

118TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 1824

To reform the safety net for farmers and ranchers, enhance soil, water, and habitat conservation, encourage beginning farmers and ranchers, strengthen nutrition for Americans, support agriculture research and innovation, reduce food waste, improve animal welfare, and invest in regional food systems, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

MARCH 28, 2023

Mr. BLUMENAUER introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Agriculture, and in addition to the Committees on Ways and Means, Education and the Workforce, and Foreign Affairs, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned

A BILL

To reform the safety net for farmers and ranchers, enhance soil, water, and habitat conservation, encourage beginning farmers and ranchers, strengthen nutrition for Americans, support agriculture research and innovation, reduce food waste, improve animal welfare, and invest in regional food systems, and for other purposes.

1 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*
2 *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

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

2 (a) SHORT TITLE.—This Act may be cited as the
3 “Food and Farm Act”.

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

Sec. 1. Short title; table of contents.

TITLE I—COMMODITIES AND CROP INSURANCE

Subtitle A—Cutting, Capping, and Clarifying Agriculture Subsidies

- Sec. 101. Repealing excessive subsidy programs for commodity crops.
Sec. 102. Comprehensive cap on total agricultural subsidies an eligible entity may receive.
Sec. 103. Adjusted gross income limitation.
Sec. 104. Elimination of separate payment limitation on peanut subsidies.
Sec. 105. Strengthening prevented planting coverage.
Sec. 106. Eliminating the yield transfer loophole.
Sec. 107. Ensuring planting on suitable land.
Sec. 108. Report on diversity in crop insurance.

Subtitle B—Expansion of Whole Farm Crop Insurance

- Sec. 121. Expansion of whole farm crop insurance option for farms that grow multiple crops.

TITLE II—CONSERVATION

Subtitle A—Strengthening Conservation Compliance

- Sec. 201. Definitions.
Sec. 202. Covered cropland program ineligibility.
Sec. 203. Exemptions.
Sec. 204. Development and implementation of conservation plans and conservation systems.
Sec. 205. Wetland program ineligibility.
Sec. 206. Delineation of wetlands; exemptions.

Subtitle B—Enhancing Environmental Quality Incentives

- Sec. 211. Purposes.
Sec. 212. Definitions.
Sec. 213. Establishment and administration.
Sec. 214. Evaluation of applications.
Sec. 215. Environmental quality incentives program plan.
Sec. 216. Duties of the secretary.
Sec. 217. Limitation on payments.

Subtitle C—Reforming the Conservation Stewardship Program

- Sec. 221. Definitions.
Sec. 222. Conservation stewardship program.

- Sec. 223. Stewardship contracts.
- Sec. 224. Duties of the Secretary.

Subtitle A—Building on the Regional Conservation Partnership

- Sec. 231. Improvements to the regional conservation partnership program.

Subtitle B—Establishing Innovative Grants for Conservation and Loans for Structural Improvements

- Sec. 241. Repeal and reestablishment of EQIP conservation innovation grant program.
- Sec. 242. Conservation loan and loan guarantee program.

Subtitle C—Ensuring Greenhouse Gas Reporting for Agriculture

- Sec. 251. Greenhouse gas reporting.
- Sec. 252. Authorization of appropriations.

Subtitle D—Administration and Funding

- Sec. 261. Commodity credit corporation.

TITLE III—FOOD ASSISTANCE

- Sec. 301. Elimination of domestic procurement restriction for emergency and private assistance programs under the Food for Peace Act.
- Sec. 302. Elimination of cap on support for eligible organizations for certain purposes.
- Sec. 303. Elimination of minimum level of local sales requirement under the Food for Peace Act.
- Sec. 304. Food for Peace Act extensions.

TITLE IV—NUTRITION

Subtitle A—Increasing Access to Healthy Foods

- Sec. 401. Expanding healthy food financing initiative.
- Sec. 402. Helping schools serve healthier meals.
- Sec. 403. Strengthening the food and agriculture service learning program.
- Sec. 404. Gus Schumacher nutrition incentive program.

Subtitle B—Improving the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program

- Sec. 411. Continuing the farmers' markets supplemental nutrition assistance program support grant program.
- Sec. 412. Expanding and increasing support for the food insecurity nutrition incentives program.
- Sec. 413. Closing the meal gap.
- Sec. 414. Food as medicine.

TITLE V—FUTURE OF AMERICAN FARMERS

Subtitle A—Defining Beginning Farmer or Rancher

- Sec. 501. Beginning farmer or rancher defined.

Subtitle B—Providing Resources for Beginning, Retiring, and Socially Disadvantaged Farmers and Ranchers

- Sec. 511. Reauthorization and increased funding for outreach and assistance for socially disadvantaged farmers and ranchers and veteran farmers and ranchers.
- Sec. 512. Ensuring permanent funding for beginning farmer and rancher development program.
- Sec. 513. Supporting beginning farmer participation in certain conservation programs.
- Sec. 514. Creating a priority for participation of beginning farmers and ranchers in farmers' market and local food promotion program.
- Sec. 515. Supporting beginning farmers and ranchers through farm service agency liaisons.
- Sec. 516. Facilitating succession planning through the creation of farm service agency regional planners.
- Sec. 517. Ensuring a vibrant agricultural sector through the creation of a land tenure commission.

Subtitle C—Creating Financial Incentives to Benefit Beginning Farmers and Ranchers

- Sec. 521. Removing barriers to farming through an eligible farmer tax credit.
- Sec. 522. Ensuring farm service facility loans can serve agricultural cooperatives.
- Sec. 523. Loans to cooperatives.

TITLE VI—FOOD WASTE

- Sec. 601. Sense of congress regarding reducing food waste.
- Sec. 602. Establishment of office of food waste.
- Sec. 603. Establishment of food loss and waste reduction task force.
- Sec. 604. Standardizing, aggregating, and publishing food waste data.

TITLE VII—RESEARCH, EXTENSION, AND RELATED MATTERS

Subtitle A—Investing in Sustainable Agriculture

- Sec. 701. Sustainable agriculture research, extension, and education programs.
- Sec. 702. National training program.

Subtitle B—Supporting Research to Help Farmers Adapt to a Disrupted Climate

- Sec. 711. Competitive, special, and facilities grants.
- Sec. 712. Specialty crop research initiative.

TITLE VIII—ANIMAL WELFARE

Subtitle A—Ensuring Animal Welfare in Farming

- Sec. 801. Definitions for humanely raised livestock and poultry certification programs.
- Sec. 802. Increasing market access for humanely raised livestock and poultry certification programs.
- Sec. 803. Animal welfare tax incentives.

Subtitle B—Reforming Animal Welfare in Agricultural Research Endeavors

- Sec. 811. Animal welfare.

Sec. 812. Establishing a research and extension program for humanely raised livestock and poultry certifications.

TITLE IX—REGIONAL FOOD SYSTEMS

Subtitle A—Expanding Support for Local and Regional Food Systems

Sec. 901. Sense of the Congress.

Sec. 902. Expanding the food leveraging investment for network coordination (LINC) program.

Sec. 903. Ensuring success of regional food projects under the business and industry guaranteed loan program.

Sec. 904. Increasing support for the specialty crop block grant program.

Subtitle B—Enhancing Regional Food Infrastructure

Sec. 911. Supporting regional food infrastructure assessment and collaborative planning.

Sec. 912. Livestock, dairy, and poultry supply chain infrastructure grants and loans.

Subtitle C—Expanding Accessibility of Federal Grant Programs

Sec. 921. Publishing information about funded farmers' market and local food promotion program projects.

Sec. 922. Streamlining of local and regional food program application procedures.

Subtitle D—Leveling the Playing Field for Small Farmers

Sec. 931. Ensuring fair practices in agriculture.

1 **TITLE I—COMMODITIES AND** 2 **CROP INSURANCE**

3 **Subtitle A—Cutting, Capping, and** 4 **Clarifying Agriculture Subsidies**

5 **SEC. 101. REPEALING EXCESSIVE SUBSIDY PROGRAMS FOR** 6 **COMMODITY CROPS.**

7 (a) REPEAL.—Part II of subtitle A of title I of the
8 Agriculture Act of 2018 (7 U.S.C. 9011 et seq.) is re-
9 pealed.

10 (b) CONTINUED APPLICATION FOR 2023 CROP
11 YEAR.—Part II of subtitle A of title I of the Agriculture
12 Act of 2014 (7 U.S.C. 9011 et seq.), as in effect on the

1 day before the date of the enactment of this Act, shall
2 continue to apply through the 2023 crop year with respect
3 to each covered commodity (as defined in section 1111(6)
4 of such Act (7 U.S.C. 9011(6))) on a farm.

5 **SEC. 102. COMPREHENSIVE CAP ON TOTAL AGRICULTURAL**
6 **SUBSIDIES AN ELIGIBLE ENTITY MAY RE-**
7 **CEIVE.**

8 Section 1001 of the Food Security Act of 1985 (7
9 U.S.C. 1308–3a) is amended—

10 (1) by redesignating subsections (e) through (h)
11 as subsections (f) through (i), respectively;

12 (2) in such subsections, by striking “(b) and
13 (c)” and “(b) or (c)” each place it appears and in-
14 serting “(b), (c), and (e)” and “(b), (c), or (e)”, re-
15 spectively;

16 (3) by inserting after subsection (d) the fol-
17 lowing new subsection (e):

18 “(e) **LIMITATION ON TOTAL PAYMENTS.**—Notwith-
19 standing any other provision of law, the total amount of
20 payments and benefits described in section 1001D(b)(2)
21 received, directly or indirectly, by a person or legal entity
22 (except a joint venture or general partnership) during a
23 crop, fiscal, or program year, as appropriate, may not ex-
24 ceed \$125,000. This does not include ad-hoc disaster
25 funding.”; and

1 (4) in paragraph (2), by striking “first cousin,
2 niece, nephew,”.

3 **SEC. 103. ADJUSTED GROSS INCOME LIMITATION.**

4 Section 1001D(b) of the Food Security Act of 1985
5 (7 U.S.C. 1308–3a(b)) is amended—

6 (1) in paragraph (1), by striking “\$900,000”
7 and inserting “\$400,000 unless the 75 percent of
8 the adjusted gross income is derived from the farm”;
9 and

10 (2) in paragraph (2), by adding at the end the
11 following new subparagraph:

12 “(F) A crop insurance premium subsidy
13 under section 508(e) of the Federal Crop Insur-
14 ance Act (7 U.S.C. 1508(e)).”.

15 **SEC. 104. ELIMINATION OF SEPARATE PAYMENT LIMITA-
16 TION ON PEANUT SUBSIDIES.**

17 Section 1001 of the Food Security Act of 1985 (7
18 U.S.C. 1308–3a) is amended—

19 (1) in subsection (b)—

20 (A) in the subsection heading, by striking
21 “(OTHER THAN PEANUTS)”; and

22 (B) in the text, by striking “(other than
23 for peanuts)”; and

24 (2) in subsection (c), by adding at the end the
25 following new sentence: “Effective beginning with

1 the 2025 crop year, subsection (b), rather than this
2 subsection, shall apply to payments received as mar-
3 keting loan gains or loan deficiency payments under
4 subtitle B of title I of the Agricultural Act of 2014
5 for peanuts.”.

6 **SEC. 105. STRENGTHENING PREVENTED PLANTING COV-**
7 **ERAGE.**

8 (a) PLANTING OF COVER CROP.—Section
9 508A(c)(1)(A)(i) of the Federal Crop Insurance Act (7
10 U.S.C. 1508a(c)(1)(A)(i)) is amended by inserting before
11 the semicolon the following: “, but, in that case, the pro-
12 ducer shall plant a cover crop on the same acreage for
13 the same crop year unless doing so would not constitute
14 a good farming practice, as determined by the Secretary”.

15 (b) AREA CONDITIONS REQUIRED FOR PAYMENT.—
16 Section 508A(c)(4) of the Federal Crop Insurance Act (7
17 U.S.C. 1508a(c)(4)) is amended by striking “, in the area
18 where” and inserting “in the same county, in an adjoining
19 county, or operating within 100 miles of the affected pro-
20 ducers, whichever area is greater,”.

21 (c) ADDITIONAL CONDITIONS.—Section 508A(c) of
22 the Federal Crop Insurance Act (7 U.S.C. 1508a) is
23 amended by adding at the end the following new para-
24 graphs:

1 “(6) SUCCESSFUL PLANTING.—In order to
2 qualify for prevented planting coverage, the land to
3 be covered must have been planted in at least one
4 of the preceding 3 crop years.

5 “(7) IRRIGATION GUIDANCE.—The Corporation
6 shall develop guidance on the efficient conservative
7 use of irrigation water when a crop is clearly lost to
8 ensure the program does not contribute to the ineffi-
9 cient use of water resources.

10 “(8) COVERAGE LEVELS.—Prevented planting
11 coverage levels shall not exceed the coverage factors
12 as determined by the Corporation.”.

13 (d) STUDY.—

14 (1) IN GENERAL.—The Comptroller General of
15 the United States shall conduct a study on good
16 farming practices related to cover crops.

17 (2) FINDINGS.—The Secretary shall use the
18 findings of the study required under paragraph (1)
19 to evaluate and make appropriate changes to the
20 regulations of the Department.

21 **SEC. 106. ELIMINATING THE YIELD TRANSFER LOOPHOLE.**

22 Section 508(g) of the Federal Crop Insurance Act (7
23 U.S.C. 1508(g)) is amended by adding at the end the fol-
24 lowing new paragraph:

1 “(6) YIELD TRANSFER PROHIBITED.—The Cor-
2 poration shall not allow a producer’s actual produc-
3 tion records from one parcel of land to be used to
4 establish actual production history on a separate
5 parcel of land.”.

6 **SEC. 107. ENSURING PLANTING ON SUITABLE LAND.**

7 Section 508(e) of the Federal Crop Insurance Act (7
8 U.S.C. 1508(e)) is amended by adding at the end the fol-
9 lowing paragraph:

10 “(9) PROHIBITION OF SUBSIDIES ON UNSUIT-
11 ABLE LAND.—The Corporation shall ensure that no
12 premium benefits are provided on lands, other than
13 for pasture, forage, or rangeland policy benefits,
14 that are classified as generally unsuitable for cultiva-
15 tion by the land capability classification system, as
16 determined by the Secretary.”.

17 **SEC. 108. REPORT ON DIVERSITY IN CROP INSURANCE.**

18 Section 508(k)(8) of the Federal Crop Insurance Act
19 (7 U.S.C. 1508(k)(8)) is amended by adding at the end
20 the following new subparagraph:

21 “(G) ANNUAL DIVERSITY REPORT.—Each
22 Standard Reinsurance Agreement shall include
23 a requirement for all approved insurance pro-
24 viders to submit to the Corporation on an an-

1 nual basis, in compliance with applicable pri-
2 vacy laws, a report—

3 “(i) describing activities undertaken
4 to promote access to crop insurance for so-
5 cially disadvantaged farmers and ranchers;
6 and

7 “(ii) containing demographic informa-
8 tion regarding the producers being served,
9 including information by race and gen-
10 der.”.

11 **Subtitle B—Expansion of Whole** 12 **Farm Crop Insurance**

13 **SEC. 121. EXPANSION OF WHOLE FARM CROP INSURANCE** 14 **OPTION FOR FARMS THAT GROW MULTIPLE** 15 **CROPS.**

16 (a) **ELIMINATION OF LIABILITY LIMITATION.**—Sec-
17 tion 522(c)(19)(A) of the Federal Crop Insurance Act (7
18 U.S.C. 1522(c)(19)(A)) is amended by adding at the end
19 the following: “, with no liability limitation,”.

20 (b) **ADMINISTRATION.**—Section 522(c)(19) of the
21 Federal Crop Insurance Act (7 U.S.C. 1522(c)(19)) is
22 amended by adding at the end the following new subpara-
23 graphs:

24 “(D) **ADMINISTRATIVE AND OPERATING**
25 **EXPENSES.**—Notwithstanding any other provi-

1 sion of this subtitle, the Corporation shall allow
2 approved insurance providers to utilize alternate
3 compensation structures for the administration
4 of the plan developed under subparagraph (A)
5 that—

6 “(i) compensate agents based on the
7 actual time it takes to write and admin-
8 ister a policy under the plan; or

9 “(ii) another method approved by the
10 Corporation that proportionally com-
11 pensates agents for any increased time
12 commitments required by the plan.

13 “(E) PAPERWORK REDUCTION.—The Cor-
14 poration shall seek to ensure that the paper-
15 work requirements of agents and producers as-
16 sociated with the plan developed under subpara-
17 graph (A) are minimized to the maximum ex-
18 tent possible, while still meeting actuarial
19 soundness standards.

20 “(F) EXPANDING OPERATIONS.—To the
21 maximum extent possible, the Corporation shall
22 ensure that all producers, including rapidly ex-
23 panding operations, are able to obtain coverage
24 under the plan developed under subparagraph
25 (A).

1 “(G) REPORT.—Not later than 2 years
2 after the date of the enactment of this subpara-
3 graph, the Corporation shall submit to Con-
4 gress a report that, with respect to this para-
5 graph, includes information relating to—

6 “(i) the burden to agents and farm-
7 ers;

8 “(ii) recommendations to streamline;
9 and

10 “(iii) compliance.”.

11 **TITLE II—CONSERVATION**
12 **Subtitle A—Strengthening**
13 **Conservation Compliance**

14 **SEC. 201. DEFINITIONS.**

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

17 (1) in paragraph (3)—

18 (A) in subparagraph (A), by striking
19 “highly erodible” and inserting “covered”; and

20 (B) in subparagraph (B), by striking “the
21 highly erodible” and inserting “covered”;

22 (2) in paragraph (4)—

23 (A) in subparagraph (A), by striking “;
24 and” and inserting a semicolon;

1 (B) by amending subparagraph (B) to read
2 as follows:

3 “(B) are designed to, in a cost effective
4 and technically practicable manner—

5 “(i) achieve a substantial improve-
6 ment in water quality and reduce green-
7 house gas emissions;

8 “(ii) achieve a rate of soil erosion no
9 greater than the soil loss tolerance level, as
10 determined by the Natural Resources Con-
11 servation Service;

12 “(iii) prevent ephemeral gully erosion;
13 and

14 “(iv) establish and maintain a min-
15 imum of 50 feet of perennial vegetation be-
16 tween covered cropland and intermittent or
17 perennial waterways; and”;

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

19 “(C) are based on the most recent and
20 technically accurate soil erosion prediction mod-
21 els to determine if soil erosion by wind and
22 water exceed the Soil Loss Tolerance Level on
23 covered cropland subject to subtitle B.”;

24 (3) in paragraph (6), by striking “highly erod-
25 ible” and inserting “covered”;

1 (4) by amending paragraph (7)(A)(ii) to read
2 as follows:

3 “(ii) before such action, such land was
4 wetland.”;

5 (5) in paragraph (9), by striking “Any highly
6 erodible land on which an agricultural commodity is
7 produced after December 23, 1985, and that is not
8 exempt under section 1212, shall be considered as
9 part of the field in which the land was included on
10 December 23, 1985, unless the owner and Secretary
11 agree to modification of the boundaries of the field
12 to carry out this title.”; and

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

14 “(28) COVERED CROPLAND.—The term ‘cov-
15 ered cropland’ means cropland, as defined in section
16 718.2 of title 7, Code of Federal Regulations, that
17 is planted to a row crop.”.

