of the Secretary  
20 to require the transfer of the easement to  
21 a different eligible entity if the eligible en-  
22 tity that holds the easement ceases to exist  
23 or is no longer eligible to participate in the  
24 program, as determined by the Secretary.”;  
25 and

1 (B) in subparagraph (D)—

2 (i) in clause (ii)—

3 (I) in subclause (I)(ff), by strik-  
4 ing “(v)” and inserting “(iv)”; and

5 (II) in subclause (II), by striking  
6 the “and” at the end;

7 (ii) in subclause (iii), by striking the  
8 period at the end and inserting “; and”;  
9 and

10 (iii) by inserting at the end the fol-  
11 lowing:

12 “(iv) do not conflict with any min-  
13 imum terms or conditions under subpara-  
14 graph (C) that may be required.”.

15 (4) CERTIFICATION OF ELIGIBLE ENTITIES.—  
16 Section 1265B(b)(5) of the Food Security Act of  
17 1985 (16 U.S.C. 3865b(b)(5)) is amended—

18 (A) in subparagraph (A)—

19 (i) in the matter preceding clause (i),  
20 by striking “under which the Secretary  
21 may” and inserting “, to minimize admin-  
22 istrative burdens on the Secretary and rec-  
23 ognize the ability of experienced eligible  
24 entities to administer easements with mini-

1 mal oversight by the Secretary, under  
2 which the Secretary shall”; and

3 (ii) in clause (iv), by inserting “, and  
4 modify,” after “entity to use”;

5 (B) in subparagraph (B)—

6 (i) in clause (ii)—

7 (I) in subclause (II), by striking  
8 “10” and inserting “5”; and

9 (II) in subclause (III), by strik-  
10 ing the “or” at the end;

11 (ii) in clause (iii)—

12 (I) in subclause (I), by striking  
13 “10” and inserting “5”; and

14 (II) in subclause (II), by striking  
15 the period at the end and inserting “;  
16 or”;

17 (iii) by adding at the end the fol-  
18 lowing:

19 “(iv) is an eligible entity not described  
20 in clause (ii) or (iii) that has—

21 “(I) acquired not fewer than 10  
22 agricultural land easements under the  
23 program or any predecessor program;  
24 and

- 1                   “(II) successfully met the respon-  
2                   sibilities of the eligible entity under  
3                   the applicable agreements with the  
4                   Secretary, as determined by the Sec-  
5                   retary, relating to agricultural land  
6                   easements that the eligible entity has  
7                   acquired under the program or any  
8                   predecessor program.”; and  
9                   (C) in subparagraph (C)—  
10                   (i) in the header, by striking “REVIEW  
11                   AND REVISION” and inserting “REVIEW  
12                   AND REVOCATION”;  
13                   (ii) in the header of clause (i) by  
14                   striking “REVIEW” and inserting “CER-  
15                   TIFIED ENTITY REVIEW”; and  
16                   (iii) by adding at the end the fol-  
17                   lowing:  
18                   “(iii) EASEMENT REVIEW.—The Sec-  
19                   retary shall establish and conduct an an-  
20                   nual quality review process to—  
21                   “(I) review a sample set of ease-  
22                   ments acquired by certified eligible en-  
23                   tities;

1 “(II) ensure the integrity of the  
2 easement acquisition process under  
3 this section;

4 “(III) establish and enforce a  
5 process for corrective actions; and

6 “(IV) provide for a waiver of suc-  
7 cessive easement reviews based on  
8 demonstrated compliance.”.

9 **SEC. 2603. WETLAND RESERVE EASEMENTS.**

10 (a) EASEMENTS.—Section 1265C(b) of the Food Se-  
11 curity Act of 1985 (16 U.S.C. 3865c(b)) is amended—

12 (1) in paragraph (1)(D), by striking “tribes”  
13 and inserting “Tribes and landowners who are so-  
14 cially disadvantaged farmers or ranchers”; and

15 (2) by inserting after paragraph (3)(C) the fol-  
16 lowing:

17 “(D) POOLING OF APPLICATIONS.—The  
18 Secretary may evaluate and rank offers from  
19 landowners who are socially disadvantaged  
20 farmers or ranchers separately from offers from  
21 other landowners.”.

22 (b) EASEMENT RESTORATION.—Section 1265C(e)(1)  
23 of the Food Security Act of 1985 (16 U.S.C. 3865c(e)(1))  
24 is amended by striking “subsection (f)” and inserting  
25 “subsection (g)”.

1 (c) EASEMENT STEWARDSHIP.—Section 1265C of  
2 the Food Security Act of 1985 (16 U.S.C. 3865c) is  
3 amended—

4 (1) by redesignating subsections (d) through (g)  
5 as subsections (e) through (h), respectively; and

6 (2) by inserting after subsection (c), the fol-  
7 lowing:

8 “(d) EASEMENT STEWARDSHIP.—

9 “(1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall provide  
10 financial assistance to owners of eligible land en-  
11 rolled under this section for the repair, necessary  
12 maintenance, and enhancement activities described  
13 in the wetland reserve easement plan developed for  
14 the eligible land under subsection (g)(1).

15 “(2) EVALUATION OF STEWARDSHIP NEED.—  
16 The Secretary shall—

17 “(A) regularly assess land enrolled under  
18 this section to identify maintenance and man-  
19 agement needs, including any needed repair or  
20 enhancement of existing structural practices, in  
21 accordance with the applicable wetland reserve  
22 easement plan;

23 “(B) consistent with the purposes of the  
24 program, create, execute, and update as nec-  
25 essary based on the assessments carried out

1 under subparagraph (A), a stewardship strategy  
2 for—

3 “(i) prioritizing and addressing the  
4 needs identified under subparagraph (A);  
5 and

6 “(ii) projecting the amount of annual  
7 funding needed for financial and technical  
8 assistance to address such needs; and

9 “(C) establish a 5-year schedule to address  
10 such needs.

11 “(3) PAYMENTS.—In carrying out paragraph  
12 (1), the Secretary shall make payments in an  
13 amount that is not more than 100 percent of the eli-  
14 gible costs, as determined by the Secretary.

15 “(4) REPORT.—Not later than 2 years after the  
16 date of enactment of the Farm, Food, and National  
17 Security Act of 2026, the Secretary shall submit to  
18 the Committee on Agriculture of the House of Rep-  
19 resentatives and the Committee on Agriculture, Nu-  
20 trition, and Forestry of the Senate a report that in-  
21 cludes—

22 “(A) an inventory of the existing steward-  
23 ship needs of all wetland reserve easements,  
24 based on the assessments carried out under  
25 paragraph (2);

1           “(B) the stewardship strategy created  
2           under paragraph (2)(B);

3           “(C) the amounts the Secretary plans to  
4           allocate to address such stewardship needs,  
5           based on projections made pursuant to para-  
6           graph (2)(B)(ii); and

7           “(D) the planned use of compatible uses  
8           under subsection (b)(5)(C), contracts or agree-  
9           ments under subsection (e)(2), or wetland re-  
10          serve easement plans under subsection (g)(1) to  
11          ensure that each such stewardship need is ad-  
12          dressed.”.

13          (d) ASSISTANCE.—Subsection (e) of section 1265C of  
14          the Food Security Act of 1985 (16 U.S.C. 3865c), as so  
15          redesignated, is amended—

16                 (1) in the header, by striking “TECHNICAL AS-  
17                 SISTANCE” and inserting “ASSISTANCE”; and

18                 (2) by amending paragraph (2) to read as fol-  
19                 lows:

20                         “(2) CONTRACTS OR AGREEMENTS.—The Sec-  
21                         retary may enter into 1 or more contracts or agree-  
22                         ments with a Federal, State, or local agency, a non-  
23                         governmental organization, an Indian Tribe, or a  
24                         private entity to carry out necessary restoration, en-  
25                         hancement, maintenance, repair, assessment, or

1 monitoring of a wetland reserve easement if the Sec-  
2 retary determines that the contract or agreement  
3 will advance the purposes of the program.”.

4 (e) WETLAND RESERVE ENHANCEMENT OPTION.—  
5 Subsection (f) of section 1265C of the Food Security Act  
6 of 1985 (16 U.S.C. 3865c), as so redesignated, is amend-  
7 ed—

8 (1) by striking “The Secretary” and inserting  
9 the following:

10 “(1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary”; and

11 (2) by adding at the end the following:

12 “(2) FUNDING.—Of the funds made available  
13 to carry out this section, the Secretary shall reserve  
14 not less than 15 percent to carry out this sub-  
15 section.”.

16 **SEC. 2604. ADMINISTRATION.**

17 (a) SUBORDINATION, EXCHANGE, MODIFICATION,  
18 AND TERMINATION.—Section 1265D(c) of the Food Secu-  
19 rity Act of 1985 (16 U.S.C. 3865d(c)) is amended—

20 (1) by amending paragraph (2) to read as fol-  
21 lows:

22 “(2) MODIFICATION AND EXCHANGE OF INTER-  
23 EST IN LAND.—

24 “(A) MODIFICATION.—

1           “(i) AUTHORITY.—The Secretary may  
2           approve a modification of any interest in  
3           land, or portion of such interest, adminis-  
4           tered by the Secretary, either directly or  
5           on behalf of the Commodity Credit Cor-  
6           poration, under the program if the Sec-  
7           retary determines that the modification—

8                   “(I) will support the long-term  
9                   agricultural viability of the applicable  
10                  farm or ranch operation and the con-  
11                  servation values of the applicable  
12                  easement;

13                  “(II) will result in equal or in-  
14                  creased conservation values;

15                  “(III) is consistent with the origi-  
16                  nal intent of the easement;

17                  “(IV) is consistent with the pur-  
18                  poses of the program; and

19                  “(V) is in the public interest or  
20                  furtheres the practical administration  
21                  of the program, including correcting  
22                  errors, exercising reserved rights, and  
23                  increasing flexibility to recognize  
24                  changes in water availability or ad-  
25                  ministration.

1           “(ii) LIMITATION.—In modifying an  
2           interest in land, or portion of such inter-  
3           est, under this subparagraph, the Sec-  
4           retary may not, except in the case of a  
5           modification that includes a change to an  
6           easement to add acreage, increase any pay-  
7           ment to an eligible entity.

8           “(iii) NEPA COMPLIANCE.—An action  
9           taken pursuant to this subparagraph may  
10          not be considered a major Federal action  
11          under section 102(2)(C) of the National  
12          Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (42  
13          U.S.C. 4332(2)(C)).

14          “(B) EXCHANGE.—

15                 “(i) AUTHORITY.—The Secretary may  
16                 approve an exchange of any interest in  
17                 land, or portion of such interest, adminis-  
18                 tered by the Secretary, either directly or  
19                 on behalf of the Commodity Credit Cor-  
20                 poration, under the program if the Sec-  
21                 retary determines that—

22                         “(I) no reasonable alternative ex-  
23                         ists and the effect on the interest in  
24                         land is avoided or minimized to the  
25                         extent practicable; and

1 “(II) the exchange—

2 “(aa) results in equal or in-  
3 creased conservation values;

4 “(bb) results in equal or  
5 greater economic value to the  
6 United States;

7 “(cc) is consistent with the  
8 original intent of the easement;

9 “(dd) is consistent with the  
10 purposes of the program; and

11 “(ee) is in the public inter-  
12 est or furthers the practical ad-  
13 ministration of the program.

14 “(ii) LIMITATION.—In exchanging an  
15 interest in land, or portion of such inter-  
16 est, under this subparagraph, the Sec-  
17 retary may not increase any payment to an  
18 eligible entity.”; and

19 (2) by adding at the end the following:

20 “(6) DE MINIMIS ADJUSTMENTS.—

21 “(A) IN GENERAL.—An eligible entity may  
22 make de minimis adjustments to any interest in  
23 land, or a portion of such interest, administered  
24 by the Secretary, directly or on behalf of the

1 Commodity Credit Corporation, under the pro-  
2 gram if the adjustment—

3 “(i) furthers the practical administra-  
4 tion of the program; and

5 “(ii) is not a subordination, modifica-  
6 tion, exchange, or termination, as deter-  
7 mined by the Secretary.

8 “(B) TYPES OF DE MINIMIS ADJUST-  
9 MENTS.—De minimis adjustments made under  
10 this paragraph may include title corrections and  
11 other minor adjustments, including—

12 “(i) typographical error corrections;

13 “(ii) minor changes in legal descrip-  
14 tions as a result of survey or mapping er-  
15 rors;

16 “(iii) the transfer of an interest of an  
17 eligible entity to another eligible entity;

18 “(iv) changes to a building envelope  
19 boundary;

20 “(v) relocation of easement access;

21 “(vi) authorization of temporary work  
22 areas not associated with other easement  
23 administration actions; and

24 “(vii) other adjustments determined  
25 appropriate by the Secretary.

1           “(7) MODIFICATION OF ELIGIBLE ENTITY  
2           TERMS AND CONDITIONS.—An eligible entity shall be  
3           authorized to modify a term or condition of an agri-  
4           cultural land easement that is the subject of an  
5           agreement entered into under section  
6           1265B(b)(4)(A) if such modification does not con-  
7           flict with any minimum term or condition required  
8           by the Secretary under such section.”.

9           (b) ADJUSTED GROSS INCOME.—

10           (1) EXEMPTION.—Section 1265D of the Food  
11           Security Act of 1985 (16 U.S.C. 3865D) is amended  
12           by adding at the end the following:

13           “(f) ADJUSTED GROSS INCOME EXEMPTION.—The  
14           adjusted gross income limitation described in section  
15           1001D(b)(1) shall not apply to any payment or other as-  
16           sistance under this subtitle.”.

17           (2) CALCULATION.—Section 1001D(b) of the  
18           Food Security Act of 1985 (7 U.S.C. 1308–3a(b)) is  
19           amended by adding at the end the following:

20           “(5) EXCEPTION FOR COMPENSATION UNDER  
21           ACEP.—For purposes of this subsection, the ad-  
22           justed gross income of a person or legal entity that  
23           is a landowner of eligible land (as defined in section  
24           1265A) shall not include any income received as  
25           compensation for the acquisition of an agricultural

1 land easement or a wetland reserve easement on that  
2 eligible land under subtitle H of title XII.”.

3 **Subtitle H—Forest Conservation**  
4 **Easement Program**

5 **SEC. 2701. FOREST CONSERVATION EASEMENT PROGRAM.**

6 Title XII of the Food Security Act of 1985 (16  
7 U.S.C. 3801 et seq.) is amended—

8 (1) by redesignating subtitle I (16 U.S.C. 3871  
9 et seq.) as subtitle J; and

10 (2) by inserting after subtitle H (16 U.S.C.  
11 3865 et seq.) the following:

12 **“Subtitle I—Forest Conservation**  
13 **Easement Program**

14 **“SEC. 1267. ESTABLISHMENT AND PURPOSES.**

15 “(a) ESTABLISHMENT.—The Secretary shall estab-  
16 lish a forest conservation easement program for the con-  
17 servation and restoration of eligible land and natural re-  
18 sources through the acquisition of conservation easements  
19 or other interests in land.

20 “(b) PURPOSES.—The purposes of the program  
21 are—

22 “(1) to protect the viability and sustainability  
23 of working forest land, and related conservation val-  
24 ues of eligible land, by limiting the negative effects  
25 of nonforest land uses of such land;

1           “(2) to protect and enhance forest ecosystem  
2           and landscape functions and values;

3           “(3) to promote the restoration, protection, and  
4           improvement of habitat of species that are threat-  
5           ened, endangered, or otherwise at risk; and

6           “(4) to carry out the purposes and functions of  
7           the healthy forests reserve program established  
8           under title V of the Healthy Forests Restoration Act  
9           of 2003 (16 U.S.C. 6571 et seq.), as in effect on the  
10          day before the date of enactment of this section.

11 **“SEC. 1267A. DEFINITIONS.**

12          “In this subtitle:

13           “(1) ACREAGE OWNED BY AN INDIAN TRIBE.—  
14          The term ‘acreage owned by an Indian Tribe’  
15          means—

16           “(A) land that is held in trust by the  
17          United States for Indian Tribes or individual  
18          Indians;

19           “(B) land, the title to which is held by In-  
20          dian Tribes or individual Indians subject to  
21          Federal restrictions against alienation or en-  
22          cumbrance;

23           “(C) land that is subject to rights of use,  
24          occupancy, and benefit of certain Indian Tribes;

1           “(D) land that is held in fee title by an In-  
2           dian Tribe;

3           “(E) land that is owned by a native cor-  
4           poration formed under—

5                   “(i) section 17 of the Act of June 18,  
6                   1934 (commonly known as the ‘Indian Re-  
7                   organization Act’) (25 U.S.C. 5124); or

8                   “(ii) section 8 of the Alaska Native  
9                   Claims Settlement Act (43 U.S.C. 1607);  
10                  and

11                  “(F) a combination of 1 or more types of  
12                  land described in subparagraphs (A) through  
13                  (E).

14                  “(2) ELIGIBLE ENTITY.—The term ‘eligible en-  
15                  tity’ means—

16                   “(A) an agency of State or local govern-  
17                   ment or an Indian Tribe (including a land re-  
18                   source council established under State law); or

19                   “(B) an organization that is—

20                           “(i) organized for, and at all times  
21                           since the formation of the organization has  
22                           been operated principally for, 1 or more of  
23                           the conservation purposes specified in  
24                           clause (i), (ii), (iii), or (iv) of section

1 170(h)(4)(A) of the Internal Revenue Code  
2 of 1986;

3 “(ii) an organization described in sec-  
4 tion 501(c)(3) of that Code that is exempt  
5 from taxation under section 501(a) of that  
6 Code; or

7 “(iii) described in—

8 “(I) paragraph (1) or (2) of sec-  
9 tion 509(a) of that Code; or

10 “(II) section 509(a)(3) of that  
11 Code and is controlled by an organiza-  
12 tion described in section 509(a)(2) of  
13 that Code.

14 “(3) ELIGIBLE LAND.—The term ‘eligible land’  
15 means private land or acreage owned by an Indian  
16 Tribe—

17 “(A) that is—

18 “(i) forest land; or

19 “(ii) being restored to forest land;

20 “(B) in the case of a forest land ease-  
21 ment—

22 “(i) the enrollment of which would  
23 protect working forests and related con-  
24 servation values by conserving land; or

1                   “(ii) the protection of which will fur-  
2                   ther a State or local policy consistent with  
3                   the purposes of the program; and

4                   “(C) in the case of a forest reserve ease-  
5                   ment, the enrollment of which will maintain, re-  
6                   store, enhance, or otherwise measurably—

7                   “(i) increase the likelihood of recovery  
8                   of a species that is listed as endangered or  
9                   threatened under section 4 of the Endan-  
10                  gered Species Act of 1973 (16 U.S.C.  
11                  1533); or

12                  “(ii) improve the well-being of a spe-  
13                  cies that is—

14                  “(I) not listed as endangered or  
15                  threatened under that section; and

16                  “(II)(aa) a candidate for that  
17                  listing, a State-listed species, or a spe-  
18                  cial concern species; or

19                  “(bb) designated as a species of  
20                  greatest conservation need by a State  
21                  wildlife action plan.

22                  “(4) FOREST LAND EASEMENT.—The term ‘for-  
23                  est land easement’ means an easement or other in-  
24                  terest in eligible land that—

1           “(A) is conveyed to an eligible entity for  
2           the purpose of protecting natural resources and  
3           the forest nature of the eligible land; and

4           “(B) permits the landowner the right to  
5           continue working forest production and related  
6           uses, consistent with an applicable forest man-  
7           agement plan.

8           “(5) FOREST MANAGEMENT PLAN.—The term  
9           ‘forest management plan’ means—

10           “(A) a forest stewardship plan described in  
11           section 5(f) of the Cooperative Forestry Assist-  
12           ance Act of 1978 (16 U.S.C. 2103a(f));

13           “(B) another plan approved by the applica-  
14           ble State forester or State forestry agency;

15           “(C) a plan developed under a third-party  
16           certification system determined appropriate by  
17           the Secretary; or

18           “(D) another plan determined appropriate  
19           by the Secretary.

20           “(6) FOREST RESERVE EASEMENT.—The term  
21           ‘forest reserve easement’ means an easement or  
22           other interest in eligible land that—

23           “(A) is conveyed to the Secretary for the  
24           purpose of protecting natural resources and the  
25           forest nature of the eligible land; and

1           “(B) permits the landowner the right to  
2           continue working forest production and related  
3           uses consistent with the applicable forest re-  
4           serve easement plan developed under section  
5           1267C(e)(1)(A).

6           “(7) PROGRAM.—The term ‘program’ means  
7           the forest conservation easement program estab-  
8           lished under this subtitle.

9           “(8) SOCIALLY DISADVANTAGED FOREST LAND-  
10          OWNER.—The term ‘socially disadvantaged forest  
11          landowner’ means a forest landowner who is a mem-  
12          ber of a socially disadvantaged group (as defined in  
13          section 2501(a) of the Food, Agriculture, Conserva-  
14          tion, and Trade Act of 1990 (7 U.S.C. 2279(a))).

15       **“SEC. 1267B. FOREST LAND EASEMENTS.**

16          “(a) AVAILABILITY OF ASSISTANCE.—The Secretary  
17          shall facilitate and provide funding for—

18               “(1) the purchase by eligible entities of forest  
19               land easements on eligible land;

20               “(2) the development of a forest management  
21               plan; and

22               “(3) technical assistance to implement this sec-  
23               tion.

24          “(b) COST-SHARE ASSISTANCE.—

1           “(1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall protect  
2           working forests, and related conservation values of  
3           eligible land, through cost-share assistance to eligible  
4           entities for purchasing forest land easements.

5           “(2) SCOPE OF ASSISTANCE AVAILABLE.—

6           “(A) FEDERAL SHARE.—

7                   “(i) IN GENERAL.—Except as pro-  
8                   vided in clause (ii), an agreement described  
9                   in paragraph (4) shall provide for a Fed-  
10                  eral share of 50 percent of the fair market  
11                  value of the forest land easement, as deter-  
12                  mined by the Secretary.

13                   “(ii) EXCEPTION.—An agreement de-  
14                   scribed in paragraph (4) may provide for a  
15                   Federal share of not more than 75 percent  
16                   of the fair market value of a forest land  
17                   easement in the case of eligible land that  
18                   is—

19                           “(I) a forest of special environ-  
20                           mental significance, as determined by  
21                           the Secretary; or

22                           “(II) owned by a socially dis-  
23                           advantaged forest landowner.

24           “(B) NON-FEDERAL SHARE.—

1           “(i) IN GENERAL.—Under an agree-  
2           ment described in paragraph (4), the eligi-  
3           ble entity shall provide a non-Federal  
4           share that is equivalent to the remainder  
5           of the fair market value of the forest land  
6           easement not provided by the Secretary  
7           under subparagraph (A).

8           “(ii) PERMISSIBLE FORMS.—The non-  
9           Federal share provided by an eligible entity  
10          under this paragraph may comprise—

11                   “(I) cash resources;

12                   “(II) a charitable donation or  
13                   qualified conservation contribution (as  
14                   defined in section 170(h) of the Inter-  
15                   nal Revenue Code of 1986) from the  
16                   private forest landowner from which  
17                   the forest land easement will be pur-  
18                   chased;

19                   “(III) costs associated with se-  
20                   curing a deed to the forest land ease-  
21                   ment, including the cost of appraisal,  
22                   survey, inspection, and title; and

23                   “(IV) other costs, as determined  
24                   by the Secretary.

1                   “(C) DETERMINATION OF FAIR MARKET  
2 VALUE.—For purposes of this paragraph, the  
3 Secretary shall determine the fair market value  
4 of a forest land easement using—

5                   “(i) the Uniform Standards of Profes-  
6 sional Appraisal Practice;

7                   “(ii) an areawide market analysis or  
8 survey; or

9                   “(iii) another industry-approved meth-  
10 od.

11                   “(3) EVALUATION AND RANKING OF APPLICA-  
12 TIONS.—

13                   “(A) CRITERIA.—The Secretary shall es-  
14 tablish evaluation and ranking criteria to maxi-  
15 mize the benefit of Federal investment under  
16 the program.

17                   “(B) PRIORITY.—In evaluating applica-  
18 tions under the program, the Secretary shall  
19 give priority to an application for the purchase  
20 of a forest land easement—

21                   “(i) that maintains the viability of a  
22 working forest, as determined by the Sec-  
23 retary; and

1                   “(ii) on eligible land for which a forest  
2                   management plan has been developed at  
3                   the time of application.

4                   “(C) CONSIDERATIONS.—In establishing  
5                   the criteria under subparagraph (A), the Sec-  
6                   retary shall emphasize support for—

7                   “(i) protecting working forests and re-  
8                   lated conservation values of eligible land;

9                   “(ii) reducing fragmentation of forest  
10                  land; and

11                  “(iii) maximizing the areas protected  
12                  from conversion to nonforest uses.

13                  “(4) AGREEMENTS WITH ELIGIBLE ENTITIES.—

14                  “(A) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall  
15                  enter into agreements with eligible entities to  
16                  stipulate the terms and conditions under which  
17                  the eligible entity is permitted to use cost-share  
18                  assistance provided under this section.

19                  “(B) LENGTH OF AGREEMENTS.—An  
20                  agreement under subparagraph (A) shall be for  
21                  a term that is not less than 3, but not more  
22                  than 5, years, unless the Secretary determines  
23                  that a longer term is justified.

24                  “(C) MINIMUM TERMS AND CONDITIONS.—

25                  An eligible entity shall be authorized to use its

1 own terms and conditions for forest land ease-  
2 ments so long as the Secretary determines such  
3 terms and conditions—

4 “(i) are consistent with—

5 “(I) the purposes of the program;

6 and

7 “(II) the forestry activities to be  
8 conducted on the eligible land;

9 “(ii) permit effective enforcement of  
10 the conservation purposes of the forest  
11 land easements;

12 “(iii) include a requirement to imple-  
13 ment a forest management plan on eligible  
14 land subject to a forest land easement;

15 “(iv) include a limit on the impervious  
16 surfaces to be allowed that is consistent  
17 with the forestry activities to be conducted;  
18 and

19 “(v) include a right of enforcement for  
20 the Secretary that—

21 “(I) may be used only if the  
22 terms and conditions of the forest  
23 land easement are not enforced by the  
24 eligible entity; and

1 “(II) does not extend to a right  
2 of inspection unless—

3 “(aa)(AA) the holder of the  
4 forest land easement fails to pro-  
5 vide monitoring reports in a  
6 timely manner; or

7 “(BB) the Secretary has a  
8 reasonable and articulable belief  
9 that the terms and conditions of  
10 the forest land easement have  
11 been violated; and

12 “(bb) prior to the inspection,  
13 the Secretary notifies the eligible  
14 entity and the landowner of the  
15 inspection and provides a reason-  
16 able opportunity for the eligible  
17 entity and the landowner to par-  
18 ticipate in the inspection.

19 “(D) ADDITIONAL PERMITTED TERMS AND  
20 CONDITIONS.—An eligible entity may include  
21 terms and conditions for a forest land easement  
22 that—

23 “(i) are intended to keep the eligible  
24 land subject to the forest land easement in

1 active forest management, as determined  
2 by the Secretary;

3 “(ii) allow subsurface mineral develop-  
4 ment on the eligible land subject to the  
5 forest land easement and in accordance  
6 with applicable State law if, as determined  
7 by the Secretary—

8 “(I) the subsurface mineral de-  
9 velopment—

10 “(aa) has a limited and lo-  
11 calized impact;

12 “(bb) does not harm the for-  
13 est use and conservation values  
14 of the eligible land subject to the  
15 forest land easement;

16 “(cc) does not materially  
17 alter or affect the existing topog-  
18 raphy;

19 “(dd) complies with a sub-  
20 surface mineral development plan  
21 that—

22 “(AA) includes a plan  
23 for the remediation of im-  
24 pacts to the forest use and  
25 conservation values of the el-

1 eligible land subject to the  
2 forest land easement; and

3 “(BB) is approved by  
4 the Secretary prior to the  
5 initiation of mineral develop-  
6 ment activity;

7 “(ee) is not accomplished by  
8 any surface mining method;

9 “(ff) is within the imper-  
10 vious surface limits of the forest  
11 land easement under subpara-  
12 graph (C)(iv); and

13 “(gg) uses practices and  
14 technologies that minimize the  
15 duration and intensity of impacts  
16 to the forest use and conserva-  
17 tion values of the eligible land  
18 subject to the forest land ease-  
19 ment; and

20 “(II) each area impacted by the  
21 subsurface mineral development is re-  
22 claimed and restored by the holder of  
23 the mineral rights at cessation of op-  
24 eration; and

1           “(iii) include other relevant activities  
2 relating to the forest land easement, as de-  
3 termined by the Secretary.

4           “(E) SUBSTITUTION OF QUALIFIED  
5 PROJECTS.—An agreement under subparagraph  
6 (A) shall allow, upon mutual agreement of the  
7 parties, substitution of qualified projects that  
8 are identified at the time of the proposed sub-  
9 stitution.

10           “(F) EFFECT OF VIOLATION.—If a viola-  
11 tion of a term or condition of an agreement  
12 under subparagraph (A) occurs—

13           “(i) the Secretary may terminate the  
14 agreement; and

15           “(ii) the Secretary may require the el-  
16 igible entity to refund all or part of any  
17 payments received by the eligible entity  
18 under the program, with interest on the  
19 payments as determined appropriate by the  
20 Secretary.

21           “(5) FOREST MANAGEMENT PLAN.—

22           “(A) IN GENERAL.—If the eligible land  
23 does not have a forest management plan at the  
24 time of application, prior to the acquisition of  
25 the forest land easement the landowner shall

1 develop, in partnership with the eligible entity,  
2 a forest management plan for the land subject  
3 to the forest land easement.

4 “(B) REIMBURSEMENT.—The Secretary  
5 may reimburse the landowner for the cost of  
6 the development of a forest management plan  
7 for eligible land enrolled under this section.

8 “(c) METHOD OF ENROLLMENT.—The Secretary  
9 shall enroll eligible land under this section through the use  
10 of—

11 “(1) permanent easements; or

12 “(2) easements for the maximum duration al-  
13 lowed under applicable State laws.

14 “(d) TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE.—The Secretary may  
15 provide technical assistance, on request, to assist in com-  
16 pliance with the terms and conditions of forest land ease-  
17 ments.

18 **“SEC. 1267C. FOREST RESERVE EASEMENTS.**

19 “(a) AVAILABILITY OF ASSISTANCE.—The Secretary  
20 shall provide assistance to owners of eligible land to re-  
21 store, protect, and enhance eligible land through—

22 “(1) forest reserve easements and related forest  
23 reserve easement plans; and

24 “(2) technical assistance to implement this sec-  
25 tion.

1 “(b) EASEMENTS.—

2 “(1) METHOD OF ENROLLMENT.—

3 “(A) AUTHORIZED METHODS.—The Sec-  
4 retary shall enroll eligible land under this sec-  
5 tion—

6 “(i) through the use of—

7 “(I) permanent easements;

8 “(II) 30-year easements; and

9 “(III) easements for the max-  
10 imum duration allowed under applica-  
11 ble State laws; and

12 “(ii) in the case of acreage owned by  
13 an Indian Tribe, through the use of—

14 “(I) 30-year contracts (the com-  
15 pensation for which shall be equiva-  
16 lent to the compensation for 30-year  
17 easements); or

18 “(II) permanent easements.

19 “(B) LIMITATION.—Not more than 10 per-  
20 cent of amounts made available to carry out  
21 this section in a fiscal year may be used for 30-  
22 year easements under this section.

23 “(2) EVALUATION AND RANKING OF OFFERS.—

1           “(A) CRITERIA.—The Secretary shall es-  
2           tablish evaluation and ranking criteria for of-  
3           fers from landowners under this section.

4           “(B) PRIORITY.—The Secretary shall give  
5           priority to the enrollment of eligible land under  
6           this section that provides the greatest conserva-  
7           tion benefit to—

8                   “(i) primarily, species listed as endan-  
9                   gered or threatened under section 4 of the  
10                  Endangered Species Act of 1973 (16  
11                  U.S.C. 1533); and

12                  “(ii) secondarily, species that are—

13                          “(I) not listed as endangered or  
14                          threatened under that section; and

15                          “(II)(aa) candidates for that list-  
16                          ing, State-listed species, or special  
17                          concern species; or

18                          “(bb) designated as species of  
19                          greatest conservation need by a State  
20                          wildlife action plan.

21           “(C) OTHER CONSIDERATIONS.—The Sec-  
22           retary may give additional consideration to eli-  
23           gible land the enrollment under this section of  
24           which will—

25                          “(i) improve biological diversity;

1 “(ii) restore native forest ecosystems;

2 “(iii) conserve forest land that pro-  
3 vides habitat for species described in sub-  
4 paragraph (B);

5 “(iv) reduce fragmentation of forest  
6 land; and

7 “(v) increase carbon sequestration.

8 “(3) TERMS AND CONDITIONS OF EASE-  
9 MENTS.—

10 “(A) IN GENERAL.—A forest reserve ease-  
11 ment shall include terms and conditions that—

12 “(i) are consistent with the purposes  
13 of the program and the forestry activities  
14 to be conducted on the eligible land;

15 “(ii) are consistent with the manage-  
16 ment objectives of the owner of the eligible  
17 land and the implementation of the forest  
18 reserve easement plan developed under  
19 subsection (c)(1)(A);

20 “(iii) permit effective enforcement of  
21 the conservation purposes of the forest re-  
22 serve easements;

23 “(iv) provide for the efficient and ef-  
24 fective establishment or enhancement of  
25 forest ecosystem functions and values; and

1           “(v) include such additional provisions  
2           as the Secretary determines are desirable  
3           to carry out the program or facilitate the  
4           practical administration of the program.

5           “(B) REQUESTED TERMS AND CONDI-  
6           TIONS.—An owner of eligible land may request  
7           that a term or condition be included in a forest  
8           reserve easement, and the Secretary may in-  
9           clude such term or condition, if it—

10           “(i) is consistent with the manage-  
11           ment objectives of the owner of the eligible  
12           land and the implementation of the forest  
13           reserve easement plan developed under  
14           subsection (c)(1)(A); and

15           “(ii) does not conflict with any terms  
16           or conditions included under subparagraph  
17           (A).

18           “(4) COMPENSATION.—

19           “(A) PERMANENT EASEMENTS.—In the  
20           case of eligible land enrolled in a permanent  
21           easement under this section, the Secretary shall  
22           pay the owner of the eligible land an amount  
23           equal to the difference between, as determined  
24           by the Secretary—

1           “(i) the fair market value of the eligi-  
2           ble land before the enrollment in the per-  
3           manent easement; and

4           “(ii) the fair market value of the eligi-  
5           ble land as encumbered by the permanent  
6           easement.

7           “(B) OTHER.—The Secretary shall pay the  
8           owner of eligible land enrolled under this sec-  
9           tion in a 30-year contract, a 30-year easement,  
10          or an easement for the maximum duration al-  
11          lowed under applicable State laws, not less than  
12          50 percent, and not more than 75 percent, of  
13          the compensation that would be paid under sub-  
14          paragraph (A) if the land were being enrolled in  
15          a permanent easement.

16          “(C) DETERMINATION OF FAIR MARKET  
17          VALUE.—The Secretary shall determine the fair  
18          market value of eligible land for purposes of  
19          this paragraph using the Uniform Standards of  
20          Professional Appraisal Practice or another in-  
21          dustry-approved method.

22          “(c) EASEMENT RESTORATION AND MANAGE-  
23          MENT.—

24          “(1) FOREST RESERVE EASEMENT PLAN.—

1           “(A) IN GENERAL.—Land enrolled in a  
2 forest reserve easement shall be subject to a  
3 forest reserve easement plan, to be developed  
4 jointly by the landowner and the Secretary, that  
5 describes such activities to be carried out on the  
6 land as are necessary to restore, maintain, and  
7 enhance habitat for species described in sub-  
8 section (b)(2)(B).

9           “(B) PRACTICES AND MEASURES.—A for-  
10 est reserve easement plan developed under sub-  
11 paragraph (A) shall require implementation of  
12 such practices and measures as are necessary to  
13 accomplish the activities described in the plan  
14 under such subparagraph, which may include—

15                   “(i) vegetative management and  
16 silviculture practices;

17                   “(ii) structural practices and meas-  
18 ures;

19                   “(iii) practices to increase carbon se-  
20 questration;

21                   “(iv) practices to improve biological  
22 diversity; and

23                   “(v) other practices and measures, as  
24 determined by the Secretary.

25           “(2) FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE.—

1           “(A) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall  
2 provide financial assistance to owners of eligible  
3 land to carry out the activities, practices, and  
4 measures described in the forest reserve ease-  
5 ment plan developed for the eligible land under  
6 paragraph (1).

7           “(B) PAYMENTS.—With respect to finan-  
8 cial assistance provided under subparagraph  
9 (A), the Secretary shall pay—

10           “(i) in the case of a forest reserve  
11 easement plan for eligible land enrolled in  
12 a permanent easement, an amount that is  
13 not more than 100 percent of the eligible  
14 costs described in subparagraph (C), as de-  
15 termined by the Secretary; and

16           “(ii) in the case of a forest reserve  
17 easement plan for eligible land enrolled in  
18 a 30-year contract, a 30-year easement, or  
19 an easement for the maximum duration al-  
20 lowed under applicable State laws, an  
21 amount that is not less than 50 percent,  
22 and not more than 75 percent, of the eligi-  
23 ble costs described in subparagraph (C), as  
24 determined by the Secretary.

1           “(C) ELIGIBLE COSTS.—Costs eligible for  
2 payments under this paragraph are the costs of  
3 activities, practices, and measures referred to in  
4 subparagraph (A) that are associated with the  
5 restoration or enhancement of the habitat con-  
6 ditions specified for the applicable species in the  
7 forest reserve easement plan.

8           “(D) TIMING OF PAYMENTS.—Payments  
9 under this paragraph shall be made—

10           “(i) only on a determination by the  
11 Secretary that an activity, practice, or  
12 measure described in subparagraph (C)  
13 has been established in compliance with  
14 appropriate standards and specifications,  
15 which determination shall be made as soon  
16 as practicable after establishment; and

17           “(ii) as soon as possible after such de-  
18 termination is made.

19           “(E) LIMITATIONS.—Financial assistance  
20 provided by the Secretary under this paragraph  
21 to an owner of eligible land may not exceed  
22 \$500,000 per easement or contract.

23           “(d) TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE.—

1           “(1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall provide  
2           to owners of eligible land technical assistance to as-  
3           sist the owners in—

4                   “(A) developing a forest reserve easement  
5           plan; and

6                   “(B) complying with the terms and condi-  
7           tions of a forest reserve easement, including the  
8           implementation of a forest reserve easement  
9           plan.

10           “(2) CONTRACTS OR AGREEMENTS.—The Sec-  
11           retary may enter into 1 or more contracts with pri-  
12           vate entities or agreements with a State, nongovern-  
13           mental organization, or Indian Tribe to provide tech-  
14           nical assistance described in paragraph (1), if the  
15           Secretary determines that the contract or agreement  
16           will advance the purposes of the program.

17           “(e) PROTECTIONS AND MEASURES.—

18                   “(1) PROTECTIONS.—In the case of a land-  
19           owner who enrolls eligible land in a forest reserve  
20           easement, and whose conservation activities under  
21           the forest reserve easement plan developed for such  
22           land result in a net conservation benefit for a species  
23           described in subsection (b)(2)(B), the Secretary shall  
24           make available to the landowner safe harbor or simi-  
25           lar assurances and protection under—

1           “(A) section 7(b)(4) of the Endangered  
2           Species Act of 1973 (16 U.S.C. 1536(b)(4)); or

3           “(B) section 10(a)(1) of that Act (16  
4           U.S.C. 1539(a)(1)).

5           “(2) MEASURES.—If protection under para-  
6           graph (1) requires the taking of measures that are  
7           in addition to the measures covered by the forest re-  
8           serve easement plan developed for the eligible land,  
9           the cost of the additional measures, and the cost of  
10          any permit, shall be considered costs eligible for pay-  
11          ments under subsection (c)(2).

12          “(f) ADMINISTRATION.—

13                 “(1) DELEGATION OF EASEMENT ADMINISTRA-  
14                 TION.—

15                         “(A) FEDERAL AND STATE AGENCIES.—

16                         The Secretary may delegate any of the manage-  
17                         ment, monitoring, and enforcement responsibil-  
18                         ities of the Secretary under this section to other  
19                         Federal or State agencies that have the appro-  
20                         priate authority, expertise, and resources nec-  
21                         essary to carry out those delegated responsibil-  
22                         ities.

23                         “(B) CONSERVATION ORGANIZATIONS.—

24                         The Secretary may delegate any of the manage-  
25                         ment responsibilities of the Secretary under this

1 section to a nonprofit conservation organization  
2 if the Secretary determines the organization has  
3 the appropriate expertise and resources nec-  
4 essary to carry out those delegated responsibil-  
5 ities.

6 “(2) INVOLVEMENT BY OTHER AGENCIES AND  
7 ORGANIZATIONS.—In carrying out this section, the  
8 Secretary may consult with—

9 “(A) private forest landowners;

10 “(B) other Federal agencies;

11 “(C) State forestry agencies;

12 “(D) State fish and wildlife agencies;

13 “(E) State environmental quality agencies;

14 “(F) other State conservation agencies;

15 and

16 “(G) nonprofit conservation organizations.

17 **“SEC. 1267D. ADMINISTRATION.**

18 “(a) INELIGIBLE LAND.—The Secretary shall not use  
19 amounts made available to carry out the program for the  
20 purposes of acquiring an easement on—

21 “(1) land owned by a Federal agency, other  
22 than such land that is acreage owned by an Indian  
23 Tribe;

1           “(2) land owned in fee title by a State, includ-  
2           ing an agency or a subdivision of a State, or a unit  
3           of local government;

4           “(3) land subject to an easement or deed re-  
5           striction that, as determined by the Secretary, pro-  
6           vides similar protection as would be provided by en-  
7           rollment in the program; or

8           “(4) land the enrollment in the program of  
9           which would undermine the purposes of the program  
10          due to on-site or off-site conditions, such as risk of  
11          hazardous substances, permitted or existing rights of  
12          way, infrastructure development, or adjacent land  
13          uses.

14          “(b) SUBORDINATION, EXCHANGE, MODIFICATION,  
15          AND TERMINATION.—

16                 “(1) SUBORDINATION.—The Secretary may  
17                 subordinate any interest in eligible land, or portion  
18                 of such an interest, administered by the Secretary  
19                 (including for the purposes of utilities and energy  
20                 transmission services) directly or on behalf of the  
21                 Commodity Credit Corporation under the program if  
22                 the Secretary determines that the subordination—

23                         “(A) increases conservation values or has a  
24                         limited negative effect on conservation values;

1           “(B) minimally affects the acreage subject  
2 to the interest in eligible land; and

3           “(C) is in the public interest or furthers  
4 the practical administration of the program.

5           “(2) MODIFICATION AND EXCHANGE OF INTER-  
6 EST IN LAND.—

7           “(A) MODIFICATION.—

8           “(i) AUTHORITY.—The Secretary may  
9 approve a modification of any interest in  
10 land, or portion of such interest, adminis-  
11 tered by the Secretary, either directly or  
12 on behalf of the Commodity Credit Cor-  
13 poration, under the program if the Sec-  
14 retary determines that the modification—

15           “(I) will support the viability and  
16 sustainability of working forests and  
17 the conservation values of the applica-  
18 ble easement;

19           “(II) will result in equal or in-  
20 creased conservation values;

21           “(III) is consistent with the origi-  
22 nal intent of the easement;

23           “(IV) is consistent with the pur-  
24 poses of the program; and

1                   “(V) is in the public interest or  
2                   further the practical administration  
3                   of the program, including correcting  
4                   errors and exercising reserved rights.

5                   “(ii) LIMITATION.—In modifying an  
6                   interest in land, or portion of such inter-  
7                   est, under this subparagraph, the Sec-  
8                   retary may not, except in the case of a  
9                   modification that includes a change to an  
10                  easement to add acreage, increase any pay-  
11                  ment to an eligible entity.

12                  “(B) EXCHANGE.—

13                  “(i) AUTHORITY.—The Secretary may  
14                  approve an exchange of any interest in  
15                  land, or portion of such interest, adminis-  
16                  tered by the Secretary, either directly or  
17                  on behalf of the Commodity Credit Cor-  
18                  poration, under the program if the Sec-  
19                  retary determines that—

20                         “(I) no reasonable alternative ex-  
21                         ists and the effect on the interest in  
22                         land is avoided or minimized to the  
23                         extent practicable; and

24                         “(II) the exchange—

1           “(aa) results in equal or in-  
2           creased conservation values;

3           “(bb) results in equal or  
4           greater economic value to the  
5           United States;

6           “(cc) is consistent with the  
7           original intent of the easement;

8           “(dd) is consistent with the  
9           purposes of the program; and

10          “(ee) is in the public inter-  
11          est or furthers the practical ad-  
12          ministration of the program.

13          “(ii) LIMITATION.—In exchanging an  
14          interest in land, or portion of such inter-  
15          est, under this subparagraph, the Sec-  
16          retary may not increase any payment to an  
17          eligible entity.

18          “(3) TERMINATION.—The Secretary may ap-  
19          prove a termination of any interest in eligible land,  
20          or portion of such an interest, administered by the  
21          Secretary, directly or on behalf of the Commodity  
22          Credit Corporation under the program if the Sec-  
23          retary determines that—

24                 “(A) termination is in the interest of the  
25                 Federal Government;

1           “(B) the United States will be fully com-  
2           pensated for—

3                   “(i) the value of the interest in the  
4           land, as determined by the Secretary;

5                   “(ii) any costs relating to the termi-  
6           nation; and

7                   “(iii) any damages determined appro-  
8           priate by the Secretary; and

9           “(C) the termination will—

10                   “(i) address a compelling public need  
11           for which there is no practicable alter-  
12           native even with avoidance and minimiza-  
13           tion; and

14                   “(ii) further the practical administra-  
15           tion of the program.

16           “(4) CONSENT.—The Secretary shall obtain  
17           consent from the landowner and eligible entity, if ap-  
18           plicable, for any subordination, exchange, modifica-  
19           tion, or termination of an interest in eligible land, or  
20           portion of such an interest, under this subsection.

21           “(5) NOTICE.—Not fewer than 90 days before  
22           taking any termination action described in para-  
23           graph (3), the Secretary shall provide written notice  
24           of that action to the Committee on Agriculture of

1 the House of Representatives and the Committee on  
2 Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry of the Senate.

3 “(c) LAND ENROLLED IN OTHER PROGRAMS.—In  
4 accordance with the provisions of section 2702 of the  
5 Farm, Food, and National Security Act of 2026, land en-  
6 rolled in the healthy forests reserve program established  
7 under title V of the Healthy Forests Restoration Act of  
8 2003 (16 U.S.C. 6571 et seq.) on the day before the date  
9 of enactment of this section shall be considered enrolled  
10 in the program.”.

11 **SEC. 2702. HEALTHY FORESTS RESERVE PROGRAM.**

12 (a) REPEAL.—

13 (1) IN GENERAL.—Title V of the Healthy For-  
14 ests Restoration Act of 2003 (16 U.S.C. 6571 et  
15 seq.) is repealed.

16 (2) CONFORMING AMENDMENT.—The table of  
17 contents in section 1(b) of the Healthy Forests Res-  
18 toration Act of 2003 (Public Law 108–148; 117  
19 Stat. 1887) is amended by striking the items relat-  
20 ing to title V.

21 (b) TRANSITIONAL PROVISIONS.—

22 (1) EFFECT ON EXISTING CONTRACTS, AGREE-  
23 MENTS, AND EASEMENTS.—The repeal made by sub-  
24 section (a) shall not affect the validity or terms of  
25 any contract, agreement, or easement entered into

1 by the Secretary under title V of the Healthy For-  
2 ests Restoration Act of 2003 (16 U.S.C. 6571 et  
3 seq.) before the date of enactment of this Act, or  
4 any payments or technical assistance required to be  
5 made in connection with the contract, agreement, or  
6 easement.

7 (2) FUNDING.—

8 (A) USE OF PRIOR YEAR FUNDS.—Not-  
9 withstanding the repeal made by subsection (a),  
10 any funds made available from the Commodity  
11 Credit Corporation to carry out the healthy for-  
12 ests reserve program established under title V  
13 of the Healthy Forests Restoration Act of 2003  
14 (16 U.S.C. 6571 et seq.) (as in effect on the  
15 day before the date of enactment of this Act)  
16 for any of fiscal years 2019 through 2025 shall  
17 be made available to carry out contracts, agree-  
18 ments, or easements referred to in paragraph  
19 (1), subject to the condition that no such con-  
20 tract, agreement, or easement may be modified  
21 so as to increase the amount of any payment  
22 received.

23 (B) OTHER.—The Secretary may use  
24 funds made available to carry out the forest  
25 conservation easement program established

1 under subtitle I of the Food Security Act of  
2 1985 to continue to carry out contracts, agree-  
3 ments, or easements referred to in paragraph  
4 (1) using the provisions of law (including regu-  
5 lations) applicable to those contracts, agree-  
6 ments, and easements as in existence on the  
7 day before the date of enactment of this Act.

8 **Subtitle I—Regional Conservation**  
9 **Partnership Program**

10 **SEC. 2801. ESTABLISHMENT AND PURPOSES.**

11 Section 1271(b)(2) of the Food Security Act of 1985  
12 (16 U.S.C. 3871(b)(2)) is amended to read as follows:

13 “(2) To address natural resource concerns on  
14 eligible land on a regional or watershed scale, includ-  
15 ing through—

16 “(A) the conservation, protection, restora-  
17 tion, and sustainable use of soil;

18 “(B) the conservation and protection of  
19 water, including sources of drinking water and  
20 groundwater;

21 “(C) the prevention and mitigation of the  
22 effects of flooding and drought, and the im-  
23 provement or expansion of flood resiliency; and

24 “(D) the conservation of wildlife, agricul-  
25 tural land, and related natural resources.”.

1 **SEC. 2802. DEFINITIONS.**

2 Section 1271A(1) of the Food Security Act of 1985  
3 (16 U.S.C. 3871a(1)) is amended by striking subpara-  
4 graph (D) and inserting the following:

5 “(D) The forest conservation easement  
6 program established under subtitle I.”.

7 **SEC. 2803. REGIONAL CONSERVATION PARTNERSHIPS.**

8 (a) PARTNERSHIP AGREEMENTS AUTHORIZED.—

9 Section 1271B(a) of the Food Security Act of 1985 (16  
10 U.S.C. 3871b(a)) is amended to read as follows:

11 “(a) PARTNERSHIP AGREEMENTS AUTHORIZED.—

12 “(1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary may enter  
13 into a partnership agreement with an eligible part-  
14 ner to implement a project that will assist producers  
15 with installing and maintaining an eligible activity  
16 on eligible land.

17 “(2) STREAMLINING REQUIRED.—The Sec-  
18 retary shall ensure that a partnership agreement  
19 under paragraph (1)—

20 “(A) is entered into not later than 180  
21 days after the date on which an application is  
22 selected under subsection (e); and

23 “(B) contains only—

24 “(i) the information, described under  
25 subsection (e)(3), necessary to fund and

1 initiate the project to be implemented  
2 under the partnership agreement; and

3 “(ii) any adjustments to the require-  
4 ments of a covered program determined  
5 necessary by the Secretary under para-  
6 graph (2) of section 1271E(f), and any  
7 waiver provided under paragraph (3) of  
8 such section.

9 “(3) PROCESS FOR REQUESTING WAIVERS AND  
10 ADJUSTMENTS.—The Secretary shall make available  
11 information on the process for requesting a waiver  
12 or an adjustment to the requirements of a covered  
13 program pursuant to section 1271E(f).”.

14 (b) DUTIES OF SECRETARY.—Section 1271B(d) of  
15 the Food Security Act of 1985 (16 U.S.C. 3871b(d)) is  
16 amended—

17 (1) in paragraph (4)(B), by striking “how the  
18 Secretary used amounts reserved by the Secretary  
19 for that year for technical assistance under section  
20 1271D(f); and” and inserting “the use of funds for  
21 technical assistance under section 1271D(c);”;

22 (2) in paragraph (5), by striking the period at  
23 the end and inserting “; and”; and

24 (3) by adding at the end the following:

1           “(6) ensure payments to eligible partners under  
2           a partnership agreement are made not later than 30  
3           days after the date on which the eligible partner  
4           submits to the Secretary a request for payment.”.

5           (c) APPLICATIONS.—Section 1271B(e)(3) of the  
6 Food Security Act of 1985 (16 U.S.C. 3871b(e)(3)) is  
7 amended—

8           (1) in subparagraph (D), by striking “and” at  
9           the end;

10           (2) by redesignating subparagraph (E) as sub-  
11           paragraph (F); and

12           (3) by inserting after subparagraph (D) the fol-  
13           lowing:

14                   “(E) any requests by an eligible partner  
15                   for a waiver or an adjustment to the require-  
16                   ments of a covered program pursuant to section  
17                   1271E(f); and”.

18 **SEC. 2804. ASSISTANCE TO PRODUCERS.**

19           Section 1271C(d)(3) of the Food Security Act of  
20 1985 (16 U.S.C. 3871c(d)(3)) is amended—

21           (1) by redesignating subparagraph (B) as sub-  
22           paragraph (C);

23           (2) in subparagraph (A)(iv), by striking the  
24           “and” at the end; and

1           (3) by inserting after subparagraph (A)(iv) the  
2 following:

3           “(B) provide, under section 1271B(c)(2),  
4 not less than 50 percent of the overall costs of  
5 the scope of the project that is the subject of  
6 a partnership agreement funded pursuant to  
7 paragraph (1) in direct funding; and”.

8 **SEC. 2805. FUNDING.**

9           (a) **ALLOCATION OF FUNDING.**—Section 1271D of  
10 the Food Security Act of 1985 (16 U.S.C. 3871d) is  
11 amended—

12           (1) by striking subsections (a) and (b);

13           (2) by redesignating subsections (c), (d), and  
14 (e) as subsections (a), (b), and (c), respectively; and

15           (3) in subsection (a), as so redesignated, by  
16 striking “subsection (a)” and inserting “section  
17 1241(a)(6)”.

18           (b) **LIMITATION ON ADMINISTRATIVE EXPENSES.**—  
19 Subsection (b) of section 1271D of the Food Security Act  
20 of 1985 (16 U.S.C. 3871d), as so redesignated, is amend-  
21 ed to read as follows:

22           “(b) **LIMITATION ON ADMINISTRATIVE EXPENSES.**—

23           “(1) **IN GENERAL.**—Of the funds made avail-  
24 able to implement a project under a partnership  
25 agreement, the Secretary may use not more than ten

1       percent to reimburse the eligible partner for admin-  
2       istrative expenses relating to the project.

3           “(2) CONSIDERATION.—Any amounts expended  
4       by an eligible partner for administrative expenses  
5       that are not reimbursed under paragraph (1) may be  
6       considered to be a part of the contribution of the eli-  
7       gible partner under section 1271B(c)(2).”.

8       (c) TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE.—Subsection (c) of sec-  
9       tion 1271D of the Food Security Act of 1985 (16 U.S.C.  
10      3871d), as so redesignated, is amended to read as follows:

11      “(c) TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE.—

12           “(1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall,  
13      through a partnership agreement, identify—

14           “(A) the total amount of funds that will be  
15      used for technical assistance; and

16           “(B) the share of such funds that will be  
17      provided to eligible partners under paragraph  
18      (2).

19      “(2) PROVISION OF ASSISTANCE.—

20           “(A) REIMBURSEMENT.—Under a partner-  
21      ship agreement that is not funded through an  
22      alternative funding arrangement or grant agree-  
23      ment under section 1271C(d), the Secretary  
24      may reimburse eligible partners for the costs of

1 technical assistance provided through such part-  
2 nership agreement, including—

3 “(i) the costs of technical assistance  
4 needed to facilitate the maximum conserva-  
5 tion benefit of the applicable project;

6 “(ii) the costs of providing outreach  
7 and education to producers for potential  
8 participation in the applicable project;

9 “(iii) the costs of establishing baseline  
10 metrics to support the development of the  
11 assessment required under section  
12 1271B(c)(1)(E); and

13 “(iv) other costs necessary to support  
14 the implementation of eligible activities, as  
15 determined by the Secretary.

16 “(B) ADVANCEMENT OF FUNDS.—The  
17 Secretary may advance to eligible partners rea-  
18 sonable amounts of funds for costs that may be  
19 reimbursed under subparagraph (A), as deter-  
20 mined by the Secretary.

21 “(3) LIMITATION.—The Secretary shall limit  
22 costs of the Secretary for technical assistance to  
23 costs necessary to carry out the objectives of the  
24 program.

1           “(4) REDUCTION OF ADMINISTRATIVE BAR-  
2           RIERS.—The Secretary shall provide a single, sim-  
3           plified process for reimbursements or advancements  
4           to eligible partners for the costs of technical assist-  
5           ance under this subsection.

6           “(5) THIRD-PARTY PROVIDERS.—The Secretary  
7           shall develop and implement strategies to encourage  
8           third-party technical service providers to provide  
9           technical assistance to eligible partners pursuant to  
10          a partnership agreement.”.

11 **SEC. 2806. ADMINISTRATION.**

12          (a) REPORTING.—Section 1271E(b) of the Food Se-  
13          curity Act of 1985 (16 U.S.C. 3871e(b)) is amended in  
14          the matter preceding paragraph (1) by inserting “make  
15          publicly available and” after “the Secretary shall”.

16          (b) CONSISTENCY WITH COVERED PROGRAM  
17          RULES.—Section 1271E of the Food Security Act of 1985  
18          (16 U.S.C. 3871e) is amended by adding at the end the  
19          following:

20               “(f) CONSISTENCY WITH COVERED PROGRAM RE-  
21          QUIREMENTS.—

22               “(1) IN GENERAL.—Except as provided in this  
23          subsection, the Secretary shall ensure that the terms  
24          and conditions of a program contract are consistent  
25          with the requirements of the applicable covered pro-

1       gram to be used as part of the applicable partner-  
2       ship agreement.

3           “(2) ADJUSTMENTS.—

4               “(A) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary may, if  
5       the Secretary determines necessary, adjust a  
6       regulatory requirement of a covered program to  
7       be used as a part of a partnership agreement,  
8       or related guidance, as it applies to an eligible  
9       activity carried out under a program contract  
10      entered into pursuant to the partnership agree-  
11      ment—

12               “(i) to provide a simplified process; or

13               “(ii) to better reflect unique local cir-  
14      cumstances.

15               “(B) LIMITATION.—The Secretary shall  
16      not adjust the application of statutory require-  
17      ments for a covered program to be used as a  
18      part of a partnership agreement, including re-  
19      quirements governing appeals, payment limits,  
20      and conservation compliance.

21               “(3) WAIVER.—With respect to a program con-  
22      tract for an eligible activity under the agricultural  
23      conservation easement program, the Secretary may,  
24      in the applicable partnership agreement, waive the  
25      application of clauses (ii) or (iii)(III) of section

1 1265A(4)(A) for purposes of determining the eligi-  
2 bility of land.

3 “(4) CERTIFICATION APPLICABILITY.—With re-  
4 spect to a partnership agreement entered into for ac-  
5 quisition of easements, the Secretary shall apply the  
6 authorities applicable to the eligible partner under  
7 section 1265B(b)(5)(A) if the eligible partner is an  
8 eligible entity certified under such section.

9 “(5) EXEMPTION.—With respect to a program  
10 contract that includes an eligible activity under the  
11 environmental quality incentives program to be in-  
12 stalled and maintained in a State in which irrigation  
13 has not been used significantly for agricultural pur-  
14 poses, as determined by the Secretary, the Secretary  
15 may not consider prior irrigation history when deter-  
16 mining the eligibility of land.

17 “(6) APPLICATION.—Paragraph (1) shall not  
18 apply to partnership agreements funded pursuant to  
19 section 1271C(d).”.

20 **SEC. 2807. CRITICAL CONSERVATION AREAS.**

21 (a) DEFINITIONS.—Section 1271F(a)(2)(C) of the  
22 Food Security Act of 1985 (16 U.S.C. 3871f(a)(2)(C)) is  
23 amended by inserting “, including restoration and en-  
24 hancement of wildlife habitat connectivity and wildlife mi-  
25 gration corridors” before the semicolon at the end.

1 (b) APPLICATIONS.—Section 1271F(b) of the Food  
2 Security Act of 1985 (16 U.S.C. 3871f(b)) is amended  
3 by striking “funds under section 1271D(d)(2)” and insert-  
4 ing “funds allocated under section 1271D(a)(2)”.

## 5 **TITLE III—TRADE**

### 6 **Subtitle A—Food for Peace Act**

#### 7 **SEC. 3101. TRANSFER OF AUTHORITIES TO THE SECRETARY** 8 **OF AGRICULTURE.**

9 (a) IN GENERAL.—Section 201 of the Food for Peace  
10 Act (7 U.S.C. 1721) is amended by striking “(to be imple-  
11 mented by the Administrator)” and inserting “(to be im-  
12 plemented by the Secretary)”.

13 (b) CONFORMING AMENDMENTS.—

14 (1) EMERGENCY AND PRIVATE ASSISTANCE  
15 PROGRAMS.—Sections 202, 203, 205, 207, and 208  
16 of the Food for Peace Act (7 U.S.C. 1722, 1723,  
17 1725, 1726a, and 1726b) are each amended by  
18 striking “Administrator” each place it appears and  
19 inserting “Secretary”.

20 (2) FOOD FOR DEVELOPMENT.—Title III of the  
21 Food for Peace Act (7 U.S.C. 1727 et seq.) is  
22 amended by striking “Administrator” each place it  
23 appears and inserting “Secretary”.

24 (3) DEFINITIONS.—Section 402 of the Food for  
25 Peace Act (7 U.S.C. 1732) is amended—

1 (A) by striking paragraph (1); and

2 (B) by redesignating paragraphs (2)  
3 through (9) as paragraphs (1) through (8), re-  
4 spectively.

5 (4) GENERAL PROVISIONS.—Sections 403 and  
6 404 of the Food for Peace Act (7 U.S.C. 1733 and  
7 1734) are each amended—

8 (A) by striking “or the Administrator, as  
9 appropriate,” each place it appears;

10 (B) in section 403(h), by striking “or Ad-  
11 ministrator”; and

12 (C) in section 404(d), by striking “or the  
13 Administrator”.

14 (5) CONSULTATION.—Section 405 of the Food  
15 for Peace Act (7 U.S.C. 1735) is repealed.

16 (c) TRANSFER OF ASSETS AND LIABILITIES.—The  
17 Food for Peace Act (7 U.S.C. 1691 et seq.) is amended  
18 by adding at the end the following new title:

19 **“TITLE VII—TRANSFER**  
20 **PROVISIONS**

21 **“SEC. 701. TRANSFER OF ASSETS AND LIABILITIES FROM**  
22 **USAID TO SECRETARY OF AGRICULTURE.**

23 “On and after the date of the enactment of this title,  
24 the assets, liabilities, orders, determinations, permits,  
25 grants, loans, contracts, agreements, certificates, and li-

1 censuses of the Administrator of the United States Agency  
2 for International Development, pursuant to any authority  
3 under this Act on or after January 1, 2026, shall be trans-  
4 ferred to the Secretary of Agriculture.

5 **“SEC. 702. TRANSFER OF OTHER AUTHORITIES.**

6 “On and after the date of the enactment of this title,  
7 any authority or responsibility provided by any other pro-  
8 vision of law that was or could have been used by the Ad-  
9 ministrator of the United States Agency for International  
10 Development, prior to such date of enactment to carry out  
11 any function, duty, or responsibility under this Act may  
12 be exercised by the Secretary of Agriculture. A reference  
13 to such Administrator or to such Agency in any provision  
14 of law or regulation relating to any authority or responsi-  
15 bility described in the preceding sentence shall be deemed  
16 to be a reference to the Secretary of Agriculture or the  
17 Department of Agriculture, respectively.

18 **“SEC. 703. RULES AND REGULATIONS.**

19 “Beginning on the date of the enactment of this title,  
20 the Secretary of Agriculture shall promulgate or amend  
21 such rules and regulations (including by issuing or re-  
22 issuing interim final rules) as the Secretary may deter-  
23 mine appropriate, including by amending such rules and  
24 regulations issued by the Administrator of the United  
25 States Agency for International Development with respect

1 to the authorities and responsibilities provided by this Act  
2 and as in effect on the day before such date of enactment,  
3 in order to effectuate and complete the transfer of all  
4 functions and duties previously carried out by that Admin-  
5 istrator to the Secretary.

6 **“SEC. 704. CONSULTATION.**

7 “The Secretary of Agriculture shall consult with the  
8 Secretary of State from time to time in carrying out the  
9 authorities under this Act.”.

10 **SEC. 3102. FOOD AID QUALITY ASSURANCE.**

11 Section 202 of the Food for Peace Act (7 U.S.C.  
12 1722), as amended by section 3101(b)(1), is further  
13 amended—

14 (1) in subsection (a), by striking “any other  
15 provision of law” and inserting “any other provision  
16 of this Act”;

17 (2) in subsection (b)(1), by inserting “assist-  
18 ance, including in the form of” before “agricultural  
19 commodities”;

20 (3) in subsection (b)(2)—

21 (A) in subparagraph (A), by striking  
22 “Agency for International Development” and  
23 inserting “Department of Agriculture”; and

24 (B) in subparagraph (B), by striking  
25 “Agency” and inserting “Department”;

1 (4) in subsection (d)—

2 (A) in paragraph (1), by striking “or” at  
3 the end;

4 (B) in paragraph (2), by striking the pe-  
5 riod at the end and inserting “; or”; and

6 (C) by adding at the end the following new  
7 paragraph:

8 “(3) a nongovernmental organization, as deter-  
9 mined by the Secretary.”;

10 (5) in subsection (e), by adding at the end the  
11 following new paragraph:

12 “(5) LIMITATION ON DIVERSION OF FUNDS.—  
13 Of the funds made available in each fiscal year  
14 under this title to the Secretary, not more than 50  
15 percent may be made available for expenses other  
16 than the procurement of United States-grown agri-  
17 cultural commodities and ocean transportation of  
18 such commodities.”; and

19 (6) in subsection (h)(3), by striking “2023”  
20 and inserting “2031”.

21 **SEC. 3103. REPEAL OF MINIMUM LEVELS OF ASSISTANCE.**

22 Section 204 of the Food for Peace Act (7 U.S.C.  
23 1724) is repealed.

1 **SEC. 3104. FOOD AID CONSULTATIVE GROUP.**

2 Section 205 of the Food for Peace Act (7 U.S.C.  
3 1725), as amended by section 3101(b)(1), is further  
4 amended—

5 (1) in subsection (b)(3), by striking “the Agen-  
6 cy for International Development” and inserting  
7 “the Department of Agriculture”;

8 (2) in subsection (b)(4), by striking “Agency”  
9 and inserting “Secretary”;

10 (3) in subsection (b)—

11 (A) by striking paragraph (2); and

12 (B) by redesignating paragraphs (3)  
13 through (8), as amended, as paragraphs (2)  
14 through (7), respectively; and

15 (4) in subsection (f), by striking “December 31,  
16 2023” and inserting “December 31, 2031”.

17 **SEC. 3105. ISSUANCE OF REGULATIONS; OVERSIGHT, MONI-**  
18 **TORING, AND EVALUATION.**

19 Section 207 of the Food for Peace Act (7 U.S.C.  
20 1726a), as amended by section 3101(b)(1), is further  
21 amended—

22 (1) in subsection (c)(1), by striking “the Agri-  
23 culture Improvement Act of 2018” and inserting  
24 “the Farm, Food, and National Security Act of  
25 2026”;

1           (2) in subsection (d), by striking “, in consulta-  
2           tion with the Secretary,”; and

3           (3) in subsection (f)—

4           (A) in paragraph (1), by striking “, in con-  
5           sultation with the Secretary,”; and

6           (B) in paragraph (4), by striking “2023”  
7           each place it appears and inserting “2031”.

8   **SEC. 3106. INTERNATIONAL FOOD RELIEF PARTNERSHIP.**

9           Section 208(f) of the Food for Peace Act (7 U.S.C.  
10 1726b(f)) is amended to read as follows:

11          “(f) AVAILABILITY OF APPROPRIATIONS.—In addi-  
12          tion to amounts otherwise made available to carry out this  
13          section, of the funds made available in each fiscal year  
14          under this title to the Secretary, not less than  
15          \$15,000,000 shall be made available in each of fiscal years  
16          2027 through 2031 to carry out this section, to remain  
17          available until expended.”.

18   **SEC. 3107. USE OF COMMODITY CREDIT CORPORATION.**

19          Subsection (b) of section 406 of the Food for Peace  
20          Act (7 U.S.C. 1736) is amended to read as follows:

21          “(b) INCLUDED EXPENSES.—With respect to com-  
22          modities made available under titles II and III, the Com-  
23          modity Credit Corporation may pay all associated and in-  
24          cidental costs of such commodities.”.

1 **SEC. 3108. PRE-POSITIONING OF AGRICULTURAL COMMOD-**  
2 **ITIES AND ANNUAL REPORT REGARDING**  
3 **FOOD AID PROGRAMS AND ACTIVITIES.**

4 Section 407 of the Food for Peace Act (7 U.S.C.  
5 1736a) is amended—

6 (1) by amending subsection (c)(1) to read as  
7 follows:

8 “(1) ACQUISITION.—The Secretary shall trans-  
9 fer, arrange for the transportation, and take other  
10 steps necessary to make available agricultural com-  
11 modities to be provided under title II and title III.”;

12 (2) in subsection (c)(2), by striking “Adminis-  
13 trator” and inserting “Secretary”;

14 (3) in subsection (c)(3), by striking “Agency for  
15 International Development” and inserting “Sec-  
16 retary”;

17 (4) in subsection (c)(4)(A), by striking “2023”  
18 each place it appears and inserting “2031”;

19 (5) in subsection (c)(4), by striking “Adminis-  
20 trator” each place it appears and inserting “Sec-  
21 retary”;

22 (6) in subsection (d), in the matter preceding  
23 paragraph (1), by striking “or the Administrator, as  
24 appropriate,”;

25 (7) by amending subsection (f)(1) to read as  
26 follows:

1           “(1) ANNUAL REPORT.—Not later than April 1  
2 of each fiscal year, the Secretary shall submit to the  
3 appropriate committees of Congress a report regard-  
4 ing each program and activity carried out under this  
5 Act during the prior fiscal year.”;

6           (8) in subsection (f)(2)—

7                 (A) by striking subparagraph (I);

8                 (B) by amending subparagraph (H) to  
9 read as follows:

10                 “(H) A statement of the amount of funds  
11 provided to each eligible organization that re-  
12 ceived assistance under this Act and the man-  
13 ner in which those funds were used, including  
14 whether such use was for commodity transpor-  
15 tation or administrative costs.”;

16                 (C) by redesignating subparagraphs (E)  
17 through (H) (as amended) as subparagraphs  
18 (F) through (I), respectively; and

19                 (D) by inserting after subparagraph (D)  
20 the following new subparagraph:

21                 “(E) An assessment of activities specifi-  
22 cally targeting women and girls and the impact  
23 of those activities in addressing the unique  
24 needs of women and girls.”; and

25           (9) by striking subsection (f)(3).

1 **SEC. 3109. DEADLINE FOR AGREEMENTS TO FINANCE**  
2 **SALES OR TO PROVIDE OTHER ASSISTANCE.**

3 Section 408 of the Food for Peace Act (7 U.S.C.  
4 1736b) is amended by striking “2023” and inserting  
5 “2031”.

6 **SEC. 3110. MINIMUM LEVEL OF NONEMERGENCY FOOD AS-**  
7 **SISTANCE.**

8 Section 412 of the Food for Peace Act (7 U.S.C.  
9 1736f) is amended—

10 (1) in subsection (e)(1), by striking “2023” and  
11 inserting “2031”; and

12 (2) by adding at the end the following new sub-  
13 section:

14 “(f) MINIMUM LEVELS OF FUNDING TO ADDRESS  
15 CHILD WASTING.—

16 “(1) MINIMUM LEVEL.—For each of fiscal  
17 years 2027 through 2031, in addition to amounts  
18 otherwise made available, not less than  
19 \$200,000,000 of the amounts made available to  
20 carry out emergency food assistance programs under  
21 title II shall be expended for the procurement and  
22 distribution of ready-to-use therapeutic foods.

23 “(2) APPLICABILITY.—The minimum expendi-  
24 ture requirement under paragraph (1) shall only  
25 apply with respect to a fiscal year if—

1           “(A) the most recent Joint Child Malnutri-  
2           tion Estimates, published annually by the  
3           World Health Organization, the World Bank,  
4           and the United Nations Children’s Fund, report  
5           a rate of children under 5 years of age affected  
6           by child wasting above 5 percent for the year  
7           covered by such report; and

8           “(B) the total amount made available to  
9           carry out programs under title II in the fiscal  
10          year is greater than \$1,200,000,000.

11          “(3) RULE OF CONSTRUCTION.—Nothing in  
12          this subsection may be construed to limit on the au-  
13          thority of the Secretary to purchase or distribute  
14          ready-to-use therapeutic foods in a fiscal year.”.

15   **SEC. 3111. TERMINATION DATE FOR MICRONUTRIENT FOR-**  
16                           **TIFICATION PROGRAMS.**

17          Section 415 of the Food for Peace Act (7  
18   U.S.C.1736g–2) is amended—

19           (1) in subsection (a)(1)—

20                   (A) by striking “Administrator, in con-  
21                   sultation with the”; and

22                   (B) by striking the comma after “Sec-  
23                   retary”; and

24           (2) in subsection (c), by striking “2023” and  
25           inserting “2031”.

1 **SEC. 3112. JOHN OGWONSKI AND DOUG BEREUTER FARM-**  
2 **ER-TO-FARMER PROGRAM.**

3 Section 501 of the Food for Peace Act (7 U.S.C.  
4 1737) is amended—

5 (1) by striking “2023” each place it appears  
6 and inserting “2031”; and

7 (2) in subsection (f)(1), by striking “Adminis-  
8 trator of the Agency for International Development”  
9 and inserting “Secretary”.

10 **SEC. 3113. FOOD FOR PEACE ACT ADMINISTRATION.**

11 (a) IN GENERAL.—During fiscal years 2026 through  
12 2031, the Secretary may use funds made available for the  
13 salaries and expenses of the Foreign Agricultural Service  
14 under an appropriations Act or any other provision of law,  
15 including such funds otherwise obligated as of the date  
16 of the enactment of this Act, to pay the administrative  
17 expenses of the Department of Agriculture in the imple-  
18 mentation of the Food for Peace Act (7 U.S.C. 1691 et  
19 seq.), as amended by this subtitle.

20 (b) CARRYOVER.—For fiscal years 2026 through  
21 2031, the balance of any funds provided to carry out sub-  
22 section (a) for a fiscal year that remains unexpended at  
23 the end of that fiscal year may be carried over for use  
24 during the following fiscal year.

1     **Subtitle B—Agricultural Trade Act**  
2                                     **of 1978**

3     **SEC. 3201. AGRICULTURAL TRADE PROMOTION AND FA-**  
4                                     **CILITATION.**

5             (a) MODIFICATION TO FOREIGN MARKET DEVELOP-  
6     MENT COOPERATOR PROGRAM.—Section 203(c) of the  
7     Agricultural Trade Act of 1978 (7 U.S.C. 5623(c)) is  
8     amended by adding at the end the following new para-  
9     graph:

10                     “(4) TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE TO IMPROVE IN-  
11             FRASTRUCTURE IN FOREIGN MARKETS FOR UNITED  
12             STATES AGRICULTURAL COMMODITIES.—

13                             “(A) IN GENERAL.—As part of the pro-  
14             gram established under this subsection, the Sec-  
15             retary shall enter into contracts or other agree-  
16             ments, with eligible trade organizations or with  
17             nonprofit organizations with expertise in supply  
18             chain infrastructure, to provide needs assess-  
19             ments, training, and other technical assistance  
20             to enhance the capabilities of infrastructure in  
21             new and developing foreign markets, including  
22             infrastructure relating to cold chain capacity,  
23             port improvements, and other developments, to  
24             ensure that United States agricultural commod-

1           ities are not damaged or lost due to deficiencies  
2           of such infrastructure.

3           “(B) LIMITATION.—Of the amounts made  
4           available to carry out the program established  
5           under this subsection, not more than  
6           \$1,500,000 for fiscal year 2027 and not more  
7           than \$5,000,000 for fiscal year 2028 and each  
8           fiscal year thereafter may be made available to  
9           carry out this paragraph.”.

10       (b) REPORT ON COMPETITIVENESS OF UNITED  
11 STATES SPECIALTY CROPS.—Section 203(e)(7) of the Ag-  
12 ricultural Trade Act of 1978 (7 U.S.C. 5623(e)(7)) is  
13 amended to read as follows:

14           “(7) BIENNIAL REPORT.—

15           “(A) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary, in con-  
16 sultation with the United States Trade Rep-  
17 resentative, shall submit every two years to the  
18 appropriate congressional committees a report  
19 detailing the competitiveness of United States  
20 specialty crops.

21           “(B) ELEMENTS.—The report required by  
22 subparagraph (A) shall—

23           “(i) identify and analyze acts, policies,  
24 or practices of foreign countries that con-  
25 stitute significant barriers to, or distor-

1 tions of, United States exports of specialty  
2 crops, including the imposition of—

3 “(I) tariffs (including retaliatory  
4 tariffs) or quotas (including tariff-rate  
5 quotas); and

6 “(II) nontariff barriers, including  
7 technical barriers to trade, sanitary  
8 and phytosanitary measures, import  
9 licensing procedures, and subsidies;

10 “(ii) identify and analyze acts, poli-  
11 cies, or practices of foreign countries that  
12 enhance the competitiveness of imported  
13 specialty crops with domestic specialty crop  
14 producers, including—

15 “(I) the subsidization of exports  
16 from the producing country; and

17 “(II) the impact of any lack or  
18 circumvention of labor and environ-  
19 mental laws in the producing country;

20 “(iii) identify and analyze any dif-  
21 ferences in applicable food safety regula-  
22 tions of foreign countries that may result  
23 in imported specialty crops posing a risk to  
24 United States consumers;

1 “(iv) make an estimate of the impacts  
2 on the competitiveness of United States  
3 specialty crops of any act, policy, or prac-  
4 tice identified under clauses (i) and (ii);

5 “(v) assess the extent to which each  
6 act, policy, or practice identified under  
7 clauses (i) and (ii) are subject to inter-  
8 national agreements to which the United  
9 States is a party;

10 “(vi) include information with respect  
11 to any action taken by the executive or leg-  
12 islative branches during the two years pre-  
13 ceding submission of the report, or ex-  
14 pected to be taken after submission of the  
15 report, to eliminate any act, policy, or  
16 practice identified under clauses (i) and  
17 (ii), including—

18 “(I) any action under section  
19 301;

20 “(II) negotiations or consulta-  
21 tions with foreign governments, which  
22 may include engagement through the  
23 standing committee on sanitary and  
24 phytosanitary matters established

1 under a free trade agreement to which  
2 the United States is a party; and

3 “(III) action at the World Trade  
4 Organization, including dispute settle-  
5 ment actions, consultations, or nego-  
6 tiations; and

7 “(vii) a description of—

8 “(I) any funds provided under  
9 subsection (f)(3)(A)(iv) that were not  
10 obligated in the fiscal year preceding  
11 submission of the report; and

12 “(II) the reason such funds were  
13 not obligated.

14 “(C) COMMENT PERIOD.—In preparing the  
15 report required by subparagraph (A), the Sec-  
16 retary, in coordination with the United States  
17 Trade Representative, shall seek and consider  
18 comments from the public and from the Agri-  
19 cultural Technical Advisory Committee for  
20 Trade in Fruits and Vegetables.

21 “(D) FORM OF REPORT.—The report re-  
22 quired by subparagraph (A) shall be made  
23 available to the public in machine-readable for-  
24 mat.

1           “(E) APPROPRIATE CONGRESSIONAL COM-  
2           MITTEES DEFINED.—In this paragraph, the  
3           term ‘appropriate congressional committees’  
4           means—

5                   “(i) the Committee on Agriculture  
6                   and the Committee on Ways and Means of  
7                   the House of Representatives; and

8                   “(ii) the Committee on Agriculture,  
9                   Nutrition, and Forestry and the Com-  
10                  mittee on Finance of the Senate.”.

11          (c) MODIFICATION AND EXTENSION OF FUNDING.—  
12          Section 203(f) of the Agricultural Trade Act of 1978 (7  
13          U.S.C. 5623(f)) is amended—

14               (1) by amending paragraph (2) to read as fol-  
15          lows:

16                   “(2) FUNDING AMOUNT.—Of the funds of, or  
17                   an equal value of commodities owned by, the Com-  
18                   modity Credit Corporation, the Secretary shall use  
19                   to carry out this section the following amounts, to  
20                   remain available until expended:

21                           “(A) For fiscal year 2026, \$255,000,000.

22                           “(B) For fiscal year 2027, \$500,000,000.

23                           “(C) For each of fiscal years 2028 through  
24                   2031, \$533,000,000.”; and

25               (2) in paragraph (3)—

1 (A) in the matter preceding subparagraph  
2 (A)(i), by striking “For each of fiscal years  
3 2019 through 2023, the Secretary” and insert-  
4 ing “The Secretary”;

5 (B) in subparagraph (A)—

6 (i) in clause (i), by striking “not less  
7 than” and all that follows through the end  
8 and inserting: “not less than—

9 “(I) \$200,000,000 for fiscal year  
10 2026;

11 “(II) \$400,000,000 for fiscal  
12 year 2027; and

13 “(III) \$410,000,000 for each of  
14 fiscal years 2028 through 2031.”;

15 (ii) in clause (ii), by striking “not less  
16 than” and all that follows through the end  
17 and inserting: “not less than—

18 “(I) \$34,500,000 for fiscal year  
19 2026;

20 “(II) \$70,500,000 for fiscal year  
21 2027; and

22 “(III) \$82,000,000 for each of  
23 fiscal years 2028 through 2031.”;

1 (iii) in clause (iii), by striking “not  
2 more than” and all that follows through  
3 the end and inserting: “not more than—  
4 “(I) \$8,000,000 for each of fiscal  
5 year 2026 and 2027; and  
6 “(II) \$16,000,000 for each of fis-  
7 cal years 2028 through 2031.”;  
8 (iv) in clause (iv), by striking “Cor-  
9 poration” and all that follows through the  
10 end and inserting: “Corporation—  
11 “(I) \$9,000,000 for fiscal year  
12 2026; and  
13 “(II) \$18,000,000 for each of fis-  
14 cal years 2027 through 2031.”; and  
15 (v) in clause (v)(I), by striking “com-  
16 modities,” and all that follows through the  
17 end and inserting “commodities,  
18 \$3,500,000 for each of fiscal years 2026  
19 and 2027 and \$7,000,000 for each of fiscal  
20 years 2028 through 2031”.

21 (d) REPEALS.—The following provisions of law are  
22 repealed:

23 (1) Section 718 of title VII of the Agriculture,  
24 Rural Development, Food and Drug Administration,  
25 and Related Agencies Appropriations Act, 1999 (as

1 enacted by section 101(a) of division A of Public  
2 Law 105–277; 7 U.S.C. 5623 note).

3 (2) Section 10602 of Public Law 119–21 (7  
4 U.S.C. 5623a).

5 **SEC. 3202. PRESERVING FOREIGN MARKETS FOR GOODS**  
6 **USING COMMON NAMES.**

7 (a) DEFINITIONS.—Section 102 of the Agricultural  
8 Trade Act of 1978 (7 U.S.C. 5602) is amended—

9 (1) in the matter preceding paragraph (1), by  
10 striking “As used in this Act—” and inserting “In  
11 this Act:”;

12 (2) by redesignating paragraphs (2) through  
13 (8) as paragraphs (3), (5), (6), (7), (8), (9), and  
14 (4), respectively, and reordering such paragraphs in  
15 numerical sequence;

16 (3) by inserting after paragraph (1) the fol-  
17 lowing:

18 “(2) COMMON NAME.—

19 “(A) IN GENERAL.—The term ‘common  
20 name’ means a name that, as determined by the  
21 Secretary—

22 “(i) is ordinarily or customarily used  
23 for an agricultural commodity or food  
24 product;

1 “(ii) is typically placed on the pack-  
2 aging and product label of the agricultural  
3 commodity or food product;

4 “(iii) with respect to wine—

5 “(I) is—

6 “(aa) ordinarily or custom-  
7 arily used for a wine grape vari-  
8 etal name; or

9 “(bb) a traditional term or  
10 expression that is typically placed  
11 on the packaging and label of the  
12 wine; and

13 “(II) does not mean any appella-  
14 tion of origin for wine listed in sub-  
15 part C of part 9 of title 27, Code of  
16 Federal Regulations (or successor reg-  
17 ulations); and

18 “(iv) the use of which is consistent  
19 with standards of the Codex Alimentarius  
20 Commission.

21 “(B) EXAMPLES.—The following names,  
22 among others, shall be considered as common  
23 names as such term is defined for purposes of  
24 carrying out subparagraph (A):

1           “(i) With respect to food products:  
2           american, asiago, basmati, black forest  
3           ham, blue, blue vein, bologna, bologne,  
4           bratwurst, brie, burrata, camembert,  
5           capicola and capocollo, cheddar, chevre,  
6           chorizo, colby, cottage cheese, coulommiers,  
7           cream cheese, danbo, edam, emmental,  
8           feta, fontina, gorgonzola, gouda, grana,  
9           gruyere, havarti, kielbasa, limburgger and  
10          limburgo, mascarpone, monterey jack,  
11          mortadella, munster and muenster, neuf-  
12          chatel, parmesan, pancetta, pecorino, pep-  
13          per jack, prosciutto, provolone, ricotta, ro-  
14          mano, saint-paulin, salame, salami, samsa,  
15          and swiss, tilsiter, and tomme.

16           “(ii) With respect to wine:

17           “(I) The list of grape varietal  
18           terms in section 4.91 of title 27, Code  
19           of Federal Regulations (or a successor  
20           regulation).

21           “(II) The grape variety designa-  
22           tions administratively approved by the  
23           Alcohol and Tobacco Tax and Trade  
24           Bureau.

1                   “(III) The following nonvarietal  
2 descriptors: chateau, classic, clos,  
3 cream, crusted and crusting, noble,  
4 ruby, sur lie, tawny, vintage, and vin-  
5 tage character.

6                   “(iii) With respect to beer: bitter, pale  
7 ale, india pale ale, mild, porter, stout,  
8 barleywine, dubbel, quadrupel, witbier,  
9 saison, biere de garde, oud red, altbier,  
10 weisse, gose, hefeweizen, dunkel, helles,  
11 rauchbier, pilsener, maerzen, schwarzbier,  
12 doppelbock, bock, kellerbier, munchener  
13 and munich style, oktoberfest, dortmunder,  
14 kolsch and koelsch, cream, grodziskie,  
15 lager.

16                   “(C) CONSIDERATIONS.—In making a de-  
17 termination under subparagraph (A), the Sec-  
18 retary may take into account—

19                   “(i) competent sources, such as dic-  
20 tionaries, newspapers, professional journals  
21 and literature, and information posted on  
22 websites that are determined by the Sec-  
23 retary to be reliable in reporting market  
24 information;

1           “(ii) the use of the common name in  
2           a domestic, regional, or international prod-  
3           uct standard, including a standard promul-  
4           gated by the Codex Alimentarius Commis-  
5           sion, for the agricultural commodity or  
6           food product; and

7           “(iii) the ordinary and customary use  
8           of the common name in the production or  
9           marketing of the agricultural commodity or  
10          food product in the United States or in  
11          other countries.

12          “(D) RULE OF CONSTRUCTION.—The enu-  
13          meration of certain names under subparagraph  
14          (B) may not be construed to limit or restrict  
15          the ability of the Secretary to determine, con-  
16          sistent with subparagraph (A), that any other  
17          name is a common name for purposes of this  
18          section.”; and

19          (4) in subparagraph (A) of paragraph (7) (as  
20          so redesignated)—

21                 (A) in clause (v), by striking “; or” at the  
22                 end and inserting a semicolon;

23                 (B) in clause (vi), by striking the period at  
24                 the end and inserting “; or”; and

25                 (C) by adding at the end the following:

1                   “(vii) prohibits or disallows the use of  
2                   a name determined or considered to be a  
3                   common name pursuant to paragraph  
4                   (2).”.

5           (b) NEGOTIATIONS TO DEFEND USE OF COMMON  
6 NAMES.—Title III of the Agricultural Trade Act of 1978  
7 (7 U.S.C. 5652 et seq.) is amended by adding at the end  
8 the following:

9   **“SEC. 303. NEGOTIATIONS TO DEFEND THE USE OF COM-**  
10                   **MON NAMES.**

11           “(a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall coordinate  
12 efforts with the United States Trade Representative to se-  
13 cure the right of United States agricultural producers,  
14 processors, and exporters to use common names for agri-  
15 cultural commodities or food products in foreign markets  
16 through the negotiation of bilateral, plurilateral, or multi-  
17 lateral agreements, memoranda of understanding, or ex-  
18 changes of letters that assure the current and future use  
19 of each common name identified by the Secretary in con-  
20 nection with United States agricultural commodities or  
21 food products.

22           “(b) BRIEFING.—The Secretary and the United  
23 States Trade Representative shall jointly provide to the  
24 Committee on Agriculture of the House of Representa-  
25 tives, the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and For-

1 estry of the Senate, the Committee on Ways and Means  
2 of the House of Representatives, and the Committee on  
3 Finance of the Senate, a briefing, twice annually, on ef-  
4 forts and successes in carrying out subsection (a).”.

5 **SEC. 3203. INTERAGENCY SEASONAL AND PERISHABLE**  
6 **FRUITS AND VEGETABLE WORKING GROUP.**

7 Subtitle B of title IV of the Agricultural Trade Act  
8 of 1978 (7 U.S.C. 5671 et seq.) is amended by adding  
9 at the end the following:

10 **“SEC. 418. INTERAGENCY SEASONAL AND PERISHABLE**  
11 **FRUITS AND VEGETABLES WORKING GROUP.**

12 “(a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary (acting through  
13 the Under Secretary of Agriculture for Trade and Foreign  
14 Agricultural Affairs), the United States Trade Represent-  
15 ative, the Secretary of Commerce, and the heads of other  
16 Federal agencies or entities as determined to be appro-  
17 priate by the Secretary, shall jointly establish an inter-  
18 agency working group (referred to in this section as the  
19 ‘working group’) composed of representatives from each  
20 agency to monitor and assess, on an ongoing basis, sea-  
21 sonal and perishable fruits and vegetables trade data and  
22 related information.

23 “(b) CONSULTATION.—The working group shall con-  
24 sult with the Agricultural Trade Advisory Committee, rel-  
25 evant seasonal or perishable agricultural producers, and

1 other relevant trade associations to identify threats that  
2 imports pose to domestic producers of seasonal and perish-  
3 able fruits and vegetables.

4 “(c) TRADE ACTIONS AND INVESTIGATIONS.—The  
5 working group shall coordinate as appropriate regarding  
6 potential additional trade actions and investigations with  
7 respect to any seasonal or perishable fruits and vegetables,  
8 as determined to be advisable by the working group.

9 “(d) RECOMMENDATIONS TO THE SECRETARY.—The  
10 working group shall recommend programs or assistance  
11 that the Secretary could provide to producers of seasonal  
12 and perishable fruits and vegetables to address market im-  
13 pacts.”.

## 14 **Subtitle C—Other Agricultural** 15 **Trade Laws**

### 16 **SEC. 3301. GROWING AMERICAN FOOD EXPORTS.**

17 Section 1543A of the Food, Agriculture, Conserva-  
18 tion, and Trade Act of 1990 (7 U.S.C. 5679) is amended  
19 in subsection (d), by striking “2023” and inserting  
20 “2031”.

### 21 **SEC. 3302. FOOD FOR PROGRESS ACT OF 1985.**

22 Section 1110 of the Food Security Act of 1985 (com-  
23 monly referred to as the “Food for Progress Act of 1985”;  
24 7 U.S.C. 1736o) is amended—

25 (1) in subsection (c)—

1 (A) by striking “enter into” and inserting  
2 “annually enter into two or more”; and

3 (B) by inserting “two or more” before “eli-  
4 gible entities”;

5 (2) in subsection (f)(3), by striking “2023” and  
6 inserting “2031”;

7 (3) in subsection (g), by striking “2023” and  
8 inserting “2031”;

9 (4) in subsection (k), by striking “2023” and  
10 inserting “2031”;

11 (5) in subsection (l)—

12 (A) in paragraph (1), by striking “2023”  
13 and inserting “2031”; and

14 (B) in the heading of paragraph (4), by  
15 striking “HUMANITARIAN OR DEVELOPMENT”  
16 and inserting “DEVELOPMENT”;

17 (6) in subsection (m)(2), by striking “humani-  
18 tarian and”; and

19 (7) in subsection (n)(2)(C), by striking “Com-  
20 mittee on International Relations” and inserting  
21 “Committee on Foreign Affairs”.

22 **SEC. 3303. BILL EMERSON HUMANITARIAN TRUST ACT.**

23 Section 302 of the Bill Emerson Humanitarian Trust  
24 Act (7 U.S.C. 1736f–1) is amended—

- 1 (1) in subsection (b)(2)(B)(i), by striking  
2 “2023” each place it appears and inserting “2031”;
- 3 (2) in subsection (c)(1)(C), by striking “the Ad-  
4 ministrator” and inserting “the Secretary”;
- 5 (3) by striking subsection (c)(1)(D);
- 6 (4) in subsection (f)(2)(A), by inserting “by the  
7 Secretary” after “reimbursed”; and
- 8 (5) in subsection (h),
- 9 (A) in paragraph (1), by striking “2023”  
10 and inserting “2031”; and
- 11 (B) in paragraph (2), by striking “2026”  
12 and inserting “2031”.

13 **SEC. 3304. PROMOTION OF AGRICULTURAL EXPORTS TO**  
14 **EMERGING MARKETS.**

15 Section 1542(a) of the Food, Agriculture, Conserva-  
16 tion, and Trade Act of 1990 (7 U.S.C. 5622 note; Public  
17 Law 101–624) is amended by striking “2023” and insert-  
18 ing “2031”.

19 **SEC. 3305. INTERNATIONAL AGRICULTURAL EDUCATION**  
20 **FELLOWSHIP PROGRAM.**

21 Section 3307 of the Agriculture Improvement Act of  
22 2018 (7 U.S.C. 3295) is amended—

- 23 (1) in subsection (g)(1), by striking “2019  
24 through 2023” and inserting “2027 through 2031”;

1           (2) by redesignating subsection (g) as sub-  
2           section (h); and

3           (3) by inserting after subsection (f) the fol-  
4           lowing:

5           “(g) PROGRAM CONTINUITY.—To assist eligible  
6 countries in the long-term development of enduring,  
7 school-based agricultural education and youth extension  
8 programs, the Secretary shall, to the maximum extent  
9 practicable—

10           “(1) implement the fellowship program in each  
11 participating host country for not fewer than 3 con-  
12 secutive years; and

13           “(2) ensure that contracts awarded to outside  
14 organizations are multiyear.”.

15 **SEC. 3306. INTERNATIONAL AGRICULTURE CULTURAL IM-**  
16 **MERSION AND EXCHANGE PROGRAM.**

17           Title III of the Agriculture Improvement Act of 2018  
18 (Public Law 115–334) is amended by adding at the end  
19 the following new section (and by conforming the table of  
20 contents in section 1(b) accordingly):

21 **“SEC. 3313. INTERNATIONAL AGRICULTURE CULTURAL IM-**  
22 **MERSION AND EXCHANGE PROGRAM.**

23           “(a) DEFINITION.—In this section:

24           “(1) ELIGIBLE CANDIDATE.—The term ‘eligible  
25 candidate’ means an individual that—

1           “(A) is between the ages of 19 and 30  
2           years;

3           “(B) has demonstrated experience in agri-  
4           cultural sciences, food systems, and food and  
5           nutrition education;

6           “(C) is prepared to live in 1 or more host  
7           countries for at least 2 months or up to 6  
8           months; and

9           “(D) is a resident of the United States.

10          “(2) ELIGIBLE COUNTRY.—The term ‘eligible  
11          country’ means a country that has agricultural trade  
12          relations with the United States, as recognized by  
13          the Foreign Agriculture Service.

14          “(3) PROGRAM.—The term ‘Program’ means  
15          the International Agriculture Cultural Immersion  
16          and Exchange Program established under subsection  
17          (b).

18          “(4) SECRETARY.—The term ‘Secretary’ means  
19          the Secretary of Agriculture.

20          “(b) ESTABLISHMENT.—The Secretary shall estab-  
21          lish an international cultural immersion and exchange pro-  
22          gram, to be known as the ‘International Agriculture Cul-  
23          tural Immersion and Exchange Program’, under which the  
24          Secretary shall—

1           “(1) provide eligible candidates with inter-  
2           national cultural exchange and immersion experi-  
3           ences focused on agricultural sciences, food systems,  
4           and food and nutrition education through placement  
5           with host families in eligible countries; and

6           “(2) place in the United States with host fami-  
7           lies individuals that meet the requirement of sub-  
8           section (a)(1)(A) and are residents of eligible coun-  
9           tries to experience United States agriculture, trade  
10          relations, and culture.

11          “(c) PURPOSES.—The purposes of the Program  
12          are—

13               “(1) to develop globally minded citizens of the  
14               United States; and

15               “(2) to strengthen and enhance trade between  
16               eligible countries and the United States in agricul-  
17               tural, food, nutrition, and environmental industries.

18          “(d) COOPERATIVE AGREEMENT.—

19               “(1) IN GENERAL.—To administer the Pro-  
20               gram, the Secretary shall enter into a cooperative  
21               agreement with a nonprofit organization that has ex-  
22               perience in implementing international cultural ex-  
23               change programs focused on agricultural sciences,  
24               food and nutrition education, and cultural under-  
25               standing through placement with host families.

1           “(2) PRIORITY.—In carrying out paragraph (1),  
2           the Secretary shall give priority to a nonprofit orga-  
3           nization with which the Secretary has a memo-  
4           randum of understanding dated not earlier than  
5           January 1, 2019.

6           “(3) MATCHING FUNDS.—As a condition of en-  
7           tering into a cooperative agreement under this sub-  
8           section, a nonprofit organization shall provide equal  
9           matching funds from non-Federal sources.

10          “(e) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There  
11         is authorized to be appropriated \$10,000,000 for each of  
12         fiscal years 2027 through 2031 to carry out this section.”.

13         **SEC. 3307. INTERNATIONAL FOOD SECURITY TECHNICAL**  
14   **ASSISTANCE.**

15         Section 1543B(f) of the Food, Agriculture, Conserva-  
16         tion, and Trade Act of 1990 is amended by striking  
17         “2023” and inserting “2031”.

18         **SEC. 3308. MCGOVERN-DOLE INTERNATIONAL FOOD FOR**  
19   **EDUCATION AND CHILD NUTRITION PRO-**  
20   **GRAM.**

21         Section 3107 of the Farm Security and Rural Invest-  
22         ment Act of 2002 (7 U.S.C. 1736o–1) is amended—

23                         (1) in subsection (c)(2)(B)(ii), by inserting “or  
24                         lower middle” before “income”;

1           (2) in subsection (h)(2), by striking “Com-  
2       mittee on International Relations” and inserting  
3       “Committee on Foreign Affairs”;

4           (3) in subsection (l)(2), by striking “2023” and  
5       inserting “2031”; and

6           (4) in subsection (l)(4), by striking “not more  
7       than 10 percent” and inserting “not less than 8 per-  
8       cent, but not more than 15 percent”.

9       **SEC. 3309. GLOBAL CROP DIVERSITY TRUST.**

10       Section 3202 of the Food, Conservation, and Energy  
11       Act of 2008 (22 U.S.C. 2220a note; Public Law 110–246)  
12       is amended—

13           (1) by amending subsection (b)(1) to read as  
14       follows:

15           “(1) IN GENERAL.—For the period of fiscal  
16       years 2027 through 2031, the aggregate contribu-  
17       tions of funds of the Federal Government provided  
18       to the Trust under this section shall not exceed 33  
19       percent of the total amount of funds contributed to  
20       the Trust from all sources and for all purposes.”;

21           (2) in subsection (b)(2)—

22               (A) by inserting “under this section” after  
23       “Trust”; and

24               (B) by striking “2023” and inserting  
25       “2031”; and

1           (3) in subsection (c), by striking “fiscal years  
2           2014 through 2023” and inserting “fiscal years  
3           2023 through 2031”.

4 **SEC. 3310. LOCAL AND REGIONAL FOOD AID PROCURE-**  
5 **MENT PROJECTS.**

6           Section 3206(e)(1) of the Food, Conservation, and  
7 Energy Act of 2008 (7 U.S.C. 1726e(e)(1)) is amended  
8 by striking “2023” and inserting “2031”.

9 **SEC. 3311. AGRICULTURAL TRADE ENFORCEMENT TASK**  
10 **FORCE.**

11           (a) ESTABLISHMENT.—Not later than 30 days after  
12 the date of the enactment of this Act, the President shall  
13 establish a joint task force, to be known as the “Agricul-  
14 tural Trade Enforcement Task Force” (referred to in this  
15 section as the “Task Force”).

16           (b) DUTIES.—

17           (1) IN GENERAL.—The Task Force shall—

18                   (A) identify trade barriers to United States  
19 agricultural exports that are vulnerable to dis-  
20 pute settlement under the World Trade Organi-  
21 zation (“WTO”) or other trade agreements;

22                   (B) develop and implement a strategy for  
23 enforcing violations of trade agreements related  
24 to these trade barriers;

1 (C) identify like-minded trading partners  
2 for specific trade barriers that could act as co-  
3 complainants or primary complainants on dis-  
4 putes that are systemically or economically im-  
5 portant to the United States; and

6 (D) report quarterly to Congress on  
7 progress toward resolving cases or filing dis-  
8 putes.

9 (2) CONSULTATION.—In carrying out its duties  
10 under this subsection, the Task Force shall regularly  
11 consult, to the extent necessary and appropriate,  
12 with the following:

13 (A) Relevant stakeholders in the private  
14 sector, including the agricultural trade advisory  
15 committees.

16 (B) Federal departments and agencies that  
17 are not represented on the Task Force.

18 (C) Like-minded trading partners that are  
19 similarly concerned with trade barriers and are  
20 potential participants in the dispute settlement  
21 process.

22 (c) MEMBERSHIP.—

23 (1) IN GENERAL.—The Task Force shall be  
24 comprised of the following members:

1 (A) One or more employees of the Foreign  
2 Agricultural Service, who shall be appointed by  
3 the Under Secretary for Trade and Foreign Ag-  
4 ricultural Affairs.

5 (B) One of more employees of the Office of  
6 the United States Trade Representative, who  
7 shall be appointed jointly by the General Coun-  
8 sel for the Office of the United States Trade  
9 Representative and the Chief Agricultural Ne-  
10 gotiator.

11 (C) One or more employees of other Fed-  
12 eral agencies as needed, who shall be appointed  
13 jointly by the officials specified in subpara-  
14 graphs (A) and (B).

15 (2) QUALIFICATION.—Employees of the Federal  
16 agencies specified in subparagraphs (A), (B), and  
17 (C) of paragraph (1) may be appointed as members  
18 of the Task Force only if such employees have ap-  
19 propriate expertise in agricultural trade policy and  
20 trade enforcement.

21 (d) REPORT.—

22 (1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 90 days after  
23 the date of enactment of this Act, and on a quar-  
24 terly basis thereafter, the Task Force shall submit  
25 to Congress a report on its progress in identifying

1 and addressing trade barriers to United States agri-  
2 cultural exports.

