

119TH CONGRESS
2^D SESSION

H. R. 7567

To provide for the reform and continuation of agricultural and other programs of the Department of Agriculture through fiscal year 2031, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

FEBRUARY 13, 2026

Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Agriculture

A BILL

To provide for the reform and continuation of agricultural and other programs of the Department of Agriculture through fiscal year 2031, 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 “Farm, Food, and National Security Act of 2026”.

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. Definitions.

TITLE I—COMMODITIES

- Sec. 1001. Suspension of permanent price support authority.
- Sec. 1002. Tree assistance program.
- Sec. 1003. Specialty crop emergency assistance framework.
- Sec. 1004. Assistance in the form of block grants.
- Sec. 1005. Dairy-related extensions.
- Sec. 1006. Mandatory reporting of dairy product processing costs.
- Sec. 1007. Dairy reports.
- Sec. 1008. Processing of certain loans.
- Sec. 1009. Storage facility loans.
- Sec. 1010. Strengthening domestic food production supply chains.
- Sec. 1011. Regulations.

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- Sec. 2001. Definitions.
- Sec. 2002. Mitigation banking.

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- Sec. 2101. Conservation reserve.
- Sec. 2102. Farmable wetland program.

Subtitle C—Environmental Quality Incentives Program

- Sec. 2201. Definitions.
- Sec. 2202. Establishment and administration.
- Sec. 2203. Limitation on payments.
- Sec. 2204. Conservation innovation grants and payments.

Subtitle D—Conservation Stewardship Program

- Sec. 2301. Duties of the Secretary.
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- Sec. 2403. Watershed Protection and Flood Prevention Act.
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- Sec. 2406. National agriculture flood vulnerability study.

Subtitle F—Funding and Administration

- Sec. 2501. Commodity Credit Corporation.
- Sec. 2502. Delivery of technical assistance.
- Sec. 2503. Administrative requirements for conservation programs.

Subtitle G—Agricultural Conservation Easement Program

- Sec. 2601. Definitions.
- Sec. 2602. Agricultural land easements.
- Sec. 2603. Wetland reserve easements.
- Sec. 2604. Administration.

Subtitle H—Forest Conservation Easement Program

- Sec. 2701. Forest conservation easement program.
- Sec. 2702. Healthy Forests Reserve Program.

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- Sec. 2801. Establishment and purposes.
- Sec. 2802. Definitions.
- Sec. 2803. Regional conservation partnerships.
- Sec. 2804. Assistance to producers.
- Sec. 2805. Funding.
- Sec. 2806. Administration.
- Sec. 2807. Critical conservation areas.

TITLE III—TRADE

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- Sec. 3101. Transfer of authorities to the Secretary of Agriculture.
- Sec. 3102. Food aid quality assurance.
- Sec. 3103. Repeal of minimum levels of assistance.
- Sec. 3104. Food aid consultative group.
- Sec. 3105. Issuance of regulations; oversight, monitoring, and evaluation.
- Sec. 3106. International food relief partnership.
- Sec. 3107. Use of commodity credit corporation.
- Sec. 3108. Pre-positioning of agricultural commodities and annual report regarding food aid programs and activities.
- Sec. 3109. Deadline for agreements to finance sales or to provide other assistance.
- Sec. 3110. Minimum level of nonemergency food assistance.
- Sec. 3111. Termination date for micronutrient fortification programs.
- Sec. 3112. John Ogonowski and Doug Bereuter farmer-to-farmer program.
- Sec. 3113. Food for Peace Act administration.

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- Sec. 3201. Agricultural trade promotion and facilitation.
- Sec. 3202. Preserving foreign markets for goods using common names.
- Sec. 3203. Interagency seasonal and perishable fruits and vegetable working group.

Subtitle C—Other Agricultural Trade Laws

- Sec. 3301. Growing American food exports.
- Sec. 3302. Food for Progress Act of 1985.
- Sec. 3303. Bill Emerson Humanitarian Trust Act.
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- Sec. 3306. International agriculture cultural immersion and exchange program.
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- Sec. 5506. Standards for qualified loans.
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- Sec. 6101. Prioritizations for distance learning and telemedicine and community facilities program.
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- Sec. 6201. Rural broadband program loans and grants.
- Sec. 6202. Expansion of middle mile infrastructure into rural areas.
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- Sec. 6301. Rural energy savings program.
- Sec. 6302. Promoting precision agriculture.
- Sec. 6303. Food supply chain guaranteed loans.
- Sec. 6304. New, mobile, and expanded meat processing and rendering grants.
- Sec. 6305. Expanding Childcare in Rural America Initiative.
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- Sec. 6401. Water, waste disposal, and wastewater facility grants.
 Sec. 6402. Rural water and wastewater circuit rider program.
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 Sec. 6405. Emergency and imminent community water assistance grant program.
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- Sec. 7107. Education grants to Alaska Native serving institutions and Native Hawaiian serving institutions.
- Sec. 7108. Nutrition education program.
- Sec. 7109. Continuing animal health and disease research programs.
- Sec. 7110. Extension and agricultural research at 1890 land-grant colleges, including Tuskegee University.
- Sec. 7111. Scholarships for students at 1890 Institutions.
- Sec. 7112. Grants to upgrade agricultural and food sciences facilities at 1890 land-grant colleges, including Tuskegee University.
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- Sec. 7303. Support for research regarding diseases of wheat, triticale, and barley caused by *fusarium graminearum* or by *tilletia indica*.
- Sec. 7304. Grants for youth organizations.
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- Sec. 7306. Agriculture grants for veteran education and training services.
- Sec. 7307. Food Animal Residue Avoidance Database program.
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- Sec. 7309. Forestry products advanced utilization research.
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- Sec. 7505. Biomass research and development.
- Sec. 7506. Renewable Resources Extension Act of 1978.
- Sec. 7507. National Aquaculture Act of 1980.
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- Sec. 8102. Forest legacy program technical correction.
- Sec. 8103. State and private forest landscape-scale restoration program.

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- Sec. 8201. Promoting cross-boundary wildfire mitigation.
- Sec. 8202. Authorization of appropriations for hazardous fuel reduction on Federal land.
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- Sec. 8301. National and regional agroforestry centers.
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- Sec. 8303. Conveyances and leases of forest service administrative sites.
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- Sec. 8401. Categorical exclusion for high priority hazard trees.
- Sec. 8402. Collaborative restoration projects.
- Sec. 8403. Wildfire resilience project size.
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- Sec. 8406. Categorical exclusion for electric utility lines rights-of-way.
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- Sec. 8501. Rural revitalization technologies.
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- Sec. 9001. Definition of advanced biofuel.
- Sec. 9002. Biobased markets program.
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- Sec. 9004. Bioproduct labeling terminology.
- Sec. 9005. Bioenergy program for advanced biofuels.
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- Sec. 9008. Feedstock flexibility.
- Sec. 9009. Biomass Crop Assistance Program.
- Sec. 9010. Carbon utilization and biogas education program.
- Sec. 9011. Study on effects of solar panel installations on covered farmland.
- Sec. 9012. Limitation on USDA funding for ground mounted solar systems.
- Sec. 9013. Sustainable aviation fuels strategy.

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- Sec. 10001. Specialty crop block grants.
- Sec. 10002. Specialty crops market news allocation.
- Sec. 10003. Office of Urban Agriculture and Innovative Production.
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Subtitle B—Marketing

- Sec. 10101. Marketing orders.
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- Sec. 10201. Exclusion of certain substances.
- Sec. 10202. Coordination.
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TITLE XI—CROP INSURANCE

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 Sec. 11007. Crop insurance support for beginning and veteran farmers and ranchers.
 Sec. 11008. Marketability.
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TITLE XII—MISCELLANEOUS PROVISIONS

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PART I—ANIMAL HEALTH AND PRODUCTION

Sec. 12001. Animal disease prevention and management.
 Sec. 12002. Cattle Fever Tick Eradication Program review and report.
 Sec. 12003. Additional training facilities for National Detector Dog Training Center.
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 Sec. 12005. Importation of live dogs.
 Sec. 12006. Ensuring the free movement of livestock-derived products in interstate commerce.
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PART II—MEAT AND POULTRY PROCESSING AND INSPECTION

Sec. 12111. Amplifying Processing of Livestock in the United States (A-PLUS).
 Sec. 12112. Hazard analysis and critical control point guidance and resources for small and very small poultry and meat establishments.
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Subtitle B—Department of Agriculture Reorganization Act of 1994

Sec. 12201. Office of Homeland Security.
 Sec. 12202. Office of Partnerships and Public Engagement.

- Sec. 12203. Burden of proof for national appeals division hearings.
- Sec. 12204. Termination of authority.
- Sec. 12205. Functions of the Office of Tribal Relations.
- Sec. 12206. Office of the Ombudsman.

Subtitle C—National Security

- Sec. 12301. Agricultural foreign investment disclosure improvements.
- Sec. 12302. Report on agricultural land purchasing activities in the United States by countries designated as state sponsors of terrorism and certain other countries.
- Sec. 12303. Investigative actions.
- Sec. 12304. Digitization and consolidation of foreign land ownership data collection and publication.
- Sec. 12305. CFIUS consideration of certain agricultural land transactions.

Subtitle D—Other Miscellaneous Provisions

- Sec. 12401. Commission on Farm Transitions—Needs for 2050.
- Sec. 12402. Report on personnel.
- Sec. 12403. Improvements to United States Drought Monitor.
- Sec. 12404. Reports on land access and farmland ownership data collection.
- Sec. 12405. Increasing transparency regarding detention of imported plants.
- Sec. 12406. Enhancement of pet protections.
- Sec. 12407. Protecting animals with shelter.
- Sec. 12408. Report on available assistance to agricultural producers in the State of Texas that have suffered economic losses due to the failure of Mexico to deliver water.
- Sec. 12409. Commodity Futures Trading Commission whistleblower program.
- Sec. 12410. Qualified renewable biomass.
- Sec. 12411. Whole milk under the school breakfast program.

1 SEC. 2. DEFINITIONS.

2 In this Act:

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

5 (2) SECRETARY.—The term “Secretary” means
6 the Secretary of Agriculture.

TITLE I—COMMODITIES

2 SEC. 1001. SUSPENSION OF PERMANENT PRICE SUPPORT **3 AUTHORITY.**

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

7 SEC. 1002. TREE ASSISTANCE PROGRAM.

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

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

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

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

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

18 (2) by striking “to provide assistance—” and
19 inserting “to provide assistance under subpara-
20 graphs (A) and (B) of paragraph (3) to eligible or-
21 chardists and nursery tree growers that planted
22 trees for commercial purposes but lost the trees or
23 the trees no longer produce an economically viable
24 crop as a result of a natural disaster, as determined
25 by the Secretary.”.

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

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

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

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

17 “(B) if the period specified in subpara-
18 graph (A) is not adequate for tree survival, at
19 such time as is necessary to ensure tree sur-
20 vival.

21 “(7) ALTERNATIVES USED IN REPLANTING.—

22 “(A) IN GENERAL.—An eligible orchardist
23 or nursery tree grower receiving assistance
24 under this subsection with respect to tree loss
25 may use such assistance to replant using—

1 “(i) an alternative variety from the
2 variety used prior to the loss;

3 “(ii) an alternative stand density from
4 the stand density used prior to the loss;
5 and

6 “(iii) an alternative location than was
7 used prior to the loss.

8 “(B) COST SHARE LIMITATIONS WITH RE-
9 SPECT TO ALTERNATIVES.—The assistance pro-
10 vided by the Secretary to eligible orchardists
11 and nursery tree growers—

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

18 “(ii) for losses described in subpara-
19 graph (A)(ii) shall be an amount that is
20 not greater than the amount the eligible
21 orchardist or nursery tree grower would re-
22 ceive if the eligible orchardist or nursery
23 tree grower planted the stand density lost;
24 and

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

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

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

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

17 “(B) notify the applicant of such approval
18 or denial.”.

19 (f) INITIAL PAYMENTS UNDER TREE ASSISTANCE
20 PROGRAM.—Section 1501(e) of the Agricultural Act of
21 2014 (7 U.S.C. 9081(e)) is amended by adding at the end
22 the following:

23 “(9) INITIAL PAYMENTS.—

24 “(A) IN GENERAL.—An eligible orchardist
25 or nursery tree grower may opt to receive an

1 initial assistance payment with respect to losses
2 described in paragraph (2) before incurring the
3 costs described in paragraph (3) relating to
4 such losses.

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

13 “(C) SUBSEQUENT PAYMENT.—

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

24 “(I) the payment amount the eli-
25 gible orchardist or nursery tree grow-

1 er would have received with respect to
2 such losses under paragraph (3) or
3 pursuant to paragraph (5); minus

4 “(II) the initial payment amount
5 provided to such eligible orchardist or
6 nursery tree grower under subpara-
7 graph (B) with respect to such losses.

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

18 “(D) SUNSET.—The authority to make
19 payments under this paragraph shall terminate
20 on September 30, 2035.”.

21 **SEC. 1003. SPECIALTY CROP EMERGENCY ASSISTANCE**
22 **FRAMEWORK.**

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

1 **“SEC. 196A. SPECIALTY CROP EMERGENCY ASSISTANCE**
2 **FRAMEWORK.**

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

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

13 “(1) the producer’s sales of specialty crops for
14 a calendar year that precedes the year in which the
15 adverse event described in such subsection occurred;
16 multiplied by

17 “(2) a payment factor the Secretary deter-
18 mines, subject to the availability of appropriations,
19 to address losses of such specialty crops from such
20 adverse event.

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

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

25 “(2) the greater input costs required to grow
26 specialty crops; and

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

3 “(d) LIMITATIONS.—

4 “(1) TOTAL AMOUNT.—

5 “(A) IN GENERAL.—Except as provided in
6 subparagraph (B), the total amount of pay-
7 ments received, directly or indirectly, by a per-
8 son or legal entity (except a qualified pass-
9 through entity) (as such terms are defined in
10 section 1001(a) of the Food Security Act of
11 1985 (7 U.S.C. 1308(a)) for any crop year
12 under this section may not exceed the amount
13 specified in subsection (b) of section 1001 of
14 the Food Security Act of 1985 (7 U.S.C. 1308),
15 as adjusted pursuant to subsection (i) of such
16 section 1001.

17 “(B) EXCEPTION.—In the case of a person
18 or legal entity with an average gross income (as
19 calculated under section 1001D(b)(4)(B) of the
20 Food Security Act of 1985 (7 U.S.C. 1308–
21 3a(b)(4)(B))) for which greater than or equal
22 to 75 percent of the average derives from farm-
23 ing, ranching, or silviculture activities—

24 “(i) subparagraph (A) shall not apply;

25 and

1 “(ii) the total maximum amount of
2 payments received, directly or indirectly,
3 by such person or legal entity for any crop
4 year under this section shall be set by the
5 Secretary, except such amount may not be
6 less than \$900,000.

7 “(2) NOTIFICATION OF INTERESTS; ELIGI-
8 BILITY; DENIALS.—Sections 1001A(a), 1001B, and
9 1001C of the Food Security Act of 1985 (7 U.S.C.
10 1308–1(a); 1308–2; 1308–3) shall apply to a pro-
11 ducer of a specialty crop under this section in the
12 same manner as such sections apply to a person or
13 legal entity with respect to a covered commodity, ex-
14 cept to the extent such sections relate to the applica-
15 tion of subsections (b) through (d) of section
16 1001A.”.

17 (b) PAYMENT LIMITATION CONFORMING AMEND-
18 MENT.—Section 1001D(b) of the Food Security Act of
19 1985 (7 U.S.C. 1308–3a(b)) is amended—

20 (1) in paragraph (2)(E), by inserting “or
21 196A” after “section 196”; and

22 (2) in paragraph (4)(A)(i)(II), by inserting “or
23 196A” after “section 196”.

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

2 (a) IN GENERAL.—Subtitle E of the Agricultural Act
3 of 2014 (7 U.S.C. 9081 et seq.) is amended by adding
4 at the end the following:

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

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

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

12 “(1) of revenue, quality, or production of crops,
13 trees, bushes, vines, poultry or livestock as a con-
14 sequence of a natural disaster (as determined by the
15 Secretary); and

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

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

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

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

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

1 (b) INDEMNITY PROGRAM.—Section 3 of Public Law
2 90–484 (7 U.S.C. 4553) is amended by striking “2023”
3 and inserting “2031”.

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

8 **SEC. 1006. MANDATORY REPORTING OF DAIRY PRODUCT**
9 **PROCESSING COSTS.**

10 Section 273 of the Agricultural Marketing Act of
11 1946 (7 U.S.C. 1637b) is amended—

12 (1) in subsection (b)—

13 (A) in paragraph (1)—

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

16 (ii) in subparagraph (B), by striking
17 the period at the end and inserting “;
18 and”; and

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

21 “(C) for each manufacturer required to re-
22 port under subparagraph (A) for any product,
23 require that manufacturer to report production
24 cost and product yield information, as deter-

1 mined by the Secretary, for all products pro-
2 cessed in the same facility or facilities.”;

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

5 (2) in subsection (c)(3)(B), by inserting “, sub-
6 ject to subsection (b)(1),” after “information”; and
7 (3) in subsection (d)—

8 (A) in the subsection heading, by striking
9 “ELECTRONIC REPORTING” and inserting “RE-
10 PORTING”;

11 (B) in paragraph (1)—

12 (i) in the heading, by striking “ELEC-
13 TRONIC REPORTING” and inserting “RE-
14 PORTING”; and

15 (ii) by striking “this section” and in-
16 serting in its place “subparagraphs (A)
17 and (B) of subsection (b)(1)”;

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

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

22 “(3) DAIRY PRODUCT PROCESSING COSTS.—Not
23 later than 3 years after the date of enactment of
24 this paragraph, and every 2 years thereafter, the
25 Secretary shall publish a report containing the infor-

1 mation obtained under subparagraph (C) of sub-
2 section (b)(1), subject to the conditions described in
3 subsection (b)(2).”.

4 **SEC. 1007. DAIRY REPORTS.**

5 Paragraph (4) of section 301 of the Dairy Production
6 Stabilization Act of 1983 (7 U.S.C. 4514) is amended by
7 striking “Not later” and all that follows through “an an-
8 nual report” and inserting “With respect to each calendar
9 year beginning after the date of the enactment of the
10 Farm, Food, and National Security Act of 2026, a report
11 (which shall be submitted not later than 18 months after
12 the last day of such calendar year)”.

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

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

17 “(j) **EFFECT OF LAPSE IN APPROPRIATIONS.**—The
18 servicing of a marketing assistance loan under section
19 1201 by an officer or employee of the Department shall
20 be deemed, for purposes of section 1342 of title 31, serv-
21 ices for emergencies involving the safety of human life or
22 the protection of property.”.

23 (b) **LOANS UNDER SUGAR PROGRAM.**—Section
24 156(d) of the Federal Agriculture Improvement and Re-

1 form Act of 1996 (7 U.S.C. 7272(d)) is amended by add-
2 ing at the end the following:

3 “(4) EFFECT OF LAPSE IN APPROPRIATIONS.—

4 The servicing of a loan under this section by an offi-
5 cer or employee of the Department shall be deemed,
6 for purposes of section 1342 of title 31, services for
7 emergencies involving the safety of human life or the
8 protection of property.”.

9 **SEC. 1009. STORAGE FACILITY LOANS.**

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

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

14 “(1) producers”; and

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

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

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

1 **SEC. 1010. STRENGTHENING DOMESTIC FOOD PRODUCTION**
2 **SUPPLY CHAINS.**

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

6 **“SEC. 1302. STRENGTHENING DOMESTIC FOOD PRODUC-**
7 **TION SUPPLY CHAINS.**

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

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

17 “(1) described in this subtitle; and

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

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

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

1 **SEC. 1011. REGULATIONS.**

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

4 (1) in paragraph (2), by striking “this title, sec-
5 tions 11003 and 11017, title I of the Agriculture
6 Improvement Act of 2018 and the amendments
7 made by that title, and section 10109 of that Act”
8 and inserting “a covered provision of law”; and

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

10 “(4) COVERED PROVISION OF LAW DEFINED.—

11 In this subsection, the term ‘covered provision of
12 law’ means—

13 “(A) this title and sections 11003 and
14 11017;

15 “(B) title I of the Agriculture Improve-
16 ment Act of 2018 and the amendments made
17 by that title, and section 10109 of that Act;
18 and

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

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

25 (1) in paragraph (1), by striking “subtitle B”
26 the first place it appears and all that follows

1 through the period at the end and inserting “a cov-
2 ered provision of law.”;

3 (2) in paragraph (2)—

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

5 (B) by striking “under subtitles B or C”

6 and inserting “under the repayment provi-
7 sions”; and

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

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

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

12 “(i) subtitle B or C or the amend-
13 ments made by subtitle B or C;

14 “(ii) the amendments made by sub-
15 title B or C of the Agriculture Improve-
16 ment Act of 2018, except with respect to
17 the assistance provided under sections
18 1207(e) and 1208; and

19 “(iii) section 156 of the Federal Agri-
20 cultural Improvement and Reform Act of
21 1996 (7 U.S.C. 7272).

22 “(B) REPAYMENT PROVISIONS.—The term
23 ‘repayment provisions’ means the repayment re-
24 quirements under—

25 “(i) subtitle B or C; or

1 “(ii) section 156 of the Federal Agri-
2 cultural Improvement and Reform Act of
3 1996 (7 U.S.C. 7272).”.

4 **TITLE II—CONSERVATION**

5 **Subtitle A—Definitions**

6 **SEC. 2001. DEFINITIONS.**

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

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

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

16 (3) by redesignating paragraph (20) through
17 (27) as paragraphs (22) through (29), respectively;
18 and

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

21 “(20) **PRECISION AGRICULTURE.**—The term
22 ‘precision agriculture’ means managing, tracking, or
23 reducing crop or livestock production inputs, includ-
24 ing seed, feed, fertilizer, chemicals, water, and time,
25 at a heightened level of spatial and temporal granu-

1 larity and biological targeting to improve efficiencies,
2 reduce waste, and maintain environmental quality.

3 “(21) PRECISION AGRICULTURE TECH-
4 NOLOGY.—The term ‘precision agriculture tech-
5 nology’ means any technology (including targeted in-
6 puts and the equipment that is necessary for the de-
7 ployment of such technology) that directly contrib-
8 utes to a reduction in, or improved efficiency of, in-
9 puts used in crop or livestock production, includ-
10 ing—

11 “(A) Global Positioning System-based or
12 geospatial mapping technology;

13 “(B) satellite or aerial imagery technology;

14 “(C) yield monitors;

15 “(D) soil mapping technology;

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

18 “(F) Internet of Things and telematics
19 technologies;

20 “(G) data management software and ad-
21 vanced analytics;

22 “(H) network connectivity products and
23 solutions;

24 “(I) Global Positioning System guidance or
25 auto-steer systems;

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

3 “(K) any other technology, as determined
4 by the Secretary, that directly contributes to a
5 reduction in, or improved efficiency of, the use
6 of crop or livestock production inputs, which
7 may include seed, feed, fertilizer, soil amend-
8 ments, chemicals, water, and time.”.

9 **SEC. 2002. MITIGATION BANKING.**

10 Section 1222(k)(1)(B) of the Food Security Act of
11 1985 (16 U.S.C. 3822(k)(1)(B)) is amended to read as
12 follows:

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

18 **Subtitle B—Conservation Reserve**
19 **Program**

20 **SEC. 2101. CONSERVATION RESERVE.**

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

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

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

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

10 (c) ENROLLMENT.—

11 (1) MAXIMUM ACREAGE ENROLLED.—Section
12 1231(d)(1)(E) of the Food Security Act of 1985 (16
13 U.S.C. 3831(d)(1)(E)) is amended by striking “fis-
14 cal year 2023” and inserting “each of fiscal years
15 2023 through 2031”.

16 (2) GRASSLANDS.—Section
17 1231(d)(2)(A)(ii)(III) of the Food Security Act of
18 1985 (16 U.S.C. 3831(d)(2)(A)(ii)(III)) is amended
19 by striking “2023” and inserting “2031”.

20 (3) STATE ENROLLMENT RATES.—Section
21 1231(d)(4) of the Food Security Act of 1985 (16
22 U.S.C. 3831(d)(4)) is amended by striking “2019
23 through 2023” and inserting “2026 through 2031”
24 each place it appears.

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

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

11 **SEC. 2102. FARMABLE WETLAND PROGRAM.**

12 Section 1231B(a)(1) of the Food Security Act of
13 1985 (16 U.S.C. 3831b(a)(1)) is amended by striking
14 “2023” and inserting “2031”.

15 **Subtitle C—Environmental Quality**
16 **Incentives Program**

17 **SEC. 2201. DEFINITIONS.**

18 Section 1240A(6)(B)(v) of the Food Security Act of
19 1985 (16 U.S.C. 3839aa–1(6)(B)(v)) is amended by in-
20 serting “(including the adoption of precision agriculture
21 practices and the acquisition of precision agriculture tech-
22 nology)” after “planning”.

23 **SEC. 2202. ESTABLISHMENT AND ADMINISTRATION.**

24 (a) PAYMENTS.—

1 (1) OTHER PAYMENTS.—Section 1240B(d)(6)
2 of the Food Security Act of 1985 (16 U.S.C.
3 3839aa-2(d)(6)) is amended—

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

6 “(A) PAYMENTS UNDER THIS SUBTITLE.—
7 A producer shall”; and

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

9 “(B) CONSERVATION LOAN AND LOAN
10 GUARANTEE PROGRAM PAYMENTS.—

11 “(i) IN GENERAL.—A producer receiv-
12 ing payments for practices on eligible land
13 under the program may also receive a loan
14 or loan guarantee under section 304 of the
15 Consolidated Farm and Rural Develop-
16 ment Act to cover costs for the same prac-
17 tices on the same land.

18 “(ii) NOTICE TO PRODUCER.—The
19 Secretary shall inform a producer partici-
20 pating in the program in writing that they
21 may apply to receive a loan or loan guar-
22 antee under section 304 of the Consoli-
23 dated Farm and Rural Development Act as
24 it relates to costs of implementing prac-
25 tices under this program.”.

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

5 (A) in the paragraph heading, by inserting
6 “STATE-DETERMINED” before “HIGH-PRI-
7 ORITY”; and

8 (B) in subparagraph (A)—

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

11 (ii) in clause (iv), by striking the pe-
12 riod at the end and inserting “; or”; and

13 (iii) by adding at the end the fol-
14 lowing:

15 “(v) increases carbon sequestration or
16 reduces greenhouse gas emissions, includ-
17 ing emissions of methane and nitrous
18 oxide.”.

19 (3) INCREASED PAYMENTS FOR PRECISION AG-
20 RICULTURE.—Section 1240B(d) of the Food Secu-
21 rity Act of 1985 (16 U.S.C. 3839aa–2(d)) is amend-
22 ed by adding at the end the following:

23 “(8) INCREASED PAYMENTS FOR PRECISION AG-
24 RICULTURE PRACTICES.—Notwithstanding para-
25 graph (2), the Secretary may increase the amount

1 that would otherwise be provided for a practice
2 under this subsection to not more than 90 percent
3 of the costs associated with adopting precision agri-
4 culture practices and acquiring precision agriculture
5 technology for the purpose of implementing con-
6 servation practices.”.

7 (b) ALLOCATION OF FUNDING.—Section 1240B(f)(1)
8 of the Food Security Act of 1985 (16 U.S.C. 3839aa-
9 2(f)(1)) is amended by striking “2023” and inserting
10 “2031”.

11 (c) WATER CONSERVATION OR IRRIGATION EFFI-
12 CIENCY PRACTICE.—Section 1240B(h)(1) is amended—

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

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

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

18 “(D) the adoption of precision agriculture
19 practices or the acquisition of precision agri-
20 culture technology to achieve water conservation
21 and energy efficiency.”.

22 (d) PAYMENTS FOR CONSERVATION PRACTICE RE-
23 LATED TO ORGANIC PRODUCTION.—Section
24 1240B(i)(3)(A)(ii) of the Food Security Act of 1985 (16
25 U.S.C. 3839aa-2(i)(3)(A)(ii)) is amended by striking

1 “2019 through 2023, \$140,000” and inserting “2027
2 through 2031, \$200,000”.

3 (e) CONSERVATION INCENTIVE CONTRACTS.—Sec-
4 tion 1240B(j)(2)(A)(i) of the Food Security Act of 1985
5 (16 U.S.C. 3839aa–2(j)(2)(A)(i)) is amended by inserting
6 “(which may include the adoption of precision agriculture
7 practices and the acquisition of precision agriculture tech-
8 nology)” after “incentive practices”.

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

12 “(k) SOUTHERN BORDER INITIATIVE.—

13 “(1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall provide
14 payments under the program to producers to imple-
15 ment conservation practices on covered lands of such
16 producers that address and repair covered damage
17 that may contribute to a natural resource concern or
18 problem.

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

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

1 “(A) COVERED DAMAGE.—The term ‘cov-
2 ered damage’ means damage to agricultural
3 land or farming infrastructure.

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

8 **SEC. 2203. LIMITATION ON PAYMENTS.**

9 Section 1240G of the Food Security Act of 1985 (16
10 U.S.C. 3839aa–7) is amended by striking “2019 through
11 2023” and inserting “2027 through 2031”.

12 **SEC. 2204. CONSERVATION INNOVATION GRANTS AND PAY-**
13 **MENTS.**

14 (a) **COMPETITIVE GRANTS FOR INNOVATIVE CON-**
15 **SERVATION APPROACHES.**—Section 1240H(a) is amend-
16 ed—

17 (1) by amending paragraph (1) to read as fol-
18 lows:

19 “(1) **GRANTS.**—Out of the funds made available
20 to carry out this subchapter, the Secretary may
21 award competitive grants that are intended to stimu-
22 late development and evaluation of new and innova-
23 tive approaches to leveraging the Federal investment
24 in environmental enhancement and protection, in
25 conjunction with agricultural production or forest re-

1 source management, through the program, including
2 grants for the development and evaluation of new
3 and innovative technologies that may be incor-
4 porated into conservation practice standards.”; and

5 (2) in paragraph (2)(H), by inserting before the
6 period “(including precision agriculture practices
7 and precision agriculture technologies)”.

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

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

14 (2) by inserting after subclause (VII) the fol-
15 lowing:

16 “(VIII) perennial production sys-
17 tems, including agroforestry and pe-
18 rennial forages and grain crops; and”.

19 (c) REPORTING AND DATABASE.—Section
20 1240H(d)(2)(A) of the Food Security Act of 1985 (16
21 U.S.C. 3839aa–8(d)(2)(A)) is amended—

22 (1) in clause (i)—

23 (A) by inserting “, including both manage-
24 ment and structural conservation practices,”
25 after “conservation practices”; and

- 1 (B) by striking “and” at the end;
- 2 (2) by redesignating clause (ii) as clause (iii);
- 3 (3) by inserting after clause (i) the following:
- 4 “(ii) data that may be used to evalu-
- 5 ate new and emerging technologies and
- 6 recommendations for State and regional
- 7 applications of such new and emerging
- 8 technologies; and”; and
- 9 (4) in clause (iii), as so redesignated, by insert-
- 10 ing “for consideration under the streamlined process
- 11 developed under section 1242(h)(3)” before the pe-
- 12 riod at the end.

13 **Subtitle D—Conservation**

14 **Stewardship Program**

15 **SEC. 2301. DUTIES OF THE SECRETARY.**

16 (a) CONSERVATION STEWARDSHIP PAYMENTS.—Sec-

17 tion 1240L(c) of the Food Security Act of 1985 (16

18 U.S.C. 3839aa–24(c)) is amended—

- 19 (1) in paragraph (2)(A), by inserting before the
- 20 period “(including increased costs associated with
- 21 planning and adopting precision agriculture con-
- 22 servation activities and acquiring precision agri-
- 23 culture technology)”; and
- 24 (2) by adding at the end the following:

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

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

8 (1) in the subsection heading, by striking “AND
9 ADVANCED GRAZING MANAGEMENT” and inserting
10 “, ADVANCED GRAZING MANAGEMENT, AND PRECI-
11 SION AGRICULTURE”;

12 (2) in paragraph (2)—

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

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

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

18 “(C) precision agriculture conservation ac-
19 tivities.”; and

20 (3) in paragraph (3), by striking “or advanced
21 grazing management” and inserting “, advanced
22 grazing management, or precision agriculture con-
23 servation activities”.

24 (c) PAYMENT LIMITATIONS.—Section 1240L(f) of
25 the Food Security Act of 1985 (16 U.S.C. 3839aa–24(f))

1 is amended by striking “2019 through 2023” and insert-
2 ing “2027 through 2031”.

3 **SEC. 2302. STATE ASSISTANCE FOR SOIL HEALTH.**

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

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

8 “(a) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

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

11 “(A) implementing a soil health program
12 for the area over which the Indian Tribe has ju-
13 risdiction; and

14 “(B) meeting or exceeding performance
15 measures established by the Indian Tribe for
16 the soil health program.

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

19 “(A) implementing a soil health program
20 for the State; and

21 “(B) meeting or exceeding performance
22 measures established by the State for the soil
23 health program.

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

4 “(A) is broadly consistent with the soil
5 health principles of the Natural Resources Con-
6 servaion Service, as determined by the Sec-
7 retary; and

8 “(B) may include—

9 “(i) technical assistance;

10 “(ii) financial assistance;

11 “(iii) on-farm research and dem-
12 onstration;

13 “(iv) education, outreach, and train-
14 ing;

15 “(v) monitoring and evaluation; or

16 “(vi) such other components as the
17 Secretary determines appropriate.

18 “(b) AVAILABILITY AND PURPOSE OF GRANTS.—For
19 fiscal years 2027 through 2031, the Secretary shall make
20 grants to eligible States and eligible Indian Tribes for the
21 purpose of improving soil health on agricultural lands
22 through the implementation of State and Tribal soil health
23 programs.

24 “(c) APPLICATIONS.—

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

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

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

16 “(2) TRIBAL OPTION.—An Indian Tribe shall
17 have the option, at the sole discretion of the Indian
18 Tribe, to be incorporated into the application of an
19 eligible State.

20 “(d) GRANTS.—

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

24 “(A) \$5,000,000; or

25 “(B) as applicable—

1 “(i) 50 percent of the cost of imple-
2 menting the State soil health program in
3 the fiscal year; or

4 “(ii) 75 percent of the cost of imple-
5 menting the Tribal soil health program in
6 the fiscal year.

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

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

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

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

18 “(f) EFFECT OF NONCOMPLIANCE.—If the Secretary,
19 after reasonable notice to an eligible State or eligible In-
20 dian Tribe receiving a grant under this section, finds that
21 the State or Indian Tribe has failed to comply with the
22 terms of the grant, the Secretary may disqualify, for 1
23 or more years, the State or Indian Tribe from receipt of
24 future grants under this section.

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

5 “(h) ADMINISTRATION.—

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

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

15 **Subtitle E—Other Conservation** 16 **Programs**

17 **SEC. 2401. CONSERVATION OF PRIVATE GRAZING LAND.**

18 Section 1240M(e) of the Food Security Act of 1985
19 (16 U.S.C. 3839bb) is amended by striking “2023” and
20 inserting “2031”.

21 **SEC. 2402. FERAL SWINE ERADICATION AND CONTROL PRO-** 22 **GRAM.**

23 (a) FERAL SWINE ERADICATION AND CONTROL PRO-
24 GRAM.—Chapter 5 of subtitle D of the Food Security Act

1 of 1985 (16 U.S.C. 3839bb et seq.) is amended by insert-
2 ing after section 1240M the following:

3 **“SEC. 1240N. FERAL SWINE ERADICATION AND CONTROL**
4 **PROGRAM.**

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

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

12 “(1) study and assess the nature and extent of
13 damage to the threatened areas caused by feral
14 swine;

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

17 “(3) develop methods to restore damage caused
18 by feral swine; and

19 “(4) provide financial assistance to agricultural
20 producers in threatened areas.

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

24 “(1) eradicate or control feral swine in the
25 threatened areas; and

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

2 “(d) COORDINATION.—The Secretary shall ensure
3 that the Natural Resources Conservation Service and the
4 Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service coordinate for
5 purposes of this section through State technical commit-
6 tees established under section 1261(a).

7 “(e) COST SHARING.—

8 “(1) FEDERAL SHARE.—The Federal share of
9 the costs of activities under the program may not
10 exceed 75 percent of the total costs of such activi-
11 ties.

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

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

21 “(g) FUNDING.—

22 “(1) MANDATORY FUNDING.—Of the funds of
23 the Commodity Credit Corporation, the Secretary
24 shall use to carry out this section \$75,000,000 for
25 the period of fiscal years 2019 through 2023,

1 \$15,000,000 for fiscal year 2024, and \$150,000,000
2 for the period of fiscal years 2025 through 2031.

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

5 “(A) 40 percent shall be allocated to the
6 Natural Resources Conservation Service to
7 carry out the program, including the provision
8 of financial assistance to producers for on-farm
9 trapping and technology related to capturing
10 and confining feral swine; and

11 “(B) 60 percent shall be allocated to the
12 Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service to
13 carry out the program, including the use of es-
14 tablished, and testing of innovative, population
15 reduction methods.

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

20 “(h) COORDINATION AND COOPERATION WITH A
21 LAND GRANT UNIVERSITY.—

22 “(1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall direct
23 the Natural Resources Conservation Service and the
24 Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service to enter
25 into a contract with 1 or more land-grant colleges or

1 universities to assist with the program in achieving
2 its goals.

3 “(2) ELIGIBLE LAND-GRANT COLLEGES AND
4 UNIVERSITIES.—A land-grant college or university is
5 eligible to enter into a contract under paragraph (1)
6 if such college or university—

7 “(A) has developed and implemented a sys-
8 tem of evaluating damages from feral swine and
9 effectiveness of control efforts in response to
10 the Agriculture Improvement Act of 2018 (Pub-
11 lic Law 115–334);

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

15 “(C) has maintained a State-funded, non-
16 Federal Wildlife Services program that has an
17 active cooperative agreement with Wildlife Serv-
18 ices in the Animal and Plant Health Inspection
19 Service within the structure of the Land Grant
20 University System.

21 “(3) ROLE OF THE LAND-GRANT COLLEGE OR
22 UNIVERSITY.—A land-grant college or university
23 that enters into a contract under paragraph (1)
24 shall, as a condition on entering into such a con-
25 tract, assist the program by acting as a strategic,

1 neutral entity that is able to advance the program
2 beyond the expertise of the Department to achieve
3 the stated goals of the program by—

4 “(A) identifying and carrying out research
5 on novel methods of feral swine control and
6 land remediation;

7 “(B) assisting in establishing strategic
8 areas for feral swine control based on data col-
9 lected in response to the Agriculture Improve-
10 ment Act of 2018;

11 “(C) coordinating and collaborating be-
12 tween field staff, programmatic staff, and re-
13 search staff within the Natural Resources Con-
14 servation Service and the Animal and Plant
15 Health Inspection Service; and

16 “(D) establishing and consulting with the
17 Department on research goals and priorities in
18 the program.

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

22 “(5) LAND-GRANT COLLEGE OR UNIVERSITY
23 DEFINED.—In this subsection, the term ‘land-grant
24 college or university’ has the meaning given the term
25 ‘land-grant colleges and universities’ in section 1404

1 of the National Agricultural Research, Extension,
2 and Teaching Policy Act of 1977 (7 U.S.C. 3103).”.

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

5 (c) CLERICAL AMENDMENT.—The table of contents
6 in section 1(b) of the Agriculture Improvement Act of
7 2018 is amended by striking the item relating to section
8 2408.

9 **SEC. 2403. WATERSHED PROTECTION AND FLOOD PREVEN-**
10 **TION ACT.**

11 (a) ASSISTANCE TO LOCAL ORGANIZATIONS.—

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

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

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

24 “(c) ASSISTANCE FOR REMEDIAL ACTIONS.—

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

6 “(A) deterioration of a structural compo-
7 nent of the work of improvement is occurring at
8 an abnormal rate, including situations in which
9 such deterioration is due to a design deficiency
10 or to site conditions that were unknown at the
11 time of installation of the work of improvement;

12 “(B) the planned service life of the work of
13 improvement exceeds the service life of a struc-
14 tural component of such work of improvement;
15 or

16 “(C) structural damage to such work of
17 improvement, or to a structural component of
18 such work of improvement, was caused by a
19 storm event that exceeded the maximum storm
20 event for which the work of improvement was
21 designed.

22 “(2) COST SHARE.—Financial assistance pro-
23 vided under this subsection shall be provided in ac-
24 cordance with the cost-share rate established in the

1 agreement with the local organization for the work
2 of improvement.

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

5 “(1) engage with relevant Federal agencies to
6 reduce or eliminate regulatory, policy, or procedural
7 barriers to timely provision of assistance under this
8 Act;

9 “(2) provide for streamlined procedures relating
10 to coordination with other Federal or State agencies
11 for required reviews and permitting of projects pur-
12 suant to this Act, and ensure such procedures are
13 commensurate with the size and scale of the
14 projects;

15 “(3) conduct an assessment of internal Depart-
16 ment of Agriculture planning, technical support, and
17 approvals to determine best practices to be used for
18 the purpose of maximizing the decisionmaking au-
19 thority of State conservationists with respect to ap-
20 provals required for projects under this Act; and

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

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

4 **“SEC. 13. DATA.**

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

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

9 “(A) expenditures for the individual flood
10 control and conservation measures for which as-
11 sistance is provided under this Act; and

12 “(B) the expected flood control or environ-
13 mental (including soil erosion) benefits that will
14 result from the implementation of such meas-
15 ures; and

16 “(2) data, with respect to each project for
17 which assistance is provided under this Act, con-
18 cerning—

19 “(A) total allocated and expended funds
20 for planning, design, construction, remedial ac-
21 tions, and rehabilitation; and

22 “(B) contracts and agreements entered
23 into by the Secretary with a local organization
24 to provide services, including—

1 “(i) the services provided through
2 such contracts and agreements;

3 “(ii) the total funds allocated to such
4 contracts and agreements; and

5 “(iii) any modifications or adjust-
6 ments made to such contracts and agree-
7 ments.

8 “(b) PROHIBITION.—The Secretary may not make
9 publicly available under this section an agreement entered
10 into with an individual landowner, operator, or occupier
11 under this Act, or any disaggregated information that
12 identifies such individual landowner, operator, or occu-
13 pier.”.

14 (c) REHABILITATION OF STRUCTURAL MEASURES
15 NEAR, AT, OR PAST THEIR EVALUATED LIFE EXPECT-
16 ANCY.—

17 (1) COST SHARE ASSISTANCE FOR REHABILITA-
18 TION.—Section 14(b) of the Watershed Protection
19 and Flood Prevention Act (16 U.S.C. 1012(b)) is
20 amended—

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

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

24 “(4) RELATION TO REQUIREMENTS OF AU-
25 THORIZED PROJECTS.—A rehabilitation project for

1 which assistance is provided under this section shall
2 not be subject to—

3 “(A) the requirement under section 2 that
4 a project contain benefits directly related to ag-
5 riculture, including rural communities, that ac-
6 count for at least 20 percent of the total bene-
7 fits of the project; or

8 “(B) section 4(5).”.

9 (2) FUNDING.—Section 14(h)(2)(E) of the Wa-
10 tershed Protection and Flood Prevention Act (16
11 U.S.C. 1012(h)(2)(E)) is amended by striking
12 “2023” and inserting “2031”.

13 **SEC. 2404. EMERGENCY CONSERVATION PROGRAM.**

14 Section 401 of the Agricultural Credit Act of 1978
15 (16 U.S.C. 2201) is amended—

16 (1) in subsection (b)—

17 (A) in the subsection heading, by inserting
18 “AND OTHER EMERGENCY CONSERVATION
19 MEASURES” after “FENCING”; and

20 (B) by amending paragraph (1) to read as
21 follows:

22 “(1) IN GENERAL.—With respect to a payment
23 to an agricultural producer under subsection (a) for
24 the repair or replacement of fencing, or for other
25 emergency measures to rehabilitate farmland or to

1 repair or replace a farmland or conservation struc-
2 ture, the Secretary shall give the agricultural pro-
3 ducer the option of receiving—

4 “(A) before carrying out such replacement
5 or rehabilitation, not more than 75 percent of
6 the payment for such replacement or rehabilita-
7 tion, which shall be based on the fair market
8 value of the replacement or rehabilitation, as
9 determined by the Secretary; and

10 “(B) before carrying out such repair, not
11 more than 50 percent of the payment for such
12 repair, which shall be based on the fair market
13 value of the repair, as determined by the Sec-
14 retary.”; and

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

16 “(c) WILDFIRES.—A wildfire that causes damage
17 with respect to which a payment may be made under sub-
18 section (a) includes any wildfire that is not caused natu-
19 rally, including a wildfire that is caused by the Federal
20 Government, if the damage is caused by the spread of the
21 fire due to natural causes.”.

22 **SEC. 2405. EMERGENCY WATERSHED PROGRAM.**

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

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

3 (2) by inserting after the subsection header the
4 following:

5 “(1) EASEMENT RESTORATION.—The Secretary
6 is authorized to restore appropriate vegetative cover,
7 hydrological functions, and other functions and val-
8 ues of the land subject to a floodplain easement ac-
9 quired under subsection (a).

10 “(2) EASEMENT MAINTENANCE.—The Sec-
11 retary is authorized to monitor, maintain, and en-
12 hance appropriate vegetative cover, hydrological res-
13 toration measures, and other restoration measures
14 on land subject to a floodplain easement acquired
15 under subsection (a).

16 “(3) CONTRACTS AND AGREEMENTS.—In car-
17 rying out paragraphs (1) and (2), the Secretary
18 may—

19 “(A) enter into contracts with landowners;

20 and

21 “(B) enter into agreements with States,
22 nongovernmental organizations, and Indian
23 Tribes.

24 “(4) COMPATIBLE USE AUTHORITY.—The Sec-
25 retary may authorize a landowner to carry out ac-

1 activities on land subject to a floodplain easement ac-
2 quired under subsection (a) that are—

3 “(A) compatible uses necessary to carry
4 out paragraph (1) or (2); or

5 “(B) compatible economic uses (including
6 such activities as hunting and fishing, managed
7 timber harvest, water management, or periodic
8 haying or grazing) if such uses are consistent
9 with the long-term protection of the floodplain
10 functions and values for which the easement
11 was acquired.”; and

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

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

18 “(c) LEVEL OF RESTORATION.—In carrying out this
19 section, the Secretary may undertake measures that in-
20 crease the level of protection above that which would be
21 necessary to address the immediate impairment of the wa-
22 tershed if the Secretary determines that such restoration
23 is in the best interest of the long-term health of the water-
24 shed and the long-term protection of the watershed from
25 repetitive impairments.”.

1 **SEC. 2406. NATIONAL AGRICULTURE FLOOD VULNER-**
2 **ABILITY STUDY.**

3 Not later than 2 years after the date of enactment
4 of this Act, the Secretary shall submit to the Committee
5 on Agriculture of the House of Representatives and the
6 Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry of the
7 Senate a national agriculture flood vulnerability report
8 containing the results of a Conservation Effects Assess-
9 ment Project assessment of flood risk on agricultural
10 lands, including—

11 (1) an analysis of economic losses of crops and
12 livestock resulting from flooding under different re-
13 currence scenarios;

14 (2) an analysis of the downstream effects of
15 mitigation activities carried out as part of a water-
16 shed management approach;

17 (3) an analysis of available Federal and State
18 data relating to flood risk, as applicable to agricul-
19 tural land, including data relating to riverine flood-
20 ing, coastal flooding, storm surge, extreme precipita-
21 tion, and flash flooding; and

22 (4) a description of ongoing producer-level con-
23 servation practices and broader government initia-
24 tives to manage the effects of flooding and flood risk
25 within and across watersheds, and recommendations

1 for additional practices and initiatives to further ad-
2 dress such effects and risk.

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

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

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

8 (1) in paragraph (1)—

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

11 and

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

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

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

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

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

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

20 and

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

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

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

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

7 (2) in paragraph (9)—

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

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

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

15 (C) by striking subparagraph (C).

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

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

22 (2) in paragraph (2)(E), by striking “section
23 1265B(b)(2)(B)(ii)” and inserting “section
24 1265B(b)(2)(A)(iii)”.

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

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

4 (1) by redesignating paragraph (2) as para-
5 graph (3); and

6 (2) by inserting after paragraph (1) the fol-
7 lowing:

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

14 (b) PURPOSE OF TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE.—Section
15 1242(b) of the Food Security Act of 1985 (16 U.S.C.
16 3842(b)) is amended by inserting “timely,” after “con-
17 sistent,”.

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

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

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

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

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

16 and

17 (3) by striking paragraphs (4) and (5) and in-
18 serting the following:

19 “(4) CERTIFICATION.—A third-party provider
20 may be certified to provide technical assistance
21 under this section only—

22 “(A) through a certification process admin-
23 istered by the Secretary, acting through the
24 Chief of the Natural Resources Conservation
25 Service;

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

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

8 “(D) by a State agency that—

9 “(i) has statutory authority to certify,
10 administer, or license professionals in one
11 or more fields of natural resources, agri-
12 culture, or engineering; and

13 “(ii) is approved by the Secretary
14 under paragraph (5) to certify a third-
15 party provider.

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

17 “(A) ESTABLISHMENT OF APPROVAL
18 PROCESS.—Not later than 180 days after the
19 date of enactment of the Farm, Food, and Na-
20 tional Security Act of 2026, the Secretary shall
21 establish a process to approve a non-Federal
22 entity (including a State agency and an Indian
23 Tribe), to become a non-Federal certifying enti-
24 ty.

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

7 “(C) ELIGIBILITY.—In carrying out sub-
8 paragraph (B), the Secretary shall take into
9 consideration—

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

14 “(ii) the experience of the applicable
15 non-Federal entity in working with third-
16 party providers and eligible participants;

17 “(iii) the expertise of the applicable
18 non-Federal entity in the technical skills
19 described in paragraph (3)(A); and

20 “(iv) such other qualifications as the
21 Secretary determines to be appropriate.

22 “(D) AGREEMENT.—Upon approving an
23 application under this paragraph, the Secretary
24 shall enter into an agreement with the non-Fed-

1 eral entity to become a non-Federal certifying
2 entity.

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

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

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

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

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

22 “(II) each third-party provider
23 the certification of which is withdrawn
24 by the non-Federal certifying entity.

25 “(6) TIMELY DECISIONS.—

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

8 “(i) make a final decision with respect
9 to such application; and

10 “(ii) if the final decision is to certify
11 the third-party provider, include the name
12 of the certified third-party provider on the
13 registry of certified third-party providers
14 maintained by the Secretary.

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

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

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

12 (1) in paragraph (1), by striking “each of the
13 programs specified in section 1241” and inserting
14 “conservation programs administered by the Sec-
15 retary”;

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

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

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

1 “(A) review the certification processes
2 under paragraphs (4)(A) and (7) of subsection
3 (e);

4 “(B) make any adjustments considered
5 necessary by the Secretary to—

6 “(i) increase the number of third-
7 party providers delivering technical assist-
8 ance; and

9 “(ii) improve the quality of technical
10 assistance delivered by third-party pro-
11 viders;

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

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

17 “(ii) other interested parties associ-
18 ated with eligible participants; and

19 “(D) set a target rate of utilization of
20 third-party providers to deliver technical assist-
21 ance across all conservation programs adminis-
22 tered by the Secretary.”;

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

1 (5) by striking paragraph (5) and inserting the
2 following:

3 “(5) PAYMENT AMOUNT.—

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

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

19 “(C) EXCLUSION.—A payment provided
20 under subsection (c)(3) shall be excluded from
21 calculations relating to any cost-sharing re-
22 quirements of the applicable conservation pro-
23 gram under which the payment was provided.

24 “(6) TRANSPARENCY.—Not later than 1 year
25 after the date of enactment of the Farm, Food, and

1 National Security Act of 2026, and periodically
2 thereafter, the Secretary shall make publicly avail-
3 able information on—

4 “(A) funds obligated to third-party pro-
5 viders through—

6 “(i) contracts entered into between el-
7 igible participants and individual third-
8 party providers; and

9 “(ii) agreements with public and pri-
10 vate sector entities to secure third-party
11 technical assistance;

12 “(B) the certification process under this
13 section, including—

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

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

18 “(iii) the number of third-party pro-
19 viders certified by non-Federal certifying
20 entities (other than State agencies and In-
21 dian Tribes);

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

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

1 “(vi) the number of third-party pro-
2 viders certified through the streamlined
3 certification process described in sub-
4 section (e)(7);

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

10 “(D) the target rate of utilization of third-
11 party providers set under paragraph (3)(D) and
12 how actual rate of utilization compares to the
13 target rate.”; and

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

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

22 (f) REVIEW OF CONSERVATION PRACTICE STAND-
23 ARDS.—Section 1242(h) of the Food Security Act of 1985
24 (16 U.S.C. 3842(h)) is amended—

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

4 (2) in paragraph (1)—

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

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

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

15 (C) by amending subparagraph (D) to read
16 as follows:

17 “(D) evaluate opportunities to increase
18 flexibility in conservation practice standards in
19 a manner that integrates new and innovative
20 technologies that provide equivalent or im-
21 proved natural resource benefits compared to
22 the standards in effect at the time of the re-
23 view;”; and

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

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

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

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

12 (3) by amending paragraph (3) to read as fol-
13 lows:

14 “(3) PROCESS FOR ESTABLISHMENT OF IN-
15 TERIM AND NEW CONSERVATION PRACTICE STAND-
16 ARDS.—

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

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

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

8 “(ii) establish—

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

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

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

24 “(C) CONSIDERATIONS.—In establishing
25 an interim conservation practice standard or a

1 new conservation practice standard under this
2 subsection, the Secretary shall consider—

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

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

10 “(iii) State and local input in the
11 form of—

12 “(I) recommendations for interim
13 conservation practice standards; and

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

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

22 “(D) INNOVATIVE TECHNOLOGY PRI-
23 ORITY.—In reviewing conservation practice
24 standards under this subsection, the Secretary
25 shall prioritize the review of interim conserva-

1 tion practice standards and new conservation
2 practice standards that integrate innovative
3 technologies, including—

4 “(i) precision agriculture technologies;

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

9 “(iii) animal feed additives;

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

13 “(v) any other innovative technology,
14 as determined by the Secretary.

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

22 (4) in paragraph (4)—

23 (A) in the matter preceding subparagraph

24 (A)—

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

19 “(5) OFFICE OF CONSERVATION INNOVATION.—

20 “(A) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall
21 establish within the Office of the Chief of the
22 Natural Resources Conservation Service an Of-
23 fice of Conservation Innovation (referred to in
24 this paragraph as the ‘Office’) which shall be
25 under the direct supervision of the Chief.

1 “(B) DUTIES.—The Office shall—

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

5 “(ii) encourage innovation in con-
6 servation practices through—

7 “(I) revisions of existing con-
8 servation practice standards;

9 “(II) recommendations of interim
10 conservation practice standards; and

11 “(III) recommendations of new
12 conservation practice standards.

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

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

23 “(ii) grazing lands ecology (including
24 rangeland, pastureland, and grazed forest
25 land);

1 “(iii) animal husbandry (including
2 animal nutrition and feed management);

3 “(iv) water conservation, drainage
4 water management, and irrigation engi-
5 neering technology;

6 “(v) agricultural engineering (includ-
7 ing animal waste management, energy, and
8 structural measures); and

9 “(vi) forest ecology and agroforestry.

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

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

17 “(j) NRCS DIRECT HIRE AUTHORITY.—

18 “(1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary may ap-
19 point, without regard to the provisions of subchapter
20 I of chapter 33 of title 5, United States Code (other
21 than sections 3303 and 3328 of such title), qualified
22 candidates, as described in paragraph (2), directly to
23 positions within the Natural Resources Conservation
24 Service that provide technical assistance under con-

1 servation programs administered by the Natural Re-
2 sources Conservation Service.

3 “(2) QUALIFICATIONS.—Paragraph (1) applies
4 to a candidate who—

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

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

11 **SEC. 2503. ADMINISTRATIVE REQUIREMENTS FOR CON-**
12 **SERVATION PROGRAMS.**

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

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

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

21 “(1) LIMITATION.—The Secretary shall not en-
22 roll more than 25 percent of the cropland in any
23 county in the conservation reserve program estab-
24 lished under subchapter B of chapter 1 of subtitle

1 D and wetland reserve easements under section
2 1265C.”;

3 (2) in paragraph (2)—

4 (A) in the matter preceding subparagraph
5 (A), by striking “paragraph (1)(A)” and insert-
6 ing “paragraph (1)”; and

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

9 (3) in paragraph (3), by striking “paragraph
10 (1)(A)” and inserting “paragraph (1)”; and

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

13 (c) REVIEW AND GUIDANCE FOR PRACTICE COSTS
14 AND PAYMENT RATES.—

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

18 (A) in the matter preceding subparagraph
19 (A), by striking “Not later than 1 year after
20 the date of enactment of the Agriculture Im-
21 provement Act of 2018, and not later than Oc-
22 tober 1 of each year thereafter, the Secretary
23 shall” and inserting “The Secretary shall estab-
24 lish a process under which the Secretary shall
25 annually”;

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

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

10 (C) in subparagraph (B)—

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

13 (ii) by redesignating clause (iii) as
14 clause (iv);

15 (iii) by inserting after clause (ii) the
16 following:

17 “(iii) accounts for the variability in
18 costs of implementing practices on eligible
19 land under this title; and”;

20 (iv) in clause (iv), as so redesignated,
21 by striking “regional, State, and” and in-
22 serting “State and”.

23 (2) GUIDANCE; REVIEW.—Section 1244(j)(2) of
24 the Food Security Act of 1985 (16 U.S.C.
25 3844(j)(2)) is amended—

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

3 (B) in subparagraph (B)—

4 (i) in clause (i), by striking “and” at
5 the end;

6 (ii) by redesignating clause (ii) as
7 clause (iii);

8 (iii) by inserting after clause (i) the
9 following:

10 “(ii) monitoring for and identifying
11 significant variability in practice costs in
12 each year; and”;

13 (iv) in clause (iii), as so redesignated,
14 by inserting “and, when appropriate,
15 adopting any recommendations made by
16 such State technical committee” after
17 “that State”.

18 (3) EFFECT ON EXISTING CONTRACTS.—Sec-
19 tion 1244(j) of the Food Security Act of 1985 (16
20 U.S.C. 3844(j)) is amended by adding at the end the
21 following:

22 “(3) EFFECT ON EXISTING CONTRACTS.—In
23 order to provide rates of payments that are commen-
24 surate with the costs of implementing practices pur-
25 suant to programs under this title, the Secretary

1 shall establish processes and procedures for updating
2 rates of payments under a contract or agreement in
3 effect under this title to reflect the appropriate prac-
4 tice costs and rates of payments determined under
5 paragraph (2)(B) for the year in which the practice
6 is implemented.”.

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

11 (1) in paragraph (2)—

12 (A) in subparagraph (A)—

13 (i) by redesignating clause (ii) as
14 clause (iii);

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

17 (iii) by inserting after clause (i) the
18 following:

19 “(ii) identify in each State a source
20 water protection coordinator who shall be
21 responsible for coordinating such collabora-
22 tion with community water systems under
23 this subsection; and”;

1 (B) in subparagraph (B), by striking
2 “under subparagraph (A)(ii)” and inserting
3 “under subparagraph (A)(iii)”; and
4 (2) by adding at the end the following:

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

11 “(A) an annual report that details—

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

14 “(I) the conservation programs
15 under which assistance is provided
16 pursuant to paragraph (1);

17 “(II) the practices implemented
18 pursuant to paragraph (1); and

19 “(III) the number of contracts
20 and acres devoted to such practices;

21 “(ii) for each conservation program
22 administered by the Secretary—

23 “(I) the amount of funds obli-
24 gated and expended for practices im-

1 plemented pursuant to paragraph (1);

2 and

3 “**(II)** information regarding the

4 status of compliance with paragraph

5 (3); and

6 “(iii) the practices, by State, that are

7 receiving increased incentives and higher

8 payment rates under paragraph (2)(A)(iii);

9 and

10 “(B) through an interactive map, aggre-

11 gated data detailed under subparagraph (A).”.

12 **(e) ENCOURAGEMENT OF HABITAT CONNECTIVITY**

13 **AND WILDLIFE CORRIDORS.**—Section 1244 of the Food

14 Security Act of 1985 (16 U.S.C. 3844) is amended by

15 adding at the end the following:

16 “(q) **ENCOURAGEMENT OF HABITAT CONNECTIVITY**

17 **AND WILDLIFE CORRIDORS.**—In carrying out any con-

18 servation program administered by the Secretary, the Sec-

19 retary may, as appropriate, encourage the use of conserva-

20 tion practices that support the development, restoration,

21 and maintenance of habitat connectivity and wildlife cor-

22 ridors.”.

1 **Subtitle G—Agricultural**
2 **Conservation Easement Program**

3 **SEC. 2601. DEFINITIONS.**

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

6 (1) by striking paragraph (2);

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

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

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

14 **SEC. 2602. AGRICULTURAL LAND EASEMENTS.**

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

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

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

22 (3) by striking paragraph (3).

