

119TH CONGRESS  
1ST SESSION

# S. 1507

To address the impact of climate change on agriculture, and for other purposes.

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## IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

APRIL 29, 2025

Mr. HEINRICH (for himself, Mr. MERKLEY, Mr. MURPHY, Mr. SANDERS, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, Mr. WELCH, Mr. SCHIFF, Mrs. GILLIBRAND, Ms. SMITH, Mr. FETTERMAN, Mr. BOOKER, and Mr. MARKEY) introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry

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## A BILL

To address the impact of climate change on agriculture,  
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,*

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

4 (a) SHORT TITLE.—This Act may be cited as the  
5 “Agriculture Resilience Act of 2025”.

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

Sec. 1. Short title; table of contents.  
Sec. 2. Definition of Secretary.

TITLE I—NATIONAL GOALS

- Sec. 101. National goals.
- Sec. 102. Action plan.

## TITLE II—RESEARCH

- Sec. 201. Research, extension, and education purpose.
- Sec. 202. Regional hubs for risk mitigation and adaptation to climate change.
- Sec. 203. Sustainable agriculture research and education resilience initiative.
- Sec. 204. Long-Term Agroecosystem Research Network.
- Sec. 205. Public breed and cultivar research.
- Sec. 206. ARS climate scientist career development program.
- Sec. 207. Agricultural climate adaptation and mitigation through AFRI.
- Sec. 208. Specialty crop research initiative.
- Sec. 209. Integrated pest management.
- Sec. 210. Appropriate technology transfer for rural areas program.

## TITLE III—SOIL HEALTH

- Sec. 301. Crop insurance.
- Sec. 302. Environmental quality incentives program.
- Sec. 303. Conservation stewardship program.
- Sec. 304. State assistance for soil health.
- Sec. 305. Funding and administration.
- Sec. 306. Conservation compliance.
- Sec. 307. National and regional agroforestry centers.

## TITLE IV—FARMLAND PRESERVATION AND FARM VIABILITY

- Sec. 401. Local agriculture market program.
- Sec. 402. National organic certification cost-share program.
- Sec. 403. Farmland Protection Policy Act.
- Sec. 404. Agricultural conservation easement program.

## TITLE V—PASTURE-BASED LIVESTOCK

- Sec. 501. Animal raising claims.
- Sec. 502. Processing resilience grant program.
- Sec. 503. Conservation of private grazing land.
- Sec. 504. Conservation reserve program.
- Sec. 505. Alternative manure management program.

## TITLE VI—ON-FARM RENEWABLE ENERGY

- Sec. 601. Rural Energy for America Program.
- Sec. 602. Agrivoltaic systems.
- Sec. 603. AgSTAR program.

## TITLE VII—FOOD LOSS AND WASTE

### Subtitle A—Food Date Labeling

- Sec. 701. Definitions.
- Sec. 702. Quality date phrases and discard date phrases.
- Sec. 703. Misbranding.
- Sec. 704. Regulations.
- Sec. 705. Delayed applicability.

### Subtitle B—Other Provisions

Sec. 711. Composting as conservation practice.

Sec. 712. Amendments to Federal Food Donation Act.

Sec. 713. Grants for composting and anaerobic digestion food waste-to-energy projects.

Sec. 714. School food waste reduction grant program.

Sec. 715. Support for national media campaigns to decrease incidence of food waste.

Sec. 716. Food Waste Research Program.

## 1 **SEC. 2. DEFINITION OF SECRETARY.**

2 In this Act, the term “Secretary” means the Sec-  
3 retary of Agriculture.

## 4 **TITLE I—NATIONAL GOALS**

### 5 **SEC. 101. NATIONAL GOALS.**

6 (a) PURPOSE.—The purpose of the national goals de-  
7 scribed in subsection (b) is to prevent climate change from  
8 exceeding 1.5 degrees Celsius of warming above  
9 preindustrial levels through a national greenhouse gas  
10 emission reduction effort.

11 (b) NATIONAL GOALS.—The national goals for the  
12 agricultural sector shall be to achieve—

13 (1) not less than a 50-percent reduction in net  
14 greenhouse gas emissions, as compared to those lev-  
15 els during calendar year 2010, by not later than De-  
16 cember 31, 2030; and

17 (2) net zero emissions by not later than Decem-  
18 ber 31, 2040.

19 (c) SUBGOALS.—To achieve the national goals de-  
20 scribed in subsection (b), there are established the fol-  
21 lowing subgoals:

1           (1) RESEARCH.—The total Federal investment  
2           in public food and agriculture research and exten-  
3           sion should—

4                   (A) at a minimum, as compared to that  
5           total Federal investment for fiscal year 2023—

6                           (i) triple by not later than December  
7                           31, 2030; and

8                           (ii) quadruple by not later than De-  
9                           cember 31, 2040; and

10                   (B) strongly focus on climate change adap-  
11           tation and mitigation, soil health and carbon se-  
12           questration, nutrient and manure management  
13           to curb nitrous oxide and methane emissions,  
14           agroforestry, advanced grazing management  
15           and crop-livestock integration, perennial pro-  
16           duction systems, on-farm and food system en-  
17           ergy efficiency and renewable energy produc-  
18           tion, farmland preservation and viability, food  
19           waste reduction, and any other related areas, as  
20           determined by the Secretary.

21           (2) SOIL HEALTH.—The United States  
22           should—

23                   (A) immediately become a member of the  
24           Partners Forum and the Consortium of the 4  
25           per 1,000 Initiative, hosted by the Consultative

1 Group for International Agricultural Research,  
2 with the aim of increasing total soil carbon  
3 stocks by 0.4 percent annually to reduce carbon  
4 in the atmosphere, restore soil health and pro-  
5 ductivity, and thereby improve food security;

6 (B) sufficiently expand adoption of soil  
7 health systems and practices (including diverse  
8 crop rotations, cover cropping, and conservation  
9 tillage), perennial crop and grass-based live-  
10 stock production systems, agroforestry,  
11 composting, advanced nutrient budgeting and  
12 biologically based nutrient management, ad-  
13 vanced grazing management (including  
14 silvopasture and management-intensive rota-  
15 tional grazing), and integrated crop-livestock  
16 systems—

17 (i) to reduce nitrous oxide emissions  
18 from agricultural soils, as compared to  
19 those levels during calendar year 2023—

20 (I) by 25 percent by not later  
21 than December 31, 2030; and

22 (II) by 75 percent by not later  
23 than December 31, 2040;

24 (ii) to increase soil carbon stocks by  
25 0.4 percent annually on at least 50 percent

of agricultural land by not later than December 31, 2030; and

(iii) to meet or exceed the threshold described in clause (ii) on all agricultural land by not later than December 31, 2040;

(C) expand implementation of regionally appropriate cover crops and other continual living cover so that—

(i) at least 50 percent of cropland acres include 1 or more cover crops or other continual living cover in the rotations of the cropland acres by not later than December 31, 2030;

(ii) at least 75 percent of cropland acres include 1 or more cover crops or other continual living cover in the rotations of the cropland acres by not later than December 31, 2040;

(iii) cropland acres are covered by crops (including forages and hay crops), cover crops, or residue for an average of 75 percent of each calendar year by not later than December 31, 2030; and

(iv) cropland acres are covered by crops (including forages and hay crops),

cover crops, or residue for an average of 85 percent of each calendar year by not later than December 31, 2040; and

(D) encourage conversion of at least—

(i) 15 percent of annual grain crop acres, as in use on the date of enactment of this Act, to agroforestry, perennial grazing, perennial grain crops, or other perennial production systems by not later than December 31, 2030; and

(ii) 30 percent of annual grain crop acres, as in use on the date of enactment of this Act, to agroforestry, perennial grazing, perennial grain crops, or other perennial production systems by not later than December 31, 2040.

(3) FARMLAND PRESERVATION.—

(A) 2030 GOAL.—The rate of conversion of agricultural land to development, and the rate of conversion of grassland to cropping, should be reduced by at least 80 percent, as compared to those rates for calendar year 2023, by not later than December 31, 2030.

(B) 2040 GOAL.—There should be no conversion of agricultural land to development, or

1 grassland to cropping, by not later than Decem-  
 2 ber 31, 2040.

3 (4) PASTURE-BASED LIVESTOCK.—The live-  
 4 stock sector should—

5 (A) establish advanced grazing manage-  
 6 ment, including management-intensive rota-  
 7 tional grazing, on at least—

8 (i) 50 percent of all grazing land by  
 9 not later than December 31, 2030; and

10 (ii) 100 percent of all grazing land by  
 11 not later than December 31, 2040;

12 (B)(i) reduce greenhouse gas emissions re-  
 13 lated to feeding of ruminants by at least—

14 (I)  $\frac{1}{3}$  by not later than December 31,  
 15 2030; and

16 (II)  $\frac{1}{2}$  by not later than December  
 17 31, 2040; and

18 (ii) accomplish the reductions described in  
 19 clause (i) by—

20 (I) reducing nongrazing feeding of  
 21 ruminants;

22 (II) growing feed grains and forages  
 23 with soil health and nutrient management  
 24 practices that minimize net greenhouse gas  
 25 emissions from cropland; and



1 (III) designing livestock feed mixtures  
2 and supplements to mitigate enteric meth-  
3 ane emissions;

4 (C) reintegrate livestock and crop produc-  
5 tion systems at farm, local, and regional levels  
6 to facilitate environmentally sound management  
7 and field application of manure and reduce the  
8 need for long-term manure storage by increas-  
9 ing acreage on individual farms under crop-live-  
10 stock integrated management by at least—

11 (i) 100 percent, as compared to cal-  
12 endar year 2017 levels, by not later than  
13 December 31, 2030; and

14 (ii) 300 percent, as compared to cal-  
15 endar year 2017 levels, by not later than  
16 December 31, 2040; and

17 (D) reduce greenhouse gas emissions re-  
18 sulting from manure management by—

19 (i) immediately ceasing building any  
20 new or expanded waste lagoons for con-  
21 fined animal feeding operations; and

22 (ii) converting—

23 (I) by not later than December  
24 31, 2030, at least  $\frac{1}{3}$  of wet manure  
25 handling and storage to nondigester

dairy or livestock methane management methods (within the meaning of section 1240T(a) of the Food Security Act of 1985); and

(II) by not later than December 31, 2040, at least  $\frac{2}{3}$  of wet manure handling and storage to such non-digester dairy or livestock methane management methods.

(5) ON-FARM RENEWABLE ENERGY.—The agricultural sector should—

(A) implement energy audits and energy efficiency improvements on at least—

(i) 50 percent of farms by not later than December 31, 2030; and

(ii) 100 percent of farms by not later than December 31, 2040;

(B) expand on-farm clean renewable energy production to a level that is at least—

(i) double the calendar year 2017 level by not later than December 31, 2030; and

(ii) triple the calendar year 2017 level by not later than December 31, 2040; and

1 (C) install and manage on-farm renewable  
2 energy infrastructure in a manner that does  
3 not—

4 (i) compromise the climate resilience  
5 and greenhouse gas mitigation goals of this  
6 Act; or

7 (ii) adversely impact farmland, soil,  
8 and water resources, or food production.

9 (6) FOOD LOSS AND WASTE.—Consistent with  
10 the Food Waste Challenge launched by the Depart-  
11 ment of Agriculture and the Environmental Protec-  
12 tion Agency in June 2013, and the national food  
13 loss and waste goal announced in September 2015,  
14 the food and agricultural sector should commit to—

15 (A) at least a 50-percent reduction in food  
16 loss and waste by not later than December 31,  
17 2030;

18 (B) at least a 75-percent reduction in food  
19 loss and waste by not later than December 31,  
20 2040; and

21 (C) in a manner consistent with the Food  
22 Recovery Hierarchy established by the Environ-  
23 mental Protection Agency, diverting from land-  
24 fills through composting and other means at  
25 least—

- 1 (i) 50 percent of unavoidable food  
2 waste and food processing byproducts by  
3 not later than December 31, 2030; and  
4 (ii) 90 percent of unavoidable food  
5 waste and food processing byproducts by  
6 not later than December 31, 2040.

7 **SEC. 102. ACTION PLAN.**

8 (a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall—

9 (1) develop a plan (referred to in this section as  
10 the “plan”), which may involve actions to be taken  
11 by other Federal agencies, to make significant and  
12 rapid progress to achieve the national goals de-  
13 scribed in section 101; and

14 (2) make the plan available for public comment  
15 for a period of not less than 90 days.

16 (b) ACTIONS.—Actions under the plan shall—

17 (1) include issuing regulations, providing incen-  
18 tives, carrying out research and development pro-  
19 grams, and any other actions the Secretary deter-  
20 mines to be necessary to achieve the national goals  
21 described in section 101; and

22 (2) be designed—

23 (A) to fully implement this Act and the  
24 amendments made by this Act;

1 (B) to provide benefits for farmers and  
2 ranchers, rural communities, small businesses,  
3 and consumers;

4 (C) to improve public health, resilience,  
5 and environmental outcomes, especially for  
6 rural and low-income households, communities  
7 of color, Tribal and Indigenous communities,  
8 and communities that are disproportionately  
9 vulnerable to the impacts of climate change, air  
10 and water pollution, and other resource deg-  
11 radation; and

12 (D) to prioritize investments that reduce  
13 emissions of greenhouse gases and sequester  
14 carbon, while simultaneously helping to solve  
15 other pressing agroenvironmental resource con-  
16 cerns, increase farming and ranching opportuni-  
17 ties, create quality jobs, improve farmworker  
18 working conditions and living standards, and  
19 make communities more resilient to the effects  
20 of climate change.

21 (c) FINAL PLAN.—Not later than 18 months after  
22 the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary shall—

23 (1) finalize the plan, taking into account any  
24 public comments received on the plan;

25 (2) submit the plan to Congress; and

1           (3) begin implementation of the plan.

2           (d) UPDATES.—Beginning on the date that is 2 years  
3 after the date on which the Secretary submits the plan  
4 to Congress under subsection (c)(2), and not less fre-  
5 quently than biennially thereafter, the Secretary shall—

6           (1) review and revise the plan to ensure that  
7 the plan is sufficient to achieve the national goals  
8 described in section 101; and

9           (2) submit the revised plan to Congress.

10          (e) ANNUAL REPORT.—Not later than 1 year after  
11 the date on which the Secretary submits the plan to Con-  
12 gress under subsection (c)(2), and annually thereafter, the  
13 Secretary shall submit to Congress, and make publicly  
14 available, an annual report that describes, for the period  
15 covered by the report—

16           (1) actions taken pursuant to the plan and the  
17 effects of those actions;

18           (2) the conclusion of the most recent review of  
19 the plan conducted under subsection (d)(1); and

20           (3) a summary of any revisions made to the  
21 plan under that subsection, if applicable.

## **TITLE II—RESEARCH**

### **SEC. 201. RESEARCH, EXTENSION, AND EDUCATION PURPOSE.**

Section 1402 of the National Agricultural Research, Extension, and Teaching Policy Act of 1977 (7 U.S.C. 3101) is amended—

(1) in paragraph (8), by striking “and” at the end;

(2) by redesignating paragraphs (8) and (9) as paragraphs (9) and (11), respectively;

(3) by inserting after paragraph (7) the following:

“(8) accelerate the ability of agriculture and the food system of the United States to first achieve net-zero carbon emissions and then be carbon negative by removing additional carbon dioxide from the atmosphere;”;

(4) by inserting after paragraph (9) (as so redesignated) the following:

“(10) develop food systems that are healthful, sustainable, equitable, and resilient to extreme weather, other impacts of climate change, and other potential intersecting global and national disruptions; and”;

1           (5) in paragraph (11) (as so redesignated), in  
 2           subparagraph (B), by inserting “and delivering to  
 3           agricultural producers” after “improving”.

4   **SEC. 202. REGIONAL HUBS FOR RISK MITIGATION AND AD-**  
 5                           **APTATION TO CLIMATE CHANGE.**

6           Title IV of the Agricultural Research, Extension, and  
 7   Education Reform Act of 1998 is amended by inserting  
 8   before section 404 (7 U.S.C. 7624) the following:

9   **“SEC. 401. REGIONAL HUBS FOR RISK MITIGATION AND AD-**  
 10                           **APTATION TO CLIMATE CHANGE.**

11          “(a) ESTABLISHMENT.—The Secretary shall estab-  
 12   lish a national network of regional hubs for risk mitigation  
 13   and adaptation to climate change to provide to farmers,  
 14   ranchers, forest landowners, and other agricultural and  
 15   natural resource managers—

16               “(1) science-based, region-specific, cost-effec-  
 17   tive, and practical information and program support  
 18   for science-informed decisionmaking in light of the  
 19   increased costs, opportunities, risks, and  
 20   vulnerabilities associated with a changing climate;  
 21   and

22               “(2) access to assistance to implement that de-  
 23   cisionmaking.



1       “(b) ELIGIBILITY.—An entity shall be eligible to be  
 2 selected as a regional hub under subsection (a) if the enti-  
 3 ty is an office of—

4               “(1) the Agricultural Research Service;

5               “(2) the Forest Service; or

6               “(3) any other agency of the Department that  
 7 the Secretary determines to be appropriate.

8       “(c) ADMINISTRATION.—

9               “(1) IN GENERAL.—The network established  
 10 under subsection (a) shall be designated and admin-  
 11 istered jointly by the Agricultural Research Service  
 12 and the Forest Service, in partnership with other  
 13 Federal agencies, including the following:

14               “(A) Within the Department, the following  
 15 agencies:

16                       “(i) The Natural Resources Conserva-  
 17 tion Service.

18                       “(ii) The Farm Service Agency.

19                       “(iii) The Risk Management Agency.

20                       “(iv) The Animal and Plant Health  
 21 Inspection Service.

22                       “(v) The National Institute of Food  
 23 and Agriculture.

24               “(B) The Department of the Interior.

25               “(C) The Department of Energy.

1           “(D) The Environmental Protection Agen-  
2           cy.

3           “(E) The United States Geological Survey.

4           “(F) The National Oceanic and Atmos-  
5           pheric Administration.

6           “(G) The National Aeronautics and Space  
7           Administration.

8           “(H) Such other Federal agencies as the  
9           Secretary determines to be appropriate.

10          “(2) PARTNERS.—The regional hubs estab-  
11          lished under subsection (a) shall work in close part-  
12          nership with other stakeholders and partners, includ-  
13          ing—

14               “(A) colleges and universities (as defined  
15               in section 1404 of the Food and Agriculture  
16               Act of 1977 (7 U.S.C. 3103));

17               “(B) cooperative extension services (as de-  
18               fined in that section);

19               “(C) State agricultural experiment stations  
20               (as defined in that section);

21               “(D) private entities;

22               “(E) State, local, and regional govern-  
23               ments;

24               “(F) Indian Tribes;

1           “(G) agriculture and commodity organiza-  
2           tions;

3           “(H) nonprofit and community-based orga-  
4           nizations; and

5           “(I) other partners, as determined by the  
6           Secretary.

7           “(d) RESPONSIBILITIES.—A regional hub established  
8           under subsection (a) shall—

9           “(1) offer tools, strategic management options,  
10          and technical support to farmers, ranchers, and for-  
11          est landowners to help those farmers, ranchers, and  
12          forest landowners mitigate and adapt to climate  
13          change;

14          “(2) direct farmers, ranchers, and forest land-  
15          owners to Federal agencies that can provide pro-  
16          gram support to enable those farmers, ranchers, and  
17          forest landowners to implement science-informed  
18          management practices that address climate change;

19          “(3) determine how climate and weather projec-  
20          tions will impact the agricultural and forestry sec-  
21          tors;

22          “(4) provide periodic regional assessments of  
23          risk and vulnerability in the agricultural and for-  
24          estry sectors—

1           “(A) to help farmers, ranchers, and forest  
2           landowners better understand the potential di-  
3           rect and indirect impacts of climate change;  
4           and

5           “(B) to inform the United States Global  
6           Change Research Program established under  
7           section 103 of the Global Change Research Act  
8           of 1990 (15 U.S.C. 2933);

9           “(5) provide to farmers, ranchers, forest land-  
10          owners, and rural communities outreach, education,  
11          and extension services relating to science-based risk  
12          management through partnerships with the land-  
13          grant colleges and universities (as defined in section  
14          1404 of the Food and Agriculture Act of 1977 (7  
15          U.S.C. 3103)), cooperative extension services (as de-  
16          fined in that section), and other entities;

17          “(6) work with any cooperative extension serv-  
18          ices (as defined in section 1404 of the Food and Ag-  
19          riculture Act of 1977 (7 U.S.C. 3103)), conservation  
20          districts, and nongovernmental organizations in-  
21          volved in farmer outreach in the region served by the  
22          hub to assist producers in developing business plans  
23          and conservation plans that take into account  
24          emerging climate risk science with respect to crop,

1 production, and conservation system changes that  
 2 will help producers adapt to a changing climate; and

3 “(7) establish, in partnership with programs  
 4 and projects carried out under subtitle B of title  
 5 XVI of the Food, Agriculture, Conservation, and  
 6 Trade Act of 1990 (7 U.S.C. 5801 et seq.), addi-  
 7 tional partnerships with farmers and nonprofit and  
 8 community-based organizations to conduct applied  
 9 on-farm research on climate change.

10 “(e) PRIORITIES.—A regional hub established under  
 11 subsection (a) shall prioritize synthesis and dissemination  
 12 of research and data collection activities in the following  
 13 areas:

14 “(1) Improved measurement and monitoring  
 15 of—

16 “(A) soil organic carbon sequestration; and

17 “(B) total net greenhouse gas impacts of  
 18 different farming systems and practices.

19 “(2) Lifecycle analysis for total net greenhouse  
 20 gas emissions related to—

21 “(A) alternative cropping systems;

22 “(B) alternative livestock production sys-  
 23 tems;

24 “(C) integrated cropping-livestock systems;

1           “(D) alternative biofuel crop production  
2 systems and biofuel end uses;

3           “(E) alternative agroforestry practices and  
4 systems; and

5           “(F) alternative forestry management sys-  
6 tems.

7           “(3) Research and education relating to—

8           “(A) optimal soil health management sys-  
9 tems and practices;

10           “(B) advanced biological nutrient manage-  
11 ment based on optimal soil health practices;

12           “(C) enhanced synergies between crop  
13 roots and soil biota;

14           “(D) linkages between soil, plant, animal,  
15 and human health;

16           “(E) adaption and mitigation needs of  
17 stakeholders;

18           “(F) new crops or new crop varieties to  
19 help producers be profitable while implementing  
20 soil health management systems and adapting  
21 to a changing climate;

22           “(G) social and economic barriers to stake-  
23 holder adoption of new practices that improve  
24 adaptation, mitigation, and soil sequestration;  
25 and

1 “(H) evaluation and assessment of climate-  
2 related decision tools of the Department.

3 “(4) Grazing-based livestock management sys-  
4 tems to optimize the net greenhouse gas footprint,  
5 including—

6 “(A) grazing land carbon sequestration;

7 “(B) reduction of nitrous oxide emissions  
8 from manure deposited on grazing land; and

9 “(C) mitigation of enteric methane.

10 “(5) Perennial production systems that seques-  
11 ter carbon, enhance soil health, and increase resil-  
12 ience, including—

13 “(A) perennial forages;

14 “(B) perennial grains; and

15 “(C) agroforestry.

16 “(f) STAKEHOLDER INPUT.—Each regional hub es-  
17 tablished under subsection (a)—

18 “(1) shall solicit input from stakeholders relat-  
19 ing to pressing needs, important issues, and out-  
20 reach strategies through a variety of mechanisms,  
21 including regional stakeholder committees; and

22 “(2) may partner with stakeholders in con-  
23 ducting research and developing tools.

24 “(g) RISK MANAGEMENT.—

1 “(1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall appoint  
 2 a team of individuals representing the regional hubs  
 3 established under subsection (a), partners with those  
 4 regional hubs, and the Risk Management Agency to  
 5 develop recommendations to better account for—

6 “(A) climate risk in actuarial tables; and

7 “(B) soil health and other risk-reducing  
 8 conservation activities under the Federal crop  
 9 insurance program under the Federal Crop In-  
 10 surance Act (7 U.S.C. 1501 et seq.).

11 “(2) SUBMISSION OF RECOMMENDATIONS.—  
 12 The team appointed under paragraph (1) shall sub-  
 13 mit to the Secretary, on an iterative basis, but not  
 14 less frequently than once every 2 years, the rec-  
 15 ommendations developed by the team under that  
 16 paragraph.

17 “(h) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There  
 18 is authorized to be appropriated to carry out this section  
 19 \$50,000,000 for each of fiscal years 2026 through 2030.”.

20 **SEC. 203. SUSTAINABLE AGRICULTURE RESEARCH AND**  
 21 **EDUCATION RESILIENCE INITIATIVE.**

22 (a) SUSTAINABLE AGRICULTURE RESEARCH AND  
 23 EDUCATION.—Section 1619 of the Food, Agriculture,  
 24 Conservation, and Trade Act of 1990 (7 U.S.C. 5801) is  
 25 amended—



1 (1) in subsection (a)—

2 (A) in paragraph (5), by striking “and” at  
3 the end;

4 (B) in paragraph (6), by striking the pe-  
5 riod at the end and inserting “; and”; and

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

7 “(7) increase resilience in the context of a  
8 changing climate and related economic, social, and  
9 environmental shocks.”; and

10 (2) in subsection (b)—

11 (A) in the matter preceding paragraph (1),  
12 by striking “For purposes of” and inserting  
13 “In”;

14 (B) by striking “shall have the same mean-  
15 ing given to that term by” each place it appears  
16 and inserting “has the meaning given that term  
17 in”;

18 (C) by striking paragraph (3);

19 (D) in each of paragraphs (1), (4), (5),  
20 (6), (7), (8), and (9), by inserting a paragraph  
21 heading, the text of which comprises the term  
22 defined in that paragraph;

23 (E) in paragraph (2)—

1 (i) by striking the paragraph designa-  
 2 tion and all that follows through “means”  
 3 and inserting the following:

4 “(2) INTEGRATED CROP AND LIVESTOCK MAN-  
 5 AGEMENT SYSTEM OR PRACTICE.—The term ‘inte-  
 6 grated crop and livestock management system or  
 7 practice’ means”; and

8 (ii) by inserting “resilience,” after  
 9 “profitability,”;

10 (F) by redesignating paragraphs (1), (2),  
 11 (4), (5), and (9) as paragraphs (9), (3), (1),  
 12 (2), and (4), respectively, and moving all para-  
 13 graphs so as to appear in numerical order; and

14 (G) by inserting before paragraph (6) the  
 15 following:

16 “(5) RESILIENCE.—The term ‘resilience’, with  
 17 respect to an agricultural management system,  
 18 means the ability of that system to absorb and re-  
 19 cover from climate and other disturbances, such that  
 20 the system is not impacted by a severe shock.”.

21 (b) ELIGIBILITY TO ENTER INTO RESEARCH AND  
 22 EXTENSION PROJECT AGREEMENTS.—Section 1621(b) of  
 23 the Food, Agriculture, Conservation, and Trade Act of  
 24 1990 (7 U.S.C. 5811(b)) is amended by striking “or Fed-  
 25 eral or State” and inserting “1994 Institutions (as defined

1 in section 532 of the Equity in Educational Land-Grant  
 2 Status Act of 1994 (7 U.S.C. 301 note; Public Law 103–  
 3 382)), or Federal, State, or Tribal”.

4 (c) AGRICULTURAL AND FOOD SYSTEM RESILIENCE  
 5 INITIATIVE.—

6 (1) IN GENERAL.—Section 1627 of the Food,  
 7 Agriculture, Conservation, and Trade Act of 1990 (7  
 8 U.S.C. 5821) is amended to read as follows:

9 **“SEC. 1627. AGRICULTURAL AND FOOD SYSTEM RESIL-**  
 10 **IENCE INITIATIVE.**

11 **“(a) ESTABLISHMENT.—**

12 **“(1) IN GENERAL.—**In close conjunction with  
 13 programs and projects established under sections  
 14 1621 and 1623, the Secretary shall establish a re-  
 15 search, education, extension, and outreach initiative  
 16 to increase the resilience and climate change mitiga-  
 17 tion potential of agriculture and the food system in  
 18 the context of a changing climate and related eco-  
 19 nomic, social, and environmental shocks, which may  
 20 include—

21 **“(A) farmer and rancher research and**  
 22 **demonstration grants; and**

23 **“(B) the use of an interdisciplinary ap-**  
 24 **proach wherever appropriate.**

1           “(2) PURPOSES.—The purposes of the initiative  
2       established under paragraph (1) shall be—

3           “(A) to equip farmers to prepare, adapt,  
4       and transform the farming systems of the farm-  
5       ers when confronted by shocks and stresses to  
6       the agricultural production and livelihoods of  
7       the farmers;

8           “(B) to support local and regional food  
9       systems that support resilience and enhance  
10      local access to and control over productive re-  
11      sources;

12          “(C) to encourage producers to adopt prac-  
13      tices and systems that provide living cover year-  
14      round throughout the farm, including through  
15      the use of cover crops and perennial plants in  
16      diversified combinations, and that are designed  
17      to support crop, livestock, and crop-livestock in-  
18      tegrated systems that—

19           “(i) minimize or abate adverse climate  
20      and environmental impacts;

21           “(ii) increase soil carbon sequestration  
22      and storage;

23           “(iii) reduce soil erosion and loss of  
24      water and nutrients;

1 “(iv) enhance soil quality and the effi-  
 2 cient use of on-farm and off-farm inputs;

3 “(v) reduce dependency on fossil fuels;  
 4 and

5 “(vi) maintain or increase profitability  
 6 and long-term productivity;

7 “(D) to develop knowledge and information  
 8 and conduct outreach on living cover systems  
 9 and practices, including greater use of  
 10 perennials, and integrated crop and livestock  
 11 management systems and practices to increase  
 12 resilience and assist agricultural producers in  
 13 the adoption of those systems and practices;

14 “(E) to facilitate the adoption of year-  
 15 round living cover and perennial production sys-  
 16 tems supporting whole-farm integrated crop  
 17 and livestock management systems and prac-  
 18 tices through demonstration projects on indi-  
 19 vidual farms, including small and limited re-  
 20 source farms, throughout the United States;  
 21 and

22 “(F) to evaluate and recommend appro-  
 23 priate policies and programs to improve food  
 24 and agricultural system resilience.