18 **SEC. 202. COVERED CROPLAND PROGRAM INELIGIBILITY.**

19 (a) IN GENERAL.—Section 1211 of the Food Security
20 Act of 1985 (16 U.S.C. 3811) is amended—

21 (1) in subsection (a)—

22 (A) in the matter preceding paragraph (1),
23 by striking “a field on which highly erodible
24 land” and all that follows through “shall be in-

1 eligible for” and inserting “covered cropland
2 shall be ineligible for”;

3 (B) in paragraph (1)(A) by inserting “or
4 income” after “any type of price”; and

5 (C) in paragraph (1)(D), by striking “ex-
6 cessive erosion of highly erodible land” and in-
7 serting “substantial erosion or degradation of
8 water quality”; and

9 (2) in the heading of subsection (b), by striking
10 “HIGHLY ERODIBLE LAND” and inserting “COMPLI-
11 ANCE DETERMINATION”.

12 (b) CONFORMING AMENDMENT.—Subtitle B of title
13 XII of the Food Security Act of 1985 (16 U.S.C. 3811
14 et seq.) is amended in the heading by striking “**Highly**
15 **Erodible Land**” and inserting “**Covered Crop-**
16 **land**”.

17 **SEC. 203. EXEMPTIONS.**

18 Section 1212 of the Food Security Act of 1985 (16
19 U.S.C. 3812) is amended—

20 (1) by amending subsection (a) to read as fol-
21 lows:

22 “(a) ELIGIBILITY BASED ON COMPLIANCE WITH
23 CONSERVATION PLAN.—

24 “(1) IN GENERAL.—If, as of January 1, 2024,
25 or 2 years after the Natural Resources Conservation

1 Service has completed a conservation plan for the
2 farm, whichever is later, a person is actively apply-
3 ing the approved conservation plan, such person
4 shall have until January 1, 2028, to comply with the
5 plan without being subject to program ineligibility.

6 “(2) MINIMIZATION OF DOCUMENTATION.—In
7 carrying out this subsection, the Secretary, Natural
8 Resources Conservation Service, and local soil con-
9 servation districts shall minimize the quantity of
10 documentation a person must submit to comply with
11 this paragraph.

12 “(3) EXPIRATION.—On the expiration of a con-
13 tract entered into under subchapter B of chapter 1
14 of subtitle D, the provisions of this subtitle shall
15 apply to the acreage that was the subject of such
16 contract.”;

17 (2) by striking subsections (b), (c), and (d);

18 (3) by redesignating subsections (e), (f), (g),
19 and (h) as subsections (b), (c), (d), and (e), respec-
20 tively; and

21 (4) in subsection (c), as so redesignated, by
22 amending paragraph (4)(A)(i) to read as follows:

23 “(i) a person has failed to comply
24 with section 1211, and has acted in good

1 faith and without an intent to violate sec-
2 tion 1211; or”.

3 **SEC. 204. DEVELOPMENT AND IMPLEMENTATION OF CON-**
4 **SERVATION PLANS AND CONSERVATION SYS-**
5 **TEMS.**

6 Section 1213 of the Food Security Act of 1985 (16
7 U.S.C. 3812a) is amended—

8 (1) in subsection (a)—

9 (A) in paragraph (1), by striking “and eco-
10 nomically”; and

11 (B) in paragraph (4), by striking “undue”
12 and inserting “serious”;

13 (2) by striking subsection (b) and redesignating
14 subsections (c), (d), (e), and (f) as subsections (b),
15 (c), (d), and (e), respectively;

16 (3) in subsection (c) (as redesignated by para-
17 graph (2))—

18 (A) in paragraph (2)—

19 (i) by striking “If a person makes a
20 certification under paragraph (1), the Sec-
21 retary shall not be required to” and insert-
22 ing “The Secretary shall annually”; and

23 (ii) by inserting “on not less than 5
24 percent of the covered cropland subject to
25 this subtitle” after “being applied”; and

1 (B) in paragraph (3), by striking the last
2 sentence and inserting “The Secretary may re-
3 vise the person’s conservation plan if the Sec-
4 retary determines the conservation plan is not
5 meeting the standards in section 1201(a)(4).”;
6 and

7 (4) by amending subsection (d) (as redesignated
8 by paragraph (2)) to read as follows:

9 “(d) **TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE.**—The Secretary
10 shall—

11 “(1) provide technical assistance to a person
12 throughout the development, revision, and applica-
13 tion of the conservation plan and any conservation
14 system of the person; and

15 “(2) make available annually an amount equal
16 to 0.02 percent of the funding otherwise provided for
17 programs specified in section 1211(a), not to exceed
18 \$350 million, to provide technical assistance, con-
19 duct status reviews and other tasks required to fully
20 implement the provisions of this subtitle.”.

21 **SEC. 205. WETLAND PROGRAM INELIGIBILITY.**

22 Section 1221(c) of the Food Security Act of 1985 (16
23 U.S.C. 3821) is amended—

24 (1) by amending paragraph (2)(B) to read as
25 follows:

1 “(B) NEW CONVERSIONS.—In the case of
2 a wetland that the Secretary determines was
3 converted after the date of enactment of the
4 Agricultural Act of 2014, the person shall be
5 ineligible to receive crop insurance premium
6 subsidies in subsequent reinsurance years un-
7 less the Secretary determines that an exemption
8 pursuant to section 1222 applies.”;

9 (2) in paragraph (3), by striking subparagraph
10 (E); and

11 (3) in paragraph (4), by inserting at the end
12 the following:

13 “(D) FUNDING.—The Secretary shall
14 make available annually an amount equal to
15 0.01 percent of the funding otherwise made
16 available for programs specified in 1221(b), not
17 to exceed \$200 million, to provide technical as-
18 sistance, conduct status reviews and carry out
19 other tasks needed to fully implement the provi-
20 sions of this subtitle.

21 “(E) STATUS REVIEWS.—The Secretary
22 shall annually carry out a review of the status
23 of compliance of the person with the conserva-
24 tion plan under which the conservation system

1 is being applied on no less than 5 percent of the
2 covered cropland subject to this subtitle.”.

3 **SEC. 206. DELINEATION OF WETLANDS; EXEMPTIONS.**

4 Section 1222 of the Food Security Act of 1985 (16
5 U.S.C. 3822) is amended in subsection (f)(2)—

6 (1) by striking subparagraphs (D) and (E); and

7 (2) by redesignating subparagraphs (F) and
8 (G) as subparagraphs (D) and (E), respectively.

9 **Subtitle B—Enhancing**
10 **Environmental Quality Incentives**

11 **SEC. 211. PURPOSES.**

12 Section 1240 of the Food Security Act of 1985 (16
13 U.S.C. 3839aa) is amended by inserting at the end the
14 following:

15 “(5) improving water quality, with special em-
16 phasis on reducing nutrient pollution and protecting
17 sources of drinking water;

18 “(6) conserving ground and surface water to
19 sustain or improve in-stream flows;

20 “(7) enhancing the quality of soil fertility and
21 health;

22 “(8) controlling invasive species;

23 “(9) enhancing critical aquatic and terrestrial
24 wildlife habitat for at-risk species;

1 “(10) reducing the amount and toxicity of pes-
2 ticides and other agricultural chemicals found on
3 food and in water or the air;

4 “(11) reducing the nontherapeutic use of medi-
5 cally important antibiotics in food-producing animals
6 in order to preserve the effectiveness of antibiotics
7 used in the treatment of human and animal disease;
8 and

9 “(12) reducing greenhouse gas emissions and
10 helping producers adapt to a changing and unpre-
11 dictable climate and increase resiliency to climate
12 change impacts, including rising temperatures and
13 extreme weather events, while reducing greenhouse
14 gas emissions.”.

15 **SEC. 212. DEFINITIONS.**

16 (a) ORGANIC SYSTEM PLAN.—Section 1240A of the
17 Food Security Act of 1985 (16 U.S.C. 3839aa-1) is
18 amended by striking paragraph (2) and redesignating
19 paragraphs (3) through (5) as paragraphs (2) through
20 (4), respectively.

21 (b) PRACTICE.—Section 1240A of the Food Security
22 Act of 1985 (16 U.S.C. 3839aa-1) is further amended in
23 paragraph (3)(B) (as redesignated by subsection (a))—

24 (1) in clause (i), by striking “; and” and insert-
25 ing a semicolon;

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

2 and

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

4 new clause:

5 “(ii) comprehensive conservation plan-
6 ning; and”.

7 **SEC. 213. ESTABLISHMENT AND ADMINISTRATION.**

8 (a) **ESTABLISHMENT.**—Section 1240B(a) of the
9 Food Security Act of 1985 (16 U.S.C. 3839aa–2(a)) is
10 amended by striking “2015” and inserting “2028”.

11 (b) **TERM.**—Section 1240B(b)(2) of the Food Secu-
12 rity Act of 1985 (16 U.S.C. 3839aa–2(b)(2)(B)) is
13 amended by striking “10 years” and inserting “5 years”.

14 (c) **PRIORITY.**—Section 1240B(c) of the Food Secu-
15 rity Act of 1985 (16 U.S.C. 3839aa–2(c)) is amended to
16 read as follows:

17 “(c) **PRIORITY.**—If the Secretary determines that the
18 environmental values of two or more applications for pay-
19 ments are comparable, the Secretary shall assign a higher
20 priority to a program application which will achieve the
21 environment and conservation values using practices and
22 systems the assessed cost of which is lower.”.

23 (d) **PAYMENTS.**—

24 (1) **LIMITATION ON SUBSTANTIAL AND PRI-**
25 **MARY BENEFITS.**—Section 1240B(d) of the Food

1 Security Act of 1985 (16 U.S.C. 3839aa-2(d)) is
2 amended—

3 (A) in paragraph (2)—

4 (i) in subparagraph (B), by striking
5 “or” at the end;

6 (ii) in subparagraph (C)(ii), by strik-
7 ing the period at the end and inserting “;
8 or”; and

9 (iii) by adding at the end the fol-
10 lowing:

11 “(D) 50 percent of the cost of a practice
12 that substantially benefits the producer, as de-
13 termined by the Secretary.”; and

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

15 “(8) PRIMARY BENEFIT TO PRODUCER.—A pro-
16 ducer shall not be eligible for payments for a prac-
17 tice on eligible land under the program that pri-
18 marily benefits the producer, as determined by the
19 Secretary.”.

20 (2) INCREASED PAYMENTS FOR CERTAIN PRAC-
21 TICES.—Section 1240B(d)(3) of the Food Security
22 Act of 1985 (16 U.S.C. 3839aa-2(d)(3)) is amended
23 by adding at the end the following:

24 “(H) contour farming;

25 “(I) cover cropping;

- 1 “(J) nutrient management;
- 2 “(K) stream corridor improvement;
- 3 “(L) contour buffer strips;
- 4 “(M) riparian herbaceous and forest buff-
- 5 ers;
- 6 “(N) filterstrips;
- 7 “(O) stream habitat improvement and
- 8 management;
- 9 “(P) grassed waterways;
- 10 “(Q) wetland restoration and enhance-
- 11 ment;
- 12 “(R) conservation crop rotation; or
- 13 “(S) other management practices which re-
- 14 duce greenhouse gas emissions, as determined
- 15 by the Secretary.”.

16 (3) LIMITATION ON PAYMENTS FOR CERTAIN

17 PRACTICES.—Section 1240B(d) of the Food Security

18 Act of 1985 (16 U.S.C. 3839aa–2(d)) is further

19 amended by adding at the end the following new

20 paragraph:

21 “(9) LIMITATION ON PAYMENTS FOR CERTAIN

22 PRACTICES.—A producer who owns or operates a

23 large confined animal feeding operation (as defined

24 by the Secretary) shall not be eligible for payments

25 under this chapter to construct an animal waste

1 management facility or any associated waste trans-
2 port or transfer device.”.

3 (e) ALLOCATION OF FUNDING.—Section 1240B(f) of
4 the Food Security Act of 1985 (16 U.S.C. 3839aa–2(f))
5 is amended to read as follows:

6 “(f) ALLOCATION OF FUNDING.—Of the funds made
7 available for payments for each of fiscal years 2024
8 through 2028 not less than 5 percent shall be provided
9 to producers who participate in an independent animal
10 welfare certification program, as defined in section 801
11 of the Food and Farm Act.”.

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

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

18 (2) in subparagraph (C), by striking the period
19 at the end and inserting a semicolon; and

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

21 “(D) water-conserving practices such as
22 dryland farming;

23 “(E) improvement of the storage of water
24 through measures such as water banking and
25 groundwater recharge; or

1 “(F) enhancement of fish and wildlife
2 habitat associated with irrigation systems, in-
3 cluding pivot corners and areas with irregular
4 boundaries.”.

5 (g) PAYMENTS FOR CONSERVATION PRACTICES RE-
6 LATED TO ORGANIC PRODUCTION.—

7 (1) PAYMENTS AUTHORIZED.—Section
8 1240B(i)(1) of the Food Security Act of 1985 (16
9 U.S.C. 3839aa–2(i)(1)) is amended by striking
10 “subsection” and inserting “chapter”.

11 (2) ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS.—Section
12 1240B(i)(2) of the Food Security Act of 1985 (16
13 U.S.C. 3839aa–2(i)(2)) is amended to read as fol-
14 lows:

15 “(2) ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS.—As a condi-
16 tion for receiving payments under this subsection, a
17 producer shall agree to develop and implement con-
18 servation practices for certified organic production
19 that are consistent with the regulations promulgated
20 under the Organic Foods Production Act of 1990 (7
21 U.S.C. 6501 et seq.) and the purposes of this chap-
22 ter.”.

23 (3) PAYMENT LIMITATIONS; COORDINATION
24 WITH ORGANIC CERTIFICATION; PLANNING.—Section

1 1240B(i) of the Food Security Act of 1985 (16
2 U.S.C. 3839aa-2(i)) is amended—

3 (A) by striking paragraph (3) and redesignig-
4 nating paragraphs (4) and (5) as paragraphs
5 (5) and (6), respectively; and

6 (B) by inserting after paragraph (2) the
7 following new paragraphs:

8 “(3) COORDINATION WITH ORGANIC CERTIFI-
9 CATION.—The Secretary shall establish a trans-
10 parent means by which producers may initiate or-
11 ganic certification under the Organic Foods Produc-
12 tion Act of 1990 (7 U.S.C. 6501 et seq.) while par-
13 ticipating in a contract under this chapter.

14 “(4) PLANNING.—

15 “(A) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall
16 provide planning assistance to producers
17 transitioning to certified organic production
18 consistent with the requirements of the Organic
19 Foods Production Act of 1990 (7 U.S.C. 6501
20 et seq.) and the purposes of this chapter.

21 “(B) AVOIDANCE OF DUPLICATION.—The
22 Secretary shall, to the maximum extent prac-
23 ticable, eliminate duplication of planning activi-
24 ties for a producer participating in a contract
25 under this chapter and initiating or maintaining

1 organic certification consistent with the Organic
2 Foods Production Act of 1990 (7 U.S.C. 6501
3 et seq.).”.

4 (h) PAYMENTS FOR CONSERVATION PRACTICES RE-
5 LATED TO ANTIBIOTIC USE.—Section 1240B of the Food
6 Security Act of 1985 (16 U.S.C. 3839aa-2) is amended
7 by adding at the end the following new subsection:

8 “(k) PAYMENTS FOR CONSERVATION PRACTICES RE-
9 LATED TO ANTIBIOTIC USE.—

10 “(1) PAYMENTS AUTHORIZED.—The Secretary
11 shall provide payments under this chapter to live-
12 stock producers for three years, to assist in a transi-
13 tion to modified animal management and production
14 systems, for practices leading to the reduction in the
15 need for antibiotics, including modification of sys-
16 tems and spaces to—

17 “(A) improve sanitation;

18 “(B) improve ventilation; or

19 “(C) support the implementation of im-
20 proved animal management techniques at the
21 operation.

22 “(2) DUTY OF PRODUCER.—The Secretary shall
23 not make payments under this chapter for practices
24 related to antibiotic use unless the producer agrees
25 to provide information to the Secretary documenting

1 the resulting reduction in antibiotic use in the oper-
2 ation of the producer.”.

3 (i) PAYMENTS FOR CONSERVATION PRACTICES RE-
4 LATED TO PASTURE-BASED PRODUCTION SYSTEMS.—
5 Section 1240B of the Food Security Act of 1985 (16
6 U.S.C. 3839aa-2), as amended by subsection (h), is fur-
7 ther amended by adding at the end the following new sub-
8 section:

9 “(1) PAYMENTS FOR CONSERVATION PRACTICES RE-
10 LATED TO PASTURE-BASED PRODUCTION SYSTEMS.—

11 “(1) PAYMENTS AUTHORIZED.—The Secretary
12 shall provide payments under this subsection for
13 conservation practices, on some or all of the oper-
14 ations of a producer, related—

15 “(A) to pasture-based, production systems;

16 or

17 “(B) to the transition to pasture-based
18 production systems managed under an approved
19 prescribed grazing plan in which animals are
20 regularly and systematically moved to fresh
21 pasture in such a way as to—

22 “(i) maximize the quantity and qual-
23 ity of forage growth;

24 “(ii) maximize the quality of soil fer-
25 tility and tilth;

1 “(iii) improve manure distribution and
2 nutrient cycling;

3 “(iv) increase the sequestration of car-
4 bon dioxide;

5 “(v) improve the quality and quantity
6 of cover for wildlife and pollinators;

7 “(vi) provide permanent cover to pro-
8 tect the soil from erosion; and

9 “(vii) improve water quality and infil-
10 tration.

11 “(2) ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS.—As a condi-
12 tion for receiving payments under this subsection, a
13 producer shall agree to implement at least 3 prac-
14 tices and either—

15 “(A) develops and carries out a grazing
16 management plan that includes intensive man-
17 agement rotational grazing; or

18 “(B) develops and implements conservation
19 practices that are consistent with intensive rota-
20 tional grazing practices for pasture-based sys-
21 tems.

22 “(3) PAYMENT PRIORITIES.—In determining
23 the amount and rate of payments under paragraph
24 (2)(B), the Secretary may accord great significance
25 to practices that—

1 “(A) improve the quality of soil fertility
2 and tith;

3 “(B) protect water quality;

4 “(C) increase the sequestration of carbon
5 dioxide;

6 “(D) accelerate water infiltration;

7 “(E) expand pollinator habitat and protec-
8 tion; and

9 “(F) reduce greenhouse gas emissions.”.