23 (b) **COST-SHARE ASSISTANCE.**—

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

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

6 “(A) FEDERAL SHARE.—

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

11 (B) in subparagraph (B)—

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

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

20 (ii) by striking clause (ii);

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

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

1 striking “subparagraph” and inserting
2 “paragraph”; and
3 (C) by inserting after subparagraph (B)
4 the following:

5 “(C) LOWER COST-SHARE OPTION.—

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

9 (A) in subparagraph (C)—

10 (i) by striking clause (iii);

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

1 (B) in subparagraph (D)—

2 (i) in clause (ii)—

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

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

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

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

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

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

18 (A) in subparagraph (A)—

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

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

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

5 (B) in subparagraph (B)—

6 (i) in clause (ii)—

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

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

11 (ii) in clause (iii)—

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

8 “(d) EASEMENT STEWARDSHIP.—

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

16 **SEC. 2604. ADMINISTRATION.**

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

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

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

24 “(A) MODIFICATION.—

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

14 “(B) EXCHANGE.—

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

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

1 “(II) the exchange—

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

20 “(6) DE MINIMIS ADJUSTMENTS.—

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

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

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

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

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

12 “(i) typographical error corrections;

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

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

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

20 “(v) relocation of easement access;

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

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

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

9 (b) ADJUSTED GROSS INCOME.—

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

11 **“SEC. 1267A. DEFINITIONS.**

12 “In this subtitle:

13 “(1) ACREAGE OWNED BY AN INDIAN TRIBE.—

14 The term ‘acreage owned by an Indian Tribe’
15 means—

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

19 “(B) an organization that is—

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

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

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

7 “(iii) described in—

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

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

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

17 “(A) that is—

18 “(i) forest land; or

19 “(ii) being restored to forest land;

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

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

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

4 “(C) in the case of a forest reserve ease-
5 ment, the enrollment of which will maintain, re-
6 store, enhance, or otherwise measurably—

7 “(i) increase the likelihood of recovery
8 of a species that is listed as endangered or
9 threatened under section 4 of the Endan-
10 gered Species Act of 1973 (16 U.S.C.
11 1533); or

12 “(ii) improve the well-being of a spe-
13 cies that is—

14 “(I) not listed as endangered or
15 threatened under that section; and

16 “(II)(aa) a candidate for that
17 listing, a State-listed species, or a spe-
18 cial concern species; or

19 “(bb) designated as a species of
20 greatest conservation need by a State
21 wildlife action plan.

22 “(4) FOREST LAND EASEMENT.—The term ‘for-
23 est land easement’ means an easement or other in-
24 terest in eligible land that—

1 “(A) is conveyed to an eligible entity for
2 the purpose of protecting natural resources and
3 the forest nature of the eligible land; and

4 “(B) permits the landowner the right to
5 continue working forest production and related
6 uses, consistent with an applicable forest man-
7 agement plan.

8 “(5) FOREST MANAGEMENT PLAN.—The term
9 ‘forest management plan’ means—

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

13 “(B) another plan approved by the applica-
14 ble State forester or State forestry agency;

15 “(C) a plan developed under a third-party
16 certification system determined appropriate by
17 the Secretary; or

18 “(D) another plan determined appropriate
19 by the Secretary.

20 “(6) FOREST RESERVE EASEMENT.—The term
21 ‘forest reserve easement’ means an easement or
22 other interest in eligible land that—

23 “(A) is conveyed to the Secretary for the
24 purpose of protecting natural resources and the
25 forest nature of the eligible land; and

1 “(B) permits the landowner the right to
2 continue working forest production and related
3 uses consistent with the applicable forest re-
4 serve easement plan developed under section
5 1267C(e)(1)(A).

6 “(7) PROGRAM.—The term ‘program’ means
7 the forest conservation easement program estab-
8 lished under this subtitle.

9 “(8) SOCIALLY DISADVANTAGED FOREST LAND-
10 OWNER.—The term ‘socially disadvantaged forest
11 landowner’ means a forest landowner who is a mem-
12 ber of a socially disadvantaged group (as defined in
13 section 2501(a) of the Food, Agriculture, Conserva-
14 tion, and Trade Act of 1990 (7 U.S.C. 2279(a))).

15 **“SEC. 1267B. FOREST LAND EASEMENTS.**

16 “(a) AVAILABILITY OF ASSISTANCE.—The Secretary
17 shall facilitate and provide funding for—

18 “(1) the purchase by eligible entities of forest
19 land easements on eligible land;

20 “(2) the development of a forest management
21 plan; and

22 “(3) technical assistance to implement this sec-
23 tion.

24 “(b) COST-SHARE ASSISTANCE.—

1 “(1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall protect
2 working forests, and related conservation values of
3 eligible land, through cost-share assistance to eligible
4 entities for purchasing forest land easements.

5 “(2) SCOPE OF ASSISTANCE AVAILABLE.—

6 “(A) FEDERAL SHARE.—

7 “(i) IN GENERAL.—Except as pro-
8 vided in clause (ii), an agreement described
9 in paragraph (4) shall provide for a Fed-
10 eral share of 50 percent of the fair market
11 value of the forest land easement, as deter-
12 mined by the Secretary.

13 “(ii) EXCEPTION.—An agreement de-
14 scribed in paragraph (4) may provide for a
15 Federal share of not more than 75 percent
16 of the fair market value of a forest land
17 easement in the case of eligible land that
18 is—

19 “(I) a forest of special environ-
20 mental significance, as determined by
21 the Secretary; or

22 “(II) owned by a socially dis-
23 advantaged forest landowner.

24 “(B) NON-FEDERAL SHARE.—

1 “(i) IN GENERAL.—Under an agree-
2 ment described in paragraph (4), the eligi-
3 ble entity shall provide a non-Federal
4 share that is equivalent to the remainder
5 of the fair market value of the forest land
6 easement not provided by the Secretary
7 under subparagraph (A).

8 “(ii) PERMISSIBLE FORMS.—The non-
9 Federal share provided by an eligible entity
10 under this paragraph may comprise—

11 “(I) cash resources;

12 “(II) a charitable donation or
13 qualified conservation contribution (as
14 defined in section 170(h) of the Inter-
15 nal Revenue Code of 1986) from the
16 private forest landowner from which
17 the forest land easement will be pur-
18 chased;

19 “(III) costs associated with se-
20 curing a deed to the forest land ease-
21 ment, including the cost of appraisal,
22 survey, inspection, and title; and

23 “(IV) other costs, as determined
24 by the Secretary.

1 “(C) DETERMINATION OF FAIR MARKET
2 VALUE.—For purposes of this paragraph, the
3 Secretary shall determine the fair market value
4 of a forest land easement using—

5 “(i) the Uniform Standards of Profes-
6 sional Appraisal Practice;

7 “(ii) an areawide market analysis or
8 survey; or

9 “(iii) another industry-approved meth-
10 od.

11 “(3) EVALUATION AND RANKING OF APPLICA-
12 TIONS.—

13 “(A) CRITERIA.—The Secretary shall es-
14 tablish evaluation and ranking criteria to maxi-
15 mize the benefit of Federal investment under
16 the program.

17 “(B) PRIORITY.—In evaluating applica-
18 tions under the program, the Secretary shall
19 give priority to an application for the purchase
20 of a forest land easement—

21 “(i) that maintains the viability of a
22 working forest, as determined by the Sec-
23 retary; and

1 “(ii) on eligible land for which a forest
2 management plan has been developed at
3 the time of application.

4 “(C) CONSIDERATIONS.—In establishing
5 the criteria under subparagraph (A), the Sec-
6 retary shall emphasize support for—

7 “(i) protecting working forests and re-
8 lated conservation values of eligible land;

9 “(ii) reducing fragmentation of forest
10 land; and

11 “(iii) maximizing the areas protected
12 from conversion to nonforest uses.

13 “(4) AGREEMENTS WITH ELIGIBLE ENTITIES.—

14 “(A) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall
15 enter into agreements with eligible entities to
16 stipulate the terms and conditions under which
17 the eligible entity is permitted to use cost-share
18 assistance provided under this section.

19 “(B) LENGTH OF AGREEMENTS.—An
20 agreement under subparagraph (A) shall be for
21 a term that is not less than 3, but not more
22 than 5, years, unless the Secretary determines
23 that a longer term is justified.

24 “(C) MINIMUM TERMS AND CONDITIONS.—

25 An eligible entity shall be authorized to use its

1 own terms and conditions for forest land ease-
2 ments so long as the Secretary determines such
3 terms and conditions—

4 “(i) are consistent with—

5 “(I) the purposes of the program;

6 and

7 “(II) the forestry activities to be
8 conducted on the eligible land;

9 “(ii) permit effective enforcement of
10 the conservation purposes of the forest
11 land easements;

12 “(iii) include a requirement to imple-
13 ment a forest management plan on eligible
14 land subject to a forest land easement;

15 “(iv) include a limit on the impervious
16 surfaces to be allowed that is consistent
17 with the forestry activities to be conducted;
18 and

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

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

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

3 “(aa)(AA) the holder of the
4 forest land easement fails to pro-
5 vide monitoring reports in a
6 timely manner; or

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

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

19 “(D) ADDITIONAL PERMITTED TERMS AND
20 CONDITIONS.—An eligible entity may include
21 terms and conditions for a forest land easement
22 that—

23 “(i) are intended to keep the eligible
24 land subject to the forest land easement in

1 active forest management, as determined
2 by the Secretary;

3 “(ii) allow subsurface mineral develop-
4 ment on the eligible land subject to the
5 forest land easement and in accordance
6 with applicable State law if, as determined
7 by the Secretary—

8 “(I) the subsurface mineral de-
9 velopment—

10 “(aa) has a limited and lo-
11 calized impact;

12 “(bb) does not harm the for-
13 est use and conservation values
14 of the eligible land subject to the
15 forest land easement;

16 “(cc) does not materially
17 alter or affect the existing topog-
18 raphy;

19 “(dd) complies with a sub-
20 surface mineral development plan
21 that—

22 “(AA) includes a plan
23 for the remediation of im-
24 pacts to the forest use and
25 conservation values of the el-

1 eligible land subject to the
2 forest land easement; and

3 “(BB) is approved by
4 the Secretary prior to the
5 initiation of mineral develop-
6 ment activity;

7 “(ee) is not accomplished by
8 any surface mining method;

9 “(ff) is within the imper-
10 vious surface limits of the forest
11 land easement under subpara-
12 graph (C)(iv); and

13 “(gg) uses practices and
14 technologies that minimize the
15 duration and intensity of impacts
16 to the forest use and conserva-
17 tion values of the eligible land
18 subject to the forest land ease-
19 ment; and

20 “(II) each area impacted by the
21 subsurface mineral development is re-
22 claimed and restored by the holder of
23 the mineral rights at cessation of op-
24 eration; and

1 “(iii) include other relevant activities
2 relating to the forest land easement, as de-
3 termined by the Secretary.

4 “(E) SUBSTITUTION OF QUALIFIED
5 PROJECTS.—An agreement under subparagraph
6 (A) shall allow, upon mutual agreement of the
7 parties, substitution of qualified projects that
8 are identified at the time of the proposed sub-
9 stitution.

10 “(F) EFFECT OF VIOLATION.—If a viola-
11 tion of a term or condition of an agreement
12 under subparagraph (A) occurs—

13 “(i) the Secretary may terminate the
14 agreement; and

15 “(ii) the Secretary may require the el-
16 igible entity to refund all or part of any
17 payments received by the eligible entity
18 under the program, with interest on the
19 payments as determined appropriate by the
20 Secretary.

21 “(5) FOREST MANAGEMENT PLAN.—

22 “(A) IN GENERAL.—If the eligible land
23 does not have a forest management plan at the
24 time of application, prior to the acquisition of
25 the forest land easement the landowner shall

1 develop, in partnership with the eligible entity,
2 a forest management plan for the land subject
3 to the forest land easement.

4 “(B) REIMBURSEMENT.—The Secretary
5 may reimburse the landowner for the cost of
6 the development of a forest management plan
7 for eligible land enrolled under this section.

8 “(c) METHOD OF ENROLLMENT.—The Secretary
9 shall enroll eligible land under this section through the use
10 of—

11 “(1) permanent easements; or

12 “(2) easements for the maximum duration al-
13 lowed under applicable State laws.

14 “(d) TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE.—The Secretary may
15 provide technical assistance, on request, to assist in com-
16 pliance with the terms and conditions of forest land ease-
17 ments.

18 **“SEC. 1267C. FOREST RESERVE EASEMENTS.**

19 “(a) AVAILABILITY OF ASSISTANCE.—The Secretary
20 shall provide assistance to owners of eligible land to re-
21 store, protect, and enhance eligible land through—

22 “(1) forest reserve easements and related forest
23 reserve easement plans; and

24 “(2) technical assistance to implement this sec-
25 tion.

1 “(b) EASEMENTS.—

2 “(1) METHOD OF ENROLLMENT.—

3 “(A) AUTHORIZED METHODS.—The Sec-
4 retary shall enroll eligible land under this sec-
5 tion—

6 “(i) through the use of—

7 “(I) permanent easements;

8 “(II) 30-year easements; and

9 “(III) easements for the max-
10 imum duration allowed under applica-
11 ble State laws; and

12 “(ii) in the case of acreage owned by
13 an Indian Tribe, through the use of—

14 “(I) 30-year contracts (the com-
15 pensation for which shall be equiva-
16 lent to the compensation for 30-year
17 easements); or

18 “(II) permanent easements.

19 “(B) LIMITATION.—Not more than 10 per-
20 cent of amounts made available to carry out
21 this section in a fiscal year may be used for 30-
22 year easements under this section.

23 “(2) EVALUATION AND RANKING OF OFFERS.—

1 “(A) CRITERIA.—The Secretary shall es-
2 tablish evaluation and ranking criteria for of-
3 fers from landowners under this section.

4 “(B) PRIORITY.—The Secretary shall give
5 priority to the enrollment of eligible land under
6 this section that provides the greatest conserva-
7 tion benefit to—

8 “(i) primarily, species listed as endan-
9 gered or threatened under section 4 of the
10 Endangered Species Act of 1973 (16
11 U.S.C. 1533); and

12 “(ii) secondarily, species that are—

13 “(I) not listed as endangered or
14 threatened under that section; and

15 “(II)(aa) candidates for that list-
16 ing, State-listed species, or special
17 concern species; or

18 “(bb) designated as species of
19 greatest conservation need by a State
20 wildlife action plan.

21 “(C) OTHER CONSIDERATIONS.—The Sec-
22 retary may give additional consideration to eli-
23 gible land the enrollment under this section of
24 which will—

25 “(i) improve biological diversity;

1 “(ii) restore native forest ecosystems;

2 “(iii) conserve forest land that pro-
3 vides habitat for species described in sub-
4 paragraph (B);

5 “(iv) reduce fragmentation of forest
6 land; and

7 “(v) increase carbon sequestration.

8 “(3) TERMS AND CONDITIONS OF EASE-
9 MENTS.—

10 “(A) IN GENERAL.—A forest reserve ease-
11 ment shall include terms and conditions that—

12 “(i) are consistent with the purposes
13 of the program and the forestry activities
14 to be conducted on the eligible land;

15 “(ii) are consistent with the manage-
16 ment objectives of the owner of the eligible
17 land and the implementation of the forest
18 reserve easement plan developed under
19 subsection (c)(1)(A);

20 “(iii) permit effective enforcement of
21 the conservation purposes of the forest re-
22 serve easements;

23 “(iv) provide for the efficient and ef-
24 fective establishment or enhancement of
25 forest ecosystem functions and values; and

1 “(v) include such additional provisions
2 as the Secretary determines are desirable
3 to carry out the program or facilitate the
4 practical administration of the program.

5 “(B) REQUESTED TERMS AND CONDI-
6 TIONS.—An owner of eligible land may request
7 that a term or condition be included in a forest
8 reserve easement, and the Secretary may in-
9 clude such term or condition, if it—

10 “(i) is consistent with the manage-
11 ment objectives of the owner of the eligible
12 land and the implementation of the forest
13 reserve easement plan developed under
14 subsection (c)(1)(A); and

15 “(ii) does not conflict with any terms
16 or conditions included under subparagraph
17 (A).

18 “(4) COMPENSATION.—

19 “(A) PERMANENT EASEMENTS.—In the
20 case of eligible land enrolled in a permanent
21 easement under this section, the Secretary shall
22 pay the owner of the eligible land an amount
23 equal to the difference between, as determined
24 by the Secretary—

1 “(i) the fair market value of the eligi-
2 ble land before the enrollment in the per-
3 manent easement; and

4 “(ii) the fair market value of the eligi-
5 ble land as encumbered by the permanent
6 easement.

7 “(B) OTHER.—The Secretary shall pay the
8 owner of eligible land enrolled under this sec-
9 tion in a 30-year contract, a 30-year easement,
10 or an easement for the maximum duration al-
11 lowed under applicable State laws, not less than
12 50 percent, and not more than 75 percent, of
13 the compensation that would be paid under sub-
14 paragraph (A) if the land were being enrolled in
15 a permanent easement.

16 “(C) DETERMINATION OF FAIR MARKET
17 VALUE.—The Secretary shall determine the fair
18 market value of eligible land for purposes of
19 this paragraph using the Uniform Standards of
20 Professional Appraisal Practice or another in-
21 dustry-approved method.

22 “(c) EASEMENT RESTORATION AND MANAGE-
23 MENT.—

24 “(1) FOREST RESERVE EASEMENT PLAN.—

1 “(A) IN GENERAL.—Land enrolled in a
2 forest reserve easement shall be subject to a
3 forest reserve easement plan, to be developed
4 jointly by the landowner and the Secretary, that
5 describes such activities to be carried out on the
6 land as are necessary to restore, maintain, and
7 enhance habitat for species described in sub-
8 section (b)(2)(B).

9 “(B) PRACTICES AND MEASURES.—A for-
10 est reserve easement plan developed under sub-
11 paragraph (A) shall require implementation of
12 such practices and measures as are necessary to
13 accomplish the activities described in the plan
14 under such subparagraph, which may include—

15 “(i) vegetative management and
16 silviculture practices;

17 “(ii) structural practices and meas-
18 ures;

19 “(iii) practices to increase carbon se-
20 questration;

21 “(iv) practices to improve biological
22 diversity; and

23 “(v) other practices and measures, as
24 determined by the Secretary.

25 “(2) FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE.—

1 “(A) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall
2 provide financial assistance to owners of eligible
3 land to carry out the activities, practices, and
4 measures described in the forest reserve ease-
5 ment plan developed for the eligible land under
6 paragraph (1).

7 “(B) PAYMENTS.—With respect to finan-
8 cial assistance provided under subparagraph
9 (A), the Secretary shall pay—

10 “(i) in the case of a forest reserve
11 easement plan for eligible land enrolled in
12 a permanent easement, an amount that is
13 not more than 100 percent of the eligible
14 costs described in subparagraph (C), as de-
15 termined by the Secretary; and

16 “(ii) in the case of a forest reserve
17 easement plan for eligible land enrolled in
18 a 30-year contract, a 30-year easement, or
19 an easement for the maximum duration al-
20 lowed under applicable State laws, an
21 amount that is not less than 50 percent,
22 and not more than 75 percent, of the eligi-
23 ble costs described in subparagraph (C), as
24 determined by the Secretary.

1 “(C) ELIGIBLE COSTS.—Costs eligible for
2 payments under this paragraph are the costs of
3 activities, practices, and measures referred to in
4 subparagraph (A) that are associated with the
5 restoration or enhancement of the habitat con-
6 ditions specified for the applicable species in the
7 forest reserve easement plan.

8 “(D) TIMING OF PAYMENTS.—Payments
9 under this paragraph shall be made—

10 “(i) only on a determination by the
11 Secretary that an activity, practice, or
12 measure described in subparagraph (C)
13 has been established in compliance with
14 appropriate standards and specifications,
15 which determination shall be made as soon
16 as practicable after establishment; and

17 “(ii) as soon as possible after such de-
18 termination is made.

19 “(E) LIMITATIONS.—Financial assistance
20 provided by the Secretary under this paragraph
21 to an owner of eligible land may not exceed
22 \$500,000 per easement or contract.

23 “(d) TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE.—

1 “(1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall provide
2 to owners of eligible land technical assistance to as-
3 sist the owners in—

4 “(A) developing a forest reserve easement
5 plan; and

6 “(B) complying with the terms and condi-
7 tions of a forest reserve easement, including the
8 implementation of a forest reserve easement
9 plan.

10 “(2) CONTRACTS OR AGREEMENTS.—The Sec-
11 retary may enter into 1 or more contracts with pri-
12 vate entities or agreements with a State, nongovern-
13 mental organization, or Indian Tribe to provide tech-
14 nical assistance described in paragraph (1), if the
15 Secretary determines that the contract or agreement
16 will advance the purposes of the program.

17 “(e) PROTECTIONS AND MEASURES.—

18 “(1) PROTECTIONS.—In the case of a land-
19 owner who enrolls eligible land in a forest reserve
20 easement, and whose conservation activities under
21 the forest reserve easement plan developed for such
22 land result in a net conservation benefit for a species
23 described in subsection (b)(2)(B), the Secretary shall
24 make available to the landowner safe harbor or simi-
25 lar assurances and protection under—

1 “(A) section 7(b)(4) of the Endangered
2 Species Act of 1973 (16 U.S.C. 1536(b)(4)); or

3 “(B) section 10(a)(1) of that Act (16
4 U.S.C. 1539(a)(1)).

5 “(2) MEASURES.—If protection under para-
6 graph (1) requires the taking of measures that are
7 in addition to the measures covered by the forest re-
8 serve easement plan developed for the eligible land,
9 the cost of the additional measures, and the cost of
10 any permit, shall be considered costs eligible for pay-
11 ments under subsection (c)(2).

12 “(f) ADMINISTRATION.—

13 “(1) DELEGATION OF EASEMENT ADMINISTRA-
14 TION.—

15 “(A) FEDERAL AND STATE AGENCIES.—

16 The Secretary may delegate any of the manage-
17 ment, monitoring, and enforcement responsibil-
18 ities of the Secretary under this section to other
19 Federal or State agencies that have the appro-
20 priate authority, expertise, and resources nec-
21 essary to carry out those delegated responsibil-
22 ities.

23 “(B) CONSERVATION ORGANIZATIONS.—

24 The Secretary may delegate any of the manage-
25 ment responsibilities of the Secretary under this

1 section to a nonprofit conservation organization
2 if the Secretary determines the organization has
3 the appropriate expertise and resources nec-
4 essary to carry out those delegated responsibil-
5 ities.

6 “(2) INVOLVEMENT BY OTHER AGENCIES AND
7 ORGANIZATIONS.—In carrying out this section, the
8 Secretary may consult with—

- 9 “(A) private forest landowners;
10 “(B) other Federal agencies;
11 “(C) State forestry agencies;
12 “(D) State fish and wildlife agencies;
13 “(E) State environmental quality agencies;
14 “(F) other State conservation agencies;
15 and
16 “(G) nonprofit conservation organizations.

17 **“SEC. 1267D. ADMINISTRATION.**

18 “(a) INELIGIBLE LAND.—The Secretary shall not use
19 amounts made available to carry out the program for the
20 purposes of acquiring an easement on—

- 21 “(1) land owned by a Federal agency, other
22 than such land that is acreage owned by an Indian
23 Tribe;

1 “(2) land owned in fee title by a State, includ-
2 ing an agency or a subdivision of a State, or a unit
3 of local government;

4 “(3) land subject to an easement or deed re-
5 striction that, as determined by the Secretary, pro-
6 vides similar protection as would be provided by en-
7 rollment in the program; or

8 “(4) land the enrollment in the program of
9 which would undermine the purposes of the program
10 due to on-site or off-site conditions, such as risk of
11 hazardous substances, permitted or existing rights of
12 way, infrastructure development, or adjacent land
13 uses.

14 “(b) SUBORDINATION, EXCHANGE, MODIFICATION,
15 AND TERMINATION.—

16 “(1) SUBORDINATION.—The Secretary may
17 subordinate any interest in eligible land, or portion
18 of such an interest, administered by the Secretary
19 (including for the purposes of utilities and energy
20 transmission services) directly or on behalf of the
21 Commodity Credit Corporation under the program if
22 the Secretary determines that the subordination—

23 “(A) increases conservation values or has a
24 limited negative effect on conservation values;

1 “(B) minimally affects the acreage subject
2 to the interest in eligible land; and

3 “(C) is in the public interest or furthers
4 the practical administration of the program.

5 “(2) MODIFICATION AND EXCHANGE OF INTER-
6 EST IN LAND.—

7 “(A) MODIFICATION.—

8 “(i) AUTHORITY.—The Secretary may
9 approve a modification of any interest in
10 land, or portion of such interest, adminis-
11 tered by the Secretary, either directly or
12 on behalf of the Commodity Credit Cor-
13 poration, under the program if the Sec-
14 retary determines that the modification—

15 “(I) will support the viability and
16 sustainability of working forests and
17 the conservation values of the applica-
18 ble easement;

19 “(II) will result in equal or in-
20 creased conservation values;

21 “(III) is consistent with the origi-
22 nal intent of the easement;

23 “(IV) is consistent with the pur-
24 poses of the program; and

1 “(V) is in the public interest or
2 further the practical administration
3 of the program, including correcting
4 errors and exercising reserved rights.

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

12 “(B) EXCHANGE.—

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

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

24 “(II) the exchange—

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

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

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

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

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

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

18 “(3) TERMINATION.—The Secretary may ap-
19 prove a termination of any interest in eligible land,
20 or portion of such an interest, administered by the
21 Secretary, directly or on behalf of the Commodity
22 Credit Corporation under the program if the Sec-
23 retary determines that—

24 “(A) termination is in the interest of the
25 Federal Government;

1 “(B) the United States will be fully com-
2 pensated for—

3 “(i) the value of the interest in the
4 land, as determined by the Secretary;

5 “(ii) any costs relating to the termi-
6 nation; and

7 “(iii) any damages determined appro-
8 priate by the Secretary; and

9 “(C) the termination will—

10 “(i) address a compelling public need
11 for which there is no practicable alter-
12 native even with avoidance and minimiza-
13 tion; and

14 “(ii) further the practical administra-
15 tion of the program.

16 “(4) CONSENT.—The Secretary shall obtain
17 consent from the landowner and eligible entity, if ap-
18 plicable, for any subordination, exchange, modifica-
19 tion, or termination of an interest in eligible land, or
20 portion of such an interest, under this subsection.

21 “(5) NOTICE.—Not fewer than 90 days before
22 taking any termination action described in para-
23 graph (3), the Secretary shall provide written notice
24 of that action to the Committee on Agriculture of

1 the House of Representatives and the Committee on
2 Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry of the Senate.

3 “(c) LAND ENROLLED IN OTHER PROGRAMS.—In
4 accordance with the provisions of section 2702 of the
5 Farm, Food, and National Security Act of 2026, land en-
6 rolled in the healthy forests reserve program established
7 under title V of the Healthy Forests Restoration Act of
8 2003 (16 U.S.C. 6571 et seq.) on the day before the date
9 of enactment of this section shall be considered enrolled
10 in the program.”.

11 **SEC. 2702. HEALTHY FORESTS RESERVE PROGRAM.**

12 (a) REPEAL.—

13 (1) IN GENERAL.—Title V of the Healthy For-
14 ests Restoration Act of 2003 (16 U.S.C. 6571 et
15 seq.) is repealed.

16 (2) CONFORMING AMENDMENT.—The table of
17 contents in section 1(b) of the Healthy Forests Res-
18 toration Act of 2003 (Public Law 108–148; 117
19 Stat. 1887) is amended by striking the items relat-
20 ing to title V.

21 (b) TRANSITIONAL PROVISIONS.—

22 (1) EFFECT ON EXISTING CONTRACTS, AGREE-
23 MENTS, AND EASEMENTS.—The repeal made by sub-
24 section (a) shall not affect the validity or terms of
25 any contract, agreement, or easement entered into

1 by the Secretary under title V of the Healthy For-
2 ests Restoration Act of 2003 (16 U.S.C. 6571 et
3 seq.) before the date of enactment of this Act, or
4 any payments or technical assistance required to be
5 made in connection with the contract, agreement, or
6 easement.

7 (2) FUNDING.—

8 (A) USE OF PRIOR YEAR FUNDS.—Not-
9 withstanding the repeal made by subsection (a),
10 any funds made available from the Commodity
11 Credit Corporation to carry out the healthy for-
12 ests reserve program established under title V
13 of the Healthy Forests Restoration Act of 2003
14 (16 U.S.C. 6571 et seq.) (as in effect on the
15 day before the date of enactment of this Act)
16 for any of fiscal years 2019 through 2025 shall
17 be made available to carry out contracts, agree-
18 ments, or easements referred to in paragraph
19 (1), subject to the condition that no such con-
20 tract, agreement, or easement may be modified
21 so as to increase the amount of any payment
22 received.

23 (B) OTHER.—The Secretary may use
24 funds made available to carry out the forest
25 conservation easement program established

1 under subtitle I of the Food Security Act of
2 1985 to continue to carry out contracts, agree-
3 ments, or easements referred to in paragraph
4 (1) using the provisions of law (including regu-
5 lations) applicable to those contracts, agree-
6 ments, and easements as in existence on the
7 day before the date of enactment of this Act.

8 **Subtitle I—Regional Conservation**
9 **Partnership Program**

10 **SEC. 2801. ESTABLISHMENT AND PURPOSES.**

11 Section 1271(b)(2) of the Food Security Act of 1985
12 (16 U.S.C. 3871(b)(2)) is amended to read as follows:

13 “(2) To address natural resource concerns on
14 eligible land on a regional or watershed scale, includ-
15 ing through—

16 “(A) the conservation, protection, restora-
17 tion, and sustainable use of soil;

18 “(B) the conservation and protection of
19 water, including sources of drinking water and
20 groundwater;

21 “(C) the prevention and mitigation of the
22 effects of flooding and drought, and the im-
23 provement or expansion of flood resiliency; and

24 “(D) the conservation of wildlife, agricul-
25 tural land, and related natural resources.”.

1 **SEC. 2802. DEFINITIONS.**

2 Section 1271A(1) of the Food Security Act of 1985
3 (16 U.S.C. 3871a(1)) is amended by striking subpara-
4 graph (D) and inserting the following:

5 “(D) The forest conservation easement
6 program established under subtitle I.”.

7 **SEC. 2803. REGIONAL CONSERVATION PARTNERSHIPS.**

8 (a) PARTNERSHIP AGREEMENTS AUTHORIZED.—
9 Section 1271B(a) of the Food Security Act of 1985 (16
10 U.S.C. 3871b(a)) is amended to read as follows:

11 “(a) PARTNERSHIP AGREEMENTS AUTHORIZED.—

12 “(1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary may enter
13 into a partnership agreement with an eligible part-
14 ner to implement a project that will assist producers
15 with installing and maintaining an eligible activity
16 on eligible land.

17 “(2) STREAMLINING REQUIRED.—The Sec-
18 retary shall ensure that a partnership agreement
19 under paragraph (1)—

20 “(A) is entered into not later than 180
21 days after the date on which an application is
22 selected under subsection (e); and

23 “(B) contains only—

24 “(i) the information, described under
25 subsection (e)(3), necessary to fund and

1 initiate the project to be implemented
2 under the partnership agreement; and

3 “(ii) any adjustments to the require-
4 ments of a covered program determined
5 necessary by the Secretary under para-
6 graph (2) of section 1271E(f), and any
7 waiver provided under paragraph (3) of
8 such section.

9 “(3) PROCESS FOR REQUESTING WAIVERS AND
10 ADJUSTMENTS.—The Secretary shall make available
11 information on the process for requesting a waiver
12 or an adjustment to the requirements of a covered
13 program pursuant to section 1271E(f).”.

14 (b) DUTIES OF SECRETARY.—Section 1271B(d) of
15 the Food Security Act of 1985 (16 U.S.C. 3871b(d)) is
16 amended—

17 (1) in paragraph (4)(B), by striking “how the
18 Secretary used amounts reserved by the Secretary
19 for that year for technical assistance under section
20 1271D(f); and” and inserting “the use of funds for
21 technical assistance under section 1271D(c);”;

22 (2) in paragraph (5), by striking the period at
23 the end and inserting “; and”; and

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

1 “(6) ensure payments to eligible partners under
2 a partnership agreement are made not later than 30
3 days after the date on which the eligible partner
4 submits to the Secretary a request for payment.”.

5 (c) APPLICATIONS.—Section 1271B(e)(3) of the
6 Food Security Act of 1985 (16 U.S.C. 3871b(e)(3)) is
7 amended—

8 (1) in subparagraph (D), by striking “and” at
9 the end;

10 (2) by redesignating subparagraph (E) as sub-
11 paragraph (F); and

12 (3) by inserting after subparagraph (D) the fol-
13 lowing:

14 “(E) any requests by an eligible partner
15 for a waiver or an adjustment to the require-
16 ments of a covered program pursuant to section
17 1271E(f); and”.

18 **SEC. 2804. ASSISTANCE TO PRODUCERS.**

19 Section 1271C(d)(3) of the Food Security Act of
20 1985 (16 U.S.C. 3871c(d)(3)) is amended—

21 (1) by redesignating subparagraph (B) as sub-
22 paragraph (C);

23 (2) in subparagraph (A)(iv), by striking the
24 “and” at the end; and

1 (3) by inserting after subparagraph (A)(iv) the
2 following:

3 “(B) provide, under section 1271B(c)(2),
4 not less than 50 percent of the overall costs of
5 the scope of the project that is the subject of
6 a partnership agreement funded pursuant to
7 paragraph (1) in direct funding; and”.

8 **SEC. 2805. FUNDING.**

9 (a) **ALLOCATION OF FUNDING.**—Section 1271D of
10 the Food Security Act of 1985 (16 U.S.C. 3871d) is
11 amended—

12 (1) by striking subsections (a) and (b);

13 (2) by redesignating subsections (c), (d), and
14 (e) as subsections (a), (b), and (c), respectively; and

15 (3) in subsection (a), as so redesignated, by
16 striking “subsection (a)” and inserting “section
17 1241(a)(6)”.

18 (b) **LIMITATION ON ADMINISTRATIVE EXPENSES.**—
19 Subsection (b) of section 1271D of the Food Security Act
20 of 1985 (16 U.S.C. 3871d), as so redesignated, is amend-
21 ed to read as follows:

22 “(b) **LIMITATION ON ADMINISTRATIVE EXPENSES.**—

23 “(1) **IN GENERAL.**—Of the funds made avail-
24 able to implement a project under a partnership
25 agreement, the Secretary may use not more than ten

1 percent to reimburse the eligible partner for admin-
2 istrative expenses relating to the project.

3 “(2) CONSIDERATION.—Any amounts expended
4 by an eligible partner for administrative expenses
5 that are not reimbursed under paragraph (1) may be
6 considered to be a part of the contribution of the eli-
7 gible partner under section 1271B(c)(2).”.

8 (c) TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE.—Subsection (c) of sec-
9 tion 1271D of the Food Security Act of 1985 (16 U.S.C.
10 3871d), as so redesignated, is amended to read as follows:

11 “(c) TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE.—

12 “(1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall,
13 through a partnership agreement, identify—

14 “(A) the total amount of funds that will be
15 used for technical assistance; and

16 “(B) the share of such funds that will be
17 provided to eligible partners under paragraph
18 (2).

19 “(2) PROVISION OF ASSISTANCE.—

20 “(A) REIMBURSEMENT.—Under a partner-
21 ship agreement that is not funded through an
22 alternative funding arrangement or grant agree-
23 ment under section 1271C(d), the Secretary
24 may reimburse eligible partners for the costs of

1 technical assistance provided through such part-
2 nership agreement, including—

3 “(i) the costs of technical assistance
4 needed to facilitate the maximum conserva-
5 tion benefit of the applicable project;

6 “(ii) the costs of providing outreach
7 and education to producers for potential
8 participation in the applicable project;

9 “(iii) the costs of establishing baseline
10 metrics to support the development of the
11 assessment required under section
12 1271B(c)(1)(E); and

13 “(iv) other costs necessary to support
14 the implementation of eligible activities, as
15 determined by the Secretary.

16 “(B) ADVANCEMENT OF FUNDS.—The
17 Secretary may advance to eligible partners rea-
18 sonable amounts of funds for costs that may be
19 reimbursed under subparagraph (A), as deter-
20 mined by the Secretary.

21 “(3) LIMITATION.—The Secretary shall limit
22 costs of the Secretary for technical assistance to
23 costs necessary to carry out the objectives of the
24 program.

1 “(4) REDUCTION OF ADMINISTRATIVE BAR-
2 RIERS.—The Secretary shall provide a single, sim-
3 plified process for reimbursements or advancements
4 to eligible partners for the costs of technical assist-
5 ance under this subsection.

6 “(5) THIRD-PARTY PROVIDERS.—The Secretary
7 shall develop and implement strategies to encourage
8 third-party technical service providers to provide
9 technical assistance to eligible partners pursuant to
10 a partnership agreement.”.

11 **SEC. 2806. ADMINISTRATION.**

12 (a) REPORTING.—Section 1271E(b) of the Food Se-
13 curity Act of 1985 (16 U.S.C. 3871e(b)) is amended in
14 the matter preceding paragraph (1) by inserting “make
15 publicly available and” after “the Secretary shall”.

16 (b) CONSISTENCY WITH COVERED PROGRAM
17 RULES.—Section 1271E of the Food Security Act of 1985
18 (16 U.S.C. 3871e) is amended by adding at the end the
19 following:

20 “(f) CONSISTENCY WITH COVERED PROGRAM RE-
21 QUIREMENTS.—

22 “(1) IN GENERAL.—Except as provided in this
23 subsection, the Secretary shall ensure that the terms
24 and conditions of a program contract are consistent
25 with the requirements of the applicable covered pro-

1 gram to be used as part of the applicable partner-
2 ship agreement.

3 “(2) ADJUSTMENTS.—

4 “(A) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary may, if
5 the Secretary determines necessary, adjust a
6 regulatory requirement of a covered program to
7 be used as a part of a partnership agreement,
8 or related guidance, as it applies to an eligible
9 activity carried out under a program contract
10 entered into pursuant to the partnership agree-
11 ment—

12 “(i) to provide a simplified process; or

13 “(ii) to better reflect unique local cir-
14 cumstances.

15 “(B) LIMITATION.—The Secretary shall
16 not adjust the application of statutory require-
17 ments for a covered program to be used as a
18 part of a partnership agreement, including re-
19 quirements governing appeals, payment limits,
20 and conservation compliance.

21 “(3) WAIVER.—With respect to a program con-
22 tract for an eligible activity under the agricultural
23 conservation easement program, the Secretary may,
24 in the applicable partnership agreement, waive the
25 application of clauses (ii) or (iii)(III) of section

1 1265A(4)(A) for purposes of determining the eligi-
2 bility of land.

3 “(4) CERTIFICATION APPLICABILITY.—With re-
4 spect to a partnership agreement entered into for ac-
5 quisition of easements, the Secretary shall apply the
6 authorities applicable to the eligible partner under
7 section 1265B(b)(5)(A) if the eligible partner is an
8 eligible entity certified under such section.

9 “(5) EXEMPTION.—With respect to a program
10 contract that includes an eligible activity under the
11 environmental quality incentives program to be in-
12 stalled and maintained in a State in which irrigation
13 has not been used significantly for agricultural pur-
14 poses, as determined by the Secretary, the Secretary
15 may not consider prior irrigation history when deter-
16 mining the eligibility of land.

17 “(6) APPLICATION.—Paragraph (1) shall not
18 apply to partnership agreements funded pursuant to
19 section 1271C(d).”.

20 **SEC. 2807. CRITICAL CONSERVATION AREAS.**

21 (a) DEFINITIONS.—Section 1271F(a)(2)(C) of the
22 Food Security Act of 1985 (16 U.S.C. 3871f(a)(2)(C)) is
23 amended by inserting “, including restoration and en-
24 hancement of wildlife habitat connectivity and wildlife mi-
25 gration corridors” before the semicolon at the end.

1 (b) APPLICATIONS.—Section 1271F(b) of the Food
2 Security Act of 1985 (16 U.S.C. 3871f(b)) is amended
3 by striking “funds under section 1271D(d)(2)” and insert-
4 ing “funds allocated under section 1271D(a)(2)”.

5 **TITLE III—TRADE**

6 **Subtitle A—Food for Peace Act**

7 **SEC. 3101. TRANSFER OF AUTHORITIES TO THE SECRETARY** 8 **OF AGRICULTURE.**

9 (a) IN GENERAL.—Section 201 of the Food for Peace
10 Act (7 U.S.C. 1721) is amended by striking “(to be imple-
11 mented by the Administrator)” and inserting “(to be im-
12 plemented by the Secretary)”.

13 (b) CONFORMING AMENDMENTS.—

14 (1) EMERGENCY AND PRIVATE ASSISTANCE
15 PROGRAMS.—Sections 202, 203, 205, 207, and 208
16 of the Food for Peace Act (7 U.S.C. 1722, 1723,
17 1725, 1726a, and 1726b) are each amended by
18 striking “Administrator” each place it appears and
19 inserting “Secretary”.

20 (2) FOOD FOR DEVELOPMENT.—Title III of the
21 Food for Peace Act (7 U.S.C. 1727 et seq.) is
22 amended by striking “Administrator” each place it
23 appears and inserting “Secretary”.

24 (3) DEFINITIONS.—Section 402 of the Food for
25 Peace Act (7 U.S.C. 1732) is amended—

1 (A) by striking paragraph (1); and

2 (B) by redesignating paragraphs (2)
3 through (9) as paragraphs (1) through (8), re-
4 spectively.

5 (4) GENERAL PROVISIONS.—Sections 403 and
6 404 of the Food for Peace Act (7 U.S.C. 1733 and
7 1734) are each amended—

8 (A) by striking “or the Administrator, as
9 appropriate,” each place it appears;

10 (B) in section 403(h), by striking “or Ad-
11 ministrator”; and

12 (C) in section 404(d), by striking “or the
13 Administrator”.

14 (5) CONSULTATION.—Section 405 of the Food
15 for Peace Act (7 U.S.C. 1735) is repealed.

16 (c) TRANSFER OF ASSETS AND LIABILITIES.—The
17 Food for Peace Act (7 U.S.C. 1691 et seq.) is amended
18 by adding at the end the following new title:

19 **“TITLE VII—TRANSFER**
20 **PROVISIONS**

21 **“SEC. 701. TRANSFER OF ASSETS AND LIABILITIES FROM**
22 **USAID TO SECRETARY OF AGRICULTURE.**

23 “On and after the date of the enactment of this title,
24 the assets, liabilities, orders, determinations, permits,
25 grants, loans, contracts, agreements, certificates, and li-

1 censuses of the Administrator of the United States Agency
2 for International Development, pursuant to any authority
3 under this Act on or after January 1, 2026, shall be trans-
4 ferred to the Secretary of Agriculture.

5 **“SEC. 702. TRANSFER OF OTHER AUTHORITIES.**

6 “On and after the date of the enactment of this title,
7 any authority or responsibility provided by any other pro-
8 vision of law that was or could have been used by the Ad-
9 ministrator of the United States Agency for International
10 Development, prior to such date of enactment to carry out
11 any function, duty, or responsibility under this Act may
12 be exercised by the Secretary of Agriculture. A reference
13 to such Administrator or to such Agency in any provision
14 of law or regulation relating to any authority or responsi-
15 bility described in the preceding sentence shall be deemed
16 to be a reference to the Secretary of Agriculture or the
17 Department of Agriculture, respectively.

18 **“SEC. 703. RULES AND REGULATIONS.**

19 “Beginning on the date of the enactment of this title,
20 the Secretary of Agriculture shall promulgate or amend
21 such rules and regulations (including by issuing or re-
22 issuing interim final rules) as the Secretary may deter-
23 mine appropriate, including by amending such rules and
24 regulations issued by the Administrator of the United
25 States Agency for International Development with respect

1 to the authorities and responsibilities provided by this Act
2 and as in effect on the day before such date of enactment,
3 in order to effectuate and complete the transfer of all
4 functions and duties previously carried out by that Admin-
5 istrator to the Secretary.

6 **“SEC. 704. CONSULTATION.**

7 “The Secretary of Agriculture shall consult with the
8 Secretary of State from time to time in carrying out the
9 authorities under this Act.”.

10 **SEC. 3102. FOOD AID QUALITY ASSURANCE.**

11 Section 202 of the Food for Peace Act (7 U.S.C.
12 1722), as amended by section 3101(b)(1), is further
13 amended—

14 (1) in subsection (a), by striking “any other
15 provision of law” and inserting “any other provision
16 of this Act”;

17 (2) in subsection (b)(1), by inserting “assist-
18 ance, including in the form of” before “agricultural
19 commodities”;

20 (3) in subsection (b)(2)—

21 (A) in subparagraph (A), by striking
22 “Agency for International Development” and
23 inserting “Department of Agriculture”; and

24 (B) in subparagraph (B), by striking
25 “Agency” and inserting “Department”;

1 (4) in subsection (d)—

2 (A) in paragraph (1), by striking “or” at
3 the end;

4 (B) in paragraph (2), by striking the pe-
5 riod at the end and inserting “; or”; and

6 (C) by adding at the end the following new
7 paragraph:

8 “(3) a nongovernmental organization, as deter-
9 mined by the Secretary.”;

10 (5) in subsection (e), by adding at the end the
11 following new paragraph:

12 “(5) LIMITATION ON DIVERSION OF FUNDS.—
13 Of the funds made available in each fiscal year
14 under this title to the Secretary, not more than 50
15 percent may be made available for expenses other
16 than the procurement of United States-grown agri-
17 cultural commodities and ocean transportation of
18 such commodities.”; and

19 (6) in subsection (h)(3), by striking “2023”
20 and inserting “2031”.

21 **SEC. 3103. REPEAL OF MINIMUM LEVELS OF ASSISTANCE.**

22 Section 204 of the Food for Peace Act (7 U.S.C.
23 1724) is repealed.

1 **SEC. 3104. FOOD AID CONSULTATIVE GROUP.**

2 Section 205 of the Food for Peace Act (7 U.S.C.
3 1725), as amended by section 3101(b)(1), is further
4 amended—

5 (1) in subsection (b)(3), by striking “the Agen-
6 cy for International Development” and inserting
7 “the Department of Agriculture”;

8 (2) in subsection (b)(4), by striking “Agency”
9 and inserting “Secretary”;

10 (3) in subsection (b)—

11 (A) by striking paragraph (2); and

12 (B) by redesignating paragraphs (3)
13 through (8), as amended, as paragraphs (2)
14 through (7), respectively; and

15 (4) in subsection (f), by striking “December 31,
16 2023” and inserting “December 31, 2031”.

17 **SEC. 3105. ISSUANCE OF REGULATIONS; OVERSIGHT, MONI-**
18 **TORING, AND EVALUATION.**

19 Section 207 of the Food for Peace Act (7 U.S.C.
20 1726a), as amended by section 3101(b)(1), is further
21 amended—

22 (1) in subsection (c)(1), by striking “the Agri-
23 culture Improvement Act of 2018” and inserting
24 “the Farm, Food, and National Security Act of
25 2026”;

1 (2) in subsection (d), by striking “, in consulta-
2 tion with the Secretary,”; and

3 (3) in subsection (f)—

4 (A) in paragraph (1), by striking “, in con-
5 sultation with the Secretary,”; and

6 (B) in paragraph (4), by striking “2023”
7 each place it appears and inserting “2031”.

8 **SEC. 3106. INTERNATIONAL FOOD RELIEF PARTNERSHIP.**

9 Section 208(f) of the Food for Peace Act (7 U.S.C.
10 1726b(f)) is amended to read as follows:

11 “(f) AVAILABILITY OF APPROPRIATIONS.—In addi-
12 tion to amounts otherwise made available to carry out this
13 section, of the funds made available in each fiscal year
14 under this title to the Secretary, not less than
15 \$15,000,000 shall be made available in each of fiscal years
16 2027 through 2031 to carry out this section, to remain
17 available until expended.”.

18 **SEC. 3107. USE OF COMMODITY CREDIT CORPORATION.**

19 Subsection (b) of section 406 of the Food for Peace
20 Act (7 U.S.C. 1736) is amended to read as follows:

21 “(b) INCLUDED EXPENSES.—With respect to com-
22 modities made available under titles II and III, the Com-
23 modity Credit Corporation may pay all associated and in-
24 cidental costs of such commodities.”.

1 **SEC. 3108. PRE-POSITIONING OF AGRICULTURAL COMMOD-**
2 **ITIES AND ANNUAL REPORT REGARDING**
3 **FOOD AID PROGRAMS AND ACTIVITIES.**

4 Section 407 of the Food for Peace Act (7 U.S.C.
5 1736a) is amended—

6 (1) by amending subsection (c)(1) to read as
7 follows:

8 “(1) ACQUISITION.—The Secretary shall trans-
9 fer, arrange for the transportation, and take other
10 steps necessary to make available agricultural com-
11 modities to be provided under title II and title III.”;

12 (2) in subsection (c)(2), by striking “Adminis-
13 trator” and inserting “Secretary”;

14 (3) in subsection (c)(3), by striking “Agency for
15 International Development” and inserting “Sec-
16 retary”;

17 (4) in subsection (c)(4)(A), by striking “2023”
18 each place it appears and inserting “2031”;

19 (5) in subsection (c)(4), by striking “Adminis-
20 trator” each place it appears and inserting “Sec-
21 retary”;

22 (6) in subsection (d), in the matter preceding
23 paragraph (1), by striking “or the Administrator, as
24 appropriate,”;

25 (7) by amending subsection (f)(1) to read as
26 follows:

1 “(1) ANNUAL REPORT.—Not later than April 1
2 of each fiscal year, the Secretary shall submit to the
3 appropriate committees of Congress a report regard-
4 ing each program and activity carried out under this
5 Act during the prior fiscal year.”;

6 (8) in subsection (f)(2)—

7 (A) by striking subparagraph (I);

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

10 “(H) A statement of the amount of funds
11 provided to each eligible organization that re-
12 ceived assistance under this Act and the man-
13 ner in which those funds were used, including
14 whether such use was for commodity transpor-
15 tation or administrative costs.”;

16 (C) by redesignating subparagraphs (E)
17 through (H) (as amended) as subparagraphs
18 (F) through (I), respectively; and

19 (D) by inserting after subparagraph (D)
20 the following new subparagraph:

21 “(E) An assessment of activities specifi-
22 cally targeting women and girls and the impact
23 of those activities in addressing the unique
24 needs of women and girls.”; and

25 (9) by striking subsection (f)(3).

1 **SEC. 3109. DEADLINE FOR AGREEMENTS TO FINANCE**
2 **SALES OR TO PROVIDE OTHER ASSISTANCE.**

3 Section 408 of the Food for Peace Act (7 U.S.C.
4 1736b) is amended by striking “2023” and inserting
5 “2031”.

6 **SEC. 3110. MINIMUM LEVEL OF NONEMERGENCY FOOD AS-**
7 **SISTANCE.**

8 Section 412 of the Food for Peace Act (7 U.S.C.
9 1736f) is amended—

10 (1) in subsection (e)(1), by striking “2023” and
11 inserting “2031”; and

12 (2) by adding at the end the following new sub-
13 section:

14 “(f) **MINIMUM LEVELS OF FUNDING TO ADDRESS**
15 **CHILD WASTING.**—

16 “(1) **MINIMUM LEVEL.**—For each of fiscal
17 years 2027 through 2031, in addition to amounts
18 otherwise made available, not less than
19 \$200,000,000 of the amounts made available to
20 carry out emergency food assistance programs under
21 title II shall be expended for the procurement and
22 distribution of ready-to-use therapeutic foods.

23 “(2) **APPLICABILITY.**—The minimum expendi-
24 ture requirement under paragraph (1) shall only
25 apply with respect to a fiscal year if—

1 “(A) the most recent Joint Child Malnutri-
2 tion Estimates, published annually by the
3 World Health Organization, the World Bank,
4 and the United Nations Children’s Fund, report
5 a rate of children under 5 years of age affected
6 by child wasting above 5 percent for the year
7 covered by such report; and

8 “(B) the total amount made available to
9 carry out programs under title II in the fiscal
10 year is greater than \$1,200,000,000.

11 “(3) RULE OF CONSTRUCTION.—Nothing in
12 this subsection may be construed to limit on the au-
13 thority of the Secretary to purchase or distribute
14 ready-to-use therapeutic foods in a fiscal year.”.

15 **SEC. 3111. TERMINATION DATE FOR MICRONUTRIENT FOR-**
16 **TIFICATION PROGRAMS.**

17 Section 415 of the Food for Peace Act (7
18 U.S.C.1736g–2) is amended—

19 (1) in subsection (a)(1)—

20 (A) by striking “Administrator, in con-
21 sultation with the”; and

22 (B) by striking the comma after “Sec-
23 retary”; and

24 (2) in subsection (c), by striking “2023” and
25 inserting “2031”.

1 **SEC. 3112. JOHN OGWONSKI AND DOUG BEREUTER FARM-**
2 **ER-TO-FARMER PROGRAM.**

3 Section 501 of the Food for Peace Act (7 U.S.C.
4 1737) is amended—

5 (1) by striking “2023” each place it appears
6 and inserting “2031”; and

7 (2) in subsection (f)(1), by striking “Adminis-
8 trator of the Agency for International Development”
9 and inserting “Secretary”.

10 **SEC. 3113. FOOD FOR PEACE ACT ADMINISTRATION.**

11 (a) IN GENERAL.—During fiscal years 2026 through
12 2031, the Secretary may use funds made available for the
13 salaries and expenses of the Foreign Agricultural Service
14 under an appropriations Act or any other provision of law,
15 including such funds otherwise obligated as of the date
16 of the enactment of this Act, to pay the administrative
17 expenses of the Department of Agriculture in the imple-
18 mentation of the Food for Peace Act (7 U.S.C. 1691 et
19 seq.), as amended by this subtitle.

20 (b) CARRYOVER.—For fiscal years 2026 through
21 2031, the balance of any funds provided to carry out sub-
22 section (a) for a fiscal year that remains unexpended at
23 the end of that fiscal year may be carried over for use
24 during the following fiscal year.

1 **Subtitle B—Agricultural Trade Act**
2 **of 1978**

3 **SEC. 3201. AGRICULTURAL TRADE PROMOTION AND FA-**
4 **CILITATION.**

5 (a) MODIFICATION TO FOREIGN MARKET DEVELOP-
6 MENT COOPERATOR PROGRAM.—Section 203(c) of the
7 Agricultural Trade Act of 1978 (7 U.S.C. 5623(c)) is
8 amended by adding at the end the following new para-
9 graph:

10 “(4) TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE TO IMPROVE IN-
11 FRASTRUCTURE IN FOREIGN MARKETS FOR UNITED
12 STATES AGRICULTURAL COMMODITIES.—

13 “(A) IN GENERAL.—As part of the pro-
14 gram established under this subsection, the Sec-
15 retary shall enter into contracts or other agree-
16 ments, with eligible trade organizations or with
17 non-profit organizations with expertise in sup-
18 ply chain infrastructure, to provide needs as-
19 sessments, training, and other technical assist-
20 ance to enhance the capabilities of infrastruc-
21 ture in new and developing foreign markets, in-
22 cluding infrastructure relating to cold chain ca-
23 pacity, port improvements, and other develop-
24 ments, to ensure that United States agricul-

1 tural commodities are not damaged or lost due
2 to deficiencies of such infrastructure.

3 “(B) LIMITATION.—Of the amounts made
4 available to carry out the program established
5 under this subsection, not more than
6 \$1,500,000 for fiscal year 2027 and not more
7 than \$5,000,000 for fiscal year 2028 and each
8 fiscal year thereafter may be made available to
9 carry out this paragraph.”.

10 (b) REPORT ON COMPETITIVENESS OF UNITED
11 STATES SPECIALTY CROPS.—Section 203(e)(7) of the Ag-
12 ricultural Trade Act of 1978 (7 U.S.C. 5623(e)(7)) is
13 amended to read as follows:

14 “(7) BIENNIAL REPORT.—

15 “(A) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary, in con-
16 sultation with the United States Trade Rep-
17 resentative, shall submit every two years to the
18 appropriate congressional committees a report
19 detailing the competitiveness of United States
20 specialty crops.

21 “(B) ELEMENTS.—The report required by
22 subparagraph (A) shall—

23 “(i) identify and analyze acts, policies,
24 or practices of foreign countries that con-
25 stitute significant barriers to, or distor-

1 tions of, United States exports of specialty
2 crops, including the imposition of—

3 “(I) tariffs (including retaliatory
4 tariffs) or quotas (including tariff-rate
5 quotas); and

6 “(II) non-tariff barriers, includ-
7 ing technical barriers to trade, sani-
8 tary and phytosanitary measures, im-
9 port licensing procedures, and sub-
10 sidies;

11 “(ii) identify and analyze acts, poli-
12 cies, or practices of foreign countries that
13 enhance the competitiveness of imported
14 specialty crops with domestic specialty crop
15 producers, including—

16 “(I) the subsidization of exports
17 from the producing country; and

18 “(II) the impact of any lack or
19 circumvention of labor and environ-
20 mental laws in the producing country;

21 “(iii) identify and analyze any dif-
22 ferences in applicable food safety regula-
23 tions of foreign countries that may result
24 in imported specialty crops posing a risk to
25 United States consumers;

1 “(iv) make an estimate of the impacts
2 on the competitiveness of United States
3 specialty crops of any act, policy, or prac-
4 tice identified under clauses (i) and (ii);

5 “(v) assess the extent to which each
6 act, policy, or practice identified under
7 clauses (i) and (ii) are subject to inter-
8 national agreements to which the United
9 States is a party;

10 “(vi) include information with respect
11 to any action taken by the executive or leg-
12 islative branches during the two years pre-
13 ceding submission of the report, or ex-
14 pected to be taken after submission of the
15 report, to eliminate any act, policy, or
16 practice identified under clauses (i) and
17 (ii), including—

18 “(I) any action under section
19 301;

20 “(II) negotiations or consulta-
21 tions with foreign governments, which
22 may include engagement through the
23 standing committee on sanitary and
24 phytosanitary matters established

1 under a free trade agreement to which
2 the United States is a party; and

3 “(III) action at the World Trade
4 Organization, including dispute settle-
5 ment actions, consultations, or nego-
6 tiations; and

7 “(vii) a description of—

8 “(I) any funds provided under
9 subsection (f)(3)(A)(iv) that were not
10 obligated in the fiscal year preceding
11 submission of the report; and

12 “(II) the reason such funds were
13 not obligated.

14 “(C) COMMENT PERIOD.—In preparing the
15 report required by subparagraph (A), the Sec-
16 retary, in coordination with the United States
17 Trade Representative, shall seek and consider
18 comments from the public and from the Agri-
19 cultural Technical Advisory Committee for
20 Trade in Fruits and Vegetables.

21 “(D) FORM OF REPORT.—The report re-
22 quired by subparagraph (A) shall be made
23 available to the public in machine-readable for-
24 mat.

1 “(E) APPROPRIATE CONGRESSIONAL COM-
2 MITTEES DEFINED.—In this paragraph, the
3 term ‘appropriate congressional committees’
4 means—

5 “(i) the Committee on Agriculture
6 and the Committee on Ways and Means of
7 the House of Representatives; and

8 “(ii) the Committee on Agriculture,
9 Nutrition, and Forestry and the Com-
10 mittee on Finance of the Senate.”.

11 (c) MODIFICATION AND EXTENSION OF FUNDING.—
12 Section 203(f) of the Agricultural Trade Act of 1978 (7
13 U.S.C. 5623(f)) is amended—

14 (1) by amending paragraph (2) to read as fol-
15 lows:

16 “(2) FUNDING AMOUNT.—Of the funds of, or
17 an equal value of commodities owned by, the Com-
18 modity Credit Corporation, the Secretary shall use
19 to carry out this section the following amounts, to
20 remain available until expended:

21 “(A) For fiscal year 2026, \$255,000,000.

22 “(B) For fiscal year 2027, \$500,000,000.

23 “(C) For each of fiscal years 2028 through
24 2031, \$533,000,000.”; and

25 (2) in paragraph (3)—

1 (A) in the matter preceding subparagraph
2 (A)(i), by striking “For each of fiscal years
3 2019 through 2023, the Secretary” and insert-
4 ing “The Secretary”;

5 (B) in subparagraph (A)—

6 (i) in clause (i), by striking “not less
7 than” and all that follows through the end
8 and inserting: “not less than—

9 “(I) \$200,000,000 for fiscal year
10 2026;

11 “(II) \$400,000,000 for fiscal
12 year 2027; and

13 “(III) \$410,000,000 for each of
14 fiscal years 2028 through 2031.”;

15 (ii) in clause (ii), by striking “not less
16 than” and all that follows through the end
17 and inserting: “not less than—

18 “(I) \$34,500,000 for fiscal year
19 2026;

20 “(II) \$70,500,000 for fiscal year
21 2027; and

22 “(III) \$82,000,000 for each of
23 fiscal years 2028 through 2031.”;

1 (iii) in clause (iii), by striking “not
2 more than” and all that follows through
3 the end and inserting: “not more than—

4 “(I) \$8,000,000 for each of fiscal
5 year 2026 and 2027; and

6 “(II) \$16,000,000 for each of fis-
7 cal years 2028 through 2031.”;

8 (iv) in clause (iv), by striking “Cor-
9 poration” and all that follows through the
10 end and inserting: “Corporation—

11 “(I) \$9,000,000 for fiscal year
12 2026; and

13 “(II) \$18,000,000 for each of fis-
14 cal years 2027 through 2031.”; and

15 (v) in clause (v)(I), by striking “com-
16 modities,” and all that follows through the
17 end and inserting “commodities,
18 \$3,500,000 for each of fiscal years 2026
19 and 2027 and \$7,000,000 for each of fiscal
20 years 2028 through 2031”.

21 (d) REPEALS.—The following provisions of law are
22 repealed:

23 (1) Section 718 of title VII of the Agriculture,
24 Rural Development, Food and Drug Administration,
25 and Related Agencies Appropriations Act, 1999 (as

1 enacted by section 101(a) of division A of Public
2 Law 105–277; 7 U.S.C. 5623 note).

3 (2) Section 10602 of Public Law 119–21 (7
4 U.S.C. 5623a).