3 (2) MATTERS TO BE INCLUDED.—The report  
4 required by this subsection shall include the fol-  
5 lowing:

6 (A) A description of the systemic and eco-  
7 nomically significant trade barriers that have  
8 been identified.

9 (B) A justification for including the identi-  
10 fied trade barriers.

11 (C) A description of the progress that has  
12 been made in developing dispute settlement  
13 cases and further information that is required.

14 (D) The current status of ongoing disputes  
15 at the WTO and implementation of panel, arbi-  
16 tration, or appellate body decisions.

17 (3) ADDITIONAL MATTERS TO BE INCLUDED IN  
18 INITIAL REPORT.—The initial report required by this  
19 subsection shall, in addition to the matters described  
20 in subparagraphs (A), (B), (C), and (D) of para-  
21 graph (2), include a plan to file a request under the  
22 WTO dispute settlement process for consultations to  
23 address India's minimum price supports. The plan  
24 shall include—

1 (A) an identification of like-minded trading  
2 partners that could act as co-complainants or  
3 primary complainants with respect to the re-  
4 quest;

5 (B) a description of specific claims the  
6 United States intends to make with respect to  
7 the request; and

8 (C) a timeline to—

9 (i) request consultations; and

10 (ii) request the establishment of a  
11 panel not later than 60 days after the date  
12 of the request for consultations if India  
13 does not provide assurances that it will ad-  
14 dress its minimum price supports.

15 (e) CONGRESSIONAL BRIEFINGS.—The United States  
16 Trade Representative and the Secretary of Agriculture  
17 shall provide briefings on the Task Force to appropriate  
18 Members of Congress and congressional staff.

19 **SEC. 3312. REPORT ON INTERNATIONAL SHRIMP TRADE.**

20 (a) REPORT REQUIRED.—Not later than 180 days  
21 after the date of enactment of this Act, the Comptroller  
22 General of the United States shall submit to the appro-  
23 priate congressional committees a report that examines  
24 policy options available to the Secretary of Agriculture to

1 boost the competitiveness of domestic shrimp in global and  
2 domestic markets.

3 (b) CONTENTS.—The report required by subsection  
4 (a) shall—

5 (1) include an analysis of—

6 (A) the Secretary’s authority with regard  
7 to shrimp and other seafood products;

8 (B) domestic shrimp and other seafood  
9 producers’ access to financial support pro-  
10 grams; and

11 (C) ways to facilitate interagency coordina-  
12 tion under existing authorities around common  
13 goals for shrimp and other seafood commodities  
14 with respect to tariffs, market access policies,  
15 and other nontariff barriers; and

16 (2) identify trade or other legal barriers to  
17 United States shrimp and seafood production that  
18 are vulnerable to dispute settlement through the  
19 World Trade Organization or otherwise under bilat-  
20 eral or multilateral trade agreements.

21 (c) APPROPRIATE CONGRESSIONAL COMMITTEES.—

22 In this section, the term “appropriate congressional com-  
23 mittees” means—

1           (1) the Committee on Agriculture and the Com-  
2           mittee on Energy and Commerce of the House of  
3           Representatives; and

4           (2) the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition,  
5           and Forestry and the Committee on Health, Edu-  
6           cation, Labor, and Pensions of the Senate.

## 7           **Subtitle D—Other Trade Matters**

### 8           **SEC. 3401. REPORT ON MODIFICATIONS TO USMCA.**

9           (a) REPORT REQUIRED.—The Secretary of Agri-  
10          culture, in coordination with the United States Trade Rep-  
11          resentative, shall submit to the appropriate congressional  
12          committees and concurrently make publicly available,  
13          prior to July 1, 2026, a report on how any expected or  
14          implemented modification or revocation of any part of the  
15          USMCA (as such term is defined in section 3 of the  
16          United States-Mexico-Canada Agreement Implementation  
17          Act (19 U.S.C. 4502(9))) in any manner will affect the  
18          importation or exportation of any article that is a covered  
19          agricultural commodity, including—

20                 (1) the anticipated effects on relevant product  
21                 prices and projections as a result of such revocation  
22                 or modification, including—

23                         (A) the short- and long-term impacts on  
24                         domestic pricing;

25                         (B) changes in consumer food prices;

1 (C) expected or anticipated shifts in input  
2 costs for domestic producers; and

3 (D) regional or sector-specific variations in  
4 pricing impacts; and

5 (2) the forecasted shifts in farm revenue and  
6 profitability for domestic farmers, foresters, ranch-  
7 ers, and other producers as a result of such revoca-  
8 tion or modification, including—

9 (A) impacts on net farm income and debt-  
10 to-asset ratios;

11 (B) sector-specific effects on crops, live-  
12 stock, and specialty crops;

13 (C) effects on small, medium, and large  
14 farm operations;

15 (D) impacts on agricultural exports, mar-  
16 ket access, and global competitiveness; and

17 (E) estimated effects on rural employment  
18 and economies.

19 (b) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

20 (1) APPROPRIATE CONGRESSIONAL COMMIT-  
21 TEES.—The term “appropriate congressional com-  
22 mittees” means—

23 (A) the Committee on Agriculture, the  
24 Committee on Ways and Means, and the Com-

1           committee on Foreign Affairs of the House of Rep-  
2           resentatives; and

3                   (B) the Committee on Agriculture, Nutri-  
4           tion, and Forestry, the Committee on Finance,  
5           and the Committee on Foreign Relations of the  
6           Senate.

7           (2) COVERED AGRICULTURAL COMMODITY.—  
8           The term “covered agricultural commodity” has the  
9           meaning given the term “agricultural commodity”  
10          under section 102(1) of the Agricultural Trade Act  
11          of 1978 (7 U.S.C. 5602(1)).

12 **SEC. 3402. SENSE OF CONGRESS AND REPORT ON ARGEN-**  
13 **TINE BEEF IMPORTS.**

14          (a) SENSE OF CONGRESS.—It is the sense of Con-  
15          gress as follows:

16               (1) Congress finds that United States ranchers  
17           and cattle producers produce the healthiest and  
18           highest quality beef on the planet.

19               (2) Any official trade agreement between the  
20           United States and Argentina—including the United  
21           States of America—Argentine Republic Agreement  
22           on Reciprocal Trade and Investment—that allow Ar-  
23           gentina to export ship fresh and frozen beef into the  
24           United States market under expanded quotas is det-

1 rimental to domestic ranchers, cattle producers, and  
2 cattle markets.

3 (3) Congress recognizes that many Americans  
4 enjoy eating beef and recognizes that many Ameri-  
5 cans want their beef raised domestically.

6 (4) Congress further concludes that any agree-  
7 ment to allow increased beef from Argentina into  
8 United States markets introduces unfair competition  
9 into an already volatile market as this imported beef  
10 could depress cattle prices at United States sale  
11 barns and have a ripple effect throughout the do-  
12 mestic economy affecting feed suppliers, equipment  
13 dealers, veterinarians, and other rural businesses.

14 (5) Congress additionally concludes that United  
15 States beef production is the safest in the world and  
16 that inconsistent enforcement abroad could put  
17 American consumers at risk and create an uneven  
18 regulatory playing field.

19 (b) REPORT.—

20 (1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 180 days  
21 after the date on which the United States signs any  
22 formal trade agreement with Argentina that includes  
23 a change to the tariff rate quotas or other duties on  
24 fresh and frozen beef imported from Argentina the  
25 Secretary of Agriculture and the United States

1 Trade Representative shall jointly submit to the ap-  
2 propriate congressional committees a report on the  
3 effect of such imported beef on domestic beef and  
4 cattle markets, including—

5 (A) American consumer sentiment about  
6 the quality of beef in the United States;

7 (B) impacts on domestic cattle prices;

8 (C) effects on domestic beef prices;

9 (D) changes to the domestic cattle herd  
10 size; and

11 (E) rancher sentiments toward expanding  
12 their herds.

13 (2) APPROPRIATE CONGRESSIONAL COMMIT-  
14 TEES DEFINED.—In this section, the term “appro-  
15 priate congressional committees” means—

16 (A) the Committee on Agriculture, the  
17 Committee on Ways and Means, and the Com-  
18 mittee on Foreign Affairs of the House of Rep-  
19 resentatives; and

20 (B) the Committee on Agriculture, Nutri-  
21 tion, and Forestry, the Committee on Finance,  
22 and the Committee on Foreign Relations of the  
23 Senate.

1                   **TITLE IV—NUTRITION**  
2                   **Subtitle A—Supplemental**  
3                   **Nutrition Assistance Program**

4   **SEC. 4101. DECLARATION OF POLICY.**

5           Section 2 of the Food and Nutrition Act of 2008 (7  
6 U.S.C. 2011) is amended—

7                   (1) by inserting “(a)” before “It”, and

8                   (2) by adding at the end the following:

9           “(b) Congress recognizes the supplemental nutrition  
10 assistance program allows low-income households to ob-  
11 tain supplemental food for an active, healthy life that sup-  
12 ports the prevention of—

13                   “(1) diet-related chronic disease, including—

14                           “(A) obesity;

15                           “(B) diabetes;

16                           “(C) hypertension;

17                           “(D) heart disease; and

18                           “(E) cancer;

19                   “(2) disability;

20                   “(3) premature death;

21                   “(4) unsustainable health care costs; and

22                   “(5) undermining of military readiness.

23           “(c) Accordingly, it is also the policy of the Congress  
24 that the Secretary should administer the supplemental nu-  
25 trition assistance program in a manner that will provide

1 participants, especially children, access to a variety of  
2 foods essential to optimal health and well-being.”.

3 **SEC. 4102. PROHIBITED FEES.**

4 Section 7(h)(13)(B) of the Food and Nutrition Act  
5 of 2008 (7 U.S.C. 2016(h)(13)(B)) is amended by striking  
6 “Effective through fiscal year 2023, neither” and insert-  
7 ing “Neither”.

8 **SEC. 4103. SNAP STAFFING FLEXIBILITY.**

9 Section 11 of the Food and Nutrition Act of 2008  
10 (7 U.S.C. 2020) is amended by adding at the end the fol-  
11 lowing:

12 “(y) SNAP STAFFING FLEXIBILITY.—

13 “(1) IN GENERAL.—Notwithstanding section  
14 11(e)(6)(B), a State agency (as defined in section 3  
15 of the Food and Nutrition Act of 2008) may, by  
16 contract with the State agency at a reasonable cost  
17 in accordance with the State agency’s standard con-  
18 tracting rules, hire a contractor to undertake supple-  
19 mental nutrition assistance program certification or  
20 carry out any other function of the State agency  
21 under such program so long as—

22 “(A) the contract does not provide incen-  
23 tives for the agency or contractor to delay eligi-  
24 bility determinations or to deny eligibility for

1 individuals otherwise eligible for supplemental  
2 nutrition assistance program benefits; and

3 “(B) the contractor has no direct or indi-  
4 rect financial interest in an approved retail  
5 store.

6 “(2) USE.—A State agency may use the au-  
7 thority provided in paragraph (1) when—

8 “(A) the State experiences an inability to  
9 timely process supplemental nutrition assistance  
10 program applications from causes that include  
11 but are not limited to—

12 “(i) pandemics and other health emer-  
13 gencies;

14 “(ii) seasonal workforce cycles;

15 “(iii) temporary staffing shortages;

16 and

17 “(iv) weather or other natural disas-  
18 ters;

19 “(B) the State’s payment error rate, as de-  
20 fined in section 16, is greater than or equal to  
21 6 percent based on the most recent available  
22 Department of Agriculture data; or

23 “(C) the State experiences an increase in  
24 supplemental nutrition assistance program ap-  
25 plications.

1           “(3) REQUIREMENTS.—A State agency that  
2 hires a contractor under paragraph (1) shall ensure  
3 such action—

4           “(A) is consistent with all principles under  
5 section 900.603 of title 5 of the Code of Fed-  
6 eral Regulations; and

7           “(B) is part of a blended workforce and  
8 does not supplant existing merit-based per-  
9 sonnel in the State.

10          “(4) NOTIFICATION.—A State agency shall no-  
11 tify the Secretary of its intent to use the authority  
12 provided in this section and shall provide any infor-  
13 mation or data supporting State agency increases in  
14 supplemental nutrition assistance program applica-  
15 tions or any inability to timely process such applica-  
16 tions.

17          “(5) PUBLIC AVAILABILITY.—Not later than 10  
18 days after the date of the receipt of a notification  
19 submitted by a State agency under paragraph (4),  
20 the Secretary shall make publicly available on the  
21 website of the Department of Agriculture the notifi-  
22 cation submitted by such State agency and any ac-  
23 companying information or data supporting such no-  
24 tification so submitted.

1           “(6) PROGRAM DESIGN.—Any action taken by a  
2 State agency under paragraph (1) shall not be—

3           “(A) considered to be a major change in  
4 the operations of such State agency for pur-  
5 poses of section 11(a)(4) of this Act, or

6           “(B) subject to any requirement specified  
7 in such section.

8           “(7) ANNUAL REPORT.—The Secretary shall  
9 submit to the Committee on Agriculture of the  
10 House of Representatives and the Committee on Ag-  
11 riculture, Nutrition, and Forestry of the Senate, an  
12 annual report that contains—

13           “(A) a description of measures taken to  
14 address increases in supplemental nutrition as-  
15 sistance program applications and any inability  
16 to timely process such applications;

17           “(B) information or data supporting State  
18 agency notifications provided pursuant to para-  
19 graph (4); and

20           “(C) recommendations for changes to the  
21 Secretary’s authority under this Act to assist  
22 the Secretary, States, and local governments of  
23 States in preparing for any future increases in  
24 supplemental nutrition assistance program ap-

1           plications or inability to timely process such ap-  
2           plications.

3           “(8) TEMPORARY STAFFING SHORTAGES.—In  
4           cases of temporary staffing shortages, the authority  
5           provided to State agencies under paragraph (1)  
6           shall—

7                   “(A) expire when the backlog of supple-  
8                   mental nutrition assistance program applica-  
9                   tions has been eliminated;

10                   “(B) not override any collective bargaining  
11                   agreement or memorandum of understanding in  
12                   effect between the State and employees of the  
13                   State or of a local government of such State;  
14                   and

15                   “(C) expire when the error rate, as defined  
16                   in section 16, is less than 6 percent.”.

17   **SEC. 4104. UPDATES TO ADMINISTRATIVE PROCESSES FOR**  
18                   **SNAP RETAILERS.**

19           The 2d sentence of section 9(d) of the Food and Nu-  
20           trition Act of 2008 is amended by inserting “, on two con-  
21           secutive occasions within a 3-year-period,” after “does not  
22           meet”.

23   **SEC. 4105. REPORT ON ALL IDENTIFIED PAYMENT ERRORS.**

24           Section 16(c) of the Food and Nutrition Act of 2008  
25           (7 U.S.C. 2025(c)) is amended—

1 (1) by redesignating paragraph (9) as para-  
2 graph (10); and

3 (2) by inserting after paragraph (8) the fol-  
4 lowing:

5 “(9) REPORT ON ALL IDENTIFIED PAYMENT  
6 ERRORS.—

7 “(A) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall  
8 include all identified payment errors, including  
9 small errors under paragraph (1)(A)(ii), regard-  
10 less of dollar amount, in a supplemental section  
11 of the annual payment error rate measurement  
12 report for the supplemental nutrition assistance  
13 program.

14 “(B) RULE OF CONSTRUCTION.—The in-  
15 formation reported under subparagraph (A)  
16 shall not alter, modify, or affect the calculation  
17 of the tolerance level for excluding small errors  
18 under paragraph (1)(A)(ii).”.

19 **SEC. 4106. AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.**

20 The 1st sentence of section 18(a)(1) of the Food and  
21 Nutrition Act of 2008 (7 U.S.C. 2027(a)(1)) is amended  
22 by striking “2023” and inserting ““2031”.

1 **SEC. 4107. RETAIL FOOD STORE AND RECIPIENT TRAF-**  
2 **FICKING.**

3 Section 29(c)(1) of the Food and Nutrition Act of  
4 2008 (7 U.S.C. 2036b) is amended by striking “2023”  
5 and inserting “2031”.

6 **SEC. 4108. EBT CARD SECURITY REGULATIONS.**

7 Not later than 6 months after the date of enactment  
8 of this Act, the Secretary of Agriculture shall promulgate,  
9 in the form of a proposed rule, regulations through notice  
10 and comment rulemaking to enhance EBT Card (as de-  
11 fined in section 3(i) of the Food and Nutrition Act; 7  
12 U.S.C. 2012(i)) security measures.

13 **SEC. 4109. REPORT ON SNAP ADMINISTRATIVE EXPENSES.**

14 Not later than 12 months after the date of enactment  
15 of this Act, the Comptroller General of the United States  
16 shall submit to the Committee on Agriculture of the House  
17 of Representatives, and the Committee on Agriculture,  
18 Nutrition, and Forestry of the Senate, a report that—

19 (1) examines the causes of State variation in  
20 supplemental nutrition assistance program adminis-  
21 trative costs and identifies the factors most likely to  
22 contribute to an increase in these costs; and

23 (2) provides recommendations on how the De-  
24 partment of Agriculture and Congress can improve  
25 oversight of administrative costs in the program.

1 **SEC. 4110. ANIMAL PROTEIN AN ELIGIBLE INCENTIVE**  
2 **FOOD.**

3 Section 9(j)(1)(B) of the Food and Nutrition Act of  
4 2008 (7 U.S.C. 2018(j)(1)(B)) is amended by inserting  
5 “animal protein,” after “whole grain,”.

6 **SEC. 4111. PERMANENT AUTHORITY FOR SUPPLEMENTAL**  
7 **NUTRITION ASSISTANCE PROGRAM ONLINE**  
8 **PURCHASING.**

9 Section 7 of the Food and Nutrition Act of 2008 (7  
10 U.S.C. 2016) is amended by adding at the end the fol-  
11 lowing:

12 “(1) ONLINE PURCHASING PROGRAM.—

13 “(1) PERMANENT AUTHORITY.—Not later than  
14 120 days after the effective date of this subsection,  
15 the Secretary shall begin transitioning the supple-  
16 mental nutrition assistance program online pur-  
17 chasing initiative from pilot or demonstration status  
18 to permanent nationwide program operations, with  
19 the completion of the regulations marking the end of  
20 the transition.

21 “(2) REGULATIONS.—The Secretary shall issue  
22 such regulations and guidance as may be necessary  
23 to carry out paragraph (1), including provisions re-  
24 lated to program integrity, consumer protections,  
25 and equitable access in rural areas. Such regulations

1 shall be issued not later than 2 years after the effective date of this subsection.

3 “(3) **STAKEHOLDER CONSULTATION.**—The Secretary shall establish a formal process for consultation with State agencies, authorized retailers, electronic benefit transfer processors, consumer advocates, and other relevant stakeholders to incorporate lessons learned from online purchasing operations during the period of 2014 through 2025.

10 “(4) **REPORT TO CONGRESS.**—Not later than 120 days after the effective date of this subsection, the Secretary shall submit to the Committee on Agriculture of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry of the Senate a report describing the consultation process and recommendations received.”

17 **SEC. 4112. EMERGENCY FOOD ASSISTANCE PROGRAMS.**

18 (a) **EMERGENCY FOOD PROGRAM INFRASTRUCTURE GRANTS.**—Section 209(d) of the Emergency Food Assistance Act of 1983 (7 U.S.C. 7511a(d)) is amended by striking “2023” and inserting “2031”.

22 (b) **AVAILABILITY OF COMMODITIES FOR THE EMERGENCY FOOD ASSISTANCE PROGRAM.**—Section 27(a)(1) of the Food and Nutrition Act of 2008 (7 U.S.C.

1 2036(a)(1)) is amended by striking “2023” and inserting  
2 “2031”.

3 (c) OPTION FOR PURCHASING THROUGH DoD  
4 FRESH.—Section 214(c) of the Emergency Food Assist-  
5 ance Act of 1983 (7 U.S.C. 7515(c)) is amended by add-  
6 ing at the end the following:

7 “(3) OPTION FOR PURCHASING THROUGH DoD  
8 FRESH.—At the request of a State agency, the Sec-  
9 retary may allow the State agency to use not more  
10 than 20 percent of the cost of the commodities allo-  
11 cated to that State agency under this section to  
12 order commodities through the Department of De-  
13 fense Fresh Fruit and Vegetable Program.”.

14 **SEC. 4113. FOOD DISTRIBUTION PROGRAM ON INDIAN RES-**  
15 **ERVATIONS.**

16 Section 4(b)(6)(E) of the Food and Nutrition Act of  
17 2008 (7 U.S.C. 2013(b)(6)(E)) is amended by striking  
18 “2023” and inserting “2031”.

19 **Subtitle B—Commodity**  
20 **Distribution Programs**

21 **SEC. 4201. COMMODITY DISTRIBUTION PROGRAM.**

22 (a) EXPANSION OF THE SENIORS FARMERS’ MARKET  
23 NUTRITION PROGRAM.—Section 4402 of the Farm Secu-  
24 rity and Rural Investment Act of 2002 (7 U.S.C. 3007)  
25 is amended—

1 (1) in subsection (a), by striking “2008 through  
2 2023” and inserting “2027 through 2031”; and

3 (2) in subsection (b)(1), by striking “and  
4 herbs” and inserting “herbs, maple syrup, and tree  
5 nuts (including shelled tree nuts)”.

6 (b) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—The 1st  
7 sentence of section 4(a) of the Agriculture and Consumer  
8 Protection Act of 1973 (7 U.S.C. 612c note) is amended  
9 by striking “2023” and inserting “2031”.

10 **SEC. 4202. COMMODITY SUPPLEMENTAL FOOD PROGRAM.**

11 Section 5 of the Agriculture and Consumer Protec-  
12 tion Act of 1973 (7 U.S.C. 612c note; Public Law 93-  
13 86) is amended—

14 (1) in subsection (a)—

15 (A) in paragraph (1) by striking “2023”  
16 and inserting “2031”, and

17 (B) in paragraph (2)(B), in the matter  
18 preceding clause (i), by striking “2023” and in-  
19 serting “2031”,

20 (2) in subsection (d)(2), in the 1st sentence, by  
21 striking “2023” and inserting “2031”; and

22 (3) by adding at the end the following:

23 “(n) COMMODITY SUPPLEMENTAL FOOD PROGRAM  
24 DELIVERY PILOT PROGRAM.—

1           “(1) PURPOSE.—The purpose of this subsection  
2 is to award grants for the operation of projects that  
3 increase the access of low-income elderly persons to  
4 commodities through home delivery or other means  
5 and to evaluate such projects.

6           “(2) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall award,  
7 on a competitive basis, grants directly to State agen-  
8 cies, or to State agencies on behalf of eligible enti-  
9 ties, to carry out the activities described in para-  
10 graph (5).

11           “(3) MAXIMUM GRANT AWARD.—A grant  
12 awarded to a State agency under this subsection  
13 shall not exceed—

14           “(A) the greater of—

15           “(i) the State’s commodity supple-  
16 mental food program caseload at time of  
17 application multiplied by 60; or

18           “(ii) \$10,000; or

19           “(B) \$4,000,000;

20 whichever is less.

21           “(4) APPLICATION.—A State agency seeking a  
22 grant under this subsection shall submit to the Sec-  
23 retary an application in such form, at such time,  
24 and containing such information as the Secretary  
25 may require.

1           “(5) GRANT USES.—A State agency awarded a  
2 grant under this subsection shall distribute grant  
3 funds to eligible entities to operate projects that fa-  
4 cilitate delivery of commodities to participants in the  
5 commodity supplemental food program, including  
6 with respect to costs associated with—

7           “(A) transportation and distribution of  
8 commodities to participants in the commodity  
9 supplemental food program, including transpor-  
10 tation and distribution services provided by a  
11 third party;

12           “(B) staffing required to operate delivery  
13 services; and

14           “(C) outreach to participants or potential  
15 participants in the commodity supplemental  
16 food program with respect to home delivery.

17           “(6) PRIORITY.—A State agency awarded a  
18 grant under this subsection must prioritize eligible  
19 entities that serve participants in the commodity  
20 supplemental food program who reside in a rural  
21 area.

22           “(7) REPORT TO THE SECRETARY.—Not later  
23 than 180 days after the end of the fiscal year in  
24 which a State agency is awarded a grant under this  
25 subsection and has distributed grant funds to eligi-

1 ble entities, and in each succeeding fiscal year until  
2 grant funds are expended, a State agency shall sub-  
3 mit a report to the Secretary that includes—

4 “(A) a summary of the activities carried  
5 out under the project, including the quantity of  
6 commodities delivered, number of participants  
7 in the commodity supplemental food program  
8 served, and total number of deliveries;

9 “(B) an assessment of the effectiveness of  
10 the project, including a calculation of the aver-  
11 age cost per delivery, and an evaluation of any  
12 services provided by a third party; and

13 “(C) best practices regarding use of home  
14 delivery to improve the effectiveness of the com-  
15 modity supplemental food program.

16 “(8) DEFINITIONS.—In this subsection:

17 “(A) TERMS IN REGULATIONS.—The term  
18 ‘State agency’, ‘local agency’, and ‘subdistrib-  
19 uting agency’ have the meanings given such  
20 terms in section 247.1 of title 7 of the Code of  
21 Federal Regulations (or any successor regula-  
22 tions).

23 “(B) ELIGIBLE ENTITY.—The term ‘eligi-  
24 ble entity’ means—

25 “(i) a local agency; or

1 “(ii) a subdistributing agency.

2 “(C) RURAL AREA.—The term ‘rural area’  
3 has the meaning given such term in section  
4 343(a) of the Consolidated Farm and Rural  
5 Development Act (7 U.S.C. 1991(a)).

6 “(9) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—  
7 There is authorized to be appropriated to carry out  
8 this subsection \$10,000,000 for each of fiscal years  
9 2027 through 2031 to remain available until ex-  
10 pended.”.

11 **SEC. 4203. DISTRIBUTION OF SURPLUS COMMODITIES TO**  
12 **SPECIAL NUTRITION PROJECTS.**

13 Section 1114(a)(2)(A) of the Agriculture and Food  
14 Act of 1981 (7 U.S.C. 1431e(2)(A)) is amended by strik-  
15 ing “2023” and inserting “2031”.

16 **SEC. 4204. COMMODITY SUPPLEMENTAL FOOD PROGRAM**  
17 **DEMONSTRATION PROJECT FOR TRIBAL OR-**  
18 **GANIZATIONS.**

19 (a) DEMONSTRATION PROJECT FOR TRIBAL ORGANI-  
20 ZATIONS.—

21 (1) DEFINITIONS.—In this subsection:

22 (A) DEMONSTRATION PROJECT.—The term  
23 “demonstration project” means the demonstra-  
24 tion project established under paragraph (2).

1 (B) FOOD DISTRIBUTION PROGRAM.—The  
2 term “food distribution program” means the  
3 commodity supplemental food program identi-  
4 fied in section 4 of the Agriculture and Con-  
5 sumer Protection Act of 1973 (7 U.S.C. 612c  
6 note; Public Law 93–86).

7 (C) INDIAN RESERVATION.—The term “In-  
8 dian reservation” has the meaning given the  
9 term “reservation” in section 3 of the Food and  
10 Nutrition Act of 2008 (7 U.S.C. 2012).

11 (D) INDIAN TRIBE.—The term “Indian  
12 Tribe” has the meaning given the term in sec-  
13 tion 4 of the Indian Self-Determination and  
14 Education Assistance Act (25 U.S.C. 5304).

15 (E) SELF-DETERMINATION CONTRACT.—  
16 The term “self-determination contract” has the  
17 meaning given the term in section 4 of the In-  
18 dian Self-Determination and Education Assist-  
19 ance Act (25 U.S.C. 5304) with modification as  
20 determined by the Secretary.

21 (F) TRIBAL ORGANIZATION.—The term  
22 “Tribal organization” has the meaning given  
23 the term in section 3 of the Food and Nutrition  
24 Act of 2008 (7 U.S.C. 2012).

1           (2) ESTABLISHMENT.—Subject to the avail-  
2           ability of appropriations, the Secretary shall estab-  
3           lish a demonstration project under which 1 or more  
4           Tribal organizations may enter into self-determina-  
5           tion contracts to purchase agricultural commodities  
6           under the food distribution program for the Indian  
7           reservation of that Tribal organization.

8           (3) ELIGIBILITY.—

9           (A) CONSULTATION.—The Secretary shall  
10          consult with Indian Tribes to determine the  
11          process and criteria under which a Tribal orga-  
12          nization may participate in the demonstration  
13          project.

14          (B) CRITERIA.—The Secretary shall select  
15          for participation in the demonstration project  
16          Tribal organizations that—

17               (i) are successfully administering the  
18               food distribution program of the Tribal or-  
19               ganization under section 4(b)(2)(B) of the  
20               Food and Nutrition Act of 2008 (7 U.S.C.  
21               2013(b)(2)(B));

22               (ii) have the capacity to purchase ag-  
23               ricultural commodities in accordance with  
24               paragraph (4) for the food distribution  
25               program of the Tribal organization; and

1 (iii) meet any other criteria deter-  
2 mined by the Secretary, in consultation  
3 with the Secretary of the Interior and In-  
4 dian Tribes.

5 (4) PROCUREMENT OF AGRICULTURAL COM-  
6 MODITIES.—Any agricultural commodities purchased  
7 by a Tribal organization under the demonstration  
8 project shall—

9 (A) be domestically produced;

10 (B) not result in a material increase in the  
11 amount of food in the food package of that  
12 Tribal organization compared to the amount of  
13 food that the Secretary authorized to be pro-  
14 vided through the Commodity Supplemental  
15 Food Program Guide Rate;

16 (C) be of similar or higher nutritional  
17 value as the type of agricultural commodities  
18 that would be supplanted in the existing food  
19 package for that Tribal organization or be an  
20 agricultural commodity with Tribal significance  
21 to that Indian Tribe; and

22 (D) meet any other criteria determined by  
23 the Secretary.

24 (5) REPORT.—Not later than 1 year after the  
25 date on which funds are appropriated under para-

1 graph (6) and annually thereafter, the Secretary  
2 shall submit to the Committee on Agriculture of the  
3 House of Representatives and the Committee on Ag-  
4 riculture, Nutrition, and Forestry of the Senate a  
5 report describing the activities carried out under the  
6 demonstration project during the preceding year.

7 (6) FUNDING.—

8 (A) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIA-  
9 TIONS.—There is authorized to be appropriated  
10 to carry out this subsection \$1,000,000, to re-  
11 main available until expended.

12 (B) APPROPRIATIONS IN ADVANCE.—Only  
13 funds appropriated under subparagraph (A) in  
14 advance specifically to carry out this subsection  
15 shall be available to carry out this subsection.

16 (b) ADMINISTRATION OF TRIBAL SELF-DETERMINA-  
17 TION CONTRACTS.—

18 (1) ADMINISTRATION.—The Secretary shall ap-  
19 point an existing office of the United States Depart-  
20 ment of Agriculture to administer Tribal self-deter-  
21 mination contracts to include but not limited to:

22 (A) awarding of Food and Nutrition Serv-  
23 ice nutrition program self-determination con-  
24 tracts to selected Tribal organizations; and

1 (B) hiring contract officers and program  
2 staff in order to manage the selection of Tribal  
3 organizations and execution of self-determina-  
4 tion contracts.

5 (2) STAFFING MINIMUM FUNDING.—Notwith-  
6 standing any other provision of law, there is author-  
7 ized to be appropriated \$1,200,000 for each of fiscal  
8 years 2027 through 2031 for the payment of De-  
9 partment contract officers and program staff sala-  
10 ries and benefits.

## 11 **Subtitle C—Miscellaneous**

### 12 **SEC. 4301. PURCHASE OF FRESH FRUITS AND VEGETABLES** 13 **FOR DISTRIBUTION TO SCHOOLS AND SERV-** 14 **ICE INSTITUTIONS.**

15 Section 10603(b) of the Farm Security and Rural In-  
16 vestment Act of 2002 (7 U.S.C. 612c–4(b)) is amended  
17 by striking “2023” and inserting “2031”.

### 18 **SEC. 4302. BUY AMERICAN REQUIREMENTS FOR CERTAIN** 19 **SCHOOL MEALS.**

20 (a) IN GENERAL.—Section 12(n)(2)(A) of the Rich-  
21 ard B. Russell National School Lunch Act (42 U.S.C.  
22 1760(n)(2)(A)) is amended to read as follows:

23 “(A) REQUIREMENTS.—

24 “(i) PURCHASE EXPENDITURES BY  
25 CATEGORY.—Subject to clause (ii) and

1           subparagraph (B), the Secretary shall re-  
2           quire that a school food authority pur-  
3           chase, with respect to each food purchase  
4           category designated by the Agricultural  
5           Marketing Service, at least 95 percent do-  
6           mestic products and commodities in each  
7           such category.

8           “(ii) DOMESTICALLY UNAVAILABLE  
9           PRODUCTS AND COMMODITIES.—Domesti-  
10          cally unavailable products and commodities  
11          included on a list issued pursuant to clause  
12          (iii) with respect to a school year and pur-  
13          chased by a school food authority during  
14          such school year shall not be used to cal-  
15          culate whether such school food authority  
16          meets the requirements under clause (i).

17          “(iii) UPDATED LIST.—Not later than  
18          6 months after the date of the enactment  
19          of this subparagraph, and every 2 years  
20          thereafter, the Secretary shall make avail-  
21          able to school food authorities a list of do-  
22          mestically unavailable products and com-  
23          modities.

24          “(iv) LIMITED WAIVER AUTHORITY.—  
25          Except with respect to a domestically un-

1 available product or commodity included on  
2 a list pursuant to clause (iii), the Secretary  
3 may not waive or make accommodations  
4 for any of the requirements of this sub-  
5 paragraph.

6 “(v) PROHIBITION ON CERTAIN PROD-  
7 UCTS FROM CHINA OR RUSSIA.—The Sec-  
8 retary shall prohibit school food authorities  
9 from purchasing raw or processed poultry  
10 products or seafood imported into the  
11 United States from the People’s Republic  
12 of China or the Russian Federation.”.

13 (b) APPLICATION.—The amendments made by sub-  
14 section (a) shall apply to school food authorities beginning  
15 on the first day of the first school year that begins after  
16 the date of the enactment of this Act.

17 **SEC. 4303. REAUTHORIZATION OF THE GUS SCHUMACHER**  
18 **NUTRITION INCENTIVE PROGRAM.**

19 Section 4405 of the Food, Conservation, and Energy  
20 Act of 2008 (7 U.S.C. 7517) is amended—

21 (1) in subsection (b)—

22 (A) in paragraph (1), by amending sub-  
23 paragraph (C) to read as follows:

24 “(C) FEDERAL SHARE.—

1           “(i) IN GENERAL.—Except as pro-  
2           vided in clause (ii) and subparagraph  
3           (D)(iii), the Federal share of the cost of  
4           carrying out an activity under this sub-  
5           section shall not exceed 50 percent of the  
6           total cost of the activity.

7           “(ii) WAIVER FOR PERSISTENT POV-  
8           ERTY AREAS.—The Secretary may waive  
9           the application of clause (i) in the case of  
10          an activity carried out—

11           “(I) in a county that, during the  
12          preceding 30-year period has had a  
13          population of which greater than or  
14          equal to 20 percent of such population  
15          are living in poverty (as measured by  
16          the most recent decennial censuses  
17          and most recent Small Area Income  
18          and Poverty Estimates of the Bureau  
19          of the Census); or

20           “(II) in a census tract with a  
21          poverty rate of at least 20 percent  
22          during the preceding 30-year period,  
23          as measured by the most recent 5-  
24          year data series available from the

1 American Community Survey of the  
2 Bureau of the Census.”; and

3 (B) in paragraph (2)(B)—

4 (i) by redesignating clauses (ix) and  
5 (x) as clauses (x) and (xi); and

6 (ii) by inserting after clause (viii) the  
7 following:

8 “(ix) increase year-round availability  
9 of incentives by offering all forms of fruits  
10 or vegetables;”;

11 (2) in subsection (c), by striking “fresh fruits  
12 and vegetables” and inserting “all forms of fruits,  
13 vegetables, and legumes” each place it appears; and

14 (3) in subsection (f)—

15 (A) in paragraph (1), by striking “2023”  
16 and inserting “2031”; and

17 (B) in paragraph (3), by striking “2023”  
18 each place it appears and inserting “2031”.

19 **SEC. 4304. FOOD LOSS AND WASTE REDUCTION LIAISON AN-**  
20 **NUAL REPORT.**

21 Section 224(e)(2) of the Department of Agriculture  
22 Reorganization Act of 1994 (7 U.S.C. 6924(e)(2)) is  
23 amended—

24 (1) in the heading, by inserting “ANNUAL” be-  
25 fore “REPORT”;

1           (2) in the matter preceding subparagraph (A),  
2           by inserting “and annually thereafter,” before “the  
3           Secretary shall”;

4           (3) in subparagraph (A), by striking “and” at  
5           the end;

6           (4) in subparagraph (B), by striking the period  
7           at the end and inserting a semicolon; and

8           (5) by adding at the end the following:

9           “(C) a general description of each project  
10           and activity implemented pursuant to this sec-  
11           tion;

12           “(D) a summary of the cooperative agree-  
13           ments entered into pursuant to subsection (c);

14           “(E) a detailed account of how the Sec-  
15           retary avoided, managed, or will manage mar-  
16           ket disruption; and

17           “(F) a summary of coordinated activities  
18           with the Administrator of the Environmental  
19           Protection Agency and the Commissioner of the  
20           Food and Drug Administration, including inter-  
21           agency communication and coordination related  
22           to the promotion or exclusion of practices and  
23           technologies to limit food waste.”.

1 **SEC. 4305. DAIRY NUTRITION INCENTIVES PROJECTS.**

2 Section 4208 of the Agriculture Improvement Act of  
3 2018 (7 U.S.C. 2026a) is amended—

4 (1) in the section heading, by striking  
5 “**HEALTHY FLUID MILK**” and inserting “**DAIRY**  
6 **NUTRITION**” (and by conforming the item of such  
7 section in the table of contents accordingly);

8 (2) by striking “healthy fluid milk” and insert-  
9 ing “dairy nutrition” each place it appears;

10 (3) by amending subsection (a) to read as fol-  
11 lows:

12 “(a) **DEFINITIONS.**—In this section:

13 “(1) **COVERED DAIRY PRODUCTS.**—The term  
14 ‘covered dairy products’ means—

15 “(A) cheese (including nonstandardized  
16 cheese) that is—

17 “(i) made from pasteurized cow’s  
18 milk;

19 “(ii) a good source of protein, as de-  
20 termined by the Secretary; and

21 “(iii) sold as a block, chunk, shred,  
22 slice, stick, string or in snack-size form;  
23 and

24 “(B) yogurt (or other cultured dairy prod-  
25 uct) that—

1 “(i) is made from pasteurized cow’s  
2 milk;

3 “(ii) is a good source of protein, as  
4 determined by the Secretary; and

5 “(iii) contains limited amounts of  
6 added sugars.

7 “(2) FLUID MILK.—The term ‘fluid milk’  
8 means all varieties of pasteurized cow’s milk that—

9 “(A) is packaged in liquid form; and

10 “(B) contains vitamins A and D at levels  
11 consistent with the Food and Drug Administra-  
12 tion, State, and local standards for fluid milk.”;

13 (4) in subsection (b), by inserting “and covered  
14 dairy products” after “of fluid milk” each place it  
15 appears;

16 (5) in subsection (c)(3), by inserting “and cov-  
17 ered dairy products” after “purchase of fluid milk”;  
18 and

19 (6) in subsection (e)(1), by striking  
20 “\$20,000,000” and inserting “\$50,000,000”.

21 **SEC. 4306. LOCAL FARMERS FEEDING OUR COMMUNITIES**  
22 **PROGRAM.**

23 (a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary of Agriculture shall  
24 establish a program under which the Secretary will enter

1 into cooperative agreements (on a noncompetitive basis)  
2 with eligible entities—

3 (1) to help support covered local producers  
4 through building and expanding economic opportuni-  
5 ties;

6 (2) to establish and broaden partnerships with  
7 such covered local producers and the food distribu-  
8 tion community to ensure distribution of fresh (in-  
9 cluding fresh frozen) and nutritious foods; and

10 (3) to strengthen such entity's local and re-  
11 gional food security and systems.

12 (b) USE OF FUNDS.—An eligible entity selected to  
13 enter into a cooperative agreement under this section shall  
14 use funds received through such agreement—

15 (1) to purchase unprocessed or minimally proc-  
16 essed local foods (including seafood, meat, milk and  
17 dairy products, eggs, produce, and poultry) from  
18 covered producers;

19 (2) to ensure that at least 25 percent of the  
20 total annual value of products purchased by the eli-  
21 gible entity comprises purchases from small-size pro-  
22 ducers, mid-size producers, beginning farmers or  
23 ranchers, or veteran farmers or ranchers;

24 (3) to provide technical assistance supporting—

1 (A) covered local producers, including in  
2 obtaining food safety training and certifications;  
3 and

4 (B) efforts to grow the local agricultural  
5 value chain;

6 (4) to distribute such local foods to organiza-  
7 tions, including nonprofit organizations, that have  
8 experience in food distribution to improve access to  
9 healthy and nutritious food; and

10 (5) to build and expand economic opportunity  
11 for covered local producers.

12 (c) LIMITATION ON USE OF FUNDS.—

13 (1) IN GENERAL.—Of the amount made avail-  
14 able to an eligible entity through a cooperative  
15 agreement under this section, an eligible entity may  
16 use not more than 15 percent of such amount—

17 (A) to cover administrative expenses; and

18 (B) to provide technical assistance de-  
19 scribed in subsection (b)(3);

20 (2) ALLOCATION FOR TECHNICAL ASSIST-  
21 ANCE.—Of the amount described in paragraph (1),  
22 an eligible entity shall use not less than 50 percent  
23 to provide technical assistance described in sub-  
24 section (b)(3).

1           (d) TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE TO ELIGIBLE ENTI-  
2 TIES.—The Secretary shall provide to eligible entities en-  
3 tering into a cooperative agreement under this section  
4 guidance, technical assistance, instruction, and monitoring  
5 throughout the life cycle of the cooperative agreement.

6           (e) AMOUNT OF ALLOCATION.—Of the amounts  
7 made available to carry out this section for each fiscal  
8 year, the Secretary shall—

9                   (1) allocate 10 percent to Tribal Governments,  
10           to be allocated using a funding formula determined  
11           by the Secretary; and

12                   (2) of the amounts remaining after making the  
13           allocation under paragraph (1), allocate 1 percent to  
14           each State (other than Tribal Governments); and

15                   (3) after making the allocations under para-  
16           graphs (1) and (2), allocate the remaining amounts  
17           to each eligible entity (other than Tribal Govern-  
18           ments) by applying the formula described in section  
19           214 of the Emergency Food Assistance Act of 1983  
20           (7 U.S.C. 7515).

21           (f) FUNDING.—There is authorized to be appro-  
22 priated to carry out this section \$200,000,000 for each  
23 of fiscal years 2027 through 2031.

24           (g) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

1           (1) BEGINNING FARMER OR RANCHER; VET-  
2           ERAN FARMER OR RANCHER.—The terms “beginning  
3           farmer or rancher” and “veteran farmer or rancher”  
4           have the meanings given such terms in section 2501  
5           of the Food, Agriculture, Conservation, and Trade  
6           Act of 1990 (7 U.S.C. 2279).

7           (2) COVERED PRODUCER.—The term “covered  
8           producer” means a fisherman, farmer, producer,  
9           rancher, processor, or cooperative processor that  
10          is—

11                   (A) within the geographic boundaries of  
12                   the eligible entity in which the food will be de-  
13                   livered; or

14                   (B) not more than 400 miles from the de-  
15                   livery destination of the food.

16          (3) ELIGIBLE ENTITY.—The term “eligible enti-  
17          ty” means a State agency, commission, or depart-  
18          ment that is responsible for agriculture, procure-  
19          ment, food distribution, emergency response, or  
20          other similar activities within the State.

21          (4) MID-SIZE PRODUCER.—The term “mid-  
22          sized producer” means an individual whose annual  
23          gross cash farm income is equal to or exceeds  
24          \$350,000 and is less than \$999,999.

1           (5) SMALL-SIZE PRODUCER.—The term “small-  
2           sized producer” means one whose annual gross cash  
3           farm income is less than \$350,000.

4           (6) STATE.—The term “State” means each of  
5           the several States, the District of Columbia, each  
6           territory or possession of the United States, and  
7           each federally recognized Indian Tribe.

8           (7) UNPROCESSED OR MINIMALLY PROCESSED  
9           LOCAL FOODS.—The term “unprocessed or mini-  
10          mally processed local foods” means food products  
11          means only those agricultural products that retain  
12          their inherent character. Such term includes—

13                (A) fruits and vegetables (including 100  
14                percent juices);

15                (B) grain products, such as pastas and  
16                rice;

17                (C) meats (including whole carcasses,  
18                pieces thereof, or ground meat);

19                (D) protein sources that are meat alter-  
20                natives (such as beans or legumes) and fluid  
21                milk and other dairy foods (such as cheese and  
22                yogurt); and

23                (E) foods in a wide variety of minimal  
24                processing states (such as whole, cut, or pu-

1 reed) or forms (such as fresh, frozen, canned,  
2 or dried).

3 **SEC. 4307. HEALTHY FOOD FINANCING INITIATIVE.**

4 Section 243(d) of the Department of Agriculture Re-  
5 organization Act of 1994 (7 U.S.C. 6953(d)) is amended  
6 by striking “\$125,000,000” and inserting  
7 “\$135,000,000”.

8 **SEC. 4308. DIETARY GUIDELINES.**

9 (a) IN GENERAL.—Section 301(a) of the National  
10 Nutrition Monitoring and Related Research Act of 1990  
11 (7 U.S.C. 5341(a)) is amended—

12 (1) in paragraph (1)—

13 (A) by striking “At least every five years”  
14 and inserting “Beginning with the 2030 report  
15 and at least every 10 years thereafter,”; and

16 (B) by adding at the end the following:  
17 “Rulemaking requirements under section 553 of  
18 title 5, United States Code, shall apply to the  
19 development of each report under this para-  
20 graph.”;

21 (2) in paragraph (2), by striking “shall be  
22 based on the preponderance of the scientific and  
23 medical knowledge which is current at the time the  
24 report is prepared.” and inserting “shall—

1           “(A) be based on significant scientific  
2 agreement that is determined by evidence-based  
3 review (as defined in paragraph (8)(A));

4           “(B) be current at the time the report is  
5 prepared;

6           “(C) be derived from questions generated  
7 under paragraph (5)(E);

8           “(D) address high-priority areas of concern  
9 to advance health outcomes;

10           “(E) be designed to achieve nutritional  
11 adequacy and promote health, as specified by  
12 the Food and Nutrition Board of the National  
13 Academies of Sciences, Engineering and Medi-  
14 cine, from the consumption of food, including  
15 nutrients and bioactive food components occur-  
16 ring naturally and in fortified foods;

17           “(F) include nutritional and dietary infor-  
18 mation relevant to individuals with nutrition-re-  
19 lated common chronic diseases, as defined by  
20 the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention;  
21 and

22           “(G) include recommendations that are af-  
23 fordable, available, and accessible for the gen-  
24 eral population.”;

1           (3) by redesignating paragraph (3) as para-  
2           graph (7);

3           (4) by inserting after paragraph (2) the fol-  
4           lowing:

5           “(3) FREQUENCY.—The Secretaries may pub-  
6           lish the report required under paragraph (1) more  
7           frequently than required under that paragraph if the  
8           Secretaries determine that more frequent publication  
9           is necessary to promote health, based on the updated  
10          dietary reference intake values specified by—

11                   “(A) the Food and Nutrition Board of the  
12                   National Academies of Sciences, Engineering  
13                   and Medicine; and

14                   “(B) other relevant scientific advancements  
15                   based on continuous monitoring of the totality  
16                   of publicly available scientific evidence.

17          “(4) NOTIFICATION OF UPDATE.—

18                   “(A) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 90  
19                   days before the Secretaries plan to update a re-  
20                   port under paragraph (1), the Secretaries shall  
21                   submit notification of that plan, in writing, to  
22                   the Committees on Agriculture, Nutrition, and  
23                   Forestry and Health, Education, Labor, and  
24                   Pensions of the Senate and the Committees on

1 Agriculture and Energy and Commerce of the  
2 House of Representatives.

3 “(B) JUSTIFICATION.—The notification  
4 under subparagraph (A) shall include a jus-  
5 tification for updating the report.

6 “(5) INDEPENDENT ADVISORY BOARD.—

7 “(A) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 90  
8 days after the Secretaries submit a notification  
9 under paragraph (4)(A), the Secretaries shall  
10 establish an Independent Advisory Board (re-  
11 ferred to in this paragraph as the ‘Board’).

12 “(B) MEMBERS.—The Board shall be com-  
13 prised of at least 4 members and not more than  
14 8 members, of which—

15 “(i) 4 shall be appointed by the Secre-  
16 taries, 2 of whom shall not be Federal em-  
17 ployees; and

18 “(ii) 1 may be appointed by each of  
19 the highest ranking Member of Congress  
20 on each Committee described in paragraph  
21 (4)(A) of the opposite political party of the  
22 President of the United States at the time  
23 of the appointment.

24 “(C) EXPERTISE.—Each member ap-  
25 pointed to the Board shall have expertise in nu-

1           trition science or food science, including aca-  
2           demic and applied experience.

3           “(D) MEETINGS.—

4                   “(i) IN GENERAL.—The first meeting  
5           of the Board—

6                           “(I) may only take place on or  
7                   after the date that 4 members are ap-  
8                   pointed to the Board under subpara-  
9                   graph (B); and

10                           “(II) shall take place on or after  
11                   the date that is 90 days after the Sec-  
12                   retaries submit a notification under  
13                   paragraph (4)(A).

14                           “(ii) QUORUM.—A majority of the  
15                   members shall constitute a quorum for the  
16                   transaction of the business of the Board.

17                           “(E) DUTIES.—Not later than 1 year after  
18                   the establishment of the Board, the Board shall  
19                   submit to the Secretaries and the Committees  
20                   described in paragraph (4)(A) a list of scientific  
21                   questions relating to the report for purposes of  
22                   paragraph (2)(C).

23                           “(F) TERMINATION.—The authority of the  
24                   Board shall terminate, and the Board shall dis-

1 band, immediately after carrying out subpara-  
2 graph (E).

3 “(6) EXCLUSION.—The information and guide-  
4 lines contained in each report required under para-  
5 graph (1) shall not be based on or include topics  
6 that are not relevant to dietary guidance, as deter-  
7 mined by the Secretaries, in consultation with the  
8 Independent Advisory Board established under para-  
9 graph (5), including taxation, social welfare policies,  
10 purchases under Federal feeding programs, food and  
11 agricultural production practices, food labeling, so-  
12 cioeconomic status, race, religion, ethnicity, culture,  
13 or regulations relating to nutrition.”; and

14 (5) by adding at the end the following:

15 “(8) EVIDENCE-BASED REVIEW.—

16 “(A) DEFINITION.—In this paragraph, the  
17 term ‘evidence-based review’ means a process  
18 under which—

19 “(i) the totality of the scientific evi-  
20 dence relevant to a question of interest is  
21 collected, analyzed, and evaluated;

22 “(ii) scientific studies, conclusions,  
23 and recommendations are rated, adhering  
24 strictly to standardized, generally accepted  
25 evidence-based review methods; and

1           “(iii) external peer review is con-  
2           ducted by nongovernment experts with rec-  
3           ognized expertise in quality of evidence  
4           evaluation.

5           “(B) STRENGTH OF EVIDENCE.—Each  
6           guideline contained in a report published under  
7           paragraph (1) shall be assigned a rating by the  
8           Secretaries for the strength of evidence used,  
9           including to the extent by which the guideline  
10          will improve the Healthy Eating Index.

11          “(9) TRANSPARENCY.—

12           “(A) DISCLOSURE.—Any individual ap-  
13          pointed to the Dietary Guidelines Advisory  
14          Committee or an Independent Advisory Board  
15          established under paragraph (5) shall—

16           “(i) be appointed as a special govern-  
17          ment employee;

18           “(ii) comply with financial disclosure  
19          requirements applicable to such a special  
20          government employee under subpart I of  
21          part 2634 of title 5, Code of Federal Regu-  
22          lations (or successor regulations), including  
23          the requirement to file the Office of Gov-  
24          ernment Ethics Form 450 (or successor  
25          Form); and

1           “(iii) prior to such an appointment,  
2           provide a report to the Secretaries regard-  
3           ing, for the 10-year period preceding such  
4           report, any research funding or profes-  
5           sional affiliation relating to a report under  
6           paragraph (1).

7           “(B) PUBLICATION.—Notwithstanding any  
8           other provision of law, not later than 30 days  
9           after the date on which a Dietary Guidelines  
10          Advisory Committee or an Independent Advi-  
11          sory Board is established, the Secretaries shall  
12          make publicly available—

13                 “(i) a summary of the financial disclo-  
14                 sures reported by members of such Com-  
15                 mittee or Board;

16                 “(ii) the research funding and profes-  
17                 sional affiliations reported by such mem-  
18                 bers under subparagraph (A)(iii), cat-  
19                 egorized by the name of the individual; and

20                 “(iii) a detailed plan for managing  
21                 any disclosed conflicts of interest, includ-  
22                 ing financial or ethical conflicts of interest,  
23                 preferences, values, and beliefs.”.

24          (b) CONTROLLING REPORT.—The 2025 Dietary  
25          Guidelines for Americans published by the Secretaries

1 under subsection (a)(1) of section 301 of the National Nu-  
2 trition Monitoring and Related Research Act of 1990 (7  
3 U.S.C. 5341(a)(1)) shall be controlling and considered to  
4 be the most recent Dietary Guidelines for Americans until  
5 the publication of the first report under such subsection  
6 in accordance with the amendments made to such section  
7 by this Act.

8 **TITLE V—CREDIT**  
9 **Subtitle A—Farm Ownership Loans**

10 **SEC. 5101. PERSONS ELIGIBLE FOR REAL ESTATE LOANS.**

11 Section 302(a) of the Consolidated Farm and Rural  
12 Development Act (7 U.S.C. 1922(a)) is amended—

13 (1) in the 2nd sentence of paragraph (1), by  
14 striking “a majority” each place it appears and in-  
15 serting “at least a 50 percent”;

16 (2) in paragraph (2), by striking subparagraphs  
17 (A) and (B) and inserting the following:

18 “(A) **ELIGIBILITY OF QUALIFIED OPERA-**  
19 **TORS.**—Qualified operators, as defined by the  
20 Secretary, shall be considered to meet the oper-  
21 ator requirement of paragraph (1).

22 “(B) **ELIGIBILITY OF CERTAIN OPER-**  
23 **ATING-ONLY ENTITIES.**—An applicant that is or  
24 will become only the operator of farm real es-  
25 tate acquired, improved, or supported with

1 funds under this subtitle shall be considered to  
2 meet the owner-operator requirements of para-  
3 graph (1) if 1 or more of the individuals who  
4 is an owner of the farm real estate owns at  
5 least 50 percent (or such other percentage as  
6 the Secretary determines is appropriate) of the  
7 applicant.

8 “(C) ELIGIBILITY OF CERTAIN EMBEDDED  
9 ENTITIES.—An entity that is an owner-operator  
10 described in paragraph (1), or an operator de-  
11 scribed in subparagraph (B) of this paragraph  
12 that is owned, in whole or in part, by 1 or more  
13 other entities, shall be considered to meet the  
14 direct ownership requirement imposed under  
15 paragraph (1) if at least 75 percent of the total  
16 ownership interests of the embedded entity, or  
17 of the other entities, is owned, directly or indi-  
18 rectly, by qualified operators of the farm ac-  
19 quired, improved, or supported with funds  
20 under this subtitle.”.

21 **SEC. 5102. EXPERIENCE REQUIREMENTS.**

22 Section 302(b) of the Consolidated Farm and Rural  
23 Development Act (7 U.S.C. 1922(b)) is amended—

1           (1) in paragraph (1), in the matter preceding  
2           subparagraph (A), by striking “3 years” and insert-  
3           ing “2 years”; and

4           (2) in paragraph (4)—

5           (A) in subparagraph (A)—

6           (i) in the matter preceding clause

7           (i)—

8           (I) by striking “3-year” and in-  
9           serting “2-year”; and

10          (II) by striking “1 or 2 years”  
11          and inserting “1 year”;

12          (ii) in clause (iii), by inserting “or  
13          operational” before “responsibilities”;

14          (iii) in clause (vii), by striking “or”;

15          and

16          (iv) by adding at the end the fol-  
17          lowing:

18                 “(ix) met any other criteria estab-  
19                 lished by the Secretary; or”; and

20          (B) in subparagraph (B), by striking “3-  
21          year” and inserting “2-year”.

1 **SEC. 5103. REFINANCING OF INDEBTEDNESS INTO DIRECT**  
2 **LOANS.**

3 Section 303 of the Consolidated Farm and Rural De-  
4 velopment Act (7 U.S.C. 1923) is amended by adding at  
5 the end the following:

6 “(d) REFINANCING OF GUARANTEED LOANS INTO  
7 DIRECT LOANS.—Within 1 year after the date of the en-  
8 actment of this subsection, the Secretary, acting through  
9 the Administrator of the Farm Service Agency (referred  
10 to in this section as the ‘Secretary’), shall promulgate reg-  
11 ulations allowing certain loans guaranteed by the Farm  
12 Service Agency to be refinanced into direct loans issued  
13 by the Farm Service Agency, in accordance with this sub-  
14 section.

15 “(1) REQUIREMENTS.—

16 “(A) IN GENERAL.—A guaranteed loan  
17 may be refinanced into a direct loan pursuant  
18 to this subsection only if the Secretary deter-  
19 mines that—

20 “(i) the guaranteed loan is distressed  
21 due to its status as a nonperforming loan  
22 that does not have a positive cash flow at  
23 rates and terms available from the lender;

24 “(ii) the borrower on the guaranteed  
25 loan is in monetary default and subject to  
26 liquidation or foreclosure action;

1           “(iii) a reasonable chance for the suc-  
2           cess of the operation financed by the guar-  
3           anteed loan exists; and

4           “(iv) all other criteria established by  
5           the Secretary for purposes of this sub-  
6           section to protect taxpayer funds and the  
7           loan programs of the Farm Service Agency  
8           have been satisfied.

9           “(B) REASONABLE CHANCE OF SUC-  
10          CESS.—For purposes of subparagraph (A)(iii),  
11          the Secretary may determine that a reasonable  
12          chance for the success of an operation exists if  
13          the Secretary determines that—

14               “(i) all relevant problems with the op-  
15               eration financed by the guaranteed loan—

16                       “(I) have been identified; and

17                       “(II) can be corrected; and

18               “(ii) on correction of the problems,  
19               the operation can achieve, or be returned  
20               to, a sound financial basis.

21          “(2) LOAN PROGRAMS.—In making direct loans  
22          pursuant to the regulations promulgated under this  
23          subsection, the Secretary may refinance a loan guar-  
24          anteed under 1 program of the Farm Service Agency  
25          into a direct loan issued under another program of

1 the Farm Service Agency, as the Secretary deter-  
2 mines to be appropriate and in accordance with the  
3 laws applicable to the program under which the di-  
4 rect loan is issued.

5 “(3) REFINANCED GUARANTEED LOANS.—A di-  
6 rect loan issued by the Farm Service Agency pursu-  
7 ant to the regulations promulgated under subsection  
8 (a) of this section shall be subject to any otherwise  
9 applicable limitation on the maximum amount of a  
10 direct loan issued by the Farm Service Agency, in-  
11 cluding, if applicable, the limitations described in  
12 sections 305 and 313.”.

13 **SEC. 5104. CONSERVATION LOAN AND LOAN GUARANTEE**  
14 **PROGRAM.**

15 Section 304 of the Consolidated Farm and Rural De-  
16 velopment Act (7 U.S.C. 1924) is amended—

17 (1) in subsection (d)—

18 (A) in paragraph (2), by striking “and” at  
19 the end;

20 (B) in paragraph (3), by striking “1985.”  
21 and inserting “1985 (16 U.S.C. 3812); and”;  
22 and

23 (C) by adding at the end the following:

24 “(4) producers who use the loans to adopt pre-  
25 cision agriculture practices or acquire precision agri-

1 culture technologies, including adoption or acquisi-  
2 tion for the purpose of participating in the environ-  
3 mental quality incentives program under subchapter  
4 A of chapter 4 of subtitle D of title XII of the Food  
5 Security Act of 1985 (16 U.S.C. 3839aa et seq.)”;  
6 and

7 (2) in subsection (h), by striking “2023” and  
8 inserting “2031”.

9 **SEC. 5105. LIMITATIONS ON AMOUNT OF FARM OWNERSHIP**  
10 **LOANS.**

11 Section 305(a)(2) of the Consolidated Farm and  
12 Rural Development Act (7 U.S.C. 1925(a)(2)) is amended  
13 by striking “\$600,000, or, in the case of a loan guaranteed  
14 by the Secretary, \$1,750,000 (increased, beginning with  
15 fiscal year 2019” and inserting “\$850,000, or, in the case  
16 of a loan guaranteed by the Secretary, \$3,500,000 (in-  
17 creased, beginning with fiscal year 2026”.

18 **SEC. 5106. INFLATION PERCENTAGE.**

19 Section 305(c) of the Consolidated Farm and Rural  
20 Development Act (7 U.S.C. 1925(c)) is amended—

21 (1) in paragraph (1), by striking “of the Prices  
22 Paid By Farmers Index (as compiled by the Na-  
23 tional Agricultural Statistics Service of the Depart-  
24 ment of Agriculture) for the 12-month period ending  
25 on July 31 of the immediately preceding fiscal year”

1 and inserting “of the per acre average United States  
2 farm real estate value, the per acre average United  
3 States cropland value, and the per acre average  
4 United States pasture value for the preceding year  
5 (as published in the applicable Agricultural Land  
6 Values report of the National Agricultural Statistics  
7 Service of the Department of Agriculture), weighted  
8 equally”; and

9 (2) in paragraph (2), by striking “of such index  
10 (as so defined) for the 12-month period that imme-  
11 diately precedes the 12-month period described in  
12 paragraph (1)” and inserting “of the per acre aver-  
13 age United States farm real estate value, the per  
14 acre average United States cropland value, and the  
15 per acre average United States pasture value for the  
16 year immediately preceding the year described in  
17 paragraph (1) (as so published), weighted equally”.

18 **SEC. 5107. AUTHORITY OF FARM CREDIT SYSTEM INSTITU-**  
19 **TIONS TO PROVIDE FINANCIAL SUPPORT FOR**  
20 **ESSENTIAL RURAL COMMUNITY FACILITIES**  
21 **PROJECTS.**

22 (a) IN GENERAL.—The Farm Credit Act of 1971 is  
23 amended by inserting after section 4.18A (12 U.S.C.  
24 2206a) the following:

1 **“SEC. 4.18B. ESSENTIAL COMMUNITY FACILITIES.**

2 “(a) IN GENERAL.—A Farm Credit Bank, direct  
3 lender association, or bank for cooperatives chartered  
4 under this Act may, for the purpose of making available  
5 capital to develop, build, maintain, improve, or provide re-  
6 lated equipment or other support for essential community  
7 facilities in rural areas, make and participate in loans and  
8 commitments, and extend other technical and financial as-  
9 sistance for projects for essential community facilities eli-  
10 gible for financing under section 306(a) of the Consoli-  
11 dated Farm and Rural Development Act.

12 “(b) ELIGIBILITY.—Only an entity eligible for financ-  
13 ing under section 306(a) of the Consolidated Farm and  
14 Rural Development Act may receive financing or any other  
15 assistance under subsection (a) of this section.

16 “(c) LIMITATIONS.—

17 “(1) FINANCING.—A Farm Credit System insti-  
18 tution described in subsection (a) shall not provide  
19 financing or assistance under this section in an ag-  
20 gregate amount that exceeds 15 percent of the total  
21 of all outstanding loans of the institution.

22 “(2) OFFER REQUIREMENT.—

23 “(A) IN GENERAL.—A Farm Credit Sys-  
24 tem institution shall not provide financing or  
25 assistance under this section unless the institu-  
26 tion—

1           “(i) has offered, under reasonable  
2           terms and conditions acceptable to the bor-  
3           rower involved, an interest in the financing  
4           to at least 1 domestic lending institution  
5           not referred to in subsection (a) other than  
6           the Department of Agriculture; and

7           “(ii) has reported the offer to the  
8           Farm Credit Administration.

9           “(B) RURAL COMMUNITY BANK PRI-  
10          ORITY.—In offering an interest in a financing  
11          to a domestic lending institution described in  
12          subparagraph (A)(i), the Farm Credit System  
13          institution shall give priority to community  
14          banks located in the service area of the essen-  
15          tial community facility being financed.

16          “(d) ANNUAL REPORT TO CONGRESS.—Within 1  
17          year after the date of the enactment of this section and  
18          annually thereafter, the Farm Credit Administration shall  
19          provide a report to the Committee on Agriculture of the  
20          House of Representatives and the Committee on Agri-  
21          culture, Nutrition, and Forestry of the Senate on the ac-  
22          tivities undertaken pursuant to this section by Farm Cred-  
23          it System institutions during the period covered by the re-  
24          port, including through partnerships between such an in-  
25          stitution and other lending institutions, which shall also

1 be posted on the website of the Farm Credit Administra-  
2 tion.”.

3 (b) **EFFECTIVE DATE.**—The amendment made by  
4 subsection (a) shall take effect on October 1, 2026.

5 **SEC. 5108. DOWN PAYMENT LOAN PROGRAM.**

6 Section 310E(b)(1) of the Consolidated Farm and  
7 Rural Development Act (7 U.S.C. 1935(b)(1)) is amend-  
8 ed—

9 (1) in the matter preceding subparagraph (A),  
10 by striking “exceed 45 percent of the least” and in-  
11 serting “exceed, subject to section 305(a), 45 per-  
12 cent of the lesser”;

13 (2) in subparagraph (A), by adding “or” after  
14 the semicolon;

15 (3) in subparagraph (B), by striking “; or” and  
16 inserting a period; and

17 (4) by striking subparagraph (C).

18 **SEC. 5109. HEIRS PROPERTY.**

19 (a) **REAUTHORIZATION OF THE HEIRS PROPERTY**  
20 **INTERMEDIARY RELENDING PROGRAM.**—Section 310I(g)  
21 of the Consolidated Farm and Rural Development Act (7  
22 U.S.C. 1936c(g)) is amended by striking “2023” and in-  
23 serting “2031”.

24 (b) **COOPERATIVE AGREEMENTS FOR HEIRS PROP-**  
25 **ERTY RESOLUTION THROUGH DIRECT PUBLIC INTEREST**

1 LEGAL SERVICES.—Section 310I of such Act (7 U.S.C.  
2 1936c) is amended—

3 (1) by redesignating subsections (f) and (g) as  
4 subsections (g) and (h), respectively; and

5 (2) by inserting after subsection (e) the fol-  
6 lowing:

7 “(f) COOPERATIVE AGREEMENTS FOR HEIRS PROP-  
8 ERTY RESOLUTION THROUGH DIRECT PUBLIC INTEREST  
9 LEGAL SERVICES.—

10 “(1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall enter  
11 into cooperative agreements with eligible entities to  
12 provide legal or accounting services to underserved  
13 heirs, at no cost to the underserved heirs, to assist  
14 in resolving undivided ownership interests on farm-  
15 land or forest land, or land transitioning to farmland  
16 or forest land, that has multiple owners. Such a co-  
17 operative agreement must be for any of the following  
18 purposes:

19 “(A) To assist with transitioning land to  
20 agricultural production.

21 “(B) To maintain land in agricultural pro-  
22 duction.

23 “(C) To increase access to programs ad-  
24 ministered by the Secretary through the resolu-  
25 tion of real property claims in order to allow

1 real property owners to meet land ownership  
2 eligibility requirements for participation in a  
3 program administered by the Secretary.

4 “(2) ADMINISTRATION OF COOPERATIVE  
5 AGREEMENTS.—

6 “(A) DURATION.—

7 “(i) IN GENERAL.—A cooperative  
8 agreement under paragraph (1) shall be in  
9 effect for not more than 4 years, subject to  
10 clause (ii).

11 “(ii) SPECIAL RULE.—The Secretary  
12 may extend a cooperative agreement or re-  
13 enter into a cooperative agreement with  
14 the same or a different eligible entity to  
15 provide continued services for heirs if—

16 “(I) property ownership is not re-  
17 solved within the initial term of the  
18 original cooperative agreement; and

19 “(II) the entity certifies that the  
20 entity understands that the coopera-  
21 tive agreement is not guaranteed to be  
22 funded for more than 4 years after  
23 the commencement of the original co-  
24 operative agreement.

25 “(B) MANAGEMENT OF PERFORMANCE.—

1           “(i) ANNUAL REPORTS.—An eligible  
2           entity must provide annual reports to the  
3           Secretary summarizing the progress made  
4           during each fiscal year towards achieving  
5           the goals of the cooperative agreement for  
6           the heirs for whom services are provided  
7           under the cooperative agreement.

8           “(ii) INFORMATION AND DATA.—The  
9           Secretary may require an eligible entity to  
10          provide the Secretary with such informa-  
11          tion or data as the Secretary deems nec-  
12          essary to determine that the eligible entity  
13          is making acceptable progress. The data  
14          may not include personally identifiable in-  
15          formation.

16          “(iii) EFFECT OF FAILURE TO DEM-  
17          ONSTRATE SUCCESS.—If an eligible entity  
18          providing services under such a cooperative  
19          agreement does not demonstrate success,  
20          as determined by the Secretary, in resolv-  
21          ing or reasonably attempting to resolve the  
22          property claims of an heir, the Secretary  
23          may terminate the agreement.

24          “(C) IMPLEMENTATION.—The Secretary  
25          may utilize requests for public input or the for-

1 mal rulemaking process to effectuate this sub-  
2 section. At a minimum, the Secretary shall  
3 make publicly available the criteria for selecting  
4 an eligible entity to enter into an agreement to  
5 provide services, the administrative and per-  
6 formance requirements for cooperative agree-  
7 ments under this subsection, as well as codify  
8 within its internal policy its implementation  
9 process.

10 “(D) HEIRS PROPERTY NOT IN FARM-  
11 ING.—On a limited basis, and when determined  
12 by the Secretary to meet the purposes of a pro-  
13 gram administered by the Secretary and to ex-  
14 pand access to such a program, the Secretary  
15 may allow an eligible entity to provide services  
16 at no cost to an heir who is not an underserved  
17 heir if—

18 “(i) the land with respect to which the  
19 services are to be provided is not farmland  
20 or in agricultural production, but could be  
21 viably productive for agricultural, con-  
22 servation, or forestry purposes;

23 “(ii) the heir satisfies all other re-  
24 quirements of the definition of ‘under-  
25 served heir’;

1           “(iii) the heir can provide proof to  
2           substantiate that the heir is in control of  
3           the real property; and

4           “(iv) the heir certifies to the Secretary  
5           that the heir intends to apply for, and  
6           make a good faith effort to enroll the land  
7           in, a program administered by the Sec-  
8           retary once property claims to the land are  
9           resolved through services provided under a  
10          cooperative agreement entered into under  
11          this subsection.

12          “(3) DEFINITIONS.—In this subsection:

13                 “(A) ELIGIBLE ENTITY.—The term ‘eligi-  
14                 ble entity’ means a nonprofit organization  
15                 that—

16                         “(i) provides legal or accounting serv-  
17                         ices to an underserved heir at no cost to  
18                         the underserved heir to resolve property  
19                         ownership issues; and

20                         “(ii) has demonstrated experience in  
21                         resolving issues related to ownership and  
22                         succession on farmland or forest land that  
23                         has multiple owners.

1           “(B) LIMITED RESOURCE HEIR.—An heir  
2 shall be considered a limited resource heir for  
3 purposes of this subsection if—

4           “(i) the total household income of the  
5 heir is at or below the national poverty  
6 level for a family of 4, or less than 50 per-  
7 cent of the county median household in-  
8 come for the 2 immediately preceding cal-  
9 endar years, as determined annually using  
10 data of the Department of Commerce; or

11           “(ii) the property of the heir for which  
12 legal services are provided pursuant to a  
13 cooperative agreement entered into under  
14 this subsection is in a persistent poverty  
15 community, as determined annually on the  
16 basis of data from the Department of  
17 Commerce, or a socially vulnerable area, as  
18 designated by the Centers on Disease Con-  
19 trol and Prevention.

20           “(C) UNDERSERVED HEIR.—The term ‘un-  
21 derserved heir’ means an heir with an undivided  
22 ownership interest in farmland or forest land  
23 that has multiple owners, who is—

24           “(i) a limited resource heir;

1                   “(ii) a member of a socially disadvan-  
2                   tagged group (as defined in section 2501(a)  
3                   of the Food, Agriculture, Conservation,  
4                   and Trade Act of 1990); or

5                   “(iii) a veteran (as defined in section  
6                   101(2) of title 38, United States Code).

7                   “(4) ANNUAL REPORTS TO CONGRESS.—Within  
8                   1 year after the date of the enactment of this sub-  
9                   section, and annually thereafter, the Secretary shall  
10                  prepare, make public, and submit to the Committee  
11                  on Agriculture of the House of Representatives and  
12                  the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and For-  
13                  estry of the Senate a written report on the activities  
14                  carried out under this subsection in the year covered  
15                  by the report.

16                  “(5) LIMITATIONS ON AUTHORIZATION OF AP-  
17                  PROPRIATIONS.—To carry out this subsection, there  
18                  is authorized to be appropriated to the Secretary  
19                  \$60,000,000 for each of fiscal years 2027 through  
20                  2031.”.

21                  (c) ANNUAL REPORT ON OPERATIONS AND OUT-  
22                  COMES UNDER THE RELENDING PROGRAM TO RESOLVE  
23                  OWNERSHIP AND SUCCESSION ON FARMLAND.—Section  
24                  310I(g) of such Act, as so redesignated by subsection (b)  
25                  of this section, is amended by striking “Not later than

1 1 year after the date of enactment of this section, the Sec-  
2 retary shall” and inserting “The Secretary shall annu-  
3 ally”.

4 **SEC. 5110. PROMPT APPROVAL OF LOANS AND LOAN GUAR-**  
5 **ANTEES.**

6 Section 333A of the of the Consolidated Farm and  
7 Rural Development Act (7 U.S.C. 1983a) is amended—

8 (1) in subsection (g)—

9 (A) by striking paragraph (1) and insert-  
10 ing the following:

11 “(1) REAL ESTATE AND OPERATING GUARAN-  
12 TEED LOANS.—

13 “(A) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall  
14 provide to lenders a short, simplified application  
15 form for real estate and operating guaranteed  
16 loans under this title, for loans of not more  
17 than \$1,000,000.

18 “(B) NOTICE.—Within 5 business days  
19 after receipt of a complete application to guar-  
20 antee a farm ownership or operating loan that  
21 meets the requirements under subparagraph  
22 (A) originated by a Preferred Certified Lender  
23 or Certified Lender, the Secretary shall notify  
24 the lender as to whether the application is ap-  
25 proved or disapproved.

1           “(C) MAXIMUM GUARANTEE.—Notwith-  
2 standing any other provision of this Act, the  
3 percentage of the principal amount of a loan  
4 which may be guaranteed pursuant to this  
5 paragraph shall not exceed—

6                   “(i) 90 percent, in the case of a loan  
7 not exceeding \$125,000;

8                   “(ii) 75 percent, in the case of a loan  
9 of more than \$125,000 and not more than  
10 \$500,000; or

11                   “(iii) 50 percent, in the case of a loan  
12 of more than \$500,000 and not more than  
13 \$1,000,000.”; and

14           (B) by redesignating paragraphs (2) and  
15 (3) as paragraphs (3) and (4), respectively, and  
16 inserting after paragraph (1) the following:

17           “(2) BUSINESS AND INDUSTRY GUARANTEED  
18 LOANS TO ASSIST RURAL ENTITIES.—

19                   “(A) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall  
20 develop an application process that accelerates,  
21 to the maximum extent practicable, the proc-  
22 essing of applications for business and industry  
23 guaranteed loans to assist rural entities, as de-  
24 scribed under section 310B(a)(2)(A), for loans  
25 not exceeding \$400,000.

1           “(B) EXCEPTION.—The accelerated appli-  
2           cation process, as provided under subparagraph  
3           (A), shall apply to loans not exceeding  
4           \$600,000 if there is not a significant increased  
5           risk of a default on the loan, as determined by  
6           the Secretary.”; and  
7           (2) by striking subsection (h).

8   **SEC. 5111. EXPEDITED APPROVAL PILOT PROGRAM.**

9           (a) IN GENERAL.—Subtitle D of the Consolidated  
10          Farm and Rural Development Act is amended by inserting  
11          after section 333D (7 U.S.C. 1983d) the following:

12   **“SEC. 333E. EXPEDITED APPROVAL PILOT PROGRAM.**

13          “(a) IN GENERAL.—Beginning not later than 1 year  
14          after the date of the enactment of this section, the Sec-  
15          retary shall carry out a pilot program to establish an expe-  
16          dited qualification and approval process for borrowers  
17          seeking—

18                 “(1) a direct farm ownership loan under this  
19          Act; or

20                 “(2) a guaranteed farm ownership loan under  
21          this Act that is serviced by a Preferred Certified  
22          Lender under section 339(d) and provided to a cred-  
23          itworthy borrower, as determined by the Preferred  
24          Certified Lender.

1           “(b) LOAN ASSESSMENTS.—In carrying out this sec-  
2 tion, the Secretary shall consider streamlining the process  
3 for making—

4           “(1) determinations necessary to make the cer-  
5 tifications and assessments referred to in section  
6 339(c)(5); and

7           “(2) determinations under section 360(b).

8           “(c) RULE OF INTERPRETATION.—Except as other-  
9 wise provided in subsections (a) and (b), this section shall  
10 not be interpreted to authorize the waiver or modification  
11 of any requirement, other than an application process tim-  
12 ing requirement, imposed by or under this Act.

13           “(d) REPORT.—Within 1 year after the date of the  
14 enactment of this section, and annually thereafter, the  
15 Secretary shall submit to the Committee on Agriculture  
16 of the House of Representatives and the Committee on  
17 Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry of the Senate a re-  
18 port examining the actions undertaken under, and the re-  
19 sults of, the pilot program.

20           “(e) TERMINATION OF EFFECTIVENESS.—The au-  
21 thority provided by this section shall terminate effective  
22 September 30, 2031.”.

23           (b) CONFORMING AMENDMENTS.—Section 346(b)(2)  
24 of such Act (7 U.S.C. 1994(b)(2)) is amended—

1 (1) in subparagraph (A)(i)(II), by inserting “,  
2 to the extent practicable” after “April 1 of the fiscal  
3 year”;

4 (2) in subparagraph (A)(iii), by inserting “, to  
5 the extent practicable” after “September 1 of the  
6 fiscal year”; and

7 (3) in subparagraph (B)(iii), in the text, by in-  
8 serting “, to the extent practicable” after “April 1  
9 of the fiscal year”.

## 10 **Subtitle B—Operating Loans**

### 11 **SEC. 5201. PERSONS ELIGIBLE FOR OPERATING LOANS.**

12 Section 311(a) of the Consolidated Farm and Rural  
13 Development Act (7 U.S.C. 1941(a)) is amended—

14 (1) in the 2nd sentence of paragraph (1), by  
15 striking “a majority” each place it appears and in-  
16 serting “at least a 50 percent”; and

17 (2) in paragraph (2)—

18 (A) in the paragraph heading, by striking  
19 “(2) SPECIAL RULE.—An entity” and inserting  
20 the following:

21 “(2) SPECIAL RULES.—

22 “(A) ELIGIBILITY OF QUALIFIED OPERA-  
23 TORS.—Qualified operators, as defined by the  
24 Secretary, shall be considered to meet the oper-  
25 ator requirement of paragraph (1).

1           “(B) ELIGIBILITY OF CERTAIN OPER-  
2           ATING-ONLY ENTITIES.—An entity”;

3           (B) by striking “ownership interests of  
4           each embedded entity of the entity is owned di-  
5           rectly or indirectly by the individuals that own  
6           the family farm” and inserting “total ownership  
7           interests of the embedded entity, or of the other  
8           entities, is owned, directly or indirectly, by  
9           qualified operators of the farm improved or  
10          supported with funds under this subtitle”.

11 **SEC. 5202. LIMITATIONS ON AMOUNT OF OPERATING**  
12           **LOANS.**

13          Section 313(a)(1) of the Consolidated Farm and  
14          Rural Development Act (7 U.S.C. 1943(a)(1)) is amended  
15          by striking “\$400,000, or, in the case of a loan guaranteed  
16          by the Secretary, \$1,750,000 (increased, beginning with  
17          fiscal year 2019” and inserting “\$750,000, or, in the case  
18          of a loan guaranteed by the Secretary, \$3,000,000 (in-  
19          creased, beginning with fiscal year 2026”.

20 **SEC. 5203. LIMITATION ON MICROLOAN AMOUNTS.**

21          Section 313(c)(2) of the Consolidated Farm and  
22          Rural Development Act (7 U.S.C. 1943(c)(2)) is amended  
23          by striking “\$50,000” and inserting “\$100,000”.

1 **SEC. 5204. COOPERATIVE LENDING PILOT PROJECTS.**

2 Section 313(c)(4)(A) of the Consolidated Farm and  
3 Rural Development Act (7 U.S.C. 1943(c)(4)(A)) is  
4 amended by striking “2023” and inserting “2031”.

5 **Subtitle C—Emergency Loans**

6 **SEC. 5301. PERSONS ELIGIBLE FOR EMERGENCY LOANS.**

7 Section 321 of the Consolidated Farm and Rural De-  
8 velopment Act (7 U.S.C. 1961) is amended—

9 (1) in subsection (a)—

10 (A) in the 1st sentence—

11 (i) by striking “(A)” and inserting  
12 “(i)”;

13 (ii) by striking “(B)” and inserting  
14 “(ii)”;

15 (iii) by striking “(1)” and inserting  
16 “(A)”;

17 (iv) by striking “(2)” and inserting  
18 “(B)”;

19 (v) by striking “a majority” each  
20 place it appears and inserting “at least a  
21 50 percent”;

22 (B) in the 2nd sentence, by striking “this  
23 subsection” and inserting “this paragraph”;

24 (C) by striking the 5th sentence; and

25 (D) by adding after and below the end the  
26 following:

1 “(2) SPECIAL RULES.—

2 “(A) ELIGIBILITY OF QUALIFIED OPERA-  
3 TORS.—Qualified operators, as defined by the  
4 Secretary, shall be considered to meet the oper-  
5 ator requirement of paragraph (1).

6 “(B) ELIGIBILITY OF CERTAIN OPER-  
7 ATING-ONLY ENTITIES.— An applicant that is  
8 or will become only the operator of farm real  
9 estate acquired, improved, or supported with  
10 funds under this subtitle shall be considered to  
11 meet the owner-operator requirements of para-  
12 graph (1) if 1 or more of the individuals who  
13 is an owner of the real estate owns at least 50  
14 percent (or such other percentage as the Sec-  
15 retary determines is appropriate) of the appli-  
16 cant.

17 “(C) ELIGIBILITY OF CERTAIN EMBEDDED  
18 ENTITIES.—An entity that is an owner-operator  
19 described in paragraph (1), or an operator de-  
20 scribed in subparagraph (B) of this paragraph  
21 that is owned, in whole or in part, by 1 or more  
22 other entities, shall be considered to meet the  
23 direct ownership requirement imposed under  
24 paragraph (1) if at least 75 percent of the total  
25 ownership interests of the embedded entity, or

1 of the other entities, is owned, directly or indi-  
2 rectly, by qualified operators of the farm ac-  
3 quired, improved, or supported with funds  
4 under this subtitle.”; and

5 (2) by striking all that precedes “shall make  
6 and insure” and inserting the following:

7 **“SEC. 321. ELIGIBILITY FOR LOANS.**

8 “(a) IN GENERAL.—

9 “(1) ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS.—The Sec-  
10 retary”.

11 **Subtitle D—Administrative**  
12 **Provisions**

13 **SEC. 5401. BEGINNING FARMER AND RANCHER INDIVIDUAL**  
14 **DEVELOPMENT ACCOUNTS PILOT PROGRAM.**

15 Section 333B(h) of the Consolidated Farm and Rural  
16 Development Act (7 U.S.C. 1983b(h)) is amended by  
17 striking “2023” and inserting “2031”.

18 **SEC. 5402. LOAN AUTHORIZATION LEVELS.**

19 Section 346(b)(1) of the Consolidated Farm and  
20 Rural Development Act (7 U.S.C. 1994(b)(1)) is amended  
21 in the matter preceding subparagraph (A) by striking  
22 “2023” and inserting “2031”.

23 **SEC. 5403. LOAN FUND SET-ASIDES.**

24 Section 346(b)(2)(A)(ii)(III) of the Consolidated  
25 Farm and Rural Development Act (7 U.S.C.

1 1994(b)(2)(A)(ii)(III)) is amended by striking “2023”  
2 and inserting “2031”.

3 **SEC. 5404. USE OF ADDITIONAL FUNDS FOR DIRECT OPER-**  
4 **ATING MICROLOANS UNDER CERTAIN CONDI-**  
5 **TIONS.**

6 Section 346(b)(5)(C) of the Consolidated Farm and  
7 Rural Development Act (7 U.S.C. 1994(b)(5)(C)) is  
8 amended by striking “2023” and inserting “2031”.

9 **Subtitle E—Miscellaneous**

10 **SEC. 5501. EXTENSION OF CREDIT TO BUSINESSES PRO-**  
11 **VIDING SERVICES TO PRODUCERS OR HAR-**  
12 **VESTERS OF AQUATIC PRODUCTS.**

13 (a) ELIGIBILITY FOR CREDIT AND FINANCIAL SERV-  
14 ICES.—Section 1.9 of the Farm Credit Act of 1971 (12  
15 U.S.C. 2017) is amended—

16 (1) in paragraph (2), by striking “or” at the  
17 end;

18 (2) by redesignating paragraph (3) as para-  
19 graph (4); and

20 (3) by inserting after paragraph (2) the fol-  
21 lowing:

22 “(3) persons furnishing to producers or har-  
23 vesters of aquatic products services directly related  
24 to their operating needs; or”.

1 (b) PURPOSES FOR EXTENSIONS OF CREDIT.—Sec-  
2 tion 1.11(c)(1) of such Act (12 U.S.C. 2019(c)(1)) is  
3 amended by inserting “and to persons furnishing services  
4 directly related to the operating needs of producers or har-  
5 vesters of aquatic products” after “needs”.

6 (c) PRODUCTION CREDIT ASSOCIATIONS.—Section  
7 2.4(a) of such Act (12 U.S.C. 2075(a)) is amended—

8 (1) in paragraph (2), by striking “and” at the  
9 end;

10 (2) in paragraph (3), by striking the period at  
11 the end and inserting “; and”; and

12 (3) by adding at the end the following:

13 “(4) persons furnishing to producers or har-  
14 vesters of aquatic products services directly related  
15 to their operating needs.”.

16 **SEC. 5502. EXPORT FINANCE AUTHORITY.**

17 Section 3.7(b)(2)(A)(i) of the Farm Credit Act of  
18 1971 (12 U.S.C. 2128(b)(2)(A)(i)) is amended—

19 (1) by striking “50 percent of the bank’s cap-  
20 ital” and inserting “15 percent of the total assets of  
21 the bank”; and

22 (2) by striking “an amount equal to 50 percent  
23 of the bank’s capital” and inserting “15 percent of  
24 the total assets of the bank”.

1 **SEC. 5503. SUPPORT FOR RURAL WATER AND WASTE SYS-**  
2 **TEMS.**

3 Section 3.7(f) of the Farm Credit Act of 1971 (12  
4 U.S.C. 2128(f)) is amended—

5 (1) by redesignating paragraphs (1) and (2) as  
6 subparagraphs (A) and (B);

7 (2) by striking “The banks” and inserting “(1)  
8 The banks”;

9 (3) striking “For purposes” and inserting “(3)  
10 For purposes”;

11 (4) in paragraph (3) (as so redesignated), by  
12 inserting “, or in the case of such loans, commit-  
13 ments, and assistance that are guaranteed, the term  
14 ‘rural area’ means an area described in section  
15 343(a)(13)(A) of the Consolidated Farm and Rural  
16 Development Act (7 U.S.C. 1991(a)(13)(A))” before  
17 the period at the end; and

18 (5) by inserting after paragraph (1) (as so re-  
19 designated) the following:

20 “(2) Notwithstanding paragraph (1), a bank for co-  
21 operatives may make and participate in loans and commit-  
22 ments and provide technical and other financial assistance  
23 to cooperatives and any other public or private entity (ex-  
24 cept for the Federal Government) for the purpose of in-  
25 stalling, maintaining, expanding, improving, or operating  
26 facilities in a rural area for the processing or disposal of

1 waste from any source, the provision of telecommunication  
2 services, and producing electricity from any source for use  
3 or sale by the borrower.”.

4 **SEC. 5504. FARM CREDIT SYSTEM REGULATION.**

5 (a) IN GENERAL.—The Farm Credit Act of 1971 (12  
6 U.S.C. 2001 et seq.) is amended by inserting after section  
7 4.20 the following:

8 **“SEC. 4.21. FARM CREDIT SYSTEM REGULATION.**

9 “(a) The Farm Credit Administration shall be the  
10 sole and independent regulator of the Farm Credit System  
11 with respect to activities subject to this Act.

12 “(b) Nothing in this section shall limit or affect any  
13 regulatory or other authority granted to the Farm Credit  
14 System Insurance Corporation under this Act.

15 “(c) A law enacted or rule promulgated after the date  
16 of the enactment of this section shall not be held to modify  
17 or supersede the exclusive authority provided by sub-  
18 section (a), except to the extent that the enacted law does  
19 so expressly.”.

20 (b) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendment made by  
21 subsection (a) shall take effect on the date of the enact-  
22 ment of this Act.

23 **SEC. 5505. LOAN GUARANTEES.**

24 Section 8.0(7)(B) of the Farm Credit Act of 1971  
25 (12 U.S.C. 2279aa(7)(B)) is amended by inserting “ or

1 section 9007(c)(1) of the Farm Security and Rural Invest-  
2 ment Act of 2002 (7 U.S.C. 8107(c)(1))” before the 1st  
3 comma.

4 **SEC. 5506. STANDARDS FOR QUALIFIED LOANS.**

5 Section 8.8 of the Farm Credit Act of 1971 (12  
6 U.S.C. 2279aa–8) is amended—

7 (1) in subsection (a)(3), by striking “mortgage  
8 investors” and inserting “investors in those types of  
9 loans”; and

10 (2) by striking subsection (c) and inserting the  
11 following:

12 “(c) **QUALIFIED LOAN LIMITATION FOR SINGLE**  
13 **BORROWERS.—**

14 “(1) **IN GENERAL.—**The Corporation shall not  
15 treat a loan secured by agricultural real estate as a  
16 qualified loan when the cumulative principal amount  
17 of all loans to a single borrower or related borrowers  
18 exceeds 10 percent of the Corporation’s tier 1 cap-  
19 ital, as defined by the Farm Credit Administration.

20 “(2) **REGULATOR DETERMINATION.—**The Farm  
21 Credit Administration may issue regulations estab-  
22 lishing a single borrower concentration limit lower  
23 than the percentage specified in paragraph (1) if the  
24 Farm Credit Administration determines that such a

1 lower limit is necessary for the safe and sound oper-  
2 ation of the Corporation.”.

3 **SEC. 5507. STATE AGRICULTURAL MEDIATION PROGRAMS.**

4 (a) MATCHING GRANTS TO STATES.—Section 502 of  
5 the Agricultural Credit Act of 1987 (7 U.S.C. 5102) is  
6 amended—

7 (1) in subsection (b)(2), by striking “\$500,000”  
8 and inserting “\$700,000”; and

9 (2) by adding at the end the following:

10 “(e) CARRYOVER OF FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE.—The  
11 Secretary shall permit a State that receives financial as-  
12 sistance under subsection (a) for a fiscal year to carry over  
13 not more than 25 percent of the financial assistance that  
14 is not expended by the end of the fiscal year, for use dur-  
15 ing the next fiscal year without deducting the amount  
16 from any assistance provided under this Act in subsequent  
17 fiscal years.”.

18 (b) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—Section  
19 506 of the Agricultural Credit Act of 1987 (7 U.S.C.  
20 5106) is amended by striking “2023” and inserting  
21 “2031”.

22 **SEC. 5508. TECHNICAL CORRECTIONS.**

23 (a) ELIMINATION OF OBSOLETE REFERENCES TO  
24 COUNTY COMMITTEES.—

1           (1) Section 333A(a)(2)(B)(vi) of the Consoli-  
2 dated Farm and Rural Development Act (7 U.S.C.  
3 1983a(a)(2)(B)(vi)) is amended by striking “by the  
4 county committee” and inserting “of the applica-  
5 tion”.

6           (2) Section 336 of such Act (7 U.S.C. 1986) is  
7 amended—

8           (A) by striking the last sentence of sub-  
9 section (b); and

10           (B) by striking subsection (e) and redesign-  
11 ating subsection (d) as subsection (e).

12           (3) Section 339 of such Act (7 U.S.C. 1989) is  
13 amended—

14           (A) in subsection (c)(4)(A), by striking  
15 “county committee certification that the bor-  
16 rower of the loan meets the eligibility require-  
17 ments and” and inserting “the borrower meet-  
18 ing”; and

19           (B) in subsection (d)(4)(A), by striking  
20 “county committee certification that the bor-  
21 rower meets the eligibility requirements or” and  
22 inserting “the borrower meeting”.

23           (4) Section 359(c)(1) of such Act (7 U.S.C.  
24 2006a(c)(1)) is amended by striking “(as determined

1 by the appropriate county committee during the de-  
2 termination of eligibility for the loan)”.

3 (b) REVISION OF LOAN ASSESSMENT REQUIRE-  
4 MENTS.—Section 360(d)(1) of such Act (7 U.S.C.  
5 2006b(d)(1)) is amended by striking “annual review of di-  
6 rect loans, and periodic review (as determined necessary  
7 by the Secretary) of guaranteed loans” and inserting  
8 “periodic review (as determined by the Secretary) of direct  
9 and guaranteed loans”.

10 (c) UPDATING OF OUTDATED REFERENCES TO THE  
11 FARMERS HOME ADMINISTRATION AND THE RURAL DE-  
12 VELOPMENT AGENCY.—

13 (1) Section 309(e) of such Act (7 U.S.C.  
14 1928(e)) is amended by striking “Farmers Home  
15 Administration and the Rural Development Adminis-  
16 tration” and inserting “Farm Service Agency and  
17 Rural Development”.

18 (2) Section 331(b)(4) of such Act (7 U.S.C.  
19 1981(b)(4)) is amended by striking “Consolidated”.

20 (3) Section 331(b) of such Act (7 U.S.C.  
21 1981(b)) is amended in each of paragraphs (5) and  
22 (7) by striking “Farmers Home Administration”  
23 each place it appears and inserting “Farm Service  
24 Agency and Rural Development”.

1           (4) Section 331(b)(8) of such Act (7 U.S.C.  
2           1981(b)(8)) is amended by striking “Rural Develop-  
3           ment Administration or by the Farmers Home Ad-  
4           ministration” and inserting “Farm Service Agency  
5           and Rural Development”.

6           (5) Section 331A(a) of such Act (7 U.S.C.  
7           1981a(a)) is amended by striking “Farmers Home  
8           Administration or by the Rural Development Admin-  
9           istration” and inserting “Farm Service Agency or by  
10          Rural Development”.

11          (6) Section 335(a) of such Act (7 U.S.C.  
12          1985(a)) is amended by striking “Farmers Home  
13          Administration or the Rural Development Adminis-  
14          tration” and inserting “Farm Service Agency or  
15          Rural Development”.

16          (7) Section 335(f)(1) of such Act (7 U.S.C.  
17          1985(f)(1)) is amended—

18                 (A) by striking “Agricultural Stabilization  
19                 and Conservation Service payments” and insert-  
20                 ing “Farm Service Agency farm program”;

21                 (B) by striking “Farmers Home Adminis-  
22                 tration liens” and inserting “liens for a farmer  
23                 program loan”; and

1 (C) by striking “Farmers Home Adminis-  
2 tration farmer” and inserting “Farm Service  
3 Agency farmer”.

4 (8) Section 338(a) of such Act (7 U.S.C.  
5 1988(a)) is amended by striking “Farmers Home  
6 Administration or the Rural Development Adminis-  
7 tration” and inserting “Farm Service Agency and  
8 Rural Development”.

9 (9) Section 347 of such Act (7 U.S.C. 1995) is  
10 amended by striking “Farmers Home Administra-  
11 tion” and inserting “Farm Service Agency and  
12 Rural Development”.

13 (10) Section 356 of such Act (7 U.S.C. 2004)  
14 is amended—

15 (A) by striking “Farmers Home Adminis-  
16 tration may” and inserting “Farm Service  
17 Agency and Rural Development may”; and

18 (B) by striking “the inventory of the  
19 Farmers Home Administration” and inserting  
20 “inventory”.

21 (11) Section 370(a) of such Act (7 U.S.C.  
22 2008e(a)) is amended by striking “the Rural Devel-  
23 opment Administration, the Farmers Home Admin-  
24 istration, the Rural Electrification Administration”

1 and inserting “Rural Development, the Farm Serv-  
2 ice Agency, the Rural Utilities Service”.

3 (12) Each of the following provisions of such  
4 Act is amended by striking “Farmers Home Admin-  
5 istration” each place it appears and inserting “Farm  
6 Service Agency”:

7 (A) Section 309(g)(1) (7 U.S.C.  
8 1929(g)(1)).

9 (B) Section 331A(a) (7 U.S.C. 1981a(a)).

10 (C) Section 333A(e)(1) (7 U.S.C.  
11 1983a(e)(1)).

12 (D) Section 335(d) (7 U.S.C. 1985(d)).

13 (E) Section 353A (7 U.S.C. 2001a).

14 (F) Section 349(e)(1)(B) (7 U.S.C.  
15 1997(e)(1)(B)).

16 (G) Section 361 (7 U.S.C. 2006c).

17 (d) Section 335(c)(1) of such Act (7 U.S.C.  
18 1985(c)(1)) is amended—

19 (1) in subparagraph (A), by striking “15” and  
20 inserting “60”;

21 (2) in subparagraph (B)(i)—

22 (A) by striking “135” and inserting  
23 “180”; and

1 (B) by inserting “suitable for farming and  
2 ranching, as determined by the Secretary” be-  
3 fore the comma; and

4 (3) in subparagraph (C), by striking “not later  
5 than 135 days after acquiring the real property, the  
6 Secretary shall, not later than 30 days after the  
7 135-day period,” and inserting “or if the property is  
8 not suitable for farming and ranching as determined  
9 by the Secretary, not later than 60 days after the  
10 180-day period, the Secretary shall”.

11 (e) CORRECTION OF INFEASIBLE INVENTORY PROP-  
12 erty DISPOSITION FRAMEWORK.—

13 (1) Section 331(b)(1) of such Act (7 U.S.C.  
14 1981(b)(1)) is amended by striking “, and until Jan-  
15 uary” and all that follows through “fit”).

16 (2) Section 335(f) of such Act (7 U.S.C.  
17 1985(f)) is amended—

18 (A) by striking paragraphs (3) through (5)  
19 and redesignating paragraph (6) as paragraph  
20 (3); and

21 (B) by striking paragraph (7) and insert-  
22 ing the following:

23 “(4) The Secretary shall issue regulations consistent  
24 with this section that ensures the release of funds to each  
25 borrower.”.

1 (f) REPLACEMENT OF REFERENCES TO DISTRICT  
2 OFFICE WITH REFERENCES TO DISTRICT DIRECTOR.—  
3 Section 333A(a)(2)(B) of such Act (7 U.S.C.  
4 1983a(a)(2)(B)) is amended by striking “district office”  
5 each place it appears and inserting “District Director”.

6 (g) CORRECTION OF OBSOLETE REFERENCE TO  
7 FORMER TRUST TERRITORIES.—Section 343(a)(6) of  
8 such Act (7 U.S.C. 1991(a)(6)) is amended by striking  
9 “the Trust Territory of the Pacific Islands” and inserting  
10 “the Federated States of Micronesia, the Republic of  
11 Palau, and the Republic of the Marshall Islands”.

12 (h) REVISION OF FARMER PROGRAM LOAN DEFINI-  
13 TION.—Section 343(a)(10) of such Act (7 U.S.C.  
14 1991(a)(10)) is amended by inserting “before June 18,  
15 2008, conservation loan (CL) under section 304 on or  
16 after June 18, 2008,” before “emergency loan (EM)”.

17 (i) ELIMINATION OF INCONSISTENCY BETWEEN  
18 RULES APPLICABLE TO BEGINNING FARMERS.—Section  
19 343(a)(11)(C) of such Act (7 U.S.C. 1991(a)(11)(C)) is  
20 amended by striking “related to one another by blood or  
21 marriage” and inserting “qualified beginning farmers”.

22 (j) UPDATING OF PROVISIONS TO REFLECT  
23 REPURPOSING OF CONSERVATION LOAN PROVISIONS.—

1           (1) Section 303(a) of such Act (7 U.S.C.  
2           1923(a)) is amended in each of paragraphs (1)(D)  
3           and (2)(D) by striking “described in section 304”.

4           (2) Section 310D of such Act (7 U.S.C. 1934)  
5           is amended by striking “, or paragraphs (1) through  
6           (5) of section 304(a),” and inserting “section  
7           304(a)”.

8           (k) UPDATING OF NOTICE PROVISION REQUIREMENT  
9           AND LIFETIME DEBT FORGIVENESS LIMIT.—Section  
10          353(i)(1) of such Act (7 U.S.C. 2001(i)(1)) is amended  
11          by striking “registered or certified mail” and inserting  
12          “any method that provides documentation of delivery”.

13          (l) UPDATING OF OBSOLETE REFERENCE TO THE  
14          SOIL CONSERVATION SERVICE.—Section 306(a)(13) of  
15          such Act (7 U.S.C. 1926(a)(13)) is amended by striking  
16          “Soil Conservation Service” and inserting “Natural Re-  
17          sources Conservation Service”.

18          (m) CLARIFICATION OF INTEREST RATE REQUIRE-  
19          MENTS.—

20                 (1) Section 307(a)(3)(B) of such Act (7 U.S.C.  
21                 1927(a)(3)(B)) is amended by striking “not be—”  
22                 and all that follows and inserting “be equal to the  
23                 interest rate for direct farm ownership loans under  
24                 this subtitle, not to exceed 5 percent per year.”.

1           (2) Section 316(a)(2) of such Act (7 U.S.C.  
2           1946(a)(2)) is amended by striking “not be—” and  
3           all that follows and inserting “be equal to the inter-  
4           est rate for direct farm ownership loans under this  
5           subtitle, not to exceed 5 percent per year.”.

6           (n) CORRECTION OF HEADING.—Section 309(h)(6)  
7           of such Act (7 U.S.C. 1929(h)(6)) is amended in the para-  
8           graph heading by striking “BEGINNING FARMER LOANS”  
9           and inserting “DOWN PAYMENT LOAN PROGRAM PARTICI-  
10          PANT”.

11          (o) ELIMINATION OF SUPERFLUOUS RESTRIC-  
12          TIONS.—Section 312 of such Act (7 U.S.C. 1942) is  
13          amended by striking subsection (d) and redesignating sub-  
14          section (e) as subsection (d).