10 **SEC. 214. EVALUATION OF APPLICATIONS.**

11 (a) **EVALUATION CRITERIA.**—Section 1240C(a) of
12 the Food Security Act of 1985 (16 U.S.C. 3839aa–3(a))
13 is amended by striking “national, State, and local con-
14 servation priorities” and inserting “priority resource con-
15 cerns identified under subsection (d)”.

16 (b) **PRIORITIZATION OF APPLICATIONS.**—Section
17 1240C(b) of the Food Security Act of 1985 (16 U.S.C.
18 3839aa–3(b)) is amended—

19 (1) in paragraph (1), by striking “achieving the
20 anticipated conservation benefits of the project” and
21 inserting “addressing priority resource concerns
22 identified under subsection (d)”;

23 (2) in paragraph (2), by striking “designated
24 resource concern or resource concerns” and inserting
25 “priority resource concerns identified under sub-

1 section (d), including, in the case of applications
2 from nutrient-impacted watersheds, the degree to
3 which nutrient loadings would be reduced as a result
4 of the proposed project”.

5 (c) GROUPING OF APPLICATIONS.—Section 1240C(c)
6 of the Food Security Act of 1985 (16 U.S.C. 3839aa–3(c))
7 is amended by striking “for evaluation purposes or other-
8 wise evaluate applications relative to other applications for
9 similar farming operations” and inserting “proposing to
10 address the same priority resource concerns for evaluation
11 purposes”.

12 (d) PRIORITY RESOURCE CONCERNS.—Section
13 1240C of the Food Security Act of 1985 (16 U.S.C.
14 3839aa–3) is amended by adding at the end the following
15 new subsection:

16 “(d) PRIORITY RESOURCE CONCERNS.—For the pur-
17 poses of this section, the Secretary shall identify priority
18 resource concerns in a particular watershed or other ap-
19 propriate region or area within a State.”.

20 **SEC. 215. ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY INCENTIVES PRO-**
21 **GRAM PLAN.**

22 Section 1240E(a) of the Food Security Act of 1985
23 (16 U.S.C. 3839aa–5(a)) is amended to read as follows:

24 “(a) PLAN OF OPERATIONS.—To be eligible to re-
25 ceive payments under the program, a producer shall sub-

1 mit to the Secretary for approval a plan of operations
2 that—

3 “(1) specifies the priority resource concerns to
4 be addressed;

5 “(2) specifies the type, number, and sequencing
6 of conservation systems, practices, or activities to be
7 implemented to address the priority resource con-
8 cerns;

9 “(3) includes such terms and conditions as the
10 Secretary considers necessary to carry out the pro-
11 gram, including a description of the purposes to be
12 met by the implementation of the plan and a state-
13 ment of how the plan will achieve or take significant
14 steps toward achieving the relevant resource man-
15 agement system quality criteria, as determined by
16 the Secretary;

17 “(4) in the case of a confined livestock feeding
18 operation, provides for development and implementa-
19 tion of a comprehensive nutrient management plan,
20 if applicable;

21 “(5) in the case of a producer located within a
22 nutrient-impacted watershed, identifies methods by
23 which the producer will limit nutrient loss; and

24 “(6) in the case of forest land, is consistent
25 with the provisions of a forest management plan

1 that is approved by the Secretary, which may in-
2 clude—

3 “(A) a forest stewardship plan described in
4 section 5 of the Cooperative Forestry Assist-
5 ance Act of 1978 (16 U.S.C. 2103a);

6 “(B) another practice plan approved by the
7 State forester; or

8 “(C) another plan determined appropriate
9 by the Secretary.”.

10 **SEC. 216. DUTIES OF THE SECRETARY.**

11 Section 1240F(2) of the Food Security Act of 1985
12 (16 U.S.C. 3839aa–6(2)) is amended by striking “infor-
13 mation” and inserting “technical assistance, informa-
14 tion,”.

15 **SEC. 217. LIMITATION ON PAYMENTS.**

16 Section 1240G of the Food Security Act of 1985 (16
17 U.S.C. 3839aa–7) is amended to read as follows:

18 **“SEC. 1240G. LIMITATION ON PAYMENTS.**

19 “(a) **LIMITATION ON TOTAL PAYMENTS.**—Subject to
20 subsection (b), a person or legal entity may not receive,
21 directly or indirectly, cost-share or incentive payments
22 under this chapter, in the aggregate, for all contracts en-
23 tered into under this chapter by the person or entity (ex-
24 cluding funding arrangements with Indian tribes under
25 this chapter), regardless of the number of contracts en-

1 tered into under this chapter by the person or entity,
2 that—

3 “(1) during any fiscal year exceed \$30,000; and

4 “(2) during any five-year period exceed
5 \$150,000.

6 “(b) WAIVER AUTHORITY.—In the case of contracts
7 under this chapter for projects of special environmental
8 significance, as determined by the Secretary, the Secretary
9 may waive the limitation otherwise applicable under sub-
10 section (a)(1).

11 “(c) PREVENTION OF DUPLICATION.—The Secretary
12 shall not approve a contract or provide payments to any
13 individual for a practice that has already been paid for
14 as part of a previously approved and completed contract
15 for any particular parcel of land.”.

16 **Subtitle C—Reforming the Con-** 17 **servation Stewardship Program**

18 **SEC. 221. DEFINITIONS.**

19 Section 1240I of the Food Security Act of 1985 (16
20 U.S.C. 3839aa–21) is amended—

21 (1) in paragraph (2)(B), by striking clause (i)
22 and inserting the following:

23 “(i) vegetative measures and land
24 management measures, including inte-
25 grated pest, nutrient, crop residue, crop

1 rotation, and managed rotational grazing
2 management measures, as determined by
3 the Secretary;”;

4 (2) in paragraph (3)—

5 (A) in subparagraph (A), by inserting
6 “designated” before “priority”; and

7 (B) in subparagraph (D), by striking “new
8 and existing conservation activities” and insert-
9 ing “conservation activities needed to com-
10 prehensively address the designated priority re-
11 source concerns”;

12 (3) in paragraph (5)—

13 (A) in subparagraph (B) by striking
14 “and”;

15 (B) in subparagraph (C) by striking the
16 period at the end and adding “; and”; and

17 (C) by adding at the end a new subpara-
18 graph (D):

19 “(D) otherwise threatens—

20 “(i) public health or quality of life
21 through degradation of air or water qual-
22 ity; or

23 “(ii) natural resources, including soil,
24 fish, and wildlife.”;

1 (4) by redesignating paragraphs (6) and (7) as
2 paragraphs (7) and (8), respectively;

3 (5) by inserting after paragraph (5) the fol-
4 lowing:

5 “(6) DESIGNATED PRIORITY RESOURCE CON-
6 CERN.—The term ‘designated priority resource con-
7 cern’ means 1 to 5 priority resource concerns identi-
8 fied by the Secretary that must be addressed by the
9 program within a local watershed or specific natural
10 resource boundary.”; and

11 (6) by amending paragraph (8), as redesignated
12 by paragraph (4), to read as follows:

13 “(8) STEWARDSHIP THRESHOLD.—The term
14 ‘stewardship threshold’ means the conservation ac-
15 tivities, as determined by the Secretary, to com-
16 prehensively address a priority resource concern
17 using—

18 “(A) conservation measurement tools;

19 “(B) the resource management system
20 quality criteria for the particular priority re-
21 source concerns;

22 “(C) data from past and current program
23 enrollments; and

1 “(D) other similar means to measure im-
2 provement and conservation of the priority re-
3 source concern.”.

4 **SEC. 222. CONSERVATION STEWARDSHIP PROGRAM.**

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

7 (1) in subsection (a)—

8 (A) by striking “fiscal years 2019 through
9 2023” and inserting “fiscal years 2024 through
10 2028”;

11 (B) by striking “to address priority” and
12 inserting “to comprehensively address des-
13 ignated priority”; and

14 (C) by striking “comprehensive manner—
15 ” and all that follows through “managing exist-
16 ing conservation activities” and inserting “com-
17 prehensive manner”; and

18 (2) in subsection (b)(2), in the matter pre-
19 ceding subparagraph (A), by striking “December 20,
20 2018” and inserting “December 20, 2023”.

21 **SEC. 223. STEWARDSHIP CONTRACTS.**

22 Section 1240K of the Food Security Act of 1985 (16
23 U.S.C. 3839aa–2) is amended—

1 (1) in subsection (a)(1), by striking “2 priority
2 resource concerns” and inserting “2 designated pri-
3 ority resource concerns”;

4 (2) in subsection (b)—

5 (A) in paragraph (1)(A)—

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

8 (ii) in clause (iii), by striking the pe-
9 riod and inserting a semicolon; and

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

12 “(iv) the level of conservation treat-
13 ment on all applicable designated priority
14 resource concerns at the time of applica-
15 tion;

16 “(v) the number of designated priority
17 resource concerns that meet or exceed the
18 stewardship threshold at the end of the
19 contract period;

20 “(vi) the degree to which the proposed
21 conservation activities effectively, effi-
22 ciently, and comprehensively address the
23 designated priority resource concerns and
24 reduces greenhouse gas emissions;

1 “(vii) the extent to which the contract
2 offer will meet or exceed the stewardship
3 threshold for one or more designated pri-
4 ority resource concerns at a lower cost rel-
5 ative to other similarly beneficial contract
6 offers;

7 “(viii) the extent to which priority re-
8 source concerns will be addressed when
9 transitioning from the conservation reserve
10 program to agricultural production; and

11 “(ix) the extent to which the contract
12 will reduce greenhouse gas emissions.”;

13 (B) by striking paragraphs (2) and (3) and
14 inserting the following:

15 “(2) PROHIBITION.—The Secretary may not as-
16 sign a higher priority to any application because the
17 applicant is willing to accept a lower payment than
18 the applicant would otherwise be eligible to receive.

19 “(3) ADDITIONAL CRITERIA.—The Secretary
20 may develop and use such additional criteria that
21 the Secretary determines are necessary to ensure
22 that designated priority resource concerns are effec-
23 tively and efficiently treated to meet or exceed the
24 stewardship threshold.”;

1 (3) by amending subsection (c) to read as fol-
2 lows:

3 “(c) ENTERING INTO CONTRACTS.—

4 “(1) IN GENERAL.—After a determination that
5 a producer is eligible for the program under sub-
6 section (a), and a determination that the contract
7 offer ranks sufficiently high under the evaluation
8 criteria under subsection (b), the Secretary shall
9 enter into a conservation stewardship contract with
10 the producer to enroll the eligible land to be covered
11 by the contract.

12 “(2) FINANCIAL OBLIGATION.—Consistent with
13 section 1240K(c), a contract entered into under
14 paragraph (1) shall not create an obligation for fi-
15 nancial assistance until the first October 1 after the
16 contract is entered into.”;

17 (4) in subsection (d)—

18 (A) in paragraph (1), by striking “5
19 years” and inserting “10 years”; and

20 (B) in paragraph (2)(B)(i), by inserting
21 “that comprehensively address a designated pri-
22 ority resource concern” after “conservation ac-
23 tivities”; and

24 (5) in subsection (e)—

1 (A) in the matter preceding paragraph (1),
2 by striking “fifth year” and inserting “tenth
3 year”; and

4 (B) by amending paragraph (3)(A) to read
5 as follows:

6 “(A) has met or exceeded, or agrees to
7 meet or exceed, the stewardship threshold of all
8 designated priority resource concerns identified
9 for the region or area in which the land that is
10 subject to the contract is located; or”.

11 **SEC. 224. DUTIES OF THE SECRETARY.**

12 (a) IN GENERAL.—Section 1240L of the Food Secu-
13 rity Act of 1985 (16 U.S.C. 3839aa–24) is amended—

14 (1) by striking subsections (a) through (c) and
15 inserting the following:

16 “(a) IN GENERAL.—To achieve the conservation
17 goals of a contract under the conservation stewardship
18 program, the Secretary shall—

19 “(1) make the program available to eligible pro-
20 ducers on a continuous enrollment basis with one or
21 more ranking periods, of which shall occur in the
22 first quarter of each fiscal year;

23 “(2) identify not more than 5 designated pri-
24 ority resource concerns in a particular watershed or
25 other appropriate region or area within a State;

1 “(3) for any region or area that includes any
2 part of a nutrient-impacted watershed (as deter-
3 mined by the Secretary), ensure that one of the pri-
4 ority resource concerns identified under paragraph
5 (2) is greenhouse gas emission reductions;

6 “(4) develop reliable conservation measurement
7 tools for purposes of carrying out the program; and

8 “(5) ensure that conservation measurement
9 tools are transparent and available to producers
10 by—

11 “(A) making interactive, user-friendly con-
12 servation measurement tools publically available
13 online;

14 “(B) making conservation activity natural
15 resource and environmental benefit scores avail-
16 able in an easy to understand format for study
17 both before and during application; and

18 “(C) taking other steps, as determined by
19 the Secretary.

20 “(b) ALLOCATION TO STATES.—The Secretary shall
21 allocate acres to States for enrollment, based on each
22 State’s proportion of eligible land to the total acreage of
23 eligible land in all States as follows:

24 “(1) SOURCE WATER PROTECTION.—At least
25 20 percent of the funds made available for financial

1 and technical assistance under the program shall be
2 for contracts addressing designated priority resource
3 concerns related to enhancing the quality and quan-
4 tity of source water (as that term is used in the Safe
5 Drinking Water Act).

6 “(2) PEST MANAGEMENT.—At least 20 percent
7 of the funds made available for financial and tech-
8 nical assistance under the program shall be for con-
9 tracts addressing designated priority resource con-
10 cerns related to reducing the need for pesticides in
11 agricultural production including organic farming
12 systems and intensive integrated pest management.

13 “(3) SOIL CONSERVATION.—At least 20 percent
14 of the funds made available for financial and tech-
15 nical assistance under the program shall be for con-
16 tracts addressing designated priority resource con-
17 cerns related to reducing soil erosion and improving
18 soil fertility and tith.

19 “(4) GREENHOUSE GAS REDUCTION.—At least
20 20 percent of the funds made available for financial
21 and technical assistance under the program shall be
22 for contracts addressing greenhouse gas emissions.

23 “(c) CONSERVATION STEWARDSHIP PAYMENTS.—

1 “(1) AVAILABILITY OF PAYMENTS.—The Sec-
2 retary shall provide annual payments under the pro-
3 gram to compensate the producer for—

4 “(A) installing and adopting additional
5 conservation activities that will meet or exceed
6 the stewardship threshold for a designated pri-
7 ority resource concern; and

8 “(B) improving, maintaining, and man-
9 aging conservation activities in place on the ag-
10 ricultural operation of the producer at the time
11 the contract offer is accepted by the Secretary.

12 “(2) PAYMENT AMOUNT.—The amount of the
13 annual payment shall be determined by the Sec-
14 retary and based, to the maximum extent prac-
15 ticable, on the following factors:

16 “(A) Costs incurred by the producer asso-
17 ciated with planning, design, materials, installa-
18 tion, labor, management, maintenance, or train-
19 ing.

20 “(B) Income forgone by the producer.

21 “(C) Expected conservation benefits, based
22 to the maximum extent possible on conservation
23 measurement tools.

24 “(D) The extent to which designated pri-
25 ority resource concerns will be addressed

1 through the installation and adoption of con-
2 servation activities on the agricultural oper-
3 ation.

4 “(E) The level of stewardship in place at
5 the time of application and maintained over the
6 term of the contract.

7 “(F) The degree to which the conservation
8 activities will be integrated across the entire ag-
9 ricultural operation for all designated priority
10 resource concerns over the term of the contract.

11 “(G) Such other factors as are determined
12 appropriate by the Secretary.

13 “(3) EXCLUSIONS.—A payment to a producer
14 under this subsection shall not be provided for—

15 “(A) the design, construction, or mainte-
16 nance of animal waste storage or treatment fa-
17 cilities or associated waste transport or transfer
18 devices for animal feeding operations; or

19 “(B) conservation activities for which there
20 is no cost incurred or income forgone to the
21 producer.

22 “(4) DELIVERY OF PAYMENTS.—In making
23 payments under this subsection, the Secretary shall,
24 to the extent practicable—

1 “(A) prorate conservation performance
2 over the term of the contract so as to accommo-
3 date, to the extent practicable, producers earn-
4 ing equal annual payments in each fiscal year;
5 and

6 “(B) make such payments as soon as prac-
7 ticable after October 1 of each fiscal year for
8 activities carried out in the previous fiscal year.

9 “(5) MINIMUM PAYMENT.—If a contract re-
10 quires a comprehensive conservation plan the imple-
11 mentation of which will, by the end of the contract
12 term, meet or exceed the stewardship threshold for
13 all designated priority resource concerns, the min-
14 imum payment shall be not less than \$3,000.”;

15 (2) in subsection (d)—

16 (A) in paragraph (1)(C)—

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

19 (ii) in clause (vi), by striking the pe-
20 riod and inserting “; and”;

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

23 “(vii) prevents pollution of surface
24 water or groundwater;”; and

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

3 “(D) TRANSITION TO ORGANIC CROP OR
4 LIVESTOCK SYSTEMS.—In this subsection, the
5 term ‘transition to organic crop or livestock sys-
6 tems’ means adoption of conservation activities
7 for certified organic production on land or for
8 herds not previously certified organic that meet
9 all the requirements of the program and that
10 are consistent with the regulations promulgated
11 under the Organic Foods Production Act of
12 1990 (7 U.S.C. 6501 et seq.)”; and

13 (B) in paragraph (2)—

14 (i) in subparagraph (A), by striking
15 “or” at the end;

16 (ii) in subparagraph (B), by striking
17 the period and inserting a semicolon; and

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

20 “(C) improve, maintain, and manage or
21 adopt and maintain—

22 “(i) resource-conserving crop rotations
23 to achieve beneficial crop rotations as ap-
24 propriate for the eligible land of the pro-
25 ducers; or

1 “(ii) managed intensive rotational
2 grazing; or

3 “(D) transition to organic crop or livestock
4 systems.”; and

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

6 “(m) DATA.—The Secretary shall maintain detailed
7 and segmented data on contracts and payments under the
8 program to allow, at a minimum, with respect to each con-
9 tract—

10 “(1) quantification of the type and extent of
11 conservation activities for which payments were
12 made;

13 “(2) quantification of the amount of payments
14 made for—

15 “(A) the installation and adoption of addi-
16 tional conservation activities and improvements
17 to conservation activities in place on the oper-
18 ation of a producer at the time the conservation
19 stewardship offer is accepted by the Secretary;
20 and

21 “(B) the maintenance of existing conserva-
22 tion activities; and

23 “(3) identification of the watershed and county
24 in which the agricultural operation receiving pay-
25 ments is located.”.

1 “(F) addressing other opportunities to im-
2 prove public health and quality of life, as deter-
3 mined by the Secretary; and

4 “(G) reducing greenhouse gas emissions.”;
5 and

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

7 “(6) To avoid, to the maximum extent prac-
8 ticable, the need for statutory and regulatory pro-
9 grams related to the conservation of natural re-
10 sources by assisting producers in protecting soil,
11 water, air, and related natural resources and in
12 meeting environmental quality criteria established by
13 Federal, State, tribal, and local governmental agen-
14 cies.”.