25 “(b) FUNDING.—

1           “(1) MANDATORY FUNDING.—Of the funds of  
 2           the Commodity Credit Corporation, the Secretary  
 3           shall use to carry out this section \$50,000,000 for  
 4           fiscal year 2026 and each fiscal year thereafter.

5           “(2) DISCRETIONARY FUNDING.—There is au-  
 6           thorized to be appropriated to carry out this section  
 7           through the National Institute of Food and Agri-  
 8           culture \$20,000,000 for each of fiscal years 2013  
 9           through 2030.”.

10           (2) CONFORMING AMENDMENT.—The chapter  
 11           heading of chapter 2 of subtitle B of title XVI of the  
 12           Food, Agriculture, Conservation, and Trade Act of  
 13           1990 (7 U.S.C. 5821) is amended to read as follows:  
 14           **“AGRICULTURAL AND FOOD SYSTEM**  
 15           **RESILIENCE INITIATIVE”**.

16           (d) TECHNICAL GUIDES AND BOOKS.—Section 1628  
 17           of the Food, Agriculture, Conservation, and Trade Act of  
 18           1990 (7 U.S.C. 5831) is amended—

19           (1) by inserting “and outreach resources and”  
 20           after “educational” each place it appears;

21           (2) in subsection (a), by striking “Not later  
 22           than two years after the date of the enactment of  
 23           this Act, the Secretary” and inserting “The Sec-  
 24           retary”;

1           (3) in subsection (b), by striking the second  
2 sentence;

3           (4) in subsection (d)—

4                (A) by redesignating paragraphs (3) and  
5                (4) as paragraphs (4) and (5), respectively; and

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

8                “(3) adapting to, and mitigating the effects of,  
9 climate change;”;

10           (5) in subsection (e), by striking “Soil Con-  
11 servation” and inserting “Natural Resources Con-  
12 servation”; and

13           (6) in subsection (f)(2), by striking “2023” and  
14 inserting “2030”.

15       (e) NATIONAL TRAINING PROGRAM.—Section 1629  
16 of the Food, Agriculture, Conservation, and Trade Act of  
17 1990 (7 U.S.C. 5832) is amended—

18           (1) in subsection (b)—

19                (A) in the third sentence—

20                   (i) by inserting before the period at  
21 the end the following: “, including employ-  
22 ees of the National Institute of Food and  
23 Agriculture, the Natural Resources Con-  
24 servation Service, and other appropriate  
25 Department of Agriculture personnel, as

1 determined by the Secretary, the activities  
 2 of whom involve the provision of agricul-  
 3 tural production and conservation informa-  
 4 tion to agricultural producers”; and

5 (ii) by striking “The coordinators”  
 6 and inserting the following:

7 “(B) RESPONSIBILITIES.—The coordina-  
 8 tors”;

9 (B) in the second sentence, by striking  
 10 “The Secretary” and inserting the following:

11 “(2) COORDINATORS.—

12 “(A) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary”; and

13 (C) in the first sentence, by striking “The  
 14 National” and inserting the following:

15 “(1) IN GENERAL.—The National”;

16 (2) in subsection (f), in the first sentence, by  
 17 inserting “of Agriculture” after “Department”;

18 (3) in subsection (g)—

19 (A) by inserting “of Agriculture” after  
 20 “Department” each place it appears;

21 (B) in paragraph (5), by striking “Soil  
 22 Conservation Service and the Agricultural Sta-  
 23 bilization and Conservation Service” and insert-  
 24 ing “Natural Resources Conservation Service  
 25 and the Farm Service Agency”;



1 (C) by redesignating paragraphs (10) and  
 2 (11) as paragraphs (11) and (12), respectively;  
 3 and

4 (D) by inserting after paragraph (9) the  
 5 following;

6 “(10) develop and provide information relating  
 7 to climate change adaptation and mitigation devel-  
 8 oped under this subtitle and other research and edu-  
 9 cation programs of the Department of Agriculture;”;  
 10 (4) by striking subsection (h);

11 (5) by redesignating subsection (i) as subsection  
 12 (h); and

13 (6) in subsection (h) (as so redesignated), by  
 14 inserting “, and \$30,000,000 for each of fiscal years  
 15 2026 through 2030” before the period at the end.

16 **SEC. 204. LONG-TERM AGROECOSYSTEM RESEARCH NET-**  
 17 **WORK.**

18 Title IV of the Agricultural Research, Extension, and  
 19 Education Reform Act of 1998 is amended by inserting  
 20 before section 404 (7 U.S.C. 7624) the following:

21 **“SEC. 402. LONG-TERM AGROECOSYSTEM RESEARCH NET-**  
 22 **WORK.**

23 “(a) ESTABLISHMENT.—

24 “(1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary, acting  
 25 through the Administrator of the Agricultural Re-

1 search Service, shall provide for the establishment  
2 and maintenance of a network of research sites, to  
3 be known as the ‘Long-Term Agroecosystem Re-  
4 search Network’ (referred to in this section as the  
5 ‘Network’), operated by the Agricultural Research  
6 Service for research regarding the sustainability of  
7 agricultural systems in the United States.

8 “(2) GOALS.—The Network shall have the fol-  
9 lowing goals:

10 “(A) To understand and enhance the sus-  
11 tainability of agriculture.

12 “(B) To integrate research projects with  
13 common standardized measurements on mul-  
14 tiple agroecosystems and land uses, including  
15 cropland, rangeland, and pastureland.

16 “(C) To develop new farming systems,  
17 practices, and technologies to address agricul-  
18 tural challenges and opportunities, including  
19 challenges and opportunities posed by climate  
20 change.

21 “(b) ACTIVITIES.—The activities of the Network shall  
22 include—

23 “(1) research conducted for a minimum of 30  
24 years to develop novel scientific insights at regional

1 and national scales, and to evaluate the applicability  
2 of, and adaptation to, local conditions;

3 “(2) the establishment and maintenance of mul-  
4 tiple sites or research centers that capture the diver-  
5 sity of agricultural production systems that function  
6 as a network; and

7 “(3) the coordination, management, and anal-  
8 ysis of large-scale data collection relating to the sus-  
9 tainability of agricultural systems and the provision  
10 of infrastructure to research sites to allow for ana-  
11 lyzing and disseminating those data.

12 “(c) COORDINATION OF RESEARCH.—In carrying out  
13 subsection (a), the Secretary shall—

14 “(1) coordinate long-term agroecological re-  
15 search to improve understanding within the Depart-  
16 ment regarding the means by which agroecosystems  
17 function at the field, regional, and national scales;

18 “(2) designate for inclusion in the Network re-  
19 search sites that are representative of major agricul-  
20 tural regions;

21 “(3) ensure that each research site included in  
22 the Network conducts experiments with standardized  
23 goals and methods—

24 “(A) to increase agricultural productivity  
25 and profitability;

1           “(B) to enhance agricultural resilience and  
2           the capacity to mitigate and adapt to climate  
3           change;

4           “(C) to boost the provision of ecosystem  
5           services from agricultural landscapes; and

6           “(D) to improve opportunities for rural  
7           communities;

8           “(4) make data collected at research sites in-  
9           cluded in the Network open to researchers and the  
10          public whenever practicable, and integrate data  
11          across the network and partner sites;

12          “(5) provide infrastructure to research sites in-  
13          cluded in the Network for data collection, common  
14          measurements, and data streams that complement  
15          other national networks, such as the National Eco-  
16          logical Observatory Network and the Long-Term Ec-  
17          ological Research Network;

18          “(6) coordinate with Climate Hubs of the De-  
19          partment to share research findings and data in-  
20          sights; and

21          “(7) collaborate with those Climate Hubs to  
22          translate research findings into educational, out-  
23          reach, and technical assistance materials for agricul-  
24          tural producers.

1 “(d) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There  
 2 is authorized to be appropriated to carry out activities of  
 3 the Network under this section \$50,000,000 for each of  
 4 fiscal years 2026 through 2030.”.

5 **SEC. 205. PUBLIC BREED AND CULTIVAR RESEARCH.**

6 (a) IN GENERAL.—The Competitive, Special, and Fa-  
 7 cilities Research Grant Act (7 U.S.C. 3157) is amended—

8 (1) by striking “hereby” each place it appears;

9 (2) in subsection (a)—

10 (A) by striking the subsection designation  
 11 and heading and all that follows through “In  
 12 order” in paragraph (1) and inserting the fol-  
 13 lowing:

14 “(a) SHORT TITLE; DEFINITIONS; ESTABLISHMENT  
 15 OF GRANT PROGRAM.—

16 “(1) ESTABLISHMENT OF GRANT PROGRAM.—  
 17 In order”;

18 (B) by redesignating paragraphs (1) and  
 19 (2) as paragraphs (3) and (1), respectively, and  
 20 moving the paragraphs so as to appear in nu-  
 21 merical order; and

22 (C) by inserting after paragraph (1) (as so  
 23 redesignated) the following:

24 “(2) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

1           “(A) CONVENTIONAL BREEDING.—The  
 2           term ‘conventional breeding’ means the develop-  
 3           ment of a new variety of an organism through  
 4           controlled mating and selection without the use  
 5           of transgenic methods.

6           “(B) CULTIVAR.—The term ‘cultivar’  
 7           means a variety of a species of plant that has  
 8           been intentionally selected for use in cultivation  
 9           because of the improved characteristics of that  
 10          variety of the species.

11          “(C) PUBLIC ANIMAL BREED.—The term  
 12          ‘public animal breed’ means an animal breed  
 13          that is the commercially available end product  
 14          of a publicly funded breeding program that has  
 15          been sufficiently tested to demonstrate im-  
 16          proved characteristics and stable performance.

17          “(D) PUBLIC CULTIVAR.—The term ‘public  
 18          cultivar’ means a cultivar—

19               “(i) that is the commercially available  
 20               end product of a publicly funded breeding  
 21               program that has been sufficiently tested  
 22               to demonstrate improved characteristics  
 23               and stable performance; and

24               “(ii) with respect to which, if intellec-  
 25               tual property rights are asserted, the intel-

1           lectual property rights are in the form of  
2           plant patents or plant variety protection  
3           and not utility patents.

4           “(E) PUBLIC CULTIVAR OR ANIMAL  
5 BREED.—The term ‘public cultivar or animal  
6 breed’ means—

7                   “(i) a public animal breed; and

8                   “(ii) a public cultivar.

9           “(F) SECRETARY.—The term ‘Secretary’  
10 means the Secretary of Agriculture.”;

11           (3) in subsection (b)—

12                   (A) in paragraph (1), by striking “of Agri-  
13 culture (referred to in this subsection as ‘the  
14 Secretary’)”; and

15                   (B) by striking “defined under” each place  
16 it appears and inserting “defined in”;

17           (4) in subsections (c), (e), (f), (g), (i), and (k),  
18 by striking “Secretary of Agriculture” each place it  
19 appears and inserting “Secretary”; and

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

21           “(I) PUBLIC BREED AND CULTIVAR DEVELOPMENT  
22 FUNDING.—

23                   “(1) IN GENERAL.—Of the total amount of  
24 grants made under the provisions of law described in  
25 paragraph (2), the Secretary shall ensure that not

1 less than \$75,000,000 for each fiscal year is used  
2 for competitive research grants that support the de-  
3 velopment of public cultivars and animal breeds.

4 “(2) APPLICABLE PROGRAMS.—The provisions  
5 of law referred to in paragraph (1) are—

6 “(A) subsections (a) and (b);

7 “(B) section 1672B(e) of the Food, Agri-  
8 culture, Conservation, and Trade Act of 1990  
9 (7 U.S.C. 5925b(e));

10 “(C) sections 1619 through 1624 of that  
11 Act (7 U.S.C. 5801 et seq.);

12 “(D) any relevant competitive grant pro-  
13 gram authorized by section 406 of the Agricul-  
14 tural Research, Extension, and Education Re-  
15 form Act of 1998 (7 U.S.C. 7626), as deter-  
16 mined by the Secretary; and

17 “(E) section 412 of that Act (7 U.S.C.  
18 7632).

19 “(3) PRIORITY.—In making grants under para-  
20 graph (1), the Secretary shall give priority to high-  
21 potential research projects that lead to the release of  
22 regionally adapted public cultivars and animal  
23 breeds that assist producers in mitigating and  
24 adapting to climate change, including—



1           “(A) regionally adapted public cultivars  
2           and animal breeds;

3           “(B) public cultivars and animal breeds  
4           bred for environmental resilience, including re-  
5           silience to changing climates, mitigating green-  
6           house gas emissions, and sequestering carbon;

7           “(C) public animal breeds adapted to graz-  
8           ing and overwintering as appropriate for the  
9           applicable production region;

10          “(D) public cultivars and animal breeds  
11          bred to enhance the nutritional and health out-  
12          comes of local and Native American, Alaska  
13          Native, and Native Hawaiian populations;

14          “(E) public cultivars and animal breeds of  
15          indigenous and place-based importance that are  
16          endangered; and

17          “(F) public cultivars and animal breeds  
18          with beneficial and compatible characteristics  
19          and behaviors for dual-use renewable energy-ag-  
20          ricultural systems.

21          “(4) GRANTS.—The Secretary shall ensure  
22          that—

23                 “(A) the terms and renewal process for  
24                 any competitive grants made under subsection  
25                 (b) in accordance with paragraph (1) facilitates

1 the development and commercialization of pub-  
2 lic cultivars and animal breeds through long-  
3 term grants with a term of not less than 5  
4 years; and

5 “(B) Tribal consultation occurs to ensure  
6 public cultivar or animal breed development  
7 does not infringe on the abilities of Indian  
8 Tribes to maintain culturally sensitive animal  
9 breeds and cultivars.

10 “(5) REQUIREMENT FOR DOMESTIC PRODUC-  
11 TION.—No person that receives title to a plant pat-  
12 ent or plant variety protection relating to any public  
13 cultivar or animal breed developed using funds re-  
14 ceived under this subsection, and no assignee of any  
15 such person, shall grant to any person the exclusive  
16 right to use or sell that public cultivar or animal  
17 breed unless that person agrees that any cultivars or  
18 animals embodying the public cultivar or animal  
19 breed or produced through the use of the public  
20 cultivar or animal breed will be produced substan-  
21 tially in the United States.

22 “(6) REPORT.—Not later than October 1 of  
23 each year, the Secretary shall submit to Congress a  
24 report that provides information relating to all pub-

1       lic cultivar and animal breeding research funded by  
2       the Department of Agriculture, including—

3               “(A) a list of public cultivars and animal  
4               breeds developed and released in a commercially  
5               available form;

6               “(B) areas of high-priority research;

7               “(C) identified research gaps relating to  
8               public cultivar and animal breed development;  
9               and

10              “(D) an assessment of the state of com-  
11              mercialization for public cultivars and animal  
12              breeds.”.

13       (b) PUBLIC BREED AND CULTIVAR RESEARCH AC-  
14       TIVITIES COORDINATION.—

15              (1) IN GENERAL.—Section 251 of the Depart-  
16       ment of Agriculture Reorganization Act of 1994 (7  
17       U.S.C. 6971) is amended—

18              (A) in subsection (e), by adding at the end  
19       the following:

20              “(7) PUBLIC BREED AND CULTIVAR RESEARCH  
21       ACTIVITIES COORDINATOR.—

22              “(A) IN GENERAL.—The Under Secretary  
23       shall appoint a coordinator within the Office of  
24       the Chief Scientist that reports to the Under  
25       Secretary to coordinate research activities at

1 the Department relating to the breeding of pub-  
2 lic cultivars and animal breeds (as defined in  
3 paragraph (2) of subsection (a) of the Competi-  
4 tive, Special, and Facilities Research Grant Act  
5 (7 U.S.C. 3157)).

6 “(B) DUTIES OF COORDINATOR.—The co-  
7 ordinator appointed under subparagraph (A)  
8 shall—

9 “(i) coordinate plant and animal  
10 breeding research activities funded by the  
11 Department relating to the development of  
12 public cultivars and animal breeds;

13 “(ii)(I) carry out ongoing analysis and  
14 track activities for any Federal research  
15 funding supporting plant and animal  
16 breeding (including any public cultivars  
17 and animal breeds developed with Federal  
18 funds); and

19 “(II) ensure that the analysis and ac-  
20 tivities are made available to the public not  
21 later than 60 days after the last day of  
22 each fiscal year;

23 “(iii) develop a strategic plan that es-  
24 tablishes targets for public cultivar and  
25 animal breed research investments across

1 the Department to ensure that a diverse  
 2 range of crop and animal needs are being  
 3 met in a timely and transparent manner,  
 4 with a strong focus on delivery of resource-  
 5 efficient, stress-tolerant, regionally adapted  
 6 public cultivar and animal breeds that—

7 “(I) help build agricultural resil-  
 8 ience to climate change; and

9 “(II) support on-farm carbon se-  
 10 questration and greenhouse gas miti-  
 11 gation, nutritional quality, and other  
 12 farmer-identified priority agronomic  
 13 and market traits;

14 “(iv) convene a working group to  
 15 carry out the coordination functions de-  
 16 scribed in this subparagraph comprised of  
 17 individuals who are responsible for the  
 18 management, administration, or analysis of  
 19 public cultivar and animal breeding pro-  
 20 grams within the Department from—

21 “(I) the National Institute of  
 22 Food and Agriculture;

23 “(II) the Agricultural Research  
 24 Service; and

1 “(III) the Economic Research  
2 Service;

3 “(v) in order to maximize delivery of  
4 public cultivars and animal breeds, pro-  
5 mote collaboration among—

6 “(I) the coordinator;

7 “(II) the working group convened  
8 under clause (iv);

9 “(III) the advisory council estab-  
10 lished under section 1634 of the  
11 Food, Agriculture, Conservation, and  
12 Trade Act of 1990 (7 U.S.C. 5843);

13 “(IV) genetic resource conserva-  
14 tion centers;

15 “(V) land-grant colleges and uni-  
16 versities (as defined in section 1404 of  
17 the National Agricultural Research,  
18 Extension, and Teaching Policy Act of  
19 1977 (7 U.S.C. 3103));

20 “(VI) Hispanic-serving institu-  
21 tions (as defined in section 502(a) of  
22 the Higher Education Act of 1965 (20  
23 U.S.C. 1101a(a)));

24 “(VII) Native American-serving  
25 nontribal institutions (as defined in

1 section 371(c) of the Higher Edu-  
2 cation Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C.  
3 1067q(c));

4 “(VIII) Tribal Colleges and Uni-  
5 versities (as defined in section 316(b)  
6 of the Higher Education Act of 1965  
7 (20 U.S.C. 1059c(b))) and federally  
8 recognized Indian Tribe extension pro-  
9 grams;

10 “(IX) nongovernmental organiza-  
11 tions with interest or expertise in pub-  
12 lic breeding; and

13 “(X) public and private plant and  
14 animal breeders, including small-scale  
15 organic breeders;

16 “(vi) convene regular stakeholder lis-  
17 tening sessions to provide input on na-  
18 tional and regional priorities for public  
19 cultivar and animal breed research activi-  
20 ties across the Department; and

21 “(vii) evaluate and make rec-  
22 ommendations to the Under Secretary with  
23 respect to training and resource needs to  
24 meet future breeding challenges.”; and

1 (B) in subsection (f)(1)(D)(i), by striking  
 2 “(7 U.S.C. 450i(b))” and inserting “(7 U.S.C.  
 3 3157(b))”.

4 (2) CONFORMING AMENDMENT.—Section  
 5 296(b)(6)(B) of the Department of Agriculture Re-  
 6 organization Act of 1994 (7 U.S.C. 7014(b)(6)(B))  
 7 is amended by striking “Scientist; and” and insert-  
 8 ing “Scientist (including the public breed and  
 9 cultivar research activities coordinator under sub-  
 10 section (e)(7) of that section); and”.

11 (c) PUBLIC BREED AND CULTIVAR DEVELOP-  
 12 MENT.—Subtitle H of title XVI of the Food, Agriculture,  
 13 Conservation, and Trade Act of 1990 (7 U.S.C. 5921 et  
 14 seq.) is amended by adding at the end the following:

15 **“SEC. 1681. PUBLIC BREED AND CULTIVAR DEVELOPMENT.**

16 “(a) FUNDING.—The Secretary of Agriculture, acting  
 17 through the Administrator of the Agricultural Research  
 18 Service (referred to in this section as the ‘Secretary’) and  
 19 in conjunction with the Director of the National Genetic  
 20 Resources Program appointed under section 1633, shall  
 21 support the development of public breeds and cultivars (as  
 22 defined in paragraph (2) of subsection (a) of the Competi-  
 23 tive, Special, and Facilities Research Grant Act (7 U.S.C.  
 24 3157)) by Federal researchers.



1       “(b) PRIORITY.—In supporting research under sub-  
2 section (a) using funds made available pursuant to sub-  
3 section (d), the Secretary shall give priority to high-poten-  
4 tial research projects that lead to the release of regionally  
5 adapted public breeds and cultivars that assist producers  
6 in mitigating and adapting to climate change.

7       “(c) REPORT.—Not later than October 1 of each  
8 year, the Secretary shall submit to Congress a report that  
9 provides information relating to all public breed and  
10 cultivar research funded by the Agricultural Research  
11 Service and the National Institute of Food and Agri-  
12 culture, including—

13               “(1) a list of public breeds and cultivars devel-  
14 oped and released in a commercially available form;

15               “(2) areas of high-priority research;

16               “(3) identified research gaps relating to public  
17 breed and cultivar development, including newly  
18 emerging needs stemming from climate change; and

19               “(4) an assessment of the state of commer-  
20 cialization for breeds and cultivars that have been  
21 developed.

22       “(d) FUNDING.—Of the funds made available to the  
23 Secretary for each fiscal year, not less than \$50,000,000  
24 shall be made available to carry out this section.”.

1 **SEC. 206. ARS CLIMATE SCIENTIST CAREER DEVELOPMENT**  
 2 **PROGRAM.**

3 (a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary, in accordance with  
 4 section 922 of the Federal Agriculture Improvement and  
 5 Reform Act of 1996 (7 U.S.C. 2279c), shall carry out an  
 6 internship program within the Agricultural Research Serv-  
 7 ice for graduate students pursuing a degree in, or con-  
 8 ducting research relating to, climate change and agri-  
 9 culture.

10 (b) FUNDING.—Of the funds of the Commodity Cred-  
 11 it Corporation, the Secretary may use to carry out the pro-  
 12 gram under subsection (a) not more than \$10,000,000 for  
 13 each of fiscal years 2026 through 2030.

14 **SEC. 207. AGRICULTURAL CLIMATE ADAPTATION AND MITI-**  
 15 **GATION THROUGH AFRI.**

16 Subsection (b)(2) of the Competitive, Special, and  
 17 Facilities Grant Act (7 U.S.C. 3157(b)(2)) is amended by  
 18 adding at the end the following:

19 “(G) AGRICULTURAL CLIMATE ADAPTA-  
 20 TION AND MITIGATION.—Agricultural climate  
 21 adaptation and mitigation, including—

22 “(i) strategies for agricultural adapta-  
 23 tion to climate change and drought, includ-  
 24 ing strategies for small- and medium-sized  
 25 farms and ranches;

1 “(ii) on-farm mitigation strategies and  
 2 solutions, including infrastructure, equip-  
 3 ment, and ecosystem-based strategies;

4 “(iii) economic and social costs and  
 5 benefits of adopting conservation practices  
 6 to mitigate and adapt to climate change;

7 “(iv) ecosystem services co-benefits of  
 8 reducing net greenhouse gas emissions and  
 9 adapting to climate change;

10 “(v) new technologies, methods, and  
 11 models to measure and predict greenhouse  
 12 gas emissions and soil carbon sequestra-  
 13 tion; and

14 “(vi) the intersection of agricultural  
 15 production, soil health, climate change, and  
 16 human health.”.

17 **SEC. 208. SPECIALTY CROP RESEARCH INITIATIVE.**

18 Section 412 of the Agricultural Research, Extension,  
 19 and Education Reform Act of 1998 (7 U.S.C. 7632) is  
 20 amended—

21 (1) in subsection (b)—

22 (A) in the matter preceding paragraph (1),  
 23 by inserting “, diverse multicrop production  
 24 systems,” after “specific crops”;

1 (B) in paragraph (3)(B)(ii), by striking  
 2 “pesticide application systems” and inserting  
 3 “ecologically based pest management, pesticide  
 4 application systems,”;

5 (C) in paragraph (4)(E), by striking “and”  
 6 at the end;

7 (D) in paragraph (5), by striking the pe-  
 8 riod at the end and inserting “; and”; and

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

10 “(6) efforts to mitigate and adapt to climate  
 11 change, including—

12 “(A) on-farm mitigation strategies and so-  
 13 lutions, including agricultural ecosystem-based  
 14 strategies;

15 “(B) conservation practices and tech-  
 16 nologies designed to improve soil health, includ-  
 17 ing practices and technologies that sequester  
 18 carbon in soil; and

19 “(C) breeding research and cultivar devel-  
 20 opment to help adapt to climate change.”; and

21 (2) in subsection (g)(3)(A), by striking “equal  
 22 to not less than the amount of the grant” and in-  
 23 serting “in an amount that is equal to not less than  
 24 25 percent of the funds provided through the  
 25 grant”.

1 **SEC. 209. INTEGRATED PEST MANAGEMENT.**

2 Section 406 of the Agricultural Research, Extension,  
3 and Education Reform Act of 1998 (7 U.S.C. 7626) is  
4 amended—

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

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

9 “(d) EMPHASIS ON CLIMATE RESILIENCE.—The Sec-  
10 retary shall ensure that grants made under this section  
11 are, where appropriate, consistent with the development  
12 of food and agricultural systems that improve climate re-  
13 silience.

14 “(e) ECOLOGICALLY BASED PEST MANAGEMENT.—  
15 The Secretary shall ensure that grants made under this  
16 section to support pest management prioritize ecologically  
17 based approaches that—

18 “(1) are effective, affordable, and environ-  
19 mentally sound;

20 “(2) maintain agricultural productivity and  
21 healthy communities; and

22 “(3) improve climate resilience.”; and

23 (3) in subsection (h) (as so redesignated), by  
24 striking “2023” and inserting “2030”.

1 **SEC. 210. APPROPRIATE TECHNOLOGY TRANSFER FOR**  
2 **RURAL AREAS PROGRAM.**

3 (a) ESTABLISHMENT.—Section 310B(i)(2) of the  
4 Consolidated Farm and Rural Development Act (7 U.S.C.  
5 1932(i)(2)) is amended—

6 (1) in the matter preceding subparagraph (A),  
7 by striking “that are seeking information to” and in-  
8 serting “, including beginning farmers or ranchers  
9 and veteran farmers or ranchers (as those terms are  
10 defined in section 2501(a) of the Food, Agriculture,  
11 Conservation, and Trade Act of 1990 (7 U.S.C.  
12 2279(a))) and socially disadvantaged farmers or  
13 ranchers (as defined in section 355(e)), that are  
14 seeking information”;

15 (2) in each of subparagraphs (A) through (D),  
16 by inserting “to” after the subparagraph designa-  
17 tion;

18 (3) in subparagraph (C), by striking “and” at  
19 the end;

20 (4) by redesignating subparagraph (D) as sub-  
21 paragraph (E);

22 (5) by inserting after subparagraph (C) the fol-  
23 lowing:

24 “(D) to increase on-farm resilience to ex-  
25 treme weather by enhancing soil health and  
26 adopting other conservation practices”;

1           (6) in subparagraph (E) (as so redesignated),  
2       by striking the period at the end and inserting “;  
3       and”; and

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

5           “(F) to improve farm viability and  
6       strengthen local, regional, and national supply  
7       chains.”.

8       (b) IMPLEMENTATION.—Section 310B(i)(3) of the  
9       Consolidated Farm and Rural Development Act (7 U.S.C.  
10      1932(i)(3)) is amended by adding at the end the following:

11           “(C) ELIGIBILITY FOR, AND USE OF,  
12       OTHER FUNDS.—A national nonprofit agricul-  
13       tural assistance institution that receives a grant  
14       or enters into a cooperative agreement under  
15       this subsection—

16           “(i) may not, as a result of that grant  
17       or cooperative agreement, be treated as in-  
18       eligible for a grant under any other Fed-  
19       eral program; and

20           “(ii) may use, in accordance with ap-  
21       plicable law, other public and private funds  
22       made available to the institution to expand  
23       the resources and outreach of the program  
24       established under this subsection.”.

1 (c) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—Section  
 2 310B(i) of the Consolidated Farm and Rural Development  
 3 Act (7 U.S.C. 1932(i)) is amended by striking paragraph  
 4 (4) and inserting the following:

5 “(4) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—  
 6 There are authorized to be appropriated to carry out  
 7 this subsection—

8 “(A) \$5,000,000 for fiscal year 2025; and

9 “(B) \$8,500,000 for each of fiscal years  
 10 2026 through 2030.”.

## 11 **TITLE III—SOIL HEALTH**

### 12 **SEC. 301. CROP INSURANCE.**

13 (a) VOLUNTARY GOOD FARMING PRACTICES.—Sec-  
 14 tion 508(a)(3)(A)(iii) of the Federal Crop Insurance Act  
 15 (7 U.S.C. 1508(a)(3)(A)(iii)) is amended—

16 (1) by striking “including scientifically” and in-  
 17 serting the following: “including—

18 “(I) scientifically”;

19 (2) in subclause (I) (as so designated), by strik-  
 20 ing the period at the end and inserting “; and”; and

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

22 “(II) conservation practices and  
 23 enhancements that are approved by—

24 “(aa) the Natural Resources  
 25 Conservation Service; or



1 “(bb) an agricultural expert,  
2 as determined by the Secretary.”.

3 (b) RISK-REDUCTION BASED DISCOUNTS.—Section  
4 508(d) of the Federal Crop Insurance Act (7 U.S.C.  
5 1508(d)) is amended—

6 (1) by redesignating paragraph (4) as para-  
7 graph (5); and

8 (2) by inserting after paragraph (3) the fol-  
9 lowing:

10 “(4) RISK-REDUCTION BASED DISCOUNT.—

11 “(A) IN GENERAL.—Effective beginning  
12 with the 2026 reinsurance year, the Corpora-  
13 tion may provide a risk-reduction based pre-  
14 mium discount for a producer of an agricultural  
15 commodity that uses risk-reduction farming  
16 practices, as determined by the Corporation in  
17 accordance with subparagraph (B).