15          (p) ELIMINATION OF CONFUSING REFERENCES TO  
16          LOAN GUARANTEES.—Section 319 of such Act (7 U.S.C.  
17          1949) is amended—

18                 (1) in the section heading, by striking “**OR**  
19                 **GUARANTEES**”; and

20                 (2) by striking “or with respect to whom there  
21                 is an outstanding guarantee under this subtitle”.

22          (q) ELIMINATION OF OBSOLETE REPORTING RE-  
23          QUIREMENTS.—Section 346 of such Act (7 U.S.C. 1994)  
24          is amended by striking subsections (c) and (d).

1 (r) CORRECTION OF OBSOLETE APPEALS PROVI-  
2 SIONS.—

3 (1) Section 352(e)(3) of such Act (7 U.S.C.  
4 2000(e)(3)) is amended by striking “section 333B”  
5 and inserting “subtitle H of title II of Federal Crop  
6 Insurance Reform and Department of Agriculture  
7 Reorganization Act of 1994”.

8 (2) Section 353 of such Act (7 U.S.C. 2001) is  
9 amended—

10 (A) in subsection (h), by striking “under  
11 section 333B”; and

12 (B) in subsection (j)—

13 (i) by striking “filed with the appeals  
14 division under section 333B” and inserting  
15 “to the National Appeals Division”;

16 (ii) by striking “appeals division  
17 shall” and inserting “Secretary shall”; and

18 (iii) by striking “county supervisor”  
19 and inserting “Secretary”.

20 (s) ELIMINATION OF UNNECESSARY CONSTRAINT ON  
21 PILOT PROJECTS.—Section 333D(a) of such Act (7  
22 U.S.C. 1983d(a)) is amended by striking “that are con-  
23 sistent with subtitle A through this subtitle”.

24 (t) CORRECTION OF HEADING.—The paragraph  
25 heading in section 8.8(a)(3) of the Farm Credit Act of

1 1971 (12 U.S.C. 2279aa–8(a)(3)) is amended by striking  
2 “MORTGAGE LOANS” and inserting “LOAN QUALITY”.

3 **SEC. 5509. REPORT ON IMPROVING CREDITWORTHINESS OF**  
4 **DIRECT AND GUARANTEED LOAN BOR-**  
5 **ROWERS.**

6 (a) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 1 year after the  
7 date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary shall submit  
8 to the Committee on Agriculture of the House of Rep-  
9 resentatives and the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition,  
10 and Forestry of the Senate a report evaluating the feasi-  
11 bility of requiring the adoption of certain risk manage-  
12 ment practices as a condition for approving certain direct  
13 and guaranteed farm loans.

14 (b) REQUIREMENT.—In the report under subsection  
15 (a), the Secretary shall evaluate the feasibility of requir-  
16 ing, as a condition for approving certain direct and guar-  
17 anteed farm loans, the adoption of 1 or more of the fol-  
18 lowing risk management practices:

19 (1) Hedging and marketing price or revenue  
20 risk management strategies.

21 (2) Insurance coverage optimization or coordi-  
22 nation.

23 (3) Periodic financial reporting or financial  
24 management practices.

1           (4) Cash management services to facilitate  
2           timely disbursement of funds and structured collec-  
3           tion of operating revenues.

4           (5) The use of integrated monitoring and ana-  
5           lytics tools to align risk management and financial  
6           decisions with observed environmental and produc-  
7           tion conditions.

8           (6) Other risk mitigation practices as deter-  
9           mined by the Secretary.

10          (7) Voluntary lender incentives to promote inte-  
11          grated risk management support without increasing  
12          costs or burdens for applicants.

13          (c) CERTIFICATION.—In completing the report under  
14          subsection (a), the Secretary shall also evaluate the feasi-  
15          bility of establishing a certification program that identifies  
16          loans approved contingent on the adoption of enhanced  
17          risk management practices, including through voluntary  
18          lender incentives to promote integrated risk management  
19          support without increasing costs or burdens for applicants.

20          (d) APPLICABILITY.—The requirements and evalua-  
21          tions under this section shall apply only to operating, pro-  
22          duction, and working capital loans made for agricultural  
23          production purposes and shall not apply to real estate  
24          loans, rural development loans, housing loans, business

1 and industry loans, or other non-operating credit pro-  
2 grams administered by the Secretary.

3 **SEC. 5510. FARM CREDIT ADMINISTRATION OPTION TO EX-**  
4 **AMINE LOW-RISK FARM CREDIT SYSTEM IN-**  
5 **STITUTIONS ON A 24-MONTH CYCLE.**

6 (a) IN GENERAL.—Section 5.19(a) of the Farm  
7 Credit Act of 1971 (12 U.S.C. 2254(a)) is amended in  
8 the 1st sentence—

9 (1) by striking “in no event” and inserting  
10 “not”; and

11 (2) by inserting “, except that the Farm Credit  
12 Administration, in its sole discretion, may extend the  
13 time period between mandatory examinations of in-  
14 stitutions deemed by the Farm Credit Administra-  
15 tion to be small, low-risk institutions to not more  
16 than 24 months” before the period.

17 (b) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendments made by  
18 subsection (a) shall take effect on October 1, 2026.

1                   **TITLE VI—RURAL**  
2                   **DEVELOPMENT**  
3           **Subtitle A—Improving Health**  
4           **Outcomes in Rural America**

5   **SEC. 6101. PRIORITIZATIONS FOR DISTANCE LEARNING**  
6                   **AND TELEMEDICINE AND COMMUNITY FA-**  
7                   **CILITIES PROGRAM.**

8           Section 6101(a) of the Agriculture Improvement Act  
9 of 2018 (132 Stat. 4726; Public Law 115–334) is amend-  
10 ed—

11                   (1) in paragraph (1)—

12                           (A) in the matter preceding subparagraph

13                           (A), by striking “2025” and inserting “2027”;

14                           (B) in subparagraph (A)—

15                                   (i) in clause (i)—

16   (I) in the heading, by striking

17   “SUBSTANCE USE DISORDER SET-

18   ASIDE” and inserting “SET-ASIDE”;

19   (II) by inserting “at rural health

20   facilities” before “that provide”; and

21   (III) by inserting “, mental

22   health, behavioral health, or maternal

23   health” before “treatment”; and

1 (ii) in clause (ii), by inserting “mental  
2 health, behavioral health, maternal health,  
3 or” before “substance”;

4 (C) in subparagraph (B)—

5 (i) in clause (i)—

6 (I) in the heading, by striking  
7 “SUBSTANCE USE DISORDER SELEC-  
8 TION” and inserting “SELECTION”;

9 (II) in subclause (I), by inserting  
10 “mental health, behavioral health, ma-  
11 ternal health, or” before “substance”  
12 the first place it appears; and

13 (III) in subclause (II), by insert-  
14 ing “mental health concerns, behav-  
15 ioral health concerns, maternal health  
16 concerns, or” before “substance”; and

17 (ii) in clause (ii), by inserting “, be-  
18 havioral health treatment, mental health  
19 treatment, or maternal health, respec-  
20 tively” before the period; and

21 (D) in subparagraph (C), by inserting “be-  
22 havioral health, mental health, maternal health,  
23 or” before “substance” the first place it ap-  
24 pears; and

1 (2) in paragraph (2), by striking “2025” and  
2 inserting “2027”.

3 **SEC. 6102. DISTANCE LEARNING AND TELEMEDICINE**  
4 **LOANS AND GRANTS.**

5 Section 2335A of the Food, Agriculture, Conserva-  
6 tion, and Trade Act of 1990 (7 U.S.C. 950aaa–5) is  
7 amended by striking “\$82,000,000 for each of fiscal years  
8 2019 through 2023” and inserting “\$82,000,000 for each  
9 of fiscal years 2027 through 2031, to remain available for  
10 2 fiscal years after the fiscal year for which appropriated”.

11 **Subtitle B—Connecting Rural**  
12 **Americans to High Speed**  
13 **Broadband**

14 **SEC. 6201. RURAL BROADBAND PROGRAM LOANS AND**  
15 **GRANTS.**

16 (a) IN GENERAL.—Section 601 of the Rural Elec-  
17 trification Act of 1936 (7 U.S.C. 950bb) is amended—

18 (1) in the section heading, by striking “**AC-**  
19 **CESS TO BROADBAND TELECOMMUNICATIONS**  
20 **SERVICES IN RURAL AREAS**” and inserting “**RE-**  
21 **CONNECT RURAL BROADBAND PROGRAM**”;

22 (2) in subsection (a), by striking “The purpose”  
23 and all that follows through “provide funds for” and  
24 inserting “The Secretary shall establish a program,  
25 which shall be known as the ‘ReConnect Rural

1 Broadband Program’, to provide grants, loans, and  
2 loan guarantees to finance”;

3 (3) in subsection (c)—

4 (A) by striking paragraph (1) and insert-  
5 ing the following:

6 “(1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall make  
7 grants, loans, and loan guarantees to eligible entities  
8 described in subsection (d) for the purpose of financ-  
9 ing the construction, improvement, or acquisition of  
10 facilities and equipment necessary for delivering  
11 broadband service in rural areas.”;

12 (B) in paragraph (2), by striking subpara-  
13 graphs (A) and (B) and inserting the following:

14 “(A) IN GENERAL.—In making grants,  
15 making loans, and guaranteeing loans under  
16 paragraph (1), the Secretary shall give the  
17 highest priority to applications for projects to  
18 provide broadband service to unserved rural  
19 communities that do not have any residential  
20 broadband service of at least—

21 “(i) a 25-Mbps downstream trans-  
22 mission capacity; and

23 “(ii) a 3-Mbps upstream transmission  
24 capacity.

1           “(B) OTHER.—After giving priority to the  
2 applications described in subparagraph (A), the  
3 Secretary shall then give priority to applica-  
4 tions—

5           “(i) for projects to provide broadband  
6 service to rural communities—

7           “(I) with a population of less  
8 than 10,000 inhabitants; or

9           “(II) in geographically under-  
10 served and distressed areas, includ-  
11 ing—

12           “(aa) a socially vulnerable  
13 community (as determined by the  
14 Secretary);

15           “(bb) a persistent poverty  
16 county (as determined by the  
17 Secretary); or

18           “(cc) in an economically dis-  
19 tressed area (as determined by  
20 the Secretary);

21           “(ii) that were developed with the par-  
22 ticipation of, and will receive a substantial  
23 portion of the funding or in-kind assistance  
24 for the project from, 2 or more stake-  
25 holders, including—

1                   “(I) State, local, and Tribal gov-  
2 ernments;  
3                   “(II) nonprofit institutions;  
4                   “(III) community anchor institu-  
5 tions, such as—  
6                   “(aa) public libraries;  
7                   “(bb) elementary schools  
8 and secondary schools (as defined  
9 in section 8101 of the Elemen-  
10 tary and Secondary Education  
11 Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 7801));  
12                   “(cc) institutions of higher  
13 education (including 1862 Land-  
14 Grant Institutions, 1890 Land-  
15 Grant Institutions, 1994 Land-  
16 Grant Institutions, Hispanic-  
17 Serving Institutions, and Histori-  
18 cally Black Colleges and Univer-  
19 sities);  
20                   “(dd) health care facilities;  
21 and  
22                   “(ee) facilities essential for  
23 local or regional commerce or for  
24 the movement of goods;  
25                   “(IV) private entities;

1                   “(V) philanthropic organizations;  
2                   and

3                   “(VI) cooperatives; or  
4                   “(iii) that are submitted by an eligible  
5                   entity or is owned by an entity that has  
6                   provided broadband service or other utility  
7                   service for at least 5 years in rural areas  
8                   in the State in which the project would be  
9                   carried out.

10                  “(C) AFFORDABILITY.—In determining  
11                  whether a household is unserved for purposes of  
12                  this section, the Secretary shall consider the af-  
13                  fordability of broadband service.”;

14                  (C) in paragraph (3)—

15                   (i) in subparagraph (B)—

16                   (I) by striking “and” at the end  
17                   of clause (i);

18                   (II) by striking the period at the  
19                   end of clause (ii) and inserting “;  
20                   and”;

21                   (III) by adding at the end the  
22                   following:

23                   “(iii) shall be subject to a grant  
24                   agreement of not less than 10 years.”;

1 (ii) by striking subparagraphs (C) and  
2 (D) and inserting the following:

3 “(C) APPLICATIONS.—

4 “(i) GRANT-ONLY APPLICATIONS.—

5 The Secretary shall establish an applica-  
6 tion process that permits an application for  
7 a grant-only award.

8 “(ii) COMBINED APPLICATIONS.—The  
9 Secretary shall establish an application  
10 process that—

11 “(I) permits a single application  
12 for a grant and a loan under title I or  
13 II, or this title, that is associated with  
14 the grant; and

15 “(II) provides a single decision to  
16 award the grant and the loan.”;

17 (iii) by redesignating subparagraph  
18 (E) as subparagraph (D); and

19 (iv) by striking subparagraph (F); and  
20 (D) by striking paragraph (4) and insert-  
21 ing the following:

22 “(4) FEES.—

23 “(A) INITIAL GUARANTEE FEE.—The Sec-  
24 retary may assess an initial guarantee fee for  
25 any insured or guaranteed loan issued or modi-

1           fied under this section in an amount that does  
2           not exceed 3 percent of the guaranteed prin-  
3           cipal portion of the loan.

4           “(B) PERIODIC RETENTION FEE.—The  
5           Secretary may assess a periodic retention fee  
6           for any insured or guaranteed loan issued or  
7           modified under this section in an amount that  
8           does not exceed 0.75 percent of the outstanding  
9           principal of the guarantee loan.

10          “(C) DISCLOSURE.—In altering any fee  
11          charged for any insured or guaranteed loan  
12          issued or modified under this section, the Sec-  
13          retary, not less than 30 days in advance of any  
14          fee change, shall provide a public disclosure, of  
15          the financial data, economic and behavioral as-  
16          sumptions, calculations, and other factors used  
17          to determine the new fee rates.”;

18          (4) in subsection (d)—

19                 (A) in paragraph (1)—

20                         (i) in subparagraph (A)—

21                                 (I) in clause (i), by adding “and”

22   at the end; and

23   (II) by striking “require; and”

24   and all that follows through “agree”

25   and insert “require, and agree”;

1                   (ii) by redesignating subparagraph  
2                   (B) as subparagraph (E) and inserting  
3                   after subparagraph (A) the following:

4                   “(B) INCLUSIONS.—An entity eligible to  
5                   obtain assistance under subsection (c) may in-  
6                   clude—

7                   “(i) a State or local government, in-  
8                   cluding any agency, subdivision, instru-  
9                   mentality, or political subdivision of a  
10                  State or local government;

11                  “(ii) a territory or possession of the  
12                  United States;

13                  “(iii) an Indian Tribe (as defined in  
14                  section 4 of the Indian Self-Determination  
15                  and Education Assistance Act (25 U.S.C.  
16                  5304));

17                  “(iv) a cooperative or mutual organi-  
18                  zation;

19                  “(v) an organization of 2 or more in-  
20                  corporated areas that have established an  
21                  intermunicipal legal agreement for the pur-  
22                  poses of delivering communication services  
23                  to residents;

24                  “(vi) a corporation; or

1                   “(vii) a limited liability company or  
2                   limited liability partnership.

3                   “(C) INELIGIBLE ENTITIES.—An indi-  
4                   vidual or legal general partnership that is  
5                   formed with individuals shall not be eligible to  
6                   obtain a grant, loan, or grant and loan com-  
7                   bination under subsection (c).

8                   “(D) AFFILIATED OWNED AND OPERATED  
9                   NETWORKS.—Under this subsection, the Sec-  
10                  retary may fund the construction of networks  
11                  owned and operated by an affiliate of an eligible  
12                  entity receiving the grant, loan, or loan guar-  
13                  antee, if the eligible entity, the affiliate, or  
14                  both, as determined necessary by the Secretary,  
15                  furnishes adequate security for the grant, loan,  
16                  or loan guarantee.”; and

17                  (iii) in subparagraph (E) (as so reded-  
18                  icated by clause (ii) of this subpara-  
19                  graph), by inserting “, directly or in con-  
20                  junction with any combination of affili-  
21                  ates,” before “may not”;

22                  (B) in paragraph (2)—

23                  (i) in subparagraph (A)—

1 (I) by striking “subparagraphs  
2 (B) and (C)” and inserting “subpara-  
3 graph (B)”;

4 (II) by striking “is submitted—”  
5 and all that follows through “(i) not  
6 less than 50” and inserting “is sub-  
7 mitted not less than 75”; and

8 (III) by striking “(e); and” and  
9 all that follows and inserting “(e).”;

10 (ii) in subparagraph (B), by striking  
11 “(A)(i)” and inserting “(A)”; and

12 (iii) by striking subparagraph (C) and  
13 inserting the following:

14 “(C) AFFORDABILITY.—In deciding wheth-  
15 er a proposed service territory is unserved for  
16 purposes of subparagraph (A), the Secretary  
17 shall consider the affordability of broadband  
18 service in the service territory.”; and

19 (C) by striking paragraphs (4) and (5);  
20 (5) in subsection (e)—

21 (A) in paragraph (1)—

22 (i) by striking “Subject to paragraph  
23 (2), for” and inserting “For”;

24 (ii) in subparagraph (A), by striking  
25 “25” and inserting “50”; and

1 (iii) in subparagraph (B), by striking  
2 “3” and inserting “25”;

3 (B) by striking paragraph (2) and insert-  
4 ing the following:

5 “(2) ADJUSTMENTS.—The Secretary may ad-  
6 just, through a 30-day public notice and comment  
7 period published in the Federal Register, an increase  
8 in the minimum level of broadband service under  
9 paragraph (1) of no more than 50 percent from the  
10 preceding year, if less than 95 percent of the funds  
11 of the program are obligated in the preceding 2  
12 funding rounds.”; and

13 (C) in paragraph (4)—

14 (i) in the paragraph heading, by strik-  
15 ing “BUILDOUT” and inserting “PROJECT  
16 AGREEMENT”; and

17 (ii) by striking subparagraphs (B)  
18 through (D) and inserting the following:

19 “(B) BROADBAND BUILDOUT STANDARDS  
20 DEFINED.—A project must meet the following  
21 applicable broadband standard in order to be  
22 considered for assistance;

23 “(i) A project with an award term of  
24 less than 8 years must provide service at

1                   2 times the minimum broadband speed es-  
2                   tablished in subsection (e)(1).

3                   “(ii) A project with an award term of  
4                   at least 8 years and less than 14 years  
5                   must provide service at 5 times the min-  
6                   imum broadband speed established in sub-  
7                   section (e)(1).

8                   “(iii) A project with an award term of  
9                   14 or more years must provide service at  
10                  10 times the minimum broadband speed  
11                  established in subsection (e)(1).

12                  “(C) NETWORK UPGRADE PLANNING.—  
13                  The Secretary may prioritize an applicant seek-  
14                  ing to meet the broadband buildout standards  
15                  under clause (i) or (ii) of subparagraph (B) if  
16                  the applicant submits information regarding the  
17                  potential for the physical infrastructure of the  
18                  network to be upgraded to meet the broadband  
19                  buildout standards under subparagraph (B)(iii)  
20                  at the time of the application, assuming reason-  
21                  able progress in relevant networking tech-  
22                  nologies.”;  
23                  (6) by striking subsection (j) and inserting the  
24                  following:

1       “(j) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There  
2 is authorized to be appropriated to the Secretary to carry  
3 out this section \$350,000,000 for each of fiscal years 2027  
4 through 2031, to remain available until expended.”; and  
5       (7) in subsection (k), by striking “2023” and  
6       inserting “2031”.

7       (b) REGULATIONS.—Not later than 270 days after  
8 the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary shall  
9 promulgate rules to carry out the amendments made by  
10 subsection (a) of this section, and complete the biennial  
11 review process required by section 601(e)(2) of the Rural  
12 Electrification Act of 1936.

13       (c) SUNSET.—The authorities provided by section  
14 779 of the Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2018 (Public  
15 Law 115–141) shall have no force or effect beginning 270  
16 days after the date of the enactment of this Act.

17       (d) TRANSITION RULES.—

18       (1) AVAILABILITY OF FUNDS FOR ADMINISTRA-  
19       TIVE COSTS.—Not more than 1 percent of the unob-  
20       ligated balances of amounts made available, as of  
21       the date that is 270 days after the date of the enact-  
22       ment of this Act, to carry out the pilot program de-  
23       scribed in section 779 of the Consolidated Appro-  
24       priations Act, 2018 (Public Law 115–141) may be  
25       used for the costs of transitioning from the pilot

1 program to the program under section 601 of the  
2 Rural Electrification Act of 1936, as amended by  
3 this Act.

4 (2) CONSOLIDATION OF FUNDS.—

5 (A) IN GENERAL.—The unobligated bal-  
6 ances of all amounts made available on or be-  
7 fore June 30, 2025, to carry out the pilot pro-  
8 gram described in section 779 of the Consoli-  
9 dated Appropriations Act, 2018 (Public Law  
10 115–141) that are in excess of the amount de-  
11 scribed in subparagraph (B) of this paragraph  
12 are hereby transferred to and merged with  
13 amounts made available to carry out the pro-  
14 gram authorized under section 601 of the Rural  
15 Electrification Act of 1936.

16 (B) UNFUNDED APPROVALS.—The amount  
17 described in this subparagraph is the amount  
18 required to fully fund each project approved as  
19 of the date that is 270 days after the date of  
20 the enactment of this Act, under the pilot pro-  
21 gram described in such section 779 for which  
22 amounts were not obligated or partially obli-  
23 gated as of such date.

1 **SEC. 6202. EXPANSION OF MIDDLE MILE INFRASTRUCTURE**  
2 **INTO RURAL AREAS.**

3 Section 602(g) of the Rural Electrification Act of  
4 1936 (7 U.S.C. 950bb–1(g)) is amended by striking  
5 “2018 through 2023” and inserting “2027 through  
6 2031”.

7 **SEC. 6203. INNOVATIVE BROADBAND ADVANCEMENT PRO-**  
8 **GRAM.**

9 Section 603 of the Rural Electrification Act of 1936  
10 (7 U.S.C. 950bb–2) is amended to read as follows:

11 **“SEC. 603. INNOVATIVE BROADBAND ADVANCEMENT PRO-**  
12 **GRAM.**

13 “(a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall establish a  
14 program to be known as the ‘Innovative Broadband Ad-  
15 vancement Program’, under which the Secretary may pro-  
16 vide a grant, a loan, or both to an eligible entity for the  
17 purpose of demonstrating innovative broadband tech-  
18 nologies or methods of broadband deployment that signifi-  
19 cantly decrease the cost of broadband deployment, and  
20 provide substantially faster broadband speeds than are  
21 available, in a rural area.

22 “(b) TERRESTRIAL BROADBAND DEMONSTRATION  
23 PROJECTS.—

24 “(1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall provide  
25 grants or loans to eligible entities for the purpose of  
26 deploying innovative broadband technologies to

1 qualified consumers who subscribe to terrestrial  
2 broadband service in rural areas.

3 “(2) ELIGIBILITY.—To be eligible to obtain as-  
4 sistance under this subsection for a project, an enti-  
5 ty shall—

6 “(A) submit to the Secretary an applica-  
7 tion—

8 “(i) that describes a terrestrial  
9 broadband demonstration project designed  
10 to decrease the cost of broadband deploy-  
11 ment, and substantially increase broadband  
12 speed to not less than the maximum  
13 broadband project agreement requirements  
14 established under section 601(e)(4), to  
15 qualified consumers in a rural area to be  
16 served by the project; and

17 “(ii) at such time, in such manner,  
18 and containing such other information as  
19 the Secretary may require;

20 “(B) demonstrate that the entity is able to  
21 carry out the project; and

22 “(C) agree to complete the project build-  
23 out within 5 years after the date the assistance  
24 is first provided for the project.

1           “(3) PRIORITIZATION.—In awarding assistance  
2           under this subsection, the Secretary shall give pri-  
3           ority to proposals for projects that—

4                   “(A) involve partnerships between or  
5                   among multiple entities;

6                   “(B) would provide broadband service to  
7                   the greatest number of rural entities at or  
8                   above the broadband requirements referred to  
9                   in paragraph (2)(A)(i);

10                   “(C) the Secretary determines could be  
11                   replicated in rural areas described in paragraph  
12                   (2); and

13                   “(D) are located in States and territories  
14                   selected by the Secretary to be diverse on the  
15                   basis of geography, topography, and demo-  
16                   graphics.

17           “(4) QUALIFIED CONSUMER.—In this sub-  
18           section, the term ‘qualified consumer’ means—

19                   “(A) an individual or member of a house-  
20                   hold who lives in a rural area;

21                   “(B) a rural small business; or

22                   “(C) an essential community facility, as  
23                   defined pursuant to section 306(a) of the Con-  
24                   solidated Farm and Rural Development Act (7  
25                   U.S.C. 1926(a)).

1           “(5) RURAL AREA.—In this subsection, the  
2           term ‘rural area’ has the meaning provided in sec-  
3           tion 601(b)(3).

4           “(c) SATELLITE BROADBAND DEMONSTRATION  
5 PROJECTS.—

6           “(1) PURPOSE.—The purpose of this subsection  
7           is to reduce or eliminate the costs to access satellite  
8           broadband service for remote subscribers.

9           “(2) DEFINITIONS.—In this subsection:

10           “(A) ELIGIBLE ENTITY.—The term ‘eligi-  
11           ble entity’ means a broadband service provider  
12           that provides Internet access directly to quali-  
13           fied consumers in remote areas via satellite  
14           technology.

15           “(B) QUALIFIED CONSUMER.—The term  
16           ‘qualified consumer’ means a consumer served  
17           by an eligible entity that receives a grant under  
18           paragraph (3), who is—

19           “(i) an individual or a member of a  
20           household at or below the poverty line (as  
21           defined in section 673(2) of the Omnibus  
22           Budget Reconciliation Act of 1981, includ-  
23           ing any revision required by such section,  
24           applicable to a family of the size involved);  
25           or

1                   “(ii) an essential community facility,  
2                   as defined pursuant to section 306(a) of  
3                   the Consolidated Farm and Rural Develop-  
4                   ment Act (7 U.S.C. 1926(a)).

5                   “(C) SATELLITE BROADBAND EQUIP-  
6                   MENT.—The term ‘satellite broadband equip-  
7                   ment’ means user terminals, Wi-Fi routers,  
8                   power supplies, mounts, and any other equip-  
9                   ment necessary to connect a qualified consumer  
10                  to satellite broadband service.

11                  “(D) SECRETARY.—The term ‘Secretary’  
12                  means the Secretary of Agriculture, acting  
13                  through the Administrator of the Rural Utilities  
14                  Service.

15                  “(E) REMOTE.—The term ‘remote’ means  
16                  a region classified within level 3 or level 4 of  
17                  the frontier and remote ZIP Code areas pub-  
18                  lished by the Economic Research Service of the  
19                  Department of Agriculture.

20                  “(3) GRANTS TO ELIGIBLE ENTITIES.—

21                  “(A) IN GENERAL.—Subject to paragraph  
22                  (B), the Secretary shall make grants to eligible  
23                  entities for the purpose of reducing or elimi-  
24                  nating the cost associated with the purchase or  
25                  installation, or both, of satellite broadband

1 equipment to qualified consumers to subscribe  
2 to satellite broadband service in remote areas.

3 “(B) REQUIREMENTS.—As a condition of  
4 receiving a grant under this subsection, an eli-  
5 gible entity shall—

6 “(i) provide retail broadband service  
7 delivered via satellite technology to quali-  
8 fied consumers, that—

9 “(I) enables a qualified consumer  
10 to the service to originate and receive  
11 high-quality voice, data, graphics,  
12 video; and

13 “(II) has a latency which does  
14 not exceed 250 milliseconds;

15 “(ii) submit to the Secretary an appli-  
16 cation at such time, in such manner, and  
17 containing such other information as the  
18 Secretary may require;

19 “(iii) agree to reduce or eliminate the  
20 cost associated with the purchase, installa-  
21 tion, or both, of satellite broadband equip-  
22 ment for qualified consumers; and

23 “(iv) agree to provide qualified con-  
24 sumers with the reduction or elimination of

1           that cost within 1 year of the assistance  
2           being obligated to the eligible entity.

3           “(C) ELIGIBILITY MAP OF QUALIFIED CON-  
4           SUMERS.—Within 1 year after the date of the  
5           enactment of this Act, and annually thereafter,  
6           the Secretary shall publish a map of the remote  
7           areas of qualified consumers that do not have  
8           access to terrestrial broadband service of at  
9           least—

10                   “(i) a 25-Mbps downstream trans-  
11                   mission capacity; and

12                   “(ii) a 3-Mbps upstream transmission  
13                   capacity.

14           “(d) REPORT.—Within 1 year after the date of the  
15           enactment of this section, and annually thereafter, the  
16           Secretary shall submit a comprehensive report to the Com-  
17           mittee on Agriculture of the House of Representatives and  
18           the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry of  
19           the Senate that shall provide the outcomes, effectiveness,  
20           and impact of the Innovative Broadband Advancement  
21           Program, including—

22                   “(1) an assessment of the broadband infra-  
23                   structure funded, including the scope, scale, nature  
24                   and geographic locations of each award;

1           “(2) the broadband access and speeds achieved,  
2           including the download and upload speeds, latency,  
3           and overall network reliability;

4           “(3) any technical or logistical challenges en-  
5           countered by the eligible entities; and

6           “(4) any recommendations for future innovative  
7           broadband deployment initiatives in rural areas.

8           “(e) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There  
9           is authorized to be appropriated to carry out this section  
10          \$10,000,000 for each of fiscal years 2027 through 2031.”.

11          **SEC. 6204. COMMUNITY CONNECT GRANTS.**

12          Section 604 of the Rural Electrification Act of 1936  
13          (7 U.S.C. 950bb–3) is amended—

14                 (1) in subsection (a)(2)—

15                         (A) in subparagraph (A), by striking “10”  
16                         and inserting “25”; and

17                         (B) in subparagraph (B), by striking “1”  
18                         and inserting “3”;

19                 (2) in subsection (c)—

20                         (A) in paragraph (1), by striking “and” at  
21                         the end;

22                         (B) in paragraph (2), by striking the pe-  
23                         riod at the end and inserting “; and”; and

24                         (C) by adding at the end the following:

1           “(3) provides broadband speeds not less than  
2           the broadband project agreement requirements es-  
3           tablished under section 601(e)(4)(B)(ii) to the eligi-  
4           ble entity within the proposed eligible service area.”;  
5           and

6           (3) in subsection (g), by striking “2019 through  
7           2023” and inserting “2027 through 2031”.

8   **SEC. 6205. RATE REGULATION.**

9           Title VI of the Rural Electrification Act of 1936 (7  
10          U.S.C. 950bb–5) is amended by adding at the end the fol-  
11          lowing:

12   **“SEC. 607. RATE REGULATION.**

13          “Nothing in this title authorizes the Secretary to reg-  
14          ulate rates charged for broadband service.”.

15   **SEC. 6206. PUBLIC NOTICE, ASSESSMENTS, TECHNICAL AS-**  
16          **SISTANCE, AND REPORTING REQUIREMENTS.**

17          Section 701 of the Rural Electrification Act of 1936  
18          (7 U.S.C. 950cc) is amended—

19                 (1) in the section heading, by inserting “**TECH-**  
20                 **NICAL ASSISTANCE,**” before “**AND**”;

21                 (2) in subsection (a)(1)(B)(i), by inserting “,  
22                 including a complete shapefile map” before the semi-  
23                 colon;

24                 (3) in subsection (b)—

25                         (A) in paragraph (1)—

1 (i) in subparagraph (A), by striking  
2 “and” at the end;

3 (ii) by redesignating subparagraph  
4 (B) as subparagraph (C) and inserting  
5 after subparagraph (A) the following:

6 “(B) validate the information submitted by  
7 service providers under subparagraph (A)  
8 through procedures established by the Sec-  
9 retary, which shall include an agency deter-  
10 mination provided to the submitter, an oppor-  
11 tunity of the submitter to respond, and a final  
12 non-appealable determination of the Secretary;  
13 and”;

14 (iii) in subparagraph (C) (as so reded-  
15 icated by clause (ii) of this subpara-  
16 graph), by striking “paragraph (1)” and  
17 inserting “subparagraph (A)”; and

18 (B) in paragraph (2), by striking all that  
19 precedes subparagraph (B) and inserting the  
20 following:

21 “(2) ASSESSMENT OF ELIGIBILITY.—In making  
22 any determination to award a loan, loan guarantee,  
23 or grant for any retail broadband project provided  
24 assistance or for which assistance is sought that is  
25 administered by the Secretary, the Secretary shall

1 confirm that each unserved rural community identi-  
2 fied in the application is eligible for funding by—

3 “(A) utilizing the map created by the Fed-  
4 eral Communications Commission under section  
5 802(c)(1)(A) of the Communications Act of  
6 1934 and the Deployment Locations Map estab-  
7 lished under section 60104(b) of the Infrastruc-  
8 ture Investment and Jobs Act (47 U.S.C.  
9 1704(b));” and

10 (4) by striking subsection (e) and inserting the  
11 following:

12 “(e) BROADBAND TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE PRO-  
13 GRAM.—

14 “(1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall make  
15 grants to private, nonprofit, or public organizations  
16 to provide or receive eligible entities broadband tech-  
17 nical assistance and training to expand access to  
18 broadband service in rural communities through the  
19 broadband programs of the Department of Agri-  
20 culture including—

21 “(A) preparing applications for grants,  
22 loans and loan guarantees under this section;

23 “(B) identifying resources to finance  
24 broadband facilities from public and private  
25 sources, including other Federal agencies;

1           “(C) preparing feasibility studies, financial  
2 forecasts, market surveys, environmental stud-  
3 ies, and technical design information to support  
4 broadband services;

5           “(D) preparing reports and surveys nec-  
6 essary to support the need for broadband serv-  
7 ices, the price range, and request financial as-  
8 sistance;

9           “(E) analyzing and improving operations  
10 related to the management, including financial  
11 management, of broadband facilities and to the  
12 efficiency of the entity;

13           “(F) collecting broadband infrastructure  
14 data; or

15           “(G) assisting with other areas of need  
16 identified by the Secretary.

17           “(2) ELIGIBLE ENTITIES.—To be eligible to ob-  
18 tain assistance under this subsection, an entity shall  
19 be—

20           “(A) a federally recognized Tribe or Tribal  
21 entity;

22           “(B) a State or local government, includ-  
23 ing any agency, subdivision, instrumentality, or  
24 political subdivision thereof;

1           “(C) a territory or possession of the  
2           United States;

3           “(D) an institution of higher education (in-  
4           cluding a 1862 Land-Grant Institution, 1890  
5           Land-Grant Institution, 1994 Land-Grant In-  
6           stitution, Hispanic-Serving Institution, or His-  
7           torically Black College or University);

8           “(E) a nonprofit organization described in  
9           section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code  
10          of 1986;

11          “(F) a cooperative or mutual organization;

12          “(G) a corporation; or

13          “(H) a limited liability company or limited  
14          liability partnership.

15          “(3) SELECTION PRIORITY.—In selecting recipi-  
16          ents of grants under this paragraph, the Secretary  
17          shall give priority to organizations that have experi-  
18          ence in providing technical assistance and training  
19          to rural entities.

20          “(4) NATIONAL APPLICATIONS.—The Secretary  
21          shall allow applications for grants under this para-  
22          graph from qualified organizations for the sole pur-  
23          pose of providing on-site community technical assist-  
24          ance and training on a national or multi-State re-  
25          gional basis.

1       “(f) ASSISTANCE FOR COMMUNITY BROADBAND  
2 MAPPING.—

3           “(1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary may make  
4 grants to eligible entities for the purpose of col-  
5 lecting broadband service data to assist the Sec-  
6 retary in—

7           “(A) establishing the availability of  
8 broadband service or middle mile infrastructure  
9 in a rural area;

10          “(B) determining the eligibility of a com-  
11 munity for assistance under any broadband pro-  
12 gram administered by the Secretary;

13          “(C) undertaking a service area assess-  
14 ment under this section; or

15          “(D) collecting information to submit a  
16 challenge to the National Broadband Map cre-  
17 ated by the Federal Communications Commis-  
18 sion pursuant to section 802(c)(1) of the Com-  
19 munications Act of 1934 (47 U.S.C. 642(c)(1)).

20          “(2) APPLICATION.—To apply for a grant  
21 under this section, an entity shall submit an applica-  
22 tion which identifies—

23           “(A) the data collection area;

24           “(B) the purpose of the data collection;

1           “(C) the types of broadband service data  
2           to be collected;

3           “(D) the survey and data collection meth-  
4           ods utilized; and

5           “(E) any other information the Secretary  
6           determines necessary to promote the integrity  
7           of broadband service collected under this sec-  
8           tion.

9           “(3) LIMITATION OF GRANT AMOUNT.—The  
10          amount of a grant made available under this sub-  
11          section shall not exceed \$50,000.

12          “(4) BROADBAND SERVICE DATA USAGE.—The  
13          Secretary shall ensure that any broadband service  
14          data collected under this section is—

15                 “(A) measured or assessed in accordance  
16                 with such standards as are established by the  
17                 Federal Communications Commission pursuant  
18                 to section 802(a)(1)(A) of the Communications  
19                 Act of 1934 (47 U.S.C. 642(a)(1)(A));

20                 “(B) accurate and verifiable in accordance  
21                 with such standards as are established by the  
22                 Federal Communications Commission pursuant  
23                 to section 802(a)(1)(A) of the Communications  
24                 Act of 1934 (47 U.S.C. 642(a)(1)(A));

1           “(C) included in any broadband maps or  
2 data sets maintained by the Secretary; and

3           “(D) made available to the Chair of the  
4 Federal Communications Commission and the  
5 Administrator of the National Telecommuni-  
6 cations and Information Administration for in-  
7 clusion in any broadband maps or data sets ei-  
8 ther may maintain.

9           “(5) DEFINITIONS.—In this subsection:

10           “(A) BROADBAND SERVICE.—The term  
11 ‘broadband service’ has the same meaning given  
12 the term in section 601.

13           “(B) BROADBAND SERVICE DATA.—

14           “(i) IN GENERAL.—The term  
15 ‘broadband service data’ means informa-  
16 tion related to—

17                   “(I) the location and type of  
18 broadband service;

19                   “(II) the location and type of  
20 broadband infrastructure;

21                   “(III) the advertised, maximum,  
22 and average speed of broadband serv-  
23 ice;

1                   “(IV) the average price of the  
2                   most subscribed tier of broadband  
3                   service;

4                   “(V) the speed tiers of broadband  
5                   service available in the area; or

6                   “(VI) any additional metric the  
7                   Secretary deems appropriate.

8                   “(ii) FURTHER DEFINITION.—The  
9                   Secretary shall further define the term  
10                  ‘broadband service area’ to ensure that  
11                  data is measured and collected in a man-  
12                  ner consistent with the reporting require-  
13                  ments under this section, and any  
14                  broadband coordination or data-sharing ob-  
15                  ligations.

16                  “(C) ELIGIBLE ENTITY.—The term ‘eligi-  
17                  ble entity’ means—

18                         “(i) a unit of local government in a  
19                         rural area;

20                         “(ii) a Tribal Government or unit of  
21                         Tribal Government;

22                         “(iii) an economic development or  
23                         other community organization;

24                         “(iv) an eligible entity under title I or  
25                         II that serves persons in rural areas;

1 “(v) an internet service provider that  
2 has not more than 100,000 subscribers; or

3 “(vi) any other entity eligible under a  
4 title VI program that is not an internet  
5 service provider.

6 “(D) MIDDLE MILE INFRASTRUCTURE.—  
7 The term ‘middle mile infrastructure’ has the  
8 meaning given the term in section 602.

9 “(E) RURAL AREA.—The term ‘rural area’  
10 has the meaning given the term in section 601.

11 “(6) LIMITATION ON AMOUNT MADE AVAILABLE  
12 FOR GRANTS.—The Secretary may not expend more  
13 than 1 percent of the amounts made available under  
14 subsection (g) for each of fiscal years 2027 through  
15 2031 to carry out this subsection.

16 “(g) LIMITATIONS ON RESERVATION OF FUNDS.—  
17 Not less than 3 but not more than 5 percent of the  
18 amounts appropriated to the program to carry out title  
19 VI shall be set aside to be used for—

20 “(1) conducting oversight under such title;

21 “(2) implementing accountability measures and  
22 related activities authorized under such title; or

23 “(3) carrying out this section.”.

1 **SEC. 6207. LIMITATION ON OVERBUILDING.**

2 Title VI of the Rural Electrification Act of 1936 (7  
3 U.S.C. 950bb et seq.) is amended by adding at the end  
4 the following:

5 **“SEC. 608. LIMITATION ON OVERBUILDING.**

6 “Any area in a proposed service area under this title  
7 shall not be considered unserved if an applicant in another  
8 Federal or State broadband program has received an obli-  
9 gation of funding to offer retail broadband service in the  
10 area not more than 5 years from the date of the obligation  
11 of funds, at a speed of at least 100 Mbps download and  
12 20 Mbps upload.”.

13 **Subtitle C—Miscellaneous**

14 **SEC. 6301. RURAL ENERGY SAVINGS PROGRAM.**

15 Section 6407 of the Farm Security and Rural Invest-  
16 ment Act of 2002 (7 U.S.C. 8107a) is amended—

17 (1) in subsection (b)—

18 (A) in paragraph (1)—

19 (i) in subparagraph (A), by inserting  
20 “, if the entity continues to serve rural  
21 areas (as defined in section 343(a)(13)(A)  
22 of the Consolidated Farm and Rural De-  
23 velopment Act (7 U.S.C. 1991(a)(13)(A))”  
24 before the semicolon;

25 (ii) in subparagraph (B), by striking  
26 “or” at the end; and

1 (iii) by redesignating subparagraph  
2 (C) as subparagraph (E) and inserting  
3 after subparagraph (B) the following:

4 “(C) any Indian Tribe (as defined in sec-  
5 tion 4 of the Indian Self-Determination and  
6 Education Assistance Act (25 U.S.C. 5304));

7 “(D) any public, quasi-public, or nonprofit  
8 entity that uses innovative financing techniques  
9 and market development tools to accelerate the  
10 deployment of energy efficiency technology; or”;

11 (B) by striking paragraph (2) and insert-  
12 ing the following:

13 “(2) ENERGY EFFICIENCY MEASURES.—The  
14 term ‘energy efficiency measures’ means, with re-  
15 spect to any property service by an eligible entity—

16 “(A) a structural improvement or invest-  
17 ment in a cost-effective, commercial technology  
18 to increase energy efficiency (including cost-ef-  
19 fective on- or off-grid renewable energy or en-  
20 ergy storage system); and

21 “(B) the replacement of a manufactured  
22 housing unit or large appliance with a substan-  
23 tially similar manufacturing housing unit or ap-  
24 pliance, respectively, if that replacement is a

1 cost-effective option with respect to energy sav-  
2 ings.”;

3 (2) in subsection (c)—

4 (A) in the subsection heading, by inserting  
5 “AND GRANTS” before “TO”;

6 (B) by striking paragraph (1) and insert-  
7 ing the following:

8 “(1) IN GENERAL.—Subject to this subsection,  
9 the Secretary shall provide—

10 “(A) loans to eligible entities that agree to  
11 use the loan funds to make loans under sub-  
12 section (d) to qualified consumers for the pur-  
13 pose of implementing energy efficiency meas-  
14 ures; and

15 “(B) at the election of any eligible entity  
16 that receives a loan under subparagraph (A) of  
17 this paragraph, a grant in accordance with  
18 paragraph (11).”;

19 (C) by redesignating paragraphs (2)  
20 through (9) as paragraphs (3) through (10), re-  
21 spectively, and inserting after paragraph (1) the  
22 following:

23 “(2) PRIORITIZATION.—The Secretary shall  
24 give priority to applications from eligible entities  
25 serving at least 80 percent of their ratepayers resid-

1       ing in rural areas, as defined in section  
2       343(a)(13)(A) of the Consolidated Farm and Rural  
3       Development Act (7 U.S.C. 1991(a)(13)(A)).”;

4               (D) in paragraph (3) (as so redesignated  
5       by subparagraph (C) of this paragraph)—

6               (i) in the paragraph heading, by in-  
7       serting “FOR LOANS” before the period;  
8       and

9               (ii) in subparagraph (A)(i), by strik-  
10      ing “that is”;

11              (E) by striking paragraph (6) (as so redesi-  
12      gnated by subparagraph (C) of this paragraph)  
13      and inserting the following:

14      “(6) REPAYMENT.—

15              “(A) IN GENERAL.—Subject to subpara-  
16      graph (B) of this paragraph, with respect to a  
17      loan under paragraph (1)(A)—

18              “(i) the term shall not exceed 20  
19      years from the date on which the loan is  
20      closed; and

21              “(ii) except as provided in paragraph  
22      (8), the repayment of each advance shall  
23      be amortized for a period not to exceed 10  
24      years.

1           “(B) EXTENSIONS.—The Secretary may  
2 extend the term of a loan under subparagraph  
3 (A)(i), or the deadline for repayment of an ad-  
4 vance under subparagraph (A)(ii), as the Sec-  
5 retary determines appropriate.”;

6           (F) in paragraph (8) (as so redesignated  
7 by subparagraph (C) of this paragraph)—

8           (i) in subparagraph (B), by striking  
9 “(1)” and inserting “(1)(A)”; and

10           (ii) in subparagraph (C), by striking  
11 “Repayment” and inserting “Subject to an  
12 applicable extension under paragraph  
13 (6)(B), repayment”;

14           (G) by striking paragraph (9) (as so redesi-  
15 gnated by subparagraph (C) of this paragraph)  
16 and inserting the following:

17           “(9) LIMITATIONS.—

18           “(A) SPECIAL ADVANCES.—All special ad-  
19 vances shall be made under a loan described in  
20 paragraph (1) during the first 10 years of the  
21 term of the loan.

22           “(B) REPLACEMENT OF MANUFACTURED  
23 HOUSING UNITS OR LARGE APPLIANCES.—Not  
24 more than 10 percent of the total annual  
25 amount of budget authority for loans described

1 in paragraph (1) may be used for the replace-  
2 ment of manufactured housing units or large  
3 appliances.”; and

4 (H) by adding at the end the following:

5 “(11) GRANTS.—

6 “(A) IN GENERAL.—At the election of an  
7 eligible entity that receives a loan under this  
8 subsection, the Secretary may provide to the eli-  
9 gible entity a grant to pay for a portion of the  
10 costs incurred in—

11 “(i) making repairs to the property of  
12 a qualified consumer that facilitates the  
13 energy efficiency measures for the property  
14 financed through a loan provided to the  
15 qualified consumer under subsection (d); or

16 “(ii) providing technical assistance,  
17 outreach, and training.

18 “(B) AMOUNT.—

19 “(i) IN GENERAL.—Except as pro-  
20 vided in clause (ii), the amount of a grant  
21 provided to an eligible entity under this  
22 paragraph shall be equal to not more than  
23 5 percent of the amount of the loan pro-  
24 vided to the eligible entity under this sub-  
25 section.

1           “(ii) PERSISTENT POVERTY COUN-  
2           TIES.—The amount of a grant provided  
3           under this paragraph to an eligible entity  
4           that will use the grant to make loans  
5           under subsection (d) to qualified con-  
6           sumers located in a persistent poverty  
7           county (as determined by the Secretary)  
8           shall be equal to 10 percent of the amount  
9           of the loan provided to the eligible entity  
10          under this subsection.”;

11          (3) in subsection (d)—

12           (A) in paragraph (1)—

13               (i) in the matter preceding subpara-  
14               graph (A), by inserting “or grant” before  
15               “funds”; and

16               (ii) by striking subparagraphs (B) and  
17               (C) and inserting the following:

18               “(B)(i) may have a term and amortization  
19               schedule the length of which is the useful life  
20               of the energy efficiency measures implemented  
21               using the loan, if the loan term does not exceed  
22               20 years; and

23               “(ii) shall finance energy efficiency meas-  
24               ures for the purpose of decreasing energy usage  
25               or costs of the qualified consumer by an

1 amount that ensures, to the maximum extent  
2 practicable, that the applicable loan term de-  
3 scribed in clause (i) will not pose an undue fi-  
4 nancial burden on the qualified consumer, as  
5 determined by the eligible entity;

6 “(C) shall not be used to fund purchases  
7 of, or modifications to, personal property unless  
8 the personal property—

9 “(i) is a manufactured housing unit or  
10 large appliance described in subsection  
11 (b)(2)(B); or

12 “(ii) is or becomes attached to real  
13 property as a fixture;” and

14 (B) by adding at the end the following:

15 “(3) CLARIFICATION OF ELIGIBILITY.—Not-  
16 withstanding any other provision of law (including  
17 regulations), an eligible entity may make a loan  
18 under this subsection to any qualified consumer lo-  
19 cated within the service territory of the eligible enti-  
20 ty, regardless of whether the qualified consumer is  
21 located in a rural area.”;

22 (4) in subsection (e)—

23 (A) in the subsection heading, by inserting  
24 “OUTREACH,” before “AND TECHNICAL ASSIST-  
25 ANCE”;

1 (B) in paragraph (1)—

2 (i) in subparagraph (A), by striking  
3 “and technical assistance of the program”  
4 and inserting “outreach, and technical as-  
5 sistance relating to the program under this  
6 section”; and

7 (ii) in subparagraph (B)(ii), by insert-  
8 ing “, outreach,” before “and training”;  
9 and

10 (C) by adding at the end the following:

11 “(3) FUNDING.—Not less than 3 but not more  
12 than 5 percent of amounts appropriated under sub-  
13 section (i) may be used to provide outreach, train-  
14 ing, and technical assistance under this subsection.”;  
15 and

16 (5) in subsection (i), by striking “2014 through  
17 2023” and inserting “2027 through 2031”.

18 **SEC. 6302. PROMOTING PRECISION AGRICULTURE.**

19 (a) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

20 (1) **ADVANCED WIRELESS COMMUNICATIONS**  
21 **TECHNOLOGY.**—The term “advanced wireless com-  
22 munications technology” means advanced technology  
23 that contributes to mobile (5G or beyond) networks,  
24 next-generation Wi-Fi networks, or other future net-  
25 works using other technologies, regardless of wheth-

1 er the network is operating on an exclusive licensed,  
2 shared licensed, or unlicensed frequency band.

3 (2) ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE.—The term “ar-  
4 tificial intelligence” has the meaning given the term  
5 in section 238(g) of the John S. McCain National  
6 Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2019  
7 (Public Law 115–232; 10 U.S.C. note prec. 4061).

8 (3) FOREIGN ADVERSARY.—The term “foreign  
9 adversary” means any foreign government or foreign  
10 nongovernment person engaged in a long-term pat-  
11 tern or serious instances of conduct significantly ad-  
12 verse to the national security of the United States,  
13 or security and safety of United States persons.

14 (4) PRECISION AGRICULTURE; PRECISION AGRI-  
15 CULTURE TECHNOLOGY.—The terms “precision agri-  
16 culture” and “precision agriculture technology” have  
17 the meanings given the terms in section 1201 of the  
18 Food Security Act of 1985.

19 (5) TRUSTED.—The term “trusted” means,  
20 with respect to a provider of advanced communica-  
21 tions service or a supplier of communications equip-  
22 ment or service, that the Secretary has determined  
23 that the provider or supplier is not owned by, con-  
24 trolled by, or subject to the influence of, a foreign  
25 adversary.

1           (6) VOLUNTARY CONSENSUS STANDARDS DE-  
2           VELOPMENT ORGANIZATION.—The term “voluntary  
3           consensus standards development organization”  
4           means an organization that develops standards in a  
5           process that meets the principles for the develop-  
6           ment of voluntary consensus standards (as defined  
7           in the document of the Office of Management and  
8           Budget entitled “Federal Participation in the Devel-  
9           opment and Use of Voluntary Consensus Standards  
10          and in Conformity Assessment Activities” (OMB  
11          Circular A–119)).

12          (b) PURPOSES.—The purposes of this section are—

13                (1) to enhance the participation of precision ag-  
14                riculture in the United States; and

15                (2) to promote United States leadership in vol-  
16                untary consensus standards development organiza-  
17                tions that set standards for precision agriculture.

18          (c) INTERCONNECTIVITY STANDARDS FOR PRECI-  
19          SION AGRICULTURE.—

20                (1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 2 years after  
21                the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary, in  
22                consultation with the Director of the National Insti-  
23                tute of Standards and Technology and the Federal  
24                Communications Commission, shall—

1           (A) develop voluntary, consensus-based,  
2 private sector-led interconnectivity standards,  
3 guidelines, and best practices for precision agri-  
4 culture that will promote economies of scale and  
5 ease the burden of the adoption of precision ag-  
6 riculture; and

7           (B) in carrying out subparagraph (A)—

8                 (i) coordinate with relevant public and  
9 trusted private sector stakeholders and  
10 other relevant industry organizations, in-  
11 cluding voluntary consensus standards de-  
12 velopment organizations; and

13                 (ii) consult with sector-specific agen-  
14 cies, other appropriate agencies, and State  
15 and local governments.

16           (2) CONSIDERATIONS.—The Secretary, in car-  
17 rying out paragraph (1), shall, in consultation with  
18 the Federal Communications Commission and the  
19 Director of the National Institute of Standards and  
20 Technology, consider—

21                 (A) the evolving demands of precision agri-  
22 culture;

23                 (B) the connectivity needs of precision ag-  
24 riculture technology;

1 (C) the cybersecurity challenges facing pre-  
2 cision agriculture, including cybersecurity  
3 threats for agriculture producers and agri-  
4 culture supply chains;

5 (D) the impact of advanced wireless com-  
6 munications technology on precision agriculture;  
7 and

8 (E) the impact of artificial intelligence on  
9 precision agriculture.

10 (d) GAO ASSESSMENT OF PRECISION AGRICULTURE  
11 STANDARDS.—

12 (1) STUDY.—Not later than 1 year after the  
13 Secretary develops standards under subsection (c),  
14 and every 2 years thereafter for the following 8  
15 years, the Comptroller General of the United States  
16 shall conduct a study that assesses those standards,  
17 including the extent to which those standards, as ap-  
18 plicable—

19 (A) are voluntary;

20 (B) were developed in coordination with  
21 relevant industry organizations, including vol-  
22 untary consensus standards development orga-  
23 nizations; and

24 (C) have successfully encouraged the adop-  
25 tion of precision agriculture.

1           (2) REPORT.—The Comptroller General of the  
2           United States shall submit to the Committee on  
3           Commerce, Science, and Transportation of the Sen-  
4           ate, the Committee on Science, Space, and Tech-  
5           nology of the House of Representatives, the Com-  
6           mittee on Agriculture of the House of Representa-  
7           tives, and the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition,  
8           and Forestry of the Senate a report that summa-  
9           rizes the findings of each study conducted under  
10          paragraph (1).

11 **SEC. 6303. FOOD SUPPLY CHAIN GUARANTEED LOANS.**

12          Section 310B of the Consolidated Farm and Rural  
13          Development Act (7 U.S.C. 1932) is amended by inserting  
14          after subsection (e) the following:

15          “(f) FOOD SUPPLY CHAIN CAPACITY AND RESIL-  
16          IENCE GUARANTEED LOANS.—

17                 “(1) DEFINITION OF FOOD SUPPLY CHAIN  
18                 GUARANTEED LOAN.—In this subsection, the term  
19                 ‘food supply chain guaranteed loan’ means a busi-  
20                 ness and industry guaranteed loan that is made or  
21                 guaranteed by the Secretary under subsection  
22                 (a)(2)(A), including a guarantee described in sub-  
23                 section (a)(3).

24                 “(2) PURPOSE.—A food supply chain guaran-  
25                 teed loan may be made for the purpose of financing

1 new investments in the start-up or expansion of  
2 projects in the United States that will increase the  
3 capacity of the food supply chain in the United  
4 States to aggregate, process, manufacture, store,  
5 transport, wholesale, or distribute food, agricultural  
6 products, or agricultural inputs.

7 “(3) LIMITATIONS.—The maximum amount of  
8 a food supply chain guaranteed loan shall not exceed  
9 \$40,000,000.

10 “(4) LOAN GUARANTEES IN NONRURAL  
11 AREAS.—The Secretary may guarantee a food supply  
12 chain guaranteed loan to an eligible entity for a fa-  
13 cility that is not located in a rural area if—

14 “(A) the primary purpose of the loan guar-  
15 antee is for a facility to aggregate, process,  
16 manufacture, store, transport, wholesale, or dis-  
17 tribute food agricultural products, or agricul-  
18 tural inputs for agricultural producers or proc-  
19 essors that are located within 80 miles of the  
20 facility;

21 “(B) the applicant demonstrates to the  
22 Secretary that the primary benefit of the loan  
23 guarantee will be to provide employment for  
24 residents of a rural area; and

1           “(C) the total principal amount of food  
2           supply chain guaranteed loans guaranteed for a  
3           fiscal year under this paragraph does not ex-  
4           ceed 10 percent of the total principal amount of  
5           food supply chain guaranteed loans made for  
6           the fiscal year under subsection (a)(2)(A).

7           “(5) QUARTERLY REPORTS TO CONGRESS.—  
8           Within 30 days after the end of each calendar quar-  
9           ter, the Secretary shall submit to the Committee on  
10          Agriculture of the House of Representatives and the  
11          Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry  
12          of the Senate a report that contains—

13                 “(A) an evaluation of the outcomes  
14                 achieved through use of the assistance, and the  
15                 ability of the recipient of the assistance to meet  
16                 performance goals;

17                 “(B) a description of any debt recovery  
18                 made with respect to a loan guaranteed under  
19                 this subsection, and agency projections for ac-  
20                 tivities for which the assistance is provided; and

21                 “(C) any recommendations of the Sec-  
22                 retary regarding the implementation of this  
23                 subsection.

24           “(6) RESERVATION OF FUNDS.—

1           “(A) IN GENERAL.—For each of fiscal  
2 years 2025 through 2029, the Secretary shall  
3 reserve not more than 5 percent of the funds  
4 made available to carry out subsection (a) to  
5 carry out this subsection.

6           “(B) AVAILABILITY OF FUNDS.—Funds re-  
7 served under subparagraph (A) for a fiscal year  
8 shall be reserved until April 1 of the fiscal  
9 year.”.

10 **SEC. 6304. NEW, MOBILE, AND EXPANDED MEAT PROC-**  
11 **ESSING AND RENDERING GRANTS.**

12 (a) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

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

15 (A) a public, private, or cooperative organi-  
16 zation organized on a for-profit or nonprofit  
17 basis, including a small establishment and very  
18 small establishment;

19 (B) an Indian Tribe (as defined in section  
20 4 of the Indian Self-Determination and Edu-  
21 cation Assistance Act (25 U.S.C. 5304));

22 (C) a land-grant college or university (as  
23 defined in section 1404 of the National Agricul-  
24 tural Research, Extension, and Teaching Policy  
25 Act of 1977 (7 U.S.C. 3103));

1 (D) a non-land-grant college of agriculture  
2 (as defined in that section); and

3 (E) a State department of agriculture or  
4 other applicable State office with authority over  
5 meat and poultry processing and rendering.

6 (2) SMALL ESTABLISHMENT; VERY SMALL ES-  
7 TABLISHMENT.—The terms “small establishment”  
8 and “very small establishment” have the meanings  
9 given the terms “smaller establishment” and “very  
10 small establishment”, respectively, in the final rule  
11 entitled “Pathogen Reduction; Hazard Analysis and  
12 Critical Control Point (HACCP) Systems” (61 Fed.  
13 Reg. 38806 (July 25, 1996)) (or successor regula-  
14 tions).

15 (b) PURPOSES.—The purposes of this section are—

16 (1) to create more resilient local and regional  
17 food systems;

18 (2) to expand, diversify, and increase resilience  
19 in meat and poultry processing and rendering activi-  
20 ties;

21 (3) to increase farmer and rancher access to  
22 animal slaughter options;

23 (4) to improve compliance of processors with  
24 livestock and poultry processing statutes (including  
25 regulations), including the Federal Meat Inspection

1 Act (21 U.S.C. 601 et seq.) and the Poultry Prod-  
2 ucts Inspection Act (21 U.S.C. 451 et seq.);

3 (5) to reduce barriers to entry for new meat  
4 and poultry processors and renderers;

5 (6) to establish new, or update, expand, or oth-  
6 erwise improve existing, meat and poultry processing  
7 and rendering facilities; and

8 (7) to support the processing and slaughtering  
9 of niche production methods such as halal, kosher,  
10 and other specific cultural methods.

11 (c) GRANTS.—

12 (1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall award  
13 grants to eligible entities to use in accordance with  
14 subsection (d).

15 (2) MAXIMUM AMOUNT.—The maximum  
16 amount of a grant awarded under paragraph (1)  
17 shall not exceed \$500,000.

18 (3) DURATION.—The term of a grant awarded  
19 under paragraph (1) shall not exceed 3 years.

20 (4) PRIORITY.—In awarding grants under para-  
21 graph (1), the Secretary shall give priority to small  
22 establishments and very small establishments.

23 (d) USE OF FUNDS.—An eligible entity receiving a  
24 grant under this section shall use the grant to carry out

1 activities in support of the purposes described in sub-  
2 section (b), including activities—

3 (1) to identify and analyze business opportuni-  
4 ties, including feasibility studies required for credit  
5 worthiness;

6 (2) to achieve compliance with applicable Fed-  
7 eral, State, or local regulations;

8 (3) to conduct regional, community, and local  
9 economic development planning and coordination  
10 and leadership development;

11 (4) to incentivize new, innovative, or mobile en-  
12 terprises for increasing or improving local and re-  
13 gional meat or poultry processing and rendering;

14 (5) to implement humane handling infrastruc-  
15 ture, including holding space for livestock prior to  
16 slaughter, shade structures, and structures and  
17 equipment for humane slaughter;

18 (6) to develop a feasibility study or business  
19 plan for, or carry out any other activity associated  
20 with, establishing or expanding a small meat or  
21 poultry slaughter, processing, or rendering facility;

22 (7) to purchase equipment that enables the fur-  
23 ther use or value-added sale of coproducts or by-  
24 products; and

1           (8) to purchase cold storage and related equip-  
2           ment.

3           (e) FEDERAL SHARE.—The Federal share of the ac-  
4           tivities carried out using a grant awarded under this sec-  
5           tion shall not exceed—

6           (1) 90 percent in the case of a grant in the  
7           amount of \$100,000 or less; or

8           (2) 75 percent in the case of a grant in an  
9           amount greater than \$100,000.

10          (f) QUARTERLY REPORTS TO CONGRESS.—Within 30  
11          days after the end of each calendar quarter, the Secretary  
12          shall submit to the Committee on Agriculture of the House  
13          of Representatives and the Committee on Agriculture, Nu-  
14          trition, and Forestry of the Senate a report that con-  
15          tains—

16          (1) an evaluation of the outcomes achieved  
17          through use of the grant, and the ability of the  
18          grantee to meet performance goals;

19          (2) an evaluation of the compliance of the  
20          grantee with the terms and conditions of the grant;

21          (3) a determination as to whether the grant re-  
22          cipient maintains adequate financial capacity to  
23          carry out the activities for which the grant is pro-  
24          vided; and

1           (4) any recommendations of the Secretary re-  
2           garding the implementation of this section.

3           (g) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There is  
4           authorized to be appropriated to the Secretary to carry  
5           out this section \$3,000,000 for each of fiscal years 2027  
6           through 2031.

7   **SEC. 6305. EXPANDING CHILDCARE IN RURAL AMERICA INI-**  
8                                   **TIATIVE.**

9           (a) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

10           (1) CHILDCARE.—

11                   (A) IN GENERAL.—The term “childcare”  
12           means any program that—

13                           (i) provides quality care and early  
14                           education for children who have not yet en-  
15                           tered first grade; and

16                           (ii) is operated by—

17                                   (I) an eligible childcare provider  
18                                   described in section 658P(6)(A) of the  
19                                   Child Care and Development Block  
20                                   Grant Act of 1990 (42 U.S.C.  
21                                   9858n(6)(A)); or

22                                   (II) a childcare provider that, on  
23                                   the date of enactment of this Act—

24   (aa) is licensed, regulated,  
25   or registered in the State, terri-

1 tory, or Indian Tribe in which  
2 the provider is located; and

3 (bb) meets applicable State,  
4 Tribal, territorial, and local  
5 health and safety requirements.

6 (B) INCLUSIONS.—The term “childcare”  
7 includes—

8 (i) a school-based program described  
9 in subparagraph (A);

10 (ii) a program described in subpara-  
11 graph (A) that is a Head Start program,  
12 including a migrant and seasonal Head  
13 Start program, or an American Indian and  
14 Alaska Native Head Start program carried  
15 out under the Head Start Act (42 U.S.C.  
16 9831 et seq.);

17 (iii) a facility used for a program de-  
18 scribed in subparagraph (A); and

19 (iv) a service provided under a pro-  
20 gram described in subparagraph (A).

21 (2) INITIATIVE.—The term “Initiative” means  
22 the Expanding Childcare in Rural America Initiative  
23 established under subsection (b).

24 (3) RURAL AREA.—The term “rural area” has  
25 the meaning given the term in section 343(a)(13)(A)

1 of the Consolidated Farm and Rural Development  
2 Act.

3 (b) ESTABLISHMENT.—The Secretary shall establish  
4 an initiative, to be known as the “Expanding Childcare  
5 in Rural America Initiative”, under which the Secretary  
6 shall provide, for each of fiscal years 2027 through 2029,  
7 priority in accordance with subsection (c) to address the  
8 availability, quality, and cost of childcare in rural areas.

9 (c) CHILDCARE PRIORITIES.—

10 (1) IN GENERAL.—Notwithstanding any other  
11 provision of law, in selecting recipients of loans and  
12 grants under a program described in paragraph (2),  
13 the Secretary shall give priority to any qualified ap-  
14 plicant that proposes to use the loan or grant to ad-  
15 dress the availability, quality, or cost of childcare.

16 (2) DESCRIPTION OF PROGRAMS.—The pro-  
17 grams referred to in paragraph (1) are the following:

18 (A) The essential community facilities loan  
19 and grant programs authorized under section  
20 306(a) of the Consolidated Farm and Rural  
21 Development Act (7 U.S.C. 1926(a)).

22 (B) The business and industry direct and  
23 guaranteed loan program authorized under sec-  
24 tion 310B(g) of that Act (7 U.S.C. 1932(g)).

1           (C) The rural microentrepreneur assistance  
2           program authorized under section 379E of that  
3           Act (7 U.S.C. 2008s).

4           (D) The intermediary relending program  
5           authorized under the Food Security Act of  
6           1985 (7 U.S.C. 1936b).

7           (d) REQUIREMENTS.—In providing funding in ac-  
8           cordance with the Initiative, the Secretary shall ensure a  
9           balanced geographical distribution of the benefits under  
10          the Initiative.

11          (e) EVALUATION; REPORT.—

12           (1) EVALUATION.—Not later than 3 years after  
13           the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary  
14           shall conduct a comprehensive quantitative and qual-  
15           itative evaluation of the projects carried out using  
16           assistance provided under the Initiative, including—

17                   (A) a description of—

18                           (i) the types of projects carried out;

19                           (ii) the communities in which the  
20                           projects are carried out;

21                           (iii) the organizations and entities  
22                           participating in the projects; and

23                           (iv) the types of partnerships devel-  
24                           oped to carry out the projects; and

1 (B) the economic and social impacts of the  
2 investments in the projects.

3 (2) REPORT.—Not later than 4 years after the  
4 date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary shall  
5 submit to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition,  
6 and Forestry of the Senate and the Committee on  
7 Agriculture of the House of Representatives a report  
8 describing the evaluation conducted under paragraph  
9 (1), including a thorough analysis of the outcomes of  
10 the evaluation.

11 **SEC. 6306. TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE FOR GEOGRAPHICALLY**  
12 **UNDERSERVED AND DISTRESSED AREAS.**

13 (a) IN GENERAL.—Within 1 year after the date of  
14 the enactment of this section, the Secretary shall directly,  
15 or through cooperative agreements, provide technical as-  
16 sistance and strengthen local capacity to improve access  
17 to rural development programs administered by the Sec-  
18 retary for local partners (including local governments, co-  
19 operatives, businesses, and community anchor institu-  
20 tions) in geographically underserved and distressed areas.

21 (b) REPORTS.—Beginning 1 year after the date of  
22 the enactment of this section, the Secretary shall annually  
23 publish, make available to the public, and submit to the  
24 Committee on Agriculture of the House of Representatives  
25 and the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and For-

1 estry of the Senate a report on how the provision of tech-  
2 nical assistance under subsection (a) has affected geo-  
3 graphically underserved and distressed areas in the year  
4 covered by the report.

5 (c) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

6 (1) GEOGRAPHICALLY UNDERSERVED AND DIS-  
7 TRESSED AREA.—The term “geographically under-  
8 served and distressed area” means a rural area (as  
9 defined in section 343(a)(13)(A) of the Consolidated  
10 Farm and Rural Development Act (7 U.S.C.  
11 1991(a)(13)(A))—

12 (A) in a socially vulnerable community (as  
13 determined by the Secretary);

14 (B) in a persistent poverty county (as de-  
15 termined by the Secretary);

16 (C) in an economically distressed area (as  
17 determined by the Secretary); or

18 (D) in a colonia.

19 (2) COMMUNITY ANCHOR INSTITUTION.—The  
20 term “community anchor institution” means—

21 (A) a public library;

22 (B) an elementary or secondary school;

23 (C) an institution of higher education;

24 (D) a health care facility; or

1 (E) any other nonprofit or governmental  
2 community support organization.

3 **SEC. 6307. ESTABLISHMENT OF THE RURAL DEVELOPMENT**  
4 **INNOVATION CENTER.**

5 Subtitle D of the Consolidated Farm and Rural De-  
6 velopment Act (7 U.S.C. 1981 et seq.) is amended by add-  
7 ing at the end the following:

8 **“SEC. 379J. RURAL DEVELOPMENT INNOVATION CENTER.**

9 “(a) **DEFINITION OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT MISSION**  
10 **AREAS.**—In this section, the term ‘Rural Development  
11 Mission Areas’ means the agencies under the Rural Devel-  
12 opment Agency at the Department of Agriculture, includ-  
13 ing the Rural Utilities Service, Rural Business-Coopera-  
14 tive Service, and the Rural Housing Service.

15 “(b) **ESTABLISHMENT.**—There is hereby established  
16 within the Rural Development Mission Areas a Rural De-  
17 velopment Innovation Center (the ‘Innovation Center’) to  
18 promote and facilitate innovation in the administration  
19 and implementation of rural development programs and  
20 initiatives.

21 “(c) **FUNCTIONS.**—The Innovation Center shall—

22 “(1) review all processes for Rural Development  
23 Mission Area programs to identify inefficiencies,  
24 redundancies, and barriers to access, including—

1                   “(A) unnecessary delays in loan and grant  
2                   applications processing and approvals;

3                   “(B) high application costs; and

4                   “(C) deficiencies in technical assistance for  
5                   programs;

6                   “(2) establish and maintain an ongoing public  
7                   process for public and private stakeholders to pro-  
8                   vide perspectives on the challenges faced when ap-  
9                   plying for, utilizing, or participating in Rural Devel-  
10                  opment Mission Area programs;

11                  “(3) identify and assess any innovative strate-  
12                  gies and collaborative models to enhance the effi-  
13                  ciency and effectiveness of rural development pro-  
14                  grams and initiatives;

15                  “(4) foster and maintain partnerships with pub-  
16                  lic and private stakeholders to leverage expertise and  
17                  resources for the Rural Development Mission Areas;

18                  “(5) promote cross-agency collaborations and  
19                  identify best practices in rural economic develop-  
20                  ment;

21                  “(6) identify and implement technological solu-  
22                  tions and software applications to improve the effec-  
23                  tiveness and efficiency of Rural Development Mis-  
24                  sion Area programs, including enhancing data man-  
25                  agement systems;

1           “(7) conduct research, analysis, and evaluation  
2           to modernize, simplify, and improve Rural Develop-  
3           ment Mission Area programs, and ensure that the  
4           programs are accessible, transparent, and user-  
5           friendly; and

6           “(8) disseminate information, guidance, and  
7           training materials to Rural Development Mission  
8           Area personnel and stakeholders on innovative rural  
9           development practices and opportunities.

10          “(d) MODERNIZATION PLAN.—The Innovation Cen-  
11          ter shall develop, and periodically update, a modernization  
12          plan to facilitate innovation in administering and imple-  
13          menting rural development programs and initiatives  
14          that—

15                 “(1) outlines strategies aimed at harnessing the  
16                 potential of emerging technologies for program deliv-  
17                 ery and overall service;

18                 “(2) enhances program efficiencies by identi-  
19                 fying and implementing measures to streamline pro-  
20                 gram and administrative processes, reduce  
21                 redundancies, and optimize resource allocation;

22                 “(3) expands the availability and accessibility of  
23                 digital services, leveraging digital platforms and  
24                 tools to broaden the reach of the programs and im-

1 prove the overall user experience for rural stake-  
2 holders;

3 “(4) integrates data-driven solutions to optimize  
4 program delivery and maximize impact and effective-  
5 ness of the efforts in rural development; and

6 “(5) establishes periodic milestones and goals to  
7 track the progress of the modernization plan.

8 “(e) REPORT.—The Secretary shall submit an annual  
9 report to the Committee on Agriculture of the House of  
10 Representatives and the Committee on Agriculture, Nutri-  
11 tion, and Forestry of the Senate on—

12 “(1) the activities and accomplishments of the  
13 Innovation Center, including progress in advancing  
14 rural development innovation and the outcome  
15 achieved;

16 “(2) a comprehensive working plan designed to  
17 actively engage public and private stakeholders, as  
18 described in subsection (c)(2); and

19 “(3) the progress on the modernization plan de-  
20 scribed in subsection (d).”.

21 **SEC. 6308. RURAL HEALTH LIAISON REPORT.**

22 Section 236 of the Department of Agriculture Reor-  
23 ganization Act of 1994 (7 U.S.C. 6946) is amended—

24 (1) in subsection (b)—

1 (A) in paragraph (8), by striking “and” at  
2 the end;

3 (B) in paragraph (9), by striking the pe-  
4 riod and inserting “; and”; and

5 (C) by adding at the end the following:

6 “(10) coordinate with the National Institute of  
7 Food and Agriculture in implementation of the  
8 Farm and Ranch Stress Assistance Network pro-  
9 vided for in section 7522 of the Food, Conservation,  
10 and Energy Act of 2008 (7 U.S.C. 5936).”; and

11 (2) by adding at the end the following:

12 “(c) REPORT.—The Rural Health Liaison shall sub-  
13 mit an annual report to the Committee on Agriculture of  
14 the House of Representatives and the Committee on Agri-  
15 culture, Nutrition, and Forestry of the Senate outlining  
16 the activities conducted under subsection (b).”.

17 **Subtitle D—Additional Amend-**  
18 **ments to the Consolidated Farm**  
19 **and Rural Development Act**

20 **SEC. 6401. WATER, WASTE DISPOSAL, AND WASTEWATER**  
21 **FACILITY GRANTS.**

22 Section 306(a)(2)(B)(vii) of the Consolidated Farm  
23 and Rural Development Act (7 U.S.C. 1926(a)(2)(B)(vii))  
24 is amended by striking “2019 through 2023” and insert-  
25 ing “2027 through 2031”.

1 **SEC. 6402. RURAL WATER AND WASTEWATER CIRCUIT**  
2 **RIDER PROGRAM.**

3 Section 306(a)(22) of the Consolidated Farm and  
4 Rural Development Act (7 U.S.C. 1926(a)(22)) is amend-  
5 ed to read as follows:

6 “(22) RURAL WATER AND WASTEWATER CIR-  
7 CUIT RIDER PROGRAM.—

8 “(A) ESTABLISHMENT.—The Secretary,  
9 through the Rural Utilities Service, shall con-  
10 tinue a national rural water and wastewater cir-  
11 cuit rider program that is consistent with the  
12 activities and results of the program conducted  
13 before the date of enactment of this Act, and  
14 with this section, as determined by the Sec-  
15 retary.

16 “(B) PURPOSE.—The Rural Water and  
17 Wastewater Circuit Rider Program shall pro-  
18 vide a network of expert rural water Circuit  
19 Riders located in all 50 States, including  
20 United States territories and Freely Associated  
21 States, which work one-on-one with eligible  
22 rural water and wastewater systems in major  
23 assistance categories described in subparagraph  
24 (D). The program is intended to help rural  
25 water systems operate effectively and efficiently  
26 and achieve long-term sustainability and com-

1           pliance with certain Federal laws and require-  
2           ments, including the Safe Water Drinking Act  
3           (42 U.S.C. 300f et seq.) and the Clean Water  
4           Act (33 U.S.C. 1251 et seq.).

5           “(C) ELIGIBLE ENTITIES.—In selecting re-  
6           cipients of grants, contracts, and cooperative  
7           agreements to be made available for activities  
8           listed under subparagraph (D), the Secretary  
9           shall select nonprofit organizations that have  
10          demonstrated experience providing technical as-  
11          sistance and disaster and recovery assistance  
12          for water and wastewater utilities nationwide.  
13          Awardees shall rely on personnel that possess  
14          active water and wastewater operators’ licenses  
15          or overall knowledge of water utilities necessary  
16          to carry out eligible activities under subpara-  
17          graph (D).

18          “(D) ELIGIBLE USES OF FUNDS.—An eli-  
19          gible entity shall use funds under the Rural  
20          Water and Wastewater Circuit Rider program  
21          for a rural water, wastewater, or wastewater  
22          disposal facility for—

23                           “(i) technical assistance, including—  
24   “(I) Board training;

1                   “(II) managerial and financial  
2                   operations with the effort to enhance  
3                   the long-term sustainability of rural  
4                   water and wastewater systems, includ-  
5                   ing partnerships, consolidation, and  
6                   regionalization;

7                   “(III) physical operation and  
8                   maintenance of rural water and  
9                   wastewater infrastructure;

10                   “(IV) water treatment;

11                   “(V) regulatory compliance;

12                   “(VI) facility security;

13                   “(VII) loan application and re-  
14                   porting;

15                   “(VIII) cybersecurity;

16                   “(IX) implementation of cyberse-  
17                   curity plans, procedures, and tech-  
18                   nologies to protect against  
19                   cyberthreats; or

20                   “(X) other areas the Secretary  
21                   deems appropriate;

22                   “(ii) disaster and recovery assistance  
23                   including—

24                   “(I) direct on-site personnel and  
25                   equipment to eligible utilities;

1 “(II) coordinating in statewide  
2 emergency response networks;

3 “(III) facilitating the develop-  
4 ment of action plans between utilities,  
5 local governments, the Federal Emer-  
6 gency Management Agency and the  
7 State emergency management agen-  
8 cies;

9 “(IV) resiliency and mitigation  
10 planning;

11 “(V) GIS mapping;

12 “(VI) updating vulnerability as-  
13 sessments, preparation of emergency  
14 response plans, communication proto-  
15 cols, hazard recognition and evalua-  
16 tion skills;

17 “(VII) conducting preliminary  
18 damage assessments of critical infra-  
19 structure;

20 “(VIII) addressing outstanding  
21 deficiencies focused on resolving  
22 health-based regulatory, operational,  
23 financial, and managerial deficiencies  
24 that impact the sustainability of the  
25 affected utilities;

1           “(IX) application and reporting  
2           assistance for Federal and State re-  
3           quirements including Federal Emer-  
4           gency Management Agency and insur-  
5           ance recovery claims;

6           “(X) providing for disaster readi-  
7           ness, support, and response activities  
8           targeted to disadvantaged commu-  
9           nities that lack the financial resources  
10          and human capital necessary to ade-  
11          quately address significant health,  
12          safety, or sanitary concerns; and

13          “(XI) other areas the Secretary  
14          deems appropriate.

15          “(iii) ADDITIONAL USES.—In response  
16          to activities under subparagraph (B) re-  
17          lated to natural disasters and emergencies,  
18          not more than 5 percent of each award  
19          may be used to purchase or reimburse the  
20          rental costs of appropriate emergency  
21          equipment, as determined by the Sec-  
22          retary.

23          “(E) ELIGIBLE PROJECT AREAS.—To re-  
24          ceive assistance under the Rural Water and

1 Wastewater Circuit Rider Program and carry  
2 out activities, an eligible entity must serve—

3 “(i) an area with a population of—

4 “(I) 10,000 or fewer inhabitants  
5 for technical assistance under sub-  
6 paragraph (D)(i); or

7 “(II) 50,000 or fewer inhabitants  
8 for disaster and recovery assistance  
9 under subparagraph (D)(ii); and

10 “(ii) a public body, nonprofit corpora-  
11 tion, or Indian tribe with legal authority to  
12 own and operate the water facility.

13 “(F) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIA-  
14 TIONS.—There is authorized to be appropriated  
15 to carry out this paragraph \$25,000,000 for fis-  
16 cal year 2027 through fiscal year 2031.”.

17 **SEC. 6403. ZERO AND LOW INTEREST LOANS FOR DIS-**  
18 **TRESSED WATER SYSTEMS.**

19 Section 306(a) of the Consolidated Farm and Rural  
20 Development Act (7 U.S.C. 1926(a)) is amended by in-  
21 serting after paragraph (22) the following:

22 “(23) ASSISTANCE FOR DISTRESSED WATER  
23 SYSTEMS.—

24 “(A) To promote the long-term sustain-  
25 ability and financial viability of eligible rural

1 community waste disposal and water facilities  
2 as described in subparagraph (B), for any enti-  
3 ty described in subparagraph (C), the Secretary  
4 may—

5 “(i) make a zero percent interest loan  
6 or a 1 percent interest loan pursuant to  
7 paragraph (1);

8 “(ii) forgive the principal or interest,  
9 or modify any term or condition of a new  
10 or existing loan made pursuant to para-  
11 graph (1);

12 “(iii) refinance all or part of any  
13 other loan made for an eligible purpose  
14 under paragraph (1) of this subsection or  
15 section 306C; or

16 “(iv) waive any fee required to insure  
17 or guarantee a loan pursuant to paragraph  
18 (1) or (24).

19 “(B) To promote the long-term sustain-  
20 ability and financial viability of the services pro-  
21 vided by eligible entities, the Secretary shall—

22 “(i) provide assistance to an eligible  
23 entity for the purpose of—

1           “(I) ensuring the entity has nec-  
2           essary resources to maintain public  
3           health, safety, or order;

4           “(II) addressing financial hard-  
5           ships of the eligible entity, its cus-  
6           tomers, and the community it serves;

7           “(III) improving the financial  
8           stability of the eligible entity, includ-  
9           ing changes to—

10                   “(aa) operational practices;

11                   “(bb) revenue enhance-  
12                   ments;

13                   “(cc) policy revisions; and

14                   “(dd) contract services; and

15           “(IV) supporting a partnership,  
16           regionalization, or consolidation of the  
17           entity with another water system; and

18           “(ii) require an applicant to—

19                   “(I) receive financial planning as-  
20                   sistance and prepare a long-term fi-  
21                   nancial plan; or

22                   “(II) partner, regionalize, or con-  
23                   solidate with another water system.

24           “(C) An entity shall be eligible for assist-  
25           ance under this paragraph if the entity—

1           “(i) is a rural water, wastewater, or  
2           wastewater disposal system with respect to  
3           which assistance may be provided under a  
4           water or wastewater, or waste disposal pro-  
5           gram under this subsection or section  
6           306A, 306C, or 306D, and

7           “(ii) is—

8                   “(I) located in a socially dis-  
9                   advantaged community, a persistent  
10                   poverty county, colonia, or distressed  
11                   tribal area, as determined by the Sec-  
12                   retary; or

13                   “(II) facing an economic hard-  
14                   ship as defined by the Secretary.

15           “(D) An entity eligible under paragraph  
16           (1) or (2) of subsection (a) may designate a  
17           water and wastewater utility provider to apply  
18           for a loan under this paragraph and carry out  
19           the loan application on behalf of the eligible en-  
20           tity.

21           “(E)(i) The Secretary shall evaluate such a  
22           loan application on the basis of the needs of the  
23           eligible entity and the beneficiaries of the eligi-  
24           ble entity rather than the needs of the applicant  
25           water and wastewater utility provider.

1           “(ii) A water and wastewater utility pro-  
2           vider to whom a loan is made under this para-  
3           graph on the basis of an application submitted  
4           on behalf of an eligible entity may use the loan  
5           only for the benefit of the residents of the eligi-  
6           ble area for which the loan is provided.”.

7   **SEC. 6404. TRIBAL COLLEGE AND UNIVERSITY ESSENTIAL**  
8           **COMMUNITY FACILITIES.**

9           Section 306(a)(25)(C) of the Consolidated Farm and  
10          Rural Development Act (7 U.S.C. 1926(a)(25)(C)) is  
11          amended by striking “2008 through 2023” and inserting  
12          “2027 through 2031”.

13   **SEC. 6405. EMERGENCY AND IMMINENT COMMUNITY**  
14           **WATER ASSISTANCE GRANT PROGRAM.**

15          Section 306A(i)(2) of the Consolidated Farm and  
16          Rural Development Act (7 U.S.C. 1926a(i)(2)) is amended  
17          by striking “2019 through 2023” and inserting “2027  
18          through 2031”.

19   **SEC. 6406. WATER SYSTEMS FOR RURAL AND NATIVE VIL-**  
20           **LAGES IN ALASKA.**

21          Section 306D(d)(1) of the Consolidated Farm and  
22          Rural Development Act (7 U.S.C. 1926d(d)(1)) is amend-  
23          ed by striking “2008 through 2023” and inserting “2027  
24          through 2031”.

1 **SEC. 6407. RURAL DECENTRALIZED WATER SYSTEMS.**

2 Section 306E of the Consolidated Farm and Rural  
3 Development Act (7 U.S.C. 1926e) is amended to read  
4 as follows:

5 **“SEC. 306E. RURAL DECENTRALIZED WATER SYSTEMS.**

6 “(a) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

7 “(1) ELIGIBLE INDIVIDUAL.—The term ‘eligible  
8 individual’ means an individual who is a member of  
9 a household the members of which have a combined  
10 income (for the most recent 12-month period for  
11 which the information is available) that is not more  
12 than 80 percent of the median nonmetropolitan  
13 household income for the State or territory in which  
14 the individual resides, according to the most recent  
15 decennial census of the United States.

16 “(2) ELIGIBLE GRANT RECIPIENT.—The term  
17 ‘eligible grant recipient’ means a private nonprofit  
18 organization that uses a grant provided under this  
19 section for the purposes described in subsection  
20 (b)(1).

21 “(3) QUALIFIED WATER QUALITY TESTING.—  
22 The term ‘qualified water quality testing’ means a  
23 baseline analysis of the bacterial and chemical char-  
24 acteristics of concern from a drinking water sample  
25 collected at the point of consumption and tested by

1 a laboratory certified to conduct water quality test-  
2 ing that is provided to—

3 “(A) the Secretary; and

4 “(B) the eligible grant recipient receiving a  
5 grant under this section and any eligible indi-  
6 vidual served by the eligible grant recipient.

7 “(b) GRANTS.—

8 “(1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary may make  
9 grants to an eligible grant recipient for the purpose  
10 of—

11 “(A) providing loans and subgrants to eli-  
12 gible individuals for—

13 “(i) the construction, refurbishing,  
14 and servicing of individual household water  
15 well systems and individually owned house-  
16 hold decentralized wastewater systems in  
17 rural areas that are or will be owned by  
18 the eligible individuals; or

19 “(ii) in the event of ground well water  
20 contamination, the installation or replace-  
21 ment of water treatment, where needed as  
22 determined by a qualified water quality  
23 test or other third-party documentation to  
24 the satisfaction of the Secretary;

1           “(B) performing qualified water quality  
2 testing of individual household water well sys-  
3 tems and individually utilized household decen-  
4 tralized wastewater systems in rural areas that  
5 are or will be utilized by the eligible individuals;  
6 or

7           “(C) providing technical assistance to eligi-  
8 ble individuals for—

9           “(i) the installation or replacement of  
10 individual household water well systems  
11 and individually owned household decen-  
12 tralized wastewater systems in rural areas  
13 that are or will be owned by the eligible in-  
14 dividuals;

15           “(ii) interpreting qualified water qual-  
16 ity tests; or

17           “(iii) addressing ground well water  
18 contamination.

19           “(2) TERMS AND AMOUNTS FOR LOANS AND  
20 SUBGRANTS.—

21           “(A) TERMS OF LOANS.—A loan made  
22 with grant funds under this section—

23           “(i) shall have an interest rate of 1  
24 percent; and

1                   “(ii) shall have a term not to exceed  
2                   20 years.

3                   “(B) AMOUNTS.—A loan or subgrant made  
4                   with grant funds under this section shall not  
5                   exceed \$20,000 for each water well system or  
6                   decentralized wastewater system described in  
7                   paragraph (1).

8                   “(3) ADMINISTRATIVE EXPENSES.—A recipient  
9                   of a grant made under this section may use grant  
10                  funds to pay administrative expenses associated with  
11                  providing the assistance described in paragraph (1),  
12                  as determined by the Secretary.

13                  “(4) WATER TREATMENT STANDARDS.—Water  
14                  treatment provided under this section shall—

15                  “(A) incorporate components that are  
16                  third-party certified as compliant with relevant  
17                  consensus-based standards for drinking water  
18                  treatment units or systems, as determined by  
19                  the Secretary; and

20                  “(B) be installed, according to the instruc-  
21                  tions of the manufacturer, by a qualified, cer-  
22                  tified, or licensed water treatment professional,  
23                  including a professional credentialed through a  
24                  manufacturer or third-party.

1       “(c) PRIORITY IN AWARDING GRANTS.—In awarding  
2 grants under this section, the Secretary shall give priority  
3 to an applicant that has substantial expertise and experi-  
4 ence in promoting the safe and effective use of individually  
5 owned household water well systems, individually owned  
6 household decentralized wastewater systems, and ground  
7 water.

8       “(d) LIMITATION.—An eligible grant recipient cannot  
9 use more than 10 percent of a grant awarded under this  
10 section for the activities described under subparagraphs  
11 (B) and (C) of subsection (b)(1).

12       “(e) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There  
13 is authorized to be appropriated to carry out this section  
14 \$20,000,000 for each of fiscal years 2027 through 2031.”.

15 **SEC. 6408. ASSISTANCE TO RURAL ENTITIES.**

16       Section 310B(a) of the Consolidated Farm and Rural  
17 Development Act (7 U.S.C. 1932(a)) is amended—

18           (1) in paragraph (1), by adding at the end the  
19 following:

20           “(C) PRECISION AGRICULTURE; PRECISION  
21 AGRICULTURE TECHNOLOGY.—The terms ‘pre-  
22 cision agriculture’ and ‘precision agriculture  
23 technology’ have the meanings given those  
24 terms in section 1201 of the Food Security Act  
25 of 1985.”; and

1 (2) in paragraph (2)—

2 (A) by striking “and” at the end of sub-  
3 paragraph (C);

4 (B) by striking the period at the end of  
5 subparagraph (D) and inserting “; and”; and

6 (C) by adding at the end the following:

7 “(E) expanding the adoption of precision  
8 agriculture practices, including by financing the  
9 acquisition of precision agriculture technology,  
10 in order to promote best practices, reduce costs,  
11 and improve the environment.”.

12 **SEC. 6409. SOLID WASTE MANAGEMENT GRANTS.**

13 Section 310B(b) of the Consolidated Farm and Rural  
14 Development Act (7 U.S.C. 1932(b)) is amended—

15 (1) in paragraph (1), by striking “governments  
16 and related agencies” and inserting “governments,  
17 related agencies, and Indian tribes”; and

18 (2) in paragraph (2), by striking “2014  
19 through 2023” and inserting “2027 through 2031”.

20 **SEC. 6410. RURAL BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT GRANTS.**

21 Section 310B(c)(4)(A) of the Consolidated Farm and  
22 Rural Development Act (7 U.S.C. 1932(c)(4)(A)) is  
23 amended by striking “2014 through 2023” and inserting  
24 “2027 through 2031”.

1 **SEC. 6411. RURAL COOPERATIVE DEVELOPMENT GRANTS.**

2 Section 310B(e) of the Consolidated Farm and Rural  
3 Development Act (7 U.S.C. 1932(e)) is amended—

4 (1) in paragraph (1), by adding at the end the  
5 following:

6 “(C) COOPERATIVE DEVELOPMENT.—The  
7 term ‘cooperative development’ means activities  
8 including education, training, and technical as-  
9 sistance, to support the start-up, expansion, or  
10 ongoing sustainability of new and existing co-  
11 operatives.”;

12 (2) in paragraph (5)—

13 (A) in subparagraph (D), by striking “un-  
14 derserved and economically distressed areas in  
15 rural areas of the United States” and inserting  
16 “socially vulnerable, underserved, or distressed  
17 communities”; and

18 (B) in subparagraph (F)—

19 (i) by inserting “at least” before “a  
20 25 percent”; and

21 (ii) by inserting “, and all applications  
22 that satisfy this subparagraph shall be  
23 given the same priority for the scoring cri-  
24 terion based on satisfying this subpara-  
25 graph” before the period;

1           (3) in paragraph (6), by striking subparagraph  
2           (B) and inserting the following:

3                   “(B) AWARD RENEWALS FOR QUALIFIED  
4           NONPROFIT INSTITUTIONS.—The Secretary  
5           shall award a grant under this subsection to a  
6           nonprofit institution on the same terms and for  
7           the establishment or operation of the same cen-  
8           ter or centers for cooperative development for  
9           which the nonprofit institution was awarded a  
10          grant in the current fiscal year, if the nonprofit  
11          institution—

12                   “(i) is a recipient of an award under  
13          this subsection;

14                   “(ii) requests a renewal under this  
15          subparagraph;

16                   “(iii) has submitted a complete appli-  
17          cation under this subsection in the pre-  
18          ceding 2 fiscal years; and

19                   “(iv) has operated the center or cen-  
20          ters for cooperative development in a man-  
21          ner which successfully meets the param-  
22          eters described in paragraph (5), as deter-  
23          mined by the Secretary.”;

24           (4) in paragraph (10), by adding at the end the  
25          following: “The Secretary shall analyze the data re-

1 sulting from the research, and include the data and  
2 the analysis in the annual report submitted by the  
3 interagency working group under paragraph (12).”;

4 (5) in paragraph (12), by adding at the end the  
5 following: “Not later than 180 days after the date  
6 of the enactment of this sentence and annually  
7 thereafter, the interagency working group shall sub-  
8 mit to the Congress a report describing the activities  
9 carried out by the working group.”; and

10 (6) in paragraph (13), by striking “2014  
11 through 2023” and inserting “2027 through 2031”.

12 **SEC. 6412. LENDER FEES IN GUARANTEED LOAN PRO-**  
13 **GRAMS.**

14 (a) IN GENERAL.—Section 333 of such Act (7 U.S.C.  
15 1983) is amended—

16 (1) by inserting “(A) IN GENERAL.—” before  
17 “In connection”;

18 (2) in paragraph (5), by adding “and” at the  
19 end;

20 (3) in paragraph (6)(E), by striking “; and”  
21 and inserting a period;

22 (4) by striking paragraph (7); and

23 (5) by adding at the end the following:

24 “(b) FEES.—

1           “(1) INITIAL GUARANTEE FEE.—The Secretary  
2           may assess an initial guarantee fee for any insured  
3           or guaranteed loan issued or modified under section  
4           306(a) in an amount that does not exceed 3 percent  
5           of the guaranteed principal portion of the loan.

6           “(2) PERIODIC RETENTION FEE.—The Sec-  
7           retary may assess a periodic retention fee for any in-  
8           sured or guaranteed loan issued or modified under  
9           section 306(a) in an amount that does not exceed  
10          0.75 percent of the outstanding principal of the  
11          guaranteed loan.

12          “(3) DISCLOSURE.—In altering any fee charged  
13          for any insured or guaranteed loan issued or modi-  
14          fied under section 306(a), the Secretary, not less  
15          than 30 days in advance of any fee change, shall  
16          provide a public disclosure of the financial data, eco-  
17          nomic and behavioral assumptions, calculations, and  
18          other factors used to determine the new fee rates.”.

19          (b) CONFORMING AMENDMENT.—Section 310B(g)(5)  
20          of such Act (7 U.S.C. 1932(g)(5)) is amended to read as  
21          follows:

22          “(5) FEES.—

23                  “(A) INITIAL GUARANTEE FEE.—The Sec-  
24                  retary may assess an initial guarantee fee for  
25                  any guaranteed business and industry loan in

1 an amount that does not exceed 3 percent of  
2 the guaranteed principal portion of the loan.

3 “(B) PERIODIC RETENTION FEE.—The  
4 Secretary may assess a periodic retention fee  
5 for any guaranteed business and industry loan  
6 in an amount that does not exceed 0.75 percent  
7 of the outstanding principal of the guaranteed  
8 loan.

9 “(C) DISCLOSURE.—In altering any fee  
10 charged for any guaranteed business and indus-  
11 try loan, the Secretary, not less than 30 days  
12 in advance of any fee change, shall provide a  
13 public disclosure of the financial data, economic  
14 and behavioral assumptions, calculations, and  
15 other factors used to determine the new fee  
16 rates.”.

17 **SEC. 6413. LOCALLY OR REGIONALLY PRODUCED AGRICUL-**  
18 **TURAL FOOD PRODUCTS.**

19 Section 310B(g)(9)(B)(iv)(I) of the Consolidated  
20 Farm and Rural Development Act (7 U.S.C.  
21 1932(g)(9)(B)(iv)(I)) is amended by striking “2008  
22 through 2023” and inserting “2027 through 2031”.

1 **SEC. 6414. APPROPRIATE TECHNOLOGY TRANSFER FOR**  
2 **RURAL AREAS PROGRAM.**

3 Section 310B(i) of the Consolidated Farm and Rural  
4 Development Act (7 U.S.C. 1932(i)) is amended—

5 (1) in paragraph (2)—

6 (A) by striking “and” at the end of sub-  
7 paragraph (C);

8 (B) by striking the period at the end of  
9 subparagraph (D) and inserting “; and”; and

10 (C) by adding at the end the following:

11 “(E) provides training opportunities and  
12 resources for veterans (as defined in section  
13 101(2) of title 38, United States Code) who ac-  
14 tively are or are seeking to become agricultural  
15 producers, which shall be known as the ‘Armed  
16 to Farm Initiative.’”; and

17 (2) in paragraph (4), by striking “2008  
18 through 2023.” and inserting the following: “2027  
19 through 2031, of which—

20 “(A) \$3,500,000 shall be made available  
21 for each fiscal year for activities described in  
22 subparagraphs (A) through (D) of paragraph  
23 (2); and

24 “(B) \$1,500,000 shall be available for each  
25 fiscal year for activities described in paragraph  
26 (2)(E).”.

1 **SEC. 6415. RURAL ECONOMIC AREA PARTNERSHIP ZONES.**

2 Section 310B(j) of the Consolidated Farm and Rural  
3 Development Act (7 U.S.C. 1932(j)) is amended by strik-  
4 ing “2023” and inserting “2031”.

5 **SEC. 6416. INTERMEDIARY RELENDING PROGRAM.**

6 Section 310H(i) of the Consolidated Farm and Rural  
7 Development Act (7 U.S.C. 1936b(i)) is amended by strik-  
8 ing “2014 through 2023” and inserting “2027 through  
9 2031”.

10 **SEC. 6417. RURAL HEALTH CARE FACILITY ASSISTANCE.**

11 (a) IN GENERAL.—Section 342 of the Consolidated  
12 Farm and Rural Development Act (7 U.S.C. 1990a) is  
13 amended—

14 (1) by striking “Assistance” and inserting the  
15 following:

16 “(a) REFINANCING OF CERTAIN RURAL HEALTH  
17 CARE FACILITY DEBT.—

18 “(1) IN GENERAL.—Assistance”;

19 (2) by striking “rural hospital” and inserting  
20 “an eligible health care facility”;

21 (3) by striking “a community” and inserting  
22 “an area”;

23 (4) by striking “hospital,” and inserting “eligi-  
24 ble health care facility,”; and

25 (5) by adding at the end the following:

1           “(2) REQUIREMENTS.—To promote the long-  
2           term sustainability and financial viability of an eligi-  
3           ble health care facility, the Secretary shall—

4                   “(A) provide assistance to an eligible  
5           health care facility for the purpose of—

6                           “(i) ensuring the facility has nec-  
7                           essary resources to maintain public health,  
8                           safety, or order;

9                           “(ii) addressing financial hardships of  
10                          the facility, its patients, and the area it  
11                          serves; and

12                          “(iii) identifying the financial stability  
13                          of the facility, including—

14                                   “(I) operational practices;

15                                   “(II) revenue enhancements;

16                                   “(III) policy revisions;

17                                   “(IV) partnerships, regionaliza-  
18                                   tion, or consolidation of rural health  
19                                   systems; and

20                                   “(V) contract services; and

21                   “(B) require an applicant to—

22                                   “(i) receive financial planning assist-  
23                                   ance; and

24                                   “(ii) prepare a long-term financial  
25                                   plan.

1           “(3) WAIVER.—In the case of an application  
2           for refinancing pursuant to this section, the Sec-  
3           retary may waive the requirement of section  
4           302(a)(1)(D) if the eligible health care facility is in-  
5           solvent.

6           “(b) RURAL HEALTH CARE FACILITY TECHNICAL  
7           ASSISTANCE PROGRAM.—

8           “(1) IN GENERAL.—In lieu of any other author-  
9           ity under which the Secretary may provide technical  
10          assistance to any eligible health care facility, the  
11          Secretary shall establish, and maintain, directly or  
12          by grant, contract, or cooperative agreement, a  
13          Rural Health Care Facility Technical Assistance  
14          Program (in this section referred to as the ‘Pro-  
15          gram’) to provide technical assistance and training,  
16          tailored to the capacity and needs of each eligible  
17          health care facility, to help eligible health care facili-  
18          ties in rural areas—

19                 “(A) identify development needs for main-  
20                 taining essential health care services, and sup-  
21                 port action plans for operational and quality  
22                 improvement projects to meet the development  
23                 needs;

24                 “(B) better manage their financial and  
25                 business strategies, including providing finan-

1           cial planning assistance and preparing long-  
2           term financial plans; and

3           “(C) identify, and apply for assistance  
4           from, loan and grant programs of the Depart-  
5           ment of Agriculture for which the facilities are  
6           eligible.

7           “(2) GOALS.—The goals of the Program shall  
8           be to—

9           “(A) improve the long-term financial posi-  
10          tion and operational efficiency of the eligible  
11          health care facilities;

12          “(B) prevent the closure of eligible health  
13          care facilities;

14          “(C) strengthen the delivery of health care  
15          in rural areas;

16          “(D) help eligible health care facilities bet-  
17          ter access and compete for loans and grants  
18          from programs administered by the Department  
19          of Agriculture; and

20          “(E) continue the activities of the Rural  
21          Hospital Technical Assistance Program in ef-  
22          fect as of the date of the enactment of this sub-  
23          section.

24          “(3) PROGRAM PARTICIPATION.—

1           “(A) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall  
2 engage in outreach and engagement strategies  
3 to encourage eligible health care facilities to  
4 participate in the Program.

5           “(B) ELIGIBLE HEALTH CARE FACILITY  
6 SELECTION.—In selecting eligible health care  
7 facilities to participate in the Program, the Sec-  
8 retary shall give priority to borrowers and  
9 grantees of the Rural Housing Service, Rural  
10 Business-Cooperative Service, and Rural Utili-  
11 ties Service. The Secretary may also consider—

12           “(i) the age and physical state of the  
13 health care facility involved;

14           “(ii) the financial vulnerability of the  
15 eligible health care facility, and the ability  
16 of the eligible health care facility to meet  
17 debt obligations;

18           “(iii) the electronic health record im-  
19 plementation needs of the health care facil-  
20 ity;

21           “(iv) whether the eligible health care  
22 facility is located in a health professional  
23 shortage area or a medically underserved  
24 area;

1                   “(v) whether the eligible health care  
2                   facility serves a medically underserved pop-  
3                   ulation; and

4                   “(vi) such other criteria and priorities  
5                   as are determined by the Secretary of Ag-  
6                   riculture.

