

119TH CONGRESS
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H. R. 5620

To provide for the establishment of a task force to identify trade barriers to United States agricultural exports and carry out other related duties.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

SEPTEMBER 30, 2025

Mr. CRAWFORD (for himself, Mr. CARTER of Louisiana, and Mr. HIGGINS of Louisiana) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Ways and Means

A BILL

To provide for the establishment of a task force to identify trade barriers to United States agricultural exports and carry out other related duties.

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

3 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

4 This Act may be cited as the “Prioritizing Offensive
5 Agricultural Disputes and Enforcement Act”.

6 **SEC. 2. FINDINGS.**

7 Congress finds the following:

1 (1) Agricultural competitiveness through access
2 to international markets is a vital part of the United
3 States economy.

4 (2) A healthy, well-functioning rules-based trad-
5 ing system is the basis for the success of United
6 States agricultural exports.

7 (3) When foreign governments erect trade bar-
8 riers this makes it difficult for United States agri-
9 cultural exporters to compete in the global market-
10 place while undermining the rules-based trading sys-
11 tem.

12 (4) These trade barriers can harm United
13 States farmers, ranchers, workers, and businesses,
14 and they can also lead to higher prices for con-
15 sumers and a less resilient international trading sys-
16 tem.

17 (5) Dispute settlement is available through
18 trade agreements with 165 other countries and there
19 are protectionist trade barriers to United States ag-
20 ricultural exports in many of these countries.

21 (6) Many of these barriers are systemically im-
22 portant. For example, India's unrestrained use of
23 price support programs violates its commitments
24 under the World Trade Organization (WTO).

1 (7) India recognizes that its price support pro-
2 grams violate its WTO commitments, so instead of
3 reforming its programs, it has repeatedly demanded
4 a permanent exemption from disputes for these pro-
5 grams. Moreover, India has tried to prevent discus-
6 sions at the WTO of any other significant agricul-
7 tural trade issue unless it receives such a permanent
8 exemption.

9 (8) The Government of India has repeatedly
10 raised its minimum price supports, which has had
11 negative effects on several commodity markets and
12 most notably has led to its dominance of the global
13 rice trade, with a 40-percent share of the global
14 market since marketing year 2020 through 2021.
15 India is also the world's largest producer of pulses
16 and second largest producer of wheat, peanuts, and
17 cotton.

18 (9) The United States Trade Representative
19 has submitted several counter notifications at the
20 World Trade Organization showing that price sup-
21 ports provided by the Government of India are well
22 beyond the World Trade Organization limit for India
23 of 10 percent of the value of production. For exam-
24 ple, the latest counter notification for rice shows
25 support at 87.9 percent in marketing year 2022

1 through 2023 and for wheat at 67.5 percent for the
2 same period. Other commodities also received sup-
3 port levels well beyond 10 percent commitment lim-
4 its in previous counter notifications, including 67.9
5 percent for cotton, 31.7 percent for chickpeas, 41
6 percent for lentils, and 47.4 percent for pulses.

7 (10) Minor attempts to reform the Indian agri-
8 culture subsidy system in the marketing year 2020/
9 2021 failed to produce results. The enacted reforms
10 would not have changed the policies that violate
11 WTO commitments but would have merely provided
12 farmers with opportunities to sell their products out-
13 side of the government-run “mandi” system, but
14 those were ultimately repealed.

15 (11) Dispute settlement is an effective way to
16 provide a neutral assessment of compliance with
17 trade agreement terms and provide the United
18 States a legal framework for enforcement mecha-
19 nisms to facilitate fair and reciprocal trade.

20 (12) Global agriculture is uniquely susceptible
21 to trade barriers and requires special attention to re-
22 solve myriad systemic and economically significant
23 trade violations that impede the development of a re-
24 silient, sustainable, and rules-based agricultural
25 trading system.

1 **SEC. 3. SENSE OF CONGRESS.**

2 It is the sense of Congress that—

3 (1) the United States should accelerate efforts
4 to address foreign trade barriers that harm United
5 States agricultural exports;

6 (2) the Office of the United States Trade Rep-
7 resentative and the Department of Agriculture both
8 have a critical role in developing agricultural trade
9 disputes;

10 (3) Congress and the private sector have key
11 roles to play in the development of disputes and ag-
12 ricultural trade enforcement strategy;

13 (4) in the case of India's minimum price sup-
14 ports, the United States has exhausted other options
15 available through the World Trade Organization
16 short of requesting consultations under the Dispute
17 Settlement Understanding (DSU);

18 (5) there should be a plan and definitive dead-
19 lines in place for a request for consultations and es-
20 tablishment of a panel under the DSU;

21 (6) the Office of the United States Trade Rep-
22 resentative and the Department of Agriculture
23 should jointly develop a proactive enforcement strat-
24 egy for addressing systemic and economically signifi-
25 cant trade barriers in the agriculture sector, in con-
26 sultation with Congress and the private sector; and

1 (7) the Office of the United States Trade Rep-
2 representative is the lead agency for United States
3 trade policy.