5 **SEC. 3202. PRESERVING FOREIGN MARKETS FOR GOODS**
6 **USING COMMON NAMES.**

7 (a) DEFINITIONS.—Section 102 of the Agricultural
8 Trade Act of 1978 (7 U.S.C. 5602) is amended—

9 (1) in the matter preceding paragraph (1), by
10 striking “As used in this Act—” and inserting “In
11 this Act:”;

12 (2) by redesignating paragraphs (2) through
13 (8) as paragraphs (3), (5), (6), (7), (8), (9), and
14 (4), respectively, and reordering such paragraphs in
15 numerical sequence;

16 (3) by inserting after paragraph (1) the fol-
17 lowing:

18 “(2) COMMON NAME.—

19 “(A) IN GENERAL.—The term ‘common
20 name’ means a name that, as determined by the
21 Secretary—

22 “(i) is ordinarily or customarily used
23 for an agricultural commodity or food
24 product;

1 “(ii) is typically placed on the pack-
2 aging and product label of the agricultural
3 commodity or food product;

4 “(iii) with respect to wine—

5 “(I) is—

6 “(aa) ordinarily or custom-
7 arily used for a wine grape vari-
8 etal name; or

9 “(bb) a traditional term or
10 expression that is typically placed
11 on the packaging and label of the
12 wine; and

13 “(II) does not mean any appella-
14 tion of origin for wine listed in sub-
15 part C of part 9 of title 27, Code of
16 Federal Regulations (or successor reg-
17 ulations); and

18 “(iv) the use of which is consistent
19 with standards of the Codex Alimentarius
20 Commission.

21 “(B) EXAMPLES.—The following names,
22 among others, shall be considered as common
23 names as such term is defined for purposes of
24 carrying out subparagraph (A):

1 “(i) With respect to food products:
2 american, asiago, basmati, black forest
3 ham, blue, blue vein, bologna, bologne,
4 bratwurst, brie, burrata, camembert,
5 capicola and capocollo, cheddar, chevre,
6 chorizo, colby, cottage cheese, coulommiers,
7 cream cheese, danbo, edam, emmental,
8 feta, fontina, gorgonzola, gouda, grana,
9 gruyere, havarti, kielbasa, limburgger and
10 limburgo, mascarpone, monterey jack,
11 mortadella, munster and muenster, neuf-
12 chatel, parmesan, pancetta, pecorino, pep-
13 per jack, prosciutto, provolone, ricotta, ro-
14 mano, saint-paulin, salame, salami, samsa,
15 and swiss, tilsiter, and tomme.

16 “(ii) With respect to wine:

17 “(I) The list of grape varietal
18 terms in section 4.91 of title 27, Code
19 of Federal Regulations (or a successor
20 regulation).

21 “(II) The grape variety designa-
22 tions administratively approved by the
23 Alcohol and Tobacco Tax and Trade
24 Bureau.

1 “(III) The following nonvarietal
2 descriptors: chateau, classic, clos,
3 cream, crusted and crusting, noble,
4 ruby, sur lie, tawny, vintage, and vin-
5 tage character.

6 “(iii) With respect to beer: bitter, pale
7 ale, india pale ale, mild, porter, stout,
8 barleywine, dubbel, quadrupel, witbier,
9 saison, biere de garde, oud red, altbier,
10 weisse, gose, hefeweizen, dunkel, helles,
11 rauchbier, pilsener, maerzen, schwarzbier,
12 doppelbock, bock, kellerbier, munchener
13 and munich style, oktoberfest, dortmunder,
14 kolsch and koelsch, cream, grodziskie,
15 lager.

16 “(C) CONSIDERATIONS.—In making a de-
17 termination under subparagraph (A), the Sec-
18 retary may take into account—

19 “(i) competent sources, such as dic-
20 tionaries, newspapers, professional journals
21 and literature, and information posted on
22 websites that are determined by the Sec-
23 retary to be reliable in reporting market
24 information;

1 “(ii) the use of the common name in
2 a domestic, regional, or international prod-
3 uct standard, including a standard promul-
4 gated by the Codex Alimentarius Commis-
5 sion, for the agricultural commodity or
6 food product; and

7 “(iii) the ordinary and customary use
8 of the common name in the production or
9 marketing of the agricultural commodity or
10 food product in the United States or in
11 other countries.

12 “(D) RULE OF CONSTRUCTION.—The enu-
13 meration of certain names under subparagraph
14 (B) may not be construed to limit or restrict
15 the ability of the Secretary to determine, con-
16 sistent with subparagraph (A), that any other
17 name is a common name for purposes of this
18 section.”; and

19 (4) in subparagraph (A) of paragraph (7) (as
20 so redesignated)—

21 (A) in clause (v), by striking “; or” at the
22 end and inserting a semicolon;

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

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

1 “(vii) prohibits or disallows the use of
2 a name determined or considered to be a
3 common name pursuant to paragraph
4 (2).”.

5 (b) NEGOTIATIONS TO DEFEND USE OF COMMON
6 NAMES.—Title III of the Agricultural Trade Act of 1978
7 (7 U.S.C. 5652 et seq.) is amended by adding at the end
8 the following:

9 **“SEC. 303. NEGOTIATIONS TO DEFEND THE USE OF COM-**
10 **MON NAMES.**

11 “(a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall coordinate
12 efforts with the United States Trade Representative to se-
13 cure the right of United States agricultural producers,
14 processors, and exporters to use common names for agri-
15 cultural commodities or food products in foreign markets
16 through the negotiation of bilateral, plurilateral, or multi-
17 lateral agreements, memoranda of understanding, or ex-
18 changes of letters that assure the current and future use
19 of each common name identified by the Secretary in con-
20 nection with United States agricultural commodities or
21 food products.

22 “(b) BRIEFING.—The Secretary and the United
23 States Trade Representative shall jointly provide to the
24 Committee on Agriculture of the House of Representa-
25 tives, the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and For-

1 estry of the Senate, the Committee on Ways and Means
2 of the House of Representatives, and the Committee on
3 Finance of the Senate, a briefing, twice annually, on ef-
4 forts and successes in carrying out subsection (a).”.

5 **SEC. 3203. INTERAGENCY SEASONAL AND PERISHABLE**
6 **FRUITS AND VEGETABLE WORKING GROUP.**

7 Subtitle B of title IV of the Agricultural Trade Act
8 of 1978 (7 U.S.C. 5671 et seq.) is amended by adding
9 at the end the following:

10 **“SEC. 418. INTERAGENCY SEASONAL AND PERISHABLE**
11 **FRUITS AND VEGETABLES WORKING GROUP.**

12 “(a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary (acting through
13 the Under Secretary of Agriculture for Trade and Foreign
14 Agricultural Affairs), the United States Trade Represent-
15 ative, the Secretary of Commerce, and the heads of other
16 Federal agencies or entities as determined to be appro-
17 priate by the Secretary, shall jointly establish an inter-
18 agency working group (referred to in this section as the
19 ‘working group’) composed of representatives from each
20 agency to monitor and assess, on an ongoing basis, sea-
21 sonal and perishable fruits and vegetables trade data and
22 related information.

23 “(b) CONSULTATION.—The working group shall con-
24 sult with the Agricultural Trade Advisory Committee, rel-
25 evant seasonal or perishable agricultural producers, and

1 other relevant trade associations to identify threats that
2 imports pose to domestic producers of seasonal and perish-
3 able fruits and vegetables.

4 “(c) TRADE ACTIONS AND INVESTIGATIONS.—The
5 working group shall coordinate as appropriate regarding
6 potential additional trade actions and investigations with
7 respect to any seasonal or perishable fruits and vegetables,
8 as determined to be advisable by the working group.

9 “(d) RECOMMENDATIONS TO THE SECRETARY.—The
10 working group shall recommend programs or assistance
11 that the Secretary could provide to producers of seasonal
12 and perishable fruits and vegetables to address market im-
13 pacts.”.

14 **Subtitle C—Other Agricultural** 15 **Trade Laws**

16 **SEC. 3301. GROWING AMERICAN FOOD EXPORTS.**

17 Section 1543A of the Food, Agriculture, Conserva-
18 tion, and Trade Act of 1990 (7 U.S.C. 5679) is amended
19 in subsection (d), by striking “2023” and inserting
20 “2031”.

21 **SEC. 3302. FOOD FOR PROGRESS ACT OF 1985.**

22 Section 1110 of the Food Security Act of 1985 (com-
23 monly referred to as the “Food for Progress Act of 1985”;
24 7 U.S.C. 1736o) is amended—

25 (1) in subsection (c)—

1 (A) by striking “enter into” and inserting
2 “annually enter into two or more”; and

3 (B) by inserting “two or more” before “eli-
4 gible entities”;

5 (2) in subsection (f)(3), by striking “2023” and
6 inserting “2031”;

7 (3) in subsection (g), by striking “2023” and
8 inserting “2031”;

9 (4) in subsection (k), by striking “2023” and
10 inserting “2031”;

11 (5) in subsection (l)—

12 (A) in paragraph (1), by striking “2023”
13 and inserting “2031”; and

14 (B) in the heading of paragraph (4), by
15 striking “HUMANITARIAN OR”;

16 (6) in subsection (m)(2), by striking “humani-
17 tarian and”; and

18 (7) in subsection (n)(2)(C), by striking “Com-
19 mittee on International Relations” and inserting
20 “Committee on Foreign Affairs”.

21 **SEC. 3303. BILL EMERSON HUMANITARIAN TRUST ACT.**

22 Section 302 of the Bill Emerson Humanitarian Trust
23 Act (7 U.S.C. 1736f–1) is amended—

24 (1) in subsection (b)(2)(B)(i), by striking
25 “2023” each place it appears and inserting “2031”;

1 (2) in subsection (c)(1)(C), by striking “the Ad-
2 ministrator” and inserting “the Secretary”;

3 (3) by striking subsection (c)(1)(D);

4 (4) in subsection (f)(2)(A), by inserting “by the
5 Secretary” after “reimbursed”; and

6 (5) in subsection (h),

7 (A) in paragraph (1), by striking “2023”
8 and inserting “2031”; and

9 (B) in paragraph (2), by striking “2026”
10 and inserting “2031”.

11 **SEC. 3304. PROMOTION OF AGRICULTURAL EXPORTS TO**
12 **EMERGING MARKETS.**

13 Section 1542(a) of the Food, Agriculture, Conserva-
14 tion, and Trade Act of 1990 (7 U.S.C. 5622 note; Public
15 Law 101–624) is amended by striking “2023” and insert-
16 ing “2031”.

17 **SEC. 3305. INTERNATIONAL AGRICULTURAL EDUCATION**
18 **FELLOWSHIP PROGRAM.**

19 Section 3307 of the Agriculture Improvement Act of
20 2018 (7 U.S.C. 3295) is amended—

21 (1) in subsection (g)(1), by striking “2019
22 through 2023” and inserting “2027 through 2031”;

23 (2) by redesignating subsection (g) as sub-
24 section (h); and

1 (3) by inserting after subsection (f) the fol-
2 lowing:

3 “(g) PROGRAM CONTINUITY.—To assist eligible
4 countries in the long-term development of enduring,
5 school-based agricultural education and youth extension
6 programs, the Secretary shall, to the maximum extent
7 practicable—

8 “(1) implement the fellowship program in each
9 participating host country for not fewer than 3 con-
10 secutive years; and

11 “(2) ensure that contracts awarded to outside
12 organizations are multi-year.”.

13 **SEC. 3306. INTERNATIONAL AGRICULTURE CULTURAL IM-**
14 **MERSION AND EXCHANGE PROGRAM.**

15 Title III of the Agriculture Improvement Act of 2018
16 (Public Law 115–334) is amended by adding at the end
17 the following new section:

18 **“SEC. 3313. INTERNATIONAL AGRICULTURE CULTURAL IM-**
19 **MERSION AND EXCHANGE PROGRAM.**

20 “(a) DEFINITION.—In this section:

21 “(1) ELIGIBLE CANDIDATE.—The term ‘eligible
22 candidate’ means an individual that—

23 “(A) is between the ages of 19 and 30
24 years;

1 “(B) has demonstrated experience in agri-
2 cultural sciences, food systems, and food and
3 nutrition education;

4 “(C) is prepared to live in 1 or more host
5 countries for at least 2 months or up to 6
6 months; and

7 “(D) is a resident of the United States.

8 “(2) ELIGIBLE COUNTRY.—The term ‘eligible
9 country’ means a country that has agricultural trade
10 relations with the United States, as recognized by
11 the Foreign Agriculture Service.

12 “(3) PROGRAM.—The term ‘Program’ means
13 the International Agriculture Cultural Immersion
14 and Exchange Program established under subsection
15 (b).

16 “(4) SECRETARY.—The term ‘Secretary’ means
17 the Secretary of Agriculture.

18 “(b) ESTABLISHMENT.—The Secretary shall estab-
19 lish an international cultural immersion and exchange pro-
20 gram, to be known as the ‘International Agriculture Cul-
21 tural Immersion and Exchange Program’, under which the
22 Secretary shall—

23 “(1) provide eligible candidates with inter-
24 national cultural exchange and immersion experi-
25 ences focused on agricultural sciences, food systems,

1 and food and nutrition education through placement
2 with host families in eligible countries; and

3 “(2) place in the United States with host fami-
4 lies individuals that meet the requirement of sub-
5 section (a)(1)(A) and are residents of eligible coun-
6 tries to experience United States agriculture, trade
7 relations, and culture.

8 “(c) PURPOSES.—The purposes of the Program
9 are—

10 “(1) to develop globally minded citizens of the
11 United States; and

12 “(2) to strengthen and enhance trade between
13 eligible countries and the United States in agricul-
14 tural, food, nutrition, and environmental industries.

15 “(d) COOPERATIVE AGREEMENT.—

16 “(1) IN GENERAL.—To administer the Pro-
17 gram, the Secretary shall enter into a cooperative
18 agreement with a nonprofit organization that has ex-
19 perience in implementing international cultural ex-
20 change programs focused on agricultural sciences,
21 food and nutrition education, and cultural under-
22 standing through placement with host families.

23 “(2) PRIORITY.—In carrying out paragraph (1),
24 the Secretary shall give priority to a nonprofit orga-
25 nization with which the Secretary has a memo-

1 random of understanding dated not earlier than
2 January 1, 2019.

3 “(3) MATCHING FUNDS.—As a condition of en-
4 tering into a cooperative agreement under this sub-
5 section, a nonprofit organization shall provide equal
6 matching funds from non-Federal sources.

7 “(e) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There
8 is authorized to be appropriated \$10,000,000 for each of
9 fiscal years 2027 through 2031 to carry out this section.”.

10 **SEC. 3307. INTERNATIONAL FOOD SECURITY TECHNICAL**
11 **ASSISTANCE.**

12 Section 1543B(f) of the Food, Agriculture, Conserva-
13 tion, and Trade Act of 1990 is amended by striking
14 “2023” and inserting “2031”.

15 **SEC. 3308. MCGOVERN-DOLE INTERNATIONAL FOOD FOR**
16 **EDUCATION AND CHILD NUTRITION PRO-**
17 **GRAM.**

18 Section 3107 of the Farm Security and Rural Invest-
19 ment Act of 2002 (7 U.S.C. 1736o–1) is amended—

20 (1) in subsection (c)(2)(B)(ii), by inserting “or
21 lower-middle” before “income”;

22 (2) in subsection (h)(2), by striking “Com-
23 mittee on International Relations” and inserting
24 “Committee on Foreign Affairs”;

1 (3) in subsection (l)(2), by striking “2023” and
2 inserting “2031”; and

3 (4) in subsection (l)(4), by striking “not more
4 than 10 percent” and inserting “not less than 8 per-
5 cent, but not more than 15 percent”.

6 **SEC. 3309. GLOBAL CROP DIVERSITY TRUST.**

7 Section 3202 of the Food, Conservation, and Energy
8 Act of 2008 (22 U.S.C. 2220a note; Public Law 110–246)
9 is amended—

10 (1) by amending subsection (b)(1) to read as
11 follows:

12 “(1) IN GENERAL.—For the period of fiscal
13 years 2027 through 2031, the aggregate contribu-
14 tions of funds of the Federal Government provided
15 to the Trust under this section shall not exceed 33
16 percent of the total amount of funds contributed to
17 the Trust from all sources and for all purposes.”;

18 (2) in subsection (b)(2)—

19 (A) by inserting “under this section” after
20 “Trust”; and

21 (B) by striking “2023” and inserting
22 “2031”; and

23 (3) in subsection (e), by striking “2023” and
24 inserting “2031”.

1 **SEC. 3310. LOCAL AND REGIONAL FOOD AID PROCURE-**
2 **MENT PROJECTS.**

3 Section 3206(e)(1) of the Food, Conservation, and
4 Energy Act of 2008 (7 U.S.C. 1726c(e)(1)) is amended
5 by striking “2023” and inserting “2031”.

6 **SEC. 3311. AGRICULTURAL TRADE ENFORCEMENT TASK**
7 **FORCE.**

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

13 (b) **DUTIES.**—

14 (1) **IN GENERAL.**—The Task Force shall—

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

17 (c) MEMBERSHIP.—

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

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

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

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

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

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

15 (d) REPORT.—

16 (1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 90 days after
17 the date of enactment of this Act, and on a quar-
18 terly basis thereafter, the Task Force shall submit
19 to Congress a report on its progress in identifying
20 and addressing trade barriers to United States agri-
21 cultural exports.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

4 (C) a timeline to—

5 (i) request consultations; and

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

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

15 **SEC. 3312. REPORT ON INTERNATIONAL SHRIMP TRADE.**

16 (a) REPORT REQUIRED.—Not later than 180 days
17 after the date of enactment of this Act, the Comptroller
18 General of the United States shall submit to the appro-
19 priate congressional committees a report that examines
20 policy options available to the Secretary of Agriculture to
21 boost the competitiveness of domestic shrimp in global and
22 domestic markets.

23 (b) CONTENTS.—The report required by subsection

24 (a) shall—

25 (1) include an analysis of—

1 (A) the Secretary's authority with regard
2 to shrimp and other seafood products;

3 (B) domestic shrimp and other seafood
4 producers' access to financial support pro-
5 grams; and

6 (C) ways to facilitate interagency coordina-
7 tion under existing authorities around common
8 goals for shrimp and other seafood commodities
9 with respect to tariffs, market access policies,
10 and other nontariff barriers; and

11 (2) identify trade or other legal barriers to
12 United States shrimp and seafood production that
13 are vulnerable to dispute settlement through the
14 World Trade Organization or otherwise under bilat-
15 eral or multilateral trade agreements.

16 (c) APPROPRIATE CONGRESSIONAL COMMITTEES.—
17 In this section, the term “appropriate congressional com-
18 mittees” means—

19 (1) the Committee on Agriculture of the House
20 of Representatives; and

21 (2) the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition,
22 and Forestry of the Senate.

1 **TITLE IV—NUTRITION**
2 **Subtitle A—Supplemental**
3 **Nutrition Assistance Program**

4 **SEC. 4101. DECLARATION OF POLICY.**

5 Section 2 of the Food and Nutrition Act of 2008 (7
6 U.S.C. 2011) is amended—

7 (1) by inserting “(a)” before “It”, and

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

9 “(b) Congress recognizes the supplemental nutrition
10 assistance program allows low-income households to ob-
11 tain supplemental food for an active, healthy life that sup-
12 ports the prevention of—

13 “(1) diet-related chronic disease, including—

14 “(A) obesity;

15 “(B) diabetes;

16 “(C) hypertension;

17 “(D) heart disease; and

18 “(E) cancer;

19 “(2) disability;

20 “(3) premature death;

21 “(4) unsustainable health care costs; and

22 “(5) undermining of military readiness.

23 “(c) Accordingly, it is also the policy of the Congress
24 that the Secretary should administer the supplemental nu-
25 trition assistance program in a manner that will provide

1 participants, especially children, access to a variety of
2 foods essential to optimal health and well-being.”.

3 **SEC. 4102. PROHIBITED FEES.**

4 Section 7(h)(13)(B) of the Food and Nutrition Act
5 of 2008 (7 U.S.C. 2016(h)(13)(B)) is amended by striking
6 “2023” and inserting “2031”.

7 **SEC. 4103. SNAP STAFFING FLEXIBILITY.**

8 Section 11 of the Food and Nutrition Act (7 U.S.C.
9 2020) is amended by adding at the end the following:

10 “(y) SNAP STAFFING FLEXIBILITY.—

11 “(1) IN GENERAL.—Notwithstanding section
12 11(e)(6)(B), a State agency (as defined in section 3
13 of the Food and Nutrition Act of 2008) may, by
14 contract with the State agency at a reasonable cost
15 in accordance with the State agency’s standard con-
16 tracting rules, hire a contractor to undertake supple-
17 mental nutrition assistance program certification or
18 carry out any other function of the State agency
19 under such program so long as—

20 “(A) the contract does not provide incen-
21 tives for the agency or contractor to delay eligi-
22 bility determinations or to deny eligibility for
23 individuals otherwise eligible for supplemental
24 nutrition assistance program benefits; and

1 “(B) the contractor has no direct or indi-
2 rect financial interest in an approved retail
3 store.

4 “(2) USE.—A State agency may use the au-
5 thority provided in paragraph (1) when—

6 “(A) the State experiences an inability to
7 timely process supplemental nutrition assistance
8 program applications from causes that include
9 but are not limited to—

10 “(i) pandemics and other health emer-
11 gencies;

12 “(ii) seasonal workforce cycles;

13 “(iii) temporary staffing shortages;

14 and

15 “(iv) weather or other natural disas-
16 ters;

17 “(B) the State’s payment error rate, as de-
18 fined in section 16, is greater than or equal to
19 6 percent based on the most recent available
20 Department of Agriculture data; or

21 “(C) the State experiences an increase in
22 supplemental nutrition assistance program ap-
23 plications.

1 “(3) REQUIREMENTS.—A State agency that
2 hires a contractor under paragraph (1) shall ensure
3 such action—

4 “(A) is consistent with all principles under
5 section 900.603 of title 5 of the Code of Fed-
6 eral Regulations; and

7 “(B) is part of a blended workforce and
8 does not supplant existing merit-based per-
9 sonnel in the State.

10 “(4) NOTIFICATION.—A State agency shall no-
11 tify the Secretary of its intent to use the authority
12 provided in this section and shall provide any infor-
13 mation or data supporting State agency increases in
14 supplemental nutrition assistance program applica-
15 tions or any inability to timely process such applica-
16 tions.

17 “(5) PUBLIC AVAILABILITY.—Not later than 10
18 days after the date of the receipt of a notification
19 submitted by a State agency under paragraph (4),
20 the Secretary shall make publicly available on the
21 website of the Department of Agriculture the notifi-
22 cation submitted by such State agency and any ac-
23 companying information or data supporting such no-
24 tification so submitted.

1 “(6) PROGRAM DESIGN.—Any action taken by a
2 State agency under paragraph (1) shall not be—

3 “(A) considered to be a major change in
4 the operations of such State agency for pur-
5 poses of section 11(a)(4) of this Act, or

6 “(B) subject to any requirement specified
7 in such section.

8 “(7) ANNUAL REPORT.—The Secretary shall
9 submit to the Committee on Agriculture of the
10 House of Representatives and the Committee on Ag-
11 riculture, Nutrition, and Forestry of the Senate, an
12 annual report that contains—

13 “(A) a description of measures taken to
14 address increases in supplemental nutrition as-
15 sistance program applications and any inability
16 to timely process such applications;

17 “(B) information or data supporting State
18 agency notifications provided pursuant to para-
19 graph (4); and

20 “(C) recommendations for changes to the
21 Secretary’s authority under this Act to assist
22 the Secretary, States, and local governments of
23 States in preparing for any future increases in
24 supplemental nutrition assistance program ap-

1 applications or inability to timely process such ap-
2 plications.

3 “(8) TEMPORARY STAFFING SHORTAGES.—In
4 cases of temporary staffing shortages, the authority
5 provided to State agencies under paragraph (1)
6 shall—

7 “(A) expire when the backlog of supple-
8 mental nutrition assistance program applica-
9 tions has been eliminated;

10 “(B) not override any collective bargaining
11 agreement or memorandum of understanding in
12 effect between the State and employees of the
13 State or of a local government of such State;
14 and

15 “(C) expire when the error rate, as defined
16 in section 16, is less than 6 percent.”.

17 **SEC. 4104. UPDATES TO ADMINISTRATIVE PROCESSES FOR**
18 **SNAP RETAILERS.**

19 The 2d sentence of section 9(d) of the Food and Nu-
20 trition Act is amended by inserting “, on two consecutive
21 occasions within a 3 year period,” after “does not meet”.

22 **SEC. 4105. REPORT ON ALL IDENTIFIED PAYMENT ERRORS.**

23 Section 16(c) of the Food and Nutrition Act of 2008
24 (7 U.S.C. 2025(c)) is amended—

1 (1) by redesignating paragraph (9) as para-
2 graph (10); and

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

5 “(9) REPORT ON ALL IDENTIFIED PAYMENT
6 ERRORS.—

7 “(A) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall
8 include all identified payment errors, including
9 small errors under paragraph (1)(A)(ii), regard-
10 less of dollar amount, in a supplemental section
11 of the annual payment error rate measurement
12 report for the supplemental nutrition assistance
13 program.

14 “(B) RULE OF CONSTRUCTION.—The in-
15 formation reported under subparagraph (A)
16 shall not alter, modify, or affect the calculation
17 of the tolerance level for excluding small errors
18 under paragraph (1)(A)(ii).”.

19 **SEC. 4106. AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.**

20 The 1st sentence of section 18(a)(1) of the Food and
21 Nutrition Act of 2008 (7 U.S.C. 2027(a)(1)) is amended
22 by striking “2023” and inserting ““2031”.

1 **SEC. 4107. RETAIL FOOD STORE AND RECIPIENT TRAF-**
2 **FICKING.**

3 Section 29(c)(1) of the Food and Nutrition Act of
4 2008 (7 U.S.C. 2036b) is amended by striking “2023”
5 and inserting “2031”.

6 **SEC. 4108. EBT CARD SECURITY REGULATIONS.**

7 Not later than 6 months after the date of enactment
8 of this Act, the Secretary of Agriculture shall promulgate,
9 in the form of a proposed rule, regulations through notice
10 and comment rulemaking to enhance EBT Card (as de-
11 fined in section 3(i) of the Food and Nutrition Act; 7
12 U.S.C. 2012(i)) security measures.

13 **SEC. 4109. REPORT ON SNAP ADMINISTRATIVE EXPENSES.**

14 Not later than 12 months after the date of enactment
15 of this Act, the Comptroller General of the United States
16 shall submit to the Committee on Agriculture of the House
17 of Representatives, and the Committee on Agriculture,
18 Nutrition, and Forestry of the Senate, a report that—

19 (1) examines the causes of State variation in
20 supplemental nutrition assistance program adminis-
21 trative costs and identifies the factors most likely to
22 contribute to an increase in these costs; and

23 (2) provides recommendations on how the De-
24 partment of Agriculture and Congress can improve
25 oversight of administrative costs in the program.

1 **SEC. 4110. ANIMAL PROTEIN AN ELIGIBLE INCENTIVE**
2 **FOOD.**

3 Section 9(j)(1)(B) of the Food and Nutrition Act of
4 2008 (7 U.S.C. 2018(j)(1)(B)) is amended by inserting
5 “animal protein,” after “whole grain,”.

6 **SEC. 4111. PERMANENT AUTHORITY FOR SUPPLEMENTAL**
7 **NUTRITION ASSISTANCE PROGRAM ONLINE**
8 **PURCHASING.**

9 Section 7 of the Food and Nutrition Act of 2008 (7
10 U.S.C. 2016) is amended by adding at the end the fol-
11 lowing:

12 “(1) ONLINE PURCHASING PROGRAM.—

13 “(1) PERMANENT AUTHORITY.—Not later than
14 120 days after the effective date of this subsection,
15 the Secretary shall begin transitioning the supple-
16 mental nutrition assistance program online pur-
17 chasing initiative from pilot or demonstration status
18 to permanent nationwide program operations, with
19 the completion of the regulations marking the end of
20 the transition.

21 “(2) REGULATIONS.—The Secretary shall issue
22 such regulations and guidance as may be necessary
23 to carry out paragraph (1), including provisions re-
24 lated to program integrity, consumer protections,
25 and equitable access in rural areas. Such regulations

1 shall be issued not later than 1 year after the effective date of this subsection.

3 “(3) **STAKEHOLDER CONSULTATION.**—The Secretary shall establish a formal process for consultation with State agencies, authorized retailers, electronic benefit transfer processors, consumer advocates, and other relevant stakeholders to incorporate lessons learned from online purchasing operations during the period of 2014 through 2025.

10 “(4) **REPORT TO CONGRESS.**—Not later than 120 days after the effective date of this subsection, the Secretary shall submit to the Committee on Agriculture of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry of the Senate a report describing the consultation process and recommendations received.”

17 **SEC. 4112. EMERGENCY FOOD ASSISTANCE PROGRAMS.**

18 (a) **EMERGENCY FOOD PROGRAM INFRASTRUCTURE GRANTS.**—Section 209(d) of the Emergency Food Assistance Act of 1983 (7 U.S.C. 7511a(d)) is amended by striking “2023” and inserting “2031”.

22 (b) **AVAILABILITY OF COMMODITIES FOR THE EMERGENCY FOOD ASSISTANCE PROGRAM.**—Section 27(a)(1) of the Food and Nutrition Act of 2008 (7 U.S.C.

1 2036(a)(1)) is amended by striking “2023” and inserting
2 “2031”.

3 **SEC. 4113. FOOD DISTRIBUTION PROGRAM ON INDIAN RES-**
4 **ERVATIONS.**

5 Section 4(b)(6)(E) of the Food and Nutrition Act of
6 2008 (7 U.S.C. 2013(b)(6)(E)) is amended by striking
7 “2023” and inserting “2031”.

8 **Subtitle B—Commodity**
9 **Distribution Programs**

10 **SEC. 4201. COMMODITY DISTRIBUTION PROGRAM.**

11 (a) EXPANSION OF THE SENIORS FARMERS’ MARKET
12 NUTRITION PROGRAM.—Section 4402 of the Farm Secu-
13 rity and Rural Investment Act of 2002 (7 U.S.C. 3007)
14 is amended—

15 (1) in subsection (a), by striking “2008 through
16 2023” and inserting “2027 through 2031”; and

17 (2) in subsection (b)(1), by striking “and
18 herbs” and inserting “herbs, maple syrup, and tree
19 nuts (including shelled tree nuts)”.

20 (b) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—The 1st
21 sentence of section 4(a) of the Agriculture and Consumer
22 Protection Act of 1973 (7 U.S.C. 612c note) is amended
23 by striking “2023” and inserting “2031”.

1 **SEC. 4202. COMMODITY SUPPLEMENTAL FOOD PROGRAM.**

2 Section 5 of the Agriculture and Consumer Protec-
3 tion Act of 1973 (7 U.S.C. 612c note; Public Law 93-
4 86) is amended—

5 (1) in subsection (a)—

6 (A) in paragraph (1) by striking “2023”
7 and inserting “2031”, and

8 (B) in paragraph (2)(B), in the matter
9 preceding clause (i), by striking “2023” and in-
10 serting “2031”,

11 (2) in subsection (d)(2), in the 1st sentence, by
12 striking “2023” and inserting “2031”; and

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

14 “(n) COMMODITY SUPPLEMENTAL FOOD PROGRAM
15 DELIVERY PILOT PROGRAM.—

16 “(1) PURPOSE.—The purpose of this subsection
17 is to award grants for the operation of projects that
18 increase the access of low-income elderly persons to
19 commodities through home delivery or other means
20 and to evaluate such projects.

21 “(2) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall award,
22 on a competitive basis, grants directly to State agen-
23 cies, or to State agencies on behalf of eligible enti-
24 ties, to carry out the activities described in para-
25 graph (5).

1 “(3) MAXIMUM GRANT AWARD.—A grant
2 awarded to a State agency under this subsection
3 shall not exceed—

4 “(A) the greater of—

5 “(i) the State’s commodity supple-
6 mental food program caseload at time of
7 application multiplied by 60; or

8 “(ii) \$10,000; or

9 “(B) \$4,000,000;

10 whichever is less.

11 “(4) APPLICATION.—A State agency seeking a
12 grant under this subsection shall submit to the Sec-
13 retary an application in such form, at such time,
14 and containing such information as the Secretary
15 may require.

16 “(5) GRANT USES.—A State agency awarded a
17 grant under this subsection shall distribute grant
18 funds to eligible entities to operate projects that fa-
19 cilitate delivery of commodities to participants in the
20 commodity supplemental food program, including
21 with respect to costs associated with—

22 “(A) transportation and distribution of
23 commodities to participants in the commodity
24 supplemental food program, including transpor-

1 tation and distribution services provided by a
2 third party;

3 “(B) staffing required to operate delivery
4 services; and

5 “(C) outreach to participants or potential
6 participants in the commodity supplemental
7 food program with respect to home delivery.

8 “(6) PRIORITY.—A State agency awarded a
9 grant under this subsection must prioritize eligible
10 entities that serve participants in the commodity
11 supplemental food program who reside in a rural
12 area.

13 “(7) REPORT TO THE SECRETARY.—Not later
14 than 180 days after the end of the fiscal year in
15 which a State agency is awarded a grant under this
16 subsection and has distributed grant funds to eligi-
17 ble entities, and in each succeeding fiscal year until
18 grant funds are expended, a State agency shall sub-
19 mit a report to the Secretary that includes—

20 “(A) a summary of the activities carried
21 out under the project, including the quantity of
22 commodities delivered, number of participants
23 in the commodity supplemental food program
24 served, and total number of deliveries;

1 “(B) an assessment of the effectiveness of
2 the project, including a calculation of the aver-
3 age cost per delivery, and an evaluation of any
4 services provided by a third party; and

5 “(C) best practices regarding use of home
6 delivery to improve the effectiveness of the com-
7 modity supplemental food program.

8 “(8) DEFINITIONS.—In this subsection:

9 “(A) TERMS IN REGULATIONS.—The term
10 ‘State agency’, ‘local agency’, and ‘subdistrib-
11 uting agency’ have the meanings given such
12 terms in section 247.1 of title 7 of the Code of
13 Federal Regulations (or any successor regula-
14 tions).

15 “(B) ELIGIBLE ENTITY.—The term ‘eligi-
16 ble entity’ means—

17 “(i) a local agency;

18 “(ii) a subdistributing agency;

19 “(C) RURAL AREA.—The term ‘rural area’
20 has the meaning given such term in section
21 343(a) of the Consolidated Farm and Rural
22 Development Act (7 U.S.C. 1991(a)).

23 “(9) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—
24 There is authorized to be appropriated to carry out
25 this subsection \$10,000,000 for each of fiscal years

1 2027 through 2031 to remain available until ex-
2 pended.”.

3 **SEC. 4203. DISTRIBUTION OF SURPLUS COMMODITIES TO**
4 **SPECIAL NUTRITION PROJECTS.**

5 Section 1114(a)(2)(A) of the Agriculture and Food
6 Act of 1981 (7 U.S.C. 1431e(2)(A)) is amended by strik-
7 ing “2023” and inserting “2031”.

8 **SEC. 4204. COMMODITY SUPPLEMENTAL FOOD PROGRAM**
9 **DEMONSTRATION PROJECT FOR TRIBAL OR-**
10 **GANIZATIONS.**

11 (a) DEMONSTRATION PROJECT FOR TRIBAL ORGANI-
12 ZATIONS.—

13 (1) DEFINITIONS.—In this subsection:

14 (A) DEMONSTRATION PROJECT.—The term
15 “demonstration project” means the demonstra-
16 tion project established under paragraph (2).

17 (B) FOOD DISTRIBUTION PROGRAM.—The
18 term “food distribution program” means the
19 commodity supplemental food program identi-
20 fied in section 4 of the Agriculture and Con-
21 sumer Protection Act of 1973 (7 U.S.C. 612c
22 note; Public Law 93–86).

23 (C) INDIAN RESERVATION.—The term “In-
24 dian reservation” has the meaning given the

1 term “reservation” in section 3 of the Food and
2 Nutrition Act of 2008 (7 U.S.C. 2012).

3 (D) INDIAN TRIBE.—The term “Indian
4 Tribe” has the meaning given the term in sec-
5 tion 4 of the Indian Self-Determination and
6 Education Assistance Act (25 U.S.C. 5304).

7 (E) SELF-DETERMINATION CONTRACT.—
8 The term “self-determination contract” has the
9 meaning given the term in section 4 of the In-
10 dian Self-Determination and Education Assist-
11 ance Act (25 U.S.C. 5304) with modification as
12 determined by the Secretary.

13 (F) TRIBAL ORGANIZATION.—The term
14 “Tribal organization” has the meaning given
15 the term in section 3 of the Food and Nutrition
16 Act of 2008 (7 U.S.C. 2012).

17 (2) ESTABLISHMENT.—Subject to the avail-
18 ability of appropriations, the Secretary shall estab-
19 lish a demonstration project under which 1 or more
20 Tribal organizations may enter into self-determina-
21 tion contracts to purchase agricultural commodities
22 under the food distribution program for the Indian
23 reservation of that Tribal organization.

24 (3) ELIGIBILITY.—

1 (A) CONSULTATION.—The Secretary shall
2 consult with Indian Tribes to determine the
3 process and criteria under which a Tribal orga-
4 nization may participate in the demonstration
5 project.

6 (B) CRITERIA.—The Secretary shall select
7 for participation in the demonstration project
8 Tribal organizations that—

9 (i) are successfully administering the
10 food distribution program of the Tribal or-
11 ganization under section 4(b)(2)(B) of the
12 Food and Nutrition Act of 2008 (7 U.S.C.
13 2013(b)(2)(B));

14 (ii) have the capacity to purchase ag-
15 ricultural commodities in accordance with
16 paragraph (4) for the food distribution
17 program of the Tribal organization; and

18 (iii) meet any other criteria deter-
19 mined by the Secretary, in consultation
20 with the Secretary of the Interior and In-
21 dian tribes.

22 (4) PROCUREMENT OF AGRICULTURAL COM-
23 MODITIES.—Any agricultural commodities purchased
24 by a Tribal organization under the demonstration
25 project shall—

1 (A) be domestically produced;

2 (B) not result in a material increase in the
3 amount of food in the food package of that
4 Tribal organization compared to the amount of
5 food that the Secretary authorized to be pro-
6 vided through the Commodity Supplemental
7 Food Program Guide Rate;

8 (C) be of similar or higher nutritional
9 value as the type of agricultural commodities
10 that would be supplanted in the existing food
11 package for that Tribal organization or be an
12 agricultural commodity with Tribal significance
13 to that Indian Tribe; and

14 (D) meet any other criteria determined by
15 the Secretary.

16 (5) REPORT.—Not later than 1 year after the
17 date on which funds are appropriated under para-
18 graph (6) and annually thereafter, the Secretary
19 shall submit to the Committee on Agriculture of the
20 House of Representatives and the Committee on Ag-
21 riculture, Nutrition, and Forestry of the Senate a
22 report describing the activities carried out under the
23 demonstration project during the preceding year.

24 (6) FUNDING.—

1 (A) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIA-
2 TIONS.—There is authorized to be appropriated
3 to carry out this subsection \$1,000,000, to re-
4 main available until expended.

5 (B) APPROPRIATIONS IN ADVANCE.—Only
6 funds appropriated under subparagraph (A) in
7 advance specifically to carry out this subsection
8 shall be available to carry out this subsection.

9 (b) ADMINISTRATION OF TRIBAL SELF-DETERMINA-
10 TION CONTRACTS.—

11 (1) ADMINISTRATION.—The Secretary shall ap-
12 point an existing office of the United States Depart-
13 ment of Agriculture to administer Tribal self-deter-
14 mination contracts to include but not limited to:

15 (A) awarding of Food and Nutrition Serv-
16 ice nutrition program self-determination con-
17 tracts to selected Tribal organizations; and

18 (B) hiring contract officers and program
19 staff in order to manage the selection of Tribal
20 organizations and execution of self-determina-
21 tion contracts.

22 (2) STAFFING MINIMUM FUNDING.—Notwith-
23 standing any other provision of law, there is author-
24 ized to be appropriated \$1,200,000 for each of fiscal
25 years 2027 through 2031 for the payment of De-

1 department contract officers and program staff sala-
2 ries and benefits.

3 **Subtitle C—Miscellaneous**

4 **SEC. 4301. PURCHASE OF FRESH FRUITS AND VEGETABLES** 5 **FOR DISTRIBUTION TO SCHOOLS AND SERV-** 6 **ICE INSTITUTIONS.**

7 Section 10603(b) of the Farm Security and Rural In-
8 vestment Act of 2002 (7 U.S.C. 612c-4(b)) is amended
9 by striking “2023” and inserting “2031”.

10 **SEC. 4302. BUY AMERICAN REQUIREMENTS FOR CERTAIN** 11 **SCHOOL MEALS.**

12 (a) IN GENERAL.—Section 12(n)(2)(A) of the Rich-
13 ard B. Russell National School Lunch Act (42 U.S.C.
14 1760(n)(2)(A)) is amended to read as follows:

15 “(A) REQUIREMENTS.—

16 “(i) PURCHASE EXPENDITURES BY
17 CATEGORY.—Subject to clause (ii) and
18 subparagraph (B), the Secretary shall re-
19 quire that a school food authority pur-
20 chase, with respect to each food purchase
21 category designated by the Agricultural
22 Marketing Service, at least 95 percent do-
23 mestic products and commodities in each
24 such category.

1 “(ii) DOMESTICALLY UNAVAILABLE
2 PRODUCTS AND COMMODITIES.—Domesti-
3 cally unavailable products and commodities
4 included on a list issued pursuant to clause
5 (iii) with respect to a school year and pur-
6 chased by a school food authority during
7 such school year shall not be used to cal-
8 culate whether such school food authority
9 meets the requirements under clause (i).

10 “(iii) UPDATED LIST.—Not later than
11 6 months after the date of the enactment
12 of this subparagraph, and every 2 years
13 thereafter, the Secretary shall make avail-
14 able to school food authorities a list of do-
15 mestically unavailable products and com-
16 modities.

17 “(iv) LIMITED WAIVER AUTHORITY.—
18 Except with respect to a domestically un-
19 available product or commodity included on
20 a list pursuant to clause (iii), the Secretary
21 may not waive or make accommodations
22 for any of the requirements of this sub-
23 paragraph.

24 “(v) PROHIBITION ON CERTAIN PROD-
25 UCTS FROM CHINA OR RUSSIA.—The Sec-

1 retary shall prohibit school food authorities
2 from purchasing raw or processed poultry
3 products or seafood imported into the
4 United States from the People’s Republic
5 of China or the Russian Federation.”.

6 (b) APPLICATION.—The amendments made by sub-
7 section (a) shall apply to school food authorities beginning
8 on the first day of the first school year that begins after
9 the date of the enactment of this Act.

10 **SEC. 4303. REAUTHORIZATION OF THE GUS SCHUMACHER**
11 **NUTRITION INCENTIVE PROGRAM.**

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

14 (1) in subsection (b)—

15 (A) in paragraph (1), by amending sub-
16 paragraph (C) to read as follows:

17 “(C) FEDERAL SHARE.—

18 “(i) IN GENERAL.—Except as pro-
19 vided in clause (ii) and subparagraph
20 (D)(iii), the Federal share of the cost of
21 carrying out an activity under this sub-
22 section shall not exceed 50 percent of the
23 total cost of the activity.

24 “(ii) WAIVER FOR PERSISTENT POV-
25 ERTY AREAS.—The Secretary may waive

1 the application of clause (i) in the case of
2 an activity carried out—

3 “(I) in a county that, during the
4 preceding 30-year period has had a
5 population of which greater than or
6 equal to 20 percent of such population
7 are living in poverty (as measured by
8 the most recent decennial censuses
9 and most recent Small Area Income
10 and Poverty Estimates of the Bureau
11 of the Census); or

12 “(II) in a census tract with a
13 poverty rate of at least 20 percent
14 during the preceding 30-year period,
15 as measured by the most recent 5-
16 year data series available from the
17 American Community Survey of the
18 Bureau of the Census.”; and

19 (B) in paragraph (2)(B)—

20 (i) by redesignating clauses (ix) and
21 (x) as clauses (x) and (xi); and

22 (ii) by inserting after clause (viii) the
23 following:

1 “(ix) increase year-round availability
2 of incentives by offering all forms of fruits
3 or vegetables;”;

4 (2) in subsection (c), by striking “fresh fruits
5 and vegetables” and inserting “all forms of fruits,
6 vegetables, and legumes” each place it appears; and

7 (3) in subsection (f)—

8 (A) in paragraph (1), by striking “2023”
9 and inserting “2031”; and

10 (B) in paragraph (3), by striking “2023”
11 each place it appears and inserting “2031”.

12 **SEC. 4304. FOOD LOSS AND WASTE REDUCTION LIAISON AN-**
13 **NUAL REPORT.**

14 Section 224(e)(2) of the Department of Agriculture
15 Reorganization Act of 1994 (7 U.S.C. 6924(e)(2)) is
16 amended—

17 (1) in the heading, by inserting “ANNUAL” be-
18 fore “REPORT”;

19 (2) in the matter preceding subparagraph (A),
20 by inserting “and annually thereafter,” before “the
21 Secretary shall”;

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

24 (4) in subparagraph (B), by striking the period
25 at the end and inserting a semicolon; and

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

2 “(C) a general description of each project
3 and activity implemented pursuant to this sec-
4 tion;

5 “(D) a summary of the cooperative agree-
6 ments entered into pursuant to subsection (c);

7 “(E) a detailed account of how the Sec-
8 retary avoided, managed, or will manage mar-
9 ket disruption; and

10 “(F) a summary of coordinated activities
11 with the Administrator of the Environmental
12 Protection Agency and the Commissioner of the
13 Food and Drug Administration, including inter-
14 agency communication and coordination related
15 to the promotion or exclusion of practices and
16 technologies to limit food waste.”.

17 **SEC. 4305. DAIRY NUTRITION INCENTIVES PROJECTS.**

18 Section 4208 of the Agriculture Improvement Act of
19 2018 (7 U.S.C. 2026a) is amended—

20 (1) in the section heading, by striking
21 “**HEALTHY FLUID MILK**” and inserting “**DAIRY**
22 **NUTRITION**”;

23 (2) by striking “healthy fluid milk” and insert-
24 ing “dairy nutrition” each place it appears;

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

3 “(a) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

4 “(1) COVERED DAIRY PRODUCTS.—The term
5 ‘covered dairy products’ means cheese (including
6 non-standardized cheese) that is—

7 “(A) made from pasteurized cow’s milk;

8 “(B) a good source of protein, as deter-
9 mined by the Secretary; and

10 “(C) sold as a block, chunk, shred, slice,
11 stick, string, or in snack-size form.

12 “(2) FLUID MILK.—The term ‘fluid milk’
13 means all varieties of pasteurized cow’s milk that—

14 “(A) is packaged in liquid form; and

15 “(B) contains vitamins A and D at levels
16 consistent with the Food and Drug Administra-
17 tion, State, and local standards for fluid milk.”;

18 (4) in subsection (b), by inserting “and covered
19 dairy products” after “of fluid milk” each place it
20 appears;

21 (5) in subsection (c)(3), by inserting “and cov-
22 ered dairy products” after “purchase of fluid milk”;
23 and

24 (6) in subsection (e)(1), by striking
25 “\$20,000,000” and inserting “\$50,000,000”.

1 **SEC. 4306. LOCAL FARMERS FEEDING OUR COMMUNITIES**
2 **PROGRAM.**

3 (a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary of Agriculture shall
4 establish a program under which the Secretary will enter
5 into cooperative agreements (on a noncompetitive basis)
6 with eligible entities—

7 (1) to help support covered local producers
8 through building and expanding economic opportuni-
9 ties;

10 (2) to establish and broaden partnerships with
11 such covered local producers and the food distribu-
12 tion community to ensure distribution of fresh (in-
13 cluding fresh frozen) and nutritious foods; and

14 (3) to strengthen such entity's local and re-
15 gional food security and systems.

16 (b) USE OF FUNDS.—An eligible entity selected to
17 enter into a cooperative agreement under this section shall
18 use funds received through such agreement—

19 (1) to purchase unprocessed or minimally proc-
20 essed local foods (including seafood, meat, milk and
21 dairy products, eggs, produce, and poultry) from
22 covered producers;

23 (2) to ensure that at least 25 percent of the
24 total annual value of products purchased by the eli-
25 gible entity comprises purchases from small-size pro-

1 ducers, mid-size producers, beginning farmers or
2 ranchers, or veteran farmers or ranchers;

3 (3) to provide technical assistance supporting—

4 (A) covered local producers, including in
5 obtaining food safety training and certifications;
6 and

7 (B) efforts to grow the local agricultural
8 value chain;

9 (4) to distribute such local foods to organiza-
10 tions, including nonprofit organizations, that have
11 experience in food distribution to improve access to
12 healthy and nutritious food; and

13 (5) to build and expand economic opportunity
14 for covered local producers.

15 (c) LIMITATION ON USE OF FUNDS.—

16 (1) IN GENERAL.—Of the amount made avail-
17 able to an eligible entity through a cooperative
18 agreement under this section, an eligible entity may
19 use not more than 15 percent of such amount—

20 (A) to cover administrative expenses; and

21 (B) to provide technical assistance de-
22 scribed in subsection (b)(3);

23 (2) ALLOCATION FOR TECHNICAL ASSIST-
24 ANCE.—Of the amount described in paragraph (1),
25 an eligible entity shall use not less than 50 percent

1 to provide technical assistance described in sub-
2 section (b)(3).

3 (d) TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE TO ELIGIBLE ENTI-
4 TIES.—The Secretary shall provide to eligible entities en-
5 tering into a cooperative agreement under this section
6 guidance, technical assistance, instruction, and monitoring
7 throughout the life cycle of the cooperative agreement.

8 (e) AMOUNT OF ALLOCATION.—Of the amounts
9 made available to carry out this section for each fiscal
10 year, the Secretary shall—

11 (1) allocate 10 percent to Tribal governments,
12 to be allocated using a funding formula determined
13 by the Secretary; and

14 (2) of the amounts remaining after making the
15 allocation under paragraph (1), allocate 1 percent to
16 each State (other than Tribal governments); and

17 (3) after making the allocations under para-
18 graphs (1) and (2), allocate the remaining amounts
19 to each eligible entity (other than Tribal govern-
20 ments) by applying the formula described in section
21 214 of the Emergency Food Assistance Act of 1983
22 (7 U.S.C. 7515).

23 (f) FUNDING.—There is authorized to be appro-
24 priated to carry out this section \$200,000,000 for each
25 of fiscal years 2027 through 2031.

1 (g) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

2 (1) BEGINNING FARMER OR RANCHER; VET-
3 ERAN FARMER OR RANCHER.—The terms “beginning
4 farmer or rancher” and “veteran farmer or rancher”
5 have the meanings given such terms in section 2501
6 of the Food, Agriculture, Conservation, and Trade
7 Act of 1990 (7 U.S.C. 2279).

8 (2) COVERED PRODUCER.—The term “covered
9 producer” means a fisherman, farmer, producer,
10 rancher, processor, or cooperative processor that
11 is—

12 (A) within the geographic boundaries of
13 the eligible entity in which the food will be de-
14 livered; or

15 (B) not more than 400 miles from the de-
16 livery destination of the food.

17 (3) ELIGIBLE ENTITY.—The term “eligible enti-
18 ty” means a State agency, commission, or depart-
19 ment that is responsible for agriculture, procure-
20 ment, food distribution, emergency response, or
21 other similar activities within the State.

22 (4) MID-SIZE PRODUCER.—The term “medium-
23 sized producer” means an individual whose annual
24 gross cash farm income is equal to or exceeds
25 \$350,000 and is less than \$999,999.

1 (5) SMALL-SIZE PRODUCER.—The term “small-
2 sized producer” means one whose annual gross cash
3 farm income is less than \$350,000.

4 (6) STATE.—The term “State” means each of
5 the several States, the District of Columbia, each
6 territory or possession of the United States, and
7 each federally recognized Indian Tribe.

8 (7) UNPROCESSED OR MINIMALLY PROCESSED
9 LOCAL FOODS.—The term “unprocessed or mini-
10 mally processed local foods” means food products
11 means only those agricultural products that retain
12 their inherent character. Such term includes—

13 (A) fruits and vegetables (including 100
14 percent juices);

15 (B) grain products, such as pastas and
16 rice;

17 (C) meats (including whole carcasses,
18 pieces thereof, or ground meat);

19 (D) protein sources that are meat alter-
20 natives (such as beans or legumes) and fluid
21 milk and other dairy foods (such as cheese and
22 yogurt); and

23 (E) foods in a wide variety of minimal
24 processing states (such as whole, cut, or pu-

1 reed) or forms (such as fresh, frozen, canned,
2 or dried).

3 **SEC. 4307. HEALTHY FOOD FINANCING INITIATIVE.**

4 Section 243(d) of the Department of Agriculture Re-
5 organization Act of 1994 (7 U.S.C. 6953(d)) is amended
6 by striking “\$125,000,000” and inserting
7 “\$135,000,000”.

8 **SEC. 4308. DIETARY GUIDELINES.**

9 (a) IN GENERAL.—Section 301(a) of the National
10 Nutrition Monitoring and Related Research Act of 1990
11 (7 U.S.C. 5341(a)) is amended—

12 (1) in paragraph (1)—

13 (A) by striking “At least every five years”
14 and inserting “Beginning with the 2030 report
15 and at least every 10 years thereafter,”; and

16 (B) by adding at the end the following:
17 “Rulemaking requirements under section 553 of
18 title 5, United States Code, shall apply to the
19 development of each report under this para-
20 graph.”;

21 (2) in paragraph (2), by striking “shall be
22 based on the preponderance of the scientific and
23 medical knowledge which is current at the time the
24 report is prepared.” and inserting “shall—

1 “(A) be based on significant scientific
2 agreement that is determined by evidence-based
3 review (as defined in paragraph (8)(A));

4 “(B) be current at the time the report is
5 prepared;

6 “(C) be derived from questions generated
7 under paragraph (5)(E);

8 “(D) address high-priority areas of concern
9 to advance health outcomes;

10 “(E) be designed to achieve nutritional
11 adequacy and promote health, as specified by
12 the Food and Nutrition Board of the National
13 Academies of Sciences, Engineering and Medi-
14 cine, from the consumption of food, including
15 nutrients and bioactive food components occur-
16 ring naturally and in fortified foods;

17 “(F) include nutritional and dietary infor-
18 mation relevant to individuals with nutrition-re-
19 lated common chronic diseases, as defined by
20 the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention;
21 and

22 “(G) include recommendations that are af-
23 fordable, available, and accessible for the gen-
24 eral population.”;

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

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

5 “(3) FREQUENCY.—The Secretaries may pub-
6 lish the report required under paragraph (1) more
7 frequently than required under that paragraph if the
8 Secretaries determine that more frequent publication
9 is necessary to promote health, based on the updated
10 dietary reference intake values specified by—

11 “(A) the Food and Nutrition Board of the
12 National Academies of Sciences, Engineering
13 and Medicine; and

14 “(B) other relevant scientific advancements
15 based on continuous monitoring of the totality
16 of publicly available scientific evidence.

17 “(4) NOTIFICATION OF UPDATE.—

18 “(A) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 90
19 days before the Secretaries plan to update a re-
20 port under paragraph (1), the Secretaries shall
21 submit notification of that plan, in writing, to
22 the Committees on Agriculture, Nutrition, and
23 Forestry and Health, Education, Labor, and
24 Pensions of the Senate and the Committees on

1 Agriculture and Energy and Commerce of the
2 House of Representatives.

3 “(B) JUSTIFICATION.—The notification
4 under subparagraph (A) shall include a jus-
5 tification for updating the report.

6 “(5) INDEPENDENT ADVISORY BOARD.—

7 “(A) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 90
8 days after the Secretaries submit a notification
9 under paragraph (4)(A), the Secretaries shall
10 establish an Independent Advisory Board (re-
11 ferred to in this paragraph as the ‘Board’).

12 “(B) MEMBERS.—The Board shall be com-
13 prised of at least 4 members and not more than
14 8 members, of which—

15 “(i) 4 shall be appointed by the Secre-
16 taries, 2 of whom shall not be Federal em-
17 ployees; and

18 “(ii) 1 may be appointed by each of
19 the highest-ranking Member of Congress
20 on each Committee described in paragraph
21 (4)(A) of the opposite political party of the
22 President of the United States at the time
23 of the appointment.

24 “(C) EXPERTISE.—Each member ap-
25 pointed to the Board shall have expertise in nu-

1 trition science or food science, including aca-
2 demic and applied experience.

3 “(D) MEETINGS.—

4 “(i) IN GENERAL.—The first meeting
5 of the Board—

6 “(I) may only take place on or
7 after the date that 4 members are ap-
8 pointed to the Board under subpara-
9 graph (B); and

10 “(II) shall take place on or after
11 the date that is 90 days after the Sec-
12 retaries submit a notification under
13 paragraph (4)(A).

14 “(ii) QUORUM.—A majority of the
15 members shall constitute a quorum for the
16 transaction of the business of the Board.

17 “(E) DUTIES.—Not later than 1 year after
18 the establishment of the Board, the Board shall
19 submit to the Secretaries and the Committees
20 described in paragraph (4)(A) a list of scientific
21 questions relating to the report for purposes of
22 paragraph (2)(C).

23 “(F) TERMINATION.—The authority of the
24 Board shall terminate, and the Board shall dis-

1 band, immediately after carrying out subpara-
2 graph (E).

3 “(6) EXCLUSION.—The information and guide-
4 lines contained in each report required under para-
5 graph (1) shall not be based on or include topics
6 that are not relevant to dietary guidance, as deter-
7 mined by the Secretaries, in consultation with the
8 Independent Advisory Board established under para-
9 graph (5), including taxation, social welfare policies,
10 purchases under Federal feeding programs, food and
11 agricultural production practices, food labeling, so-
12 cioeconomic status, race, religion, ethnicity, culture,
13 or regulations relating to nutrition.”; and

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

15 “(8) EVIDENCE BASED REVIEW.—

16 “(A) DEFINITION.—In this paragraph, the
17 term ‘evidence-based review’ means a process
18 under which—

19 “(i) the totality of the scientific evi-
20 dence relevant to a question of interest is
21 collected, analyzed, and evaluated;

22 “(ii) scientific studies, conclusions,
23 and recommendations are rated, adhering
24 strictly to standardized, generally accepted
25 evidence-based review methods; and

1 “(iii) external peer review is con-
2 ducted by non-government experts with
3 recognized expertise in quality of evidence
4 evaluation.

5 “(B) STRENGTH OF EVIDENCE.—Each
6 guideline contained in a report published under
7 paragraph (1) shall be assigned a rating by the
8 Secretaries for the strength of evidence used,
9 including to the extent by which the guideline
10 will improve the Healthy Eating Index.

11 “(9) TRANSPARENCY.—

12 “(A) DISCLOSURE.—Any individual ap-
13 pointed to the Dietary Guidelines Advisory
14 Committee or an Independent Advisory Board
15 established under paragraph (5) shall—

16 “(i) be appointed as a special govern-
17 ment employee;

18 “(ii) comply with financial disclosure
19 requirements applicable to such a special
20 government employee under subpart I of
21 part 2634 of title 5, Code of Federal Regu-
22 lations (or successor regulations), including
23 the requirement to file the Office of Gov-
24 ernment Ethics Form 450 (or successor
25 Form); and

1 “(iii) prior to such an appointment,
2 provide a report to the Secretaries regard-
3 ing, for the 10-year period preceding such
4 report, any research funding or profes-
5 sional affiliation relating to a report under
6 paragraph (1).

7 “(B) PUBLICATION.—Notwithstanding any
8 other provision of law, not later than 30 days
9 after the date on which a Dietary Guidelines
10 Advisory Committee or an Independent Advi-
11 sory Board is established, the Secretaries shall
12 make publicly available—

13 “(i) a summary of the financial disclo-
14 sures reported by members of such Com-
15 mittee or Board;

16 “(ii) the research funding and profes-
17 sional affiliations reported by such mem-
18 bers under subparagraph (A)(iii), cat-
19 egorized by the name of the individual; and

20 “(iii) a detailed plan for managing
21 any disclosed conflicts of interest, includ-
22 ing financial or ethical conflicts of interest,
23 preferences, values, and beliefs.”.

24 (b) CONTROLLING REPORT.—The 2025 Dietary
25 Guidelines for Americans published by the Secretaries

1 under subsection (a)(1) of section 301 of the National Nu-
2 trition Monitoring and Related Research Act of 1990 (7
3 U.S.C. 5341(a)(1)) shall be controlling and considered to
4 be the most recent Dietary Guidelines for Americans until
5 the publication of the first report under such subsection
6 in accordance with the amendments made to such section
7 by this Act.

8 **TITLE V—CREDIT**

9 **Subtitle A—Farm Ownership Loans**

10 **SEC. 5101. PERSONS ELIGIBLE FOR REAL ESTATE LOANS.**

11 Section 302(a) of the Consolidated Farm and Rural
12 Development Act (7 U.S.C. 1922(a)) is amended—

13 (1) in the 2nd sentence of paragraph (1), by
14 striking “a majority” each place it appears and in-
15 serting “at least a 50 percent”;

16 (2) in paragraph (2), by striking subparagraphs
17 (A) and (B) and inserting the following:

18 “(A) **ELIGIBILITY OF QUALIFIED OPERA-**
19 **TORS.**—Qualified operators, as defined by the
20 Secretary, shall be considered to meet the oper-
21 ator requirement of paragraph (1).

22 “(B) **ELIGIBILITY OF CERTAIN OPER-**
23 **ATING-ONLY ENTITIES.**— An applicant that is
24 or will become only the operator of farm real
25 estate acquired, improved, or supported with

1 funds under this subtitle shall be considered to
2 meet the owner-operator requirements of para-
3 graph (1) if 1 or more of the individuals who
4 is an owner of the farm real estate owns at
5 least 50 percent (or such other percentage as
6 the Secretary determines is appropriate) of the
7 applicant.

8 “(C) ELIGIBILITY OF CERTAIN EMBEDDED
9 ENTITIES.—An entity that is an owner-operator
10 described in paragraph (1), or an operator de-
11 scribed in subparagraph (B) of this paragraph
12 that is owned, in whole or in part, by 1 or more
13 other entities, shall be considered to meet the
14 direct ownership requirement imposed under
15 paragraph (1) if at least 75 percent of the total
16 ownership interests of the embedded entity, or
17 of the other entities, is owned, directly or indi-
18 rectly, by qualified operators of the farm ac-
19 quired, improved, or supported with funds
20 under this subtitle.”.