15 (b) DEFINITIONS.—Section 1271A of the Food Secu-
16 rity Act of 1985 (16 U.S.C. 3871a) is amended by striking
17 paragraph (2) and inserting the following:

18 “(2) ELIGIBLE ACTIVITY.—The term ‘eligible
19 activity’ means water quality restoration or enhance-
20 ment projects relating to the quality of surface water
21 and groundwater used to supply drinking water by
22 community water systems and domestic wells, in-
23 cluding projects that—

24 “(A) improve the management of crops
25 and livestock production systems to avoid or

1 control runoff and leaching of farm chemicals
2 and manure;

3 “(B) change (including through diversi-
4 fying) the agricultural practices, including crop
5 rotations; and

6 “(C) trap or capture pollutants before the
7 pollutants enter surface water or ground
8 water.”; and

9 (c) PROGRAM AGREEMENTS.—Section 1271B of the
10 Food Security Act of 1985 (16 U.S.C. 3871b) is amend-
11 ed—

12 (1) in subsection (b)(1)(A), by striking “5” and
13 inserting “15”;

14 (2) in subsection (b)(1)(B), by striking “5” and
15 inserting “10”; and

16 (3) in subsection (c)(1)—

17 (A) by redesignating subparagraphs (A)
18 through (F) as subparagraphs (B) through (G);

19 (B) by inserting before subparagraph (B)
20 (as so redesignated) the following new subpara-
21 graph:

22 “(A) complete natural resource and water-
23 shed assessments to effectively support plan-
24 ning and implementation of the proposed

1 project that is the subject of the agreement;”;
2 and

3 (C) in subparagraph (F) (as redesignated
4 by subparagraph (A)), by inserting “monitor re-
5 sults and” before “conduct”.

6 (d) ASSISTANCE TO PRODUCERS.—Section 1271C of
7 the Food Security Act of 1985 (16 U.S.C. 3871c) is
8 amended—

9 (1) in subsection (a), by striking “assistance
10 to” and all that follows through “with the Sec-
11 retary.” and inserting the following: “assistance,
12 under the programs under this subtitle, to producers
13 proposing to implement conservation activities that
14 meet the objectives of the partnership agreement en-
15 tered into under section 1271B.”;

16 (2) in subsection (c)(2), by striking “5 years”
17 and inserting “at least 10 years, but that does not
18 exceed 15 years”; and

19 (3) in subsection (d)(2)(B), by striking “15”
20 and inserting “20”.

21 (e) FUNDING.—Section 1271D(a) of the Food Secu-
22 rity Act of 1985 (16 U.S.C. 3871d(a)) is amended by
23 striking “\$300,000,000 of the funds of the Commodity
24 Credit Corporation for each of fiscal years 2019 through
25 2031” and inserting “\$300,000,000 of the funds of the

1 Commodity Credit Corporation for fiscal year 2024 and
2 \$500,000,000 for each of the fiscal years 2025 to 2031”.

3 (f) CRITICAL CONSERVATION AREAS.—

4 (1) IN GENERAL.—Section 1271F of the Food
5 Security Act of 1985 (16 U.S.C. 3871f) is amended
6 in subsection (a)(2)(A), by striking “sediment con-
7 trol” and all that follows through the period at the
8 end and inserting “sediment control, and enhancing
9 the quality of surface water and groundwater used
10 to supply drinking water by community water sys-
11 tems (as defined in the Safe Drinking Water Act)
12 and domestic wells;”.

13 (2) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendment made
14 by this section shall apply with respect to partner-
15 ship agreements entered into on or after October 1,
16 2023.

17 **Subtitle B—Establishing Innova-**
18 **tive Grants for Conservation**
19 **and Loans for Structural Im-**
20 **provements**

21 **SEC. 241. REPEAL AND REESTABLISHMENT OF EQIP CON-**
22 **SERVATION INNOVATION GRANT PROGRAM.**

23 (a) REPEAL.—Section 1240H of the Food Security
24 Act of 1985 (16 U.S.C. 3839aa–8) is repealed.

1 (b) CONSERVATION INNOVATION GRANT PRO-
 2 GRAM.—Chapter 5 of subtitle D of title XII of the Food
 3 Security Act of 1985 (16 U.S.C. 3839bb et seq.) is amend-
 4 ed in subsection (a)(2) by adding at the end the following:

5 “(I) provide payments to producers to im-
 6 plement cost-effective and innovative tech-
 7 nologies to address priority resource concerns
 8 related to air quality from agricultural oper-
 9 ations; and

10 “(J) provide environmental and resource
 11 conservation benefits through increased partici-
 12 pation by beginning farmers and ranchers and
 13 socially disadvantaged farmers and ranchers.”.

14 **SEC. 242. CONSERVATION LOAN AND LOAN GUARANTEE**
 15 **PROGRAM.**

16 Section 304 of the Consolidated Farm and Rural De-
 17 velopment Act is amended—

18 (1) in subsection (b)(3)—

19 (A) in subparagraph (F), by striking
 20 “and” at the end;

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

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

24 “(H) how and to what extent the conserva-
 25 tion project will support the implementation of

1 a comprehensive conservation plan and improve
2 the conditions of identified priority resource
3 concerns.”;

4 (2) in subsection (c), by adding at the end the
5 following:

6 “(3) CONSERVATION LOAN PLAN.—In order to
7 be eligible to receive a loan or loan guarantee under
8 this section, an entity described in paragraph (1)
9 shall have a conservation loan plan.”;

10 (3) in subsection (d)—

11 (A) in paragraph (2), by striking “and” at
12 the end;

13 (B) in paragraph (3), by striking the pe-
14 riod and inserting a semicolon; and

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

16 “(4) projects that will do the most to address
17 priority resource concerns, as specified in a con-
18 servation loan plan; and

19 “(5) projects that are designed to help pro-
20 ducers comply with, or avoid the need for, local,
21 State, or Federal regulation.”; and

22 (4) by striking subsection (f) and inserting the
23 following:

24 “(f) ADMINISTRATIVE PROVISIONS.—

1 “(1) GEOGRAPHIC DISTRIBUTION.—The Sec-
2 retary shall ensure, to the maximum extent prac-
3 ticable, that qualified conservation loans made or
4 guaranteed under this section are distributed across
5 diverse geographic regions, while still prioritizing
6 qualified conservation projects with the greatest con-
7 servation or environmental benefit.

8 “(2) AGENCY COOPERATION.—The Secretary
9 shall ensure proper cooperation between the Natural
10 Resources Conservation Service, which shall review
11 and approve comprehensive loan plans and provide
12 technical assistance for qualified conservation
13 projects, and the Farm Service Agency, which will
14 approve and issue loans and loan guarantees under
15 this section.

16 “(3) INTEREST RATES.—The Secretary shall
17 ensure that a loan made under this section is made
18 at or below market rate.”.

19 **Subtitle C—Ensuring Greenhouse** 20 **Gas Reporting for Agriculture**

21 **SEC. 251. GREENHOUSE GAS REPORTING.**

22 (a) REPORTING PROGRAM.—

23 (1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than January 1,
24 2026, the Secretary, in consultation with the Admin-
25 istrator of the Environmental Protection Agency and

1 the Secretary of the Interior, shall establish and im-
2 plement a program to identify all major source cat-
3 egories of associated emissions and collect data on
4 associated emissions from the production of agricul-
5 tural commodities and their food products in the
6 United States, including—

7 (A) emissions of greenhouse gases from the
8 livestock industry, including from concentrated
9 animal feeding operations, as defined by the
10 Secretary; and

11 (B) emissions of greenhouse gases from
12 the production of commodity and specialty
13 crops, including the tilling of soil, and the use
14 of synthetic fertilizer.

15 (2) ANNUAL REPORT.—Not later than 12
16 months after the date that the Secretary implements
17 the program described in paragraph (1), and annu-
18 ally thereafter, the Secretary shall issue a report, to
19 be made available to the public and the appropriate
20 committees of Congress, on associated emissions, in-
21 cluding—

22 (A) identification of all major source cat-
23 egories of associated emissions;

24 (B) the total amount, expressed in tons of
25 carbon dioxide equivalent, of—

1 (i) carbon dioxide, methane, and other
2 greenhouse gases emitted through trans-
3 portation of agriculture products to market
4 within the United States during the pre-
5 ceding calendar year;

6 (ii) carbon dioxide, methane, and
7 other greenhouse gases emitted through
8 the rearing, raising, slaughter, and proc-
9 essing of poultry and livestock products in
10 the United States, including those carbon
11 dioxide, methane, and other greenhouse
12 gases emitted by manure management sys-
13 tems;

14 (iii) carbon dioxide, methane, and
15 other greenhouse gases emitted by the use
16 of fertilizer in the production of commodity
17 and specialty crops; and

18 (iv) carbon dioxide, methane, and
19 other greenhouse gases emitted by the till-
20 age of soil in the production of commodity
21 and specialty crops; and

22 (C) identification of all major agricultural
23 practices that can reduce the emission of car-
24 bon dioxide, methane, and other greenhouse
25 gases, including—

1 (i) the use of cover crops;

2 (ii) the reduction and elimination of
3 soil tillage, the successive planting of dif-
4 ferent crops on the same land, and other
5 soil management practices;

6 (iii) the use of rotational grazing on
7 pasture for livestock;

8 (iv) the use of anaerobic digesters to
9 process organic material;

10 (v) the use of buffer crops to reduce
11 soil erosion; and

12 (vi) other practices that can yield sig-
13 nificant reductions in the emission of car-
14 bon dioxide, methane, and other green-
15 house gases by producers of agricultural
16 commodities and their food products.

17 (b) DEFINITIONS.—For purposes of this section:

18 (1) GREENHOUSE GAS.—The term “greenhouse
19 gas” has the meaning given such term under section
20 211(o)(1)(G) of the Clean Air Act, as in effect on
21 the date of the enactment of the Food and Farm
22 Act.

23 (2) UNITED STATES.—The term “United
24 States” has the meaning given such term under sec-
25 tion 5911(a)(4) of title 5, United States Code, as in

1 effect on the date of the enactment of the Food and
2 Farm Act.

3 **SEC. 252. AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.**

4 There are authorized to be appropriated to carry out
5 this subtitle such sums as may be necessary for each of
6 fiscal years 2024 through 2028.

7 **Subtitle D—Administration and**
8 **Funding**

9 **SEC. 261. COMMODITY CREDIT CORPORATION.**

10 (a) IN GENERAL.—Section 1241(a) of the Food Se-
11 curity Act of 1985 (16 U.S.C. 3841(a)) is amended to
12 read as follows:

13 “(a) ANNUAL FUNDING.—For each of fiscal years
14 2024 through 2028, the Secretary shall use the funds, fa-
15 cilities, and authorities of the Commodity Credit Corpora-
16 tion to carry out the following programs under this title
17 (including the provision of technical assistance):

18 “(1) The conservation reserve program under
19 subchapter B of chapter 1 of subtitle D, including,
20 to the maximum extent practicable—

21 “(A) \$20,000,000 for the period of fiscal
22 years 2024 through 2028 to provide payments
23 under section 1234(c); and

24 “(B) \$66,000,000 for the period of fiscal
25 years 2024 through 2028 to carry out section

1 1235(f) to facilitate the transfer of land subject
2 to contracts from retired or retiring owners and
3 operators to beginning farmers or ranchers and
4 socially disadvantaged farmers or ranchers.

5 “(2) The agricultural conservation easement
6 program under subtitle H, using, to the maximum
7 extent practicable, \$810,000,000 for each of fiscal
8 years 2024 through 2028.

9 “(3) The conservation security program under
10 subchapter A of chapter 2 of subtitle D, using such
11 sums as are necessary to administer contracts en-
12 tered into before September 30, 2008.

13 “(4) The conservation stewardship program
14 under subchapter B of chapter 2 of subtitle D.

15 “(5) The environmental quality incentives pro-
16 gram under chapter 4 of subtitle D, using, to the
17 maximum extent practicable, \$3,200,000,000 for
18 each of fiscal years 20124 through 2028.

19 “(6) The conservation innovation grant pro-
20 gram under section 1240S, using, to the maximum
21 extent practicable, \$100,000,000 for each fiscal
22 year.

23 “(7) The conservation loan and loan guarantee
24 program under section 1246, using, to the maximum
25 extent practicable, for each fiscal year—

1 “(A) \$200,000,000 for direct loans; and

2 “(B) \$150,000,000 for loan guarantees.”.

3 (b) GUARANTEED AVAILABILITY OF FUNDS.—Sec-
4 tion 1241 of the Food Security Act of 1985 (16 U.S.C.
5 3841) is amended—

6 (1) by redesignating subsections (b) through (i)
7 as subsections (c) through (j), respectively; and

8 (2) by inserting after subsection (a) the fol-
9 lowing:

10 “(b) AVAILABILITY OF FUNDS.—

11 “(1) IN GENERAL.—Except as provided in para-
12 graph (2), amounts made available by subsection (a)
13 shall be used by the Secretary to carry out the pro-
14 grams specified in such subsection for fiscal years
15 2024 through 2028 and shall remain available until
16 expended. Amounts made available for the programs
17 specified in such subsection during a fiscal year
18 through modifications, cancellations, terminations,
19 and other related administrative actions and not ob-
20 ligated in that fiscal year shall remain available for
21 obligation during subsequent fiscal years, but shall
22 reduce the amount of additional funds made avail-
23 able in the subsequent fiscal year by an amount
24 equal to the amount remaining unobligated.

1 (A) in the section heading, by striking
2 “**AGRICULTURAL COMMODITIES**” and insert-
3 ing “**ASSISTANCE**”;

4 (B) in subsection (a), by striking “agricul-
5 tural commodities” and inserting “assistance,
6 including agricultural commodities,”;

7 (C) in subsection (b)(1)—

8 (i) by striking “agricultural commod-
9 ities” and inserting “assistance, including
10 agricultural commodities,”; and

11 (ii) by striking “the commodities” and
12 inserting “the assistance”;

13 (D) in subsection (c), by striking “Agricul-
14 tural commodities” and inserting “Assistance,
15 including agricultural commodities,”; and

16 (E) in subsection (f)—

17 (i) in the subsection heading, by strik-
18 ing “**COMMODITIES**” and inserting “**AS-**
19 **SISTANCE**”;

20 (ii) in the matter preceding paragraph
21 (1), by striking “agricultural commodities”
22 and inserting “assistance, including agri-
23 cultural commodities,”;

1 (iii) in the matter preceding para-
2 graph (1), by striking “such commodities”
3 and inserting “such assistance”; and

4 (iv) in paragraph (5), by striking
5 “commodities” and inserting “assistance”.

6 **SEC. 302. ELIMINATION OF CAP ON SUPPORT FOR ELIGI-**
7 **BLE ORGANIZATIONS FOR CERTAIN PUR-**
8 **POSES.**

9 Section 202(e)(1) of the Food for Peace Act (7
10 U.S.C. 1722) is amended by striking “not more than 20
11 percent”.

12 **SEC. 303. ELIMINATION OF MINIMUM LEVEL OF LOCAL**
13 **SALES REQUIREMENT UNDER THE FOOD FOR**
14 **PEACE ACT.**

15 Section 203 of the Food for Peace Act (7 U.S.C.
16 1723) is amended—

17 (1) in subsection (a), by inserting before the pe-
18 riod at the end the following: “to generate proceeds
19 to be used as provided in this section”;

20 (2) by striking subsection (b); and

21 (3) by redesignating subsections (c) and (d) as
22 subsections (b) and (c), respectively.

23 **SEC. 304. FOOD FOR PEACE ACT EXTENSIONS.**

24 (a) **FOOD AID QUALITY ASSURANCE.**—Section
25 202(h)(3) of the Food for Peace Act (7 U.S.C.

1 1722(h)(3)) is amended by striking “2018” and inserting
2 “2028”.

3 (b) MINIMUM LEVELS OF ASSISTANCE.—Section
4 204(a) of the Food for Peace Act (7 U.S.C. 1724(a)) is
5 amended in paragraphs (1) and (2) by striking “2018”
6 both places it appears and inserting “2028”.

7 (c) FOOD AID CONSULTATIVE GROUP TERMI-
8 NATION.—Section 205(f) of the Food for Peace Act (7
9 U.S.C. 1725(f)) is amended by striking “2018” and in-
10 serting “2028”.

11 (d) DEADLINE FOR ISSUANCE OF REGULATIONS.—
12 Section 207(c)(1) of the Food for Peace Act (7 U.S.C.
13 1726a(c)(1)) is amended by striking “the Agricultural Act
14 of 2014” and inserting “the Food and Farm Act”.

15 (e) PROGRAM OVERSIGHT, MONITORING, AND EVAL-
16 UATION.—Section 207(f)(4) of the Food for Peace Act (7
17 U.S.C. 1726a(f)(4)) is amended—

18 (1) in subparagraph (A), by striking “2018”
19 both places it appears and inserting “2028”; and

20 (2) in subparagraph (B)(i), by striking “2018”
21 and inserting “2028”.

22 (f) ASSISTANCE FOR STOCKPILING AND RAPID
23 TRANSPORTATION, DELIVERY, AND DISTRIBUTION OF
24 SHELF-STABLE PREPACKAGED FOODS.—Section 208(f)

1 of the Food for Peace Act (7 U.S.C. 1726b(f)) is amended
2 by striking “2018” and inserting “2028”.

3 (g) PREPOSITIONING OF AGRICULTURAL COMMOD-
4 ITIES.—Section 407(c)(4)(A) of the Food for Peace Act
5 (7 U.S.C. 1736a(c)(4)(A)) is amended by striking “2018”
6 the both places it appears and inserting “2028”.

7 (h) AGREEMENTS TO FINANCE SALES OR TO PRO-
8 VIDE OTHER ASSISTANCE.—Section 408 of the Food for
9 Peace Act (7 U.S.C. 1736b) is amended by striking
10 “2018” and inserting “2028”.

11 (i) MINIMUM LEVEL OF NONEMERGENCY FOOD AS-
12 SISTANCE.—Section 412(e)(1) of the Food for Peace Act
13 (7 U.S.C. 1736f(e)(1)) is amended by striking “2018” and
14 inserting “2028”.

15 (j) MICRONUTRIENT FORTIFICATION PROGRAMS.—
16 Section 415(c) of the Food for Peace Act (7 U.S.C.
17 1736g–2(c)) is amended by striking “2018” and inserting
18 “2028”.

19 (k) FARMER-TO-FARMER PROGRAM.—Section 501 of
20 the Food for Peace Act (7 U.S.C. 1737) is amended in
21 subsections (d) and (e)(1) by striking “2018” both places
22 it appears and inserting “2028”.