7                   “(C) REPORTING REQUIREMENTS.—Not  
8                   later than 1 year after the date of the enact-  
9                   ment of this section, and annually thereafter,  
10                  the Secretary shall submit to the Committee on  
11                  Agriculture of the House of Representatives  
12                  and the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition,  
13                  and Forestry of the Senate a written report de-  
14                  scribing the progress and results of the pro-  
15                  gram conducted under this section, which  
16                  should include—

17                         “(i) a brief description of each project  
18                         to provide technical assistance to an eligi-  
19                         ble health care facility under this section,  
20                         including—

21                                 “(I) the name and location of the  
22                                 facility;

23                                 “(II) a description of the assist-  
24                                 ance provided;

1                   “(III) a description of the out-  
2                   comes for completed projects;

3                   “(IV) the cost of the technical  
4                   assistance; and

5                   “(V) any other information the  
6                   Secretary deems appropriate;

7                   “(ii) a summary of the technical as-  
8                   sistance projects completed;

9                   “(iii) a summary of the outcomes of  
10                  the technical assistance projects;

11                  “(iv) an assessment of the effective-  
12                  ness of the Program; and

13                  “(v) recommendations for improving  
14                  the Program.

15                  “(D) LIMITATIONS ON AUTHORIZATION OF  
16                  APPROPRIATIONS.—To carry out this section,  
17                  there are authorized to be appropriated to the  
18                  Secretary not more than \$2,000,000 for each of  
19                  fiscal years 2027 through 2031.

20                  “(c) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

21                         “(1) RURAL AREA.—The term ‘rural area’ has  
22                         the meaning given the term in section 343(a)(13)(A)  
23                         of the Consolidated Farm and Rural Development  
24                         Act (7 U.S.C. 1991(a)(13)(A)).

1           “(2) DEVELOPMENT NEEDS.—The term ‘devel-  
2           opment needs’ includes—

3                   “(A) constructing, expanding, renovating  
4                   or otherwise modernizing health care facilities;

5                   “(B) increasing telehealth capabilities;

6                   “(C) acquiring or upgrading health care  
7                   information systems such as electronic health  
8                   records;

9                   “(D) providing financial planning assist-  
10                  ance and preparing a long-term financial plan;  
11                  and

12                  “(E) such other needs as the Secretary  
13                  deems critical to maintaining health care serv-  
14                  ices in the community in which an eligible  
15                  health care facility is located.

16           “(3) ELIGIBLE HEALTH CARE FACILITY.—The  
17           term ‘eligible health care facility’ means a facility  
18           that is located in a rural area and is—

19                   “(A) a hospital (as defined in section  
20                   1861(e) of the Social Security Act;

21                   “(B) a psychiatric hospital (as defined in  
22                   section 1861(f) of such Act);

23                   “(C) a long-term care hospital (as defined  
24                   in section 1861(ccc) of such Act);

1           “(D) a critical access hospital (as defined  
2           in section 1861(mm)(1) of such Act);

3           “(E) a rural health clinic (as defined in  
4           section 1861(aa)(2) of such Act);

5           “(F) a religious nonmedical health care in-  
6           stitution (as defined in section 1861(ss)(1) of  
7           such Act);

8           “(G) a sole community hospital (as defined  
9           in section 1886(d)(5)(C)(iii) of such Act);

10          “(H) a rural emergency hospital (as de-  
11          fined in section 1861(kkk)(2) of such Act);

12          “(I) a home health agency (as defined in  
13          section 1861(o) of such Act); or

14          “(J) a community health center (as de-  
15          fined in section 330 of the Public Health Serv-  
16          ice Act).

17          “(4) HEALTH PROFESSIONAL SHORTAGE  
18          AREA.—The term ‘health professional shortage area’  
19          has the meaning given the term in section  
20          332(a)(1)(A) of the Public Health Service Act.

21          “(5) MEDICALLY UNDERSERVED AREA.—The  
22          term ‘medically underserved area’ has the meaning  
23          given the term in section 330I(a)(5) of the Public  
24          Health Service Act.

1           “(6) MEDICALLY UNDERSERVED POPU-  
2 LATION.—The term ‘medically underserved popu-  
3 lation’ has the meaning given the term in section  
4 330(b)(3) of the Public Health Service Act.”.

5           (b) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendments made by  
6 subsection (a) shall take effect on the completion of a rule-  
7 making carrying out such amendments.

8 **SEC. 6418. PROHIBITION ON USE OF LOAN OR GRANT FOR**  
9 **CERTAIN PURPOSES.**

10          Section 363 of the Consolidated Farm and Rural De-  
11 velopment Act (7 U.S.C. 2006e) is amended to read as  
12 follows:

13 **“SEC. 363. PROHIBITION ON USE OF LOAN OR GRANT FOR**  
14 **CERTAIN PURPOSES.**

15          “(a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall not approve  
16 any loan or grant under this title to drain, dredge, fill,  
17 or level, or otherwise manipulate a wetland (as defined in  
18 section 1201(a)(16) of the Food Security Act of 1985 (16  
19 U.S.C. 3801(a)(16))), or to engage in any activity that  
20 results in impairing or reducing the flow, circulation, or  
21 reach of water, except in the case of activity related to  
22 the maintenance of previously converted wetlands, or in  
23 the case of such activity that commenced before November  
24 29, 1990.

25          “(b) EXCLUSIONS.—

1           “(1) UTILITIES LINES.—This section shall not  
2           apply to a loan made or guaranteed under this title  
3           for a utility line.

4           “(2) PERMITTED ACTIVITIES AND PROJECTS.—  
5           This section shall not apply to a rural development  
6           loan made or guaranteed under section 306 or 306C  
7           of this Act for an activity or project for which the  
8           applicant or borrower has obtained or is required to  
9           obtain a permit from the Secretary of the Army, act-  
10          ing through the Chief of Engineers, under section 10  
11          of the Act of March 3, 1899 (33 U.S.C. 403; 30  
12          Stat. 1151, chapter 425), or section 404 of the Fed-  
13          eral Water Pollution Control Act (33 U.S.C.  
14          1344).”.

15 **SEC. 6419. RURAL BUSINESS-COOPERATIVE SERVICE PRO-**  
16 **GRAMS TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE AND TRAIN-**  
17 **ING.**

18          Section 368(d)(1) of the Consolidated Farm and  
19 Rural Development Act (7 U.S.C. 2008c(d)(1)) is amend-  
20 ed by striking “2019 through 2023” and inserting “2027  
21 through 2031”.

22 **SEC. 6420. NATIONAL RURAL DEVELOPMENT PARTNER-**  
23 **SHIP.**

24          Section 378 of the Consolidated Farm and Rural De-  
25 velopment Act (7 U.S.C. 2008m) is amended—

1 (1) in subsection (g)(1), by striking “2008  
2 through 2023” and inserting “2027 through 2031”;  
3 and

4 (2) in subsection (h), by striking “2023” and  
5 inserting “2031”.

6 **SEC. 6421. GRANTS FOR NOAA WEATHER RADIO TRANSMIT-**  
7 **TERS.**

8 Section 379B(d) of the Consolidated Farm and Rural  
9 Development Act (7 U.S.C. 2008p(d)) is amended by  
10 striking “2014 through 2023” and inserting “2027  
11 through 2031”.

12 **SEC. 6422. RURAL MICROENTREPRENEUR ASSISTANCE**  
13 **PROGRAM.**

14 Section 379E of the Consolidated Farm and Rural  
15 Development Act (7 U.S.C. 2008s) is amended—

16 (1) in subsection (a)(4), by striking “\$50,000”  
17 and inserting “\$75,000”;

18 (2) in subsection (c)(1)(A), by striking “shall  
19 not exceed 75 percent” and inserting “may be up to  
20 100 percent, and a loan under this section for a  
21 project may be used to cover not more than 50 per-  
22 cent of any renovation, construction, or related costs  
23 of real estate improvements under the project”;

24 (3) in subsection (c)(1)(B), by inserting “(or 5  
25 percent, in the case of a microenterprise develop-

1       ment organization serving a persistent poverty coun-  
2       ty, as determined by the Secretary)” before “of the  
3       total amount”; and

4               (4) in subsection (d), by striking “2019 through  
5       2023” and inserting “2027 through 2031”.

6       **SEC. 6423. HEALTH CARE SERVICES.**

7       Section 379G(e) of the Consolidated Farm and Rural  
8       Development Act (7 U.S.C. 2008u(e)) is amended by  
9       striking “2008 through 2023” and inserting “2027  
10      through 2031”.

11      **SEC. 6424. STRATEGIC ECONOMIC AND COMMUNITY DEVEL-**  
12                                   **OPMENT.**

13      Section 379H(d)(4) of the Consolidated Farm and  
14      Rural Development Act (7 U.S.C. 2008v(d)(4)) is amend-  
15      ed by striking “2019 through 2023” and inserting “2027  
16      through 2031”.

17      **SEC. 6425. RURAL INNOVATION STRONGER ECONOMY**  
18                                   **GRANT PROGRAM.**

19      Section 379I of the Consolidated Farm and Rural  
20      Development Act (7 U.S.C. 2008w) is amended—

21                   (1) in subsection (a)—

22                                   (A) in paragraph (1)(A)—

23   (i) in clause (iii)—

24   (I) by striking subclause (I) and  
25                                   inserting the following:

1 “(I) an institution of higher edu-  
2 cation (as defined in section 101, and  
3 subparagraphs (A) and (B) of section  
4 102(a)(1), of the Higher Education  
5 Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 1001,  
6 1002(a)(1));”;

7 (II) by redesignating subclauses  
8 (II) and (III) as subclauses (III) and  
9 (IV), respectively, and inserting after  
10 subclause (I) the following:

11 “(II) an area career and tech-  
12 nical education school (as defined in  
13 section 3 of the Carl D. Perkins Ca-  
14 reer and Technical Education Act of  
15 2006 (20 U.S.C. 2302));” and

16 (III) in subclause (IV) (as so re-  
17 designated by subclause (II) of this  
18 clause), by striking “and”;

19 (ii) in clause (iv)—

20 (I) by striking subclause (IV)  
21 and inserting the following:

22 “(IV) an institution of higher  
23 education (as defined in section 101,  
24 and subparagraphs (A) and (B) of  
25 section 102(a)(1), of the Higher Edu-

1 cation Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 1001,  
2 1002(a)(1));”; and

3 (II) by redesignating subclause  
4 (V) as subclause (VI) and inserting  
5 after subclause (IV) the following:

6 “(V) an area career and technical  
7 education school (as defined in section  
8 3 of the Carl D. Perkins Career and  
9 Technical Education Act of 2006 (20  
10 U.S.C. 2302)); or”; and

11 (iii) by adding at the end the fol-  
12 lowing:

13 “(v) in the case of a career pathway  
14 program, includes 1 or more members of  
15 the local workforce development board es-  
16 tablished under section 107 of the Work-  
17 force Innovation and Opportunity Act and  
18 serving the region to ensure the program is  
19 integrated with the activities carried out by  
20 the local workforce development board;  
21 and”; and

22 (B) by adding at the end the following:

23 “(6) CAREER PATHWAY.—The term ‘career  
24 pathway’ has the meaning given the term in section

1       3(7) of the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity  
2       Act (29 U.S.C. 3102(7)).

3           “(7) INDUSTRY OR SECTOR PARTNERSHIP.—  
4       The term ‘industry or sector partnership’ has the  
5       meaning given the term in section 3 of the Work-  
6       force Innovation and Opportunity Act (29 U.S.C.  
7       3102).”;

8           (2) in subsection (b)—

9           (A) in paragraph (1)—

10           (i) in the matter preceding subpara-  
11           graph (A), by inserting “or carry out ca-  
12           reer pathway training programs or indus-  
13           try or sector partnerships aligned with in-  
14           dustry sectors in rural communities” be-  
15           fore “, including”;

16           (ii) in subparagraph (A), by striking  
17           “and” after the semicolon;

18           (iii) in subparagraph (B), by striking  
19           the period and inserting a semicolon; and

20           (iv) by adding at the end the fol-  
21           lowing:

22           “(C) address workforce challenges, includ-  
23           ing worker displacement, faced by specific in-  
24           dustry sectors in rural communities; and

1           “(D) promote targeted skills development  
2           and training initiatives to stimulate innovation  
3           and enhance economic development in rural re-  
4           gions.”;

5           (B) in paragraph (3)—

6           (i) in subparagraph (A)—

7           (I) in clause (i), by inserting “,  
8           career pathway programs, or industry  
9           or sector partnerships” before the  
10          semicolon; and

11          (II) in clause (ii)—

12          (aa) by inserting “, career  
13          pathway programs, or industry or  
14          sector partnerships” before “to  
15          provide”; and

16          (bb) by inserting “leadership  
17          development,” before “cus-  
18          tomized training”;

19          (ii) in subparagraph (F), by striking  
20          the period and inserting “; and”; and

21          (iii) by adding at the end the fol-  
22          lowing:

23          “(G) the ability of the eligible entity to  
24          carry out activities to address the issues of

1 worker displacement, an aging workforce, and  
2 youth migration.”; and

3 (C) by striking paragraph (5) and insert-  
4 ing the following:

5 “(5) GEOGRAPHIC DISTRIBUTION.—The Sec-  
6 retary shall ensure regional diversity of recipients of  
7 grants or participants in providing grants under  
8 paragraph (1) for jobs accelerators, career pathway  
9 programs, and related programming.”;

10 (3) in subsection (d)(1)—

11 (A) in subparagraph (B)(xi), by striking  
12 the period and inserting “; and”; and

13 (B) by adding at the end the following:

14 “(C) to support career pathway programs  
15 or industry or sector partnerships to be carried  
16 out within industries in rural communities, in-  
17 cluding—

18 “(i) telecommunications or broadband  
19 services;

20 “(ii) water, waste water, or disposal  
21 services;

22 “(iii) electric supply services;

23 “(iv) forestry and logging operations;

24 “(v) conservation practices and man-  
25 agement;

1 “(vi) health care and child care;  
2 “(vii) manufacturing;  
3 “(viii) agribusiness related to produc-  
4 tion, processing, and distribution;  
5 “(ix) veterinarian services; and  
6 “(x) any other sectors identified by  
7 the local workforce development board  
8 serving the region to be an in-demand in-  
9 dustry sector or occupation, as defined in  
10 section 3 of the Workforce Innovation and  
11 Opportunity Act.”;

12 (4) in subsection (e)—

13 (A) in paragraph (1), by striking “and”;

14 (B) in paragraph (2)(B)—

15 (i) in clause (xvii), by striking “or”;

16 (ii) by redesignating clause (xviii) as  
17 clause (xix) and inserting after clause  
18 (xvii) the following:

19 “(xviii) the number of individuals who have  
20 completed skills development, recognized post-  
21 secondary credentials, or gained specialized edu-  
22 cation through career pathways programs or in-  
23 dustry or sector partnerships; or”;

24 (iii) in clause (xix) (as so redesignated  
25 by subparagraph (B) of this paragraph),

1 by striking the period and inserting “;  
2 and”; and

3 (C) by adding at the end the following:

4 “(3) in the case of a career pathway program  
5 or industry or sector partnership, report to the Sec-  
6 retary the employment and earnings outcomes for  
7 individuals who participate in the program on the in-  
8 dicators described in subclauses (I) through (III) of  
9 section 116(b)(2)(A)(i) of the Workforce Innovation  
10 and Opportunity Act.”; and

11 (5) in subsection (f), by striking “2019 through  
12 2023” and inserting “2027 through 2031”.

13 **SEC. 6426. LIMITATION ON RURAL BUSINESS INVESTMENT**  
14 **COMPANIES CONTROLLED BY FARM CREDIT**  
15 **SYSTEM INSTITUTIONS.**

16 Section 384J(c) of the Consolidated Farm and Rural  
17 Development Act (7 U.S.C. 2009cc–9(c)) is amended by  
18 striking “50” and inserting “75”.

19 **SEC. 6427. RURAL BUSINESS INVESTMENT PROGRAM.**

20 Section 384S of the Consolidated Farm and Rural  
21 Development Act (7 U.S.C. 2009cc–18) is amended by  
22 striking “2014 through 2023” and inserting “2027  
23 through 2031”.

1 **SEC. 6428. TECHNICAL CORRECTIONS.**

2 Each of the following provisions of the Consolidated  
3 Farm and Rural Development Act are amended by strik-  
4 ing “urbanized” and inserting “urban”:

5 (1) Section 343(a)(13)(A)(ii) (7 U.S.C.  
6 1991(a)(13)(A)(ii)).

7 (2) Section 343(a)(13)(D)(i)(I) (7 U.S.C.  
8 1991(a)(13)(D)(i)(I)), in the matter preceding item  
9 (aa).

10 (3) Section 343(a)(13)(D)(i)(I)(bb) (7 U.S.C.  
11 1991(a)(13)(D)(i)(I)(bb)).

12 (4) Section 343(a)(13)(D)(i)(II) (7 U.S.C.  
13 1991(a)(13)(D)(i)(II)).

14 (5) Section 343(a)(13)(E) (7 U.S.C.  
15 1991(a)(13)(E)).

16 (6) Section 343(a)(13)(F)(i)(II) (7 U.S.C.  
17 1991(a)(13)(F)(i)(II)).

18 (7) Section 384I(c)(4)(C) (7 U.S.C. 2009cc-  
19 8(c)(4)(C)).

20 **SEC. 6429. RURAL WATER AND WASTEWATER TECHNICAL**  
21 **ASSISTANCE AND TRAINING PROGRAMS.**

22 Section 306(a)(14) of the Consolidated Farm and  
23 Rural Development Act (7 U.S.C. 1926(a)(14)) is amend-  
24 ed—

25 (1) in subparagraph (A)—

1 (A) by striking “technical assistance and  
2 training to—” and inserting “for—”;

3 (B) in clause (v), by striking the period  
4 and inserting “; or”; and

5 (C) by redesignating clauses (i) through  
6 (v) as subclauses (I) through (V), respectively,  
7 and moving each such provision 2 ems to the  
8 right; and

9 (D) by inserting before the matter so re-  
10 designated the following:

11 “(i) technical assistance and training  
12 to—”; and

13 (E) by adding after and below the end the  
14 following:

15 “(ii) disaster and recovery assist-  
16 ance.”; and

17 (2) in subparagraph (B), by inserting “or dis-  
18 aster and recovery assistance” before “described”.

1 **Subtitle E—Additional Amend-**  
2 **ments to the Rural Electrifica-**  
3 **tion Act of 1936**

4 **SEC. 6501. GUARANTEES FOR BONDS AND NOTES ISSUED**  
5 **FOR UTILITY INFRASTRUCTURE PURPOSES.**

6 Section 313A(f) of the Rural Electrification Act of  
7 1936 (7 U.S.C. 940c–1(f)) is amended by striking “2023”  
8 and inserting “2031”.

9 **SEC. 6502. EXTENSION OF THE RURAL ECONOMIC DEVEL-**  
10 **OPMENT LOAN AND GRANT PROGRAM.**

11 Section 313B of the Rural Electrification Act of 1936  
12 (7 U.S.C. 940c–2) is amended—

13 (1) by striking subsection (b) and inserting the  
14 following:

15 “(b) REPAYMENTS.—

16 “(1) IN GENERAL.—In the case of zero interest  
17 loans, the Secretary shall establish such reasonable  
18 repayment terms as will encourage borrower partici-  
19 pation.

20 “(2) LETTERS OF CREDIT.—The Secretary  
21 shall not require a letter of credit or other similar  
22 guarantee from a recipient of a zero-interest loan  
23 under this section if the borrower assigns the Sec-  
24 retary a security interest in any collateral provided  
25 to secure a loan made with funds loaned under this

1 section, or makes other similar arrangements to the  
2 satisfaction of the Secretary.”; and

3 (2) in subsection (e)(1), by striking “2019  
4 through 2023” and inserting “2027 through 2031”.

5 **SEC. 6503. EXPANSION OF 911 ACCESS.**

6 Section 315(d) of the Rural Electrification Act of  
7 1936 (7 U.S.C. 940e(d)) is amended by striking “2008  
8 through 2023” and inserting “2027 through 2031”.

9 **TITLE VII—RESEARCH, EXTEN-**  
10 **SION, AND RELATED MAT-**  
11 **TERS**

12 **Subtitle A—National Agricultural**  
13 **Research, Extension, and Teach-**  
14 **ing Policy Act of 1977**

15 **SEC. 7101. NATIONAL AGRICULTURAL RESEARCH, EXTEN-**  
16 **SION, EDUCATION, AND ECONOMICS ADVI-**  
17 **SORY BOARD.**

18 Section 1408 of the National Agricultural Research,  
19 Extension, and Teaching Policy Act of 1977 (7 U.S.C.  
20 3123) is amended—

21 (1) in subsection (b)—

22 (A) in paragraph (1), by striking “15” and  
23 inserting “16”;

24 (B) in paragraph (3), by adding at the end  
25 the following:

1           “(E) 1 member representing the industry,  
2           consumer, or rural interests of insular areas.”;  
3           and

4           (C) in paragraph (5), by striking “7” and  
5           inserting “3”; and

6           (2) in subsection (h), by striking “2023” and  
7           inserting “2031”.

8   **SEC. 7102. SPECIALTY CROP COMMITTEE.**

9           Section 1408A of the National Agricultural Research,  
10          Extension, and Teaching Policy Act of 1977 (7 U.S.C.  
11          3123a) is amended—

12           (1) in subsection (a)—

13           (A) in paragraph (1), by striking “Not  
14           later than” and all that follows through “initial  
15           members of” and inserting “The Secretary shall  
16           continue to implement, and appoint the mem-  
17           bers of”; and

18           (B) in paragraph (2)—

19           (i) in subparagraph (C), by adding a  
20           period at the end; and

21           (ii) in subparagraph (D), by striking  
22           “2023” and inserting “2031”; and

23           (2) in subsection (b)(2), by striking “executive  
24           committee” and inserting “Secretary”.

1 **SEC. 7103. VETERINARY MEDICINE LOAN REPAYMENT.**

2 Section 1415A of the National Agricultural Research,  
3 Extension, and Teaching Policy Act of 1977 (7 U.S.C.  
4 3151a) is amended—

5 (1) by amending subsection (b) to read as fol-  
6 lows:

7 “(b) DETERMINATION OF VETERINARIAN SHORTAGE  
8 SITUATIONS.—In determining ‘veterinarian shortage situ-  
9 ations’, the Secretary—

10 “(1) may consider—

11 “(A) geographical areas that the Secretary  
12 determines have a shortage of veterinarians;

13 “(B) areas of veterinary practice that the  
14 Secretary determines have a shortage of veteri-  
15 narians, such as food animal medicine, public  
16 health, epidemiology, and food safety; and

17 “(C) areas described in subparagraphs (A)  
18 and (B) identified by appropriate State agen-  
19 cies; and

20 “(2) shall—

21 “(A) develop quantitative mechanisms for  
22 predicting the emergence of new veterinarian  
23 shortage situations in the short-term and long-  
24 term; and

25 “(B) make available to State agencies de-  
26 scribed in paragraph (1)(C) the quantitative

1 mechanisms developed under subparagraph  
2 (A).”; and

3 (2) in subsection (c), by adding at the end the  
4 following:

5 “(9) ELIGIBILITY.—The Secretary shall not  
6 make a veterinarian ineligible for the program under  
7 this section based on a veterinarian’s participation in  
8 a comparable Federal, State, or local program.

9 “(10) APPLICATION PROCESS.—Not later than  
10 1 year after the date of the enactment of the Farm,  
11 Food, and National Security Act of 2026, the Sec-  
12 retary shall establish streamlined application proce-  
13 dures and guidelines for entering into agreements  
14 with veterinarians under this section.”.

15 **SEC. 7104. VETERINARY SERVICES GRANT PROGRAM.**

16 Section 1415B of the National Agricultural Research,  
17 Extension, and Teaching Policy Act of 1977 (7 U.S.C.  
18 3151b) is amended—

19 (1) in subsection (a)—

20 (A) in paragraph (1)(A)(i), by striking “,  
21 as defined in” and all that follows through  
22 “1991(a)”; and

23 (B) by adding at the end the following:

24 “(3) RURAL AREA.—The term “rural area” has  
25 the meaning given such term in section 343(a) of

1 the Consolidated Farm and Rural Development Act  
2 (7 U.S.C. 1991(a)).”;

3 (2) in subsection (b)(2)—

4 (A) by redesignating subparagraphs (B)  
5 and (C) as subparagraphs (C) and (D), respec-  
6 tively; and

7 (B) by inserting after subparagraph (A)  
8 the following:

9 “(B) expand, retain, or attract additional  
10 veterinary practices in rural areas;”;

11 (3) in subsection (c), by adding at the end the  
12 following:

13 “(5) APPLICATION PROCESS.—Not later than 1  
14 year after the date of enactment of the Farm, Food,  
15 and National Security Act of 2026 the Secretary  
16 shall establish a streamlined application process.”;  
17 and

18 (4) in subsection (d)—

19 (A) in the subsection heading, by striking  
20 “TO RELIEVE VETERINARIAN SHORTAGE SITU-  
21 ATIONS AND SUPPORT VETERINARY SERV-  
22 ICES”; and

23 (B) in paragraph (1)—

24 (i) in the matter preceding subpara-  
25 graph (A), by striking “situations and sup-

1 port” and inserting “situations, to expand,  
2 retain, or attract additional veterinary  
3 practices in rural areas, and to support”;  
4 and

5 (ii) by adding at the end the fol-  
6 lowing:

7 “(G) To cover expenses associated with  
8 starting a new veterinary practice or attracting  
9 new veterinarians to existing practices, includ-  
10 ing—

11 “(i) relocation expenses;

12 “(ii) the purchase of necessary start-  
13 up equipment; and

14 “(iii) housing or living stipends for  
15 veterinary students, veterinary interns,  
16 externs, fellows, and residents, and veteri-  
17 nary technician students.”.

18 **SEC. 7105. GRANTS AND FELLOWSHIPS FOR FOOD AND AG-**  
19 **RICULTURE SCIENCES EDUCATION.**

20 Section 1417(m)(2) of the National Agricultural Re-  
21 search, Extension, and Teaching Policy Act of 1977 (7  
22 U.S.C. 3152(m)(2)) is amended by striking “2023” and  
23 inserting “2031”.

1 **SEC. 7106. AGRICULTURAL AND FOOD POLICY RESEARCH**  
2 **CENTERS.**

3 Section 1419A(e) of the National Agricultural Re-  
4 search, Extension, and Teaching Policy Act of 1977 (7  
5 U.S.C. 3155(e)) is amended by striking “2023” and in-  
6 serting “2031”.

7 **SEC. 7107. EDUCATION GRANTS TO ALASKA NATIVE SERV-**  
8 **ING INSTITUTIONS AND NATIVE HAWAIIAN**  
9 **SERVING INSTITUTIONS.**

10 Section 1419B of the National Agricultural Research,  
11 Extension, and Teaching Policy Act of 1977 (7 U.S.C.  
12 3156) is amended—

13 (1) in subsection (a)—

14 (A) in paragraph (1), by adding at the end  
15 the following: “The term of such grants may be  
16 for a period of more than 1 year, but not more  
17 than 5 years.”; and

18 (B) in paragraph (3), by striking “2023”  
19 and inserting “2031”; and

20 (2) in subsection (b)—

21 (A) in paragraph (1), by adding at the end  
22 the following: “The term of such grants may be  
23 for a period of more than 1 year, but not more  
24 than 5 years.”; and

25 (B) in paragraph (3), by striking “2023”  
26 and inserting “2031”.

1 **SEC. 7108. NUTRITION EDUCATION PROGRAM.**

2 Section 1425(g) of the National Agricultural Re-  
3 search, Extension, and Teaching Policy Act of 1977 (7  
4 U.S.C. 3175(g)) is amended by striking “2023” and in-  
5 serting “2031”.

6 **SEC. 7109. CONTINUING ANIMAL HEALTH AND DISEASE RE-**  
7 **SEARCH PROGRAMS.**

8 Section 1433 of the National Agricultural Research,  
9 Extension, and Teaching Policy Act of 1977 (7 U.S.C.  
10 3195) is amended—

11 (1) in subsection (a), by adding at the end the  
12 following:

13 “(4) CARRYOVER.—The balance of any annual  
14 funds provided to an eligible institution for a fiscal  
15 year under this subsection that remains unexpended  
16 at the end of that fiscal year may be carried over  
17 for use during the following fiscal year.”; and

18 (2) in subsection (c)(1), by striking “2023” and  
19 inserting “2031”.

20 **SEC. 7110. EXTENSION AND AGRICULTURAL RESEARCH AT**  
21 **1890 LAND-GRANT COLLEGES, INCLUDING**  
22 **TUSKEGEE UNIVERSITY.**

23 (a) EXTENSION.—Section 1444(a)(2) of the National  
24 Agricultural Research, Extension, and Teaching Policy  
25 Act of 1977 (7 U.S.C. 3221(a)(2)) is amended by striking  
26 “20 percent” and inserting “40 percent”.

1 (b) RESEARCH.—Section 1445 of the National Agri-  
2 cultural Research, Extension, and Teaching Policy Act of  
3 1977 (7 U.S.C. 3222) is amended—

4 (1) in subsection (a)(2), by striking “30 per-  
5 cent” and inserting “40 percent”;

6 (2) in subsection (c), by striking “the research  
7 director” each place it appears and inserting “the  
8 agricultural research director”; and

9 (3) in subsection (d)—

10 (A) by striking “a research director” and  
11 inserting “an agricultural research director”;  
12 and

13 (B) by striking “or other officer”.

14 **SEC. 7111. SCHOLARSHIPS FOR STUDENTS AT 1890 INSTITU-**  
15 **TIONS.**

16 Section 1446 of the National Agricultural Research,  
17 Extension, and Teaching Policy Act of 1977 (7 U.S.C.  
18 3222a) is amended—

19 (1) in the section heading, by inserting “**(COM-**  
20 **MONLY KNOWN AS THE DAVID A. SCOTT**  
21 **SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM FOR STUDENTS AT**  
22 **1890 INSTITUTIONS)**” before the period at the end;  
23 and

24 (2) in subsection (b)(2), by striking “2023”  
25 and inserting “2031”.

1 **SEC. 7112. GRANTS TO UPGRADE AGRICULTURAL AND**  
2 **FOOD SCIENCES FACILITIES AT 1890 LAND-**  
3 **GRANT COLLEGES, INCLUDING TUSKEGEE**  
4 **UNIVERSITY.**

5 Section 1447(b) of the National Agricultural Re-  
6 search, Extension, and Teaching Policy Act of 1977 (7  
7 U.S.C. 3222b(b)) is amended by striking “2023” and in-  
8 serting “2031”.

9 **SEC. 7113. GRANTS TO UPGRADE AGRICULTURE AND FOOD**  
10 **SCIENCES FACILITIES AND EQUIPMENT AND**  
11 **SUPPORT TROPICAL AND SUBTROPICAL AG-**  
12 **RICULTURAL RESEARCH AT INSULAR AREA**  
13 **LAND-GRANT COLLEGES AND UNIVERSITIES.**

14 Section 1447B(d) of the National Agricultural Re-  
15 search, Extension, and Teaching Policy Act of 1977 (7  
16 U.S.C. 3222b–2(d)) is amended by striking “2023” and  
17 inserting “2031”.

18 **SEC. 7114. MATCHING FUNDS REQUIREMENT FOR RE-**  
19 **SEARCH AND EXTENSION ACTIVITIES AT ELI-**  
20 **GIBLE INSTITUTIONS.**

21 Section 1449 of the National Agricultural Research,  
22 Extension, and Teaching Policy Act of 1977 (7 U.S.C.  
23 3222d) is amended—

24 (1) in subsection (b)—

25 (A) by striking “Not later than September  
26 30, 1999” and inserting “Beginning on Sep-

1           tember 30, 2026, and not later than September  
2           30 of each fiscal year thereafter”; and

3                   (B) by striking “fiscal year 1999” and in-  
4           serting “the fiscal year ending on that Sep-  
5           tember 30”; and

6           (2) by amending subsection (c) to read as fol-  
7           lows:

8           “(c) STATE MATCHING FUNDS REQUIREMENT.—  
9           Notwithstanding any other provision of this subtitle, for  
10          each fiscal year, a State shall provide to each eligible insti-  
11          tution located in the State matching funds from non-Fed-  
12          eral sources in an amount equal to the amounts provided  
13          to the eligible institution under sections 1444 and 1445  
14          for the purposes described in subsection (b)(1).”.

15       **SEC. 7115. NEW BEGINNING FOR TRIBAL STUDENTS.**

16          Section 1450 of the National Agricultural Research,  
17          Extension, and Teaching Policy Act of 1977 (7 U.S.C.  
18          3222e) is amended—

19               (1) in subsection (b)—

20                   (A) in paragraph (4), by striking “land-  
21                  grant college or university” and inserting  
22                  “land-grant college or university (except for a  
23                  1994 Institution (as defined in section 532 of  
24                  the Equity in Educational Land-Grant Status

1 Act of 1994 (Public Law 103–382; 7 U.S.C.  
2 301 note)))”; and

3 (B) by striking paragraph (5); and

4 (2) in subsection (d), by striking “2023” and  
5 inserting “2031”.

6 **SEC. 7116. EDUCATION GRANTS PROGRAMS FOR HISPANIC-**  
7 **SERVING INSTITUTIONS.**

8 Section 1455(c) of the National Agricultural Re-  
9 search, Extension, and Teaching Policy Act of 1977 (7  
10 U.S.C. 3241(c)) is amended by striking “2023” and in-  
11 serting “2031”.

12 **SEC. 7117. BINATIONAL AGRICULTURAL RESEARCH AND**  
13 **DEVELOPMENT.**

14 Section 1458(e) of the National Agricultural Re-  
15 search, Extension, and Teaching Policy Act of 1977 (7  
16 U.S.C. 3291(e)) is amended—

17 (1) in paragraph (1), by striking “entered into”  
18 and inserting “, as entered into in 1977,”;

19 (2) in paragraph (2), by striking “United  
20 States and Israel” and inserting “United States,  
21 Israel, or other signatories of the Abraham Accords  
22 Declaration”; and

23 (3) by adding at the end the following:

24 “(3) BARD FUND ACCELERATOR.—The BARD  
25 Fund shall establish an accelerator program that

1 supports mid-stage research, as determined by the  
2 technology readiness level, in priority areas estab-  
3 lished by the BARD Fund that—

4 “(A) fast-tracks cooperative research be-  
5 tween scientists participating in activities de-  
6 scribed in paragraph (2);

7 “(B) accelerates the successful develop-  
8 ment of agricultural research through resources  
9 and services developed or orchestrated by the  
10 BARD Fund;

11 “(C) provides management guidance, tech-  
12 nical assistance, and consulting to scientists  
13 participating in activities described in para-  
14 graph (2); or

15 “(D) advances cooperative agricultural re-  
16 search projects of mutual interest to the United  
17 States, Israel, or other signatories of the Abra-  
18 ham Accords Declaration.”.

19 **SEC. 7118. GRANTS AND PARTNERSHIPS FOR INTER-**  
20 **NATIONAL AGRICULTURAL RESEARCH, EX-**  
21 **TENSION, AND EDUCATION.**

22 (a) IN GENERAL.—Section 1458A of the National  
23 Agricultural Research, Extension, and Teaching Policy  
24 Act of 1977 (7 U.S.C. 3292) is amended—

1           (1) by amending the section heading to read as  
2 follows “**GRANTS AND PARTNERSHIPS FOR**  
3 **INTERNATIONAL AGRICULTURAL RESEARCH,**  
4 **EXTENSION, AND EDUCATION**”;

5           (2) by striking subsections (a) and (b) and in-  
6 serting the following:

7           “(a) **DEFINITIONS.**—In this section:

8           “(1) **DEVELOPING COUNTRY.**—The term ‘devel-  
9 oping country’ means a country that meets such cri-  
10 teria as determined by the Secretary, established  
11 using a gross national income per capita test se-  
12 lected by the Secretary.

13           “(2) **ELIGIBLE INSTITUTION.**—The term ‘eligi-  
14 ble institution’ means—

15           “(A) a land-grant colleges or university;

16           “(B) a non-land-grant college of agri-  
17 culture;

18           “(C) a Hispanic-serving agricultural col-  
19 lege or university; and

20           “(D) a cooperating forestry school.

21           “(3) **INTERNATIONAL PARTNER INSTITUTION.**—

22           The term ‘international partner institution’ means a  
23 higher education institution in a developing country  
24 that is performing, or desiring to perform, activities  
25 similar to agricultural research, extension, and edu-

1 cation activities carried out through eligible institu-  
2 tions in the United States.

3 “(b) GRANTS AND PARTNERSHIPS.—

4 “(1) GRANTS.—The Secretary may make com-  
5 petitive grants to eligible institutions in order to  
6 strengthen United States economic competitiveness  
7 and to promote international market development  
8 through—

9 “(A) enhancing the international content  
10 of the curricula in colleges and universities so  
11 as to ensure that United States students ac-  
12 quire an understanding of the international di-  
13 mensions and trade implications of their stud-  
14 ies;

15 “(B) ensuring that United States sci-  
16 entists, extension agents, and educators in-  
17 volved in agricultural research and development  
18 activities outside of the United States have the  
19 opportunity to convey the implications of their  
20 activities and findings to their peers and stu-  
21 dents in the United States and to the users of  
22 agricultural research, extension, and teaching;

23 “(C) enhancing the capabilities of colleges  
24 and universities to do collaborative research  
25 with other countries, in cooperation with other

1 Federal agencies, on issues relevant to United  
2 States agricultural competitiveness;

3 “(D) enhancing the capabilities of colleges  
4 and universities to provide cooperative extension  
5 education to promote the application of new  
6 technology developed in foreign countries to  
7 United States agriculture; and

8 “(E) enhancing the capability of United  
9 States colleges and universities, in cooperation  
10 with other Federal agencies, to provide leader-  
11 ship and educational programs that will assist  
12 United States natural resources and food pro-  
13 duction, processing, and distribution businesses  
14 and industries to compete internationally, in-  
15 cluding through the use of product market iden-  
16 tification, international policies limiting or en-  
17 hancing market production, the development of  
18 new or enhancement of existing markets, and  
19 production efficiencies.

20 “(2) PARTNERSHIPS.—The Secretary may pro-  
21 mote cooperation and coordination between eligible  
22 institutions and international partner institutions  
23 through—

24 “(A) improving extension by—

1 “(i) encouraging the exchange of re-  
2 search materials and results between eligi-  
3 ble institutions and international partner  
4 institutions;

5 “(ii) facilitating the broad dissemina-  
6 tion of agricultural research through exten-  
7 sion;

8 “(iii) assisting with efforts to plan  
9 and initiate extension services in devel-  
10 oping countries; and

11 “(iv) developing self-sustaining re-  
12 gional agricultural markets and promoting  
13 the application of new agricultural tech-  
14 nologies and techniques;

15 “(B) improving agricultural research by—

16 “(i) in partnership with international  
17 partner institutions, encouraging research  
18 that addresses problems affecting food pro-  
19 duction and security, human nutrition, ag-  
20 riculture, forestry, livestock, and fisheries,  
21 including local challenges; and

22 “(ii) supporting and strengthening na-  
23 tional agricultural research systems in de-  
24 veloping countries;

1           “(C) improving agricultural teaching and  
2 education by—

3           “(i) in partnership with international  
4 partner institutions, supporting education  
5 and teaching relating to food and agricul-  
6 tural sciences, including technical assist-  
7 ance, degree training, research collabora-  
8 tions, classroom instruction, workforce  
9 training, and education programs; and

10           “(ii) assisting with efforts to increase  
11 student capacity, including to encourage  
12 equitable access for women and other un-  
13 derserved populations, at international  
14 partner institutions by promoting partner-  
15 ships with, and improving the capacity of,  
16 eligible institutions;

17           “(D) assisting eligible institutions in  
18 strengthening their capacity for food, agricul-  
19 tural, and related research, extension, and  
20 teaching programs relevant to agricultural de-  
21 velopment activities in developing countries to  
22 promote the application of new technology to  
23 improve education delivery;

1           “(E) providing support for the internation-  
2           alization of resident instruction programs of eli-  
3           gible institutions;

4           “(F) establishing a program, to be coordi-  
5           nated by the Director of the National Institute  
6           of Food and Agriculture and the Administrator  
7           of the Foreign Agricultural Service, to place in-  
8           terns from eligible institutions in, or in service  
9           to benefit, developing countries; and

10           “(G) establishing a program to provide fel-  
11           lowships to students at eligible institutions to  
12           study at foreign agricultural colleges and uni-  
13           versities.”;

14           (3) in subsection (e), in the matter preceding  
15           paragraph (1), by striking “covered Institutions”  
16           and inserting “eligible institutions”; and

17           (4) in subsection (d), by striking “2023” and  
18           inserting “2031”.

19           (b) CONFORMING AMENDMENT.—Section 1459A of  
20           the National Agricultural Research, Extension, and  
21           Teaching Policy Act of 1977 (7 U.S.C. 3292b) is repealed.

22           **SEC. 7119. RESEARCH EQUIPMENT GRANTS.**

23           Section 1462A(e) of the National Agricultural Re-  
24           search, Extension, and Teaching Policy Act of 1977 (7

1 U.S.C. 3310a(e)) is amended by striking “2023” and in-  
2 serting “2031”.

3 **SEC. 7120. UNIVERSITY RESEARCH.**

4 Section 1463 of the National Agricultural Research,  
5 Extension, and Teaching Policy Act of 1977 (7 U.S.C.  
6 3311) is amended by striking “2023” each place it ap-  
7 pears in subsections (a) and (b) and inserting “2031”.

8 **SEC. 7121. EXTENSION SERVICE.**

9 Section 1464 of the National Agricultural Research,  
10 Extension, and Teaching Policy Act of 1977 (7 U.S.C.  
11 3312) is amended by striking “2023” and inserting  
12 “2031”.

13 **SEC. 7122. SUPPLEMENTAL AND ALTERNATIVE CROPS.**

14 Section 1473D of the National Agricultural Re-  
15 search, Extension, and Teaching Policy Act of 1977 (7  
16 U.S.C. 3319d) is amended—

17 (1) in subsection (a), by striking “2023” and  
18 inserting “2031”;

19 (2) in subsection (c)(3)—

20 (A) in subparagraph (E), by striking  
21 “and” at the end;

22 (B) by redesignating subparagraph (F) as  
23 subparagraph (G); and

24 (C) by inserting after subparagraph (E)  
25 the following:

1           “(F) to examine potential benefits and opportu-  
2           nities for supplemental and alternative crops (includ-  
3           ing winter-planted rapeseed and winter-planted  
4           canola crops); and”;

5           (3) in subsection (e)(3), by striking “2023” and  
6           inserting “2031”.

7   **SEC. 7123. GRANTS FOR COMMUNITY COLLEGE AGRICULTURE AND NATURAL RESOURCES PROGRAMS.**

10          Section 1473E of the National Agricultural Research,  
11          Extension, and Teaching Policy Act of 1977 (7 U.S.C.  
12          3319e) is amended—

13           (1) by amending the section heading to read as  
14          follows: “**GRANTS FOR COMMUNITY COLLEGE**  
15          **AGRICULTURE AND NATURAL RESOURCES**  
16          **PROGRAMS**”;

17           (2) by redesignating subsection (d) as sub-  
18          section (e);

19           (3) by striking subsections (a) through (c) and  
20          inserting the following:

21          “(a) **DEFINITIONS.**—In this section:

22           “(1) **ELIGIBLE ENTITY.**—The term ‘eligible en-  
23          tity’ means—

24           “(A) a junior or community college (as de-  
25          fined in section 312 of the Higher Education

1 Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 1058)) supporting agri-  
2 culture advancement;

3 “(B) a consortium or alliance of 2-year  
4 public colleges supporting agriculture advance-  
5 ment; or

6 “(C) an area career and technical edu-  
7 cation school (as defined in section 3 of the  
8 Carl D. Perkins Career and Technical Edu-  
9 cation Act of 2006 (20 U.S.C. 2302)) that of-  
10 fers a program of study in agriculture.

11 “(2) WORK-BASED LEARNING.—The term  
12 ‘work-based learning’ has the meaning given such  
13 term in section 3 of the Carl D. Perkins Career and  
14 Technical Education Act of 2006 (20 U.S.C. 2302).

15 “(b) COMPETITIVE GRANTS.—The Secretary shall  
16 make competitive grants to eligible entities to conduct  
17 workforce training, education, research, and outreach ac-  
18 tivities relating to food and agricultural sciences.

19 “(c) PRIORITY.—In making grants under subsection  
20 (b), the Secretary shall give priority to an eligible entity  
21 coordinating with a local agriculture industry operator or  
22 conservation district to provide work-based learning, expe-  
23 riential training, and other opportunities for students.

1 “(d) USE OF FUNDS.—An eligible entity that receives  
2 a grant under subsection (b) may use the funds made  
3 available through the grant—

4 “(1) to offer educational programming on agri-  
5 cultural industry jobs, including farm business man-  
6 agement-related subjects, such as accounting, para-  
7 legal studies, finance, and soil, water, and related re-  
8 source conservation;

9 “(2) to develop apprenticeships and other work-  
10 based learning opportunities; and

11 “(3) other services that would increase work-  
12 force training, education, research, and outreach ac-  
13 tivities relating to food and agricultural sciences, as  
14 determined by the Secretary.”; and

15 (4) in subsection (e), as so redesignated, by  
16 striking “2023” and inserting “2031”.

17 **SEC. 7124. CAPACITY BUILDING GRANTS FOR NLGCA INSTI-**  
18 **TUTIONS.**

19 Section 1473F(b) of the National Agricultural Re-  
20 search, Extension, and Teaching Policy Act of 1977 (7  
21 U.S.C. 3319i(b)) is amended by striking “2023” and in-  
22 serting “2031”.

1 **SEC. 7125. AGRICULTURE ADVANCED RESEARCH AND DE-**  
2 **VELOPMENT AUTHORITY.**

3 Section 1473H of the National Agricultural Re-  
4 search, Extension, and Teaching Policy Act of 1977 (7  
5 U.S.C. 3319k) is amended—

6 (1) in subsection (a)—

7 (A) in paragraph (2)—

8 (i) by inserting “, including precision  
9 agriculture,” after “equipment”; and

10 (ii) by striking “relating to the re-  
11 search and development of qualified prod-  
12 ucts and projects”;

13 (B) in paragraph (5)—

14 (i) in the paragraph heading, by strik-  
15 ing “PERSON” and inserting “ELIGIBLE  
16 ENTITY”;

17 (ii) in the matter preceding subpara-  
18 graph (A), by striking “person” and in-  
19 sserting “eligible entity”;

20 (iii) by striking subparagraph (E);

21 and

22 (iv) by redesignating subparagraphs  
23 (F) through (H) as subparagraphs (E)  
24 through (G), respectively;

25 (C) in paragraph (6)—

1 (i) in subparagraph (B)(iii), by strik-  
2 ing “and” at the end;

3 (ii) in subparagraph (C)(ii), by strik-  
4 ing the period at the end and inserting “;  
5 or”; and

6 (iii) by adding at the end the fol-  
7 lowing:

8 “(D) any other product or project, as de-  
9 termined by the Secretary.”; and

10 (D) in paragraph (7), by striking “that is  
11 developed to assist in the discovery, develop-  
12 ment, or manufacture of a qualified product or  
13 project”;

14 (2) in subsection (b)—

15 (A) in paragraph (2), by amending sub-  
16 paragraph (B) to read as follows:

17 “(B) to overcome the long-term and high-  
18 risk technological barriers in the development of  
19 agricultural technologies, research tools, and  
20 qualified products and projects that enhance ex-  
21 port competitiveness, environmental sustain-  
22 ability, water conservation, and resilience to ex-  
23 treme weather, drought, infectious diseases,  
24 plant and animal pathogens, and plant and ani-  
25 mal pests;”;

- 1 (B) in paragraph (4)—
- 2 (i) in subparagraph (C), by striking
- 3 “persons” and inserting “eligible entities”;
- 4 and
- 5 (ii) in subparagraph (G), by striking
- 6 “persons” and inserting “eligible entities”;
- 7 and
- 8 (C) in paragraph (7)(A)—
- 9 (i) by striking “a person” and insert-
- 10 ing “an eligible entity”; and
- 11 (ii) by striking “the person” and in-
- 12 serting “the eligible entity”;
- 13 (3) in subsection (c)—
- 14 (A) in paragraph (2), by striking “per-
- 15 sons” and inserting “eligible entities”; and
- 16 (B) by adding at the end the following:
- 17 “(4) USE OF STRATEGIC PLAN.—The Secretary
- 18 shall use the strategic plan developed under para-
- 19 graph (1) to inform the administration of AGARDA
- 20 under this section.”;
- 21 (4) in subsection (d)(3), by striking “2023”
- 22 and inserting “2031”; and
- 23 (5) in subsection (e)—
- 24 (A) in paragraph (1), by striking “5
- 25 years” and inserting “13 years”; and

1 (B) in paragraph (2)(B), by striking “5-  
2 year” and inserting “13-year”.

3 **SEC. 7126. AQUACULTURE ASSISTANCE PROGRAMS.**

4 Section 1477(a)(2) of the National Agricultural Re-  
5 search, Extension, and Teaching Policy Act of 1977 (7  
6 U.S.C. 3324(a)(2)) is amended by striking “2023” and  
7 insert “2031”.

8 **SEC. 7127. SPECIAL AUTHORIZATION FOR BIOSECURITY  
9 PLANNING AND RESPONSE.**

10 Section 1484(a)(3) of the National Agricultural Re-  
11 search, Extension, and Teaching Policy Act of 1977 (7  
12 U.S.C. 3351(a)(3)) is amended by striking “2023” and  
13 inserting “2031”.

14 **SEC. 7128. AGRICULTURE AND FOOD PROTECTION GRANT  
15 PROGRAM.**

16 (a) IN GENERAL.—Section 1485 of the National Ag-  
17 ricultural Research, Extension, and Teaching Policy Act  
18 of 1977 (7 U.S.C. 3352) is amended—

19 (1) by amending the section heading to read as  
20 follows: “**AGRICULTURE AND FOOD PROTEC-  
21 TION GRANT PROGRAM**”;

22 (2) by striking subsections (a), (b), (c), (d), (e),  
23 and (f) and inserting the following:

24 “(a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall establish a  
25 competitive grant program under which the Secretary will

1 award grants to eligible entities to support research, ex-  
2 tension, and education activities that improve the capa-  
3 bility of the United States to protect the food and agricul-  
4 tural system from any chemical, biological, cybersecurity,  
5 or bioterrorism attack.

6 “(b) USE OF FUNDS.—Grants made under this sec-  
7 tion shall be used to—

8 “(1) encourage basic and applied research and  
9 development of agricultural countermeasures;

10 “(2) promote the development and expansion of  
11 teaching programs in agriculture, veterinary medi-  
12 cine, and other disciplines closely allied to the food  
13 and agriculture system to increase the number of  
14 trained individuals with an expertise in agricultural  
15 biosecurity and cybersecurity;

16 “(3) expand or upgrade facilities to meet bio-  
17 safety and biosecurity requirements necessary to  
18 protect facility staff, members of the public, and the  
19 food supply while carrying out agricultural biosecu-  
20 rity research;

21 “(4) costs associated with the acquisition of  
22 equipment and other capital costs related to expan-  
23 sion of food, agriculture, and veterinary medicine  
24 teaching programs in agricultural biosecurity and cy-  
25 bersecurity; or

1           “(5) otherwise improve the capacity of the  
2           United States to respond in a timely manner to  
3           emerging or existing threats.

4           “(c) ELIGIBLE ENTITIES.—Entities eligible to receive  
5 a grant under this section include—

6           “(1) State agricultural experiment stations;

7           “(2) State departments of agriculture;

8           “(3) colleges and universities;

9           “(4) university research foundations;

10           “(5) other research institutions and organiza-  
11 tions;

12           “(6) Federal agencies;

13           “(7) national laboratories; or

14           “(8) any group consisting of 2 or more of the  
15 entities described in paragraphs (1) through (7).”;

16           (3) by redesignating subsection (g) as sub-  
17 section (d); and

18           (4) in subsection (d), as so redesignated, by  
19 striking “for each fiscal year.” and inserting “for  
20 each of fiscal years 2027 through 2031.”.

21           (b) CONFORMING AMENDMENTS.—Chapters 1 and 2  
22 of subtitle B of title XIV of the Food, Conservation, and  
23 Energy Act of 2008 (7 U.S.C. 8912, 8913, 8921, and  
24 8922) are repealed.

1 **SEC. 7129. DISTANCE EDUCATION GRANTS FOR INSULAR**  
2 **AREAS.**

3 Section 1490(f)(2) of the National Agricultural Re-  
4 search, Extension, and Teaching Policy Act of 1977 (7  
5 U.S.C. 3362(f)(2)) is amended by striking “2023” and in-  
6 serting “2031”.

7 **SEC. 7130. RESIDENT INSTRUCTION GRANTS FOR INSULAR**  
8 **AREAS.**

9 Section 1491(e)(2) of the National Agricultural Re-  
10 search, Extension, and Teaching Policy Act of 1977 (7  
11 U.S.C. 3363(e)(2)) is amended by striking “2023” and  
12 inserting “2031”.

13 **SEC. 7131. REPEALS.**

14 (a) Section 1410 of the National Agricultural Re-  
15 search, Extension, and Teaching Policy Act of 1977 ((7  
16 U.S.C. 3125) is repealed.

17 (b) Section 1419C of the National Agricultural Re-  
18 search, Extension, and Teaching Policy Act of 1977 (7  
19 U.S.C. 3158) is repealed.

20 (c) Section 1447A of the National Agricultural Re-  
21 search, Extension, and Teaching Policy Act of 1977 (7  
22 U.S.C. 3222b–1) is repealed.

23 (d) Subtitle M of the National Agricultural Research,  
24 Extension, and Teaching Policy Act of 1977 (7 U.S.C.  
25 3331 et seq.) is repealed.

1 **Subtitle B—Food, Agriculture, Con-**  
2 **servation, and Trade Act of 1990**

3 **SEC. 7201. SUSTAINABLE AGRICULTURE RESEARCH AND**  
4 **EDUCATION.**

5 Subtitle B of title XVI of the Food, Agriculture, Con-  
6 servation, and Trade Act of 1990 (7 U.S.C. 5801 et seq.)  
7 is amended by striking “2023” each place it appears in  
8 sections 1624 (7 U.S.C. 5814), 1627(d) (7 U.S.C.  
9 5821(d)), 1628(f)(2) (7 U.S.C. 5831(f)(2)), and 1629(i)  
10 (7 U.S.C. 5832(i)), and inserting “2031”.

11 **SEC. 7202. NATIONAL GENETICS RESOURCES PROGRAM.**

12 Section 1635(b)(2) of the Food, Agriculture, Con-  
13 servation, and Trade Act of 1990 (7 U.S.C. 5844(b)(2))  
14 is amended by striking “2023” and inserting “2031”.

15 **SEC. 7203. AGRICULTURAL GENOME TO PHENOME INITIA-**  
16 **TIVE.**

17 Section 1671(g) of the Food, Agriculture, Conserva-  
18 tion, and Trade Act of 1990 (7 U.S.C. 5924(g)) is amend-  
19 ed by striking “2023” and inserting “2031”.

20 **SEC. 7204. HIGH-PRIORITY RESEARCH AND EXTENSION INI-**  
21 **TIATIVES.**

22 Section 1672 of the Food, Agriculture, Conservation,  
23 and Trade Act of 1990 (7 U.S.C. 5925) is amended—

24 (1) in subsection (d)—

1 (A) by striking paragraphs (5), (6), (9),  
2 (10), (11), (13), and (18);

3 (B) by redesignating paragraphs (7), (8),  
4 (12), (14), (15), (16), (17), (19), and (20) as  
5 paragraphs (5), (6), (7), (8), (9), (10), (11),  
6 (12), and (13), respectively;

7 (C) in paragraph (11), as so redesignated,  
8 by inserting “and harmful algal blooms” after  
9 “macro-algae systems”; and

10 (D) by adding at the end the following:

11 “(14) FERTILIZER AND NUTRIENT MANAGE-  
12 MENT INITIATIVE.—Research and extension grants  
13 may be made under this section for the purposes of  
14 carrying out research to improve fertilizer use effi-  
15 ciency in crops and examining nutrient management  
16 based on the source, rate, timing, and placement of  
17 crop nutrients.

18 “(15) TROPICAL PLANT HEALTH INITIATIVE.—  
19 Research and extension grants may be made under  
20 this section for the purposes of—

21 “(A) developing and disseminating science-  
22 based tools and treatments to combat plant  
23 pests and noxious weeds (as those terms are de-  
24 fined in section 403 of the Plant Protection Act

1 (7 U.S.C. 7702)) that impact tropical plants,  
2 including—

3 “(i) coffee plants;

4 “(ii) macadamia trees;

5 “(iii) cacao trees;

6 “(iv) plantains and bananas;

7 “(v) mangos;

8 “(vi) vanilla plants;

9 “(vii) tropical floriculture and nursery  
10 crops; and

11 “(viii) any other tropical plant as de-  
12 termined by the Secretary;

13 “(B) establishing an areawide integrated  
14 pest management program in areas affected by,  
15 or areas at risk of being affected by, plant pests  
16 or noxious weeds;

17 “(C) surveying and collecting data on trop-  
18 ical plant production and health;

19 “(D) investigating tropical plant biology,  
20 immunology, ecology, genomics, and  
21 bioinformatics; and

22 “(E) conducting research on various fac-  
23 tors that may contribute to, or be associated  
24 with, tropical plant immune systems and other  
25 serious threats to tropical plants.

1           “(16) BIOCHAR RESEARCH.—Research and ex-  
2           tension grants may be made under this section for  
3           the purpose of testing the full range of biochar types  
4           across soil types, soil health and soil management  
5           conditions, application methods, and climatic and  
6           agronomic regions, including through the establish-  
7           ment of a national biochar research network, to—

8                   “(A) assess the soil carbon sequestration  
9                   potential of various biochars and management  
10                  systems integrating biochar use;

11                  “(B) understand how to use biochar pro-  
12                  ductively to contribute to climate mitigation,  
13                  crop production, resilience to extreme weather  
14                  events, ecosystem and soil health, natural re-  
15                  source conservation, and farm profitability; and

16                  “(C) deliver science-based, region-specific,  
17                  cost-effective, and practical information to  
18                  farmers, ranchers, foresters, land reclamation  
19                  managers, urban land managers, and other land  
20                  and natural resource managers and businesses  
21                  on sustainable biochar production and applica-  
22                  tion.

23           “(17) WILDFIRE SMOKE EXPOSURE RE-  
24           SEARCH.—Research and extension grants may be  
25           made under this section for the purposes of studying

1 the impact of wildfire smoke exposure on specialty  
2 crops, including wine grapes, hops, stone fruit, and  
3 apples, by—

4 “(A) conducting research—

5 “(i) to identify the compounds respon-  
6 sible for smoke exposure; and

7 “(ii) to establish standard methodolo-  
8 gies for sampling and testing smoke-ex-  
9 posed specialty crops and smoke-affected  
10 products, including fast and inexpensive  
11 screening methods;

12 “(B) establishing a reliable database of  
13 background levels of smoke exposure com-  
14 pounds that occur naturally in specialty crops;

15 “(C) developing risk assessment tools or  
16 mitigation methods to reduce or eliminate  
17 smoke exposure; and

18 “(D) studying compounds that can act as  
19 a barrier between specialty crops and smoke  
20 compounds.

21 “(18) INVASIVE SPECIES RESEARCH.—Research  
22 and extension grants may be made under this sec-  
23 tion for the purposes of developing and dissemi-  
24 nating science-based tools and treatments to manage  
25 or eradicate (including through methods of biocon-

1 trol and sterile insect techniques) invasive species of  
2 plants and animals, such as the spotted lanternfly  
3 (*Lycorma delicatula*), navel orangeworm (*Amyelois*  
4 *transitella*), and spotted wing drosophila (*Drosophila*  
5 *suzuki*).

6 “(19) MICROPLASTICS AND PER- AND  
7 POLYFLUOROALKYL SUBSTANCES ON FARMLAND.—  
8 Research and extension grants may be made under  
9 this section for the purposes of carrying out or en-  
10 hancing research on the agricultural impacts of  
11 microplastics and per- and polyfluoroalkyl sub-  
12 stances, including structural firefighting foam, in  
13 land-applied biosolids or compost on farmland, in-  
14 cluding by—

15 “(A) conducting surveys and collecting  
16 data on concentration, particle size, and chem-  
17 ical composition of such substances in land-ap-  
18 plied biosolids on farmland;

19 “(B) the development or analysis of tech-  
20 niques, including wastewater treatment and  
21 composting, to filter out or biodegrade such  
22 substances from biosolids intended to be used  
23 for agricultural purposes;

24 “(C) conducting an analysis of the impact  
25 on agricultural crops and soil health of such

1 substances in land-applied biosolids on farm-  
2 land, including the uptake of such substances  
3 by various crops or livestock;

4 “(D) conducting research to better under-  
5 stand how wastewater processing impacts such  
6 substances;

7 “(E) conducting research to better under-  
8 stand the fate, residence time, and transport of  
9 such substances on farmland; and

10 “(F) conducting research on how to reme-  
11 diate soil and water systems contaminated with  
12 such substances.

13 “(20) AGRICULTURAL BYPRODUCTS RE-  
14 SEARCH.—Research and extension grants may be  
15 made under this section for the purposes of con-  
16 verting agricultural byproducts or forest residuals  
17 into valuable materials and products, including inno-  
18 vations in production processes for easily deployable  
19 refining facilities, developing alternatives to agricul-  
20 tural burning, and fostering energy production  
21 through recycling animal byproducts, wet waste, and  
22 plant-based waste.

23 “(21) SOIL HEALTH RESEARCH.—Research and  
24 extension grants may be made under this section for  
25 the purposes of—

1           “(A) developing management practices  
2           that improve soil health, including establishing  
3           tools that aid soil preservation or improve com-  
4           position of soil organic compounds that are ben-  
5           eficial to soil quality and the environment; and

6           “(B) disseminating such practices through  
7           methods such as innovative coursework and  
8           work-based learning.

9           “(22) WHITE OAK RESEARCH.—Research and  
10          extension grants may be made under this section for  
11          the purposes of white oak research, including con-  
12          ducting research on—

13                 “(A) white oak genes with resistance and  
14                 stress tolerance;

15                 “(B) white oak trees that exhibit vigor for  
16                 the purpose of increasing survival and growth;

17                 “(C) establishing a diverse white oak seed  
18                 bank capable of responding to stressors;

19                 “(D) providing a sustainable supply of  
20                 white oak seedlings and genetic resources;

21                 “(E) reforestation of white oak through  
22                 natural and artificial regeneration; and

23                 “(F) the best methods for reforesting  
24                 abandoned mine land sites.

1           “(23) ALTERNATIVE GROWING MEDIA RE-  
2           SEARCH.—Research and extension grants may be  
3           made under this section for the purposes of devel-  
4           oping and enhancing research on the characteriza-  
5           tion, utilization, and evaluation of alternative grow-  
6           ing media, including science-based techniques that  
7           maximize functions in the growth of plants and har-  
8           vest yields.

9           “(24) RANGELAND RESEARCH.—Research and  
10          extension grants may be made under this section for  
11          the purposes of carrying out or enhancing research  
12          on the development of forage production and im-  
13          proved grazing and range management, including  
14          the adoption of virtual fencing technology that si-  
15          multaneously enhance wildlife habitat, protect water-  
16          sheds, and reduce hazards of erosion and flooding.

17          “(25) SPECIALTY CROP MECHANIZATION AND  
18          AUTOMATION RESEARCH.—Research and extension  
19          grants may be made under this section for the pur-  
20          pose of developing and evaluating mechanization and  
21          automation technologies for specialty crops.”;

22                 (2) in subsection (e)(5), by striking “2023” and  
23                 inserting “2031”;

24                 (3) in subsection (f)(5), by striking “2023” and  
25                 inserting “2031”;

1 (4) in subsection (g)—

2 (A) in paragraph (1)(B), by striking  
3 “2023” and inserting “2031”;

4 (B) in paragraph (2)(B), by striking  
5 “2023” and inserting “2031”; and

6 (C) in paragraph (3), by striking “2023”  
7 and inserting “2031”;

8 (5) by redesignating subsection (h) as sub-  
9 section (i);

10 (6) by inserting after subsection (g) the fol-  
11 lowing:

12 “(h) REPORT.—Not later than February 1, 2028,  
13 and not less frequently than once every other year there-  
14 after, the Secretary shall submit to the Committee on Ag-  
15 riculture of the House of Representatives and the Com-  
16 mittee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry of the Sen-  
17 ate a report describing how the Department carried out  
18 research and extension activities specified in subsections  
19 (d) through (f) for the previous two fiscal years, including  
20 the amount of funding allocated to each high-priority re-  
21 search and extension initiative, through—

22 “(1) amounts made available under appropria-  
23 tions Acts to the Agricultural Research Service;

24 “(2) amounts made available to the National  
25 Institute of Food and Agriculture under capacity

1 and infrastructure programs (as defined in section  
2 251 of the Department of Agriculture Reorganiza-  
3 tion Act of 1994 (7 U.S.C. 6971));

4 “(3) amounts made available to the National  
5 Institute of Food and Agriculture under competitive  
6 programs (as defined in such section); and

7 “(4) amounts made available through other  
8 agencies within the Department.”; and

9 (7) in subsection (i) (as redesignated by para-  
10 graph (4)), by striking “2023” and inserting  
11 “2031”.

12 **SEC. 7205. ORGANIC AGRICULTURE RESEARCH AND EXTEN-**  
13 **SION INITIATIVE.**

14 Section 1672B of the Food, Agriculture, Conserva-  
15 tion, and Trade Act of 1990 (7 U.S.C. 5925b) is amend-  
16 ed—

17 (1) in subsection (a), in the matter preceding  
18 paragraph (1), by striking “2023” and inserting  
19 “2031”;

20 (2) by striking subsection (e);

21 (3) by redesignating subsection (f) as sub-  
22 section (e); and

23 (4) in subsection (e), as so redesignated—

24 (A) in paragraph (2), by striking “2023”  
25 and inserting “2031”; and

1 (B) by striking paragraph (3).

2 **SEC. 7206. FARM BUSINESS MANAGEMENT.**

3 Section 1672D(d)(2) of the Food, Agriculture, Con-  
4 servation, and Trade Act of 1990 (7 U.S.C. 5925f(d)(2))  
5 is amended by striking “2023” and inserting “2031”.

6 **SEC. 7207. URBAN, INDOOR, AND OTHER EMERGING AGRI-  
7 CULTURAL PRODUCTION RESEARCH, EDU-  
8 CATION, AND EXTENSION INITIATIVE.**

9 Section 1672E(a) of the Food, Agriculture, Con-  
10 servation, and Trade Act of 1990 (7 U.S.C. 5925g(a))—

11 (1) in the matter preceding paragraph (1)—

12 (A) by striking “the Urban Agriculture  
13 and Innovative Production Advisory Committee  
14 established under section 222(b) of the Depart-  
15 ment of Agriculture Reorganization Act of  
16 1994” and inserting “the Urban Agriculture  
17 and Innovative Production Advisory Committee  
18 and the Office of Urban Agriculture and Inno-  
19 vative Production established under section 222  
20 of the Department of Agriculture Reorganiza-  
21 tion Act of 1994 (7 U.S.C. 6923)”; and

22 (B) by striking “emerging agricultural pro-  
23 duction” and inserting “emerging agricultural  
24 production practices (as described in subsection  
25 (a)(3) of such section)”; and

1           (2) in paragraph (3), by striking “emerging ag-  
2           gricultural production” and inserting “emerging agri-  
3           cultural production practices”;

4           (3) in paragraph (7), by striking “or” at the  
5           end;

6           (4) in paragraph (8), by striking the period at  
7           the end and inserting a semicolon; and

8           (5) by adding at the end the following:

9           “(9) managing waste streams to improve the  
10          environmental footprint; or

11          “(10) advising land-grant colleges and univer-  
12          sities (as defined in section 1404 of the National Ag-  
13          ricultural Research, Extension, and Teaching Policy  
14          Act of 1977 (7 U.S.C. 3103)), minority-serving in-  
15          stitutions (as described in section 371(a) of the  
16          Higher Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C.  
17          1067q(a))), junior or community colleges (as defined  
18          in section 312(f) of such Act (20 U.S.C. 1058(f))),  
19          and vocational schools, with respect to career and  
20          technical education.”.

21 **SEC. 7208. CENTERS OF EXCELLENCE.**

22          Section 1673 of the Food, Agriculture, Conservation,  
23          and Trade Act of 1990 (7 U.S.C. 5926) is amended—

24                 (1) by striking subsections (a), (b), and (c) and  
25                 inserting the following:

1 “(a) CENTERS OF EXCELLENCE.—

2 “(1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary of Agri-  
3 culture shall establish at least one center of excel-  
4 lence for the purpose of carrying out research, ex-  
5 tension, or education activities for each of the areas  
6 of focus described in paragraph (3).

7 “(2) HOST INSTITUTIONS.—

8 “(A) IN GENERAL.—Institutions eligible to  
9 host or co-host a center of excellence estab-  
10 lished under this subsection include—

11 “(i) 1862 Institutions, as defined in  
12 section 2 of the Agricultural Research, Ex-  
13 tension, and Education Reform Act of  
14 1998 (7 U.S.C. 7601);

15 “(ii) 1890 Institutions, as defined in  
16 section 2 of the Agricultural Research, Ex-  
17 tension, and Education Reform Act of  
18 1998 (7 U.S.C. 7601);

19 “(iii) 1994 Institutions, as defined in  
20 section 532 of the Equity in Educational  
21 Land-Grant Status Act of 1994 (7 U.S.C.  
22 301 note);

23 “(iv) non-land-grant colleges of agri-  
24 culture, as defined in section 1404 of the  
25 National Agricultural Research, Extension,

1 and Teaching Policy Act of 1977 (7 U.S.C.  
2 3103);

3 “(v) Hispanic-serving agricultural col-  
4 leges or universities, as defined in section  
5 1404 of the National Agricultural Re-  
6 search, Extension, and Teaching Policy  
7 Act of 1977 (7 U.S.C. 3103); and

8 “(vi) accredited schools of veterinary  
9 medicine.

10 “(B) DISTRIBUTION.—To the maximum  
11 extent practicable, the Secretary shall ensure  
12 the geographic diversity of institutions selected  
13 to host or co-host a center of excellence estab-  
14 lished under this subsection.

15 “(C) LIMITATION.—An institution may  
16 host or co-host only one center of excellence  
17 under this subsection at a time.

18 “(D) DUTIES.—The institution or institu-  
19 tions selected to host or co-host a center of ex-  
20 cellence established under this subsection shall  
21 partner with the Agricultural Research Service,  
22 other Federal agencies, State governments,  
23 other institutions of higher education (as de-  
24 fined in section 101 of the Higher Education

1 Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 1001)), agricultural in-  
2 dustry groups, or other relevant entities to—

3 “(i) reduce duplicative efforts and  
4 focus on filling gaps across research, ex-  
5 tension, or education activities by enhance-  
6 ing coordination and improving cost-effec-  
7 tiveness;

8 “(ii) leverage available resources by  
9 using public-private partnerships;

10 “(iii) implement training and edu-  
11 cational initiatives to increase awareness  
12 and effectively disseminate solutions to tar-  
13 get audiences through extension activities;

14 “(iv) increase the economic returns to  
15 rural communities by identifying, attract-  
16 ing, and directing funds to high-priority  
17 agricultural issues;

18 “(v) rapidly respond to emerging  
19 issues that threaten any sector of the  
20 United States agricultural industry;

21 “(vi) focus on workforce development  
22 for employers to recruit and retain high-  
23 quality employees in rural areas; and

24 “(vii) engage in assistance for admin-  
25 istrative management and education re-

1           garding potentially valuable intellectual  
2           property derived from federally-supported  
3           research, extension, or education activities.

4           “(3) AREAS OF FOCUS.—

5           “(A) AQUACULTURE.—A center of excel-  
6           lence established under this subsection may en-  
7           gage in research, extension, or education activi-  
8           ties focused on developing and applying aqua-  
9           culture methods, including through the propa-  
10          gation and rearing of economically and eco-  
11          logically valuable aquatic and marine species.

12          “(B) BEGINNING FARMERS AND RANCH-  
13          ERS.—A center of excellence established under  
14          this subsection may engage in research, exten-  
15          sion or education activities focused on training  
16          beginning farmers and ranchers, including farm  
17          and agribusiness management, mentoring and  
18          technical assistance, and access to capital.

19          “(C) BIOSECURITY AND CYBERSECU-  
20          RITY.—A center of excellence established under  
21          this subsection may engage in research, exten-  
22          sion, or education activities focused on agricul-  
23          tural biosecurity and cybersecurity efforts to de-  
24          fend the United States food supply from any at-  
25          tacks.

1           “(D) BIOSYSTEMS AND AGRICULTURAL  
2 ENGINEERING.—A center of excellence estab-  
3 lished under this subsection may engage in re-  
4 search, extension, or education activities fo-  
5 cused on biosystems and agricultural engineer-  
6 ing, including precision agriculture technologies  
7 and mechanization and automation technologies  
8 for specialty crops.

9           “(E) BIOTECHNOLOGY.—A center of excel-  
10 lence established under this subsection may en-  
11 gage in research, extension, or education activi-  
12 ties focused on development of animal and plant  
13 biotechnologies that will increase agricultural  
14 productivity.

15           “(F) CROP PRODUCTION, PROTECTION,  
16 AND RESILIENCE.—A center of excellence estab-  
17 lished under this subsection may engage in re-  
18 search, extension, or education activities fo-  
19 cused on crop production and protection, in-  
20 cluding the development, manufacture, and use  
21 of fertilizer, crop protection tools, and adju-  
22 vants in increasing productivity and protecting  
23 crops from damaging pests and diseases.

24           “(G) DIGITAL AGRICULTURE.—A center of  
25 excellence established under this subsection may

1 engage in research, extension, or education ac-  
2 tivities focused on developing, evaluating, and  
3 deploying digital agriculture, including artificial  
4 intelligence and remote sensing systems.

5 “(H) FARM BUSINESS AND FINANCIAL  
6 MANAGEMENT.—A center of excellence estab-  
7 lished under this subsection may engage in re-  
8 search, extension, or education activities fo-  
9 cused on farm business and financial manage-  
10 ment activities, including marketing plans, pro-  
11 duction diversification, and cash forward con-  
12 tracting.

13 “(I) FOOD QUALITY.—A center of excel-  
14 lence established under this subsection may en-  
15 gage in research, extension, or education activi-  
16 ties focused on improving food quality, includ-  
17 ing research on the uptake of per- and  
18 polyfluoroalkyl substances in food, the presence  
19 of microplastics in biosolids, and the efficacy  
20 and feasibility of reducing levels of inorganic  
21 arsenic, lead, cadmium, or mercury in food.

22 “(J) FOREIGN ANIMAL DISEASE.—A center  
23 of excellence established under this subsection  
24 may engage in research, extension, or education  
25 activities focused on foreign animal diseases, in-

1 including the ecology and etiology of emerging  
2 diseases, control methods, and implementation  
3 strategies to enhance preparedness and re-  
4 sponse efforts to protect the livestock and poul-  
5 try industry.

6 “(K) FORESTRY.—A center of excellence  
7 established under this subsection may engage in  
8 research, extension, or education activities fo-  
9 cused on forest productivity and forest health,  
10 including invasive species control, biochar and  
11 pyrolysis development and commercialization,  
12 reforestation and restoration of damaged land-  
13 scapes, and new wood-based materials.

14 “(L) INVASIVE SPECIES.—A center of ex-  
15 cellence established under this subsection may  
16 engage in research, extension, or education ac-  
17 tivities focused on the control and eradication of  
18 invasive species that pose a persistent and  
19 growing threat to United States agricultural  
20 production, forest resources, global food secu-  
21 rity, and rural economies.

22 “(M) LIVESTOCK AND POULTRY.—A cen-  
23 ter of excellence established under this sub-  
24 section may engage in research, extension, or  
25 education activities focused on issues impacting

1 livestock (including equines) and poultry pro-  
2 duction in the United States, including eco-  
3 nomic research to understand policy implica-  
4 tions for producers.

5 “(N) VETERINARY MEDICINE.—A center of  
6 excellence established under this subsection may  
7 engage in research, extension, or education ac-  
8 tivities focused on developing additional veteri-  
9 narians, including large animal veterinarians, to  
10 address the veterinarian shortage in rural  
11 areas.

12 “(O) WATER QUALITY AND QUANTITY.—A  
13 center of excellence established under this sub-  
14 section may engage in research, extension, or  
15 education activities focused on water quality  
16 and quantity efforts, including drought, water  
17 management, natural resource benefits, and the  
18 health and resilience of the water supply in the  
19 United States.

20 “(4) TERMS.—

21 “(A) DURATION.—The term of an award  
22 under this subsection shall be for a five-year pe-  
23 riod, and may be renewed for not more than  
24 one additional five-year period.

1           “(B) CONSTRUCTION PROHIBITED.—  
2           Funds made available under this subsection  
3           shall not be used for the construction of a new  
4           building or facility or the acquisition, expansion,  
5           remodeling, or alteration of an existing  
6           building or facility (including site grading and  
7           improvement, and architect fees).

8           “(5) ANNUAL REPORT.—Not later than one  
9           year after the date of enactment of this subsection,  
10          and every year thereafter, the Secretary shall submit  
11          to the Committee on Agriculture of the House of  
12          Representatives and the Committee on Agriculture,  
13          Nutrition, and Forestry of the Senate a report describing—  
14          

15                 “(A) the projects initiated by each center  
16                 of excellence established under this subsection  
17                 in the preceding year;

18                 “(B) the amount of funding for each such  
19                 project and the funding source;

20                 “(C) the institutions participating in each  
21                 such project and their shares of the overall  
22                 funding for each project;

23                 “(D) the level of cost sharing for each such  
24                 project;

1           “(E) any technology transfer and intellec-  
2           tual property management actions taken by  
3           each such center of excellence, such as the num-  
4           ber of relevant invention disclosures, any provi-  
5           sional patents filed, any non-provisional patents  
6           filed and issued, the number of licenses exe-  
7           cuted, and any start-up companies registered;  
8           and

9           “(F) any additional information deemed  
10          necessary.”;

11          (2) by redesignating subsection (d) as sub-  
12          section (b);

13          (3) in subsection (b), as so redesignated—

14                 (A) in paragraph (1)—

15                         (i) by striking “The Secretary” and  
16                         inserting “In addition to the centers of ex-  
17                         cellence established under subsection (a),  
18                         the Secretary”; and

19                         (ii) by striking “not less than 3 cen-  
20                         ters of excellence” and inserting “not less  
21                         than 8 centers of excellence”;

22                 (B) in paragraph (2)—

23                         (i) in subparagraph (A)—

24   (I) in the subparagraph heading,  
25   by striking “AND WORKFORCE DEVEL-

1 OPMENT” and inserting “, WORK-  
2 FORCE DEVELOPMENT, AND RURAL  
3 STUDIES”; and

4 (II) by inserting “economics, psy-  
5 chology, rural sociology, data  
6 sciences,” after “mathematics,”;

7 (ii) in subparagraph (E), by inserting  
8 “and nature-based solutions to improve the  
9 composition of soil organic compounds, in-  
10 cluding carbon, that are beneficial to soil  
11 quality and the environment” before the  
12 period at the end; and

13 (iii) by adding at the end the fol-  
14 lowing:

15 “(G) FOREST HEALTH AND CONSERVA-  
16 TION.—A center of excellence established under  
17 paragraph (1) may focus on forest health, sus-  
18 tainable forest management, agroforestry, en-  
19 hancing forest resilience to catastrophic wild-  
20 fire, supporting rural infrastructure, and urban  
21 and community forestry programs to promote  
22 healthy forest ecosystems and resilient commu-  
23 nities.

24 “(H) FOOD SAFETY, BIOPROCESSING, AND  
25 VALUE-ADDED AGRICULTURE.—A center of ex-

1           cellence established under paragraph (1) may  
2           focus on food safety, bioprocessing, value-added  
3           agriculture enterprise development, and innova-  
4           tive food and agriculture product develop-  
5           ment.”; and

6                   (C) in paragraph (3), by striking “2023”  
7           and inserting “2031”.

8   **SEC. 7209. ASSISTIVE TECHNOLOGY PROGRAM FOR FARM-**  
9                   **ERS WITH DISABILITIES.**

10          Section 1680 of the Food, Agriculture, Conservation,  
11 and Trade Act of 1990 (7 U.S.C. 5933) is amended—

12                   (1) in subsection (a)(3)—

13                           (A) in subparagraph (D), by striking  
14           “and” at the end;

15                           (B) in subparagraph (E), by striking the  
16           period at the end and inserting “; and”; and

17                           (C) by adding at the end the following:

18                                   “(F) provide education and support to  
19           youth and young adults with disabilities inter-  
20           ested in farming and farm-related occupa-  
21           tions.”; and

22                   (2) in subsection (c)(1)(B), by striking “2023”  
23           and inserting “2031”.

1 **SEC. 7210. FARMING OPPORTUNITIES TRAINING AND OUT-**  
2 **REACH.**

3 Section 2501 of the Food, Agriculture, Conservation,  
4 and Trade Act of 1990 (7 U.S.C. 2279) is amended—

5 (1) in subsection (c)—

6 (A) in paragraph (2), in the matter pre-  
7 ceding subparagraph (A)—

8 (i) by striking “Secretary of Agri-  
9 culture” and inserting “Secretary of Agri-  
10 culture, acting through the Director of the  
11 National Institute of Food and Agri-  
12 culture,”; and

13 (ii) by striking “2023” and inserting  
14 “2031”; and

15 (B) in paragraph (4)—

16 (i) in subparagraph (F), by inserting  
17 “and organizations that provide training  
18 and technical assistance in budgeting, busi-  
19 ness planning, and similar financial and  
20 management skills that focus on the ongo-  
21 ing economic viability of beginning farm  
22 and ranch enterprises” after “veteran  
23 farmers and ranchers”;

24 (ii) in subparagraph (I)(ii), by strik-  
25 ing “shall include a broad representation  
26 of peers of the eligible entity” and insert-

1 ing “shall include a broad representation  
2 of individuals with demonstrated expertise  
3 in farm business management”; and

4 (iii) in subparagraph (J), by striking  
5 “to the eligible entities providing that tech-  
6 nical assistance” and inserting “to the  
7 needs of farmers and ranchers’ ongoing  
8 economic viability”;

9 (2) in subsection (d)—

10 (A) in paragraph (1), by striking “2023”  
11 and inserting “2031”;

12 (B) in paragraph (2)—

13 (i) by striking subparagraph (J); and

14 (ii) by redesignating subparagraphs  
15 (K), (L), (M), (N), and (O) as subpara-  
16 graphs (J), (K), (L), (M) and (N), respec-  
17 tively;

18 (C) in paragraph (8), by striking “to part-  
19 nerships and collaborations that are led by or  
20 include nongovernmental, community-based or-  
21 ganizations and school-based educational orga-  
22 nizations with expertise in new agricultural pro-  
23 ducer training and outreach” and inserting “to  
24 programs that provide training and technical  
25 assistance in budgeting, business planning, and

1 similar financial and management skills that  
2 focus on the ongoing economic viability of be-  
3 ginning farm and ranch enterprises”; and

4 (D) in paragraph (12)(B), by striking “a  
5 broad representation of peers of the applicant  
6 for the grant or cooperative agreement” and in-  
7 serting “a broad representation of the United  
8 States agriculture industry and individuals with  
9 demonstrated expertise in farm business man-  
10 agement”; and

11 (3) in subsection (l)(2), by striking “2023” and  
12 inserting “2031”.

13 **SEC. 7211. NATIONAL RURAL INFORMATION CENTER**  
14 **CLEARINGHOUSE.**

15 Section 2381(e) of the Food, Agriculture, Conserva-  
16 tion, and Trade Act of 1990 (7 U.S.C. 3125b(e)) is  
17 amended by striking “2023” and inserting “2031”.

18 **SEC. 7212. REPEAL.**

19 Subtitle D of title XVI of the Food, Agriculture, Con-  
20 servation, and Trade Act of 1990 (7 U.S.C. 5851 et seq.)  
21 is repealed.

22 **SEC. 7213. RESEARCHING THE TRANSITION TO ORGANIC.**

23 Title XVI of the Food, Agriculture, Conservation,  
24 and Trade Act of 1990 is amended by inserting after sec-  
25 tion 1673 (7 U.S.C. 5926) the following:

1 **“SEC. 1674. RESEARCHING THE TRANSITION TO ORGANIC.**

2       “(a) COMPETITIVE SPECIALIZED RESEARCH AND  
3 EXTENSION GRANTS AUTHORIZED.—The Secretary of  
4 Agriculture (referred to in this section as the ‘Secretary’),  
5 in consultation with the National Agricultural Research,  
6 Extension, Education, and Economics Advisory Board,  
7 may make competitive grants to support research, edu-  
8 cation, and extension activities relating to the transition  
9 of nonorganic production systems into organic agricultural  
10 production systems for the purposes of—

11           “(1) overcoming barriers to transitioning to or-  
12 ganic agricultural production;

13           “(2) documenting and understanding the effects  
14 of organic practices on ecosystem services, including  
15 soil health and fertility, greenhouse gas mitigation  
16 and sequestration, water management, biodiversity-  
17 related services, and pest management; and

18           “(3) developing improved technologies, methods,  
19 models, and metrics to document, describe, and opti-  
20 mize ecosystem services of transitioning agricultural  
21 production into organic management.

22       “(b) GRANT ADMINISTRATION.—Paragraphs (4), (7),  
23 (8), and (11)(B) of subsection (b) of the Competitive, Spe-  
24 cial, and Facilities Research Grant Act (7 U.S.C. 3157(b))  
25 shall apply with respect to the making of grants under  
26 this section.

1       “(c) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There  
2 are authorized to be appropriated to carry out this section  
3 \$7,500,000 for fiscal year 2027 and each fiscal year there-  
4 after.”.

5       **Subtitle C—Agricultural Research,**  
6       **Extension, and Education Re-**  
7       **form Act of 1998**

8       **SEC. 7301. NATIONAL FOOD SAFETY TRAINING, EDUCATION,**  
9               **EXTENSION, OUTREACH, AND TECHNICAL AS-**  
10              **SISTANCE PROGRAM.**

11       Section 405 of the Agricultural Research, Extension,  
12 and Education Reform Act of 1998 (7 U.S.C. 7625) is  
13 amended—

14           (1) by striking subsection (d);

15           (2) by redesignating subsections (e) through (j)  
16 as subsections (d) through (i), respectively; and

17           (3) in subsection (i), as so redesignated, by  
18 striking “2023” and inserting “2031”.

19       **SEC. 7302. INTEGRATED RESEARCH, EDUCATION, AND EX-**  
20              **TENSION COMPETITIVE GRANTS PROGRAM.**

21       Section 406(f) of the Agricultural Research, Exten-  
22 sion, and Education Reform Act of 1998 (7 U.S.C.  
23 7626(f)) is amended by striking “2023” and inserting  
24 “2031”.

1 **SEC. 7303. SUPPORT FOR RESEARCH REGARDING DISEASES**  
2 **OF WHEAT, TRITICALE, AND BARLEY CAUSED**  
3 **BY *FUSARIUM GRAMINEARUM* OR BY**  
4 ***TILLETIA INDICA*.**

5 Section 408(e)(3) of the Agricultural Research, Ex-  
6 tension, and Education Reform Act of 1998 (7 U.S.C.  
7 7628(e)(3)) is amended by striking “2023” and inserting  
8 “2031”.

9 **SEC. 7304. GRANTS FOR YOUTH ORGANIZATIONS.**

10 Section 410(d)(2) of the Agricultural Research, Ex-  
11 tension, and Education Reform Act of 1998 (7 U.S.C.  
12 7630(d)(2)) is amended by striking “2023” and inserting  
13 “2031”.

14 **SEC. 7305. SPECIALTY CROP RESEARCH INITIATIVE.**

15 Section 412 of the Agricultural Research, Extension,  
16 and Education Reform Act of 1998 (7 U.S.C. 7632) is  
17 amended—

18 (1) in subsection (f)(3), by striking “subsection  
19 (d) and (j)” and inserting “subsections (d), (j), and  
20 (k)”;

21 (2) in subsection (g)(3), by adding at the end  
22 the following:

23 “(C) WAIVER.—The Secretary may waive  
24 the matching funds requirement under subpara-  
25 graph (A) with respect to a grant if the Sec-  
26 retary determines that—

1                   “(i) the results of the grant are of a  
2                   particular benefit to a specific specialty  
3                   crop, but such results are likely to be ap-  
4                   plicable to specialty crops or agricultural  
5                   commodities, generally; or

6                   “(ii)(I) the grant—

7                                 “(aa) involves a minor com-  
8                                 modity; and

9                                 “(bb) deals with scientifically im-  
10                                portant research; and

11                               “(II) the recipient is unable to satisfy  
12                               the matching funds requirement.”;

13                   (3) in subsection (j)(5), by striking “subsection  
14                   (k)(1)(C)” and inserting “subsection (l)(1)(C)”;

15                   (4) by redesignating subsection (k) as sub-  
16                   section (l);

17                   (5) by inserting after subsection (j) the fol-  
18                   lowing:

19                   “(k) SPECIALTY CROP MECHANIZATION AND AUTO-  
20                   MATION RESEARCH AND EXTENSION PROGRAM.—The  
21                   Secretary shall establish a competitive research and exten-  
22                   sion grant program to award grants to eligible entities to  
23                   increase the competitiveness of specialty crops in the  
24                   United States through the advancement and acceleration

1 of mechanization and automation, including projects  
2 that—

3 “(1) create or improve cost-effective mechaniza-  
4 tion and automation technologies to—

5 “(A) reduce the manual labor requirements  
6 of a specialty crop grower; or

7 “(B) increase the efficiency of—

8 “(i) crop production;

9 “(ii) resource management;

10 “(iii) harvesting;

11 “(iv) processing;

12 “(v) post-harvest technologies; or

13 “(vi) packing;

14 “(2) increase adoption of mechanization and  
15 automation technologies by—

16 “(A) emphasizing adoption drivers, includ-  
17 ing—

18 “(i) connectivity;

19 “(ii) autonomy;

20 “(iii) reliability;

21 “(iv) durability;

22 “(v) in-field validation; or

23 “(vi) cost-effectiveness; or

24 “(B) investing in, and developing human  
25 capital to, increase the capacity to—

1 “(i) utilize new technologies; or

2 “(ii) manage a more tech-focused  
3 farm workforce; or

4 “(3) accelerate automation and mechanization  
5 through—

6 “(A) prototype development;

7 “(B) in-field trial testing;

8 “(C) ongoing industry engagement; or

9 “(D) rapid commercialization.”; and

10 (6) in subsection (l), as redesignated by para-  
11 graph (4)—

12 (A) in paragraph (1)—

13 (i) by amending subparagraph (C) to  
14 read as follows:

15 “(C) RESERVATION FOR SPECIALTY CROP  
16 MECHANIZATION AND AUTOMATION RESEARCH  
17 AND EXTENSION PROGRAM.—For each of fiscal  
18 years 2027 through 2031, the Secretary shall  
19 reserve not less than \$30,000,000 of the funds  
20 made available under subparagraph (B) to  
21 carry out the program established under sub-  
22 section (k).”; and

23 (ii) by amending subparagraph (D) to  
24 read as follows:

1           “(D) REALLOCATION.—Notwithstanding  
2 paragraph (4), any funds reserved under sub-  
3 paragraph (C) that remain unobligated at the  
4 end of the fiscal year following the fiscal year  
5 in which such funds are first made available  
6 shall be reallocated to carry out activities of the  
7 specialty crop research initiative established  
8 under subsection (b).”;

9           (B) in paragraph (2)—

10           (i) in the paragraph heading, by strik-  
11 ing “FOR FISCAL YEARS 2014 THROUGH  
12 2023”; and

13           (ii) by striking “2023” and inserting  
14 “2031”;

15           (C) by striking paragraph (3); and

16           (D) by redesignating paragraphs (4) and  
17 (5) as paragraphs (3) and (4), respectively.

18 **SEC. 7306. AGRICULTURE GRANTS FOR VETERAN EDU-**  
19 **CATION AND TRAINING SERVICES.**

20           Title IV of the Agricultural Research, Extension, and  
21 Education Reform Act of 1998 (7 U.S.C. 7624 et seq.)

22 is amended by adding at the end the following:

1 **“SEC. 414. AGRICULTURE GRANTS FOR VETERAN EDU-**  
2 **CATION AND TRAINING SERVICES.**

3 “(a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall establish a  
4 program under which the Secretary will award competitive  
5 grants to eligible entities for the purpose of establishing  
6 and enhancing farming and ranching opportunities for  
7 veterans (as defined in section 101(2) of title 38, United  
8 States Code).

9 “(b) ELIGIBLE ENTITIES.—An entity is eligible for  
10 a grant under this section if such entity is—

11 “(1) a cooperative extension service;

12 “(2) a land-grant college or university (as de-  
13 fined in section 1404 of the National Agricultural  
14 Research, Extension, and Teaching Policy Act of  
15 1977 (7 U.S.C. 3103));

16 “(3) a non-land-grant college of agriculture (as  
17 defined in such section);

18 “(4) a Hispanic-serving agricultural college and  
19 university (as defined in such section);

20 “(5) a State department of agriculture;

21 “(6) a nonprofit organization;

22 “(7) a community-based organization; or

23 “(8) a combination of 2 or more eligible entities  
24 described in paragraphs (1) through (7).

1 “(c) USE OF FUNDS.—An eligible entity that receives  
2 a grant under this section shall use the funds received  
3 through the grant—

4 “(1) to provide training and classroom edu-  
5 cation that leads to a comprehensive understanding  
6 of farm and ranch business operations and manage-  
7 ment practices;

8 “(2) to develop or identify curriculum that vet-  
9 eran farmers and ranchers can adopt to help man-  
10 age their enterprise;

11 “(3) to offer education, workshops, tours, and  
12 instructor-supervised field experiences; or

13 “(4) to support any other activity, as identified  
14 by the Secretary, to increase the number of veterans  
15 pursuing knowledge and skills development in agri-  
16 culture.

17 “(d) MATCHING FUNDS.—An entity that receives a  
18 grant under this section shall provide non-Federal match-  
19 ing funds for the purposes of carrying out this section in  
20 an amount equal to not less than the amount of the grant.

21 “(e) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There  
22 are authorized to be appropriated to carry out this section  
23 \$3,000,000 for each of fiscal years 2025 through 2031.”.

1 **SEC. 7307. FOOD ANIMAL RESIDUE AVOIDANCE DATABASE**  
2 **PROGRAM.**

3 Section 604(e) of the Agricultural Research, Exten-  
4 sion, and Education Reform Act of 1998 (7 U.S.C.  
5 7642(e)) is amended by striking “2023” and inserting  
6 “2031”.

7 **SEC. 7308. OFFICE OF PEST MANAGEMENT POLICY.**

8 Section 614(f)(2) of the Agricultural Research, Ex-  
9 tension, and Education Reform Act of 1998 (7 U.S.C.  
10 7653(f)(2)) is amended by striking “2023” and inserting  
11 “2031”.

12 **SEC. 7309. FORESTRY PRODUCTS ADVANCED UTILIZATION**  
13 **RESEARCH.**

14 Section 617(f)(1) of the Agricultural Research, Ex-  
15 tension, and Education Reform Act of 1998 (7 U.S.C.  
16 7655b(f)(1)) is amended by striking “2023” and inserting  
17 “2031”.

18 **SEC. 7310. REPEALS.**

19 The Agricultural Research, Extension, and Education  
20 Reform Act of 1998 (7 U.S.C. 7601 et seq.) is amended—

21 (1) by striking section 404 (7 U.S.C. 7624);

22 and

23 (2) by striking section 411 (7 U.S.C. 7631).

1       **Subtitle D—Food, Conservation,**  
2                   **and Energy Act of 2008**

3       **SEC. 7401. GRAZINGLANDS RESEARCH LABORATORY.**

4           Section 7502 of the Food, Conservation, and Energy  
5 Act of 2008 (Public Law 110–246; 122 Stat. 2019) is  
6 amended by striking “, or otherwise be conveyed or trans-  
7 ferred in whole or in part, for the period beginning on  
8 the date of the enactment of this Act and ending on Sep-  
9 tember 30, 2026” and inserting “, beginning on the date  
10 of the enactment of this Act”.

11       **SEC. 7402. FARM AND RANCH STRESS ASSISTANCE NET-**  
12                   **WORK.**

13           Section 7522 of the Food, Conservation, and Energy  
14 Act of 2008 (7 U.S.C. 5936) is amended—

15                   (1) in subsection (b)(1)(A), by inserting “, in-  
16 cluding crisis hotlines” after “websites”;

17                   (2) in subsection (d), by striking “2023” and  
18 inserting “2031”;

19                   (3) by redesignating subsection (f) as sub-  
20 section (g); and

21                   (4) by inserting after subsection (e) the fol-  
22 lowing:

23           “(f) REFERRALS TO PROVIDERS.—As part of the ef-  
24 forts of the recipient of a grant under subsection (a) to  
25 connect individuals to behavioral health counseling and

1 wellness support and to ensure individuals have access to  
2 a comprehensive scope of mental health and substance use  
3 treatments and supports, when applicable, the grant re-  
4 cipient may establish referral relationships with—

5 “(1) certified community behavioral health clin-  
6 ics described in section 223 of the Protecting Access  
7 to Medicare Act of 2014 (42 U.S.C. 1396a note;  
8 Public Law 113–93);

9 “(2) health centers (as defined in section  
10 330(a) of the Public Health Service Act (42 U.S.C.  
11 254b(a)));

12 “(3) rural health clinics (as defined in section  
13 1861(aa) of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C.  
14 1395x(aa)));

15 “(4) Federally qualified health centers (as de-  
16 fined in that section); and

17 “(5) critical access hospitals (as defined in sec-  
18 tion 1861(mm) of the Social Security Act (42  
19 U.S.C. 1395x(mm))).”.

20 **SEC. 7403. SUN GRANT PROGRAM.**

21 Section 7526 of the Food, Conservation, and Energy  
22 Act of 2008 (7 U.S.C. 8114) is amended—

23 (1) in subsection (a)—

24 (A) in paragraph (1), by inserting “and  
25 bioproduct” before “technologies”;

1 (B) in paragraph (2), by striking “prod-  
2 uct” and inserting “bioproduct”; and

3 (C) in paragraph (3), by striking “prod-  
4 uct” and inserting “bioproduct”;

5 (2) in subsection (e)(2), by striking “4 percent”  
6 and inserting “30 percent”; and

7 (3) in subsection (g), by striking “2023” and  
8 inserting “2031”.

9 **SEC. 7404. REPEALS.**

10 The Food, Conservation, and Energy Act of 2008 (7  
11 U.S.C. 8701 et seq.) is amended—

12 (1) by striking section 7521 (7 U.S.C. 3202);

13 and

14 (2) by striking section 7525 (7 U.S.C. 5937).

15 **Subtitle E—Amendments to Other**  
16 **Laws**

17 **SEC. 7501. EQUITY IN EDUCATIONAL LAND-GRANT STATUS**

18 **ACT OF 1994.**

19 The Equity in Educational Land-Grant Status Act  
20 of 1994 (7 U.S.C. 301 note; Public Law 103–382) is  
21 amended—

22 (1) in section 533(b), by striking “2023” and  
23 inserting “2031”;

24 (2) in section 534(a)(1), by striking “equal to”  
25 and inserting “that is not less than”;

1           (3) in section 535, by striking “2023” each  
2           place it appears in subsections (b)(1) and (c) and in-  
3           serting “2031”; and

4           (4) in section 536—

5           (A) in subsection (a), by inserting before  
6           the period at the end the following: “and to ac-  
7           quire, alter, repair, maintain, and operate rel-  
8           evant equipment necessary for strengthening  
9           the capacity of the Institution to conduct re-  
10          search in the food and agricultural sciences”;

11          (B) by striking subsection (b);

12          (C) by redesignating subsection (c) as sub-  
13          section (b); and

14          (D) in subsection (b) (as so redesignated),  
15          by striking “2023” and inserting “2031”.

16 **SEC. 7502. RESEARCH FACILITIES ACT.**

17          Section 6(a) of the Research Facilities Act (7 U.S.C.  
18          390d(a)) is amended by striking “2023” and inserting  
19          “2031”.

20 **SEC. 7503. AGRICULTURE AND FOOD RESEARCH INITIA-**  
21 **TIVE.**

22          Subsection (b) of the Competitive, Special, and Fa-  
23          cilities Research Grant Act (7 U.S.C. 3157(b)) is amend-  
24          ed—

25          (1) in paragraph (2)—

1 (A) in subparagraph (A)(iii)—

2 (i) by inserting “regionally adapted”  
3 before “cultivar”; and

4 (ii) by inserting “breeding for environ-  
5 mental resilience,” before “and  
6 participatory breeding”;

7 (B) in subparagraph (B)(i), by inserting “,  
8 including methods of increasing survival rate  
9 and adaptability of shellfish” after “aqua-  
10 culture”;

11 (C) in subparagraph (E)—

12 (i) in clause (iv), by striking “and” at  
13 the end;

14 (ii) in clause (v), by striking the pe-  
15 riod at the end and inserting “; and”; and

16 (iii) by adding at the end the fol-  
17 lowing:

18 “(vi) hydroponics, aquaponics,  
19 aeroponics, and other production tech-  
20 nologies used in controlled-environment ag-  
21 riculture production.”; and

22 (D) in subparagraph (F)—

23 (i) in clause (i), by inserting “, includ-  
24 ing supply chain coordination and capacity  
25 building” after “overseas markets”;

1 (ii) in clause (vii), by striking “; and”  
2 at the end and inserting a semicolon;

3 (iii) in clause (viii), by striking the pe-  
4 riod at the end and inserting a semicolon;  
5 and

6 (iv) by adding at the end the fol-  
7 lowing:

8 “(ix) workforce training and develop-  
9 ment, including meat and poultry proc-  
10 essing (including rendering) and precision  
11 agriculture; and

12 “(x) reducing food loss and food  
13 waste.”;

14 (2) in paragraph (7)—

15 (A) by redesignating subparagraphs (D)  
16 through (I) as subparagraphs (E) through (J),  
17 respectively;

18 (B) by inserting after subparagraph (C)  
19 the following:

20 “(D) area career and technical education  
21 schools;”; and

22 (C) in subparagraph (J), as so redesign-  
23 ated, by striking “(H)” and inserting “(I)”;  
24 and

1           (3) in paragraph (11)(A), in the matter pre-  
2           ceding clause (i), by striking “2023” and inserting  
3           “2031”.

4 **SEC. 7504. EXTENSION DESIGN AND DEMONSTRATION INI-**  
5 **TIATIVE.**

6           Subsection (d)(6) of the Competitive, Special, and  
7           Facilities Research Grant Act (7 U.S.C. 3157(d)(6)) is  
8           amended by striking “2023” and inserting “2031”.

9 **SEC. 7505. BIOMASS RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT.**

10          Section 9008(h)(2) of the Farm Security and Rural  
11          Investment Act of 2002 (7 U.S.C. 8108(h)(2)) is amended  
12          by striking “2023” and inserting “2031”.