21 **SEC. 5102. EXPERIENCE REQUIREMENTS.**

22 Section 302(b) of the Consolidated Farm and Rural
23 Development Act (7 U.S.C. 1922(b)) is amended—

1 (1) in paragraph (1), in the matter preceding
2 subparagraph (A), by striking “3 years” and insert-
3 ing “2 years”; and

4 (2) in paragraph (4)—

5 (A) in subparagraph (A)—

6 (i) in the matter preceding clause

7 (i)—

8 (I) by striking “3-year” and in-

9 serting “2-year”; and

10 (II) by striking “1 or 2 years”

11 and inserting “1 year”;

12 (ii) in clause (iii), by inserting “or

13 operational” before “responsibilities”;

14 (iii) in clause (vii), by striking “or”;

15 and

16 (iv) by adding at the end the fol-

17 lowing:

18 “(ix) met any other criteria estab-

19 lished by the Secretary; or”; and

20 (B) in subparagraph (B), by striking “3-
21 year” and inserting “2- year”.

1 **SEC. 5103. REFINANCING OF INDEBTEDNESS INTO DIRECT**
2 **LOANS.**

3 Section 303 of the Consolidated Farm and Rural De-
4 velopment Act (7 U.S.C. 1923) is amended by adding at
5 the end the following:

6 “(d) REFINANCING OF GUARANTEED LOANS INTO
7 DIRECT LOANS.—Within 1 year after the date of the en-
8 actment of this subsection, the Secretary, acting through
9 the Administrator of the Farm Service Agency (referred
10 to in this section as the ‘Secretary’), shall promulgate reg-
11 ulations allowing certain loans guaranteed by the Farm
12 Service Agency to be refinanced into direct loans issued
13 by the Farm Service Agency, in accordance with this sub-
14 section.

15 “(1) REQUIREMENTS.—

16 “(A) IN GENERAL.—A guaranteed loan
17 may be refinanced into a direct loan pursuant
18 to this subsection only if the Secretary deter-
19 mines that—

20 “(i) the guaranteed loan is distressed
21 due to its status as a non-performing loan
22 that does not have a positive cash flow at
23 rates and terms available from the lender;

24 “(ii) the borrower on the guaranteed
25 loan is in monetary default and subject to
26 liquidation or foreclosure action;

1 “(iii) a reasonable chance for the suc-
2 cess of the operation financed by the guar-
3 anteed loan exists; and

4 “(iv) all other criteria established by
5 the Secretary for purposes of this sub-
6 section to protect taxpayer funds and the
7 loan programs of the Farm Service Agency
8 have been satisfied.

9 “(B) REASONABLE CHANCE OF SUC-
10 CESS.—For purposes of subparagraph (A)(iii),
11 the Secretary may determine that a reasonable
12 chance for the success of an operation exists if
13 the Secretary determines that—

14 “(i) all relevant problems with the op-
15 eration financed by the guaranteed loan—

16 “(I) have been identified; and

17 “(II) can be corrected; and

18 “(ii) on correction of the problems,
19 the operation can achieve, or be returned
20 to, a sound financial basis.

21 “(2) LOAN PROGRAMS.—In making direct loans
22 pursuant to the regulations promulgated under this
23 subsection, the Secretary may refinance a loan guar-
24 anteed under 1 program of the Farm Service Agency
25 into a direct loan issued under another program of

1 the Farm Service Agency, as the Secretary deter-
2 mines to be appropriate and in accordance with the
3 laws applicable to the program under which the di-
4 rect loan is issued.

5 “(3) REFINANCED GUARANTEED LOANS.—A di-
6 rect loan issued by the Farm Service Agency pursu-
7 ant to the regulations promulgated under subsection
8 (a) of this section shall be subject to any otherwise
9 applicable limitation on the maximum amount of a
10 direct loan issued by the Farm Service Agency, in-
11 cluding, if applicable, the limitations described in
12 sections 305 and 313.”.

13 **SEC. 5104. CONSERVATION LOAN AND LOAN GUARANTEE**
14 **PROGRAM.**

15 Section 304 of the Consolidated Farm and Rural De-
16 velopment Act (7 U.S.C. 1924) is amended—

17 (1) in subsection (d)—

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

20 (B) in paragraph (3), by striking “1985.”
21 and inserting “1985 (16 U.S.C. 3812); and”;
22 and

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

24 “(4) producers who use the loans to adopt pre-
25 cision agriculture practices or acquire precision agri-

1 culture technologies, including adoption or acquisi-
2 tion for the purpose of participating in the environ-
3 mental quality incentives program under subchapter
4 A of chapter 4 of subtitle D of title XII of the Food
5 Security Act of 1985 (16 U.S.C. 3839aa et seq.)”;
6 and

7 (2) in subsection (h), by striking “2023” and
8 inserting “2031”.

9 **SEC. 5105. LIMITATIONS ON AMOUNT OF FARM OWNERSHIP**
10 **LOANS.**

11 Section 305(a)(2) of the Consolidated Farm and
12 Rural Development Act (7 U.S.C. 1925(a)(2)) is amended
13 by striking “\$600,000, or, in the case of a loan guaranteed
14 by the Secretary, \$1,750,000 (increased, beginning with
15 fiscal year 2019” and inserting “\$850,000, or, in the case
16 of a loan guaranteed by the Secretary, \$3,500,000 (in-
17 creased, beginning with fiscal year 2026”.

18 **SEC. 5106. INFLATION PERCENTAGE.**

19 Section 305(c) of the Consolidated Farm and Rural
20 Development Act (7 U.S.C. 1925(c)) is amended—

21 (1) in paragraph (1), by striking “of the Prices
22 Paid By Farmers Index (as compiled by the Na-
23 tional Agricultural Statistics Service of the Depart-
24 ment of Agriculture) for the 12-month period ending
25 on July 31 of the immediately preceding fiscal year”

1 and inserting “of the per acre average United States
2 farm real estate value, the per acre average United
3 States cropland value, and the per acre average
4 United States pasture value for the preceding year
5 (as published in the applicable Agricultural Land
6 Values report of the National Agricultural Statistics
7 Service of the Department of Agriculture), weighted
8 equally”; and

9 (2) in paragraph (2), by striking “of such index
10 (as so defined) for the 12-month period that imme-
11 diately precedes the 12-month period described in
12 paragraph (1)” and inserting “of the per acre aver-
13 age United States farm real estate value, the per
14 acre average United States cropland value, and the
15 per acre average United States pasture value for the
16 year immediately preceding the year described in
17 paragraph (1) (as so published), weighted equally”.

18 **SEC. 5107. AUTHORITY OF FARM CREDIT SYSTEM INSTITU-**
19 **TIONS TO PROVIDE FINANCIAL SUPPORT FOR**
20 **ESSENTIAL RURAL COMMUNITY FACILITIES**
21 **PROJECTS.**

22 (a) IN GENERAL.—The Farm Credit Act of 1971 is
23 amended by inserting after section 4.18A (12 U.S.C.
24 2206a) the following:

1 **“SEC. 4.18B. ESSENTIAL COMMUNITY FACILITIES.**

2 “(a) IN GENERAL.—A Farm Credit Bank, direct
3 lender association, or bank for cooperatives chartered
4 under this Act may, for the purpose of making available
5 capital to develop, build, maintain, improve, or provide re-
6 lated equipment or other support for essential community
7 facilities in rural areas, make and participate in loans and
8 commitments, and extend other technical and financial as-
9 sistance for projects for essential community facilities eli-
10 gible for financing under section 306(a) of the Consoli-
11 dated Farm and Rural Development Act.

12 “(b) ELIGIBILITY.—Only an entity eligible for financ-
13 ing under section 306(a) of the Consolidated Farm and
14 Rural Development Act may receive financing or any other
15 assistance under subsection (a) of this section.

16 “(c) LIMITATIONS.—

17 “(1) FINANCING.—A Farm Credit System insti-
18 tution described in subsection (a) shall not provide
19 financing or assistance under this section in an ag-
20 gregate amount that exceeds 15 percent of the total
21 of all outstanding loans of the institution.

22 “(2) OFFER REQUIREMENT.—

23 “(A) IN GENERAL.—A Farm Credit Sys-
24 tem institution shall not provide financing or
25 assistance under this section unless the institu-
26 tion—

1 “(i) has offered, under reasonable
2 terms and conditions acceptable to the bor-
3 rower involved, an interest in the financing
4 to at least 1 domestic lending institution
5 not referred to in subsection (a) other than
6 the Department of Agriculture; and

7 “(ii) has reported the offer to the
8 Farm Credit Administration.

9 “(B) RURAL COMMUNITY BANK PRI-
10 ORITY.—In offering an interest in a financing
11 to a domestic lending institution described in
12 subparagraph (A)(i), the Farm Credit System
13 institution shall give priority to community
14 banks located in the service area of the essen-
15 tial community facility being financed.

16 “(d) ANNUAL REPORT TO CONGRESS.—Within 1
17 year after the date of the enactment of this section and
18 annually thereafter, the Farm Credit Administration shall
19 provide a report to the Committee on Agriculture of the
20 House of Representatives and the Committee on Agri-
21 culture, Nutrition, and Forestry of the Senate on the ac-
22 tivities undertaken pursuant to this section by Farm Cred-
23 it System institutions during the period covered by the re-
24 port, including through partnerships between such an in-
25 stitution and other lending institutions, which shall also

1 be posted on the website of the Farm Credit Administra-
2 tion.”.

3 (b) **EFFECTIVE DATE.**—The amendment made by
4 subsection (a) shall take effect on October 1, 2026.

5 **SEC. 5108. DOWN PAYMENT LOAN PROGRAM.**

6 Section 310E(b)(1) of the Consolidated Farm and
7 Rural Development Act (7 U.S.C. 1935(b)(1)) is amend-
8 ed—

9 (1) in the matter preceding subparagraph (A),
10 by striking “exceed 45 percent of the least” and in-
11 serting “exceed, subject to section 305(a), 45 per-
12 cent of the lesser”;

13 (2) in subparagraph (A), by adding “or” after
14 the semicolon;

15 (3) in subparagraph (B), by striking “; or” and
16 inserting a period; and

17 (4) by striking subparagraph (C).

18 **SEC. 5109. HEIRS PROPERTY.**

19 (a) **REAUTHORIZATION OF THE HEIRS PROPERTY**
20 **INTERMEDIARY RELENDING PROGRAM.**—Section 310I(g)
21 of the Consolidated Farm and Rural Development Act (7
22 U.S.C. 1936c(g)) is amended by striking “2023” and in-
23 serting “2031”.

24 (b) **COOPERATIVE AGREEMENTS FOR HEIRS PROP-**
25 **ERTY RESOLUTION THROUGH DIRECT PUBLIC INTEREST**

1 LEGAL SERVICES.—Section 310I of such Act (7 U.S.C.
2 1936c) is amended—

3 (1) by redesignating subsections (f) and (g) as
4 subsections (g) and (h), respectively; and

5 (2) by inserting after subsection (e) the fol-
6 lowing:

7 “(f) COOPERATIVE AGREEMENTS FOR HEIRS PROP-
8 ERTY RESOLUTION THROUGH DIRECT PUBLIC INTEREST
9 LEGAL SERVICES.—

10 “(1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall enter
11 into cooperative agreements with eligible entities to
12 provide legal or accounting services to underserved
13 heirs, at no cost to the underserved heirs, to assist
14 in resolving undivided ownership interests on farm-
15 land or forest land, or land transitioning to farmland
16 or forest land, that has multiple owners. Such a co-
17 operative agreement must be for any of the following
18 purposes:

19 “(A) To assist with transitioning land to
20 agricultural production.

21 “(B) To maintain land in agricultural pro-
22 duction.

23 “(C) To increase access to programs ad-
24 ministered by the Secretary through the resolu-
25 tion of real property claims in order to allow

1 real property owners to meet land ownership
2 eligibility requirements for participation in a
3 program administered by the Secretary.

4 “(2) ADMINISTRATION OF COOPERATIVE
5 AGREEMENTS.—

6 “(A) DURATION.—

7 “(i) IN GENERAL.—A cooperative
8 agreement under paragraph (1) shall be in
9 effect for not more than 4 years, subject to
10 clause (ii).

11 “(ii) SPECIAL RULE.—The Secretary
12 may extend a cooperative agreement or re-
13 enter into a cooperative agreement with
14 the same or a different eligible entity to
15 provide continued services for heirs if—

16 “(I) property ownership is not re-
17 solved within the initial term of the
18 original cooperative agreement; and

19 “(II) the entity certifies that the
20 entity understands that the coopera-
21 tive agreement is not guaranteed to be
22 funded for more than 4 years after
23 the commencement of the original co-
24 operative agreement.

25 “(B) MANAGEMENT OF PERFORMANCE.—

1 “(i) ANNUAL REPORTS.—An eligible
2 entity must provide annual reports to the
3 Secretary summarizing the progress made
4 during each fiscal year towards achieving
5 the goals of the cooperative agreement for
6 the heirs for whom services are provided
7 under the cooperative agreement.

8 “(ii) INFORMATION AND DATA.—The
9 Secretary may require an eligible entity to
10 provide the Secretary with such informa-
11 tion or data as the Secretary deems nec-
12 essary to determine that the eligible entity
13 is making acceptable progress. The data
14 may not include personally identifiable in-
15 formation.

16 “(iii) EFFECT OF FAILURE TO DEM-
17 ONSTRATE SUCCESS.—If an eligible entity
18 providing services under such a cooperative
19 agreement does not demonstrate success,
20 as determined by the Secretary, in resolv-
21 ing or reasonably attempting to resolve the
22 property claims of an heir, the Secretary
23 may terminate the agreement.

24 “(C) IMPLEMENTATION.—The Secretary
25 may utilize requests for public input or the for-

1 mal rulemaking process to effectuate this sub-
2 section. At a minimum, the Secretary shall
3 make publicly available the criteria for selecting
4 an eligible entity to enter into an agreement to
5 provide services, the administrative and per-
6 formance requirements for cooperative agree-
7 ments under this subsection, as well as codify
8 within its internal policy its implementation
9 process.

10 “(D) HEIRS PROPERTY NOT IN FARM-
11 ING.—On a limited basis, and when determined
12 by the Secretary to meet the purposes of a pro-
13 gram administered by the Secretary and to ex-
14 pand access to such a program, the Secretary
15 may allow an eligible entity to provide services
16 at no cost to an heir who is not an underserved
17 heir if—

18 “(i) the land with respect to which the
19 services are to be provided is not farmland
20 or in agricultural production, but could be
21 viably productive for agricultural, con-
22 servation, or forestry purposes;

23 “(ii) the heir satisfies all other re-
24 quirements of the definition of ‘under-
25 served heir’;

1 “(iii) the heir can provide proof to
2 substantiate that the heir is in control of
3 the real property; and

4 “(iv) the heir certifies to the Secretary
5 that the heir intends to apply for, and
6 make a good faith effort to enroll the land
7 in, a program administered by the Sec-
8 retary once property claims to the land are
9 resolved through services provided under a
10 cooperative agreement entered into under
11 this subsection.

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

13 “(A) ELIGIBLE ENTITY.—The term ‘eligi-
14 ble entity’ means a nonprofit organization
15 that—

16 “(i) provides legal or accounting serv-
17 ices to an underserved heir at no cost to
18 the underserved heir to resolve property
19 ownership issues; and

20 “(ii) has demonstrated experience in
21 resolving issues related to ownership and
22 succession on farmland or forest land that
23 has multiple owners.

1 “(B) LIMITED RESOURCE HEIR.—An heir
2 shall be considered a limited resource heir for
3 purposes of this subsection if—

4 “(i) the total household income of the
5 heir is at or below the national poverty
6 level for a family of 4, or less than 50 per-
7 cent of the county median household in-
8 come for the 2 immediately preceding cal-
9 endar years, as determined annually using
10 data of the Department of Commerce; or

11 “(ii) the property of the heir for which
12 legal services are provided pursuant to a
13 cooperative agreement entered into under
14 this subsection is in a persistent poverty
15 community, as determined annually on the
16 basis of data from the Department of
17 Commerce, or a socially vulnerable area, as
18 designated by the Centers on Disease Con-
19 trol and Prevention.

20 “(C) UNDERSERVED HEIR.—The term ‘un-
21 derserved heir’ means an heir with an undivided
22 ownership interest in farmland or forest land
23 that has multiple owners, who is—

24 “(i) a limited resource heir;

1 “(ii) a member of a socially disadvan-
2 tagged group (as defined in section 2501(a)
3 of the Food, Agriculture, Conservation,
4 and Trade Act of 1990); or

5 “(iii) a veteran (as defined in section
6 101(2) of title 38, United States Code).

7 “(4) ANNUAL REPORTS TO CONGRESS.—Within
8 1 year after the date of the enactment of this sub-
9 section, and annually thereafter, the Secretary shall
10 prepare, make public, and submit to the Committee
11 on Agriculture of the House of Representatives and
12 the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and For-
13 estry of the Senate a written report on the activities
14 carried out under this subsection in the year covered
15 by the report.

16 “(5) LIMITATIONS ON AUTHORIZATION OF AP-
17 PROPRIATIONS.—To carry out this subsection, there
18 is authorized to be appropriated to the Secretary
19 \$60,000,000 for each of fiscal years 2027 through
20 2031.”.

21 (c) ANNUAL REPORT ON OPERATIONS AND OUT-
22 COMES UNDER THE RELENDING PROGRAM TO RESOLVE
23 OWNERSHIP AND SUCCESSION ON FARMLAND.—Section
24 310I(g) of such Act, as so redesignated by subsection (b)
25 of this section, is amended by striking “Not later than

1 1 year after the date of enactment of this section, the Sec-
2 retary shall” and inserting “The Secretary shall annu-
3 ally”.

4 **SEC. 5110. PROMPT APPROVAL OF LOANS AND LOAN GUAR-**
5 **ANTEES.**

6 Section 333A of the of the Consolidated Farm and
7 Rural Development Act (7 U.S.C. 1983a) is amended—

8 (1) in subsection (g)—

9 (A) by striking paragraph (1) and insert-
10 ing the following:

11 “(1) REAL ESTATE AND OPERATING GUARAN-
12 TEED LOANS.—

13 “(A) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall
14 provide to lenders a short, simplified application
15 form for real estate and operating guaranteed
16 loans under this title, for loans of not more
17 than \$1,000,000.

18 “(B) NOTICE.—Within 5 business days
19 after receipt of a complete application to guar-
20 antee a farm ownership or operating loan that
21 meets the requirements under subparagraph
22 (A) originated by a Preferred Certified Lender
23 or Certified Lender, the Secretary shall notify
24 the lender as to whether the application is ap-
25 proved or disapproved.

1 “(C) MAXIMUM GUARANTEE.—Notwith-
2 standing any other provision of this Act, the
3 percentage of the principal amount of a loan
4 which may be guaranteed pursuant to this
5 paragraph shall not exceed—

6 “(i) 90 percent, in the case of a loan
7 not exceeding \$125,000;

8 “(ii) 75 percent, in the case of a loan
9 of more than \$125,000 and not more than
10 \$500,000; or

11 “(iii) 50 percent, in the case of a loan
12 of more than \$500,000 and not more than
13 \$1,000,000.”; and

14 (B) by redesignating paragraphs (2) and
15 (3) as paragraphs (3) and (4), respectively, and
16 inserting after paragraph (1) the following:

17 “(2) BUSINESS AND INDUSTRY GUARANTEED
18 LOANS TO ASSIST RURAL ENTITIES.—

19 “(A) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall
20 develop an application process that accelerates,
21 to the maximum extent practicable, the proc-
22 essing of applications for business and industry
23 guaranteed loans to assist rural entities, as de-
24 scribed under section 310B(a)(2)(A), for loans
25 not exceeding \$400,000.

1 “(B) EXCEPTION.—The accelerated appli-
2 cation process, as provided under subparagraph
3 (A), shall apply to loans not exceeding
4 \$600,000 if there is not a significant increased
5 risk of a default on the loan, as determined by
6 the Secretary.”; and
7 (2) by striking subsection (h).

8 **SEC. 5111. EXPEDITED APPROVAL PILOT PROGRAM.**

9 (a) IN GENERAL.—Subtitle D of the Consolidated
10 Farm and Rural Development Act is amended by inserting
11 after section 333D (7 U.S.C. 1983d) the following:

12 **“SEC. 333E. EXPEDITED APPROVAL PILOT PROGRAM.**

13 “(a) IN GENERAL.—Beginning not later than 1 year
14 after the date of the enactment of this section, the Sec-
15 retary shall carry out a pilot program to establish an expe-
16 dited qualification and approval process for borrowers
17 seeking—

18 “(1) a direct farm ownership loan under this
19 Act; or

20 “(2) a bridge loan guaranteed by the Secretary
21 under this Act that is serviced by a Preferred Cer-
22 tified Lender under section 339(d) and provided to
23 a creditworthy borrower, as determined by the Pre-
24 ferred Certified Lender.

1 “(b) LOAN ASSESSMENTS.—In carrying out this sec-
2 tion, the Secretary shall consider streamlining the process
3 for making—

4 “(1) determinations necessary to make the cer-
5 tifications and assessments referred to in section
6 339(c)(5); and

7 “(2) determinations under section 360(b).

8 “(c) RULE OF INTERPRETATION.—This section shall
9 not be interpreted to authorize the waiver or modification
10 of any requirement, other than an application process tim-
11 ing requirement, imposed by or under this Act.

12 “(d) REPORT.—Within 1 year after the date of the
13 enactment of this section, and annually thereafter, the
14 Secretary shall submit to the Committee on Agriculture
15 of the House of Representatives and the Committee on
16 Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry of the Senate a re-
17 port examining the actions undertaken under, and the re-
18 sults of, the pilot program.

19 “(e) TERMINATION OF EFFECTIVENESS.—The au-
20 thority provided by this section shall terminate effective
21 September 30, 2031.”.

22 (b) CONFORMING AMENDMENTS.—Section 346(b)(2)
23 of such Act (7 U.S.C. 1994(b)(2)) is amended—

1 (1) in subparagraph (A)(i)(II), by inserting “,
2 to the extent practicable” after “April 1 of the fiscal
3 year”;

4 (2) in subparagraph (A)(iii), by inserting “,to
5 the extent practicable” after “September 1 of the
6 fiscal year”; and

7 (3) in subparagraph (B)(iii), in the text, by in-
8 serting “, to the extent practicable” after “April 1
9 of the fiscal year”.

10 **Subtitle B—Operating Loans**

11 **SEC. 5201. PERSONS ELIGIBLE FOR OPERATING LOANS.**

12 Section 311(a) of the Consolidated Farm and Rural
13 Development Act (7 U.S.C. 1941(a)) is amended—

14 (1) in the 2nd sentence of paragraph (1), by
15 striking “a majority” each place it appears and in-
16 serting “at least a 50 percent”; and

17 (2) in paragraph (2)—

18 (A) in the paragraph heading, by striking
19 “(2) SPECIAL RULE.—An entity” and inserting
20 the following:

21 “(2) SPECIAL RULES.—

22 “(A) ELIGIBILITY OF QUALIFIED OPERA-
23 TORS.—Qualified operators, as defined by the
24 Secretary, shall be considered to meet the oper-
25 ator requirement of paragraph (1).

1 “(B) ELIGIBILITY OF CERTAIN OPER-
2 ATING-ONLY ENTITIES.—An entity”;

3 (B) by striking “ownership interests of
4 each embedded entity of the entity is owned di-
5 rectly or indirectly by the individuals that own
6 the family farm” and inserting “total ownership
7 interests of the embedded entity, or of the other
8 entities, is owned, directly or indirectly, by
9 qualified operators of the farm improved or
10 supported with funds under this subtitle”.

11 **SEC. 5202. LIMITATIONS ON AMOUNT OF OPERATING**
12 **LOANS.**

13 Section 313(a)(1) of the Consolidated Farm and
14 Rural Development Act (7 U.S.C. 1943(a)(1)) is amended
15 by striking “\$400,000, or, in the case of a loan guaranteed
16 by the Secretary, \$1,750,000 (increased, beginning with
17 fiscal year 2019” and inserting “\$750,000, or, in the case
18 of a loan guaranteed by the Secretary, \$3,000,000 (in-
19 creased, beginning with fiscal year 2026”.

20 **SEC. 5203. LIMITATION ON MICROLOAN AMOUNTS.**

21 Section 313(c)(2) of the Consolidated Farm and
22 Rural Development Act (7 U.S.C. 1943(c)(2)) is amended
23 by striking “\$50,000” and inserting “\$100,000”.

1 **SEC. 5204. COOPERATIVE LENDING PILOT PROJECTS.**

2 Section 313(c)(4)(A) of the Consolidated Farm and
3 Rural Development Act (7 U.S.C. 1943(c)(4)(A)) is
4 amended by striking “2023” and inserting “2031”.

5 **Subtitle C—Emergency Loans**

6 **SEC. 5301. PERSONS ELIGIBLE FOR EMERGENCY LOANS.**

7 Section 321 of the Consolidated Farm and Rural De-
8 velopment Act (7 U.S.C. 1961) is amended—

9 (1) in subsection (a)—

10 (A) in the 1st sentence—

11 (i) by striking “(A)” and inserting
12 “(i)”;

13 (ii) by striking “(B)” and inserting
14 “(ii)”;

15 (iii) by striking “(1)” and inserting
16 “(A)”;

17 (iv) by striking “(2)” and inserting
18 “(B)”;

19 (v) by striking “a majority” each
20 place it appears and inserting “at least a
21 50 percent”;

22 (B) in the 2nd sentence, by striking “this
23 subsection” and inserting “this paragraph”;

24 (C) by striking the 5th sentence; and

25 (D) by adding after and below the end the
26 following:

1 “(2) SPECIAL RULES.—

2 “(A) ELIGIBILITY OF QUALIFIED OPERA-
3 TORS.—Qualified operators, as defined by the
4 Secretary, shall be considered to meet the oper-
5 ator requirement of paragraph (1).

6 “(B) ELIGIBILITY OF CERTAIN OPER-
7 ATING-ONLY ENTITIES.— An applicant that is
8 or will become only the operator of farm real
9 estate acquired, improved, or supported with
10 funds under this subtitle shall be considered to
11 meet the owner-operator requirements of para-
12 graph (1) if 1 or more of the individuals who
13 is an owner of the real estate owns at least 50
14 percent (or such other percentage as the Sec-
15 retary determines is appropriate) of the appli-
16 cant.

17 “(C) ELIGIBILITY OF CERTAIN EMBEDDED
18 ENTITIES.—An entity that is an owner-operator
19 described in paragraph (1), or an operator de-
20 scribed in subparagraph (B) of this paragraph
21 that is owned, in whole or in part, by 1 or more
22 other entities, shall be considered to meet the
23 direct ownership requirement imposed under
24 paragraph (1) if at least 75 percent of the total
25 ownership interests of the embedded entity, or

1 of the other entities, is owned, directly or indi-
2 rectly, by qualified operators of the farm ac-
3 quired, improved, or supported with funds
4 under this subtitle.”; and

5 (2) by striking all that precedes “shall make
6 and insure” and inserting the following:

7 **“SEC. 321. ELIGIBILITY FOR LOANS.**

8 “(a) IN GENERAL.—

9 “(1) ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS.—The Sec-
10 retary”.

11 **Subtitle D—Administrative**
12 **Provisions**

13 **SEC. 5401. BEGINNING FARMER AND RANCHER INDIVIDUAL**
14 **DEVELOPMENT ACCOUNTS PILOT PROGRAM.**

15 Section 333B(h) of the Consolidated Farm and Rural
16 Development Act (7 U.S.C. 1983b(h)) is amended by
17 striking “2023” and inserting “2031”.

18 **SEC. 5402. LOAN AUTHORIZATION LEVELS.**

19 Section 346(b)(1) of the Consolidated Farm and
20 Rural Development Act (7 U.S.C. 1994(b)(1)) is amended
21 in the matter preceding subparagraph (A) by striking
22 “2023” and inserting “2031”.

23 **SEC. 5403. LOAN FUND SET-ASIDES.**

24 Section 346(b)(2)(A)(ii)(III) of the Consolidated
25 Farm and Rural Development Act (7 U.S.C.

1 1994(b)(2)(A)(ii)(III)) is amended by striking “2023”
2 and inserting “2031”.

3 **SEC. 5404. USE OF ADDITIONAL FUNDS FOR DIRECT OPER-**
4 **ATING MICROLOANS UNDER CERTAIN CONDI-**
5 **TIONS.**

6 Section 346(b)(5)(C) of the Consolidated Farm and
7 Rural Development Act (7 U.S.C. 1994(b)(5)(C)) is
8 amended by striking “2023” and inserting “2031”.

9 **Subtitle E—Miscellaneous**

10 **SEC. 5501. EXTENSION OF CREDIT TO BUSINESSES PRO-**
11 **VIDING SERVICES TO PRODUCERS OR HAR-**
12 **VESTERS OF AQUATIC PRODUCTS.**

13 (a) ELIGIBILITY FOR CREDIT AND FINANCIAL SERV-
14 ICES.—Section 1.9 of the Farm Credit Act of 1971 (12
15 U.S.C. 2017) is amended—

16 (1) in paragraph (2), by striking “or” at the
17 end;

18 (2) by redesignating paragraph (3) as para-
19 graph (4); and

20 (3) by inserting after paragraph (2) the fol-
21 lowing:

22 “(3) persons furnishing to producers or har-
23 vesters of aquatic products services directly related
24 to their operating needs; or”.

1 (b) PURPOSES FOR EXTENSIONS OF CREDIT.—Sec-
2 tion 1.11(c)(1) of such Act (12 U.S.C. 2019(c)(1)) is
3 amended by inserting “and to persons furnishing services
4 directly related to the operating needs of producers or har-
5 vesters of aquatic products” after “needs”.

6 (c) PRODUCTION CREDIT ASSOCIATIONS.—Section
7 2.4(a) of such Act (12 U.S.C. 2075(a)) is amended—

8 (1) in paragraph (2), by striking “and” at the
9 end;

10 (2) in paragraph (3), by striking the period at
11 the end and inserting “; and”; and

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

13 “(4) persons furnishing to producers or har-
14 vesters of aquatic products services directly related
15 to their operating needs.”.

16 **SEC. 5502. EXPORT FINANCE AUTHORITY.**

17 Section 3.7(b)(2)(A)(i) of the Farm Credit Act of
18 1971 (12 U.S.C. 2128(b)(2)(A)(i)) is amended—

19 (1) by striking “50 percent of the bank’s cap-
20 ital” and inserting “15 percent of the total assets of
21 the bank”; and

22 (2) by striking “an amount equal to 50 percent
23 of the bank’s capital” and inserting “15 percent of
24 the total assets of the bank”.

1 **SEC. 5503. SUPPORT FOR RURAL WATER AND WASTE SYS-**
2 **TEMS.**

3 Section 3.7(f) of the Farm Credit Act of 1971 (12
4 U.S.C. 2128(f)) is amended—

5 (1) by redesignating paragraphs (1) and (2) as
6 subparagraphs (A) and (B);

7 (2) by striking “The banks” and inserting “(1)
8 The banks”;

9 (3) striking “For purposes” and inserting “(3)
10 For purposes”;

11 (4) in subparagraph (B) (as so redesignated),
12 by inserting “, or in the case of such loans, commit-
13 ments, and assistance that are guaranteed, the term
14 ‘rural area’ means an area described in section
15 343(a)(13)(A) of the Consolidated Farm and Rural
16 Development Act (7 U.S.C. 1991(a)(13)(A))” before
17 the period at the end; and

18 (5) by inserting after paragraph (1) (as so re-
19 designated) the following:

20 “(2) Notwithstanding paragraph (1), a bank for
21 cooperatives may make and participate in loans and
22 commitments and provide technical and other finan-
23 cial assistance to cooperatives and any other public
24 or private entity (except for the Federal Govern-
25 ment) for the purpose of installing, maintaining, ex-
26 panding, improving, or operating facilities in a rural

1 area for the processing or disposal of waste from
2 any source, the provision of telecommunication serv-
3 ices, and producing electricity from any source for
4 use or sale by the borrower.”.

5 **SEC. 5504. FARM CREDIT SYSTEM REGULATION.**

6 (a) IN GENERAL.—The Farm Credit Act of 1971 (12
7 U.S.C. 2001 et seq.) is amended by inserting after section
8 4.20 the following:

9 **“SEC. 4.21. FARM CREDIT SYSTEM REGULATION.**

10 “(a) The Farm Credit Administration shall be the
11 sole and independent regulator of the Farm Credit System
12 with respect to activities subject to this Act.

13 “(b) A law enacted or rule promulgated after the date
14 of the enactment of this section shall not be held to modify
15 or supersede the exclusive authority provided by sub-
16 section (a), except to the extent that the enacted law does
17 so expressly.”.

18 (b) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendment made by
19 subsection (a) shall take effect on the date of the enact-
20 ment of this Act.

21 **SEC. 5505. LOAN GUARANTEES.**

22 Section 8.0(7)(B) of the Farm Credit Act of 1971
23 (12 U.S.C. 2279aa(7)(B)) is amended by inserting “ or
24 section 9007(c)(1) of the Farm Security and Rural Invest-

1 ment Act of 2002 (7 U.S.C. 8107(c)(1))” before the 1st
2 comma.

3 **SEC. 5506. STANDARDS FOR QUALIFIED LOANS.**

4 Section 8.8 of the Farm Credit Act of 1971 (12
5 U.S.C. 2279aa–8) is amended—

6 (1) in subsection (a)(3), by striking “mortgage
7 investors” and inserting “investors in those types of
8 loans”; and

9 (2) by striking subsection (c) and inserting the
10 following:

11 “(c) QUALIFIED LOAN LIMITATION FOR SINGLE
12 BORROWERS.—

13 “(1) IN GENERAL.—The Corporation shall not
14 treat a loan secured by agricultural real estate as a
15 qualified loan when the cumulative principal amount
16 of all loans to a single borrower or related borrowers
17 exceeds 10 percent of the Corporation’s tier 1 cap-
18 ital, as defined by the Farm Credit Administration.

19 “(2) REGULATOR DETERMINATION.—The Farm
20 Credit Administration may issue regulations estab-
21 lishing a single borrower concentration limit lower
22 than the percentage specified in paragraph (1) if the
23 Farm Credit Administration determines that such a
24 lower limit is necessary for the safe and sound oper-
25 ation of the Corporation.”.

1 **SEC. 5507. STATE AGRICULTURAL MEDIATION PROGRAMS.**

2 (a) **MATCHING GRANTS TO STATES.**—Section 502 of
3 the Agricultural Credit Act of 1987 (7 U.S.C. 5102) is
4 amended—

5 (1) in subsection (b)(2), by striking “\$500,000”
6 and inserting “\$700,000”; and

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

8 “(e) **CARRYOVER OF FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE.**—The
9 Secretary shall permit a State that receives financial as-
10 sistance under subsection (a) for a fiscal year to carry over
11 not more than 25 percent of the financial assistance that
12 is not expended by the end of the fiscal year, for use dur-
13 ing the next fiscal year without deducting the amount
14 from any assistance provided under this Act in subsequent
15 fiscal years.”.

16 (b) **AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.**—Section
17 506 of the Agricultural Credit Act of 1987 (7 U.S.C.
18 5106) is amended by striking “2023” and inserting
19 “2031”.

20 **SEC. 5508. TECHNICAL CORRECTIONS.**

21 (a) **ELIMINATION OF OBSOLETE REFERENCES TO**
22 **COUNTY COMMITTEES.**—

23 (1) Section 333A(a)(2)(B)(vi) of the Consoli-
24 dated Farm and Rural Development Act (7 U.S.C.
25 1983a(a)(2)(B)(vi)) is amended by striking “by the

1 county committee” and inserting “of the applica-
2 tion”.

3 (2) Section 336 of such Act (7 U.S.C. 1986) is
4 amended—

5 (A) by striking the last sentence of sub-
6 section (b); and

7 (B) by striking subsection (e) and redesignig-
8 nating subsection (d) as subsection (e).

9 (3) Section 339 of such Act (7 U.S.C. 1989) is
10 amended—

11 (A) in subsection (c)(4)(A), by striking
12 “county committee certification that the bor-
13 rower of the loan meets the eligibility require-
14 ments and” and inserting “the borrower meet-
15 ing”; and

16 (B) in subsection (d)(4)(A), by striking
17 “county committee certification that the bor-
18 rower meets the eligibility requirements or” and
19 inserting “the borrower meeting”.

20 (4) Section 359(c)(1) of such Act (7 U.S.C.
21 2006a(c)(1)) is amended by striking “(as determined
22 by the appropriate county committee during the de-
23 termination of eligibility for the loan)”.

24 (b) REVISION OF LOAN ASSESSMENT REQUIRE-
25 MENTS.—Section 360(d)(1) of such Act (7 U.S.C.

1 2006b(d)(1)) is amended by striking “annual review of di-
2 rect loans, and periodic review (as determined necessary
3 by the Secretary) of guaranteed loans” and inserting
4 “periodic review (as determined by the Secretary) of direct
5 and guaranteed loans”.

6 (c) UPDATING OF OUTDATED REFERENCES TO THE
7 FARMERS HOME ADMINISTRATION AND THE RURAL DE-
8 VELOPMENT AGENCY.—

9 (1) Section 309(e) of such Act (7 U.S.C.
10 1928(e)) is amended by striking “Farmers Home
11 Administration and the Rural Development Adminis-
12 tration” and inserting “Farm Service Agency and
13 Rural Development”.

14 (2) Section 331(b)(4) of such Act (7 U.S.C.
15 1981(b)(4)) is amended by striking “Consolidated”.

16 (3) Section 331(b) of such Act (7 U.S.C.
17 1981(b)) is amended in each of paragraphs (5) and
18 (7) by striking “Farmers Home Administration”
19 each place it appears and inserting “Farm Service
20 Agency and Rural Development”.

21 (4) Section 331(b)(8) of such Act (7 U.S.C.
22 1981(b)(8)) is amended by striking “Rural Develop-
23 ment Administration or by the Farmers Home Ad-
24 ministration” and inserting “Farm Service Agency
25 and Rural Development”.

1 (5) Section 331A(a) of such Act (7 U.S.C.
2 1981a(a)) is amended by striking “Farmers Home
3 Administration or by the Rural Development Admin-
4 istration” and inserting “Farm Service Agency or by
5 Rural Development”.

6 (6) Section 335(a) of such Act (7 U.S.C.
7 1985(a)) is amended by striking “Farmers Home
8 Administration or the Rural Development Adminis-
9 tration” and inserting “Farm Service Agency or
10 Rural Development”.

11 (7) Section 335(f)(1) of such Act (7 U.S.C.
12 1985(f)(1)) is amended—

13 (A) by striking “Agricultural Stabilization
14 and Conservation Service payments” and insert-
15 ing “Farm Service Agency farm program”;

16 (B) by striking “Farmers Home Adminis-
17 tration liens” and inserting “liens for a farmer
18 program loan”; and

19 (C) by striking “Farmers Home Adminis-
20 tration farmer” and inserting “Farm Service
21 Agency farmer”.

22 (8) Section 338(a) of such Act (7 U.S.C.
23 1988(a)) is amended by striking “Farmers Home
24 Administration or the Rural Development Adminis-

1 tration” and inserting “Farm Service Agency and
2 Rural Development”.

3 (9) Section 347 of such Act (7 U.S.C. 1995) is
4 amended by striking “Farmers Home Administra-
5 tion” and inserting “Farm Service Agency and
6 Rural Development”.

7 (10) Section 356 of such Act (7 U.S.C. 2004)
8 is amended—

9 (A) by striking “Farmers Home Adminis-
10 tration may” and inserting “Farm Service
11 Agency and Rural Development may”; and

12 (B) by striking “the inventory of the
13 Farmers Home Administration” and inserting
14 “inventory”.

15 (11) Section 370(a) of such Act (7 U.S.C.
16 2008e(a)) is amended by striking “the Rural Devel-
17 opment Administration, the Farmers Home Admin-
18 istration, the Rural Electrification Administration”
19 and inserting “Rural Development, the Farm Serv-
20 ice Agency, the Rural Utilities Service”.

21 (12) Each of the following provisions of such
22 Act is amended by striking “Farmers Home Admin-
23 istration” each place it appears and inserting “Farm
24 Service Agency”:

1 (A) Section 309(g)(1) (7 U.S.C.
2 1929(g)(1)).

3 (B) Section 331A(a) (7 U.S.C. 1981a(a)).

4 (C) Section 333A(a)(2)(B) (7 U.S.C.
5 1983a(a)(2)(B)).

6 (D) Section 333A(e)(1) (7 U.S.C.
7 1983a(e)(1)).

8 (E) Section 335(d) (7 U.S.C. 1985(d)).

9 (F) Section 353A (7 U.S.C. 2001a).

10 (G) Section 349(e)(1)(B) (7 U.S.C.
11 1997(e)(1)(B)).

12 (H) Section 361 (7 U.S.C. 2006c).

13 (d) Section 335(c)(1) of such Act (7 U.S.C.
14 1985(c)(1)) is amended—

15 (1) in subparagraph (A), by striking “15” and
16 inserting “60”;

17 (2) in subparagraph (B)(i)—

18 (A) by striking “135” and inserting
19 “180”; and

20 (B) by inserting “suitable for farming and
21 ranching, as determined by the Secretary” be-
22 fore the comma; and

23 (3) in subparagraph (C), by striking “not later
24 than 135 days after acquiring the real property, the
25 Secretary shall, not later than 30 days after the

1 135-day period,” and inserting “or if the property is
2 not suitable for farming and ranching as determined
3 by the Secretary, not later than 60 days after the
4 180-day period, the Secretary shall”.

5 (e) CORRECTION OF INFEASIBLE INVENTORY PROP-
6 erty DISPOSITION FRAMEWORK.—

7 (1) Section 331(b)(1) of such Act (7 U.S.C.
8 1981(b)(1)) is amended by striking “, and until Jan-
9 uary” and all that follows through “(fit)”.

10 (2) Section 335(f) of such Act (7 U.S.C.
11 1985(f)) is amended—

12 (A) by striking paragraphs (3) through (5)
13 and redesignating paragraph (6) as paragraph
14 (3); and

15 (B) by striking paragraph (7) and insert-
16 ing the following:

17 “(4) The Secretary shall issue regulations consistent
18 with this section that ensures the release of funds to each
19 borrower.”.

20 (f) REPLACEMENT OF REFERENCES TO DISTRICT
21 OFFICE WITH REFERENCES TO DISTRICT DIRECTOR.—

22 Section 333A(a)(2)(B) of such Act (7 U.S.C.
23 1983a(a)(2)(B)) is amended by striking “district office”
24 each place it appears and inserting “District Director”.

1 (g) CORRECTION OF OBSOLETE REFERENCE TO
2 FORMER TRUST TERRITORIES.—Section 343(a)(6) of
3 such Act (7 U.S.C. 1991(a)(6)) is amended by striking
4 “the Trust Territory of the Pacific Islands” and inserting
5 “the Federated States of Micronesia, the Republic of
6 Palau, and the Republic of the Marshall Islands”.

7 (h) REVISION OF FARMER PROGRAM LOAN DEFINI-
8 TION.—Section 343(a)(10) of such Act (7 U.S.C.
9 1991(a)(10)) is amended by inserting “before June 18,
10 2008, conservation loan (CL) under section 304 on or
11 after June 18, 2008,” before “emergency loan (EM)”.

12 (i) ELIMINATION OF INCONSISTENCY BETWEEN
13 RULES APPLICABLE TO BEGINNING FARMERS.—Section
14 343(a)(11)(C) of such Act (7 U.S.C. 1991(a)(11)(C)) is
15 amended by striking “related to one another by blood or
16 marriage” and inserting “qualified beginning farmers”.

17 (j) UPDATING OF PROVISIONS TO REFLECT
18 REPURPOSING OF CONSERVATION LOAN PROVISIONS.—

19 (1) Section 303(a) of such Act (7 U.S.C.
20 1923(a)) is amended in each of paragraphs (1)(D)
21 and (2)(D) by striking “described in section 304”.

22 (2) Section 310D of such Act (7 U.S.C. 1934)
23 is amended by striking “, or paragraphs (1) through
24 (5) of section 304(a),” and inserting “section
25 304(a)”.

1 (k) UPDATING OF NOTICE PROVISION REQUIREMENT
2 AND LIFETIME DEBT FORGIVENESS LIMIT.—Section
3 353(i)(1) of such Act (7 U.S.C. 2001(i)(1)) is amended
4 by striking “registered or certified mail” and inserting
5 “any method that provides documentation of delivery”.

6 (l) UPDATING OF OBSOLETE REFERENCE TO THE
7 SOIL CONSERVATION SERVICE.—Section 306(a)(13) of
8 such Act (7 U.S.C. 1926(a)(13)) is amended by striking
9 “Soil Conservation Service” and inserting “Natural Re-
10 sources Conservation Service”.

11 (m) CLARIFICATION OF INTEREST RATE REQUIRE-
12 MENTS.—

13 (1) Section 307(a)(3)(B) of such Act (7 U.S.C.
14 1927(a)(3)(B)) is amended by striking “not be—”
15 and all that follows and inserting “be equal to the
16 interest rate for direct farm ownership loans under
17 this subtitle, not to exceed 5 percent per year.”.

18 (2) Section 316(a)(2) of such Act (7 U.S.C.
19 1946(a)(2)) is amended by striking “not be—” and
20 all that follows and inserting “be equal to the inter-
21 est rate for direct farm ownership loans under this
22 subtitle, not to exceed 5 percent per year.”.

23 (n) CORRECTION OF HEADING.—Section 309(h)(6)
24 of such Act (7 U.S.C. 1929(h)(6)) is amended in the para-
25 graph heading by striking “BEGINNING FARMER LOANS”

1 and inserting “DOWN PAYMENT LOAN PROGRAM PARTICI-
2 PANT”.

3 (o) ELIMINATION OF SUPERFLUOUS RESTRIC-
4 TIONS.—Section 312 of such Act (7 U.S.C. 1942) is
5 amended by striking subsection (d) and redesignating sub-
6 section (e) as subsection (d).

7 (p) ELIMINATION OF CONFUSING REFERENCES TO
8 LOAN GUARANTEES.—Section 319 of such Act (7 U.S.C.
9 1949) is amended—

10 (1) in the section heading, by striking “**OR**
11 **GUARANTEES**”; and

12 (2) by striking “or with respect to whom there
13 is an outstanding guarantee under this subtitle”.

14 (q) ELIMINATION OF OBSOLETE REPORTING RE-
15 QUIREMENTS.—Section 346 of such Act (7 U.S.C. 1994)
16 is amended by striking subsections (c) and (d).

17 (r) CORRECTION OF OBSOLETE APPEALS PROVI-
18 SIONS.—

19 (1) Section 352(c)(3) of such Act (7 U.S.C.
20 2000(c)(3)) is amended by striking “section 333B”
21 and inserting “subtitle H of title II of Federal Crop
22 Insurance Reform and Department of Agriculture
23 Reorganization Act of 1994”.

24 (2) Section 353 of such Act (7 U.S.C. 2001) is
25 amended—

1 (A) in subsection (h), by striking “under
2 section 333B”; and

3 (B) in subsection (j)—

4 (i) by striking “filed with the appeals
5 division under section 333B” and inserting
6 “to the National Appeals Division”;

7 (ii) by striking “appeals division
8 shall” and inserting “Secretary shall”; and

9 (iii) by striking “county supervisor”
10 and inserting “Secretary”.

11 (s) ELIMINATION OF UNNECESSARY CONSTRAINT ON
12 PILOT PROJECTS.—Section 333D(a) of such Act (7
13 U.S.C. 1983d(a)) is amended by striking “that are con-
14 sistent with subtitle A through this subtitle”.

15 (t) CORRECTION OF HEADING.—The paragraph
16 heading in section 8.8(a)(3) of the Farm Credit Act of
17 1971 (12 U.S.C. 2279aa–8(a)(3)) is amended by striking
18 “MORTGAGE LOANS” and inserting “LOAN QUALITY”.

1 **TITLE VI—RURAL**
2 **DEVELOPMENT**
3 **Subtitle A—Improving Health**
4 **Outcomes in Rural America**

5 **SEC. 6101. PRIORITIZATIONS FOR DISTANCE LEARNING**
6 **AND TELEMEDICINE AND COMMUNITY FA-**
7 **CILITIES PROGRAM.**

8 Section 6101(a) of the Agriculture Improvement Act
9 of 2018 (132 Stat. 4726; Public Law 115–334) is amend-
10 ed—

11 (1) in paragraph (1)—

12 (A) in the matter preceding subparagraph

13 (A), by striking “2025” and inserting “2027”;

14 (B) in subparagraph (A)—

15 (i) in clause (i)—

16 (I) in the heading, by striking

17 “SUBSTANCE USE DISORDER SET-

18 ASIDE” and inserting “SET-ASIDE”;

19 and

20 (II) by inserting “, mental

21 health, behavioral health, or maternal

22 health” before “treatment”; and

23 (ii) in clause (ii), by inserting “mental

24 health, behavioral health, maternal health,

25 or” before “substance”;

1 (C) in subparagraph (B)—

2 (i) in clause (i)—

3 (I) in the heading, by striking
4 “SUBSTANCE USE DISORDER SELEC-
5 TION” and inserting “SELECTION”;

6 (II) in subclause (I), by inserting
7 “mental health, behavioral health, ma-
8 ternal health, or” before “substance”;
9 and

10 (III) in subclause (II), by insert-
11 ing “mental health concerns, behav-
12 ioral health concerns, maternal health
13 concerns, or” before “substance”; and

14 (ii) in clause (ii), by inserting “, be-
15 havioral health treatment, mental health
16 treatment, or maternal health, respec-
17 tively” before the period; and

18 (D) in subparagraph (C), by inserting “be-
19 havioral health, mental health, maternal health,
20 or” before “substance”; and

21 (2) in paragraph (2), by striking “2025” and
22 inserting “2027”.

1 **SEC. 6102. DISTANCE LEARNING AND TELEMEDICINE**
2 **LOANS AND GRANTS.**

3 Section 2335A of the Food, Agriculture, Conserva-
4 tion, and Trade Act of 1990 (7 U.S.C. 950aaa–5) is
5 amended by striking “\$82,000,000 for each of fiscal years
6 2019 through 2023” and inserting “\$82,000,000 for each
7 of fiscal years 2027 through 2031, to remain available for
8 2 fiscal years after the fiscal year for which appropriated”.

9 **Subtitle B—Connecting Rural**
10 **Americans to High Speed**
11 **Broadband**

12 **SEC. 6201. RURAL BROADBAND PROGRAM LOANS AND**
13 **GRANTS.**

14 (a) IN GENERAL.—Section 601 of the Rural Elec-
15 trification Act of 1936 (7 U.S.C. 950bb) is amended—

16 (1) in the section heading, by striking “**AC-**
17 **CESS TO BROADBAND TELECOMMUNICATIONS**
18 **SERVICES IN RURAL AREAS**” and inserting “**RE-**
19 **CONNECT RURAL BROADBAND PROGRAM**”;

20 (2) in subsection (a), by striking “The purpose”
21 and all that follows through “provide funds for” and
22 inserting “The Secretary shall establish a program,
23 which shall be known as the ‘ReConnect Rural
24 Broadband Program’, to provide grants, loans, and
25 loan guarantees to finance”;

26 (3) in subsection (c)—

1 (A) by striking paragraph (1) and insert-
2 ing the following:

3 “(1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall make
4 grants, loans, and loan guarantees to eligible entities
5 described in subsection (d) for the purpose of financ-
6 ing the construction, improvement, or acquisition of
7 facilities and equipment necessary for delivering
8 broadband service in rural areas.”;

9 (B) in paragraph (2), by striking subpara-
10 graphs (A) and (B) and inserting the following:

11 “(A) IN GENERAL.—In making grants,
12 making loans, and guaranteeing loans under
13 paragraph (1), the Secretary shall give the
14 highest priority to applications for projects to
15 provide broadband service to unserved rural
16 communities that do not have any residential
17 broadband service of at least—

18 “(i) a 25-Mbps downstream trans-
19 mission capacity; and

20 “(ii) a 3-Mbps upstream transmission
21 capacity.

22 “(B) OTHER.—After giving priority to the
23 applications described in subparagraph (A), the
24 Secretary shall then give priority to applica-
25 tions—

1 “(i) for projects to provide broadband
2 service to rural communities—

3 “(I) with a population of less
4 than 10,000 inhabitants; or

5 “(II) in geographically under-
6 served and distressed areas, includ-
7 ing—

8 “(aa) a socially vulnerable
9 community (as determined by the
10 Secretary);

11 “(bb) a persistent poverty
12 county (as determined by the
13 Secretary); or

14 “(cc) in an economically dis-
15 tressed area (as determined by
16 the Secretary);

17 “(ii) that were developed with the par-
18 ticipation of, and will receive a substantial
19 portion of the funding or in-kind assistance
20 for the project from, 2 or more stake-
21 holders, including—

22 “(I) State, local, and tribal gov-
23 ernments;

24 “(II) nonprofit institutions;

1 “(III) community anchor institu-
2 tions, such as—

3 “(aa) public libraries;

4 “(bb) elementary schools
5 and secondary schools (as defined
6 in section 8101 of the Elemen-
7 tary and Secondary Education
8 Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 7801));

9 “(cc) institutions of higher
10 education (including 1862 Land-
11 Grant Institutions, 1890 Land-
12 Grant Institutions, 1994 Land-
13 Grant Institutions, Hispanic-
14 Serving Institutions, and Histori-
15 cally Black Colleges and Univer-
16 sities);

17 “(dd) health care facilities;
18 and

19 “(ee) facilities essential for
20 local or regional commerce or for
21 the movement of goods;

22 “(IV) private entities;

23 “(V) philanthropic organizations;

24 and

25 “(VI) cooperatives; or

1 “(iii) that are submitted by an eligible
2 entity or is owned by an entity that has
3 provided broadband service or other utility
4 service for at least 5 years in rural areas
5 in the State in which the project would be
6 carried out.”;

7 (C) in paragraph (3)—

8 (i) in subparagraph (B)—

9 (I) by striking “and” at the end
10 of clause (i);

11 (II) by striking the period at the
12 end of clause (ii) and inserting “;
13 and”; and

14 (III) by adding at the end the
15 following:

16 “(iii) shall be subject to a grant
17 agreement of not less than 10 years.”;

18 (ii) by striking subparagraphs (C) and
19 (D) and inserting the following:

20 “(C) APPLICATIONS.—

21 “(i) GRANT-ONLY APPLICATIONS.—
22 The Secretary shall establish an applica-
23 tion process that permits an application for
24 a grant-only award.

1 “(ii) COMBINED APPLICATIONS.—The
2 Secretary shall establish an application
3 process that—

4 “(I) permits a single application
5 for a grant and a loan under title I or
6 II, or this title, that is associated with
7 the grant; and

8 “(II) provides a single decision to
9 award the grant and the loan.”;

10 (iii) by redesignating subparagraph
11 (E) as subparagraph (D); and

12 (iv) by striking subparagraph (F); and
13 (D) by striking paragraph (4) and insert-
14 ing the following:

15 “(4) FEES.—

16 “(A) INITIAL GUARANTEE FEE.—The Sec-
17 retary may assess an initial guarantee fee for
18 any insured or guaranteed loan issued or modi-
19 fied under this section in an amount that does
20 not exceed 3 percent of the guaranteed prin-
21 cipal portion of the loan.

22 “(B) PERIODIC RETENTION FEE.—The
23 Secretary may assess a periodic retention fee
24 for any insured or guaranteed loan or modified
25 under this section in an amount that does not

1 exceed 0.75 percent of the outstanding principal
2 of the guarantee loan.

3 “(C) DISCLOSURE.—In altering any fee
4 charged for any insured or guaranteed loan
5 issued or modified under this section, the Sec-
6 retary, not less than 30 days in advance of any
7 fee change, shall provide a public disclosure, of
8 the financial data, economic and behavioral as-
9 sumptions, calculations, and other factors used
10 to determine the new fee rates.”;

11 (4) in subsection (d)—

12 (A) in paragraph (1)—

13 (i) in subparagraph (A)—

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

16 (II) by striking “require; and”
17 and all that follows through “agree”
18 and insert “require, and agree”;

19 (ii) by redesignating subparagraph
20 (B) as subparagraph (E) and inserting
21 after subparagraph (A) the following:

22 “(B) INCLUSIONS.—An entity eligible to
23 obtain assistance under subsection (c) may in-
24 clude—

1 “(i) a State or local government, in-
2 cluding any agency, subdivision, instru-
3 mentality, or political subdivision of a
4 State or local government;

5 “(ii) a territory or possession of the
6 United States;

7 “(iii) an Indian Tribe (as defined in
8 section 4 of the Indian Self-Determination
9 and Education Assistance Act (25 U.S.C.
10 5304));

11 “(iv) a cooperative or mutual organi-
12 zation;

13 “(v) an organization of 2 or more in-
14 corporated areas that have established an
15 intermunicipal legal agreement for the pur-
16 poses of delivering communication services
17 to residents;

18 “(vi) a corporation; or

19 “(vii) a limited liability company or
20 limited liability partnership.

21 “(C) INELIGIBLE ENTITIES.—An indi-
22 vidual or legal general partnership that is
23 formed with individuals shall not be eligible to
24 obtain a grant, loan, or grant and loan com-
25 bination under subsection (c).

1 “(D) AFFILIATED OWNED AND OPERATED
2 NETWORKS.—Under this subsection, the Sec-
3 retary may fund the construction of networks
4 owned and operated by an affiliate of an eligible
5 entity receiving the grant, loan, or loan guar-
6 antee, if the eligible entity, the affiliate, or
7 both, as determined necessary by the Secretary,
8 furnishes adequate security for the grant, loan,
9 or loan guarantee.”; and

10 (iii) in subparagraph (E) (as so reded-
11 icated by clause (ii) of this subpara-
12 graph), by inserting “, directly or in con-
13 junction with any combination of affili-
14 ates,” before “may not”;

15 (B) in paragraph (2)—

16 (i) in subparagraph (A)—

17 (I) by striking “subparagraphs
18 (B) and (C)” and inserting “subpara-
19 graph (B)”;

20 (II) by striking “is submitted—”
21 and all that follows through “(i) not
22 less than 50” and inserting “is sub-
23 mitted not less than 75” ; and

24 (III) by striking “(e); and” and
25 all that follows and inserting “(e).”;

1 (ii) in subparagraph (B), by striking

2 “(A)(i)” and inserting “(A)”; and

3 (iii) by striking subparagraph (C);

4 and

5 (C) by striking paragraphs (4) and (5);

6 (5) in subsection (e)—

7 (A) in paragraph (1)—

8 (i) by striking “Subject to paragraph

9 (2), for” and inserting “For”;

10 (ii) in subparagraph (A), by striking

11 “25” and inserting “50”; and

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

13 “3” and inserting “25”;

14 (B) by striking paragraph (2) and insert-

15 ing the following:

16 “(2) ADJUSTMENTS.—The Secretary may ad-

17 just, through a 30-day public notice and comment

18 period published in the Federal Register, an increase

19 in the minimum level of broadband service under

20 paragraph (1) of no more than 50 percent from the

21 preceding year, if less than 95 percent of the funds

22 of the program are obligated in the preceding 2

23 funding rounds.”; and

24 (C) in paragraph (4)—

1 (i) in the paragraph heading, by strik-
2 ing “BUILDOUT” and inserting “PROJECT
3 AGREEMENT”; and

4 (ii) by striking subparagraphs (B)
5 through (D) and inserting the following:

6 “(B) BROADBAND BUILDOUT STANDARDS
7 DEFINED.—A project must meet the following
8 applicable broadband standard in order to be
9 considered for assistance;

10 “(i) A project with an award term of
11 less than 8 years must provide service at
12 2 times the minimum broadband speed es-
13 tablished in subsection (e)(1).

14 “(ii) A project with an award term of
15 at least 8 years and less than 14 years
16 must provide service at 5 times the min-
17 imum broadband speed established in sub-
18 section (e)(1).

19 “(iii) A project with an award term of
20 14 or more years must provide service at
21 10 times the minimum broadband speed
22 established in subsection (e)(1).

23 “(C) NETWORK UPGRADE PLANNING.—
24 The Secretary may prioritize an applicant seek-
25 ing to meet the broadband buildout standards

1 under clause (i) or (ii) of subparagraph (B) if
2 the applicant submits information regarding the
3 potential for the physical infrastructure of the
4 network to be upgraded to meet the broadband
5 buildout standards under subparagraph (B)(iii)
6 at the time of the application, assuming reason-
7 able progress in relevant networking tech-
8 nologies.”;

9 (6) by striking subsection (j) and inserting the
10 following:

11 “(j) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There
12 is authorized to be appropriated to the Secretary to carry
13 out this section \$350,000,000 for each of fiscal years 2027
14 through 2031, to remain available until expended.”; and

15 (7) in subsection (k), by striking “2023” and
16 inserting “2031”.

17 (b) REGULATIONS.—Not later than 270 days after
18 the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary shall
19 promulgate rules to carry out the amendments made by
20 subsection (a) of this section, and complete the biennial
21 review process required by section 601(e)(2) of the Rural
22 Electrification Act of 1936.

23 (c) SUNSET.—The authorities provided by section
24 779 of the Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2018 (Public

1 Law 115–141) shall have no force or effect beginning 270
2 days after the date of the enactment of this Act.

3 (d) TRANSITION RULES.—

4 (1) AVAILABILITY OF FUNDS FOR ADMINISTRA-
5 TIVE COSTS.—Not more than 1 percent of the unob-
6 ligated balances of amounts made available, as of
7 the date that is 270 days after the date of the enact-
8 ment of this Act, to carry out the pilot program de-
9 scribed in section 779 of the Consolidated Appro-
10 priations Act, 2018 (Public Law 115–141) may be
11 used for the costs of transitioning from the pilot
12 program to the program under section 601 of the
13 Rural Electrification Act of 1936, as amended by
14 this Act.