18 “(B) RISK-REDUCTION FARMING PRAC-  
19 TICES.—For purposes of subparagraph (A), a  
20 risk-reduction farming practice may include any  
21 of the following:

22 “(i) The use of a cover crop.

23 “(ii) A resource-conserving crop rota-  
24 tion.

1 “(iii) Management-intensive rotational  
2 grazing.

3 “(iv) A compost or biochar applica-  
4 tion.

5 “(v) An agroforestry or other peren-  
6 nial production system.

7 “(vi) Other risk-reducing and soil  
8 health-promoting farming practices, as de-  
9 termined by the Corporation.”.

10 (c) CROP PRODUCTION ON NATIVE SOD APPLICA-  
11 BILITY.—

12 (1) APPLICATION TO CERTAIN STATES.—Sec-  
13 tion 508(o) of the Federal Crop Insurance Act (7  
14 U.S.C. 1508(o)) is amended by striking paragraph  
15 (3).

16 (2) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendment made  
17 by paragraph (1) shall take effect on the first day  
18 of the first reinsurance year that begins after the  
19 date that is 1 year after the date of enactment of  
20 this Act.

21 **SEC. 302. ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY INCENTIVES PRO-**  
22 **GRAM.**

23 (a) PURPOSES.—Section 1240 of the Food Security  
24 Act of 1985 (16 U.S.C. 3839aa) is amended—

1           (1) in the matter preceding paragraph (1), by  
 2           striking “and environmental quality” and inserting  
 3           “environmental quality, and climate change adapta-  
 4           tion and mitigation”;

5           (2) in paragraph (1)—

6                 (A) in subparagraph (B), by striking  
 7                 “and” at the end;

8                 (B) in subparagraph (C), by adding “and”  
 9                 at the end; and

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

11                   “(D) greenhouse gas emissions reduction  
 12                   and carbon sequestration;”;

13           (3) in paragraph (3)(C), by inserting “seques-  
 14           tering carbon, increasing drought resilience, reduc-  
 15           ing greenhouse gas emissions, and” before “con-  
 16           serving energy”; and

17           (4) in paragraph (4), by inserting “climate  
 18           change and” before “increasing weather volatility”.

19           (b) DEFINITIONS.—Section 1240A of the Food Secu-  
 20           rity Act of 1985 (16 U.S.C. 3839aa–1) is amended—

21                (1) in paragraph (6)(B)—

22                   (A) in clause (v), by striking “and” at the  
 23                   end;

24                   (B) by redesignating clause (vi) as clause  
 25                   (vii); and

1 (C) by inserting after clause (v) the fol-  
 2 lowing:

3 “(vi) greenhouse gas emissions reduc-  
 4 tion planning; and”;

5 (2) in paragraph (7), in the matter preceding  
 6 subparagraph (A), by striking “natural resource  
 7 concern or problem” and inserting “resource con-  
 8 cern”;

9 (3) by redesignating paragraphs (9) and (10)  
 10 as paragraphs (10) and (11), respectively; and

11 (4) by inserting after paragraph (8) the fol-  
 12 lowing:

13 “(9) RESOURCE CONCERN.—The term ‘resource  
 14 concern’ means a natural resource condition of the  
 15 soil, water, air, plant, animal, or energy resource  
 16 base that impairs the sustainability or an intended  
 17 use of the resource.”.

18 (c) ESTABLISHMENT AND ADMINISTRATION.—

19 (1) PAYMENTS.—Section 1240B(d)(7)(A) of the  
 20 Food Security Act of 1985 (16 U.S.C. 3839aa-  
 21 2(d)(7)(A)) is amended—

22 (A) in clause (iii), by striking “; or” and  
 23 inserting a semicolon;

24 (B) in clause (iv), by striking the period at  
 25 the end and inserting “; or”; and

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

2 “(v) increases carbon sequestration or  
3 reduces greenhouse gas emissions.”.

4 (2) ALLOCATION OF FUNDING.—Section  
5 1240B(f)(1) of the Food Security Act of 1985 (16  
6 U.S.C. 3839aa–2(f)(1)) is amended—

7 (A) by striking “2023, at least” and in-  
8 serting “2033, not less than”; and

9 (B) by striking “including grazing manage-  
10 ment practices” and inserting “of which not  
11 less than  $\frac{2}{3}$  shall be targeted at practices relat-  
12 ing to grazing management”.

13 (3) PAYMENTS FOR CONSERVATION PRACTICES  
14 RELATED TO ORGANIC PRODUCTION.—Section  
15 1240B(i) of the Food Security Act of 1985 (16  
16 U.S.C. 3839aa–2(i)) is amended—

17 (A) by striking paragraph (3); and

18 (B) by redesignating paragraphs (4) and  
19 (5) as paragraphs (3) and (4), respectively.

20 (4) CONSERVATION INCENTIVE CONTRACTS.—  
21 Section 1240B(j) of the Food Security Act of 1985  
22 (16 U.S.C. 3839aa–2(j)) is amended—

23 (A) in paragraph (1)—

24 (i) in subparagraph (A), by inserting  
25 “, which may include climate change adap-

tation and mitigation,” after “priority resource concerns”; and

(ii) in subparagraph (B), by inserting “, which may include climate change adaptation and mitigation” before the period at the end; and

(B) in paragraph (2)—

(i) in subparagraph (A)(ii)—

(I) in subclause (I), by striking “or” at the end;

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

(III) by adding at the end the following:

“(III) funding, through annual payments, for a suite of incentive practices that are appropriate for the region and land use and that best enhance soil health and carbon sequestration and reduce greenhouse gas emissions, as determined by the Secretary.”;

(ii) by striking subparagraph (B) and inserting the following:

1 “(B) TERM.—

2 “(i) IN GENERAL.—A contract under  
3 this subsection shall have a term of not  
4 less than 5, and not more than 10, years.

5 “(ii) GRADUATION OPTION.—The Sec-  
6 retary may reduce the term for a contract  
7 under this subsection if the producer en-  
8 ters into a conservation stewardship con-  
9 tract under section 1240K with respect to  
10 the eligible land that is subject to the con-  
11 tract under this subsection.”; and

12 (iii) in subparagraph (C)—

13 (I) in clause (i), by striking  
14 “and” at the end;

15 (II) in clause (ii), by striking the  
16 period at the end and inserting “;  
17 and”; and

18 (III) by adding at the end the  
19 following:

20 “(iii) give priority to applications that  
21 cover eligible land that, on expiration of a  
22 contract under this subsection, may be en-  
23 rolled in a conservation stewardship con-  
24 tract under section 1240K.”.

1 (d) ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY INCENTIVES PLAN.—  
 2 Section 1240E(a)(3) of the Food Security Act of 1985 (16  
 3 U.S.C. 3839aa–5(a)(3)) is amended by inserting “, and  
 4 a greenhouse gas emissions reduction plan” after “if appli-  
 5 cable”.

6 (e) LIMITATION ON PAYMENTS.—Section 1240G of  
 7 the Food Security Act of 1985 (16 U.S.C. 3839aa–7) is  
 8 amended by striking “Not including payments” and all  
 9 that follows through “2023” and inserting “A person or  
 10 legal entity (including a joint venture and a general part-  
 11 nership) may not receive, directly or indirectly, cost-share  
 12 or incentive payments under this subchapter that, in ag-  
 13 gregate, exceed \$450,000 for all contracts entered into  
 14 under this subchapter by the person or legal entity during  
 15 any 5-fiscal-year period”.

16 (f) CONSERVATION INNOVATION GRANTS.—

17 (1) AIR QUALITY CONCERNS FROM AGRICUL-  
 18 TURAL OPERATIONS.—Section 1240H(b) of the  
 19 Food Security Act of 1985 (16 U.S.C. 3839aa–8(b))  
 20 is amended—

21 (A) in paragraph (1)—

22 (i) by striking “practices to address”  
 23 in the first sentence and all that follows  
 24 through “The funds” in the second sen-



1                   tence and inserting the following: “prac-  
2                   tices—

3                   “(i) to address air quality concerns  
4                   from agricultural operations; and

5                   “(ii) to meet Federal, State, and  
6                   local—

7                   “(I) regulatory requirements; and

8                   “(II) goals with respect to green-  
9                   house gas emissions reductions.

10                  “(B) BASIS OF AVAILABILITY AND USE.—

11                  Funds for payments under subparagraph (A)”;

12                  and

13                  (ii) in the matter preceding clause (i)

14                  (as so designated), by striking “The Sec-

15                  retary” and inserting the following:

16                  “(A) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary”; and

17                  (B) in paragraph (2), by striking

18                  “\$37,500,000 for each of fiscal years 2019

19                  through 2031” and inserting “\$37,500,000 for

20                  each of fiscal years 2019 through 2023, and

21                  \$50,000,000 for each of fiscal years 2026

22                  through 2033”.

23                  (2) ON-FARM CONSERVATION INNOVATION

24                  TRIALS.—Section 1240H(c) of the Food Security

25                  Act of 1985 (16 U.S.C. 3839aa–8(c)) is amended—

1 (A) in paragraph (1)(B)(i)—

2 (i) in subclause (II), by inserting “on-  
3 farm nutrient recycling,” after “plans,”;

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

6 (iii) by adding at the end the fol-  
7 lowing:

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

12 (B) in paragraph (2), in the matter pre-  
13 ceding subparagraph (A), by striking “2019  
14 through 2031” and inserting “2025 through  
15 2027, \$50,000,000 of the funds made available  
16 to carry out this subchapter for each of fiscal  
17 years 2028 and 2029, and \$100,000,000 of the  
18 funds made available to carry out this sub-  
19 chapter for each of fiscal years 2030 through  
20 2033”.

21 **SEC. 303. CONSERVATION STEWARDSHIP PROGRAM.**

22 (a) DEFINITIONS.—Section 1240I of the Food Secu-  
23 rity Act of 1985 (16 U.S.C. 3839aa–21) is amended—

24 (1) in paragraph (2)—

1 (A) in subparagraph (A), by inserting “en-  
2 hancements,” after “practices,”; and

3 (B) in subparagraph (B)(v), by inserting  
4 “and climate change” before the period at the  
5 end;

6 (2) in paragraph (3)(C), by inserting “main-  
7 tained, actively” after “implemented,”;

8 (3) in paragraph (5), in the matter preceding  
9 subparagraph (A), by striking “natural resource  
10 concern or problem” and inserting “resource con-  
11 cern”;

12 (4) by redesignating paragraph (7) as para-  
13 graph (8); and

14 (5) by inserting after paragraph (6) the fol-  
15 lowing:

16 “(7) RESOURCE CONCERN.—The term ‘resource  
17 concern’ means a natural resource condition of the  
18 soil, water, air, plant, animal, or energy resource  
19 base that impairs the sustainability or an intended  
20 use of the resource.”.

21 (b) CONSERVATION STEWARDSHIP PROGRAM.—Sec-  
22 tion 1240J(a) of the Food Security Act of 1985 (16  
23 U.S.C. 3839aa–22(a)) is amended—

24 (1) in the matter preceding paragraph (1), by  
25 striking “2031” and inserting “2033”; and

1           (2) by striking paragraphs (1) and (2) and in-  
2       serting the following:

3           “(1) by maintaining, actively managing, and,  
4       where practicable, improving existing conservation  
5       activities; and

6           “(2) by undertaking additional conservation ac-  
7       tivities.”.

8       (c) STEWARDSHIP CONTRACTS.—

9           (1) SUBMISSION OF CONTRACT OFFERS.—Sec-  
10       tion 1240K(a)(2)(B) of the Food Security Act of  
11       1985 (16 U.S.C. 3839aa–23(a)(2)(B)) is amended  
12       by striking “improving, maintaining, and managing”  
13       and inserting “maintaining, actively managing, and,  
14       where practicable, improving”.

15          (2) EVALUATION OF CONTRACT OFFERS.—Sec-  
16       tion 1240K(b) of the Food Security Act of 1985 (16  
17       U.S.C. 3839aa–23(b)) is amended—

18               (A) in paragraph (1)(A), by striking clause  
19       (iii) and inserting the following:

20               “(iii) other criteria consistent with an  
21               equal weighting of the factors described in  
22               clauses (i) and (ii), as determined by the  
23               Secretary, including criteria the Secretary  
24               determines are necessary to ensure that—

1 “(I) the program effectively tar-  
 2 gets improvements to soil health, in-  
 3 creases in carbon sequestration, and  
 4 reductions in greenhouse gas emis-  
 5 sions; and

6 “(II) other national, State, and  
 7 local priority resource concerns are ef-  
 8 fectively addressed.”; and

9 (B) by striking paragraph (3).

10 (3) CONTRACT RENEWAL.—Section 1240K(e)  
 11 of the Food Security Act of 1985 (16 U.S.C.  
 12 3839aa–23(e)) is amended—

13 (A) in the matter preceding paragraph (1),  
 14 by striking “may provide the producer an op-  
 15 portunity” and inserting “shall guarantee that  
 16 each producer has an opportunity”; and

17 (B) in paragraph (3)—

18 (i) by striking subparagraph (B);

19 (ii) in subparagraph (A), by striking  
 20 “; or” at the end and inserting “, if appli-  
 21 cable.”; and

22 (iii) by striking “period—” in the  
 23 matter preceding subparagraph (A) and all  
 24 that follows through “to meet” in subpara-  
 25 graph (A) and inserting “period, to meet”.

(d) DUTIES OF SECRETARY.—

(1) CLIMATE CHANGE ADAPTATION AND MITIGATION.—Section 1240L(a)(2) of the Food Security Act of 1985 (16 U.S.C. 3839aa–24(a)(2)) is amended by inserting “(which may include climate change adaptation and mitigation)” after “priority resource concerns”.

(2) CONSERVATION STEWARDSHIP PAYMENTS.—Section 1240L(c) of the Food Security Act of 1985 (16 U.S.C. 3839aa–24(c)) is amended—

(A) in paragraph (1)—

(i) in subparagraph (A), by inserting “on 1 or more types of eligible land covered by the contract” after “activities”; and

(ii) in subparagraph (B), by striking “improving, maintaining, and managing” and inserting “maintaining, actively managing, and improving”;

(B) in paragraph (2)—

(i) by striking subparagraph (B) and inserting the following:

“(B) Income forgone by the producer, including amounts that reflect—

“(i) increased economic risk; and

1 “(ii) loss in revenue due to—  
2 “(I) production changes;  
3 “(II) anticipated reductions in  
4 yield;  
5 “(III) transitioning to an or-  
6 ganic, resource-conserving cropping or  
7 grazing, or perennial production sys-  
8 tem; or  
9 “(IV) acreage converted to con-  
10 servation uses.”; and  
11 (ii) in subparagraph (E), by striking  
12 “maintained over the term of the con-  
13 tract.” and inserting the following: “main-  
14 tained, actively managed, and, where appli-  
15 cable, improved over the term of the con-  
16 tract, in a manner that ensures that—  
17 “(i) producers receive payment for  
18 maintaining high levels of stewardship es-  
19 sential to addressing priority resource con-  
20 cerns; and  
21 “(ii) all land uses with sufficiently  
22 high levels of stewardship in place receive  
23 payment for maintaining that level of stew-  
24 ardship, regardless of additional conserva-

1           tion activities implemented on that land  
2           over the contract term.”; and

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

4           “(6) PAYMENTS FOR CONSERVATION ACTIVI-  
5           TIES RELATED TO ORGANIC PRODUCTION SYS-  
6           TEMS.—

7           “(A) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall  
8           provide payments under this subsection for con-  
9           servation activities relating to—

10                   “(i) organic production; and

11                   “(ii) transitioning to organic produc-  
12           tion.

13           “(B) CONSERVATION ACTIVITIES.—Con-  
14           servation activities described in subparagraph  
15           (A) may include—

16                   “(i) generally available and specifically  
17           tailored conservation activities; and

18                   “(ii) individual conservation activities  
19           and bundles of conservation activities.

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

23           (3) SUPPLEMENTAL PAYMENTS.—Section  
24           1240L(d) of the Food Security Act of 1985 (16  
25           U.S.C. 3839aa–24(d)) is amended—



(A) in the subsection heading, by inserting  
 “, PERENNIAL PRODUCTION SYSTEMS,” after  
 “ROTATIONS”;

(B) in paragraph (1)—

(i) by redesignating subparagraph (C)  
 as subparagraph (D); and

(ii) by inserting after subparagraph  
 (B) the following:

“(C) PERENNIAL PRODUCTION SYSTEM.—

The term ‘perennial production system’  
 means—

“(i) the use of cropland for agro-  
 forestry, including alley cropping,  
 silvopasture, and related production prac-  
 tices, as determined by the Secretary;

“(ii) the use of woodland for agro-  
 forestry, including forest farming, multi-  
 story cropping, and related production  
 practices, as determined by the Secretary;  
 and

“(iii) the use of cropland for perennial  
 forages or perennial grain crops.”;

(C) in paragraph (2)—

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

1 (ii) in subparagraph (B), by striking  
 2 the period at the end and inserting “; or”;  
 3 and

4 (iii) by adding at the end the fol-  
 5 lowing:

6 “(C) a perennial production system.”; and

7 (D) in paragraph (3), by striking “or ad-  
 8 vanced grazing management” and inserting “,  
 9 advanced grazing management, or a perennial  
 10 production system”.

11 (4) PAYMENT FOR COMPREHENSIVE CONSERVA-  
 12 TION PLAN.—Section 1240L(e)(1) of the Food Secu-  
 13 rity Act of 1985 (16 U.S.C. 3839aa–24(e)(1)) is  
 14 amended—

15 (A) by striking “plan that meets” and in-  
 16 serting the following: “plan that—

17 “(A) meets”;

18 (B) in subparagraph (A) (as so des-  
 19 ignated), by striking the period at the end and  
 20 inserting “; and”; and

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

22 “(B) with respect to an organic production  
 23 system—

24 “(i) is integrated with an organic sys-  
 25 tem plan approved under the national or-

1            organic program established under the Or-  
 2            ganic Foods Production Act of 1990 (7  
 3            U.S.C. 6501 et seq.); or

4            “(ii) allows a producer to transition to  
 5            organic production systems and pursue  
 6            certification under that Act.”.

7            (5) PAYMENT LIMITATIONS.—Section 1240L(f)  
 8            of the Food Security Act of 1985 (16 U.S.C.  
 9            3839aa–24(f)) is amended—

10            (A) by inserting “(including a joint venture  
 11            and a general partnership)” after “A person or  
 12            legal entity”; and

13            (B) by striking “fiscal years 2019 through  
 14            2023” and inserting “any consecutive 5-fiscal-  
 15            year period”.

16            (6) SPECIALTY CROP AND ORGANIC PRO-  
 17            DUCERS.—Section 1240L(g) of the Food Security  
 18            Act of 1985 (16 U.S.C. 3839aa–24(g)) is amended  
 19            by inserting “, and producers transitioning to or-  
 20            ganic production systems,” after “organic pro-  
 21            ducers”.

22            (7) SOIL HEALTH.—Section 1240L(k) of the  
 23            Food Security Act of 1985 (16 U.S.C. 3839aa–  
 24            24(k)) is amended by striking “health.” and insert-  
 25            ing the following: “health, including by—

1           “(1) conducting outreach to encourage the use  
2           of contracts to improve soil health and sequester  
3           carbon in the soil; and

4           “(2) offering payments for, and supporting the  
5           interpretation of, soil health testing to provide to  
6           producers and the Secretary information relating to  
7           the soil health and carbon sequestration impacts of  
8           conservation activities.”.

9           (e) ON-FARM CONSERVATION STEWARDSHIP INNO-  
10          VATION GRANTS.—Subchapter B of chapter 4 of subtitle  
11          D of title XII of the Food Security Act of 1985 (16 U.S.C.  
12          3839aa–21 et seq.) is amended by adding at the end the  
13          following:

14         **“SEC. 1240L–2. ON-FARM CONSERVATION STEWARDSHIP IN-**  
15                 **NOVATION GRANTS.**

16           “(a) IN GENERAL.—Using funds made available to  
17          carry out this subchapter, the Secretary shall provide com-  
18          petitive grants to carry out on-farm conservation innova-  
19          tion projects on eligible land of program participants for  
20          the purpose of stimulating innovative approaches on farms  
21          and ranches to leverage Federal investment in conserva-  
22          tion stewardship, in conjunction with agricultural produc-  
23          tion or forest resource management, through the program.

24           “(b) PARTICIPANTS.—The Secretary shall provide  
25          grants under this section—

1           “(1) directly to agricultural operations, or  
 2           groups of agricultural operations, participating in  
 3           the program; or

4           “(2) through partnerships between small groups  
 5           of agricultural operations participating in the pro-  
 6           gram and organizations assisting farmers and ranch-  
 7           ers at the local level, including—

8                   “(A) university researchers or educators;

9                   “(B) extension agents or specialists;

10                  “(C) Federal agency field staff;

11                  “(D) agricultural consultants;

12                  “(E) State and local agency staff;

13                  “(F) Tribal agency staff;

14                  “(G) Federally-Recognized Tribes Exten-  
 15                  sion Program agents; and

16                  “(H) nonprofit organization staff.

17           “(c) USE.—An entity that receives a grant under this  
 18           section directly or through a partnership in accordance  
 19           with subsection (b) shall carry out an on-farm conserva-  
 20           tion innovation project that—

21                  “(1) facilitates on-farm research and dem-  
 22                  onstration or pilot testing of new technologies or in-  
 23                  novative conservation systems and practices that aim  
 24                  to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and decarbonize  
 25                  agriculture;

1           “(2) facilitates on-farm research and dem-  
 2           onstration or pilot testing of practices and systems  
 3           with a proven high impact for greenhouse gas emis-  
 4           sions reduction and decarbonization and low national  
 5           or regional adoption rates; or

6           “(3) helps to prepare program participants for  
 7           participation in environmental services markets that  
 8           have as a primary goal greenhouse gas emissions re-  
 9           duction or decarbonization of agriculture.

10          “(d) INCENTIVE PAYMENTS.—

11           “(1) AGREEMENTS.—

12           “(A) IN GENERAL.—In carrying out this  
 13           section, the Secretary shall enter into agree-  
 14           ments with agricultural operations (directly or  
 15           through governmental or nongovernmental or-  
 16           ganizations involved in a partnership with 1 or  
 17           more agricultural operations) on the land of  
 18           which an on-farm conservation innovation  
 19           project is being carried out under this section  
 20           to provide payments to the agricultural oper-  
 21           ations to assist with adopting and evaluating  
 22           new or innovative conservation approaches to  
 23           achieve conservation benefits.

24           “(B) AMOUNT.—Payments provided under  
 25           subparagraph (A) shall reflect the direct costs

1 of the research and demonstration and com-  
 2 pensation for foregone income, as appropriate  
 3 to address the increased economic risk or lower  
 4 economic return potentially associated with the  
 5 applicable innovative conservation approach.

6 “(2) ADJUSTED GROSS INCOME REQUIRE-  
 7 MENTS.—

8 “(A) IN GENERAL.—The adjusted gross in-  
 9 come requirements under section 1001D(b)(1)  
 10 shall—

11 “(i) apply to producers receiving pay-  
 12 ments under this subsection; and

13 “(ii) be enforced by the Secretary.

14 “(B) REPORTING.—A governmental or  
 15 nongovernmental organization participating in  
 16 an on-farm conservation innovation project  
 17 under this subsection shall submit to the Sec-  
 18 retary an annual report describing the amount  
 19 of payments that the organization made to each  
 20 agricultural operation under this subsection.

21 “(3) RESEARCH, TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE, AND  
 22 ADMINISTRATIVE EXPENSES.—The Secretary may  
 23 provide to a partnership described in paragraph  
 24 (1)(A) not more than \$50,000 for each on-farm con-

1       servation innovation project for research, technical  
2       assistance, and administrative expenses.

3               “(4) LENGTH OF AGREEMENTS.—An agreement  
4       entered into under paragraph (1)(A) shall be for a  
5       period determined by the Secretary that is—

6                       “(A) not less than 2 years; and

7                       “(B) if appropriate, more than 2 years, in-  
8       cluding if the longer period is appropriate to  
9       support—

10                      “(i) adaptive management over mul-  
11       tiple crop years; and

12                      “(ii) adequate data collection and  
13       analysis by an agricultural operation or  
14       partnership to report the natural resource  
15       and agricultural production benefits of the  
16       new or innovative conservation approaches  
17       to the Secretary.”.

18   **SEC. 304. STATE ASSISTANCE FOR SOIL HEALTH.**

19       Chapter 5 of subtitle D of title XII of the Food Secu-  
20       rity Act of 1985 (16 U.S.C. 3839bb et seq.) is amended  
21       by adding at the end the following:

22   **“SEC. 1240S. STATE ASSISTANCE FOR SOIL HEALTH.**

23       “(a) AVAILABILITY AND PURPOSE OF GRANTS.—  
24       Using funds made available under subsection (k), the Sec-  
25       retary shall make grants to States or Tribal governments



1 for each of fiscal years 2026 through 2030 to be used by  
 2 State departments of agriculture or appropriate Tribal au-  
 3 thorities to develop and implement plans to improve soil  
 4 health on agricultural land.

5 “(b) APPLICATION.—

6 “(1) IN GENERAL.—A State department of ag-  
 7 riculture or Tribal government requesting a grant  
 8 under this section shall prepare and submit for ap-  
 9 proval by the Secretary an application at such time,  
 10 in such a manner, and containing such information  
 11 as the Secretary shall require, including an assur-  
 12 ance that grant funds received under this section  
 13 shall supplement the expenditure of State or Tribal  
 14 funds in support of soil health, rather than replace  
 15 State or Tribal funds for those purposes.

16 “(2) USE OF FUNDS.—A State or Tribal gov-  
 17 ernment may request funds under this section—

18 “(A) to develop or modify a State or Tribal  
 19 soil health plan; or

20 “(B) to implement a State or Tribal soil  
 21 health plan approved by the Secretary under  
 22 this section, including through—

23 “(i) technical assistance;

24 “(ii) financial assistance;

1 “(iii) on-farm research and dem-  
2 onstration;

3 “(iv) education, outreach, and train-  
4 ing;

5 “(v) monitoring and evaluation; or

6 “(vi) such other activities as the Sec-  
7 retary determines to be appropriate.

8 “(3) PLAN COMPONENTS.—Before approving a  
9 State or Tribal soil health plan, the Secretary shall  
10 ensure that the plan, at a minimum—

11 “(A) is broadly consistent with the soil  
12 health principles of the Natural Resources Con-  
13 servation Service; and

14 “(B) identifies effective strategies for in-  
15 creasing adoption of regionally appropriate soil  
16 health practices and systems on privately owned  
17 agricultural land under the jurisdiction of the  
18 applicable State or Tribal government.

19 “(4) ELIGIBILITY.—A State or Tribal govern-  
20 ment may—

21 “(A) apply for a grant for the purposes de-  
22 scribed in paragraph (2)(A) at any time; and

23 “(B) apply for a grant for the purposes de-  
24 scribed in paragraph (2)(B) on approval by the

1 Secretary of a soil health plan for the State or  
 2 Tribal government.

3 “(c) TRIBAL OPTION.—At the sole discretion of a  
 4 Tribal government, an Indian Tribe or Tribal organization  
 5 shall have the option of being incorporated into a State  
 6 application rather than submitting an application for the  
 7 Indian Tribe or Tribal organization.

8 “(d) GRANT AMOUNT.—

9 “(1) MAXIMUM.—The maximum amount of a  
 10 grant that any 1 State or Tribal government may  
 11 receive under this section for a fiscal year shall be—

12 “(A) in the case of a grant for the pur-  
 13 poses described in subsection (b)(2)(A),  
 14 \$1,000,000; and

15 “(B) in the case of a grant for the pur-  
 16 poses described in subsection (b)(2)(B),  
 17 \$5,000,000.

18 “(2) FEDERAL SHARE.—

19 “(A) GRANTS TO STATES.—The amount of  
 20 a grant to a State under this section shall not  
 21 exceed—

22 “(i) 75 percent of the cost of devel-  
 23 oping or modifying a soil health plan; or

24 “(ii) 50 percent of the cost of imple-  
 25 menting the soil health plan.

1                   “(B) GRANTS TO TRIBES.—The amount of  
 2                   a grant to a Tribal government under this sec-  
 3                   tion may cover 100 percent of the costs of de-  
 4                   veloping or implementing a soil health plan.

5                   “(3) NON-FEDERAL FUNDS.—A grant under  
 6                   this section shall be provided subject to the condition  
 7                   that the non-Federal share of expenditures under  
 8                   paragraph (2) shall be provided by non-Federal  
 9                   sources.

10                  “(e) GRANT TERM.—A grant under this section—

11                   “(1) shall be for a term of 1 year; and

12                   “(2) may be renewed annually, at the discretion  
 13                  of the Secretary.

14                  “(f) PRIORITY.—In providing grants under this sec-  
 15                  tion, the Secretary shall give priority to a State or Tribal  
 16                  government with a climate action plan that includes soil  
 17                  health, as determined by the Secretary.

18                  “(g) PERFORMANCE MEASURES AND EVALUATION.—

19                   “(1) PERFORMANCE MEASURES.—Each applica-  
 20                  tion under subsection (b) shall include performance  
 21                  measures to be used to evaluate the results of the  
 22                  assistance received under this section.

23                   “(2) REVIEW.—Each applicable State depart-  
 24                  ment of agriculture or Tribal authority shall submit  
 25                  to the Secretary a review and evaluation of the

1 progress of the State department of agriculture or  
2 Tribal authority, using the performance measures  
3 under paragraph (1), at such intervals as the Sec-  
4 retary shall establish.

5 “(h) EFFECT OF NONCOMPLIANCE.—If the Sec-  
6 retary, after providing reasonable notice to a State or  
7 Tribal government, determines that the State or Tribal  
8 government has failed to comply with the terms of a grant  
9 provided under this section, the Secretary may disqualify,  
10 for 1 or more years, the State or Tribal government from  
11 receipt of future grants under this section.

12 “(i) AUDIT REQUIREMENT.—For each year during  
13 which a State or Tribal government receives a grant under  
14 this section, the State or Tribal government shall—

15 “(1) conduct an audit of the expenditures of  
16 grant funds by the State or Tribal government; and

17 “(2) not later than 30 days after the completion  
18 of the audit under paragraph (1), submit to the Sec-  
19 retary a copy of the audit.