13 **SEC. 7506. RENEWABLE RESOURCES EXTENSION ACT OF**  
14 **1978.**

15          The Renewable Resources Extension Act of 1978 (16  
16          U.S.C. 1671 et seq.) is amended—

17               (1) in section 6 (16 U.S.C. 1675), in the first  
18               sentence, by striking “2023” and inserting “2031”;  
19               and

20               (2) in section 8 (16 U.S.C. 1671 note), by  
21               striking “2023” and inserting “2031”.

22 **SEC. 7507. NATIONAL AQUACULTURE ACT OF 1980.**

23          The National Aquaculture Act of 1980 (16 U.S.C.  
24          2801 et seq.) is amended—

25               (1) in section 4 (16 U.S.C. 2803)—

1 (A) in subsection (a)(2), by striking  
2 “acquaculture” and inserting “aquaculture”;

3 (B) in subsection (d), in the matter pre-  
4 ceding paragraph (1), by inserting “, not less  
5 than once every 3 years,” after “periodic re-  
6 views”; and

7 (C) in subsection (e)—

8 (i) in the matter preceding paragraph  
9 (1), by inserting “, not less than once  
10 every 3 years,” after “undertake a con-  
11 tinuing assessment of aquaculture in the  
12 United States”;

13 (ii) in paragraph (5), by striking  
14 “and” at the end;

15 (iii) in paragraph (6), by striking the  
16 period at the end and inserting a semi-  
17 colon; and

18 (iv) by adding at the end the fol-  
19 lowing:

20 “(7) a catalog of new and existing capital con-  
21 straints, as described in the capital requirements  
22 plan formulated under section 8(b), that affect the  
23 development of the aquaculture industry in the  
24 United States; and

1           “(8) a catalog of new and existing Federal or  
2           State regulatory barriers, as described in the regu-  
3           latory constraints plan formulated under section  
4           9(b), to the initiation and operation of commercial  
5           aquaculture ventures.”;

6           (2) in section 5 (16 U.S.C. 2804), by striking  
7           subsection (d) and inserting the following:

8           “(d) AQUACULTURE ADVISORY COMMITTEE.—

9           “(1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 180 days  
10          after the date of enactment of the Farm, Food, and  
11          National Security Act of 2026, the Secretary shall  
12          establish an advisory committee, to be known as the  
13          Aquaculture Advisory Committee (referred to in this  
14          subsection as the ‘Committee’), to advise the Sec-  
15          retary on—

16                 “(A) oversight of programs of the Depart-  
17                 ment and other members of the coordinating  
18                 group to support development of, and to ad-  
19                 vance, aquaculture best practices using the best  
20                 available science, in consultation with farmers  
21                 and industry partners;

22                 “(B) providing technical assistance to  
23                 aquaculture farmers and businesses, including  
24                 technical assistance that pertains to shellfish,

1 algae, and land-based aquaculture systems,  
2 using the best available science; and

3 “(C) any other aspects of the implementa-  
4 tion of this Act.

5 “(2) MEMBERSHIP.—

6 “(A) IN GENERAL.—The Committee shall  
7 be composed of 14 members, who are not offi-  
8 cers or employees of the Federal Government.

9 “(B) INITIAL APPOINTMENTS.—The Sec-  
10 retary shall appoint the members of the Com-  
11 mittee not later than 180 days after the date of  
12 enactment of this section.

13 “(C) PERIOD OF INITIAL APPOINTMENT;  
14 VACANCIES.—

15 “(i) IN GENERAL.—Except as pro-  
16 vided in clause (ii), a member of the Com-  
17 mittee shall be appointed for a term of 3  
18 years.

19 “(ii) INITIAL APPOINTMENTS.—Of the  
20 members first appointed to the Com-  
21 mittee—

22 “(I) 5 of the members, as deter-  
23 mined by the Secretary, shall be ap-  
24 pointed for a term of 3 years;

1                   “(II) 5 of the members, as deter-  
2                   mined by the Secretary, shall be ap-  
3                   pointed for a term of 2 years; and

4                   “(III) 4 of the members, as de-  
5                   termined by the Secretary, shall be  
6                   appointed for a term of 1 year.

7                   “(iii) VACANCIES.—Any vacancy in  
8                   the Committee—

9                   “(I) shall not affect the powers of  
10                  the Committee; and

11                  “(II) shall be filled as soon as  
12                  practicable in the same manner as the  
13                  original appointment.

14                  “(D) CONSECUTIVE TERMS.—An initial  
15                  appointee of the Committee may serve an addi-  
16                  tional consecutive term if the member is re-  
17                  appointed by the Secretary.

18                  “(3) MEETINGS.—

19                  “(A) FREQUENCY.—The Committee shall  
20                  meet not fewer than 3 times per year.

21                  “(B) INITIAL MEETING.—Not later than  
22                  180 days after the date on which the members  
23                  are appointed under paragraph (2)(B), the  
24                  Committee shall hold the first meeting of the  
25                  Committee.

1 “(4) DUTIES.—The Committee shall—

2 “(A) develop recommendations and advise  
3 the Secretary on aquaculture policies, initia-  
4 tives, and outreach administered by the Depart-  
5 ment;

6 “(B) evaluate and review ongoing research  
7 and extension activities relating to aquaculture  
8 practices;

9 “(C) identify new and existing barriers to  
10 successful aquaculture practices; and

11 “(D) provide additional assistance and ad-  
12 vice to the Secretary as appropriate.

13 “(5) PERSONNEL MATTERS.—

14 “(A) COMPENSATION.—A member of the  
15 Committee shall serve without compensation.

16 “(B) TRAVEL EXPENSES.—A member of  
17 the Committee shall be allowed travel expenses,  
18 including per diem in lieu of subsistence, in ac-  
19 cordance with section 5703 of title 5, United  
20 States Code.

21 “(6) TERMINATION.—

22 “(A) IN GENERAL.—Subject to subpara-  
23 graph (B), the Committee shall terminate on  
24 the date that is 5 years after the date on which

1 the members are appointed under paragraph  
2 (2)(B).

3 “(B) EXTENSIONS.—Before the date on  
4 which the Committee terminates, the Secretary  
5 may renew the Committee for 1 or more 2-year  
6 periods.

7 “(e) ANNUAL REPORT.—Not later than 1 year after  
8 the date of the enactment of the Farm, Food, and Na-  
9 tional Security Act of 2026, and each year thereafter, the  
10 Secretary, acting through the coordinating group and in  
11 consultation with the Secretary of Commerce and the Sec-  
12 retary of the Interior, shall prepare on an annual basis,  
13 and submit to Congress, a report on the status of aqua-  
14 culture in the United States. Such report shall contain—

15 “(1) a description and evaluation of the actions  
16 undertaken with respect to the Plan during the re-  
17 porting period;

18 “(2) an explanation of any revisions made to  
19 the Plan during the reporting period;

20 “(3) the results of the continuing assessment  
21 established under section 4(e);

22 “(4) an evaluation of the role each Federal de-  
23 partment or agency has in supporting the aqua-  
24 culture industry;

1 “(5) the total amount and value of expenditures  
2 of Federal departments or agencies on—

3 “(A) aquaculture purchases;

4 “(B) aquaculture promotion and outreach  
5 supporting the aquaculture industry;

6 “(C) grants made to the aquaculture in-  
7 dustry; and

8 “(D) grants to facilitate aquaculture re-  
9 search and the subject matter of such research;

10 “(6) a summary of the activities and rec-  
11 ommendations of the Aquaculture Advisory Com-  
12 mittee established under subsection (d);

13 “(7) a summary of the activities and rec-  
14 ommendations of the coordinating group; and

15 “(8) such other comments and recommenda-  
16 tions as the Secretary determines appropriate.”; and

17 (3) in section 10 (16 U.S.C. 2809), by striking  
18 “2023” each place it appears in paragraphs (1), (2),  
19 and (3) and inserting “2031”.

20 **SEC. 7508. REPORTS ON DISBURSEMENT OF FUNDS FOR AG-**  
21 **RICULTURAL RESEARCH AND EXTENSION AT**  
22 **1862 AND 1890 LAND-GRANT COLLEGES, IN-**  
23 **CLUDING TUSKEGEE UNIVERSITY.**

24 Section 7116 of the Agriculture Improvement Act of  
25 2018 (7 U.S.C. 2207d) is amended—

1           (1) in the matter preceding paragraph (1), by  
2           striking “Not later than” and inserting the fol-  
3           lowing:

4           “(a) IN GENERAL.—Not later than”; and

5           (2) by adding at the end the following:

6           “(b) OUTREACH.—Not later than February 1 of each  
7           fiscal year, the Secretary shall provide information relat-  
8           ing to each matching requirement applicable to the State  
9           under the programs referred to in subsection (a) to the  
10          Governor and legislature of each State in which an 1862  
11          Institution or 1890 Institution (as those terms are defined  
12          in section 2 of the Agricultural Research, Extension, and  
13          Education Reform Act of 1998 (7 U.S.C. 7601)) is lo-  
14          cated.

15          “(c) ATTESTATIONS.—

16                 “(1) IN GENERAL.—Not less frequently than  
17                 once each calendar year, the Governor of each State  
18                 described in subsection (b) shall submit to the Sec-  
19                 retary an attestation that describes if the State is  
20                 able to fulfill each matching requirement with re-  
21                 spect to which information is provided by the Sec-  
22                 retary under such subsection for such State and cal-  
23                 endar year.

24                 “(2) REPORTS.—Not later than December 31  
25                 of each calendar year, the Secretary shall submit to

1 Congress, and make publicly available on the website  
2 of the Department of Agriculture, an annual report  
3 describing the attestations received under paragraph  
4 (1) during that calendar year.”.

5 **SEC. 7509. REPEAL.**

6 Section 1431 of the National Agricultural Research,  
7 Extension, and Teaching Policy Act Amendments of 1985  
8 (title XIV of Public Law 99–198; 99 Stat. 1556) is re-  
9 pealed.

10 **SEC. 7510. AMENDMENT TO SMITH-LEVER ACT.**

11 Section 3(b)(3) of the Smith-Lever Act (7 U.S.C.  
12 343(b)(3)) is amended by inserting after “for the purposes  
13 set forth in section 2” the following: “, and for 1994 Insti-  
14 tutions to acquire, alter, repair, maintain, and operate rel-  
15 evant equipment necessary to strengthen the capacity of  
16 such 1994 Institutions to achieve the purposes set forth  
17 in section 2”.

18 **Subtitle F—Other Matters**

19 **SEC. 7601. FOUNDATION FOR FOOD AND AGRICULTURE RE-**  
20 **SEARCH.**

21 Section 7601 of the Agricultural Act of 2014 (7  
22 U.S.C. 5939) is amended—

23 (1) in subsection (d)(1)—

24 (A) in subparagraph (B)—

1 (i) in clause (ii), by striking “of Agri-  
2 culture; and” and inserting a semicolon;  
3 and

4 (ii) by striking clause (iii); and

5 (B) in subparagraph (C), by striking “the  
6 roadmap for agricultural research, education,  
7 and extension authorized by section 7504 of the  
8 Food, Conservation, and Energy Act of 2008 (7  
9 U.S.C. 7614a)” and inserting “the national re-  
10 search policies and priorities set forth in section  
11 1402 of the National Agricultural Research,  
12 Extension, and Teaching Policy Act of 1977 (7  
13 U.S.C. 3101)”;

14 (2) in subsection (e)(2)(C)(i)—

15 (A) in subclause (I), by striking “National  
16 Academy of Sciences” and inserting “National  
17 Agricultural Research, Extension, Education,  
18 and Economics Advisory Board established  
19 under section 1408 of the National Agricultural  
20 Research, Extension, and Teaching Policy Act  
21 of 1977 (7 U.S.C. 3123)”;

22 (B) in subclause (II), by striking “indus-  
23 try” and inserting “national farm, producer, or  
24 research organizations”;

25 (3) in subsection (f)(3)(B)(i)—

- 1 (A) in subclause (I)—
- 2 (i) in the matter preceding item (aa),
- 3 by striking “and post online” and inserting
- 4 “online and submit to the Committee on
- 5 Agriculture of the House of Representa-
- 6 tives and the Committee on Agriculture,
- 7 Nutrition, and Forestry of the Senate”;
- 8 (ii) in item (bb), by striking “and” at
- 9 the end;
- 10 (iii) in item (cc), by striking the pe-
- 11 riod at the end and inserting a semicolon;
- 12 and
- 13 (iv) by adding at the end the fol-
- 14 lowing:
- 15 “(dd) the source and a de-
- 16 scription of all gifts to the Foun-
- 17 dation of real or personal prop-
- 18 erty;
- 19 “(ee) the source and amount
- 20 of each gift to the Foundation of
- 21 money, including a specification
- 22 of any restrictions on the pur-
- 23 poses for which a gift to the
- 24 Foundation may be used;

1 “(ff) the source and amount  
2 of any Federal or State grant,  
3 contract, or cooperative agree-  
4 ment awarded to the Foundation;

5 “(gg) an accounting of the  
6 use of funds made available  
7 under subsection (g)(1);

8 “(hh) a description of the  
9 Foundation’s outreach activities  
10 to agricultural stakeholders and  
11 potential research partners; and

12 “(ii) a description of the  
13 Foundation’s consultation proc-  
14 ess with the Department under  
15 subsection (d)(1)(B).”;

16 (B) by striking subclauses (II) and (III);

17 and

18 (C) by redesignating subclause (IV) as  
19 subclause (II).

20 **SEC. 7602. AGRICULTURE INNOVATION CENTER DEM-**  
21 **ONSTRATION PROGRAM.**

22 Section 6402 of the Farm Security and Rural Invest-  
23 ment Act of 2002 (7 U.S.C. 1632b) is amended—

24 (1) in subsection (d)—

25 (A) in paragraph (2)—

1 (i) by striking “Each Agriculture In-  
2 novation Center” and inserting “Subject to  
3 paragraph (3), each Agriculture Innovation  
4 Center”; and

5 (ii) by striking “following:” and in-  
6 serting “following:”; and

7 (B) by adding at the end the following:

8 “(3) WAIVER.—The Secretary may waive the  
9 requirement described in paragraph (2) with respect  
10 to an eligible entity if the Secretary determines that  
11 the eligible entity has a board of directors adequate  
12 for the purpose of carrying out this section.”; and

13 (2) in subsection (g), by striking “2023” and  
14 inserting “2031”.

15 **SEC. 7603. LIVESTOCK INSECTS LABORATORY.**

16 Public Law 100–208 (101 Stat. 1439) is amended  
17 by striking “Knipling-Bushland Research Laboratory”  
18 each place it appears and inserting “Knipling-Bushland  
19 Research Center”.

20 **SEC. 7604. U.S. ABIT MASSEY NATIONAL POULTRY RE-  
21 SEARCH CENTER.**

22 (a) DESIGNATION.—The U.S. National Poultry Re-  
23 search Center of the Department of Agriculture located  
24 in Athens, Georgia shall be known and designated as the  
25 “U.S. Abit Massey National Poultry Research Center”.

1 (b) REFERENCES.—Any reference in a law, map, reg-  
2 ulation, document, paper, or other record of the United  
3 States to the facility referred to in subsection (a) shall  
4 be deemed to be a reference to the “U.S. Abit Massey Na-  
5 tional Poultry Research Center”.

6 **SEC. 7605. HATCH ACT OF 1887.**

7 Section 5 of the Hatch Act of 1887 (7 U.S.C. 361e)  
8 is amended—

9 (1) in the second sentence—

10 (A) by striking “known as a director” and  
11 inserting “known as an experiment station di-  
12 rector”; and

13 (B) by striking “or other officer appointed  
14 by the government board of the station”;

15 (2) in the third sentence, by striking “or other  
16 officer”; and

17 (3) in the fourth sentence, by striking “the au-  
18 thorized receiving officer” and inserting “the experi-  
19 ment station director”.

20 **SEC. 7606. COMMISSION ON NATIONAL AGRICULTURAL STA-**  
21 **TISTICS SERVICE MODERNIZATION.**

22 (a) ESTABLISHMENT.—There is established a com-  
23 mission to be known as the Commission on National Agri-  
24 cultural Statistics Service Modernization (referred to in  
25 this section as the “Commission”).

1 (b) STUDY.—The Commission shall conduct a study  
2 of the National Agricultural Statistics Service and provide  
3 recommendations on—

4 (1) how data collection can be modernized and  
5 streamlined to—

6 (A) improve the quality of statistics re-  
7 ported;

8 (B) account for differences of national, re-  
9 gional, and local production;

10 (C) accelerate adoption of new and innova-  
11 tive technologies to reduce the number of sur-  
12 veys needed;

13 (D) improve producer response rates in  
14 statistical surveys and identifying ways to re-  
15 duce survey fatigue;

16 (E) increase transparency and confidence  
17 in statistical reports through improved collabo-  
18 ration with agricultural stakeholders;

19 (F) use more real-time statistical and envi-  
20 ronmental data to complement existing survey-  
21 based data and reporting; and

22 (G) improve collection and generation of  
23 timely data on the specialty crop industry; and

24 (2) how the recommendations under paragraph  
25 (1) with respect to modernizing and streamlining

1 data collection can be implemented and the esti-  
2 mated costs of such implementation.

3 (c) MEMBERSHIP.—

4 (1) COMPOSITION.—The Commission shall be  
5 composed of 11 members, as follows:

6 (A) The Administrator of the National Ag-  
7 ricultural Statistics Service.

8 (B) The Administrator of the Economic  
9 Research Service.

10 (C) The Chief Economist of the Depart-  
11 ment.

12 (D) The Chair of the World Agricultural  
13 Outlook Board of the Department.

14 (E) A representative from the Bureau of  
15 Labor Statistics.

16 (F) 3 members appointed by the Com-  
17 mittee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry  
18 of the Senate, of which—

19 (i) 1 shall be appointed by the chair  
20 of the Committee;

21 (ii) 1 shall be appointed by the rank-  
22 ing member of the Committee; and

23 (iii) 1 shall be appointed jointly by the  
24 chair and ranking member of the Com-  
25 mittee.

1 (G) 3 members appointed by the Com-  
2 mittee on Agriculture of the House of Rep-  
3 resentatives, of which—

4 (i) 1 shall be appointed by the chair  
5 of the Committee;

6 (ii) 1 shall be appointed by the rank-  
7 ing member of the Committee; and

8 (iii) 1 shall be appointed jointly by the  
9 chair and ranking member of the Com-  
10 mittee.

11 (2) DATE OF APPOINTMENTS.—The appoint-  
12 ment of all members of the Commission shall be  
13 made not later than 60 days after the date of enact-  
14 ment of this Act.

15 (3) TERM; VACANCIES.—

16 (A) TERM.—A member shall be appointed  
17 for the life of the Commission.

18 (B) VACANCIES.—A vacancy on the Com-  
19 mission—

20 (i) shall not affect the powers of the  
21 Commission; and

22 (ii) shall be filled in the same manner  
23 as the original appointment was made.

24 (4) INITIAL MEETING.—Not later than 60 days  
25 after the date on which all members of the Commis-

1           sion have been appointed, the Commission shall hold  
2           the initial meeting of the Commission.

3           (d) QUORUM.—A majority of the members of the  
4 Commission shall constitute a quorum for the transaction  
5 of business, but a lesser number of members may hold  
6 hearings.

7           (e) CHAIR.—The Chair of the Commission shall be  
8 selected by a majority of the members of the Commission.

9           (f) REPORT.—Not later than 3 years after the date  
10 of enactment of this Act, the Commission shall submit to  
11 the President, the Committee on Agriculture of the House  
12 of Representatives, and the Committee on Agriculture,  
13 Nutrition, and Forestry of the Senate a report containing  
14 the results of the study required by subsection (b), includ-  
15 ing—

16           (1) an inventory of surveys conducted by the  
17 Commission, and the frequency with which they are  
18 conducted; and

19           (2) such recommendations for administrative,  
20 regulatory, and legislative changes as the Commis-  
21 sion considers appropriate.

22           (g) HEARINGS.—The Commission shall hold such  
23 hearings, meet and act at such times and places, take such  
24 testimony, and receive such evidence as the Commission  
25 considers advisable to carry out this section.

1 (h) STAKEHOLDER ENGAGEMENT.—The Commission  
2 shall establish a process to collect feedback from agricul-  
3 tural stakeholders to inform the results of the study re-  
4 quired under subsection (b) and the report required under  
5 subsection (f).

6 (i) INFORMATION FROM FEDERAL AGENCIES.—The  
7 Commission may secure directly from a Federal agency  
8 such information as the Commission considers necessary  
9 to carry out this section. On request of the Chairperson  
10 of the Commission, the head of the agency shall provide  
11 the information to the Commission.

12 (j) POSTAL SERVICES.—The Commission may use  
13 the United States mail in the same manner and under the  
14 same conditions as other agencies of the Federal Govern-  
15 ment.

16 (k) ASSISTANCE FROM SECRETARY.—The Secretary  
17 shall provide to the Commission appropriate office space  
18 and such reasonable administrative and support services  
19 as the Commission may request.

20 (l) COMPENSATION OF MEMBERS.—

21 (1) NON-FEDERAL EMPLOYEES.—A member of  
22 the Commission who is not an officer or employee of  
23 the Federal Government shall be compensated at a  
24 rate equal to the daily equivalent of the annual rate  
25 of basic pay prescribed for level IV of the Executive

1 Schedule under section 5315 of title 5, United  
2 States Code, for each day (including travel time)  
3 during which the member is engaged in the perform-  
4 ance of the duties of the Commission.

5 (2) FEDERAL EMPLOYEES.—A member of the  
6 Commission who is an officer or employee of the  
7 Federal Government shall serve without compensa-  
8 tion in addition to the compensation received for the  
9 services of the member as an officer or employee of  
10 the Federal Government.

11 (3) TRAVEL EXPENSES.—A member of the  
12 Commission shall be allowed travel expenses, includ-  
13 ing per diem in lieu of subsistence, at rates author-  
14 ized for an employee of an agency under subchapter  
15 I of chapter 57 of title 5, United States Code, while  
16 away from the home or regular place of business of  
17 the member in the performance of the duties of the  
18 Commission.

19 (m) FEDERAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE ACT.—Sec-  
20 tions 1009 and 1013 of title 5, United States Code, shall  
21 not apply to the Commission or any proceeding of the  
22 Commission.

23 (n) TERMINATION.—The Commission shall terminate  
24 on September 30, 2031.

1 (o) FUNDING.—Of the funds of the Commodity Cred-  
2 it Corporation, the Secretary shall use to carry out this  
3 section \$1,000,000 for fiscal year 2026, to remain avail-  
4 able until expended.

5 **SEC. 7607. RESTORATION OF 4-H NAME AND EMBLEM AU-**  
6 **THORITY.**

7 (a) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

8 (1) 4-H CLUB.—

9 (A) IN GENERAL.—The term “4-H club”  
10 means a 4-H club recognized under the 4-H  
11 Program.

12 (B) INCLUSION.—The term “4-H club”  
13 includes an authorized agent of a 4-H club.

14 (2) 4-H EMBLEM OR NAME.—The term “4-H  
15 emblem or name” means the 4-H sign or emblem,  
16 consisting of a green four-leaf clover with stem and  
17 the letter “H” in white or gold on each leaflet, and  
18 the words “4-H”, “4-H Club”, and “4-H Clubs”,  
19 used to identify and distinguish the 4-H Program  
20 and the activities, clubs, members, goods, and serv-  
21 ices of the 4-H Program.

22 (3) 4-H PROGRAM.—The term “4-H Pro-  
23 gram”—

24 (A) IN GENERAL.—The term “4-H Pro-  
25 gram” means the youth development program

1 of the land-grant colleges or universities, the  
2 Cooperative Extension System (as defined by  
3 the Secretary), and the Department.

4 (B) INCLUSION.—The term “4–H Pro-  
5 gram” includes an authorized agent of the 4–  
6 H Program.

7 (4) LAND-GRANT COLLEGE OR UNIVERSITY.—  
8 The term “land-grant college or university”—

9 (A) IN GENERAL.—The term “land-grant  
10 college or university” means an 1862 Institu-  
11 tion, an 1890 Institution, or a 1994 Institution  
12 (as those terms are defined in section 2 of the  
13 Agricultural Research, Extension, and Edu-  
14 cation Reform Act of 1998 (7 U.S.C. 7601)).

15 (B) INCLUSION.—The term “land-grant  
16 college or university” includes an authorized  
17 agent of a land-grant college or university.

18 (b) EFFECT OF REPEAL; RATIFICATION.—

19 (1) CIVIL ACTS.—Any civil act or action of the  
20 4–H Program, a 4–H club, the Secretary, or a land-  
21 grant college or university taken with respect to the  
22 use of the 4–H emblem or name, or the recognition  
23 of any 4–H club, during the period beginning on  
24 May 8, 1914, and ending on the date of enactment  
25 of this Act, is deemed to be of legal force and effect

1 and ratified as if section 1002(3) of the Clean Up  
2 the Code Act of 2019 (title X of division O of Public  
3 Law 116–260; 134 Stat. 2155) had not been en-  
4 acted into law.

5 (2) EFFECT ON CRIMINAL LAW.—Nothing in  
6 this subsection affects the effect on criminal law of  
7 the repeal made by section 1002(3) of the Clean Up  
8 the Code Act of 2019 (title X of division O of Public  
9 Law 116–260; 134 Stat. 2155).

10 (c) AUTHORIZATIONS FOR USE OF 4–H EMBLEM OR  
11 NAME; FEES; DEPOSITS.—

12 (1) AUTHORIZATION.—The Secretary may—

13 (A) use the 4–H emblem or name; and

14 (B) grant authorizations to use the 4–H  
15 emblem or name, as provided by regulations  
16 issued by the Secretary.

17 (2) FEES.—An authorization under paragraph  
18 (1) may be granted—

19 (A) without a fee or other consideration; or

20 (B) for a fee or other consideration.

21 (3) USE OF FEES.—The Secretary shall deposit  
22 into a special account any fees collected under para-  
23 graph (2)(B), the amounts in which shall remain  
24 available to the Secretary until expended, without

1 further appropriation, for furthering the 4–H Pro-  
2 gram.

3 (d) UNAUTHORIZED USE OF 4–H EMBLEM OR  
4 NAME.—

5 (1) PROHIBITION.—Whoever, other than the 4–  
6 H Program, a 4–H club, the Department, a land-  
7 grant college or university, and those authorized by  
8 them, uses in commerce the 4–H emblem or name  
9 or any reproduction, counterfeit, copy, or colorable  
10 imitation of the 4–H emblem or name to indicate  
11 membership in an association, organization, or other  
12 collective group, or in connection with the sale, offer-  
13 ing for sale, distribution, or advertising of goods or  
14 services, on or in connection with which that use is  
15 likely to cause confusion, to cause mistake, or to de-  
16 ceive as to membership or participation in, an affili-  
17 ation, connection, or association with, or authoriza-  
18 tion or approval by, a 4–H club or the 4–H Pro-  
19 gram, shall be subject to the civil action under para-  
20 graph (2).

21 (2) CIVIL ACTION.—The Attorney General, on  
22 behalf of the Secretary, or contract counsel procured  
23 by the Secretary, may bring a civil action in an ap-  
24 propriate district court of the United States against  
25 whoever engages in any of the prohibited acts de-

1 scribed in paragraph (1) for the remedies provided  
2 in the Act of July 5, 1946 (commonly known as the  
3 “Trademark Act of 1946” or the “Lanham Act”)  
4 (15 U.S.C. 1051 et seq.).

5 (e) SAVINGS CLAUSES.—

6 (1) PRIOR AUTHORIZED USES.—Nothing in this  
7 section makes unlawful the use of any emblem,  
8 name, sign, symbol, insignia, or words that was law-  
9 ful on December 26, 2020.

10 (2) DELEGATION.—Nothing in this section lim-  
11 its the authority of the Secretary to delegate the au-  
12 thority of the Secretary as otherwise authorized by  
13 law.

14 **SEC. 7608. UNDER SECRETARY OF AGRICULTURE FOR RE-**  
15 **SEARCH, EDUCATION, AND ECONOMICS.**

16 Section 251 of the Department of Agriculture Reor-  
17 ganization Act of 1994 (7 U.S.C. 6971) is amended—

18 (1) in subsection (c)—

19 (A) in paragraph (1), by striking “and” at  
20 the end;

21 (B) in paragraph (2), by striking the pe-  
22 riod at the end and inserting “; and”; and

23 (C) by adding at the end the following:

24 “(3) be responsible for the coordination of re-  
25 search activities with other Federal agencies.”;

1           (2) in subsection (e)(3)(C), by striking “not less  
2           than 3 years” and inserting “not less than 1 year”;  
3           and

4           (3) by adding at the end the following:

5           “(h) INTERAGENCY COORDINATION.—

6           “(1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall carry  
7           out cross-cutting and collaborative research and de-  
8           velopment activities focused on the joint advance-  
9           ment of the mission requirements and priorities of  
10          the Department of Agriculture and other Federal  
11          agencies.

12          “(2) MEMORANDA OF UNDERSTANDING.—

13          “(A) DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY.—

14          “(i) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 1  
15          year after the date of enactment of the  
16          Farm, Food, and National Security Act of  
17          2026, the Secretary and the Secretary of  
18          Energy(referred to in this subparagraph as  
19          the ‘Secretaries’) shall coordinate the ac-  
20          tivities under paragraph (1) through the  
21          establishment of memoranda of under-  
22          standing or other appropriate interagency  
23          agreements. Such a memorandum or such  
24          an agreement shall require the use of a  
25          competitive, merit-reviewed process as ap-

1           appropriate. Activities may include compo-  
2           nents proposed by Federal agencies, Na-  
3           tional Laboratories, institutions of higher  
4           education, nonprofit organizations, and  
5           other entities deemed appropriate under  
6           the memorandum or agreement.

7           “(ii) COORDINATION.—In carrying out  
8           the activities under paragraph (1), the Sec-  
9           retaries may—

10                   “(I) conduct collaborative re-  
11                   search in a variety of focus areas;

12                   “(II) develop methods to accom-  
13                   modate large voluntary standardized  
14                   and integrated data sets on agricul-  
15                   tural, environmental, supply chain,  
16                   and economic information with vari-  
17                   able accuracy and scale;

18                   “(III) promote collaboration and  
19                   open community-based development  
20                   between—

21                           “(aa) Federal agencies;

22                           “(bb) National Laboratories;

23                           “(cc) institutions of higher  
24                   education (as defined in section

1 101 of the Higher Education Act  
2 of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 1001));

3 “(dd) nonprofit institutions;

4 “(ee) industry partners; and

5 “(ff) other entities deemed

6 appropriate under the memo-

7 randum or agreement involved;

8 “(IV) support research infra-

9 structure, including new facilities and

10 equipment, and workforce develop-

11 ment as the Secretaries determine

12 necessary;

13 “(V) conduct collaborative re-

14 search, development, and demonstra-

15 tion of methods and technologies; and

16 “(VI) facilitate relations between

17 public and private entities to carry on

18 the activities of this clause upon the

19 termination of any agreement estab-

20 lished under this subparagraph.

21 “(iii) AGREEMENTS.—In carrying out

22 the activities under this subparagraph, the

23 Secretaries are authorized to—

24 “(I) carry out reimbursable

25 agreements between the Department

1 of Agriculture, the Department of De-  
2 fense, and other entities in order to  
3 maximize the effectiveness of research  
4 and development; and

5 “(II) collaborate with other Fed-  
6 eral agencies, as appropriate.

7 “(B) NATIONAL SCIENCE FOUNDATION.—

8 “(i) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 1  
9 year after the date of enactment of the  
10 Farm, Food, and National Security Act of  
11 2026, the Secretary and the Director of  
12 the National Science Foundation (referred  
13 to in this subparagraph as the “Director”)  
14 shall coordinate the activities under para-  
15 graph (1) through the establishment of  
16 memoranda of understanding or other ap-  
17 propriate interagency agreements. Such a  
18 memorandum or such an agreement shall  
19 require the use of a competitive, merit-re-  
20 viewed process as appropriate. Activities  
21 may include components proposed by Fed-  
22 eral agencies, institutions of higher edu-  
23 cation, nonprofit organizations, and other  
24 entities deemed appropriate under the  
25 memorandum or agreement.

1                   “(ii) COORDINATION.—In carrying out  
2                   the activities under paragraph (1), the Sec-  
3                   retary and the Director may—

4                   “(I) conduct collaborative re-  
5                   search in a variety of focus areas;

6                   “(II) promote collaboration and  
7                   open, community-based development  
8                   between—

9                   “(aa) Federal agencies;

10                  “(bb) institutions of higher  
11                  education;

12                  “(cc) community colleges (as  
13                  defined in section 3167B of the  
14                  Energy Science Education En-  
15                  hancement Act (42 U.S.C.  
16                  7381c-3));

17                  “(dd) area career and tech-  
18                  nical education schools (as de-  
19                  fined in section 3 of the Carl D.  
20                  Perkins Career and Technical  
21                  Education Act of 2006 (20  
22                  U.S.C. 2302));

23                  “(ee) nonprofit institutions;

24                  “(ff) industry partners; and

1 “(gg) other entities deemed  
2 appropriate under the memo-  
3 randum or agreement;

4 “(III) support research infra-  
5 structure, including new facilities,  
6 equipment and broadband deploy-  
7 ment, as the Secretary and Director  
8 determine necessary;

9 “(IV) develop translational tech-  
10 nologies for commercial utilization;

11 “(V) organize education, train-  
12 ing, and research initiatives relating  
13 to STEM education and workforce de-  
14 velopment, which may include—

15 “(aa) activities supported by  
16 the Cooperative Extension Sys-  
17 tem;

18 “(bb) industrial partnership  
19 programs;

20 “(cc) workshops for edu-  
21 cating kindergarten through  
22 grade 12 teachers on how to in-  
23 crease agricultural literacy;

24 “(dd) development of agri-  
25 cultural-based science curricula

1 for kindergarten through grade  
2 12 students; and

3 “(ee) distribution of re-  
4 sources for educators to imple-  
5 ment curricula; and

6 “(VI) facilitate relationships be-  
7 tween public and private entities to  
8 carry on the activities under this  
9 clause upon the termination of any  
10 agreement established under this sub-  
11 paragraph.

12 “(iii) AGREEMENTS.—In carrying out  
13 the activities under this subparagraph, the  
14 Secretary and the Director are authorized  
15 to—

16 “(I) carry out reimbursable  
17 agreements between the Department  
18 of Agriculture, the National Science  
19 Foundation, and other entities in  
20 order to maximize the effectiveness of  
21 research and development; and

22 “(II) collaborate with other Fed-  
23 eral agencies as appropriate.

24 “(C) DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE.—

1           “(i) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 1  
2           year after the date of enactment of the  
3           Farm, Food, and National Security Act of  
4           2026, the Secretary and the Secretary of  
5           Defense (referred to in this subparagraph  
6           as the ‘Secretaries’) shall coordinate the  
7           activities under paragraph (1) through the  
8           establishment of memoranda of under-  
9           standing or other appropriate interagency  
10          agreements. Such a memorandum or such  
11          an agreement shall require the use of a  
12          competitive, merit-reviewed process as ap-  
13          propriate. Activities may include compo-  
14          nents proposed by Federal agencies, Na-  
15          tional Laboratories, institutions of higher  
16          education, nonprofit organizations, indus-  
17          try, and other entities deemed appropriate  
18          under the memorandum or agreement.

19           “(ii) COORDINATION.—In carrying out  
20          the activities under paragraph (1), the Sec-  
21          retaries may—

22                   “(I) conduct collaborative re-  
23                   search in a variety of focus areas, in-  
24                   cluding the areas specified in clause  
25                   (iv);

1           “(II) develop methods to accom-  
2 modate large voluntary standardized  
3 and integrated data sets on agricul-  
4 tural, environmental, supply chain,  
5 and economic information with vari-  
6 able accuracy and scale;

7           “(III) promote collaboration and  
8 secure information sharing with stake-  
9 holders that are capable of increasing  
10 market-based adoption of technologies  
11 developed pursuant to the memoranda  
12 of understanding or other appropriate  
13 interagency agreements entered into  
14 under this subparagraph;

15           “(IV) promote collaboration and  
16 open community-based development  
17 between—

18                   “(aa) Federal agencies;

19                   “(bb) National Laboratories;

20                   “(cc) institutions of higher  
21 education (as defined in section  
22 101 of the Higher Education Act  
23 of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 1001));

24                   “(dd) nonprofit institutions;

25                   “(ee) industry partners; and

1           “(ff) other entities deemed  
2           appropriate under the memo-  
3           randum or agreement involved;

4           “(V) support research infrastruc-  
5           ture, including new facilities and  
6           equipment, and workforce develop-  
7           ment as the Secretaries determine  
8           necessary;

9           “(VI) conduct collaborative re-  
10          search, development, and demonstra-  
11          tion of methods and technologies; and

12          “(VII) facilitate relations be-  
13          tween public and private entities to  
14          carry on the activities of this clause  
15          upon the termination of any agree-  
16          ment established under this subpara-  
17          graph.

18          “(iii) AGREEMENTS.—In carrying out  
19          the activities under this subparagraph, the  
20          Secretaries are authorized to—

21                 “(I) carry out reimbursable  
22                 agreements between the Department  
23                 of Agriculture, the Department of De-  
24                 fense, and other entities in order to

1 maximize the effectiveness of research  
2 and development; and

3 “(II) collaborate with other Fed-  
4 eral agencies, as appropriate.

5 “(iv) FOCUS AREAS DESCRIBED.—The  
6 focus areas described in this clause are the  
7 following:

8 “(I) Management strategies for  
9 water, energy, soil, forests, and food  
10 to reduce scarcity risks to civilian and  
11 military operations.

12 “(II) Innovations applicable to  
13 defense objectives and beneficial to  
14 rural agricultural economies, includ-  
15 ing—

16 “(aa) precision agriculture  
17 technologies;

18 “(bb) drones;

19 “(cc) remote sensing; and

20 “(dd) positioning, naviga-  
21 tion, and timing capabilities.

22 “(III) Mitigation of the impacts  
23 of chemicals, specifically  
24 perfluoroalkyl and polyfluoroalkyl sub-  
25 stances (commonly referred to as

1 PFAS), released through activities  
2 carried out by the Department of De-  
3 fense, to farmland contiguous to mili-  
4 tary bases.

5 “(D) OTHER FEDERAL AGENCIES.—In ad-  
6 dition to the memoranda of understanding with  
7 Federal agencies described in subparagraphs  
8 (A) and (B), the Secretary shall, as appro-  
9 priate, enter into memoranda of understanding  
10 with the heads of other Federal agencies to co-  
11 ordinate the activities under paragraph (1).

12 “(3) REPORT.—Not later than two years after  
13 the date of enactment of the Farm, Food, and Na-  
14 tional Security Act of 2026, the Secretary shall sub-  
15 mit to the appropriate congressional committees a  
16 report detailing—

17 “(A) interagency coordination between  
18 each Federal agency involved in the research  
19 and development activities carried out under  
20 this section;

21 “(B) potential opportunities to expand the  
22 technical capabilities of each Federal agency in-  
23 volved in the research and development activi-  
24 ties carried out under this section;

25 “(C) collaborative research achievements;

1           “(D) areas of future mutually beneficial  
2           successes;

3           “(E) continuation of coordination activities  
4           between each Federal agency involved in the re-  
5           search and development activities carried out  
6           under this section;

7           “(F) potential opportunities for additional  
8           memoranda of understanding with other Fed-  
9           eral agencies; and

10          “(G) any additional information as the  
11          Secretary deems appropriate.

12          “(4) RESEARCH SECURITY.—The activities au-  
13          thorized under this section shall be applied in a  
14          manner consistent with subtitle D of title VI of the  
15          Research and Development, Competition, and Inno-  
16          vation Act (enacted as division B of the CHIPS Act  
17          of 2022 (Public Law 117–167; 42 U.S.C. 19231 et  
18          seq.)).”.

19       **SEC. 7609. AGRICULTURAL INNOVATION CORPS.**

20       (a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall establish an  
21       Agricultural Innovation Corps (referred to in this section  
22       as the “Ag I–Corps”) to promote technology transfer and  
23       increase the economic impact of federally-funded research  
24       through—

1           (1) supporting agricultural researchers, stu-  
2           dents, and institutions of higher education (as de-  
3           fined in section 101 of the Higher Education Act of  
4           1965 (20 U.S.C. 1001)), in exploring the commer-  
5           cial potential of technologies developed in labora-  
6           tories through a standardized entrepreneurial train-  
7           ing program; and

8           (2) bringing together Agriculture Research  
9           Service researchers and institutions of higher edu-  
10          cation within a distinct geographical region to col-  
11          laborate and deliver a standardized entrepreneurial  
12          training curriculum.

13          (b) ELIGIBILITY.—Agricultural researchers, stu-  
14          dents, and institutions of higher education receiving funds  
15          from the Department shall be eligible to participate in Ag  
16          I–Corps.

17          (c) FOLLOW-ON GRANTS.—

18                (1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary may make  
19                funds available from the Small Business Innovation  
20                Research Program for competitive grants to Ag I–  
21                Corps participants to help support—

22                    (A) prototype or proof-of-concept develop-  
23                    ment; and

24                    (B) such activities as the Secretary con-  
25                    siders necessary to build local, regional, and na-

1           tional infrastructure for agricultural entrepre-  
2           neurship.

3           (2) LIMITATION.—Grants under paragraph (1)  
4           shall be limited to participants in Ag I–Corps with  
5           innovations that, because of the early stage of devel-  
6           opment of such innovations, are not eligible to par-  
7           ticipate in a Small Business Innovation Research  
8           Program or Small Business Technology Transfer  
9           Program (as defined in section 9 of the Small Busi-  
10          ness Act (15 U.S.C. 638)).

11          (d) PARTNERSHIPS.—The Secretary may engage in  
12          partnerships with other Federal agencies, State and local  
13          governments, economic development organizations, and  
14          nonprofit organizations to provide access to Ag I–Corps  
15          to support entrepreneurship education and training for ag-  
16          ricultural researchers, students, and institutions of higher  
17          education under this section.

18          (e) REPORT.—Not later than September 30, 2027,  
19          and not less frequently than once every other year, the  
20          Secretary shall submit to the Committee on Agriculture  
21          of the House of Representatives and the Committee on  
22          Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry of the Senate a re-  
23          port on the efficacy of Ag I–Corps, including metrics on  
24          the effectiveness of the program.

1 **SEC. 7610. STUDY ON TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE WITH RE-**  
2 **SPECT TO TRANSFER OF AGRICULTURAL**  
3 **LAND AND ASSETS.**

4 (a) IN GENERAL.—Not later than September 30,  
5 2026, the Secretary of Agriculture shall conduct a study  
6 on, and submit to Congress a report on, ways to increase  
7 opportunities for 1890 Institutions (as defined in section  
8 2 of the Agricultural Research, Extension, and Education  
9 Reform Act of 1998 (7 U.S.C. 7601)) to conduct edu-  
10 cational programs and provide technical assistance with  
11 respect to issues relating to the transfers of agricultural  
12 land and assets, including heirs property, to the next gen-  
13 eration of farmers and ranchers.

14 (b) HEIRS PROPERTY DEFINED.—In this section, the  
15 term “heirs property” means real property held in tenancy  
16 in common which, as of the date on which a partition ac-  
17 tion is filed, satisfies all of the following requirements:

18 (1) There is no recorded agreement binding all  
19 the co-tenants which governs the partition of the  
20 property.

21 (2) One or more of the co-tenants acquired title  
22 from a relative, whether living or deceased.

23 (3) Any of the following applies:

24 (A) 20 percent or more of the interests are  
25 held by co-tenants who are relatives.

1 (B) 20 percent or more of the interests are  
2 held by an individual who acquired title from a  
3 relative, whether living or deceased.

4 (C) 20 percent or more of the co-tenants  
5 are relatives.

6 **TITLE VIII—FORESTRY**  
7 **Subtitle A—Cooperative Forestry**  
8 **Assistance Act of 1978**

9 **SEC. 8101. SUPPORT FOR STATE ASSESSMENTS AND STRAT-**  
10 **EGIES FOR FOREST RESOURCES.**

11 Section 2A(f) of the Cooperative Forestry Assistance  
12 Act of 1978 (16 U.S.C. 2101a(f)) is amended—

13 (1) in paragraph (1), by striking “2023” and  
14 inserting “2031”; and

15 (2) in paragraph (2), by striking “to carry out  
16 this section,” and all that follows through the period  
17 at the end and inserting the following: “the Sec-  
18 retary may use any other funds made available  
19 under this Act to develop and implement the State-  
20 wide assessment and State-wide strategy required by  
21 subsection (a), except that the total amount of com-  
22 bined funding used to develop and implement such  
23 assessment and strategy may not exceed  
24 \$10,000,000 in any fiscal year.”.

1 **SEC. 8102. FOREST LEGACY PROGRAM TECHNICAL COR-**  
2 **RECTION.**

3 Section 7(l)(3) of the Cooperative Forestry Assist-  
4 ance Act of 1978 (16 U.S.C. 2103c(l)(3)) is amended—

5 (1) in subparagraph (A), by striking “the State  
6 of Vermont” and inserting “a State”; and

7 (2) in subparagraph (B)(ii), in the matter pre-  
8 ceding subclause (I), by striking “of Vermont” and  
9 inserting “involved”.

10 **SEC. 8103. STATE AND PRIVATE FOREST LANDSCAPE-SCALE**  
11 **RESTORATION PROGRAM.**

12 Section 13A(l)(3) of the Cooperative Forestry Assist-  
13 ance Act of 1978 (16 U.S.C. 2109a(l)(3)) is amended by  
14 striking “2023” and inserting “2031”.

15 **SEC. 8104. RURAL FIRE PREVENTION AND CONTROL.**

16 Section 10 of the Cooperative Forestry Assistance  
17 Act of 1978 (16 U.S.C 2106) is amended—

18 (1) in subsection (e)(2)(B), by striking “in kind  
19 contributions.” and inserting “in-kind contributions.

20 The Secretary may waive the Federal share require-  
21 ments of this subparagraph with respect to any such  
22 funds made available to rural volunteer fire depart-  
23 ments.”; and

24 (2) in subsection (g)(1)—

25 (A) by striking “any organized, not for  
26 profit, fire protection organization” and insert-

1           ing “any fire protection organization that is or-  
2           ganized as a not for profit organization or by  
3           the authority of a local government and”;

4                   (B) by striking “10,000” and inserting  
5           “15,000”; and

6                   (C) by striking “80” and inserting “70”.

7                   **Subtitle B—Healthy Forests**  
8                   **Restoration Act of 2003**

9   **SEC. 8201. PROMOTING CROSS-BOUNDARY WILDFIRE MITI-**  
10                   **GATION.**

11           Section 103(e)(5) of the Healthy Forests Restoration  
12   Act of 2003 (16 U.S.C. 6513(e)(5)) is amended by strik-  
13   ing “2023” and inserting “2031”.

14   **SEC. 8202. AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS FOR HAZ-**  
15                   **ARDOUS FUEL REDUCTION ON FEDERAL**  
16                   **LAND.**

17           Section 108 of the Healthy Forests Restoration Act  
18   of 2003 (16 U.S.C. 6518) is amended by striking “2023”  
19   and inserting “2031”.

20   **SEC. 8203. WATER SOURCE PROTECTION PROGRAM.**

21           Section 303 of the Healthy Forests Restoration Act  
22   of 2003 (16 U.S.C. 6542) is amended—

23                   (1) in subsection (a)—

1 (A) by redesignating paragraphs (1)  
2 through (7) as paragraphs (2) through (8), re-  
3 spectively;

4 (B) by inserting before paragraph (2), as  
5 so redesignated, the following:

6 “(1) ADJACENT LAND.—The term ‘adjacent  
7 land’ means non-Federal land, including State, local,  
8 and private land, that is adjacent to, and within the  
9 same watershed as, National Forest System land on  
10 which a watershed protection and restoration project  
11 is carried out under this section.”; and

12 (C) in paragraph (2), as so redesignated—

13 (i) by redesignating subparagraphs  
14 (G) and (H) as subparagraphs (K) and  
15 (L), respectively; and

16 (ii) by inserting after subparagraph  
17 (F) the following:

18 “(G) an acequia association;

19 “(H) a local, regional, or other public enti-  
20 ty that manages stormwater or wastewater re-  
21 sources or other related water infrastructure;

22 “(I) a land-grant mercedes;

23 “(J) a local, regional, or other private enti-  
24 ty that has water delivery authority;”;

25 (2) in subsection (b)—

1 (A) by striking “The Secretary shall” and  
2 inserting the following:

3 “(1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall”; and

4 (B) by adding at the end the following:

5 “(2) REQUIREMENTS.—A watershed protection  
6 and restoration project under the Program shall be  
7 designed to—

8 “(A) protect and restore watershed health,  
9 water supply and quality, a municipal or agri-  
10 cultural water supply system, and water-related  
11 infrastructure;

12 “(B) protect and restore forest health from  
13 insect infestation and disease or wildfire; or

14 “(C) advance any combination of the pur-  
15 poses described in subparagraphs (A) and (B).

16 “(3) PRIORITIES.—In selecting watershed pro-  
17 tection and restoration projects under the Program,  
18 the Secretary shall give priority to projects that—

19 “(A) provide risk management benefits as-  
20 sociated with drought; wildfire; post-wildfire  
21 conditions; extreme weather; flooding; resilience  
22 to climate change; and watershed and fire resil-  
23 ience, including minimizing risks to watershed  
24 health, water supply and quality, and water-re-

1           lated infrastructure, including municipal and  
2           agricultural water supply systems;

3           “(B) support aquatic restoration and con-  
4           servation efforts that complement existing or  
5           planned forest restoration or wildfire risk re-  
6           duction efforts; or

7           “(C) provide quantifiable benefits to water  
8           supply or quality and include the use of nature-  
9           based solutions, such as restoring wetland and  
10          riparian ecosystems.

11          “(4) CONDITIONS FOR PROJECTS ON ADJACENT  
12          LAND.—

13                 “(A) IN GENERAL.—No project or activity  
14                 may be carried out under this section on adja-  
15                 cent land unless the owner of the adjacent land  
16                 agrees in writing that the owner is a willing and  
17                 engaged partner in carrying out that project or  
18                 activity.

19                 “(B) EFFECT.—Nothing in this section  
20                 shall be construed to authorize any change in—

21                         “(i) the ownership of adjacent land on  
22                         which a project or activity is carried out  
23                         under this section; or

24                         “(ii) the management of adjacent land  
25                         on which a project or activity is carried out

1 under this section, except during the car-  
2 rying out of that project or activity.”;

3 (3) in subsection (c)—

4 (A) in paragraph (1), by striking “water-  
5 sheds that provide water to the end water  
6 users” and inserting “watersheds, and lands  
7 adjacent to any such watershed, that provide  
8 water—

9 “(A) to the end water users subject to the  
10 agreement; or

11 “(B) for the benefit of another end water  
12 user.”;

13 (B) in paragraph (2)—

14 (i) in subparagraph (C), by striking  
15 “or” at the end;

16 (ii) by redesignating subparagraph  
17 (D) as subparagraph (E); and

18 (iii) by inserting after subparagraph  
19 (C) the following:

20 “(D) a good neighbor agreement entered  
21 into under section 8206 of the Agricultural Act  
22 of 2014 (16 U.S.C. 2113a); or”; and

23 (C) by adding at the end the following:

24 “(3) COOPERATION WITH NON-FEDERAL PART-  
25 NERS.—The Secretary shall cooperate with non-Fed-

1 eral partners in carrying out assessments, planning,  
2 project design, and project implementation under  
3 this section.”;

4 (4) in subsection (d)—

5 (A) by amending paragraph (2) to read as  
6 follows:

7 “(2) REQUIREMENTS.—A water source manage-  
8 ment plan shall be—

9 “(A) designed to protect and restore eco-  
10 logical integrity (as defined in section 219.19 of  
11 title 36, Code of Federal Regulations (as in ef-  
12 fect on the date of enactment of this subpara-  
13 graph));

14 “(B) based on the best available scientific  
15 information; and

16 “(C) conducted in a manner consistent  
17 with the forest plan applicable to the National  
18 Forest System land on which the watershed  
19 protection and restoration project is carried  
20 out.”; and

21 (B) by adding at the end the following:

22 “(4) REDUCING REDUNDANCY.—An existing  
23 watershed plan, such as a watershed protection and  
24 restoration action plan developed under section  
25 304(a)(3), or other applicable watershed planning

1 documents as approved by the Secretary may be  
2 used as the basis for a water source management  
3 plan under this subsection.”;

4 (5) in subsection (e)(1), by striking “primary  
5 purpose of” and all that follows through the period  
6 at the end and inserting “primary purpose of ad-  
7 vancing any of the purposes described in subsection  
8 (b)(2).”;

9 (6) in subsection (g), by amending paragraph  
10 (2) to read as follows:

11 “(2) MATCHING FUNDS REQUIRED.—

12 “(A) IN GENERAL.—Subject to subpara-  
13 graph (B), the Secretary shall require the con-  
14 tribution of funds or in-kind support from non-  
15 Federal partners to be in an amount that is not  
16 less than 50 percent of the amount of Federal  
17 funds.

18 “(B) WAIVER.—The requirement in sub-  
19 paragraph (A) may be waived at the discretion  
20 of the Secretary.”; and

21 (7) in subsection (g)(4)—

22 (A) in subparagraph (B), by striking  
23 “2019 through 2023” and inserting “2027  
24 through 2031”; and

25 (B) by adding at the end the following:

1           “(D) SET-ASIDE FOR PARTNER PARTICIPA-  
2           TION IN PLANNING AND TECHNICAL ASSIST-  
3           ANCE.—Of the amounts made available under  
4           subparagraph (B) to carry out this section for  
5           each fiscal year, the Secretary may not use  
6           more than 10 percent for non-Federal partner  
7           planning and technical assistance efforts in de-  
8           veloping or implementing a water source man-  
9           agement plan under subsection (d).”.

10 **SEC. 8204. WATERSHED CONDITION FRAMEWORK TECH-**  
11 **NICAL CORRECTIONS.**

12           Section 304(a) of the Healthy Forests Restoration  
13 Act of 2003 (16 U.S.C. 6543(a)) is amended in para-  
14 graphs (3) and (5) by striking “protection and”.

15 **SEC. 8205. AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS TO COM-**  
16 **BAT INSECT INFESTATIONS AND RELATED**  
17 **DISEASES.**

18           Section 406 of the Healthy Forests Restoration Act  
19 of 2003 (16 U.S.C. 6556) is amended by striking “Octo-  
20 ber 1, 2023” and inserting “October 1, 2031”.

21 **SEC. 8206. INSECT AND DISEASE INFESTATION.**

22           Section 602(d)(2) of the Healthy Forests Restoration  
23 Act of 2003 (16 U.S.C. 6591a(d)(2)) is amended by strik-  
24 ing “2023” and inserting “2031”.

1 **SEC. 8207. STEWARDSHIP END RESULT CONTRACTING**  
2 **PROJECTS.**

3 Section 604 of the Healthy Forests Restoration Act  
4 of 2003 (16 U.S.C. 6591c) is amended—

5 (1) in subsection (b), by inserting “, including  
6 retaining and expanding existing forest products in-  
7 frastructure necessary to carry out an agreement or  
8 contract under this subsection” before the period at  
9 the end;

10 (2) in subsection (d)(3)(B), by striking “10  
11 years” and inserting “20 years”; and

12 (3) in subsection (h), by adding at the end the  
13 following:

14 “(4) SPECIAL RULE FOR LONG-TERM STEWARD-  
15 SHIP CONTRACTS.—

16 “(A) DEFINITION OF MULTIYEAR CON-  
17 TRACT.—In this paragraph, the term ‘multiyear  
18 contract’ means a contract entered into under  
19 subsection (b) that—

20 “(i) has a term of at least 5 years;

21 and

22 “(ii) is entered into on or after the  
23 date of enactment of this paragraph.

24 “(B) SPECIAL RULE.—A multiyear con-  
25 tract entered into under subsection (b) by the  
26 Chief or the Director with an entity shall pro-

1           vide that, in the case of cancellation or termi-  
2           nation of the multiyear contract by the Chief or  
3           the Director, the Chief or the Director, as ap-  
4           plicable, shall provide to the entity a cancella-  
5           tion or termination payment equal to the lesser  
6           of—

7                       “(i) an amount equal to 10 percent of  
8                       the multiyear contract; or

9                       “(ii) the amount of unrecovered costs  
10                      that would have been recouped through  
11                      amortization over the full term of the con-  
12                      tract (including the term canceled).”.

## 13                      **Subtitle C—Other Forestry** 14                      **Programs**

### 15           **SEC. 8301. NATIONAL AND REGIONAL AGROFORESTRY CEN-** 16                      **TERS.**

17           Section 1243 of the Food, Agriculture, Conservation,  
18           and Trade Act of 1990 (16 U.S.C. 1642 note; Public Law  
19           101–624) is amended—

20                      (1) by striking the section heading and insert-  
21                      ing “**NATIONAL AND REGIONAL AGRO-**  
22                      **FORESTRY CENTERS**”;

23                      (2) by redesignating subsections (a), (b), (c),  
24                      and (d) as subsections (b), (d), (e), and (h), respec-  
25                      tively;

1           (3) by inserting before subsection (b) (as so re-  
2           designated) the following:

3           “(a) DEFINITION OF AGROFORESTRY.—In this sec-  
4           tion, the term ‘agroforestry’ means a management system  
5           that intentionally integrates trees and shrubs into crop  
6           and animal farming systems to build more profitable and  
7           weather-resilient farms, ranches, and communities, ad-  
8           dress natural resource concerns and conservation needs,  
9           and establish productive and sustainable land use prac-  
10          tices, including—

11                   “(1) riparian forest buffers;

12                   “(2) alley cropping;

13                   “(3) silvopasture;

14                   “(4) forest farming and multistory cropping;

15          and

16                   “(5) windbreaks, shelterbelts, hedgerows, and,  
17           where applicable, field borders, and living snow  
18           fences.”;

19          (4) in subsection (b) (as so redesignated)—

20                   (A) in the subsection heading, by striking  
21           “SEMIARID” and inserting “NATIONAL”;

22                   (B) by inserting “(referred to in this sec-  
23           tion as the ‘Secretary’)” after “Secretary of Ag-  
24           riculture”;

1 (C) by striking “Semiarid Agroforestry Re-  
2 search, Development, and Demonstration Cen-  
3 ter (hereafter referred to in this section as the  
4 ‘Center’)” and inserting “National Agroforestry  
5 Research, Development, and Demonstration  
6 Center”; and

7 (D) by striking “at the Center under sub-  
8 section (b)” and inserting “under subsection  
9 (d)”;

10 (5) by inserting after subsection (b) (as so re-  
11 designated) the following:

12 “(c) REGIONAL AGROFORESTRY CENTERS.—

13 “(1) ESTABLISHMENT.—The Secretary, acting  
14 through the Chief of the Forest Service and in co-  
15 operation with the Natural Resources Conservation  
16 Service, shall, subject to the availability of appro-  
17 priations, establish 1 or more regional agroforestry  
18 centers to advance agroforestry research, outreach,  
19 technical assistance, and adoption.

20 “(2) DIRECTOR.—The Secretary, acting  
21 through the Chief of the Forest Service and in co-  
22 operation with the Natural Resources Conservation  
23 Service, shall appoint a Director to manage and co-  
24 ordinate the 1 or more regional agroforestry centers  
25 established under paragraph (1).

1           “(3) LOCATION.—In selecting the locations for  
2           the 1 or more regional agroforestry centers under  
3           paragraph (1), the Secretary shall prioritize loca-  
4           tions at which the Department of Agriculture has,  
5           on the date of enactment of the Farm, Food, and  
6           National Security Act of 2026, at least 1 employee  
7           providing coordination among a diverse group of re-  
8           search institutions and other partners.

9           “(4) ADMINISTRATION.—Regional agroforestry  
10          centers established under paragraph (1) shall be ad-  
11          ministered by the National Agroforestry Center.”;

12          (6) in subsection (d) (as so redesignated)—

13                 (A) in the matter preceding paragraph

14                 (1)—

15                         (i) by striking “the Center” and in-  
16                         serting “each of the centers established  
17                         under subsections (b) and (c) (referred to  
18                         in this section as the ‘Centers’)”;

19                         (ii) by inserting “and organizations”  
20                         after “nonprofit foundations”; and

21                         (iii) by inserting “demonstration  
22                         projects,” after “studies,”;

23                 (B) in paragraph (1)—

1 (i) by striking “on semiarid lands  
2 that” and inserting “that build soil health  
3 and”; and

4 (ii) by inserting “, including agro-  
5 forestry systems on semiarid land and  
6 other fragile agroecosystems where perma-  
7 nent woody perennial plant communities  
8 can enhance carbon sequestration and re-  
9 duce greenhouse gas emissions” before the  
10 semicolon;

11 (C) in paragraph (3), by striking “forestry  
12 products for commercial sale from semiarid  
13 land” and inserting “agroforestry products for  
14 commercial sale”;

15 (D) in paragraph (4)—

16 (i) by striking “in semiarid regions”;  
17 and

18 (ii) by striking “the Great Plains re-  
19 gion” and inserting “particular regions”;

20 (E) in paragraph (5), by inserting “tech-  
21 nical assistance, demonstration projects, and”  
22 before “technology”;

23 (F) by redesignating paragraphs (7)  
24 through (11) as paragraphs (8) through (12),  
25 respectively;

1 (G) by striking paragraph (6) and insert-  
2 ing the following:

3 “(6) develop improved silvopasture, alley crop-  
4 ping, forest farming, multistory cropping, riparian  
5 buffer, windbreak and shelterbelt, and other peren-  
6 nial production and conservation systems and tech-  
7 nologies to improve soil health, carbon sequestration,  
8 drought preparedness, soil and water conservation,  
9 environmental quality, and biological diversity;

10 “(7) address barriers to the adoption of agro-  
11 forestry practices, including—

12 “(A) insufficient access to plant material;

13 “(B) insufficient infrastructure to contain  
14 equipment and plant material;

15 “(C) insufficient machinery to implement  
16 agroforestry practices;

17 “(D) insufficient technical service assist-  
18 ance; and

19 “(E) insufficient research related to agro-  
20 forestry systems, including silvopasture and  
21 alley cropping;”;

22 (H) in paragraph (8) (as so redesignated),  
23 by striking “on semiarid lands”;

24 (I) in paragraph (9) (as so redesignated),  
25 by striking “on semiarid lands worldwide” and

1 inserting “worldwide, including on semiarid  
2 land”; and

3 (J) in paragraph (10) (as so redesign-  
4 nated)—

5 (i) by striking “on semiarid lands”;  
6 and

7 (ii) by inserting “and extreme weath-  
8 er” after “pollution”;

9 (7) in subsection (e) (as so redesignated)—

10 (A) in the matter preceding paragraph (1)  
11 by striking “the Center” and inserting “each of  
12 the Centers”;

13 (B) in paragraph (1), by striking “and” at  
14 the end;

15 (C) in paragraph (2)—

16 (i) by striking “forestry” and insert-  
17 ing “forestry, agroforestry,”; and

18 (ii) by striking the period at the end  
19 and inserting “; and”; and

20 (D) by adding at the end the following:

21 “(3) facilitate agroforestry adoption by dissemi-  
22 nating comprehensive information on Federal, State,  
23 local, and Tribal programs that provide support for  
24 agroforestry.”;

1 (8) by inserting after subsection (e) (as so re-  
2 designated) the following:

3 “(f) REGIONAL SUPPORT.—The Secretary shall pro-  
4 vide targeted regional support for agroforestry projects,  
5 including demonstration sites.

6 “(g) SURVEY.—Not later than 5 years after the date  
7 of the enactment of the Farm, Food, and National Secu-  
8 rity Act of 2026 and every 5 years thereafter, the Sec-  
9 retary shall conduct a National Agroforestry Producers  
10 Survey.”; and

11 (9) in subsection (h) (as so redesignated)—

12 (A) by striking “There are” and inserting  
13 “In addition to amounts otherwise available,  
14 there is”; and

15 (B) by striking “\$5,000,000 for each of  
16 fiscal years 2019 through 2023” and inserting  
17 “\$7,000,000 for each of fiscal years 2027  
18 through 2031”.

19 **SEC. 8302. NATIONAL FOREST FOUNDATION ACT.**

20 (a) MATCHING FUNDS.—Section 405(b) of the Na-  
21 tional Forest Foundation Act (16 U.S.C. 583j–3(b)) is  
22 amended by striking “2023” and inserting “2031”.

23 (b) WHITE OAK RESTORATION FUND.—Section 409  
24 of the National Forest Foundation Act (16 U.S.C. 583j–  
25 7) is amended—

1           (1) by striking “The activities” and inserting  
2 the following:

3           “(a) IN GENERAL.—The activities”; and

4           (2) by adding at the end the following:

5           “(b) WHITE OAK RESTORATION FUND.—

6           “(1) IN GENERAL.—Funds described in para-  
7 graph (2) shall be made available for activities—

8                   “(A) on national forests that are approved  
9 by the Secretary, acting through the Chief of  
10 the Forest Service; and

11                   “(B) to—

12                           “(i) re-establish white oak forests  
13 where appropriate;

14                           “(ii) improve management of existing  
15 white oak forests to foster natural regen-  
16 eration of white oak;

17                           “(iii) improve and expand white oak  
18 nursery stock; and

19                           “(iv) adapt and improve white oak  
20 seedlings.

21           “(2) FUND.—The National Forest Foundation  
22 may accept gifts, devises, or bequests for the pur-  
23 poses of carrying out the activities specified in para-  
24 graph (1).

1           “(3) SUMMARY.—Beginning 1 year after the  
2           date of the enactment of this section, the National  
3           Forest Foundation shall include in the budget jus-  
4           tification materials submitted to Congress in support  
5           of the budget of each such Foundation for each fis-  
6           cal year (as submitted with the budget of the Presi-  
7           dent under section 1105(a) of title 31, United States  
8           Code) a summary of the activities carried out under  
9           paragraph (1) and the funds accepted under para-  
10          graph (2) that includes—

11                   “(A) the amount—

12                           “(i) accepted under paragraph (2) in  
13                           the preceding fiscal year; and

14                           “(ii) described in clause (i) that is un-  
15                           obligated on the date of the report; and

16                   “(B) a description of the activities under  
17           paragraph (1) funded during the preceding fis-  
18          cal year.”.

19          (c) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—Section  
20   410(b) of the National Forest Foundation Act (16 U.S.C.  
21   583j-8(b)) is amended by striking “2023” and inserting  
22   “2031”.

1 **SEC. 8303. CONVEYANCES AND LEASES OF FOREST SERV-**  
2 **ICE ADMINISTRATIVE SITES.**

3 (a) CONVEYANCE OF FOREST SERVICE ADMINISTRA-  
4 TIVE SITES.—Section 503(f) of the Forest Service Facility  
5 Realignment and Enhancement Act of 2005 (16 U.S.C.  
6 580d note; Public Law 109–54) is amended by striking  
7 “September 30, 2019” and inserting “September 30,  
8 2031”.

9 (b) AUTHORIZATION FOR LEASE OF FOREST SERV-  
10 ICE SITES.—Section 8623(i) of the Agriculture Improve-  
11 ment Act of 2018 (16 U.S.C. 580d note; Public Law 115–  
12 334) is amended by striking “2023” each place it appears  
13 and inserting “2031”.

14 **SEC. 8304. FOREST INVENTORY AND ANALYSIS.**

15 (a) IN GENERAL.—Section 3(e) of the Forest and  
16 Rangeland Renewable Resources Research Act of 1978  
17 (16 U.S.C. 1642(e)) is amended—

18 (1) in paragraph (1)—

19 (A) by striking “their resources” and in-  
20 serting “the resources of those forests, includ-  
21 ing forest carbon,”;

22 (B) by striking “In compliance” and in-  
23 serting the following:

24 “(A) IN GENERAL.—In compliance”; and

25 (C) by adding at the end the following:

1           “(B) ADDITIONAL METHODS.—Under the  
2           program under this subsection, the Secretary  
3           shall carry out, as a data collection method—

4                   “(i) a national timber products output  
5                   survey; and

6                   “(ii) a national woodland owner sur-  
7                   vey.”;

8           (2) in paragraph (3)(C), by inserting “including  
9           with respect to available forest carbon data,” after  
10          “2 decades,”;

11          (3) in paragraph (4)—

12                  (A) in the second sentence, by striking  
13                  “The standards” and inserting the following:

14                          “(B) INCLUSIONS.—The standards de-  
15                          scribed in subparagraph (A)”;

16                  (B) by striking “(4) NATIONAL STAND-  
17                  ARDS AND DEFINITIONS.—To ensure” and in-  
18                  serting the following:

19                          “(4) NATIONAL CONSISTENCY.—

20                                  “(A) STANDARDS AND DEFINITIONS.—To  
21                                  ensure”; and

22                  (C) by adding at the end the following:

23                          “(C) TERMINOLOGY.—The Secretary shall  
24                          include a clear description of the definition of  
25                          ‘forest’ used for purposes of reporting data

1 from inventories and analyses of forests and the  
2 resources of forests under this subsection  
3 with—

4 “(i) any data or report provided under  
5 the program under this subsection;

6 “(ii) Renewable Resource Assessments  
7 prepared under section 3(a) of the Forest  
8 and Rangeland Renewable Resources Plan-  
9 ning Act of 1974 (16 U.S.C. 1601(a)); and

10 “(iii) any data or report provided to  
11 an entity outside the United States.”;

12 (4) in paragraph (6)—

13 (A) in the matter preceding subparagraph  
14 (A), by striking “Not later than 180 days after  
15 the date of enactment of this subsection,” and  
16 inserting “In accordance with paragraph (7),”;  
17 and

18 (B) by striking subparagraphs (D) and (E)  
19 and inserting the following:

20 “(D) the organization and procedures nec-  
21 essary to understand and report on changes in  
22 land cover and use;

23 “(E) the organization and procedures nec-  
24 essary to sample and evaluate carbon-related  
25 data variables, including soil carbon, collected

1 from forest inventory and analysis plots, timber  
2 products output surveys, and national woodland  
3 owner surveys to ensure that carbon accounting  
4 information needs can be met; and”;  
5 (5) by adding at the end the following:

6 “(7) UPDATES TO STRATEGIC PLAN.—

7 “(A) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 180  
8 days after the date of enactment of this para-  
9 graph, the Secretary shall prepare an update to  
10 the strategic plan under paragraph (6) to in-  
11 clude—

12 “(i) a plan to implement nationally  
13 consistent data collection protocols and  
14 procedures to improve the statistical preci-  
15 sion of base program estimates;

16 “(ii) pathways to integrate and report  
17 on status and trends in forest carbon  
18 pools, including below-ground carbon;

19 “(iii) plans, including the identifica-  
20 tion of challenges, to collaborate with other  
21 Federal agencies, non-Federal partners,  
22 and the private sector to integrate existing  
23 nationally available data sets and best  
24 available commercial technologies, such as

1 remote sensing, spatial analysis techniques,  
2 and other new technologies;

3 “(iv) a plan to increase transparency  
4 and clarity in reporting in accordance with  
5 paragraph (4)(C);

6 “(v) a plan to expand current data  
7 collection, further integrate remote sensing  
8 technology, or both, to include procedures  
9 to improve the statistical precision of esti-  
10 mates at the sub-State level;

11 “(vi) a plan to expand current data  
12 collection, further integrate remote sensing  
13 technology, or both, to include information  
14 on renewable biomass supplies and carbon  
15 stocks at the local, State, regional, and na-  
16 tional levels, including by ownership type;  
17 and

18 “(vii) such other matters as the Sec-  
19 retary determines to be appropriate based  
20 on recommendations of the Forest Inven-  
21 tory and Analysis National User Group.

22 “(B) SUBMISSION.—Not later than 180  
23 days after the date of enactment of this para-  
24 graph, the Secretary shall submit to the Com-  
25 mittee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry

1 of the Senate and the Committee on Agri-  
2 culture of the House of Representatives the up-  
3 date to the strategic plan prepared under sub-  
4 paragraph (A).

5 “(C) FURTHER UPDATES.—Not later than  
6 5 years after the date on which the update is  
7 submitted under subparagraph (B), and every 5  
8 years thereafter, the Secretary shall—

9 “(i) prepare an additional update to  
10 the strategic plan; and

11 “(ii) submit the additional update to  
12 the committees described in subparagraph  
13 (B).

14 “(8) ACCESSIBILITY.—The Secretary shall en-  
15 sure that data collected under this subsection is—

16 “(A) easily accessible to all public- and pri-  
17 vate-sector entities; and

18 “(B) collected and made accessible using  
19 means that ensure the confidentiality, in ac-  
20 cordance with section 1770 of the Food Secu-  
21 rity Act of 1985 (7 U.S.C. 2276), of—

22 “(i) plot locations;

23 “(ii) nonaggregated data of woodland  
24 owners; and

1 “(iii) nonaggregated data from timber  
2 product output survey.

3 “(9) BIENNIAL COMPILATIONS.—Biennially, the  
4 Secretary shall prepare and make publicly available  
5 a compilation of national forest inventory and anal-  
6 ysis forest statistics, which shall be similar to the ta-  
7 bles contained in the Renewable Resource Assess-  
8 ments prepared under section 3(a) of the Forest and  
9 Rangeland Renewable Resources Planning Act of  
10 1974 (16 U.S.C. 1601(a)), accompanied by relevant  
11 geospatial products.

12 “(10) EXTERNAL COMPLEX DATA REQUESTS.—

13 “(A) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall  
14 establish an office, a data platform, or team to  
15 process and respond to complex data requests  
16 submitted by external organizations relating to  
17 the program under this subsection.

18 “(B) FEES.—

19 “(i) IN GENERAL.—To cover the costs  
20 of processing of and responding to complex  
21 data requests described in subparagraph  
22 (A), the Secretary may impose fees on ex-  
23 ternal organizations submitting the re-  
24 quests.

1                   “(ii) FEES COLLECTED.—Fees col-  
2                   lected under clause (i) may only be used  
3                   for the purposes described in such clause.

4                   “(11) REPORTS.—Each year, the Secretary  
5                   shall publish as part of the forest inventory and  
6                   analysis business report a detailed description of the  
7                   progress of the Secretary in implementing the pro-  
8                   grammatic elements of the strategic plan described  
9                   in paragraph (6), including—

10                   “(A) the costs and priorities of the stra-  
11                   tegic plan; and

12                   “(B) how the program under this sub-  
13                   section leverages new technology, improves and  
14                   standardizes collection protocols, and increases  
15                   workforce capacity.”.

16                   (b) REMOTE SENSING TECHNOLOGIES.—Section  
17 8632(1) of the Agriculture Improvement Act of 2018 (16  
18 U.S.C. 1642 note; Public Law 115–334) is amended by  
19 striking “technologies” and inserting “technologies, such  
20 as microwave, LiDAR, hyperspectral, and high-resolution  
21 remote sensing data, and advanced computing tech-  
22 nologies for improved modeling to provide tabular statis-  
23 tical estimates and geospatial products,”.

1 **SEC. 8305. REFORESTATION, NURSERY, AND SEED OR-**  
2 **CHARD SUPPORT.**

3 (a) PARTNERSHIPS, COLLABORATION, AND OTHER  
4 ASSISTANCE IN SUPPORT OF NURSERIES AND SEED OR-  
5 CHARDS.—The Secretary, acting through the Chief of the  
6 Forest Service, shall—

7 (1) partner with Federal and State agencies,  
8 Indian Tribes, private nurseries, and other relevant  
9 entities to provide training, technical assistance, and  
10 research to nursery and tree establishment programs  
11 that support natural regeneration, reforestation,  
12 agroforestry, and afforestation;

13 (2) promote information sharing to improve the  
14 technical knowledge, practices, and understanding of  
15 the demands, climate change impacts, and other  
16 issues necessary to address all facets of the reforest-  
17 ation pipeline;

18 (3) provide technical and financial assistance to  
19 international nursery and tree establishment pro-  
20 grams through—

21 (A) international programs conducted by  
22 the Forest Service pursuant to the Inter-  
23 national Forestry Cooperation Act of 1990 (16  
24 U.S.C. 4501 et seq.);

25 (B) the Institute of Pacific Islands For-  
26 estry of the Forest Service; and

1 (C) the International Institute of Tropical  
2 Forestry of the Forest Service;

3 (4) collaborate with other relevant Federal de-  
4 partments and agencies, including the Foreign Agri-  
5 cultural Service of the Department, the United  
6 States Fish and Wildlife Service of the Department  
7 of the Interior, and international organizations to  
8 provide technical and financial assistance related to  
9 nurseries and reforestation;

10 (5) coordinate the efforts of the Department  
11 to—

12 (A) address the challenges associated with  
13 the reforestation pipeline; and

14 (B) leverage economic development assist-  
15 ance for work with private nurseries; and

16 (6) expand science-based reforestation supply  
17 chains through research, seed collection and storage,  
18 and nursery infrastructure and operations in coordi-  
19 nation with the Administrator of the Agricultural  
20 Research Service.

21 (b) NURSERY AND SEED ORCHARD FINANCIAL AS-  
22 SISTANCE.—

23 (1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 2 years after  
24 the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary  
25 shall establish a program to provide grants to eligi-

1       ble recipients to support nurseries and seed or-  
2       chards.

3           (2) ELIGIBLE PROJECTS.—The Secretary may  
4       make a grant under this subsection to an eligible re-  
5       cipient for a project to carry out at least one of the  
6       following:

7           (A) Develop, expand, enhance, or improve  
8       nursery production capacity or other infrastruc-  
9       ture to—

10           (i) improve seed collection, processing,  
11       and storage;

12           (ii) increase seedling production, stor-  
13       age, and distribution; or

14           (iii) enhance seedling survival and  
15       properly manage tree genetic resources.

16           (B) Establish, improve, or expand a nurs-  
17       ery or seed orchard, including by acquiring  
18       equipment for such nursery or seed orchard.

19           (C) Develop or implement quality control  
20       measures at nurseries or seed orchards.

21           (D) Promote workforce development within  
22       any facet of the reforestation pipeline.

23           (E) Carry out such other activity as the  
24       Secretary determines appropriate.

25       (c) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

1           (1) ELIGIBLE RECIPIENT.—The term “eligible  
2 recipient” means—

3           (A) a State forestry agency;

4           (B) an Indian Tribe;

5           (C) a private nursery that has experience  
6 growing high-quality native trees of appropriate  
7 genetic sources in bareroot or container stock  
8 types specific for reforestation, restoration, or  
9 conservation, including native plants and seeds  
10 that are of cultural significance to Indian  
11 Tribes;

12           (D) an institution of higher education (as  
13 defined in section 101 of the Higher Education  
14 Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 1001)); and

15           (E) a county or local government with a  
16 nursery or seed orchard.

17           (2) NURSERY.—The term “nursery” means a  
18 tree or native plant nursery.

19           (3) SEED ORCHARD.—The term “seed orchard”  
20 means a tree or native plant seed orchard.

21           (4) STATE.—The term “State” means each of  
22 the several States, the District of Columbia, the  
23 Commonwealth of Puerto Rico, and any territory or  
24 possession of the United States.

1 (d) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There is  
2 authorized to be appropriated to carry out this section  
3 \$5,000,000 for each of fiscal years 2027 through 2031.

## 4 **Subtitle D—Forest Management**

### 5 **PART I—NATIONAL FOREST SYSTEM**

#### 6 **MANAGEMENT**

#### 7 **SEC. 8401. CATEGORICAL EXCLUSION FOR HIGH PRIORITY**

#### 8 **HAZARD TREES.**

9 (a) CATEGORICAL EXCLUSION.—

10 (1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 1 year after  
11 the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary  
12 shall develop a categorical exclusion (as defined in  
13 section 111 of the National Environmental Policy  
14 Act of 1969 (42 U.S.C. 4336e)) for high-priority  
15 hazard tree activities.

16 (2) ADMINISTRATION.—In developing and ad-  
17 ministering the categorical exclusion under para-  
18 graph (1), the Secretary shall—

19 (A) comply with the National Environ-  
20 mental Policy Act of 1969 (42 U.S.C. 4321 et  
21 seq.); and

22 (B) apply the extraordinary circumstances  
23 procedures under section 220.6 of title 36, Code  
24 of Federal Regulations (or successor regula-

1           tions), in determining whether to use the cat-  
2           egorical exclusion.

3           (3) PROJECT SIZE LIMITATION.—A project car-  
4           ried out using the categorical exclusion developed  
5           under paragraph (1) may not exceed 6,000 acres.

6           (b) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

7           (1) HIGH-PRIORITY HAZARD TREE.—The term  
8           “high-priority hazard tree” means a standing tree  
9           that—

10                   (A) presents a visible hazard to people or  
11                   property due to conditions such as deterioration  
12                   of, or damage to, the root system, trunk, stem,  
13                   or limbs of the tree, or the direction or lean of  
14                   the tree, as determined by the Secretary;

15                   (B) is determined by the Secretary to be  
16                   highly likely to fail and, on failure, would be  
17                   highly likely to cause injury to people or dam-  
18                   age to Federal property; and

19                   (C) is located—

20                           (i) within 300 feet of a National For-  
21                           est System road with a maintenance level  
22                           of 3, 4, or 5;

23                           (ii) along a National Forest System  
24                           trail; or

25                           (iii) in a developed recreation site—

1 (I) that is operated and main-  
2 tained by the Secretary; and

3 (II) on National Forest System  
4 land.

5 (2) HIGH-PRIORITY HAZARD TREE ACTIVITY.—

6 (A) IN GENERAL.—The term “high-pri-  
7 ority hazard tree activity” means a forest man-  
8 agement activity that mitigates the risks associ-  
9 ated with high-priority hazard trees, including  
10 pruning, felling, and disposal of a high-priority  
11 hazard tree.

12 (B) EXCLUSIONS.—The term “high-pri-  
13 ority hazard tree activity” does not include any  
14 activity—

15 (i) conducted in a wilderness area or  
16 wilderness study area;

17 (ii) for the construction of a perma-  
18 nent road or permanent trail;

19 (iii) conducted on Federal land on  
20 which, by Act of Congress or Presidential  
21 proclamation, the removal of vegetation is  
22 restricted or prohibited;

23 (iv) conducted in an area in which ac-  
24 tivities described in subparagraph (A)

1                   would be inconsistent with the applicable  
2                   land and resource management plan; or  
3                   (v) conducted in an inventoried  
4                   roadless area.

5 **SEC. 8402. COLLABORATIVE RESTORATION PROJECTS.**

6           Section 603(c)(1) of the Healthy Forests Restoration  
7 Act of 2003 (16 U.S.C. 6591b(c)(1)) is amended by strik-  
8 ing “3000 acres” and inserting “10,000 acres”.

9 **SEC. 8403. WILDFIRE RESILIENCE PROJECT SIZE.**

10          Section 605(c)(1) of the Healthy Forests Restoration  
11 Act of 2003 (16 U.S.C. 6591d(c)(1)) is amended by strik-  
12 ing “3000 acres” and inserting “10,000 acres”.

13 **SEC. 8404. FUEL BREAKS IN FORESTS AND OTHER**  
14 **WILDLAND VEGETATION.**

15          Section 40806(d)(1) of the Infrastructure Investment  
16 and Jobs Act (16 U.S.C. 6592b(d)(1)) is amended by  
17 striking “3,000 acres” and inserting “10,000 acres”.

18 **SEC. 8405. GREATER SAGE-GROUSE AND MULE DEER HABI-**  
19 **TAT.**

20          Section 606 of the Healthy Forests Restoration Act  
21 of 2003 (16 U.S.C. 6591e) is amended—

22                   (1) in subsection (a)(1)(A)—

23                   (A) by striking clause (ii);

1 (B) by redesignating clauses (iii) through  
2 (vii) as clauses (ii) through (vi), respectively;  
3 and

4 (C) in clause (iii), as so redesignated, by  
5 striking “in a sagebrush steppe ecosystem”;

6 (2) in subsection (c), by striking “concurrently  
7 for both greater sage-grouse and” and inserting “for  
8 greater sage-grouse or”; and

9 (3) by amending subsection (g) to read as fol-  
10 lows:

11 “(g) LIMITATION.—A covered vegetation manage-  
12 ment activity that is covered by the categorical exclusion  
13 under subsection (b) may not exceed 4,500 acres in a for-  
14 ested ecosystem or 7,500 acres in a rangeland eco-  
15 system.”.

16 **SEC. 8406. CATEGORICAL EXCLUSION FOR ELECTRIC UTIL-**  
17 **ITY LINES RIGHTS-OF-WAY.**

18 (a) CATEGORICAL EXCLUSION ESTABLISHED.—For-  
19 est management activities described in subsection (b) are  
20 a category of activities designated as being categorically  
21 excluded from the preparation of an environmental assess-  
22 ment or an environmental impact statement under section  
23 102 of the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (42  
24 U.S.C. 4332).

1 (b) FOREST MANAGEMENT ACTIVITIES DESIGNATED  
2 FOR CATEGORICAL EXCLUSION.—The forest management  
3 activities designated as being categorically excluded under  
4 subsection (a) are—

5 (1) the development and approval of a vegeta-  
6 tion management, facility inspection, and operation  
7 and maintenance plan submitted under section  
8 512(c)(1) of the Federal Land Policy and Manage-  
9 ment Act of 1976 (43 U.S.C. 1772(c)(1)) to the  
10 Secretary; and

11 (2) the implementation of routine activities con-  
12 ducted under the plan referred to in paragraph (1).

13 (c) AVAILABILITY OF CATEGORICAL EXCLUSION.—  
14 On and after the date of the enactment of this Act, the  
15 Secretary may use the categorical exclusion established  
16 under subsection (a) in accordance with this section.

17 (d) EXCLUSION OF CERTAIN AREAS.—The categor-  
18 ical exclusion established under subsection (a) shall not  
19 apply to any forest management activity conducted—

20 (1) in a component of the National Wilderness  
21 Preservation System; or

22 (2) on National Forest System lands on which,  
23 by Act of Congress, the removal of vegetation is re-  
24 stricted or prohibited.

25 (e) PERMANENT ROADS.—



1 nate with impacted parties to increase efficiency and maxi-  
2 mize the compatibility of management practices across  
3 National Forest System lands.

4 (c) OBJECTIVES.—

5 (1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall conduct  
6 forest management activities on National Forest  
7 System land in a manner that attains multiple eco-  
8 system benefits, including.—

9 (A) reducing forest fuels;

10 (B) maintaining the diversity of plant and  
11 animal communities;

12 (C) improving soil, streams, lakes, wet-  
13 lands, and water quality, including in riparian  
14 areas; and

15 (D) increasing resilience to changing water  
16 temperature and precipitation regimes.

17 (d) GROUND DISTURBANCE.—Consistent with appli-  
18 cable Federal law and any applicable forest plan, the Sec-  
19 retary shall—

20 (1) establish criteria for ground conditions fol-  
21 lowing a forest management activity carried out  
22 under a forest plan that results in ground disturb-  
23 ances; and

1           (2) monitor such ground conditions to deter-  
2           mine whether desired outcomes or conditions are  
3           achieved.

4           (e) AVAILABILITY OF CATEGORICAL EXCLUSION FOR  
5           CERTAIN FOREST MANAGEMENT ACTIVITIES.—A forest  
6           management activity conducted on National Forest Sys-  
7           tem land for the purpose of reducing forest fuels is cat-  
8           egorically excluded from the requirements of the National  
9           Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (42 U.S.C. 4321 et  
10          seq.) if the forest management activity—

11           (1) does not exceed 10,000 acres, including not  
12          more than 3,000 acres of mechanical thinning;

13           (2) is developed—

14           (A) in coordination with impacted parties,  
15           specifically including representatives of local  
16           governments, such as county supervisors or  
17           county commissioners; and

18           (B) in consultation with other entities, as  
19           determined by the Secretary/any other entity  
20           determined relevant by the Secretary; and

21           (3) is consistent with any applicable forest plan.

22          (f) COOPERATIVE AUTHORITIES.—The Secretary  
23          may enter into contracts and cooperative agreements with  
24          an impacted party to provide for fuel reduction, soil res-  
25          toration, erosion control, reforestation, riparian restora-

1 tion, revegetation, and similar management activities on  
2 Federal land and non-Federal land.

3 (g) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

4 (1) FOREST MANAGEMENT ACTIVITY.—The  
5 term “forest management activity” means a project  
6 or activity that is carried out by the Secretary on  
7 National Forest System land and is consistent with  
8 any applicable forest plan.

9 (2) FOREST PLAN.—The term “forest plan”  
10 means a land and resource management plan under  
11 section 6 of the Forest and Rangeland Renewable  
12 Resources Planning Act of 1974 (16 U.S.C. 1406).

13 (3) IMPACTED PARTIES.—The term “impacted  
14 parties” includes—

15 (A) State, local, and Tribal governments;

16 (B) local fire departments;

17 (C) other relevant volunteer groups.

18 (4) NATIONAL FOREST SYSTEM.—The term  
19 “National Forest System” has the meaning given  
20 that term in section 11(a) of the Forest and Range-  
21 land Renewable Resources Planning Act of 1974 (16  
22 U.S.C. 1609(a)).

1 **SEC. 8408. SUPPRESSION OF WILDFIRES.**

2 (a) IN GENERAL.—With respect to National Forest  
3 System lands described in subsection (b), the Secretary,  
4 acting through the Chief of the Forest Service—

5 (1) shall—

6 (A) use available resources to carry out  
7 wildfire suppression with the purpose of con-  
8 taining wildfires detected on such lands not  
9 later than 24 hours after such a wildfire is de-  
10 tected; and

11 (B) carry out wildfire suppression under  
12 subparagraph (A) in a manner that is con-  
13 sistent with interagency agreements and appli-  
14 cable standards of firefighter safety;

15 (2) shall not inhibit the suppression efforts of  
16 State or local firefighting agencies that are author-  
17 ized to respond to wildfire on such lands;

18 (3) may only use fire as a resource manage-  
19 ment tool if the fire is a prescribed fire that com-  
20 plies with applicable law and regulations;

21 (4) may only initiate a backfire or burnout dur-  
22 ing a wildfire—

23 (A) by order of the responsible incident  
24 commander, in consultation with the appro-  
25 priate Forest Service line officer; or

1 (B) in instances that are necessary to pro-  
2 tect the health and safety of firefighting per-  
3 sonnel;

4 (5) shall use available resources to control any  
5 such initiated backfire or burnout until contained;

6 (6) shall use available resources, including in-  
7 frared technologies, to ensure prescribed fires are  
8 contained; and

9 (7) shall update the prescribed fire policies of  
10 the Forest Service to reflect the findings and rec-  
11 ommendations included in the report entitled “Na-  
12 tional Prescribed Fire Program Review” published  
13 in September 2022 by the Forest Service.

14 (b) LIMITATIONS ON SCOPE.—For purposes of sub-  
15 section (a), the National Forest System lands described  
16 in this subsection are National Forest System lands  
17 that—

18 (1) the National Interagency Fire Center has  
19 established as a National Wildland Fire Prepared-  
20 ness Level of 5;

21 (2) contain areas that the U.S. Drought Mon-  
22 itor has rated as having a D2 (severe drought) in-  
23 tensity, D3 (extreme drought) intensity, or D4 (ex-  
24 ceptional drought) intensity; or

1           (3) the Secretary, acting through the Chief of  
2           the Forest Service, has identified as being located in  
3           a firehed ranked in the top 10 percent of wildfire  
4           exposure, as determined using the most recent pub-  
5           lished models of firehed risk exposure published by  
6           the Forest Service.

7           (c) NATIONAL FOREST SYSTEM DEFINED.—In this  
8           section, the term “National Forest System” has the mean-  
9           ing given such term in section 11(a) of the Forest and  
10          Rangeland Renewable Resources Planning Act of 1974  
11          (16 U.S.C. 1609(a)).

## 12          **PART II—FOREST MANAGEMENT ACTIVITIES**

### 13          **SEC. 8411. NO ADDITIONAL CONSULTATION REQUIRED.**

14          (a) FOREST SERVICE PLANS.—Section 6(d)(2) of the  
15          Forest and Rangeland Renewable Resources Planning Act  
16          of 1974 (16 U.S.C. 1604(d)(2)) is amended to read as  
17          follows:

18                 “(2) NO ADDITIONAL CONSULTATION RE-  
19                 QUIRED UNDER CERTAIN CIRCUMSTANCES.—Not-  
20                 withstanding any other provision of law, the Sec-  
21                 retary shall not be required to reinitiate consultation  
22                 under section 7(a)(2) of the Endangered Species Act  
23                 of 1973 (16 U.S.C. 1536(a)(2)) or section 402.16 of  
24                 title 50, Code of Federal Regulations (or a successor

1 regulation), on a land management plan approved,  
2 amended, or revised under this section when—

3 “(A) a new species is listed or critical habi-  
4 tat is designated under the Endangered Species  
5 Act of 1973 (16 U.S.C. 1531 et seq.); or

6 “(B) new information reveals effects of the  
7 land management plan that may affect a spe-  
8 cies listed or critical habitat designated under  
9 that Act in a manner or to an extent not pre-  
10 viously considered.”.

11 (b) BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT PLANS.—Sec-  
12 tion 202 of the Federal Land Policy and Management Act  
13 of 1976 (43 U.S.C. 1712) is amended by adding at the  
14 end the following:

15 “(g) NO ADDITIONAL CONSULTATION REQUIRED  
16 UNDER CERTAIN CIRCUMSTANCES.—Notwithstanding  
17 any other provision of law, the Secretary shall not be re-  
18 quired to reinitiate consultation under section 7(a)(2) of  
19 the Endangered Species Act of 1973 (16 U.S.C.  
20 1536(a)(2)) or section 402.16 of title 50, Code of Federal  
21 Regulations (or a successor regulation), on a land use plan  
22 approved, amended, or revised under this section when—

23 “(1) a new species is listed or critical habitat  
24 is designated under the Endangered Species Act of  
25 1973 (16 U.S.C. 1531 et seq.); or

1           “(2) new information reveals effects of the land  
2           use plan that may affect a species listed or critical  
3           habitat designated under that Act in a manner or to  
4           an extent not previously considered.”.

5 **SEC. 8412. GOOD NEIGHBOR AUTHORITY.**

6           (a) GOOD NEIGHBOR AUTHORITY.—Section 8206 of  
7 the Agricultural Act of 2014 (16 U.S.C. 2113a) is amend-  
8 ed—

9           (1) in subsection (a)(6), by striking “or Indian  
10          tribe”;

11          (2) in subsection (a), by adding at the end the  
12          following:

13           “(11) SPECIAL DISTRICT.—The term ‘special  
14          district’ means a political subdivision of a State  
15          that—

16                   “(A) has significant budgetary autonomy  
17                   or control;

18                   “(B) was created by or pursuant to the  
19                   laws of the State for the purpose of performing  
20                   a limited and specific governmental or propri-  
21                   etary function; and

22                   “(C) is distinct from any other local gov-  
23                   ernment unit within the State.”.

24          (3) in subsection (b)—

1 (A) in paragraph (1)(A), by inserting “,  
2 Indian Tribe, special district,” after “Gov-  
3 ernor”;

4 (B) in paragraph (2)(C)—

5 (i) in clause (i)—

6 (I) by inserting “special district,”  
7 after “Indian Tribe,” each place it ap-  
8 pears;

9 (II) in subclause (I)—

10 (aa) by striking “on”; and

11 (bb) by striking “; and” and  
12 inserting a semicolon;

13 (III) in subclause (II)(bb), by  
14 striking the period at the end and in-  
15 serting a semicolon; and

16 (IV) by adding at the end the fol-  
17 lowing:

18 “(III) to construct new perma-  
19 nent roads on Federal lands that  
20 are—

21 “(aa) necessary to imple-  
22 ment authorized restoration ac-  
23 tivities; and

24 “(bb) approved by the Fed-  
25 eral agency through environ-

1                   mental analysis or categorical ex-  
2                   clusion decision;

3                   “(IV) to complete new permanent  
4                   road construction to replace and de-  
5                   commission an existing permanent  
6                   road that is adversely impacting for-  
7                   est, rangeland, or watershed health;  
8                   and

9                   “(V) if there are funds remaining  
10                  after carrying out subclauses (I)  
11                  through (IV), to carry out authorized  
12                  restoration services under other good  
13                  neighbor agreements and for the ad-  
14                  ministration of a good neighbor au-  
15                  thority program by a Governor, In-  
16                  dian Tribe, special district, or coun-  
17                  ty.”; and

18                  (ii) in clause (ii), by striking “2028”  
19                  and inserting “2030”;

20                  (C) in paragraph (3), by inserting “, In-  
21                  dian Tribe, special district,” after “Governor”;  
22                  and

23                  (D) by striking paragraph (4).

1 (b) CONFORMING AMENDMENTS.—Section 8206(a)  
2 of the Agricultural Act of 2014 (16 U.S.C. 2113a(a)) is  
3 amended—

4 (1) in paragraph (1)(B), by inserting “, Indian  
5 Tribe, special district,” after “Governor”; and

6 (2) in paragraph (5), by inserting “, Indian  
7 Tribe, special district,” after “Governor”.

8 (c) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendments made by  
9 this section apply to any project initiated pursuant to a  
10 good neighbor agreement (as defined in section 8206(a)  
11 of the Agricultural Act of 2014 (16 U.S.C. 2113a(a)))—

12 (1) before the date of enactment of this Act, if  
13 the project was initiated after the date of enactment  
14 of the Agriculture Improvement Act of 2018 (Public  
15 Law 115–334; 132 Stat. 4490); or

16 (2) on or after the date of enactment of this  
17 Act.

18 **SEC. 8413. COLLABORATIVE FOREST LANDSCAPE RESTORA-**  
19 **TION PROGRAM.**

20 Section 4003 of the Omnibus Public Land Manage-  
21 ment Act of 2009 (16 U.S.C. 7303) is amended—

22 (1) in subsection (b)(3)—

23 (A) in subparagraph (D), by inserting “or  
24 pathogens” after “species”;

1 (B) in subparagraph (G), by striking  
2 “and” at the end;

3 (C) in subparagraph (H), by adding “and”  
4 after the semicolon at the end; and

5 (D) by adding at the end the following:

6 “(I) address standardized monitoring ques-  
7 tions and indicators;”;

8 (2) in subsection (d)—

9 (A) in paragraph (2)—

10 (i) in subparagraph (E), by striking  
11 “and” at the end;

12 (ii) in subparagraph (F), by striking  
13 the period at the end and inserting “;”;  
14 and

15 (iii) by adding at the end the fol-  
16 lowing:

17 “(G) proposals that seek to use innovative  
18 implementation mechanisms, including good  
19 neighbor agreements entered into under section  
20 8206 of the Agricultural Act of 2014 (16  
21 U.S.C. 2113a), and similar implementation  
22 mechanisms;

23 “(H) proposals that seek to reduce the risk  
24 of uncharacteristic wildfire or increase ecologi-  
25 cal restoration activities—

1 “(i) within areas across land owner-  
2 ships, including State, Tribal, and private  
3 land; and

4 “(ii) within the wildland-urban inter-  
5 face; and

6 “(I) proposals that seek to enhance water-  
7 shed health and drinking water sources.”; and  
8 (B) in paragraph (3)—

9 (i) by amending subparagraph (A) to  
10 read as follows:

11 “(A) 4 proposals in any 1 region of the  
12 National Forest System to be funded during  
13 any fiscal year; and”;

14 (ii) by striking subparagraph (B); and

15 (iii) by redesignating subparagraph  
16 (C) as subparagraph (B); and

17 (3) in subsection (f)(6), by striking “2019  
18 through 2023” and inserting “2027 through 2031”.

19 **SEC. 8414. PUBLIC-PRIVATE WILDFIRE TECHNOLOGY DE-**  
20 **PLOYMENT AND TESTBED PARTNERSHIP.**

21 (a) **DEFINITIONS.**—In this section:

22 (1) **APPROPRIATE COMMITTEES.**—The term  
23 “appropriate committees” means—

1 (A) the Committees on Agriculture, Nat-  
2 ural Resources, and Science, Space, and Tech-  
3 nology of the House of Representatives; and

4 (B) the Committees on Agriculture, Nutri-  
5 tion, and Forestry, Energy and Natural Re-  
6 sources, and Commerce, Science, and Transpor-  
7 tation of the Senate.

8 (2) COVERED AGENCY.—The term “covered  
9 agency” means—

10 (A) the National Park Service;

11 (B) the United States Fish and Wildlife  
12 Service;

13 (C) the Bureau of Land Management;

14 (D) the Bureau of Reclamation;

15 (E) the Forest Service;

16 (F) the Department of Defense;

17 (G) the National Oceanic and Atmospheric  
18 Administration;

19 (H) the United States Fire Administra-  
20 tion;

21 (I) the Federal Emergency Management  
22 Agency;

23 (J) the National Aeronautics and Space  
24 Administration;

25 (K) the Bureau of Indian Affairs; and

1 (L) any other Federal agency involved in  
2 wildfire response.

3 (3) COVERED ENTITY.—The term “covered en-  
4 tity” means—

5 (A) a private entity;

6 (B) a nonprofit organization; or

7 (C) an institution of higher education (as  
8 defined in section 101 of the Higher Education  
9 Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 1001)).

10 (4) PILOT PROGRAM.—The term “Pilot Pro-  
11 gram” means the deployment and testbed pilot pro-  
12 gram developed under subsection (b).

13 (5) SECRETARIES.—The term “Secretaries”  
14 means the Secretary of Agriculture and the Sec-  
15 retary of the Interior, acting jointly.

16 (b) DEPLOYMENT AND TESTBED PILOT PROGRAM  
17 ESTABLISHED.—Not later than 1 year after the date of  
18 the enactment of this Act, the Secretaries, in coordination  
19 with the heads of the covered agencies, shall establish a  
20 deployment and testbed pilot program for new and innova-  
21 tive wildfire prevention, detection, communication, and  
22 mitigation technologies.

23 (c) FUNCTIONS.—In carrying out the Pilot Program,  
24 the Secretaries shall—

1 (1) incorporate the Pilot Program into an exist-  
2 ing interagency coordinating group on wildfires;

3 (2) in consultation with the heads of covered  
4 agencies, identify key technology priority areas with  
5 respect to the deployment of wildfire prevention, de-  
6 tection, communication, and mitigation technologies,  
7 including—

8 (A) hazardous fuels reduction treatments  
9 or activities;

10 (B) dispatch communications;

11 (C) remote sensing and tracking;

12 (D) safety equipment; and

13 (E) common operating pictures or oper-  
14 ational dashboards; and

15 (3) partner with each covered entity selected to  
16 participate in the Pilot Program with the appro-  
17 priate covered agency to coordinate real-time and  
18 on-the-ground testing of technology during wildland  
19 fire mitigation activities and training.

20 (d) APPLICATIONS.—To participate in the Pilot Pro-  
21 gram, a covered entity shall submit to the Secretaries an  
22 application at such time, in such manner, and containing  
23 such information as the Secretaries may require, which  
24 shall include a proposal to test technologies specific to key

1 technology priority areas identified under subsection  
2 (c)(2).

3 (e) PRIORITIZATION OF EMERGING TECH-  
4 NOLOGIES.—In selecting covered entities to participate in  
5 the Pilot Program, the Secretaries shall give priority to  
6 covered entities developing and applying emerging tech-  
7 nologies that address issues identified by the Secretaries,  
8 including artificial intelligence, quantum sensing, com-  
9 puting and quantum-hybrid applications, augmented re-  
10 ality, and 5G private networks and device-to-device com-  
11 munications supporting nomadic mesh networks, for wild-  
12 fire mitigation.

13 (f) OUTREACH.—The Secretaries, in coordination  
14 with the heads of the covered agencies, shall make publicly  
15 available the key technology priority areas identified under  
16 subsection (c)(2) and invite covered entities to apply to  
17 test and demonstrate their technologies to address those  
18 priority areas.