1 **TITLE IV—NUTRITION**
2 **Subtitle A—Increasing Access to**
3 **Healthy Foods**

4 **SEC. 401. EXPANDING HEALTHY FOOD FINANCING INITIA-**
5 **TIVE.**

6 (a) INCLUSION OF INVESTMENTS IN MID-TIER
7 VALUE CHAIN COORDINATION.—Section 243 of the De-
8 partment of Agriculture Reorganization Act of 1994 (7
9 U.S.C. 6953) is amended—

10 (1) in subsection (a)—

11 (A) by inserting “, to build and sustain
12 mid-tier value chain coordination” after “qual-
13 ity jobs”; and

14 (B) by inserting “and local and regional
15 food supply networks” after “healthy food re-
16 tailers”; and

17 (2) in subsection (c)(2)—

18 (A) in subparagraph (B)—

19 (i) by striking “and” at the end of
20 clause (i);

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

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

1 “(ii) to link farmers, ranchers, and
2 fisheries with local and regional food sup-
3 ply networks moving agricultural products
4 of mid-tier value chains to consumers in
5 underserved areas with moderate- and low-
6 income populations; and”;

7 (B) in subparagraph (C)(ii)—

8 (i) by redesignating subclause (VI) as
9 subclause (VII); and

10 (ii) by inserting after subclause (V)
11 the following new subclause:

12 “(VI) The project creates or
13 strengthens a mid-tier value chain.”.

14 (b) DEFINITIONS.—Section 243(b) of the Depart-
15 ment of Agriculture Reorganization Act of 1994 (7 U.S.C.
16 6953(b)) is amended—

17 (1) by redesignating paragraphs (3) through
18 (7) as paragraphs (4) through (8), respectively; and

19 (2) by inserting after paragraph (2) the fol-
20 lowing new paragraph:

21 “(3) MID-TIER VALUE CHAIN.—The term ‘mid-
22 tier value chain’ has the meaning given the term in
23 section 231 of the Agricultural Risk Protection Act
24 of 2000 (7 U.S.C. 1632a).”.

1 (c) AVAILABILITY OF MANDATORY FUNDING.—Sub-
2 section (d) of section 243 of the Department of Agri-
3 culture Reorganization Act of 1994 (7 U.S.C. 6953) is
4 amended to read as follows:

5 “(d) FUNDING.—Of the funds of the Commodity
6 Credit Corporation, the Secretary shall use to carry out
7 the Initiative \$25,000,000, to remain available until ex-
8 pended, for each of fiscal years 2024 through 2028.”.

9 **SEC. 402. HELPING SCHOOLS SERVE HEALTHIER MEALS.**

10 Section 6(f) of the Richard B. Russell National
11 School Lunch Act (42 U.S.C. 1755(f)) is amended—

12 (1) in the subsection heading, by striking
13 “PILOT PROJECT FOR PROCUREMENT OF UNPROC-
14 ESSED FRUITS AND VEGETABLES” and inserting
15 “PROGRAM FOR PROCUREMENT OF UNPROCESSED
16 FRUITS AND VEGETABLES”;

17 (2) by striking “pilot project” each place it ap-
18 pears and inserting “program”;

19 (3) by amending paragraph (1) to read as fol-
20 lows:

21 “(1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall facili-
22 tate the procurement of unprocessed fruits and vege-
23 tables in not fewer than 15 States receiving funds
24 under this Act.”; and

1 (4) by adding at the end the following new
2 paragraph:

3 “(6) FUNDING.—

4 “(A) MANDATORY FUNDING.—There is ap-
5 propriated to carry out this section, including
6 through the provision of technical assistance,
7 outreach, and other implementation assistance,
8 \$15,000,000 for each of fiscal years 2024
9 through 2028.

10 “(B) RESERVATION.—Of the funds appro-
11 priated under subparagraph (A) for a fiscal
12 year, \$6,000,000 shall be used to carry out
13 technical assistance to eligible vendors to be-
14 come certified to participate in the program
15 under this section.”.

16 **SEC. 403. STRENGTHENING THE FOOD AND AGRICULTURE**
17 **SERVICE LEARNING PROGRAM.**

18 Section 413 of the Agricultural Research, Extension,
19 and Education Reform Act of 1998 (7 U.S.C. 7633) is
20 amended—

21 (1) subsection (b)(4), by inserting “, to promote
22 agricultural education, and raise awareness about
23 the consequences of wasted food and encourage the
24 implementation of food recovery initiatives to reduce
25 the quantity of wasted food” before the semicolon;

1 (2) in subsection (c)—

2 (A) in paragraph (2)—

3 (i) in subparagraph (C), by striking
4 “and where food comes from; and” and in-
5 serting “where food comes from, the con-
6 sequences of food waste, and food recovery
7 initiatives;”;

8 (ii) in subparagraph (D), by striking
9 the period at the end and inserting “;
10 and”; and

11 (iii) by adding at the end the fol-
12 lowing new subparagraph:

13 “(E) have the capacity to execute regional
14 or national projects that include 2 or more
15 States.”; and

16 (B) by adding at the end the following new
17 paragraph:

18 “(3) RESERVATION.—The majority of the funds
19 made available to carry out this subsection shall be
20 reserved for projects that—

21 “(A) are larger in scale as compared to
22 other proposed projects;

23 “(B) are national or regional in scope; and

24 “(C) include 2 or more States.”; and

1 (3) in subsection (e)(1), by striking the para-
 2 graph and inserting in its place the following new
 3 paragraph:

4 “(1) MANDATORY FUNDING.—Of the funds
 5 available to the Commodity Credit Corporation, the
 6 Secretary shall use \$5,000,000 for each of fiscal
 7 years 2024 through 2028 to carry out the Initiative.
 8 Amounts made available under this subsection shall
 9 remain available until expended.”.

10 **SEC. 404. GUS SCHUMACHER NUTRITION INCENTIVE PRO-**
 11 **GRAM.**

12 Section 4405(b)(1)(B)(vii) of the Food, Conservation,
 13 and Energy Act of 2008 (7 U.S.C. 7517(b)(1)(B)(vii)) is
 14 amended by adding, after “farmers’ market”, the fol-
 15 lowing: “, community supported agriculture entity, cooper-
 16 ative, local public benefit corporation, nonprofit organiza-
 17 tion, retail food store authorized under the supplemental
 18 nutrition assistance program”.

19 **Subtitle B—Improving the Supple-**
 20 **mental Nutrition Assistance**
 21 **Program**

22 **SEC. 411. CONTINUING THE FARMERS’ MARKETS SUPPLE-**
 23 **MENTAL NUTRITION ASSISTANCE PROGRAM**
 24 **SUPPORT GRANT PROGRAM.**

25 (a) PURPOSES.—The purposes of this section are—

1 (1) to support the participation of farmers’
2 markets in the supplemental nutrition assistance
3 program by providing equipment and support grants
4 to new markets and those currently participating in
5 the program;

6 (2) to increase access to the supplemental nu-
7 trition assistance program and participation at farm-
8 ers’ markets by households that receive program
9 benefits; and

10 (3) to support the establishment, expansion,
11 and promotion of electronic benefits transfer services
12 at farmers’ markets for the acceptance of program
13 benefits.

14 (b) ESTABLISHMENT OF GRANT PROGRAM.—To
15 carry out the purposes of this section, the Secretary of
16 Agriculture shall establish a program to make grants each
17 fiscal year to eligible entities to conduct tasks that are
18 necessary for the supplemental nutrition assistance pro-
19 gram to operate at farmers’ markets, and to increase the
20 frequency and effectiveness of farmers’ market participa-
21 tion in the supplemental nutrition assistance program.

22 (c) DEFINITIONS.—For purposes of this section:

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

1 (A) a Native American tribal organization
2 nonprofit organization;

3 (B) a Native American tribal government;

4 (C) a State or unit of general purpose local
5 government of a State;

6 (D) a farmers' market association;

7 (E) a public benefit corporation;

8 (F) an economic development corporation;

9 (G) a regional farmers' market authority;

10 or

11 (H) a nonprofit organization engaged in
12 farmers' market management.

13 (2) SUPPLEMENTAL NUTRITION ASSISTANCE
14 PROGRAM.—The term “supplemental nutrition as-
15 sistance program” means the supplemental nutrition
16 assistance program as defined in section 3 of the
17 Food and Nutrition Act of 2008 (7 U.S.C. 2012).

18 (3) STATE.—The term “State” means any of
19 the several States or the District of Columbia.

20 (d) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There is
21 authorized to be appropriated \$5,000,000 for each of the
22 fiscal years 2024 through 2028.

1 **SEC. 412. EXPANDING AND INCREASING SUPPORT FOR THE**
2 **FOOD INSECURITY NUTRITION INCENTIVES**
3 **PROGRAM.**

4 Section 4405 of the Food, Conservation, and Energy
5 Act of 2008 (7 U.S.C. 7517) is amended—

6 (1) in subsection (f)(1), by striking
7 “\$5,000,000 for each of fiscal years 2014 through
8 2023” and inserting “\$20,000,000 for each of fiscal
9 years 2023 and each fiscal year thereafter”; and

10 (2) in subsection (f)(2), by amending subpara-
11 graph (G) to read as follows:

12 “(G) \$70,000,000 for fiscal year 2023 and
13 each fiscal year thereafter.”.

14 **SEC. 413. CLOSING THE MEAL GAP.**

15 (a) **CALCULATION OF PROGRAM BENEFITS.**—The
16 Food and Nutrition Act of 2008 (7 U.S.C. 2011 et seq.)
17 is amended—

18 (1) in section 3 (7 U.S.C. 2012)—

19 (A) by striking subsection (u);

20 (B) by redesignating subsections (n)
21 through (t) as subsections (o) through (u), re-
22 spectively; and

23 (C) by inserting after subsection (m) the
24 following:

25 “(n) ‘Low-cost food plan’ means the diet required to
26 feed a family of four persons, consisting of a man and

1 a woman nineteen through fifty, a child six through eight,
2 and a child nine through eleven years of age, determined
3 in accordance with the Secretary’s calculations. The cost
4 of such diet shall be the basis for uniform allotments for
5 all households regardless of their actual composition, ex-
6 cept that the Secretary shall—

7 “(1) make household-size adjustments (based
8 on the unrounded cost of such diet) taking into ac-
9 count economies of scale;

10 “(2) make cost adjustments in the low-cost food
11 plan for Hawaii and the urban and rural parts of
12 Alaska to reflect the cost of food in Hawaii and
13 urban and rural Alaska;

14 “(3) make cost adjustments in the separate
15 low-cost food plans for Guam, and the Virgin Is-
16 lands of the United States, to reflect the cost of food
17 in those States, but not to exceed the cost of food
18 in the 50 States and the District of Columbia; and

19 “(4) on October 1, 2024, and each October 1
20 thereafter, adjust the cost of the diet to reflect the
21 cost of the diet in the preceding June, and round the
22 result to the nearest lower dollar increment for each
23 household size.”;

24 (2) in section 8(a) (7 U.S.C. 2017(a))—

1 (A) by striking “thrifty food plan” each
2 place it appears, and inserting “low-cost food
3 plan”; and

4 (B) by striking “8 percent” and inserting
5 “10 percent”;

6 (3) in section 16(e)(1)(A)(ii) (7 U.S.C.
7 2025(e)(1)(A)(ii))—

8 (A) in subclause (I) by striking “for fiscal
9 year 2014, at an amount not greater than \$37”
10 and inserting “for fiscal year 2024, at an
11 amount not greater than \$50”; and

12 (B) in subclause (II)—

13 (i) by striking “June 30, 2013” and
14 inserting “June 30, 2024”; and

15 (ii) by striking “thrifty food plan”
16 and inserting “low-cost food plan”; and

17 (4) in section 19(a)(2)(A) (7 U.S.C.
18 2028(a)(2)(A))—

19 (A) in clause (i) by striking “and” at the
20 end;

21 (B) in clause (ii) by striking the period at
22 the end and inserting a semicolon; and

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

24 “(iii) for fiscal year 2024,
25 \$2,650,000,000; and

1 “(iv) subject to the availability of ap-
2 propriations under section 18(a), for fiscal
3 year 2024 and each fiscal year thereafter,
4 the amount determined under clause (iii),
5 as adjusted by the percentage by which the
6 low-cost food plan has been adjusted under
7 section 3(n)(4) between June 30, 2024,
8 and June 30 of the immediately preceding
9 fiscal year.”.

10 (b) STANDARD MEDICAL EXPENSE DEDUCTION.—
11 Section 5(e)(5) of the Food and Nutrition Act of 2008
12 (7 U.S.C. 2014(e)(5)) is amended—

13 (1) in subparagraph (A) by striking “an excess
14 medical” and all that follows through the period at
15 the end, and inserting “a standard medical deduc-
16 tion or to a medical expense deduction of actual
17 costs for the allowable medical expenses incurred by
18 the elderly or disabled member, exclusive of special
19 diets.”; and

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

21 “(D) The standard medical expense deduc-
22 tion shall be equal to \$140 for fiscal year 2024,
23 and for each subsequent fiscal year shall be
24 equal to the applicable amount for the pre-
25 ceding fiscal year as adjusted to reflect changes

1 for the 12-month period ending the preceding
2 June 30 in the Consumer Price Index for All
3 Urban Consumers: Medical Care published by
4 the Bureau of Labor Statistics of the Depart-
5 ment of Labor, except that for any such fiscal
6 year the State agency may establish a greater
7 standard medical expense deduction that satis-
8 fies cost neutrality standards established by the
9 Secretary for such fiscal year.”.

10 (c) ELIMINATION OF CAP OF EXCESS SHELTER EX-
11 PENSES.—Section 5(e)(6) of the Food and Nutrition Act
12 of 2008 (7 U.S.C. 2014(e)(6)) is amended—

13 (1) by striking subparagraph (B); and
14 (2) by redesignating subparagraphs (C) and
15 (D) as subparagraphs (B) and (C), respectively.

16 (d) WORK REQUIREMENT.—Section 6(o)(3) of the
17 Food and Nutrition Act of 2008 (7 U.S.C. 2015(o)(3))
18 is amended—

19 (1) in subparagraph (D) by striking “or” at the
20 end;

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

23 (3) by adding at end the following:

1 “(F) not offered a position in a program
2 described in subparagraph (B) or (C) of para-
3 graph (2).”.

4 (e) FUNDING OF EMPLOYMENT AND TRAINING PRO-
5 GRAMS.—Section 16(h)(1)(E)(ii)(II) of the Food and Nu-
6 trition Act of 2008 (7 U.S.C. 2025(h)(1)(E)(ii)(II)) is
7 amended by inserting “subparagraphs (A) through (E) of”
8 after “under”.

9 (f) CONFORMING AMENDMENTS.—

10 (1) FOOD AND NUTRITION ACT OF 2008.—The
11 Food and Nutrition Act of 2008 (7 U.S.C. 2011 et
12 seq.) is amended—

13 (A) in section 10 (7 U.S.C. 2019) by strik-
14 ing “3(p)” and inserting “3(q)”;

15 (B) in section 11 (7 U.S.C. 2012)—

16 (i) in subsection (a)(2) by striking
17 “3(t)(1)” and inserting “3(u)(1)”; and

18 (ii) in subsection (d)—

19 (I) by striking “3(t)(1)” each
20 place it appears and inserting
21 “3(u)(1)”; and

22 (II) by striking “3(t)(2)” each
23 place it appears and inserting
24 “3(u)(2)”;

1 (C) in section 19(a)(2)(A)(ii) (7 U.S.C.
2 (a)(2)(A)(ii)) by striking “3(u)(4)” and insert-
3 ing “3(n)(4)”; and

4 (D) in section 27(a)(2) (7 U.S.C.
5 2036(a)(2))—

6 (i) in subparagraph (C) by striking
7 “3(u)(4)” and inserting “3(n)(4)”; and

8 (ii) in subparagraph (E) by striking
9 “3(u)(4)” and inserting “3(n)(4)”.

10 (2) LOW-INCOME HOME ENERGY ASSISTANCE
11 ACT OF 1981.—Section 2605(f)(2)(A) of the Low-In-
12 come Home Energy Assistance Act of 1981 (42
13 U.S.C. 8624(f)(2)(A)) is amended—

14 (A) by striking “5(e)(6)(C)(iv)(I)” and in-
15 serting “5(e)(6)(B)(iv)(1)”; and

16 (B) by striking “(7 U.S.C.
17 2014(e)(6)(C)(iv)(I))” and inserting “(7 U.S.C.
18 2014(e)(6)(B)(iv)(I))”.

19 (g) TECHNICAL CORRECTIONS.—The Food and Nu-
20 trition Act of 2008 (7 U.S.C. 2011 et seq.) is amended—

21 (1) in section 5(a) (7 U.S.C. 2014(a)) by strik-
22 ing “3(n)(4)” each place it appears and inserting
23 “3(m)(4)”;

1 (2) in section 8(f)(1)(A)(i) (7 U.S.C.
2 2017(f)(1)(A)(i)) by striking “3(n)(5)” and inserting
3 “3(m)(5)”; and

4 (3) in section 17(b)(1)(B)(iv)(III)(aa) (7 U.S.C.
5 2016(b)(1)(B)(iv)(III)(aa)) by striking “3(n)” and
6 inserting “3(m)”.

7 **SEC. 414. FOOD AS MEDICINE.**

8 Section 4405 of the Food, Conservation, and Energy
9 Act of 2008 (7 U.S.C. 7517) is amended—

10 (1) by amending subsection (e)(3)(A) to read as
11 follows:

12 “(A) To carry out paragraph (1), the Sec-
13 retary shall, on a competitive basis, enter into
14 cooperative agreements with 1 or more organi-
15 zations with expertise in developing outcome-
16 based reporting, at least 1 of which has exper-
17 tise in the food insecurity nutrition incentive
18 program and at least 1 of which has expertise
19 in produce prescription projects, in each state
20 and territory.”; and

21 (2) by amending subsection (f)(2) to read as
22 follows:

23 “(2) Of the funds of the Commodity Credit
24 Corporation, the Secretary shall use to carry out this

1 section \$560,000,000 for fiscal year 2024 and each
2 fiscal year thereafter.”.

3 **TITLE V—FUTURE OF AMERICAN**
4 **FARMERS**

5 **Subtitle A—Defining Beginning**
6 **Farmer or Rancher**

7 **SEC. 501. BEGINNING FARMER OR RANCHER DEFINED.**

8 In this title, the term “beginning farmer or rancher”
9 means an individual or entity who—

10 (1) has not operated a farm or ranch, or who
11 has operated a farm or ranch for not more than 10
12 consecutive years; and

13 (2) will materially and substantially participate
14 in the operation of the farm or ranch.