20 “(j) ADMINISTRATION.—

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

1           “(2) STATES AND TRIBES.—A State or Tribal  
 2           government receiving a grant under this section may  
 3           not use more than 7 percent of grant funds for a fis-  
 4           cal year for administrative expenses.

5           “(k) FUNDING.—Of the funds of the Commodity  
 6           Credit Corporation, the Secretary shall use to make grants  
 7           under this section—

8                   “(1) \$60,000,000 for each of fiscal years 2026  
 9                   and 2027;

10                   “(2) \$80,000,000 for each of fiscal years 2028  
 11                   and 2029; and

12                   “(3) \$100,000,000 for fiscal year 2030 and  
 13                   each fiscal year thereafter.”.

14   **SEC. 305. FUNDING AND ADMINISTRATION.**

15           (a) COMMODITY CREDIT CORPORATION.—

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

19                           (A) in paragraph (1)—

20                                   (i) in subparagraph (A), by inserting  
 21                                   “, and \$17,000,000 for the period of fiscal  
 22                                   years 2026 through 2030,” after “2023”;  
 23                                   and

24                                   (ii) in subparagraph (B), by inserting  
 25                                   “and \$70,000,000 for the period of fiscal

1 years 2026 through 2030, including not  
2 more than \$5,000,000 to provide outreach  
3 and technical assistance,” after “technical  
4 assistance,”;

5 (B) in paragraph (2)—

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

8 (ii) in subparagraph (F), by striking  
9 “2031.” and inserting “2025; and”; and

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

12 “(G) \$700,000,000 for each of fiscal years  
13 2026 through 2033.”; and

14 (C) in paragraph (3)—

15 (i) in subparagraph (A)—

16 (I) in clause (iv), by striking  
17 “and” at the end;

18 (II) in clause (v), by striking  
19 “each of fiscal years 2023 through  
20 2031” and inserting “fiscal year  
21 2025”; and

22 (III) by adding at the end the  
23 following:

24 “(vi) \$3,000,000,000 for each of fiscal  
25 years 2026 through 2033; and”; and

1 (ii) in subparagraph (B)—

2 (I) in clause (iv), by striking  
3 “and” at the end;

4 (II) in clause (v), by striking  
5 “each of fiscal years 2023 through  
6 2031.” and inserting “fiscal year  
7 2025; and”; and

8 (III) by adding at the end the  
9 following:

10 “(vi) \$4,000,000,000 for each of fiscal  
11 years 2026 through 2033.”.

12 (2) TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE.—Section 1241(c)  
13 of the Food Security Act of 1985 (16 U.S.C.  
14 3841(c)) is amended by adding at the end the fol-  
15 lowing:

16 “(5) SPECIAL INITIATIVE.—

17 “(A) IN GENERAL.—Beginning in fiscal  
18 year 2025, and each year thereafter through  
19 fiscal year 2030, the Secretary shall use for a  
20 special technical assistance initiative to assist  
21 producers in mitigating and adapting to climate  
22 change, of the funds of the Commodity Credit  
23 Corporation, an amount equal to not less than  
24 1 percent of Commodity Credit Corporation  
25 funds made available for the applicable fiscal



1 year for each of the programs described in sub-  
 2 section (a).

3 “(B) PROVISION OF TECHNICAL ASSIST-  
 4 ANCE.—The Secretary shall provide technical  
 5 assistance under the special initiative under this  
 6 paragraph to producers—

7 “(i) directly;

8 “(ii)(I) through an agreement with a  
 9 third-party provider (as defined in section  
 10 1242(a)); or

11 “(II) at the option of the producer,  
 12 through a payment, as determined by the  
 13 Secretary, to the producer for a third-party  
 14 provider approved under section 1242, if  
 15 available; or

16 “(iii) through a cooperative agreement  
 17 or contract with—

18 “(I) a cooperative extension;

19 “(II) a nongovernmental organi-  
 20 zation; or

21 “(III) a State, Tribal, or Federal  
 22 agency.

23 “(C) UNDERSERVED PRODUCERS.—In pro-  
 24 viding technical assistance under this para-  
 25 graph, the Secretary shall give priority to pro-

1           ducers that are persons described in section  
2           1244(a)(2).”.

3           (3) ASSISTANCE TO CERTAIN FARMERS OR  
4           RANCHERS FOR CONSERVATION ACCESS.—Section  
5           1241(h) of the Food Security Act of 1985 (16  
6           U.S.C. 3841(h)) is amended—

7                   (A) in paragraph (1)(B), by striking  
8                   “practicable—” in the matter preceding clause  
9                   (i) and all that follows through the period at  
10                  the end of clause (ii) and inserting “practicable,  
11                  30 percent to assist beginning farmers or  
12                  ranchers and socially disadvantaged farmers or  
13                  ranchers.”; and

14                  (B) in paragraph (4), by striking “section  
15                  2501(e)” and all that follows through the pe-  
16                  riod at the end and inserting “section 2501(a)  
17                  of the Food, Agriculture, Conservation, and  
18                  Trade Act of 1990 (7 U.S.C. 2279(a))) that  
19                  qualifies under paragraph (1)(B).”.

20           (b) DELIVERY OF TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE.—Section  
21           1242 of the Food Security Act of 1985 (16 U.S.C. 3842)  
22           is amended—

23                   (1) in subsection (a)(2)—

24                           (A) by inserting “an individual,” before “a  
25                           commercial entity”;

1 (B) by striking “State or local” and insert-  
 2 ing “State, local, or Tribal”; and

3 (C) by striking “nutrient management  
 4 planning,” and inserting “soil health planning,  
 5 greenhouse gas emissions reduction planning,  
 6 nutrient management planning, integrated pest  
 7 management planning, agroforestry planning,  
 8 organic transition planning,”;

9 (2) in subsection (e)—

10 (A) in paragraph (3)(A)—

11 (i) by inserting “individuals,” before  
 12 “commercial entities,”; and

13 (ii) by striking “State or local” and  
 14 inserting “State, local, or Tribal”; and

15 (B) in paragraph (5), by inserting “or or-  
 16 ganic” after “sustainability”; and

17 (3) in subsection (i)—

18 (A) in the subsection heading, by inserting  
 19 “PERENNIAL PRODUCTION SYSTEM,” after  
 20 “ORGANIC,”; and

21 (B) in paragraph (2)—

22 (i) in subparagraph (A), by striking  
 23 “organic” and inserting “organic produc-  
 24 tion, perennial production systems”; and

1 (ii) in subparagraph (B)(i), by strik-  
 2 ing “organic, specialty crop production”  
 3 and inserting “organic production, peren-  
 4 nial production systems, specialty crop pro-  
 5 duction,”.

6 (c) ADMINISTRATIVE REQUIREMENTS FOR CON-  
 7 SERVATION PROGRAMS.—

8 (1) INCENTIVES FOR CERTAIN FARMERS AND  
 9 RANCHERS AND INDIAN TRIBES.—Section  
 10 1244(a)(1) of the Food Security Act of 1985 (16  
 11 U.S.C. 3844(a)(1)) is amended—

12 (A) in the matter preceding subparagraph  
 13 (A), by striking “incentives” and inserting “in-  
 14 centives, including higher payment rates, ad-  
 15 vance payments, transition payments, and farm  
 16 infrastructure assistance,”;

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

19 (C) by striking subparagraph (B) and in-  
 20 serting the following:

21 “(B) to establish a new generation of pro-  
 22 ducers that use the full array of climate-friendly  
 23 conservation activities that reduce greenhouse  
 24 gas emissions, increase soil carbon, and improve  
 25 resilience to weather extremes; and

1 “(C) to enhance other long-term environ-  
2 mental goals.”.

3 (2) REVIEW AND GUIDANCE FOR PRACTICE  
4 COSTS AND PAYMENT RATES.—Section  
5 1244(j)(1)(B) of the Food Security Act of 1985 (16  
6 U.S.C. 3844(j)(1)(B)) is amended—

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

9 (B) in clause (iii), by striking the period at  
10 the end and inserting “; and”; and

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

12 “(iv) accelerates progress in meeting  
13 the goals established under title I of the  
14 Agriculture Resilience Act of 2025.”.

15 (3) ADVANCED GRAZING MANAGEMENT.—Sec-  
16 tion 1244 of the Food Security Act of 1985 (16  
17 U.S.C. 3844) is amended by adding at the end the  
18 following:

19 “(q) ADVANCED GRAZING MANAGEMENT.—

20 “(1) IN GENERAL.—In carrying out any con-  
21 servation program administered by the Secretary,  
22 the Secretary shall encourage advanced grazing  
23 management, including management-intensive rota-  
24 tional grazing (as those terms are defined in section  
25 1240L(d)(1)).

1           “(2) RESERVATION OF FUNDS.—In each of fis-  
 2           cal years 2026 through 2030, the Secretary shall use  
 3           to carry out this subsection not less than  $\frac{2}{3}$  of any  
 4           funds available for activities relating to livestock  
 5           production under conservation programs adminis-  
 6           tered by the Secretary under this title (other than  
 7           the conservation reserve program established under  
 8           subchapter B of chapter 1 of subtitle D, except for  
 9           acres enrolled in that program under section  
 10          1231(d)(2)).”.

11          (d) ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES MARKETS.—Section  
 12          1245 of the Food Security Act of 1985 (16 U.S.C. 3845)  
 13          is amended by adding at the end the following:

14          “(f) GREENHOUSE GAS EMISSIONS AND CARBON SE-  
 15          QUESTRATION MONITORING AND MEASUREMENT FED-  
 16          ERAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE.—

17               “(1) ESTABLISHMENT.—Not later than 180  
 18               days after the date of enactment of this subsection,  
 19               the Secretary shall establish an advisory committee,  
 20               to be known as the ‘Greenhouse Gas Emissions and  
 21               Carbon Sequestration Monitoring and Measurement  
 22               Federal Advisory Committee’ (referred to in this  
 23               subsection as the ‘advisory committee’).

24               “(2) MEMBERSHIP.—The Secretary shall ap-  
 25               point members to the advisory committee that—

1           “(A) reflect diversity in gender, age, race,  
2           and geography; and

3           “(B) include—

4                 “(i) farmers and ranchers, including  
5                 farmers and ranchers operating small- and  
6                 mid-sized farms;

7                 “(ii) organizations representing farm-  
8                 ers and ranchers, including organizations  
9                 representing farmers and ranchers oper-  
10                ating small- and mid-sized farms;

11                “(iii) scientists;

12                “(iv) environmental nonprofit organi-  
13                zations;

14                “(v) existing private sector carbon and  
15                ecosystem services market development ini-  
16                tiatives;

17                “(vi) businesses working to reduce  
18                greenhouse gas emissions from agriculture  
19                in the supply chains of the businesses;

20                “(vii) relevant Federal agencies;

21                “(viii) Tribal communities; and

22                “(ix) State agriculture agencies.

23           “(3) TERMS.—

24                “(A) IN GENERAL.—The term of a mem-  
25                ber of the advisory committee shall be 3 years.

1           “(B) REAPPOINTMENT.—The Secretary  
2           may reappoint a member of the advisory com-  
3           mittee for not more than 2 consecutive terms.

4           “(4) MEETINGS.—The advisory committee shall  
5           meet—

6           “(A) not fewer than 4 times during the  
7           first year after the advisory committee is estab-  
8           lished; and

9           “(B) not less frequently than twice annu-  
10          ally thereafter.

11          “(5) RECOMMENDATIONS.—Not later than 1  
12          year after the date on which the advisory committee  
13          is established, and periodically thereafter, the advi-  
14          sory committee shall submit to the Secretary rec-  
15          ommendations regarding—

16          “(A) the feasibility of establishing reliable  
17          outcomes-based measurement systems, as de-  
18          scribed in subsection (g);

19          “(B) existing technology that provides reli-  
20          able measurement data;

21          “(C) with respect to parameters for which  
22          existing technology does not provide reliable  
23          measurement data, research and technical  
24          needs and, as appropriate, goals and plans for  
25          that research;



1                   “(D) standards for data collection and dis-  
2                   semination;

3                   “(E) farmer data management and pri-  
4                   vacy;

5                   “(F) greenhouse gas emissions and soil  
6                   health inventories and databases, as described  
7                   in subsection (h); and

8                   “(G) criteria for soil health and green-  
9                   house gas emissions reductions incentives, as  
10                  described in subsection (i).

11               “(g) MEASUREMENT SYSTEM.—

12               “(1) PURPOSE.—The Secretary shall evaluate  
13               existing outcomes-based measurement systems for  
14               recordkeeping, modeling, and measurement of farm-  
15               level greenhouse gas emissions and soil carbon se-  
16               questration, including measures of soil disturbance,  
17               plant diversity, continual living cover, residue man-  
18               agement, advanced grazing management, and crop-  
19               livestock integration, to determine which of those  
20               systems—

21               “(A) can be implemented quickly;

22               “(B) can improve in accuracy and ease  
23               over time;

24               “(C) use the best available science and  
25               technology;

1 “(D) estimate uncertainty; and

2 “(E) are cost-effective.

3 “(2) GUIDANCE.—Not later than 18 months  
4 after the date of enactment of this subsection, the  
5 Secretary shall issue guidance on the outcomes-  
6 based measurement systems evaluated under para-  
7 graph (1), based on—

8 “(A) recommendations from the advisory  
9 committee established under subsection (f); and

10 “(B) information from—

11 “(i) existing and emerging  
12 agroecosystem models;

13 “(ii) remote sensing data and anal-  
14 ysis;

15 “(iii) soil health demonstration trials  
16 carried out under section 1240H(c)(7);

17 “(iv) existing and emerging public en-  
18 vironmental services protocols, measure-  
19 ment systems, and benchmarks, including  
20 uncertainty predictions and measurements;

21 “(v) field-level measurement, including  
22 field-based data collected under section  
23 21002(a)(2) of Public Law 117–169 (7  
24 U.S.C. 6936 note; 136 Stat. 2018);

1 “(vi) the Conservation Evaluation and  
 2 Monitoring Activity for the Carbon Seques-  
 3 tration and Greenhouse Gas Mitigation As-  
 4 sessment; and

5 “(vii) such other sources as the Sec-  
 6 retary determines to be appropriate.

7 “(3) REVIEW.—The Secretary, based on rec-  
 8 ommendations from the advisory committee estab-  
 9 lished under subsection (f), shall—

10 “(A) establish and maintain an outcomes-  
 11 based measurement system in accordance with  
 12 the guidance issued under paragraph (2) when  
 13 feasible;

14 “(B) conduct a periodic review of that sys-  
 15 tem;

16 “(C) periodically make any necessary up-  
 17 dates to that system; and

18 “(D) establish research and development  
 19 goals and plans, as necessary.

20 “(h) INVENTORY.—

21 “(1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 18 months  
 22 after the date of enactment of this subsection, and  
 23 every 2 years thereafter, the Secretary, in consulta-  
 24 tion with the advisory committee established under  
 25 subsection (f) and the Administrator of the Environ-

1       mental Protection Agency, shall conduct a nation-  
 2       wide soil health and agricultural greenhouse gas  
 3       emissions inventory that uses the best available  
 4       science and data to establish expected average per-  
 5       formance for soil carbon drawdown and storage and  
 6       greenhouse gas emissions reduction by primary pro-  
 7       duction type and production region.

8               “(2) DATABASE.—Drawing on the field-based  
 9       data collected under section 21002(a)(2) of Public  
 10      Law 117–169 (7 U.S.C. 6936 note; 136 Stat. 2018),  
 11      the Secretary shall—

12              “(A) establish an accessible and interoper-  
 13              able database for the information collected  
 14              through the inventory conducted under para-  
 15              graph (1); and

16              “(B) improve and update that database  
 17              not less frequently than once every 2 years as  
 18              new data is collected.

19      “(i) CRITERIA.—

20              “(1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary, in consulta-  
 21              tion with the advisory committee established under  
 22              subsection (f), shall establish criteria for payments,  
 23              credits, or other forms of incentives to inform policy  
 24              established to promote soil carbon sequestration or  
 25              greenhouse gas emissions reductions.

1           “(2) REQUIREMENTS.—The criteria established  
2       under paragraph (1) shall—

3           “(A) have a documented likelihood to lead  
4       to long-term net increases in soil carbon seques-  
5       tration and net reductions in greenhouse gas  
6       emissions, according to the best available  
7       science;

8           “(B) be based in part on environmental  
9       impact modeling of the changes of shifting from  
10      baseline agricultural practices to new or im-  
11      proved agricultural practices; and

12          “(C) be designed to prevent the degrada-  
13      tion of other natural resource or environmental  
14      conditions.

15       “(j) DEMONSTRATION TRIALS.—

16          “(1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall peri-  
17      odically review the results from soil health dem-  
18      onstration trials carried out under section  
19      1240H(c)(7), and other similar public and private  
20      demonstration trials that the Secretary determines  
21      to be appropriate, to inform the activities under sub-  
22      sections (g), (h), and (i).

23          “(2) RECOMMENDATIONS.—In submitting re-  
24      ports pursuant to section 1240H(c)(7)(C)(ii), the  
25      Secretary shall include any recommendations to Con-

1       gress for changes or additions to the conservation  
 2       programs under this Act that the Secretary deter-  
 3       mines to be appropriate to accelerate net increases  
 4       in soil carbon sequestration and other improvements  
 5       in soil health.”.

6   **SEC. 306. CONSERVATION COMPLIANCE.**

7       (a) DEFINITIONS.—Section 1201 of the Food Secu-  
 8       rity Act of 1985 (16 U.S.C. 3801) is amended—

9               (1) by striking the section heading and designa-  
 10       tion and all that follows through “(a) For purposes  
 11       of” in subsection (a) and inserting the following:

12   **“SEC. 1201. DEFINITIONS.**

13       “(a) IN GENERAL.—In”;

14       (2) in subsection (a)—

15               (A) in each of paragraphs (1), (5), (6),  
 16               (10), (12), (13), (15), (20), (21), (22), (24),  
 17               and (26), by inserting a paragraph heading, the  
 18               text of which comprises the term defined in that  
 19               paragraph;

20               (B) in paragraph (3)—

21                       (i) by striking “highly erodible” each  
 22                       place it appears; and

23                       (ii) in subparagraph (B), by striking  
 24                       “and conservation treatment measures”  
 25                       and inserting “crop rotation and cover

1 crop systems, and other relevant soil con-  
2 servation and soil health management  
3 treatment measures”;

4 (C) in paragraph (4)—

5 (i) in subparagraph (A), by striking  
6 “and” at the end;

7 (ii) in subparagraph (B)—

8 (I) by striking “or a substantial  
9 improvement in soil conditions on a  
10 field or group of fields containing  
11 highly erodible cropland” and insert-  
12 ing “and a substantial improvement  
13 in soil health conditions (including soil  
14 carbon levels) on a field or group of  
15 fields containing cropland”; and

16 (II) by striking the period at the  
17 end and inserting a semicolon; and

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

20 “(C) are designed to achieve, within 5  
21 years of actively applying a conservation plan,  
22 a level of erosion not to exceed twice the soil  
23 loss tolerance level; and

1 “(D) are designed to effectively prevent the  
 2 formation of new, or treat all existing, ephem-  
 3 eral gullies.”;

4 (D) in paragraph (7)—

5 (i) by striking “(7)(A) The term” and  
 6 inserting the following:

7 “(7) CONVERTED WETLAND.—

8 “(A) IN GENERAL.—The term”;

9 (ii) in subparagraph (A), by indenting  
 10 clauses (i) and (ii), and subclauses (I) and  
 11 (II) of clause (ii), appropriately; and

12 (iii) in subparagraph (B)—

13 (I) by striking “(B) Wetland  
 14 shall not be considered” and inserting  
 15 the following:

16 “(B) EXCLUSIONS.—For purposes of this  
 17 paragraph, a wetland shall not be considered to  
 18 be”; and

19 (II) by indenting clauses (i) and

20 (ii) appropriately;

21 (E) in paragraph (11)—

22 (i) by striking “(11)(A) The term”  
 23 and inserting the following:

24 “(11) HIGHLY ERODIBLE LAND.—

25 “(A) IN GENERAL.—The term”;



1 (ii) in subparagraph (A)—

2 (I) by indenting clauses (i) and

3 (ii) appropriately; and

4 (II) in clause (ii), by striking

5 “excessive average annual rate of ero-

6 sion in relation to” and inserting “av-

7 erage annual rate of erosion exceeding

8 twice”; and

9 (iii) in subparagraph (B), by striking

10 “(B) For purposes” and inserting the fol-

11 lowing:

12 “(B) LAND CAPABILITY CLASS AND RATE

13 OF EROSION DETERMINATIONS.—For pur-

14 poses”;

15 (F) by striking paragraph (14) and insert-

16 ing the following:

17 “(14) INDIAN TRIBE; INDIAN TRIBE.—The

18 terms ‘Indian tribe’ and ‘Indian Tribe’ have the

19 meanings given those terms in section 4 of the In-

20 dian Self-Determination and Education Assistance

21 Act (25 U.S.C. 5304).”;

22 (G) in paragraph (23), by striking “(e)(2)”

23 each place it appears and inserting “(a)”;

24 (H) in paragraph (27)—

1 (i) by redesignating subparagraphs  
 2 (A) through (C) as clauses (i) through  
 3 (iii), respectively, and indenting the clauses  
 4 appropriately;

5 (ii) in clause (iii) (as so redesignated),  
 6 in the second sentence, by striking “For  
 7 purposes of this Act, and any other Act,  
 8 this term shall not include lands in” and  
 9 inserting the following:

10 “(B) EXCLUSION.—In this Act, the term  
 11 ‘wetland’ does not include any land in the State  
 12 of”; and

13 (iii) by striking the paragraph des-  
 14 ignation and all that follows through “The  
 15 term” in the matter preceding clause (i)  
 16 (as so redesignated) and inserting the fol-  
 17 lowing:

18 “(27) WETLAND.—

19 “(A) IN GENERAL.—The term”; and

20 (3) in subsection (b), by striking “(b) The” and  
 21 inserting the following:

22 “(b) CRITERIA AND LIST RELATING TO HYDRIC  
 23 SOILS AND HYDROPHYTIC VEGETATION.—The”.

24 (b) CROPLAND CONSERVATION.—

1           (1) PROGRAM INELIGIBILITY.—Section 1211 of  
 2           the Food Security Act of 1985 (16 U.S.C. 3811) is  
 3           amended—

4                   (A) in subsection (a)—

5                           (i) in the matter preceding paragraph  
 6                           (1), by striking “produces an agricultural  
 7                           commodity” and all that follows through  
 8                           “as determined by the Secretary” and in-  
 9                           serting “carries out an activity described in  
 10                           subsection (b), as determined by the Sec-  
 11                           retary,”; and

12                           (ii) in paragraph (1)(D), by inserting  
 13                           “cropland or” before “highly erodible  
 14                           land”;

15                   (B) in subsection (b), by striking the sub-  
 16                   section designation and heading and all that  
 17                   follows through “The Secretary” and inserting  
 18                   the following:

19           “(c) AUTHORITY OF SECRETARY.—The Secretary”;  
 20           and

21                   (C) by inserting after subsection (a) the  
 22                   following:

23           “(b) DESCRIPTION OF ACTIVITIES.—The activities  
 24           referred to in subsection (a) are—

1 “(1) the production of an agricultural com-  
2 modity on a field on which cropland is predominant;

3 “(2) the designation of land on which cropland  
4 is predominant to be set aside, diverted, devoted to  
5 conservation uses, or otherwise not cultivated under  
6 a program administered by the Secretary to reduce  
7 production of an agricultural commodity; and

8 “(3) the production of an agricultural com-  
9 modity without having in place a conservation  
10 plan.”.

11 (2) EXEMPTIONS.—Section 1212 of the Food  
12 Security Act of 1985 (16 U.S.C. 3812) is amend-  
13 ed—

14 (A) in subsection (a)—

15 (i) in paragraph (3)—

16 (I) in the third sentence, by  
17 striking “If the person’s conservation  
18 plan” and inserting the following:

19 “(B) CONSERVATION PLANS REQUIRING  
20 CONSTRUCTION.—If the conservation plan of a  
21 person under this paragraph”; and

22 (II) by striking the paragraph  
23 designation and all that follows  
24 through “other highly erodible” in the  
25 second sentence of the matter pre-

1 ceding subparagraph (B) (as so des-  
 2 ignated) and inserting the following:

3 “(3) CROPLAND SUBJECT TO CERTAIN OTHER  
 4 CONTRACTS.—

5 “(A) IN GENERAL.—A person that owns or  
 6 operates cropland that was the subject of a con-  
 7 tract entered into under subchapter B of chap-  
 8 ter 1 of subtitle D shall be required to apply a  
 9 conservation plan established under this subtitle  
 10 consistent with the standard applied to other”;  
 11 and

12 (ii) in paragraph (4), by striking “(4)  
 13 On the” and inserting the following:

14 “(C) EXPIRATION OF OTHER CONTRACT.—  
 15 On the”;

16 (B) in subsection (c)—

17 (i) by striking “Soil Conservation”  
 18 each place it appears and inserting “Nat-  
 19 ural Resources Conservation”;

20 (ii) in the matter preceding paragraph  
 21 (1)—

22 (I) by striking “(c) No” and in-  
 23 serting the following:

24 “(c) INELIGIBILITY FOR CERTAIN LOANS AND PAY-  
 25 MENTS.—No”; and

1 (II) by striking “hereafter in this  
 2 subsection referred to” and inserting  
 3 “referred to in this subsection”; and  
 4 (iii) in paragraph (1), by striking  
 5 “highly erodible land” each place it ap-  
 6 pears and inserting “cropland”; and  
 7 (C) in subsection (f)(4)(A)—  
 8 (i) in clause (i), by striking “highly  
 9 erodible”; and  
 10 (ii) in clause (ii)(II), by inserting  
 11 “and soil health” after “erosion control”.

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

17 **SEC. 307. NATIONAL AND REGIONAL AGROFORESTRY CEN-**  
 18 **TERS.**

19 Section 1243 of the Food, Agriculture, Conservation,  
 20 and Trade Act of 1990 (16 U.S.C. 1642 note; Public Law  
 21 101–624) is amended—

22 (1) by redesignating subsections (b), (c), and  
 23 (d) as subsections (c), (d), and (f), respectively;

1           (2) by striking the section designation and  
 2           heading and all that follows through the end of sub-  
 3           section (a) and inserting the following:

4   **“SEC. 1243. NATIONAL AND REGIONAL AGROFORESTRY**  
 5           **CENTERS.**

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

7                   “(1) AGROFORESTRY.—The term ‘agroforestry’  
 8           means a management system that intentionally inte-  
 9           grates trees and shrubs into crop and animal farm-  
 10          ing systems to build more profitable and weather-re-  
 11          silient farms, ranches, and communities, address  
 12          natural resource concerns and conservation needs,  
 13          and establish productive and sustainable land use  
 14          practices, including—

15                       “(A) riparian forest buffers and managed  
 16                       waterbreaks;

17                       “(B) alley cropping;

18                       “(C) silvopasture;

19                       “(D) forest farming and multistory crop-  
 20                       ping; and

21                       “(E) windbreaks, shelterbelts, hedgerows,  
 22                       field borders, and living snow fences.

23                       “(2) CENTER.—The term ‘Center’ means, as  
 24                       applicable—

1                   “(A) the National Agroforestry Research,  
2                   Development, and Demonstration Center estab-  
3                   lished under subsection (b)(1)(A); and

4                   “(B) any additional regional agroforestry  
5                   center established under subsection (b)(1)(B).

6                   “(3) SECRETARY.—The term ‘Secretary’ means  
7                   the Secretary of Agriculture.

8                   “(b) NATIONAL AND REGIONAL AGROFORESTRY  
9                   CENTERS.—

10                  “(1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall estab-  
11                  lish—

12                   “(A) at the Forestry Sciences Laboratory  
13                   of the Forest Service, in Lincoln, Nebraska, a  
14                   National Agroforestry Research, Development,  
15                   and Demonstration Center; and

16                   “(B) acting through the Chief of the For-  
17                   est Service and in cooperation with the Natural  
18                   Resources Conservation Service, not fewer than  
19                   3 additional regional agroforestry centers at  
20                   other locations, as determined by the Secretary.

21                   “(2) NATIONAL AND REGIONAL DIRECTORS.—  
22                   The Secretary shall appoint a National Director and  
23                   Regional Directors to manage and coordinate the  
24                   program established under subsection (c).”;

25                   (3) in subsection (c) (as so redesignated)—



1 (A) in the matter preceding paragraph

2 (1)—

3 (i) by striking “Center” and inserting  
4 “Centers”;

5 (ii) by inserting “and organizations”  
6 after “nonprofit foundations”; and

7 (iii) by striking “surveys to” and in-  
8 serting “surveys”;

9 (B) in each of paragraphs (1) through  
10 (11), by inserting “to” after the paragraph des-  
11 ignation;

12 (C) in paragraph (1)—

13 (i) by striking “on semiarid lands  
14 that” and inserting “that build soil health  
15 and”; and

16 (ii) by inserting “, including agro-  
17 forestry systems on semiarid land and  
18 other fragile agroecosystems in which res-  
19 toration of permanent woody perennial  
20 plant communities will enhance carbon se-  
21 questration and reduce greenhouse gas  
22 emissions” before the semicolon;

23 (D) in paragraph (3), by striking “forestry  
24 products for commercial sale from semiarid

1 land” and inserting “agroforestry products for  
2 commercial sale”;

3 (E) in paragraph (4)—

4 (i) by striking “in semiarid regions”;

5 and

6 (ii) by striking “the Great Plains re-  
7 gion” and inserting “particular regions”;

8 (F) in paragraph (5), by inserting “tech-  
9 nical assistance and” before “technology”;

10 (G) by striking paragraph (6) and insert-  
11 ing the following:

12 “(6) to develop improved silvopasture, alley  
13 cropping, forest farming, multistory cropping, ripar-  
14 ian buffer, windbreak and shelterbelt, and other pe-  
15 rennial production and conservation systems and  
16 technologies to improve soil health, carbon seques-  
17 tration, drought preparedness, soil and water con-  
18 servation, environmental quality, and biological di-  
19 versity;”;

20 (H) in paragraph (7), by striking “on  
21 semiarid lands”;

22 (I) in paragraph (8), by striking “on semi-  
23 arid lands worldwide” and inserting “world-  
24 wide, including on semiarid land”; and

25 (J) in paragraph (9)—

1 (i) by striking “on semiarid lands”;

2 and

3 (ii) by inserting “and climate change”

4 after “pollution”;

5 (4) in subsection (d) (as so redesignated)—

6 (A) in the matter preceding paragraph

7 (1)—

8 (i) by striking “Center” and inserting

9 “Centers”; and

10 (ii) by striking “known as the Na-

11 tional Clearinghouse on Agroforestry Con-

12 servation and Promotion to” and inserting

13 “known as the ‘National Clearinghouse on

14 Agroforestry Conservation and Pro-

15 motion’ ”;

16 (B) in paragraph (1)—

17 (i) by inserting “to” after the para-

18 graph designation; and

19 (ii) by striking “and” at the end;

20 (C) in paragraph (2)—

21 (i) by inserting “to” after the para-

22 graph designation; and

23 (ii) by striking the period at the end

24 and inserting “; and”; and

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

1 “(3) to facilitate agroforestry adoption by dis-  
 2 seminating comprehensive information on Federal,  
 3 State, local, and Tribal programs that provide sup-  
 4 port for agroforestry.”;

5 (5) by inserting after subsection (d) (as so re-  
 6 designated) the following:

7 “(e) GRANTS.—The Secretary may establish regional  
 8 grant programs at each of the Centers to support agro-  
 9 forestry projects, including demonstration farms.”; and  
 10 (6) in subsection (f) (as so redesignated), by in-  
 11 serting “, and \$25,000,000 for each of fiscal years  
 12 2026 through 2030,” after “through 2023”.