15 (2) CONSOLIDATION OF FUNDS.—

16 (A) IN GENERAL.—The unobligated bal-
17 ances of all amounts made available on or be-
18 fore June 30, 2025, to carry out the pilot pro-
19 gram described in section 779 of the Consoli-
20 dated Appropriations Act, 2018 (Public Law
21 115–141) that are in excess of the amount de-
22 scribed in subparagraph (B) of this paragraph
23 are hereby transferred to and merged with
24 amounts made available to carry out the pro-

1 gram authorized under section 601 of the Rural
2 Electrification Act of 1936.

3 (B) UNFUNDED APPROVALS.—The amount
4 described in this subparagraph is the amount
5 required to fully fund each project approved as
6 of the date that is 270 days after the date of
7 the enactment of this Act, under the pilot pro-
8 gram described in such section 779 for which
9 amounts were not obligated or partially obli-
10 gated as of such date.

11 **SEC. 6202. EXPANSION OF MIDDLE MILE INFRASTRUCTURE**
12 **INTO RURAL AREAS.**

13 Section 602(g) of the Rural Electrification Act of
14 1936 (7 U.S.C. 950bb-1(g)) is amended by striking “2018
15 through 2023” and inserting “2027 through 2031”.

16 **SEC. 6203. INNOVATIVE BROADBAND ADVANCEMENT PRO-**
17 **GRAM.**

18 Section 603 of the Rural Electrification Act of 1936
19 (7 U.S.C. 950bb-2) is amended to read as follows:

20 **“SEC. 603. INNOVATIVE BROADBAND ADVANCEMENT PRO-**
21 **GRAM.**

22 “(a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall establish a
23 program to be known as the ‘Innovative Broadband Ad-
24 vancement Program’, under which the Secretary may pro-
25 vide a grant, a loan, or both to an eligible entity for the

1 purpose of demonstrating innovative broadband tech-
2 nologies or methods of broadband deployment that signifi-
3 cantly decrease the cost of broadband deployment, and
4 provide substantially faster broadband speeds than are
5 available, in a rural area.

6 “(b) TERRESTRIAL BROADBAND DEMONSTRATION
7 PROJECTS.—

8 “(1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall provide
9 grants or loans to eligible entities for the purpose of
10 deploying innovative broadband technologies to
11 qualified consumers who subscribe to terrestrial
12 broadband service in rural areas.

13 “(2) ELIGIBILITY.—To be eligible to obtain as-
14 sistance under this subsection for a project, an enti-
15 ty shall—

16 “(A) submit to the Secretary an applica-
17 tion—

18 “(i) that describes a terrestrial
19 broadband demonstration project designed
20 to decrease the cost of broadband deploy-
21 ment, and substantially increase broadband
22 speed to not less than the maximum
23 broadband project agreement requirements
24 established under section 601(e)(4), to

1 qualified consumers in a rural area to be
2 served by the project; and

3 “(ii) at such time, in such manner,
4 and containing such other information as
5 the Secretary may require;

6 “(B) demonstrate that the entity is able to
7 carry out the project; and

8 “(C) agree to complete the project build-
9 out within 5 years after the date the assistance
10 is first provided for the project.

11 “(3) PRIORITIZATION.—In awarding assistance
12 under this subsection, the Secretary shall give pri-
13 ority to proposals for projects that—

14 “(A) involve partnerships between or
15 among multiple entities;

16 “(B) would provide broadband service to
17 the greatest number of rural entities at or
18 above the broadband requirements referred to
19 in paragraph (2)(A)(i);

20 “(C) the Secretary determines could be
21 replicated in rural areas described in paragraph
22 (2); and

23 “(D) are located in States and territories
24 selected by the Secretary to be diverse on the

1 basis of geography, topography, and demo-
2 graphics.

3 “(4) QUALIFIED CONSUMER.—In this sub-
4 section, the term ‘qualified consumer’ means—

5 “(A) an individual or member of a house-
6 hold who lives in a rural area;

7 “(B) a rural small business; or

8 “(C) an essential community facility, as
9 defined pursuant to section 306(a) of the Con-
10 solidated Farm and Rural Development Act (7
11 U.S.C. 1926(a)).

12 “(5) RURAL AREA.—In this subsection, the
13 term ‘rural area’ has the meaning provided in sec-
14 tion 601(b)(3).

15 “(c) SATELLITE BROADBAND DEMONSTRATION
16 PROJECTS.—

17 “(1) PURPOSE.—The purpose of this subsection
18 is to reduce or eliminate the costs to access satellite
19 broadband service for remote subscribers.

20 “(2) DEFINITIONS.—In this subsection:

21 “(A) ELIGIBLE ENTITY.—The term ‘eligi-
22 ble entity’ means a broadband service provider
23 that provides Internet access directly to quali-
24 fied consumers in remote areas via satellite
25 technology.

1 “(B) QUALIFIED CONSUMER.—The term
2 ‘qualified consumer’ means a consumer served
3 by an eligible entity that receives a grant under
4 paragraph (3), who is—

5 “(i) an individual or a member of a
6 household at or below the poverty line (as
7 defined in section 673(2) of the Omnibus
8 Budget Reconciliation Act of 1981, includ-
9 ing any revision required by such section,
10 applicable to a family of the size involved);
11 or

12 “(ii) an essential community facility,
13 as defined pursuant to section 306(a) of
14 the Consolidated Farm and Rural Develop-
15 ment Act (7 U.S.C. 1926(a)).

16 “(C) SATELLITE BROADBAND EQUIP-
17 MENT.—The term ‘satellite broadband equip-
18 ment’ means user terminals, wi-fi routers,
19 power supplies, mounts, and any other equip-
20 ment necessary to connect a qualified consumer
21 to satellite broadband service.

22 “(D) SECRETARY.—The term ‘Secretary’
23 means the Secretary of Agriculture, acting
24 through the Administrator of the Rural Utilities
25 Service.

1 “(E) REMOTE.—The term ‘remote’ means
2 a region classified within level 3 or level 4 of
3 the frontier and remote zip code areas pub-
4 lished by the Economic Research Service of the
5 Department of Agriculture.

6 “(3) GRANTS TO ELIGIBLE ENTITIES.—

7 “(A) IN GENERAL.—Subject to paragraph
8 (B), the Secretary shall make grants to eligible
9 entities for the purpose of reducing or elimi-
10 nating the cost associated with the purchase or
11 installation, or both, of satellite broadband
12 equipment to qualified consumers to subscribe
13 to satellite broadband service in remote areas.

14 “(B) REQUIREMENTS.—As a condition of
15 receiving a grant under this subsection, an eli-
16 gible entity shall—

17 “(i) provide retail broadband service
18 delivered via satellite technology to quali-
19 fied consumers, that—

20 “(I) enables a qualified consumer
21 to the service to originate and receive
22 high-quality voice, data, graphics,
23 video; and

24 “(II) has a latency which does
25 not exceed 250 milliseconds;

1 “(ii) submit to the Secretary an appli-
2 cation at such time, in such manner, and
3 containing such other information as the
4 Secretary may require;

5 “(iii) agree to reduce or eliminate the
6 cost associated with the purchase, installa-
7 tion, or both, of satellite broadband equip-
8 ment for qualified consumers; and

9 “(iv) agree to provide qualified con-
10 sumers with the reduction or elimination of
11 that cost within 1 year of the assistance
12 being obligated to the eligible entity.

13 “(C) ELIGIBILITY MAP OF QUALIFIED CON-
14 SUMERS.—Within 1 year after the date of the
15 enactment of this Act, and annually thereafter,
16 the Secretary shall publish a map of the remote
17 areas of qualified consumers that do not have
18 access to terrestrial broadband service of at
19 least—

20 “(i) a 25-Mbps downstream trans-
21 mission capacity; and

22 “(ii) a 3-Mbps upstream transmission
23 capacity.

24 “(d) REPORT.—Within 1 year after the date of the
25 enactment of this section, and annually thereafter, the

1 Secretary shall submit a comprehensive report to the Com-
2 mittee on Agriculture of the House of Representatives and
3 the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry of
4 the Senate that shall provide the outcomes, effectiveness,
5 and impact of the Innovative Broadband Advancement
6 Program, including—

7 “(1) an assessment of the broadband infra-
8 structure funded, including the scope, scale, nature
9 and geographic locations of each award;

10 “(2) the broadband access and speeds achieved,
11 including the download and upload speeds, latency,
12 and overall network reliability;

13 “(3) any technical or logistical challenges en-
14 countered by the eligible entities; and

15 “(4) any recommendations for future innovative
16 broadband deployment initiatives in rural areas.

17 “(e) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There
18 is authorized to be appropriated to carry out this section
19 \$10,000,000 for each of fiscal years 2027 through 2031.”.

20 **SEC. 6204. COMMUNITY CONNECT GRANTS.**

21 Section 604 of the Rural Electrification Act of 1936
22 (7 U.S.C. 950bb-3) is amended—

23 (1) in subsection (a)(2)—

24 (A) in subparagraph (A), by striking “10”

25 and inserting “25”; and

1 (B) in subparagraph (B), by striking “1”
2 and inserting “3”;

3 (2) in subsection (c)—

4 (A) in paragraph (1), by striking “and” at
5 the end;

6 (B) in paragraph (2), by striking the pe-
7 riod at the end and inserting “; and”; and

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

9 “(3) provides broadband speeds not less than
10 the broadband project agreement requirements es-
11 tablished under section 601(e)(4)(B)(ii) to the eligi-
12 ble entity within the proposed eligible service area.”;
13 and

14 (3) in subsection (g), by striking “2019 through
15 2023” and inserting “2027 through 2031”.

16 **SEC. 6205. RATE REGULATION.**

17 Title VI of the Rural Electrification Act of 1936 (7
18 U.S.C. 950bb–950bb-5) is amended by adding at the end
19 the following:

20 **“SEC. 607. RATE REGULATION.**

21 “Nothing in this title authorizes the Secretary to reg-
22 ulate rates charged for broadband service.”.

1 **SEC. 6206. PUBLIC NOTICE, ASSESSMENTS, TECHNICAL AS-**
2 **SISTANCE, AND REPORTING REQUIREMENTS.**

3 Section 701 of the Rural Electrification Act of 1936
4 (7 U.S.C. 950cc) is amended—

5 (1) in the section heading, by inserting “**TECH-**
6 **NICAL ASSISTANCE,**” before “**AND**”;

7 (2) in subsection (a)(1)(B)(i), by inserting “,
8 including a complete shapefile map” before the semi-
9 colon;

10 (3) in subsection (b)—

11 (A) in paragraph (1)—

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

14 (ii) by redesignating subparagraph
15 (B) as subparagraph (C) and inserting
16 after subparagraph (A) the following:

17 “(B) validate the information submitted by
18 service providers under subparagraph (A)
19 through procedures established by the Sec-
20 retary, which shall include an agency deter-
21 mination provided to the submitter, an oppor-
22 tunity of the submitter to respond, and a final
23 non-appealable determination of the Secretary;
24 and”;

25 (iii) in subparagraph (C) (as so redes-
26 ignated by clause (ii) of this subpara-

1 graph), by striking “paragraph (1)” and
2 inserting “subparagraph (A)”; and

3 (B) in paragraph (2), by striking all that
4 precedes subparagraph (B) and inserting the
5 following:

6 “(2) ASSESSMENT OF ELIGIBILITY.—In making
7 any determination to award a loan, loan guarantee,
8 or grant for any retail broadband project provided
9 assistance or for which assistance is sought that is
10 administered by the Secretary, the Secretary shall
11 confirm that each unserved rural community identi-
12 fied in the application is eligible for funding by—

13 “(A) utilizing the map created by the Fed-
14 eral Communications Commission under section
15 802(c)(1)(A) of the Communications Act of
16 1934 and the Deployment Locations Map estab-
17 lished under section 60104(b) of the Infrastruc-
18 ture Investment and Jobs Act (47 U.S.C.
19 1704(b));” and

20 (4) by striking subsection (e) and inserting the
21 following:

22 “(e) BROADBAND TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE PRO-
23 GRAM.—

24 “(1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall make
25 grants to private, nonprofit, or public organizations

1 to provide or receive eligible entities broadband tech-
2 nical assistance and training to expand access to
3 broadband service in rural communities through the
4 broadband programs of the Department of Agri-
5 culture including—

6 “(A) preparing applications for grants,
7 loans and loan guarantees under this section;

8 “(B) identifying resources to finance
9 broadband facilities from public and private
10 sources, including other Federal agencies;

11 “(C) preparing feasibility studies, financial
12 forecasts, market surveys, environmental stud-
13 ies, and technical design information to support
14 broadband services;

15 “(D) preparing reports and surveys nec-
16 essary to support the need for broadband serv-
17 ices, the price range, and request financial as-
18 sistance;

19 “(E) analyzing and improving operations
20 related to the management, including financial
21 management, of broadband facilities and to the
22 efficiency of the entity;

23 “(F) collecting broadband infrastructure
24 data; or

1 “(G) assisting with other areas of need
2 identified by the Secretary.

3 “(2) ELIGIBLE ENTITIES.—To be eligible to ob-
4 tain assistance under this subsection, an entity shall
5 be—

6 “(A) a federally recognized tribe or tribal
7 entity;

8 “(B) a State or local government, includ-
9 ing any agency, subdivision, instrumentality, or
10 political subdivision thereof;

11 “(C) a territory or possession of the
12 United States;

13 “(D) an institution of higher education (in-
14 cluding a 1862 Land-Grant Institution, 1890
15 Land-Grant Institution, 1994 Land-Grant In-
16 stitution, Hispanic-Serving Institution, or His-
17 torically Black College or University);

18 “(E) a nonprofit organization described in
19 section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code
20 of 1986;

21 “(F) a cooperative or mutual organization;

22 “(G) a corporation; or

23 “(H) a limited liability company or limited
24 liability partnership.

1 “(3) SELECTION PRIORITY.—In selecting recipi-
2 ents of grants under this paragraph, the Secretary
3 shall give priority to organizations that have experi-
4 ence in providing technical assistance and training
5 to rural entities.

6 “(4) NATIONAL APPLICATIONS.—The Secretary
7 shall allow applications for grants under this para-
8 graph from qualified organizations for the sole pur-
9 pose of providing on-site community technical assist-
10 ance and training on a national or multi-State re-
11 gional basis.

12 “(f) ASSISTANCE FOR COMMUNITY BROADBAND
13 MAPPING.—

14 “(1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary may make
15 grants to eligible entities for the purpose of col-
16 lecting broadband service data to assist the Sec-
17 retary in—

18 “(A) establishing the availability of
19 broadband service or middle mile infrastructure
20 in a rural area;

21 “(B) determining the eligibility of a com-
22 munity for assistance under any broadband pro-
23 gram administered by the Secretary;

24 “(C) undertaking a service area assess-
25 ment under this section; or

1 “(D) collecting information to submit a
2 challenge to the National Broadband Map cre-
3 ated by the Federal Communications Commis-
4 sion pursuant to section 802(c)(1) of the Com-
5 munications Act of 1934 (47 U.S.C. 642(c)(1)).

6 “(2) APPLICATION.—To apply for a grant
7 under this section, an entity shall submit an applica-
8 tion which identifies—

9 “(A) the data collection area;

10 “(B) the purpose of the data collection;

11 “(C) the types of broadband service data
12 to be collected;

13 “(D) the survey and data collection meth-
14 ods utilized; and

15 “(E) any other information the Secretary
16 determines necessary to promote the integrity
17 of broadband service collected under this sec-
18 tion.

19 “(3) LIMITATION OF GRANT AMOUNT.—The
20 amount of a grant made available under this sub-
21 section shall not exceed \$50,000.

22 “(4) BROADBAND SERVICE DATA USAGE.—The
23 Secretary shall ensure that any broadband service
24 data collected under this section is—

1 “(A) measured or assessed in accordance
2 with such standards as are established by the
3 Federal Communications Commission pursuant
4 to section 802(a)(1)(A) of the Communications
5 Act of 1934 (47 U.S.C. 642(a)(1)(A));

6 “(B) accurate and verifiable in accordance
7 with such standards as are established by the
8 Federal Communications Commission pursuant
9 to section 802(a)(1)(A) of the Communications
10 Act of 1934 (47 U.S.C. 642(a)(1)(A));

11 “(C) included in any broadband maps or
12 data sets maintained by the Secretary; and

13 “(D) made available to the Chair of the
14 Federal Communications Commission and the
15 Administrator of the National Telecommuni-
16 cations and Information Administration for in-
17 clusion in any broadband maps or data sets ei-
18 ther may maintain.

19 “(5) DEFINITIONS.—In this subsection:

20 “(A) BROADBAND SERVICE.—The term
21 ‘broadband service’ has the same meaning given
22 the term in section 601.

23 “(B) BROADBAND SERVICE DATA.—

1 “(i) IN GENERAL.—The term
2 ‘broadband service data’ means informa-
3 tion related to—

4 “(I) the location and type of
5 broadband service;

6 “(II) the location and type of
7 broadband infrastructure;

8 “(III) the advertised, maximum,
9 and average speed of broadband serv-
10 ice;

11 “(IV) the average price of the
12 most subscribed tier of broadband
13 service;

14 “(V) the speed tiers of broadband
15 service available in the area; or

16 “(VI) any additional metric the
17 Secretary deems appropriate.

18 “(ii) FURTHER DEFINITION.—The
19 Secretary shall further define the term
20 ‘broadband service area’ to ensure that
21 data is measured and collected in a man-
22 ner consistent with the reporting require-
23 ments under this section, and any
24 broadband coordination or data-sharing ob-
25 ligations.

1 “(C) ELIGIBLE ENTITY.—The term ‘eligi-
2 ble entity’ means—

3 “(i) a unit of local government in a
4 rural area;

5 “(ii) a tribal government or unit of
6 tribal government;

7 “(iii) an economic development or
8 other community organization;

9 “(iv) an eligible entity under title I or
10 II that serves persons in rural areas;

11 “(v) an internet service provider that
12 has not more than 100,000 subscribers; or

13 “(vi) any other entity eligible under a
14 title VI program that is not an internet
15 service provider.

16 “(D) MIDDLE MILE INFRASTRUCTURE.—
17 The term ‘middle mile infrastructure’ has the
18 meaning given the term in section 602.

19 “(E) RURAL AREA.—The term ‘rural area’
20 has the meaning given the term in section 601.

21 “(6) LIMITATION ON AMOUNT MADE AVAILABLE
22 FOR GRANTS.—The Secretary may not expend more
23 than 1 percent of the amounts made available under
24 subsection (g) for each of fiscal years 2027 through
25 2031 to carry out this subsection.

1 “(g) LIMITATIONS ON RESERVATION OF FUNDS.—
2 Not less than 3 but not more than 5 percent of the
3 amounts appropriated to the program to carry out title
4 VI shall be set aside to be used for—

5 “(1) conducting oversight under such title;

6 “(2) implementing accountability measures and
7 related activities authorized under such title; or

8 “(3) carrying out this section.”.

9 **SEC. 6207. LIMITATION ON OVERBUILDING.**

10 Title VI of the Rural Electrification Act of 1936 (7
11 U.S.C. 950bb et seq.) is amended by adding at the end
12 the following:

13 **“SEC. 608. LIMITATION ON OVERBUILDING.**

14 “Any area in a proposed service area under this title
15 shall not be considered unserved if an applicant in another
16 Federal or State broadband program has received an obli-
17 gation of funding to offer retail broadband service in the
18 area not more than 5 years from the date of the obligation
19 of funds, at a speed of at least 100 Mbps download and
20 20 Mbps upload.”.

21 **Subtitle C—Miscellaneous**

22 **SEC. 6301. RURAL ENERGY SAVINGS PROGRAM.**

23 Section 6407 of the Farm Security and Rural Invest-
24 ment Act of 2002 (7 U.S.C. 8107a) is amended—

25 (1) in subsection (b)—

1 (A) in paragraph (1)—

2 (i) in subparagraph (A), by inserting
3 “, if the entity continues to serve rural
4 areas (as defined in section 343(a)(13)(A)
5 of the Consolidated Farm and Rural De-
6 velopment Act (7 U.S.C. 1991(a)(13)(A))”
7 before the semicolon;

8 (ii) in subparagraph (B), by striking
9 “or” at the end; and

10 (iii) by redesignating subparagraph
11 (C) as subparagraph (E) and inserting
12 after subparagraph (B) the following:

13 “(C) any Indian Tribe (as defined in sec-
14 tion 4 of the Indian Self-Determination and
15 Education Assistance Act (25 U.S.C. 5304));

16 “(D) any public, quasi-public, or nonprofit
17 entity that uses innovative financing techniques
18 and market development tools to accelerate the
19 deployment of energy efficiency technology; or”;

20 (B) by striking paragraph (2) and insert-
21 ing the following:

22 “(2) ENERGY EFFICIENCY MEASURES.—The
23 term ‘energy efficiency measures’ means, with re-
24 spect to any property service by an eligible entity—

1 “(A) a structural improvement or invest-
2 ment in a cost-effective, commercial technology
3 to increase energy efficiency (including cost-ef-
4 fective on-or off-grid renewable energy or en-
5 ergy storage system); and

6 “(B) the replacement of a manufactured
7 housing unit or large appliance with a substan-
8 tially similar manufacturing housing unit or ap-
9 pliance, respectively, if that replacement is a
10 cost-effective option with respect to energy sav-
11 ings.”;

12 (2) in subsection (c)—

13 (A) in the subsection heading, by inserting
14 “AND GRANTS” before “TO”;

15 (B) by striking paragraph (1) and insert-
16 ing the following:

17 “(1) IN GENERAL.—Subject to this subsection,
18 the Secretary shall provide—

19 “(A) loans to eligible entities that agree to
20 use the loan funds to make loans under sub-
21 section (d) to qualified consumers for the pur-
22 pose of implementing energy efficiency meas-
23 ures; and

24 “(B) at the election of any eligible entity
25 that receives a loan under subparagraph (A) of

1 this paragraph, a grant in accordance with
2 paragraph (11).”;

3 (C) by redesignating paragraphs (2)
4 through (9) as paragraphs (3) through (10), re-
5 spectively, and inserting after paragraph (1) the
6 following:

7 “(2) PRIORITIZATION.—The Secretary shall
8 give priority to applications from eligible entities
9 serving at least 80 percent of their ratepayers resid-
10 ing in rural areas, as defined in section
11 343(a)(13)(A) of the Consolidated Farm and Rural
12 Development Act (7 U.S.C. 1991(a)(13)(A)).”;

13 (D) in paragraph (3) (as so redesignated
14 by subparagraph (C) of this paragraph)—

15 (i) in the paragraph heading, by in-
16 serting “FOR LOANS” before the period;
17 and

18 (ii) in subparagraph (A)(i), by strik-
19 ing “that is”;

20 (E) by striking paragraph (6) (as so redesi-
21 gnated by subparagraph (C) of this paragraph)
22 and inserting the following:

23 “(6) REPAYMENT.—

1 “(A) IN GENERAL.—Subject to subpara-
2 graph (B) of this paragraph, with respect to a
3 loan under paragraph (1)(A)—

4 “(i) the term shall not exceed 20
5 years from the date on which the loan is
6 closed; and

7 “(ii) except as provided in paragraph
8 (8), the repayment of each advance shall
9 be amortized for a period not to exceed 10
10 years.

11 “(B) EXTENSIONS.—The Secretary may
12 extend the term of a loan under subparagraph
13 (A)(i), or the deadline for repayment of an ad-
14 vance under subparagraph (A)(ii), as the Sec-
15 retary determines appropriate.”;

16 (F) in paragraph (8) (as so redesignated
17 by subparagraph (C) of this paragraph)—

18 (i) in subparagraph (B), by striking
19 “(1)” and inserting “(1)(A)”; and

20 (ii) in subparagraph (C), by striking
21 “Repayment” and inserting “Subject to an
22 applicable extension under paragraph
23 (6)(B), repayment”;

1 (G) by striking paragraph (9) (as so reded-
2 igned by subparagraph (C) of this paragraph)
3 and inserting the following:

4 “(9) LIMITATIONS.—

5 “(A) SPECIAL ADVANCES.—All special ad-
6 vances shall be made under a loan described in
7 paragraph (1) during the first 10 years of the
8 term of the loan.

9 “(B) REPLACEMENT OF MANUFACTURED
10 HOUSING UNITS OR LARGE APPLIANCES.—Not
11 more than 10 percent of the total annual
12 amount of budget authority for loans described
13 in paragraph (1) may be used for the replace-
14 ment of manufactured housing units or large
15 appliances.”; and

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

17 “(11) GRANTS.—

18 “(A) IN GENERAL.—At the election of an
19 eligible entity that receives a loan under this
20 subsection, the Secretary may provide to the eli-
21 gible entity a grant to pay for a portion of the
22 costs incurred in—

23 “(i) making repairs to the property of
24 a qualified consumer that facilitates the
25 energy efficiency measures for the property

1 financed through a loan provided to the
2 qualified consumer under subsection (d); or

3 “(ii) providing technical assistance,
4 outreach, and training.

5 “(B) AMOUNT.—

6 “(i) IN GENERAL.—Except as pro-
7 vided in clause (ii), the amount of a grant
8 provided to an eligible entity under this
9 paragraph shall be equal to not more than
10 5 percent of the amount of the loan pro-
11 vided to the eligible entity under this sub-
12 section.

13 “(ii) PERSISTENT POVERTY COUN-
14 TIES.—The amount of a grant provided
15 under this paragraph to an eligible entity
16 that will use the grant to make loans
17 under subsection (d) to qualified con-
18 sumers located in a persistent poverty
19 county (as determined by the Secretary)
20 shall be equal to 10 percent of the amount
21 of the loan provided to the eligible entity
22 under this subsection.”;

23 (3) in subsection (d)—

24 (A) in paragraph (1)—

1 (i) in the matter preceding subpara-
2 graph (A), by inserting “or grant” before
3 “funds”; and

4 (ii) by striking subparagraphs (B) and
5 (C) and inserting the following:

6 “(B)(i) may have a term and amortization
7 schedule the length of which is the useful life
8 of the energy efficiency measures implemented
9 using the loan, if the loan term does not exceed
10 20 years; and

11 “(ii) shall finance energy efficiency meas-
12 ures for the purpose of decreasing energy usage
13 or costs of the qualified consumer by an
14 amount that ensures, to the maximum extent
15 practicable, that the applicable loan term de-
16 scribed in clause (i) will not pose an undue fi-
17 nancial burden on the qualified consumer, as
18 determined by the eligible entity;

19 “(C) shall not be used to fund purchases
20 of, or modifications to, personal property unless
21 the personal property—

22 “(i) is a manufactured housing unit or
23 large appliance described in subsection
24 (b)(2)(B); or

1 “(ii) is or becomes attached to real
2 property as a fixture;” and

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

4 “(3) CLARIFICATION OF ELIGIBILITY.—Not-
5 withstanding any other provision of law (including
6 regulations), an eligible entity may make a loan
7 under this subsection to any qualified consumer lo-
8 cated within the service territory of the eligible enti-
9 ty, regardless of whether the qualified consumer is
10 located in a rural area.”;

11 (4) in subsection (e)—

12 (A) in the subsection heading, by inserting
13 “OUTREACH,” before “AND TECHNICAL ASSIST-
14 ANCE”;

15 (B) in paragraph (1)—

16 (i) in subparagraph (A), by striking
17 “and technical assistance of the program”
18 and inserting “outreach, and technical as-
19 sistance relating to the program under this
20 section”; and

21 (ii) in subparagraph (B)(ii), by insert-
22 ing “, outreach,” before “and training”;
23 and

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

1 “(3) FUNDING.—Not less than 3 but not more
2 than 5 percent of amounts appropriated under sub-
3 section (i) may be used to provide outreach, train-
4 ing, and technical assistance under this subsection.”;
5 and

6 (5) in subsection (i), by striking “2014 through
7 2023” and inserting “2027 through 2031”.

8 **SEC. 6302. PROMOTING PRECISION AGRICULTURE.**

9 (a) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

10 (1) ADVANCED WIRELESS COMMUNICATIONS
11 TECHNOLOGY.—The term “advanced wireless com-
12 munications technology” means advanced technology
13 that contributes to mobile (5G or beyond) networks,
14 next-generation Wi-Fi networks, or other future net-
15 works using other technologies, regardless of wheth-
16 er the network is operating on an exclusive licensed,
17 shared licensed, or unlicensed frequency band.

18 (2) ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE.—The term “ar-
19 tificial intelligence” has the meaning given the term
20 in section 238(g) of the John S. McCain National
21 Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2019
22 (Public Law 115–232; 10 U.S.C. note prec. 4061).

23 (3) FOREIGN ADVERSARY.—The term “foreign
24 adversary” means any foreign government or foreign
25 nongovernment person engaged in a long-term pat-

1 tern or serious instances of conduct significantly ad-
2 verse to the national security of the United States,
3 or security and safety of United States persons.

4 (4) PRECISION AGRICULTURE; PRECISION AGRI-
5 CULTURE TECHNOLOGY.—The terms “precision agri-
6 culture” and “precision agriculture technology” have
7 the meanings given the terms in section 1201 of the
8 Food Security Act of 1985.

9 (5) TRUSTED.—The term “trusted” means,
10 with respect to a provider of advanced communica-
11 tions service or a supplier of communications equip-
12 ment or service, that the Secretary has determined
13 that the provider or supplier is not owned by, con-
14 trolled by, or subject to the influence of, a foreign
15 adversary.

16 (6) VOLUNTARY CONSENSUS STANDARDS DE-
17 VELOPMENT ORGANIZATION.—The term “voluntary
18 consensus standards development organization”
19 means an organization that develops standards in a
20 process that meets the principles for the develop-
21 ment of voluntary consensus standards (as defined
22 in the document of the Office of Management and
23 Budget entitled “Federal Participation in the Devel-
24 opment and Use of Voluntary Consensus Standards

1 and in Conformity Assessment Activities” (OMB
2 Circular A–119)).

3 (b) PURPOSES.—The purposes of this section are—

4 (1) to enhance the participation of precision ag-
5 riculture in the United States; and

6 (2) to promote United States leadership in vol-
7 untary consensus standards development organiza-
8 tions that set standards for precision agriculture.

9 (c) INTERCONNECTIVITY STANDARDS FOR PRECI-
10 SION AGRICULTURE.—

11 (1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 2 years after
12 the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary, in
13 consultation with the Director of the National Insti-
14 tute of Standards and Technology and the Federal
15 Communications Commission, shall—

16 (A) develop voluntary, consensus-based,
17 private sector-led interconnectivity standards,
18 guidelines, and best practices for precision agri-
19 culture that will promote economies of scale and
20 ease the burden of the adoption of precision agri-
21 culture; and

22 (B) in carrying out subparagraph (A)—

23 (i) coordinate with relevant public and
24 trusted private sector stakeholders and
25 other relevant industry organizations, in-

1 including voluntary consensus standards de-
2 velopment organizations; and

3 (ii) consult with sector-specific agen-
4 cies, other appropriate agencies, and State
5 and local governments.

6 (2) CONSIDERATIONS.—The Secretary, in car-
7 rying out paragraph (1), shall, in consultation with
8 the Federal Communications Commission and the
9 Director of the National Institute of Standards and
10 Technology, consider—

11 (A) the evolving demands of precision agri-
12 culture;

13 (B) the connectivity needs of precision ag-
14 riculture technology;

15 (C) the cybersecurity challenges facing pre-
16 cision agriculture, including cybersecurity
17 threats for agriculture producers and agri-
18 culture supply chains;

19 (D) the impact of advanced wireless com-
20 munications technology on precision agriculture;
21 and

22 (E) the impact of artificial intelligence on
23 precision agriculture.

24 (d) GAO ASSESSMENT OF PRECISION AGRICULTURE
25 STANDARDS.—

1 (1) STUDY.—Not later than 1 year after the
2 Secretary develops standards under subsection (c),
3 and every 2 years thereafter for the following 8
4 years, the Comptroller General of the United States
5 shall conduct a study that assesses those standards,
6 including the extent to which those standards, as ap-
7 plicable—

8 (A) are voluntary;

9 (B) were developed in coordination with
10 relevant industry organizations, including vol-
11 untary consensus standards development orga-
12 nizations; and

13 (C) have successfully encouraged the adop-
14 tion of precision agriculture.

15 (2) REPORT.—The Comptroller General of the
16 United States shall submit to the Committee on
17 Commerce, Science, and Transportation of the Sen-
18 ate, the Committee on Science, Space, and Tech-
19 nology of the House of Representatives, the Com-
20 mittee on Agriculture of the House of Representa-
21 tives, and the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition,
22 and Forestry of the Senate a report that summa-
23 rizes the findings of each study conducted under
24 paragraph (1).

1 **SEC. 6303. FOOD SUPPLY CHAIN GUARANTEED LOANS.**

2 Section 310B of the Consolidated Farm and Rural
3 Development Act (7 U.S.C. 1932) is amended by inserting
4 after subsection (e) the following:

5 “(f) FOOD SUPPLY CHAIN CAPACITY AND RESIL-
6 IENCE GUARANTEED LOANS.—

7 “(1) DEFINITION OF FOOD SUPPLY CHAIN
8 GUARANTEED LOAN.—In this subsection, the term
9 ‘food supply chain guaranteed loan’ means a busi-
10 ness and industry guaranteed loan that is made or
11 guaranteed by the Secretary under subsection
12 (a)(2)(A), including a guarantee described in sub-
13 section (a)(3).

14 “(2) PURPOSE.—A food supply chain guaran-
15 teed loan may be made for the purpose of financing
16 new investments in the start-up or expansion of
17 projects in the United States that will increase the
18 capacity of the food supply chain in the United
19 States to aggregate, process, manufacture, store,
20 transport, wholesale, or distribute food, agricultural
21 products, or agricultural inputs.

22 “(3) LIMITATIONS.—The maximum amount of
23 a food supply chain guaranteed loan shall not exceed
24 \$40,000,000.

25 “(4) LOAN GUARANTEES IN NONRURAL
26 AREAS.—The Secretary may guarantee a food supply

1 chain guaranteed loan to an eligible entity for a fa-
2 cility that is not located in a rural area if—

3 “(A) the primary purpose of the loan guar-
4 antee is for a facility to aggregate, process,
5 manufacture, store, transport, wholesale, or dis-
6 tribute food agricultural products, or agricul-
7 tural inputs for agricultural producers or proc-
8 essors that are located within 80 miles of the
9 facility;

10 “(B) the applicant demonstrates to the
11 Secretary that the primary benefit of the loan
12 guarantee will be to provide employment for
13 residents of a rural area; and

14 “(C) the total principal amount of food
15 supply chain guaranteed loans guaranteed for a
16 fiscal year under this paragraph does not ex-
17 ceed 10 percent of the total principal amount of
18 food supply chain guaranteed loans made for
19 the fiscal year under subsection (a)(2)(A).

20 “(5) QUARTERLY REPORTS TO CONGRESS.—

21 Within 30 days after the end of each calendar quar-
22 ter, the Secretary shall submit to the Committee on
23 Agriculture of the House of Representatives and the
24 Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry
25 of the Senate a report that contains—

1 **SEC. 6304. NEW, MOBILE, AND EXPANDED MEAT PROC-**
2 **ESSING AND RENDERING GRANTS.**

3 (a) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

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

6 (A) a public, private, or cooperative organi-
7 zation organized on a for-profit or nonprofit
8 basis, including a small establishment and very
9 small establishment;

10 (B) an Indian Tribe (as defined in section
11 4 of the Indian Self-Determination and Edu-
12 cation Assistance Act (25 U.S.C. 5304));

13 (C) a land-grant college or university (as
14 defined in section 1404 of the National Agricul-
15 tural Research, Extension, and Teaching Policy
16 Act of 1977 (7 U.S.C. 3103));

17 (D) a non-land-grant college of agriculture
18 (as defined in that section); and

19 (E) a State department of agriculture or
20 other applicable State office with authority over
21 meat and poultry processing and rendering.

22 (2) SMALL ESTABLISHMENT; VERY SMALL ES-
23 TABLISHMENT.—The terms “small establishment”
24 and “very small establishment” have the meanings
25 given the terms “smaller establishment” and “very
26 small establishment”, respectively, in the final rule

1 entitled “Pathogen Reduction; Hazard Analysis and
2 Critical Control Point (HACCP) Systems” (61 Fed.
3 Reg. 38806 (July 25, 1996)) (or successor regula-
4 tions).

5 (b) PURPOSES.—The purposes of this section are—

6 (1) to create more resilient local and regional
7 food systems;

8 (2) to expand, diversify, and increase resilience
9 in meat and poultry processing and rendering activi-
10 ties;

11 (3) to increase farmer and rancher access to
12 animal slaughter options;

13 (4) to improve compliance of processors with
14 livestock and poultry processing statutes (including
15 regulations), including the Federal Meat Inspection
16 Act (21 U.S.C. 601 et seq.) and the Poultry Prod-
17 ucts Inspection Act (21 U.S.C. 451 et seq.);

18 (5) to reduce barriers to entry for new meat
19 and poultry processors and renderers;

20 (6) to establish new, or update, expand, or oth-
21 erwise improve existing, meat and poultry processing
22 and rendering facilities; and

23 (7) to support the processing and slaughtering
24 of niche production methods such as halal, kosher,
25 and other specific cultural methods.

1 (c) GRANTS.—

2 (1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall award
3 grants to eligible entities to use in accordance with
4 subsection (d).

5 (2) MAXIMUM AMOUNT.—The maximum
6 amount of a grant awarded under paragraph (1)
7 shall not exceed \$500,000.

8 (3) DURATION.—The term of a grant awarded
9 under paragraph (1) shall not exceed 3 years.

10 (4) PRIORITY.—In awarding grants under para-
11 graph (1), the Secretary shall give priority to small
12 establishments and very small establishments.

13 (d) USE OF FUNDS.—An eligible entity receiving a
14 grant under this section shall use the grant to carry out
15 activities in support of the purposes described in sub-
16 section (b), including activities—

17 (1) to identify and analyze business opportuni-
18 ties, including feasibility studies required for credit
19 worthiness;

20 (2) to achieve compliance with applicable Fed-
21 eral, State, or local regulations;

22 (3) to conduct regional, community, and local
23 economic development planning and coordination
24 and leadership development;

1 (4) to incentivize new, innovative, or mobile en-
2 terprises for increasing or improving local and re-
3 gional meat or poultry processing and rendering;

4 (5) to implement humane handling infrastruc-
5 ture, including holding space for livestock prior to
6 slaughter, shade structures, and structures and
7 equipment for humane slaughter;

8 (6) to develop a feasibility study or business
9 plan for, or carry out any other activity associated
10 with, establishing or expanding a small meat or
11 poultry slaughter, processing, or rendering facility;

12 (7) to purchase equipment that enables the fur-
13 ther use or value-added sale of coproducts or by-
14 products; and

15 (8) to purchase cold storage and related equip-
16 ment.

17 (e) FEDERAL SHARE.—The Federal share of the ac-
18 tivities carried out using a grant awarded under this sec-
19 tion shall not exceed—

20 (1) 90 percent in the case of a grant in the
21 amount of \$100,000 or less; or

22 (2) 75 percent in the case of a grant in an
23 amount greater than \$100,000.

24 (f) QUARTERLY REPORTS TO CONGRESS.—Within 30
25 days after the end of each calendar quarter, the Secretary

1 shall submit to the Committee on Agriculture of the House
2 of Representatives and the Committee on Agriculture, Nu-
3 trition, and Forestry of the Senate a report that con-
4 tains—

5 (1) an evaluation of the outcomes achieved
6 through use of the grant, and the ability of the
7 grantee to meet performance goals;

8 (2) an evaluation of the compliance of the
9 grantee with the terms and conditions of the grant;

10 (3) a determination as to whether the grant re-
11 cipient maintains adequate financial capacity to
12 carry out the activities for which the grant is pro-
13 vided; and

14 (4) any recommendations of the Secretary re-
15 garding the implementation of this section.

16 (g) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There is
17 authorized to be appropriated to the Secretary to carry
18 out this section \$3,000,000 for each of fiscal years 2027
19 through 2031.

20 **SEC. 6305. EXPANDING CHILDCARE IN RURAL AMERICA INI-**
21 **TIATIVE.**

22 (a) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

23 (1) CHILDCARE.—

24 (A) IN GENERAL.—The term “childcare”
25 means any program that—

1 (i) provides quality care and early
2 education for children who have not yet en-
3 tered first grade; and

4 (ii) is operated by—

5 (I) an eligible childcare provider
6 described in section 658P(6)(A) of the
7 Child Care and Development Block
8 Grant Act of 1990 (42 U.S.C.
9 9858n(6)(A)); or

10 (II) a childcare provider that, on
11 the date of enactment of this Act—

12 (aa) is licensed, regulated,
13 or registered in the State, terri-
14 tory, or Indian Tribe in which
15 the provider is located; and

16 (bb) meets applicable State,
17 Tribal, territorial, and local
18 health and safety requirements.

19 (B) INCLUSIONS.—The term “childcare”
20 includes—

21 (i) a school-based program described
22 in subparagraph (A);

23 (ii) a facility used for a program de-
24 scribed in subparagraph (A); and

1 (iii) a service provided under a pro-
2 gram described in subparagraph (A).

3 (2) INITIATIVE.—The term “Initiative” means
4 the Expanding Childcare in Rural America Initiative
5 established under subsection (b).

6 (3) RURAL AREA.—The term “rural area” has
7 the meaning given the term in section 343(a)(13)(A)
8 of the Consolidated Farm and Rural Development
9 Act.

10 (b) ESTABLISHMENT.—The Secretary shall establish
11 an initiative, to be known as the “Expanding Childcare
12 in Rural America Initiative”, under which the Secretary
13 shall provide, for each of fiscal years 2027 through 2029,
14 priority in accordance with subsection (c) to address the
15 availability, quality, and cost of childcare in rural areas.

16 (c) CHILDCARE PRIORITIES.—

17 (1) IN GENERAL.—Notwithstanding any other
18 provision of law, in selecting recipients of loans and
19 grants under a program described in paragraph (2),
20 the Secretary shall give priority to any qualified ap-
21 plicant that proposes to use the loan or grant to ad-
22 dress the availability, quality, or cost of childcare.

23 (2) DESCRIPTION OF PROGRAMS.—The pro-
24 grams referred to in paragraph (1) are the following:

1 (A) The essential community facilities loan
2 and grant programs authorized under section
3 306(a) of the Consolidated Farm and Rural
4 Development Act (7 U.S.C. 1926(a)).

5 (B) The business and industry direct and
6 guaranteed loan program authorized under sec-
7 tion 310B(g) of that Act (7 U.S.C. 1932(g)).

8 (C) The rural microentrepreneur assistance
9 program authorized under section 379E of that
10 Act (7 U.S.C. 2008s).

11 (D) The intermediary relending program
12 authorized under the Food Security Act of
13 1985 (7 U.S.C. 1936b).

14 (d) REQUIREMENTS.—In providing funding in ac-
15 cordance with the Initiative, the Secretary shall ensure a
16 balanced geographical distribution of the benefits under
17 the Initiative.

18 (e) EVALUATION; REPORT.—

19 (1) EVALUATION.—Not later than 3 years after
20 the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary
21 shall conduct a comprehensive quantitative and qual-
22 itative evaluation of the projects carried out using
23 assistance provided under the Initiative, including—

24 (A) a description of—

25 (i) the types of projects carried out;

1 (ii) the communities in which the
2 projects are carried out;

3 (iii) the organizations and entities
4 participating in the projects; and

5 (iv) the types of partnerships devel-
6 oped to carry out the projects; and

7 (B) the economic and social impacts of the
8 investments in the projects.

9 (2) REPORT.—Not later than 4 years after the
10 date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary shall
11 submit to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition,
12 and Forestry of the Senate and the Committee on
13 Agriculture of the House of Representatives a report
14 describing the evaluation conducted under paragraph
15 (1), including a thorough analysis of the outcomes of
16 the evaluation.

17 **SEC. 6306. TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE FOR GEOGRAPHICALLY**
18 **UNDERSERVED AND DISTRESSED AREAS.**

19 (a) IN GENERAL.—Within 1 year after the date of
20 the enactment of this section, the Secretary shall directly,
21 or through cooperative agreements, provide technical as-
22 sistance and strengthen local capacity to improve access
23 to rural development programs administered by the Sec-
24 retary for local partners (including local governments, co-

1 operatives, businesses, and community anchor institu-
2 tions) in geographically underserved and distressed areas.

3 (b) REPORTS.—Beginning 1 year after the date of
4 the enactment of this section, the Secretary shall annually
5 publish, make available to the public, and submit to the
6 Committee on Agriculture of the House of Representatives
7 and the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and For-
8 estry of the Senate a report on how the provision of tech-
9 nical assistance under subsection (a) has affected geo-
10 graphically underserved and distressed areas in the year
11 covered by the report.

12 (c) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

13 (1) GEOGRAPHICALLY UNDERSERVED AND DIS-
14 TRESSED AREA.—The term “geographically under-
15 served and distressed area” means a rural area (as
16 defined in section 343(a)(13)(A) of the Consolidated
17 Farm and Rural Development Act (7 U.S.C.
18 1991(a)(13)(A))—

19 (A) in a socially vulnerable community (as
20 determined by the Secretary);

21 (B) in a persistent poverty county (as de-
22 termined by the Secretary);

23 (C) in an economically distressed area (as
24 determined by the Secretary); or

25 (D) in a colonia.

1 (2) COMMUNITY ANCHOR INSTITUTION.—The
2 term “community anchor institution” means—

3 (A) a public library;

4 (B) an elementary or secondary school;

5 (C) an institution of higher education;

6 (D) a health care facility; or

7 (E) any other nonprofit or governmental
8 community support organization.

9 **SEC. 6307. ESTABLISHMENT OF THE RURAL DEVELOPMENT**
10 **INNOVATION CENTER.**

11 Subtitle D of the Consolidated Farm and Rural De-
12 velopment Act (7 U.S.C. 1981- 2008w) is amended by
13 adding at the end the following:

14 **“SEC. 379J. RURAL DEVELOPMENT INNOVATION CENTER.**

15 “(a) DEFINITION OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT MISSION
16 AREAS.—In this section, the term ‘Rural Development
17 Mission Areas’ means the agencies under the Rural Devel-
18 opment Agency at the Department of Agriculture, includ-
19 ing the Rural Utilities Service, Rural Business-Coopera-
20 tive Service, and the Rural Housing Service.

21 “(b) ESTABLISHMENT.—There is hereby established
22 within the Rural Development Mission Areas a Rural De-
23 velopment Innovation Center (the ‘Innovation Center’) to
24 promote and facilitate innovation in the administration

1 and implementation of rural development programs and
2 initiatives.

3 “(c) FUNCTIONS.—The Innovation Center shall—

4 “(1) review all processes for Rural Development
5 Mission Area programs to identify inefficiencies,
6 redundancies, and barriers to access, including—

7 “(A) unnecessary delays in loan and grant
8 applications processing and approvals;

9 “(B) high application costs; and

10 “(C) deficiencies in technical assistance for
11 programs;

12 “(2) establish and maintain an ongoing public
13 process for public and private stakeholders to pro-
14 vide perspectives on the challenges faced when ap-
15 plying for, utilizing, or participating in Rural Devel-
16 opment Mission Area programs;

17 “(3) identify and assess any innovative strate-
18 gies and collaborative models to enhance the effi-
19 ciency and effectiveness of rural development pro-
20 grams and initiatives;

21 “(4) foster and maintain partnerships with pub-
22 lic and private stakeholders to leverage expertise and
23 resources for the Rural Development Mission Areas;

1 “(5) promote cross-agency collaborations and
2 identify best practices in rural economic develop-
3 ment;

4 “(6) identify and implement technological solu-
5 tions and software applications to improve the effec-
6 tiveness and efficiency of Rural Development Mis-
7 sion Area programs, including enhancing data man-
8 agement systems;

9 “(7) conduct research, analysis, and evaluation
10 to modernize, simplify, and improve Rural Develop-
11 ment Mission Area programs, and ensure that the
12 programs are accessible, transparent, and user-
13 friendly; and

14 “(8) disseminate information, guidance, and
15 training materials to Rural Development Mission
16 Area personnel and stakeholders on innovative rural
17 development practices and opportunities.

18 “(d) MODERNIZATION PLAN.—The Innovation Cen-
19 ter shall develop, and periodically update, a modernization
20 plan to facilitate innovation in administering and imple-
21 menting rural development programs and initiatives
22 that—

23 “(1) outlines strategies aimed at harnessing the
24 potential of emerging technologies for program deliv-
25 ery and overall service;

1 “(2) enhances program efficiencies by identi-
2 fying and implementing measures to streamline pro-
3 gram and administrative processes, reduce
4 redundancies, and optimize resource allocation;

5 “(3) expands the availability and accessibility of
6 digital services, leveraging digital platforms and
7 tools to broaden the reach of the programs and im-
8 prove the overall user experience for rural stake-
9 holders;

10 “(4) integrates data-driven solutions to optimize
11 program delivery and maximize impact and effective-
12 ness of the efforts in rural development; and

13 “(5) establishes periodic milestones and goals to
14 track the progress of the modernization plan.

15 “(e) REPORT.—The Secretary shall submit an annual
16 report to the Committee on Agriculture of the House of
17 Representatives and the Committee on Agriculture, Nutri-
18 tion, and Forestry of the Senate on—

19 “(1) the activities and accomplishments of the
20 Innovation Center, including progress in advancing
21 rural development innovation and the outcome
22 achieved;

23 “(2) a comprehensive working plan designed to
24 actively engage public and private stakeholders, as
25 described in subsection (c)(2); and

1 “(3) the progress on the modernization plan de-
2 scribed in subsection (d).”.

3 **SEC. 6308. RURAL HEALTH LIAISON REPORT.**

4 Section 236 of the Department of Agriculture Reor-
5 ganization Act of 1994 (7 U.S.C. 6946) is amended—

6 (1) in subsection (b)—

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

9 (B) in paragraph (9), by striking the pe-
10 riod and inserting “; and”; and

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

12 “(10) coordinate with the National Institute of
13 Food and Agriculture in implementation of the
14 Farm and Ranch Stress Assistance Network pro-
15 vided for in section 7522 of the Food, Conservation,
16 and Energy Act of 2008 (7 U.S.C. 5936).”; and

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

18 “(c) REPORT.—The Rural Health Liaison shall sub-
19 mit an annual report to the Committee on Agriculture of
20 the House of Representatives and the Committee on Agri-
21 culture, Nutrition, and Forestry of the Senate outlining
22 the activities conducted under subsection (b).”.

1 **Subtitle D—Additional Amend-**
2 **ments to the Consolidated Farm**
3 **and Rural Development Act**

4 **SEC. 6401. WATER, WASTE DISPOSAL, AND WASTEWATER**
5 **FACILITY GRANTS.**

6 Section 306(a)(2)(B)(vii) of the Consolidated Farm
7 and Rural Development Act (7 U.S.C. 1926(a)(2)(B)(vii))
8 is amended by striking “2019 through 2023” and insert-
9 ing “2027 through 2031”.

10 **SEC. 6402. RURAL WATER AND WASTEWATER CIRCUIT**
11 **RIDER PROGRAM.**

12 Section 306(a)(22) of the Consolidated Farm and
13 Rural Development Act (7 U.S.C. 1926(a)(22)) is amend-
14 ed to read as follows:

15 “(22) RURAL WATER AND WASTEWATER CIR-
16 CUIT RIDER PROGRAM.—

17 “(A) ESTABLISHMENT.—The Secretary,
18 through the Rural Utilities Service, shall con-
19 tinue a national rural water and wastewater cir-
20 cuit rider program that is consistent with the
21 activities and results of the program conducted
22 before the date of enactment of this Act, and
23 with this section, as determined by the Sec-
24 retary.

1 “(B) PURPOSE.—The Rural Water and
2 Wastewater Circuit Rider Program shall pro-
3 vide a network of expert rural water Circuit
4 Riders located in all 50 States, including
5 United States territories and Freely Associated
6 States, which work one-on-one with eligible
7 rural water and wastewater systems in major
8 assistance categories described in subparagraph
9 (D). The program is intended to help rural
10 water systems operate effectively and efficiently
11 and achieve long-term sustainability and com-
12 pliance with certain Federal laws and require-
13 ments, including the Safe Water Drinking Act
14 (42 U.S.C. 300f et seq.) and the Clean Water
15 Act (33 U.S.C. 1251 et seq.).

16 “(C) ELIGIBLE ENTITIES.—In selecting re-
17 cipients of grants, contracts, and cooperative
18 agreements to be made available for activities
19 listed under subparagraph (D), the Secretary
20 shall select nonprofit organizations that have
21 demonstrated experience providing technical as-
22 sistance and disaster and recovery assistance
23 for water and wastewater utilities nationwide.
24 Awardees shall rely on personnel that possess
25 active water and wastewater operators’ licenses

1 or overall knowledge of water utilities necessary
2 to carry out eligible activities under subpara-
3 graph (D).

4 “(D) ELIGIBLE USES OF FUNDS.—An eli-
5 gible entity shall use funds under the Rural
6 Water and Wastewater Circuit Rider program
7 for a rural water, wastewater, or wastewater
8 disposal facility for—

9 “(i) technical assistance, including—

10 “(I) Board training;

11 “(II) managerial and financial
12 operations with the effort to enhance
13 the long-term sustainability of rural
14 water and wastewater systems, includ-
15 ing partnerships, consolidation, and
16 regionalization;

17 “(III) physical operation and
18 maintenance of rural water and
19 wastewater infrastructure;

20 “(IV) water treatment;

21 “(V) regulatory compliance;

22 “(VI) facility security;

23 “(VII) loan application and re-
24 porting;

25 “(VIII) cybersecurity;

1 “(IX) implementation of cyberse-
2 curity plans, procedures, and tech-
3 nologies to protect against
4 cyberthreats; or

5 “(X) other areas the Secretary
6 deems appropriate;

7 “(ii) disaster and recovery assistance
8 including—

9 “(I) direct on-site personnel and
10 equipment to eligible utilities;

11 “(II) coordinating in statewide
12 emergency response networks;

13 “(III) facilitating the develop-
14 ment of action plans between utilities,
15 local governments, the Federal Emer-
16 gency Management Agency and the
17 State emergency management agen-
18 cies;

19 “(IV) resiliency and mitigation
20 planning;

21 “(V) GIS mapping;

22 “(VI) updating vulnerability as-
23 sessments, preparation of emergency
24 response plans, communication proto-

1 cols, hazard recognition and evalua-
2 tion skills;

3 “(VII) conducting preliminary
4 damage assessments of critical infra-
5 structure;

6 “(VIII) addressing outstanding
7 deficiencies focused on resolving
8 health-based regulatory, operational,
9 financial, and managerial deficiencies
10 that impact the sustainability of the
11 affected utilities;

12 “(IX) application and reporting
13 assistance for Federal and State re-
14 quirements including Federal Emer-
15 gency Management Agency and insur-
16 ance recovery claims;

17 “(X) providing for disaster readi-
18 ness, support, and response activities
19 targeted to disadvantaged commu-
20 nities that lack the financial resources
21 and human capital necessary to ade-
22 quately address significant health,
23 safety, or sanitary concerns; and

24 “(XI) other areas the Secretary
25 deems appropriate.

1 “(iii) ADDITIONAL USES.—In response
2 to activities under subparagraph (B) re-
3 lated to natural disasters and emergencies,
4 not more than 5 percent of each award
5 may be used to purchase or reimburse the
6 rental costs of appropriate emergency
7 equipment, as determined by the Sec-
8 retary.

9 “(E) ELIGIBLE PROJECT AREAS.—To re-
10 ceive assistance under the Rural Water and
11 Wastewater Circuit Rider Program and carry
12 out activities, an eligible entity must serve—

13 “(i) an area with a population of—

14 “(I) 10,000 or fewer inhabitants
15 for technical assistance under sub-
16 paragraph (D)(i); or

17 “(II) 50,000 or fewer inhabitants
18 for disaster and recovery assistance
19 under subparagraph (D)(ii); and

20 “(ii) a public body, non-profit cor-
21 poration, or Indian tribe with legal author-
22 ity to own and operate the water facility.

23 “(F) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIA-
24 TIONS.—There is authorized to be appropriated

1 to carry out this paragraph \$25,000,000 for fis-
2 cal year 2027 through fiscal year 2031.”.

3 **SEC. 6403. ZERO AND LOW INTEREST LOANS FOR DIS-**
4 **TRESSED WATER SYSTEMS.**

5 Section 306(a) of the Consolidated Farm and Rural
6 Development Act (7 U.S.C. 1926(a)) is amended by in-
7 serting after paragraph (22) the following:

8 “(23) ASSISTANCE FOR DISTRESSED WATER
9 SYSTEMS.—

10 “(A) To promote the long-term sustain-
11 ability and financial viability of eligible rural
12 community waste disposal and water facilities
13 as described in subparagraph (B), for any enti-
14 ty described in subparagraph (C), the Secretary
15 may—

16 “(i) make a zero percent interest loan
17 or a 1 percent interest loan pursuant to
18 paragraph (1);

19 “(ii) forgive the principal or interest,
20 or modify any term or condition of a new
21 or existing loan made pursuant to para-
22 graph (1);

23 “(iii) refinance all or part of any
24 other loan made for an eligible purpose

1 under paragraph (1) of this subsection or
2 section 306C; or

3 “(iv) waive any fee required to insure
4 or guarantee a loan pursuant to paragraph
5 (1) or (24).

6 “(B) To promote the long-term sustain-
7 ability and financial viability of the services pro-
8 vided by eligible entities, the Secretary shall—

9 “(i) provide assistance to an eligible
10 entity for the purpose of—

11 “(I) ensuring the entity has nec-
12 essary resources to maintain public
13 health, safety, or order;

14 “(II) addressing financial hard-
15 ships of the eligible entity, its cus-
16 tomers, and the community it serves;

17 “(III) improving the financial
18 stability of the eligible entity, includ-
19 ing changes to—

20 “(aa) operational practices;

21 “(bb) revenue enhance-
22 ments;

23 “(cc) policy revisions; and

24 “(dd) contract services; and

1 “(IV) supporting a partnership,
2 regionalization, or consolidation of the
3 entity with another water system; and

4 “(ii) require an applicant to—

5 “(I) receive financial planning as-
6 sistance and prepare a long-term fi-
7 nancial plan; or

8 “(II) partner, regionalize, or con-
9 solidate with another water system.

10 “(C) An entity shall be eligible for assist-
11 ance under this paragraph if the entity—

12 “(i) is a rural water, wastewater, or
13 wastewater disposal system with respect to
14 which assistance may be provided under a
15 water or wastewater, or waste disposal pro-
16 gram under this subsection or section
17 306A, 306C, or 306D, and

18 “(ii) is—

19 “(I) located in a socially dis-
20 advantaged community, a persistent
21 poverty county, colonia, or distressed
22 tribal area, as determined by the Sec-
23 retary; or

24 “(II) facing an economic hard-
25 ship as defined by the Secretary.

1 “(D) An entity eligible under paragraph
2 (1) or (2) of subsection (a) may designate a
3 water and wastewater utility provider to apply
4 for a loan under this paragraph and carry out
5 the loan application on behalf of the eligible en-
6 tity.

7 “(E)(i) The Secretary shall evaluate such a
8 loan application on the basis of the needs of the
9 eligible entity and the beneficiaries of the eligi-
10 ble entity rather than the needs of the applicant
11 water and wastewater utility provider.

12 “(ii) A water and wastewater utility pro-
13 vider to whom a loan is made under this para-
14 graph on the basis of an application submitted
15 on behalf of an eligible entity may use the loan
16 only for the benefit of the residents of the eligi-
17 ble area for which the loan is provided.”.

18 **SEC. 6404. TRIBAL COLLEGE AND UNIVERSITY ESSENTIAL**
19 **COMMUNITY FACILITIES.**

20 Section 306(a)(25)(C) of the Consolidated Farm and
21 Rural Development Act (7 U.S.C. 1926(a)(25)(C)) is
22 amended by striking “2008 through 2023” and inserting
23 “2027 through 2031”.

1 **SEC. 6405. EMERGENCY AND IMMINENT COMMUNITY**
2 **WATER ASSISTANCE GRANT PROGRAM.**

3 (a) IN GENERAL.—Section 306A(i)(2) of the Consoli-
4 dated Farm and Rural Development Act (7 U.S.C.
5 1926a(i)(2)) is amended by striking “2019 through 2023”
6 and inserting “2027 through 2031”.

7 **SEC. 6406. WATER SYSTEMS FOR RURAL AND NATIVE VIL-**
8 **LAGES IN ALASKA.**

9 Section 306D(d)(1) of the Consolidated Farm and
10 Rural Development Act (7 U.S.C. 1926d(d)(1)) is amend-
11 ed by striking “2008 through 2023” and inserting “2027
12 through 2031”.

13 **SEC. 6407. RURAL DECENTRALIZED WATER SYSTEMS.**

14 Section 306E of the Consolidated Farm and Rural
15 Development Act (7 U.S.C. 1926e) is amended to read
16 as follows:

17 **“SEC. 306E. RURAL DECENTRALIZED WATER SYSTEMS.**

18 “(a) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

19 “(1) ELIGIBLE INDIVIDUAL.—The term ‘eligible
20 individual’ means an individual who is a member of
21 a household the members of which have a combined
22 income (for the most recent 12-month period for
23 which the information is available) that is not more
24 than 80 percent of the median nonmetropolitan
25 household income for the State or territory in which

1 the individual resides, according to the most recent
2 decennial census of the United States.

3 “(2) ELIGIBLE GRANT RECIPIENT.—The term
4 ‘eligible grant recipient’ means a private nonprofit
5 organization that uses a grant provided under this
6 section for the purposes described in subsection
7 (b)(1).