15 **Subtitle B—Providing Resources**
16 **for Beginning, Retiring, and So-**
17 **cially Disadvantaged Farmers**
18 **and Ranchers**

19 **SEC. 511. REAUTHORIZATION AND INCREASED FUNDING**
20 **FOR OUTREACH AND ASSISTANCE FOR SO-**
21 **CIALLY DISADVANTAGED FARMERS AND**
22 **RANCHERS AND VETERAN FARMERS AND**
23 **RANCHERS.**

24 (a) **MANDATORY FUNDING.**—Subparagraph (A) of
25 section 2501(a)(4) of the Food, Agriculture, Conservation,

1 and Trade Act of 1990 (7 U.S.C. 2279(a)(4)) is amended
2 to read as follows:

3 “(A) MANDATORY FUNDING.—Of the
4 funds of the Commodity Credit Corporation, the
5 Secretary shall make available to carry out this
6 section—

7 “(i) \$10,000,000 for fiscal year 2024;

8 and

9 “(ii) \$50,000,000 for each of fiscal
10 years 2025 through 2028.”.

11 (b) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—Section
12 2501(a)(4)(E) of the Food, Agriculture, Conservation,
13 and Trade Act of 1990 (7 U.S.C. 2279(a)(4)(E)) is
14 amended by striking “2018” and inserting “2028”.

15 **SEC. 512. ENSURING PERMANENT FUNDING FOR BEGIN-**
16 **NING FARMER AND RANCHER DEVELOPMENT**
17 **PROGRAM.**

18 Section 7405(h)(1)(C) of the Farm Security and
19 Rural Investment Act of 2002 (7 U.S.C. 3319f(h)(1)(C))
20 is amended—

21 (1) by striking “\$20,000,000” and inserting
22 “\$50,000,000”; and

23 (2) by striking “through 2018” and inserting
24 “and each fiscal year thereafter”.

1 **SEC. 513. SUPPORTING BEGINNING FARMER PARTICIPA-**
2 **TION IN CERTAIN CONSERVATION PRO-**
3 **GRAMS.**

4 Section 1241(h)(1) of the Food Security Act of 1985
5 (16 U.S.C. 3841(h)(1)) is amended—

6 (1) in subparagraph (A), by striking “5 per-
7 cent” and inserting “20 percent”; and

8 (2) in subparagraph (B), by striking “5 per-
9 cent” and inserting “15 percent”.

10 **SEC. 514. CREATING A PRIORITY FOR PARTICIPATION OF**
11 **BEGINNING FARMERS AND RANCHERS IN**
12 **FARMERS’ MARKET AND LOCAL FOOD PRO-**
13 **MOTION PROGRAM.**

14 Subsection (e) of section 6 of the Farmer-to-Con-
15 sumer Direct Marketing Act of 1976 (7 U.S.C. 3005) is
16 amended to read as follows:

17 “(e) PRIORITIES.—In providing grants under the
18 Program, priority shall be given to applications that in-
19 clude—

20 “(1) projects that will benefit underserved com-
21 munities, including communities that are located in
22 areas of concentrated poverty with limited access to
23 fresh locally or regionally grown food; and

24 “(2) with respect to beginning farmers and
25 ranchers, socially disadvantaged farmers and ranch-

1 ers, and veteran farmers, projects in which such
2 farmers and ranchers are participants.”.

3 **SEC. 515. SUPPORTING BEGINNING FARMERS AND RANCH-**
4 **ERS THROUGH FARM SERVICE AGENCY LIAI-**
5 **SONS.**

6 Section 226 of the Department of Agriculture Reor-
7 ganization Act of 1994 (7 U.S.C. 6932) is amended by
8 adding at the end the following new subsection:

9 “(i) BEGINNING FARMERS AND RANCHERS LIAI-
10 SON.—

11 “(1) POSITION ESTABLISHED.—The Secretary
12 shall establish within each State office of the Con-
13 solidated Farm Service Agency the position of Be-
14 ginning Farmers and Ranchers Liaison to carry out
15 the duties described in paragraph (2).

16 “(2) DUTIES.—The Beginning Farmers and
17 Ranchers Liaison shall—

18 “(A) provide technical assistance to begin-
19 ning farmers and ranchers to direct such farm-
20 ers and ranchers toward appropriate Federal
21 resources and opportunities, including available
22 Federal grant programs; and

23 “(B) promote coordination among Federal
24 programs available to beginning farmers and
25 ranchers.”.

1 **SEC. 516. FACILITATING SUCCESSION PLANNING THROUGH**
2 **THE CREATION OF FARM SERVICE AGENCY**
3 **REGIONAL PLANNERS.**

4 Section 7405 of the Farm Security and Rural Invest-
5 ment Act of 2002 (7 U.S.C. 3319f) is amended—

6 (1) by redesignating subsection (h) as sub-
7 section (i); and

8 (2) by inserting after subsection (g) the fol-
9 lowing new subsection:

10 “(h) REGIONAL PLANNERS.—

11 “(1) ESTABLISHMENT.—The Secretary shall es-
12 tablish a regional planner for each of the 12 regions
13 identified by the National Agricultural Statistics
14 Service.

15 “(2) DUTIES.—The regional planners estab-
16 lished under paragraph (1) shall—

17 “(A) establish and maintain one accurate,
18 current, and unbiased database of resources to
19 help farmers undertaking succession planning;
20 and

21 “(B) coordinate with Federal, State, and
22 private stakeholders, including land-grant col-
23 leges and universities and extension service, to
24 understand farmer and rancher needs in each
25 state within the respective regions, and to work
26 with these stakeholders to provide farmers and

1 ranchers information regarding relevant succes-
2 sion planning resources and opportunities based
3 on those needs.”.

4 **SEC. 517. ENSURING A VIBRANT AGRICULTURAL SECTOR**
5 **THROUGH THE CREATION OF A LAND TEN-**
6 **URE COMMISSION.**

7 (a) ESTABLISHMENT.—Not later than 1 year after
8 the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of
9 Agriculture shall establish a commission to be known as
10 the Land Tenure Commission (in this section referred to
11 as the “Commission”).

12 (b) MEMBERSHIP.—

13 (1) TOTAL MEMBERSHIP.—The Commission
14 shall be comprised of 10 members who shall be ap-
15 pointed by the Secretary for a term of 3 years in ac-
16 cordance with paragraph (2).

17 (2) MEMBERS.—The Commission members
18 shall include one representative from each the fol-
19 lowing categories:

20 (A) The Farm Service Agency.

21 (B) The Natural Resources Conservation
22 Service.

23 (C) State programs focused on land ten-
24 ure.

1 (D) Private nonprofit organizations with
2 active land tenure programs.

3 (E) The Cooperative State Research, Edu-
4 cation, and Extension Service.

5 (F) Community colleges or other institu-
6 tions of higher education with demonstrated ex-
7 perience in land tenure issues.

8 (G) Other entities or persons providing
9 lending for, or technical assistance regarding,
10 land tenure.

11 (H) Beginning farmers and ranchers.

12 (I) Socially disadvantaged farmers and
13 ranchers.

14 (J) Veteran farmers and ranchers.

15 (K) Retiring or retired farmers and ranch-
16 ers.

17 (3) REAPPOINTMENT.—The Secretary of Agri-
18 culture may reappoint members of the Commission
19 to a subsequent 3-year term.

20 (4) COMPENSATION.—Members of the Commis-
21 sion may not receive any compensation.

22 (5) VACANCIES.—The Secretary of Agriculture
23 shall make appointments to fill vacancies on the
24 Commission as soon as practicable after the vacancy
25 has occurred.

1 (c) DUTIES.—The Commission shall—

2 (1) advise the Secretary of Agriculture on
3 issues involving access to land, farm business transi-
4 tion, and land tenure, including trends in ownership
5 and the status of farmland ownership;

6 (2) with respect to the Commission’s activities,
7 coordinate and consult with entities involved with
8 farmland ownership and operation;

9 (3) appoint technical advisors, comprised of
10 representatives from the National Agricultural Sta-
11 tistics Service of the Department of Agriculture,
12 not-for-profit organizations that assist farmers and
13 ranchers transitioning in and out of agricultural
14 business, and farm succession planners with exper-
15 tise in the field; and

16 (4) focus efforts of Federal agency staff and
17 programs toward ensuring the long-term sustain-
18 ability of the agriculture sector.

19 (d) REPORTS.—The Commission shall submit an an-
20 nual report to Congress that includes—

21 (1) a summary of the activities of the Commis-
22 sion; and

23 (2) recommendations with respect to access to
24 land, farm business transition, and land tenure, in-
25 cluding recommendations for Federal policy changes.

1 **Subtitle C—Creating Financial In-**
2 **centives to Benefit Beginning**
3 **Farmers and Ranchers**

4 **SEC. 521. REMOVING BARRIERS TO FARMING THROUGH AN**
5 **ELIGIBLE FARMER TAX CREDIT.**

6 (a) IN GENERAL.—Subpart B of part IV of sub-
7 chapter A of chapter 1 of the Internal Revenue Code of
8 1986 is amended by adding at the end the following new
9 section:

10 **“SEC. 30E. ELIGIBLE FARMER CREDITS.**

11 “(a) ELIGIBLE FARMER PROPERTY SALE CREDIT.—
12 In the case of a taxpayer who sells qualified farming prop-
13 erty to an eligible farmer during the taxable year, there
14 shall be allowed as a credit against the tax imposed by
15 this chapter for such taxable year an amount equal to 10
16 percent of the sales price of such property.

17 “(b) ELIGIBLE FARMER PROPERTY PURCHASE
18 CREDIT.—In the case of a taxpayer who is an eligible
19 farmer and purchases qualified farming property during
20 the taxable year, there shall be allowed as a credit against
21 the tax imposed by this chapter for the taxable year an
22 amount equal 10 percent of the purchase price of such
23 property.

24 “(c) DEFINITIONS.—

1 “(1) ELIGIBLE FARMER.—For purposes of this
2 section—

3 “(A) IN GENERAL.—The term ‘eligible
4 farmer’ means—

5 “(i) any socially disadvantaged farmer
6 or rancher, as defined in section
7 2501(e)(2) of the Food, Agriculture, Con-
8 servation, and Trade Act of 1990 (7
9 U.S.C. 2279(e)(2)),

10 “(ii) any veteran farmer or rancher
11 (as defined in section 2501(e)(7) of such
12 Act (7 U.S.C. 2279(e)(7))), or

13 “(iii) any beginning farmer or ranch-
14 er.

15 “(B) BEGINNING FARMER OR RANCHER.—

16 “(i) IN GENERAL.—The term ‘begin-
17 ning farmer or rancher’ means an indi-
18 vidual or entity who—

19 “(I) has not operated a farm or
20 ranch, or who has operated a farm or
21 ranch for not more than 10 consecu-
22 tive years, and

23 “(II) will materially and substan-
24 tially participate in the operation of
25 the farm or ranch.

1 “(ii) MATERIAL AND SUBSTANTIAL
2 PARTICIPATION.—For purposes of clause
3 (i), the term ‘material and substantial par-
4 ticipation’ means—

5 “(I) in the case of an individual,
6 that the individual provides substan-
7 tial day-to-day labor and management
8 of the farm or ranch, consistent with
9 the practices in the county or State
10 where the farm is located, and

11 “(II) in the case of an entity,
12 that all shareholders, holders of a cap-
13 ital or profits interest in the case of a
14 partnership, or holders of a beneficial
15 interest in the case of a trust or coop-
16 erative provide some amount of the
17 management or labor necessary for
18 day-to-day activities such that if each
19 of the members did not provide these
20 inputs, operation of the farm or ranch
21 would be seriously impaired.

22 “(iii) PREDECESSOR.—Any prede-
23 cessor of any entity shall be treated as
24 such entity for purposes of clause (i)(I).

1 “(iv) AGGREGATION RULES.—All per-
2 sons which are treated as a single em-
3 ployer under subsections (a) and (b) of
4 section 52 shall be treated as a single em-
5 ployer for purposes of this subparagraph.

6 “(2) QUALIFIED FARMING PROPERTY.—

7 “(A) IN GENERAL.—The term ‘qualified
8 farming property’ means any property—

9 “(i) which is used in the trade or
10 business of farming or ranching in the
11 United States, and

12 “(ii) which is—

13 “(I) property of a character sub-
14 ject to an allowance for depreciation,
15 or

16 “(II) land used for the produc-
17 tion of crops, fruits, or other agricul-
18 tural products or for the sustenance
19 of livestock.

20 In the case of any tree, vine, or livestock
21 which is not subject to an allowance for de-
22 preciation solely by reason of not having
23 reached the income-producing stage or age
24 of maturity, as the case may be, such tree,
25 vine, or livestock shall be treated as prop-

1 erty of a character subject to an allowance
2 for depreciation for purposes of this sec-
3 tion.

4 “(B) LAND USE MUST BE RESTRICTED AG-
5 RICULTURAL USE.—Such term shall not include
6 any land which is not subject to a State agricul-
7 tural land preservation program, permanent ag-
8 ricultural conservation easement, is not valued
9 as agricultural land using special use valuation
10 requirements, or is not under another long-term
11 or permanent protection.

12 “(d) SPECIAL RULES.—

13 “(1) REPORTING REQUIREMENTS.—No credit
14 shall be allowed to a taxpayer under this section un-
15 less, at such time and in such form and manner as
16 the Secretary shall prescribe—

17 “(A) there is submitted to the Secretary a
18 description of the qualified farming property
19 with respect to which the credit under this sec-
20 tion is determined,

21 “(B) the eligible farmer submits to the
22 Secretary an attestation of intent to treat such
23 property as qualified farming property during
24 the 8-year period beginning on the date of the

1 sale or purchase to which this section applies,
2 and

3 “(C) the taxpayer who sells such property
4 in the case of any credit determined under sub-
5 section (a), and the eligible farmer who pur-
6 chases such property in the case of any credit
7 determined under subsection (b), submits to the
8 Secretary an agreement consenting to the appli-
9 cation of paragraph (2).

10 “(2) RECAPTURE.—

11 “(A) IN GENERAL.—If any property with
12 respect to which a credit is allowed under this
13 section ceases to be qualified farming property
14 during the 8-year period beginning on the date
15 of the sale or purchase to which this section ap-
16 plies, the tax imposed by this chapter for the
17 taxable year during which such property so
18 ceases shall be increased by the applicable per-
19 centage of the amount of credit allowed under
20 this section with respect to such property.

21 “(B) APPLICABLE PERCENTAGE.—For
22 purposes of this paragraph, in the case of prop-
23 erty which ceases to be qualified farming prop-
24 erty during the 8-year period, the applicable

1 percentage shall be determined under the fol-
 2 lowing table:

“For property which so ceases during:	The applicable percentage is:
The first or second year	100 percent
The third or fourth year	75 percent
The fifth or sixth year	50 percent
The seventh or eighth year	25 percent.

3 “(C) PROPERTY BEYOND ACTUAL USEFUL
 4 LIFE.—For purposes of this paragraph, prop-
 5 erty which, during such 8-year period, is no
 6 longer capable of being used in the trade or
 7 business of farming shall be treated as ceasing
 8 to be qualified farming property.

9 “(3) RELATED PARTY RULES.—

10 “(A) IN GENERAL.—A sale or purchase
 11 shall only be taken into account under this sec-
 12 tion if the property is not acquired from a per-
 13 son related to the person acquiring such prop-
 14 erty (or, if married, such individual’s spouse).

15 “(B) RELATED PERSONS.—A person shall
 16 be treated as related to another person if the
 17 relationship between such persons would result
 18 in the disallowance of losses under section 267
 19 or 707(b).

20 “(4) APPLICATION WITH OTHER CREDITS.—

21 “(A) BUSINESS CREDIT TREATED AS PART
 22 OF GENERAL BUSINESS CREDIT.—So much of

1 the credit which would be allowed under this
2 section for any taxable year (determined with-
3 out regard to this paragraph) that is attrib-
4 utable to property that is land used in a trade
5 or business of the taxpayer, or that in the
6 hands of the taxpayer is of a character subject
7 to an allowance for depreciation, shall be treat-
8 ed as a credit listed in section 38(b) for such
9 taxable year (and not allowed under this sec-
10 tion).

11 “(B) PERSONAL CREDIT.—The credit al-
12 lowed under subsection (a) (after the applica-
13 tion of paragraph (1)) for any taxable year
14 shall be treated as a credit allowable under sub-
15 part A for such taxable year.

16 “(5) REDUCTION IN BASIS.—For purposes of
17 this subtitle, the basis of any property for which a
18 credit is allowable under this section shall be re-
19 duced by the amount of such credit so allowed.”.

20 (b) CONFORMING AMENDMENT.—Section 38(b) of
21 such Code is amended by striking “plus” at the end of
22 paragraph (35), by striking the period at the end of para-
23 graph (36) and inserting “, plus”, and by adding at the
24 end the following new paragraph:

1 “(37) the portion of the eligible farmer credit to
2 which section 30E(d)(3)(A) applies.”.

3 (c) CLERICAL AMENDMENT.—The table of sections
4 for subpart B of part IV of subchapter A of chapter 1
5 of such Code is amended by adding at the end the fol-
6 lowing new item:

“Sec. 30E. Eligible farmer credits.”.

7 (d) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendments made by
8 this section shall apply to taxable years beginning after
9 December 31, 2024.

10 **SEC. 522. ENSURING FARM SERVICE FACILITY LOANS CAN**
11 **SERVE AGRICULTURAL COOPERATIVES.**

12 Section 1614(a) of the Food, Conservation, and En-
13 ergy Act of 2008 (7 U.S.C. 8789(a)) is amended by insert-
14 ing “(including agricultural cooperatives)” after “for pro-
15 ducers”.

16 **SEC. 523. LOANS TO COOPERATIVES.**

17 Section 316(a) of the Consolidated Farm and Rural
18 Development Act (7 U.S.C. 1946(a)) is amended by add-
19 ing at the end the following:

20 “(3) LOANS TO COOPERATIVES.—Notwith-
21 standing subtitle A or this subtitle, the liability for
22 a farm ownership loan or farm operating loan under
23 such subtitles to a cooperative of family farm farm-
24 ers shall be required to attach to the individual

1 members of the cooperative, as determined by the
2 Secretary.”.

3 **TITLE VI—FOOD WASTE**

4 **SEC. 601. SENSE OF CONGRESS REGARDING REDUCING** 5 **FOOD WASTE.**

6 (a) FINDINGS.—Congress makes the following find-
7 ings:

8 (1) Up to 40 percent of food in the United
9 States is wasted, the equivalent of 1,250 calories per
10 person, per day, and more than 400 pounds of food
11 per person, per year.

12 (2) Growing, processing, transporting, and dis-
13 posing of uneaten food is a significant burden on the
14 United States economy, costing approximately
15 \$218,000,000,000 annually.

16 (3) Considerable resources in the United States
17 are invested in the production of food that is eventu-
18 ally wasted, including an estimated 18 percent of
19 fertilizer used in agricultural production, 19 percent
20 of crop land, and 21 percent of agricultural water
21 usage.

22 (4) Growing, processing, transporting, and dis-
23 posing of food that is eventually wasted contributes
24 to greenhouse gas emissions.

1 (5) Disposing of uneaten food costs the average
2 household of four in the United States an estimated
3 \$1,800 annually.