## 13 **TITLE IV—FARMLAND PRESER-** 14 **VATION AND FARM VIABILITY**

### 15 **SEC. 401. LOCAL AGRICULTURE MARKET PROGRAM.**

16 Section 210A of the Agricultural Marketing Act of  
 17 1946 (7 U.S.C. 1627c) is amended—

18 (1) in subsection (a)(12)(A)—

19 (A) by redesignating clauses (iv) and (v) as  
 20 clauses (vi) and (vii), respectively; and

21 (B) by inserting after clause (iii) the fol-  
 22 lowing:

23 “(iv) is produced and marketed in a man-  
 24 ner that significantly improves soil health and

1 carbon sequestration or significantly reduces  
2 greenhouse gas emissions;

3 “(v) when added to the crop or grazing ro-  
4 tation on a farm, will significantly improve soil  
5 health and carbon sequestration or significantly  
6 reduce greenhouse gas emissions;”;

7 (2) in subsection (b)—

8 (A) in paragraph (1)—

9 (i) in subparagraph (B), by striking  
10 “and” at the end;

11 (ii) in subparagraph (C), by striking  
12 the semicolon at the end and inserting “,  
13 including value-added agricultural products  
14 from crops or animals that, when added  
15 into crop or grazing rotations on a farm,  
16 will significantly improve soil health and  
17 carbon sequestration or significantly re-  
18 duce greenhouse gas emissions; and”; and

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

21 “(D) markets for agricultural commodities  
22 and products produced in a manner that signifi-  
23 cantly improve soil health and carbon seques-  
24 tration or significantly reduce greenhouse gas  
25 emissions;”;

1 (B) in paragraph (3)—

2 (i) by striking “and local” and insert-  
3 ing “, local”; and

4 (ii) by inserting “, and production and  
5 marketing approaches to significantly im-  
6 prove soil health and carbon sequestration  
7 or significantly reduce greenhouse gas  
8 emissions” before the semicolon at the end;

9 (C) in paragraph (5), by striking “and” at  
10 the end;

11 (D) by redesignating paragraph (6) as  
12 paragraph (7); and

13 (E) by inserting after paragraph (5) the  
14 following:

15 “(6) enhances the economic viability of pro-  
16 ducers and related agricultural enterprises; and”;

17 (3) in subsection (d)—

18 (A) in paragraph (1)—

19 (i) by striking “subsection (i)” and in-  
20 serting “subsection (j)”; and

21 (ii) by striking “2023” and inserting  
22 “2030”;

23 (B) in paragraph (2)—

24 (i) in subparagraph (C)—

1 (I) in clause (i), by striking  
2 “and” at the end;

3 (II) in clause (ii), by adding  
4 “and” at the end; and

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

7 “(iii) agricultural commodities and  
8 products that are produced and marketed  
9 in a manner that—

10 “(I) significantly improves soil  
11 health and carbon sequestration or  
12 significantly reduces greenhouse gas  
13 emissions; or

14 “(II) when added to a crop or  
15 grazing rotation on a farm will signifi-  
16 cantly improve soil health and carbon  
17 sequestration or significantly reduce  
18 greenhouse gas emissions;”; and

19 (ii) in subparagraph (F), by striking  
20 “producers of local food products and  
21 value-added agricultural products in new  
22 and existing markets” and inserting the  
23 following: “producers of—

24 “(i) local food products;

1 “(ii) value-added agricultural products  
2 in new and existing markets; and

3 “(iii) agricultural commodities and  
4 products that are produced in a manner  
5 that—

6 “(I) enhances soil health and car-  
7 bon sequestration or significantly re-  
8 duces greenhouse gas emissions; or

9 “(II) when added to a crop or  
10 grazing rotation on a farm, will sig-  
11 nificantly improve soil health and car-  
12 bon sequestration or significantly re-  
13 duce greenhouse gas emissions;”; and

14 (C) in paragraph (5)(A), by inserting “and  
15 the Chief of the Natural Resources Conserva-  
16 tion Service” before the period at the end;

17 (4) in subsection (e)(2)(A)—

18 (A) by striking “subsection (i)” and insert-  
19 ing “subsection (j)”; and

20 (B) by striking “2023” and inserting  
21 “2030”;

22 (5) by redesignating subsections (f), (g), (h),  
23 and (i) as subsections (g), (h), (i), and (j), respec-  
24 tively;



1           (6) by inserting after subsection (e) the fol-  
 2       lowing:

3       “(f) FARM VIABILITY AND LOCAL CLIMATE RESIL-  
 4       IENCY CENTERS.—

5           “(1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary, acting  
 6       through the Administrator of the Agricultural Mar-  
 7       keting Service and in coordination with the Adminis-  
 8       trator of the Rural Business-Cooperative Service and  
 9       the Chief of the Natural Resources Conservation  
 10      Service, shall provide grants to eligible entities de-  
 11      scribed in paragraph (2) to serve as farm viability  
 12      and local climate resiliency centers (referred to in  
 13      this section as ‘centers’) to support—

14           “(A) efforts to enhance farm viability; and

15           “(B) the development, coordination, and  
 16       expansion of markets for commodities and farm  
 17       products that significantly improve soil health  
 18       and carbon sequestration or significantly reduce  
 19       greenhouse gas emissions.

20       “(2) ELIGIBLE ENTITIES.—An entity is eligible  
 21      to receive a grant under this subsection if the entity  
 22      is—

23           “(A) an agricultural cooperative or other  
 24       agricultural business entity or a producer net-  
 25       work or association;

- 1 “(B) a local, State, or Tribal government;
- 2 “(C) a nonprofit corporation;
- 3 “(D) a public benefit corporation;
- 4 “(E) an economic development corporation;
- 5 “(F) an institution of higher education; or
- 6 “(G) such other entity as the Secretary
- 7 may designate.

8 “(3) USE OF FUNDS.—An eligible entity receiv-  
 9 ing a grant under this subsection shall use grant  
 10 funds to provide to entities described in subsection  
 11 (d)(5)(B)—

12 “(A) assistance for the development of  
 13 business plans and feasibility studies;

14 “(B) assistance in developing marketing  
 15 strategies for—

16 “(i) local products; and

17 “(ii) value-added agricultural products  
 18 in new and existing markets;

19 “(C) assistance in enterprise development  
 20 for the processing, aggregation, distribution,  
 21 and storage of—

22 “(i) local and regional food products  
 23 that are marketed locally or regionally; and

24 “(ii) value-added agricultural prod-  
 25 ucts;

1           “(D) assistance relating to finances and  
2           recordkeeping;

3           “(E) assistance relating to enterprise and  
4           business management;

5           “(F) assistance relating to ownership suc-  
6           cession planning;

7           “(G) outreach and assistance in the adop-  
8           tion of farming practices that enhance soil  
9           health and carbon sequestration or significantly  
10          reduce greenhouse gas emissions;

11          “(H) outreach regarding assistance avail-  
12          able under subsection (d);

13          “(I) outreach regarding assistance avail-  
14          able through other programs administered by  
15          any other Federal agency that supports the  
16          adoption of farming practices that enhance soil  
17          health and carbon sequestration or significantly  
18          reduce greenhouse gas emissions; or

19          “(J) at the request of the entity described  
20          in subsection (d)(5)(B), assistance in applying  
21          for a grant under subsection (d), including act-  
22          ing on behalf of the entity in applying for the  
23          grant.

24          “(4) GEOGRAPHIC DIVERSITY.—To the max-  
25          imum extent practicable, the Secretary shall ensure

1 geographic diversity in selecting eligible entities to  
2 receive a grant under this subsection.

3 “(5) NON-FEDERAL SHARE.—An entity receiv-  
4 ing a grant under this subsection shall provide fund-  
5 ing in an amount equal to not less than 25 percent  
6 of the total amount of the Federal portion of the  
7 grant.

8 “(6) APPLICATIONS.—

9 “(A) IN GENERAL.—To be eligible to re-  
10 ceive a grant under this subsection, an eligible  
11 entity shall submit to the Secretary an applica-  
12 tion at such time, in such manner, and con-  
13 taining such information as the Secretary con-  
14 siders to be necessary to evaluate and select ap-  
15 plications.

16 “(B) COMPETITIVE PROCESS.—The Sec-  
17 retary—

18 “(i) shall conduct a competitive proc-  
19 ess to select applications submitted under  
20 subparagraph (A);

21 “(ii) may assess and rank applications  
22 with similar proposals as a group; and

23 “(iii) shall, prior to accepting applica-  
24 tions under that subparagraph, make pub-

1           lic the criteria to be used in evaluating the  
2           applications.

3           “(7) PRIORITY.—The Secretary may give pri-  
4           ority to applications submitted under paragraph  
5           (6)(A) that include—

6                   “(A) plans to use funds for 3 or more of  
7                   purposes described in paragraph (3); or

8                   “(B) activities relating to improving the  
9                   use and expanded adoption of farming practices  
10                  that enhance soil health and carbon sequestra-  
11                  tion or significantly reduce greenhouse gas  
12                  emissions while simultaneously improving farm  
13                  viability.

14           “(8) ADMINISTRATIVE EXPENSES.—An entity  
15           receiving a grant under this subsection may use not  
16           more than 4 percent of the funds received through  
17           the grant for administrative expenses.”;

18           (7) in subsection (i)(1) (as so redesignated), in  
19           the matter preceding subparagraph (A), by striking  
20           “subsection (i)(3)(E)” and inserting “subsection  
21           (j)(3)(E)”;

22           (8) in subsection (j) (as so redesignated)—

23                   (A) in paragraph (1), by striking “fiscal  
24                   year 2019” and inserting “each of fiscal years

1           2019 through 2025 and \$150,000,000 for fiscal  
2           year 2026”;

3                   (B) in paragraph (3)—

4                           (i) in subparagraph (A)(i), by striking  
5                           “35” and inserting “36”; and

6                           (ii) by striking subparagraph (B) and  
7                           inserting the following:

8                           “(B) FARMERS’ MARKET AND LOCAL FOOD  
9           PROMOTION GRANTS.—

10                           “(i) IN GENERAL.—Of the funds  
11                           made available to carry out this section for  
12                           a fiscal year, 36 percent shall be used for  
13                           grants under subsection (d)(6).

14                           “(ii) ALLOCATION AMONG SUBPRO-  
15                           GRAMS.—Of the funds made available for  
16                           grants under subsection (d)(6) for a fiscal  
17                           year—

18                                   “(I) 40 percent shall be made  
19                                   available for farmers’ market pro-  
20                                   motion grants; and

21                                   “(II) 60 percent shall be made  
22                                   available for local food promotion  
23                                   grants.”;

1 (C) by redesignating subparagraphs (D)  
 2 and (E) as subparagraphs (E) and (F), respec-  
 3 tively;

4 (D) by inserting after subparagraph (C)  
 5 the following:

6 “(D) FARM VIABILITY AND LOCAL CLI-  
 7 MATE RESILIENCY.—Of the funds made avail-  
 8 able to carry out this section for a fiscal year,  
 9 10 percent shall be used to provide grants  
 10 under subsection (f).”; and

11 (E) in subparagraph (E) (as so redesign-  
 12 nated), in the matter preceding clause (i), by  
 13 striking “or (C)” and inserting “(C), or (D)”.

14 **SEC. 402. NATIONAL ORGANIC CERTIFICATION COST-SHARE**  
 15 **PROGRAM.**

16 (a) FEDERAL SHARE.—Section 10606(b)(2) of the  
 17 Farm Security and Rural Investment Act of 2002 (7  
 18 U.S.C. 6523(b)(2)) is amended by striking “\$750” and  
 19 inserting “\$1,500”.

20 (b) MANDATORY FUNDING.—Section 10606(d)(1) of  
 21 the Farm Security and Rural Investment Act of 2002 (7  
 22 U.S.C. 6523(d)(1)) is amended by striking “shall make  
 23 available” in the matter preceding subparagraph (A) and  
 24 all that follows through the period at the end of subpara-

1 graph (C) and inserting “shall use such sums as are nec-  
 2 essary to carry out this section.”.

3 **SEC. 403. FARMLAND PROTECTION POLICY ACT.**

4 (a) FINDINGS, PURPOSE, AND DEFINITIONS.—Sec-  
 5 tion 1540 of the Agriculture and Food Act of 1981 (7  
 6 U.S.C. 4201) is amended—

7 (1) by striking the section heading and designa-  
 8 tion and all that follows through “(a) Congress” in  
 9 subsection (a) and inserting the following:

10 **“SEC. 1540. FINDINGS, PURPOSE, AND DEFINITIONS.**

11 “(a) FINDINGS.—Congress”;

12 (2) in subsection (a)—

13 (A) in paragraph (1), by striking “the Na-  
 14 tion’s” and inserting “United States”;

15 (B) in paragraph (2), by striking “amount  
 16 of the Nation’s” and inserting “quantity of  
 17 United States”;

18 (C) in paragraph (3), by striking “Na-  
 19 tion’s” and inserting “United States”;

20 (D) by redesignating paragraphs (4)  
 21 through (7) as paragraphs (5) through (8), re-  
 22 spectively; and

23 (E) by inserting after paragraph (3) the  
 24 following:



1 “(4) United States farmland is a vital source of  
 2 environmental services, such as carbon sequestra-  
 3 tion;”;

4 (3) in subsection (b)—

5 (A) by striking “(b) The” and inserting  
 6 the following:

7 “(b) PURPOSE.—The”;

8 (B) by striking “assure” and inserting  
 9 “ensure”; and

10 (C) by inserting “Tribal,” after “State,”;  
 11 and

12 (4) in subsection (c)—

13 (A) in each of paragraphs (2) and (3), by  
 14 striking the semicolon at the end of the para-  
 15 graph and inserting a period;

16 (B) in each of paragraphs (2), (3), and  
 17 (5)—

18 (i) by inserting a paragraph heading,  
 19 the text of which comprises the term de-  
 20 fined in the paragraph; and

21 (ii) by striking “the term” and insert-  
 22 ing “The term”;

23 (C) by redesignating paragraphs (2), (3),  
 24 and (5) as paragraphs (7), (8), and (6), respec-

1           tively, and moving all paragraphs so as to ap-  
2           pear in numerical order;

3           (D) in paragraph (1), by redesignating  
4           subparagraphs (A) through (C) as subpara-  
5           graphs (B) through (D), respectively;

6           (E) by striking the subsection designation  
7           and all that follows through “defined as fol-  
8           lows:” in the matter preceding subparagraph  
9           (B) of paragraph (1) (as so redesignated) and  
10          inserting the following:

11       “(c) DEFINITIONS.—In this subtitle:

12           “(1) CONVERSION.—The term ‘conversion’  
13       means—

14           “(A) the physical conversion of farmland  
15           to a nonagricultural use;

16           “(B) the effective conversion of farmland  
17           as a consequence of physical conversion of adja-  
18           cent farmland, which threatens the continued  
19           viability of the land for agricultural use; and

20           “(C) a change in management of federally  
21           owned land historically used for agriculture to  
22           a nonagricultural use.

23       “(2) FARMLAND.—

24           “(A) IN GENERAL.—The term ‘farmland’  
25       includes—

1 “(i) prime farmland described in sub-  
2 paragraph (B);

3 “(ii) unique farmland described in  
4 subparagraph (C); and

5 “(iii) farmland of statewide or local  
6 importance described in subparagraph  
7 (D).”;

8 (F) in paragraph (2) (as so redesign-  
9 nated)—

10 (i) in subparagraph (B) (as redesign-  
11 nated by subparagraph (D))—

12 (I) by striking the subparagraph  
13 designation and all that follows  
14 through “is land” in the first sentence  
15 and inserting the following:

16 “(B) PRIME FARMLAND.—For purposes of  
17 subparagraph (A)(i), prime farmland—

18 “(i) means land”;

19 (II) in clause (i) (as so des-  
20 ignated), by striking “the Secretary.  
21 Prime farmland includes land that  
22 possesses the above characteristics”  
23 and inserting the following: “the Sec-  
24 retary;

1 “(ii) includes land that possesses the  
2 characteristics described in clause (i)”;

3 (III) in clause (ii) (as so des-  
4 ignated), by striking “timber. It does  
5 not include” and inserting the fol-  
6 lowing: “timber; and

7 “(iii) does not include”; and

8 (IV) in clause (iii) (as so des-  
9 ignated), by striking the semicolon at  
10 the end and inserting a period;

11 (ii) in subparagraph (C) (as redesign-  
12 nated by subparagraph (D))—

13 (I) by striking the subparagraph  
14 designation and all that follows  
15 through “that is used for” in the first  
16 sentence and inserting the following:

17 “(C) UNIQUE FARMLAND.—

18 “(i) IN GENERAL.—For purposes of  
19 subparagraph (A)(ii), unique farmland  
20 means land other than prime farmland  
21 that—

22 “(I) is suitable for”;

23 (II) in clause (i) (as so des-  
24 ignated)—

1 (aa) in subclause (I) (as so  
 2 designated), by striking “the Sec-  
 3 retary. It has” and inserting the  
 4 following: “the Secretary; and  
 5 “(II) has”; and

6 (bb) in subclause (II) (as so  
 7 designated), in the second sen-  
 8 tence, by striking “Examples of  
 9 such crops” and inserting the fol-  
 10 lowing:

11 “(ii) CROPS DESCRIBED.—The crops  
 12 referred to in clause (i)”; and

13 (III) in clause (ii) (as so des-  
 14 ignated), by striking “; and” at the  
 15 end and inserting a period; and

16 (iii) in subparagraph (D) (as redesign-  
 17 ated by subparagraph (D))—

18 (I) by striking the subparagraph  
 19 designation and all that follows  
 20 through “farmland, other” and insert-  
 21 ing the following:

22 “(D) FARMLAND OF STATEWIDE OR LOCAL  
 23 IMPORTANCE.—The farmland referred to in  
 24 subparagraph (A)(iii) is farmland, other”;

1 (II) by inserting “and is suit-  
2 able” after “local importance”; and

3 (III) by striking the semicolon at  
4 the end and inserting a period;

5 (G) by inserting after paragraph (2) (as so  
6 redesignated) the following:

7 “(3) FARMLAND OF NATIONAL SIGNIFI-  
8 CANCE.—The term ‘farmland of national signifi-  
9 cance’ means farmland that is the most suitable for  
10 intensive crop and food production, as determined by  
11 the Secretary, taking into consideration, among  
12 other factors, the physical and chemical characteris-  
13 tics of the farmland.”;

14 (H) in paragraph (4)—

15 (i) in the first sentence—

16 (I) by striking “involve (A) un-  
17 dertaking” and inserting the fol-  
18 lowing: “involve—

19 “(i) undertaking”; and

20 (II) in clause (i) (as so des-  
21 ignated), by striking “(B) acquiring”  
22 and inserting the following:

23 “(ii) acquiring”;

24 (ii) in clause (ii) (as so designated), in  
25 the second sentence—

1 (I) by striking “; and” at the end  
 2 and inserting a period; and

3 (II) by striking “The term” and  
 4 inserting the following:

5 “(B) EXCLUSIONS.—The term”; and

6 (iii) by striking the paragraph des-  
 7 ignation and all that follows through  
 8 “those” in the matter preceding clause (i)  
 9 (as so designated) and inserting the fol-  
 10 lowing:

11 “(4) FEDERAL PROGRAM.—

12 “(A) IN GENERAL.—The term ‘Federal  
 13 program’ means any”; and

14 (I) by inserting after paragraph (4) the  
 15 following:

16 “(5) PERMANENTLY PROTECTED FARMLAND.—

17 The term ‘permanently protected farmland’ means  
 18 farmland encumbered by a conservation easement  
 19 that is—

20 “(A) held by the Federal Government, a  
 21 State or Tribal government, a unit of local gov-  
 22 ernment, or a land conservation organization;  
 23 and

24 “(B) for a term that is—

25 “(i) perpetual; or

1 “(ii) the maximum number of years  
2 allowed by State law.”.

3 (b) FARMLAND PROTECTION POLICY.—Section 1541  
4 of the Agriculture and Food Act of 1981 (7 U.S.C. 4202)  
5 is amended to read as follows:

6 **“SEC. 1541. FARMLAND PROTECTION POLICY.**

7 “(a) IN GENERAL.—It is the policy of the United  
8 States that Federal programs—

9 “(1) shall minimize the conversion of farmland  
10 to nonagricultural uses; and

11 “(2) subject to subsection (d), shall not convert  
12 to nonagricultural uses farmland that—

13 “(A) is permanently protected farmland;

14 “(B) has been defined and delineated by  
15 the Secretary under subsection (b)(1) as farm-  
16 land of national significance; or

17 “(C) has been defined and delineated by a  
18 State as significant to the State or a priority  
19 for inclusion in a State farmland protection  
20 program and for which the State has submitted  
21 a definition and delineation under subsection  
22 (b)(2).

23 “(b) DEFINITION AND DELINEATION OF LAND.—

24 “(1) NATIONAL SIGNIFICANCE.—



1           “(A) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall  
2           define and delineate farmland of national sig-  
3           nificance.

4           “(B) EXPERTS.—The Secretary shall con-  
5           vene a group of experts, including agronomists  
6           and soil scientists, to assist the Secretary in  
7           carrying out subparagraph (A).

8           “(2) STATE SIGNIFICANCE.—Any State wishing  
9           to have farmland recognized under subsection  
10          (a)(2)(C) shall provide to the Secretary a definition  
11          and delineation of the farmland.

12          “(c) PROCESS AND CRITERIA.—

13               “(1) PROCESS AND CRITERIA.—The Secretary  
14               shall develop a process, including criteria—

15                   “(A) to determine the potential conversion  
16                   of farmland as a consequence of any action or  
17                   activity conducted through a Federal program;

18                   “(B)(i) to minimize the conversion of  
19                   farmland to nonagricultural uses; or

20                   “(ii) in the case of farmland identified  
21                   under subsection (a)(2), to avoid conversion of  
22                   the farmland to nonagricultural uses;

23                   “(C) to provide to the Secretary notice re-  
24                   garding actions described in subparagraphs (A)  
25                   and (B); and

1                   “(D) that the Secretary shall use to make  
2                   determinations under subsection (d).

3                   “(2) USE REQUIRED.—Each department, agen-  
4                   cy, independent commission, and other unit of the  
5                   Federal Government shall use the process and cri-  
6                   teria developed under paragraph (1) in carrying out  
7                   a Federal program.

8                   “(d) EXEMPTION.—

9                   “(1) IN GENERAL.—Subsection (a)(2) shall not  
10                  apply if the Secretary determines, based on the proc-  
11                  ess and criteria developed under subsection (c)(1),  
12                  that converting farmland to nonagricultural uses  
13                  cannot be avoided.

14                  “(2) MINIMIZATION OF CONVERSION.—In a  
15                  case in which the Secretary makes a determination  
16                  under paragraph (1), the Federal program shall  
17                  minimize the conversion of farmland described in  
18                  subsection (a)(2) to the maximum extent practicable.

19                  “(e) INFORMATION.—The Secretary may make avail-  
20                  able to States, units of local government, individuals, orga-  
21                  nizations, and other units of the Federal Government in-  
22                  formation—

23                  “(1) useful in restoring, maintaining, and im-  
24                  proving the quantity and quality of farmland; and

1 “(2) concerning the location of permanently  
2 protected farmland.

3 “(f) ASSISTANCE.—The Secretary shall provide as-  
4 sistance to departments, agencies, independent commis-  
5 sions, and other units of the Federal Government, on re-  
6 quest, in using the process and criteria developed under  
7 subsection (c)(1).”.

8 **SEC. 404. AGRICULTURAL CONSERVATION EASEMENT PRO-**  
9 **GRAM.**

10 Section 1265B of the Food Security Act of 1985 (16  
11 U.S.C. 3865b) is amended—

12 (1) in subsection (b)—

13 (A) in paragraph (4)(C)(iv), by striking  
14 “only”; and

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

16 “(6) CONDITION OF ASSISTANCE.—

17 “(A) IN GENERAL.—As a condition of re-  
18 ceiving cost-share assistance under this section,  
19 the owner of eligible land shall agree to have in  
20 place a conservation plan that addresses appli-  
21 cable resource concerns for the land subject to  
22 the easement, including soil health and green-  
23 house gas emissions reduction, not later than 3  
24 years after the date on which the easement is  
25 granted.

1           “(B) BUREAU OF INDIAN AFFAIRS.—Sub-  
 2           paragraph (A) may be satisfied by having in  
 3           place a conservation plan developed or recog-  
 4           nized by the Bureau of Indian Affairs.”; and  
 5           (2) by striking subsection (d) and inserting the  
 6           following:

7           “(d) TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE.—The Secretary may  
 8           provide technical assistance, if requested, to assist in—

9           “(1) compliance with the terms and conditions  
 10          of an easement; and

11          “(2) development and implementation of a con-  
 12          servation plan required under subsection (b)(6), in-  
 13          cluding, as applicable—

14               “(A) a conservation plan for highly erod-  
 15               ible land required under subsection  
 16               (b)(4)(C)(iv); and

17               “(B) a comprehensive conservation plan  
 18               developed pursuant to subsection (e)(1).

19          “(e) FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE.—

20               “(1) IN GENERAL.—

21               “(A) ENROLLMENT IN CSP.—At the sole  
 22               option of the owner of the eligible land subject  
 23               to an easement, the Secretary shall provide for  
 24               the automatic enrollment of the eligible land  
 25               subject to the easement in the conservation

1       stewardship program established by subchapter  
2       B of chapter 4 of subtitle D, including financial  
3       assistance for the development of a comprehen-  
4       sive conservation plan under section 1240L(e),  
5       if the person or entity farming the eligible land  
6       is otherwise eligible for the conservation stew-  
7       ardship program, as determined by the Sec-  
8       retary.

9               “(B) DETERMINATION OF COMPLIANCE.—

10       In the case of eligible land enrolled in the con-  
11       servation stewardship program pursuant to sub-  
12       paragraph (A), the Secretary shall have the sole  
13       responsibility of determining compliance with  
14       the terms of the conservation stewardship pro-  
15       gram contract.

16               “(C) FUNDING.—Funding received by an

17       eligible entity pursuant to this paragraph shall  
18       not be considered in the calculation of costs  
19       under subsection (b).

20               “(2) TIMING.—The owner of the eligible land

21       subject to an easement may exercise the option  
22       under paragraph (1)(A) during the 3-year period be-  
23       ginning on the date on which the easement is grant-  
24       ed.”.

# **TITLE V—PASTURE-BASED LIVESTOCK**

## **SEC. 501. ANIMAL RAISING CLAIMS.**

The Agricultural Marketing Act of 1946 (7 U.S.C. 1621 et seq.) is amended by adding at the end the following:

## **“Subtitle H—Animal Raising Claims**

### **“SEC. 298A. DEFINITIONS.**

“In this subtitle:

“(1) ANIMAL RAISING CLAIM.—The term ‘animal raising claim’ means a statement on the labeling of a meat food product or poultry product used in interstate commerce that references—

“(A) the manner in which the source animal for the meat food product or poultry product was raised, including—

“(i) production practices that were used, such as living or raising conditions; and

“(ii) the location or source where the source animal was born, raised, and processed; or

“(B) the breed of the source animal.

1           “(2) MEAT FOOD PRODUCT.—The term ‘meat  
2           food product’ has the meaning given the term in sec-  
3           tion 1 of the Federal Meat Inspection Act (21  
4           U.S.C. 601).

5           “(3) POULTRY PRODUCT.—The term ‘poultry  
6           product’ has the meaning given the term in section  
7           4 of the Poultry Products Inspection Act (21 U.S.C.  
8           453).

9           “(4) SECRETARY.—The term ‘Secretary’ means  
10          the Secretary of Agriculture, acting through the Ad-  
11          ministrator of the Agricultural Marketing Service, in  
12          coordination with the Administrator of the Food  
13          Safety and Inspection Service.

14   **“SEC. 298B. REQUIRED VERIFICATION PROCESS FOR ANI-**  
15                   **MAL RAISING CLAIMS.**

16          “(a) PURPOSE.—The purpose of this section is to fa-  
17          cilitate marketing, truth in labeling, and new economic op-  
18          portunities for producers and businesses using animal  
19          raising claims.

20          “(b) STANDARDS AND PROCEDURES.—

21               “(1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 2 years  
22          after the date of enactment of this subtitle, after  
23          providing notice and an opportunity to comment,  
24          and in a manner consistent with United States obli-

1       gations under international agreements, the Sec-  
2       retary shall establish—

3               “(A) mandatory standards with respect to  
4               animal raising claims, including the standards  
5               described in paragraph (2);

6               “(B) procedures—

7                       “(i) to verify an animal raising claim  
8                       prior to the use in commerce of any meat  
9                       food product or poultry product bearing  
10                      that claim; and

11                     “(ii) that are incorporated seamlessly  
12                     with the labeling requirements under the  
13                     Federal Meat Inspection Act (21 U.S.C.  
14                     601 et seq.) and the Poultry Products In-  
15                     spection Act (21 U.S.C. 451 et seq.); and

16               “(C) on-farm and supply chain auditing  
17               and verification procedures to ensure the truth-  
18               fulness of animal raising claims.