8 “(3) QUALIFIED WATER QUALITY TESTING.—
9 The term ‘qualified water quality testing’ means a
10 baseline analysis of the bacterial and chemical char-
11 acteristics of concern from a drinking water sample
12 collected at the point of consumption and tested by
13 a laboratory certified to conduct water quality test-
14 ing that is provided to—

15 “(A) the Secretary; and

16 “(B) the eligible grant recipient receiving a
17 grant under this section and any eligible indi-
18 vidual served by the eligible grant recipient.

19 “(b) GRANTS.—

20 “(1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary may make
21 grants to an eligible grant recipient for the purpose
22 of—

23 “(A) providing loans and subgrants to eli-
24 gible individuals for—

1 “(i) the construction, refurbishing,
2 and servicing of individual household water
3 well systems and individually owned house-
4 hold decentralized wastewater systems in
5 rural areas that are or will be owned by
6 the eligible individuals; or

7 “(ii) in the event of ground well water
8 contamination, the installation or replace-
9 ment of water treatment, where needed as
10 determined by a qualified water quality
11 test or other third party documentation to
12 the satisfaction of the Secretary;

13 “(B) performing qualified water quality
14 testing of individual household water well sys-
15 tems and individually utilized household decen-
16 tralized wastewater systems in rural areas that
17 are or will be utilized by the eligible individuals;
18 or

19 “(C) providing technical assistance to eligi-
20 ble individuals for—

21 “(i) the installation or replacement of
22 individual household water well systems
23 and individually owned household decen-
24 tralized wastewater systems in rural areas

1 that are or will be owned by the eligible in-
2 dividuals;

3 “ (ii) interpreting qualified water qual-
4 ity tests; or

5 “ (iii) addressing ground well water
6 contamination.

7 “(2) TERMS AND AMOUNTS FOR LOANS AND
8 SUBGRANTS.—

9 “(A) TERMS OF LOANS.—A loan made
10 with grant funds under this section—

11 “(i) shall have an interest rate of 1
12 percent; and

13 “(ii) shall have a term not to exceed
14 20 years.

15 “(B) AMOUNTS.—A loan or subgrant made
16 with grant funds under this section shall not
17 exceed \$20,000 for each water well system or
18 decentralized wastewater system described in
19 paragraph (1).

20 “(3) ADMINISTRATIVE EXPENSES.—A recipient
21 of a grant made under this section may use grant
22 funds to pay administrative expenses associated with
23 providing the assistance described in paragraph (1),
24 as determined by the Secretary.

1 “(4) WATER TREATMENT STANDARDS.—Water
2 treatment provided under this section shall—

3 “(A) incorporate components that are
4 third-party certified as compliant with relevant
5 consensus-based standards for drinking water
6 treatment units or systems, as determined by
7 the Secretary; and

8 “(B) be installed, according to the instruc-
9 tions of the manufacturer, by a qualified, cer-
10 tified, or licensed water treatment professional,
11 including a professional credentialed through a
12 manufacturer or third-party.

13 “(c) PRIORITY IN AWARDING GRANTS.—In awarding
14 grants under this section, the Secretary shall give priority
15 to an applicant that has substantial expertise and experi-
16 ence in promoting the safe and effective use of individually
17 owned household water well systems, individually owned
18 household decentralized wastewater systems, and ground
19 water.

20 “(d) LIMITATION.—An eligible grant recipient cannot
21 use more than 10 percent of a grant awarded under this
22 section for the activities described under subparagraphs
23 (B) and (C) of subsection (b)(1).

1 “(e) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There
2 is authorized to be appropriated to carry out this section
3 \$20,000,000 for each of fiscal years 2027 through 2031.”.

4 **SEC. 6408. ASSISTANCE TO RURAL ENTITIES.**

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

7 (1) in paragraph (1), by adding at the end the
8 following:

9 “(C) PRECISION AGRICULTURE; PRECISION
10 AGRICULTURE TECHNOLOGY.—The terms ‘pre-
11 cision agriculture’ and ‘precision agriculture
12 technology’ have the meanings given those
13 terms in section 1201 of the Food Security Act
14 of 1985.”; and

15 (2) in paragraph (2)—

16 (A) by striking “and” at the end of sub-
17 paragraph (C);

18 (B) by striking the period at the end of
19 subparagraph (D) and inserting “; and”; and

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

21 “(E) expanding the adoption of precision
22 agriculture practices, including by financing the
23 acquisition of precision agriculture technology,
24 in order to promote best practices, reduce costs,
25 and improve the environment.”.

1 **SEC. 6409. SOLID WASTE MANAGEMENT GRANTS.**

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

4 (1) in paragraph (1), by striking “governments
5 and related agencies” and inserting “governments,
6 related agencies, and Indian tribes”; and

7 (2) in paragraph (2), by striking “2014
8 through 2023” and inserting “2027 through 2031”.

9 **SEC. 6410. RURAL BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT GRANTS.**

10 Section 310B(c)(4)(A) of the Consolidated Farm and
11 Rural Development Act (7 U.S.C. 1932(c)(4)(A)) is
12 amended by striking “2014 through 2023” and inserting
13 “2027 through 2031”.

14 **SEC. 6411. RURAL COOPERATIVE DEVELOPMENT GRANTS.**

15 Section 310B(e) of the Consolidated Farm and Rural
16 Development Act (7 U.S.C. 1932(e)) is amended—

17 (1) in paragraph (1), by adding at the end the
18 following:

19 “(C) COOPERATIVE DEVELOPMENT.—The
20 term ‘cooperative development’ means activities
21 including education, training, and technical as-
22 sistance, to support the start-up, expansion, or
23 ongoing sustainability of new and existing co-
24 operatives.”;

25 (2) in paragraph (5)—

1 (A) in subparagraph (D), by striking “un-
2 derserved and economically distressed areas in
3 rural areas of the United States” and inserting
4 “socially vulnerable, underserved, or distressed
5 communities”; and

6 (B) in subparagraph (F)—

7 (i) by inserting “at least” before “a
8 25 percent”; and

9 (ii) by inserting “, and all applications
10 that satisfy this subparagraph shall be
11 given the same priority for the scoring cri-
12 terion based on satisfying this subpara-
13 graph” before the period;

14 (3) in paragraph (6), by striking subparagraph
15 (B) and inserting the following:

16 “(B) AWARD RENEWALS FOR QUALIFIED
17 NON-PROFIT INSTITUTIONS.—The Secretary
18 shall award a grant under this subsection to a
19 non-profit institution on the same terms and for
20 the establishment or operation of the same cen-
21 ter or centers for cooperative development for
22 which the non-profit institution was awarded a
23 grant in the current fiscal year, if the non-prof-
24 it institution—

1 “(i) is a recipient of an award under
2 this subsection;

3 “(ii) requests a renewal under this
4 subparagraph;

5 “(iii) has submitted a complete appli-
6 cation under this subsection in the pre-
7 ceding 2 fiscal years; and

8 “(iv) has operated the center or cen-
9 ters for cooperative development in a man-
10 ner which successfully meets the param-
11 eters described in paragraph (5), as deter-
12 mined by the Secretary.”;

13 (4) in paragraph (10), by adding at the end the
14 following: “The Secretary shall analyze the data re-
15 sulting from the research, and include the data and
16 the analysis in the annual report submitted by the
17 interagency working group under paragraph (12).”;

18 (5) in paragraph (12), by adding at the end the
19 following: “Not later than 180 days after the date
20 of the enactment of this sentence and annually
21 thereafter, the interagency working group shall sub-
22 mit to the Congress a report describing the activities
23 carried out by the working group.”; and

24 (6) in paragraph (13), by striking “2014
25 through 2023” and inserting “2027 through 2031”.

1 **SEC. 6412. LENDER FEES IN GUARANTEED LOAN PRO-**
2 **GRAMS.**

3 (a) IN GENERAL.—Section 333 of such Act (7 U.S.C.
4 1983) is amended—

5 (1) by inserting “(A) IN GENERAL.—” before
6 “In connection”;

7 (2) in paragraph (5), by adding “and” at the
8 end;

9 (3) in paragraph (6)(E), by striking “; and”
10 and inserting a period;

11 (4) by striking paragraph (7); and

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

13 “(b) FEES.—

14 “(1) INITIAL GUARANTEE FEE.—The Secretary
15 may assess an initial guarantee fee for any insured
16 or guaranteed loan issued or modified under section
17 306(a) in an amount that does not exceed 3 percent
18 of the guaranteed principal portion of the loan.

19 “(2) PERIODIC RETENTION FEE.—The Sec-
20 retary may assess a periodic retention fee for any in-
21 sured or guaranteed loan or modified under section
22 306(a) in an amount that does not exceed 0.75 per-
23 cent of the outstanding principal of the guaranteed
24 loan.

25 “(3) DISCLOSURE.—In altering any fee charged
26 for any insured or guaranteed loan issued or modi-

1 fied under section 306(a), the Secretary, not less
2 than 30 days in advance of any fee change, shall
3 provide a public disclosure, of the financial data,
4 economic and behavioral assumptions, calculations,
5 and other factors used to determine the new fee
6 rates.”.

7 (b) CONFORMING AMENDMENT.—Section 310B(g)(5)
8 of such Act (7 U.S.C. 1932(g)(5)) is amended to read as
9 follows:

10 “(5) FEES.—

11 “(A) INITIAL GUARANTEE FEE.—The Sec-
12 retary may assess an initial guarantee fee for
13 any guaranteed business and industry loan in
14 an amount that does not exceed 3 percent of
15 the guaranteed principal portion of the loan.

16 “(B) PERIODIC RETENTION FEE.—The
17 Secretary may assess a periodic retention fee
18 for any guaranteed business and industry loan
19 in an amount that does not exceed 0.75 percent
20 of the outstanding principal of the guaranteed
21 loan.

22 “(C) DISCLOSURE.—In altering any fee
23 charged for any guaranteed business and indus-
24 try loan, the Secretary, not less than 30 days
25 in advance of any fee change, shall provide a

1 public disclosure, of the financial data, eco-
2 nomic and behavioral assumptions, calculations,
3 and other factors used to determine the new fee
4 rates.”.

5 **SEC. 6413. LOCALLY OR REGIONALLY PRODUCED AGRICUL-**
6 **TURAL FOOD PRODUCTS.**

7 Section 310B(g)(9)(B)(iv)(I) of the Consolidated
8 Farm and Rural Development Act (7 U.S.C.
9 1932(g)(9)(B)(iv)(I)) is amended by striking “2008
10 through 2023” and inserting “2027 through 2031”.

11 **SEC. 6414. APPROPRIATE TECHNOLOGY TRANSFER FOR**
12 **RURAL AREAS PROGRAM.**

13 Section 310B(i) of the Consolidated Farm and Rural
14 Development Act (7 U.S.C. 1932(i)) is amended—

15 (1) in paragraph (2)—

16 (A) by striking “and” at the end of sub-
17 paragraph (C);

18 (B) by striking the period at the end of
19 subparagraph (D) and inserting “; and”; and

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

21 “(E) provides training opportunities and
22 resources for veterans (as defined in section
23 101(2) of title 38, United States Code) who ac-
24 tively are or are seeking to become agricultural

1 producers, which shall be known as the ‘Armed
2 to Farm Initiative’.”; and

3 (2) in paragraph (4), by striking “2008
4 through 2023.” and inserting the following: “2027
5 through 2031, of which—

6 “(A) \$3,500,000 shall be made available
7 for each fiscal year for activities described in
8 subparagraphs (A) through (D) of paragraph
9 (2); and

10 “(B) \$1,500,000 shall be available for each
11 fiscal year for activities described in paragraph
12 (2)(E).”.

13 **SEC. 6415. RURAL ECONOMIC AREA PARTNERSHIP ZONES.**

14 Section 310B(j) of the Consolidated Farm and Rural
15 Development Act (7 U.S.C. 1932(j)) is amended by strik-
16 ing “2023” and inserting “2031”.

17 **SEC. 6416. INTERMEDIARY RELENDING PROGRAM.**

18 Section 310H(i) of the Consolidated Farm and Rural
19 Development Act (7 U.S.C. 1936b(i)) is amended by strik-
20 ing “2014 through 2023” and inserting “2027 through
21 2031”.

22 **SEC. 6417. RURAL HEALTH CARE FACILITY ASSISTANCE.**

23 (a) IN GENERAL.—Section 342 of the Consolidated
24 Farm and Rural Development Act (7 U.S.C. 1990a) is
25 amended—

1 (1) by striking “Assistance” and inserting the
2 following:

3 “(a) REFINANCING OF CERTAIN RURAL HEALTH
4 CARE FACILITY DEBT.—

5 “(1) IN GENERAL.—Assistance”;

6 (2) by striking “rural hospital” and inserting
7 “an eligible health care facility”;

8 (3) by striking “a community” and inserting
9 “an area”;

10 (4) by striking “hospital,” and inserting “eligi-
11 ble health care facility,”; and

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

13 “(2) REQUIREMENTS.—To promote the long-
14 term sustainability and financial viability of an eligi-
15 ble health care facility, the Secretary shall—

16 “(A) provide assistance to an eligible
17 health care facility for the purpose of—

18 “(i) ensuring the facility has nec-
19 essary resources to maintain public health,
20 safety, or order;

21 “(ii) addressing financial hardships of
22 the facility, its patients, and the area it
23 serves; and

24 “(iii) identifying the financial stability
25 of the facility, including—

1 “(I) operational practices;
2 “(II) revenue enhancements;
3 “(III) policy revisions;
4 “(IV) partnerships, regionaliza-
5 tion, or consolidation of rural health
6 systems; and

7 “(V) contract services; and

8 “(B) require an applicant to—

9 “(i) receive financial planning assist-
10 ance; and

11 “(ii) prepare a long-term financial
12 plan.

13 “(3) WAIVER.—In the case of an application
14 for refinancing pursuant to this section, the Sec-
15 retary may waive the requirement of section
16 302(a)(1)(D) if the eligible health care facility is in-
17 solvent.

18 “(b) RURAL HEALTH CARE FACILITY TECHNICAL
19 ASSISTANCE PROGRAM.—

20 “(1) IN GENERAL.—In lieu of any other author-
21 ity under which the Secretary may provide technical
22 assistance to any eligible health care facility, the
23 Secretary shall establish, and maintain, directly or
24 by grant, contract, or cooperative agreement, a
25 Rural Health Care Facility Technical Assistance

1 Program (in this section referred to as the ‘Pro-
2 gram’) to provide technical assistance and training,
3 tailored to the capacity and needs of each eligible
4 health care facility, to help eligible health care facili-
5 ties in rural areas—

6 “(A) identify development needs for main-
7 taining essential health care services, and sup-
8 port action plans for operational and quality
9 improvement projects to meet the development
10 needs;

11 “(B) better manage their financial and
12 business strategies, including providing finan-
13 cial planning assistance and preparing long-
14 term financial plans; and

15 “(C) identify, and apply for assistance
16 from, loan and grant programs of the Depart-
17 ment of Agriculture for which the facilities are
18 eligible.

19 “(2) GOALS.—The goals of the Program shall
20 be to—

21 “(A) improve the long-term financial posi-
22 tion and operational efficiency of the eligible
23 health care facilities;

24 “(B) prevent the closure of eligible health
25 care facilities;

1 “(C) strengthen the delivery of health care
2 in rural areas;

3 “(D) help eligible health care facilities bet-
4 ter access and compete for loans and grants
5 from programs administered by the Department
6 of Agriculture; and

7 “(E) continue the activities of the Rural
8 Hospital Technical Assistance Program in ef-
9 fect as of the date of the enactment of this sub-
10 section.

11 “(3) PROGRAM PARTICIPATION.—

12 “(A) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall
13 engage in outreach and engagement strategies
14 to encourage eligible health care facilities to
15 participate in the Program.

16 “(B) ELIGIBLE HEALTH CARE FACILITY
17 SELECTION.—In selecting eligible health care
18 facilities to participate in the Program, the Sec-
19 retary shall give priority to borrowers and
20 grantees of the Rural Housing Service, Rural
21 Business-Cooperative Service, and Rural Utili-
22 ties Service. The Secretary may also consider—

23 “(i) the age and physical state of the
24 health care facility involved;

1 “(ii) the financial vulnerability of the
2 eligible health care facility, and the ability
3 of the eligible health care facility to meet
4 debt obligations;

5 “(iii) the electronic health record im-
6 plementation needs of the health care facil-
7 ity;

8 “(iv) whether the eligible health care
9 facility is located in a health professional
10 shortage area or a medically underserved
11 area;

12 “(v) whether the eligible health care
13 facility serves a medically underserved pop-
14 ulation; and

15 “(vi) such other criteria and priorities
16 as are determined by the Secretary of Ag-
17 riculture.

18 “(C) REPORTING REQUIREMENTS.—Not
19 later than 1 year after the date of the enact-
20 ment of this section, and annually thereafter,
21 the Secretary shall submit to the Committee on
22 Agriculture of the House of Representatives
23 and the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition,
24 and Forestry of the Senate a written report de-
25 scribing the progress and results of the pro-

1 gram conducted under this section, which
2 should include—

3 “(i) a brief description of each project
4 to provide technical assistance to an eligi-
5 ble health care facility under this section,
6 including—

7 “(I) the name and location of the
8 facility;

9 “(II) a description of the assist-
10 ance provided;

11 “(III) a description of the out-
12 comes for completed projects;

13 “(IV) the cost of the technical
14 assistance; and

15 “(V) any other information the
16 Secretary deems appropriate;

17 “(ii) a summary of the technical as-
18 sistance projects completed;

19 “(iii) a summary of the outcomes of
20 the technical assistance projects;

21 “(iv) an assessment of the effective-
22 ness of the Program; and

23 “(v) recommendations for improving
24 the Program.

1 “(D) LIMITATIONS ON AUTHORIZATION OF
2 APPROPRIATIONS.—To carry out this section,
3 there are authorized to be appropriated to the
4 Secretary not more than \$2,000,000 for each of
5 fiscal years 2027 through 2031.

6 “(c) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

7 “(1) RURAL AREA.—The term ‘rural area’ has
8 the meaning given the term in section 343(a)(13)(A)
9 of the Consolidated Farm and Rural Development
10 Act (7 U.S.C. 1991(a)(13)(A)).

11 “(2) DEVELOPMENT NEEDS.—The term ‘devel-
12 opment needs’ includes—

13 “(A) constructing, expanding, renovating
14 or otherwise modernizing health care facilities;

15 “(B) increasing telehealth capabilities;

16 “(C) acquiring or upgrading health care
17 information systems such as electronic health
18 records;

19 “(D) providing financial planning assist-
20 ance and preparing long-term financial plan;
21 and

22 “(E) such other needs as the Secretary
23 deems critical to maintaining health care serv-
24 ices in the community in which an eligible
25 health care facility is located.

1 “(3) ELIGIBLE HEALTH CARE FACILITY.—The
2 term ‘eligible health care facility’ means a facility
3 that is located in a rural area and is—

4 “(A) a hospital (as defined in section
5 1861(e) of the Social Security Act;

6 “(B) a psychiatric hospital (as defined in
7 section 1861(f) of such Act);

8 “(C) a long-term care hospital (as defined
9 in section 1861(ccc) of such Act);

10 “(D) a critical access hospital (as defined
11 in section 1861(mm)(1) of such Act);

12 “(E) a rural health clinic (as defined in
13 section 1861(aa)(2) of such Act);

14 “(F) a religious nonmedical health care in-
15 stitution (as defined in section 1861(ss)(1) of
16 such Act);

17 “(G) a sole community hospital (as defined
18 in section 1886(d)(5)(C)(iii) of such Act);

19 “(H) a rural emergency hospital (as de-
20 fined in section 1861(kkk)(2) of such Act);

21 “(I) a home health agency (as defined in
22 section 1861(o) of such Act); or

23 “(J) a community health center (as de-
24 fined in section 330 of the Public Health Serv-
25 ice Act).

1 “(4) HEALTH PROFESSIONAL SHORTAGE
2 AREA.—The term ‘health professional shortage area’
3 has the meaning given the term in section
4 332(a)(1)(A) of the Public Health Service Act.

5 “(5) MEDICALLY UNDERSERVED AREA.—The
6 term ‘medically underserved area’ has the meaning
7 given the term in section 330I(a)(5) of the Public
8 Health Service Act.

9 “(6) MEDICALLY UNDERSERVED POPU-
10 LATION.—The term ‘medically underserved popu-
11 lation’ has the meaning given the term in section
12 330(b)(3) of the Public Health Service Act.”.

13 (b) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendments made by
14 subsection (a) shall take effect on the completion of a rule-
15 making carrying out such amendments.

16 **SEC. 6418. ELIMINATION OF PROHIBITION ON USE OF LOAN**
17 **FOR CERTAIN PURPOSES.**

18 Section 363 of the Consolidated Farm and Rural De-
19 velopment Act (7 U.S.C. 2006e) is amended to read as
20 follows:

21 **“SEC. 363. PROHIBITION ON USE OF LOAN OR GRANT FOR**
22 **CERTAIN PURPOSES.**

23 “(a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall not approve
24 any loan or grant under this title to drain, dredge, fill,
25 or level, or otherwise manipulate a wetland (as defined in

1 section 1201(a)(16) of the Food Security Act of 1985 (16
2 U.S.C. 3801(a)(16))), or to engage in any activity that
3 results in impairing or reducing the flow, circulation, or
4 reach of water, except in the case of activity related to
5 the maintenance of previously converted wetlands, or in
6 the case of such activity that commenced before November
7 29, 1990.

8 “(b) EXCLUSIONS.—

9 “(1) UTILITIES LINES.—This section shall not
10 apply to a loan made or guaranteed under this title
11 for a utility line.

12 “(2) PERMITTED ACTIVITIES AND PROJECTS.—
13 This section shall not apply to a rural development
14 loan made or guaranteed under section 306 or 306C
15 of this Act for an activity or project for which the
16 applicant or borrower has obtained or is required to
17 obtain a permit from the Secretary of the Army, act-
18 ing through the Chief of Engineers, under section 10
19 of the Act of March 3, 1899 (33 U.S.C. 403; 30
20 Stat. 1151, chapter 425), or section 404 of the Fed-
21 eral Water Pollution Control Act (33 U.S.C.
22 1344).”.

1 **SEC. 6419. RURAL BUSINESS-COOPERATIVE SERVICE PRO-**
2 **GRAMS TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE AND TRAIN-**
3 **ING.**

4 Section 368(d)(1) of the Consolidated Farm and
5 Rural Development Act (7 U.S.C. 2008c(d)(1)) is amend-
6 ed by striking “2019 through 2023” and inserting “2027
7 through 2031”.

8 **SEC. 6420. NATIONAL RURAL DEVELOPMENT PARTNER-**
9 **SHIP.**

10 Section 378 of the Consolidated Farm and Rural De-
11 velopment Act (7 U.S.C. 2008m) is amended—

12 (1) in subsection (g)(1), by striking “2008
13 through 2023” and inserting “2027 through 2031”;
14 and

15 (2) in subsection (h), by striking “2023” and
16 inserting “2031”.

17 **SEC. 6421. GRANTS FOR NOAA WEATHER RADIO TRANSMIT-**
18 **TERS.**

19 Section 379B(d) of the Consolidated Farm and Rural
20 Development Act (7 U.S.C. 2008p(d)) is amended by
21 striking “2014 through 2023” and inserting “2027
22 through 2031”.

23 **SEC. 6422. RURAL MICROENTREPRENEUR ASSISTANCE**
24 **PROGRAM.**

25 Section 379E of the Consolidated Farm and Rural
26 Development Act (7 U.S.C. 2008s) is amended—

1 (1) in subsection (a)(4), by striking “\$50,000”
2 and inserting “\$75,000”;

3 (2) in subsection (c)(1)(A), by striking “shall
4 not exceed 75 percent” and inserting “may be up to
5 100 percent, and a loan under this section for a
6 project may be used to cover not more than 50 per-
7 cent of any renovation, construction, or related costs
8 of real estate improvements under the project”; and
9 (3) in subsection (d), by striking “2019 through
10 2023” and inserting “2027 through 2031”.

11 **SEC. 6423. HEALTH CARE SERVICES.**

12 Section 379G(e) of the Consolidated Farm and Rural
13 Development Act (7 U.S.C. 2008u(e)) is amended by
14 striking “2008 through 2023” and inserting “2027
15 through 2031”.

16 **SEC. 6424. STRATEGIC ECONOMIC AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT.**

17 Section 379H(d)(4) of the Consolidated Farm and
18 Rural Development Act (7 U.S.C. 2008v(d)(4)) is amend-
19 ed by striking “2019 through 2023” and inserting “2027
20 through 2031”.

22 **SEC. 6425. RURAL INNOVATION STRONGER ECONOMY GRANT PROGRAM.**

23 Section 379I of the Consolidated Farm and Rural
24 Development Act (7 U.S.C. 2008w) is amended—
25

1 (1) in subsection (a)—

2 (A) in paragraph (1)(A)—

3 (i) in clause (iii)—

4 (I) by striking subclause (I) and
5 inserting the following:

6 “(I) an institution of higher edu-
7 cation (as defined in section 101, and
8 subparagraphs (A) and (B) of section
9 102(a)(1), of the Higher Education
10 Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 1001,
11 1002(a)(1));”;

12 (II) by redesignating subclauses
13 (II) and (III) as subclauses (III) and
14 (IV), respectively, and inserting after
15 subclause (I) the following:

16 “(II) an area career and tech-
17 nical education school (as defined in
18 section 3 of the Carl D. Perkins Ca-
19 reer and Technical Education Act of
20 2006 (20 U.S.C. 2302);”;

21 (III) in subclause (IV) (as so re-
22 designated by subclause (II) of this
23 clause), by striking “and”;

24 (ii) in clause (iv)—

1 (I) by striking subclause (IV)
2 and inserting the following:

3 “(IV) an institution of higher
4 education (as defined in section 101,
5 and subparagraphs (A) and (B) of
6 section 102(a)(1), of the Higher Edu-
7 cation Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 1001,
8 1002(a)(1));”; and

9 (II) by redesignating subclause
10 (V) as subclause (VI) and inserting
11 after subclause (IV) the following:

12 “(V) an area career and technical
13 education school (as defined in section
14 3 of the Carl D. Perkins Career and
15 Technical Education Act of 2006 (20
16 U.S.C. 2302); or”; and

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

19 “(v) in the case of a career pathway
20 program, includes 1 or more members of
21 the local workforce development board es-
22 tablished under section 107 of the Work-
23 force Innovation and Opportunity Act and
24 serving the region to ensure the program is
25 integrated with the activities carried out by

1 the local workforce development board;
2 and”;

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

4 “(6) CAREER PATHWAY.—The term ‘career
5 pathway’ has the meaning given the term in section
6 3(7) of the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity
7 Act (29 U.S.C. 3102(7)).

8 “(7) INDUSTRY OR SECTOR PARTNERSHIP.—
9 The term ‘industry or sector partnership’ has the
10 meaning given the term in section 3 of the Work-
11 force Innovation and Opportunity Act (29 U.S.C.
12 3102).”;

13 (2) in subsection (b)—

14 (A) in paragraph (1)—

15 (i) in the matter preceding subpara-
16 graph (A), by inserting “or carry out ca-
17 reer pathway training programs or indus-
18 try or sector partnerships aligned with in-
19 dustry sectors in rural communities” be-
20 fore “, including”;

21 (ii) in subparagraph (A), by striking
22 “and” after the semicolon;

23 (iii) in subparagraph (B), by striking
24 the period and inserting a semicolon; and

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

3 “(C) address workforce challenges, includ-
4 ing worker displacement, faced by specific in-
5 dustry sectors in rural communities; and

6 “(D) promote targeted skills development
7 and training initiatives to stimulate innovation
8 and enhance economic development in rural re-
9 gions.”;

10 (B) in paragraph (3)—

11 (i) in subparagraph (A)—

12 (I) in clause (i), by inserting “,
13 career pathway programs, or industry
14 or sector partnerships” before the
15 semicolon; and

16 (II) in clause (ii)—

17 (aa) by inserting “, career
18 pathway programs, or industry or
19 sector partnerships” before “to
20 provide”; and

21 (bb) by inserting “leadership
22 development,” before “cus-
23 tomized training”;

24 (ii) in subparagraph (F), by striking
25 the period and inserting “; and”; and

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

3 “(G) the ability of the eligible entity to
4 carry out activities to address the issues of
5 worker displacement, an aging workforce, and
6 youth migration.”; and

7 (C) by striking paragraph (5) and insert-
8 ing the following:

9 “(5) GEOGRAPHIC DISTRIBUTION.—The Sec-
10 retary shall ensure regional diversity of recipients of
11 grants or participants in providing grants under
12 paragraph (1) for jobs accelerators, career pathway
13 programs, and related programming.”;

14 (3) in subsection (d)(1)—

15 (A) in subparagraph (B)(xi), by striking
16 the period and inserting “; and”; and

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

18 “(C) to support career pathway programs
19 or industry or sector partnerships to be carried
20 out within industries in rural communities, in-
21 cluding—

22 “(i) telecommunications or broadband
23 services;

24 “(ii) water, waste water, or disposal
25 services;

- 1 “(iii) electric supply services;
2 “(iv) forestry and logging operations;
3 “(v) conservation practices and man-
4 agement;
5 “(vi) health care and child care;
6 “(vii) manufacturing;
7 “(viii) agribusiness related to produc-
8 tion, processing, and distribution;
9 “(ix) veterinarian services; and
10 “(x) any other sectors identified by
11 the local workforce development board
12 serving the region to be an in-demand in-
13 dustry sector or occupation, as defined in
14 section 3 of the Workforce Innovation and
15 Opportunity Act.”;

16 (4) in subsection (e)—

17 (A) in paragraph (1), by striking “and”;

18 (B) in paragraph (2)(B)—

19 (i) in clause (xvii), by striking “or”;

20 (ii) by redesignating clause (xviii) as
21 clause (xix) and inserting after clause
22 (xvii) the following:

23 “(xviii) the number of individuals who
24 have completed skills development, recog-
25 nized postsecondary credentials, or gained

1 specialized education through career path-
2 ways programs or industry or sector part-
3 nerships; or”; and

4 (iii) in clause (xix) (as so redesignated
5 by subparagraph (B) of this paragraph),
6 by striking the period and inserting “;
7 and”; and

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

9 “(3) in the case of a career pathway program
10 or industry or sector partnership, report to the Sec-
11 retary the employment and earnings outcomes for
12 individuals who participate in the program on the in-
13 dicators described in subclauses (I) through (III) of
14 section 116(b)(2)(A)(i) of the Workforce Innovation
15 and Opportunity Act.”; and

16 (5) in subsection (f), by striking “2019 through
17 2023” and inserting “2027 through 2031”.

18 **SEC. 6426. LIMITATION ON RURAL BUSINESS INVESTMENT**
19 **COMPANIES CONTROLLED BY FARM CREDIT**
20 **SYSTEM INSTITUTIONS.**

21 Section 384J(c) of the Consolidated Farm and Rural
22 Development Act (7 U.S.C. 2009cc-9(c)) is amended by
23 striking “50” and inserting “75”.

1 **SEC. 6427. RURAL BUSINESS INVESTMENT PROGRAM.**

2 Section 384S of the Consolidated Farm and Rural
3 Development Act (7 U.S.C. 2009cc–18) is amended by
4 striking “2014 through 2023” and inserting “2027
5 through 2031”.

6 **SEC. 6428. TECHNICAL CORRECTIONS.**

7 Each of the following provisions of the Consolidated
8 Farm and Rural Development Act are amended by strik-
9 ing “urbanized” and inserting “urban”:

10 (1) Section 343(a)(13)(A)(ii) (7 U.S.C.
11 1991(a)(13)(A)(ii)).

12 (2) Section 343(a)(13)(D)(i)(I) (7 U.S.C.
13 1991(a)(13)(D)(i)(I)), in the matter preceding item
14 (aa).

15 (3) Section 343(a)(13)(D)(i)(I)(bb) (7 U.S.C.
16 1991(a)(13)(D)(i)(I)(bb)).

17 (4) Section 343(a)(13)(D)(i)(II) (7 U.S.C.
18 1991(a)(13)(D)(i)(II)).

19 (5) Section 343(a)(13)(E) (7 U.S.C.
20 1991(a)(13)(E)).

21 (6) Section 343(a)(13)(F)(i)(II) (7 U.S.C.
22 1991(a)(13)(F)(i)(II)).

23 (7) Section 384I(c)(4)(C) (7 U.S.C. 2009cc–
24 8(c)(4)(C)).

1 **SEC. 6429. RURAL WATER AND WASTEWATER TECHNICAL**
2 **ASSISTANCE AND TRAINING PROGRAMS.**

3 Section 306(a)(14) of the Consolidated Farm and
4 Rural Development Act (7 U.S.C. 1926(a)(14)) is amend-
5 ed—

6 (1) in subparagraph (A)—

7 (A) by striking “technical assistance and
8 training to—” and inserting “for—”;

9 (B) in clause (v), by striking the period
10 and inserting “; or”; and

11 (C) by redesignating clauses (i) through
12 (v) as subclauses (I) through (V), respectively,
13 and moving each such provision 2 ems to the
14 right; and

15 (D) by inserting before the matter so re-
16 designated the following:

17 “(i) technical assistance and training
18 to—”; and

19 (E) by adding after and below the end the
20 following:

21 “(ii) disaster and recovery assist-
22 ance.”; and

23 (2) in subparagraph (B), by inserting “or dis-
24 aster and recovery assistance” before “described”.

1 **Subtitle E—Additional Amend-**
2 **ments to the Rural Electrifica-**
3 **tion Act of 1936**

4 **SEC. 6501. GUARANTEES FOR BONDS AND NOTES ISSUED**
5 **FOR UTILITY INFRASTRUCTURE PURPOSES.**

6 Section 313A(f) of the Rural Electrification Act of
7 1936 (7 U.S.C. 940c–1(f)) is amended by striking “2023”
8 and inserting “2031”.

9 **SEC. 6502. EXTENSION OF THE RURAL ECONOMIC DEVEL-**
10 **OPMENT LOAN AND GRANT PROGRAM.**

11 Section 313B of the Rural Electrification Act of 1936
12 (7 U.S.C. 940c–2) is amended—

13 (1) by striking subsection (b) and inserting the
14 following:

15 “(b) REPAYMENTS.—

16 “(1) IN GENERAL.—In the case of zero interest
17 loans, the Secretary shall establish such reasonable
18 repayment terms as will encourage borrower partici-
19 pation.

20 “(2) LETTERS OF CREDIT.—The Secretary
21 shall not require a letter of credit or other similar
22 guarantee from a recipient of a zero-interest loan
23 under this section if the borrower assigns the Sec-
24 retary a security interest in any collateral provided
25 to secure a loan made with funds loaned under this

1 section, or makes other similar arrangements to the
2 satisfaction of the Secretary.”; and

3 (2) in subsection (e)(1), by striking “2019
4 through 2023” and inserting “2027 through 2031”.

5 **SEC. 6503. EXPANSION OF 911 ACCESS.**

6 Section 315(d) of the Rural Electrification Act of
7 1936 (7 U.S.C. 940e(d)) is amended by striking “2008
8 through 2023” and inserting “2027 through 2031”.

9 **TITLE VII—RESEARCH, EXTEN-**
10 **SION, AND RELATED MAT-**
11 **TERS**

12 **Subtitle A—National Agricultural**
13 **Research, Extension, and Teach-**
14 **ing Policy Act of 1977**

15 **SEC. 7101. NATIONAL AGRICULTURAL RESEARCH, EXTEN-**
16 **SION, EDUCATION, AND ECONOMICS ADVI-**
17 **SORY BOARD.**

18 Section 1408 of the National Agricultural Research,
19 Extension, and Teaching Policy Act of 1977 (7 U.S.C.
20 3123) is amended—

21 (1) in subsection (b)—

22 (A) in paragraph (1), by striking “15” and
23 inserting “16”;

24 (B) in paragraph (3), by adding at the end
25 the following:

1 “(E) 1 member representing the industry,
2 consumer, or rural interests of insular areas.”;
3 and

4 (C) in paragraph (5), by striking “7” and
5 inserting “3”; and

6 (2) in subsection (h), by striking “2023” and
7 inserting “2031”.

8 **SEC. 7102. SPECIALTY CROP COMMITTEE.**

9 Section 1408A of the National Agricultural Research,
10 Extension, and Teaching Policy Act of 1977 (7 U.S.C.
11 3123a) is amended—

12 (1) in subsection (a)—

13 (A) in paragraph (1), by striking “Not
14 later than” and all that follows through “initial
15 members of” and inserting “The Secretary shall
16 continue to implement, and appoint the mem-
17 bers of”; and

18 (B) in paragraph (2)—

19 (i) in subparagraph (C), by adding a
20 period at the end; and

21 (ii) in subparagraph (D), by striking
22 “2023” and inserting “2031”; and

23 (2) in subsection (b)(2), by striking “executive
24 committee” and inserting “Secretary”.

1 **SEC. 7103. VETERINARY MEDICINE LOAN REPAYMENT.**

2 Section 1415A of the National Agricultural Research,
3 Extension, and Teaching Policy Act of 1977 (7 U.S.C.
4 3151a) is amended—

5 (1) by amending subsection (b) to read as fol-
6 lows:

7 “(b) DETERMINATION OF VETERINARIAN SHORTAGE
8 SITUATIONS.—In determining ‘veterinarian shortage situ-
9 ations’, the Secretary—

10 “(1) may consider—

11 “(A) geographical areas that the Secretary
12 determines have a shortage of veterinarians;

13 “(B) areas of veterinary practice that the
14 Secretary determines have a shortage of veteri-
15 narians, such as food animal medicine, public
16 health, epidemiology, and food safety; and

17 “(C) areas described in subparagraphs (A)
18 and (B) identified by appropriate State agen-
19 cies; and

20 “(2) shall—

21 “(A) develop quantitative mechanisms for
22 predicting the emergence of new veterinarian
23 shortage situations in the short-term and long-
24 term; and

25 “(B) make available to State agencies de-
26 scribed in paragraph (1)(C) the quantitative

1 mechanisms developed under subparagraph
2 (A).”; and

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

5 “(9) ELIGIBILITY.—The Secretary shall not
6 make a veterinarian ineligible for the program under
7 this section based on a veterinarian’s participation in
8 a comparable Federal, State, or local program.

9 “(10) APPLICATION PROCESS.—Not later than
10 1 year after the date of the enactment of the Farm,
11 Food, and National Security Act of 2026, the Sec-
12 retary shall establish streamlined application proce-
13 dures and guidelines for entering into agreements
14 with veterinarians under this section.”.

15 **SEC. 7104. VETERINARY SERVICES GRANT PROGRAM.**

16 Section 1415B of the National Agricultural Research,
17 Extension, and Teaching Policy Act of 1977 (7 U.S.C.
18 3151b) is amended—

19 (1) in subsection (a)—

20 (A) in paragraph (1)(A)(i), by striking “,
21 as defined in” and all that follows through
22 “1991(a)”; and

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

24 “(3) RURAL AREA.—The term “rural area” has
25 the meaning given such term in section 343(a) of

1 the Consolidated Farm and Rural Development Act
2 (7 U.S.C. 1991(a)).”;

3 (2) in subsection (b)(2)—

4 (A) by redesignating subparagraphs (B)
5 and (C) as subparagraphs (C) and (D), respec-
6 tively; and

7 (B) by inserting after subparagraph (A)
8 the following:

9 “(B) expand, retain, or attract additional
10 veterinary practices in rural areas;”;

11 (3) in subsection (c), by adding at the end the
12 following:

13 “(5) APPLICATION PROCESS.—Not later than 1
14 year after the date of enactment of the Farm, Food,
15 and National Security Act of 2026 the Secretary
16 shall establish a streamlined application process.”;
17 and

18 (4) in subsection (d)—

19 (A) in the subsection heading, by striking
20 “TO RELIEVE VETERINARIAN SHORTAGE SITU-
21 ATIONS AND SUPPORT VETERINARY SERV-
22 ICES”; and

23 (B) in paragraph (1)—

24 (i) in the matter preceding subpara-
25 graph (A), by striking “situations and sup-

1 port” and inserting “situations, to expand,
2 retain, or attract additional veterinary
3 practices in rural areas, and to support”;
4 and

5 (ii) by adding at the end the fol-
6 lowing:

7 “(G) To cover expenses associated with
8 starting a new veterinary practice or attracting
9 new veterinarians to existing practices, includ-
10 ing—

11 “(i) relocation expenses;

12 “(ii) the purchase of necessary start-
13 up equipment; and

14 “(iii) housing or living stipends for
15 veterinary students, veterinary interns,
16 externs, fellows, and residents, and veteri-
17 nary technician students.”.

18 **SEC. 7105. GRANTS AND FELLOWSHIPS FOR FOOD AND AG-**
19 **RICULTURE SCIENCES EDUCATION.**

20 Section 1417(m)(2) of the National Agricultural Re-
21 search, Extension, and Teaching Policy Act of 1977 (7
22 U.S.C. 3152(m)(2)) is amended by striking “2023” and
23 inserting “2031”.

1 **SEC. 7106. AGRICULTURAL AND FOOD POLICY RESEARCH**
2 **CENTERS.**

3 Section 1419A(e) of the National Agricultural Re-
4 search, Extension, and Teaching Policy Act of 1977 (7
5 U.S.C. 3155(e)) is amended by striking “2023” and in-
6 serting “2031”.

7 **SEC. 7107. EDUCATION GRANTS TO ALASKA NATIVE SERV-**
8 **ING INSTITUTIONS AND NATIVE HAWAIIAN**
9 **SERVING INSTITUTIONS.**

10 Section 1419B of the National Agricultural Research,
11 Extension, and Teaching Policy Act of 1977 (7 U.S.C.
12 3156) is amended—

13 (1) in subsection (a)—

14 (A) in paragraph (1), by adding at the end
15 the following: “The term of such grants may be
16 for a period of more than 1 year, but not more
17 than 5 years.”; and

18 (B) in paragraph (3), by striking “2023”
19 and inserting “2031”; and

20 (2) in subsection (b)—

21 (A) in paragraph (1), by adding at the end
22 the following: “The term of such grants may be
23 for a period of more than 1 year, but not more
24 than 5 years.”; and

25 (B) in paragraph (3), by striking “2023”
26 and inserting “2031”.

1 **SEC. 7108. NUTRITION EDUCATION PROGRAM.**

2 Section 1425(g) of the National Agricultural Re-
3 search, Extension, and Teaching Policy Act of 1977 (7
4 U.S.C. 3175(g)) is amended by striking “2023” and in-
5 serting “2031”.

6 **SEC. 7109. CONTINUING ANIMAL HEALTH AND DISEASE RE-**
7 **SEARCH PROGRAMS.**

8 Section 1433 of the National Agricultural Research,
9 Extension, and Teaching Policy Act of 1977 (7 U.S.C.
10 3195) is amended—

11 (1) in subsection (a), by adding at the end the
12 following:

13 “(4) CARRYOVER.—The balance of any annual
14 funds provided to an eligible institution for a fiscal
15 year under this subsection that remains unexpended
16 at the end of that fiscal year may be carried over
17 for use during the following fiscal year.”; and

18 (2) in subsection (c)(1), by striking “2023” and
19 inserting “2031”.

20 **SEC. 7110. EXTENSION AND AGRICULTURAL RESEARCH AT**
21 **1890 LAND-GRANT COLLEGES, INCLUDING**
22 **TUSKEGEE UNIVERSITY.**

23 (a) EXTENSION.—Section 1444(a)(2) of the National
24 Agricultural Research, Extension, and Teaching Policy
25 Act of 1977 (7 U.S.C. 3221(a)(2)) is amended by striking
26 “20 percent” and inserting “40 percent”.

1 (b) RESEARCH.—Section 1445 of the National Agri-
2 cultural Research, Extension, and Teaching Policy Act of
3 1977 (7 U.S.C. 3222) is amended—

4 (1) in subsection (a)(2), by striking “30 per-
5 cent” and inserting “40 percent”;

6 (2) in subsection (c), by striking “the research
7 director” each place it appears and inserting “the
8 agricultural research director”; and

9 (3) in subsection (d)—

10 (A) by striking “a research director” and
11 inserting “an agricultural research director”;
12 and

13 (B) by striking “or other officer”.

14 **SEC. 7111. SCHOLARSHIPS FOR STUDENTS AT 1890 INSTITU-**
15 **TIONS.**

16 Section 1446(b)(2) of the National Agricultural Re-
17 search, Extension, and Teaching Policy Act of 1977 (7
18 U.S.C. 3222a(b)(2)) is amended by striking “2023” and
19 inserting “2031”.

20 **SEC. 7112. GRANTS TO UPGRADE AGRICULTURAL AND**
21 **FOOD SCIENCES FACILITIES AT 1890 LAND-**
22 **GRANT COLLEGES, INCLUDING TUSKEGEE**
23 **UNIVERSITY.**

24 Section 1447(b) of the National Agricultural Re-
25 search, Extension, and Teaching Policy Act of 1977 (7

1 U.S.C. 3222b(b)) is amended by striking “2023” and in-
2 serting “2031”.

3 **SEC. 7113. GRANTS TO UPGRADE AGRICULTURE AND FOOD**
4 **SCIENCES FACILITIES AND EQUIPMENT AND**
5 **SUPPORT TROPICAL AND SUBTROPICAL AG-**
6 **RICULTURAL RESEARCH AT INSULAR AREA**
7 **LAND-GRANT COLLEGES AND UNIVERSITIES.**

8 Section 1447B(d) of the National Agricultural Re-
9 search, Extension, and Teaching Policy Act of 1977 (7
10 U.S.C. 3222b–2(d)) is amended by striking “2023” and
11 inserting “2031”.

12 **SEC. 7114. MATCHING FUNDS REQUIREMENT FOR RE-**
13 **SEARCH AND EXTENSION ACTIVITIES AT ELI-**
14 **GIBLE INSTITUTIONS.**

15 Section 1449 of the National Agricultural Research,
16 Extension, and Teaching Policy Act of 1977 (7 U.S.C.
17 3222d) is amended—

18 (1) in subsection (b)—

19 (A) by striking “Not later than September
20 30, 1999” and inserting “Beginning on Sep-
21 tember 30, 2026, and not later than September
22 30 of each fiscal year thereafter”; and

23 (B) by striking “fiscal year 1999” and in-
24 serting “the fiscal year ending on that Sep-
25 tember 30”; and

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

3 “(c) STATE MATCHING FUNDS REQUIREMENT.—
4 Notwithstanding any other provision of this subtitle, for
5 each fiscal year, a State shall provide to each eligible insti-
6 tution located in the State matching funds from non-Fed-
7 eral sources in an amount equal to the amounts provided
8 to the eligible institution under sections 1444 and 1445
9 for the purposes described in subsection (b)(1).”.

10 **SEC. 7115. NEW BEGINNING FOR TRIBAL STUDENTS.**

11 Section 1450 of the National Agricultural Research,
12 Extension, and Teaching Policy Act of 1977 (7 U.S.C.
13 3222e) is amended—

14 (1) in subsection (b), by striking paragraph (5);
15 and

16 (2) in subsection (d), by striking “2023” and
17 inserting “2031”.

18 **SEC. 7116. EDUCATION GRANTS PROGRAMS FOR HISPANIC-**
19 **SERVING INSTITUTIONS.**

20 Section 1455(c) of the National Agricultural Re-
21 search, Extension, and Teaching Policy Act of 1977 (7
22 U.S.C. 3241(c)) is amended by striking “2023” and in-
23 serting “2031”.

1 **SEC. 7117. BINATIONAL AGRICULTURAL RESEARCH AND**
2 **DEVELOPMENT.**

3 Section 1458(e) of the National Agricultural Re-
4 search, Extension, and Teaching Policy Act of 1977 (7
5 U.S.C. 3291(e)) is amended—

6 (1) in paragraph (1), by striking “entered into”
7 and inserting “, as entered into in 1977,”;

8 (2) in paragraph (2), by striking “United
9 States and Israel” and inserting “United States,
10 Israel, or other signatories of the Abraham Accords
11 Declaration”; and

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

13 “(3) BARD FUND ACCELERATOR.—The BARD
14 Fund shall establish an accelerator program that
15 supports mid-stage research, as determined by the
16 technology readiness level, in priority areas estab-
17 lished by the BARD Fund that—

18 “(A) fast-tracks cooperative research be-
19 tween scientists participating in activities de-
20 scribed in paragraph (2);

21 “(B) accelerates the successful develop-
22 ment of agricultural research through resources
23 and services developed or orchestrated by the
24 BARD Fund;

25 “(C) provides management guidance, tech-
26 nical assistance, and consulting to scientists

1 participating in activities described in para-
2 graph (2); or

3 “(D) advances cooperative agricultural re-
4 search projects of mutual interest to the United
5 States, Israel, or other signatories of the Abra-
6 ham Accords Declaration.”.

7 **SEC. 7118. GRANTS AND PARTNERSHIPS FOR INTER-**
8 **NATIONAL AGRICULTURAL RESEARCH, EX-**
9 **TENSION, AND EDUCATION.**

10 (a) IN GENERAL.—Section 1458A of the National
11 Agricultural Research, Extension, and Teaching Policy
12 Act of 1977 (7 U.S.C. 3292) is amended—

13 (1) by amending the section heading to read as
14 follows “**GRANTS AND PARTNERSHIPS FOR**
15 **INTERNATIONAL AGRICULTURAL RESEARCH,**
16 **EXTENSION, AND EDUCATION**”;

17 (2) by striking subsections (a) and (b) and in-
18 serting the following:

19 “(a) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

20 “(1) DEVELOPING COUNTRY.—The term ‘devel-
21 oping country’ means a country that meets such cri-
22 teria as determined by the Secretary, established
23 using a gross national income per capita test se-
24 lected by the Secretary.

1 “(2) ELIGIBLE INSTITUTION.—The term ‘eligi-
2 ble institution’ means—

3 “(A) a land-grant colleges or university;

4 “(B) a non-land-grant college of agri-
5 culture;

6 “(C) a Hispanic-serving agricultural col-
7 lege or university; and

8 “(D) a cooperating forestry school.

9 “(3) INTERNATIONAL PARTNER INSTITUTION.—

10 The term ‘international partner institution’ means a
11 higher education institution in a developing country
12 that is performing, or desiring to perform, activities
13 similar to agricultural research, extension, and edu-
14 cation activities carried out through eligible institu-
15 tions in the United States.

16 “(b) GRANTS AND PARTNERSHIPS.—

17 “(1) GRANTS.—The Secretary may make com-
18 petitive grants to eligible institutions in order to
19 strengthen United States economic competitiveness
20 and to promote international market development
21 through—

22 “(A) enhancing the international content
23 of the curricula in colleges and universities so
24 as to ensure that United States students ac-
25 quire an understanding of the international di-

1 mensions and trade implications of their stud-
2 ies;

3 “(B) ensuring that United States sci-
4 entists, extension agents, and educators in-
5 volved in agricultural research and development
6 activities outside of the United States have the
7 opportunity to convey the implications of their
8 activities and findings to their peers and stu-
9 dents in the United States and to the users of
10 agricultural research, extension, and teaching;

11 “(C) enhancing the capabilities of colleges
12 and universities to do collaborative research
13 with other countries, in cooperation with other
14 Federal agencies, on issues relevant to United
15 States agricultural competitiveness;

16 “(D) enhancing the capabilities of colleges
17 and universities to provide cooperative extension
18 education to promote the application of new
19 technology developed in foreign countries to
20 United States agriculture; and

21 “(E) enhancing the capability of United
22 States colleges and universities, in cooperation
23 with other Federal agencies, to provide leader-
24 ship and educational programs that will assist
25 United States natural resources and food pro-

1 duction, processing, and distribution businesses
2 and industries to compete internationally, in-
3 cluding through the use of product market iden-
4 tification, international policies limiting or en-
5 hancing market production, the development of
6 new or enhancement of existing markets, and
7 production efficiencies.

8 “(2) PARTNERSHIPS.—The Secretary may pro-
9 mote cooperation and coordination between eligible
10 institutions and international partner institutions
11 through—

12 “(A) improving extension by—

13 “(i) encouraging the exchange of re-
14 search materials and results between eligi-
15 ble institutions and international partner
16 institutions;

17 “(ii) facilitating the broad dissemina-
18 tion of agricultural research through exten-
19 sion;

20 “(iii) assisting with efforts to plan
21 and initiate extension services in devel-
22 oping countries; and

23 “(iv) developing self-sustaining re-
24 gional agricultural markets and promoting

1 the application of new agricultural tech-
2 nologies and techniques;

3 “(B) improving agricultural research by—

4 “(i) in partnership with international
5 partner institutions, encouraging research
6 that addresses problems affecting food pro-
7 duction and security, human nutrition, ag-
8 riculture, forestry, livestock, and fisheries,
9 including local challenges; and

10 “(ii) supporting and strengthening na-
11 tional agricultural research systems in de-
12 veloping countries;

13 “(C) supporting the participation of eligi-
14 ble institutions in programs of international or-
15 ganizations, such as the United Nations, the
16 World Bank, regional development banks, and
17 international agricultural research centers;

18 “(D) improving agricultural teaching and
19 education by—

20 “(i) in partnership with international
21 partner institutions, supporting education
22 and teaching relating to food and agricul-
23 tural sciences, including technical assist-
24 ance, degree training, research collabora-

1 tions, classroom instruction, workforce
2 training, and education programs; and

3 “(ii) assisting with efforts to increase
4 student capacity, including to encourage
5 equitable access for women and other un-
6 derserved populations, at international
7 partner institutions by promoting partner-
8 ships with, and improving the capacity of,
9 eligible institutions;

10 “(E) assisting eligible institutions in
11 strengthening their capacity for food, agricul-
12 tural, and related research, extension, and
13 teaching programs relevant to agricultural de-
14 velopment activities in developing countries to
15 promote the application of new technology to
16 improve education delivery;

17 “(F) providing support for the internation-
18 alization of resident instruction programs of eli-
19 gible institutions;

20 “(G) establishing a program, to be coordi-
21 nated by the Director of the National Institute
22 of Food and Agriculture and the Administrator
23 of the Foreign Agricultural Service, to place in-
24 terns from eligible institutions in, or in service
25 to benefit, developing countries; and

1 “(H) establishing a program to provide fel-
2 lowships to students at eligible institutions to
3 study at foreign agricultural colleges and uni-
4 versities.”;

5 (3) in subsection (c), in the matter preceding
6 paragraph (1), by striking “covered Institutions”
7 and inserting “eligible institutions”; and

8 (4) in subsection (d), by striking “2023” and
9 inserting “2031”.

10 (b) CONFORMING AMENDMENT.—Section 1459A of
11 the National Agricultural Research, Extension, and
12 Teaching Policy Act of 1977 (7 U.S.C. 3292b) is repealed.

13 **SEC. 7119. RESEARCH EQUIPMENT GRANTS.**

14 Section 1462A(e) of the National Agricultural Re-
15 search, Extension, and Teaching Policy Act of 1977 (7
16 U.S.C. 3310a(e)) is amended by striking “2023” and in-
17 serting “2031”.

18 **SEC. 7120. UNIVERSITY RESEARCH.**

19 Section 1463 of the National Agricultural Research,
20 Extension, and Teaching Policy Act of 1977 (7 U.S.C.
21 3311) is amended by striking “2023” each place it ap-
22 pears in subsections (a) and (b) and inserting “2031”.

23 **SEC. 7121. EXTENSION SERVICE.**

24 Section 1464 of the National Agricultural Research,
25 Extension, and Teaching Policy Act of 1977 (7 U.S.C.

1 3312) is amended by striking “2023” and inserting
2 “2031”.

3 **SEC. 7122. SUPPLEMENTAL AND ALTERNATIVE CROPS.**

4 Section 1473D of the National Agricultural Re-
5 search, Extension, and Teaching Policy Act of 1977 (7
6 U.S.C. 3319d) is amended—

7 (1) in subsection (a), by striking “2023” and
8 inserting “2031”;

9 (2) in subsection (c)(3)—

10 (A) in subparagraph (E), by striking
11 “and” at the end;

12 (B) by redesignating subparagraph (F) as
13 subparagraph (G); and

14 (C) by inserting after subparagraph (E)
15 the following:

16 “(F) to examine potential benefits and opportu-
17 nities for supplemental and alternative crops (includ-
18 ing winter-planted rapeseed and winter-planted
19 canola crops); and”;

20 (3) in subsection (e)(3), by striking “2023” and
21 inserting “2031”.

1 **SEC. 7123. GRANTS FOR COMMUNITY COLLEGE AGRI-**
2 **CULTURE AND NATURAL RESOURCES PRO-**
3 **GRAMS.**

4 Section 1473E of the National Agricultural Research,
5 Extension, and Teaching Policy Act of 1977 (7 U.S.C.
6 3319e) is amended—

7 (1) by amending the section heading to read as
8 follows: “**GRANTS FOR COMMUNITY COLLEGE**
9 **AGRICULTURE AND NATURAL RESOURCES**
10 **PROGRAMS**”;

11 (2) by redesignating subsection (d) as sub-
12 section (e);

13 (3) by striking subsections (a) through (c) and
14 inserting the following:

15 “(a) **DEFINITIONS.**—In this section:

16 “(1) **ELIGIBLE ENTITY.**—The term ‘eligible en-
17 tity’ means—

18 “(A) a junior or community college (as de-
19 fined in section 312 of the Higher Education
20 Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 1058)) supporting agri-
21 culture advancement;

22 “(B) a consortium or alliance of 2-year
23 public colleges supporting agriculture advance-
24 ment; or

25 “(C) an area career and technical edu-
26 cation school (as defined in section 3 of the

1 Carl D. Perkins Career and Technical Edu-
2 cation Act of 2006 (20 U.S.C. 2302)) that of-
3 fers a program of study in agriculture.

4 “(2) WORK-BASED LEARNING.—The term
5 ‘work-based learning’ has the meaning given such
6 term in section 3 of the Carl D. Perkins Career and
7 Technical Education Act of 2006 (20 U.S.C. 2302).

8 “(b) COMPETITIVE GRANTS.—The Secretary shall
9 make competitive grants to eligible entities to conduct
10 workforce training, education, research, and outreach ac-
11 tivities relating to food and agricultural sciences.

12 “(c) PRIORITY.—In making grants under subsection
13 (b), the Secretary shall give priority to an eligible entity
14 coordinating with a local agriculture industry operator to
15 provide work-based learning, experiential training, and
16 other opportunities for students.

17 “(d) USE OF FUNDS.—An eligible entity that receives
18 a grant under subsection (b) may use the funds made
19 available through the grant—

20 “(1) to offer educational programming on agri-
21 cultural industry jobs, including farm business man-
22 agement-related subjects, such as accounting, para-
23 legal studies, and finance;

24 “(2) to develop apprenticeships and other work-
25 based learning opportunities; and

1 “(3) other services that would increase work-
2 force training, education, research, and outreach ac-
3 tivities relating to food and agricultural sciences, as
4 determined by the Secretary.”; and

5 (4) in subsection (e), as so redesignated, by
6 striking “2023” and inserting “2031”.

7 **SEC. 7124. CAPACITY BUILDING GRANTS FOR NLGCA INSTI-**
8 **TUTIONS.**

9 Section 1473F(b) of the National Agricultural Re-
10 search, Extension, and Teaching Policy Act of 1977 (7
11 U.S.C. 3319i(b)) is amended by striking “2023” and in-
12 serting “2031”.

13 **SEC. 7125. AGRICULTURE ADVANCED RESEARCH AND DE-**
14 **VELOPMENT AUTHORITY.**

15 Section 1473H of the National Agricultural Re-
16 search, Extension, and Teaching Policy Act of 1977 (7
17 U.S.C. 3319k) is amended—

18 (1) in subsection (a)—

19 (A) in paragraph (2)—

20 (i) by inserting “, including precision
21 agriculture,” after “equipment”; and

22 (ii) by striking “relating to the re-
23 search and development of qualified prod-
24 ucts and projects”;

25 (B) in paragraph (5)—

1 (i) in the paragraph heading, by strik-
2 ing “PERSON” and inserting “ELIGIBLE
3 ENTITY”;

4 (ii) in the matter preceding subpara-
5 graph (A), by striking “person” and in-
6 serting “eligible entity”;

7 (iii) by striking subparagraph (E);
8 and

9 (iv) by redesignating subparagraphs
10 (F) through (H) as subparagraphs (E)
11 through (G), respectively;
12 (C) in paragraph (6)—

13 (i) in subparagraph (B)(iii), by strik-
14 ing “and” at the end;

15 (ii) in subparagraph (C)(ii), by strik-
16 ing the period at the end and inserting “;
17 or”; and

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

20 “(D) any other product or project, as de-
21 termined by the Secretary.”; and

22 (D) in paragraph (7), by striking “that is
23 developed to assist in the discovery, develop-
24 ment, or manufacture of a qualified product or
25 project”;

1 (2) in subsection (b)—

2 (A) in paragraph (2), by amending sub-
3 paragraph (B) to read as follows:

4 “(B) to overcome the long-term and high-
5 risk technological barriers in the development of
6 agricultural technologies, research tools, and
7 qualified products and projects that enhance ex-
8 port competitiveness, environmental sustain-
9 ability, water conservation, and resilience to ex-
10 treme weather, drought, infectious diseases,
11 plant and animal pathogens, and plant and ani-
12 mal pests;”;

13 (B) in paragraph (4)—

14 (i) in subparagraph (C), by striking
15 “persons” and inserting “eligible entities”;
16 and

17 (ii) in subparagraph (G), by striking
18 “persons” and inserting “eligible entities”;
19 and

20 (C) in paragraph (7)(A)—

21 (i) by striking “a person” and insert-
22 ing “an eligible entity”; and

23 (ii) by striking “the person” and in-
24 serting “the eligible entity”;

25 (3) in subsection (c)—

1 (A) in paragraph (2), by striking “per-
2 sons” and inserting “eligible entities”; and

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

4 “(4) USE OF STRATEGIC PLAN.—The Secretary
5 shall use the strategic plan developed under para-
6 graph (1) to inform the administration of AGARDA
7 under this section.”;

8 (4) in subsection (d)(3), by striking “2023”
9 and inserting “2031”; and

10 (5) in subsection (e)—

11 (A) in paragraph (1), by striking “5
12 years” and inserting “13 years”; and

13 (B) in paragraph (2)(B), by striking “5-
14 year” and inserting “13-year”.