4 (b) SENSE OF CONGRESS.—In light of the findings
5 made in subsection (a), it is the sense of Congress that
6 the Federal Government should invest in programs, meth-
7 odologies, and actions to reduce food waste across the
8 United States at the Federal, State, and local levels, in-
9 cluding by—

10 (1) providing targeted funding for food waste
11 solutions;

12 (2) improving and standardizing the measure-
13 ment and reporting of food waste data;

14 (3) standardizing food date labels;

15 (4) removing barriers to food donation;

16 (5) supporting and encouraging local and re-
17 gional efforts to reduce food waste; and

18 (6) engaging and educating the American public
19 on how to reduce food waste.

20 **SEC. 602. ESTABLISHMENT OF OFFICE OF FOOD WASTE.**

21 Subtitle D of the Department of Agriculture Reorga-
22 nization Act of 1994 (7 U.S.C. 6951 et seq.) is amended
23 by adding at the end the following new section:

1 **“SEC. 244. OFFICE OF FOOD WASTE.**

2 “(a) ESTABLISHMENT.—The Secretary shall estab-
3 lish within the executive operations of the Department an
4 office to be known as the ‘Office of Food Waste’.

5 “(b) RESPONSIBILITIES.—The Office of Food Waste
6 shall be responsible—

7 “(1) for coordinating Federal programs to
8 measure and reduce the incidence of food waste in
9 the United States by serving as the central office
10 within the Department for food waste reduction ef-
11 forts, including food waste prevention, food dona-
12 tion, recovery of surplus food for commercial pur-
13 poses, and food scrap recycling;

14 “(2) for providing information about and rais-
15 ing awareness of food waste issues across sectors of
16 the United States economy and across Federal agen-
17 cies; and

18 “(3) for serving as the primary point of contact
19 for food waste reduction and food recovery issues
20 within the Department and across Federal agencies.

21 “(c) FUNDING.—Of the funds of the Commodity
22 Credit Corporation, the Secretary shall use to carry out
23 this section \$100,000,000 for the period of fiscal years
24 2024 through 2028.”.

1 **SEC. 603. ESTABLISHMENT OF FOOD LOSS AND WASTE RE-**
2 **DUCTION TASK FORCE.**

3 Subtitle D of the Department of Agriculture Reorga-
4 nization Act of 1994 (7 U.S.C. 6951 et seq.) is further
5 amended by inserting after section 244, as added by sec-
6 tion 602, the following new section:

7 **“SEC. 245. FOOD LOSS AND WASTE REDUCTION TASK**
8 **FORCE.**

9 “(a) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 18 months after
10 the date of the enactment of this section, the Secretary
11 of Agriculture, in consultation with the Administrator of
12 the Environmental Protection Agency, shall establish, in
13 the office of the Under Secretary for Food, Nutrition, and
14 Consumer Services, a task force—

15 “(1) to advise and support the Secretary and
16 the Administrator in meeting the national food
17 waste reduction goal of 50 percent by 2030, as spec-
18 ified in the announcement made on September 16,
19 2015, by the Secretary and the Administrator;

20 “(2) to provide strategic direction for efforts to
21 meet the national food waste reduction goal;

22 “(3) to monitor progress toward meeting the
23 national food waste reduction goal;

24 “(4) to support effective public reporting in the
25 United States regarding progress toward meeting

1 the national food waste reduction goal and any rel-
2 evant benchmarks in meeting such goal;

3 “(5) to raise public awareness and visibility of
4 the national food waste reduction goal in the United
5 States; and

6 “(6) to recommend improvements to Federal ef-
7 forts to meet the national food waste reduction goal.

8 “(b) COMPOSITION.—The task force shall be com-
9 posed of 15 members, appointed jointly by the Secretary
10 and the Administrator. The task force shall include a rep-
11 resentative from each of the following industries and inter-
12 est groups:

13 “(1) The agriculture industry.

14 “(2) The food processing and manufacturing in-
15 dustry.

16 “(3) The food distribution industry.

17 “(4) The retail and grocery industry.

18 “(5) The restaurant industry.

19 “(6) The institutional food service industry.

20 “(7) Government, private, and nonprofit enti-
21 ties focused on nutrition.

22 “(8) Government, private, and nonprofit enti-
23 ties focused on consumer education.

24 “(9) Government, private, and nonprofit enti-
25 ties focused on food waste entrepreneurship.

1 “(10) Nonprofit entities focused on food waste
2 prevention.

3 “(11) Government, private, and nonprofit enti-
4 ties focused on food donation.

5 “(12) Government, private, and nonprofit enti-
6 ties focused on food scrap recycling.

7 “(13) Educational institutions focused on food
8 systems and food waste.

9 “(14) A State or local government with a food
10 waste reduction program.

11 “(15) A scientist who specializes in the science
12 of food scrap recycling and other relevant scientific
13 processes.

14 “(c) TERMS.—A member of the task force shall serve
15 on the task force for a single term of 3 years. A member
16 may not be reappointed. Any vacancy shall be filled within
17 60 days in the same manner as the original appoint-
18 ment.”.

19 **SEC. 604. STANDARDIZING, AGGREGATING, AND PUB-**
20 **LISHING FOOD WASTE DATA.**

21 (a) METHODOLOGY FOR MEASURING FOOD
22 WASTE.—Not later than 18 months after the date of the
23 enactment of this Act, the Secretary of Agriculture shall
24 establish, through a rule made in accordance with section
25 553 of title 5, United States Code, a standardized method-

1 ology for consistently measuring food waste in the United
2 States economy, such as—

3 (1) on-farm losses during agricultural produc-
4 tion and harvesting;

5 (2) losses during processing and distribution;

6 (3) kitchen waste and post-consumer waste
7 from the restaurant and hospitality industries;

8 (4) food waste occurring in schools and other
9 institutions; and

10 (5) food waste occurring in other industries.

11 (b) **METHODOLOGY FOR AGGREGATING AND DIS-**
12 **SEMINATING DATA.**—The methodology established under
13 subsection (a) shall include aggregating and disseminating
14 any data or information collected with respect to food
15 waste. The methodology shall incorporate tools for describ-
16 ing why food waste occurs and the type of food wasted
17 and take into account existing protocols and tools that
18 may serve as resources.

19 (c) **PUBLIC AVAILABILITY OF DATA.**—Information
20 collected with respect to food waste shall be made available
21 through a publicly accessible internet website of the De-
22 partment of Agriculture, which may be disaggregated by
23 private sector and State or local government data.

1 (d) CONSULTATION.—The Secretary of Agriculture
2 shall carry out this section in consultation with the Admin-
3 istrator of the Environmental Protection Agency.

4 **TITLE VII—RESEARCH, EXTEN-**
5 **SION, AND RELATED MAT-**
6 **TERS**

7 **Subtitle A—Investing in**
8 **Sustainable Agriculture**

9 **SEC. 701. SUSTAINABLE AGRICULTURE RESEARCH, EXTEN-**
10 **SION, AND EDUCATION PROGRAMS.**

11 (a) FEDERAL-STATE GRANT PROGRAM.—Section
12 1623 of the Food, Agriculture, Conservation, and Trade
13 Act of 1990 (7 U.S.C. 5813) is amended—

14 (1) in the section heading, by striking
15 “**MATCHING**”;

16 (2) in subsection (a)—

17 (A) by striking “matching”; and

18 (B) by inserting “and centers” after “edu-
19 cation programs”;

20 (3) in subsection (c)(2), by striking “, and shall
21 identify the sources of matching State funds for the
22 same fiscal year”; and

23 (4) by amending subsection (d) to read as fol-
24 lows:

1 “(d) DURATION.—The Secretary shall provide grants
2 to eligible States for a period not to exceed 5 years.”.

3 (b) MANDATORY FUNDING.—Section 1624 of the
4 Food, Agriculture, Conservation, and Trade Act of 1990
5 (7 U.S.C. 5814) is amended to read as follows:

6 **“SEC. 1624. MANDATORY FUNDING.**

7 “Of the funds of the Commodity Credit Corporation,
8 the Secretary shall make available to carry out this chap-
9 ter \$75,000,000 for each of fiscal years 2024 through
10 2028.”.

11 **SEC. 702. NATIONAL TRAINING PROGRAM.**

12 Section 1629(i) of the Food, Agriculture, Conserva-
13 tion, and Trade Act of 1990 (7 U.S.C. 5832(i)) is amend-
14 ed to read as follows:

15 “(i) MANDATORY FUNDING.—Of the funds of the
16 Commodity Credit Corporation, the Secretary shall make
17 available to carry out this section \$25,000,000 for each
18 of fiscal years 2024 through 2028.”.

19 **Subtitle B—Supporting Research**
20 **to Help Farmers Adapt to a Dis-**
21 **rupted Climate**

22 **SEC. 711. COMPETITIVE, SPECIAL, AND FACILITIES**
23 **GRANTS.**

24 Section 2 of the Competitive, Special, and Facilities
25 Research Grant Act (7 U.S.C. 3157) is amended—

1 (1) in subsection (b)—

2 (A) in paragraph (2), by adding at the end
3 the following new subparagraph:

4 “(G) PLANT AND ANIMAL BREEDING.—

5 “(i) IN GENERAL.—Classical animal
6 and plant breeding—

7 “(I) intended to deliver public
8 plant cultivars and animal breeds;

9 “(II) to achieve germplasm con-
10 servation; and

11 “(III) to improve public access
12 and use of such cultivars and breeds.

13 “(ii) PRIORITY.—With respect to the
14 breeding described in clause (i), the Sec-
15 retary shall give priority to—

16 “(I) regionally adapted cultivars
17 and breeds; and

18 “(II) breeds that perform well in
19 organic and sustainable production
20 systems.”;

21 (B) in paragraph (7), by inserting “, in-
22 cluding nonprofit organizations, private labora-
23 tories, Federal research entities, and other re-
24 search entities not affiliated with a university”
25 after “organizations”;

- 1 (C) by striking paragraph (9); and
- 2 (D) in paragraph (11)(A)—
- 3 (i) by striking “\$700,000,000” and
- 4 inserting “\$900,000,000”; and
- 5 (ii) by striking “2018” and inserting
- 6 “2028”; and
- 7 (2) in subsection (k)—
- 8 (A) in the heading, by inserting “AND CLI-
- 9 MATE CHANGE MITIGATION AND ADAPTATION”
- 10 after “AGRICULTURE”; and
- 11 (B) by inserting “and climate change miti-
- 12 gation and adaptation” after “systems of sus-
- 13 tainable agriculture”.

14 **SEC. 712. SPECIALTY CROP RESEARCH INITIATIVE.**

15 (a) ELEMENTS OF INITIATIVE.—Section 412(b) of

16 the Agricultural Research, Extension, and Education Re-

17 form Act of 1998 (7 U.S.C. 7632(b)) is amended—

- 18 (1) in paragraph (1)—
- 19 (A) by inserting “and improve the resil-
- 20 iency of such crops towards global climate
- 21 change” after “crop characteristics”; and
- 22 (B) in subparagraph (B), by inserting “,
- 23 with priority given to responses and tolerances
- 24 to global climate change” after “tolerances”;
- 25 and

1 (2) in paragraph (2), by inserting “and threats
2 due to global climate change” after “pollinators”.

3 (b) MANDATORY FUNDING.—Section 412(k)(1)(B) of
4 the Agricultural Research, Extension, and Education Re-
5 form Act of 1998 (7 U.S.C. 7632(k)(1)(B)) is amended
6 by striking “\$80,000,000 for fiscal year 2014 and each
7 fiscal year thereafter” and inserting “\$100,000,000 for
8 fiscal year 2024 and each fiscal year thereafter”.

9 **TITLE VIII—ANIMAL WELFARE**

10 **Subtitle A—Ensuring Animal**

11 **Welfare in Farming**

12 **SEC. 801. DEFINITIONS FOR HUMANELY RAISED LIVE-** 13 **STOCK AND POULTRY CERTIFICATION PRO-** 14 **GRAMS.**

15 In this subtitle:

16 (1) INDEPENDENT ANIMAL WELFARE CERTIFI-
17 CATION PROGRAM.—The term “independent animal
18 welfare certification program” means an entity ap-
19 proved by the Secretary of Agriculture that uses
20 qualified third-party on-farm auditors to routinely
21 assess a producer’s 100 percent compliance with
22 specific animal welfare standards exceeding industry
23 standards (based on industry guidelines), subject to
24 the following conditions:

1 (A) The standards' protocols are made
2 public.

3 (B) The standards include, at a minimum,
4 provisions for space allowance, environmental
5 enrichment and ability to engage in natural be-
6 haviors, pain control and physical alternations,
7 handling, and responsible antibiotic use.

8 (C) Routine caging, crating or tethering of
9 animals is prohibited.

10 (D) Auditors have no vested or financial
11 interest in audit outcomes.

12 (E) Auditors possess a background in ani-
13 mal welfare science or have received equivalent
14 training, and are able to recognize, review, and
15 apply established farm animal welfare stand-
16 ards and protocols.

17 (2) ELIGIBLE COSTS.—The term “eligible
18 costs” means costs associated with application fees,
19 inspections, labeling, shipment and marketing.

20 **SEC. 802. INCREASING MARKET ACCESS FOR HUMANELY**
21 **RAISED LIVESTOCK AND POULTRY CERTIFI-**
22 **CATION PROGRAMS.**

23 (a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary of Agriculture, act-
24 ing through the Agricultural Marketing Service, shall es-
25 tablish a cost-share program to assist producers and han-

1 dlers of livestock and poultry products in obtaining and
2 maintaining animal welfare certifications through an inde-
3 pendent animal welfare certification program.

4 (b) FEDERAL SHARE.—The Secretary may cover not
5 more than 75 percent of the eligible costs, but not to ex-
6 ceed \$750, incurred by a producer or handler in obtaining
7 and maintaining an animal welfare certification through
8 an independent animal welfare certification program.

9 (c) REPORTING REQUIREMENTS.—Not later than
10 March 1 of each year, the Secretary shall submit to the
11 Committee on Agriculture of the House of Representatives
12 and the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and For-
13 estry of the Senate a report that describes the requests
14 by, disbursements to, and expenditures for each State
15 under the program during the current and previous fiscal
16 year, including the number of producers and handlers
17 served by the program in the previous fiscal year.

18 (d) FUNDING.—

19 (1) MANDATORY FUNDING.—Of the funds of
20 the Commodity Credit Corporation, the Secretary
21 shall make available to carry out this section
22 \$1,250,000 for each of fiscal years 2024 through
23 2028, to remain available until expended.

24 (2) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—

25 There is authorized to be appropriated \$22,000,000

1 for fiscal years 2024 through 2028 to carry out this
2 section.

3 **SEC. 803. ANIMAL WELFARE TAX INCENTIVES.**

4 (a) IN GENERAL.—Subpart D of part IV of sub-
5 chapter A of chapter 1 of the Internal Revenue Code of
6 1986 is amended by adding at the end the following new
7 section:

8 **“SEC. 45U. INDEPENDENT ANIMAL WELFARE CERTIFI-
9 CATION CREDIT.**

10 “(a) GENERAL RULE.—For purposes of section 38,
11 in the case of an eligible taxpayer, the independent animal
12 welfare certification credit determined under this section
13 for any taxable year is an amount equal to 25 percent
14 of the qualified independent animal welfare certification
15 expenditures paid or incurred by the taxpayer during the
16 taxable year, and not exceeding \$150,000.

17 “(b) QUALIFIED INDEPENDENT ANIMAL WELFARE
18 CERTIFICATION EXPENDITURES.—For purposes of this
19 section—

20 “(1) IN GENERAL.—The term ‘qualified inde-
21 pendent animal welfare certification expenditures’
22 means amounts paid or incurred for the purpose of
23 complying with the animal welfare standards and
24 protocols of an independent animal welfare certifi-
25 cation, including—

1 “(A) any amounts so paid or incurred for
2 infrastructure improvements for the purpose of
3 complying with such standards and protocols
4 related to providing animals with access to the
5 outdoors, pastures, or enriching indoor environ-
6 ments, including—

7 “(i) fencing to enable pasture access,

8 “(ii) mobile or permanent housing or
9 shelter on pasture,

10 “(iii) water lines and irrigation struc-
11 tures for watering animals,

12 “(iv) infrastructure to enable free
13 movement of animals indoors,

14 “(v) enrichment materials to encour-
15 age animals to carry out natural behaviors
16 like rooting, pecking, and perching, and

17 “(vi) infrastructure to improve ven-
18 tilation and provide natural light, and

19 “(B) certification, including—

20 “(i) the cost of initial certification,
21 and

22 “(ii) the cost of certification auditing
23 during the recapture period.

24 “(2) EXPENDITURES MUST BE DIRECTLY RE-
25 LATED TO CERTIFICATION.—The term ‘qualified

1 independent animal welfare certification expendi-
2 tures' shall only include amounts directly related to
3 complying with animal welfare standards and proto-
4 cols of an independent animal welfare certification.

5 “(c) DEFINITIONS.—For purposes of this section—

6 “(1) ELIGIBLE TAXPAYER.—The term ‘eligible
7 taxpayer’ means any taxpayer which carries on a
8 trade or business of farming livestock or poultry who
9 has an adjusted gross income of less than \$900,000.

10 “(2) INDEPENDENT ANIMAL WELFARE CERTIFI-
11 CATION.—The term ‘independent animal welfare cer-
12 tification’ means a certification issued pursuant to a
13 value-added certification program which has been
14 approved by the Secretary of Agriculture as meeting
15 each of the following requirements:

16 “(A) Such program uses qualified, inde-
17 pendent, on-farm auditors to assess, at least
18 once in a 15 month period, a producer’s compli-
19 ance with specific farm animal welfare stand-
20 ards.

21 “(B) Such program uses a certification
22 protocol and standards that are publicly avail-
23 able.

24 “(C) The standards used in such program
25 exceed conventional industry standards, based

1 on industry guidelines published by animal
2 trade associations, prohibit routine caging, crat-
3 ing, and tethering of animals, and include, at a
4 minimum, provisions for daily free access to an
5 outdoor vegetated range area for a majority of
6 animals' lives, indoor and outdoor space allow-
7 ance, environmental enrichment, ability to en-
8 gage in natural behaviors, pain control and
9 physical alterations, animal handling and trans-
10 port, and responsible antibiotic use.

11 “(D) The auditors used in such program
12 have no vested or financial interest in audit
13 outcomes and possess a background in animal
14 welfare science, or have received equivalent
15 training, and are able to recognize and apply
16 established farm animal welfare standards and
17 protocols.

18 “(E) Such program requires producers to
19 comply with 100 percent of standards to receive
20 certification.

21 “(d) RECAPTURE.—

22 “(1) IN GENERAL.—In the case of any taxpayer
23 with respect to which a credit of \$75,000 or more
24 is determined under this section for any taxable year
25 and which ceases to be in compliance with an inde-

1 pendent animal welfare certification at any time dur-
2 ing the recapture period, the taxpayer may be sub-
3 ject to recapture of some or all of the credit, at the
4 discretion of the Internal Revenue Service.