19               “(2) STANDARDS.—In developing and approv-  
20       ing animal raising claim standards under paragraph  
21       (1)(A), the Secretary shall include standards relat-  
22       ing to—

23               “(A) diet claims, including claims that the  
24               source animal was grass fed, vegetarian fed, or  
25               fed no animal byproducts;



1           “(B) living and raising condition claims,  
2           including claims that the source animal was  
3           cage free, free range, or pasture raised;

4           “(C) antibiotic and hormone claims, in-  
5           cluding claims that the source animal was  
6           raised without antibiotics, had no hormones  
7           added, or was raised without growth  
8           promotants;

9           “(D) source claims that the source animal  
10          can be traced back to its farm of origin from  
11          birth to slaughter;

12          “(E) age claims;

13          “(F) animal welfare claims;

14          “(G) environmental stewardship claims, in-  
15          cluding greenhouse gas reduction and carbon  
16          sequestration claims;

17          “(H) breed claims; and

18          “(I) any other claim that the Secretary de-  
19          termines appropriate.

20          “(3) CONSISTENCY WITH OTHER LAWS.—The  
21          Secretary shall ensure consistency between the ani-  
22          mal raising claim standards established under this  
23          subsection and the Organic Foods Production Act of  
24          1990 (7 U.S.C. 6501 et seq.) and any rules or regu-  
25          lations implementing that Act.

1       “(c) THIRD-PARTY CERTIFICATION.—A producer of  
2 a meat food product or a poultry product may use an ani-  
3 mal raising claim that is verified by a third party if—

4               “(1) the claim is consistent with standards es-  
5 tablished by the Secretary under subsection (b); and

6               “(2) the procedures used by the third party to  
7 verify the claim, and for any subsequent auditing,  
8 are equivalent to the verification and auditing proce-  
9 dures established under subsection (b)(1)(C), as de-  
10 termined by the Secretary.

11       “(d) APPROVAL PROCESS.—To the maximum extent  
12 practicable, the Secretary shall require that a producer  
13 seeking to make an animal raising claim shall submit to  
14 the Secretary, prior to using the label on the meat food  
15 product or poultry product that is the subject of the ani-  
16 mal raising claim, the following documentation to support  
17 the animal raising claim:

18               “(1) A detailed written description explaining  
19 the controls used for ensuring that the animal rais-  
20 ing claim is valid, as applicable—

21                       “(A) from birth to harvest; or

22                       “(B) for the period of raising referenced in  
23 the animal raising claim.

24               “(2) A signed and dated document describing  
25 the manner in which the source animals were raised.

1           “(3) A written description of the product trac-  
2           ing and segregation mechanism used with respect to  
3           the applicable meat food product or poultry product  
4           from the time of slaughter of the source animal or  
5           further processing through the packaging and dis-  
6           tribution of the meat food product or poultry prod-  
7           uct.

8           “(4) A written description of the identification,  
9           control, and segregation of nonconforming animals  
10          or products.

11          “(5) In the case of a meat food product or  
12          poultry product certified by a third party, a current  
13          copy of the third-party certificate.

14          “(e) COMPLIANCE REQUIREMENTS.—Beginning on  
15          the date that is 3 years after the date of enactment of  
16          this subtitle—

17               “(1) a person may sell or label a domestic meat  
18               food product or poultry product with an animal rais-  
19               ing claim only if the animal raising claim and the  
20               meat food product or poultry product is in compli-  
21               ance with the standards established under subsection  
22               (b); and

23               “(2) an imported meat food product or poultry  
24               product may be sold or labeled with an animal rais-  
25               ing claim if, as determined by the Secretary, the ani-

1 mal raising claim and the meat food product or  
2 poultry product is in compliance with a verification  
3 program that provides safeguards and guidelines  
4 that are at least equivalent to the standards estab-  
5 lished under subsection (b).

6 “(f) VIOLATIONS.—

7 “(1) MISUSE OF LABEL.—Any person that,  
8 after notice and an opportunity to be heard, is found  
9 by the Secretary to have knowingly sold or labeled  
10 any meat food product or poultry product with an  
11 animal raising claim in violation of this subtitle, in-  
12 cluding the standards and procedures established  
13 under subsection (b), shall be assessed a civil pen-  
14 alty of not more than \$10,000.

15 “(2) FALSE STATEMENT.—Any person that,  
16 after notice and an opportunity to be heard, is found  
17 by the Secretary to have made to the Secretary, a  
18 Federal or State official, or a third-party certifier a  
19 false, fraudulent, or fictitious statement, or to have  
20 concealed to, hidden from, falsified to, or deceived  
21 the Secretary, official, or certifier regarding a mate-  
22 rial fact, with respect to an animal raising claim  
23 subject to the requirements of this subtitle, shall be  
24 subject to a penalty described in section 1001 of title  
25 18, United States Code.

1       “(g) EFFECT ON OTHER LAWS.—Nothing in this sec-  
 2 tion alters the authority of the Secretary under the Fed-  
 3 eral Meat Inspection Act (21 U.S.C. 601 et seq.) or the  
 4 Poultry Products Inspection Act (21 U.S.C. 451 et seq.).

5       **“SEC. 298C. APPLICABILITY.**

6       “‘This subtitle shall only apply to meat food products  
 7 and poultry products that are subject to labeling require-  
 8 ments under the Federal Meat Inspection Act (21 U.S.C.  
 9 601 et seq.) or the Poultry Products Inspection Act (21  
 10 U.S.C. 451 et seq.).

11       **“SEC. 298D. AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.**

12       “‘There are authorized to be appropriated to the Sec-  
 13 retary such sums as are necessary to carry out this sub-  
 14 title.’”.

15       **SEC. 502. PROCESSING RESILIENCE GRANT PROGRAM.**

16       Subtitle A of the Agricultural Marketing Act of 1946  
 17 (7 U.S.C. 1621 et seq.) is amended by adding at the end  
 18 the following:

19       **“SEC. 210B. PROCESSING RESILIENCE GRANT PROGRAM.**

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

21               “(1) ELIGIBLE ENTITY.—The term ‘eligible en-  
 22 tity’ means—

23                       “(A) a smaller establishment or very small  
 24 establishment (as those terms are defined in the  
 25 final rule entitled ‘Pathogen Reduction; Hazard

1 Analysis and Critical Control Point (HACCP)  
2 Systems’ (61 Fed. Reg. 33806 (July 25,  
3 1996)));

4 “(B) a slaughtering or processing estab-  
5 lishment subject to—

6 “(i) a State meat inspection program  
7 pursuant to section 301 of the Federal  
8 Meat Inspection Act (21 U.S.C. 661); or

9 “(ii) a State poultry product inspec-  
10 tion program pursuant to section 5 of the  
11 Poultry Products Inspection Act (21  
12 U.S.C. 454);

13 “(C) a person engaging in custom oper-  
14 ations that is exempt from inspection under—

15 “(i) section 23 of the Federal Meat  
16 Inspection Act (21 U.S.C. 623); or

17 “(ii) section 15 of the Poultry Prod-  
18 ucts Inspection Act (21 U.S.C. 464); and

19 “(D) a person seeking—

20 “(i) to establish and operate an estab-  
21 lishment described in subparagraph (A) or  
22 (B); or

23 “(ii) to engage in custom operations  
24 described in subparagraph (C).

1           “(2) SECRETARY.—The term ‘Secretary’ means  
2           the Secretary of Agriculture, acting through the Ad-  
3           ministrators of the Agricultural Marketing Service.

4           “(b) GRANTS.—

5           “(1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 60 days  
6           after the date of enactment of this section, the Sec-  
7           retary shall award competitive grants to eligible enti-  
8           ties for activities to increase resiliency and diver-  
9           sification of the meat processing system, including  
10          activities that—

11                  “(A) support the health and safety of meat  
12                  and poultry plant employees, suppliers, and cus-  
13                  tomers;

14                  “(B) support increased processing capac-  
15                  ity; and

16                  “(C) otherwise support the resilience of the  
17                  small meat and poultry processing sector.

18           “(2) MAXIMUM AMOUNT.—The maximum  
19           amount of a grant awarded under this section shall  
20           not exceed \$500,000.

21           “(3) DURATION.—The term of a grant awarded  
22           under this section shall not exceed 3 years.

23           “(c) APPLICATIONS.—

24           “(1) IN GENERAL.—An eligible entity desiring a  
25           grant under this section shall submit to the Sec-

1       retary an application at such time, in such manner,  
2       and containing such information as the Secretary  
3       may require.

4           “(2) APPLICATIONS FOR SMALL GRANTS.—The  
5       Secretary shall establish a separate, simplified appli-  
6       cation process for eligible entities applying for a  
7       grant under this section of not more than \$100,000.

8           “(3) REQUIREMENTS.—The Secretary shall en-  
9       sure that any application for a grant under this sec-  
10      tion is—

11           “(A) simple and practicable;

12           “(B) accessible online; and

13           “(C) available through local staff of the  
14      Department of Agriculture.

15           “(4) NOTICE.—Not later than 14 days before  
16      the date on which the Secretary begins to accept ap-  
17      plications under paragraph (1), the Secretary shall  
18      publish a notice of funding opportunity with respect  
19      to the grants available under this section.

20           “(5) REAPPLICATION.—If an application of an  
21      eligible entity under this subsection is denied by the  
22      Secretary, the eligible entity may submit a revised  
23      application.



1           “(6) PRIORITY.—In reviewing applications sub-  
 2           mitted under this subsection, the Secretary shall  
 3           give priority to proposals that will—

4                   “(A) increase farmer and rancher access to  
 5           animal slaughter options within a 200-mile ra-  
 6           dius of the location of the farmer or rancher;

7                   “(B) support an eligible entity described in  
 8           subsection (a)(2)(A); or

9                   “(C) support an eligible entity that is a  
 10          business enterprise owned and controlled by so-  
 11          cially and economically disadvantaged individ-  
 12          uals (as defined in section 3002 of the State  
 13          Small Business Credit Initiative Act of 2010  
 14          (12 U.S.C. 5701)).

15          “(d) USE OF GRANT.—An eligible entity that receives  
 16          a grant under this section shall use the grant funds to  
 17          carry out activities in support of the purposes described  
 18          in subsection (b)(1), including through—

19                   “(1) the development and issuance of a Hazard  
 20          Analysis and Critical Control Points plan for the eli-  
 21          gible entity, which may be developed by a consultant;

22                   “(2) the purchase or establishment, as applica-  
 23          ble, of facilities, equipment, processes, and oper-  
 24          ations necessary for the eligible entity to comply  
 25          with applicable requirements under the Federal

1 Meat Inspection Act (21 U.S.C. 601 et seq.) or the  
2 Poultry Products Inspection Act (21 U.S.C. 451 et  
3 seq.);

4 “(3) the purchase of cold storage, equipment, or  
5 transportation services;

6 “(4) the purchase of temperature screening  
7 supplies, testing for communicable diseases, dis-  
8 infectant, sanitation systems, hand washing stations,  
9 and other sanitizing supplies;

10 “(5) the purchase and decontamination of per-  
11 sonal protective equipment;

12 “(6) the construction or purchase of humane  
13 handling infrastructure, including holding space for  
14 livestock prior to slaughter, shade structures, and  
15 knock box structures;

16 “(7)(A) the purchase of software and computer  
17 equipment for record keeping, production data, Haz-  
18 ard Analysis and Critical Control Points record re-  
19 view, and facilitation of marketing and sales of prod-  
20 ucts in a manner consistent with the social  
21 distancing guidelines of the Centers for Disease Con-  
22 trol and Prevention; and

23 “(B) the provision of guidelines and training re-  
24 lating to that software and computer equipment;

1           “(8) the provision of staff time and training for  
2     implementing and monitoring health and safety pro-  
3     cedures;

4           “(9) the development of a feasibility study or  
5     business plan for, or the carrying out of any other  
6     activity associated with, establishing or expanding a  
7     small meat or poultry processing facility;

8           “(10) the purchase of equipment that enables  
9     the further use or value-added sale of coproducts or  
10    byproducts, such as organs, hides, and other rel-  
11    evant products; and

12          “(11) other activities associated with expanding  
13    or establishing an eligible entity described in sub-  
14    section (a)(2)(A), as determined by the Secretary.

15          “(e) OUTREACH.—During the period beginning on  
16   the date on which the Secretary publishes the notice under  
17   subsection (c)(4) and ending on the date on which the Sec-  
18   retary begins to accept applications under subsection  
19   (c)(1), the Secretary shall perform outreach to States and  
20   eligible entities relating to grants under this section.

21          “(f) FEDERAL SHARE.—

22          “(1) IN GENERAL.—Subject to paragraph (2),  
23   the Federal share of the activities carried out using  
24   a grant awarded under this section shall not ex-  
25   ceed—

1           “(A) 90 percent in the case of a grant in  
2           the amount of \$100,000 or less; or

3           “(B) 75 percent in the case of a grant in  
4           an amount greater than \$100,000.

5           “(2) FISCAL YEARS 2025 AND 2026.—An eligible  
6           entity awarded a grant under this section during fis-  
7           cal years 2025 or 2026 shall not be required to pro-  
8           vide non-Federal matching funds with respect to the  
9           grant.

10          “(g) ADMINISTRATION.—The promulgation of regula-  
11       tions under, and administration of, this section shall be  
12       made without regard to—

13               “(1) the notice and comment provisions of sec-  
14       tion 553 of title 5, United States Code; and

15               “(2) chapter 35 of title 44, United States Code  
16       (commonly known as the ‘Paperwork Reduction  
17       Act’).

18          “(h) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There  
19       is authorized to be appropriated to the Secretary to carry  
20       out this section \$20,000,000 for each of fiscal years 2026  
21       through 2030.”.

22       **SEC. 503. CONSERVATION OF PRIVATE GRAZING LAND.**

23           (a) PURPOSE.—Section 1240M(a) of the Food Secu-  
24       rity Act of 1985 (16 U.S.C. 3839bb(a)) is amended—

1           (1) in paragraph (6), by inserting “conserving  
2       water and” before “improving”;

3           (2) in paragraph (7), by striking “and” at the  
4       end;

5           (3) in paragraph (8), by striking the period at  
6       the end and inserting a semicolon; and

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

8           “(9) conserving and improving soil health and  
9       improving grazing system resilience in the face of  
10      climate change through advanced grazing manage-  
11      ment practices; and

12          “(10) providing support for producers  
13      transitioning from confinement and feedlot systems  
14      or continuous grazing to managed grazing-based sys-  
15      tems, including support for pasture development and  
16      management.”.

17          (b) DEFINITIONS.—Section 1240M(b)(2) of the Food  
18      Security Act of 1985 (16 U.S.C. 3839bb(b)(2)) is amend-  
19      ed by striking “hay land” and inserting “perennial hay  
20      land, including silvopasture”.

21          (c) PRIVATE GRAZING LAND CONSERVATION ASSIST-  
22      ANCE.—Section 1240M(c) of the Food Security Act of  
23      1985 (16 U.S.C. 3839bb(c)) is amended—

24           (1) in paragraph (1)—

1 (A) in the matter preceding subparagraph  
 2 (A), by inserting “and partnerships described in  
 3 paragraph (2)(B)” after “local conservation dis-  
 4 tricts”;

5 (B) by striking subparagraph (B) and in-  
 6 serting the following:

7 “(B) planning and implementing regionally  
 8 appropriate, advanced grazing land manage-  
 9 ment technologies to improve soil health and  
 10 maximize carbon sequestration;”;

11 (C) in subparagraph (C)(iv), by inserting  
 12 “through integrated strategies that include ro-  
 13 tational and multispecies grazing, integrated  
 14 pest management, and other ecological prac-  
 15 tices” after “brush encroachment problems”;

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

18 (E) in subparagraph (I), by striking the  
 19 period at the end and inserting “; and”; and

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

21 “(J) assisting producers in transitioning  
 22 from confinement or feedlot systems or contin-  
 23 uous grazing to managed grazing-based sys-  
 24 tems, including assistance in pasture develop-  
 25 ment and management.”; and

1 (2) by striking paragraph (2) and inserting the  
2 following:

3 “(2) PROGRAM ELEMENTS.—

4 “(A) TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE AND EDU-  
5 CATION.—Personnel of the Department trained  
6 in pasture and range management shall be  
7 made available under the program to deliver  
8 and coordinate technical assistance and edu-  
9 cation to owners and managers of private graz-  
10 ing land, including owners and managers inter-  
11 ested in developing new or improved pasture or  
12 grazing-based systems on the land of the own-  
13 ers and managers, at the request of the owners  
14 and managers.

15 “(B) PARTNERSHIPS.—In carrying out the  
16 program under this section, the Secretary shall  
17 provide research, demonstration, education (in-  
18 cluding conferences, workshops, field days, and  
19 trainings), workforce training, planning, and  
20 outreach activities through partnerships with—

21 “(i) land-grant colleges and univer-  
22 sities (as defined in section 1404 of the  
23 National Agricultural Research, Extension,  
24 and Teaching Policy Act of 1977 (7 U.S.C.  
25 3103));

1 “(ii) nongovernmental organizations;  
2 and

3 “(iii) Tribal organizations.

4 “(C) COOPERATIVE AGREEMENTS.—

5 “(i) IN GENERAL.—In carrying out  
6 the program under this section, the Sec-  
7 retary shall provide funds on a competitive  
8 basis for cooperative agreements to re-  
9 gional, State, or local partnerships to use  
10 to conduct grazing land research, dem-  
11 onstration, education, workforce training,  
12 planning, and outreach projects.

13 “(ii) DURATION.—Grants made by  
14 partnerships under this subparagraph shall  
15 be for a period not to exceed 3 years.

16 “(iii) LIMITATION ON INDIRECT  
17 COSTS.—A partnership that receives fund-  
18 ing under this subparagraph may not use  
19 more than 15 percent of the total cost of  
20 the project for the indirect costs of car-  
21 rying out the project.

22 “(iv) PRIORITY.—A partnership that  
23 receives funding under this subparagraph  
24 shall give priority to projects that—



1 “(I) focus on sustainable grazing  
 2 management systems and techniques  
 3 that assist producers with multiple  
 4 ecosystem services, including climate  
 5 change adaptation and mitigation;  
 6 and

7 “(II) involve beginning farmers  
 8 and ranchers, socially disadvantaged  
 9 farmers and ranchers, Tribal pro-  
 10 ducers, or new graziers (including  
 11 State or federally registered appren-  
 12 ticeships).”.

13 (d) GRAZING TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE TRAINING.—  
 14 Section 1240M of the Food Security Act of 1985 (16  
 15 U.S.C. 3839bb) is amended by striking subsection (d) and  
 16 inserting the following:

17 “(d) GRAZING TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE TRAINING.—  
 18 In carrying out the program under this section, the Sec-  
 19 retary shall provide funds to establish training programs  
 20 to foster a new generation of technical assistance providers  
 21 to support advanced grazing management.”.

22 (e) FUNDING.—Section 1240M of the Food Security  
 23 Act of 1985 (16 U.S.C. 3839bb) is amended by striking  
 24 subsection (e) and inserting the following:

25 “(e) FUNDING.—

1           “(1) MANDATORY FUNDING.—Of the funds of  
2           the Commodity Credit Corporation, the Secretary  
3           shall use to carry out this section \$50,000,000 for  
4           each of fiscal years 2026 through 2030.

5           “(2) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—  
6           There is authorized to be appropriated to carry out  
7           this section \$60,000,000 for each of fiscal years  
8           2026 through 2030.

9           “(3) COOPERATIVE AGREEMENTS.—Of the  
10          funds made available under paragraphs (1) and (2),  
11          the Secretary shall use not less than 80 percent to  
12          carry out subsection (c)(2)(C).

13          “(4) TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE TRAINING.—Of  
14          the funds made available under paragraphs (1) and  
15          (2), the Secretary shall use not more than 10 per-  
16          cent to carry out subsection (d).”.

17 **SEC. 504. CONSERVATION RESERVE PROGRAM.**

18          (a) CONSERVATION RESERVE.—Section 1231 of the  
19          Food Security Act of 1985 (16 U.S.C. 3831) is amend-  
20          ed—

21                 (1) in subsection (a), by striking “the 2023 fis-  
22                 cal year” and inserting “fiscal year 2030”; and  
23                 (2) in subsection (d)—

1 (A) in paragraph (1), by striking subpara-  
2 graphs (A) through (E) and inserting the fol-  
3 lowing:

4 “(A) fiscal year 2026, not more than  
5 28,000,000 acres;

6 “(B) fiscal year 2027, not more than  
7 29,000,000 acres;

8 “(C) fiscal year 2028, not more than  
9 30,000,000 acres;

10 “(D) fiscal year 2029, not more than  
11 31,000,000 acres; and

12 “(E) fiscal year 2030, not more than  
13 32,000,000 acres.”; and

14 (B) in paragraph (2)(A)—

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

17 (ii) in clause (ii)(III), by striking the  
18 period at the end and inserting “; and”;  
19 and

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

22 “(iii) the Secretary shall enroll and  
23 maintain in the conservation reserve not  
24 fewer than 7,000,000 acres of land de-  
25 scribed in subsection (b)(3) by September

1                   30, 2028, of which not fewer than  
 2                   5,000,000 acres shall be reserved for the  
 3                   pilot program established under section  
 4                   1231C(c).”.

5           (b) PILOT PROGRAMS.—Section 1231C of the Food  
 6 Security Act of 1985 (16 U.S.C. 3831c) is amended by  
 7 adding at the end the following:

8           “(c) GRASSLAND 30 CONTRACTS.—

9                   “(1) ENROLLMENT.—

10                           “(A) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall  
 11                   establish a pilot program to enroll land in the  
 12                   conservation reserve program through a 30-year  
 13                   conservation reserve contract (referred to in  
 14                   this subsection as a ‘Grassland 30 contract’) in  
 15                   accordance with this subsection.

16                           “(B) INCLUSION OF ACREAGE LIMITA-  
 17                   TION.—For purposes of applying the limitations  
 18                   described in section 1231(d)(1), the Secretary  
 19                   shall include acres of land enrolled under this  
 20                   subsection.

21                           “(2) ELIGIBLE LAND.—Eligible land for enroll-  
 22                   ment through a Grassland 30 contract—

23                           “(A) is land that is eligible to be enrolled  
 24                   in the conservation reserve program under the

1 grasslands initiative described in section  
 2 1231(d)(2); and

3 “(B) shall not be limited to land that is  
 4 subject to a covered contract (as defined in  
 5 paragraph (3)(A)).

6 “(3) CONSERVATION CONTRACT ELECTION.—

7 “(A) DEFINITION OF COVERED CON-  
 8 TRACT.—In this paragraph, the term ‘covered  
 9 contract’ means a contract entered into under  
 10 this subchapter that—

11 “(i) expires on or after the date of en-  
 12 actment of this subsection; and

13 “(ii) covers land enrolled in the con-  
 14 servation reserve program under the grass-  
 15 lands initiative described in section  
 16 1231(d)(2).

17 “(B) EXPIRING CONTRACTS.—On the expi-  
 18 ration of a covered contract, an owner or oper-  
 19 ator party to the covered contract shall elect—

20 “(i) not to reenroll the land under the  
 21 contract;

22 “(ii) to offer to reenroll the land  
 23 under the contract if the land remains eli-  
 24 gible under the terms in effect as of the  
 25 date of expiration; or

1                   “(iii) not to reenroll the land under  
2                   the contract and to enroll that land  
3                   through a Grassland 30 contract under  
4                   this subsection.

5                   “(C) UNEXPIRED CONTRACTS.—Prior to  
6                   the expiration of a covered contract, an owner  
7                   or operator party to the covered contract may  
8                   elect to terminate the contract and to enroll  
9                   that land through a Grassland 30 contract  
10                  under this subsection.

11                  “(4) TERM.—The term of a Grassland 30 con-  
12                  tract shall be 30 years.

13                  “(5) AGREEMENTS.—To be eligible to enroll  
14                  land in the conservation reserve program through a  
15                  Grassland 30 contract, the owner of the land shall  
16                  enter into an agreement with the Secretary—

17                         “(A) to implement a conservation reserve  
18                         plan developed for the land;

19                         “(B) to comply with the terms and condi-  
20                         tions of the contract and any related agree-  
21                         ments; and

22                         “(C) to temporarily suspend the base his-  
23                         tory for the land covered by the contract.

24                  “(6) CONDITIONS AND TERMS.—

1           “(A) IN GENERAL.—A Grassland 30 con-  
2 tract—

3           “(i) shall include terms and conditions  
4 that promote sustainable grazing systems,  
5 protect and enhance soil carbon levels, and  
6 are compatible with wildlife habitat con-  
7 servation, as determined by the Secretary;  
8 and

9           “(ii) may include any additional provi-  
10 sion that the Secretary determines is ap-  
11 propriate to carry out this subsection or  
12 facilitate the practical administration of  
13 this subsection.

14           “(B) VIOLATION.—On the violation of a  
15 term or condition of a Grassland 30 contract,  
16 the Secretary may require the owner to refund  
17 all or part of any payments received by the  
18 owner under the conservation reserve program,  
19 with interest on the payments, as determined  
20 appropriate by the Secretary.

21           “(C) COMPATIBLE USES.—Land subject to  
22 a Grassland 30 contract may be used for com-  
23 patible economic uses, including hunting and  
24 fishing, if the use—

1 “(i) is specifically permitted by the  
2 conservation reserve plan developed for the  
3 land; and

4 “(ii) is consistent with the long-term  
5 protection and enhancement of the con-  
6 servation resources for which the contract  
7 was established.

8 “(7) COMPENSATION.—

9 “(A) AMOUNT OF PAYMENTS.—The Sec-  
10 retary shall provide payment under this sub-  
11 section to an owner of land enrolled through a  
12 Grassland 30 contract using 30 annual pay-  
13 ments in an amount equal to the amount that  
14 would be used if the land were to be enrolled  
15 in the conservation reserve program under sec-  
16 tion 1231(d)(2).

17 “(B) FORM OF PAYMENT.—Compensation  
18 for a Grassland 30 contract shall be provided  
19 by the Secretary in the form of a cash payment  
20 in an amount determined under subparagraph  
21 (A).

22 “(C) TIMING.—The Secretary shall provide  
23 any annual payment obligation under subpara-  
24 graph (A) as early as practicable in each fiscal  
25 year.



“(D) PAYMENTS TO OTHERS.—The Secretary shall make a payment, in accordance with regulations prescribed by the Secretary, in a manner as the Secretary determines is fair and reasonable under the circumstances, if an owner that is entitled to a payment under this section—

“(i) dies;

“(ii) becomes incompetent;

“(iii) is succeeded by another person or entity that renders or completes the required performance; or

“(iv) is otherwise unable to receive the payment.

“(8) TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE.—

“(A) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall assist owners in complying with the terms and conditions of a Grassland 30 contract.

“(B) CONTRACTS OR AGREEMENTS.—The Secretary may enter into 1 or more contracts with private entities or agreements with a State, nongovernmental organization, or Indian Tribe to carry out necessary maintenance of a Grassland 30 contract if the Secretary determines that the contract or agreement will ad-

1 vance the purposes of the conservation reserve  
2 program.

3 “(9) ADMINISTRATION.—

4 “(A) CONSERVATION RESERVE PLAN.—

5 The Secretary shall develop a conservation re-  
6 serve plan for any land subject to a Grassland  
7 30 contract, which shall include practices and  
8 activities necessary to maintain, protect, and  
9 enhance the conservation value of the enrolled  
10 land, including the protection and enhancement  
11 of soil carbon levels.

12 “(B) DELEGATION OF CONTRACT ADMINIS-  
13 TRATION.—

14 “(i) FEDERAL, STATE, TRIBAL, OR  
15 LOCAL GOVERNMENT AGENCIES.—The Sec-  
16 retary may delegate any of the manage-  
17 ment, monitoring, and enforcement respon-  
18 sibilities of the Secretary under this sub-  
19 section to other Federal, State, Tribal, or  
20 local government agencies that have the  
21 appropriate authority, expertise, and re-  
22 sources necessary to carry out those dele-  
23 gated responsibilities.

24 “(ii) CONSERVATION ORGANIZA-  
25 TIONS.—The Secretary may delegate any

1 management responsibilities of the Sec-  
 2 retary under this subsection to conserva-  
 3 tion organizations if the Secretary deter-  
 4 mines the conservation organization has  
 5 similar expertise and resources.”.

6 **SEC. 505. ALTERNATIVE MANURE MANAGEMENT PROGRAM.**

7 Chapter 5 of subtitle D of title XII of the Food Secu-  
 8 rity Act of 1985 (16 U.S.C. 3839bb et seq.) (as amended  
 9 by section 304) is amended by adding at the end the fol-  
 10 lowing:

11 **“SEC. 1240T. ALTERNATIVE MANURE MANAGEMENT PRO-**  
 12 **GRAM.**

13 “(a) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

14 “(1) ALTERNATIVE MANURE MANAGEMENT  
 15 PROGRAM.—The term ‘alternative manure manage-  
 16 ment program’ means the program established under  
 17 subsection (b).

18 “(2) COVERED MANAGEMENT MEASURE.—The  
 19 term ‘covered management measure’ means a dairy  
 20 or livestock operation method that is used by an eli-  
 21 gible producer to reduce baseline methane emissions  
 22 and, where applicable, improve carbon sequestration  
 23 on the operation of that eligible producer, including  
 24 the measures described in subparagraphs (A)  
 25 through (D) of subsection (f)(2).

1           “(3) ELIGIBLE PRODUCER.—The term ‘eligible  
2           producer’ means a dairy or livestock producer that  
3           agrees to reduce greenhouse gas emissions by adopt-  
4           ing at least 1 covered management measure as an  
5           alternative or complement to anaerobic systems that  
6           capture methane emissions.