15 **SEC. 7126. AQUACULTURE ASSISTANCE PROGRAMS.**

16 Section 1477(a)(2) of the National Agricultural Re-
17 search, Extension, and Teaching Policy Act of 1977 (7
18 U.S.C. 3324(a)(2)) is amended by striking “2023” and
19 insert “2031”.

20 **SEC. 7127. SPECIAL AUTHORIZATION FOR BIOSECURITY**
21 **PLANNING AND RESPONSE.**

22 Section 1484(a)(3) of the National Agricultural Re-
23 search, Extension, and Teaching Policy Act of 1977 (7
24 U.S.C. 3351(a)(3)) is amended by striking “2023” and
25 inserting “2031”.

1 **SEC. 7128. AGRICULTURE AND FOOD PROTECTION GRANT**
2 **PROGRAM.**

3 (a) IN GENERAL.—Section 1485 of the National Ag-
4 ricultural Research, Extension, and Teaching Policy Act
5 of 1977 (7 U.S.C. 3352) is amended—

6 (1) by amending the section heading to read as
7 follows: “**AGRICULTURE AND FOOD PROTEC-**
8 **TION GRANT PROGRAM**”;

9 (2) by striking subsections (a), (b), (c), (d), (e),
10 and (f) and inserting the following:

11 “(a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall establish a
12 competitive grant program under which the Secretary will
13 award grants to eligible entities to support research, ex-
14 tension, and education activities that improve the capa-
15 bility of the United States to protect the food and agricul-
16 tural system from any chemical, biological, cybersecurity,
17 or bioterrorism attack.

18 “(b) USE OF FUNDS.—Grants made under this sec-
19 tion shall be used to—

20 “(1) encourage basic and applied research and
21 development of agricultural countermeasures;

22 “(2) promote the development and expansion of
23 teaching programs in agriculture, veterinary medi-
24 cine, and other disciplines closely allied to the food
25 and agriculture system to increase the number of

1 trained individuals with an expertise in agricultural
2 biosecurity and cybersecurity;

3 “(3) expand or upgrade facilities to meet bio-
4 safety and biosecurity requirements necessary to
5 protect facility staff, members of the public, and the
6 food supply while carrying out agricultural biosecu-
7 rity research;

8 “(4) costs associated with the acquisition of
9 equipment and other capital costs related to expan-
10 sion of food, agriculture, and veterinary medicine
11 teaching programs in agricultural biosecurity and cy-
12 bersecurity; or

13 “(5) otherwise improve the capacity of the
14 United States to respond in a timely manner to
15 emerging or existing threats.

16 “(c) ELIGIBLE ENTITIES.—Entities eligible to receive
17 a grant under this section include—

18 “(1) State agricultural experiment stations;

19 “(2) State departments of agriculture;

20 “(3) colleges and universities;

21 “(4) university research foundations;

22 “(5) other research institutions and organiza-
23 tions;

24 “(6) Federal agencies;

25 “(7) national laboratories; or

1 “(8) any group consisting of 2 or more of the
2 entities described in paragraphs (1) through (7).”;

3 (3) by redesignating subsection (g) as sub-
4 section (d); and

5 (4) in subsection (d), as so redesignated, by
6 striking “for each fiscal year.” and inserting “for
7 each of fiscal years 2027 through 2031.”.

8 (b) CONFORMING AMENDMENTS.—

9 (1) Section 14112 of the Food, Conservation,
10 and Energy Act of 2008 (7 U.S.C. 8912) is re-
11 pealed.

12 (2) Section 14113 of the Food, Conservation,
13 and Energy Act of 2008 (7 U.S.C. 8913) is re-
14 pealed.

15 (3) Section 14121 of the Food, Conservation,
16 and Energy Act of 2008 (7 U.S.C. 8921) is re-
17 pealed.

18 (4) Section 14122 of the Food, Conservation,
19 and Energy Act of 2008 (7 U.S.C. 8922) is re-
20 pealed.

21 **SEC. 7129. DISTANCE EDUCATION GRANTS FOR INSULAR**
22 **AREAS.**

23 Section 1490(f)(2) of the National Agricultural Re-
24 search, Extension, and Teaching Policy Act of 1977 (7

1 U.S.C. 3362(f)(2)) is amended by striking “2023” and in-
2 serting “2031”.

3 **SEC. 7130. RESIDENT INSTRUCTION GRANTS FOR INSULAR**
4 **AREAS.**

5 Section 1491(e)(2) of the National Agricultural Re-
6 search, Extension, and Teaching Policy Act of 1977 (7
7 U.S.C. 3363(c)(2)) is amended by striking “2023” and
8 inserting “2031”.

9 **SEC. 7131. REPEALS.**

10 (a) Section 1410 of the National Agricultural Re-
11 search, Extension, and Teaching Policy Act of 1977 ((7
12 U.S.C. 3125) is repealed.

13 (b) Section 1419C of the National Agricultural Re-
14 search, Extension, and Teaching Policy Act of 1977 (7
15 U.S.C. 3158) is repealed.

16 (c) Section 1447A of the National Agricultural Re-
17 search, Extension, and Teaching Policy Act of 1977 (7
18 U.S.C. 3222b–1) is repealed.

19 (d) Subtitle M of the National Agricultural Research,
20 Extension, and Teaching Policy Act of 1977 (7 U.S.C.
21 3331 et seq.) is repealed.

1 **Subtitle B—Food, Agriculture, Con-**
2 **servation, and Trade Act of 1990**

3 **SEC. 7201. SUSTAINABLE AGRICULTURE RESEARCH AND**
4 **EDUCATION.**

5 Subtitle B of title XVI of the Food, Agriculture, Con-
6 servation, and Trade Act of 1990 (7 U.S.C. 5801 et seq.)
7 is amended by striking “2023” each place it appears in
8 sections 1624 (7 U.S.C. 5814), 1627(d) (7 U.S.C.
9 5821(d)), 1628(f)(2) (7 U.S.C. 5831(f)(2)), and 1629(i)
10 (7 U.S.C. 5832(i)), and inserting “2031”.

11 **SEC. 7202. NATIONAL GENETICS RESOURCES PROGRAM.**

12 Section 1635(b)(2) of the Food, Agriculture, Con-
13 servation, and Trade Act of 1990 (7 U.S.C. 5844(b)(2))
14 is amended by striking “2023” and inserting “2031”.

15 **SEC. 7203. AGRICULTURAL GENOME TO PHENOME INITIA-**
16 **TIVE.**

17 Section 1671(g) of the Food, Agriculture, Conserva-
18 tion, and Trade Act of 1990 (7 U.S.C. 5924(g)) is amend-
19 ed by striking “2023” and inserting “2031”.

20 **SEC. 7204. HIGH-PRIORITY RESEARCH AND EXTENSION INI-**
21 **TIATIVES.**

22 Section 1672 of the Food, Agriculture, Conservation,
23 and Trade Act of 1990 (7 U.S.C. 5925) is amended—

24 (1) in subsection (d)—

1 (A) by striking paragraphs (5), (6), (9),
2 (10), (11), (13), and (18);

3 (B) by redesignating paragraphs (7), (8),
4 (12), (14), (15), (16), (17), (19), and (20) as
5 paragraphs (5), (6), (7), (8), (9), (10), (11),
6 (12), and (13);

7 (C) in paragraph (11), as so redesignated,
8 by inserting “and harmful algal blooms” after
9 “macro-algae systems”; and

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

11 “(14) FERTILIZER AND NUTRIENT MANAGE-
12 MENT INITIATIVE.—Research and extension grants
13 may be made under this section for the purposes of
14 carrying out research to improve fertilizer use effi-
15 ciency in crops and examining nutrient management
16 based on the source, rate, timing, and placement of
17 crop nutrients.

18 “(15) TROPICAL PLANT HEALTH INITIATIVE.—
19 Research and extension grants may be made under
20 this section for the purposes of—

21 “(A) developing and disseminating science-
22 based tools and treatments to combat plant
23 pests and noxious weeds (as those terms are de-
24 fined in section 403 of the Plant Protection Act

1 (7 U.S.C. 7702)) that impact tropical plants,
2 including—

3 “(i) coffee plants;

4 “(ii) macadamia trees;

5 “(iii) cacao trees;

6 “(iv) plantains and bananas;

7 “(v) mangos;

8 “(vi) tropical floriculture and nursery
9 crops; and

10 “(vii) any other tropical plant as de-
11 termined by the Secretary;

12 “(B) establishing an areawide integrated
13 pest management program in areas affected by,
14 or areas at risk of being affected by, plant pests
15 or noxious weeds;

16 “(C) surveying and collecting data on trop-
17 ical plant production and health;

18 “(D) investigating tropical plant biology,
19 immunology, ecology, genomics, and
20 bioinformatics; and

21 “(E) conducting research on various fac-
22 tors that may contribute to, or be associated
23 with, tropical plant immune systems and other
24 serious threats to tropical plants.

1 “(16) BIOCHAR RESEARCH.—Research and ex-
2 tension grants may be made under this section for
3 the purpose of testing the full range of biochar types
4 across soil types, soil health and soil management
5 conditions, application methods, and climatic and
6 agronomic regions, including through the establish-
7 ment of a national biochar research network, to—

8 “(A) assess the soil carbon sequestration
9 potential of various biochars and management
10 systems integrating biochar use;

11 “(B) understand how to use biochar pro-
12 ductively to contribute to climate mitigation,
13 crop production, resilience to extreme weather
14 events, ecosystem and soil health, natural re-
15 source conservation, and farm profitability; and

16 “(C) deliver science-based, region-specific,
17 cost-effective, and practical information to
18 farmers, ranchers, foresters, land reclamation
19 managers, urban land managers, and other land
20 and natural resource managers and businesses
21 on sustainable biochar production and applica-
22 tion.

23 “(17) WILDFIRE SMOKE EXPOSURE RE-
24 SEARCH.—Research and extension grants may be
25 made under this section for the purposes of studying

1 the impact of wildfire smoke exposure on specialty
2 crops, including wine grapes, hops, stone fruit, and
3 apples, by—

4 “(A) conducting research—

5 “(i) to identify the compounds respon-
6 sible for smoke exposure; and

7 “(ii) to establish standard methodolo-
8 gies for sampling and testing smoke-ex-
9 posed specialty crops and smoke-affected
10 products, including fast and inexpensive
11 screening methods;

12 “(B) establishing a reliable database of
13 background levels of smoke exposure com-
14 pounds that occur naturally in specialty crops;

15 “(C) developing risk assessment tools or
16 mitigation methods to reduce or eliminate
17 smoke exposure; and

18 “(D) studying compounds that can act as
19 a barrier between specialty crops and smoke
20 compounds.

21 “(18) INVASIVE SPECIES RESEARCH.—Research
22 and extension grants may be made under this sec-
23 tion for the purposes of developing and dissemi-
24 nating science-based tools and treatments to manage
25 or eradicate (including through methods of biocon-

1 trol and sterile insect techniques) invasive species of
2 plants and animals, such as the spotted lanternfly
3 (*Lycorma delicatula*), navel orangeworm (*Amyelois*
4 *transitella*), and spotted wing drosophila (*Drosophila*
5 *suzuki*).

6 “(19) MICROPLASTICS AND PER- AND
7 POLYFLUOROALKYL SUBSTANCES ON FARMLAND.—
8 Research and extension grants may be made under
9 this section for the purposes of carrying out or en-
10 hancing research on the agricultural impacts of
11 microplastics and per- and polyfluoroalkyl sub-
12 stances, including structural firefighting foam, in
13 land-applied biosolids or compost on farmland, in-
14 cluding by—

15 “(A) conducting surveys and collecting
16 data on concentration, particle size, and chem-
17 ical composition of such substances in land-ap-
18 plied biosolids on farmland;

19 “(B) the development or analysis of tech-
20 niques, including wastewater treatment and
21 composting, to filter out or biodegrade such
22 substances from biosolids intended to be used
23 for agricultural purposes;

24 “(C) conducting an analysis of the impact
25 on agricultural crops and soil health of such

1 substances in land-applied biosolids on farm-
2 land, including the uptake of such substances
3 by various crops or livestock;

4 “(D) conducting research to better under-
5 stand how wastewater processing impacts such
6 substances;

7 “(E) conducting research to better under-
8 stand the fate, residence time, and transport of
9 such substances on farmland; and

10 “(F) conducting research on how to reme-
11 diate soil and water systems contaminated with
12 such substances.

13 “(20) AGRICULTURAL BYPRODUCTS RE-
14 SEARCH.—Research and extension grants may be
15 made under this section for the purposes of con-
16 verting agricultural byproducts or forest residuals
17 into valuable materials and products, including inno-
18 vations in production processes for easily deployable
19 refining facilities, developing alternatives to agricul-
20 tural burning, and fostering energy production
21 through recycling animal byproducts, wet waste, and
22 plant-based waste.

23 “(21) SOIL HEALTH RESEARCH.—Research and
24 extension grants may be made under this section for
25 the purposes of—

1 “(A) developing management practices
2 that improve soil health, including establishing
3 tools that aid soil preservation or improve com-
4 position of soil organic compounds that are ben-
5 eficial to soil quality and the environment; and

6 “(B) disseminating such practices through
7 methods such as innovative coursework and
8 work-based learning.

9 “(22) WHITE OAK RESEARCH.—Research and
10 extension grants may be made under this section for
11 the purposes of white oak research, including con-
12 ducting research on—

13 “(A) white oak genes with resistance and
14 stress tolerance;

15 “(B) white oak trees that exhibit vigor for
16 the purpose of increasing survival and growth;

17 “(C) establishing a diverse white oak seed
18 bank capable of responding to stressors;

19 “(D) providing a sustainable supply of
20 white oak seedlings and genetic resources;

21 “(E) reforestation of white oak through
22 natural and artificial regeneration; and

23 “(F) the best methods for reforesting
24 abandoned mine land sites.

1 “(23) ALTERNATIVE GROWING MEDIA RE-
2 SEARCH.—Research and extension grants may be
3 made under this section for the purposes of devel-
4 oping and enhancing research on the characteriza-
5 tion, utilization, and evaluation of alternative grow-
6 ing media, including science-based techniques that
7 maximize functions in the growth of plants and har-
8 vest yields.

9 “(24) RANGELAND RESEARCH.—Research and
10 extension grants may be made under this section for
11 the purposes of carrying out or enhancing research
12 on the development of forage production and im-
13 proved grazing and range management, including
14 the adoption of virtual fencing technology that si-
15 multaneously enhance wildlife habitat, protect water-
16 sheds, and reduce hazards of erosion and flooding.

17 “(25) SPECIALTY CROP MECHANIZATION AND
18 AUTOMATION RESEARCH.—Research and extension
19 grants may be made under this section for the pur-
20 pose of developing and evaluating mechanization and
21 automation technologies for specialty crops.”;

22 (2) in subsection (e)(5), by striking “2023” and
23 inserting “2031”;

24 (3) in subsection (f)(5), by striking “2023” and
25 inserting “2031”;

1 (4) in subsection (g)—

2 (A) in paragraph (1)(B), by striking
3 “2023” and inserting “2031”;

4 (B) in paragraph (2)(B), by striking
5 “2023” and inserting “2031”; and

6 (C) in paragraph (3), by striking “2023”
7 and inserting “2031”;

8 (5) by redesignating subsection (h) as sub-
9 section (i);

10 (6) by inserting after subsection (g) the fol-
11 lowing:

12 “(h) REPORT.—Not later than February 1, 2028,
13 and not less frequently than once every other year there-
14 after, the Secretary shall submit to the Committee on Ag-
15 riculture of the House of Representatives and the Com-
16 mittee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry of the Sen-
17 ate a report describing how the Department carried out
18 research and extension activities specified in subsections
19 (d) through (f) for the previous two fiscal years, including
20 the amount of funding allocated to each high-priority re-
21 search and extension initiative, through—

22 “(1) amounts made available under appropria-
23 tions Acts to the Agricultural Research Service;

24 “(2) amounts made available to the National
25 Institute of Food and Agriculture under capacity

1 and infrastructure programs (as defined in section
2 251 of the Department of Agriculture Reorganiza-
3 tion Act of 1994 (7 U.S.C. 6971));

4 “(3) amounts made available to the National
5 Institute of Food and Agriculture under competitive
6 programs (as defined in such section); and

7 “(4) amounts made available through other
8 agencies within the Department.”; and

9 (7) in subsection (i) (as redesignated by para-
10 graph (4)), by striking “2023” and inserting
11 “2031”.

12 **SEC. 7205. ORGANIC AGRICULTURE RESEARCH AND EXTEN-**
13 **SION INITIATIVE.**

14 Section 1672B of the Food, Agriculture, Conserva-
15 tion, and Trade Act of 1990 (7 U.S.C. 5925b) is amend-
16 ed—

17 (1) in subsection (a), in the matter preceding
18 paragraph (1), by striking “2023” and inserting
19 “2031”;

20 (2) by striking subsection (e);

21 (3) by redesignating subsection (f) as sub-
22 section (e); and

23 (4) in subsection (e), as so redesignated—

24 (A) in paragraph (2), by striking “2023”
25 and inserting “2031”; and

1 (B) by striking paragraph (3).

2 **SEC. 7206. FARM BUSINESS MANAGEMENT.**

3 Section 1672D(d)(2) of the Food, Agriculture, Con-
4 servation, and Trade Act of 1990 (7 U.S.C. 5925f(d)(2))
5 is amended by striking “2023” and inserting “2031”.

6 **SEC. 7207. URBAN, INDOOR, AND OTHER EMERGING AGRI-
7 CULTURAL PRODUCTION RESEARCH, EDU-
8 CATION, AND EXTENSION INITIATIVE.**

9 Section 1672E(a) of the Food, Agriculture, Con-
10 servation, and Trade Act of 1990 (7 U.S.C. 5925g(a))—

11 (1) in the matter preceding paragraph (1)—

12 (A) by striking “the Urban Agriculture
13 and Innovative Production Advisory Committee
14 established under section 222(b) of the Depart-
15 ment of Agriculture Reorganization Act of
16 1994” and inserting “the Urban Agriculture
17 and Innovative Production Advisory Committee
18 and the Office of Urban Agriculture and Inno-
19 vative Production established under section 222
20 of the Department of Agriculture Reorganiza-
21 tion Act of 1994 (7 U.S.C. 6923)”; and

22 (B) by striking “emerging agricultural pro-
23 duction” and inserting “emerging agricultural
24 production practices (as described in subsection
25 (a)(3) of such section)”; and

1 (2) in paragraph (3), by striking “emerging ag-
2 gricultural production” and inserting “emerging agri-
3 cultural production practices”;

4 (3) in paragraph (7), by striking “or” at the
5 end;

6 (4) in paragraph (8), by striking the period at
7 the end and inserting a semicolon; and

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

9 “(9) managing waste streams to improve the
10 environmental footprint; or

11 “(10) advising land-grant colleges and univer-
12 sities (as defined in section 1404 of the National Ag-
13 ricultural Research, Extension, and Teaching Policy
14 Act of 1977 (7 U.S.C. 3103)), minority-serving in-
15 stitutions (as described in section 371(a) of the
16 Higher Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C.
17 1067q(a))), junior or community colleges (as defined
18 in section 312(f) of such Act (20 U.S.C. 1058(f))),
19 and vocational schools, with respect to career and
20 technical education.”.

21 **SEC. 7208. CENTERS OF EXCELLENCE.**

22 Section 1673 of the Food, Agriculture, Conservation,
23 and Trade Act of 1990 (7 U.S.C. 5926) is amended—

24 (1) by striking subsections (a), (b), and (c) and
25 inserting the following:

1 “(a) CENTERS OF EXCELLENCE.—

2 “(1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary of Agri-
3 culture shall establish at least one center of excel-
4 lence for the purpose of carrying out research, ex-
5 tension, or education activities for each of the areas
6 of focus described in paragraph (3).

7 “(2) HOST INSTITUTIONS.—

8 “(A) IN GENERAL.—Institutions eligible to
9 host or co-host a center of excellence estab-
10 lished under this subsection include—

11 “(i) 1862 Institutions, as defined in
12 section 2 of the Agricultural Research, Ex-
13 tension, and Education Reform Act of
14 1998 (7 U.S.C. 7601);

15 “(ii) 1890 Institutions, as defined in
16 section 2 of the Agricultural Research, Ex-
17 tension, and Education Reform Act of
18 1998 (7 U.S.C. 7601);

19 “(iii) 1994 Institutions, as defined in
20 section 532 of the Equity in Educational
21 Land-Grant Status Act of 1994 (7 U.S.C.
22 301 note);

23 “(iv) non-land-grant colleges of agri-
24 culture, as defined in section 1404 of the
25 National Agricultural Research, Extension,

1 and Teaching Policy Act of 1977 (7 U.S.C.
2 3103);

3 “(v) Hispanic-serving agricultural col-
4 leges or universities, as defined in section
5 1404 of the National Agricultural Re-
6 search, Extension, and Teaching Policy
7 Act of 1977 (7 U.S.C. 3103); and

8 “(vi) accredited schools of veterinary
9 medicine.

10 “(B) DISTRIBUTION.—To the maximum
11 extent practicable, the Secretary shall ensure
12 the geographic diversity of institutions selected
13 to host or co-host a center of excellence estab-
14 lished under this subsection.

15 “(C) LIMITATION.—An institution may
16 host or co-host only one center of excellence
17 under this subsection at a time.

18 “(D) DUTIES.—The institution or institu-
19 tions selected to host or co-host a center of ex-
20 cellence established under this subsection shall
21 partner with the Agricultural Research Service,
22 other Federal agencies, State governments,
23 other institutions of higher education (as de-
24 fined in section 101 of the Higher Education

1 Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 1001)), agricultural in-
2 dustry groups, or other relevant entities to—

3 “(i) reduce duplicative efforts and
4 focus on filling gaps across research, ex-
5 tension, or education activities by enhance-
6 ing coordination and improving cost-effec-
7 tiveness;

8 “(ii) leverage available resources by
9 using public-private partnerships;

10 “(iii) implement training and edu-
11 cational initiatives to increase awareness
12 and effectively disseminate solutions to tar-
13 get audiences through extension activities;

14 “(iv) increase the economic returns to
15 rural communities by identifying, attract-
16 ing, and directing funds to high-priority
17 agricultural issues;

18 “(v) rapidly respond to emerging
19 issues that threaten any sector of the
20 United States agricultural industry;

21 “(vi) focus on workforce development
22 for employers to recruit and retain high-
23 quality employees in rural areas; and

24 “(vii) engage in assistance for admin-
25 istrative management and education re-

1 garding potentially valuable intellectual
2 property derived from federally-supported
3 research, extension, or education activities.

4 “(3) AREAS OF FOCUS.—

5 “(A) AQUACULTURE.—A center of excel-
6 lence established under this subsection may en-
7 gage in research, extension, or education activi-
8 ties focused on developing and applying aqua-
9 culture methods, including through the propa-
10 gation and rearing of economically and eco-
11 logically valuable aquatic and marine species.

12 “(B) BEGINNING FARMERS AND RANCH-
13 ERS.—A center of excellence established under
14 this subsection may engage in research, exten-
15 sion or education activities focused on training
16 beginning farmers and ranchers, including farm
17 and agribusiness management, mentoring and
18 technical assistance, and access to capital.

19 “(C) BIOSECURITY AND CYBERSECU-
20 RITY.—A center of excellence established under
21 this subsection may engage in research, exten-
22 sion, or education activities focused on agricul-
23 tural biosecurity and cybersecurity efforts to de-
24 fend the United States food supply from any at-
25 tacks.

1 “(D) BIOSYSTEMS AND AGRICULTURAL
2 ENGINEERING.—A center of excellence estab-
3 lished under this subsection may engage in re-
4 search, extension, or education activities fo-
5 cused on biosystems and agricultural engineer-
6 ing, including precision agriculture technologies
7 and mechanization and automation technologies
8 for specialty crops.

9 “(E) BIOTECHNOLOGY.—A center of excel-
10 lence established under this subsection may en-
11 gage in research, extension, or education activi-
12 ties focused on development of animal and plant
13 biotechnologies that will increase agricultural
14 productivity.

15 “(F) CROP PRODUCTION, PROTECTION,
16 AND RESILIENCE.—A center of excellence estab-
17 lished under this subsection may engage in re-
18 search, extension, or education activities fo-
19 cused on crop production and protection, in-
20 cluding the development, manufacture, and use
21 of fertilizer, crop protection tools, and adju-
22 vants in increasing productivity and protecting
23 crops from damaging pests and diseases.

24 “(G) DIGITAL AGRICULTURE.—A center of
25 excellence established under this subsection may

1 engage in research, extension, or education ac-
2 tivities focused on developing, evaluating, and
3 deploying digital agriculture, including artificial
4 intelligence and remote sensing systems.

5 “(H) FARM BUSINESS AND FINANCIAL
6 MANAGEMENT.—A center of excellence estab-
7 lished under this subsection may engage in re-
8 search, extension, or education activities fo-
9 cused on farm business and financial manage-
10 ment activities, including marketing plans, pro-
11 duction diversification, and cash forward con-
12 tracting.

13 “(I) FOOD QUALITY.—A center of excel-
14 lence established under this subsection may en-
15 gage in research, extension, or education activi-
16 ties focused on improving food quality, includ-
17 ing research on the uptake of per- and
18 polyfluoroalkyl substances in food, the presence
19 of microplastics in biosolids, and the efficacy
20 and feasibility of reducing levels of inorganic
21 arsenic, lead, cadmium, or mercury in food.

22 “(J) FOREIGN ANIMAL DISEASE.—A center
23 of excellence established under this subsection
24 may engage in research, extension, or education
25 activities focused on foreign animal diseases, in-

1 including the ecology and etiology of emerging
2 diseases, control methods, and implementation
3 strategies to enhance preparedness and re-
4 sponse efforts to protect the livestock and poul-
5 try industry.

6 “(K) FORESTRY.—A center of excellence
7 established under this subsection may engage in
8 research, extension, or education activities fo-
9 cused on forest productivity and forest health,
10 including invasive species control, biochar and
11 pyrolysis development and commercialization,
12 reforestation and restoration of damaged land-
13 scapes, and new wood-based materials.

14 “(L) INVASIVE SPECIES.—A center of ex-
15 cellence established under this subsection may
16 engage in research, extension, or education ac-
17 tivities focused on the control and eradication of
18 invasive species that pose a persistent and
19 growing threat to United States agricultural
20 production, forest resources, global food secu-
21 rity, and rural economies.

22 “(M) LIVESTOCK AND POULTRY.—A cen-
23 ter of excellence established under this sub-
24 section may engage in research, extension, or
25 education activities focused on issues impacting

1 livestock (including equines) and poultry pro-
2 duction in the United States, including eco-
3 nomic research to understand policy implica-
4 tions for producers.

5 “(N) VETERINARY MEDICINE.—A center of
6 excellence established under this subsection may
7 engage in research, extension, or education ac-
8 tivities focused on developing additional veteri-
9 narians, including large animal veterinarians, to
10 address the veterinarian shortage in rural
11 areas.

12 “(O) WATER QUALITY AND QUANTITY.—A
13 center of excellence established under this sub-
14 section may engage in research, extension, or
15 education activities focused on water quality
16 and quantity efforts, including drought, water
17 management, natural resource benefits, and the
18 health and resilience of the water supply in the
19 United States.

20 “(4) TERMS.—

21 “(A) DURATION.—The term of an award
22 under this subsection shall be for a five-year pe-
23 riod, and may be renewed for not more than
24 one additional five-year period.

1 “(B) CONSTRUCTION PROHIBITED.—
2 Funds made available under this subsection
3 shall not be used for the construction of a new
4 building or facility or the acquisition, expansion,
5 remodeling, or alteration of an existing
6 building or facility (including site grading and
7 improvement, and architect fees).

8 “(5) ANNUAL REPORT.—Not later than one
9 year after the date of enactment of this subsection,
10 and every year thereafter, the Secretary shall submit
11 to the Committee on Agriculture of the House of
12 Representatives and the Committee on Agriculture,
13 Nutrition, and Forestry of the Senate a report describing—
14

15 “(A) the projects initiated by each center
16 of excellence established under this subsection
17 in the preceding year;

18 “(B) the amount of funding for each such
19 project and the funding source;

20 “(C) the institutions participating in each
21 such project and their shares of the overall
22 funding for each project;

23 “(D) the level of cost sharing for each such
24 project;

1 “(E) any technology transfer and intellec-
2 tual property management actions taken by
3 each such center of excellence, such as the num-
4 ber of relevant invention disclosures, any provi-
5 sional patents filed, any non-provisional patents
6 filed and issued, the number of licenses exe-
7 cuted, and any start-up companies registered;
8 and

9 “(F) any additional information deemed
10 necessary.”;

11 (2) by redesignating subsection (d) as sub-
12 section (b);

13 (3) in subsection (b), as so redesignated—

14 (A) in paragraph (1)—

15 (i) by striking “The Secretary” and
16 inserting “In addition to the centers of ex-
17 cellence established under subsection (a),
18 the Secretary”; and

19 (ii) by striking “not less than 3 cen-
20 ters of excellence” and inserting “not less
21 than 8 centers of excellence”;

22 (B) in paragraph (2)—

23 (i) in subparagraph (A)—

24 (I) in the subparagraph heading,
25 by striking “AND WORKFORCE DEVEL-

1 OPMENT” and inserting “, WORK-
2 FORCE DEVELOPMENT, AND RURAL
3 STUDIES”; and

4 (II) by inserting “economics, psy-
5 chology, rural sociology, data
6 sciences,” after “mathematics,”;

7 (ii) in subparagraph (E), by inserting
8 “and nature-based solutions to improve the
9 composition of soil organic compounds, in-
10 cluding carbon, that are beneficial to soil
11 quality and the environment” before the
12 period at the end; and

13 (iii) by adding at the end the fol-
14 lowing:

15 “(G) FOREST HEALTH AND CONSERVA-
16 TION.—A center of excellence established under
17 paragraph (1) may focus on forest health, sus-
18 tainable forest management, agroforestry, en-
19 hancing forest resilience to catastrophic wild-
20 fire, supporting rural infrastructure, and urban
21 and community forestry programs to promote
22 healthy forest ecosystems and resilient commu-
23 nities.

24 “(H) FOOD SAFETY, BIOPROCESSING, AND
25 VALUE-ADDED AGRICULTURE.—A center of ex-

1 cellence established under paragraph (1) may
2 focus on food safety, bioprocessing, value-added
3 agriculture enterprise development, and innova-
4 tive food and agriculture product develop-
5 ment.”; and

6 (C) in paragraph (3), by striking “2023”
7 and inserting “2031”.

8 **SEC. 7209. ASSISTIVE TECHNOLOGY PROGRAM FOR FARM-**
9 **ERS WITH DISABILITIES.**

10 Section 1680 of the Food, Agriculture, Conservation,
11 and Trade Act of 1990 (7 U.S.C. 5933) is amended—

12 (1) in subsection (a)(3)—

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

15 (B) in subparagraph (E), by striking the
16 period at the end and inserting “; and”; and

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

18 “(F) provide education and support to
19 youth and young adults with disabilities inter-
20 ested in farming and farm-related occupa-
21 tions.”; and

22 (2) in subsection (c)(1)(B), by striking “2023”
23 and inserting “2031”.

1 **SEC. 7210. FARMING OPPORTUNITIES TRAINING AND OUT-**
2 **REACH.**

3 Section 2501 of the Food, Agriculture, Conservation,
4 and Trade Act of 1990 (7 U.S.C. 2279) is amended—

5 (1) in subsection (c)(2)—

6 (A) in the matter preceding subparagraph

7 (A)—

8 (i) by striking “Secretary of Agri-
9 culture” and inserting “Secretary of Agri-
10 culture, acting through the Director of the
11 National Institute of Food and Agri-
12 culture,”; and

13 (ii) by striking “2023” and inserting
14 “2031”; and

15 (2) by striking “2023” each place it appears in
16 subsections (d)(1) and (l)(2) and inserting “2031”.

17 **SEC. 7211. NATIONAL RURAL INFORMATION CENTER**
18 **CLEARINGHOUSE.**

19 Section 2381(e) of the Food, Agriculture, Conserva-
20 tion, and Trade Act of 1990 (7 U.S.C. 3125b(e)) is
21 amended by striking “2023” and inserting “2031”.

22 **SEC. 7212. REPEAL.**

23 Subtitle D of title XVI of the Food, Agriculture, Con-
24 servation, and Trade Act of 1990 (7 U.S.C. 5851 et seq.)
25 is repealed.

1 **Subtitle C—Agricultural Research,**
2 **Extension, and Education Re-**
3 **form Act of 1998**

4 **SEC. 7301. NATIONAL FOOD SAFETY TRAINING, EDUCATION,**
5 **EXTENSION, OUTREACH, AND TECHNICAL AS-**
6 **SISTANCE PROGRAM.**

7 Section 405 of the Agricultural Research, Extension,
8 and Education Reform Act of 1998 (7 U.S.C. 7625) is
9 amended—

10 (1) by striking subsection (d);

11 (2) by redesignating subsections (e) through (j)
12 as subsections (d) through (i), respectively; and

13 (3) in subsection (i), as so redesignated, by
14 striking “2023” and inserting “2031”.

15 **SEC. 7302. INTEGRATED RESEARCH, EDUCATION, AND EX-**
16 **TENSION COMPETITIVE GRANTS PROGRAM.**

17 Section 406(f) of the Agricultural Research, Exten-
18 sion, and Education Reform Act of 1998 (7 U.S.C.
19 7626(f)) is amended by striking “2023” and inserting
20 “2031”.

1 **SEC. 7303. SUPPORT FOR RESEARCH REGARDING DISEASES**
2 **OF WHEAT, TRITICALE, AND BARLEY CAUSED**
3 **BY *FUSARIUM GRAMINEARUM* OR BY**
4 ***TILLETIA INDICA*.**

5 Section 408(e)(3) of the Agricultural Research, Ex-
6 tension, and Education Reform Act of 1998 (7 U.S.C.
7 7628(e)(3)) is amended by striking “2023” and inserting
8 “2031”.

9 **SEC. 7304. GRANTS FOR YOUTH ORGANIZATIONS.**

10 Section 410(d)(2) of the Agricultural Research, Ex-
11 tension, and Education Reform Act of 1998 (7 U.S.C.
12 7630(d)(2)) is amended by striking “2023” and inserting
13 “2031”.

14 **SEC. 7305. SPECIALTY CROP RESEARCH INITIATIVE.**

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

18 (1) in subsection (f)(3), by striking “subsection
19 (d) and (j)” and inserting “subsections (d), (j), and
20 (k)”;

21 (2) in subsection (g)(3), by adding at the end
22 the following:

23 “(C) WAIVER.—The Secretary may waive
24 the matching funds requirement under subpara-
25 graph (A) with respect to a grant if the Sec-
26 retary determines that—

1 “(i) the results of the grant are of a
2 particular benefit to a specific specialty
3 crop, but such results are likely to be ap-
4 plicable to specialty crops or agricultural
5 commodities, generally; or

6 “(ii)(I) the grant—

7 “(aa) involves a minor com-
8 modity; and

9 “(bb) deals with scientifically im-
10 portant research; and

11 “(II) the recipient is unable to satisfy
12 the matching funds requirement.”;

13 (3) in subsection (j)(5), by striking “subsection
14 (k)(1)(C)” and inserting “subsection (l)(1)(C)”;

15 (4) by redesignating subsection (k) as sub-
16 section (l);

17 (5) by inserting after subsection (j) the fol-
18 lowing:

19 “(k) SPECIALTY CROP MECHANIZATION AND AUTO-
20 MATION RESEARCH AND EXTENSION PROGRAM.—The
21 Secretary shall establish a competitive research and exten-
22 sion grant program to award grants to eligible entities to
23 increase the competitiveness of specialty crops in the
24 United States through the advancement and acceleration

1 of mechanization and automation, including projects
2 that—

3 “(1) create or improve cost-effective mechaniza-
4 tion and automation technologies to—

5 “(A) reduce the manual labor requirements
6 of a specialty crop grower; or

7 “(B) increase the efficiency of—

8 “(i) crop production;

9 “(ii) resource management;

10 “(iii) harvesting;

11 “(iv) processing;

12 “(v) post-harvest technologies; or

13 “(vi) packing;

14 “(2) increase adoption of mechanization and
15 automation technologies by—

16 “(A) emphasizing adoption drivers, includ-
17 ing—

18 “(i) connectivity;

19 “(ii) autonomy;

20 “(iii) reliability;

21 “(iv) durability;

22 “(v) in-field validation; or

23 “(vi) cost-effectiveness; or

24 “(B) investing in, and developing human
25 capital to, increase the capacity to—

- 1 “(i) utilize new technologies; or
- 2 “(ii) manage a more tech-focused
- 3 farm workforce; or
- 4 “(3) accelerate automation and mechanization
- 5 through—
- 6 “(A) prototype development;
- 7 “(B) in-field trial testing;
- 8 “(C) ongoing industry engagement; or
- 9 “(D) rapid commercialization.”; and
- 10 (6) in subsection (l), as redesignated by para-
- 11 graph (4)—
- 12 (A) in paragraph (1)—
- 13 (i) by amending subparagraph (C) to
- 14 read as follows:
- 15 “(C) RESERVATION FOR SPECIALTY CROP
- 16 MECHANIZATION AND AUTOMATION RESEARCH
- 17 AND EXTENSION PROGRAM.—For each of fiscal
- 18 years 2027 through 2031, the Secretary shall
- 19 reserve not less than \$30,000,000 of the funds
- 20 made available under subparagraph (B) to
- 21 carry out the program established under sub-
- 22 section (k).”; and
- 23 (ii) by amending subparagraph (D) to
- 24 read as follows:

1 “(D) REALLOCATION.—Notwithstanding
2 paragraph (4), any funds reserved under sub-
3 paragraph (C) that remain unobligated at the
4 end of the fiscal year following the fiscal year
5 in which such funds are first made available
6 shall be reallocated to carry out activities of the
7 specialty crop research initiative established
8 under subsection (b).”;

9 (B) in paragraph (2)—

10 (i) in the paragraph heading, by strik-
11 ing “FOR FISCAL YEARS 2014 THROUGH
12 2023”; and

13 (ii) by striking “2023” and inserting
14 “2031”;

15 (C) by striking paragraph (3); and

16 (D) by redesignating paragraphs (4) and
17 (5) as paragraphs (3) and (4), respectively.

18 **SEC. 7306. AGRICULTURE GRANTS FOR VETERAN EDU-**
19 **CATION AND TRAINING SERVICES.**

20 Title IV of the Agricultural Research, Extension, and
21 Education Reform Act of 1998 (7 U.S.C. 7624 et seq.)

22 is amended by adding at the end the following:

1 **“SEC. 414. AGRICULTURE GRANTS FOR VETERAN EDU-**
2 **CATION AND TRAINING SERVICES.**

3 “(a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall establish a
4 program under which the Secretary will award competitive
5 grants to eligible entities for the purpose of establishing
6 and enhancing farming and ranching opportunities for
7 veterans (as defined in section 101(2) of title 38, United
8 States Code).

9 “(b) ELIGIBLE ENTITIES.—An entity is eligible for
10 a grant under this section if such entity is—

11 “(1) a cooperative extension service;

12 “(2) a land-grant college or university (as de-
13 fined in section 1404 of the National Agricultural
14 Research, Extension, and Teaching Policy Act of
15 1977 (7 U.S.C. 3103));

16 “(3) a non-land-grant college of agriculture (as
17 defined in such section);

18 “(4) a Hispanic-serving agricultural college and
19 university (as defined in such section);

20 “(5) a State department of agriculture;

21 “(6) a nonprofit organization;

22 “(7) a community-based organization; or

23 “(8) a combination of 2 or more eligible entities
24 described in paragraphs (1) through (7).

1 “(c) USE OF FUNDS.—An eligible entity that receives
2 a grant under this section shall use the funds received
3 through the grant—

4 “(1) to provide training and classroom edu-
5 cation that leads to a comprehensive understanding
6 of farm and ranch business operations and manage-
7 ment practices;

8 “(2) to develop or identify curriculum that vet-
9 eran farmers and ranchers can adopt to help man-
10 age their enterprise;

11 “(3) to offer education, workshops, tours, and
12 instructor-supervised field experiences; or

13 “(4) to support any other activity, as identified
14 by the Secretary, to increase the number of veterans
15 pursuing knowledge and skills development in agri-
16 culture.

17 “(d) MATCHING FUNDS.—An entity that receives a
18 grant under this section shall provide non-Federal match-
19 ing funds for the purposes of carrying out this section in
20 an amount equal to not less than the amount of the grant.

21 “(e) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There
22 are authorized to be appropriated to carry out this section
23 \$3,000,000 for each of fiscal years 2025 through 2031.”.

1 **SEC. 7307. FOOD ANIMAL RESIDUE AVOIDANCE DATABASE**
2 **PROGRAM.**

3 Section 604(e) of the Agricultural Research, Exten-
4 sion, and Education Reform Act of 1998 (7 U.S.C.
5 7642(e)) is amended by striking “2023” and inserting
6 “2031”.

7 **SEC. 7308. OFFICE OF PEST MANAGEMENT POLICY.**

8 Section 614(f)(2) of the Agricultural Research, Ex-
9 tension, and Education Reform Act of 1998 (7 U.S.C.
10 7653(f)(2)) is amended by striking “2023” and inserting
11 “2031”.

12 **SEC. 7309. FORESTRY PRODUCTS ADVANCED UTILIZATION**
13 **RESEARCH.**

14 Section 617(f)(1) of the Agricultural Research, Ex-
15 tension, and Education Reform Act of 1998 (7 U.S.C.
16 7655b(f)(1)) is amended by striking “2023” and inserting
17 “2031”.

18 **SEC. 7310. REPEALS.**

19 The Agricultural Research, Extension, and Education
20 Reform Act of 1998 (7 U.S.C. 7601 et seq.) is amended—

21 (1) by striking section 404 (7 U.S.C. 7624);

22 and

23 (2) by striking section 411 (7 U.S.C. 7631).

1 **Subtitle D—Food, Conservation,**
2 **and Energy Act of 2008**

3 **SEC. 7401. GRAZINGLANDS RESEARCH LABORATORY.**

4 Section 7502 of the Food, Conservation, and Energy
5 Act of 2008 (Public Law 110–246; 122 Stat. 2019) is
6 amended by striking “, or otherwise be conveyed or trans-
7 ferred in whole or in part, for the period beginning on
8 the date of the enactment of this Act and ending on Sep-
9 tember 30, 2026” and inserting “, beginning on the date
10 of the enactment of this Act”.

11 **SEC. 7402. FARM AND RANCH STRESS ASSISTANCE NET-**
12 **WORK.**

13 Section 7522 of the Food, Conservation, and Energy
14 Act of 2008 (7 U.S.C. 5936) is amended—

15 (1) in subsection (b)(1)(A), by inserting “, in-
16 cluding crisis hotlines” after “websites”;

17 (2) in subsection (d), by striking “2023” and
18 inserting “2031”;

19 (3) by redesignating subsection (f) as sub-
20 section (g); and

21 (4) by inserting after subsection (e) the fol-
22 lowing:

23 “(f) REFERRALS TO PROVIDERS.—As part of the ef-
24 forts of the recipient of a grant under subsection (a) to
25 connect individuals to behavioral health counseling and

1 wellness support and to ensure individuals have access to
2 a comprehensive scope of mental health and substance use
3 treatments and supports, when applicable, the grant re-
4 cipient may establish referral relationships with—

5 “(1) certified community behavioral health clin-
6 ics described in section 223 of the Protecting Access
7 to Medicare Act of 2014 (42 U.S.C. 1396a note;
8 Public Law 113–93);

9 “(2) health centers (as defined in section
10 330(a) of the Public Health Service Act (42 U.S.C.
11 254b(a)));

12 “(3) rural health clinics (as defined in section
13 1861(aa) of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C.
14 1395x(aa)));

15 “(4) Federally qualified health centers (as de-
16 fined in that section); and

17 “(5) critical access hospitals (as defined in sec-
18 tion 1861(mm) of the Social Security Act (42
19 U.S.C. 1395x(mm))).”.

20 **SEC. 7403. SUN GRANT PROGRAM.**

21 Section 7526 of the Food, Conservation, and Energy
22 Act of 2008 (7 U.S.C. 8114) is amended—

23 (1) in subsection (a)—

24 (A) in paragraph (1), by inserting “and
25 bioproduct” before “technologies”;

1 (B) in paragraph (2), by striking “prod-
2 uct” and inserting “bioproduct”; and

3 (C) in paragraph (3), by striking “prod-
4 uct” and inserting “bioproduct”;

5 (2) in subsection (c)(2), by striking “4 percent”
6 and inserting “30 percent”; and

7 (3) in subsection (g), by striking “2023” and
8 inserting “2031”.

9 **SEC. 7404. REPEALS.**

10 The Food, Conservation, and Energy Act of 2008 (7
11 U.S.C. 8701 et seq.) is amended—

12 (1) by striking section 7521 (7 U.S.C. 3202);

13 and

14 (2) by striking section 7525 (7 U.S.C. 5937).

15 **Subtitle E—Amendments to Other**
16 **Laws**

17 **SEC. 7501. EQUITY IN EDUCATIONAL LAND-GRANT STATUS**

18 **ACT OF 1994.**

19 The Equity in Educational Land-Grant Status Act
20 of 1994 (7 U.S.C. 301 note; Public Law 103–382) is
21 amended—

22 (1) in section 533(b), by striking “2023” and
23 inserting “2031”;

24 (2) in section 534(a)(1), by striking “equal to”
25 and inserting “that is not less than”;

1 (3) in section 535, by striking “2023” each
2 place it appears in subsections (b)(1) and (c) and in-
3 serting “2031”;

4 (4) in section 536—

5 (A) by striking subsection (b);

6 (B) by redesignating subsection (c) as sub-
7 section (b); and

8 (C) in subsection (b) (as so redesignated),
9 by striking “2023” and inserting “2031”.

10 **SEC. 7502. RESEARCH FACILITIES ACT.**

11 Section 6(a) of the Research Facilities Act (7 U.S.C.
12 390d(a)) is amended by striking “2023” and inserting
13 “2031”.

14 **SEC. 7503. AGRICULTURE AND FOOD RESEARCH INITIA-**
15 **TIVE.**

16 Subsection (b) of the Competitive, Special, and Fa-
17 cilities Research Grant Act (7 U.S.C. 3157(b)) is amend-
18 ed—

19 (1) in paragraph (2)—

20 (A) in subparagraph (A)(iii)—

21 (i) by inserting “regionally adapted”
22 before “cultivar”; and

23 (ii) by inserting “breeding for environ-
24 mental resilience,” before “and
25 participatory breeding”;

1 (B) in subparagraph (B)(i), by inserting “,
2 including methods of increasing survival rate
3 and adaptability of shellfish” after “aqua-
4 culture”;

5 (C) in subparagraph (E)—

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

8 (ii) in clause (v), by striking the pe-
9 riod at the end and inserting “; and”; and

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

12 “(vi) hydroponics, aquaponics,
13 aeroponics, and other production tech-
14 nologies used in controlled-environment ag-
15 riculture production.”; and

16 (D) in subparagraph (F)—

17 (i) in clause (i), by inserting “, includ-
18 ing supply chain coordination and capacity
19 building” after “overseas markets”;

20 (ii) in clause (vii), by striking “; and”
21 at the end and inserting a semicolon;

22 (iii) in clause (viii), by striking the pe-
23 riod at the end and inserting “; and”; and

24 (iv) by adding at the end the fol-
25 lowing:

1 “(ix) workforce training and develop-
2 ment, including meat and poultry proc-
3 essing (including rendering) and precision
4 agriculture.”;

5 (2) in paragraph (7)—

6 (A) by redesignating subparagraphs (D)
7 through (I) as subparagraphs (E) through (J),
8 respectively;

9 (B) by inserting after subparagraph (C)
10 the following:

11 “(D) area career and technical education
12 schools;” and

13 (C) in subparagraph (J), as so redesign-
14 ated, by striking “(H)” and inserting “(I)”;
15 and

16 (3) in paragraph (11)(A), in the matter pre-
17 ceding clause (i), by striking “2023” and inserting
18 “2031”.

19 **SEC. 7504. EXTENSION DESIGN AND DEMONSTRATION INI-**
20 **TIATIVE.**

21 Subsection (d)(6) of the Competitive, Special, and
22 Facilities Research Grant Act (7 U.S.C. 3157(d)(6)) is
23 amended by striking “2023” and inserting “2031”.

1 **SEC. 7505. BIOMASS RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT.**

2 Section 9008(h)(2) of the Farm Security and Rural
3 Investment Act of 2002 (7 U.S.C. 8108(h)(2)) is amended
4 by striking “2023” and inserting “2031”.

5 **SEC. 7506. RENEWABLE RESOURCES EXTENSION ACT OF**
6 **1978.**

7 The Renewable Resources Extension Act of 1978 (16
8 U.S.C. 1671 et seq.) is amended—

9 (1) in section 6 (16 U.S.C. 1675), in the first
10 sentence, by striking “2023” and inserting “2031”;
11 and

12 (2) in section 8 (16 U.S.C. 1671 note), by
13 striking “2023” and inserting “2031”.

14 **SEC. 7507. NATIONAL AQUACULTURE ACT OF 1980.**

15 The National Aquaculture Act of 1980 (16 U.S.C.
16 2801 et seq.) is amended—

17 (1) in section 4 (16 U.S.C. 2803)—

18 (A) in subsection (a)(2), by striking
19 “acquaculture” and inserting “aquaculture”;

20 (B) in subsection (d), in the matter pre-
21 ceding paragraph (1), by inserting “, not less
22 than once every 3 years,” after “periodic re-
23 views”; and

24 (C) in subsection (e)—

25 (i) in the matter preceding paragraph
26 (1), by inserting “, not less than once

1 every 3 years,” after “undertake a con-
2 tinuing assessment of aquaculture in the
3 United States”;

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

6 (iii) in paragraph (6), by striking the
7 period at the end and inserting a semi-
8 colon; and

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

11 “(7) a catalog of new and existing capital con-
12 straints, as described in the capital requirements
13 plan formulated under section 8(b), that affect the
14 development of the aquaculture industry in the
15 United States; and

16 “(8) a catalog of new and existing Federal or
17 State regulatory barriers, as described in the regu-
18 latory constraints plan formulated under section
19 9(b), to the initiation and operation of commercial
20 aquaculture ventures.”;

21 (2) in section 5 (16 U.S.C. 2804), by striking
22 subsection (d) and inserting the following:

23 “(d) AQUACULTURE ADVISORY COMMITTEE.—

24 “(1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 180 days
25 after the date of enactment of the Farm, Food, and

1 National Security Act of 2026, the Secretary shall
2 establish an advisory committee, to be known as the
3 Aquaculture Advisory Committee (referred to in this
4 subsection as the ‘Committee’), to advise the Sec-
5 retary on—

6 “(A) oversight of programs of the Depart-
7 ment and other members of the coordinating
8 group to support development of, and to ad-
9 vance, aquaculture best practices using the best
10 available science, in consultation with farmers
11 and industry partners;

12 “(B) providing technical assistance to
13 aquaculture farmers and businesses, including
14 technical assistance that pertains to shellfish,
15 algae, and land-based aquaculture systems,
16 using the best available science; and

17 “(C) any other aspects of the implementa-
18 tion of this Act.

19 “(2) MEMBERSHIP.—

20 “(A) IN GENERAL.—The Committee shall
21 be composed of 14 members, who are not offi-
22 cers or employees of the Federal Government.

23 “(B) INITIAL APPOINTMENTS.—The Sec-
24 retary shall appoint the members of the Com-

1 mittee not later than 180 days after the date of
2 enactment of this section.

3 “(C) PERIOD OF INITIAL APPOINTMENT;
4 VACANCIES.—

5 “(i) IN GENERAL.—Except as pro-
6 vided in clause (ii), a member of the Com-
7 mittee shall be appointed for a term of 3
8 years.

9 “(ii) INITIAL APPOINTMENTS.—Of the
10 members first appointed to the Com-
11 mittee—

12 “(I) 5 of the members, as deter-
13 mined by the Secretary, shall be ap-
14 pointed for a term of 3 years;

15 “(II) 5 of the members, as deter-
16 mined by the Secretary, shall be ap-
17 pointed for a term of 2 years; and

18 “(III) 4 of the members, as de-
19 termined by the Secretary, shall be
20 appointed for a term of 1 year.

21 “(iii) VACANCIES.—Any vacancy in
22 the Committee—

23 “(I) shall not affect the powers of
24 the Committee; and

1 “(II) shall be filled as soon as
2 practicable in the same manner as the
3 original appointment.

4 “(D) CONSECUTIVE TERMS.—An initial
5 appointee of the Committee may serve an addi-
6 tional consecutive term if the member is re-
7 appointed by the Secretary.

8 “(3) MEETINGS.—

9 “(A) FREQUENCY.—The Committee shall
10 meet not fewer than 3 times per year.

11 “(B) INITIAL MEETING.—Not later than
12 180 days after the date on which the members
13 are appointed under paragraph (2)(B), the
14 Committee shall hold the first meeting of the
15 Committee.

16 “(4) DUTIES.—The Committee shall—

17 “(A) develop recommendations and advise
18 the Secretary on aquaculture policies, initia-
19 tives, and outreach administered by the Depart-
20 ment;

21 “(B) evaluate and review ongoing research
22 and extension activities relating to aquaculture
23 practices;

24 “(C) identify new and existing barriers to
25 successful aquaculture practices; and

1 “(D) provide additional assistance and ad-
2 vice to the Secretary as appropriate.

3 “(5) PERSONNEL MATTERS.—

4 “(A) COMPENSATION.—A member of the
5 Committee shall serve without compensation.

6 “(B) TRAVEL EXPENSES.—A member of
7 the Committee shall be allowed travel expenses,
8 including per diem in lieu of subsistence, in ac-
9 cordance with section 5703 of title 5, United
10 States Code.

11 “(6) TERMINATION.—

12 “(A) IN GENERAL.—Subject to subpara-
13 graph (B), the Committee shall terminate on
14 the date that is 5 years after the date on which
15 the members are appointed under paragraph
16 (2)(B).

17 “(B) EXTENSIONS.—Before the date on
18 which the Committee terminates, the Secretary
19 may renew the Committee for 1 or more 2-year
20 periods.

21 “(e) ANNUAL REPORT.—Not later than 1 year after
22 the date of the enactment of the Farm, Food, and Na-
23 tional Security Act of 2026, and each year thereafter, the
24 Secretary, acting through the coordinating group and in
25 consultation with the Secretary of Commerce and the Sec-

1 retary of the Interior, shall prepare on an annual basis,
2 and submit to Congress, a report on the status of aqua-
3 culture in the United States. Such report shall contain—

4 “(1) a description and evaluation of the actions
5 undertaken with respect to the Plan during the re-
6 porting period;

7 “(2) an explanation of any revisions made to
8 the Plan during the reporting period;

9 “(3) the results of the continuing assessment
10 established under section 4(e);

11 “(4) an evaluation of the role each Federal de-
12 partment or agency has in supporting the aqua-
13 culture industry;

14 “(5) the total amount and value of expenditures
15 of Federal departments or agencies on—

16 “(A) aquaculture purchases;

17 “(B) aquaculture promotion and outreach
18 supporting the aquaculture industry;

19 “(C) grants made to the aquaculture in-
20 dustry; and

21 “(D) grants to facilitate aquaculture re-
22 search and the subject matter of such research;

23 “(6) a summary of the activities and rec-
24 ommendations of the Aquaculture Advisory Com-
25 mittee established under subsection (d);

1 “(7) a summary of the activities and rec-
2 ommendations of the coordinating group; and

3 “(8) such other comments and recommenda-
4 tions as the Secretary determines appropriate.”; and

5 (3) in section 10 (16 U.S.C. 2809), by striking
6 “2023” each place it appears in paragraphs (1), (2),
7 and (3) and inserting “2031”.

8 **SEC. 7508. REPORTS ON DISBURSEMENT OF FUNDS FOR AG-**
9 **RICULTURAL RESEARCH AND EXTENSION AT**
10 **1862 AND 1890 LAND-GRANT COLLEGES, IN-**
11 **CLUDING TUSKEGEE UNIVERSITY.**

12 Section 7116 of the Agriculture Improvement Act of
13 2018 (7 U.S.C. 2207d) is amended—

14 (1) in the matter preceding paragraph (1), by
15 striking “Not later than” and inserting the fol-
16 lowing:

17 “(a) IN GENERAL.—Not later than”; and

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

19 “(b) OUTREACH.—Not later than February 1 of each
20 fiscal year, the Secretary shall provide information relat-
21 ing to each matching requirement applicable to the State
22 under the programs referred to in subsection (a) to the
23 Governor and legislature of each State in which an 1862
24 Institution or 1890 Institution (as those terms are defined
25 in section 2 of the Agricultural Research, Extension, and

1 Education Reform Act of 1998 (7 U.S.C. 7601)) is lo-
2 cated.

3 “(c) ATTESTATIONS.—

4 “(1) IN GENERAL.—Not less frequently than
5 once each calendar year, the Governor of each State
6 described in subsection (b) shall submit to the Sec-
7 retary an attestation that describes if the State is
8 able to fulfill each matching requirement with re-
9 spect to which information is provided by the Sec-
10 retary under such subsection for such State and cal-
11 endar year.

12 “(2) REPORTS.—Not later than December 31
13 of each calendar year, the Secretary shall submit to
14 Congress, and make publicly available on the website
15 of the Department of Agriculture, an annual report
16 describing the attestations received under paragraph
17 (1) during that calendar year.”.

18 **SEC. 7509. REPEAL.**

19 Section 1431 of the National Agricultural Research,
20 Extension, and Teaching Policy Act Amendments of 1985
21 (title XIV of Public Law 99–198; 99 Stat. 1556) is re-
22 pealed.

1 **Subtitle F—Other Matters**

2 **SEC. 7601. FOUNDATION FOR FOOD AND AGRICULTURE RE-**
3 **SEARCH.**

4 Section 7601 of the Agricultural Act of 2014 (7
5 U.S.C. 5939) is amended—

6 (1) in subsection (d)(1)—

7 (A) in subparagraph (B)—

8 (i) in clause (ii), by striking “of Agri-
9 culture; and” and inserting a semicolon;

10 and

11 (ii) by striking clause (iii); and

12 (B) in subparagraph (C), by striking “the
13 roadmap for agricultural research, education,
14 and extension authorized by section 7504 of the
15 Food, Conservation, and Energy Act of 2008 (7
16 U.S.C. 7614a)” and inserting “the national re-
17 search policies and priorities set forth in section
18 1402 of the National Agricultural Research,
19 Extension, and Teaching Policy Act of 1977 (7
20 U.S.C. 3101)”;

21 (2) in subsection (e)(2)(C)(i)—

22 (A) in subclause (I), by striking “National
23 Academy of Sciences” and inserting “National
24 Agricultural Research, Extension, Education,
25 and Economics Advisory Board established

1 under section 1408 of the National Agricultural
2 Research, Extension, and Teaching Policy Act
3 of 1977 (7 U.S.C. 3123)”; and

4 (B) in subclause (II), by striking “indus-
5 try” and inserting “national farm, producer, or
6 research organizations”; and

7 (3) in subsection (f)(3)(B)(i)—

8 (A) in subclause (I)—

9 (i) in the matter preceding item (aa),
10 by striking “and post online” and inserting
11 “online and submit to the Committee on
12 Agriculture of the House of Representa-
13 tives and the Committee on Agriculture,
14 Nutrition, and Forestry of the Senate”;

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

17 (iii) in item (cc), by striking the pe-
18 riod at the end and inserting a semicolon;
19 and

20 (iv) by adding at the end the fol-
21 lowing:

22 “(dd) the source and a de-
23 scription of all gifts to the Foun-
24 dation of real or personal prop-
25 erty;

1 “(ee) the source and amount
2 of each gift to the Foundation of
3 money, including a specification
4 of any restrictions on the pur-
5 poses for which a gift to the
6 Foundation may be used;

7 “(ff) the source and amount
8 of any Federal or State grant,
9 contract, or cooperative agree-
10 ment awarded to the Foundation;

11 “(gg) an accounting of the
12 use of funds made available
13 under subsection (g)(1);

14 “(hh) a description of the
15 Foundation’s outreach activities
16 to agricultural stakeholders and
17 potential research partners; and

18 “(ii) a description of the
19 Foundation’s consultation proc-
20 ess with the Department under
21 subsection (d)(1)(B).”;

22 (B) by striking subclauses (II) and (III);

23 and

24 (C) by redesignating subclause (IV) as
25 subclause (II).

1 **SEC. 7602. AGRICULTURE INNOVATION CENTER DEM-**
2 **ONSTRATION PROGRAM.**

3 Section 6402 of the Farm Security and Rural Invest-
4 ment Act of 2002 (7 U.S.C. 1632b) is amended—

5 (1) in subsection (d)—

6 (A) in paragraph (2)—

7 (i) by striking “Each Agriculture In-
8 novation Center” and inserting “Subject to
9 paragraph (3), each Agriculture Innovation
10 Center”; and

11 (ii) by striking “following:” and in-
12 serting “following:”; and

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

14 “(3) WAIVER.—The Secretary may waive the
15 requirement described in paragraph (2) with respect
16 to an eligible entity if the Secretary determines that
17 the eligible entity has a board of directors adequate
18 for the purpose of carrying out this section.”; and

19 (2) in subsection (g), by striking “2023” and
20 inserting “2031”.

21 **SEC. 7603. LIVESTOCK INSECTS LABORATORY.**

22 The Act of December 23, 1987 (Public Law 100–
23 208; 101 Stat. 1439) is amended by striking “Knipling-
24 Bushland Research Laboratory” each place it appears and
25 inserting “Knipling-Bushland Research Center”.