19 (g) REPORTS AND RECOMMENDATIONS.—Not later  
20 than 1 year after the date of the enactment of this Act,  
21 and each year thereafter for the duration of the Pilot Pro-  
22 gram, the Secretaries shall submit to the appropriate com-  
23 mittees a report that includes the following with respect  
24 to the Pilot Program:

25 (1) A list of participating covered entities.

1 (2) A brief description of the technologies test-  
2 ed by such covered entities.

3 (3) An estimate of the cost of acquiring the  
4 technology tested in the program and applying it at  
5 scale.

6 (4) Outreach efforts by Federal agencies to cov-  
7 ered entities developing wildfire technologies.

8 (5) Assessments of, and recommendations relat-  
9 ing to, new technologies with potential adoption and  
10 application at-scale in Federal land management  
11 agencies' wildfire prevention, detection, communica-  
12 tion, and mitigation efforts.

13 (h) TERMINATION.—The Pilot Program shall expire  
14 on September 30, 2031.

15 **SEC. 8415. FOREST SERVICE PARTICIPATION IN EXPERI-**  
16 **ENCED SERVICES PROGRAM.**

17 Section 8302 of the Agricultural Act of 2014 (16  
18 U.S.C. 3851a) is amended—

19 (1) in the section heading, by striking “**ACES**”  
20 and inserting “**EXPERIENCED SERVICES**” (and by  
21 conforming the item relating to such section in the  
22 table of sections accordingly);

23 (2) in subsection (a)—

24 (A) by striking “(a) IN GENERAL.—”;

1 (B) by striking “Agriculture Conserva-  
2 tion”; and

3 (C) by inserting “, professional, or admin-  
4 istrative” after “technical”; and

5 (3) by striking subsection (b).

6 **SEC. 8416. TIMBER SALES ON NATIONAL FOREST SYSTEM**  
7 **LAND.**

8 Section 14 of the National Forest Management Act  
9 of 1976 (16 U.S.C. 472a) is amended—

10 (1) in subsection (d), by striking “\$10,000”  
11 and inserting “\$55,000”; and

12 (2) by adding at the end the following:

13 “(j) In the event of extreme risks to a unit of Na-  
14 tional Forest System land, including catastrophic wildfire,  
15 insect and disease outbreak, wind, hurricane, flood,  
16 drought, or to avoid impacts from such extreme events,  
17 the Secretary may, without an appraisal and under such  
18 rules and regulations prescribed by the Secretary, dispose  
19 of by sale or otherwise, portions of trees or forest products  
20 located on such unit of National Forest System land.”.

21 **SEC. 8417. PERMITS AND AGREEMENTS WITH ELECTRICAL**  
22 **UTILITIES.**

23 (a) IN GENERAL.—In any special use permit or ease-  
24 ment on National Forest System lands provided to an elec-  
25 tric utility company (as defined in section 1262 of the En-

1 energy Policy Act of 2005 (42 U.S.C. 16451)), the Secretary  
2 may provide permission to cut and remove trees or other  
3 vegetation from within the vicinity of distribution lines or  
4 transmission lines, including hazardous vegetation that in-  
5 creases fire risk, without requiring a separate timber sale  
6 if that cutting and removal is consistent with the applica-  
7 ble land management plan.

8 (b) USE OF PROCEEDS.—A special use permit or  
9 easement that includes permission for the cutting and re-  
10 moval of trees or other vegetation described in subsection  
11 (a) shall include a requirement that, if the applicable elec-  
12 trical utility sells any portion of the material removed  
13 under the permit or easement, the electrical utility shall  
14 provide to the Secretary, acting through the Chief of the  
15 Forest Service, any proceeds received from the sale, less  
16 any transportation costs incurred in the sale.

17 (c) RULE OF CONSTRUCTION.—Nothing in this sec-  
18 tion shall be construed to require the sale of any material  
19 removed under a special use permit or easement that in-  
20 cludes permission for the cutting and removal of trees or  
21 other vegetation described in subsection (a).

22 **SEC. 8418. UTILIZING GRAZING FOR WILDFIRE RISK RE-**  
23 **DUCTION.**

24 (a) STRATEGY.—

1           (1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 18 months  
2 after the date of enactment of this Act, the Sec-  
3 retary concerned shall develop and implement a  
4 strategy to utilize livestock grazing as a wildfire risk  
5 reduction tool on Federal land under the jurisdiction  
6 of the Secretary concerned.

7           (2) INCLUSIONS.—The strategy under para-  
8 graph (1) shall include—

9                   (A) the completion of any reviews required  
10 under the National Environmental Policy Act of  
11 1969 (42 U.S.C. 4321 et seq.) to allow a per-  
12 mittee with a grazing permit in effect to graze  
13 on vacant grazing allotments during instances  
14 of drought, wildfire, or other natural disaster  
15 that disrupt grazing on the allotments covered  
16 by such grazing permit;

17                   (B) the use of targeted grazing to reduce  
18 hazardous fuels;

19                   (C) an increase in the use of temporary  
20 grazing permits to promote targeted fuels re-  
21 duction and reduction of invasive annual  
22 grasses;

23                   (D) an increase in the use of livestock  
24 grazing—

1 (i) to eradicate invasive annual  
2 grasses; and

3 (ii) as a restoration strategy and for  
4 post-fire recovery, as appropriate;

5 (E) the integrated use of advanced tech-  
6 nologies to dynamically adjust livestock place-  
7 ment on Federal land under the jurisdiction of  
8 the Secretary concerned;

9 (F) an increase in the use of any authori-  
10 ties applicable to livestock grazing, including  
11 modifications to grazing permits or leases to  
12 allow variances; and

13 (G) the use of grazing on Federal land  
14 under the jurisdiction of the Secretary con-  
15 cerned in a manner that—

16 (i) avoids conflicts with other uses of  
17 such land; and

18 (ii) is consistent with any applicable  
19 land management plan.

20 (b) EFFECT ON EXISTING GRAZING PROGRAMS.—  
21 Nothing in this section affects—

22 (1) any livestock grazing program carried out  
23 by the Secretary concerned as of the date of enact-  
24 ment of this Act; or

1           (2) any statutory authority for any program de-  
2           scribed in paragraph (1).

3           (c) **SECRETARY CONCERNED DEFINED.**—In this sec-  
4           tion, the term “Secretary concerned” means—

5           (1) the Secretary of Agriculture, with respect to  
6           National Forest System lands; and

7           (2) the Secretary of the Interior, with respect  
8           to public lands.

9           **SEC. 8419. JOINT CHIEFS LANDSCAPE RESTORATION PART-**  
10           **NERSHIP PROGRAM.**

11           Section 40808 of the Infrastructure Investment and  
12           Jobs Act is amended—

13           (1) in subsection (g)(2), by inserting “and at  
14           least once every 2 fiscal years thereafter” after “and  
15           2023”; and

16           (2) in subsection (h)(1), by striking “and  
17           2023” and inserting “through 2031”.

18           **SEC. 8420. TRIBAL FOREST MANAGEMENT PROGRAM TECH-**  
19           **NICAL CORRECTION.**

20           Section 8703 of the Agriculture Improvement Act of  
21           2018 is amended—

22           (1) in the heading, by striking “**DEMONSTRA-**  
23           **TION PROJECT**” and inserting “**PROGRAM**” (and  
24           by conforming the item relating to such section in  
25           the table of contents accordingly); and

1 (2) in subsection (a), by striking “demonstra-  
2 tion projects by” and inserting “a program under”.

3 **PART III—TIMBER INNOVATION**

4 **SEC. 8431. COMMUNITY WOOD FACILITIES PROGRAM.**

5 Section 9013 of the Farm Security and Rural Invest-  
6 ment Act of 2002 (7 U.S.C. 8113) is amended—

7 (1) in the heading, by striking “**COMMUNITY**  
8 **WOOD ENERGY AND WOOD INNOVATION PRO-**  
9 **GRAM**” and inserting “**COMMUNITY WOOD FA-**  
10 **CILITIES PROGRAM**”;

11 (2) in subsection (a)—

12 (A) in paragraph (1)(A)(iii), in the matter  
13 preceding subclause (I), by striking “woody bio-  
14 mass, including residuals” and inserting “pri-  
15 marily forest biomass, including processing or  
16 manufacturing residuals”; and

17 (B) in paragraph (4), by striking “Com-  
18 munity Wood Energy and Wood Innovation  
19 Program” and inserting “Community Wood Fa-  
20 cilities Program”;

21 (3) in subsection (b), by striking “to be known  
22 as” and all that follows through the period at the  
23 end and inserting “to be known as the ‘Community  
24 Wood Facilities Program’.”;

1 (4) in subsection (d), by striking “exceed—” in  
2 the matter preceding paragraph (1) and all that fol-  
3 lows through the period at the end of paragraph (2)  
4 and inserting “exceed \$5,000,000.”;

5 (5) in subsection (e)—

6 (A) by striking paragraph (1);

7 (B) by redesignating paragraphs (2)  
8 through (8) as (1) through (7), respectively;  
9 and

10 (C) in paragraph (1), as so redesignated,  
11 by inserting “or market competitiveness” after  
12 “cost effectiveness”;

13 (6) in subsection (f)—

14 (A) by striking paragraph (2);

15 (B) by redesignating paragraphs (3) and  
16 (4) as paragraphs (2) and (3), respectively; and

17 (C) in paragraph (2), as so redesignated,  
18 by striking “use or retrofitting (or both) of ex-  
19 isting sawmill” and inserting “construction, use  
20 or retrofitting of forest products manufac-  
21 turing”;

22 (7) in subsection (g)—

23 (A) in paragraph (1), by striking “5  
24 megawatts of thermal energy or combined ther-  
25 mal and electric energy” and inserting “15

1 megawatts of thermal energy or combined ther-  
2 mal and electric energy”; and

3 (B) in paragraph (2), by striking “25 per-  
4 cent” and inserting “50 percent”; and

5 (8) in subsection (h), by striking “2023” and  
6 inserting “2031”.

7 **SEC. 8432. WOOD INNOVATION GRANT PROGRAM.**

8 (a) APPLICATION TO TRANSPORTATION COSTS.—  
9 Section 8643(b)(1) of the Agriculture Improvement Act  
10 of 2018 (7 U.S.C. 7655d(b)(1)) is amended by inserting  
11 “, including the construction of new facilities that advance  
12 the purposes of the program and for the hauling of mate-  
13 rial removed to reduce hazardous fuels to locations where  
14 that material can be utilized” before the period at the end.

15 (b) TARGETING TO SUPPORT ECONOMIC DEVELOP-  
16 MENT, ENHANCED BUILDING DESIGN, AND IMPACT AS-  
17 SESSMENT.—Section 8643(c) of the Agriculture Improve-  
18 ment Act of 2018 (7 U.S.C. 7655d(c)) is amended to read  
19 as follows:

20 “(c) TARGETING TO SUPPORT ECONOMIC DEVELOP-  
21 MENT, ENHANCED BUILDING DESIGN, AND IMPACT AS-  
22 SESSMENT.—In selecting among proposals of eligible enti-  
23 ties under subsection (b)(2), the Secretary may give pri-  
24 ority to proposals for projects that—

1           “(1) include the use or retrofitting (or both) of  
2 existing sawmill facilities located in counties in  
3 which the average annual unemployment rate ex-  
4 ceeded the national average unemployment rate by  
5 more than 1 percent in the previous calendar year;

6           “(2) recognize or enhance carbon reduction  
7 strategies in building design and interior wood prod-  
8 ucts, including forest impacts, which can be im-  
9 proved by North American manufacturing; or

10           “(3) include in the proposal of the entity an  
11 analysis of the benefits that forest management  
12 under the proposal will have on the resilience and  
13 economy of the community, including benefits associ-  
14 ated with—

15           “(A) wood products from anticipated wood  
16 supply areas;

17           “(B) wildfire risk reduction;

18           “(C) increased fiber flow;

19           “(D) the increase of forest or mill jobs;

20           and

21           “(E) support for forested communities.”.

22           (c) MATCHING REQUIREMENT.—Section 8643(d) of  
23 the Agriculture Improvement Act of 2018 (7 U.S.C.  
24 7655d(d)) is amended by inserting “50 percent of” before  
25 “the amount”.

1 **SEC. 8433. FOREST AND WOOD PRODUCTS DATA TRACKER.**

2 (a) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 2 years after the  
3 date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary, acting  
4 through the Chief of the Forest Service, in collaboration  
5 with the Chief of the Natural Resources Conservation  
6 Service and in consultation with federally recognized In-  
7 dian Tribes, State foresters, and private sector partners,  
8 shall establish a publicly available platform to provide  
9 measurement, monitoring, verification, and reporting data  
10 regarding the carbon emissions, sequestration, storage,  
11 and related atmospheric impacts of forest management  
12 and wood products.

13 (b) ACTIVITIES.—In carrying out subsection (a), the  
14 Secretary shall source data, information, and data anal-  
15 ysis from Department programs and interagency pro-  
16 grams, including—

17 (1) the Forest Inventory and Analysis program,  
18 including the Timber Products Output survey;

19 (2) Forest Service and Natural Resources Con-  
20 servation Service soil carbon estimations;

21 (3) the Forest Products Laboratory;

22 (4) the Federal Life Cycle Assessment Com-  
23 mons;

24 (5) Department entity-level guidelines; and

25 (6) other relevant programmatic data and infor-  
26 mation sources, as published and made available.

1 (c) PRIORITIES.—The platform established by sub-  
2 section (a) shall provide tools that calculate—

3 (1) the above- and below-ground forest carbon  
4 stocks and stock changes associated with species  
5 composition, forest management regime, and land-  
6 owner types (including small area estimations for re-  
7 gional and localized geographies across the United  
8 States) made available through Forest Inventory and  
9 Analysis updates and annual reports;

10 (2) the embodied carbon involved in the manu-  
11 facture of products, using data from published envi-  
12 ronmental product declarations and life cycle assess-  
13 ments, updated as new and more refined data be-  
14 comes available;

15 (3) the long-term stored carbon in manufac-  
16 tured timber products; and

17 (4) the carbon displacement of wood products,  
18 compared to other materials, using substitution fac-  
19 tors.

20 (d) RULE OF CONSTRUCTION.—Nothing in this sec-  
21 tion may be construed to provide authority with respect  
22 to the generation, consumption, or trading of carbon or  
23 environmental credits from National Forest System lands  
24 in any voluntary or compliance environmental markets.

1 **SEC. 8434. BIOCHAR APPLICATION DEMONSTRATION**  
2 **PROJECT.**

3 (a) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

4 (1) BIOCHAR.—The term “biochar” means car-  
5 bonized biomass produced by converting feedstock  
6 through reductive thermal processing for nonfuel  
7 uses.

8 (2) COVERED SECRETARIES.—The term “cov-  
9 ered Secretaries” means—

10 (A) the Secretary, acting through the Chief  
11 of the Forest Service;

12 (B) the Secretary of the Interior, acting  
13 through the Director of the Bureau of Land  
14 Management; and

15 (C) the Secretary of Energy, acting  
16 through the Director of the Office of Science.

17 (3) ELIGIBLE ENTITY.—The term “eligible enti-  
18 ty” means—

19 (A) a private, nonprivate, or cooperative  
20 entity or organization;

21 (B) a State, local, special district, or Trib-  
22 al government;

23 (C) an eligible institution;

24 (D) a National Laboratory (as such term  
25 is defined in section 2 of the Energy Policy Act  
26 of 2005 (42 U.S.C. 15801)); or

1 (E) a partnership or consortium of two or  
2 more entities described in subparagraphs (A)  
3 through (D).

4 (4) ELIGIBLE INSTITUTION.—The term “eligi-  
5 ble institution” means land-grant colleges and uni-  
6 versities, including institutions eligible for funding  
7 under—

8 (A) the Act of July 2, 1862 (12 Stat. 503,  
9 chapter 130; 7 U.S.C. 301 et seq.);

10 (B) the Act of August 30, 1890 (26 Stat.  
11 417, chapter 841; 7 U.S.C. 321 et seq.), includ-  
12 ing Tuskegee University;

13 (C) Public Law 87–788 (commonly known  
14 as the “McIntire-Stennis Act of 1962”); or

15 (D) the Equity in Educational Land-Grant  
16 Status Act of 1994 (7 U.S.C. 301 note; Public  
17 Law 103–382).

18 (5) FEEDSTOCK.—The term “feedstock” means  
19 excess biomass in the form of plant matter or mate-  
20 rials that serves as the raw material for the produc-  
21 tion of biochar.

22 (b) DEMONSTRATION PROJECTS.—

23 (1) ESTABLISHMENT.—

24 (A) IN GENERAL.—Subject to the avail-  
25 ability of appropriations made in advance for

1           such purpose, not later than 2 years after the  
2           date of the enactment of this Act, the covered  
3           Secretaries shall establish a program to enter  
4           into partnerships with eligible entities to carry  
5           out demonstration projects to support the devel-  
6           opment and commercialization of biochar in ac-  
7           cordance with this subsection.

8           (B) LOCATION OF DEMONSTRATION  
9           PROJECTS.—In carrying out the program estab-  
10          lished under subparagraph (A), the covered  
11          Secretaries shall, to the maximum extent prac-  
12          ticable, enter into partnerships with eligible en-  
13          tities such that not fewer than one demonstra-  
14          tion project is carried out in each region of the  
15          Forest Service and each region of the Bureau  
16          of Land Management.

17          (2) PROPOSALS.—To be eligible to enter into a  
18          partnership to carry out a biochar demonstration  
19          project under paragraph (1)(A), an eligible entity  
20          shall submit to the covered Secretaries a proposal at  
21          such time, in such manner, and containing such in-  
22          formation as the covered Secretaries may require.

23          (3) USE OF FUNDS.—In carrying out the pro-  
24          gram established under paragraph (1)(A), the cov-  
25          ered Secretaries may enter into partnerships and

1 provide funding to such partnerships to carry out  
2 demonstration projects to—

3 (A) acquire and test various feedstocks and  
4 their efficacy;

5 (B) develop and optimize commercially and  
6 technologically viable biochar production units,  
7 including mobile and permanent units;

8 (C) demonstrate—

9 (i) the production of biochar from for-  
10 est residue; and

11 (ii) the use of biochar to restore forest  
12 health and resiliency;

13 (D) build, expand, or establish biochar fa-  
14 cilities;

15 (E) conduct research on new and innova-  
16 tive uses of biochar;

17 (F) demonstrate cost-effective market op-  
18 portunities for biochar and biochar-based prod-  
19 ucts;

20 (G) carry out any other activities the cov-  
21 ered Secretaries determine appropriate; or

22 (H) do any combination of the activities  
23 specified in subparagraphs (A) through (F).

24 (4) PRIORITY.—In selecting proposals under  
25 paragraph (2), the covered Secretaries shall give pri-

1 ority to entering into partnerships with eligible enti-  
2 ties that submit proposals to carry out biochar dem-  
3 onstration projects that—

4 (A) have the most potential to create new  
5 jobs and contribute to local economies, particu-  
6 larly in rural areas;

7 (B) have the most potential to dem-  
8 onstrate—

9 (i) new and innovative uses of biochar;

10 (ii) market viability for cost-effective  
11 biochar-based products;

12 (iii) the restorative benefits of biochar  
13 with respect to forest health and resiliency,  
14 including forest soils and watersheds; or

15 (iv) any combination of the purposes  
16 specified in clauses (i) through (iii);

17 (C) are located in areas that have a high  
18 need for biochar production, as determined by  
19 the covered Secretaries, due to—

20 (i) nearby lands identified as having  
21 high or very high or extreme risk of wild-  
22 fire;

23 (ii) availability of sufficient quantities  
24 of feedstocks; or

1 (iii) a high level of demand for  
2 biochar or other commercial byproducts of  
3 biochar; or

4 (D) satisfy any combination of the pur-  
5 poses specified in subparagraphs (A) through  
6 (C).

7 (5) FEEDSTOCK REQUIREMENTS.—To the max-  
8 imum extent practicable, an eligible entity that car-  
9 ries out a biochar demonstration project under this  
10 subsection shall, with respect to the feedstock used  
11 under such project, derive at least 50 percent of  
12 such feedstock from forest thinning and manage-  
13 ment activities, including mill residues, conducted on  
14 National Forest System lands or public lands.

15 (6) REVIEW OF BIOCHAR DEMONSTRATION.—

16 (A) IN GENERAL.—The covered Secretaries  
17 shall conduct regionally specific research, in-  
18 cluding economic analyses and life-cycle assess-  
19 ments, on any biochar produced from a dem-  
20 onstration project carried out under the pro-  
21 gram established in paragraph (1)(A), includ-  
22 ing—

23 (i) the effects of such biochar on—

24 (I) forest health and resiliency;

1 (II) carbon capture and seques-  
2 tration, including increasing soil car-  
3 bon in the short term and long term;

4 (III) productivity, reduced input  
5 costs, and water retention in agricul-  
6 tural practices;

7 (IV) the health of soil and grass-  
8 lands used for grazing activities, in-  
9 cluding grazing activities on National  
10 Forest System land and public land;  
11 and

12 (V) environmental remediation  
13 activities, including abandoned mine  
14 land remediation;

15 (ii) the effectiveness of biochar as a  
16 coproduct of biofuels or in biochemicals;  
17 and

18 (iii) the effectiveness of other poten-  
19 tial uses of biochar to determine if any  
20 such use is technologically and commer-  
21 cially viable.

22 (B) COORDINATION.—The covered Secre-  
23 taries shall, to the maximum extent practicable,  
24 provide data, analyses, and other relevant infor-

1           mation collected under subparagraph (A) with  
2           recipients of a grant under subsection (c).

3           (7) LIMITATION ON FUNDING FOR ESTAB-  
4           LISHING BIOCHAR FACILITIES.—If the covered Sec-  
5           retaries provide to an eligible entity that enters into  
6           a partnership with the covered Secretaries under  
7           paragraph (1)(A) funding for establishing a biochar  
8           facility, such funding may not exceed 35 percent of  
9           the capital cost of establishing such biochar facility.

10          (c) BIOCHAR RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT GRANT  
11          PROGRAM.—

12           (1) ESTABLISHMENT.—The Secretary of the In-  
13           terior, in consultation with the Secretary of Energy,  
14           shall establish or expand an existing applied biochar  
15           research and development grant program to make  
16           competitive grants to eligible institutions to carry  
17           out the activities described in paragraph (3).

18           (2) APPLICATIONS.—To be eligible to receive a  
19           grant under this subsection, an eligible institution  
20           shall submit to the Secretary a proposal at such  
21           time, in such manner, and containing such informa-  
22           tion as the Secretary may require.

23           (3) USE OF FUNDS.—An eligible institution  
24           that receives a grant under this subsection shall use  
25           the grant funds to conduct applied research on—

1 (A) the effect of biochar on forest health  
2 and resiliency, accounting for variations in  
3 biochar, soil, climate, and other factors;

4 (B) the effect of biochar on soil health and  
5 water retention, accounting for variations in  
6 biochar, soil, climate, and other factors;

7 (C) the long-term carbon sequestration po-  
8 tential of biochar;

9 (D) the best management practices with  
10 respect to biochar and biochar-based product  
11 that maximize—

12 (i) carbon sequestration benefits; and

13 (ii) the commercial viability and appli-  
14 cation of such products in forestry, agri-  
15 culture, environmental remediation, water  
16 quality improvement, and any other similar  
17 uses, as determined by the Secretary;

18 (E) the regional uses of biochar to increase  
19 productivity and profitability, including—

20 (i) uses in agriculture and environ-  
21 mental remediation; and

22 (ii) use as a coproduct in fuel produc-  
23 tion;

24 (F) new and innovative uses for biochar  
25 byproducts; and

1 (G) opportunities to expand markets for  
2 biochar and create related jobs, particularly in  
3 rural areas.

4 (d) REPORTS.—

5 (1) REPORT TO CONGRESS.—Not later than 2  
6 years after the date of enactment of this Act, the  
7 covered Secretaries shall submit to Congress a re-  
8 port that—

9 (A) includes policy and program rec-  
10 ommendations to improve the widespread use of  
11 biochar;

12 (B) identifies any area of research needed  
13 to advance biochar commercialization; and

14 (C) identifies barriers to further biochar  
15 commercialization, including permitting and  
16 siting considerations.

17 (2) MATERIALS SUBMITTED IN SUPPORT OF  
18 THE PRESIDENT'S BUDGET.—Beginning with the  
19 second fiscal year that begins after the date of en-  
20 actment of this Act and annually thereafter until the  
21 date described in subsection (e), the covered Secre-  
22 taries shall include in the materials submitted to  
23 Congress in support of the President's budget pursu-  
24 ant to section 1105 of title 31, United States Code,  
25 a report describing, for the fiscal year covered by the

1 report, the status of each demonstration project car-  
2 ried out under subsection (b) and each research and  
3 development grant carried out under subsection (c).  
4 (e) SUNSET.—The authority to carry out this section  
5 shall terminate on the date that is 7 years after the date  
6 of enactment of this Act.

## 7 **Subtitle E—Other Matters**

### 8 **SEC. 8501. RURAL REVITALIZATION TECHNOLOGIES.**

9 Section 2371(d)(2) of the Food, Agriculture, Con-  
10 servation, and Trade Act of 1990 (7 U.S.C. 6601(d)(2))  
11 is amended by striking “2023” and inserting “2031”.

### 12 **SEC. 8502. RESOURCE ADVISORY COMMITTEES.**

13 Section 205 of the Secure Rural Schools and Commu-  
14 nity Self-Determination Act of 2000 (16 U.S.C. 7125) is  
15 amended—

16 (1) in subsection (c), by adding at the end the  
17 following:

18 “(6) APPOINTMENTS BY APPLICABLE REGIONAL  
19 FORESTERS.—In making appointments under this  
20 subsection, the Secretary concerned may act through  
21 the applicable regional forester so long as before the  
22 applicable regional forester makes an appointment,  
23 the applicable regional forester conducts the review  
24 and analysis that would otherwise be conducted for  
25 an appointment to a resource advisory committee,

1 including any review and analysis with respect to  
2 civil rights, budgetary requirements, vetting, and re-  
3 porting, as the Secretary concerned determines ap-  
4 propriate.”;

5 (2) in subsection (d)(6), by striking “October 1,  
6 2026” and inserting “October 1, 2031”; and

7 (3) by striking subsection (g).

8 **SEC. 8503. ACCURATE HAZARDOUS FUELS REDUCTION RE-**  
9 **PORTS.**

10 (a) MATERIALS SUBMITTED IN SUPPORT OF PRESI-  
11 DENT’S BUDGET.—

12 (1) IN GENERAL.—Beginning with the first fis-  
13 cal year that begins after the date of the enactment  
14 of this Act, and annually thereafter, the Secretary  
15 concerned shall include in the materials submitted to  
16 Congress in support of the President’s budget pursu-  
17 ant to section 1105 of title 31, United States Code,  
18 a report describing the number of acres of Federal  
19 land on which the Secretary concerned carried out  
20 hazardous fuels reduction activities during the pre-  
21 ceding fiscal year, as determined using—

22 (A) the methodology of the Secretary con-  
23 cerned in effect on the day before the date of  
24 enactment of this Act; and

1 (B) the methodology described in para-  
2 graph (2).

3 (2) REQUIREMENTS.—For purposes of a report  
4 required under paragraph (1), the Secretary con-  
5 cerned shall—

6 (A) in determining the number of acres of  
7 Federal land on which the Secretary concerned  
8 carried out hazardous fuels reduction activities  
9 during the period covered by the report—

10 (i) record acres of Federal land on  
11 which hazardous fuels reduction activities  
12 were completed during that period; and

13 (ii) record each acre described in  
14 clause (i) once in the report, regardless of  
15 whether multiple hazardous fuels reduction  
16 activities were carried out on that acre  
17 during the applicable period; and

18 (B) with respect to the acres of Federal  
19 land recorded in the report, include information  
20 relating to—

21 (i) which acres are located in the  
22 wildland-urban interface;

23 (ii) the level of hazard potential of the  
24 acres on the first and last day of the pe-  
25 riod covered by the report;

1 (iii) the types of hazardous fuels re-  
2 duction activities completed with respect to  
3 the acres, including a description of wheth-  
4 er those hazardous fuels reduction activi-  
5 ties were conducted—

6 (I) in a wildfire managed for re-  
7 source benefits; or

8 (II) through a planned hazardous  
9 fuels reduction project;

10 (iv) the cost per acre of the hazardous  
11 fuels reduction activities carried out during  
12 the period covered by the report;

13 (v) the region or System unit in which  
14 the acres are located; and

15 (vi) the effectiveness of the hazardous  
16 fuels reduction activities with respect to re-  
17 ducing the risk of wildfire.

18 (3) TRANSPARENCY.—The Secretary concerned  
19 shall make each report submitted under paragraph  
20 (1) publicly available on the website of the Depart-  
21 ment of Agriculture or the Department of the Inte-  
22 rior, as applicable.

23 (b) ACCURATE DATA COLLECTION.—

24 (1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 90 days after  
25 the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary con-

1           cerned shall implement standardized procedures for  
2           tracking data related to hazardous fuels reduction  
3           activities carried out by the Secretary concerned.

4           (2) ELEMENTS.—The standardized procedures  
5           required under paragraph (1) shall include—

6                   (A) regular, standardized data reviews of  
7                   the accuracy and timely input of data used to  
8                   track hazardous fuels reduction activities;

9                   (B) verification methods that validate  
10                  whether those data accurately correlate to the  
11                  hazardous fuels reduction activities carried out  
12                  by the Secretary concerned;

13                  (C) an analysis of the short- and long-term  
14                  effectiveness of the hazardous fuels reduction  
15                  activities on reducing the risk of wildfire; and

16                  (D) for hazardous fuels reduction activities  
17                  that occur partially within the wildland-urban  
18                  interface, methods to distinguish which acres  
19                  are located within the wildland-urban interface  
20                  and which acres are located outside the  
21                  wildland-urban interface.

22           (3) REPORT.—Not later than 45 days after im-  
23           plementing the standardized procedures required  
24           under paragraph (1), the Secretary concerned shall  
25           submit to Congress a report that describes—

1 (A) the standardized procedures; and

2 (B) any programmatic or policy rec-  
3 ommendations to Congress to address limita-  
4 tions in tracking data relating to hazardous  
5 fuels reduction activities under this subsection.

6 (c) GAO STUDY.—Not later than 2 years after the  
7 date of enactment of this Act, the Comptroller General  
8 of the United States shall—

9 (1) conduct a study regarding the implementa-  
10 tion of this section, including any limitations with  
11 respect to—

12 (A) reporting hazardous fuels reduction ac-  
13 tivities under subsection (a); or

14 (B) tracking data relating to hazardous  
15 fuels reduction activities under subsection (b);  
16 and

17 (2) submit to Congress a report that describes  
18 the results of the study under paragraph (1).

19 (d) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

20 (1) FEDERAL LAND.—The term “Federal land”  
21 means any land under the jurisdiction of—

22 (A) the Secretary; or

23 (B) the Secretary of the Interior.

24 (2) HAZARDOUS FUELS REDUCTION ACTIV-  
25 ITY.—

1           (A) IN GENERAL.—The term “hazardous  
2           fuels reduction activity” means any vegetation  
3           management activity to reduce the risk of wild-  
4           fire, including mechanical treatments, grazing,  
5           and prescribed burning.

6           (B) EXCLUSION.—The term “hazardous  
7           fuels reduction activity” does not include the  
8           awarding of a contract to conduct an activity  
9           described in subparagraph (A).

10          (3) SECRETARY CONCERNED.—The term “Sec-  
11          retary concerned” means—

12                 (A) the Secretary of Agriculture, with re-  
13                 spect to National Forest System lands; and

14                 (B) the Secretary of the Interior, with re-  
15                 spect to public lands.

16          (e) NO ADDITIONAL FUNDS AUTHORIZED.—

17                 (1) IN GENERAL.—No additional funds are au-  
18                 thorized to carry out this section.

19                 (2) SUBJECT TO APPROPRIATIONS.—The activi-  
20                 ties authorized by this section are subject to the  
21                 availability of appropriations made in advance for  
22                 those purposes.

1 **SEC. 8504. SPECIAL USE AUTHORIZATION RENTAL FEE**  
2 **WAIVER.**

3 All or part of the programmatic administrative fee,  
4 and any fees related to the special use authorization, as  
5 appropriate, may be waived by the Secretary, acting  
6 through the Chief of the Forest Service, when equitable  
7 and in the public interest as determined by the Chief of  
8 the Forest Service, for the use and occupancy of National  
9 Forest System land in the following circumstances:

10 (1) The holder of the special use authorization  
11 is a State or local government or any agency or in-  
12 strumentality thereof, excluding municipal utilities  
13 and cooperatives whose principal source of revenue is  
14 customer charges.

15 (2) The holder is—

16 (A) an organization described in section  
17 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986  
18 and is exempt from taxation under section  
19 501(a) of such Code;

20 (B) not controlled or owned by a profit-  
21 making corporation or business enterprise; and

22 (C) is engaged in a public or semipublic  
23 activity to further public health, safety, or wel-  
24 fare.

25 (3) The holder is an amateur station, amateur  
26 operator, or provides amateur radio services, as

1 those terms are defined in section 97.3 of title 47,  
2 Code of Federal Regulations (or successor regula-  
3 tions).

4 (4) Other circumstances the Secretary, acting  
5 through the Chief of the Forest Service, determines  
6 appropriate.

7 **SEC. 8505. CHARGES AND FEES FOR HARVEST OF FOREST**  
8 **BOTANICAL PRODUCTS.**

9 (a) RECOVERY OF FAIR MARKET VALUE FOR PROD-  
10 UCTS.—

11 (1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary, acting  
12 through the Chief of the Forest Service, shall estab-  
13 lish and carry out a program to charge and collect  
14 fees under subsection (b) for forest botanical prod-  
15 ucts harvested on National Forest System lands.

16 (2) APPRAISAL METHODS; BIDDING PROCE-  
17 DURES.—The Secretary, acting through the Chief of  
18 the Forest Service, shall establish a fee system based  
19 on fair market value for forest botanical products  
20 harvested on National Forest System lands.

21 (b) FEES.—

22 (1) IMPOSITION AND COLLECTION.—The Sec-  
23 retary shall charge and collect fees from persons who  
24 harvest forest botanical products on National Forest  
25 System lands.

1           (2) AMOUNT OF FEE.—The fees collected under  
2 paragraph (1) shall be based on the fair market  
3 value of the harvested forest botanical products and  
4 the costs incurred by the Secretary associated with  
5 granting, modifying, or monitoring the authorization  
6 for harvest of the forest botanical products, includ-  
7 ing the costs of any environmental or other analysis.

8           (3) SECURITY.—The Secretary, acting through  
9 the Chief of the Forest Service, may require a per-  
10 son assessed a fee under this subsection to provide  
11 security to ensure that the Secretary receives the  
12 fees imposed under this subsection from the person.

13           (c) SUSTAINABLE HARVEST LEVELS FOR FOREST  
14 BOTANICAL PRODUCTS.—

15           (1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary, acting  
16 through the Chief of the Forest Service, shall—

17                   (A) conduct appropriate analyses to deter-  
18 mine whether and how the harvest of forest bo-  
19 tanical products on National Forest System  
20 lands can be conducted on a sustainable basis;  
21 and

22                   (B) establish procedures and timeframes to  
23 monitor and revise the harvest levels established  
24 for forest botanical products.

1           (2) PROHIBITION ON HARVEST IN EXCESS OF  
2 SUSTAINABLE LEVELS.—The Secretary, acting  
3 through the Chief of the Forest Service, may not  
4 permit under the program under this section the  
5 harvest of forest botanical products on National  
6 Forest System lands at levels in excess of sustain-  
7 able harvest levels, as defined under section 4 of the  
8 Multiple-Use Sustained-Yield Act of 1960 (16  
9 U.S.C. 531).

10 (d) WAIVER AUTHORITY.—

11           (1) PERSONAL USE.—The Secretary, acting  
12 through the Chief of the Forest Service, shall estab-  
13 lish a personal use harvest level for each forest bo-  
14 tanical product, and the harvest of a forest botanical  
15 product below that level by a person for personal use  
16 shall not be subject to charges and fees under sub-  
17 sections (a) and (b).

18           (2) OTHER EXCEPTIONS.—The Secretary, act-  
19 ing through the Chief of the Forest Service, may  
20 also waive the application of subsection (a) or (b)  
21 pursuant to such regulations as the Secretary may  
22 prescribe.

23 (e) DEPOSIT AND USE OF FUNDS.—

24           (1) DEPOSIT.—Funds collected under the pro-  
25 gram in accordance with subsections (a) and (b)

1 shall be deposited into a special account in the  
2 United States Treasury.

3 (2) FUNDS AVAILABLE.—Funds deposited into  
4 the special account in accordance with paragraph (1)  
5 shall remain available until expended without further  
6 appropriation.

7 (3) AUTHORIZED USES.—The funds made avail-  
8 able under paragraph (2) shall be expended at units  
9 of the National Forest System in proportion to the  
10 charges and fees collected at that unit under the  
11 program under this section to pay for—

12 (A) the costs of conducting inventories of  
13 forest botanical products, determining sustain-  
14 able levels of harvest, monitoring and assessing  
15 the impacts of harvest levels and methods, and  
16 for restoration activities, including any nec-  
17 essary revegetation; and

18 (B) the costs described in subsection  
19 (b)(2).

20 (4) TREATMENT OF FEES.—Funds collected  
21 under the program in accordance with subsections  
22 (a) and (b) shall not be taken into account for the  
23 purposes of the following laws:

24 (A) The sixth paragraph under the head-  
25 ing “forest service” in the Act of May 23, 1908

1 (16 U.S.C. 500), and section 13 of the Act of  
2 March 1, 1911 (commonly known as the Weeks  
3 Act; 16 U.S.C. 500).

4 (B) The fourteenth paragraph under the  
5 heading “forest service” in the Act of March 4,  
6 1913 (16 U.S.C. 501).

7 (C) Section 33 of the Bankhead-Jones  
8 Farm Tenant Act (7 U.S.C. 1012).

9 (D) The Act of August 28, 1937 (43  
10 U.S.C. 2601 et seq.) and the Act of May 24,  
11 1939 (43 U.S.C. 2621 et seq.).

12 (E) Section 6 of the Act of June 14, 1926  
13 (commonly known as the Recreation and Public  
14 Purposes Act; 43 U.S.C. 869–4).

15 (F) Chapter 69 of title 31, United States  
16 Code.

17 (G) Section 401 of the Act of June 15,  
18 1935 (16 U.S.C. 715s).

19 (H) Section 100904 of title 54, United  
20 States Code.

21 (I) Any other provision of law relating to  
22 revenue allocation.

23 (f) REPORTING REQUIREMENTS.—As soon as prac-  
24 ticable after the end of each fiscal year in which the Sec-  
25 retary collects charges and fees under the program in ac-

1 cordance with subsections (a) and (b) or expends funds  
2 from the special account under subsection (e), the Sec-  
3 retary, acting through the Chief of the Forest Service,  
4 shall submit to the Congress a report summarizing the ac-  
5 tivities of the Secretary under the program under this sec-  
6 tion, including the funds collected under the program in  
7 accordance with subsections (a) and (b), the expenses in-  
8 curred to carry out the program under this section, and  
9 the expenditures made from the special account during  
10 that fiscal year.

11 (g) DEFINITIONS.—For purposes of this section:

12 (1) FOREST BOTANICAL PRODUCT.—The term  
13 “forest botanical product”—

14 (A) means any naturally occurring mush-  
15 room, fungus, flower, seed, root, bark, leaf,  
16 berry, bough, bryophyte, bulb, burl, cone,  
17 epiphyte, fern, forb, grass, moss, nut, pine  
18 straw, sedge, shrub, transplant, tree sap, or  
19 other vegetation (or portion thereof) that grows  
20 on National Forest System lands; and

21 (B) does not include trees, or portions of  
22 trees, except as provided in regulations issued  
23 under section 339 of the Department of the In-  
24 terior and Related Agencies Appropriations Act

1 of 2000 (16 U.S.C. 528 note) by the Secretary  
2 before the date of enactment of this Act.

3 (2) NATIONAL FOREST SYSTEM.—The term  
4 “National Forest System” has the meaning given  
5 that term in section 11(a) of the Forest and Range-  
6 land Renewable Resources Planning Act of 1974 (16  
7 U.S.C. 1609(a)).

8 **SEC. 8506. FOREST SERVICE LEGACY ROAD AND TRAIL RE-**  
9 **MEDIATION PROGRAM TRANSPARENCY.**

10 Section 8 of Public Law 88–657 (16 U.S.C. 538a)  
11 is amended—

12 (1) in subsection (c)(2)—

13 (A) by striking subparagraph (B) and in-  
14 serting the following:

15 “(B) solicit and consider public input re-  
16 gionally in selecting projects for funding under  
17 the Program by—

18 “(i) publishing annually, for each re-  
19 gion, a list of projects considered for fund-  
20 ing under the Program;

21 “(ii) accepting public comment on the  
22 projects described in clause (i); and

23 “(iii) considering public comments in  
24 selecting projects for funding under the  
25 Program;”; and

1 (B) in subparagraph (D)—

2 (i) in the matter preceding clause (i),  
3 by inserting “annually, for each region,”  
4 before “publish”; and

5 (ii) by striking clause (ii) and insert-  
6 ing the following:

7 “(ii) a list that includes a description  
8 of—

9 “(I) each project considered for  
10 funding under the Program;

11 “(II) public comments received  
12 on each project described in subclause  
13 (I);

14 “(III) the ranking within the ap-  
15 plicable region of each project de-  
16 scribed in subclause (I); and

17 “(IV) the proposed outcome of  
18 each project funded under the Pro-  
19 gram for the applicable fiscal year.”;  
20 and

21 (2) by adding at the end the following:

22 “(f) DEFINITION OF REGION.—In this section, the  
23 term ‘region’ means one of the 9 regions of the Forest  
24 Service.”.

1 **SEC. 8507. DIRECT HIRE AUTHORITY.**

2 For fiscal year 2026 and each fiscal year thereafter,  
3 the Secretary may appoint, without regard to the provi-  
4 sions of subchapter I of chapter 33 of title 5, United  
5 States Code, other than sections 3303 and 3328 of that  
6 title, a Job Corps graduate (as defined in section 142(5)  
7 of the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (29  
8 U.S.C. 3192(5))) to a position in the competitive service  
9 in the Forest Service for which the graduate meets the  
10 qualification standards.

11 **SEC. 8508. IMPROVING THE EMERGENCY FOREST RESTORA-**  
12 **TION PROGRAM.**

13 Section 407 of the Agricultural Credit Act of 1978  
14 (16 U.S.C. 2206) is amended—

15 (1) by redesignating subsection (e) as sub-  
16 section (f); and

17 (2) by inserting after subsection (d) the fol-  
18 lowing:

19 “(e) ADVANCE PAYMENTS.—

20 “(1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall give an  
21 owner of nonindustrial private forest land the option  
22 of receiving, before the owner carries out emergency  
23 measures under this section, not more than 75 per-  
24 cent of the cost of the emergency measures, as de-  
25 termined by the Secretary based on the fair market  
26 value of the cost of the emergency measures using

1 the estimated cost of the applicable practice pub-  
2 lished in the Field Office Technical Guide of each  
3 State by the Natural Resources Conservation Serv-  
4 ice.

5 “(2) RETURN OF FUNDS.—If the funds pro-  
6 vided under paragraph (1) are not expended by the  
7 end of the 180-day period beginning on the date on  
8 which the owner of nonindustrial private forest land  
9 receives those funds, the funds shall be returned to  
10 the Secretary within a reasonable timeframe, as de-  
11 termined by the Secretary.”

12 **SEC. 8509. EXEMPTION FOR PREVIOUSLY ANALYZED AREAS**  
13 **OF NATIONAL FOREST SYSTEM LANDS.**

14 (a) IN GENERAL.—The requirements under the Na-  
15 tional Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (42 U.S.C. 4321  
16 et seq.) or division A of subtitle 54, United States Code,  
17 shall not apply to an application for a communications use  
18 authorization on National Forest System lands, including  
19 National Forest System lands on which authorized utili-  
20 ties, communications facilities, powerline facilities, or  
21 roads have been installed, if—

22 (1) the communications equipment is located in  
23 or on existing infrastructure; or

1           (2) the communications facility is located on  
2           previously analyzed areas of National Forest System  
3           lands.

4           (b) NO ADDITIONAL CONSULTATION REQUIRED  
5 UNDER CERTAIN CIRCUMSTANCES.—Notwithstanding  
6 any other provision of law, the Secretary shall not be re-  
7 quired to reinitiate consultation of the requirements under  
8 the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (42 U.S.C.  
9 4321 et seq.) or division A of subtitle 54, United States  
10 Code, for an application for a communications use author-  
11 ization on previously analyzed areas of National Forest  
12 System lands if new information concerning a previously  
13 analyzed area of National Forest System lands becomes  
14 available.

15           (c) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

16           (1) COMMUNICATIONS FACILITY; COMMUNICA-  
17 TIONS USE AUTHORIZATION.—The terms “commu-  
18 nications facility” and “communications use author-  
19 ization” have the meanings given the terms, respec-  
20 tively, in section 8705 of the Agriculture Improve-  
21 ment Act of 2018 (43 U.S.C. 1761a).

22           (2) PREVIOUSLY ANALYZED AREAS OF NA-  
23 TIONAL FOREST SYSTEM LANDS.—The term “pre-  
24 viously analyzed areas of National Forest System

1 lands” means any National Forest System lands  
2 with respect to which the Secretary has—

3 (A) granted, issued, and executed a com-  
4 munications use authorization; and

5 (B) conducted sufficient environmental or  
6 historical reviews.

7 (3) SECRETARY.—The term “Secretary” means  
8 the Secretary of Agriculture, acting through the  
9 Chief of the Forest Service.

10 **SEC. 8510. RELEASE OF REVERSIONARY INTEREST IN**  
11 **BLACK RIVER STATE FOREST.**

12 (a) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

13 (1) DELI, INC.—The term “Deli, Inc.” means  
14 Deli, Inc., a sphagnum moss production business lo-  
15 cated in Millston, Wisconsin.

16 (2) DELI LAND.—The term “Deli land” means  
17 the approximately 37.27 acres of land owned or  
18 optioned to acquire, subject to the approval of the  
19 land exchange by the Wisconsin Department of Nat-  
20 ural Resources, the Wisconsin Natural Resources  
21 Board, and the Governor of Wisconsin, in 2 separate  
22 parcels, by Deli, Inc., and located in Millston, Wis-  
23 consin, as depicted on the map and as described as  
24 follows:

1 (A) A parcel of real property containing  
2 approximately 31.3 acres (which includes land  
3 within the road right-of-way), together with any  
4 improvements—

5 (i) comprising the NE<sup>1</sup>/<sub>4</sub>NE<sup>1</sup>/<sub>4</sub> sec.  
6 29, T. 20 N., R. 2 W., Town of Millston,  
7 Jackson County, Wisconsin;

8 (ii) excluding—

9 (I) land lying north of the rail-  
10 road right-of-way; and

11 (II) a parcel 150 feet wide, with  
12 50 feet lying to the northeast, and  
13 100 feet to the southwest, of a line  
14 commencing at a point 5 feet east of  
15 the northwest corner of the quarter-  
16 quarter section described in clause (i),  
17 thence south 56° east 39" a distance  
18 of 222 feet, thence south 57° east 31"  
19 a distance of 1359 feet; and

20 (iii) subject to—

21 (I) any public water use or ease-  
22 ments on Lee Lake; and

23 (II) any easements or restrictions  
24 of record, public roadways, zoning and

1 use ordinances, and the railroad right-  
2 of-way.

3 (B) A parcel of real property containing  
4 approximately 5.97 acres located in the  
5 SW<sup>1</sup>/<sub>4</sub>SW<sup>1</sup>/<sub>4</sub> sec. 20, T. 20 N., R. 4 W., Town  
6 of Millston, Jackson County, Wisconsin, com-  
7 prising lot 7 of Certified Survey Map No. 4483,  
8 as recorded in volume 19S of the certified sur-  
9 vey maps, page 334, as Document No. 413440  
10 in the Jackson County Register of Deeds.

11 (3) MAP.—The term “map” means the map en-  
12 titled “Black River State Forest—Deli, Inc.” and  
13 dated June 26, 2023.

14 (4) STATE.—The term “State” means the State  
15 of Wisconsin.

16 (5) STATE FOREST LAND.—The term “State  
17 forest land” means the approximately 31.83 acres of  
18 land located in the Black River State Forest in  
19 Millston, Wisconsin, as depicted on the map and as  
20 described as follows:

21 (A) A parcel containing 23.13 acres—

22 (i) comprising the portion of the  
23 E<sup>1</sup>/<sub>2</sub>SE<sup>1</sup>/<sub>4</sub> sec. 20, T. 20 N., R. 2. W.,  
24 Town of Millston, Jackson County, Wis-

1           consin, lying south of the Interstate High-  
2           way 94 southern right-of-way; and

3           (ii) excluding a triangular parcel in  
4           the southwest corner described as com-  
5           mencing at the southwest corner, thence  
6           east 260 feet, thence northwesterly to a  
7           point on the west boundary thereof 200  
8           feet north of the southwest corner, thence  
9           south to the place of beginning.

10           (B) A parcel containing 8.70 acres com-  
11           prising the portion of the NE<sup>1</sup>/<sub>4</sub>NE<sup>1</sup>/<sub>4</sub> sec. 29,  
12           T. 20 N., R. 2. W., Town of Millston, Jackson  
13           County, Wisconsin, lying north of the railroad  
14           right-of-way, forming a triangular piece and de-  
15           scribed as commencing at the northeast corner  
16           of that quarter-quarter section, thence west  
17           1010 feet to the north line of the railroad right-  
18           of-way, thence southeasterly along the boundary  
19           of the railroad to the east line of that quarter-  
20           quarter section, thence north on the east line  
21           750 feet to the place of beginning.

22           (b) CONDITIONAL RELEASE.—

23           (1) FINDINGS.—Congress finds that—

24           (A) the State forest land is subject to a re-  
25           versionary interest of the United States pursu-

1 ant to section 32(c) of The Bankhead-Jones  
2 Farm Tenant Act (7 U.S.C. 1011(c)), requiring  
3 that the State forest land be used for public  
4 purposes in perpetuity; and

5 (B) the State and Deli, Inc., have agreed  
6 that the State will convey the State forest land  
7 in exchange for the Deli land, and the Deli land  
8 will be added to Black River State Forest in the  
9 State.

10 (2) CONDITIONAL RELEASE.—If the State of-  
11 fers in a written agreement to convey the State for-  
12 est land to Deli, Inc., in exchange for the conveyance  
13 of the Deli land to the State—

14 (A) the reversionary interest of the United  
15 States in the State forest land shall be released;  
16 and

17 (B) the Secretary shall provide, as expedi-  
18 tiously as possible, recordable evidence of the  
19 release under subparagraph (A) in the form of  
20 a quitclaim deed, which shall—

21 (i) convey any interest of the United  
22 States in the State forest land without  
23 consideration; and

1 (ii) be provided to the State for re-  
2 cording before the exchange deeds are re-  
3 corded.

4 (3) CORRECTIONS.—The Secretary, in consulta-  
5 tion with the State, may make any necessary correc-  
6 tions to the legal description of the State forest land  
7 for purposes of the quitclaim deed described in para-  
8 graph (2)(B).

9 **SEC. 8511. DOUG LAMALFA SECURE RURAL SCHOOLS ACT.**

10 Section 1 of the Secure Rural Schools and Commu-  
11 nity Self-Determination Act of 2000 (16 U.S.C. 7101  
12 note) is amended by inserting “or the ‘Doug LaMalfa Se-  
13 cure Rural Schools Act’” before the period at the end.

14 **SEC. 8512. MINOR RANGE IMPROVEMENTS UNDER FOREST**  
15 **SERVICE GRAZING PERMITS.**

16 (a) MINOR RANGE IMPROVEMENTS BY PERMIT-  
17 TEES.—Not later than 1 year after the date of the enact-  
18 ment of this Act, the Secretary shall issue regulations al-  
19 lowing a permittee to carry out a minor range improve-  
20 ment on the lands with respect to which the permittee  
21 holds a grazing permit if—

22 (1) the permittee notifies the applicable Forest  
23 Service district ranger at least 30 days prior to car-  
24 rying out such minor range improvement; and

25 (2) such applicable district ranger—

1 (A) approves the minor range improve-  
2 ment; or

3 (B) does not respond to notification re-  
4 garding the minor range improvement.

5 (b) RANGE IMPROVEMENTS BY THE SECRETARY.—

6 The Secretary, acting through the applicable district rang-  
7 er, shall—

8 (1) respond to a covered request not later than  
9 30 days after the date on which such request is sub-  
10 mitted; and

11 (2) if such response confirms that the Sec-  
12 retary, acting through the applicable district ranger,  
13 will carry out the range improvement requested—

14 (A) notify the district office that serves the  
15 area in which such range improvement will  
16 occur; and

17 (B) expedite the carrying out of such  
18 range improvement using any available adminis-  
19 trative tools or authorities, including categorical  
20 exclusions.

21 (c) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

22 (1) CFR TERMS.—The terms “grazing permit”,  
23 “permittee”, and “range improvement” have the  
24 meanings given those terms, respectively, in section

1 222.1 of title 36, Code of Federal Regulations (or  
2 any successor regulations).

3 (2) COVERED REQUEST.—The term “covered  
4 request” means a request submitted by a permittee  
5 to the Secretary requesting that the Secretary carry  
6 out a range improvement.

7 (3) MINOR RANGE IMPROVEMENT.—The term  
8 “minor range improvement” includes improvements  
9 to existing fences and fence lines, wells, water pipe-  
10 lines, and stock tanks.

## 11 **Subtitle F—White Oak Resilience**

### 12 **SEC. 8601. SHORT TITLE.**

13 This subtitle may be cited as the “White Oak Resil-  
14 ience Act”.

### 15 **SEC. 8602. WHITE OAK RESTORATION INITIATIVE COALI- 16 TION.**

17 (a) IN GENERAL.—The White Oak Restoration Ini-  
18 tiative Coalition shall be established—

19 (1) as a voluntary collaborative group of Fed-  
20 eral, State, Tribal, and local governments and pri-  
21 vate and nongovernmental organizations to carry out  
22 the duties described in subsection (b); and

23 (2) in accordance with the charter titled “White  
24 Oak Initiative Coalition Charter” adopted by the

1 White Oak Initiative Board of Directors on March  
2 21, 2023 (or any successor charter).

3 (b) DUTIES.—In addition to the duties specified in  
4 the charter described in subsection (a)(2), the duties of  
5 the White Oak Restoration Initiative Coalition are—

6 (1) to coordinate Federal, State, Tribal, local,  
7 private, and nongovernmental restoration of white  
8 oak in the United States; and

9 (2) to make program and policy recommenda-  
10 tions, consistent with applicable forest management  
11 plans, with respect to—

12 (A) changes necessary to address Federal  
13 and State policies that impede activities to im-  
14 prove the health, resiliency, and natural regen-  
15 eration of white oak;

16 (B) adopting or modifying Federal and  
17 State policies to increase the pace and scale of  
18 white oak regeneration and resiliency of white  
19 oak;

20 (C) options to enhance communication, co-  
21 ordination, and collaboration between forest  
22 landowners, particularly for cross-boundary  
23 projects, to improve the health, resiliency, and  
24 natural regeneration of white oak;

1 (D) research gaps that should be ad-  
2 dressed to improve the best available science on  
3 white oak;

4 (E) outreach to forest landowners with  
5 white oak or white oak regeneration potential;  
6 and

7 (F) options and policies necessary to im-  
8 prove the quality and quantity of white oak in  
9 tree nurseries.

10 (c) ADMINISTRATIVE SUPPORT, TECHNICAL SERV-  
11 ICES, AND STAFF SUPPORT.—The Secretary of the Inte-  
12 rior and the Secretary shall make such personnel available  
13 to the White Oak Restoration Initiative Coalition for ad-  
14 ministrative support, technical services, and development  
15 and dissemination of educational materials as the Sec-  
16 retary of the Interior or the Secretary, as applicable, de-  
17 termines necessary to carry out this section.

18 **SEC. 8603. FOREST SERVICE PILOT PROGRAM.**

19 (a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary, acting through the  
20 Chief of the Forest Service, shall establish and carry out  
21 5 pilot projects in national forests to restore white oak  
22 in such forests through white oak restoration and natural  
23 regeneration practices that are consistent with applicable  
24 forest management plans.

1 (b) NATIONAL FORESTS RESERVED OR WITHDRAWN  
2 FROM PUBLIC DOMAIN.—At least 3 pilot projects re-  
3 quired under subsection (a) shall be carried out on na-  
4 tional forests reserved or withdrawn from the public do-  
5 main.

6 (c) AUTHORITY TO ENTER INTO COOPERATIVE  
7 AGREEMENTS.—The Secretary may enter into cooperative  
8 agreements to carry out the pilot projects required under  
9 subsection (a).

10 (d) SUNSET.—The authority under this section shall  
11 terminate on the date that is 7 years after the date of  
12 enactment of this Act.

13 **SEC. 8604. WHITE OAK REGENERATION AND UPLAND OAK**  
14 **HABITAT.**

15 (a) ESTABLISHMENT.—Not later than 180 days after  
16 the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary shall  
17 establish a nonregulatory program to be known as the  
18 “White Oak and Upland Oak Habitat Regeneration Pro-  
19 gram” (in this section referred to as the “Program”).

20 (b) DUTIES.—In carrying out the Program, the Sec-  
21 retary shall—

22 (1) draw upon the best available science and  
23 management plans for species of white oak to iden-  
24 tify, prioritize, and implement restoration and con-

1        servation activities that will improve the growth of  
2        white oak within the United States;

3            (2) collaborate and coordinate with the White  
4        Oak Restoration Initiative Coalition to prioritize  
5        white oak restoration initiatives;

6            (3) adopt a white oak restoration strategy  
7        that—

8            (A) supports the implementation of a  
9        shared set of science-based restoration and con-  
10       servation activities developed in accordance with  
11       paragraph (1);

12           (B) targets cost-effective projects with  
13        measurable results; and

14           (C) maximizes restoration outcomes with  
15        no net gain of Federal full-time equivalent em-  
16        ployees; and

17           (4) establish the voluntary grant and technical  
18        assistance programs in accordance with subsection  
19        (e).

20        (c) COORDINATION.—In establishing the Program,  
21        the Secretary, acting through the Chief of the Forest Serv-  
22        ice, shall consult with—

23            (1) the heads of Federal agencies, including—

24            (A) the Director of the United States Fish  
25        and Wildlife Service; and

1 (B) the Chief of the Natural Resources  
2 Conservation Service; and

3 (2) the Governor of each State in which res-  
4 toration efforts will be carried out pursuant to the  
5 Program.

6 (d) PURPOSES.—The purposes of the Program in-  
7 clude—

8 (1) coordinating restoration and conservation  
9 activities among Federal, State, Tribal, and local en-  
10 tities and conservation partners to address white oak  
11 restoration priorities;

12 (2) improving and regenerating white oak and  
13 upland oak forests and the wildlife habitat such for-  
14 ests provide;

15 (3) carrying out coordinated restoration and  
16 conservation activities that lead to the increased  
17 growth of species of white oak in native white oak  
18 regions on Federal, State, Tribal, and private land;

19 (4) facilitating strategic planning to maximize  
20 the resilience of white oak systems and habitats  
21 under changing climate conditions;

22 (5) engaging the public through outreach, edu-  
23 cation, and citizen involvement to increase capacity  
24 and support for coordinated restoration and con-  
25 servation activities for species of white oak; and

1           (6) increasing scientific capacity to support the  
2           planning, monitoring, and research activities nec-  
3           essary to carry out such coordinated restoration and  
4           conservation activities.

5           (e) GRANTS AND ASSISTANCE.—

6           (1) IN GENERAL.—To the extent that funds are  
7           available to carry out this section, the Secretary  
8           shall establish a voluntary grant and technical as-  
9           sistance program (in this section referred to as the  
10          “grant program”) to achieve the purposes of the  
11          Program, as described in subsection (d).

12          (2) ADMINISTRATION.—

13           (A) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall  
14           enter into a cooperative agreement with the Na-  
15           tional Fish and Wildlife Foundation (in this  
16           subsection referred to as the “Foundation”) to  
17           manage and administer the grant program.

18           (B) FUNDING.—Subject to the availability  
19           of appropriations made in advance for such  
20           purpose, after the Secretary enters into a coop-  
21           erative agreement with the Foundation under  
22           subparagraph (A), the Foundation shall, for  
23           each fiscal year, receive amounts to carry out  
24           this subsection in an advance payment of the

1           entire amount on October 1, or as soon as prac-  
2           ticable thereafter, of that fiscal year.

3           (3) APPLICATION OF NATIONAL FISH AND  
4           WILDLIFE FOUNDATION ESTABLISHMENT ACT.—  
5           Amounts received by the Foundation to carry out  
6           the grant program shall be subject to the National  
7           Fish and Wildlife Foundation Establishment Act (16  
8           U.S.C. 3701 et seq.), excluding section 10(a) of that  
9           Act (16 U.S.C. 3709(a)).

10          (f) SUNSET.—The authority under this section shall  
11         terminate on the date that is 7 years after the date of  
12         the enactment of this Act.

13         **SEC. 8605. TREE NURSERY SHORTAGES.**

14          (a) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 1 year after the  
15         date of the enactment of this section, the Secretary, acting  
16         through the Chief of the Forest Service, shall—

17                 (1) develop and implement a national strategy  
18                 to increase the capacity of Federal, State, Tribal,  
19                 and private tree nurseries to address the nationwide  
20                 shortage of tree seedlings; and

21                 (2) coordinate such strategy with—

22                         (A) the national reforestation strategy of  
23                         the Forest Service; and

24                         (B) each regional implementation plan for  
25                         national forests.

1 (b) ELEMENTS.—The strategy required under sub-  
2 section (a) shall—

3 (1) be based on the best available science and  
4 data; and

5 (2) identify and address—

6 (A) regional seedling shortages of bareroot  
7 and container tree seedlings;

8 (B) regional reforestation opportunities  
9 and the seedling supply necessary to fulfill such  
10 opportunities;

11 (C) opportunities to enhance seedling di-  
12 versity and close gaps in seed inventories; and

13 (D) barriers to expanding, enhancing, or  
14 creating new infrastructure to increase nursery  
15 capacity.

## 16 **TITLE IX—ENERGY**

### 17 **SEC. 9001. DEFINITION OF ADVANCED BIOFUEL.**

18 Section 9001(3)(B)(iv) of the Farm Security and  
19 Rural Investment Act of 2002 (7 U.S.C. 8101(3)(B)(iv))  
20 is amended by inserting “and sustainable aviation fuel”  
21 after “diesel-equivalent fuel”.

### 22 **SEC. 9002. BIOBASED MARKETS PROGRAM.**

23 Section 9002 of the Farm Security and Rural Invest-  
24 ment Act of 2002 (7 U.S.C. 8102) is amended—

25 (1) in subsection (a)—

1 (A) in paragraph (2), by adding at the end  
2 the following:

3 “(G) PROCUREMENT RESOURCES.—The  
4 Office of Federal Procurement Policy, in coordi-  
5 nation with the Secretary, shall provide edu-  
6 cational materials to procuring agencies to con-  
7 sider the longevity of a product, economic sav-  
8 ings, and the efficacy and performance of a  
9 product when making procurement decisions  
10 under this subsection.”; and

11 (B) in paragraph (4)—

12 (i) in subparagraph (A), by striking  
13 clause (ii) and redesignating clauses (iii)  
14 and (iv) as clauses (ii) and (iii), respec-  
15 tively;

16 (ii) in subparagraph (B)(i)—

17 (I) in the matter preceding sub-  
18 clause (I)—

19 (aa) by inserting “and the  
20 Secretary” after “Policy”; and

21 (bb) by striking “informa-  
22 tion concerning—” and inserting  
23 “a report that describes, for the  
24 year covered by the report—”;

1 (II) in subclause (I), by inserting  
2 “, including the actions taken by the  
3 procuring agency to establish and im-  
4 plement the biobased procurement  
5 program of the procuring agency  
6 under that paragraph” before the  
7 semicolon;

8 (III) in subclause (IV), by strik-  
9 ing “and” at the end;

10 (IV) in subclause (V), by striking  
11 “and” at the end; and

12 (V) by adding at the end the fol-  
13 lowing:

14 “(VI)(aa) the specific categories  
15 of biobased products that are unavail-  
16 able to meet procurement needs of the  
17 procuring agencies; and

18 “(bb) the desired performance  
19 characteristics and other relevant  
20 specifications for those products; and

21 “(VII) if applicable, an expla-  
22 nation of the procurement require-  
23 ment or updated procurement require-  
24 ment established under paragraph  
25 (2)(A)(i) that procuring agencies

1 failed to meet and reasons for the fail-  
2 ure; and”;

3 (iii) by adding at the end the fol-  
4 lowing:

5 “(D) ACCOUNTABILITY.—The Office of  
6 Federal Procurement Policy, in consultation  
7 with the Secretary, shall annually—

8 “(i) collect the information required to  
9 be reported under subparagraph (B) and  
10 make the information publicly available;

11 “(ii) using the information collected  
12 under subparagraph (B) of this paragraph,  
13 document relevant procuring agencies  
14 under paragraph (2)(A)(i) that, as applica-  
15 ble, have established a procurement pro-  
16 gram in accordance with paragraph  
17 (2)(A)(i)(I); and

18 “(iii) make the information publicly  
19 available, subject to the exemptions from  
20 disclosure under section 552(b) of title 5,  
21 United States Code.”;

22 (2) in subsection (f)—

23 (A) in paragraph (1)—

24 (i) in the heading, by inserting “AND  
25 NAPCS” before “CODES”;

1 (ii) by inserting “and North American  
2 Product Classification System codes” be-  
3 fore “for—”; and

4 (iii) by striking subparagraphs (A)  
5 and (B) and inserting the following:

6 “(A) renewable chemicals manufacturers  
7 and biobased products manufacturers; and

8 “(B) renewable chemicals and biobased  
9 products.”; and

10 (B) by redesignating paragraph (2) as  
11 paragraph (3) and inserting after paragraph  
12 (1) the following:

13 “(2) REPORT.—To inform the development of  
14 codes under paragraph (1), the Secretary shall,  
15 within 90 days after the date of the enactment of  
16 this paragraph, submit to the Committee on Agri-  
17 culture of the House of Representatives and the  
18 Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry  
19 of the Senate, a report that provides—

20 “(A) the Federal statistical collections of  
21 information related to the North American In-  
22 dustry Classification System codes and the  
23 North American Product Classification System  
24 codes that utilize bioeconomy-specific data;

1           “(B) recommendations to implement any  
2 bioeconomy-related changes as part of the 2027  
3 revisions of the North American Industry Clas-  
4 sification System codes and the North Amer-  
5 ican Product Classification System codes; and

6           “(C) an assessment of the impacts that  
7 bioeconomy-specific North American Industry  
8 Classification System codes and North Amer-  
9 ican Product Classification System codes would  
10 have on the measurement by the agency of the  
11 economic contributions of the bioeconomy.”;  
12 and

13 (3) in subsection (k)—

14           (A) in paragraph (1), by striking “2024”  
15 and inserting “2031”; and

16           (B) in paragraph (2), by striking “2023”  
17 and inserting “2031”.

18 **SEC. 9003. BIOREFINERY ASSISTANCE.**

19           (a) IN GENERAL.—Section 9003 of the Farm Secu-  
20 rity and Rural Investment Act of 2002 (7 U.S.C. 8103)  
21 is amended—

22           (1) in subsection (b)(1)—

23           (A) by inserting “or innovative” before  
24 “commercial-scale”; and

1 (B) by inserting “, renewable chemicals, or  
2 biobased products” after “end-user products”;

3 (2) in subsection (d)(1)—

4 (A) in subparagraph (B)—

5 (i) by striking all that precedes “a  
6 loan guarantee” and inserting the fol-  
7 lowing:

8 “(B) FEASIBILITY.—

9 “(i) IN GENERAL.—In approving”;  
10 and

11 (ii) by adding after and below the end  
12 the following:

13 “(ii) WAIVER.—The Secretary may  
14 waive the requirement that the applicant  
15 must demonstrate commercial viability for  
16 projects adopting commercially available  
17 technology.”;

18 (B) by redesignating subparagraphs (C)  
19 and (D) as subparagraphs (D) and (E), respec-  
20 tively; and

21 (C) by inserting after subparagraph (B)  
22 the following:

23 “(C) TECHNICAL REVIEW AGREEMENT.—

24 “(i) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary  
25 shall enter into an agreement with each

1 project applicant that clearly outlines the  
2 specific objectives, outcomes, and condi-  
3 tions by which the Secretary determines  
4 successful technical feasibility of the  
5 project under this section.

6 “(ii) CONDITIONS OF AGREEMENT.—  
7 The agreement provided under clause (i)  
8 shall include clear guidelines and expecta-  
9 tions for the methodologies, protocols, and  
10 procedures, and what the eligible tech-  
11 nology must demonstrate, for the Depart-  
12 ment to determine technical feasibility  
13 from an integrated demonstration unit, in-  
14 cluding—

15 “(I) a set timeline for the inte-  
16 grated demonstration unit campaign  
17 and final technical report to show reli-  
18 able evidence of continuous, steady-  
19 state production;

20 “(II) criteria and methods for  
21 evaluating the project’s success, in-  
22 cluding any third-party assessments  
23 or evaluations that may be conducted  
24 during the demonstration period and  
25 at the conclusion of the set timeline;

1 “(III) criteria and methods to  
2 prove the ability of the integrated  
3 demonstration unit to use project-spe-  
4 cific feedstock for the production of  
5 advanced biofuels, renewable chemi-  
6 cals, or biobased products at a yield  
7 and quality consistent with the design  
8 basis of the project;

9 “(IV) required information and  
10 conditions that demonstrate operation  
11 duration, quality, and quantity speci-  
12 fications; and

13 “(V) any other information that,  
14 if supplied to the Secretary, would as-  
15 sist the eligible entity in sufficiently  
16 demonstrating a project’s technical  
17 feasibility.

18 “(iii) FAILURE TO COMPLY WITH  
19 AGREEMENT.—

20 “(I) NONCOMPLIANCE NOTIFICA-  
21 TION.—If a project applicant fails to  
22 comply with the technical feasibility  
23 requirements as provided under clause  
24 (ii), the Secretary shall issue a written  
25 notice to the project applicant detail-

1           ing the specific deficiencies and pro-  
2           viding a reasonable timeframe for the  
3           project applicant to rectify the issues.

4                   “(II) CORRECTIVE ACTION PE-  
5           RIOD.—The project applicant shall  
6           have a period of not more than 90  
7           days from the date of issuance of the  
8           noncompliance notice to address the  
9           identified deficiencies and submit a  
10          revised technical feasibility assessment  
11          for reconsideration.

12                   “(iv) TECHNICAL FEASIBILITY AP-  
13          PROVAL.—Upon fulfillment of the condi-  
14          tions of agreement established under  
15          clause (ii) or approval of the revised tech-  
16          nical feasibility assessment under clause  
17          (iii)(II), the Secretary shall determine the  
18          project to be technically feasible.”; and

19          (3) in subsection (g)—

20                   (A) by striking all that precedes “is au-  
21          thorized” and inserting the following:

22          “(g) FUNDING.—There”; and

23                   (B) by striking “2023” and inserting  
24          “2031”.

1 (b) RESCISSION.—Of the unobligated balances of  
2 amounts made available under section 9003 of the Farm  
3 Security and Rural Investment Act of 2002, \$18,000,000  
4 are rescinded.

5 **SEC. 9004. BIOPRODUCT LABELING TERMINOLOGY.**

6 Title IX of the Farm Security and Rural Investment  
7 Act of 2002 (7 U.S.C. 8101–8115) is amended by insert-  
8 ing after section 9003 the following:

9 **“SEC. 9004. BIOPRODUCT LABELING TERMINOLOGY.**

10 **“(a) UNIFORM STANDARDS.—**

11 **“(1) IN GENERAL.—**Within 1 year after the  
12 date of the enactment of this section, the Secretary  
13 shall issue rules implementing national uniform la-  
14 beling standards for, and ensuring the proper use of,  
15 the following terms in the labeling and marketing of  
16 bioproducts:

17 **“(A) Bio-attributed plastic.**

18 **“(B) Bio-attributed product.**

19 **“(C) Biobased plastic.**

20 **“(D) Plant-based product.**

21 **“(2) INCLUSION OF CERTAIN DEFINED**  
22 **TERMS.—**In implementing the national uniform la-  
23 beling standards under paragraph (1), the Secretary  
24 shall include the following terms, as defined in sec-  
25 tion 9001:

1 “(A) Biobased product.

2 “(B) Intermediate ingredient or feedstock.

3 “(C) Renewable biomass.

4 “(D) Renewable chemical.

5 “(b) CONSULTATION.—In defining terms under sub-  
6 section (a), the Secretary shall consult with—

7 “(1) biomanufacturers;

8 “(2) entities engaged in research and develop-  
9 ment of bioproducts;

10 “(3) feedstock growers; and

11 “(4) other industry stakeholders.”.

12 **SEC. 9005. BIOENERGY PROGRAM FOR ADVANCED**  
13 **BIOFUELS.**

14 Section 9005(g)(2) of the Farm Security and Rural  
15 Investment Act of 2002 (7 U.S.C. 8105(g)(2)) is amended  
16 by striking “2023” and inserting “2031”.

17 **SEC. 9006. BIODIESEL FUEL EDUCATION PROGRAM.**

18 Section 9006 of the Farm Security and Rural Invest-  
19 ment Act of 2002 (7 U.S.C. 8106) is repealed.

20 **SEC. 9007. RURAL ENERGY FOR AMERICA PROGRAM.**

21 (a) IN GENERAL.—Section 9007 of the Farm Secu-  
22 rity and Rural Investment Act of 2002 (7 U.S.C. 8107)  
23 is amended—

24 (1) in subsection (a), by inserting “(referred to  
25 in this section as the ‘Program’)” after “Program”;

1 (2) in subsection (b)(3)—

2 (A) in subparagraph (D), by inserting “,  
3 cost savings,” after “savings”;

4 (B) in subparagraph (E), by striking  
5 “and” at the end;

6 (C) in subparagraph (F), by striking the  
7 period at the end and inserting “; and”; and

8 (D) by adding at the end the following:

9 “(G) the potential of the proposed program  
10 to meaningfully improve the financial conditions  
11 of the agricultural producer or rural small busi-  
12 ness.”;

13 (3) in subsection (c)—

14 (A) in paragraph (1)(A)(i), by inserting “,  
15 agricultural cooperatives with less than 2,500  
16 employees,” before “and rural”;

17 (B) in paragraph (2)—

18 (i) in subparagraph (F), by striking  
19 “and” at the end;

20 (ii) by redesignating subparagraph  
21 (G) as subparagraph (H); and

22 (iii) by inserting after subparagraph  
23 (F) the following:

1           “(G) the potential improvements to the fi-  
2           nancial conditions of the agricultural producer  
3           or rural small business; and”;

4           (C) in paragraph (3)(B), by striking  
5           “\$25,000,000” and inserting “\$50,000,000”;

6           (4) by redesignating subsections (d), (e), and  
7           (f) as subsections (e), (f), and (g), respectively, and  
8           inserting after subsection (c) the following:

9           “(d) STREAMLINED APPLICATION PROCESS.—The  
10          Secretary shall develop a streamlined application process,  
11          including within each tier described in subsection (c)(4),  
12          under which an entity may apply for a grant under sub-  
13          section (b), financial assistance under subsection (c), or  
14          a bundled application for a project with components eligi-  
15          ble under clauses (i) and (ii) of subsection (c)(1)(A).”;

16          (5) in subsection (e) (as so redesignated)—

17                 (A) in the subsection heading, by striking  
18                 “OUTREACH” and inserting “OUTREACH,  
19                 TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE, AND EDUCATION”;

20                 (B) by striking “that adequate” and in-  
21                 serting the following: “that—

22                 “(1) adequate”;

23                 (C) in paragraph (1) (as inserted by sub-  
24                 paragraph (B) of this paragraph), by striking

1 the period at the end and inserting a semicolon;  
2 and

3 (D) by adding at the end the following:

4 “(2) technical assistance is provided to entities  
5 seeking to apply for a grant or financial assistance  
6 under the Program; and

7 “(3) outreach, technical assistance, and edu-  
8 cation is provided to recipients of grants and other  
9 financial assistance under the Program relating to  
10 integrating renewable energy projects on land shared  
11 with crops or livestock.”;

12 (6) in subsection (g), (as so redesignated by  
13 paragraph (4) of this section)—

14 (A) in paragraph (3), by striking “2023”  
15 and inserting “2031”; and

16 (B) by adding at the end the following:

17 “(4) RESERVE FUND.—

18 “(A) IN GENERAL.—Of the funds obligated  
19 under paragraph (1) for each fiscal year , not  
20 less than 10 percent shall be deposited in a re-  
21 serve fund in the Treasury and reserved for use  
22 in accordance with this subparagraph.

23 “(B) USE OF FUNDS.—

24 “(i) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary  
25 shall use amounts reserved under subpara-

1 graph (A) to provide grants to support  
2 projects using underutilized renewable en-  
3 ergy technologies.

4 “(ii) COSTS.—The amount of the  
5 grant for such a project shall not exceed  
6 25 percent of the installation or mainte-  
7 nance costs of the project for the year in  
8 which the grant is awarded.

9 “(C) FREQUENCY OF SOLICITATIONS TO  
10 FUND.—The Secretary shall carry out at least  
11 2 solicitations for applications for grants from  
12 the reserve fund in each fiscal year.

13 “(D) REALLOCATION.—Any funds reserved  
14 under subparagraph (A) that remain unobli-  
15 gated 1 year after the end of the fiscal year in  
16 which made available under subparagraph (A)  
17 shall be reallocated to carry out the program  
18 established under this section.

19 “(E) DEFINITION OF UNDERUTILIZED RE-  
20 NEWABLE ENERGY TECHNOLOGIES.—The term  
21 ‘underutilized renewable energy technologies’  
22 means renewable energy technologies for which  
23 have been expended not more than 20 percent  
24 of the average of the total amounts made avail-  
25 able under this section for the 5 fiscal years

1           most recently ending before the date of the en-  
2           actment of this paragraph.”; and

3           (7) by adding at the end the following:

4           “(h) **PROJECT DIVERSITY.**—In approving grant or  
5 loan guarantee applications under this section, the Sec-  
6 retary shall ensure that, to the extent practicable, there  
7 is diversity in the types of projects approved for grants  
8 or loan guarantees to ensure that as wide a range as pos-  
9 sible of technologies, products, and approaches are as-  
10 sisted.”.

11          (b) **CONFORMING AMENDMENTS.**—Section 9007 of  
12 such Act (7 U.S.C. 8107) is amended by striking “sub-  
13 section (f)” each place it appears and inserting “sub-  
14 section (g)”.

15 **SEC. 9008. FEEDSTOCK FLEXIBILITY.**

16          Section 9010(b) of the Farm Security and Rural In-  
17 vestment Act of 2002 (7 U.S.C. 8110(b)) is amended—

18           (1) in paragraph (1)(A), by striking “2026”  
19           and inserting “2031”; and

20           (2) in paragraph (2)(A), by striking “2026”  
21           and inserting “2031”.

22 **SEC. 9009. BIOMASS CROP ASSISTANCE PROGRAM.**

23          Section 9011(f)(1) of the Farm Security and Rural  
24 Investment Act of 2002 (7 U.S.C. 8111(f)(1)) is amended  
25 by striking “2023” and inserting “2031”.

1 **SEC. 9010. CARBON UTILIZATION AND BIOGAS EDUCATION**  
2 **PROGRAM.**

3 Section 9014 of the Farm Security and Rural Invest-  
4 ment Act of 2002 (7 U.S.C. 8115) is repealed.

5 **SEC. 9011. STUDY ON EFFECTS OF SOLAR PANEL INSTALLA-**  
6 **TIONS ON COVERED FARMLAND.**

7 Title IX of the Farm Security and Rural Investment  
8 Act of 2002 (7 U.S.C. 8101–8115) is amended by adding  
9 at the end the following:

10 **“SEC. 9014. STUDY ON EFFECTS OF SOLAR PANEL INSTAL-**  
11 **LATIONS ON COVERED FARMLAND.**

12 “(a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary, in consultation  
13 with the Secretary of Energy, shall conduct a study on  
14 the effects of solar panel installations on the conversion  
15 of covered farmland out of agricultural production in ac-  
16 cordance with this section.

17 “(b) CONTENT.—In conducting the study under this  
18 section, the Secretary shall—

19 “(1) analyze the economic effects of solar panel  
20 installations on covered farmland, including the ef-  
21 fects on—

22 “(A) crop yields;

23 “(B) land values, including adjacent prop-  
24 erties;

25 “(C) land access and tenure;

26 “(D) local economies; and

1 “(E) food security;

2 “(2) investigate impacts of solar panel installa-  
3 tion, operation, and decommissioning on covered  
4 farmland, and suggest best practices to protect—

5 “(A) soil health;

6 “(B) water resources;

7 “(C) wildlife;

8 “(D) vegetation;

9 “(E) water drainage; and

10 “(F) air quality;

11 “(3) assess the impacts of shared solar energy  
12 and agricultural production on covered farmland, in-  
13 cluding best practices to—

14 “(A) maintain or increase agricultural pro-  
15 duction;

16 “(B) increase agricultural resilience;

17 “(C) retain covered farmland;

18 “(D) increase economic opportunities in  
19 farming and rural communities, including new  
20 revenue streams and job creation;

21 “(E) reduce nonfarmer ownership of cov-  
22 ered farmland; and

23 “(F) enhance biodiversity;

1           “(4) assess the types of agricultural land best  
2 suited and worst suited for shared solar energy and  
3 agricultural production;

4           “(5) study the compatibility of different species  
5 of livestock with different solar panel system de-  
6 signs, including—

7                 “(A) the optimal height of and distance be-  
8 tween solar panels for livestock grazing and  
9 shade for livestock;

10                “(B) manure management considerations;

11                “(C) fencing requirements; and

12                “(D) other animal-handling considerations;

13           “(6) study the compatibility of different crop  
14 types with different solar panel system designs, in-  
15 cluding—

16                 “(A) the optimal height of and distance be-  
17 tween solar panels for plant shading and farm  
18 equipment use; and

19                 “(B) the impact on crop yield;

20           “(7) evaluate the degree to which existing Fed-  
21 eral, State, or local tax incentives result in the devel-  
22 opment of covered farmland under study;

23           “(8) recommend effective incentives that could  
24 shift solar panel installations toward the built envi-

1       ronment, brownfield sites, and other contaminated  
2       sites;

3           “(9) evaluate the effectiveness of programs ad-  
4       ministered by the Federal Government related to  
5       solar energy development that—

6           “(A) result in the development of contami-  
7       nated lands, the built environment, and other  
8       preferred sites; and

9           “(B) discourage solar panel installations  
10       that would convert covered farmland out of ag-  
11       ricultural production; and

12          “(10) estimate the loss of agricultural produc-  
13       tion on covered farmland due to solar panel installa-  
14       tions.

15          “(c) CONSULTATION WITH RELEVANT STAKE-  
16       HOLDERS.—In addition to consultation with the Secretary  
17       of Energy, while conducting the study under this section,  
18       the Secretary shall consult with—

19           “(1) farmers;

20           “(2) ranchers;

21           “(3) landowners;

22           “(4) agricultural organizations;

23           “(5) State departments of agriculture and en-  
24       ergy;

25           “(6) units of local government;

1           “(7) conservation organizations;

2           “(8) land-grant colleges and universities (as de-  
3       fined in section 1404 of the National Agricultural  
4       Research, Extension, and Teaching Policy Act of  
5       1977 (7 U.S.C. 3103)); and

6           “(9) solar developers.

7       “(d) REPORT.—Within 2 years after the date of en-  
8       actment of this Act, the Secretary of Agriculture shall sub-  
9       mit to the Committee on Agriculture and the Committee  
10      on Energy and Commerce of the House of Representatives  
11      and the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and For-  
12      estry and the Committee on Energy and Natural Re-  
13      sources of the Senate a written report on the findings of  
14      the study and recommendations under this section.

15       “(e) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

16           “(1) COVERED FARMLAND.—The term ‘covered  
17       farmland’ includes—

18               “(A) farmland, as defined in section  
19               1540(c)(1) of the Farmland Protection Policy  
20               Act (7 U.S.C. 4201(c)(1)); and

21               “(B) nonindustrial private forest land, as  
22               defined in section 201(a)(18) of the Food Secu-  
23               rity Act of 1985 (16 U.S.C. 3801(a)(18)).

24           “(2) BROWNFIELD SITE.—The term ‘brownfield  
25       site’ has the meaning given that term in section

1 101(39) of the Comprehensive Environmental Re-  
2 sponse, Compensation, and Liability Act of 1980 (42  
3 U.S.C. 9601(39)).

4 “(3) SECRETARY.—The term ‘Secretary’ means  
5 the Secretary of Agriculture.”.

6 **SEC. 9012. LIMITATION ON USDA FUNDING FOR GROUND-**  
7 **MOUNTED SOLAR ENERGY SYSTEMS.**

8 Title IX of the Farm Security and Rural Investment  
9 Act of 2002 (7 U.S.C. 8101–8115) is further amended  
10 by adding at the end the following:

11 **“SEC. 9015. LIMITATION ON USDA FUNDING FOR GROUND-**  
12 **MOUNTED SOLAR ENERGY SYSTEMS.**

13 “(a) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

14 “(1) COVERED FARMLAND.—The term ‘covered  
15 farmland’ includes—

16 “(A) farmland, as defined in section  
17 1540(c)(1) of the Farmland Protection Policy  
18 Act (7 U.S.C. 4201(c)(1)); and

19 “(B) nonindustrial private forest land, as  
20 defined in section 201(a)(18) of the Food Secu-  
21 rity Act of 1985 (16 U.S.C. 3801(a)(18)).

22 “(2) CONVERSION.—The term ‘conversion’  
23 means, with respect to covered farmland, any activ-  
24 ity that results in the covered farmland failing to  
25 meet the requirements of a State (as defined in sec-

1           tion 343 of the Consolidated Farm and Rural Devel-  
2           opment Act (7 U.S.C. 1991)) for agricultural pro-  
3           duction, activity, or use or timber harvest.

4           “(3) SECRETARY.—The term ‘Secretary’ means  
5           the Secretary of Agriculture.

6           “(b) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary may not provide  
7           financial assistance for a project that would result in the  
8           conversion of covered farmland for solar energy produc-  
9           tion.

10          “(c) EXCEPTION.—Subsection (b) shall not apply to  
11          a project if the project—

12                 “(1) results in the conversion of less than 5  
13                 acres of covered farmland; or

14                 “(2) results in the conversion of less than 50  
15                 acres of covered farmland with—

16                         “(A) the majority of the energy produced  
17                         being for on-farm use; and

18                         “(B) receipt of a resolution of approval or  
19                         support, or other similar instrument, from each  
20                         county and municipality in which the project is  
21                         sited.

22          “(d) COVERED FARMLAND PROTECTION.—

23                 “(1) FARMLAND CONSERVATION PLAN RE-  
24                 QUIRED.—A person who has applied to the Secretary

1 for financial assistance for a project to which sub-  
2 section (c)(2) applies shall—

3 “(A) develop a farmland conservation plan  
4 for the project to—

5 “(i) implement best practices to pro-  
6 tect future soil health and productivity,  
7 and mitigate soil erosion, compaction, and  
8 other effects of solar energy production  
9 during construction, operation, and decom-  
10 missioning; and

11 “(ii) remediate and restore the soil  
12 health of the farmland to that of the farm-  
13 land before the solar energy production  
14 project construction; and

15 “(B) ensure that sufficient funds, as deter-  
16 mined by the Secretary, are provided for the de-  
17 commissioning of the solar energy production  
18 system and the remediation and restoration of  
19 covered farmland to carry out the farmland  
20 conservation plan described in subparagraph  
21 (A).

22 “(2) OBLIGATION AND DISBURSEMENT OF  
23 FUNDS.—The Secretary may obligate financial as-  
24 sistance for a project described in paragraph (1),  
25 but shall not disburse the financial assistance until

1 the Secretary has determined that the applicant for  
2 the financial assistance has complied with paragraph  
3 (1).

4 “(3) FARMLAND CONSERVATION PLAN IMPLE-  
5 MENTATION.—A person referred to in paragraph (1)  
6 shall carry out—

7 “(A) the provisions of the plan that are de-  
8 scribed in paragraph (1)(A)(i), on the receipt  
9 by the project of financial assistance from the  
10 Secretary and for the duration of solar energy  
11 production under the project; and

12 “(B) the provisions of the plan that are de-  
13 scribed in paragraph (1)(A)(ii), on the cessation  
14 of solar energy production under the project.

15 “(4) COMPLIANCE.—A person who fails to com-  
16 ply with paragraph (3) with respect to a project  
17 shall repay to the Secretary the full amount of the  
18 financial assistance provided by the Secretary to the  
19 person for the project.

20 “(e) ADDITIONAL LIMITATIONS.—The Secretary may  
21 not provide financial assistance for a project that procures  
22 a solar energy component (as defined in section 45x(e)(3)  
23 of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986) produced, manu-  
24 factured, or assembled—

1           “(1) in a foreign country of concern (as defined  
2           in section 10638(2) of the CHIPS Act of 2022 (42  
3           U.S.C. 19237(2))); or

4           “(2) by—

5                 “(A) an entity domiciled or controlled by  
6                 such a foreign country; or

7                 “(B) a foreign entity of concern (as de-  
8                 fined in section 10638(3) of the CHIPS Act of  
9                 2022 (42 U.S.C. 19237(3))).”.

10 **SEC. 9013. SUSTAINABLE AVIATION FUELS STRATEGY.**

11           The Secretary shall establish a Departmentwide  
12 strategy to advance the production of sustainable aviation  
13 fuels by—

14                 (1) facilitating the collaboration between rel-  
15 evant Department mission areas to encourage the  
16 advancement of the sustainable aviation fuels supply  
17 chain, including utilization of agricultural crops  
18 grown for sustainable aviation fuels production;

19                 (2) identifying opportunities to maximize sus-  
20 tainable aviation fuels development, deployment, and  
21 commercialization;

22                 (3) leveraging the capabilities of America’s  
23 farmers, ranchers, foresters, and producers to cap-  
24 ture opportunities in the sustainable aviation fuels  
25 market;

1           (4) supporting rural economic development  
2 through sustainable aviation fuels production; and

3           (5) promoting public-private partnerships for  
4 the development, deployment, and commercialization  
5 of sustainable aviation fuels.

6 **SEC. 9014. LEVERAGING EFFICIENCY AWARENESS FOR**  
7 **PUMPING SYSTEMS.**

8 (a) FINDINGS.—Congress finds the following:

9           (1) There are over 600,000 pumping systems  
10 used for irrigation on agricultural land in the United  
11 States, many of which still rely on fossil fuels.

12           (2) Improving the efficiency of agricultural irri-  
13 gation pumping systems can save up to  
14 22,000,000,000 kilowatt hours of energy per year  
15 and eliminate 8,300,000 metric tons of carbon emis-  
16 sions annually.

17           (3) Energy savings from electrifying agricul-  
18 tural irrigation pumping systems can save farmers  
19 and ranchers more than \$1,800,000,000 annually in  
20 energy costs.

21           (4) Pumping systems play a central role in the  
22 watering of livestock and the management of animal  
23 waste in every State.

1           (5) Pumping systems are a critical component  
2 of the Nation's \$2,300,000,000 aquaculture indus-  
3 try.

4           (6) Improving the efficiency of pumping sys-  
5 tems used in raising livestock and fish can signifi-  
6 cantly reduce energy use, save producers millions of  
7 dollars annually, and provide meaningful reductions  
8 in carbon emissions.

9           (7) Agricultural irrigation pumping systems uti-  
10 lizing plastic piping can provide significant drought  
11 relief benefits, dramatically reducing water losses  
12 from evaporation and seepage; agriculture uses 37  
13 percent of the Nation's surface and ground water,  
14 30 percent of which is lost to seepage and evapo-  
15 ration.

16           (8) Reducing the friction in piping used for ag-  
17 ricultural irrigation and livestock watering can pro-  
18 vide meaningful energy and cost savings; there are  
19 potentially 2,500 kWh of energy savings for every 10  
20 miles of plastic piping utilized in delivering water for  
21 crops and livestock.

22           (9) Solar pumping systems can play an impor-  
23 tant role in protecting riparian habitat and improv-  
24 ing water quality in streams, rivers, lakes, and estu-

1 aries through providing alternative watering options  
2 for livestock.

3 (b) INFORMATION ON ENERGY-EFFICIENT PUMPING  
4 SYSTEMS.—

5 (1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 180 days  
6 after the date of enactment of this section, the Sec-  
7 retary, in consultation with pumping system experts,  
8 in order to educate farmers on the benefits of en-  
9 ergy-efficient pumping systems, shall develop and  
10 make publicly available on the website of the De-  
11 partment easily accessible information on cost sav-  
12 ings, energy savings, water conservation, and carbon  
13 emissions reductions that can be realized through  
14 the use of energy-efficient pumping systems.

15 (2) CONTENTS.—In carrying out paragraph (1),  
16 the Secretary shall include information on—

17 (A) pumps, pipes, motors, drives, and con-  
18 trols that can provide energy savings and cost  
19 savings, conserve water, and reduce carbon  
20 emissions; and

21 (B) Department programs that provide  
22 farmers resources for acquiring energy-efficient  
23 pumping systems and drought management in-  
24 frastructure, including the environmental qual-  
25 ity incentives program, the Rural Energy for

1           America Program, and the conservation stew-  
2           ardship program.

3           (c) ENERGY EFFICIENCY PREASSESSMENT TOOL.—

4           (1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 180 days  
5           after the date of enactment of this section, the Sec-  
6           retary, in consultation with pumping system experts,  
7           in order to raise awareness of the benefits of energy-  
8           efficient pumping systems and increase participation  
9           in Department programs that promote energy effi-  
10          ciency, shall develop and make publicly available on  
11          the website of the Department a user-friendly tool  
12          to—

13                   (A) assist farmers in making a preliminary  
14                   assessment of the energy efficiency of existing  
15                   pumping systems; and

16                   (B) provide an estimate of potential energy  
17                   savings, cost savings, and carbon emissions re-  
18                   ductions that may be realized through pumping  
19                   system improvements.

20          (2) REQUIREMENTS.—

21                   (A) EASE OF USE.—The Secretary shall  
22                   ensure that the tool made available under para-  
23                   graph (1) provides a user with projected energy  
24                   savings, projected cost savings, and projected  
25                   carbon emissions reductions through the input

1 by the user of the following data relating to an  
2 existing pumping system:

3 (i) Pump type.

4 (ii) Flow rating and actual flow.

5 (iii) Pressure rating and actual pres-  
6 sure.

7 (iv) Speed rating and actual speed.

8 (B) CONSIDERATIONS.—The Secretary  
9 shall ensure that the tool made available under  
10 paragraph (1)—

11 (i) in assessing the energy efficiency  
12 of a pumping system, takes into consider-  
13 ation pumps, pipes, motors, drives, and  
14 controls associated with the pumping sys-  
15 tem; and

16 (ii) in projecting the energy savings,  
17 cost savings, and carbon emissions reduc-  
18 tions that may be realized through pump-  
19 ing system improvements, takes into con-  
20 sideration the cost of electricity and the  
21 profile of the existing pumping system.

22 (d) ENERGY AUDITOR EDUCATION.—

23 (1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 180 days  
24 after the date of enactment of this section, the Sec-  
25 retary, in consultation with pumping system experts,

1 in order to increase the effectiveness of Department  
2 of Agriculture energy efficiency programs, shall es-  
3 tablish a process to educate persons performing en-  
4 ergy efficiency audits for the Department of Agri-  
5 culture on energy use and energy efficiency in pump-  
6 ing systems.

7 (2) IMPLEMENTATION.—In carrying out para-  
8 graph (1), the Secretary shall consider the use of ex-  
9 isting education and training programs focused on  
10 energy use and energy efficiency in pumping sys-  
11 tems.

12 (e) CONSERVATION STEWARDSHIP PROGRAM ACTIVI-  
13 TIES.—Section 1240I(2)(B)(i) of the Food Security Act  
14 of 1985 (16 U.S.C. 3839aa–21(2)(B)(i)) is amended by  
15 inserting “and energy-efficient pumping systems” before  
16 “, as determined”.

17 (f) DEFINITION OF PUMPING SYSTEM.—In this sec-  
18 tion, the term “pumping system” means any pumps,  
19 pipes, motors, drives, and controls used to move water and  
20 other fluids on farms, ranches, and aquaculture oper-  
21 ations.

22 **SEC. 9015. ADDING WASTE ENERGY RECOVERY TO THE**  
23 **RURAL ENERGY FOR AMERICA PROGRAM.**

24 Section 9001(15)(A) of the Farm Security and Rural  
25 Investment Act of 2002 (7 U.S.C. 8101(15)(A)) is amend-

1 ed by striking “or hydroelectric” and inserting “hydro-  
2 electric, or waste energy recovery”.

3 **TITLE X—HORTICULTURE, MAR-**  
4 **KETING, AND REGULATORY**  
5 **REFORM**

6 **Subtitle A—Horticulture**

7 **SEC. 10001. SPECIALTY CROP BLOCK GRANTS.**

8 Section 101 of the Specialty Crops Competitiveness  
9 Act of 2004 (7 U.S.C. 1621 note; Public Law 108–465)  
10 is amended—

11 (1) in subsection (a), in the matter preceding  
12 paragraph (1)—

13 (A) by striking “2023” and inserting  
14 “2031”; and

15 (B) by striking “specialty crops, includ-  
16 ing—” and inserting “specialty crops through  
17 priorities established annually by State program  
18 administrators in consultation with specialty  
19 crop producers and producer groups, includ-  
20 ing—”; and

21 (2) by striking subsection (e), and inserting the  
22 following:

23 “(e) **PLAN REQUIREMENTS.**—The State plan shall  
24 identify the lead agency charged with the responsibility of  
25 carrying out the plan and indicate—

1           “(1) how the grant funds will be utilized to en-  
2           hance the competitiveness of specialty crops; and

3           “(2) how outreach to, and consultation with,  
4           specialty crop producers and producer groups will be  
5           achieved.”.

6 **SEC. 10002. SPECIALTY CROPS MARKET NEWS ALLOCATION.**

7           Section 10107(b) of the Food, Conservation, and En-  
8           ergy Act of 2008 (7 U.S.C. 1622b(b)) is amended by strik-  
9           ing “2023” and inserting “2031”.

10 **SEC. 10003. OFFICE OF URBAN AGRICULTURE AND INNOVA-**  
11 **TIVE PRODUCTION.**

12           Section 222 of the Department of Agriculture Reor-  
13           ganization Act of 1994 (7 U.S.C. 6923) is amended—

14           (1) in subsection (a)(3)—

15                   (A) in the matter preceding subparagraph  
16                   (A), by inserting “production” after “emerging  
17                   agricultural”;

18                   (B) in subparagraph (D)—

19                           (i) by inserting “controlled-enviro-  
20                           ment agriculture, including” before “hy-  
21                           droponic”; and

22                           (ii) by striking “and” at the end;

23                   (C) by redesignating subparagraph (E) as  
24                   subparagraph (H); and

1 (D) by inserting after subparagraph (D)  
2 the following:

3 “(E) using the resources of the Depart-  
4 ment and of State, Tribal, and local agencies to  
5 provide technical assistance for business incor-  
6 poration, navigating local zoning, and managing  
7 farm tract numbers for smaller, noncontiguous  
8 parcels to growers implementing activities de-  
9 scribed in this paragraph;

10 “(F) using the resources of the Depart-  
11 ment and of State, Tribal, and local agencies to  
12 promote conservation techniques unique to  
13 urban agriculture and innovative production, in-  
14 cluding techniques that address stormwater  
15 runoff and the impacted nature of urban land  
16 and the subsurface of the land;

17 “(G) assisting urban and innovative pro-  
18 ducers in navigating Federal, State, Tribal, and  
19 local policies and regulations that impact busi-  
20 ness or operations; and”;

21 (2) in subsection (b)—

22 (A) in paragraph (5)(B), by striking  
23 “2023” and inserting “2031”; and

24 (B) in paragraph (7)(A), by striking “the  
25 date that is 5 years after the date on which the

1 members are appointed under paragraph  
2 (2)(B)” and inserting “September 30, 2031”;  
3 (3) by amending subsection (c) to read as fol-  
4 lows:

5 “(c) GRANTS AND COOPERATIVE AGREEMENTS.—

6 “(1) GRANTS.—

7 “(A) IN GENERAL.—The Director shall  
8 award competitive grants to support the devel-  
9 opment of urban and innovative agricultural  
10 production and technical or financial assistance  
11 to producers.

12 “(B) SUBGRANTS.—An eligible entity may  
13 use funds from a grant under subparagraph (A)  
14 to provide subgrants to urban and innovative  
15 producers to support the growth of the farm or  
16 farm business of the urban and innovative pro-  
17 ducers.

18 “(C) ELIGIBLE ENTITIES.—An entity eligi-  
19 ble to receive a grant under subparagraph (A)  
20 is—

21 “(i) a nonprofit organization;

22 “(ii) a unit of local government;

23 “(iii) a Tribal organization;

1                   “(iv) an agricultural cooperative or  
2                   other agricultural business entity or a pro-  
3                   ducer network or association; or

4                   “(v) a school that serves any of  
5                   grades kindergarten through grade 12.

6                   “(2) COOPERATIVE AGREEMENTS.—

7                   “(A) IN GENERAL.—The Director may  
8                   enter into cooperative agreements with eligible  
9                   entities to support the development of urban  
10                  and innovative agricultural production.

11                  “(B) ELIGIBLE ENTITIES.—An entity eligi-  
12                  ble to enter into cooperative agreements under  
13                  subparagraph (A) is—

14                         “(i) a nonprofit organization;

15                         “(ii) a unit of local government;

16                         “(iii) a Tribal organization; or

17                         “(iv) an agricultural cooperative or  
18                         other agricultural business entity or a pro-  
19                         ducer network or association.”;

20                  (4) in subsection (d)—

21                         (A) in the subsection heading, by striking  
22                         “PILOT”;

23                         (B) by striking “pilot” each place it ap-  
24                         pears in paragraphs (1) and (2);

1 (C) in paragraph (1)(A), by striking “Not  
2 later than 1 year after the date of enactment of  
3 this section, the Secretary shall establish a pilot  
4 program for not fewer than 5 years that” and  
5 inserting “The Secretary shall continue to im-  
6 plement a program that”;

7 (D) in paragraph (1)(C), in the matter  
8 preceding clause (i), by striking “2023” and in-  
9 serting “2031”; and

10 (E) in paragraph (2)—

11 (i) in subparagraph (A), by inserting  
12 “and construct at-scale composting, food-  
13 to-feed, or anaerobic digestion food waste-  
14 to-energy projects” before the period at the  
15 end; and

16 (ii) in subparagraph (B)—

17 (I) in the subparagraph heading,  
18 by striking “PILOT”;

19 (II) in the matter preceding  
20 clause (i), by inserting “Tribal gov-  
21 ernments,” after “local govern-  
22 ments,”;

23 (III) by redesignating clauses (vi)  
24 through (viii) as clauses (vii) through  
25 (ix), respectively; and

1 (IV) by inserting after clause (v)  
2 the following:

3 “(vi) develop food waste-to-energy op-  
4 erations;”; and

5 (5) in subsection (e), by striking “2023” and  
6 inserting “2031”.

7 **SEC. 10004. NATIONAL PLANT DIAGNOSTICS NETWORK.**

8 Section 12203(c)(5) of the Agriculture Improvement  
9 Act of 2018 (7 U.S.C. 8914(c)(5)) is amended by striking  
10 “2023” and inserting “2031”.