7           “(4) PASTURE-BASED MANAGEMENT.—The  
8           term ‘pasture-based management’ means a dairy or  
9           livestock production system—

10               “(A) that eliminates or reduces the quan-  
11               tity of manure stored in anaerobic conditions;  
12               and

13               “(B) in which the animals spend all or a  
14               substantial portion of their time grazing on  
15               fields in which some or all of the manure is de-  
16               posited and left in the field and decomposes  
17               aerobically.

18           “(5) SOLID SEPARATION SYSTEM.—The term  
19           ‘solid separation system’ means a system designed to  
20           separate liquid components of manure from mineral  
21           and organic solid components of that manure.

22           “(b) ESTABLISHMENT.—The Secretary shall estab-  
23           lish an alternative manure management program to award  
24           contracts to eligible producers to support carbon seques-

1 tration and greenhouse gas emissions reductions by imple-  
 2 menting covered management measures.

3 “(c) SUBMISSION OF CONTRACT OFFERS.—To be eli-  
 4 gible to participate in the alternative manure management  
 5 program, an eligible producer shall submit to the Sec-  
 6 retary a contract offer that details any management meas-  
 7 ure to be used on the operation of the eligible producer.

8 “(d) CLUSTER CONTRACT OFFERS.—The Secretary  
 9 shall establish procedures under which—

10 “(1) groups of eligible producers may submit a  
 11 joint contract offer for a shared composting facility;  
 12 and

13 “(2) the Secretary shall allocate payments to  
 14 each eligible producer associated with a joint con-  
 15 tract described in paragraph (1).

16 “(e) EVALUATING APPLICATIONS.—

17 “(1) CRITERIA.—The Secretary shall develop  
 18 criteria for evaluating applications that will maxi-  
 19 mize—

20 “(A) carbon sequestration;

21 “(B) greenhouse gas emissions reductions;

22 and

23 “(C) the overall environmental and public  
 24 health benefits.

1           “(2) PRIORITY.—In awarding contracts under  
2           this section, the Secretary, using criteria developed  
3           under paragraph (1), shall give priority to contract  
4           offers that address air quality, water quality, or  
5           other public health concerns associated with dairy  
6           and livestock operations located near low-income or  
7           underserved communities.

8           “(3) GROUPING.—The Secretary may group  
9           and evaluate contract offers relative to other con-  
10          tract offers for similar farming operations.

11          “(4) GEOGRAPHICAL DIVERSITY.—In awarding  
12          contracts under this section, the Secretary shall en-  
13          sure geographical diversity.

14          “(f) CONTRACT PROVISIONS.—

15               “(1) TERM.—A contract awarded under this  
16               section shall have a term that does not exceed 3  
17               years.

18               “(2) COVERED MANAGEMENT MEASURES.—  
19               Each eligible producer requesting funding for a  
20               project under the alternative manure management  
21               program shall implement at least 1 of the following  
22               management measures:

23                       “(A) With respect to pasture-based man-  
24                       agement—

1 “(i) adopting pasture-based manage-  
2 ment;

3 “(ii) converting a non-pasture dairy or  
4 livestock operation to pasture-based man-  
5 agement;

6 “(iii) increasing the amount of time  
7 livestock spend at pasture at an existing  
8 pasture operation; or

9 “(iv) improving pasture-based man-  
10 agement, including transitioning to man-  
11 agement-intensive rotational grazing (as  
12 defined in section 1240L(d)(1)).

13 “(B) Adopting alternative manure treat-  
14 ment and storage practices, including—

15 “(i) the installation of a compost-bed-  
16 ded pack barn that composts manure;

17 “(ii) the installation of slatted floor  
18 pit storage manure collection that is  
19 cleaned out at least once a month; or

20 “(iii) other similar practices, as deter-  
21 mined by the Secretary.

22 “(C)(i) In conjunction with 1 or more  
23 management measures described in clause (ii)—

24 “(I) adopting a solid separation sys-  
25 tem;

1 “(II) installing a new solid separation  
2 system that has a significantly higher sep-  
3 aration efficiency than any existing solid  
4 separation system; or

5 “(III) developing or retrofitting a ma-  
6 nure management system that primarily  
7 avoids wet handling infrastructure.

8 “(ii) The management measures referred  
9 to in clause (i) are the following:

10 “(I) Open solar drying or composting  
11 of manure onsite.

12 “(II) Solar drying in an enclosed envi-  
13 ronment.

14 “(III) Forced evaporation with nat-  
15 ural-gas fueled dryers.

16 “(IV) Storage of manure in  
17 unconfined piles or stacks.

18 “(V) Composting in an enclosed ves-  
19 sel, with forced aeration and continuous  
20 mixing.

21 “(VI) Composting in piles with forced  
22 aeration without mixing.

23 “(VII) Composting in intensive wind-  
24 rows with regular turning for mixing and  
25 aeration.



1 “(VIII) Composting in passive wind-  
2 rows with infrequent turning for mixing  
3 and aeration.

4 “(IX) Vermiculture or vermifiltration.

5 “(X) Other similar activities, as deter-  
6 mined by the Secretary.

7 “(D) Adopting scrape technologies, in con-  
8 junction with 1 of the management measures  
9 described in subclauses (I) through (X) of sub-  
10 paragraph (C)(ii).

11 “(3) DUTIES OF ELIGIBLE PRODUCERS UNDER  
12 CONTRACT.—To receive payments under the alter-  
13 native manure management program, an eligible  
14 producer shall—

15 “(A) implement 1 or more covered man-  
16 agement measures;

17 “(B) supply information as required by the  
18 Secretary to determine compliance with the re-  
19 quirements of the alternative manure manage-  
20 ment program; and

21 “(C) comply with such additional provi-  
22 sions as the Secretary determines are necessary  
23 to carry out the alternative manure manage-  
24 ment program.

25 “(g) PAYMENTS TO ELIGIBLE PRODUCERS.—

1           “(1) IN GENERAL.—During each of fiscal years  
2           2026 through 2030, the Secretary shall provide pay-  
3           ments to eligible producers that enter into contracts  
4           with the Secretary under the alternative manure  
5           management program.

6           “(2) AVAILABILITY OF PAYMENTS.—Payments  
7           provided to an eligible producer under this section  
8           may be used to implement 1 or more covered man-  
9           agement measures.

10          “(3) PAYMENT AMOUNTS.—The Secretary may  
11          provide a payment to an eligible producer under the  
12          alternative manure management program for an  
13          amount that is up to 100 percent of the costs associ-  
14          ated with planning, design, materials, equipment, in-  
15          stallation, labor, management, maintenance, and  
16          training relating to implementing a covered manage-  
17          ment measure.

18          “(4) LIMITATION ON PAYMENTS.—A person or  
19          legal entity (including a joint venture and a general  
20          partnership) may not receive, directly or indirectly,  
21          payments under the program that exceed \$825,000  
22          during any 5-year period.

23          “(5) ADVANCED PAYMENTS.—The Secretary  
24          shall provide not less than 50 percent of the amount

1 of total payments to an eligible producer in advance  
 2 for all costs relating to—

3 “(A) purchasing or contracting materials  
 4 and equipment; or

5 “(B) any technical assistance provided by  
 6 the Secretary.

7 “(h) MODIFICATION OR TERMINATION OF CON-  
 8 TRACTS.—

9 “(1) VOLUNTARY.—The Secretary may modify  
 10 or terminate a contract entered into with an eligible  
 11 producer under the alternative manure management  
 12 program if—

13 “(A) the producer agrees to the modifica-  
 14 tion or termination; and

15 “(B) the Secretary determines that the  
 16 modification or termination is in the public in-  
 17 terest.

18 “(2) INVOLUNTARY.—The Secretary may termi-  
 19 nate a contract under the alternative manure man-  
 20 agement program if the Secretary determines that  
 21 the eligible producer violated the contract.

22 “(i) DUTIES OF SECRETARY.—The Secretary shall—

23 “(1) determine and publish factors for esti-  
 24 mating the carbon sequestration and greenhouse gas  
 25 emissions reductions for each covered management

1 measure described in subclauses (I) through (X) of  
2 subsection (f)(2)(C)(ii);

3 “(2) assist an eligible producer in achieving the  
4 carbon sequestration, greenhouse gas emissions re-  
5 duction, and other environmental and public health  
6 goals of the alternative manure management pro-  
7 gram plan by—

8 “(A) providing payments for developing  
9 and implementing 1 or more covered manage-  
10 ment measures, as appropriate; and

11 “(B) providing that eligible producer with  
12 information, technical assistance, and training  
13 to aid in implementation of the covered man-  
14 agement measures; and

15 “(3)(A) review the adequacy of existing con-  
16 servation practice standards for supporting the cov-  
17 ered management measures; and

18 “(B) if necessary—

19 “(i) revise existing conservation practice  
20 standards; and

21 “(ii) develop new conservation practice  
22 standards.

23 “(j) TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE.—In providing tech-  
24 nical assistance under the alternative manure manage-

1 ment program, the Secretary shall apply sections 1241(c)  
 2 and 1242, except that the Secretary shall—

3 “(1) apportion not more than 15 percent of the  
 4 total funding available for the alternative manure  
 5 management program for the provision of technical  
 6 assistance; and

7 “(2) enter into cooperative agreements with  
 8 third-party providers with relevant expertise in the  
 9 covered management measures to ensure adequate  
 10 technical services are available to alternative manure  
 11 management program applicants.

12 “(k) FUNDING.—

13 “(1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall use the  
 14 funds, facilities, and authorities of the Commodity  
 15 Credit Corporation to carry out the alternative ma-  
 16 nure management program (including the provision  
 17 of technical assistance described in subsection (j))  
 18 using \$1,500,000,000 for the period of fiscal years  
 19 2026 through 2030.

20 “(2) RESERVATIONS OF FUNDS.—The Sec-  
 21 retary shall, to the maximum extent practicable, use  
 22 a majority of the funds made available by paragraph  
 23 (1) for contract offers from small- and mid-sized  
 24 dairy and livestock operations, including—

25 “(A) beginning farmers or ranchers;

1 “(B) limited resource farmers and ranch-  
 2 ers; and

3 “(C) socially disadvantaged farmers and  
 4 ranchers.”.

5 **TITLE VI—ON-FARM**  
 6 **RENEWABLE ENERGY**

7 **SEC. 601. RURAL ENERGY FOR AMERICA PROGRAM.**

8 Section 9007 of the Farm Security and Rural Invest-  
 9 ment Act of 2002 (7 U.S.C. 8107) is amended—

10 (1) in subsection (a)—

11 (A) in the matter preceding paragraph (1),  
 12 by striking “and renewable energy develop-  
 13 ment” and inserting “, renewable energy devel-  
 14 opment, and the reduction of greenhouse gas  
 15 emissions”; and

16 (B) in paragraph (2), by adding “that re-  
 17 duce greenhouse gas emissions” before the pe-  
 18 riod at the end;

19 (2) in subsection (b)—

20 (A) in paragraph (2)—

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

23 (ii) by redesignating subparagraph  
 24 (E) as subparagraph (G); and

1 (iii) by inserting after subparagraph

2 (D) the following:

3 “(E) a nonprofit corporation;

4 “(F) an agricultural cooperative or pro-  
5 ducer group; and”;

6 (B) in paragraph (3)(D), by inserting be-  
7 fore the semicolon at the end the following: “,  
8 including greenhouse gas emissions reductions”;  
9 and

10 (C) in paragraph (4)—

11 (i) in the matter preceding subpara-  
12 graph (A), by inserting “, agricultural  
13 processors,” after “agricultural pro-  
14 ducers”;

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

17 (iii) in subparagraph (B)(ii), by strik-  
18 ing the period at the end and inserting “;  
19 and”; and

20 (iv) by adding at the end the fol-  
21 lowing:

22 “(C) assisting in the development of feasi-  
23 bility studies and plans for implementing rec-  
24 ommendations provided under subparagraph  
25 (B).”;

1 (3) in subsection (c)—

2 (A) in paragraph (1)(A)(i), by inserting “,  
3 agricultural processors,” after “agricultural  
4 producers”;

5 (B) in paragraph (2)—

6 (i) by redesignating subparagraphs  
7 (F) and (G) as subparagraphs (G) and  
8 (H), respectively; and

9 (ii) by inserting after subparagraph  
10 (E) the following:

11 “(F) carbon accounting assessments devel-  
12 oped under subsection (d) with respect to the  
13 renewable energy system to be installed or the  
14 energy efficiency upgrade to be undertaken;”;

15 (C) in paragraph (3)—

16 (i) in subparagraph (A), by striking  
17 “The amount” and all that follows through  
18 “25 percent” and inserting “Except as  
19 provided in subparagraph (F), the amount  
20 of a grant under this subsection shall not  
21 exceed 50 percent”;

22 (ii) by redesignating subparagraphs  
23 (C) and (D) as subparagraphs (D) and  
24 (E), respectively;



1 (iii) by inserting after subparagraph  
2 (B) the following:

3 “(C) MAXIMUM PERCENTAGE OF LOAN  
4 GUARANTEE.—The portion of a loan that the  
5 Secretary may guarantee under this section  
6 shall be—

7 “(i) in the case of a loan in an  
8 amount equal to not less than \$1,000,000,  
9 80 percent of the principal amount of the  
10 loan; and

11 “(ii) in the case of a loan in an  
12 amount equal to less than \$1,000,000, 90  
13 percent of the principal amount of the  
14 loan.”;

15 (iv) in subparagraph (E) (as so redes-  
16 ignated), by striking “subsection (f)” and  
17 inserting “subsection (h)”;

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

19 “(F) UNDERSERVED PRODUCERS.—The  
20 amount of a grant provided under this sub-  
21 section to an agricultural producer that is a be-  
22 ginning farmer or rancher, a socially disadvan-  
23 taged farmer or rancher, or a veteran farmer or  
24 rancher (as those terms are defined in section  
25 2501(a) of the Food, Agriculture, Conservation

1 and Trade Act of 1990 (7 U.S.C. 2279(a)))  
 2 shall not exceed 75 percent of the cost of the  
 3 activity funded by the grant.”;

4 (D) in paragraph (4), by adding at the end  
 5 the following:

6 “(F) PREAPPROVED TECHNOLOGIES.—In  
 7 order to streamline the adoption of renewable  
 8 energy systems and energy efficiency improve-  
 9 ments, the Secretary shall develop a stream-  
 10 lined application process for projects using  
 11 preapproved products and technologies included  
 12 on the list described in paragraph (5).”; and

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

14 “(5) PREAPPROVED LIST.—The Secretary shall,  
 15 beginning in fiscal year 2026—

16 “(A) develop a list of preapproved tech-  
 17 nologies and products for purposes of para-  
 18 graph (4)(F); and

19 “(B) update that list every 2 fiscal years.

20 “(6) PRIORITY.—In making grants or loan  
 21 guarantees under this subsection, the Secretary shall  
 22 give priority to proposed projects that use tech-  
 23 nologies—

24 “(A) with a substantially low carbon foot-  
 25 print; or

1 “(B) that would result in significant net  
2 decreases of greenhouse gas emissions, as deter-  
3 mined by the Secretary using the carbon ac-  
4 counting assessments developed under sub-  
5 section (d).”;

6 (4) by redesignating subsections (d), (e), and  
7 (f) as subsections (f), (g), and (h), respectively;

8 (5) by inserting after subsection (c) the fol-  
9 lowing:

10 “(d) CARBON ACCOUNTING.—

11 “(1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 2 years  
12 after the date of enactment of the Agriculture Resil-  
13 ience Act of 2025, the Secretary, in collaboration  
14 with the National Renewable Energy Laboratory,  
15 shall develop carbon accounting assessments for re-  
16 newable energy systems and energy efficiency up-  
17 grades (including technologies on the list described  
18 in subsection (c)(5)(A) and technologies described in  
19 subsection (h)(5)(A)) supported by assistance pro-  
20 vided under this section.

21 “(2) METHODOLOGIES.—In developing the car-  
22 bon accounting assessments under paragraph (1),  
23 the Secretary shall, to the maximum extent prac-  
24 ticable, create accurate methodologies for assigning

1 greenhouse gas emission values, including land use  
2 change.

3 “(3) PROGRAM GUIDANCE.—The Secretary  
4 shall, to the maximum extent practicable, use the  
5 carbon accounting assessments developed under  
6 paragraph (1) as guides in carrying out this section.

7 “(e) REGIONAL DEMONSTRATION PROJECTS.—

8 “(1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall carry  
9 out regional demonstration projects that incentivize  
10 agricultural producers to reduce their carbon foot-  
11 print or overall carbon equivalent emissions to the  
12 maximum extent practicable through the use of en-  
13 ergy efficiency improvements and renewable energy  
14 systems.

15 “(2) PUBLICATION.—The Secretary shall pub-  
16 lish the results of the regional demonstration  
17 projects carried out under paragraph (1).”;

18 (6) in subsection (f) (as so redesignated)—

19 (A) in the subsection heading, by inserting  
20 “AND TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE” after “OUT-  
21 REACH”;

22 (B) by striking “The Secretary shall” and  
23 inserting “Using funds made available under  
24 subsection (h)(4), the Secretary shall”;

1 (C) by inserting “and technical assistance”  
 2 after “outreach”; and

3 (D) by inserting “or provided, as applica-  
 4 ble,” after “conducted”;

5 (7) in subsection (g) (as so redesignated), by  
 6 striking “subsection (f)” each place it appears and  
 7 inserting “subsection (h)”; and

8 (8) in subsection (h) (as so redesignated)—

9 (A) in paragraph (1), by striking subpara-  
 10 graphs (A) through (E) and inserting the fol-  
 11 lowing:

12 “(A) \$50,000,000 for each of fiscal years  
 13 2014 through 2025;

14 “(B) \$100,000,000 for fiscal year 2026;

15 “(C) \$200,000,000 for fiscal year 2027;

16 “(D) \$300,000,000 for fiscal year 2028;

17 and

18 “(E) \$400,000,000 for fiscal year 2029  
 19 and each fiscal year thereafter.”;

20 (B) in paragraph (2)(B), by striking “be-  
 21 come available” and inserting “be used”; and

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

23 “(4) ADMINISTRATIVE EXPENSES.—Of the  
 24 funds made available to carry out this section for a

1       fiscal year, the Secretary shall use not more than 8  
2       percent for administrative expenses.

3               “(5) RESERVATION OF FUNDS.—Of the funds  
4       made available to carry out this section for a fiscal  
5       year, the Secretary may reserve—

6                       “(A) not more than 15 percent to provide  
7       grants under subsection (c) to support the  
8       adoption of underutilized but proven commer-  
9       cial technologies; and

10                      “(B) not more than 5 percent to carry out  
11       subsection (e).”.

12 **SEC. 602. AGRIVOLTAIC SYSTEMS.**

13       (a) DEFINITION OF AGRIVOLTAIC SYSTEM.—In this  
14       section, the term “agrivoltaic system” means a system  
15       under which solar energy production and agricultural pro-  
16       duction, including crop or animal production or apiculture,  
17       occurs in an integrated manner on the same piece of land.

18       (b) STUDY.—

19               (1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall conduct  
20       a study of agrivoltaic systems that shall include—

21                      (A) an assessment of the compatibility of  
22       different species of livestock with different  
23       agrivoltaic system designs, including—

24                               (i) the optimal height of and distance  
25       between solar panels for—

- 1 (I) livestock grazing; and
- 2 (II) shade for livestock;
- 3 (ii) manure management consider-
- 4 ations;
- 5 (iii) fencing requirements; and
- 6 (iv) other animal handling consider-
- 7 ations;
- 8 (B) an assessment of animal breeding re-
- 9 search needs with respect to beneficial and com-
- 10 patible characteristics and behaviors of different
- 11 species of grazing animals in agrivoltaic sys-
- 12 tems;
- 13 (C) an assessment of the compatibility of
- 14 different crop types with different agrivoltaic
- 15 system designs, including—
- 16 (i) the optimal height of and distance
- 17 between solar panels for—
- 18 (I) plant shading; and
- 19 (II) farm equipment use;
- 20 (ii) the impact on crop yield; and
- 21 (iii) market opportunities to sell crops
- 22 at a premium price;
- 23 (D) an assessment of plant breeding re-
- 24 search needs with respect to beneficial and com-
- 25 patible characteristics of different crops, includ-

1 ing specialty and perennial crops, in agrivoltaic  
 2 systems;

3 (E) a risk-benefit analysis of agrivoltaic  
 4 systems in different regions of the United  
 5 States, including a comparison between the  
 6 total greenhouse gas impact of agrivoltaic sys-  
 7 tems and solar energy systems that displace ag-  
 8 ricultural production;

9 (F) an assessment of the types of agricul-  
 10 tural land best suited and worst suited for  
 11 agrivoltaic systems;

12 (G) an assessment of how to best develop  
 13 agrivoltaic systems on a national and local scale  
 14 consistent with—

15 (i) maintaining or increasing agricul-  
 16 tural production;

17 (ii) increasing agricultural resilience;

18 (iii) retaining prime farmland;

19 (iv) increasing economic opportunities  
 20 in farming and rural communities;

21 (v) reducing nonfarmer ownership of  
 22 farmland; and

23 (vi) enhancing biodiversity;



1 (H) an assessment of the unique risk man-  
2 agement and crop insurance needs of agrivoltaic  
3 systems;

4 (I) an assessment of the means by which  
5 Federal procurement of agricultural products  
6 could help build a market for agricultural prod-  
7 ucts from farms with agrivoltaic systems; and

8 (J) an assessment of the means by which  
9 Federal agricultural conservation programs, re-  
10 newable energy programs, and investment tax  
11 credits can better support agrivoltaic systems.

12 (2) 5-YEAR PLAN.—Based on the study under  
13 paragraph (1), the Secretary shall develop a 5-year  
14 plan for using the research, extension, outreach, con-  
15 servation, and renewable energy activities of the De-  
16 partment of Agriculture to better support agrivoltaic  
17 systems that do not displace agricultural production.

18 (3) REPORT.—Not later than 1 year after the  
19 date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary shall  
20 submit to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition,  
21 and Forestry of the Senate and the Committee on  
22 Agriculture of the House of Representatives a report  
23 containing the results of the study conducted under  
24 paragraph (1).

1       (c) AGRIVOLTAIC SYSTEM RESEARCH AND DEM-  
2 ONSTRATION.—

3           (1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary, acting  
4 through the Administrator of the Agricultural Re-  
5 search Service and in coordination with the relevant  
6 research programs of the Department of Energy,  
7 shall establish and maintain a network of research  
8 and demonstration sites operated by the Agricultural  
9 Research Service to investigate and demonstrate  
10 agrivoltaic systems in multiple regions of the United  
11 States, including arid, semiarid, and wet agricultural  
12 zones, that—

13           (A) increase agricultural productivity and  
14 profitability;

15           (B) enhance agricultural resilience and the  
16 capacity to mitigate and adapt to climate  
17 change;

18           (C) protect biodiversity; and

19           (D) increase economic opportunities in  
20 farming and rural communities.

21       (2) COORDINATION.—In establishing and main-  
22 taining the network described in paragraph (1), the  
23 Secretary shall collaborate with the Climate Hubs of  
24 the Department of Agriculture to share research  
25 findings and translate those findings into edu-

1        cational, outreach, and technical assistance materials  
2        for agricultural producers.

3            (3) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—

4        There is authorized to be appropriated to carry out  
5        this subsection \$15,000,000 for fiscal year 2026 and  
6        each fiscal year thereafter.

7   **SEC. 603. AGSTAR PROGRAM.**

8        (a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall maintain the  
9        program known as the “AgSTAR program” within the  
10       Department of Agriculture, under which the Secretary  
11       shall—

12            (1) support the use of anaerobic digestion in  
13        the agricultural sector to reduce methane emissions  
14        from livestock waste;

15            (2) conduct outreach, education, and training  
16        relating to anaerobic digestion of livestock waste;

17            (3) provide technical and regulatory assistance  
18        relating to anaerobic digestion of livestock waste to  
19        stakeholders, including farmers and ranchers, with  
20        respect to issues including—

21            (A) permitting;

22            (B) codigestion of multiple organic wastes  
23        in one digester; and

24            (C) interconnection to physically link a di-  
25        gester to the electrical power grid;

1           (4) promote centralized, multifarm digesters  
2           that use livestock waste from more than 1 farm or  
3           ranch;

4           (5) collect and report data relating to anaerobic  
5           digestion of livestock waste; and

6           (6) maintain a database of on-farm anaerobic  
7           digester projects in the United States.

8           (b) TRANSITION FROM EPA.—

9           (1) IN GENERAL.—The Administrator of the  
10          Environmental Protection Agency shall take such  
11          steps as are necessary to provide for an orderly tran-  
12          sition of the activities carried out under the  
13          AgSTAR program by the Environmental Protection  
14          Agency to be carried out by the Secretary, in accord-  
15          ance with subsection (c).

16          (2) DEADLINE.—The Administrator of the En-  
17          vironmental Protection Agency shall finish carrying  
18          out paragraph (1) by not later than 1 year after the  
19          date of enactment of this Act, such that the Sec-  
20          retary has sole jurisdiction of the AgSTAR program  
21          by that date.

22          (c) ADMINISTRATION.—The Secretary shall carry out  
23          the AgSTAR program through the Chief of the Natural  
24          Resources Conservation Service—

1           (1) in coordination with the Administrator of  
 2           the Environmental Protection Agency and other  
 3           Federal agencies as necessary; and

4           (2) in partnership with the Climate Hubs, coop-  
 5           erative extension services, and agencies of the De-  
 6           partment of Agriculture.

7           (d) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There is  
 8           authorized to be appropriated to the Secretary to carry  
 9           out the AgSTAR program not more than \$5,000,000 for  
 10          each fiscal year.

## 11           **TITLE VII—FOOD LOSS AND** 12                                   **WASTE**

### 13           **Subtitle A—Food Date Labeling**

#### 14          **SEC. 701. DEFINITIONS.**

15          In this subtitle:

16           (1) ADMINISTERING SECRETARIES.—The term  
 17          “administering Secretaries” means—

18                           (A) the Secretary of Agriculture, with re-  
 19                           spect to any product that is—

20                                   (i) under the jurisdiction of the Sec-  
 21                                   retary of Agriculture; and

22                                   (ii)(I) a poultry product (as defined in  
 23                                   section 4 of the Poultry Products Inspec-  
 24                                   tion Act (21 U.S.C. 453));

1 (II) a meat food product (as defined  
2 in section 1 of the Federal Meat Inspection  
3 Act (21 U.S.C. 601)); or

4 (III) an egg product (as defined in  
5 section 4 of the Egg Products Inspection  
6 Act (21 U.S.C. 1033)); and

7 (B) the Secretary of Health and Human  
8 Services, with respect to any product that is—

9 (i) under the jurisdiction of the Sec-  
10 retary of Health and Human Services; and

11 (ii) a food (as defined in section 201  
12 of the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic  
13 Act (21 U.S.C. 321)).

14 (2) DISCARD DATE PHRASE.—The term “dis-  
15 card date phrase” means a phrase voluntarily print-  
16 ed on food packaging that signifies the end of the  
17 estimated period of shelf life under any stated stor-  
18 age conditions, after which the entity responsible for  
19 the food label advises the product not be consumed.

20 (3) QUALITY DATE PHRASE.—The term “qual-  
21 ity date phrase” means a phrase voluntarily printed  
22 on food packaging that is intended to communicate  
23 the date on which—

24 (A) the quality of the product may begin  
25 to deteriorate; but

1 (B) the product remains apparently whole-  
 2 some food (as defined in subsection (b) of the  
 3 Bill Emerson Good Samaritan Food Donation  
 4 Act (42 U.S.C. 1791(b))).

5 **SEC. 702. QUALITY DATE PHRASES AND DISCARD DATE**  
 6 **PHRASES.**

7 (a) QUALITY DATE PHRASES.—

8 (1) IN GENERAL.—If a quality date phrase is  
 9 included on food packaging, the quality date phrase  
 10 shall be preceded by the uniform quality date phrase  
 11 label described in paragraph (2).

12 (2) UNIFORM QUALITY DATE PHRASE LABEL.—  
 13 The uniform quality date phrase label under this  
 14 paragraph shall be “BEST If Used By” or, if per-  
 15 missible under subsection (c)(3), the standard abbrevi-  
 16 ation of “BB”, unless and until the administering  
 17 Secretaries, acting in coordination, specify through  
 18 rulemaking another uniform phrase to be used for  
 19 purposes of complying with paragraph (1).

20 (3) OPTION OF LABELER.—The decision re-  
 21 garding whether to include a quality date phrase on  
 22 food packaging, and which foods should be so la-  
 23 beled, shall be at the discretion of the entity respon-  
 24 sible for the food label.

25 (b) DISCARD DATE PHRASES.—

1           (1) IN GENERAL.—If a discard date phrase is  
2           included on food packaging, the discard date phrase  
3           shall be preceded by the uniform discard date phrase  
4           label described in paragraph (2).

5           (2) UNIFORM DISCARD DATE PHRASE LABEL.—  
6           The uniform discard date phrase label under this  
7           paragraph shall be “USE By” or, if permissible  
8           under subsection (c)(3), the standard abbreviation of  
9           “UB”, unless and until the administering Secre-  
10          taries, acting in coordination, specify through rule-  
11          making another uniform phrase to be used for pur-  
12          poses of complying with paragraph (1).

13          (3) OPTION OF LABELER.—The decision re-  
14          garding whether to include a discard date phrase on  
15          food packaging, and which foods should be so la-  
16          beled, shall be at the discretion of the entity respon-  
17          sible for the food label.

18          (c) QUALITY DATE PHRASE AND DISCARD DATE  
19          PHRASE LABELING.—

20               (1) IN GENERAL.—The quality date phrase or  
21               discard date phrase, as applicable, shall be—

22                     (A) in single, easy-to-read type style; and

23                     (B) located in a conspicuous and promi-  
24               nent place on the food label or elsewhere on the  
25               food packaging.



1           (2) DATE FORMAT.—The format for a quality  
2     date or discard date that follows the quality date  
3     phrase or discard date phrase, as applicable, shall be  
4     stated in terms of—

5                 (A) month and year; or

6                 (B) as appropriate, month, day, and year.

7           (3) ABBREVIATIONS.—A standard abbreviation  
8     of “BB” and “UB” for the quality date phrase and  
9     discard date phrase, respectively, may be used only  
10    if the food packaging is too small to include the uni-  
11    form phrase described in subsection (a)(2) or (b)(2),  
12    as applicable.