5 “(2) RECAPTURE PERIOD.—For purposes of
6 this section, the term ‘recapture period’ means the
7 5-taxable-year period beginning with the taxable
8 year two years after the taxable year for which a
9 credit of \$75,000 or more is determined under this
10 section.”.

11 (b) CREDIT TO BE PART OF GENERAL BUSINESS

12 CREDIT.—Section 38(b) of such Code is amended—

13 (1) by striking “plus” at the end of paragraph

14 (32);

15 (2) by striking the period at the end of para-

16 graph (33) and inserting “, plus”; and

17 (3) by adding at the end the following new

18 paragraph:

19 “(34) in the case of an eligible taxpayer (as de-
20 fined in section 45U(c)(1), the independent animal
21 welfare certification credit determined under section
22 45U.”.

23 (c) CLERICAL AMENDMENT.—The table of sections
24 for subpart D of part IV of subchapter A of chapter 1

1 of such Code is amended by adding at the end the fol-
2 lowing new item:

“Sec. 45U. Independent animal welfare certification credit.”.”.

3 (d) **EFFECTIVE DATE.**—The amendments made by
4 this section shall apply to amounts paid or incurred during
5 taxable years beginning after December 31, 2023.

6 **Subtitle B—Reforming Animal Wel-**
7 **fare in Agricultural Research**
8 **Endeavors**

9 **SEC. 811. ANIMAL WELFARE.**

10 Section 14 of the Animal Welfare Act (7 U.S.C.
11 2144) is amended—

12 (1) in the first sentence, by striking “Any” and
13 inserting the following:

14 “(1) **IN GENERAL.**—Subject to paragraph (3),
15 any Federal research facility or any other”;

16 (2) in the second sentence, by striking “Any”
17 and inserting the following:

18 “(2) **ANIMAL EXHIBITION.**—Any”; and

19 (3) by adding at the end the following new
20 paragraph:

21 “(3) **EXCLUSIONS NOT APPLICABLE.**—For pur-
22 poses of the application of standards and other re-
23 quirements described in paragraph (1) to a Federal
24 research facility or any other department, agency, or
25 instrumentality of the United States having labora-

1 tory animal facilities, the exclusions contained in
2 section 2(g)(3) shall not apply.”.

3 **SEC. 812. ESTABLISHING A RESEARCH AND EXTENSION**
4 **PROGRAM FOR HUMANELY RAISED LIVE-**
5 **STOCK AND POULTRY CERTIFICATIONS.**

6 (a) CONSUMER DEMAND FOR ANIMAL WELFARE AND
7 ENVIRONMENTALLY SUSTAINABLE PRODUCTS.—Section
8 1402(6) of the National Agricultural Research, Extension,
9 and Teaching Policy Act of 1977 (7 U.S.C. 3101(6)) is
10 amended by inserting before the semicolon the following:
11 “, and meet growing consumer demand for animal welfare,
12 environmental sustainability, pasture-based rearing, and
13 compliance with independent animal welfare certifi-
14 cations”.

15 (b) INDEPENDENT ANIMAL WELFARE CERTIFI-
16 CATION PROGRAM DEFINED.—Section 1404 of the Na-
17 tional Agricultural Research, Extension, and Teaching
18 Policy Act of 1977 (7 U.S.C. 3103) is amended by adding
19 at the end the following new paragraph:

20 “(21) INDEPENDENT ANIMAL WELFARE CER-
21 TIFICATION PROGRAM.—The term ‘Independent ani-
22 mal welfare certification program’ has the meaning
23 given that term in section 801(1) of the Food and
24 Farm Act.”.

1 (c) FEDERAL-STATE PARTNERSHIP AND COORDINA-
2 TION.—Section 1409A of the National Agricultural Re-
3 search, Extension, and Teaching Policy Act of 1977 (7
4 U.S.C. 3124a) is amended—

5 (1) in subsection (c)(1)(B), by striking “and
6 environmental” and inserting “environmental, ani-
7 mal welfare, and marketplace demand”;

8 (2) in subsection (c)(2), by inserting “pasture-
9 based rearing systems,” after “cooperatives,”; and

10 (3) in subsection (d), by inserting “improving
11 animal well-being, facilitating enrollment in inde-
12 pendent animal welfare certification programs,”
13 after “marketing systems,”.

14 (d) ANIMAL WELL-BEING RESEARCH.—The heading
15 of subtitle E of the National Agricultural Research, Ex-
16 tension, and Teaching Policy Act of 1977 (title XIV of
17 Public Law 93–113) is amended to read as follows: “**Ani-
18 mal Health, Well-Being, and Disease Re-
19 search**”.

20 (e) AUTHORIZING THE SECRETARY TO ACT.—Sec-
21 tion 1431(b)(2) of the National Agricultural Research,
22 Extension, and Teaching Policy Act of 1977 (7 U.S.C.
23 3193(b)(2)) is amended—

24 (1) by striking “and” at the end of subpara-
25 graph (B);

1 (2) by striking the period at the end of sub-
2 paragraph (C), and inserting “; and”; and

3 (3) by adding at the end the following new sub-
4 paragraph:

5 “(D) improve the flow of information to
6 producers regarding enrollment in, compliance
7 with, and marketing benefits of independent
8 animal welfare certification programs.”.

9 (f) SMALL FARM RESEARCH AND EXTENSION.—

10 (1) SMALL FARM EXTENSION PROGRAM.—Sec-
11 tion 502 of the Rural Development Act of 1972 (7
12 U.S.C. 2662) is amended—

13 (A) in subsection (d), by inserting “, im-
14 proved animal husbandry techniques including
15 enrollment in independent animal welfare cer-
16 tification programs,” after “marketing tech-
17 niques”; and

18 (B) in subsection (h)(1)—

19 (i) by striking “and” at the end of
20 subparagraph (E);

21 (ii) by redesignating subparagraph
22 (F) as subparagraph (H); and

23 (iii) by inserting after subparagraph
24 (E) the following new subparagraphs:

1 “(F) opportunities for enrollment in inde-
2 pendent animal welfare certification programs;

3 “(G) animal husbandry; and”.

4 (2) DEFINITION.—Section 506 of the Rural De-
5 velopment Act of 1972 (7 U.S.C. 2666) is amend-
6 ed—

7 (A) by redesignating subsections (a), (b),
8 and (c) as subsections (b), (c), and (d) respec-
9 tively; and

10 (B) by inserting before subsection (b), as
11 so redesignated, the following:

12 “(a) ‘independent animal welfare certification pro-
13 gram’ has the meaning given that term in section 801(1)
14 of the Food and Farm Act.”.

15 **TITLE IX—REGIONAL FOOD**
16 **SYSTEMS**

17 **Subtitle A—Expanding Support for**
18 **Local and Regional Food Systems**

19 **SEC. 901. SENSE OF THE CONGRESS.**

20 It is the sense of the Congress that:

21 (1) Local and regional food systems provide
22 jobs and economic opportunity for farmers and
23 ranchers, businesses, entrepreneurs, and employees
24 across the United States who cultivate, harvest,

1 store, process, market, and distribute food, particu-
2 larly in rural areas.

3 (2) Local and regional food systems provide
4 meaningful access to healthy, fresh, and affordable
5 foods that are grown and processed closer to mar-
6 kets, especially in food deserts and other under-
7 served areas.

8 (3) Local and regional food systems lower the
9 carbon footprint of America's food system by grow-
10 ing, processing, distributing, and consuming prod-
11 ucts locally and reducing the use of fossil fuels.

12 (4) Local and regional food systems foster
13 American resiliency and independence by helping
14 communities become less dependent on external food
15 sources.

16 (5) Local and regional food systems increase
17 accountability for farmers, ranchers, and others em-
18 ployed in the field to engage in sustainable and eth-
19 ical practices.

20 (6) By supporting the growth and advancement
21 of local and regional food systems, the people of the
22 United States are investing in an environmentally
23 and economically resilient food and agriculture sys-
24 tem that provides opportunity and livelihoods for

1 farmers, ranchers, businesses, and employees
2 throughout the economy.

3 **SEC. 902. EXPANDING THE FOOD LEVERAGING INVEST-**
4 **MENT FOR NETWORK COORDINATION (LINC)**
5 **PROGRAM.**

6 (a) INCREASE IN NUMBER OF VALUE CHAIN COOR-
7 DINATORS.—The Secretary of Agriculture shall expand
8 Rural Development Agency participation in the Food
9 Leveraging Investment for Network Coordination (LINC)
10 program, a public-private partnership to enhance regional
11 food-value chains, to deploy during each of fiscal years
12 2024 through 2028 at least 25 full-time value chain coor-
13 dinators to provide local food sector coordination services.

14 (b) LOCATION OF VALUE CHAIN COORDINATORS.—
15 The Secretary of Agriculture shall ensure that at least 5
16 value chain coordinators deployed under subsection (a) are
17 located in each of the following:

18 (1) The Pacific Northwest region of the United
19 States.

20 (2) The Northeast region of the United States.

21 (3) The Western region of the United States.

22 (4) The Midwest region of the United States.

23 (5) The Southern region of the United States.

24 (c) COORDINATION SERVICES DESCRIBED.—The du-
25 ties of a value chain coordinator include the following:

1 (1) Identifying and connecting interested per-
2 sons through short-term engagement, helping to
3 build relationships across the food value chain by en-
4 gaging interested persons, maintaining communica-
5 tion channels, and fostering a trusting environment
6 among interested persons.

7 (2) Identifying and pursuing resources, such as
8 grants, loans, and services to support value-chain
9 collaborators as they develop their enterprises.

10 (3) Raising policy issues and partnering with
11 interested persons to address policies and procure-
12 ment requirements.

13 (4) Working with food chain members to build
14 capacity through education and training programs in
15 such areas as organics and other sustainable produc-
16 tion practices, food safety, marketing, and branding.

17 (5) Utilizing grants and other external re-
18 sources to test new business models to help lower
19 the financial risk of businesses engaged in the value
20 chain.

21 (d) FUNDING.—Of the funds of the Commodity Cred-
22 it Corporation, the Secretary of the Agriculture shall use
23 to carry out this section \$20,000,000 for each of fiscal
24 years 2024 through 2028.

1 **SEC. 903. ENSURING SUCCESS OF REGIONAL FOOD**
2 **PROJECTS UNDER THE BUSINESS AND IN-**
3 **DUSTRY GUARANTEED LOAN PROGRAM.**

4 (a) USE OF FUNDS.—Section 310B(g)(9)(B) of the
5 Consolidated Farm and Rural Development Act (7 U.S.C.
6 1932(g)(9)(B)) is amended by adding at the end the fol-
7 lowing:

8 “(v) OUTREACH AND TECHNICAL AS-
9 SISTANCE.—Not more than 5 percent of
10 the amounts reserved under clause (iv) for
11 each fiscal year shall be used for outreach,
12 and to provide marketing and technical as-
13 sistance through Federal entities, and
14 through State and private universities and
15 nonprofit entities (including by contract),
16 to potential recipients of a loan or loan
17 guarantee under this subparagraph, to en-
18 sure the full utilization of any such loan or
19 loan guarantee.”.

20 (b) INCREASE IN FUNDING.—Section
21 310B(g)(9)(B)(iv)(I) of such Act (7 U.S.C.
22 1932(g)(9)(B)(iv)(I)) is amended by striking “5” and in-
23 serting “10”.

1 **SEC. 904. INCREASING SUPPORT FOR THE SPECIALTY CROP**
 2 **BLOCK GRANT PROGRAM.**

3 Section 101 of the Specialty Crops Competitiveness
 4 Act of 2004 (7 U.S.C. 1621 note) is amended—

5 (1) in subsection (a), by striking “2018” and
 6 inserting “2028”; and

7 (2) in subsection (l)—

8 (A) in subparagraph (D), by striking
 9 “and”;

10 (B) in subparagraph (E), by striking “and
 11 each fiscal year thereafter.” and inserting a
 12 semicolon; and

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

14 “(F) \$100,000,000 for fiscal year 2024;
 15 and

16 “(G) \$110,000,000 for fiscal year 2025
 17 and each fiscal year thereafter.”.

18 **Subtitle B—Enhancing Regional**
 19 **Food Infrastructure**

20 **SEC. 911. SUPPORTING REGIONAL FOOD INFRASTRUCTURE**
 21 **ASSESSMENT AND COLLABORATIVE PLAN-**
 22 **NING.**

23 (a) **SUPPORT FOR REGION-WIDE ASSESSMENT AND**
 24 **COLLABORATIVE PLANNING PROJECTS.**—Section 6(b) of
 25 the Farmer-to-Consumer Direct Marketing Act of 1976
 26 (7 U.S.C. 3005(b)) is amended—

1 (1) by striking “and” at the end of paragraph
2 (1);

3 (2) by striking the period at the end of para-
4 graph (2) and inserting “; and”; and

5 (3) by adding at the end the following new
6 paragraph:

7 “(3) full value chain assessments at the local
8 and regional levels, as well as projects by entities de-
9 scribed in subsection (c) that maximize efficient use
10 of existing food related infrastructure, identify gaps
11 in that infrastructure, and address such gaps.”.

12 (b) MANDATORY FUNDING.—Paragraph (1) of sec-
13 tion 6(g) of the Farmer-to-Consumer Direct Marketing
14 Act of 1976 (7 U.S.C. 3005(g)) is amended to read as
15 follows:

16 “(1) MANDATORY FUNDING.—Of the funds of
17 the Commodity Credit Corporation, the Secretary
18 shall use to carry out this section \$80,000,000 for
19 each of fiscal years 2024 through 2028.”.

20 (c) DISTRIBUTION OF FUNDS.—Paragraph (4) of
21 section 6(g) of the Farmer-to-Consumer Direct Marketing
22 Act of 1976 (7 U.S.C. 3005(g)) is amended to read as
23 follows:

1 “(4) DISTRIBUTION OF FUNDS.—Of the funds
2 made available to carry out this section for a fiscal
3 year after fiscal year 2024—

4 “(A) at least 40 percent of the funds shall
5 be used for the purposes described in paragraph
6 (1) of subsection (b);

7 “(B) at least 40 percent of the funds shall
8 be used for the purposes described in paragraph
9 (2) of such subsection; and

10 “(C) not more than 20 percent of the
11 funds may be used for the purposes described
12 in paragraph (3) of such subsection.”.

13 **SEC. 912. LIVESTOCK, DAIRY, AND POULTRY SUPPLY CHAIN**
14 **INFRASTRUCTURE GRANTS AND LOANS.**

15 Subtitle D of title III of the Consolidated Farm and
16 Rural Development Act (7 U.S.C. 1981 et seq.) is amend-
17 ed by adding at the end the following new section:

18 **“SEC. 379I. LIVESTOCK, DAIRY, AND POULTRY SUPPLY**
19 **CHAIN INFRASTRUCTURE.**

20 “(a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary is authorized to
21 provide grants or make or insure loans under any of the
22 programs authorized by this Act, the Agricultural Mar-
23 keting Act of 1946 (7 U.S.C. 1621 et seq.), or the Rural
24 Electrification Act of 1936 (7 U.S.C. 901 et seq.), as the
25 Secretary determines to be appropriate, to assist farmers

1 and rural businesses and cooperatives to maintain or in-
2 crease the production, aggregation, processing, distribu-
3 tion, and marketing of value-added, niche, or regionally
4 marketed meat, dairy, and poultry products.

5 “(b) PRIORITY.—In implementing subsection (a), the
6 Secretary shall give priority to grants or loans that will
7 help increase or enhance the availability and geographic
8 distribution of State- and Department of Agriculture-in-
9 spected small processing facilities.

10 “(c) SMALL PROCESSING FACILITY DEFINED.—In
11 this section, the term ‘small processing facility’ means—

12 “(1) with respect to an establishment that is
13 subject to the requirements of the Federal Meat In-
14 spection Act (21 U.S.C. 601 et seq.), a certain small
15 establishment that is eligible to be selected under
16 section 501(b) of such Act; or

17 “(2) a selected establishment (as defined in sec-
18 tion 31(a) of the Poultry Products Inspection Act
19 (21 U.S.C. 472(a))).”.

1 **Subtitle C—Expanding Accessi-**
2 **bility of Federal Grant Pro-**
3 **grams**

4 **SEC. 921. PUBLISHING INFORMATION ABOUT FUNDED**
5 **FARMERS’ MARKET AND LOCAL FOOD PRO-**
6 **MOTION PROGRAM PROJECTS.**

7 Section 6 of the Farmer-to-Consumer Direct Mar-
8 keting Act of 1976 (7 U.S.C. 3005) is amended by adding
9 at the end the following new subsection:

10 “(h) PROJECT DATABASE.—

11 “(1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary, not later
12 than one year after the date of the enactment of this
13 subsection, shall publish, and update on an annual
14 basis, on the Internet website of the Department of
15 Agriculture a database, in a machine-readable for-
16 mat, that contains information with respect to any
17 project with respect to which a grant was awarded
18 under this section in the previous fiscal year.

19 “(2) INFORMATION INCLUDED.—The database
20 under paragraph (1) shall include, with respect to
21 each project for which a grant was awarded under
22 this section in the previous fiscal year—

23 “(A) a general overview of such project, in-
24 cluding a summary of, the timeline, goals, and

1 objectives for, and key partners and other
2 stakeholders involved in, such project;

3 “(B) the steps taken to carry out such
4 project;

5 “(C) any materials used to carry out such
6 project;

7 “(D) the delivery area of the project;

8 “(E) the total project cost and any non-
9 Federal funding sources for such project costs;

10 “(F) a general description of project bene-
11 ficiaries; and

12 “(G) the results of such project.”.

13 **SEC. 922. STREAMLINING OF LOCAL AND REGIONAL FOOD**
14 **PROGRAM APPLICATION PROCEDURES.**

15 (a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary of Agriculture
16 shall, not later than one year after the date of the enact-
17 ment of this Act, identify procedures that coordinate and
18 streamline the application process for local and regional
19 food programs without compromising program or applica-
20 tion quality. The Secretary shall identify such procedures
21 with respect to each of the following:

22 (1) Streamlining application forms.

23 (2) Removing repetition from forms and the on-
24 line toolkit used to complete such applications.

1 (3) To the extent possible, accepting applica-
2 tions electronically (including through email).

3 (b) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There
4 are authorized to be appropriated to carry out this section
5 such sums as may be necessary for each of fiscal years
6 2024 through 2028.

7 **Subtitle D—Leveling the Playing**
8 **Field for Small Farmers**

9 **SEC. 931. ENSURING FAIR PRACTICES IN AGRICULTURE.**

10 Not later than 30 days after the date of the enact-
11 ment of this Act, the Secretary of Agriculture shall imple-
12 ment, without amendment, the final rule entitled “Unfair
13 Practices and Undue Preferences in Violation of the Pack-
14 ers and Stockyards Act” and published in the Federal
15 Register by the Department of Agriculture on December
16 20, 2016 (81 Fed. Reg. 92703).

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