4 **SEC. 4. AGRICULTURAL TRADE ENFORCEMENT TASK**
5 **FORCE.**

6 (a) ESTABLISHMENT.—Not later than 30 days after
7 the date of the enactment of this Act, the President shall
8 establish a joint task force to be known as the “Agricul-
9 tural Trade Enforcement Task Force” (referred to in this
10 section as the “Task Force”).

11 (b) DUTIES.—

12 (1) IN GENERAL.—The Task Force shall—

13 (A) identify trade barriers to United States
14 agricultural exports that are vulnerable to dis-
15 pute settlement under the World Trade Organi-
16 zation (WTO) or other trade agreements;

17 (B) develop and implement a strategy for
18 enforcing violations of trade agreements related
19 to these trade barriers;

20 (C) identify like-minded trading partners
21 for specific trade barriers that could act as co-
22 complainants or primary complainants on dis-
23 putes that are systemically or economically im-
24 portant to the United States; and

1 (D) report quarterly to Congress on
2 progress towards resolving cases or filing dis-
3 putes.

4 (2) CONSULTATION.—In carrying out its duties
5 under this subsection, the Task Force shall regularly
6 consult, to the extent necessary and appropriate,
7 with the following:

8 (A) Relevant stakeholders in the private
9 sector, including the agricultural trade advisory
10 committees.

11 (B) Federal departments and agencies that
12 are not represented on the Task Force.

13 (C) Like-minded trading partners that are
14 similarly concerned with trade barriers and are
15 potential participants in the dispute settlement
16 process.

17 (c) MEMBERSHIP.—

18 (1) IN GENERAL.—The Task Force shall be
19 comprised of the following members:

20 (A) One or more employees of the Foreign
21 Agricultural Service, who shall be appointed by
22 the Under Secretary for Trade and Foreign Ag-
23 ricultural Affairs.

24 (B) One or more employees of the Office
25 of the United States Trade Representative, who

1 shall be appointed jointly by the General Coun-
2 sel for the Office of the United States Trade
3 Representative and the Chief Agricultural Ne-
4 gotiator.

5 (C) One or more employees of other Fed-
6 eral agencies as needed, who shall be appointed
7 jointly by the officials specified in subpara-
8 graphs (A) and (B).

9 (2) QUALIFICATION.—Employees of the Federal
10 agencies specified in subparagraphs (A), (B), and
11 (C) of paragraph (1) may be appointed as members
12 of the Task Force only if such employees have ap-
13 propriate expertise in agricultural trade policy and
14 trade enforcement.

15 (d) REPORT.—

16 (1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 90 days after
17 the date of the enactment of this Act, and on a
18 quarterly basis thereafter, the Task Force shall sub-
19 mit to Congress a report on its progress in identi-
20 fying and addressing trade barriers to United States
21 agricultural exports.

22 (2) MATTERS TO BE INCLUDED.—The report
23 required by this subsection shall include the fol-
24 lowing:

1 (A) A description of the systemic and eco-
2 nomically significant trade barriers that have
3 been identified.

4 (B) A justification for including the identi-
5 fied trade barriers.

6 (C) A description of the progress that has
7 been made in developing dispute settlement
8 cases and further information that is required.

9 (D) The current status of ongoing disputes
10 at the WTO and implementation of panel, arbi-
11 tration, or Appellate Body decisions.

12 (3) ADDITIONAL MATTERS TO BE INCLUDED IN
13 INITIAL REPORT.—The initial report required by this
14 subsection shall, in addition to the matters described
15 in subparagraphs (A), (B), (C), and (D) of para-
16 graph (2), include a plan to file a request under the
17 WTO dispute settlement process for consultations to
18 address India's minimum price supports. The plan
19 shall include—

20 (A) an identification of like-minded trading
21 partners that could act as co-complainants or
22 primary complainants with respect to the re-
23 quest;

1 (B) a description of specific claims the
2 United States intends to make with respect to
3 the request; and

4 (C) a timeline to—

5 (i) request consultations; and

6 (ii) request the establishment of a
7 panel not later than 60 days after the date
8 of the request for consultations if India
9 does not provide assurances that it will ad-
10 dress its minimum price supports.

11 (e) CONGRESSIONAL BRIEFINGS.—The United States
12 Trade Representative and the Secretary of Agriculture
13 shall provide briefings on the Task Force to appropriate
14 Members of Congress and congressional staff.

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