13          (4) USE OF TECHNOLOGIES AND ADDITIONAL  
14    LABELS.—

15                 (A) IN GENERAL.—The labeling required  
16     under this subsection may use time-temperature  
17     indicator labels, QR codes, smart labels, or  
18     similar technology, in addition to the uniform  
19     phrase described in subsection (a)(2) or (b)(2),  
20     as applicable.

21                 (B) EFFECT.—Nothing in this title or an  
22     amendment made by this title prohibits or re-  
23     stricts the use of a technology or label described  
24     in subparagraph (A) in lieu of the uniform

1 phrase described in subsection (a)(2) or (b)(2),  
2 as applicable.

3 (5) FREEZE BY.—An entity responsible for a  
4 food label may add “or Freeze By” following a uni-  
5 form quality date phrase or discard date phrase.

6 (d) EDUCATION.—Not later than 2 years after the  
7 date of enactment of this Act, the administering Secre-  
8 taries, acting in coordination, shall provide consumer edu-  
9 cation and outreach on the meaning of quality date  
10 phrases and discard date phrases on food packaging.

11 (e) EFFECT; PREEMPTION.—

12 (1) EFFECT ON SALE OR DONATION OF  
13 FOODS.—Nothing in this title or an amendment  
14 made by this title prohibits any State or political  
15 subdivision of a State from establishing or con-  
16 tinuing in effect any requirement that prohibits the  
17 sale or donation of foods based on passage of the ap-  
18 plicable discard date.

19 (2) EFFECT ON INFANT FORMULA.—This title  
20 and the amendments made by this title shall not—

21 (A) apply to infant formula (as defined in  
22 section 201 of the Federal Food, Drug, and  
23 Cosmetic Act (21 U.S.C. 321)); or

24 (B) affect the requirements relating to in-  
25 fant formula established under section 412 of

1           the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act (21  
2           U.S.C. 350a) or any other applicable provision  
3           of law.

4           (3) PREEMPTION.—No State or political sub-  
5           division of a State may establish or continue in ef-  
6           fect any requirement that—

7                   (A) relates to the inclusion in food labeling  
8                   of a quality date phrase or a discard date  
9                   phrase that is different from, in addition to, or  
10                  otherwise not identical with, the requirements  
11                  of this title and the amendments made by this  
12                  title; or

13                  (B) prohibits the sale or donation of foods  
14                  based on passage of the applicable quality date.

15           (4) ENFORCEMENT.—The administering Secre-  
16           taries, acting jointly and in consultation with the  
17           Federal Trade Commission, shall ensure that the  
18           uniform quality date phrase label and uniform dis-  
19           card date phrase label are standardized across all  
20           food products.

21           (5) SAVINGS PROVISION.—Notwithstanding  
22           paragraph (3), nothing in this title, any amendment  
23           made by this title, or any standard or requirement  
24           imposed pursuant to this title preempts, displaces,  
25           or supplants—

1 (A) any State or Federal common law or  
 2 common law right; or

3 (B) any State or Federal law creating a  
 4 remedy for civil relief, including the Federal  
 5 Trade Commission Act (15 U.S.C. 41 et seq.).

6 (6) RULE OF CONSTRUCTION.—Nothing in this  
 7 subsection—

8 (A) authorizes the Secretary of Health and  
 9 Human Services to require that a food be la-  
 10 beled for quality standards, or with a discard  
 11 date, as described in subsections (a) and (b); or

12 (B) preempts a State from establishing a  
 13 requirement that a quality date, discard date,  
 14 or a timeline of quality shall be included on a  
 15 food label, subject to the condition that the re-  
 16 quirement shall comply with the uniform quality  
 17 date phrase or discard date phrase described in  
 18 subsection (a)(2) or (b)(2), respectively.

19 **SEC. 703. MISBRANDING.**

20 (a) FDA VIOLATIONS.—Section 403 of the Federal  
 21 Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act (21 U.S.C. 343) is amend-  
 22 ed by adding at the end the following:

23 “(z) If the label bears a quality date phrase or dis-  
 24 card date phrase (as those terms are defined in section

1 701 of the Agriculture Resilience Act of 2025) that is in  
2 violation of section 702 of that Act.”.

3 (b) POULTRY PRODUCTS.—Section 4(h) of the Poul-  
4 try Products Inspection Act (21 U.S.C. 453(h)) is amend-  
5 ed—

6 (1) in paragraph (11), by striking “or” at the  
7 end;

8 (2) in paragraph (12), by striking the period at  
9 the end and inserting “; or”; and

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

11 “(13) if the label bears a quality date phrase or  
12 discard date phrase (as those terms are defined in  
13 section 701 of the Agriculture Resilience Act of  
14 2025) that is in violation of section 702 of that  
15 Act.”.

16 (c) MEAT PRODUCTS.—Section 1(n) of the Federal  
17 Meat Inspection Act (21 U.S.C. 601(n)) is amended—

18 (1) in paragraph (11), by striking “or” at the  
19 end;

20 (2) in paragraph (12), by striking the period at  
21 the end and inserting “; or”; and

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

23 “(13) if the label bears a quality date phrase or  
24 discard date phrase (as those terms are defined in  
25 section 701 of the Agriculture Resilience Act of

1       2025) that is in violation of section 702 of that  
2       Act.”.

3       (d) EGG PRODUCTS.—Section 7(b) of the Egg Prod-  
4       ucts Inspection Act (21 U.S.C. 1036(b)) is amended, in  
5       the first sentence, by inserting “or if the label bears a  
6       quality date phrase or discard date phrase (as those terms  
7       are defined in section 701 of the Agriculture Resilience  
8       Act of 2025) that is in violation of section 702 of that  
9       Act” before the period at the end.

10   **SEC. 704. REGULATIONS.**

11       Not later than 2 years after the date of enactment  
12       of this Act, the administering Secretaries, acting in coordi-  
13       nation, shall promulgate final regulations for carrying out  
14       this title and the amendments made by this title.

15   **SEC. 705. DELAYED APPLICABILITY.**

16       This title and the amendments made by this title  
17       shall apply only with respect to food products that are la-  
18       beled on or after the date that is 2 years after the date  
19       of promulgation of final regulations pursuant to section  
20       704.

21       **Subtitle B—Other Provisions**

22   **SEC. 711. COMPOSTING AS CONSERVATION PRACTICE.**

23       (a) CONSERVATION STANDARDS AND REQUIRE-  
24       MENTS.—Section 1241(j) of the Food Security Act of  
25       1985 (16 U.S.C. 3841(j)) is amended—

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

3           (2) by inserting after paragraph (1) the fol-  
4 lowing:

5           “(2) COMPOSTING AS CONSERVATION PRACTICE  
6 AND ACTIVITY.—

7           “(A) DEFINITION OF COMPOSTING.—

8           “(i) IN GENERAL.—In this paragraph,  
9 the term ‘composting’ means—

10           “(I) an activity (including an ac-  
11 tivity that does not require the use of  
12 a composting facility) to produce com-  
13 post from organic waste that is—

14           “(aa) generated on a farm;  
15 or

16           “(bb) brought to a farm  
17 from a nearby community and  
18 used to produce compost on that  
19 farm; and

20           “(II) the use and active manage-  
21 ment of compost on a farm, in accord-  
22 ance with any applicable Federal,  
23 State, or local law, to improve water  
24 retention and soil health.

1                   “(ii) DETERMINATION OF NEARBY  
 2                   COMMUNITIES.—The Secretary, in con-  
 3                   sultation with the Administrator of the En-  
 4                   vironmental Protection Agency, shall issue  
 5                   regulations for determining whether a com-  
 6                   munity is nearby for purposes of clause  
 7                   (i)(I)(bb), which shall ensure that bringing  
 8                   organic waste from the community to the  
 9                   farm to produce compost results in a net  
 10                  reduction of greenhouse gas emissions.

11                  “(B) REGULATIONS.—The Secretary shall  
 12                  provide, by regulation, that composting is a  
 13                  conservation practice and a conservation activ-  
 14                  ity for the purposes of this title.”.

15                  (b) CONSERVATION STEWARDSHIP PROGRAM.—Sec-  
 16                  tion 1240I(2)(B)(i) of the Food Security Act of 1985 (16  
 17                  U.S.C. 3839aa–21(2)(B)(i)) is amended by inserting “and  
 18                  composting (as defined in section 1241(j)(2))” after “agri-  
 19                  culture drainage management systems”.

20                  (c) ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY INCENTIVES PRO-  
 21                  GRAM.—Section 1240A(6)(A)(ii) of the Food Security Act  
 22                  of 1985 (16 U.S.C. 3839aa–1(6)(A)(ii)) is amended by in-  
 23                  serting “, including composting (as defined in section  
 24                  1241(j)(2))” before the semicolon at the end.



1 (d) DELIVERY OF TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE.—Section  
 2 1242(h) of the Food Security Act of 1985 (16 U.S.C.  
 3 3842(h)) is amended by adding at the end the following:

4 “(5) DEVELOPMENT OF COMPOSTING PRACTICE  
 5 STANDARD.—In addition to conducting a review  
 6 under this subsection of any composting facilities  
 7 practice standard established before the date of en-  
 8 actment of this paragraph, the Secretary shall de-  
 9 velop and implement a composting practice standard  
 10 under the process developed under paragraph (3).”.

11 **SEC. 712. AMENDMENTS TO FEDERAL FOOD DONATION**  
 12 **ACT.**

13 (a) PURPOSE.—Section 2 of the Federal Food Dona-  
 14 tion Act of 2008 (Public Law 110–247; 42 U.S.C. 1792  
 15 note) is amended by striking “encourage” and inserting  
 16 “require”.

17 (b) DEFINITIONS.—Section 3 of the Federal Food  
 18 Donation Act of 2008 (Public Law 110–247; 42 U.S.C.  
 19 1792 note) is amended—

20 (1) in paragraph (1), by striking “section 2(b)”  
 21 and inserting “subsection (b)”;

22 (2) by redesignating paragraphs (3) and (4) as  
 23 paragraphs (4) and (5), respectively; and

24 (3) by inserting after paragraph (2) the fol-  
 25 lowing:

1           “(3) EXECUTIVE AGENCY.—The term ‘executive  
2           agency’ has the meaning given the term in section  
3           133 of title 41, United States Code.”.

4           (c) REPORT ON FOOD WASTE BY CERTAIN FEDERAL  
5 CONTRACTORS.—Section 4 of the Federal Food Donation  
6 Act of 2008 (42 U.S.C. 1792) is amended—

7           (1) by striking subsection (a) and inserting the  
8           following:

9           “(a) REVISION OF FEDERAL ACQUISITION REGULA-  
10 TION.—

11           “(1) REQUIREMENT.—Not later than 180 days  
12           after the date of enactment of the Agriculture Resil-  
13           ience Act of 2025, the Federal Acquisition Regula-  
14           tion issued in accordance with section 1121 of title  
15           41, United States Code, shall be revised to provide  
16           that, except as provided in paragraph (2), all con-  
17           tracts greater than \$10,000 for the provision, serv-  
18           ice, or sale of food in the United States, or for the  
19           lease or rental of Federal property to a private enti-  
20           ty for events at which food is provided in the United  
21           States, shall include a clause that—

22           “(A) requires the donation of excess, ap-  
23           parently wholesome food to nonprofit organiza-  
24           tions that provide assistance to food-insecure  
25           people in the United States;

1           “(B) states the terms and conditions de-  
2           scribed in subsection (b); and

3           “(C) requires the submission of a report,  
4           annually if applicable—

5                 “(i) in a form and manner specified  
6                 by the executive agency awarding the con-  
7                 tract; and

8                 “(ii) that describes, for each month of  
9                 performance of the contract during the pe-  
10                riod covered by the report, the weight of  
11                apparently wholesome food that was dis-  
12                posed of pursuant to the contract by—

13                “(I) donation, organized by the  
14                name of the organization receiving the  
15                food;

16                “(II) composting or other recy-  
17                cling; or

18                “(III) discarding, organized by  
19                the reason that the food was dis-  
20                carded.

21           “(2) EXCEPTION.—Paragraph (1) shall not  
22           apply to a contract with an executive agency that  
23           has issued a regulation in effect on the date of en-  
24           actment of the Agriculture Resilience Act of 2025

1 that prohibits a donation described in paragraph  
2 (1)(A).”; and

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

4 “(c) APPLICATION TO CONGRESS.—

5 “(1) CONTRACTS.—This Act shall apply to the  
6 Senate and the House of Representatives, and to  
7 contracts entered into by the Senate and the House  
8 of Representatives, in the same manner and to the  
9 same extent as this Act applies to an executive agen-  
10 cy and contracts entered into by an executive agency  
11 pursuant to this Act.

12 “(2) ADMINISTRATION.—For purposes of car-  
13 rying out paragraph (1)—

14 “(A) the Secretary of the Senate shall be  
15 considered to be the head of the Senate; and

16 “(B) the Chief Administrative Officer of  
17 the House of Representatives shall be consid-  
18 ered to be the head of the House of Representa-  
19 tives.

20 “(d) REPORTS.—

21 “(1) REPORT TO OMB.—Not later than 30 days  
22 after the date on which an executive agency receives  
23 a report described in subsection (a)(1)(C), the execu-  
24 tive agency shall submit a copy of the report to the  
25 Director of the Office of Management and Budget.

1           “(2) REPORT TO CONGRESS.—The Director of  
 2           the Office of Management and Budget shall submit  
 3           to Congress an annual report aggregating the infor-  
 4           mation in the reports received under paragraph (1)  
 5           during the year covered by the annual report.”.

6           (d) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—The  
 7           Federal Food Donation Act of 2008 (Public Law 110–  
 8           247; 122 Stat. 2314) is amended by adding at the end  
 9           the following:

10       **“SEC. 5. AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.**

11           “‘There is authorized to be appropriated to the Sec-  
 12           retary of Agriculture to carry out this Act \$10,000,000  
 13           for fiscal year 2026 and each fiscal year thereafter.’”.

14       **SEC. 713. GRANTS FOR COMPOSTING AND ANAEROBIC DI-**  
 15                       **GESTION       FOOD       WASTE-TO-ENERGY**  
 16                       **PROJECTS.**

17           (a) IN GENERAL.—Subtitle G of the Solid Waste Dis-  
 18           posal Act (42 U.S.C. 6971 et seq.) is amended by adding  
 19           at the end the following:

20       **“SEC. 7011. GRANTS FOR COMPOSTING AND ANAEROBIC DI-**  
 21                       **GESTION       FOOD       WASTE-TO-ENERGY**  
 22                       **PROJECTS.**

23           “(a) DEFINITION OF STATE.—In this section, the  
 24           term ‘State’ means—

25                       “(1) each of the several States;

1           “(2) the District of Columbia;

2           “(3) each territory or possession of the United  
3 States; and

4           “(4) each federally recognized Indian Tribe.

5       “(b) GRANTS.—The Administrator shall establish a  
6 grant program to award grants to States eligible to receive  
7 the grants under subsection (c)(1) to construct large-scale  
8 composting or anaerobic digestion food waste-to-energy  
9 projects.

10       “(c) ELIGIBLE STATES.—

11           “(1) ELIGIBILITY.—To be eligible to receive a  
12 grant under this section, a State shall—

13               “(A) have in effect a plan to limit the  
14 quantity of food waste that may be disposed of  
15 in landfills in the State; and

16               “(B) provide to the Administrator—

17                   “(i) a written commitment that the  
18 State has read and agrees to comply with  
19 the Food Recovery Hierarchy of the Envi-  
20 ronmental Protection Agency, particularly  
21 as applied to apparently wholesome food  
22 (as defined in subsection (b) of the Bill  
23 Emerson Good Samaritan Food Donation  
24 Act (42 U.S.C. 1791(b))) that may be pro-  
25 vided to, or received by, the State; and

“(3) PREFERENCE.—The Administrator shall give preference to grants under subsection (b) for anaerobic digesters that use primarily nonedible food, crop waste, or nonedible food and crop waste as undigested biomass.

(b) CLERICAL AMENDMENT.—The table of contents for the Solid Waste Disposal Act (42 U.S.C. 6901 et seq.) is amended by inserting after the item relating to section 7010 the following:

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1 **SEC. 714. SCHOOL FOOD WASTE REDUCTION GRANT PRO-**  
 2 **GRAM.**

3 (a) IN GENERAL.—Section 18 of the Richard B. Rus-  
 4 sell National School Lunch Act (42 U.S.C. 1769) is  
 5 amended by inserting before subsection (b) the following:

6 “(a) SCHOOL FOOD WASTE REDUCTION GRANT PRO-  
 7 GRAM.—

8 “(1) DEFINITION OF ELIGIBLE LOCAL EDU-  
 9 CATIONAL AGENCY.—In this subsection, the term ‘el-  
 10 igible local educational agency’ means a local edu-  
 11 cational agency that participates in—

12 “(A) the school lunch program under this  
 13 Act; or

14 “(B) the school breakfast program estab-  
 15 lished under section 4 of the Child Nutrition  
 16 Act of 1966 (42 U.S.C. 1773).

17 “(2) ESTABLISHMENT.—The Secretary shall  
 18 carry out a program to make grants, on a competi-  
 19 tive basis, to eligible local educational agencies to  
 20 carry out food waste measurement, prevention, edu-  
 21 cation, and reduction projects.

22 “(3) REGIONAL BALANCE.—In awarding grants  
 23 under this subsection, the Secretary shall, to the  
 24 maximum extent practicable, ensure—

25 “(A) that a grant is awarded to an eligible  
 26 local educational agency in each region served



1 by the Administrator of the Food and Nutrition  
2 Service; and

3 “(B) equitable treatment of rural, urban,  
4 and Tribal communities.

5 “(4) GRANTS.—

6 “(A) APPLICATION.—To be eligible to re-  
7 ceive a grant under this subsection, an eligible  
8 local educational agency shall submit to the  
9 Secretary an application at such time, in such  
10 manner, and containing such information as the  
11 Secretary may require.

12 “(B) PRIORITY.—In making grants under  
13 this subsection, the Secretary shall give priority  
14 to an eligible local educational agency that dem-  
15 onstrates in the application submitted under  
16 subparagraph (A) that the grant will be used—

17 “(i) to carry out experiential edu-  
18 cation activities that encourage children  
19 enrolled in the eligible local educational  
20 agency to participate in food waste meas-  
21 urement and education;

22 “(ii) to prioritize the best use of food  
23 in accordance with the Wasted Food Scale  
24 published by the Administrator of the En-  
25 vironmental Protection Agency;

1 “(iii) with respect to food waste pre-  
2 vention and reduction, to collaborate with  
3 other eligible local educational agencies,  
4 Indian Tribes, food service employees, local  
5 health departments, school administra-  
6 tions, nongovernmental and community-  
7 based organizations, and other community  
8 partners;

9 “(iv) to establish a food waste meas-  
10 urement, prevention, and reduction project  
11 with long-term sustainability; and

12 “(v) to evaluate the activities de-  
13 scribed in clauses (i) through (iv) and  
14 make evaluation plans.

15 “(C) USE OF FUNDS.—An eligible local  
16 educational agency that receives a grant under  
17 this subsection shall use the grant to carry out  
18 1 or more of the following activities:

19 “(i) Planning a food waste measure-  
20 ment, prevention, and reduction project.

21 “(ii) Implementing a food waste meas-  
22 urement, prevention, and reduction project.

23 “(iii) Providing training to support a  
24 food waste measurement, prevention, and  
25 reduction project.

1           “(iv) Purchasing refrigeration or stor-  
2           age equipment to support a food waste  
3           measurement, prevention, and reduction  
4           project.

5           “(v) Offering food waste education to  
6           students enrolled in the eligible local edu-  
7           cational agency.

8           “(D) COST SHARING.—

9           “(i) IN GENERAL.—The amount of a  
10          grant provided under this subsection shall  
11          not exceed 75 percent of the total cost of  
12          the project for which the grant is provided.

13          “(ii) NON-FEDERAL SHARE.—An eligi-  
14          ble local educational agency that receives a  
15          grant under this subsection shall use non-  
16          Federal funds in the form of cash or in-  
17          kind contributions, including facilities,  
18          equipment, or services provided by State  
19          and local governments, nonprofit organiza-  
20          tions, and private sources, to pay for the  
21          remaining cost of the project for which the  
22          grant is provided.

23          “(5) EVALUATION.—

24          “(A) COOPERATION.—As a condition of re-  
25          ceiving a grant under this subsection, each eli-

1           gible local educational agency shall agree to co-  
2           operate in an evaluation by the Secretary of the  
3           project carried out by the eligible local edu-  
4           cational agency as part of the evaluation con-  
5           ducted by the Secretary under subparagraph  
6           (B).

7           “(B) PERIODIC EVALUATION.—Not later  
8           than 2 years after the date of enactment of the  
9           Agriculture Resilience Act of 2025, and every 2  
10          years thereafter, the Secretary shall evaluate  
11          the grants provided under this subsection dur-  
12          ing the preceding 2-year period, including—

13               “(i) the amount of Federal funds used  
14               to award those grants; and

15               “(ii) an evaluation of the outcomes of  
16               the projects carried out using those grants.

17          “(C) REPORT.—The Secretary shall sub-  
18          mit to Congress a report describing the results  
19          of each evaluation carried out under subpara-  
20          graph (B).”.

21          (b) TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE.—Section 21(b) of the  
22          Richard B. Russell National School Lunch Act (42 U.S.C.  
23          1769b–1(b)) is amended—

24               (1) in paragraph (2), by striking “and” at the  
25          end;

1           (2) in paragraph (3), by striking the period at  
2           the end and inserting “; and”; and

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

4           “(4) food waste measurement, prevention, and  
5           reduction.”.

6   **SEC. 715. SUPPORT FOR NATIONAL MEDIA CAMPAIGNS TO**  
7                           **DECREASE INCIDENCE OF FOOD WASTE.**

8           (a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall support na-  
9           tional media campaigns to decrease the incidence of food  
10          waste.

11          (b) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There  
12          are authorized to be appropriated such sums as are nec-  
13          essary to carry out this section.

14   **SEC. 716. FOOD WASTE RESEARCH PROGRAM.**

15          (a) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

16               (1) LIAISON.—The term “Liaison” means the  
17               Food Loss and Waste Reduction Liaison of the De-  
18               partment of Agriculture.

19               (2) PROGRAM.—The term “Program” means  
20               the Food Waste Research Program established  
21               under subsection (b).

22               (3) REGIONAL PARTNER INSTITUTION.—The  
23               term “regional partner institution” means an insti-  
24               tution selected under subsection (d).

1       (b) ESTABLISHMENT.—The Liaison, acting in part-  
2       nership with the regional partner institutions, shall estab-  
3       lish and carry out a program, to be known as the “Food  
4       Waste Research Program”.

5       (c) PROGRAM REQUIREMENTS.—

6           (1) DUTIES.—In carrying out the Program, the  
7       Liaison, in partnership with the regional partner in-  
8       stitutions, shall—

9           (A) plan, conduct, and arrange for public  
10       research, data, education, and recommendations  
11       within the areas of study described in para-  
12       graph (2), as those areas relate to food waste  
13       reduction and food recovery issues nationwide,  
14       regionally, and locally;

15          (B) carry out activities under the Program  
16       in a variety of regions of the United States, to  
17       be identified and categorized by the Liaison  
18       based on the specific food recovery and food  
19       waste reduction issues of those regions;

20          (C) identify areas to increase efficiency in  
21       the allocation of resources and the coordination,  
22       cooperation, and consolidation of efforts with  
23       respect to local, statewide, Tribal, regional, and  
24       Federal food recovery and food waste reduction  
25       efforts;

1           (D) create a Program website, in accord-  
2           ance with paragraph (4), to disseminate infor-  
3           mation to the public; and

4           (E) collaborate with other institutions of  
5           higher education and nonprofit organizations in  
6           the regions selected by the Liaison that have  
7           demonstrated capability for research, informa-  
8           tion dissemination, and professional training in  
9           order to develop regional networks that are  
10          knowledgeable in food waste reduction issues.

11          (2) AREAS OF STUDY.—The areas of study re-  
12          ferred to in paragraph (1)(A) are the following:

13               (A) Reducing the volume of surplus food  
14               produced.

15               (B) Using excess food to feed individuals  
16               in need, including through the use of donations  
17               of surplus food.

18               (C) Diverting food unusable for purposes  
19               described in subparagraph (B) to feed animals.

20               (D) Using food waste to create renewable  
21               energy sources.

22               (E) Composting food waste to create nutri-  
23               ent-rich soil.

1 (F) Diminishing the deposits of food waste  
2 in landfills and reducing the incineration of  
3 food waste.

4 (3) USE OF FUNDS.—

5 (A) IN GENERAL.—The Liaison may make  
6 funds available under the Program to improve  
7 the capacities and facilities of the regional part-  
8 ner institutions to a level that meets the re-  
9 quirements of the role of a regional partner in-  
10 stitution.

11 (B) PLAN.—A regional partner institution  
12 may not receive any funding for any facility up-  
13 grade under subparagraph (A), unless—

14 (i) the regional partner institution  
15 submits to the Liaison a plan detailing the  
16 type of facility construction or improve-  
17 ments to take place (including any land ac-  
18 quisition, engineering, design, and staffing  
19 and equipment needs, in addition to other  
20 information as required by the Liaison);  
21 and

22 (ii) the Liaison approves the plan.

23 (C) NON-FEDERAL SHARE.—

24 (i) FACILITY IMPROVEMENT.—A re-  
25 gional partner institution shall be required



1 to provide at least a 20-percent non-Fed-  
2 eral cost-share for any facility improve-  
3 ment or construction project carried out by  
4 the regional partner institution under the  
5 Program.

6 (ii) OPERATING EXPENSES.—A re-  
7 gional partner institution shall be required  
8 to provide at least a 30-percent non-Fed-  
9 eral cost-share for all Program operating  
10 expenses of the regional partner institu-  
11 tion.

12 (D) WAGE RATE REQUIREMENTS.—A con-  
13 struction activity carried out pursuant to this  
14 subsection shall meet Federal prevailing wage  
15 requirements as determined by the Secretary of  
16 Labor in accordance with subchapter IV of  
17 chapter 31 of part A of subtitle II of title 40,  
18 United States Code (commonly referred to as  
19 the “Davis-Bacon Act”).

20 (4) WEBSITE.—The Liaison shall establish a  
21 Program website, which shall contain at least the  
22 following information with respect to the Program:

23 (A) Key findings and best practices.

24 (B) A list of collaborations and partner-  
25 ships.

1 (C) Annual reports and other pertinent in-  
2 formation relating to Program duties.

3 (D) The location and contact information  
4 for the regional partner institutions.

5 (E) Federal, State, local, and regionally  
6 specific public research, data, education, and  
7 policy recommendations, to be updated in a  
8 timely manner with new information.

9 (F) Tools for tracking reduction efforts  
10 and measuring food waste production.

11 (d) SELECTION OF REGIONAL PARTNER INSTITU-  
12 TIONS.—

13 (1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 180 days  
14 after the date of enactment of this Act, the Liaison  
15 shall select 5 regional partner institutions to assist  
16 the Liaison in carrying out the Program.

17 (2) CRITERIA.—The Liaison shall select under  
18 paragraph (1) institutions of higher education  
19 that—

20 (A) have a focus or expertise in at least 1  
21 area of study described in subsection (c)(2);

22 (B) have the ability to plan, conduct, and  
23 arrange for public research, data, education,  
24 and recommendations related to food waste re-

1           duction and the areas of study described in sub-  
2           section (c)(2);

3           (C) can assist the Liaison in fulfilling the  
4           duties described in subsection (c)(1);

5           (D) can contribute the required non-Fed-  
6           eral funding to maintain a regional partner in-  
7           stitution center; and

8           (E) satisfy any other criteria determined  
9           by the Liaison.

10          (3) ELIGIBLE SUBAWARDEES.—A State, Tribal,  
11          or local government, local educational agency, agri-  
12          cultural or commodity organization, farmer, or other  
13          organization focused on food waste prevention may  
14          serve as an eligible subawardee of a regional partner  
15          institution if the entity meets the requirements de-  
16          scribed in subparagraphs (A) through (C) of para-  
17          graph (2).

18          (4) EMPLOYMENT STATUS.—A member of a re-  
19          gional partner institution shall not be considered to  
20          be a Federal employee for any purpose.

21          (e) COLLABORATION.—The Liaison, in conjunction  
22          with the 5 regional partner institutions, shall collaborate  
23          regarding, and share, best practices relating to regional,  
24          State, Tribal, and locally specific food waste and food  
25          waste reduction issues with—

- 1 (1) State and county governments;
- 2 (2) Tribal governments;
- 3 (3) units of local government;
- 4 (4) local educational entities;
- 5 (5) institutions of higher education;
- 6 (6) agricultural and commodity organizations;
- 7 (7) farmers; and
- 8 (8) organizations focused on food waste preven-
- 9 tion.

10 (f) REPORTING REQUIREMENTS.—

11 (1) REGIONAL PARTNER INSTITUTIONS.—

12 (A) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 1 year  
13 after the date of enactment of this Act, and an-  
14 nually thereafter, each regional partnership in-  
15 stitution shall submit to the Liaison a report  
16 describing the activities, partnerships, collabo-  
17 rations, Federal policy recommendations, pre-  
18 vious and continuing budgets, findings, and any  
19 other applicable information carried out by the  
20 regional partnership institution during the pre-  
21 ceding year under the Program.

22 (B) REVIEW.—The Liaison shall review  
23 the annual reports submitted by regional part-  
24 ner institutions under subparagraph (A) to en-  
25 sure that—

- 1 (i) funds are being used efficiently ac-  
2 cording to the duties of the Program; and  
3 (ii) the Program is producing usable  
4 public research, data, education, and rec-  
5 ommendations relating to food waste and  
6 food waste reduction issues.

7 (2) LIAISON.—Not later than 15 months after  
8 the date of enactment of this Act, and annually  
9 thereafter, the Liaison shall submit to the Com-  
10 mittee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry of  
11 the Senate and the Committee on Agriculture of the  
12 House of Representatives, and publish on the Pro-  
13 gram website, an annual report containing a com-  
14 pilation of the activities, partnerships, collaborations,  
15 Federal policy recommendations, previous and con-  
16 tinuing budgets, findings, and any other applicable  
17 information relating to the Program with respect to  
18 the period covered by the report.

○