11 **SEC. 10005. HEMP PRODUCTION.**

12 (a) STATE AND TRIBAL PLANS.—Section 297B of  
13 the Agricultural Marketing Act of 1946 (7 U.S.C. 1639p)  
14 is amended—

15 (1) in subsection (a)—

16 (A) in paragraph (2)—

17 (i) in subparagraph (A)—

18 (I) by redesignating clauses (ii)  
19 through (vii) as clauses (iii) through  
20 (viii), respectively;

21 (II) by inserting after clause (i)  
22 the following:

23 “(ii) a procedure under which a hemp  
24 producer shall be required to designate the

1 type of production of the hemp producer  
2 as—

3 “(I) only industrial hemp; or

4 “(II) hemp grown for any pur-  
5 pose other than industrial hemp;”;

6 and

7 (III) in clause (iii), as redesign-  
8 nated by clause (i) of this subpara-  
9 graph—

10 (aa) by inserting “except as  
11 provided in subparagraph  
12 (B)(i),” before “a procedure”;  
13 and

14 (bb) by striking “delta-9  
15 tetrahydrocannabinol concentra-  
16 tion” and inserting “total  
17 tetrahydrocannabinol concentra-  
18 tion (including  
19 tetrahydrocannabinolic acid)”;  
20 and

21 (ii) in subparagraph (B), by striking  
22 “include any other practice” and inserting  
23 the following: “include—

24 “(i) notwithstanding subparagraph  
25 (A)(iii), a procedure for the use of visual

1 inspections, performance-based sampling  
2 methodologies, certified seed, or a similar  
3 procedure when developing sampling plans  
4 for any producer who elects to be des-  
5 ignated as a producer of only industrial  
6 hemp under subparagraph (A)(ii)(I);

7 “(ii) notwithstanding subsection  
8 (e)(3)(B)(i), a procedure for eliminating  
9 the 10-year period of ineligibility following  
10 the date of conviction for a felony related  
11 to a controlled substance for producers  
12 who elect to be designated as producers of  
13 only industrial hemp under subparagraph  
14 (A)(ii); and

15 “(iii) any other practice”; and

16 (B) by adding at the end the following:

17 “(4) INSPECTION OF INDUSTRIAL HEMP PRO-  
18 DUCERS.—

19 “(A) IN GENERAL.—If a State or Tribal  
20 plan referred to in paragraph (1) includes pro-  
21 cedures for reducing or eliminating sampling or  
22 testing requirements under paragraph (2)(B)(i)  
23 for a producer of industrial hemp, the State or  
24 Indian tribe shall require the producer to pro-  
25 vide documentation that demonstrates a clear

1 intent to produce, and use in-field practices  
2 consistent with production of, only industrial  
3 hemp, such as a seed tag, sales contract, Farm  
4 Service Agency report, harvest technique, or  
5 harvest inspection.

6 “(B) TESTING.—If a producer fails to pro-  
7 vide the documentation required under subpara-  
8 graph (A), the State or Indian tribe involved  
9 shall require the producer to conduct the test-  
10 ing described in paragraph (2)(A)(iii).”;

11 (2) in subsection (e)(2)(A)(iii), by striking  
12 “delta-9” and all that follows through “percent” and  
13 inserting the following: “total tetrahydrocannabinol  
14 concentration (including tetrahydrocannabinolic  
15 acid) of not more than 0.3 percent in the plant”;  
16 and

17 (3) in subsection (e)(3)—

18 (A) by amending subparagraph (A) to read  
19 as follows:

20 “(A) REPORTING.—

21 “(i) IN GENERAL.—In the case of a  
22 State department of agriculture or a Tribal  
23 Government with respect to which a State  
24 or Tribal plan is approved under sub-  
25 section (b), such State department of agri-

1 culture or Tribal Government (as applica-  
2 ble) shall immediately report a hemp pro-  
3 ducer to the Attorney General and, as ap-  
4 plicable, the chief law enforcement officer  
5 of the State or Indian tribe, if the State  
6 department of agriculture or Tribal Gov-  
7 ernment (as applicable) determines that  
8 the hemp producer has—

9 “(I) violated the State or Tribal  
10 plan with a culpable mental state  
11 greater than negligence; or

12 “(II) violated the State or Tribal  
13 plan by producing a crop that is in-  
14 consistent with the designation of only  
15 industrial hemp under subsection  
16 (a)(2)(A)(ii).

17 “(ii) EXCEPTION.—Paragraph (1)  
18 shall not apply with respect to—

19 “(I) a violation described in sub-  
20 clause (I) of clause (i); or

21 “(II) the production of a crop in-  
22 consistent with its designation, as de-  
23 scribed in subclause (II) of such  
24 clause.”;

1 (B) in subparagraph (B), by amending  
2 clause (ii) to read as follows:

3 “(ii) EXCEPTION.—Clause (i) shall  
4 not apply to any person growing hemp that  
5 designates the type of production as only  
6 industrial hemp under subsection  
7 (a)(2)(A)(ii) if—

8 “(I) the State or Tribal plan ap-  
9 proved under subsection (b) includes a  
10 procedure described in subsection  
11 (a)(2)(B)(ii); or

12 “(II) the plan established by the  
13 Secretary under section 297C includes  
14 a procedure described in subsection  
15 (a)(2)(B)(ii) of such section.”; and

16 (C) by adding at the end the following:

17 “(D) PRODUCTION INCONSISTENT WITH  
18 INDUSTRIAL HEMP DESIGNATION.—Any person  
19 who knowingly produces a crop that is incon-  
20 sistent with the designation of only industrial  
21 hemp under subsection (a)(2)(A)(ii) shall be in-  
22 eligible to participate in the program estab-  
23 lished under this section for a period of 5 years  
24 beginning on the date of the violation.”.

1 (b) DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE.—Section 297C  
2 of the Agricultural Marketing Act of 1946 (7 U.S.C.  
3 1639q) is amended—

4 (1) in subsection (a)—

5 (A) in paragraph (2)—

6 (i) by striking “paragraph (1) shall”  
7 and all that follows through “practice to  
8 maintain” and inserting the following:  
9 “paragraph (1)—

10 “(A) shall include—

11 “(i) a practice to maintain”;

12 (ii) in subparagraph (C), by redesignig-  
13 nating clauses (i) and (ii) as subclauses (I)  
14 and (II), respectively, and moving the mar-  
15 gins of such subclauses (as so redesignig-  
16 nated) two ems to the right;

17 (iii) by redesignating subparagraphs  
18 (B) through (E) as clauses (iii) through  
19 (vi), respectively, and moving the margins  
20 of such clauses (as so redesignated) two  
21 ems to the right;

22 (iv) by inserting after clause (i) (as  
23 designated by clause (i) of this subpara-  
24 graph) the following:

1           “(ii) a procedure under which the Sec-  
2           retary shall require a hemp producer to  
3           designate the type of production of the  
4           hemp producer as—

5                       “(I) only industrial hemp; or

6                       “(II) hemp grown for any pur-  
7                       pose other than industrial hemp;”;

8           (v) in clause (iii) (as redesignated by  
9           clause (iii) of this subparagraph)—

10                      (I) by inserting “except as pro-  
11                      vided in subparagraph (B)(i),” before  
12                      “a procedure”; and

13                      (II) by striking “delta-9  
14                      tetrahydrocannabinol concentration”  
15                      and inserting “total  
16                      tetrahydrocannabinol concentration  
17                      (including tetrahydrocannabinolic  
18                      acid)”;

19           (vi) in clause (v) (as redesignated by  
20           clause (iii) of this subparagraph), by in-  
21           serting “and” after the semicolon at the  
22           end;

23                      (vii) by striking subparagraph (F);  
24           and

1 (viii) by adding at the end the fol-  
2 lowing:

3 “(B) may include—

4 “(i) notwithstanding subparagraph  
5 (A)(iii), a procedure for the use of visual  
6 inspections, performance-based sampling  
7 methodologies, certified seed, or a similar  
8 procedure when developing sampling plans  
9 for any producer who elects to be des-  
10 ignated as a producer of only industrial  
11 hemp under subparagraph (A)(ii);

12 “(ii) notwithstanding section  
13 297B(e)(3)(B)(i), a procedure for elimi-  
14 nating the 10-year period of ineligibility  
15 following the date of conviction for a felony  
16 related to a controlled substance for pro-  
17 ducers who elect to be designated as pro-  
18 ducers of only industrial hemp under sub-  
19 paragraph (A)(ii); and

20 “(iii) such other practices or proce-  
21 dures as the Secretary considers to be ap-  
22 propriate, to the extent that the practice or  
23 procedure is consistent with this subtitle.”;  
24 and

25 (B) by adding at the end the following:

1           “(3) INSPECTIONS OF INDUSTRIAL HEMP PRO-  
2           DUCERS.—

3           “(A) IN GENERAL.—If a plan referred to  
4           in paragraph (1) includes procedures for reduc-  
5           ing or eliminating sampling or testing require-  
6           ments under paragraph (2)(B)(i) for a producer  
7           of only industrial hemp, the Secretary shall re-  
8           quire the producer to provide documentation  
9           that demonstrates a clear intent to produce,  
10          and use in-field practices consistent with pro-  
11          duction of, industrial hemp, such as a seed tag,  
12          sales contract, Farm Service Agency report,  
13          harvest technique, or harvest inspection.

14          “(B) TESTING.—If a producer fails to pro-  
15          vide the appropriate documentation required  
16          under subparagraph (A), the Secretary shall re-  
17          quire the producer to conduct the testing de-  
18          scribed in paragraph (2)(A)(iii).”; and

19          (2) in subsection (d)(2)—

20                 (A) in subparagraph (B), by striking  
21                 “and” at the end;

22                 (B) in subparagraph (C)—

23                         (i) by redesignating clauses (i) and  
24                         (ii) as clauses (ii) and (iii), respectively;

1 (ii) by inserting before clause (ii) (as  
2 so redesignated), the following:

3 “(i) the designation of the type of pro-  
4 duction of the hemp producers under sec-  
5 tion 297B(a)(2)(A)(ii) or under subsection  
6 (a)(2)(A)(ii) of this section;” and

7 (iii) in clause (iii), (as so redesign-  
8 ated), by striking the period at the end  
9 and inserting “; and”; and

10 (C) by adding at the end the following:

11 “(D) the laboratory certificate of analysis  
12 for hemp disposed of under section  
13 297B(a)(2)(A)(iv) or subsection (a)(2)(A)(iv) of  
14 this section.”.

15 (c) REGULATIONS AND GUIDELINES; EFFECT ON  
16 OTHER LAW.—Section 297D of the Agricultural Mar-  
17 keting Act of 1946 (7 U.S.C. 1639r) is amended—

18 (1) in the section heading, by striking “**REGU-**  
19 **LATIONS AND GUIDELINES**” and inserting “**AD-**  
20 **MINISTRATION, REGULATIONS, AND GUIDE-**  
21 **LINES**”; and

22 (2) in subsection (a)—

23 (A) in the subsection heading, by striking  
24 “**PROMULGATION OF REGULATIONS**  
25 **AND GUIDELINES**” and inserting “**ADMIN-**

1           ISTRATION, REGULATIONS, AND GUIDE-  
2           LINES”; and

3           (B) by adding at the end the following:

4           “(3) LABORATORY ACCREDITATION.—The Sec-  
5           retary, in consultation with the Administrator of the  
6           Drug Enforcement Administration, shall establish a  
7           process by which the Department of Agriculture can  
8           issue certificates of accreditation to laboratories for  
9           the purposes of testing hemp in accordance with this  
10          subtitle.”.

11 **SEC. 10006. PILOT PROGRAM FOR THE INTRA-ORGANIZA-**  
12                                   **TIONAL MOVEMENT OF GENETICALLY ENGI-**  
13                                   **NEERED MICROORGANISMS BY CERTAIN AU-**  
14                                   **THORIZED PARTIES.**

15          Subtitle A of the Plant Protection Act (7 U.S.C.  
16 7711 et seq.) is amended by adding at the end the fol-  
17 lowing:

18 **“SEC. 420A. PILOT PROGRAM FOR THE INTRA-ORGANIZA-**  
19                                   **TIONAL MOVEMENT OF GENETICALLY ENGI-**  
20                                   **NEERED MICROORGANISMS BY CERTAIN AU-**  
21                                   **THORIZED PARTIES.**

22          “(a) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

23           “(1) COVERED MICROORGANISM.—The term  
24          ‘covered microorganism’—

1           “(A) means a genetically engineered micro-  
2           organism that is a plant pest or may pose a  
3           plant pest risk; and

4           “(B) does not include listed agents or tox-  
5           ins (as defined in section 212(l) of the Agricul-  
6           tural Bioterrorism Protection Act of 2002 (7  
7           U.S.C. 8401(l))).

8           “(2) COVERED UNAUTHORIZED RELEASE.—The  
9           term ‘covered unauthorized release’ means an unau-  
10          thorized release of a covered microorganism, includ-  
11          ing such a release that a responsible party suspects  
12          took place.

13          “(3) PILOT PROGRAM.—The term ‘pilot pro-  
14          gram’ means the pilot program established under  
15          subsection (b).

16          “(4) PLANT PEST RISK.—The term ‘plant pest  
17          risk’ has the meaning given such term in section  
18          340.3 of title 7, Code of Federal Regulations (or  
19          successor regulations).

20          “(5) RESPONSIBLE PARTY.—The term ‘respon-  
21          sible party’ means a partnership, corporation, asso-  
22          ciation, joint venture, or other legal entity that—

23                  “(A) has a physical address in the United  
24                  States;

1           “(B) is not owned by or otherwise affili-  
2           ated with the government of a country of con-  
3           cern (as defined in section 10638 of the CHIPS  
4           Act of 2022 (42 U.S.C. 19237));

5           “(C) has more than 1 responsible party  
6           biocontainment facility;

7           “(D) employs quality control personnel  
8           that are capable of overseeing the movement  
9           and control of covered microorganisms;

10          “(E) has, in each of the 3 years preceding  
11          enrollment in the pilot program, moved plant  
12          pests pursuant to permits granted by the Sec-  
13          retary under this Act;

14          “(F) has the ability and resources to en-  
15          sure compliance with the requirements under  
16          subsection (e) for the duration of the pilot pro-  
17          gram;

18          “(G) has implemented the precautions  
19          specified in subsection (e) to prevent the unau-  
20          thorized release of covered microorganisms; and

21          “(H) has not, during the 5-year period  
22          preceding the date on which the relevant appli-  
23          cation is submitted under subsection (c)—

24                 “(i) caused an unauthorized release of  
25                 a plant pest;

1                   “(ii) materially failed to comply with  
2                   a permit granted by the Secretary for the  
3                   interstate movement of plant pests; or

4                   “(iii) violated any provision of this  
5                   section (including regulations promulgated  
6                   thereunder).

7                   “(6) RESPONSIBLE PARTY BIOCONTAINMENT  
8                   FACILITY.—The term ‘responsible party biocontain-  
9                   ment facility’—

10                   “(A) means a physical structure or portion  
11                   thereof, constructed and maintained in order to  
12                   contain plant pests, that is under the control of,  
13                   or operated by, a responsible party within the  
14                   contiguous United States; and

15                   “(B) includes sites under the control of, or  
16                   operated by, any parent organization, sub-  
17                   sidiary, or affiliate of the responsible party.

18                   “(b) ESTABLISHMENT.—Not later than 100 days  
19                   after the date of enactment of this section, the Secretary  
20                   shall establish a pilot program under which the Secretary  
21                   shall authorize not more than 75 responsible parties—

22                   “(1) to move covered microorganisms in inter-  
23                   state commerce between responsible party bio-  
24                   containment facilities without a permit; and

1           “(2) to maintain control over and dispose of  
2 such covered microorganisms.

3           “(c) APPLICATION.—

4           “(1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall accept  
5 applications from responsible parties for enrollment  
6 in the pilot program during a 45-day application pe-  
7 riod, beginning on the date on which the pilot pro-  
8 gram is established under subsection (b), using a  
9 web-based application process established by the  
10 Secretary.

11           “(2) CONTENTS.—An application submitted by  
12 a responsible party for enrollment in the pilot pro-  
13 gram shall include the following:

14           “(A) The name and contact information of  
15 the responsible party and any agent of the re-  
16 sponsible party that will be involved in the  
17 movement of a covered microorganism.

18           “(B) The methods by which a covered  
19 microorganism will be moved and the measures  
20 taken to ensure that there is no unauthorized  
21 release of the covered microorganism.

22           “(C) The manner in which a shipping con-  
23 tainer, packaging material, or any other mate-  
24 rial accompanying the covered microorganism

1 will be disposed of to prevent the unauthorized  
2 release of a covered microorganism.

3 “(D) A list of responsible party biocontain-  
4 ment facilities to which the responsible party  
5 intends to move covered microorganisms.

6 “(E) A list of the predominant covered  
7 microorganism chassis strains that, at the time  
8 of the application, the responsible party intends  
9 to move.

10 “(F) A sworn certification that the respon-  
11 sible party meets each criterion specified in sub-  
12 section (a)(5).

13 “(3) SUPPLEMENTAL APPLICATIONS.—

14 “(A) IN GENERAL.—A responsible party  
15 may submit a supplemental application to the  
16 Secretary to update a list under subparagraph  
17 (D) or (E) of paragraph (2) at any time during  
18 such enrollment. The Secretary shall make a  
19 determination with respect to such supple-  
20 mental application not later than 30 days after  
21 the date on which such supplemental applica-  
22 tion is submitted to the Secretary.

23 “(B) DENIALS.—The Secretary may only  
24 deny a supplemental application if the Sec-  
25 retary has made the determination set forth in

1 subsection (d)(2)(B). A denial of a supple-  
2 mental application shall be subject to appeal in  
3 accordance with the terms specified in sub-  
4 section (d)(3).

5 “(d) SELECTION PROCESS.—

6 “(1) TIMING.—The Secretary shall—

7 “(A) evaluate applications received under  
8 subsection (c)(1) in the order in which the ap-  
9 plications are received; and

10 “(B) approve or deny all applications re-  
11 ceived during the period described in that sub-  
12 section not later than 45 days after the end of  
13 that period.

14 “(2) DENIAL.—The Secretary shall deny an ap-  
15 plication received under subsection (c)(1) if—

16 “(A) the Secretary has already selected 75  
17 responsible parties for enrollment in the pilot  
18 program; or

19 “(B) the Secretary determines that the re-  
20 sponsible party submitting the application does  
21 not meet each criterion specified in subsection  
22 (a)(5).

23 “(3) APPEAL.—

24 “(A) IN GENERAL.—A responsible party  
25 seeking to enroll in the pilot program whose ap-

1           plication has been denied under paragraph (2)  
2           may submit to the Secretary a written appeal  
3           within—

4                   “(i) the 10-day period beginning on  
5                   the date on which the responsible party re-  
6                   ceives written notification of the denial; or

7                   “(ii) a longer period, if the responsible  
8                   party makes a request for additional time  
9                   to submit such appeal and the Secretary  
10                  grants such request.

11               “(B) DECISION.—The Secretary shall,  
12               within a reasonably prompt period, grant or  
13               deny an appeal under subparagraph (A) in writ-  
14               ing, which shall include the reasons for the de-  
15               cision.

16               “(e) REQUIREMENTS.—A responsible party shall, as  
17               a condition of enrollment in the pilot program, agree to—

18                   “(1) maintain, move, and dispose of covered  
19                   microorganisms in a manner that prevents unau-  
20                   thorized release, spread, dispersal, or persistence of  
21                   those covered microorganisms in the environment;

22                   “(2) unless otherwise authorized under a permit  
23                   under this Act, only move a covered microorganism  
24                   between sites that are responsible party biocontain-  
25                   ment facilities;

1           “(3) maintain, move, and dispose of each cov-  
2           ered microorganism separately from other orga-  
3           nisms;

4           “(4) ensure that each covered microorganism is  
5           maintained, moved, and disposed of in a manner  
6           commensurate with the plant pest risk posed by that  
7           covered microorganism;

8           “(5) use, at a minimum, a package for move-  
9           ment—

10           “(A) that consists of a securely sealed  
11           inner and outer container, each of which is an  
12           effective barrier to the escape or unauthorized  
13           dissemination of the covered microorganism;

14           “(B) the inner container of which—

15           “(i) contains all of the applicable cov-  
16           ered microorganism; and

17           “(ii) is cushioned and sealed in such  
18           a manner as to remain sealed during any  
19           shock, impact, or change in pressure; and

20           “(C) the outer container of which is rigid  
21           and strong enough to withstand typical ship-  
22           ping conditions (such as dropping, stacking,  
23           and impact from other freight) without opening;

24           “(6) on request, grant the Secretary access—

1           “(A) to sample materials associated with  
2           the interstate movement of covered microorga-  
3           nisms under the pilot program;

4           “(B) to observe and inspect the interstate  
5           movement of those covered microorganisms; and

6           “(C) to audit records of the activities of  
7           the responsible party under the pilot program;

8           “(7) maintain detailed and accurate records of  
9           all activities carried out under the pilot program to  
10          demonstrate compliance with the applicable require-  
11          ments;

12          “(8) on request, grant the Secretary access to  
13          each responsible party biocontainment facility for in-  
14          spection in relation to a responsible party’s enroll-  
15          ment in the pilot program; and

16          “(9) comply with any additional requirement  
17          for the containment of covered microorganisms in  
18          interstate commerce that the Secretary may require  
19          if—

20                 “(A) the Secretary determines that such  
21                 an additional requirement is reasonable; and

22                 “(B) the sole purpose of such additional  
23                 requirement is to avoid a covered unauthorized  
24                 release.

1       “(f) PROHIBITION ON CERTAIN PREFERENCES.—In  
2 carrying out the pilot program, the Secretary shall take  
3 no action or promulgate any regulation that—

4           “(1) treats genetically engineered covered  
5 microorganisms less favorably than nongenetically  
6 engineered covered microorganisms; or

7           “(2) limits the quantity or type of covered  
8 microorganisms that may be moved under the pilot  
9 program between responsible party biocontainment  
10 facilities.

11       “(g) REPORTING BY RESPONSIBLE PARTIES.—A re-  
12 sponsible party shall submit to the Secretary a quarterly  
13 report that describes the activities of the responsible party  
14 under the pilot program during the period covered by the  
15 report, including—

16           “(1) a description of each covered microorga-  
17 nism moved in interstate commerce, including—

18           “(A) the 1 or more countries or localities  
19 at which the covered microorganism was col-  
20 lected, developed, manufactured, reared, cul-  
21 tivated, or cultured, as applicable;

22           “(B) the genus, species, and any relevant  
23 subspecies and common name information of  
24 the covered microorganism; and

1           “(C) when applicable, a brief description of  
2           the genetic modifications made in the micro-  
3           organism, including—

4                   “(i) the intended phenotype that the 1  
5                   or more modifications are expected to con-  
6                   fer;

7                   “(ii) any targeted deletions, inser-  
8                   tions, or base pair substitutions; and

9                   “(iii) the genetic elements used in im-  
10                  parting the modification, including the  
11                  name, donor organism, and a brief descrip-  
12                  tion of the function;

13               “(2) each method by which the covered micro-  
14               organism was moved in interstate commerce;

15               “(3) the quantity of the covered microorganism  
16               moved in interstate commerce; and

17               “(4) the specific responsible party biocontain-  
18               ment facilities between which the covered microorga-  
19               nism was moved in interstate commerce.

20               “(h) UNAUTHORIZED RELEASE.—In the case of a  
21               covered unauthorized release, a responsible party shall—

22                   “(1) contact the applicable office within the  
23                   Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service within  
24                   48 hours of discovery of the covered unauthorized  
25                   release; and

1           “(2) submit to the Secretary a statement of  
2 facts pertaining to such release, in writing, not later  
3 than 5 business days after the date of that dis-  
4 covery.

5           “(i) DISENROLLMENT FROM PILOT PROGRAM.—

6           “(1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall termi-  
7 nate the enrollment of a responsible party in the  
8 pilot program if the Secretary has a sound factual  
9 basis to determine that—

10           “(A) the responsible party no longer meets  
11 the eligibility criteria of a responsible party de-  
12 scribed in subsection (a)(5);

13           “(B) the responsible party has materially  
14 failed to comply with the requirements under  
15 subsection (e); or

16           “(C) as a result of a failure by a respon-  
17 sible party under subparagraph (B), the respon-  
18 sible party caused a covered unauthorized re-  
19 lease during the pilot program.

20           “(2) DISENROLLMENT DECISION.—If the Sec-  
21 retary terminates the enrollment of a responsible  
22 party under paragraph (1), the Secretary shall sub-  
23 mit that decision in writing to the responsible party.

24           “(3) APPEAL.—The appeal process described in  
25 subsection (d)(3) shall apply in the case of a respon-

1           sible party that seeks to appeal a termination of en-  
2           rollment under paragraph (1).

3           “(j) TERMINATION.—The pilot program shall termi-  
4           nate on the date that is 3 years after the date on which  
5           the Secretary completes the application selection process  
6           under subsection (d)(1)(B).

7           “(k) REPORT.—Not later than 6 months after the  
8           date of termination of the pilot program described in sub-  
9           section (j), the Secretary shall submit to Congress a report  
10          that describes—

11                 “(1) the activities carried out under the pilot  
12          program, including—

13                         “(A) the quantities and identities of cov-  
14                         ered microorganisms that were moved; and

15                         “(B) a description of any unauthorized re-  
16                         lease of covered microorganisms that were  
17                         moved, including a description of the cause and  
18                         consequence of any unauthorized release; and

19                 “(2) recommendations on—

20                         “(A) whether the pilot program should be-  
21                         come a permanent program; and

22                         “(B) whether, as a permanent program,  
23                         changes should be made to the criteria for a re-  
24                         sponsible party under subsection (a)(5) or to  
25                         the requirements under subsection (e).”.

## 1                   **Subtitle B—Marketing**

### 2   **SEC. 10101. MARKETING ORDERS.**

3           Section 8e(a) of the Agricultural Adjustment Act (7  
4 U.S.C. 608e–1(a)), reenacted with amendments by the Ag-  
5 ricultural Marketing Agreement Act of 1937, is amend-  
6 ed—

7           (1) by inserting “mandarin oranges,” after “or-  
8 anges,”;

9           (2) by inserting “almonds,” after “onions,”;  
10          and

11          (3) by striking “, other than dates for proc-  
12 essing,” each place it appears.

### 13   **SEC. 10102. LOCAL AGRICULTURE MARKET PROGRAM.**

14          Section 210A of the Agricultural Marketing Act of  
15 1946 (7 U.S.C. 1627c) is amended—

16          (1) in subsection (a)—

17                  (A) by redesignating paragraphs (5)  
18 through (13) as paragraphs (6) through (14),  
19 respectively; and

20                  (B) by inserting after paragraph (4) the  
21 following:

22                  “(5) FOOD HUB.—The term ‘food hub’ means  
23 a business or organization that actively manages the  
24 aggregation, distribution, and marketing of source-  
25 identified food products to multiple buyers from

1 multiple producers, who are primarily local and re-  
2 gional producers, to strengthen the ability of such  
3 producers to satisfy local and regional wholesale, re-  
4 tail, and institutional demands.”;

5 (2) in subsection (b)(4), by inserting “, regional  
6 food chain coordination,” after “collaboration”;

7 (3) in subsection (c)(4), by striking “stake-  
8 holders” and inserting “stakeholders before and  
9 after providing grants under the program”;

10 (4) in subsection (d)—

11 (A) in paragraph (1), by striking “2023”  
12 and inserting “2031”;

13 (B) in paragraph (2)—

14 (i) in subparagraph (I), by striking  
15 “or”;

16 (ii) in subparagraph (J)(ii), by strik-  
17 ing the period at the end and inserting “;  
18 or”; and

19 (iii) by inserting at the end the fol-  
20 lowing:

21 “(K) to support the purchase of special  
22 purpose equipment.”; and

23 (C) in paragraph (6)—

24 (i) in subparagraph (B)—

1 (I) by redesignating clauses (vii)  
2 and (viii) as clauses (viii) and (ix), re-  
3 spectively; and

4 (II) by inserting after clause (vi)  
5 the following:

6 “(vii) a food hub;”;

7 (ii) in subparagraph (C)—

8 (I) in the matter preceding clause  
9 (i), by striking “applications that”  
10 and inserting “applications, outreach,  
11 and technical assistance that would”;

12 (II) in clause (i), by striking “or”  
13 at the end;

14 (III) by redesignating clause (ii)  
15 as clause (iii);

16 (IV) by inserting after clause (i)  
17 the following:

18 “(ii) provide greater geographic bal-  
19 ance relative to the benefits of the Pro-  
20 gram; or”; and

21 (V) in clause (iii) (as so redesi-  
22 gnated), by striking “are used” and in-  
23 serting “be used”;

1 (iii) by redesignating subparagraphs  
2 (D) and (E) as subparagraphs (E) and  
3 (F), respectively; and

4 (iv) by inserting after subparagraph  
5 (C) the following:

6 “(D) SIMPLIFIED APPLICATIONS.—

7 “(i) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary  
8 shall establish a simplified application form  
9 for eligible entities described in subpara-  
10 graph (B) that—

11 “(I) request less than \$100,000;

12 and

13 “(II) choose from the project cat-  
14 egories described in clause (ii), which  
15 shall include a specific, limited set of  
16 key activities with predefined require-  
17 ments established by the Secretary.

18 “(ii) PROJECT CATEGORIES.—The  
19 Secretary shall establish a simplified appli-  
20 cation form for the following project cat-  
21 egories but may include additional project  
22 categories as necessary:

23 “(I) DIRECT-TO-CONSUMER  
24 PROJECTS.—In the case of a direct-to-  
25 consumer project, an application form

1 described in clause (i) may be avail-  
2 able for the following categories of  
3 projects:

4 “(aa) An outreach and pro-  
5 motion project.

6 “(bb) A project to provide  
7 funding for farmers market man-  
8 ager staff time.

9 “(cc) A project to provide  
10 vendor training.

11 “(dd) A planning and design  
12 project.

13 “(ee) A data collection and  
14 evaluation project.

15 “(II) LOCAL AND REGIONAL  
16 FOOD MARKETS AND ENTERPRISE  
17 PROJECTS.—In the case of a local and  
18 regional food market and enterprise  
19 project, an application form described  
20 in clause (i) may be available for the  
21 following categories of projects:

22 “(aa) A food hub feasibility  
23 study project.

1           “(bb) A project to provide  
2 funding for regional food chain  
3 coordination staff time.

4           “(cc) A project to provide  
5 technical assistance.

6           “(dd) A data collection and  
7 evaluation project.

8           “(ee) A project to support  
9 the purchase of special purpose  
10 equipment.”;

11           (5) in subsection (e)(2)(A), by striking “2019  
12 through 2023” and all that follows through the pe-  
13 riod at the end and inserting the following: “2026  
14 through 2031 to support partnerships—

15           “(i) to plan a local or regional food  
16 system;

17           “(ii) to implement a local or regional  
18 food system plan;

19           “(iii) to develop and implement a re-  
20 gional food chain coordination project; and

21           “(iv) to develop and implement a re-  
22 gional outreach, technical assistance, and  
23 evaluation project.”;

24           (6) in subsection (f)(1)—

1 (A) in subparagraph (A), by striking “sub-  
2 section (d); or” and inserting “subsection  
3 (d)(5);”;

4 (B) by redesignating subparagraph (B) as  
5 subparagraph (C); and

6 (C) by inserting after subparagraph (A)  
7 the following:

8 “(B) are eligible to submit an application  
9 in accordance with subsection (d)(6)(D); or”;  
10 and

11 (7) in subsection (i)(3)(B)—

12 (A) by striking “Of the funds” and insert-  
13 ing the following:

14 “(i) IN GENERAL.—Of the funds”;  
15 and

16 (B) by adding at the end the following:

17 “(ii) SIMPLIFIED APPLICATIONS.—Of  
18 the funds made available for grants under  
19 subsection (d)(6) for a fiscal year, not less  
20 than 10 percent, and not more than 50  
21 percent, shall be used to provide grants to  
22 eligible entities that submit an application  
23 in accordance with subsection (d)(6)(D).”.

1 **SEC. 10103. ACER ACCESS AND DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM.**

2 Section 12306 of the Agricultural Act of 2014 (7  
3 U.S.C. 1632c) is amended—

4 (1) by redesignating subsections (e) and (f) as  
5 subsections (f) and (g), respectively;

6 (2) by inserting after subsection (d) the fol-  
7 lowing:

8 “(e) CONSULTATIONS.—

9 “(1) IN GENERAL.—Beginning with the first re-  
10 quest for applications under this section that occurs  
11 at least 1 year after the date of enactment of this  
12 Act, not later than 6 months before such a request  
13 for applications, the Secretary shall solicit input  
14 from maple syrup industry stakeholders with respect  
15 to the research and education priorities of the maple  
16 syrup industry.

17 “(2) CONSIDERATION.—The Secretary shall  
18 consider the information provided through the con-  
19 sultation required under paragraph (1) when making  
20 grants under this section.”; and

21 (3) in subsection (g), as so redesignated, by  
22 striking “2023” and inserting “2031”.

23 **SEC. 10104. ORGANIC PRODUCTION AND MARKET DATA INI-**  
24 **TIATIVE.**

25 Section 7407 of the Farm Security and Rural Invest-  
26 ment Act of 2002 (7 U.S.C. 5925c) is amended—

1 (1) in subsection (b)—

2 (A) in paragraph (2), by striking “and” at  
3 the end;

4 (B) in paragraph (3), by striking the pe-  
5 riod at the end and inserting “; and”; and

6 (C) by adding at the end the following:

7 “(4) collect and publish cost-of-production data  
8 for organic milk, through support from regional and  
9 national programs, including regularly reported data  
10 related to—

11 “(A) the costs of major organic feedstuffs,  
12 including—

13 “(i) the prices for major organic  
14 feedstuffs produced domestically;

15 “(ii) the prices for imported major or-  
16 ganic feedstuffs; and

17 “(iii) all other costs relating to the  
18 production of organic milk;

19 “(B) the establishment of an Organic All  
20 Milk Prices Survey, which shall be analogous to  
21 the existing All Milk Prices Survey conducted  
22 by the National Agricultural Statistics Service,  
23 to gather and report monthly data about the  
24 amounts organic dairy farmers are being paid

1 for organic milk and prices received for organic  
2 dairy cows, including—

3 “(i) national data; and

4 “(ii) data relating to, at a minimum,  
5 the 6 regions with the greatest quantity of  
6 organic dairy production; and

7 “(C) periodic organic milk reporting under  
8 which the Secretary, using data collected by the  
9 National Agricultural Statistics Service, the  
10 Economic Research Service, or the Agricultural  
11 Marketing Service, publishes new periodic re-  
12 ports that include, or add to existing periodic  
13 reports relating to, data for organic milk, which  
14 shall be equivalent to data reported for conven-  
15 tionally produced milk.”; and

16 (2) in subsection (d)(2), by striking “2023”  
17 and inserting “2031”.

18 **SEC. 10105. ORGANIC CERTIFICATION.**

19 (a) **REPORTS.**—Section 2122(d)(1) of the Organic  
20 Foods Production Act of 1990 (7 U.S.C. 6521(d)(1)) is  
21 amended by striking “2023” and inserting “2031”.

22 (b) **ORGANIC TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE.**—The Or-  
23 ganic Foods Production Act of 1990 is amended by insert-  
24 ing after section 2122A (7 U.S.C. 6521a) the following:

1 **“SEC. 2122B. ORGANIC TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE.**

2 “(a) IN GENERAL.—In carrying out this title, the  
3 Secretary may provide technical assistance, outreach, and  
4 education to support organic production through existing  
5 programs implemented by a covered agency.

6 “(b) COVERED AGENCY.—For the purposes of this  
7 section, the term ‘covered agency’ means—

8 “(1) the Agricultural Marketing Service;

9 “(2) the Agricultural Research Service;

10 “(3) the National Institute of Food and Agri-  
11 culture;

12 “(4) the Farm Service Agency;

13 “(5) the Risk Management Agency;

14 “(6) the Natural Resources Conservation Serv-  
15 ice;

16 “(7) the Rural Business-Cooperative Service;

17 “(8) the Food and Nutrition Service; and

18 “(9) other agencies, as determined by the Sec-  
19 retary.”.

20 (c) FUNDING.—Section 2123(b)(6) of the Organic  
21 Foods Production Act of 1990 (7 U.S.C. 6522(b)(6)) is  
22 amended by striking “for fiscal year 2023” and inserting  
23 “for each of fiscal years 2023 through 2031”.

24 **SEC. 10106. REPORT ON PROCUREMENT.**

25 Not later than 1 year after the date of the enactment  
26 of the Farm, Food, and National Security Act of 2026,

1 the Secretary shall submit to the Committee on Agri-  
2 culture of the House of Representatives and the Com-  
3 mittee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry of the Sen-  
4 ate a report that examines—

5           (1) the process by which domestic commodities  
6           or products (as defined in section 220.16 of title 7,  
7           Code of Federal Regulations (or any successor regu-  
8           lation)) are procured by the Secretary, including the  
9           solicitation process used to procure such commod-  
10          ities or products;

11          (2) barriers to entry into such procurement  
12          process that are for nontraditional, culturally rel-  
13          evant, or local and regional commodities or products;

14          (3) the diet quality and accessibility of commod-  
15          ities or products that are so procured; and

16          (4) the Secretary's recommendations for admin-  
17          istrative, regulatory, and legislative changes to im-  
18          prove such procurement process.

19 **SEC. 10107. DEFINITIONS OF RISK TO ORGANIC INTEGRITY**  
20 **AND OVERSIGHT PROTOCOLS.**

21          Section 2103 of the Organic Foods Production Act  
22          of 1990 (7 U.S.C. 6502) is amended—

23           (1) by redesignating paragraphs (20) through  
24           (22) as paragraphs (22) through (24), respectively;

1           (2) by redesignating paragraphs (16) through  
2           (19) as paragraphs (17) through (20), respectively;  
3           (3) by inserting after paragraph (15) the fol-  
4           lowing:

5           “(16) OVERSIGHT PROTOCOLS.—The term  
6           ‘oversight protocols’ means the regulations, policies,  
7           and procedures issued by the Secretary under the  
8           authorities provided in sections 2104, 2107, 2114,  
9           2115, 2116, and 2120.”; and

10          (4) by inserting after paragraph (20), as so re-  
11          designated, the following:

12          “(21) RISK TO ORGANIC INTEGRITY.—The term  
13          ‘risk to organic integrity’ means the likelihood that  
14          a product marketed as organically produced is, or  
15          contains, an agricultural product that was not pro-  
16          duced using a system of organic farming in compli-  
17          ance with this title, not processed in compliance with  
18          this title, or both.”.

19       **SEC. 10108. MODERNIZATION OF INSPECTION REQUIRE-**  
20       **MENTS.**

21          Paragraph (5) of section 2107(a) of the Organic  
22       Foods Production Act of 1990 (7 U.S.C. 6506(a)) is  
23       amended to read as follows:

24          “(5) provide for annual inspections by the certi-  
25       fying agent of each farm and handling operation

1 that has been certified under this title, which inspec-  
2 tions shall be—

3 “(A) in the case of a farm or handling op-  
4 eration site located outside of the United  
5 States, conducted on-site;

6 “(B) in the case of a farm or handling op-  
7 eration site located in the United States, con-  
8 ducted on-site once every three years with inter-  
9 vening annual inspections being conducted on-  
10 site or virtually based on the farm’s or handling  
11 operation’s risk to organic integrity, as deter-  
12 mined by the Secretary; and

13 “(C) in the case of a handling operation  
14 that acquires but does not physically receive,  
15 process, package, or store organic products,  
16 conducted through inspection methods, includ-  
17 ing virtual methods, that provide sufficient as-  
18 surance of compliance, as determined by the  
19 Secretary;”.

20 **SEC. 10109. STUDY AND REFORM OF NATIONAL ORGANIC**  
21 **PROGRAM OVERSIGHT PROTOCOLS.**

22 The Organic Foods Production Act of 1990 (7 U.S.C.  
23 6501 et seq.), as amended by section 10105, is further  
24 amended by inserting after section 2122B (as added by  
25 such section 10105) the following:

1 **“SEC. 2122C. STUDY AND REFORM OF NATIONAL ORGANIC**  
2 **PROGRAM OVERSIGHT PROTOCOLS.**

3 “(a) STUDY.—Not later than 12 months after the  
4 date of enactment of this section, the Secretary shall con-  
5 duct a comprehensive study for the purpose of determining  
6 whether the establishment of oversight protocols based on  
7 risk to organic integrity and the implementation of related  
8 reforms are necessary and appropriate.

9 “(b) ELEMENTS.—

10 “(1) IN GENERAL.—In conducting the study  
11 under subsection (a), the Secretary shall examine  
12 the feasibility, opportunities, and implications of im-  
13 plementing oversight protocols that—

14 “(A) are based on risk to organic integrity;

15 “(B) include differential treatment of non-  
16 compliance that increases the risk to organic in-  
17 tegrity versus non-compliance that does not;

18 “(C) adopt standardized organic plans  
19 under section 2114 aligned with the risk to or-  
20 ganic integrity;

21 “(D) include a multi-tiered approach to  
22 certification aligned with the risk to organic in-  
23 tegrity and the scale of the organic operation;  
24 and

25 “(E) provide increased guidance and inter-  
26 pretations of standards and criteria established

1 under this title given by the National Organic  
2 Program to certifying agents and to certified  
3 organic farms and handling operations.

4 “(2) CONSIDERATION OF RELEVANT FAC-  
5 TORS.—In administering paragraph (1), the Sec-  
6 retary shall, with respect to certified organic farms,  
7 certified organic handling operations, and certifying  
8 agents, take into account—

9 “(A) the scope of certification or accredita-  
10 tion of each entity;

11 “(B) the scale and complexity of each enti-  
12 ty;

13 “(C) the domestic or international location  
14 of each entity;

15 “(D) the history of compliance of each en-  
16 tity; and

17 “(E) other relevant factors.

18 “(c) REPORT.—Not later than 18 months after the  
19 date of enactment of this section, the Secretary shall sub-  
20 mit to the appropriate congressional committees, and  
21 make publicly available on the websites of the Department  
22 of Agriculture, a report describing the findings of the  
23 study conducted under subsection (a).

24 “(d) CONSULTATION.—In conducting the study  
25 under subsection (a), the Secretary shall consult with—

1 “(1) the National Organic Standards Board;

2 “(2) certifying agents;

3 “(3) certified organic farms and handling oper-  
4 ations;

5 “(4) organic consumers; and

6 “(5) other relevant organic stakeholders.

7 “(e) AUTHORITY TO ESTABLISH ADDITIONAL TERMS  
8 AND CONDITIONS.—

9 “(1) ISSUANCE OF REGULATIONS.—Based on  
10 the findings described in the report under subsection  
11 (c), and after consultation with the appropriate con-  
12 gressional committees, the Secretary may issue regu-  
13 lations to establish or modify oversight protocols  
14 under this title that the Secretary determines are  
15 necessary and appropriate, provided such regulations  
16 maintain strong organic integrity, support a resilient  
17 domestic organic sector, and are consistent with the  
18 requirements of this title.

19 “(2) REDUCING OVERSIGHT COSTS;  
20 PRIORITIZATION.—In issuing the regulations under  
21 paragraph (1), the Secretary may seek to—

22 “(A) reduce oversight costs and adminis-  
23 trative burdens for certified organic farms, cer-  
24 tified organic handling operations, and certi-

1           fying agents that present a lower risk to or-  
2           ganic integrity; or

3                   “(B) prioritize oversight resources for ac-  
4           tivities that present a higher risk to organic in-  
5           tegrity.

6           “(f) APPROPRIATE CONGRESSIONAL COMMITTEES  
7   DEFINED.—In this section, the term ‘appropriate congres-  
8   sional committees’ means—

9                   “(1) the Committee on Agriculture of the  
10          House of Representatives; and

11                   “(2) the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition,  
12          and Forestry of the Senate.

13           “(g) RULE OF CONSTRUCTION.—Nothing in this sec-  
14   tion shall be construed to limit the Secretary’s authority  
15   to enforce compliance with this title to protect organic in-  
16   tegrity.”.

## 17           **Subtitle C—Regulatory Reform**

### 18           **PART I—FEDERAL INSECTICIDE, FUNGICIDE,**

#### 19                   **AND RODENTICIDE ACT**

#### 20   **SEC. 10201. EXCLUSION OF CERTAIN SUBSTANCES.**

21           (a) DEFINITIONS.—Section 2 of the Federal Insecti-  
22   cide, Fungicide, and Rodenticide Act (7 U.S.C. 136) is  
23   amended—

24                   (1) by amending subsection (v) to read as fol-  
25   lows:

1 “(v) PLANT REGULATOR.—

2 “(1) IN GENERAL.—The term ‘plant regulator’  
3 means any substance or mixture of substances in-  
4 tended, through physiological action, for accelerating  
5 or retarding the rate of growth or rate of matura-  
6 tion, or for otherwise altering the behavior of plants  
7 or the produce thereof.

8 “(2) EXCLUSIONS.—Such term shall not in-  
9 clude—

10 “(A) substances to the extent that they  
11 are—

12 “(i) intended to be produced and used  
13 within a plant; or

14 “(ii) intended as plant nutrients, trace  
15 elements, nutritional chemicals, plant in-  
16 oculants, soil amendments, or vitamin hor-  
17 mone products; or

18 “(B) plant biostimulants that—

19 “(i) have a low-risk profile in relation  
20 to humans and other organisms, as deter-  
21 mined by the Agency; and

22 “(ii) are of biological origin or include  
23 chemical compounds that are synthetically  
24 derived, but structurally-similar and func-

1                   tionally identical to, substances of biological  
2                   origin.”;

3                   (2) in subsection (hh)—

4                   (A) in paragraph (2), by striking “or”;

5                   (B) in paragraph (3)—

6                   (i) in the matter preceding subparagraph  
7                   (A), by striking “substances.” and  
8                   inserting “substances”; and

9                   (ii) in subparagraph (B)—

10                   (I) by striking “volatilization  
11                   urease” and inserting “volatilization,  
12                   or urease”;

13                   (II) by striking the period at the  
14                   end and inserting a semicolon; and

15                   (C) by inserting after paragraph (3) the  
16                   following:

17                   “(4) a plant biostimulant; or

18                   “(5) a nutritional chemical.”; and

19                   (3) by adding at the end the following:

20                   “(pp) PLANT BIOSTIMULANT.—The term ‘plant bio-  
21                   stimulant’ means any substance or mixture of substances  
22                   that, when applied to seeds, plants, the rhizosphere, or soil  
23                   or other growth media, acts to support a plant’s natural  
24                   nutrition processes independently of the nutrient content

1 of that substance or mixture of substances, and that there-  
2 by improves—

3 “(1) nutrient availability, uptake, or use effi-  
4 ciency;

5 “(2) tolerance to abiotic stress; or

6 “(3) consequent growth, development, quality,  
7 or yield.

8 “(qq) NUTRITIONAL CHEMICAL.—The term ‘nutri-  
9 tional chemical’ means any substance or mixture of sub-  
10 stances that interacts with plant nutrients in a manner  
11 that improves nutrient availability or aids the plant in ac-  
12 quiring or utilizing plant nutrients.

13 “(rr) VITAMIN HORMONE PRODUCT.—The term ‘vi-  
14 tamin hormone product’ means a product that—

15 “(1) consists of a mixture of plant hormones,  
16 plant nutrients, plant inoculants, soil amendments,  
17 trace elements, nutritional chemicals, plant biostimu-  
18 lants, or vitamins that is intended for the improve-  
19 ment, maintenance, survival, health, and propaga-  
20 tion of plants;

21 “(2) is nontoxic and nonpoisonous in the undi-  
22 luted packaged concentrations of the product; and

23 “(3) is not intended for use on food crop sites  
24 and is labeled accordingly.

25 “(ss) PLANT-INCORPORATED PROTECTANT.—

1           “(1) IN GENERAL.—The term ‘plant-incor-  
2           porated protectant’ means a pesticide that is—

3                   “(A) intended for preventing, destroying,  
4                   repelling, or mitigating a pest; and

5                   “(B) a substance or mixture of substances  
6                   intended to be produced and used within a liv-  
7                   ing plant, or in the produce thereof, and the ge-  
8                   netic material necessary for its production.

9           “(2) INCLUSIONS.—Such term includes any  
10           inert ingredient (as defined in section 174.3 of title  
11           40, Code of Federal Regulations (or any successor  
12           regulation)).”.

13           (b) EXEMPTION FROM REGULATION.—Section 25(b)  
14           of the Federal Insecticide, Fungicide, and Rodenticide Act  
15           (7 U.S.C. 136w(b)) is amended to read as follows:

16           “(b) EXEMPTION OF PESTICIDES.—

17                   “(1) EXEMPTION BY RULE.—The Adminis-  
18                   trator may exempt from the requirements of this Act  
19                   by regulation any pesticide which the Administrator  
20                   determines either—

21                           “(A) to be adequately regulated by another  
22                           Federal agency; or

23                           “(B) to be of a character which is unneces-  
24                           sary to be subject to this Act in order to carry  
25                           out the purposes of this Act.

1           “(2) EXEMPTION FOR CERTAIN PLANT-INCOR-  
2           PORATED PROTECTANTS.—

3           “(A) EXEMPTION.—

4                   “(i) IN GENERAL.—Upon the issuance  
5                   of guidance as described in subparagraph  
6                   (B), plant-incorporated protectants result-  
7                   ing from endogenous genetic material  
8                   found within or that could arise from the  
9                   plant’s gene pool are exempt from the re-  
10                  quirements of this Act.

11                  “(ii) EXCEPTION.—A specific plant-  
12                  incorporated protectant arising from en-  
13                  dogenous genetic material found within or  
14                  that could arise from the plant’s gene pool  
15                  shall not be exempt from the requirements  
16                  of this Act if the Administrator determines  
17                  that such plant-incorporated protectant is  
18                  of a character which is necessary to be  
19                  subject to this Act in order to carry out  
20                  the purposes of this Act.

21                  “(B) GUIDANCE.—Not later than 1 year  
22                  after the date of the enactment of the Farm,  
23                  Food, and National Security Act of 2026, the  
24                  Administrator shall issue guidance for the im-  
25                  plementation of subparagraph (A). The Admin-

1            administrator may update such guidance, as the Ad-  
2            ministrator determines to be appropriate.

3            “(C) ORDER.—

4                       “(i) IN GENERAL.—If the Adminis-  
5                       trator makes a determination described in  
6                       subparagraph (A)(ii) with respect to a  
7                       plant-incorporated protectant, the Admin-  
8                       istrator shall issue an order explaining the  
9                       basis for such determination, which may be  
10                     issued directly to any person who owns,  
11                     controls, or has custody of such plant-in-  
12                     corporated protectant or published in the  
13                     Federal Register.

14                     “(ii) EFFECT OF ORDER.—After re-  
15                     ceipt or publication of an order described  
16                     in clause (i), the plant-incorporated pro-  
17                     tectant described in the order will no  
18                     longer be exempt from the requirements of  
19                     this Act.

20                     “(D) TOLERANCE EXEMPTION.—The res-  
21                     idue of a plant-incorporated protectant that is  
22                     exempt under subparagraph (A)(i) shall be ex-  
23                     empt from the requirement for a tolerance  
24                     under section 408 of the Federal Food, Drug,  
25                     and Cosmetic Act (21 U.S.C. 346a) unless, and

1           until such time as, the Administrator issues or  
2           publishes an order under subparagraph (C)(i).”.

3           (c) CONFORMING AMENDMENTS.—Section 17(c) of  
4 the Federal Insecticide, Fungicide, and Rodenticide Act  
5 (7 U.S.C. 136o(c)) is amended—

6           (1) in paragraph (2)—

7                 (A) in the matter preceding subparagraph  
8                 (A), by striking “(as defined in section 174.3 of  
9                 title 40, Code of Federal Regulations (or any  
10                successor regulation))”;

11               (B) in subparagraph (B), by striking “or”  
12               at the end;

13               (C) in subparagraph (C), by striking the  
14               period at the end and inserting “; or”; and

15               (D) by adding at the end the following:

16                     “(D) that plant-incorporated protectant is  
17                     exempt under section 25(b)(2) or part 174 of  
18                     title 40, Code of Federal Regulations (or any  
19                     successor regulation).”; and

20               (2) in paragraph (3)(A), by striking “(as de-  
21               fined in section 174.3 of title 40, Code of Federal  
22               Regulations (or any successor regulation))”.

1 **SEC. 10202. COORDINATION.**

2 Section 3 of the Federal Insecticide, Fungicide, and  
3 Rodenticide Act (7 U.S.C. 136a) is amended by adding  
4 at the end the following:

5 “(i) COORDINATION.—

6 “(1) RISK MITIGATION MEASURES.—If any risk  
7 mitigation measures are required for any pesticide  
8 registered under this Act, the Administrator shall—

9 “(A) develop such measures in coordina-  
10 tion with the Secretary of Agriculture; and

11 “(B) conduct, and publish in the docket,  
12 with the corresponding action, an economic  
13 analysis determining the cost of implementation  
14 of such measures.

15 “(2) DATA AND INFORMATION.—

16 “(A) COORDINATION OF DATA AND INFOR-  
17 MATION.—With regard to the registration or  
18 registration review of a pesticide under this Act  
19 and for making a determination under section  
20 408 of the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic  
21 Act (21 U.S.C. 346a) with respect to any action  
22 that impacts the sale, distribution, or use of a  
23 pesticide, the Administrator shall coordinate  
24 with the Secretary of Agriculture, acting  
25 through the Director of the Office of Pest Man-  
26 agement Policy, so that the Administrator has

1 for the Administrator's use and consideration  
2 for such processes—

3 “(i) agronomic use data from—

4 “(I) the Department of Agri-  
5 culture; and

6 “(II) industry; and

7 “(ii) any information relating to the  
8 availability and economic viability of alter-  
9 natives to such pesticide.

10 “(B) DATA AND INFORMATION.—When  
11 issuing any decision resulting from the proc-  
12 esses referred to in subparagraph (A), the Ad-  
13 ministrator shall publish—

14 “(i) a description of the use by the  
15 Administrator of any data or information  
16 provided by the Secretary of Agriculture  
17 under subparagraph (A); and

18 “(ii) the determination of the Admin-  
19 istrator on whether to use such data or in-  
20 formation, including, as applicable, the  
21 reasons that the data or information was  
22 not used.

23 “(3) REASONABLE AND PRUDENT ACTIONS AND  
24 MEASURES.—For implementation of reasonable and  
25 prudent actions and measures with respect to the

1 use of a pesticide registered under this Act, the Ad-  
2 ministrator shall coordinate with the Secretary of  
3 Agriculture, the Secretary of the Interior, and the  
4 Secretary of Commerce—

5 “(A) to review the development of any such  
6 actions and measures that are a result of con-  
7 sultations relating to actions under this Act;

8 “(B) to fully consider the risks and bene-  
9 fits of any such actions and measures in a man-  
10 ner consistent with practices established to  
11 evaluate the risks and benefits of a pesticide  
12 registered under this Act; and

13 “(C) to provide feedback to the Secretary  
14 of the Interior and the Secretary of Commerce  
15 on decisions relating to any such actions and  
16 measures that may affect end users of a pes-  
17 ticide registered under this Act.

18 “(4) WAIVER.—The coordination requirements  
19 imposed by this subsection may be waived or modi-  
20 fied for a specific action to the extent agreed upon  
21 by the Administrator, the Secretary of Agriculture,  
22 and the registrant so long as such agreement is pub-  
23 lished by the Administrator in the docket for the  
24 corresponding action.”.

1 **SEC. 10203. INTERAGENCY WORKING GROUP.**

2 Section 3(c)(11) of the Federal Insecticide, Fun-  
3 gicide, and Rodenticide Act (7 U.S.C. 136a(c)(11)) is  
4 amended—

5 (1) in subparagraph (B)—

6 (A) by striking “The Administrator shall”  
7 and inserting the following:

8 “(i) IN GENERAL.—The Administrator  
9 shall”; and

10 (B) by adding at the end the following:

11 “(ii) PARTICIPATION.—The Secretary  
12 of Agriculture shall include the Director of  
13 the Office of Pest Management Policy in  
14 all meetings of the interagency working  
15 group.”;

16 (2) in subparagraph (D)—

17 (A) in clause (iv)—

18 (i) by striking “every 180 days there-  
19 after” and inserting “each year there-  
20 after”; and

21 (ii) by striking “during the 5-year pe-  
22 riod beginning on that date”; and

23 (B) by adding at the end the following:

24 “(v) AVAILABILITY.—All reports re-  
25 quired under this subparagraph shall be

1 published on the website of the Environ-  
2 mental Protection Agency.”; and

3 (3) by amending subparagraph (E) to read as  
4 follows:

5 “(E) CONSULTATION.—

6 “(i) WORKING GROUP WITH PRIVATE  
7 SECTOR.—In carrying out the duties under  
8 this paragraph, the working group shall, as  
9 appropriate—

10 “(I) consult, including through  
11 public meetings, with representatives  
12 of interested industry stakeholders  
13 and nongovernmental organizations  
14 not less than once every year; and

15 “(II) take into consideration fac-  
16 tors, such as actual and potential dif-  
17 ferences in interest between, and the  
18 views of, those stakeholders and orga-  
19 nizations.

20 “(ii) ADMINISTRATOR WITH WORKING  
21 GROUP.—Before the Administrator imple-  
22 ments any policy, strategy, workplan, or  
23 pilot program regarding the application of  
24 the Endangered Species Act of 1973 (16  
25 U.S.C. 1531 et seq.) to the processes for

1 the registration or registration review of a  
2 pesticide under this Act, the Administrator  
3 shall—

4 “(I) consult with the covered  
5 agencies on the policy, strategy,  
6 workplan, or pilot program and take  
7 into consideration input received; and

8 “(II) publish the input received  
9 from the covered agencies in the dock-  
10 et with the corresponding policy,  
11 strategy, workplan, or pilot pro-  
12 gram.”.

13 **SEC. 10204. REGISTRATION REVIEW.**

14 (a) EXTENSION OF DEADLINE.—Section  
15 3(g)(1)(A)(iii) of the Federal Insecticide, Fungicide, and  
16 Rodenticide Act (7 U.S.C. 136a(g)(1)(A)(iii)) is amend-  
17 ed—

18 (1) in the matter preceding subclause (I), by  
19 striking “the registration review of” and inserting  
20 “the interim registration review decision of”; and

21 (2) in subclause (I), by striking “2022” and in-  
22 serting “2031”.

23 (b) INTERIM REGISTRATION REVIEW DECISION RE-  
24 QUIREMENTS.—Section 3(g)(1)(A) of the Federal Insecti-  
25 cide, Fungicide, and Rodenticide Act (7 U.S.C.

1 136a(g)(1)(A)) is amended by adding at the end the fol-  
2 lowing:

3 “(vi) INTERIM REGISTRATION REVIEW DE-  
4 CISION REQUIREMENTS.—

5 “(I) REQUIREMENTS.—Any covered  
6 interim registration review decision shall  
7 include, where applicable, measures to re-  
8 duce the effects of the applicable pesticide  
9 on—

10 “(aa) species listed under the  
11 Endangered Species Act of 1973 (16  
12 U.S.C. 1531 et seq.); or

13 “(bb) any designated critical  
14 habitat.

15 “(II) CONSULTATION.—In developing  
16 measures described in subclause (I), the  
17 Administrator shall take into account the  
18 input received from the Secretary of Agri-  
19 culture and other members of the inter-  
20 agency working group established under  
21 subsection (c)(11).

22 “(III) COVERED INTERIM REGISTRA-  
23 TION REVIEW DECISION.—In this sub-  
24 section, the term ‘covered interim registra-

1                   tion review decision’ means an interim reg-  
2                   istration review decision—

3                   “(aa) that is associated with an  
4                   initial registration review described in  
5                   clause (iii);

6                   “(bb) that is noticed in the Fed-  
7                   eral Register during the period begin-  
8                   ning on the date of enactment of this  
9                   clause and ending on October 1, 2031;  
10                  and

11                  “(cc) for which the Administrator  
12                  has not, as of the date on which the  
13                  decision is noticed in the Federal Reg-  
14                  ister, made effects determinations or  
15                  completed any necessary consultation  
16                  under section 7(a)(2) of the Endan-  
17                  gered Species Act of 1973 (16 U.S.C.  
18                  1536(a)(2)).”.

19                  (c) CONFORMING REPEAL.—Section 711 of the Pes-  
20                  ticide Registration Improvement Act of 2022 (title VI of  
21                  division HH of Public Law 117–328) is repealed.

22                  **SEC. 10205. UNIFORMITY OF PESTICIDE LABELING RE-**  
23                  **QUIREMENTS.**

24                  (a) IN GENERAL.—Section 24(b) of the Federal In-  
25                  secticide, Fungicide, and Rodenticide Act (7 U.S.C.

1 136v(b)) shall be applied to require uniformity in pesticide  
2 labeling nationally, and to prohibit any State, instrumen-  
3 tality, or political subdivision thereof, or a court from di-  
4 rectly or indirectly imposing or continuing in effect any  
5 requirements for, or penalize or hold liable, any entity for  
6 failing to comply with requirements that would require la-  
7 beling or packaging that is in addition to or different from  
8 the labeling or packaging approved by the Administrator  
9 of the Environmental Protection Agency (referred to in  
10 this section as the “Administrator”) under such Act (7  
11 U.S.C. 136 et seq.), including any requirements relating  
12 to warnings on such labeling or packaging, provided that  
13 the entity is not in material violation of subparagraph (M),  
14 (Q), or (R) of section 12(a)(2) of such Act (7 U.S.C.  
15 136j(a)(2)), for which the entity has been penalized pursu-  
16 ant to section 14 of such Act (7 U.S.C. 136l).

17 (b) **RULE OF CONSTRUCTION.**—Nothing in this sec-  
18 tion shall be construed to alter or diminish the authority  
19 of States under subsections (a) and (c) of section 24 of  
20 the Federal Insecticide, Fungicide, and Rodenticide Act  
21 (7 U.S.C. 136v).

22 **SEC. 10206. AUTHORITY OF STATES.**

23 Section 24 of the Federal Insecticide, Fungicide, and  
24 Rodenticide Act (7 U.S.C. 136v) is amended—

1 (1) in the section heading, by inserting “**AND**  
2 **LOCALITIES**” after “**STATES**”; and

3 (2) by adding at the end the following:

4 “(d) LOCAL REGULATION.—A political subdivision of  
5 a State shall not impose, or continue in effect, any require-  
6 ment relating to the sale, distribution, labeling, applica-  
7 tion, or use of any pesticide or device that is subject to  
8 regulation—

9 “(1) by a State pursuant to this section; or

10 “(2) by the Administrator under this Act.”.

11 **SEC. 10207. LAWFUL USE OF AUTHORIZED PESTICIDES.**

12 Section 3(f) of the Federal Insecticide, Fungicide,  
13 and Rodenticide Act (7 U.S.C. 136a(f)) is amended by  
14 adding at the end the following:

15 “(6) LAWFUL USE OF REGISTERED PES-  
16 TICIDES.—Notwithstanding any other provision of  
17 law, the use, application, or discharge of a registered  
18 pesticide consistent with its labeling approved under  
19 this Act shall be permitted and considered lawful,  
20 without further permitting or approval require-  
21 ments.”.

1           **PART II—OTHER REGULATORY REFORM**  
2                           **PROVISIONS**

3 **SEC. 10211. MULTIPLE CROP AND PESTICIDE USE SURVEY.**

4           Section 10109(b) of the Agriculture Improvement  
5 Act of 2018 (Public Law 115–334; 132 Stat. 4906) is  
6 amended to read as follows:

7           “(b) ADMINISTRATION.—

8                   “(1) SUBMISSION.—The Secretary shall submit  
9 to the Administrator of the Environmental Protec-  
10 tion Agency, and make publicly available, the survey  
11 described in subsection (a).

12                   “(2) COMMERCIAL DATA.—The Secretary, act-  
13 ing through the Director of the Office of Pest Man-  
14 agement Policy, shall obtain commercial data on pes-  
15 ticide use to inform the conduct of, and enhance the  
16 results of, the survey described in subsection (a).

17                   “(3) RULEMAKING PROCEDURE.—The adminis-  
18 tration of this section shall be made without regard  
19 to chapter 35 of title 44, United States Code (com-  
20 monly known as the Paperwork Reduction Act).”.

21 **SEC. 10212. SAFE HARBOR FOR CERTAIN DISCHARGES OF**  
22                           **WILDLAND FIRE CHEMICALS.**

23           (a) IN GENERAL.—Subject to subsection (b), no  
24 court may enjoin under the Federal Water Pollution Con-  
25 trol Act (33 U.S.C. 1251 et seq.) a covered entity from  
26 conducting an aerial application of a covered fire retardant

1 and water enhancer for wildfire suppression, control, or  
2 prevention activities that results in a discharge, if such  
3 aerial application is conducted in accordance with the re-  
4 quirements of the Federal Facility Compliance Agreement  
5 between the Environmental Protection Agency and the  
6 U.S. Forest Service, as agreed to on February 16, 2023.

7 (b) PERIOD OF APPLICATION.—Subsection (a) shall  
8 apply to any aerial application described in such sub-  
9 section that is conducted before the effective date of a per-  
10 mit issued by the Administrator of the Environmental  
11 Protection Agency or a State, as applicable, under section  
12 402 of the Federal Water Pollution Control Act (33  
13 U.S.C. 1342) that authorizes the discharge, from such  
14 aerial application, of a covered fire retardant and water  
15 enhancer for wildfire suppression, control, or prevention  
16 activities.

17 (c) EFFECT.—Nothing in this section affects the au-  
18 thority of any court under the Federal Water Pollution  
19 Control Act with respect to any discharge resulting from  
20 an aerial application not conducted in accordance with the  
21 requirements described in subsection (a).

22 (d) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

23 (1) COVERED ENTITY.—The term “covered en-  
24 tity” means—

1 (A) any Federal agency, agency of a State  
2 or political subdivision thereof, or Tribal agency  
3 authorized by law to conduct an aerial applica-  
4 tion of fire retardants and water enhancers for  
5 wildfire suppression, control, or prevention ac-  
6 tivities; and

7 (B) any contractor, subcontractor, or other  
8 agent of an agency described in subparagraph  
9 (A).

10 (2) COVERED FIRE RETARDANT AND WATER  
11 ENHANCER.—The term “covered fire retardant and  
12 water enhancer” means a fire retardant and water  
13 enhancer that—

14 (A) has been evaluated, qualified, and ap-  
15 proved by the Secretary; and

16 (B) appears on the most current Forest  
17 Service Qualified Products List.

18 (3) DISCHARGE; STATE.—The terms “dis-  
19 charge” and “State” have the meanings given those  
20 terms in section 502 of the Federal Water Pollution  
21 Control Act (33 U.S.C. 1362).

22 (e) SUNSET.—This section shall cease to be effective  
23 on the date that is 5 years after the date of enactment  
24 of this section.

1 **SEC. 10213. OFFICE OF BIOTECHNOLOGY POLICY.**

2 Subtitle A of the Department of Agriculture Reorga-  
3 nization Act of 1994 (7 U.S.C. 6912 et seq.) is amended  
4 by inserting after section 220 (7 U.S.C. 6920) the fol-  
5 lowing:

6 **“SEC. 220A. OFFICE OF BIOTECHNOLOGY POLICY.**

7 “(a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall establish in  
8 the Department an Office of Biotechnology Policy to pro-  
9 vide for the effective coordination of policies and activities  
10 within the Department of Agriculture related to bio-  
11 technology, biomanufacturing, synthetic biology, and re-  
12 lated emerging technologies, while taking into account the  
13 effects of regulatory actions of other government agencies.

14 “(b) DIRECTOR.—The Office of Biotechnology Policy  
15 shall be under the direction of a Director appointed by  
16 the Secretary, who shall report directly to the Secretary  
17 or a designee of the Secretary.

18 “(c) DUTIES.—The Director of the Office of Bio-  
19 technology Policy shall—

20 “(1) develop and coordinate Department policy  
21 on biotechnology and related topics;

22 “(2) coordinate activities and services of the  
23 Department on biotechnology and related topics, in-  
24 cluding—

25 “(A) research and development;

26 “(B) extension and education;

1 “(C) communication;

2 “(D) regulation and labeling; and

3 “(E) commercialization, use, and trade;

4 “(3) assist other offices and agencies of the De-  
5 partment in fulfilling their responsibilities related to  
6 biotechnology under applicable Federal law; and

7 “(4) perform such other functions as may be  
8 required under Federal law or prescribed by the Sec-  
9 retary.

10 “(d) INTERAGENCY COORDINATION.—In carrying out  
11 the duties under subsection (c), the Director of the Office  
12 of Biotechnology Policy shall provide leadership to ensure  
13 coordination of interagency activities with the Environ-  
14 mental Protection Agency, the Food and Drug Adminis-  
15 tration, and other Federal and State agencies.

16 “(e) OUTREACH.—The Director of the Office of Bio-  
17 technology Policy shall consult with biotechnology devel-  
18 opers, academics, agricultural producers, and other enti-  
19 ties that may be affected by biotechnology-related activi-  
20 ties or actions of the Department or other Federal and  
21 State agencies as necessary in carrying out the Office’s  
22 responsibilities under this section.

23 “(f) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There  
24 is authorized to be appropriated to carry out this section  
25 \$1,000,000 for each of fiscal years 2027 through 2031.”.

# 1       **TITLE XI—CROP INSURANCE**

## 2       **SEC. 11001. SPECIALTY CROP ADVISORY COMMITTEE.**

3           (a) IN GENERAL.—Section 505 of the Federal Crop  
4 Insurance Act (7 U.S.C. 1505) is amended—

5                   (1) in subsection (a)—

6                           (A) in paragraph (2)—

7                                   (i) by redesignating subparagraphs  
8 (E), (F), and (G) as subparagraphs (F),  
9 (G), and (H), respectively;

10                                   (ii) by inserting after subparagraph  
11 (D) the following:

12                                   “(E) The Chairperson of the Specialty  
13 Crop Advisory Committee established by sub-  
14 section (f).”; and

15                                   (iii) in subparagraph (H), as so reded-  
16 icated, by striking “specialty crop” and  
17 inserting “livestock”;

18                           (B) in paragraph (3), by striking “sub-  
19 paragraphs (E), (F), and (G) of paragraph (2)”  
20 and inserting “subparagraphs (F), (G), and  
21 (H) of paragraph (2) and the members of the  
22 Specialty Crop Advisory Committee described in  
23 subsection (f)(2)”; and

24                   (2) by adding at the end the following:

25                           “(f) SPECIALTY CROP ADVISORY COMMITTEE.—

1           “(1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 180 days  
2 after the date of the enactment of this subsection,  
3 the Secretary shall—

4           “(A) establish a Specialty Crop Advisory  
5 Committee (in this subsection referred to as  
6 ‘the Committee’); and

7           “(B) appoint to the Committee in accord-  
8 ance with paragraph (2) the initial members  
9 that will assist the Corporation in the research,  
10 creation, and improvement of policies or plans  
11 of insurance for specialty crops.

12           “(2) COMPOSITION.—

13           “(A) CHAIRPERSON.—The Chairperson of  
14 the Committee shall be an individual with expe-  
15 rience in crop insurance and the unique nature  
16 of the specialty crop industry.

17           “(B) MEMBERS.—The Committee shall  
18 consist of—

19           “(i) individuals with an understanding  
20 of the production methods, markets, and  
21 risks (including losses due to weather,  
22 trade damages, and supply chain disrup-  
23 tions) unique to specialty crop production;

24           “(ii) not less than 5 producers and  
25 not more than 10 total members; and

1                   “(iii) not less than 1 producer from  
2                   each of the West, Midwest, South, and  
3                   Northeast regions of the United States (as  
4                   identified by the Bureau of the Census).

5                   “(3) DUTIES.—The Committee established by  
6                   this subsection shall—

7                   “(A) advise the Manager of the Corpora-  
8                   tion on issues relating to specialty crop insur-  
9                   ance policies;

10                   “(B) provide input, through the Chair-  
11                   person of the Committee, to the Board on deci-  
12                   sions relating to specialty crop insurance poli-  
13                   cies;

14                   “(C) review available educational programs  
15                   and make recommendations to the Manager of  
16                   the Corporation on how to enhance the effec-  
17                   tiveness of such programs for specialty crop  
18                   producers;

19                   “(D) provide recommendations to the Man-  
20                   ager of the Corporation regarding the presen-  
21                   tation of policies to the Board required by sec-  
22                   tion 508(a)(6);

23                   “(E) advise the Manager of the Corpora-  
24                   tion on entering into partnerships to carry out

1 subsections (d) and (e)(2)(B) of section 522;  
2 and

3 “(F) meet not less than 2 times each year  
4 to carry out these duties.”.

5 (b) SPECIALTY CROPS COORDINATOR.—Section  
6 507(g)(2) of the Federal Crop Insurance Act (7 U.S.C.  
7 1507(g)(2)) is amended to read as follows:

8 “(2) RESPONSIBILITIES.—

9 “(A) IN GENERAL.—The Specialty Crops  
10 Coordinator shall have primary responsibility  
11 for addressing the needs of specialty crop pro-  
12 ducers, and for providing information and ad-  
13 vice, in connection with the activities of the  
14 Corporation to improve and expand the insur-  
15 ance program for specialty crops.

16 “(B) OTHER DUTIES.—In carrying out  
17 this paragraph, the Specialty Crops Coordinator  
18 shall—

19 “(i) act as the liaison of the Corpora-  
20 tion with representatives of specialty crop  
21 producers and the Specialty Crop Advisory  
22 Committee; and

23 “(ii) assist the Corporation with the  
24 knowledge, expertise, and familiarity of the  
25 producers with risk management and pro-

1           duction issues pertaining to specialty  
2           crops.”.

3           (c) ANNUAL REVIEW OF NEW AND SPECIALTY  
4 CROPS.—Section 508(a)(6)(A) of the Federal Crop Insur-  
5 ance Act (7 U.S.C. 1508(a)(6)(A)) is amended by insert-  
6 ing “(in consultation with the Specialty Crop Advisory  
7 Committee)” after “Corporation”.

8 **SEC. 11002. IDENTIFICATION OF HOLDERS OF SUBSTAN-**  
9 **TIAL INTERESTS.**

10           Section 506(m) of the Federal Crop Insurance Act  
11 (7 U.S.C. 1506(m)) is amended—

12           (1) by amending paragraph (3) to read as fol-  
13 lows:

14           “(3) IDENTIFICATION OF HOLDERS OF SUB-  
15 STANTIAL INTERESTS.—

16           “(A) IN GENERAL.—The Manager of the  
17 Corporation may require each policyholder to  
18 provide to the Manager, at such times and in  
19 such manner as prescribed by the Manager, the  
20 name of each individual or other entity that ac-  
21 quires or holds a substantial beneficial interest  
22 in such policyholder.

23           “(B) EXTENSION AVAILABLE.—

24           “(i) IN GENERAL.—In the case of a  
25 policyholder that does not provide the in-

1           formation required pursuant to subpara-  
2           graph (A) to the Manager at the time pre-  
3           scribed by the Manager, the Manager shall  
4           allow such policyholder to provide to the  
5           Manager such information at any time  
6           during the applicable crop year.

7           “(ii) EXCEPTION.—Clause (i) shall  
8           not apply to a policyholder that an ap-  
9           proved insurance provider determines—

10                   “(I) would receive dispropor-  
11                   tionate benefits under a crop insur-  
12                   ance program as a result of failing to  
13                   provide the information required pur-  
14                   suant to subparagraph (A) to the  
15                   Manager at the time prescribed by the  
16                   Manager; or

17                   “(II) failed to provide such infor-  
18                   mation to avoid an obligation or re-  
19                   quirement under any State or Federal  
20                   law.”; and

21                   (2) in paragraph (4), by striking “5 percent”  
22                   and inserting “10 percent”.

1 **SEC. 11003. ACTUARIAL SOUNDNESS OF CERTAIN NEW**  
2 **PRODUCTS.**

3 Section 506(n) of the Federal Crop Insurance Act (7  
4 U.S.C. 1506(n)) is amended by adding at the end the fol-  
5 lowing:

6 “(4) ACTUARIAL SOUNDNESS OF CERTAIN NEW  
7 PRODUCTS.—The Corporation shall—

8 “(A) review each policy or product devel-  
9 oped under section 508(h) periodically for actu-  
10 arial soundness; and

11 “(B) take such actions, in consultation  
12 with persons described in paragraph (1)(A) of  
13 such section, as are necessary to improve the  
14 actuarial soundness of such policies and prod-  
15 ucts.”.

16 **SEC. 11004. COVERAGE OF REVENUE LOSSES.**

17 Section 508(a)(1) of the Federal Crop Insurance Act  
18 (7 U.S.C. 1508(a)(1)) is amended, in the second sentence,  
19 by inserting “or a decline in the market price of the in-  
20 sured commodity, so long as such decline was not directly  
21 caused by the producer (as determined by the Secretary)”  
22 before the period at the end.

23 **SEC. 11005. LIMITATION ON FARM PROGRAM PARTICIPA-**  
24 **TION.**

25 (a) IN GENERAL.—The Federal Crop Insurance Act  
26 (7 U.S.C. 1501 et seq.) is amended—

1 (1) in section 508(c)(4)(C)(iv) in the heading,  
2 by striking “CROPS AND”; and

3 (2) in section 508B(f), by striking “Effective  
4 beginning with the 2019 crop year” and inserting  
5 “Effective for the 2019 through 2025 crop years”.

6 (b) CONFORMING AMENDMENT.—Section 1115 of the  
7 Agricultural Act of 2014 (7 U.S.C. 9015) is amended by  
8 adding at the end the following:

9 “(j) LIMITATION.—Beginning with the 2026 crop  
10 year, in the case of a farm for which a producer obtains  
11 coverage under the Stacked Income Protection Plan for  
12 upland cotton under section 508B of the Federal Crop In-  
13 surance Act (7 U.S.C. 1508b) for a crop year, such farm  
14 shall not be eligible to receive payments for seed cotton  
15 for such crop year under—

16 “(1) price loss coverage under section 1116; or

17 “(2) agriculture risk coverage under section  
18 1117.”.

19 **SEC. 11006. LIMITATION ON INTEREST ACCRUAL.**

20 Section 508(d) of the Federal Crop Insurance Act (7  
21 U.S.C. 1508(d)) is amended by inserting at the end the  
22 following new paragraph:

23 “(5) LIMITATION ON INTEREST ACCRUAL.—Ef-  
24 fective beginning with the 2026 reinsurance year, in  
25 the case of a producer that is delinquent in paying

1 a premium or administrative fee, an approved insur-  
2 ance provider may charge such producer with re-  
3 spect to such delinquency an amount less than or  
4 equal to 1 percent of the simple interest of the  
5 amount for which such producer is delinquent, for  
6 each month (not to exceed 60 consecutive months)  
7 the producer is so delinquent.”.

8 **SEC. 11007. CROP INSURANCE SUPPORT FOR BEGINNING**  
9 **AND VETERAN FARMERS AND RANCHERS.**

10 (a) DEFINITION OF VETERAN FARMER OR RANCH-  
11 ER.—Section 502(b)(14)(B) of the Federal Crop Insur-  
12 ance Act (7 U.S.C. 1502(b)(14)(B)) is amended—

13 (1) in clause (ii), by striking “5 years” and in-  
14 serting “10 years”; and

15 (2) in clause (iii), by striking “5-year” and in-  
16 serting “10-year”.

17 (b) INCREASE IN ASSISTANCE.—Section 508(e)(9) of  
18 the Federal Crop Insurance Act (7 U.S.C. 1508(e)) is  
19 amended by inserting “or veteran farmer or rancher” after  
20 “beginning farmer or rancher” each place it appears.

21 **SEC. 11008. MARKETABILITY.**

22 Section 508(h)(4) of the Federal Crop Insurance Act  
23 (7 U.S.C. 1508(h)(4)) is amended—

24 (1) in subparagraph (A), by amending clause  
25 (iii) to read as follows:

1 “(iii) APPLICATION.—

2 “(I) IN GENERAL.—Except as  
3 provided in subclause (II), this sub-  
4 paragraph shall apply with respect to  
5 a proposal only during the period pre-  
6 ceding any approval of the proposal  
7 by the Board.

8 “(II) EXCEPTION.—An approved  
9 insurance provider that submits a let-  
10 ter of support for a concept proposal,  
11 a policy, or plan of insurance shall—

12 “(aa) not be considered the  
13 public for purposes of clause (ii);

14 “(bb) have access to data  
15 and other product development  
16 information submitted to the  
17 Board during its review under  
18 this subsection; and

19 “(cc) be subject to the con-  
20 fidentiality requirements as appli-  
21 cable to the Board pursuant to  
22 clauses (i) and (ii).”;

23 (2) in subparagraph (D), by adding at the end  
24 the following:

1                   “(iv) MARKETABILITY DEADLINE.—  
2                   Any new policy, plan of insurance, or other  
3                   material approved by the Board under this  
4                   subsection during a reinsurance year and  
5                   after the Standard Reinsurance Agreement  
6                   closing date of July 1 shall not be imple-  
7                   mented for such reinsurance year unless at  
8                   least 90 days prior to the sales closing date  
9                   for such policy, plan of insurance, or other  
10                  material, the Board makes available to the  
11                  approved insurance providers all necessary,  
12                  as determined by the Board, handbooks,  
13                  training materials, and other resources as-  
14                  sociated with such policy, plan of insur-  
15                  ance, or other material.”; and

16                  (3) by adding at the end the following:

17                         “(F) MARKETABILITY DETERMINATION.—

18                                 “(i) SUBMISSION TO THE BOARD.—  
19                                 Prior to the approval of a product, any ap-  
20                                 proved insurance provider that submitted a  
21                                 letter of support for the product shall pro-  
22                                 vide information and analysis to the Board  
23                                 on the marketability of such product.

24                                 “(ii) DEEMED MARKETABLE.—In re-  
25                                 viewing a policy, plan of insurance, or

1 other material submitted to the Board  
2 under this subsection, such product shall  
3 be deemed marketable in accordance with  
4 paragraph (3)(A)(ii)(I) if at least one ap-  
5 proved insurance provider, in its submis-  
6 sion pursuant to clause (i), expresses sup-  
7 port for such policy, plan, or material.

8 “(iii) EVALUATION BY THE BOARD.—  
9 In evaluating whether a product is market-  
10 able in accordance with paragraph  
11 (3)(A)(ii)(I), the Board shall take into con-  
12 sideration any information and analysis  
13 submitted pursuant to clause (ii).

14 “(iv) AIP PARTICIPATION.—The  
15 Board shall not require the submission of  
16 a letter of support from an approved insur-  
17 ance provider in order to review and ap-  
18 prove any policy, plan of insurance, or  
19 other material submitted pursuant to this  
20 subsection.”.

21 **SEC. 11009. REIMBURSEMENT RATES FOR ADMINISTRATIVE**  
22 **AND OPERATING COSTS.**

23 Section 508(k)(4) of the Federal Crop Insurance Act  
24 (7 U.S.C. 1508(k)(4)) is amended—

25 (1) in subparagraph (A)—

1 (A) in the matter preceding clause (i), by  
2 striking “not exceed”;

3 (B) in clause (i)—

4 (i) by inserting “not exceed” before  
5 “for the”; and

6 (ii) by striking “and” after the semi-  
7 colon;

8 (C) in clause (ii)—

9 (i) by striking “and subsequent” and  
10 inserting “through 2026”;

11 (ii) by inserting “not exceed” before  
12 “for each”; and

13 (iii) by striking the period and insert-  
14 ing “; and”; and

15 (D) by adding at the end the following:

16 “(iii) for each of the 2027 and subse-  
17 quent reinsurance years, be determined in  
18 accordance with subparagraph (F).”; and

19 (2) by amending subparagraph (F) to read as  
20 follows:

21 “(F) REIMBURSEMENT RATES FOR REIN-  
22 SURANCE YEAR 2027 AND SUBSEQUENT REIN-  
23 SURANCE YEARS.—Notwithstanding subpara-  
24 graphs (A), (B), (C), and (E), for each of the  
25 2027 and subsequent reinsurance years, the

1 rate established by the Board to reimburse ap-  
2 proved insurance providers and agents for the  
3 administrative and operating costs of the pro-  
4 viders and agents with respect to each policy  
5 made available under this Act shall be equal to  
6 the rate applicable to the policy in effect for the  
7 2026 reinsurance year.”.

8 **SEC. 11010. QUALITY LOSS ADJUSTMENT COVERAGE.**

9 Section 508(m)(3) of the Federal Crop Insurance Act  
10 (7 U.S.C. 1508(m)(3)) is amended—

11 (1) by striking subparagraph (A) and inserting  
12 the following:

13 “(A) PERIODIC REVIEW.—Beginning in  
14 calendar year 2027 and once every 5 years  
15 thereafter, the Corporation shall contract with a  
16 qualified person to conduct a review, which  
17 shall be completed within 1 year of initiation, of  
18 the quality loss adjustment procedures of the  
19 Corporation.”;

20 (2) in subparagraph (B), by striking “Effective  
21 beginning not later than the 2004 reinsurance year,  
22 based on the review, the Corporation” and inserting  
23 “Based on each review conducted under subpara-  
24 graph (A), the Corporation”;

1           (3) by redesignating subparagraph (B) as sub-  
2           paragraph (C);

3           (4) by inserting after subparagraph (A) the fol-  
4           lowing:

5                     “(B) STAKEHOLDER ENGAGEMENT.—Each  
6           review under subparagraph (A) shall include en-  
7           gagement from regionally diverse industry  
8           stakeholders for each agricultural commodity  
9           for which a quality loss adjustment is offered.”;

10          and

11          (5) by adding at the end the following:

12                     “(D) REPORT.—On the completion of each  
13          review under subparagraph (A), the Corpora-  
14          tion shall submit to the Committee on Agri-  
15          culture, Nutrition, and Forestry of the Senate  
16          and the Committee on Agriculture of the House  
17          of Representatives a report that describes—

18                             “(i) the findings from that review;

19                             “(ii) the changes to the quality loss  
20                     adjustment procedures;

21                             “(iii) the stakeholder engagement for  
22                     that review conducted pursuant to sub-  
23                     paragraph (B); and

24                             “(iv) plans for establishing specific  
25                     quality loss adjustment procedures for

1 unique regions, as determined by the Sec-  
2 retary.”.

3 **SEC. 11011. PILOT PROGRAM TO REVIEW EFFECTIVENESS**  
4 **OF COVERAGE PENALTY.**

5 The Federal Crop Insurance Act (7 U.S.C. 1501 et  
6 seq.) is further amended by inserting after section 508D  
7 the following:

8 **“SEC. 508E. PILOT PROGRAM TO REVIEW EFFECTIVENESS**  
9 **OF COVERAGE PENALTY.**

10 “(a) IN GENERAL.—Effective beginning with the  
11 2027 crop year, the Risk Management Agency and the  
12 Corporation shall establish a pilot program to evaluate the  
13 effectiveness of the reduction in benefits applied to corn  
14 and other crops, as determined by the Corporation, plant-  
15 ed during the late planting period (as defined in section  
16 457.8 of title 7, Code of Federal Regulations (or successor  
17 regulation)).

18 “(b) LOCATION AND DURATION OF PILOT.—The  
19 pilot program established under subsection (a) shall—

20 “(1) be conducted in not less than 10 counties  
21 located within or adjacent to the North Plains  
22 Groundwater Conservation District or the Panhandle  
23 Groundwater Conservation District in the State of  
24 Texas; and

1           “(2) operate for a period of not less than 4 crop  
2       years.

3           “(c) EVALUATION.—In carrying out the pilot pro-  
4       gram established under subsection (a), the Risk Manage-  
5       ment Agency and the Corporation shall—

6           “(1) suspend any reduction to the insurance  
7       guarantee applied to an insurance policy for a crop  
8       that is planted during the late planting period;

9           “(2) gather and analyze data to determine if  
10      the number of days beyond the final plant date in  
11      which a crop was planted during the late planting  
12      period correlates with a decrease in crop yields; and

13          “(3) determine if planting a crop after the final  
14      plant date results in reduced usage of irrigation  
15      from the Ogallala Aquifer.

16          “(d) REPORT REQUIRED.—Not later than 90 days  
17      after the last day of crop year 2031, the Risk Management  
18      Agency and the Corporation shall submit to the Com-  
19      mittee on Agriculture of the House of Representatives and  
20      the Committee on Agriculture, Forestry, and Nutrition of  
21      the Senate a report that includes—

22          “(1) a summary of the results of the pilot pro-  
23      gram established under subsection (a);

24          “(2) an analysis of the correlation between  
25      planting date and final yields; and

1           “(3) any changes to existing policies that the  
2           Corporation intends to make as a result of the infor-  
3           mation obtained during the pilot program.

4           “(e) PARTNERSHIPS.—Of the amounts made avail-  
5           able in section 522(e)(2)(A)(ii), the Corporation may use  
6           not more than \$200,000 to enter into a partnership or  
7           cooperative agreement with a nonprofit organization,  
8           State agency, or public university that is familiar with ag-  
9           ricultural production in the region described in subsection  
10          (b)(1) to conduct the research and evaluation required  
11          under paragraphs (2) and (3) of subsection (c).”.

12          **SEC. 11012. WHOLE FARM IMPROVEMENTS.**

13          Section 522(c)(7)(E) of the Federal Crop Insurance  
14          Act (7 U.S.C. 1522(c)(7)(E)) is amended by adding at  
15          the end the following:

16                               “(iii) ADDITIONAL REVIEW.—Not  
17                               later than 12 months after the date of en-  
18                               actment of this clause and annually there-  
19                               after, the Corporation shall—

20   “(I) review any limitations on in-  
21   surable revenue (including the overall  
22   limitation and limitations specific to  
23   animals, animal products, greenhouse  
24   and nursery, and aquaculture) to en-  
25   sure such limitations are adequate to

1 cover the financial risks associated  
2 with the production of high-value agri-  
3 cultural products; and

4 “(II) submit to the Committee on  
5 Agriculture of the House of Rep-  
6 resentatives and the Committee on  
7 Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry  
8 of the Senate a report that includes a  
9 summary of the most recent review  
10 conducted and any expected changes  
11 to the policy for the following reinsur-  
12 ance year.”.

13 **SEC. 11013. PROGRAM COMPLIANCE AND INTEGRITY.**

14 Section 515(b) of the Federal Crop Insurance Act (7  
15 U.S.C. 1515(b)) is amended—

16 (1) in the subsection heading, by inserting “,  
17 RESPONSE, AND FINAL DETERMINATION” after  
18 “NOTIFICATION”;

19 (2) in paragraph (1), by striking “shall notify  
20 in writing” and inserting “shall, through an initial  
21 finding in writing, notify (unless such notification is  
22 pursuant to the responsibilities to conduct reviews  
23 and make corrections)”;

24 (3) in paragraph (2)—

1 (A) in the heading, by striking “TIME FOR  
2 NOTIFICATION” and inserting “REQUIRED TIM-  
3 ING”;

4 (B) by striking “Notice” and inserting the  
5 following:

6 “(A) INITIAL FINDING.—Notice”; and

7 (C) by adding at the end the following:

8 “(B) RESPONSE.—During the 90-day pe-  
9 riod beginning on the date the Corporation no-  
10 tifies an approved insurance provider through  
11 an initial finding under paragraph (1), such ap-  
12 proved insurance provider may appeal such ini-  
13 tial finding in writing.

14 “(C) FINAL FINDING.—Not later than 90  
15 days after the date on which an approved insur-  
16 ance provider appeals pursuant to subpara-  
17 graph (B), the Corporation shall issue a final  
18 finding in writing to such approved insurance  
19 provider.

20 “(D) REQUEST FOR FINAL ADMINISTRA-  
21 TIVE DETERMINATION.—An approved insurance  
22 provider shall have not more than 90 days after  
23 the receipt of the Corporation’s final finding  
24 under subparagraph (C) to request, in writing,  
25 a final administrative determination, if such ap-

1           proved insurance provider has reason to believe  
2           that the Corporation’s final finding under sub-  
3           paragraph (C) is not in accordance with—

4                   “(i) the applicable laws, regulations,  
5                   custom, or practice of the crop insurance  
6                   industry; or

7                   “(ii) the approved policy and proce-  
8                   dure of the Corporation.

9                   “(E) FINAL DETERMINATION.—The Cor-  
10                  poration shall have not more than 90 days after  
11                  the receipt of a request for a final administra-  
12                  tive determination under subparagraph (D) to  
13                  provide such final administrative determination,  
14                  unless substantial new information, as deter-  
15                  mined by the Corporation, is provided by the  
16                  approved insurance provider.

17                  “(F) APPEAL TO CIVILIAN BOARD OF CON-  
18                  TRACT APPEALS.—An approved insurance pro-  
19                  vider shall have not more than 90 days after re-  
20                  ceipt of a final administrative determination  
21                  provided pursuant to subparagraph (E) to ap-  
22                  peal such determination to the Civilian Board  
23                  of Contract Appeals.”; and

24                  (4) by amending paragraph (3) to read as fol-  
25                  lows:

1           “(3) EFFECT OF FAILURE TO TIMELY NO-  
2           TIFY.—

3           “(A) IN GENERAL.—Except as provided in  
4           subparagraph (B), failure of the Corporation to  
5           comply with the requirements under paragraph  
6           (2) shall relieve the approved insurance provider  
7           from the debt owed to the Corporation.

8           “(B) EXCEPTION.—Subparagraph (A)  
9           shall not apply to any matters referred to the  
10          Office of the Inspector General or the Depart-  
11          ment of Justice.”.

12 **SEC. 11014. RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT PRIORITIES.**

13          (a) EXPANSION OF REVENUE POLICIES.—Section  
14          522(c) of the Federal Crop Insurance Act (7 U.S.C.  
15          1522(c)) is amended by adding at the end the following:

16          “(20) EXPANSION OF REVENUE POLICIES.—

17                 “(A) IN GENERAL.—The Corporation shall  
18                 carry out research and development, or offer to  
19                 enter into 1 or more contracts with 1 or more  
20                 qualified persons to carry out research and de-  
21                 velopment, to expand the availability of policies  
22                 that provide coverage against losses of revenue  
23                 for—

24                         “(i) oilseeds, including camelina,  
25                         carinata, and pennycrest;

1                   “(ii) alfalfa;  
2                   “(iii) pulse crops (including dry edible  
3                   beans);  
4                   “(iv) sugarbeets;  
5                   “(v) sugarcane;  
6                   “(vi) blueberries; and  
7                   “(vii) other crops for which only indi-  
8                   vidual yield-based insurance policies are  
9                   available.

10                  “(B) AVAILABILITY OF POLICY.—Notwith-  
11                  standing the last sentence of section 508(a)(1),  
12                  and section 508(a)(2), the Corporation shall  
13                  make a policy described in subparagraph (A)  
14                  available if the requirements of section 508(h)  
15                  are met.

16                  “(C) DETERMINATION OF PROJECTED  
17                  PRICE.—In developing a policy described in sub-  
18                  paragraph (A), the Corporation may utilize al-  
19                  ternative methods of determining a projected  
20                  price for a crop, including the correlation of ac-  
21                  tual prices received for such crop to the futures  
22                  markets prices of other commodities.

23                  “(D) PRICING LIBRARY.—In developing a  
24                  policy described in subparagraph (A), the Cor-  
25                  poration shall determine the feasibility of cre-

1           ating a pricing library for agents and approved  
2           insurance providers using data from alternative  
3           sources, as determined by the Secretary.

4           “(E) DISCOUNT FACTOR.—For purposes of  
5           developing a policy described in subparagraph  
6           (A), the Corporation shall determine the feasi-  
7           bility of—

8                   “(i) establishing a State or regional  
9                   discount factor as an endorsement policy  
10                  to provide coverage against losses of rev-  
11                  enue due to quality discounts in soybeans;  
12                  and

13                   “(ii) an alternative to applying the  
14                  term ‘zero-market value’ in the case of an  
15                  available salvage market.

16           “(F) REPORT.—Not later than 18 months  
17           after the date of enactment of this paragraph,  
18           the Corporation shall submit to the Committee  
19           on Agriculture of the House of Representatives  
20           and the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition,  
21           and Forestry of the Senate a report that de-  
22           scribes—

23                   “(i) the crops for which research and  
24                  development has been carried out under  
25                  subparagraph (A);

1                   “(ii) the results of the research and  
2                   development carried out under subpara-  
3                   graph (A);

4                   “(iii) any recommendations with re-  
5                   spect to those results; and

6                   “(iv) additional crops for which re-  
7                   search and development under this para-  
8                   graph is planned to be carried out.”.

9           (b) WINE GRAPE LOSSES DUE TO SMOKE EXPO-  
10   SURE.—Section 522(c) of the Federal Crop Insurance Act  
11   (7 U.S.C. 1522(c)) is further amended by adding at the  
12   end the following:

13                   “(21) WINE GRAPE LOSSES DUE TO SMOKE EX-  
14   POSURE.—

15                   “(A) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 1 year  
16                   after the date of the enactment of this para-  
17                   graph, the Corporation shall carry out research  
18                   and development, or offer to enter into 1 or  
19                   more contracts with 1 or more qualified persons  
20                   to carry out research and development, regard-  
21                   ing a policy to insure wine grapes (including  
22                   wine grapes produced in the States of Cali-  
23                   fornia, Oregon, and Washington) against losses  
24                   due to wildfire smoke exposure.

1           “(B) AVAILABILITY OF POLICY.—Notwith-  
2 standing the last sentence of section 508(a)(1),  
3 and section 508(a)(2), not later than 18  
4 months after the date of the enactment of this  
5 paragraph, the Corporation shall make available  
6 a policy described in subparagraph (A) if the  
7 requirements of section 508(h) are met.

8           “(C) REPORT.—Not later than 2 years  
9 after the date of enactment of this paragraph,  
10 the Corporation shall submit to the Committees  
11 on Appropriations and Agriculture of the House  
12 of Representatives and the Committees on Ap-  
13 propriations and Agriculture, Nutrition, and  
14 Forestry of the Senate a report that includes—

15                   “(i) the results of the research carried  
16 out under subparagraph (A);

17                   “(ii) a description of the policies made  
18 available under this paragraph; and

19                   “(iii) the feasibility of a product that  
20 allows producers of wine grapes to claim  
21 an indemnity through post-harvest, post-  
22 vinification testing, if such testing dem-  
23 onstrates smoke damage that was not de-  
24 tectable prior to harvest.”.

1           (c) MUSHROOMS.—Section 522(c) of the Federal  
2 Crop Insurance Act (7 U.S.C. 1522(c)) is further amend-  
3 ed by adding at the end the following:

4           “(22) MUSHROOMS.—

5                   “(A) IN GENERAL.—The Corporation shall  
6 carry out research and development, or offer to  
7 enter into 1 or more contracts with 1 or more  
8 qualified persons to carry out research and de-  
9 velopment, regarding a policy to insure—

10                           “(i) the production of mushroom  
11 growing media; and

12                           “(ii) the production of mushrooms.

13                   “(B) AVAILABILITY OF POLICY.—Notwith-  
14 standing the second sentence of section  
15 508(a)(1), and section 508(a)(2), the Corpora-  
16 tion shall make a policy described in subpara-  
17 graph (A) available if the requirements of sec-  
18 tion 508(h) are met.

19                   “(C) RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT.—Re-  
20 search and development described in subpara-  
21 graph (A) shall evaluate the effectiveness of  
22 policies described in that subparagraph, includ-  
23 ing policies that—

24                           “(i) are based on the risk of—

1                   “(I) pests, including mushroom  
2                   phorid flies and sciarid flies;

3                   “(II) fungal pathogens; and

4                   “(III) viral pathogens;

5                   “(ii) consider other causes of loss ap-  
6                   plicable to mushroom compost and mush-  
7                   room production, such as—

8                   “(I) loss of electricity due to  
9                   weather; and

10                  “(II) loss of growing media due  
11                  to excessive 5-year, 10-year, or 20-  
12                  year rainfall events;

13                  “(iii) consider appropriate best prac-  
14                  tices to minimize the risk of loss;

15                  “(iv) consider whether to provide cov-  
16                  erage for mushrooms under 1 policy or to  
17                  provide coverage for various phases of pro-  
18                  duction;

19                  “(v) have streamlined reporting and  
20                  paperwork requirements that take into ac-  
21                  count short propagation schedules, variable  
22                  crop years, and the variety of mushrooms  
23                  that may be produced in a single facility;  
24                  and

1                   “(vi) provide protection for revenue  
2                   losses.

3                   “(D) REPORT.—Not later than 2 years  
4                   after the date of enactment of this paragraph,  
5                   the Corporation shall submit to the Committee  
6                   on Agriculture of the House of Representatives  
7                   and the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition,  
8                   and Forestry of the Senate a report that de-  
9                   scribes—

10                   “(i) the results of the research and  
11                   development carried out under subpara-  
12                   graph (A); and

13                   “(ii) any recommendations with re-  
14                   spect to those results.”.

15                   (d) STUDY ON HURRICANE INSURANCE.—Section  
16 522(c) of the Federal Crop Insurance Act (7 U.S.C.  
17 1522(c)) is further amended by adding at the end the fol-  
18 lowing:

19                   “(23) STANDALONE POLICY FOR HURRICANES  
20                   AND TROPICAL STORMS.—

21                   “(A) IN GENERAL.—The Corporation shall  
22                   carry out research and development, or offer to  
23                   enter into 1 or more contracts with 1 or more  
24                   qualified persons to conduct a study to deter-  
25                   mine the feasibility of offering insurance

1           against tropical storms and hurricanes made  
2           available regardless of an underlying crop insur-  
3           ance policy (or lack thereof).

4           “(B) REPORT.—Not later than 1 year  
5           after the date of enactment of this paragraph,  
6           the Corporation shall submit to the Committee  
7           on Agriculture of the House of Representatives  
8           and the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition,  
9           and Forestry of the Senate a report that de-  
10          scribes the results of the study conducted under  
11          subparagraph (A).”.

12          (e) FROST OR COLD WEATHER INSURANCE.—Section  
13          522(c) of the Federal Crop Insurance Act (7 U.S.C.  
14          1522(c)) is further amended by adding at the end the fol-  
15          lowing:

16                 “(24) FROST OR COLD WEATHER INSUR-  
17                 ANCE.—

18                 “(A) IN GENERAL.—The Corporation shall  
19                 carry out research and development, or offer to  
20                 enter into 1 or more contracts with 1 or more  
21                 qualified persons to carry out research and de-  
22                 velopment, regarding an index-based policy to  
23                 insure crops (including table grapes, wine  
24                 grapes, juice grapes, tomatoes, peppers, sugar-  
25                 cane, strawberries, melons, citrus, peaches,

1 blueberries, and any other crop) on a nationally  
2 available basis against losses due to a frost or  
3 cold weather event.

4 “(B) RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT.—  
5 Research and development under subparagraph  
6 (A) shall—

7 “(i) evaluate the effectiveness of risk  
8 management tools, such as the use of an  
9 index, with respect to low frequency and  
10 catastrophic loss weather events; and

11 “(ii) result in a policy that provides  
12 protection for at least 1 of the following:

13 “(I) Production loss.

14 “(II) Revenue loss.

15 “(C) REPORT.—Not later than 1 year  
16 after the date of enactment of this paragraph,  
17 the Corporation shall submit to the Committee  
18 on Agriculture of the House of Representatives  
19 and the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition,  
20 and Forestry of the Senate a report that de-  
21 scribes—

22 “(i) the results of the research and  
23 development carried out under subpara-  
24 graph (A); and

1                   “(ii) any recommendations with re-  
2                   spect to those results.”.

3           (f) STUDY OF INCLUSION OF CERTAIN OILSEED  
4 CROPS UNDER DOUBLE AND ROTATIONAL CROPPING  
5 POLICIES.—Section 522(c) of the Federal Crop Insurance  
6 Act (7 U.S.C. 1522(c)) is further amended by adding at  
7 the end the following:

8                   “(25) DOUBLE CROPPING AND ROTATIONAL  
9                   CROPPING OF CERTAIN OILSEED CROPS.—

10                   “(A) DEFINITION OF COVERED OILSEED  
11                   CROPS.—In this paragraph, the term ‘covered  
12                   oilseed crops’ means rapeseed, canola, camelina,  
13                   and other oilseed crops, as determined by the  
14                   Corporation.

15                   “(B) RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT.—  
16                   The Corporation shall carry out research and  
17                   development, or offer to enter into 1 or more  
18                   contracts with 1 or more qualified persons to  
19                   carry out research and development, with re-  
20                   spect to insurance policies for covered oilseed  
21                   crops under double cropping and rotational  
22                   cropping practices.

23                   “(C) REQUIREMENTS.—The research and  
24                   development carried out pursuant to subpara-

1 graph (B) shall be conducted in consultation  
2 with stakeholders to evaluate—

3 “(i) the factors impacting availability  
4 and cost of crop insurance when incor-  
5 porating covered oilseed crops into double  
6 cropping and rotational cropping policies;  
7 and

8 “(ii) the potential risk management  
9 benefits associated with incorporating cov-  
10 ered oilseed crops into double cropping and  
11 rotational cropping policies, specifically  
12 with respect to winter-planted covered oil-  
13 seed crops, including risk management  
14 benefits to soil health, biodiversity, and the  
15 profitability of farming operations.

16 “(D) EMPHASIS.—In awarding contracts  
17 under subparagraph (B), the Corporation may  
18 give priority to awarding contracts to qualified  
19 persons that—

20 “(i) have previous research experience  
21 with covered oilseed crops; and

22 “(ii) have access to a facility with the  
23 capacity to carry out the applicable re-  
24 search.

1           “(E) REPORT.—Not later than 13 months  
2           after the date of enactment of this paragraph,  
3           the Corporation shall submit to the Committee  
4           on Agriculture of the House of Representatives  
5           and the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition,  
6           and Forestry of the Senate a report that de-  
7           scribes—

8                       “(i) the results of the research and  
9                       development carried out under subpara-  
10                      graph (B); and

11                     “(ii) any recommendations with re-  
12                     spect to those results.”.

13           (g) HARVEST INCENTIVES.—Section 522(c) of the  
14           Federal Crop Insurance Act (7 U.S.C. 1522(c)) is further  
15           amended by adding at the end the following:

16                     “(26) HARVEST INCENTIVES.—

17                     “(A) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 1 year  
18                     after the date of the enactment of this para-  
19                     graph, the Corporation shall carry out research  
20                     and development, or offer to enter into 1 or  
21                     more contracts with 1 or more qualified persons  
22                     to carry out research and development, regard-  
23                     ing harvest incentives for policies that provide  
24                     coverage against losses of revenue.

1           “(B) AVAILABILITY OF POLICY.—Notwith-  
2 standing the last sentence of section 508(a)(1),  
3 and section 508(a)(2), not later than 24  
4 months after the date of the enactment of this  
5 paragraph, the Corporation shall make available  
6 a policy described in subparagraph (A) if the  
7 requirements of section 508(h) are met.

8           “(C) REPORT.—Not later than 1 year  
9 after the date of enactment of this paragraph,  
10 the Corporation shall submit to the Committees  
11 on Appropriations and Agriculture of the House  
12 of Representatives and the Committees on Ap-  
13 propriations and Agriculture, Nutrition, and  
14 Forestry of the Senate a report that includes—

15                   “(i) the results of the research carried  
16 out under subparagraph (A); and

17                   “(ii) a description of the policies made  
18 available under this paragraph.”.

19           (h) PREVENTED PLANTING.—Section 522(c) of the  
20 Federal Crop Insurance Act (7 U.S.C. 1522(c)) is further  
21 amended by adding at the end the following:

22                   “(27) PREVENTED PLANTING.—

23                   “(A) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 1 year  
24 after the date of the enactment of this para-  
25 graph, the Corporation shall carry out research

1 and development, or offer to enter into 1 or  
2 more contracts with 1 or more qualified persons  
3 to carry out research and development, regard-  
4 ing prevented planting coverage for insurance  
5 policies for specialty crops that are not planted  
6 on a perennial basis.

7 “(B) REPORT.—Not later than 18 months  
8 after the date of the enactment of this para-  
9 graph, the Corporation shall submit to the  
10 Committee on Agriculture of the House of Rep-  
11 resentatives and the Committee on Agriculture,  
12 Nutrition, and Forestry of the Senate a report  
13 that includes—

14 “(i) the results of the research carried  
15 out under subparagraph (A); and

16 “(ii) any recommendations with re-  
17 spect to those results.”.

18 (i) POLICY FOR SWINE PRODUCERS FOR CATA-  
19 STROPHIC EVENTS.—Section 522(c) of the Federal Crop  
20 Insurance Act (7 U.S.C. 1522(c)) is further amended by  
21 adding at the end the following:

22 “(28) POLICY FOR SWINE PRODUCERS FOR  
23 CATASTROPHIC EVENTS.—

24 “(A) IN GENERAL.—For purposes of up-  
25 dating any conclusions contained in the final re-

1 port for the study on swine catastrophic disease  
2 published by the Risk Management Agency in  
3 2015, the Corporation shall carry out research  
4 and development, or offer to enter into 1 or  
5 more contracts with 1 or more qualified persons  
6 to carry out research and development, regard-  
7 ing a policy to insure swine producers with re-  
8 spect to financial losses due to a catastrophic  
9 event.

10 “(B) REPORT.—Not later than 1 year  
11 after the date of the enactment of this para-  
12 graph, the Corporation shall submit to the  
13 Committee on Agriculture of the House of Rep-  
14 resentatives and the Committee on Agriculture,  
15 Nutrition, and Forestry of the Senate a report  
16 that describes the results of the research and  
17 development carried out under subparagraph  
18 (A).”.

19 **SEC. 11015. REPORT ON STANDARD REINSURANCE AGREE-**  
20 **MENT.**

21 (a) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 90 days after the  
22 date of the enactment of this section, the Federal Crop  
23 Insurance Corporation shall submit to the Committee on  
24 Agriculture of the House of Representatives and the Com-  
25 mittee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry of the Sen-

1 ate a report on the Standard Reinsurance Agreement that  
2 includes an analysis of any modifications to such Agree-  
3 ment that are necessary to expand the availability of poli-  
4 cies and plans of insurance that meet the risk manage-  
5 ment needs of agricultural producers, States, regions, and  
6 commodities.

7 (b) CONTENTS.—The analysis required under sub-  
8 section (a) shall—

9 (1) take into account the requirements under  
10 section 508(k)(8)(F) of the Federal Crop Insurance  
11 Act (7 U.S.C. 1508(k)(8)(F)) related to budget neu-  
12 trality of the Standard Reinsurance Agreement; and

13 (2) include an analysis of—

14 (A) any benefit related to establishing—

15 (i) at least one additional reinsurance  
16 fund for States that have experienced con-  
17 sistently high loss ratios; and

18 (ii) at least one additional reinsurance  
19 fund to provide alternative risk-sharing  
20 terms for approved insurance providers  
21 that sell insurance contracts offering area  
22 plan coverage;

23 (B) with respect to any funds reimbursed  
24 for administrative and operating costs under  
25 section 507(c) of the Federal Crop Insurance

1 Act (7 U.S.C. 1507(c)), the best method for en-  
2 suring that approved insurance providers obli-  
3 gate such funds for—

4 (i) the delivery of risk management  
5 tools to producers; and

6 (ii) agent workforce assistance for  
7 producers, in an amount that is not less  
8 than the historical percentage of such re-  
9 imbursement; and

10 (C) with respect to each policy and plan of  
11 insurance, compensation amounts for agents  
12 that—

13 (i) are consistent with historical  
14 norms; and

15 (ii) provide a reasonable return con-  
16 sidering workload and the critical service  
17 across programs that the agents provide.

18 (c) CONSULTATION.—In carrying out the analysis re-  
19 quired under subsection (a), the Federal Crop Insurance  
20 Corporation shall consult with—

21 (1) representatives of producers—

22 (A) from each State and region; and

23 (B) with respect to each commodity;

24 (2) representatives of agents and approved in-  
25 surance providers;

1           (3) the Committee on Agriculture of the House  
2 of Representatives; and

3           (4) the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition,  
4 and Forestry of the Senate.

5 **SEC. 11016. HURRICANE INSURANCE PROTECTION-WIND**  
6 **INDEX REPORT.**

7           (a) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 1 year after the  
8 date of the enactment of this section, the Federal Crop  
9 Insurance Corporation shall submit to the Committee on  
10 Agriculture of the House of Representatives and the Com-  
11 mittee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry of the Sen-  
12 ate a report on the hurricane insurance protection-wind  
13 index that includes an analysis of any events in the 5-  
14 year period preceding the date of the enactment of this  
15 section that caused an outage of a weather radio station  
16 operated by the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Ad-  
17 ministration.

18           (b) CONTENTS.—The analysis required under sub-  
19 section (a) shall include—

20           (1) data on events where a producer lost crop  
21 insurance coverage as a result of an outage of a  
22 weather radio station operated by the National Oce-  
23 anic and Atmospheric Administration that occurred  
24 during the period described in subsection (a) and the  
25 cause of such outage; and

1           (2) a contingency plan that evaluates the feasi-  
2           bility of obtaining data from land-grant colleges and  
3           universities (as defined in section 1404 of the Na-  
4           tional Agricultural Research, Extension, and Teach-  
5           ing Policy Act of 1977 (7 U.S.C. 3103)) or other  
6           third-party sources, as determined by the Secretary.

7           (c) CONSULTATION.—In carrying out the analysis re-  
8           quired under subsection (a), the Federal Crop Insurance  
9           Corporation shall consult with the Administrator of the  
10          National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration.

11       **SEC. 11017. RISK MANAGEMENT STUDY FOR LAMB.**

12          (a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall conduct a  
13          study that includes an analysis of any modifications to ex-  
14          isting livestock protection and risk management programs  
15          that may enhance risk management protection to domestic  
16          lamb producers.

17          (b) CONTENT.—In conducting the study under this  
18          section, the Secretary shall take into account the various  
19          factors affecting risk management, including—

- 20               (1) market access;
- 21               (2) sources of feed;
- 22               (3) costs of, and fluctuation of costs of, feed;
- 23               (4) imports;
- 24               (5) consumer demand and trends;
- 25               (6) labor costs; and

1 (7) availability and accuracy of market data.

2 (c) REPORT.—Not later than 1 year after the date  
3 of enactment of this section, the Secretary shall submit  
4 to the Committee on Agriculture of the House of Rep-  
5 resentatives and the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition,  
6 and Forestry of the Senate a report on the findings of  
7 the study under this section.

8 (d) DEFINITION.—In this section, the term “existing  
9 livestock protection and risk management programs” in-  
10 cludes—

11 (1) dairy margin coverage;

12 (2) livestock risk protection; and

13 (3) any other program designed to protect pro-  
14 ducers from market volatility, as determined by the  
15 Secretary.

16 **SEC. 11018. STUDY ON LIVESTOCK RISK PROTECTION POL-**  
17 **ICY WITH RESPECT TO PRODUCERS OF FEED-**  
18 **ER CATTLE AFFECTED BY ADVERSE WEATH-**  
19 **ER EVENTS.**

20 (a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall conduct a  
21 study on potential modifications to the livestock risk pro-  
22 tection policy offered under section 523(b) of the Federal  
23 Crop Insurance Act (7 U.S.C. 1523(b)) to improve the  
24 flexibility of such policy with respect to producers of feeder

1 cattle affected by adverse weather events, as determined  
2 by the Secretary, including drought and wildfires.

3 (b) CONTENTS.—In conducting the study under this  
4 section, the Secretary shall, with respect to producers of  
5 feeder cattle, evaluate—

6 (1) any impact drought, wildfire, and other ad-  
7 verse weather events have on decisions made by such  
8 producers related to the marketing of feeder cattle;

9 (2) in the case an adverse weather event occurs  
10 more than 60 days prior to the end date of a specific  
11 coverage endorsement under the livestock risk pro-  
12 tection policy described in subsection (a), whether  
13 the requirements or endorsement structures of such  
14 policy (as in effect on the date of enactment of this  
15 section) cause such producers not to market feeder  
16 cattle so as to avoid a penalty under such policy;

17 (3) any option to provide additional flexibility  
18 or an exemption to such producers that market feed-  
19 er cattle more than 60 days prior to such end date  
20 due to an adverse weather event; and

21 (4) any other recommendation to improve the  
22 effectiveness of such policy for such producers.

23 (c) REPORT.—Not later than 1 year after the date  
24 of enactment of this section, the Secretary shall submit  
25 to the Committee on Agriculture of the House of Rep-

1 representatives and the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition,  
2 and Forestry of the Senate a report describing the find-  
3 ings of the study.

4       **TITLE XII—MISCELLANEOUS**  
5                               **PROVISIONS**

6       **Subtitle A—Livestock and Other**  
7                               **Animals**

8       **PART I—ANIMAL HEALTH AND PRODUCTION**

9       **SEC. 12001. ANIMAL DISEASE PREVENTION AND MANAGE-**  
10                               **MENT.**

11       (a) NADPRP PROGRAM ACTIVITIES.—Section  
12 10409A(b)(2) of the Animal Health Protection Act (7  
13 U.S.C. 8308A(b)(2)) is amended—

14               (1) in subparagraph (F)—

15                       (A) by striking “including training addi-  
16 tional emergency response personnel.” and in-  
17 serting the following: “including—

18                               “(i) training additional emergency re-  
19 sponse personnel; and”;

20                       (B) by adding at the end the following:

21                               “(ii) improving animal disease  
22 traceability.”;

23               (2) in subparagraph (I), by inserting before the  
24 period at the end the following: “, including activi-  
25 ties approved by the Secretary as of the date of the

1 enactment of the Farm, Food, and National Security  
2 Act of 2026”.

3 (b) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—

4 (1) NATIONAL ANIMAL HEALTH LABORA-  
5 TORY.—Section 10409A(d)(2)(A) of the Animal  
6 Health Protection Act (7 U.S.C. 8308a(d)(2)(A)) is  
7 amended by striking “2019 through 2023” and in-  
8 serting “2027 through 2031”.

9 (2) NATIONAL ANIMAL DISEASE PREPAREDNESS  
10 AND RESPONSE PROGRAM; NATIONAL ANIMAL VAC-  
11 CINE AND VETERINARY COUNTERMEASURES  
12 BANK.—Section 10409A(d)(2)(B) of the Animal  
13 Health Protection Act (7 U.S.C. 8308a(d)(2)(B)) is  
14 amended by striking “2019 through 2023” and in-  
15 serting “2027 through 2031”.

16 (3) ADMINISTRATIVE COSTS.—Section  
17 10409A(d)(3)(B) of the Animal Health Protection  
18 Act (7 U.S.C. 8308a(d)(3)(B)) is amended—

19 (A) by striking “carry out the National  
20 Animal Disease Preparedness and Response  
21 Program under subsection (b)” and inserting  
22 “carry out the National Animal Health Labora-  
23 tory Network under subsection (a) and the Na-  
24 tional Animal Disease Preparedness and Re-  
25 sponse Program under subsection (b)”;

1 (B) by striking “10 percent” and inserting  
2 “15 percent”.

3 (4) AVAILABILITY AND PURPOSE OF FUND-  
4 ING.—Section 10409A(e)(1) of the Animal Health  
5 Protection Act (7 U.S.C. 8308a(e)(1)) is amended  
6 by striking “2019 through 2023” and inserting  
7 “2027 through 2031”.

8 **SEC. 12002. CATTLE FEVER TICK ERADICATION PROGRAM**  
9 **REVIEW AND REPORT.**

10 (a) PROGRAM REVIEW.—

11 (1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 1 year after  
12 the date of the enactment of this section, the Sec-  
13 retary shall offer to enter into a contract with a cov-  
14 ered institution under which the covered institution  
15 shall conduct a review of the Program.

16 (2) REVIEW ELEMENTS.—The review conducted  
17 pursuant to paragraph (1) shall include an evalua-  
18 tion of—

19 (A) the effectiveness of the Program with  
20 respect to preventing and reducing the spread  
21 of tick-borne illnesses in cattle, including a re-  
22 view of places from which the cattle fever tick  
23 has been eradicated and the resulting economic  
24 impact;

25 (B) with respect to cattle producers—

- 1 (i) the benefits of the Program; and  
2 (ii) the burden of compliance with the  
3 Program;  
4 (C) the treatment protocols developed and  
5 implemented under the Program; and  
6 (D) the Federal and State funds allocated  
7 to support the Program for the most recent fis-  
8 cal year, including the funds allocated to each  
9 research project associated with the Program.

10 (b) REPORT.—Not later than 1 year after the date  
11 on which the Secretary and a covered institution enter into  
12 a contract pursuant to subsection (a)(1), the Secretary  
13 shall submit to the Committee on Agriculture of the House  
14 of Representatives and the Committee on Agriculture, Nu-  
15 trition, and Forestry of the Senate a report that in-  
16 cludes—

17 (1) the results of the review conducted pursuant  
18 to subsection (a); and

19 (2) recommendations for improvements to the  
20 Program, including recommendations for reducing  
21 the burden of compliance with the Program with re-  
22 spect to cattle producers.

23 (c) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

24 (1) COVERED INSTITUTION.—The term “cov-  
25 ered institution” means—

1 (A) a land-grant college or university (as  
2 defined in section 1404(13) of the National Ag-  
3 ricultural Research, Extension, and Teaching  
4 Policy Act of 1977 (7 U.S.C. 3103(13))); or

5 (B) a non-land-grant college of agriculture  
6 (as defined in section 1404(14) of the National  
7 Agricultural Research, Extension, and Teaching  
8 Policy Act of 1977 (7 U.S.C. 3103(14))).

9 (2) PROGRAM.—The term “Program” means  
10 the Cattle Fever Tick Eradication Program carried  
11 out by the Animal and Plant Health Inspection  
12 Service of the Department in coordination with the  
13 Texas Animal Health Commission.

14 (d) FUNDING.—The Secretary shall use funds made  
15 available for the agricultural and food policy research cen-  
16 ters under section 1419A of the National Agricultural Re-  
17 search, Extension, and Teaching Policy Act of 1977 (7  
18 U.S.C. 3155) to carry out this section.

19 **SEC. 12003. ADDITIONAL TRAINING FACILITIES FOR NA-**  
20 **TIONAL DETECTOR DOG TRAINING CENTER.**

21 The Beagle Brigade Act of 2023 (Public Law 118–  
22 191) is amended by adding at the end the following:

23 **“SEC. 4. ADDITIONAL TRAINING FACILITIES.**

24 “(a) IN GENERAL.—In addition to the Center estab-  
25 lished under section 2(a), the Secretary may—

1           “(1) establish other dog training facilities,  
2           which shall have the same duties as are specified in  
3           section 2(b) for the Center; and

4           “(2) enter into a cooperative agreement with  
5           the department of agriculture of a State (or political  
6           subdivision thereof) to establish an off-site training  
7           program for the purpose of providing training and  
8           technical assistance in the training of dogs, as de-  
9           scribed in section 2(b).

10          “(b) CONSIDERATIONS.—When determining the need  
11          for additional training facilities under subsection (a), the  
12          Secretary shall consider—

13                 “(1) the location of international ports of entry;

14                 “(2) the volume of international passengers and  
15                 cargo; and

16                 “(3) regional agricultural production trends and  
17                 associated pest and disease threats.”.

18          **SEC. 12004. REGIONALIZATION, ZONING, AND**  
19                                 **COMPARTMENTALIZATION AGREEMENTS.**

20          (a) IN GENERAL.—Section 10405 of the Animal  
21          Health Protection Act (7 U.S.C. 8304) is amended—

22                 (1) by redesignating subsection (d) as sub-  
23                 section (e); and

24                 (2) by inserting after subsection (c) the fol-  
25                 lowing:

1           “(d) ENGAGEMENT WITH KEY EXPORT MARKETS.—  
2 To reduce the impact of animal disease outbreaks on  
3 United States exports, the Secretary, acting through the  
4 Administrator of the Animal and Plant Health Inspection  
5 Service, the Under Secretary of Agriculture for Trade and  
6 Foreign Agricultural Affairs, and the Administrator of the  
7 Food Safety and Inspection Service, in consultation with  
8 the United States Trade Representative, is authorized to  
9 negotiate in advance, to the extent practicable, regional-  
10 ization, zoning, compartmentalization, and other agree-  
11 ments regarding outbreaks of known animal disease  
12 threats of trade significance with the governments of coun-  
13 tries with export markets for livestock animals or animal  
14 products from the United States.”.

15           (b) RULE OF CONSTRUCTION.—Nothing in this sec-  
16 tion may be construed—

17           (1) to limit the ability of the United States  
18 Trade Representative to negotiate trade agreements;

19 or

20           (2) to require the United States Trade Rep-  
21 resentative to condition other trade agreements on  
22 the inclusion of language relating to reducing the  
23 impact of animal disease outbreaks on United States  
24 exports, as described in subsection (d) of section

1 10405 of the Animal Health Protection Act (7  
2 U.S.C. 8304) (as inserted by subsection (a)(2)).

3 **SEC. 12005. IMPORTATION OF LIVE DOGS.**

4 (a) IN GENERAL.—The Animal Health Protection  
5 Act (7 U.S.C. 8301 et seq.) is amended by inserting after  
6 section 10404 (7 U.S.C. 8303) the following:

7 **“SEC. 10404A. IMPORTATION OF LIVE DOGS.**

8 “(a) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

9 “(1) COMPENSATION.—The term ‘compensa-  
10 tion’ means any act, consideration, or thing of value  
11 received by a person directly, including cash or  
12 noncash benefits, cost-avoidance, obtaining positive  
13 or avoiding negative publicity, an exchange of serv-  
14 ices, or maintaining a license issued under any local,  
15 State, or Federal government authority.

16 “(2) IMPORTER.—The term ‘importer’ means  
17 any person who transports or causes the transpor-  
18 tation of a dog into the United States from a foreign  
19 country.

20 “(3) IMPORT TRANSPORTER.—The term ‘import  
21 transporter’ means any person or entity that—

22 “(A) receives an imported dog from any  
23 importer, dealer, research facility, exhibitor, op-  
24 erator of an auction sale, or department, agen-

1 cy, or instrumentality of the United States or  
2 of any State or local government; and

3 “(B) receives compensation for moving  
4 such dog in commerce.

5 “(4) TRANSFER.—The term ‘transfer’ means a  
6 change of ownership or control of an imported dog  
7 to another person, including by sale, adoption, ex-  
8 change, or donation.

9 “(b) REQUIREMENTS.—

10 “(1) IN GENERAL.—Except as provided in para-  
11 graph (2), no person shall import a dog into the  
12 United States unless prior to transport to the  
13 United States, the Secretary receives electronic doc-  
14 umentation necessary, as determined by the Sec-  
15 retary, to demonstrate that the dog—

16 “(A) is in good health;

17 “(B) has received all necessary vaccina-  
18 tions and internal and external parasite treat-  
19 ment, and demonstrated negative test results,  
20 as required by the Secretary and evidenced by  
21 a certificate that—

22 “(i) is issued by a licensed veteri-  
23 narian accredited by a competent veteri-  
24 nary authority recognized by the Secretary;  
25 and

1                   “(ii) is endorsed by that authority in  
2                   a manner representing that the veteri-  
3                   narian issuing the certificate was author-  
4                   ized to do so;

5                   “(C) is officially identified by a permanent  
6                   method approved by the Secretary; and

7                   “(D) in the case that the dog is intended  
8                   for transfer—

9                   “(i) is at least 6 months old; and

10                   “(ii) is accompanied by an import per-  
11                   mit issued by the Secretary under this Act.

12                   “(2) EXCEPTIONS.—The Secretary, by regula-  
13                   tion, shall provide an exception to any requirement  
14                   under this Act in any case in which a dog is im-  
15                   ported for purposes of transfer—

16                   “(A) as a personal pet of United States or-  
17                   igin returning to the United States;

18                   “(B) as a United States military working  
19                   dog or contracted working dog supporting a  
20                   military mission or tasking;

21                   “(C) for research purposes;

22                   “(D) for veterinary treatment which is  
23                   paid for by the importer, subject to the condi-  
24                   tion that the dog—

1           “(i) is taken directly to a veterinary  
2           facility for treatment with appropriate  
3           quarantine until the dog meets the criteria  
4           described in paragraph (1); and

5           “(ii) is then exported to its country of  
6           origin; or

7           “(E) in the case of a dog that is less than  
8           6 months old, for lawful importation into the  
9           State of Hawaii from the British Isles, Aus-  
10          tralia, Guam, or New Zealand in compliance  
11          with the regulations of the State of Hawaii and  
12          the other requirements of this section, if the  
13          dog is not transported out of the State of Ha-  
14          wahi for transfer at less than 6 months of age.

15          “(c) IMPLEMENTATION AND REGULATIONS.—Not  
16          later than 18 months after the date of enactment of the  
17          Farm, Food, and National Security Act of 2026, the Sec-  
18          retary, in consultation with the Secretary of Health and  
19          Human Services, the Secretary of Commerce, the Sec-  
20          retary of Homeland Security, and the Secretary of Trans-  
21          portation, shall promulgate such regulations as the Sec-  
22          retary determines necessary to implement and enforce this  
23          section, including regulations—

24                  “(1) to facilitate electronic submission and  
25          interagency sharing of all documentation required

1 prior to the importation of a dog into the United  
2 States under subsection (b)(1);

3 “(2) to establish any necessary post-arrival  
4 verification processes for imported dogs;

5 “(3) to ensure the denial of entry into the  
6 United States of any dog attempted to be imported  
7 into the United States in violation of subsection  
8 (b)(1);

9 “(4) to provide that each importer, import  
10 transporter, intermediate handler, or carrier receiv-  
11 ing a certificate of veterinary inspection required  
12 under this section shall submit a copy of the certifi-  
13 cate to the Secretary, who shall, upon receipt—

14 “(A) record and maintain the information  
15 in a centralized database; and

16 “(B) upon request by a State veterinarian,  
17 share the information with such State veteri-  
18 narian not later than 3 days after such request  
19 is received by the Secretary;

20 “(5) to require the Secretary to annually aggre-  
21 gate and publicly report the data submitted under  
22 paragraph (4), including information on the coun-  
23 tries of origin of the imported dogs and the purposes  
24 for the importation of such dogs; and

1           “(6) to determine and establish such fees for  
2           the verification of documentation and issuance of  
3           permits required under subsection (b)(1) as may be  
4           necessary to fund the implementation and enforce-  
5           ment of this section.

6           “(d) RULE OF CONSTRUCTION.—Nothing in sub-  
7           section (c)(5) shall be construed as limiting the availability  
8           of funding made available under section 10417 to carry  
9           out this section.

10          “(e) ENFORCEMENT.—

11           “(1) AUTHORITY.—The Secretary shall have  
12           the authority granted under section 10414 to en-  
13           force this section.

14           “(2) PENALTIES.—An importer or import  
15           transporter that fails to comply with this section  
16           shall—

17           “(A) be subject to penalties under section  
18           10414; and

19           “(B) provide, as the Secretary may deter-  
20           mine, at the expense of the importer or import  
21           transporter, for—

22           “(i) the care (including appropriate  
23           veterinary care), forfeiture, quarantine,  
24           and removal from the United States of  
25           each applicable dog; and

1                   “(ii) the return of each applicable dog  
2                   to its place of export, with due care for the  
3                   welfare of each applicable dog.”.

4           (b) TRANSITION PERIOD.—

5               (1) IN GENERAL.—During the transition pe-  
6               riod, regulations promulgated under section 18 of  
7               the Animal Welfare Act (7 U.S.C. 2148) (as in ef-  
8               fect on the day before the date of enactment of this  
9               Act) shall continue to apply to the extent that such  
10              regulations do not conflict with section 10404A of  
11              the Animal Health Protection Act (as inserted by  
12              subsection (a)).

13              (2) TRANSITION PERIOD DEFINED.—In this  
14              subsection, the term “transition period” means the  
15              period beginning on the date of enactment of this  
16              Act and ending on the date on which final regula-  
17              tions are promulgated under such section 10404A.

18              (c) CONFORMING AMENDMENT.—Section 18 of the  
19              Animal Welfare Act (7 U.S.C. 2148) is repealed.

20   **SEC. 12006. ENSURING THE FREE MOVEMENT OF LIVE-**  
21                                   **STOCK-DERIVED PRODUCTS IN INTERSTATE**  
22                                   **COMMERCE.**

23              (a) PURPOSE.—The purpose of this section is to—

1           (1) protect the free movement in interstate  
2           commerce of products derived from covered live-  
3           stock;

4           (2) encourage a national market of such prod-  
5           ucts;

6           (3) ensure that producers of covered livestock  
7           are not subject to a patchwork of State laws restrict-  
8           ing access to a national market; and

9           (4) ensure that the United States continues to  
10          uphold its international trade obligations.

11         (b) IN GENERAL.—Producers of covered livestock  
12         have a Federal right to raise and market their covered  
13         livestock in interstate commerce and therefore no State  
14         or subdivision thereof may enact or enforce, directly or  
15         indirectly, a condition or standard on the production of  
16         covered livestock other than for covered livestock phys-  
17         ically raised in such State or subdivision.

18         (c) PROTECTING INTERSTATE COMMERCE.—Pro-  
19         ducers of covered livestock have a Federal right to raise  
20         and market their covered livestock in interstate commerce  
21         and therefore no State or subdivision thereof may enact  
22         or enforce, directly or indirectly, as a condition for sale  
23         or consumption, any condition or standard of production  
24         on products derived from covered livestock not physically  
25         raised in such State or subdivision that is in addition to,

1 or different from, the conditions or standards of produc-  
2 tion in the State in which the production occurs.

3 (d) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

4 (1) COVERED LIVESTOCK.—The term “covered  
5 livestock”—

6 (A) means any domestic animal raised for  
7 the purpose of—

8 (i) slaughter for human consumption;

9 or

10 (ii) producing products manufactured  
11 for human consumption which are derived  
12 from the processing of milk, including fluid  
13 milk products; and

14 (B) does not include domestic animals  
15 raised for the primary purpose of egg produc-  
16 tion.

17 (2) PRODUCTION.—The term “production”—

18 (A) means the raising (including breeding)  
19 of covered livestock; and

20 (B) does not include the movement, har-  
21 vesting, or further processing of covered live-  
22 stock.

1 **SEC. 12007. REPORT ON SUPPORT FOR LIVESTOCK AND**  
2 **POULTRY PRODUCERS DURING A FOREIGN**  
3 **ANIMAL DISEASE OUTBREAK.**

4 (a) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 6 months after the  
5 date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary shall sub-  
6 mit to the Committee on Agriculture of the House of Rep-  
7 resentatives and the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition,  
8 and Forestry of the Senate a report on the Department’s  
9 preparedness to support livestock producers and poultry  
10 growers facing economic losses in the event of an outbreak  
11 of a foreign animal disease.

12 (b) CONTENTS.—The report submitted under sub-  
13 section (a) shall include, with respect to the Department’s  
14 ability to protect producers and growers from significant  
15 economic losses as a result of a foreign animal disease—

16 (1) an assessment of—

17 (A) existing Federal programs, including  
18 catastrophic risk management tools, indemnity,  
19 direct payments, biosecurity assistance, and  
20 herd buyouts; and

21 (B) the Department’s capacity to utilize  
22 such programs to provide benefits to producers  
23 and growers experiencing economic losses as a  
24 result of having to sell livestock and poultry at  
25 a reduced price, having to quarantine, treat, de-  
26 stroy, or dispose of animals, having to imple-

1           ment additional biosecurity measures or as a re-  
2           sult of catastrophic market conditions;

3           (2) a determination of gaps that exist in the  
4           Department's ability to provide economic support for  
5           producers and growers suffering such losses; and

6           (3) recommendations of the Secretary for modi-  
7           fications to Federal law (including regulations) relat-  
8           ing to protecting producers and growers from sig-  
9           nificant economic losses related to a foreign animal  
10          disease outbreak.

11         (c) PROVISION OF INFORMATION.—

12           (1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 90 days after  
13           the date of enactment of this Act, for purposes of  
14           facilitating the preparation of the report submitted  
15           under subsection (a), the relevant Department offi-  
16           cials described in paragraph (2) shall inform the  
17           Secretary of the information described in subsection  
18           (b).

19           (2) RELEVANT DEPARTMENT OFFICIALS DE-  
20           SCRIBED.—The relevant Department officials de-  
21           scribed in this paragraph are the following:

22                   (A) The Under Secretary for Farm Pro-  
23                   duction and Conservation.

24                   (B) The Under Secretary for Food, Nutri-  
25                   tion, and Consumer Services.

1 (C) The Under Secretary for Rural Devel-  
2 opment.

3 (D) The Under Secretary for Food Safety.

4 (E) The Under Secretary for Marketing  
5 and Regulatory Programs.

6 (F) The Under Secretary for Trade and  
7 Foreign Agricultural Affairs.

8 (G) Other officials, as specified by the Sec-  
9 retary.

10 **SEC. 12008. PROTECTION OF GREYHOUNDS.**

11 (a) IN GENERAL.—The Animal Welfare Act (7  
12 U.S.C. 2131 et seq.) is amended by adding at the end  
13 the following:

14 **“SEC. 30. PROTECTION OF GREYHOUNDS.**

15 “(a) IN GENERAL.—It shall be unlawful—

16 “(1) for any person to knowingly engage in  
17 commercial greyhound racing in which any grey-  
18 hound is moved in interstate or foreign commerce;

19 “(2) to conduct any commercial greyhound rac-  
20 ing or racing meeting where any form of betting or  
21 wagering on the speed or ability of greyhounds oc-  
22 curs;

23 “(3) to engage in or facilitate simulcast betting  
24 or wagering on greyhound races in interstate or for-  
25 eign commerce; and

1           “(4) for any person to knowingly sell, buy, pos-  
2           sess, train, transport, deliver, or receive any grey-  
3           hound for purposes of having the greyhound partici-  
4           pate in commercial greyhound racing.

5           “(b) INVESTIGATIONS.—The Secretary, or any other  
6           person authorized by the Secretary, shall make such inves-  
7           tigations as the Secretary determines necessary to deter-  
8           mine whether any person has violated or is violating any  
9           provision of this section. The Secretary may obtain the  
10          assistance of the Federal Bureau of Investigation, the De-  
11          partment of the Treasury, or other law enforcement agen-  
12          cies of the United States, and State and local govern-  
13          mental agencies, in the conduct of such investigations,  
14          under cooperative agreements with such agencies.

15          “(c) PENALTIES.—Any person who violates any of  
16          paragraphs (1) through (5) of subsection (a) shall be fined  
17          under this Act, imprisoned for not more than 7 years, or  
18          both, for each such violation. Each instance of a violation  
19          of any such paragraph shall be considered a single viola-  
20          tion.

21          “(d) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

22                 “(1) COMMERCIAL GREYHOUND RACING.—The  
23                 term ‘commercial greyhound racing’ means any  
24                 event involving the participation of greyhounds in

1       which betting or wagering on the speed or ability of  
2       such greyhounds occurs.

3               “(2) SIMULCAST.—The term ‘simulcast’ means  
4       the simultaneous audio or visual transmission from  
5       one location of foreign or domestic greyhound races  
6       taking place at a different location and gambling on  
7       the results of such races.”.

8       (b) APPLICABILITY.—The amendments made by this  
9       section shall apply with respect to conduct occurring on  
10      or after October 1, 2027.

11      (c) RULE OF CONSTRUCTION.—Nothing in this sec-  
12      tion, or the amendments made by this section, shall be  
13      construed—

14              (1) to preempt any State law prohibiting gam-  
15      bling or protecting the welfare of animals; or

16              (2) to alter, limit, or extend the relationship be-  
17      tween the Interstate Horseracing Act of 1978 (15  
18      U.S.C. 3001 et seq.) as it relates to horse racing  
19      and other Federal laws in effect on the date of en-  
20      actment of this Act.

21      **SEC. 12009. ANIMAL FIGHTING.**

22      Section 26 of the Animal Welfare Act (7 U.S.C.  
23      2156) is amended—

1           (1) by striking the section designation and all  
2           that follows through “It shall be unlawful” in sub-  
3           section (a)(2) and inserting the following:

4   **“SEC. 26. SPONSORING OR EXHIBITING AN ANIMAL IN, AT-**  
5           **TENDING, CAUSING AN INDIVIDUAL WHO HAS**  
6           **NOT ATTAINED THE AGE OF 16 TO ATTEND,**  
7           **OR GAMBLING ON, AN ANIMAL FIGHTING**  
8           **VENTURE.**

9           “(a) SPONSORING OR EXHIBITING.—

10           “(1) IN GENERAL.—It shall be unlawful for any  
11           person to knowingly sponsor or exhibit an animal in  
12           an animal fighting venture.

13           “(2) ATTENDING OR CAUSING AN INDIVIDUAL  
14           WHO HAS NOT ATTAINED THE AGE OF 16 TO AT-  
15           TEND.—It shall be unlawful”; and

16           (2) in subsection (a), by adding at the end the  
17           following:

18           “(3) ANIMAL VENTURE GAMBLING.—It shall be  
19           unlawful for any person to gamble on an animal  
20           fighting venture, including an in-person or broadcast  
21           event.”.

1 **PART II—MEAT AND POULTRY PROCESSING AND**  
2 **INSPECTION**

3 **SEC. 12111. AMPLIFYING PROCESSING OF LIVESTOCK IN**  
4 **THE UNITED STATES (A-PLUS).**

5 (a) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 1 year after the  
6 date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary shall revise  
7 section 201.67 of title 9, Code of Federal Regulations, as  
8 in effect on January 1, 2024, to specify that—

9 (1) market agencies may have an ownership in-  
10 terest in, finance, or participate in the management  
11 or operation of, a packer, so long as such packer—

12 (A) with respect to cattle and sheep, has a  
13 cumulative slaughter capacity of less than—

14 (i) 2,000 animals per day; or

15 (ii) 700,000 animals per year; and

16 (B) with respect to hogs, has a cumulative  
17 slaughter capacity of less than—

18 (i) 10,000 animals per day; or

19 (ii) 3,000,000 animals per year; and

20 (2) market agencies that have an ownership in-  
21 terest in, finance, or participate in the management  
22 or operation of, a packer shall disclose to sellers of  
23 livestock the existence of such ownership interest, fi-  
24 nancial relationship, or participation.

25 (b) SAVINGS CLAUSE.—Nothing in this section shall  
26 be interpreted as a limitation on the authority of the Sec-

1 retary to adopt or enforce rules or regulations under the  
2 Packers and Stockyards Act, 1921 (7 U.S.C. 181 et seq.)  
3 related to the protection of producers, competition, market  
4 integrity, or the prevention of conflicts of interest.

5 **SEC. 12112. HAZARD ANALYSIS AND CRITICAL CONTROL**  
6 **POINT GUIDANCE AND RESOURCES FOR**  
7 **SMALL AND VERY SMALL POULTRY AND**  
8 **MEAT ESTABLISHMENTS.**

9 (a) MEAT ESTABLISHMENTS.—The Federal Meat In-  
10 spection Act is amended by inserting after section 25 (21  
11 U.S.C. 625) the following:

12 **“SEC. 26. SMALL AND VERY SMALL ESTABLISHMENT GUID-**  
13 **ANCE AND RESOURCES.**

14 “(a) STUDIES; MODEL PLANS.—Not later than 18  
15 months after the date of the enactment of this section,  
16 the Secretary shall, to the maximum extent practicable,  
17 make publicly available—

18 “(1) a list of scientific studies (which the Sec-  
19 retary shall update as necessary) for use by small  
20 establishments and very small establishments in de-  
21 veloping a Hazard Analysis and Critical Control  
22 Points plan;

23 “(2) guidelines relating to best practices and  
24 techniques by small establishments and very small

1 establishments in the production of raw or further  
2 processed meat and meat food products; and

3 “(3) scale-appropriate model Hazard Analysis  
4 and Critical Control Points plans for small establish-  
5 ments and very small establishments, including  
6 model plans for—

7 “(A) slaughter-only establishments;

8 “(B) processing-only establishments; and

9 “(C) slaughter and processing establish-  
10 ments.

11 “(b) GUIDANCE.—Not later than 2 years after the  
12 date of enactment of this section, the Secretary shall pub-  
13 lish a guidance document, after notice and an opportunity  
14 for public comment, providing information on the require-  
15 ments that need to be met for small establishments and  
16 very small establishments to develop, pursuant to this Act,  
17 a Hazard Analysis and Critical Control Points plan.

18 “(c) DATA CONFIDENTIALITY.—In carrying out this  
19 section, the Secretary shall not publish confidential busi-  
20 ness information of any meat processing establishment, in-  
21 cluding a Hazard Analysis and Critical Control Points  
22 plan of a meat processing establishment.

23 “(d) SMALL ESTABLISHMENT AND VERY SMALL ES-  
24 TABLISHMENT DEFINED.—In this section, the terms  
25 ‘small establishment’ and ‘very small establishment’ have

1 the meanings given the terms ‘smaller establishment’ and  
2 ‘very small establishment’, respectively, in the final rule  
3 entitled ‘Pathogen Reduction; Hazard Analysis and Crit-  
4 ical Control Point (HACCP) Systems’ (61 Fed. Reg.  
5 38806 (July 25, 1996)) (or successor regulations).”.

6 (b) POULTRY ESTABLISHMENTS.—The Poultry Prod-  
7 ucts Inspection Act is amended by inserting after section  
8 14 (21 U.S.C. 463) the following:

9 **“SEC. 14A. SMALL AND VERY SMALL ESTABLISHMENT GUID-  
10 ANCE AND RESOURCES.**

11 “(a) STUDIES; MODEL PLANS.—Not later than 18  
12 months after the date of enactment of this section, the  
13 Secretary shall, to the maximum extent practicable, make  
14 publicly available—

15 “(1) a list of scientific studies (which the Sec-  
16 retary shall update as necessary) for use by small  
17 establishments and very small establishments in de-  
18 veloping a Hazard Analysis and Critical Control  
19 Points plan;

20 “(2) guidelines relating to best practices and  
21 techniques used by small establishments and very  
22 small establishments in the production of raw or fur-  
23 ther processed poultry products; and

24 “(3) scale-appropriate model Hazard Analysis  
25 and Critical Control Points plans for small establish-

1       ments and very small establishments, including  
2       model plans for—

3               “(A) slaughter-only establishments;

4               “(B) processing-only establishments; and

5               “(C) slaughter and processing establish-  
6       ments.

7       “(b) GUIDANCE.—Not later than 2 years after the  
8       date of enactment of this section, the Secretary shall pub-  
9       lish a guidance document, after notice and an opportunity  
10      for public comment, providing information on the require-  
11      ments that need to be met for small establishments and  
12      very small establishments to develop a Hazard Analysis  
13      and Critical Control Points plan pursuant to this Act.

14      “(c) DATA CONFIDENTIALITY.—In carrying out this  
15      section, the Secretary shall not publish confidential busi-  
16      ness information of any poultry processing establishment,  
17      including a Hazard Analysis and Critical Control Points  
18      plan of a poultry processing establishment.

19      “(d) SMALL ESTABLISHMENT AND VERY SMALL ES-  
20      TABLISHMENT DEFINED.—In this section, the terms  
21      ‘small establishment’ and ‘very small establishment’ have  
22      the meanings given the terms ‘smaller establishment’ and  
23      ‘very small establishment’, respectively, in the final rule  
24      entitled ‘Pathogen Reduction; Hazard Analysis and Crit-

1 ical Control Point (HACCP) Systems’ (61 Fed. Reg.  
2 38806 (July 25, 1996)) (or successor regulations).”.

3 **SEC. 12113. OUTREACH ON COOPERATIVE INTERSTATE**  
4 **SHIPMENT.**

5 (a) MEAT.—Section 501 of the Federal Meat Inspec-  
6 tion Act (21 U.S.C. 683) is amended by adding at the  
7 end the following:

8 “(k) FEDERAL OUTREACH.—In each of fiscal years  
9 2027 through 2031, the Secretary shall conduct outreach  
10 to States that—

11 “(1) have a State meat inspection program in  
12 effect pursuant to section 301; and

13 “(2) do not have a selected establishment.”.

14 (b) POULTRY.—Section 31 of the Poultry Products  
15 Inspection Act (21 U.S.C. 472) is amended by adding at  
16 the end the following:

17 “(j) FEDERAL OUTREACH.—In each of fiscal years  
18 2027 through 2031, the Secretary shall conduct outreach  
19 to States that—

20 “(1) have a State poultry product inspection  
21 program in effect pursuant to section 5; and

22 “(2) do not have a selected establishment.”.

23 (c) REPORT.—At the conclusion of each of fiscal  
24 years 2027 through 2031, the Secretary shall submit a  
25 report detailing the activities and results of the outreach

1 conducted during that fiscal year under subsection (k) of  
2 section 501 of the Federal Meat Inspection Act (21 U.S.C.  
3 683) and subsection (j) of section 31 of the Poultry Prod-  
4 ucts Inspection Act (21 U.S.C. 472), as added by sub-  
5 sections (a) and (b), to—

6 (1) the Committee on Agriculture of the House  
7 of Representatives;

8 (2) the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition,  
9 and Forestry of the Senate;

10 (3) the Committee on Appropriations of the  
11 House of Representatives; and

12 (4) the Committee on Appropriations of the  
13 Senate.

14 **SEC. 12114. PILOT PROGRAM TO SUPPORT CUSTOM**  
15 **SLAUGHTER ESTABLISHMENTS.**

16 (a) IN GENERAL.—

17 (1) STATE OPERATED PILOT PROGRAM.—Upon  
18 the receipt of an application from a custom exempt  
19 facility and subject to the requirements specified in  
20 subsection (c), a State department of agriculture  
21 may operate a pilot program to allow such custom  
22 facility to sell slaughtered meat and meat food prod-  
23 ucts (referred to in this section as “meat products”)  
24 directly to consumers within the State in which the

1 facility is located in accordance with the pilot pro-  
2 gram.

3 (2) LACK OF A STATE PILOT PROGRAM.—If a  
4 State department of agriculture does not elect to op-  
5 erate a pilot program, the Secretary shall, upon re-  
6 quest from a custom exempt facility in such a State,  
7 operate a pilot program administered by the Sec-  
8 retary for that State in accordance with this section.

9 (b) ALLOWABLE NUMBER OF FACILITIES.—

10 (1) INITIAL APPROVAL.—Except as provided in  
11 paragraph (2)—

12 (A) a State department of agriculture may  
13 approve not more than 5 facilities in such State  
14 for participation in a pilot program established  
15 under subsection (a)(1); and

16 (B) the Secretary may approve not more  
17 than 10 facilities to participate in all pilot pro-  
18 grams established under subsection (a)(2).

19 (2) SUBSEQUENT APPROVAL OF FACILITIES.—  
20 Not less than 2 years after the establishment of a  
21 pilot program, a State department of agriculture or  
22 the Secretary may, if no product produced at a facil-  
23 ity that was initially approved under paragraph (1)  
24 for participation in such pilot program has been sub-  
25 ject to an emergency action under subsection (f)

1 during the 2-year period following such establish-  
2 ment, approve—

3 (A) in the case of a State department of  
4 agriculture, not more than 5 additional facilities  
5 in the respective State; and

6 (B) in the case of the Secretary, not more  
7 than 10 additional facilities in all States.

8 (c) PILOT PROGRAM REQUIREMENTS.—A pilot pro-  
9 gram established under this section shall, at a minimum,  
10 require—

11 (1) that meat products sold under the pilot pro-  
12 gram are—

13 (A) sold directly to consumers within the  
14 State from—

15 (i) the owner of the animals from  
16 which such meat products are derived; or

17 (ii) the custom exempt facility at  
18 which the meat products were processed;

19 (B) not eligible for re-sale; and

20 (C) clearly labeled to indicate—

21 (i) the name and address of the facil-  
22 ity at which the meat products were proc-  
23 essed;

1 (ii) the name and address of the  
2 owner of the animals from which such  
3 meat products are derived;

4 (iii) the location where animals from  
5 which such meat products are derived were  
6 raised;

7 (iv) the date of slaughter of such ani-  
8 mals and the period of time over which the  
9 owner raised such animals;

10 (v) that such meat products were not  
11 subject to Federal inspection; and

12 (vi) that such meat products shall not  
13 be resold;

14 (2) that custom exempt facilities participating  
15 in the pilot program comply with—

16 (A) Public Law 85–765 (7 U.S.C. 1901 et  
17 seq.; commonly known as the “Humane Meth-  
18 ods of Slaughter Act of 1958”);

19 (B) applicable State and local laws;

20 (C) section 23(d) of the Federal Meat In-  
21 spection Act (21 U.S.C. 623(d)); and

22 (D) Federal regulations pertaining to—

23 (i) sanitation standards and record-  
24 keeping requirements for custom exempt  
25 facilities; and

1 (ii) the handling and disposition of  
2 specified risk materials;

3 (3) that custom exempt facilities participating  
4 in the pilot program be subject to onsite inspection  
5 by the Secretary to ensure compliance with the re-  
6 quirements specified in paragraphs (1) and (2); and

7 (4) that custom exempt facilities participating  
8 in the pilot program be subject to onsite inspection  
9 at least annually by the local authority responsible  
10 for restaurant inspections or the State department  
11 of agriculture.

12 (d) IMPLEMENTATION.—Not later than 90 days after  
13 the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary shall  
14 issue, and make publicly available, guidance for participa-  
15 tion in a pilot program established pursuant to this sec-  
16 tion.

17 (e) INELIGIBILITY.—An establishment subject to in-  
18 spection by the Secretary under the Federal Meat Inspec-  
19 tion Act (21 U.S.C. 601 et seq.) or operating pursuant  
20 to a State meat inspection program authorized under sec-  
21 tion 301 of the Federal Meat Inspection Act (21 U.S.C.  
22 661) shall not be eligible to participate in a pilot program  
23 established pursuant to this section.

24 (f) AUTHORITY FOR EMERGENCY ACTION.—If the  
25 Secretary has credible evidence that a meat product pro-

1 duced at a custom exempt facility participating in a pilot  
2 program established pursuant to this section is adulter-  
3 ated, the Secretary—

4 (1) shall, pursuant to the Federal Meat Inspec-  
5 tion Act (21 U.S.C. 601 et seq.), take such actions  
6 as may be necessary to address the risk to public  
7 health posed by such products; and

8 (2) may terminate the participation of a custom  
9 exempt facility in a pilot program established pursu-  
10 ant to this section.

11 (g) REPORT REQUIRED.—

12 (1) REPORTS BY STATE DEPARTMENTS OF AG-  
13 RICULTURE TO SECRETARY.—Beginning September  
14 30, 2026, and each fiscal year thereafter until Sep-  
15 tember 30, 2031, each State department of agri-  
16 culture operating a pilot program pursuant to this  
17 section shall submit to the Secretary a report detail-  
18 ing, with respect to each such pilot program within  
19 the relevant State for the preceding fiscal year—

20 (A) the number and location of persons or  
21 custom exempt facilities selling meat products  
22 under each such pilot program;

23 (B) the outcomes of each such pilot pro-  
24 gram;

1 (C) any instances in which a meat product  
2 was subject to an emergency action under sub-  
3 section (f); and

4 (D) aggregated data on the volume of  
5 meat being processed under such pilot program.

6 (2) REPORT BY SECRETARY TO CONGRESS.—

7 Not later than 2 years after initiating a pilot pro-  
8 gram under this section, the Secretary shall submit  
9 to the Committee on Agriculture of the House of  
10 Representatives and the Committee on Agriculture,  
11 Nutrition, and Forestry of the Senate a report de-  
12 tailing—

13 (A) the information received from partici-  
14 pating State departments of agriculture under  
15 paragraph (1); and

16 (B) for any custom exempt facilities par-  
17 ticipating in a pilot program established by the  
18 Secretary pursuant to subsection (a)(2)—

19 (i) the number and location of persons  
20 or custom exempt facilities selling products  
21 pursuant to such pilot program;

22 (ii) the outcomes of such pilot pro-  
23 gram; and

1 (iii) any instances in which a meat  
2 product was subject to an emergency ac-  
3 tion under subsection (f).

4 (h) CUSTOM EXEMPT FACILITY DEFINED.—In this  
5 section, the term “custom exempt facility” means an es-  
6 tablishment engaged in the slaughter of animals and the  
7 preparation of the carcasses, parts thereof, meat, and  
8 meat food products for commerce that is not subject to  
9 the Federal inspection requirements under title I of the  
10 Federal Meat Inspection Act (21 U.S.C. 601 et seq.).

11 (i) SUNSET.—A State and the Secretary may not op-  
12 erate a pilot program under this section on or after Sep-  
13 tember 30, 2031, and no facility that is exempt from in-  
14 spection under the Federal Meat Inspection Act (21  
15 U.S.C. 601 et seq.) pursuant to this section shall be ex-  
16 empt from that inspection on or after September 30,  
17 2031.

18 **Subtitle B—Department of Agri-**  
19 **culture Reorganization Act of**  
20 **1994**

21 **SEC. 12201. OFFICE OF HOMELAND SECURITY.**

22 Section 221 of the Department of Agriculture Reor-  
23 ganization Act of 1994 (7 U.S.C. 6922) is amended—

24 (1) in subsection (d)—

1 (A) in paragraph (7), by striking “and” at  
2 the end;

3 (B) by redesignating paragraph (8) as  
4 paragraph (9); and

5 (C) by inserting after paragraph (7) the  
6 following:

7 “(8) conducting annual cross-sector crisis sim-  
8 ulation exercises related to a food-related emergency  
9 or disruption; and”;

10 (2) by adding at the end the following:

11 “(f) DETAILEES.—The Secretary may detail employ-  
12 ees of the Department of Agriculture to, and accept em-  
13 ployees detailed from, the intelligence community (as de-  
14 fined in section 3 of the National Security Act of 1947)  
15 to assist in carrying out the duties of the Office of Home-  
16 land Security.

17 “(g) RISK ASSESSMENTS AND REPORTS.—

18 “(1) RISK ASSESSMENTS.—Not later than 1  
19 year after the date of enactment of the Farm, Food,  
20 and National Security Act of 2026, and not less  
21 than every 2 years thereafter, the Secretary shall  
22 conduct an assessment of risks and security  
23 vulnerabilities to the food and agriculture critical in-  
24 frastructure sector, including—

1           “(A) naturally occurring, unintentional, or  
2           intentional threats, including chemical, biologi-  
3           cal, cybersecurity, or bioterrorism attacks;

4           “(B) influence of state-owned enterprise;

5           “(C) control of and access to agricultural  
6           data;

7           “(D) foreign acquisition of intellectual  
8           property, agricultural assets, and land;

9           “(E) agricultural input shortages and de-  
10          pendence on foreign-sourced inputs;

11          “(F) supply chain and trade disruptions;

12          “(G) science and technology cooperation;

13          “(H) unequal investments in research, de-  
14          velopment, and commercialization;

15          “(I) incongruent regulatory policies; and

16          “(J) any other vulnerabilities identified by  
17          the Secretary.

18          “(2) BRIEFING AND REPORT.—

19                 “(A) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 180  
20                 days after the completion of a risk assessment  
21                 under paragraph (1), the Secretary shall pro-  
22                 vide a briefing on the results of the risk assess-  
23                 ment and submit to the Committee on Agri-  
24                 culture and the Committee on Homeland Secu-  
25                 rity of the House of Representatives and the

1           Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and For-  
2           estry and the Committee on Homeland Security  
3           and Governmental Affairs of the Senate a re-  
4           port that includes—

5                   “(i) an assessment of any gaps or lim-  
6                   itations in national security efforts related  
7                   to the food and agriculture critical infra-  
8                   structure sector;

9                   “(ii) any actions taken by the Sec-  
10                  retary to address any gaps or limitations  
11                  identified under clause (i), including  
12                  through interagency coordination, threat  
13                  information sharing, and stakeholder out-  
14                  reach;

15                  “(iii) any recommendations for admin-  
16                  istrative, regulatory, or legislative actions  
17                  that can be taken to reduce any gaps or  
18                  limitations identified under clause (i), in-  
19                  cluding—

20                           “(I) recommendations to reduce  
21                           the dependence on foreign-source in-  
22                           puts necessary for the food and agri-  
23                           culture critical infrastructure sector;  
24                           and

1                   “(II) recommendations to ad-  
2                   dress the cybersecurity threats to, and  
3                   security vulnerabilities in, the food  
4                   and agriculture critical infrastructure  
5                   sector; and

6                   “(iv) resources the Secretary requires  
7                   to address current and future national se-  
8                   curity vulnerabilities related to the food  
9                   and agriculture critical infrastructure sec-  
10                  tor.

11                  “(B) EXEMPTION FROM ACCESS TO CON-  
12                  GRESSIONALLY MANDATED REPORTS ACT.—A  
13                  report required under subparagraph (A) shall  
14                  be exempt from the requirements of the Access  
15                  to Congressionally Mandated Reports Act (sub-  
16                  title D of title VII of Public Law 117–263; 136  
17                  Stat. 3677).”.

18 **SEC. 12202. OFFICE OF PARTNERSHIPS AND PUBLIC EN-**  
19 **GAGEMENT.**

20                  Section 226B(f)(3)(B) of the Department of Agri-  
21                  culture Reorganization Act of 1994 (7 U.S.C.  
22                  6934(f)(3)(B)) is amended by striking “2023” and insert-  
23                  ing “2031”.

1 **SEC. 12203. BURDEN OF PROOF FOR NATIONAL APPEALS**  
2 **DIVISION HEARINGS.**

3 Section 277(c)(4) of the Department of Agriculture  
4 Reorganization Act of 1994 (7 U.S.C. 6997(c)(4)) is  
5 amended to read as follows:

6 “(4) BURDEN OF PROOF.—The agency shall  
7 bear the burden of proving by substantial evidence  
8 that the adverse decision of the agency was valid.”.

9 **SEC. 12204. TERMINATION OF AUTHORITY.**

10 Section 296(b) of the Department of Agriculture Re-  
11 organization Act of 1994 (7 U.S.C. 7014(b)) is amended  
12 by adding at the end the following:

13 “(11) The authority of the Secretary to carry  
14 out the amendments made to this title by the Farm,  
15 Food, and National Security Act of 2026.”.

16 **SEC. 12205. FUNCTIONS OF THE OFFICE OF TRIBAL RELA-**  
17 **TIONS.**

18 Section 309 of the Federal Crop Insurance Reform  
19 and Department of Agriculture Reorganization Act of  
20 1994 (7 U.S.C. 6921) is amended—

21 (1) in subsection (a)—

22 (A) by striking “shall advise” and all that  
23 follows through the period at the end and in-  
24 serting “shall—”; and

25 (B) by adding at the end the following:

1           “(1) advise the Secretary on policies related to  
2 Indian tribes;

3           “(2) oversee—

4                 “(A) each self-determination contract (as  
5 defined in section 4 of the Indian Self-Deter-  
6 mination and Education Assistance Act (25  
7 U.S.C. 5304)) entered into between the Sec-  
8 retary and a tribal organization; and

9                 “(B) each self-governance compact (as de-  
10 fined in section 401 of such Act (25 U.S.C.  
11 5361)) entered into between the Secretary and  
12 an Indian tribe; and

13           “(3) carry out such other functions as the Sec-  
14 retary considers appropriate.”; and

15           (2) in subsection (b)(1), by striking “this sub-  
16 section” and inserting “this section”.

## 17           **Subtitle C—National Security**

### 18           **SEC. 12301. AGRICULTURAL FOREIGN INVESTMENT DIS-**

#### 19                                 **CLOSURE IMPROVEMENTS.**

20           (a) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

21                 (1) AFIDA.—The term “AFIDA” means the  
22 Agricultural Foreign Investment Disclosure Act of  
23 1978 (7 U.S.C. 3501 et seq.).

1           (2) FPAC–BC.—The term “FPAC–BC” means  
2           the Farm Production and Conservation Business  
3           Center of the Department of Agriculture.

4           (b) MOU WITH CFIUS.—Not later than 1 year after  
5           the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary shall enter  
6           into 1 or more memoranda of understanding with the  
7           Committee on Foreign Investment in the United States  
8           under which the Secretary shall provide the Committee  
9           with all relevant information relating to reports on foreign  
10          ownership of United States agricultural land submitted to  
11          the Secretary under section 2 of AFIDA (7 U.S.C. 3501),  
12          including information on—

13           (1) each report submitted to the Secretary; and

14           (2) with respect to each such report, the iden-  
15          tity of the foreign persons included in the report and  
16          the date of submission.

17          (c) AFIDA HANDBOOK UPDATES.—

18           (1) FIRST UPDATE.—Not later than 2 years  
19          after the date of enactment of this Act, the Sec-  
20          retary shall—

21           (A) update the most recent version of the  
22          Farm Service Agency handbook titled “Foreign  
23          Investment Disclosure” as determined nec-  
24          essary by the Secretary for the effective imple-  
25          mentation of AFIDA; and

1 (B) incorporate in such update the rec-  
2 ommendations made by the report of the Gov-  
3 ernment Accountability Office titled “Foreign  
4 Investments in U.S. Agricultural Land: En-  
5 hancing Efforts to Collect, Track, and Share  
6 Key Information Could Better Identify National  
7 Security Risks” and dated January 18, 2024.

8 (2) SUBSEQUENT UPDATES.—After updating  
9 the handbook described in subparagraph (A) of  
10 paragraph (1) under that paragraph, the Secretary  
11 shall carry out an update of that handbook every 10  
12 years thereafter, including by incorporating any rec-  
13 ommendations of the Government Accountability Of-  
14 fice.

15 (d) CIVIL PENALTIES.—Section 3 of the Agricultural  
16 Foreign Investment Disclosure Act of 1978 (7 U.S.C.  
17 3502) is amended—

18 (1) by redesignating subsection (b) as sub-  
19 section (c);

20 (2) by striking the section designation and  
21 heading and all that follows through “Any such civil  
22 penalty shall be recoverable” and inserting the fol-  
23 lowing:

1 **“SEC. 3. CIVIL PENALTIES.**

2 “(a) IN GENERAL.—A person shall be subject to a  
3 civil penalty imposed by the Secretary if the Secretary de-  
4 termines that the person—

5 “(1) has failed to submit a report in accordance  
6 with the provisions of section 2; or

7 “(2) has knowingly submitted a report under  
8 section 2 that—

9 “(A) does not contain all the information  
10 required to be in such report; or

11 “(B) contains information that is mis-  
12 leading or false.

13 “(b) CIVIL ACTION.—Any civil penalty imposed by  
14 the Secretary under subsection (a) shall be recoverable”;  
15 and

16 (3) in subsection (c) (as so redesignated)—

17 (A) by striking the subsection designation  
18 and all that follows through “The amount” and  
19 inserting the following:

20 “(c) AMOUNT OF PENALTY.—The amount”;

21 (B) by striking “of this section”; and

22 (C) by striking “shall not exceed 25 per-  
23 cent” and inserting “for violations under sub-  
24 section (a)(1) shall not exceed 25 percent, and  
25 for violations under subsection (a)(2) shall be

1 not less than 5 percent, but not more than 25  
2 percent.”.

3 (e) PUBLIC DISCLOSURE OF ENFORCEMENT AC-  
4 TIONS.—Section 3 of the Agricultural Foreign Investment  
5 Disclosure Act of 1978 (7 U.S.C. 3502) (as amended by  
6 subsection (b)) is amended by adding at the end the fol-  
7 lowing:

8 “(d) PUBLIC DISCLOSURE OF ENFORCEMENT AC-  
9 TIONS.—The Secretary shall publicly disclose the name of  
10 each person who paid to the Secretary a civil penalty im-  
11 posed under subsection (a), including, if applicable, after  
12 the completion of an appeal of a civil penalty.”.

13 (f) PUBLICATION OF REPORTING REQUIREMENTS.—  
14 Section 3 of the Agricultural Foreign Investment Disclo-  
15 sure Act of 1978 (7 U.S.C. 3502) (as amended by sub-  
16 section (c)) is amended by adding at the end the following:

17 “(e) OUTREACH.—Using existing resources and ef-  
18 forts to the maximum extent practicable, the Secretary  
19 shall carry out a nationwide outreach program directed  
20 primarily toward landlords, operators, owners, persons,  
21 producers, and tenants (as those terms are defined in sec-  
22 tion 718.2 of title 7, Code of Federal Regulations (as in  
23 effect on the date of enactment of the Farm, Food, and  
24 National Security Act of 2026)) of agricultural land and  
25 county property appraiser offices, land appraisal compa-

1 nies, and real estate auction companies to increase public  
2 awareness and provide education regarding the reporting  
3 requirements under this Act.”.

4 **SEC. 12302. REPORT ON AGRICULTURAL LAND PUR-**  
5 **CHASING ACTIVITIES IN THE UNITED STATES**  
6 **BY COUNTRIES DESIGNATED AS STATE SPON-**  
7 **SORS OF TERRORISM AND CERTAIN OTHER**  
8 **COUNTRIES.**

9 (a) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

10 (1) AGRICULTURAL LAND.—The term “agricul-  
11 tural land” has the meaning given the term in sec-  
12 tion 9 of the Agricultural Foreign Investment Dis-  
13 closure Act of 1978 (7 U.S.C. 3508).

14 (2) APPROPRIATE COMMITTEES OF CON-  
15 GRESS.—The term “appropriate committees of Con-  
16 gress” means—

17 (A) the Committee on Agriculture, Nutri-  
18 tion, and Forestry of the Senate;

19 (B) the Committee on Homeland Security  
20 and Governmental Affairs of the Senate;

21 (C) the Committee on Intelligence of the  
22 Senate;

23 (D) the Committee on Homeland Security  
24 of the House of Representatives;

1 (E) the Committee on Agriculture of the  
2 House of Representatives; and

3 (F) the Permanent Select Committee on  
4 Intelligence of the House of Representatives.

5 (3) COVERED FOREIGN COUNTRY.—The term  
6 “covered foreign country” means a foreign country  
7 of concern (as defined in section 10638 of the  
8 CHIPS Act of 2022 (42 U.S.C. 19237)).

9 (4) COVERED FOREIGN PERSON.—The term  
10 “covered foreign person” means a foreign person (as  
11 defined in section 9 of the Agricultural Foreign In-  
12 vestment Disclosure Act of 1978 (7 U.S.C. 3508))  
13 that is a citizen of, or headquartered in, as applica-  
14 ble, a covered foreign country.

15 (5) STATE.—The term “State” has the mean-  
16 ing given the term in section 9 of the Agricultural  
17 Foreign Investment Disclosure Act of 1978 (7  
18 U.S.C. 3508).

19 (6) STATE SPONSOR OF TERRORISM.—The term  
20 “state sponsor of terrorism” means a country the  
21 government of which the Secretary of State has de-  
22 termined has repeatedly provided support for acts of  
23 international terrorism, for purposes of—

1 (A) section 1754(c)(1)(A)(i) of the Export  
2 Control Reform Act of 2018 (50 U.S.C.  
3 4813(c)(1)(A)(i));

4 (B) section 620A of the Foreign Assistance  
5 Act of 1961 (22 U.S.C. 2371);

6 (C) section 40(d) of the Arms Export Con-  
7 trol Act (22 U.S.C. 2780(d)); or

8 (D) any other provision of law.

9 (b) REPORT.—

10 (1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 180 days  
11 after the date of enactment of this Act, and annually  
12 thereafter, the Secretary of Agriculture, in coordina-  
13 tion with the Secretary of Homeland Security and  
14 the head of any other appropriate Federal agency,  
15 shall submit to the appropriate committees of Con-  
16 gress a report describing the national security risks  
17 of the purchase and management of agricultural  
18 land by covered foreign persons.

19 (2) CONTENTS.—A report submitted under  
20 paragraph (1) shall include the following with re-  
21 spect to the year covered by the report:

22 (A) A description of—

23 (i) the number of acres of agricultural  
24 land owned, leased, or managed by covered  
25 foreign persons, organized by State; and

1 (ii) for each State, the percentage of  
2 land owned or managed by covered foreign  
3 persons compared to the total acreage of  
4 the State.

5 (B) An analysis of the possible threat to  
6 food security, food safety, biosecurity, or envi-  
7 ronmental protection due to the ownership of  
8 agricultural land by each covered foreign coun-  
9 try through covered foreign persons.

10 (C) An analysis of the annual and total  
11 cost of support for agricultural land owned by  
12 covered foreign persons through farm programs  
13 administered by the Farm Service Agency.

14 (D) An analysis of the use of agricultural  
15 land for industrial espionage or intellectual  
16 property transfer by covered foreign persons.

17 (E) An analysis of the potential use by  
18 covered foreign persons of agricultural land in  
19 close proximity to manufacturing facilities,  
20 water sources, and other critical infrastructure  
21 to monitor, interrupt, or disrupt activities crit-  
22 ical to the national and economic security of the  
23 United States.

24 (F) An analysis of other threats to the ag-  
25 ricultural industry or national security of the

1 United States due to the ownership of agricul-  
2 tural land by covered foreign persons.

3 (3) UNCLASSIFIED FORM.—A report submitted  
4 under this subsection shall—

5 (A) be submitted in unclassified form, but  
6 may include a classified annex; and

7 (B) be consistent with the protection of in-  
8 telligence sources and methods.

9 **SEC. 12303. INVESTIGATIVE ACTIONS.**

10 (a) INVESTIGATIVE ACTIONS.—Section 4 of the Agri-  
11 cultural Foreign Investment Disclosure Act of 1978 (7  
12 U.S.C. 3503) is amended to read as follows:

13 **“SEC. 4. INVESTIGATIVE ACTIONS.**

14 “(a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall appoint an  
15 employee in the Senior Executive Service (as described in  
16 section 3131 of title 5, United States Code) of the Depart-  
17 ment of Agriculture to serve as Chief of Operations of In-  
18 vestigative Actions (referred to in this section as the ‘Chief  
19 of Operations’), who shall hire, appoint, and maintain ad-  
20 ditional employees to monitor compliance with the provi-  
21 sions of this Act.

22 “(b) CHIEF OF OPERATIONS.—The Chief of Oper-  
23 ations may serve in such position simultaneously with a  
24 concurrent position within the Department of Agriculture.

25 “(c) SECURITY.—The Secretary shall—

1           “(1) provide classified storage, meeting, and  
2 other spaces, as necessary, for personnel of the Chief  
3 of Operations; and

4           “(2) assist such personnel in obtaining security  
5 clearances.

6           “(d) DUTIES.—The Chief of Operations shall—

7           “(1) monitor compliance with this Act;

8           “(2) refer noncompliance with this Act to the  
9 Secretary, the Farm Service Agency, and any other  
10 appropriate authority;

11           “(3) conduct investigations, in coordination  
12 with the Department of Justice, the Federal Bureau  
13 of Investigation, the Department of Homeland Secu-  
14 rity, the Department of the Treasury, the National  
15 Security Council, and State and local law enforce-  
16 ment agencies, on malign efforts—

17           “(A) to steal agricultural knowledge and  
18 technology; or

19           “(B) to disrupt the United States agricul-  
20 tural base;

21           “(4) conduct an annual audit of the database  
22 developed under section 12304(b) of the Farm,  
23 Food, and National Security Act of 2026;

1           “(5) seek to enter into memoranda of agree-  
2           ment and memoranda of understanding with the  
3           Federal agencies described in paragraph (3)—

4                   “(A) to ensure compliance with this Act;  
5           and

6                   “(B) to prevent the malign efforts de-  
7           scribed in that paragraph;

8           “(6) refer to the Committee on Foreign Invest-  
9           ment in the United States transactions that—

10                   “(A) raise potential national security con-  
11           cerns; and

12                   “(B) result in agricultural land acquisition  
13           by a foreign person that is a citizen of, or  
14           headquartered in, as applicable, a foreign entity  
15           of concern; and

16           “(7) publish annual reports that summarize the  
17           information contained in every report received by the  
18           Secretary under section 2 during the period covered  
19           by the report.

20           “(e) ADMINISTRATION.—The Chief of Operations  
21           shall report to—

22                   “(1) the Secretary; or

23                   “(2) if delegated by the Secretary, to—

24                   “(A) the Administrator of the Farm Serv-  
25           ice Agency; or

1                   “(B) the Director of the Department of  
2                   Agriculture Office of Homeland Security.”.

3           (b) DEFINITION OF FOREIGN ENTITY OF CON-  
4 CERN.—Section 9 of the Agricultural Foreign Investment  
5 Disclosure Act of 1978 (7 U.S.C. 3508) is amended—

6           (1) in the matter preceding paragraph (1), by  
7           striking “For purposes of this Act—” and inserting  
8           “In this Act:”;

9           (2) in each of paragraphs (1) through (6)—

10           (A) by striking “the term” and inserting  
11           “The term”; and

12           (B) by inserting a paragraph heading, the  
13           text of which comprises the term defined in that  
14           paragraph;

15           (3) in each of paragraphs (1) through (4), by  
16           striking the semicolon and inserting a period;

17           (4) in paragraph (5), by striking “; and” and  
18           inserting a period;

19           (5) by redesignating paragraphs (2) through  
20           (6) as paragraphs (3), (4), (6), (7), and (8), respec-  
21           tively;

22           (6) by inserting after paragraph (1) the fol-  
23           lowing:

24           “(2) FOREIGN ENTITY OF CONCERN.—The  
25           term ‘foreign entity of concern’ has the meaning

1 given the term in section 9901 of the William M.  
2 (Mac) Thornberry National Defense Authorization  
3 Act for Fiscal Year 2021 (15 U.S.C. 4651).”; and

4 (7) by inserting after paragraph (4) (as so re-  
5 designated) the following:

6 “(5) **MALIGN EFFORT.**—The term ‘malign ef-  
7 fort’ means any hostile effort undertaken by, at the  
8 direction of, on behalf of, or with the substantial  
9 support of the government of a foreign entity of con-  
10 cern.”.

11 **SEC. 12304. DIGITIZATION AND CONSOLIDATION OF FOR-**  
12 **EIGN LAND OWNERSHIP DATA COLLECTION**  
13 **AND PUBLICATION.**

14 (a) **DEFINITIONS.**—In this section:

15 (1) **AGRICULTURAL LAND.**—The term “agricul-  
16 tural land” has the meaning given the term in sec-  
17 tion 781.2 of title 7, Code of Federal Regulations  
18 (as in effect on the date of enactment of this Act).

19 (2) **DATABASE.**—The term “database” means  
20 the database developed under subsection (c).

21 (3) **FOREIGN PERSON.**—The term “foreign per-  
22 son” has the meaning given the term in section 9 of  
23 the Agricultural Foreign Investment Disclosure Act  
24 of 1978 (7 U.S.C. 3508).

1           (b) DATABASE.—Not later than 3 years after the  
2 date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary shall develop  
3 a database of agricultural land owned by foreign persons,  
4 using data that are collected pursuant to the Agricultural  
5 Foreign Investment Disclosure Act of 1978 (7 U.S.C.  
6 3501 et seq.).

7           (c) CONTENTS.—Each entry in the database for each  
8 registration or updated registration of agricultural land  
9 owned or leased by a foreign person shall include pertinent  
10 information, as determined by the Secretary, in the appli-  
11 cable filing, except it shall not publicly disclose the name  
12 of the filer and the purchase or lease price of such trans-  
13 action for a period of at least 30 days following such filing.

14           (d) AUDIT.—Not later than 180 days after the data-  
15 base is operational, and annually thereafter, the Chief of  
16 Operations for Investigative Actions appointed under sec-  
17 tion 4 of the Agricultural Foreign Investment Disclosure  
18 Act of 1978 (as amended by section 12303(a)) shall—

19                   (1) conduct an audit of the database; and

20                   (2) submit to the appropriate committees of  
21 Congress a report—

22                           (A) evaluating the accuracy of the data-  
23 base; and

24                           (B) describing recommendations for im-  
25 proving compliance with the reporting required

1 under the Agricultural Foreign Investment Dis-  
2 closure Act of 1978 (7 U.S.C. 3501 et seq.).

3 (e) REPEAL.—Section 773 of division A of the Con-  
4 solidated Appropriations Act, 2023 (Public Law 117–328)  
5 is repealed.

6 **SEC. 12305. CFIUS CONSIDERATION OF CERTAIN AGRICUL-**  
7 **TURAL LAND TRANSACTIONS.**

8 (a) INCLUSION OF THE SECRETARY OF AGRI-  
9 CULTURE ON THE COMMITTEE ON FOREIGN INVESTMENT  
10 IN THE UNITED STATES.—Section 721(k) of the Defense  
11 Production Act of 1950 (50 U.S.C. 4565(k)) is amended  
12 by adding at the end the following:

13 “(8) INCLUSION OF THE SECRETARY OF AGRI-  
14 CULTURE.—The Secretary of Agriculture shall be a  
15 member of the Committee with respect to a covered  
16 transaction that involves—

17 “(A) agricultural land;

18 “(B) agriculture biotechnology; or

19 “(C) the agriculture industry, including ag-  
20 ricultural transportation, storage, and proc-  
21 essing.”.

22 (b) CONSIDERATION OF CERTAIN AGRICULTURAL  
23 LAND TRANSACTIONS.—Section 721(b)(1) of the Defense  
24 Production Act of 1950 (50 U.S.C. 4565(b)(1)) is amend-  
25 ed by adding at the end the following:

1                   “(I) CONSIDERATION OF CERTAIN AGRI-  
2                   CULTURAL LAND TRANSACTIONS.—

3                   “(i) IN GENERAL.—After receiving no-  
4                   tification from the Secretary of Agriculture  
5                   of a reportable agricultural land trans-  
6                   action, the Committee shall determine—

7                   “(I) whether the transaction is a  
8                   covered transaction; and

9                   “(II) if the Committee deter-  
10                  mines that the transaction is a cov-  
11                  ered transaction, whether the Com-  
12                  mittee should initiate a review pursu-  
13                  ant to subparagraph (D), or take an-  
14                  other action authorized under this sec-  
15                  tion, with respect to the reportable agri-  
16                  cultural land transaction.

17                  “(ii) REPORTABLE AGRICULTURAL  
18                  LAND TRANSACTION.—In this subpara-  
19                  graph, the term ‘reportable agricultural  
20                  land transaction’ means a transaction—

21                  “(I) that the Secretary of Agri-  
22                  culture has reason to believe is a cov-  
23                  ered transaction, based on information  
24                  from or in cooperation with the intel-  
25                  ligence community;

1                   “(II) that involves the acquisition  
2                   of an interest in agricultural land by  
3                   a foreign person of the People’s Re-  
4                   public of China, the Democratic Peo-  
5                   ple’s Republic of Korea, the Russian  
6                   Federation, or the Islamic Republic of  
7                   Iran; and

8                   “(III) with respect to which a  
9                   person is required to submit a report  
10                  to the Secretary of Agriculture under  
11                  section 2(a) of the Agricultural For-  
12                  eign Investment Disclosure Act of  
13                  1978.

14                  “(iii) SUNSET.—The requirements  
15                  under this subparagraph shall terminate,  
16                  with respect to a foreign person of the re-  
17                  spective foreign country, on the date that  
18                  the People’s Republic of China, the Demo-  
19                  cratic People’s Republic of Korea, the Rus-  
20                  sian Federation, or the Islamic Republic of  
21                  Iran, as the case may be, is removed from  
22                  the list of foreign adversaries in section  
23                  791.4 of title 15, Code of Federal Regula-  
24                  tions.”.

1     **Subtitle D—Other Miscellaneous**  
2                     **Provisions**

3     **SEC. 12401. COMMISSION ON FARM TRANSITIONS—NEEDS**  
4                     **FOR 2050.**

5             Section 12609 of the Agriculture Improvement Act  
6 of 2018 (Public Law 115–334; 132 Stat. 5009) is amend-  
7 ed—

8                     (1) in subsection (a), by striking “There is es-  
9 tablished” and inserting “Not later than 60 days  
10 after the date of the enactment of the Farm, Food,  
11 and National Security Act of 2026, the Secretary  
12 shall establish”;

13                     (2) in subsection (b)—

14                             (A) in the subsection heading, by inserting  
15 “AND RECOMMENDATIONS” after “STUDY”;

16                             (B) in the matter preceding paragraph (1),  
17 by inserting “, and make recommendations re-  
18 lating to,” after “study on”;

19                             (C) in paragraph (1)—

20                                     (i) in subparagraph (B), by inserting  
21 “and timely” after “affordable”; and

22                                     (ii) by striking subparagraph (D) and  
23 inserting the following:

1           “(D) apprenticeships, mentoring programs,  
2           business training, and technical assistance pro-  
3           grams;”;

4           (D) in paragraph (3)—

5           (i) in the matter preceding subpara-  
6           graph (A), by striking “existing and new  
7           Federal tax policies” and inserting “exist-  
8           ing and new State and Federal policies, in-  
9           cluding tax policies”; and

10           (ii) in subparagraph (A), by inserting  
11           “or impede” after “facilitate”;

12           (E) in paragraph (4), by striking “and” at  
13           the end;

14           (F) in paragraph (5), by striking the pe-  
15           riod at the end and inserting a semicolon; and

16           (G) by adding at the end the following:

17           “(6) heirs’ property and succession of agricul-  
18           tural land;

19           “(7) any unique barriers faced by historically  
20           underserved and women farmers and ranchers in the  
21           ability to transfer, inherit, or purchase agricultural  
22           assets, including land; and

23           “(8) leasing and ownership trends, including  
24           leasing and ownership trends by foreign persons or  
25           entities.”;

1           (3) in subsection (f), by striking “1 year after  
2           the date of enactment of this Act” and inserting “2  
3           years after the date of enactment of the Farm,  
4           Food, and National Security Act of 2026”;

5           (4) by amending subsection (l) to read as fol-  
6           lows:

7           “(l) FEDERAL ADVISORY COMMITTEES.—Sections  
8           1008 and 1013 of title 5, United States Code, shall not  
9           apply to the Commission or any proceeding of the Com-  
10          mission.”; and

11          (5) in subsection (m), by striking “2023” and  
12          inserting “2031”.

13       **SEC. 12402. REPORT ON PERSONNEL.**

14          Section 12506 of the Agriculture Improvement Act  
15          of 2018 (Public Law 115–334) is amended by striking  
16          “2023” and inserting “2031”.

17       **SEC. 12403. IMPROVEMENTS TO UNITED STATES DROUGHT**  
18                               **MONITOR.**

19          Section 12512(d)(2) of the Agriculture Improvement  
20          Act of 2018 (7 U.S.C. 5856(d)(2)) is amended by striking  
21          “2023” and inserting “2031”.

22       **SEC. 12404. REPORTS ON LAND ACCESS AND FARMLAND**  
23                               **OWNERSHIP DATA COLLECTION.**

24          Section 12607 of the Agriculture Improvement Act  
25          of 2018 (7 U.S.C. 2204i) is amended—

1 (1) in subsection (a)—

2 (A) in the matter preceding paragraph (1),  
3 by inserting “and not less frequently than once  
4 every 2 years thereafter,” before “the Secretary  
5 of Agriculture”;

6 (B) in paragraph (2), by striking “and” at  
7 the end;

8 (C) in paragraph (3), by striking the pe-  
9 riod at the end and inserting “; and”; and

10 (D) by adding at the end the following:

11 “(4) a catalog of existing Federal, State, or pri-  
12 vate programs that facilitate access to land, capital,  
13 and markets, including programs providing assist-  
14 ance relating to—

15 “(A) acquiring of real property (including  
16 air rights, water rights, and other interests  
17 therein), including closing costs;

18 “(B) subsidizing interest rates and mort-  
19 gage principal amounts for intended bene-  
20 ficiaries;

21 “(C) providing down payment assistance to  
22 decrease farm mortgages;

23 “(D) securing clear title on heirs’ property  
24 farmland;

1           “(E) conducting surveys and assessments  
2 of agricultural land;

3           “(F) improving or remediating land, water,  
4 and soil;

5           “(G) constructing or repairing infrastruc-  
6 ture;

7           “(H) supporting land use planning;

8           “(I) acquiring legal or financial planning  
9 assistance;

10          “(J) carrying out Tribal consultation;

11          “(K) supporting acquisition of a Depart-  
12 ment of Agriculture farm number; and

13          “(L) any other activities as determined by  
14 the Secretary.”; and

15          (2) in subsection (c), by striking “2023” and  
16 inserting “2031”.

17 **SEC. 12405. INCREASING TRANSPARENCY REGARDING DE-**  
18 **TENTION OF IMPORTED PLANTS.**

19          (a) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 180 days after the  
20 date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary, in coordi-  
21 nation with the Director of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife  
22 Service and the Commissioner of U.S. Customs and Bor-  
23 der Protection, shall issue guidance to clarify the process  
24 by which an importer of plants that have been denied  
25 entry into the United States and detained under the Lacey

1 Act Amendments of 1981 (16 U.S.C. 3371 et seq.) may  
2 obtain additional information on such denial and deten-  
3 tion.

4 (b) INFORMATION PROVIDED.—The process referred  
5 to in subsection (a) shall ensure that the Secretary shall  
6 provide to an importer described in such subsection, upon  
7 the detention of any plants of such importer, the following  
8 information:

9 (1) The specific reasons for which the detention  
10 of the plants was initiated, including the date on  
11 which the plants were presented to the Secretary for  
12 examination.

13 (2) The anticipated length of the detention of  
14 such plants.

15 (3) The nature of the tests or inquiries to be  
16 conducted on the plants, which the importer shall be  
17 able to replicate.

18 (4) The nature of any information that, if sup-  
19 plied to the Secretary, would accelerate the disposi-  
20 tion of the detention.

21 **SEC. 12406. ENHANCEMENT OF PET PROTECTIONS.**

22 (a) REPORT.—Not later than 2 years after the date  
23 of the enactment of this Act (or later, if the Secretary  
24 determines appropriate after taking into consideration any  
25 ongoing programmatic review of the Animal Care program

1 of the Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service), the  
2 Secretary shall submit to the Committee on Agriculture  
3 and the Committee on Appropriations of the House of  
4 Representatives and the Committee on Agriculture, Nutri-  
5 tion, and Forestry and the Committee on Appropriations  
6 of the Senate a report with respect to companion animals  
7 that—

8 (1) evaluates the enforcement of standards  
9 under, and requirements of, the Animal Welfare Act  
10 (7 U.S.C. 2131 et seq.) by the Secretary for both ef-  
11 fectiveness and efficiency;

12 (2) evaluates the efforts by the Secretary to  
13 educate and advise dealers of all standards under,  
14 and requirements of, such Act;

15 (3) evaluates the capacity of the Secretary to  
16 enforce the standards established by such Act;

17 (4) makes recommendations for the improve-  
18 ment of—

19 (A) all standards (including animal welfare  
20 standards) under, and requirements of, such  
21 Act; and

22 (B) education efforts of the Secretary with  
23 respect to such standards and requirements;  
24 and

1           (5) considers the impact and associated costs of  
2           any recommended improvements or amendments to  
3           the standards under, and requirements of, such Act.

4           (b) VETERINARY CARE.—

5           (1) IN GENERAL.—Section 13(a)(2)(A) of the  
6           Animal Welfare Act (7 U.S.C. 2143(a)(2)(A)) is  
7           amended by inserting “(which shall include visual  
8           dental examinations, whenever practicable)” after  
9           “adequate veterinary care”.

10          (2) TECHNICAL AMENDMENT.—Section 13 of  
11          the Animal Welfare Act (7 U.S.C. 2143) is amended  
12          by redesignating the second subsection (f) (prohib-  
13          iting delivery of certain animals without certificate  
14          of inspection), subsection (g), and subsection (h) as  
15          subsections (g) through (i), respectively.

16 **SEC. 12407. PROTECTING ANIMALS WITH SHELTER.**

17          Section 12502(b)(8) of the Agriculture Improvement  
18          Act of 2018 (Public Law 115–334) is amended by striking  
19          “2023” and inserting “2031”.

1 **SEC. 12408. REPORT ON AVAILABLE ASSISTANCE TO AGRICULTURAL PRODUCERS IN THE STATE OF TEXAS THAT HAVE SUFFERED ECONOMIC LOSSES DUE TO THE FAILURE OF MEXICO TO DELIVER WATER.**

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6 Not later than 180 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary shall submit to the Committee on Agriculture of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry of the Senate a report that lists all existing authorities of the Secretary and programs within the Department that are or could be made available to provide assistance to agricultural producers in the State of Texas that have suffered economic losses due to the failure of Mexico to deliver water to the United States in accordance with the Treaty Relating to the Utilization of Waters of the Colorado and Tijuana Rivers and of the Rio Grande signed at Washington on February 3, 1944, and the Supplementary Protocol signed at Washington November 14, 1944.

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21 **SEC. 12409. QUALIFIED RENEWABLE BIOMASS.**

22 (a) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

23 (1) AGENCY ACTION.—The term “agency action” has the meaning given the term in section 551 of title 5, United States Code.

24  
25  
26 (2) QUALIFIED RENEWABLE BIOMASS.—

1 (A) IN GENERAL.—The term “qualified re-  
2 newable biomass” means—

3 (i) forest products manufacturing bio-  
4 energy feedstocks, including from—

5 (I) forest products manufac-  
6 turing residuals, including spent  
7 pulping liquors, pulping by-products,  
8 bark, woody manufacturing residuals,  
9 paper recycling residuals, wastewater  
10 and process water treatment plant re-  
11 siduals, and anaerobic digester biogas;

12 (II) harvest residues, including  
13 portions of harvested trees that are  
14 too small or of too poor quality to be  
15 utilized for wood products or paper  
16 products;

17 (III) downed wood from extreme  
18 weather events and natural disasters,  
19 nonhazardous landscape or right-of-  
20 way trimmings and municipal trim-  
21 mings, and plant material removed for  
22 purposes of invasive or noxious plant  
23 species control;

24 (IV) biowaste, including landfill  
25 gas; and

1 (V) non-chemically treated used  
2 wood products, such as crates or pal-  
3 lets; and

4 (ii) forest biomass derived from resi-  
5 dues created as a by-product of timber  
6 harvesting, including treetops, tree limbs,  
7 and bark, but excluding stumps, roots, and  
8 round wood suitable for industrial pur-  
9 poses.

10 (B) EXCLUSION.—Such term does not in-  
11 clude paper of a type that is commonly recy-  
12 cled.

13 (b) IN GENERAL.—

14 (1) CONSIDERATION AS RENEWABLE ENERGY  
15 SOURCE.—With respect to any agency action of the  
16 Department related to qualified renewable biomass,  
17 the Secretary shall consider qualified renewable bio-  
18 mass to be a renewable energy source and assign it  
19 (and a facility, to the extent it uses qualified renew-  
20 able biomass as fuel) a greenhouse gas emission  
21 rate, and a carbon intensity, of not greater than  
22 zero, if the use of such qualified renewable biomass  
23 as fuel does not cause the conversion of forests to  
24 non-forest use.

1           (2) PETITIONS.—Not later than 1 year after re-  
2           ceiving a petition requesting a change to a rule, pol-  
3           icy, or program of the Department in order to com-  
4           ply with the requirements of paragraph (1), the Sec-  
5           retary shall take such action as may be necessary to  
6           comply with such requirements with respect to such  
7           rule, policy, or program.

8           (c) GUIDANCE.—

9           (1) ESTABLISHMENT.—Not later than 180 days  
10          after the date of enactment of this Act, the Sec-  
11          retary shall establish guidance for purposes of car-  
12          rying out subsection (b).

13          (2) MODIFICATION.—The Secretary may peri-  
14          odically update the guidance established under para-  
15          graph (1) as the Secretary may determine necessary.

16          (3) CONSULTATION.—In carrying out this sub-  
17          section, the Secretary shall consult with—

18                 (A) the Administrator of the Environ-  
19                 mental Protection Agency;

20                 (B) the Secretary of Energy; and

21                 (C) any other relevant entities, as deter-  
22                 mined by the Secretary.

1 **SEC. 12410. WHOLE MILK UNDER THE SCHOOL BREAKFAST**  
2 **PROGRAM.**

3 Section 9(a)(2) of the Richard B. Russell National  
4 School Lunch Act (42 U.S.C. 1758(a)(2)) is amended—

5 (1) in subparagraph (A), in the matter pre-  
6 ceding clause (i), by striking “Act—” and inserting  
7 “Act and breakfasts served by schools participating  
8 in the school breakfast program under section 4 of  
9 the Child Nutrition Act of 1966 (42 U.S.C. 1773)—  
10 ”;

11 (2) in subparagraph (C), by inserting “or the  
12 school breakfast program under section 4 of the  
13 Child Nutrition Act of 1966 (42 U.S.C. 1773)” after  
14 “Act”; and

15 (3) in subparagraph (D), by striking “section  
16 210.10” and inserting “sections 210.10 and 220.8”.

17 **SEC. 12411. SPOTTED LANTERNFLY AWARENESS CAM-**  
18 **PAIGN.**

19 (a) **IN GENERAL.**—The Secretary of Agriculture shall  
20 carry out a national campaign to increase the awareness  
21 and knowledge of the public with respect to spotted  
22 lanternflies.

23 (b) **REQUIRED ACTIVITIES.**—In carrying out the na-  
24 tional campaign under this section, the Secretary shall—

1 (1) place public service announcements on tele-  
2 vision, radio, and billboards in areas of high inci-  
3 dence of spotted lanternflies that—

4 (A) inform individuals of the fact that  
5 spotted lanternflies are an invasive pest that  
6 threaten local agriculture; and

7 (B) encourage individuals to kill any spot-  
8 ted lanternflies that such individuals encounter;  
9 and

10 (2) use such other awareness tools as the Sec-  
11 retary determines appropriate to provide the infor-  
12 mation described in paragraph (1).

13 **SEC. 12412. RIO GRANDE VALLEY AGRICULTURAL WATER**  
14 **INTERAGENCY WORKING GROUP.**

15 (a) **ESTABLISHMENT.**—The Secretary, in coordina-  
16 tion with the heads of the agencies described in subsection  
17 (c), shall establish an interagency working group to coordi-  
18 nate a whole-of-government strategy to protect the eco-  
19 nomic interests of United States agricultural producers  
20 impacted by water deliveries under the 1944 Water Trea-  
21 ty.

22 (b) **DUTIES.**—The Working Group shall—

23 (1) analyze the economic impact of water deliv-  
24 ery deficits under the 1944 Water Treaty on the  
25 United States agricultural sector in the area affected

1 by such water delivery deficits, including specific as-  
2 sessments of damages to perennial crops;

3 (2) develop and implement a multi-agency strat-  
4 egy to—

5 (A) secure annual and predictable water  
6 deliveries in accordance with the 1944 Water  
7 Treaty through the coordinated use of Federal  
8 diplomatic and operational authorities;

9 (B) enhance the resilience of the domestic  
10 agricultural water supply through improved  
11 conservation and infrastructure;

12 (C) assess trade-related mechanisms avail-  
13 able to address agricultural supply chain dis-  
14 ruptions caused by such water delivery deficits;

15 (D) ensure that water resources and infra-  
16 structure in South Texas are efficiently man-  
17 aged and operational for the beneficial use of  
18 agricultural producers and municipal users; and

19 (E) support Federal officials in securing  
20 annual and predictable water deliveries in ac-  
21 cordance with the 1944 Water Treaty;

22 (3) facilitate coordination among Federal agen-  
23 cies and with the State of Texas to align diplomatic,  
24 trade, and infrastructure efforts with the critical

1 needs of the agricultural community in South Texas;  
2 and

3 (4) provide a forum for public engagement and  
4 transparency regarding—

5 (A) the status of water deliveries from  
6 Mexico under the 1944 Water Treaty; and

7 (B) the findings of the Working Group and  
8 the strategy developed under paragraph (2).

9 (c) COMPOSITION.—The Working Group shall be  
10 composed of—

11 (1) the Secretary of Agriculture (who shall  
12 serve as Chair);

13 (2) the Secretary of State;

14 (3) the Secretary of the Interior;

15 (4) the Commissioner of the United States Sec-  
16 tion of the International Boundary and Water Com-  
17 mission, United States and Mexico;

18 (5) the Administrator of the Environmental  
19 Protection Agency;

20 (6) the United States Trade Representative;

21 (7) the Chief of Engineers and Commanding  
22 General of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers; and

23 (8) the Assistant to the President of the United  
24 States for National Security Affairs.

25 (d) MEETINGS.—

1           (1) FREQUENCY.—The Working Group shall  
2 meet not less frequently than annually.

3           (2) PUBLIC ACCESS.—The Working Group  
4 shall—

5                 (A) hold the meetings described in para-  
6 graph (1) in a manner open to the public; and

7                 (B) provide an opportunity for interested  
8 stakeholders, including agricultural producers  
9 and irrigation districts, to provide oral and  
10 written comments to the Working Group.

11           (e) REPORT.—Not later than 1 year after the date  
12 of the enactment of this Act, and annually thereafter, the  
13 Working Group shall submit to the Committees on Agri-  
14 culture, Appropriations, Foreign Affairs, and Ways and  
15 Means of the House of Representatives, and the Commit-  
16 tees on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry, Appropria-  
17 tions, Energy and Natural Resources, Foreign Relations,  
18 and Finance of the Senate, a report describing—

19                 (1) the findings resulting from the analysis  
20 under subsection (b)(1);

21                 (2) the status of diplomatic and operational ef-  
22 forts to secure compliance with the annual water de-  
23 livery requirements of the 1944 Water Treaty;

1           (3) an assessment of potential trade or adminis-  
2           trative actions to secure long term water reliability  
3           under treaties with Mexico; and

4           (4) recommendations for projects, resources,  
5           and legislative authorities needed to fully implement  
6           the strategy developed under subsection (b)(2).

7           (f) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

8           (1) 1944 WATER TREATY.—The term “1944  
9           Water Treaty” means the Treaty Relating to the  
10          Utilization of Waters of the Colorado and Tijuana  
11          Rivers and of the Rio Grande signed at Washington  
12          on February 3, 1944, and the Supplementary Pro-  
13          tocol signed at Washington November 14, 1944.

14          (2) WORKING GROUP.—The term “Working  
15          Group” means the interagency working group estab-  
16          lished under subsection (a).

17       **SEC. 12413. COST-SHARE GRANTS FOR ROLLOVER PROTEC-**  
18                               **TION STRUCTURES.**

19          (a) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

20          (1) APPROVED ROLLOVER PROTECTION STRUC-  
21          TURE.—The term “approved rollover protection  
22          structure” means a rollover protection structure that  
23          the Program Administrator determines—

24                       (A) may be installed on eligible equipment;

25                       (B) includes a seatbelt; and

1 (C) meets or exceeds the rollover protec-  
2 tion structure standards.

3 (2) ELIGIBLE ENTITY.—The term “eligible enti-  
4 ty” means, as determined by the Secretary—

5 (A) an agricultural producer; and

6 (B) an eligible school.

7 (3) ELIGIBLE EQUIPMENT.—The term “eligible  
8 equipment” means an agricultural tractor that the  
9 Program Administrator determines to be eligible for  
10 installation of an approved rollover protection struc-  
11 ture.

12 (4) ELIGIBLE SCHOOL.—The term “eligible  
13 school” means—

14 (A) a vocational school that provides agri-  
15 cultural instruction or training;

16 (B) an institution of higher education (as  
17 defined in section 102 of the Higher Education  
18 Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 1002)) that provides di-  
19 rect, practical agricultural instruction or train-  
20 ing; and

21 (C) a public or private secondary school  
22 (as defined in section 8101 of the Elementary  
23 and Secondary Education Act of 1965 (20  
24 U.S.C. 8107)) the curriculum of which includes

1 an agricultural instruction or training compo-  
2 nent.

3 (5) PROGRAM ADMINISTRATOR.—The term  
4 “Program Administrator” means the organization  
5 selected by the Secretary under subsection (c)(1)(B).

6 (6) ROLLOVER PROTECTION STRUCTURE  
7 STANDARDS.—The term “rollover protection struc-  
8 ture standards” includes the following:

9 (A) The SAE J2194 and SAE J1194  
10 standards issued by the Society of Automotive  
11 Engineers (and successor standards).

12 (B) Any other relevant national or inter-  
13 national rollover protection structure manufac-  
14 turing or testing standards.

15 (b) COST-SHARE GRANTS.—

16 (1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall award  
17 grants to eligible entities for the cost of purchasing,  
18 transporting, and installing on eligible equipment  
19 approved rollover protection structures.

20 (2) LIMITATIONS.—

21 (A) IN GENERAL.—Except as provided in  
22 subparagraph (B), the amount of a grant under  
23 this section shall equal 70 percent of the costs  
24 of the eligible entity to purchase, transport, and

1 install the approved rollover protection struc-  
2 ture.

3 (B) EXCEPTION.—If, for an eligible entity  
4 that is the recipient of a grant under this sec-  
5 tion, the costs to purchase, transport, and in-  
6 stall an approved rollover structure (as docu-  
7 mented by the eligible entity) exceed \$500, the  
8 amount of the grant shall be increased to cover  
9 an increased percentage (as determined by the  
10 Secretary) of such costs.

11 (c) ADMINISTRATION.—

12 (1) PROGRAM ADMINISTRATOR.—The Secretary  
13 shall—

14 (A) seek competitive bids from nongovern-  
15 mental organizations seeking to serve as the  
16 Program Administrator under this section;

17 (B) select 1 organization from among the  
18 organizations that submit bids under subpara-  
19 graph (A); and

20 (C) enter into a cooperative agreement  
21 with that organization to carry out the activities  
22 described in paragraph (2).

23 (2) DUTIES.—The Program Administrator  
24 shall—

25 (A) identify—

1 (i) approved rollover protection struc-  
2 tures; and

3 (ii) eligible equipment;

4 (B) administer the application process  
5 under subsection (d); and

6 (C) establish and administer a public  
7 website and phone hotline with information nec-  
8 essary—

9 (i) to inform eligible entities, as de-  
10 scribed in subsection (a)(2), of the grant  
11 opportunities made available by this Act,  
12 and

13 (ii) to administer the application proc-  
14 ess under subsection (d).

15 (d) APPLICATIONS.—

16 (1) IN GENERAL.—To apply for a grant under  
17 this section, an eligible entity shall submit to the  
18 Program Administrator an application, including  
19 documentation of the cost described in subsection  
20 (b)(2)(A).

21 (2) APPROVAL OR DENIAL.—On receipt of an  
22 application under paragraph (1), the Program Ad-  
23 ministrator shall—

24 (A) determine—

1 (i) whether the applicant is eligible for  
2 a grant under this section; and

3 (ii) the amount of a grant under this  
4 section for which the applicant is eligible;  
5 and

6 (B) submit to the Secretary a notification  
7 of the determinations under subparagraph (A).

8 (e) DISBURSEMENT.—On receipt of a notification  
9 under subsection (d)(2)(B), if an applicant is eligible for  
10 a grant under this section, the Secretary shall disburse  
11 to the eligible entity the amount of the grant described  
12 in subsection (d)(2)(A)(ii).

13 (f) FUNDING.—

14 (1) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—  
15 There is authorized to be appropriated to carry out  
16 this section \$725,000 for each of fiscal years 2027  
17 through 2031.

18 (2) ALLOCATION.—Of the amounts made avail-  
19 able to carry out this section for each fiscal year—

20 (A) the Secretary shall use 70 percent of  
21 such amounts for grants under this section; and

22 (B) the Secretary shall transfer to the Pro-  
23 gram Administrator—

1 (i) 15 percent of such amounts for the  
2 promotion of, and upgrades to the website  
3 referred to in subsection (c)(2)(C); and

4 (ii) 15 percent of such amounts for  
5 the telephone hotline referred to in such  
6 subsection.