1 **SEC. 7604. U.S. ABIT MASSEY NATIONAL POULTRY RE-**
2 **SEARCH CENTER.**

3 (a) DESIGNATION.—The U.S. National Poultry Re-
4 search Center of the Department of Agriculture located
5 in Athens, Georgia shall be known and designated as the
6 “U.S. Abit Massey National Poultry Research Center”.

7 (b) REFERENCES.—Any reference in a law, map, reg-
8 ulation, document, paper, or other record of the United
9 States to the facility referred to in subsection (a) shall
10 be deemed to be a reference to the “U. S. Abit Massey
11 National Poultry Research Center”.

12 **SEC. 7605. HATCH ACT OF 1887.**

13 Section 5 of the Hatch Act of 1887 (7 U.S.C. 361e)
14 is amended—

15 (1) in the second sentence—

16 (A) by striking “known as a director” and
17 inserting “known as an experiment station di-
18 rector”; and

19 (B) by striking “or other officer appointed
20 by the government board of the station”;

21 (2) in the third sentence, by striking “or other
22 officer”; and

23 (3) in the fourth sentence, by striking “the au-
24 thorized receiving officer” and inserting “the experi-
25 ment station director”.

1 **SEC. 7606. COMMISSION ON NATIONAL AGRICULTURAL STA-**
2 **TISTICS SERVICE MODERNIZATION.**

3 (a) **ESTABLISHMENT.**—There is established a com-
4 mission to be known as the Commission on National Agri-
5 cultural Statistics Service Modernization (referred to in
6 this section as the “Commission”).

7 (b) **STUDY.**—The Commission shall conduct a study
8 of the National Agricultural Statistics Service and provide
9 recommendations on—

10 (1) how data collection can be modernized and
11 streamlined to—

12 (A) improve the quality of statistics re-
13 ported;

14 (B) account for differences of national, re-
15 gional, and local production;

16 (C) accelerate adoption of new and innova-
17 tive technologies to reduce the number of sur-
18 veys needed;

19 (D) improve producer response rates in
20 statistical surveys and identifying ways to re-
21 duce survey fatigue;

22 (E) increase transparency and confidence
23 in statistical reports through improved collabo-
24 ration with agricultural stakeholders;

1 (F) use more real-time statistical and envi-
2 ronmental data to complement existing survey-
3 based data and reporting; and

4 (G) improve collection and generation of
5 timely data on the specialty crop industry; and

6 (2) how the recommendations under paragraph
7 (1) with respect to modernizing and streamlining
8 data collection can be implemented and the esti-
9 mated costs of such implementation.

10 (c) MEMBERSHIP.—

11 (1) COMPOSITION.—The Commission shall be
12 composed of 11 members, as follows:

13 (A) The Administrator of the National Ag-
14 ricultural Statistics Service.

15 (B) The Administrator of the Economic
16 Research Service.

17 (C) The Chief Economist of the Depart-
18 ment.

19 (D) The Chair of the World Agricultural
20 Outlook Board of the Department.

21 (E) A representative from the Bureau of
22 Labor Statistics.

23 (F) 3 members appointed by the Com-
24 mittee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry
25 of the Senate, of which—

1 (i) 1 shall be appointed by the chair
2 of the Committee;

3 (ii) 1 shall be appointed by the rank-
4 ing member of the Committee; and

5 (iii) 1 shall be appointed jointly by the
6 chair and ranking member of the Com-
7 mittee.

8 (G) 3 members appointed by the Com-
9 mittee on Agriculture of the House of Rep-
10 resentatives, of which—

11 (i) 1 shall be appointed by the chair
12 of the Committee;

13 (ii) 1 shall be appointed by the rank-
14 ing member of the Committee; and

15 (iii) 1 shall be appointed jointed by
16 the chair and ranking member of the Com-
17 mittee.

18 (2) DATE OF APPOINTMENTS.—The appoint-
19 ment of all members of the Commission shall be
20 made not later than 60 days after the date of enact-
21 ment of this Act.

22 (3) TERM; VACANCIES.—

23 (A) TERM.—A member shall be appointed
24 for the life of the Commission.

1 (B) VACANCIES.—A vacancy on the Com-
2 mission—

3 (i) shall not affect the powers of the
4 Commission; and

5 (ii) shall be filled in the same manner
6 as the original appointment was made.

7 (4) INITIAL MEETING.—Not later than 60 days
8 after the date on which all members of the Commis-
9 sion have been appointed, the Commission shall hold
10 the initial meeting of the Commission.

11 (d) QUORUM.—A majority of the members of the
12 Commission shall constitute a quorum for the transaction
13 of business, but a lesser number of members may hold
14 hearings.

15 (e) CHAIR.—The Chair of the Commission shall be
16 selected by a majority of the members of the Commission.

17 (f) REPORT.—Not later than 3 years after the date
18 of enactment of this Act, the Commission shall submit to
19 the President, the Committee on Agriculture of the House
20 of Representatives, and the Committee on Agriculture,
21 Nutrition, and Forestry of the Senate a report containing
22 the results of the study required by subsection (b), includ-
23 ing—

1 (1) an inventory of surveys conducted by the
2 Commission, and the frequency with which they are
3 conducted; and

4 (2) such recommendations for administrative,
5 regulatory, and legislative changes as the Commis-
6 sion considers appropriate.

7 (g) HEARINGS.—The Commission shall hold such
8 hearings, meet and act at such times and places, take such
9 testimony, and receive such evidence as the Commission
10 considers advisable to carry out this section.

11 (h) STAKEHOLDER ENGAGEMENT.—The Commission
12 shall establish a process to collect feedback from agricul-
13 tural stakeholders to inform the results of the study re-
14 quired under subsection (b) and the report required under
15 subsection (f).

16 (i) INFORMATION FROM FEDERAL AGENCIES.—The
17 Commission may secure directly from a Federal agency
18 such information as the Commission considers necessary
19 to carry out this section. On request of the Chairperson
20 of the Commission, the head of the agency shall provide
21 the information to the Commission.

22 (j) POSTAL SERVICES.—The Commission may use
23 the United States mail in the same manner and under the
24 same conditions as other agencies of the Federal Govern-
25 ment.

1 (k) ASSISTANCE FROM SECRETARY.—The Secretary
2 shall provide to the Commission appropriate office space
3 and such reasonable administrative and support services
4 as the Commission may request.

5 (l) COMPENSATION OF MEMBERS.—

6 (1) NON-FEDERAL EMPLOYEES.—A member of
7 the Commission who is not an officer or employee of
8 the Federal Government shall be compensated at a
9 rate equal to the daily equivalent of the annual rate
10 of basic pay prescribed for level IV of the Executive
11 Schedule under section 5315 of title 5, United
12 States Code, for each day (including travel time)
13 during which the member is engaged in the perform-
14 ance of the duties of the Commission.

15 (2) FEDERAL EMPLOYEES.—A member of the
16 Commission who is an officer or employee of the
17 Federal Government shall serve without compensa-
18 tion in addition to the compensation received for the
19 services of the member as an officer or employee of
20 the Federal Government.

21 (3) TRAVEL EXPENSES.—A member of the
22 Commission shall be allowed travel expenses, includ-
23 ing per diem in lieu of subsistence, at rates author-
24 ized for an employee of an agency under subchapter
25 I of chapter 57 of title 5, United States Code, while

1 away from the home or regular place of business of
2 the member in the performance of the duties of the
3 Commission.

4 (m) FEDERAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE ACT.—Sec-
5 tions 1009 and 1013 of title 5, United States Code, shall
6 not apply to the Commission or any proceeding of the
7 Commission.

8 (n) TERMINATION.—The Commission shall terminate
9 on September 30, 2031.

10 (o) FUNDING.—Of the funds of the Commodity Cred-
11 it Corporation, the Secretary shall use to carry out this
12 section \$1,000,000 for fiscal year 2026, to remain avail-
13 able until expended.

14 **SEC. 7607. RESTORATION OF 4-H NAME AND EMBLEM AU-**
15 **THORITY.**

16 (a) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

17 (1) 4-H CLUB.—

18 (A) IN GENERAL.—The term “4-H club”
19 means a 4-H club recognized under the 4-H
20 Program.

21 (B) INCLUSION.—The term “4-H club”
22 includes an authorized agent of a 4-H club.

23 (2) 4-H EMBLEM OR NAME.—The term “4-H
24 emblem or name” means the 4-H sign or emblem,
25 consisting of a green four-leaf clover with stem and

1 the letter “H” in white or gold on each leaflet, and
2 the words “4–H”, “4–H Club”, and “4–H Clubs”,
3 used to identify and distinguish the 4–H Program
4 and the activities, clubs, members, goods, and serv-
5 ices of the 4–H Program.

6 (3) 4–H PROGRAM.—The term “4–H Pro-
7 gram”—

8 (A) IN GENERAL.—The term “4–H Pro-
9 gram” means the youth development program
10 of the land-grant colleges or universities, the
11 Cooperative Extension System (as defined by
12 the Secretary), and the Department.

13 (B) INCLUSION.—The term “4–H Pro-
14 gram” includes an authorized agent of the 4–
15 H Program.

16 (4) LAND-GRANT COLLEGE OR UNIVERSITY.—
17 The term “land-grant college or university”—

18 (A) IN GENERAL.—The term “land-grant
19 college or university” means an 1862 Institu-
20 tion, an 1890 Institution, or a 1994 Institution
21 (as those terms are defined in section 2 of the
22 Agricultural Research, Extension, and Edu-
23 cation Reform Act of 1998 (7 U.S.C. 7601)).

1 (B) INCLUSION.—The term “land-grant
2 college or university” includes an authorized
3 agent of a land-grant college or university.

4 (b) EFFECT OF REPEAL; RATIFICATION.—

5 (1) CIVIL ACTS.—Any civil act or action of the
6 4–H Program, a 4–H club, the Secretary, or a land-
7 grant college or university taken with respect to the
8 use of the 4–H emblem or name, or the recognition
9 of any 4–H club, during the period beginning on
10 May 8, 1914, and ending on the date of enactment
11 of this Act, is deemed to be of legal force and effect
12 and ratified as if section 1002(3) of the Clean Up
13 the Code Act of 2019 (title X of division O of Public
14 Law 116–260; 134 Stat. 2155) had not been en-
15 acted into law.

16 (2) EFFECT ON CRIMINAL LAW.—Nothing in
17 this subsection affects the effect on criminal law of
18 the repeal made by section 1002(3) of the Clean Up
19 the Code Act of 2019 (title X of division O of Public
20 Law 116–260; 134 Stat. 2155).

21 (c) AUTHORIZATIONS FOR USE OF 4–H EMBLEM OR
22 NAME; FEES; DEPOSITS.—

23 (1) AUTHORIZATION.—The Secretary may—

24 (A) use the 4–H emblem or name; and

1 (B) grant authorizations to use the 4-H
2 emblem or name, as provided by regulations
3 issued by the Secretary.

4 (2) FEES.—An authorization under paragraph
5 (1) may be granted—

6 (A) without a fee or other consideration; or

7 (B) for a fee or other consideration.

8 (3) USE OF FEES.—The Secretary shall deposit
9 into a special account any fees collected under para-
10 graph (2)(B), the amounts in which shall remain
11 available to the Secretary until expended, without
12 further appropriation, for furthering the 4-H Pro-
13 gram.

14 (d) UNAUTHORIZED USE OF 4-H EMBLEM OR
15 NAME.—

16 (1) PROHIBITION.—Whoever, other than the 4-
17 H Program, a 4-H club, the Department, a land-
18 grant college or university, and those authorized by
19 them, uses in commerce the 4-H emblem or name
20 or any reproduction, counterfeit, copy, or colorable
21 imitation of the 4-H emblem or name to indicate
22 membership in an association, organization, or other
23 collective group, or in connection with the sale, offer-
24 ing for sale, distribution, or advertising of goods or
25 services, on or in connection with which that use is

1 likely to cause confusion, to cause mistake, or to de-
2 ceive as to membership or participation in, an affili-
3 ation, connection, or association with, or authoriza-
4 tion or approval by, a 4-H club or the 4-H Pro-
5 gram, shall be subject to the civil action under para-
6 graph (2).

7 (2) CIVIL ACTION.—The Attorney General, on
8 behalf of the Secretary, or contract counsel procured
9 by the Secretary, may bring a civil action in an ap-
10 propriate district court of the United States against
11 whoever engages in any of the prohibited acts de-
12 scribed in paragraph (1) for the remedies provided
13 in the Act of July 5, 1946 (commonly known as the
14 “Trademark Act of 1946” or the “Lanham Act”)
15 (15 U.S.C. 1051 et seq.).

16 (e) SAVINGS CLAUSES.—

17 (1) PRIOR AUTHORIZED USES.—Nothing in this
18 section makes unlawful the use of any emblem,
19 name, sign, symbol, insignia, or words that was law-
20 ful on December 26, 2020.

21 (2) DELEGATION.—Nothing in this section lim-
22 its the authority of the Secretary to delegate the au-
23 thority of the Secretary as otherwise authorized by
24 law.

1 **SEC. 7608. UNDER SECRETARY OF AGRICULTURE FOR RE-**
2 **SEARCH, EDUCATION, AND ECONOMICS.**

3 Section 251 of the Department of Agriculture Reor-
4 ganization Act of 1994 (7 U.S.C. 6971) is amended—

5 (1) in subsection (c)—

6 (A) in paragraph (1), by striking “; and”
7 at the end and inserting a semicolon;

8 (B) in paragraph (2), by striking the pe-
9 riod at the end and inserting “; and”; and

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

11 “(3) be responsible for the coordination of re-
12 search activities with other Federal agencies.”;

13 (2) in subsection (e)(3)(C), by striking “not less
14 than 3 years” and inserting “not less than 1 year”;
15 and

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

17 “(h) INTERAGENCY COORDINATION.—

18 “(1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall carry
19 out cross-cutting and collaborative research and de-
20 velopment activities focused on the joint advance-
21 ment of the mission requirements and priorities of
22 the Department of Agriculture and other Federal
23 agencies.

24 “(2) MEMORANDA OF UNDERSTANDING.—

25 “(A) DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY.—

1 “(i) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 1
2 year after the date of enactment of the
3 Farm, Food, and National Security Act of
4 2026, the Secretary and the Secretary of
5 Energy(referred to in this subparagraph as
6 the ‘Secretaries’) shall coordinate the ac-
7 tivities under paragraph (1) through the
8 establishment of memoranda of under-
9 standing or other appropriate interagency
10 agreements. Such a memorandum or such
11 an agreement shall require the use of a
12 competitive, merit-reviewed process as ap-
13 propriate. Activities may include compo-
14 nents proposed by Federal agencies, Na-
15 tional Laboratories, institutions of higher
16 education, nonprofit organizations, and
17 other entities deemed appropriate under
18 the memorandum or agreement.

19 “(ii) COORDINATION.—In carrying out
20 the activities under paragraph (1), the Sec-
21 retaries may—

22 “(I) conduct collaborative re-
23 search in a variety of focus areas;

24 “(II) develop methods to accom-
25 modate large voluntary standardized

1 and integrated data sets on agricul-
2 tural, environmental, supply chain,
3 and economic information with vari-
4 able accuracy and scale;

5 “(III) promote collaboration and
6 open community-based development
7 between—

8 “(aa) Federal agencies;

9 “(bb) National Laboratories;

10 “(cc) institutions of higher
11 education (as defined in section
12 101 of the Higher Education Act
13 of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 1001));

14 “(dd) nonprofit institutions;

15 “(ee) industry partners; and

16 “(ff) other entities deemed
17 appropriate under the memo-
18 randum or agreement involved;

19 “(IV) support research infra-
20 structure, including new facilities and
21 equipment, and workforce develop-
22 ment as the Secretaries determine
23 necessary;

1 “(V) conduct collaborative re-
2 search, development, and demonstra-
3 tion of methods and technologies; and

4 “(VI) facilitate relations between
5 public and private entities to carry on
6 the activities of this clause upon the
7 termination of any agreement estab-
8 lished under this subparagraph.

9 “(iii) AGREEMENTS.—In carrying out
10 the activities under this subparagraph, the
11 Secretaries are authorized to—

12 “(I) carry out reimbursable
13 agreements between the Department
14 of Agriculture, the Department of De-
15 fense, and other entities in order to
16 maximize the effectiveness of research
17 and development; and

18 “(II) collaborate with other Fed-
19 eral agencies, as appropriate.

20 “(B) NATIONAL SCIENCE FOUNDATION.—

21 “(i) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 1
22 year after the date of enactment of the
23 Farm, Food, and National Security Act of
24 2026, the Secretary and the Director of
25 the National Science Foundation (referred

1 to in this subparagraph as the “Director”)
2 shall coordinate the activities under para-
3 graph (1) through the establishment of
4 memoranda of understanding or other ap-
5 propriate interagency agreements. Such a
6 memorandum or such an agreement shall
7 require the use of a competitive, merit-re-
8 viewed process as appropriate. Activities
9 may include components proposed by Fed-
10 eral agencies, institutions of higher edu-
11 cation, nonprofit organizations, and other
12 entities deemed appropriate under the
13 memorandum or agreement.

14 “(ii) COORDINATION.—In carrying out
15 the activities under paragraph (1), the Sec-
16 retary and the Director may—

17 “(I) conduct collaborative re-
18 search in a variety of focus areas;

19 “(II) promote collaboration and
20 open, community-based development
21 between—

22 “(aa) Federal agencies;

23 “(bb) institutions of higher
24 education;

1 “(cc) community colleges (as
2 defined in section 3167B of the
3 Energy Science Education En-
4 hancement Act (42 U.S.C.
5 7381e-3));

6 “(dd) area career and tech-
7 nical education schools (as de-
8 fined in section 3 of the Carl D.
9 Perkins Career and Technical
10 Education Act of 2006 (20
11 U.S.C. 2302));

12 “(ee) nonprofit institutions;

13 “(ff) industry partners; and

14 “(gg) other entities deemed
15 appropriate under the memo-
16 randum or agreement;

17 “(III) support research infra-
18 structure, including new facilities,
19 equipment and broadband deploy-
20 ment, as the Secretary and Director
21 determine necessary;

22 “(IV) develop translational tech-
23 nologies for commercial utilization;

24 “(V) organize education, train-
25 ing, and research initiatives relating

1 to STEM education and workforce de-
2 velopment, which may include—

3 “(aa) activities supported by
4 the Cooperative Extension Sys-
5 tem;

6 “(bb) industrial partnership
7 programs;

8 “(cc) workshops for edu-
9 cating kindergarten through
10 grade 12 teachers on how to in-
11 crease agricultural literacy;

12 “(dd) development of agri-
13 cultural-based science curricula
14 for kindergarten through grade
15 12 students; and

16 “(ee) distribution of re-
17 sources for educators to imple-
18 ment curricula; and

19 “(VI) facilitate relationships be-
20 tween public and private entities to
21 carry on the activities under this
22 clause upon the termination of any
23 agreement established under this sub-
24 paragraph.

1 “(iii) AGREEMENTS.—In carrying out
2 the activities under this subparagraph, the
3 Secretary and the Director are authorized
4 to—

5 “(I) carry out reimbursable
6 agreements between the Department
7 of Agriculture, the National Science
8 Foundation, and other entities in
9 order to maximize the effectiveness of
10 research and development; and

11 “(II) collaborate with other Fed-
12 eral agencies as appropriate.

13 “(C) DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE.—

14 “(i) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 1
15 year after the date of enactment of the
16 Farm, Food, and National Security Act of
17 2026, the Secretary and the Secretary of
18 Defense (referred to in this subparagraph
19 as the ‘Secretaries’) shall coordinate the
20 activities under paragraph (1) through the
21 establishment of memoranda of under-
22 standing or other appropriate interagency
23 agreements. Such a memorandum or such
24 an agreement shall require the use of a
25 competitive, merit-reviewed process as ap-

1 appropriate. Activities may include compo-
2 nents proposed by Federal agencies, Na-
3 tional Laboratories, institutions of higher
4 education, nonprofit organizations, indus-
5 try, and other entities deemed appropriate
6 under the memorandum or agreement.

7 “(ii) COORDINATION.—In carrying out
8 the activities under paragraph (1), the Sec-
9 retaries may—

10 “(I) conduct collaborative re-
11 search in a variety of focus areas, in-
12 cluding the areas specified in clause
13 (iv);

14 “(II) develop methods to accom-
15 modate large voluntary standardized
16 and integrated data sets on agricul-
17 tural, environmental, supply chain,
18 and economic information with vari-
19 able accuracy and scale;

20 “(III) promote collaboration and
21 secure information sharing with stake-
22 holders that are capable of increasing
23 market-based adoption of technologies
24 developed pursuant to the memoranda
25 of understanding or other appropriate

1 interagency agreements entered into
2 under this subparagraph.

3 “(IV) promote collaboration and
4 open community-based development
5 between—

6 “(aa) Federal agencies;

7 “(bb) National Laboratories;

8 “(cc) institutions of higher
9 education (as defined in section
10 101 of the Higher Education Act
11 of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 1001));

12 “(dd) nonprofit institutions;

13 “(ee) industry partners; and

14 “(ff) other entities deemed
15 appropriate under the memo-
16 randum or agreement involved;

17 “(V) support research infrastruc-
18 ture, including new facilities and
19 equipment, and workforce develop-
20 ment as the Secretaries determine
21 necessary;

22 “(VI) conduct collaborative re-
23 search, development, and demonstra-
24 tion of methods and technologies; and

1 “(VII) facilitate relations be-
2 tween public and private entities to
3 carry on the activities of this clause
4 upon the termination of any agree-
5 ment established under this subpara-
6 graph.

7 “(iii) AGREEMENTS.—In carrying out
8 the activities under this subparagraph, the
9 Secretaries are authorized to—

10 “(I) carry out reimbursable
11 agreements between the Department
12 of Agriculture, the Department of De-
13 fense, and other entities in order to
14 maximize the effectiveness of research
15 and development; and

16 “(II) collaborate with other Fed-
17 eral agencies, as appropriate.

18 “(iv) FOCUS AREAS DESCRIBED.—The
19 focus areas described in this clause are the
20 following:

21 “(I) Management strategies for
22 water, energy, soil, forests, and food
23 to reduce scarcity risks to civilian and
24 military operations.

1 “(II) Innovations applicable to
2 defense objectives and beneficial to
3 rural agricultural economies, includ-
4 ing—

5 “(aa) precision agriculture
6 technologies;

7 “(bb) drones;

8 “(cc) remote sensing; and

9 “(dd) positioning, naviga-
10 tion, and timing capabilities.

11 “(III) Mitigation of the impacts
12 of chemicals, specifically
13 perfluoroalkyl and polyfluoroalkyl sub-
14 stances (commonly referred to as
15 PFAS), released through activities
16 carried out by the Department of De-
17 fense, to farmland contiguous to mili-
18 tary bases.

19 “(D) OTHER FEDERAL AGENCIES.—In ad-
20 dition to the memoranda of understanding with
21 Federal agencies described in subparagraphs
22 (A) and (B), the Secretary shall, as appro-
23 priate, enter into memoranda of understanding
24 with the heads of other Federal agencies to co-
25 ordinate the activities under paragraph (1).

1 “(3) REPORT.—Not later than two years after
2 the date of enactment of the Farm, Food, and Na-
3 tional Security Act of 2026, the Secretary shall sub-
4 mit to the appropriate congressional committees a
5 report detailing—

6 “(A) interagency coordination between
7 each Federal agency involved in the research
8 and development activities carried out under
9 this section;

10 “(B) potential opportunities to expand the
11 technical capabilities of each Federal agency in-
12 volved in the research and development activi-
13 ties carried out under this section;

14 “(C) collaborative research achievements;

15 “(D) areas of future mutually beneficial
16 successes;

17 “(E) continuation of coordination activities
18 between each Federal agency involved in the re-
19 search and development activities carried out
20 under this section;

21 “(F) potential opportunities for additional
22 memoranda of understanding with other Fed-
23 eral agencies; and

24 “(G) any additional information as the
25 Secretary deems appropriate.

1 “(4) RESEARCH SECURITY.—The activities au-
2 thorized under this section shall be applied in a
3 manner consistent with subtitle D of title VI of the
4 Research and Development, Competition, and Inno-
5 vation Act (enacted as division B of the CHIPS Act
6 of 2022 (Public Law 117–167; 42 U.S.C. 19231 et
7 seq.)).”.

8 **SEC. 7609. AGRICULTURAL INNOVATION CORPS.**

9 (a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall establish an
10 Agricultural Innovation Corps (referred to in this section
11 as the “Ag I–Corps”) to promote technology transfer and
12 increase the economic impact of federally-funded research
13 through—

14 (1) supporting agricultural researchers, stu-
15 dents, and institutions of higher education (as de-
16 fined in section 101 of the Higher Education Act of
17 1965 (20 U.S.C. 1001)), in exploring the commer-
18 cial potential of technologies developed in labora-
19 tories through a standardized entrepreneurial train-
20 ing program; and

21 (2) bringing together Agriculture Research
22 Service researchers and institutions of higher edu-
23 cation within a distinct geographical region to col-
24 laborate and deliver a standardized entrepreneurial
25 training curriculum.

1 (b) ELIGIBILITY.—Agricultural researchers, stu-
2 dents, and institutions of higher education receiving funds
3 from the Department shall be eligible to participate in Ag
4 I–Corps.

5 (c) FOLLOW-ON GRANTS.—

6 (1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary may make
7 funds available from the Small Business Innovation
8 Research Program for competitive grants to Ag I–
9 Corps participants to help support—

10 (A) prototype or proof-of-concept develop-
11 ment; and

12 (B) such activities as the Secretary con-
13 siders necessary to build local, regional, and na-
14 tional infrastructure for agricultural entrepre-
15 neurship.

16 (2) LIMITATION.—Grants under paragraph (1)
17 shall be limited to participants in Ag I–Corps with
18 innovations that, because of the early stage of devel-
19 opment of such innovations, are not eligible to par-
20 ticipate in a Small Business Innovation Research
21 Program or Small Business Technology Transfer
22 Program (as defined in section 9 of the Small Busi-
23 ness Act (15 U.S.C. 638)).

24 (d) PARTNERSHIPS.—The Secretary may engage in
25 partnerships with other Federal agencies, State and local

1 governments, economic development organizations, and
2 nonprofit organizations to provide access to Ag I–Corps
3 to support entrepreneurship education and training for ag-
4 ricultural researchers, students, and institutions of higher
5 education under this section.

6 (e) REPORT.—Not later than September 30, 2027,
7 and not less frequently than once every other year, the
8 Secretary shall submit to the Committee on Agriculture
9 of the House of Representatives and the Committee on
10 Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry of the Senate a re-
11 port on the efficacy of Ag I–Corps, including metrics on
12 the effectiveness of the program.

13 **TITLE VIII—FORESTRY**

14 **Subtitle A—Cooperative Forestry**

15 **Assistance Act of 1978**

16 **SEC. 8101. SUPPORT FOR STATE ASSESSMENTS AND STRAT-** 17 **EGIES FOR FOREST RESOURCES.**

18 Section 2A(f) of the Cooperative Forestry Assistance
19 Act of 1978 (16 U.S.C. 2101a(f)) is amended—

20 (1) in paragraph (1), by striking “2023” and
21 inserting “2031”; and

22 (2) in paragraph (2), by striking “to carry out
23 this section,” and all that follows through the period
24 at the end and inserting the following: “the Sec-
25 retary may use any other funds made available

1 under this Act to develop and implement the State-
2 wide assessment and State-wide strategy required by
3 subsection (a), except that the total amount of com-
4 bined funding used to develop and implement such
5 assessment and strategy may not exceed
6 \$10,000,000 in any fiscal year.”.

7 **SEC. 8102. FOREST LEGACY PROGRAM TECHNICAL COR-**
8 **RECTION.**

9 Section 7(l)(3) of the Cooperative Forestry Assist-
10 ance Act of 1978 (16 U.S.C. 2103c(l)(3)) is amended—

11 (1) in subparagraph (A), by striking “the State
12 of Vermont” and inserting “a State”; and

13 (2) in subparagraph (B)(ii), in the matter pre-
14 ceding subclause (I), by striking “of Vermont” and
15 inserting “involved”.

16 **SEC. 8103. STATE AND PRIVATE FOREST LANDSCAPE-SCALE**
17 **RESTORATION PROGRAM.**

18 Section 13A(l)(3) of the Cooperative Forestry Assist-
19 ance Act of 1978 (16 U.S.C. 2109a(l)(3)) is amended by
20 striking “2023” and inserting “2031”.

1 **Subtitle B—Healthy Forests**
2 **Restoration Act of 2003**

3 **SEC. 8201. PROMOTING CROSS-BOUNDARY WILDFIRE MITI-**
4 **GATION.**

5 Section 103(e)(5) of the Healthy Forests Restoration
6 Act of 2003 (16 U.S.C. 6513(e)(5)) is amended by strik-
7 ing “2023” and inserting “2031”.

8 **SEC. 8202. AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS FOR HAZ-**
9 **ARDOUS FUEL REDUCTION ON FEDERAL**
10 **LAND.**

11 Section 108 of the Healthy Forests Restoration Act
12 of 2003 (16 U.S.C. 6518) is amended by striking “2023”
13 and inserting “2031”.

14 **SEC. 8203. WATER SOURCE PROTECTION PROGRAM.**

15 Section 303 of the Healthy Forests Restoration Act
16 of 2003 (16 U.S.C. 6542) is amended—

17 (1) in subsection (a)—

18 (A) by redesignating paragraphs (1)
19 through (7) as paragraphs (2) through (8), re-
20 spectively;

21 (B) by inserting before paragraph (2), as
22 so redesignated, the following:

23 “(1) ADJACENT LAND.—The term ‘adjacent
24 land’ means non-Federal land, including State, local,
25 and private land, that is adjacent to, and within the

1 same watershed as, National Forest System land on
2 which a watershed protection and restoration project
3 is carried out under this section.”; and

4 (C) in paragraph (2), as so redesignated—

5 (i) by redesignating subparagraphs
6 (G) and (H) as subparagraphs (K) and
7 (L), respectively; and

8 (ii) by inserting after subparagraph
9 (F) the following:

10 “(G) an acequia association;

11 “(H) a local, regional, or other public enti-
12 ty that manages stormwater or wastewater re-
13 sources or other related water infrastructure;

14 “(I) a land-grant mercedes;

15 “(J) a local, regional, or other private enti-
16 ty that has water delivery authority;”;

17 (2) in subsection (b)—

18 (A) by striking “The Secretary shall” and
19 inserting the following:

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

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

22 “(2) REQUIREMENTS.—A watershed protection
23 and restoration project under the Program shall be
24 designed to—

1 “(A) protect and restore watershed health,
2 water supply and quality, a municipal or agri-
3 cultural water supply system, and water-related
4 infrastructure;

5 “(B) protect and restore forest health from
6 insect infestation and disease or wildfire; or

7 “(C) advance any combination of the pur-
8 poses described in subparagraphs (A) and (B).

9 “(3) PRIORITIES.—In selecting watershed pro-
10 tection and restoration projects under the Program,
11 the Secretary shall give priority to projects that—

12 “(A) provide risk management benefits as-
13 sociated with drought; wildfire; post-wildfire
14 conditions; extreme weather; flooding; resilience
15 to climate change; and watershed and fire resil-
16 ience, including minimizing risks to watershed
17 health, water supply and quality, and water-re-
18 lated infrastructure, including municipal and
19 agricultural water supply systems;

20 “(B) support aquatic restoration and con-
21 servation efforts that complement existing or
22 planned forest restoration or wildfire risk re-
23 duction efforts; or

24 “(C) provide quantifiable benefits to water
25 supply or quality and include the use of nature-

1 based solutions, such as restoring wetland and
2 riparian ecosystems.

3 “(4) CONDITIONS FOR PROJECTS ON ADJACENT
4 LAND.—

5 “(A) IN GENERAL.—No project or activity
6 may be carried out under this section on adja-
7 cent land unless the owner of the adjacent land
8 agrees in writing that the owner is a willing and
9 engaged partner in carrying out that project or
10 activity.

11 “(B) EFFECT.—Nothing in this section
12 shall be construed to authorize any change in—

13 “(i) the ownership of adjacent land on
14 which a project or activity is carried out
15 under this section; or

16 “(ii) the management of adjacent land
17 on which a project or activity is carried out
18 under this section, except during the car-
19 rying out of that project or activity.”;

20 (3) in subsection (c)—

21 (A) in paragraph (1), by striking “water-
22 sheds that provide water to the end water
23 users” and inserting “watersheds, and lands
24 adjacent to any such watershed, that provide
25 water—

1 “(A) to the end water users subject to the
2 agreement; or

3 “(B) for the benefit of another end water
4 user.”;

5 (B) in paragraph (2)—

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

8 (ii) by redesignating subparagraph
9 (D) as subparagraph (E); and

10 (iii) by inserting after subparagraph
11 (C) the following:

12 “(D) a good neighbor agreement entered
13 into under section 8206 of the Agricultural Act
14 of 2014 (16 U.S.C. 2113a); or”; and

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

16 “(3) COOPERATION WITH NON-FEDERAL PART-
17 NERS.—The Secretary shall cooperate with non-Fed-
18 eral partners in carrying out assessments, planning,
19 project design, and project implementation under
20 this section.”;

21 (4) in subsection (d)—

22 (A) by amending paragraph (2) to read as
23 follows:

24 “(2) REQUIREMENTS.—A water source manage-
25 ment plan shall be—

1 “(A) designed to protect and restore eco-
2 logical integrity (as defined in section 219.19 of
3 title 36, Code of Federal Regulations (as in ef-
4 fect on the date of enactment of this subpara-
5 graph));

6 “(B) based on the best available scientific
7 information; and

8 “(C) conducted in a manner consistent
9 with the forest plan applicable to the National
10 Forest System land on which the watershed
11 protection and restoration project is carried
12 out.”; and

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

14 “(4) REDUCING REDUNDANCY.—An existing
15 watershed plan, such as a watershed protection and
16 restoration action plan developed under section
17 304(a)(3), or other applicable watershed planning
18 documents as approved by the Secretary may be
19 used as the basis for a water source management
20 plan under this subsection.”;

21 (5) in subsection (e)(1), by striking “primary
22 purpose of” and all that follows through the period
23 at the end and inserting “primary purpose of ad-
24 vancing any of the purposes described in subsection
25 (b)(2).”;

1 (6) in subsection (g), by amending paragraph
2 (2) to read as follows:

3 “(2) MATCHING FUNDS REQUIRED.—

4 “(A) IN GENERAL.—Subject to subpara-
5 graph (B), the Secretary shall require the con-
6 tribution of funds or in-kind support from non-
7 Federal partners to be in an amount that is not
8 less than 50 percent of the amount of Federal
9 funds.

10 “(B) WAIVER.—The requirement in sub-
11 paragraph (A) may be waived at the discretion
12 of the Secretary.”; and

13 (7) in subsection (g)(4)—

14 (A) in subparagraph (B), by striking
15 “2019 through 2023” and inserting “2027
16 through 2031”; and

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

18 “(D) SET-ASIDE FOR PARTNER PARTICIPA-
19 TION IN PLANNING AND TECHNICAL ASSIST-
20 ANCE.—Of the amounts made available under
21 subparagraph (B) to carry out this section for
22 each fiscal year, the Secretary may not use
23 more than 10 percent for non-Federal partner
24 planning and technical assistance efforts in de-

1 contract under this subsection” before the period at
2 the end;

3 (2) in subsection (d)(3)(B), by striking “10
4 years” and inserting “20 years”; and

5 (3) in subsection (h), by adding at the end the
6 following:

7 “(4) SPECIAL RULE FOR LONG-TERM STEWARD-
8 SHIP CONTRACTS.—

9 “(A) DEFINITION OF MULTIYEAR CON-
10 TRACT.—In this paragraph, the term ‘multiyear
11 contract’ means a contract entered into under
12 subsection (b) that—

13 “(i) has a term of at least 5 years;

14 and

15 “(ii) is entered into on or after the
16 date of enactment of this paragraph.

17 “(B) SPECIAL RULE.—A multiyear con-
18 tract entered into under subsection (b) by the
19 Chief or the Director with an entity shall pro-
20 vide that, in the case of cancellation or termi-
21 nation of the multiyear contract by the Chief or
22 the Director, the Chief or the Director, as ap-
23 plicable, shall provide to the entity a cancella-
24 tion or termination payment equal to the lesser
25 of—

1 “(i) an amount equal to 10 percent of
2 the multiyear contract; or

3 “(ii) the amount of unrecovered costs
4 that would have been recouped through
5 amortization over the full term of the con-
6 tract (including the term canceled).”.

7 **Subtitle C—Other Forestry** 8 **Programs**

9 **SEC. 8301. NATIONAL AND REGIONAL AGROFORESTRY CEN-** 10 **TERS.**

11 Section 1243 of the Food, Agriculture, Conservation,
12 and Trade Act of 1990 (16 U.S.C. 1642 note; Public Law
13 101–624) is amended—

14 (1) by striking the section heading and insert-
15 ing “**NATIONAL AND REGIONAL AGRO-**
16 **FORESTRY CENTERS**”;

17 (2) by redesignating subsections (a), (b), (c),
18 and (d) as subsections (b), (d), (e), and (h), respec-
19 tively;

20 (3) by inserting before subsection (b) (as so re-
21 designated) the following:

22 “(a) **DEFINITION OF AGROFORESTRY.**—In this sec-
23 tion, the term ‘agroforestry’ means a management system
24 that intentionally integrates trees and shrubs into crop
25 and animal farming systems to build more profitable and

1 weather-resilient farms, ranches, and communities, ad-
2 dress natural resource concerns and conservation needs,
3 and establish productive and sustainable land use prac-
4 tices, including—

5 “(1) riparian forest buffers;

6 “(2) alley cropping;

7 “(3) silvopasture;

8 “(4) forest farming and multistory cropping;

9 and

10 “(5) windbreaks, shelterbelts, hedgerows, and,
11 where applicable, field borders, and living snow
12 fences.”;

13 (4) in subsection (b) (as so redesignated)—

14 (A) in the subsection heading, by striking
15 “SEMIARID” and inserting “NATIONAL”;

16 (B) by inserting “(referred to in this sec-
17 tion as the ‘Secretary’)” after “Secretary of Ag-
18 riculture”;

19 (C) by striking “Semiarid Agroforestry Re-
20 search, Development, and Demonstration Cen-
21 ter (hereafter referred to in this section as the
22 ‘Center’)” and inserting “National Agroforestry
23 Research, Development, and Demonstration
24 Center”; and

1 (D) by striking “at the Center under sub-
2 section (b)” and inserting “under subsection
3 (d)”;

4 (5) by inserting after subsection (b) (as so re-
5 designated) the following:

6 “(c) REGIONAL AGROFORESTRY CENTERS.—

7 “(1) ESTABLISHMENT.—The Secretary, acting
8 through the Chief of the Forest Service and in co-
9 operation with the Natural Resources Conservation
10 Service, shall, subject to the availability of appro-
11 priations, establish 1 or more regional agroforestry
12 centers to advance agroforestry research, outreach,
13 technical assistance, and adoption.

14 “(2) DIRECTOR.—The Secretary, acting
15 through the Chief of the Forest Service and in co-
16 operation with the Natural Resources Conservation
17 Service, shall appoint a Director to manage and co-
18 ordinate the 1 or more regional agroforestry centers
19 established under paragraph (1).

20 “(3) LOCATION.—In selecting the locations for
21 the 1 or more regional agroforestry centers under
22 paragraph (1), the Secretary shall prioritize loca-
23 tions at which the Department of Agriculture has,
24 on the date of enactment of the Farm, Food, and
25 National Security Act of 2026, at least 1 employee

1 providing coordination among a diverse group of re-
2 search institutions and other partners.

3 “(4) ADMINISTRATION.—Regional agroforestry
4 centers established under paragraph (1) shall be ad-
5 ministered by the National Agroforestry Center.”;

6 (6) in subsection (d) (as so redesignated)—

7 (A) in the matter preceding paragraph

8 (1)—

9 (i) by striking “the Center” and in-
10 sserting “each of the centers established
11 under subsections (b) and (c) (referred to
12 in this section as the ‘Centers’)”;

13 (ii) by inserting “and organizations”
14 after “nonprofit foundations”; and

15 (iii) by inserting “demonstration
16 projects,” after “studies,”;

17 (B) in paragraph (1)—

18 (i) by striking “on semiarid lands
19 that” and inserting “that build soil health
20 and”; and

21 (ii) by inserting “, including agro-
22 forestry systems on semiarid land and
23 other fragile agroecosystems where perma-
24 nent woody perennial plant communities
25 can enhance carbon sequestration and re-

1 duce greenhouse gas emissions” before the
2 semicolon;

3 (C) in paragraph (3), by striking “forestry
4 products for commercial sale from semiarid
5 land” and inserting “agroforestry products for
6 commercial sale”;

7 (D) in paragraph (4)—

8 (i) by striking “in semiarid regions”;

9 and

10 (ii) by striking “the Great Plains re-
11 gion” and inserting “particular regions”;

12 (E) in paragraph (5), by inserting “tech-
13 nical assistance, demonstration projects, and”
14 before “technology”;

15 (F) by redesignating paragraphs (7)
16 through (11) as paragraphs (8) through (12),
17 respectively;

18 (G) by striking paragraph (6) and insert-
19 ing the following:

20 “(6) develop improved silvopasture, alley crop-
21 ping, forest farming, multistory cropping, riparian
22 buffer, windbreak and shelterbelt, and other peren-
23 nial production and conservation systems and tech-
24 nologies to improve soil health, carbon sequestration,

1 drought preparedness, soil and water conservation,
2 environmental quality, and biological diversity;

3 “(7) address barriers to the adoption of agro-
4 forestry practices, including—

5 “(A) insufficient access to plant material;

6 “(B) insufficient infrastructure to contain
7 equipment and plant material;

8 “(C) insufficient machinery to implement
9 agroforestry practices;

10 “(D) insufficient technical service assist-
11 ance; and

12 “(E) insufficient research related to agro-
13 forestry systems, including silvopasture and
14 alley cropping;”;

15 (H) in paragraph (8) (as so redesignated),
16 by striking “on semiarid lands”;

17 (I) in paragraph (9) (as so redesignated),
18 by striking “on semiarid lands worldwide” and
19 inserting “worldwide, including on semiarid
20 land”; and

21 (J) in paragraph (10) (as so redesign-
22 ated)—

23 (i) by striking “on semiarid lands”;

24 and

1 (ii) by inserting “and extreme weath-
2 er” after “pollution”;

3 (7) in subsection (e) (as so redesignated)—

4 (A) in the matter preceding paragraph (1)
5 by striking “the Center” and inserting “each of
6 the Centers”;

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

9 (C) in paragraph (2)—

10 (i) by striking “forestry” and insert-
11 ing “forestry, agroforestry,”; and

12 (ii) by striking the period at the end
13 and inserting “; and”; and

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

15 “(3) facilitate agroforestry adoption by dissemi-
16 nating comprehensive information on Federal, State,
17 local, and Tribal programs that provide support for
18 agroforestry.”;

19 (8) by inserting after subsection (e) (as so re-
20 designated) the following:

21 “(f) REGIONAL SUPPORT.—The Secretary shall pro-
22 vide targeted regional support for agroforestry projects,
23 including demonstration sites.

24 “(g) SURVEY.—Not later than 5 years after the date
25 of the enactment of the Farm, Food, and National Secu-

1 rity Act of 2026 and every 5 years thereafter, the Sec-
2 retary shall conduct a National Agroforestry Producers
3 Survey.”; and

4 (9) in subsection (h) (as so redesignated)—

5 (A) by striking “There are” and inserting
6 “In addition to amounts otherwise available,
7 there is”; and

8 (B) by striking “\$5,000,000 for each of
9 fiscal years 2019 through 2023” and inserting
10 “\$7,000,000 for each of fiscal years 2027
11 through 2031”.

12 **SEC. 8302. NATIONAL FOREST FOUNDATION ACT.**

13 (a) MATCHING FUNDS.—Section 405(b) of the Na-
14 tional Forest Foundation Act (16 U.S.C. 583j-3(b)) is
15 amended by striking “2023” and inserting “2031”.

16 (b) WHITE OAK RESTORATION FUND.—Section 409
17 of the National Forest Foundation Act (16 U.S.C. 583j-
18 7) is amended—

19 (1) by striking “The activities” and inserting
20 the following:

21 “(a) IN GENERAL.—The activities”; and

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

23 “(b) WHITE OAK RESTORATION FUND.—

24 “(1) IN GENERAL.—Funds described in para-
25 graph (2) shall be made available for activities—

1 “(A) on national forests that are approved
2 by the Secretary, acting through the Chief of
3 the Forest Service; and

4 “(B) to—

5 “(i) re-establish white oak forests
6 where appropriate;

7 “(ii) improve management of existing
8 white oak forests to foster natural regen-
9 eration of white oak;

10 “(iii) improve and expand white oak
11 nursery stock; and

12 “(iv) adapt and improve white oak
13 seedlings.

14 “(2) FUND.—The National Forest Foundation
15 may accept gifts, devises, or bequests for the pur-
16 poses of carrying out the activities specified in para-
17 graph (1).

18 “(3) SUMMARY.—Beginning 1 year after the
19 date of the enactment of this section, the National
20 Forest Foundation shall include in the budget jus-
21 tification materials submitted to Congress in support
22 of the budget of each such Foundation for each fis-
23 cal year (as submitted with the budget of the Presi-
24 dent under section 1105(a) of title 31, United States
25 Code) a summary of the activities carried out under

1 paragraph (1) and the funds accepted under para-
2 graph (2) that includes—

3 “(A) the amount—

4 “(i) accepted under paragraph (2) in
5 the preceding fiscal year; and

6 “(ii) described in clause (i) that is un-
7 obligated on the date of the report; and

8 “(B) a description of the activities under
9 paragraph (1) funded during the preceding fis-
10 cal year.”.

11 (c) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—Section
12 410(b) of the National Forest Foundation Act (16 U.S.C.
13 583j-8(b)) is amended by striking “2023” and inserting
14 “2031”.

15 **SEC. 8303. CONVEYANCES AND LEASES OF FOREST SERV-**
16 **ICE ADMINISTRATIVE SITES.**

17 (a) CONVEYANCE OF FOREST SERVICE ADMINISTRA-
18 TIVE SITES.—Section 503(f) of the Forest Service Facility
19 Realignment and Enhancement Act of 2005 (16 U.S.C.
20 580d note; Public Law 109–54) is amended by striking
21 “September 30, 2019” and inserting “September 30,
22 2031”.

23 (b) AUTHORIZATION FOR LEASE OF FOREST SERV-
24 ICE SITES.—Section 8623(i) of the Agriculture Improve-
25 ment Act of 2018 (16 U.S.C. 580d note; Public Law 115–

1 334) is amended by striking “2023” each place it appears
2 and inserting “2031”.

3 **SEC. 8304. FOREST INVENTORY AND ANALYSIS.**

4 (a) IN GENERAL.—Section 3(e) of the Forest and
5 Rangeland Renewable Resources Research Act of 1978
6 (16 U.S.C. 1642(e)) is amended—

7 (1) in paragraph (1)—

8 (A) by striking “their resources” and in-
9 serting “the resources of those forests, includ-
10 ing forest carbon,”;

11 (B) by striking “In compliance” and in-
12 serting the following:

13 “(A) IN GENERAL.—In compliance”; and

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

15 “(B) ADDITIONAL METHODS.—Under the
16 program under this subsection, the Secretary
17 shall carry out, as a data collection method—

18 “(i) a national timber products output
19 survey; and

20 “(ii) a national woodland owner sur-
21 vey.”;

22 (2) in paragraph (3)(C), by inserting “including
23 with respect to available forest carbon data,” after
24 “2 decades,”;

25 (3) in paragraph (4)—

1 (A) in the second sentence, by striking
2 “The standards” and inserting the following:

3 “(B) INCLUSIONS.—The standards de-
4 scribed in subparagraph (A)”;

5 (B) by striking “(4) NATIONAL STAND-
6 ARDS AND DEFINITIONS.—To ensure” and in-
7 serting the following:

8 “(4) NATIONAL CONSISTENCY.—

9 “(A) STANDARDS AND DEFINITIONS.—To
10 ensure”; and

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

12 “(C) TERMINOLOGY.—The Secretary shall
13 include a clear description of the definition of
14 ‘forest’ used for purposes of reporting data
15 from inventories and analyses of forests and the
16 resources of forests under this subsection
17 with—

18 “(i) any data or report provided under
19 the program under this subsection;

20 “(ii) Renewable Resource Assessments
21 prepared under section 3(a) of the Forest
22 and Rangeland Renewable Resources Plan-
23 ning Act of 1974 (16 U.S.C. 1601(a)); and

24 “(iii) any data or report provided to
25 an entity outside the United States.”;

1 (4) in paragraph (6)—

2 (A) in the matter preceding subparagraph
3 (A), by striking “Not later than 180 days after
4 the date of enactment of this subsection,” and
5 inserting “In accordance with paragraph (7),”;
6 and

7 (B) by striking subparagraphs (D) and (E)
8 and inserting the following:

9 “(D) the organization and procedures nec-
10 essary to understand and report on changes in
11 land cover and use;

12 “(E) the organization and procedures nec-
13 essary to sample and evaluate carbon-related
14 data variables, including soil carbon, collected
15 from forest inventory and analysis plots, timber
16 products output surveys, and national woodland
17 owner surveys to ensure that carbon accounting
18 information needs can be met; and”;

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

20 “(7) UPDATES TO STRATEGIC PLAN.—

21 “(A) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 180
22 days after the date of enactment of this para-
23 graph, the Secretary shall prepare an update to
24 the strategic plan under paragraph (6) to in-
25 clude—

1 “(i) a plan to implement nationally
2 consistent data collection protocols and
3 procedures to improve the statistical preci-
4 sion of base program estimates;

5 “(ii) pathways to integrate and report
6 on status and trends in forest carbon
7 pools, including below-ground carbon;

8 “(iii) plans, including the identifica-
9 tion of challenges, to collaborate with other
10 Federal agencies, non-Federal partners,
11 and the private sector to integrate existing
12 nationally available data sets and best
13 available commercial technologies, such as
14 remote sensing, spatial analysis techniques,
15 and other new technologies;

16 “(iv) a plan to increase transparency
17 and clarity in reporting in accordance with
18 paragraph (4)(C);

19 “(v) a plan to expand current data
20 collection, further integrate remote sensing
21 technology, or both, to include procedures
22 to improve the statistical precision of esti-
23 mates at the sub-State level;

24 “(vi) a plan to expand current data
25 collection, further integrate remote sensing

1 technology, or both, to include information
2 on renewable biomass supplies and carbon
3 stocks at the local, State, regional, and na-
4 tional levels, including by ownership type;
5 and

6 “(vii) such other matters as the Sec-
7 retary determines to be appropriate based
8 on recommendations of the Forest Inven-
9 tory and Analysis National User Group.

10 “(B) SUBMISSION.—Not later than 180
11 days after the date of enactment of this para-
12 graph, the Secretary shall submit to the Com-
13 mittee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry
14 of the Senate and the Committee on Agri-
15 culture of the House of Representatives the up-
16 date to the strategic plan prepared under sub-
17 paragraph (A).

18 “(C) FURTHER UPDATES.—Not later than
19 5 years after the date on which the update is
20 submitted under subparagraph (B), and every 5
21 years thereafter, the Secretary shall—

22 “(i) prepare an additional update to
23 the strategic plan; and

1 “(ii) submit the additional update to
2 the committees described in subparagraph
3 (B).

4 “(8) ACCESSIBILITY.—The Secretary shall en-
5 sure that data collected under this subsection is—

6 “(A) easily accessible to all public- and pri-
7 vate-sector entities; and

8 “(B) collected and made accessible using
9 means that ensure the confidentiality, in ac-
10 cordance with section 1770 of the Food Secu-
11 rity Act of 1985 (7 U.S.C. 2276), of—

12 “(i) plot locations;

13 “(ii) nonaggregated data of woodland
14 owners; and

15 “(iii) nonaggregated data from timber
16 product output survey.

17 “(9) BIENNIAL COMPILATIONS.—Biennially, the
18 Secretary shall prepare and make publicly available
19 a compilation of national forest inventory and anal-
20 ysis forest statistics, which shall be similar to the ta-
21 bles contained in the Renewable Resource Assess-
22 ments prepared under section 3(a) of the Forest and
23 Rangeland Renewable Resources Planning Act of
24 1974 (16 U.S.C. 1601(a)), accompanied by relevant
25 geospatial products.

1 “(10) EXTERNAL COMPLEX DATA REQUESTS.—

2 “(A) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall
3 establish an office, a data platform, or team to
4 process and respond to complex data requests
5 submitted by external organizations relating to
6 the program under this subsection.

7 “(B) FEES.—

8 “(i) IN GENERAL.—To cover the costs
9 of processing of and responding to complex
10 data requests described in subparagraph
11 (A), the Secretary may impose fees on ex-
12 ternal organizations submitting the re-
13 quests.

14 “(ii) FEES COLLECTED.—Fees col-
15 lected under clause (i) may only be used
16 for the purposes described in such clause.

17 “(11) REPORTS.—Each year, the Secretary
18 shall publish as part of the forest inventory and
19 analysis business report a detailed description of the
20 progress of the Secretary in implementing the pro-
21 grammatic elements of the strategic plan described
22 in paragraph (6), including—

23 “(A) the costs and priorities of the stra-
24 tegic plan; and

1 “(B) how the program under this sub-
2 section leverages new technology, improves and
3 standardizes collection protocols, and increases
4 workforce capacity.”.

5 (b) **REMOTE SENSING TECHNOLOGIES.**—Section
6 8632(1) of the Agriculture Improvement Act of 2018 (16
7 U.S.C. 1642 note; Public Law 115–334) is amended by
8 striking “technologies” and inserting “technologies, such
9 as microwave, LiDAR, hyperspectral, and high-resolution
10 remote sensing data, and advanced computing tech-
11 nologies for improved modeling to provide tabular statis-
12 tical estimates and geospatial products,”.

13 **SEC. 8305. REFORESTATION, NURSERY, AND SEED OR-**
14 **CHARD SUPPORT.**

15 (a) **PARTNERSHIPS, COLLABORATION, AND OTHER**
16 **ASSISTANCE IN SUPPORT OF NURSERIES AND SEED OR-**
17 **CHARDS.**—The Secretary, acting through the Chief of the
18 Forest Service, shall—

19 (1) partner with Federal and State agencies,
20 Indian Tribes, private nurseries, and other relevant
21 entities to provide training, technical assistance, and
22 research to nursery and tree establishment programs
23 that support natural regeneration, reforestation,
24 agroforestry, and afforestation;

1 (2) promote information sharing to improve the
2 technical knowledge, practices, and understanding of
3 the demands, climate change impacts, and other
4 issues necessary to address all facets of the reforest-
5 ation pipeline;

6 (3) provide technical and financial assistance to
7 international nursery and tree establishment pro-
8 grams through—

9 (A) international programs conducted by
10 the Forest Service pursuant to the Inter-
11 national Forestry Cooperation Act of 1990 (16
12 U.S.C. 4501 et seq.);

13 (B) the Institute of Pacific Islands For-
14 estry of the Forest Service; and

15 (C) the International Institute of Tropical
16 Forestry of the Forest Service;

17 (4) collaborate with other relevant Federal de-
18 partments and agencies, including the Foreign Agri-
19 cultural Service of the Department, the United
20 States Fish and Wildlife Service of the Department
21 of the Interior, and international organizations to
22 provide technical and financial assistance related to
23 nurseries and reforestation;

24 (5) coordinate the efforts of the Department
25 to—

1 (A) address the challenges associated with
2 the reforestation pipeline; and

3 (B) leverage economic development assist-
4 ance for work with private nurseries; and

5 (6) expand science-based reforestation supply
6 chains through research, seed collection and storage,
7 and nursery infrastructure and operations in coordi-
8 nation with the Administrator of the Agricultural
9 Research Service.

10 (b) NURSERY AND SEED ORCHARD FINANCIAL AS-
11 SISTANCE.—

12 (1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 2 years after
13 the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary
14 shall establish a program to provide grants to eligi-
15 ble recipients to support nurseries and seed or-
16 chards.

17 (2) ELIGIBLE PROJECTS.—The Secretary may
18 make a grant under this subsection to an eligible re-
19 cipient for a project to carry out at least one of the
20 following:

21 (A) Develop, expand, enhance, or improve
22 nursery production capacity or other infrastruc-
23 ture to—

24 (i) improve seed collection, processing,
25 and storage;

1 (ii) increase seedling production, stor-
2 age, and distribution; or

3 (iii) enhance seedling survival and
4 properly manage tree genetic resources.

5 (B) Establish, improve, or expand a nurs-
6 ery or seed orchard, including by acquiring
7 equipment for such nursery or seed orchard.

8 (C) Develop or implement quality control
9 measures at nurseries or seed orchards.

10 (D) Promote workforce development within
11 any facet of the reforestation pipeline.

12 (E) Carry out such other activity as the
13 Secretary determines appropriate.

14 (c) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

15 (1) ELIGIBLE RECIPIENT.—The term “eligible
16 recipient” means—

17 (A) a State forestry agency;

18 (B) an Indian Tribe;

19 (C) a private nursery that has experience
20 growing high-quality native trees of appropriate
21 genetic sources in bareroot or container
22 stocktypes specific for reforestation, restoration,
23 or conservation, including native plants and
24 seeds that are of cultural significance to Indian
25 Tribes;

1 (D) an institution of higher education (as
 2 defined in section 101 of the Higher Education
 3 Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 1001)); and

4 (E) a county or local government with a
 5 nursery or seed orchard.

6 (2) NURSERY.—The term “nursery” means a
 7 tree or native plant nursery.

8 (3) SEED ORCHARD.—The term “seed orchard”
 9 means a tree or native plant seed orchard.

10 (4) STATE.—The term “State” means each of
 11 the several States, the District of Columbia, the
 12 Commonwealth of Puerto Rico, and any territory or
 13 possession of the United States.

14 (d) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There is
 15 authorized to be appropriated to carry out this section
 16 \$5,000,000 for each of fiscal years 2027 through 2031.

17 **Subtitle D—Forest Management**

18 **PART I—NATIONAL FOREST SYSTEM**

19 **MANAGEMENT**

20 **SEC. 8401. CATEGORICAL EXCLUSION FOR HIGH PRIORITY** 21 **HAZARD TREES.**

22 (a) CATEGORICAL EXCLUSION.—

23 (1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 1 year after
 24 the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary
 25 shall develop a categorical exclusion (as defined in

1 section 111 of the National Environmental Policy
2 Act of 1969 (42 U.S.C. 4336e)) for high-priority
3 hazard tree activities.

4 (2) ADMINISTRATION.—In developing and ad-
5 ministering the categorical exclusion under para-
6 graph (1), the Secretary shall—

7 (A) comply with the National Environ-
8 mental Policy Act of 1969 (42 U.S.C. 4321 et
9 seq.); and

10 (B) apply the extraordinary circumstances
11 procedures under section 220.6 of title 36, Code
12 of Federal Regulations (or successor regula-
13 tions), in determining whether to use the cat-
14 egorical exclusion.

15 (3) PROJECT SIZE LIMITATION.—A project car-
16 ried out using the categorical exclusion developed
17 under paragraph (1) may not exceed 6,000 acres.

18 (b) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

19 (1) HIGH-PRIORITY HAZARD TREE.—The term
20 “high-priority hazard tree” means a standing tree
21 that—

22 (A) presents a visible hazard to people or
23 property due to conditions such as deterioration
24 of, or damage to, the root system, trunk, stem,

1 or limbs of the tree, or the direction or lean of
2 the tree, as determined by the Secretary;

3 (B) is determined by the Secretary to be
4 highly likely to fail and, on failure, would be
5 highly likely to cause injury to people or dam-
6 age to Federal property; and

7 (C) is located—

8 (i) within 300 feet of a National For-
9 est System road with a maintenance level
10 of 3, 4, or 5;

11 (ii) along a National Forest System
12 trail; or

13 (iii) in a developed recreation site—

14 (I) that is operated and main-
15 tained by the Secretary; and

16 (II) on National Forest System
17 land.

18 (2) HIGH-PRIORITY HAZARD TREE ACTIVITY.—

19 (A) IN GENERAL.—The term “high-pri-
20 ority hazard tree activity” means a forest man-
21 agement activity that mitigates the risks associ-
22 ated with high-priority hazard trees, including
23 pruning, felling, and disposal of a high-priority
24 hazard tree.

1 (B) EXCLUSIONS.—The term “high-pri-
2 ority hazard tree activity” does not include any
3 activity—

4 (i) conducted in a wilderness area or
5 wilderness study area;

6 (ii) for the construction of a perma-
7 nent road or permanent trail;

8 (iii) conducted on Federal land on
9 which, by Act of Congress or Presidential
10 proclamation, the removal of vegetation is
11 restricted or prohibited;

12 (iv) conducted in an area in which ac-
13 tivities described in subparagraph (A)
14 would be inconsistent with the applicable
15 land and resource management plan; or

16 (v) conducted in an inventoried
17 roadless area.

18 **SEC. 8402. COLLABORATIVE RESTORATION PROJECTS.**

19 Section 603(c)(1) of the Healthy Forests Restoration
20 Act of 2003 (16 U.S.C. 6591b(c)(1)) is amended by strik-
21 ing “3000 acres” and inserting “10,000 acres”.

22 **SEC. 8403. WILDFIRE RESILIENCE PROJECT SIZE.**

23 Section 605(c)(1) of the Healthy Forests Restoration
24 Act of 2003 (16 U.S.C. 6591d(c)(1)) is amended by strik-
25 ing “3000 acres” and inserting “10,000 acres”.

1 **SEC. 8404. FUEL BREAKS IN FORESTS AND OTHER**
2 **WILDLAND VEGETATION.**

3 Section 40806(d)(1) of the Infrastructure Investment
4 and Jobs Act (16 U.S.C. 6592b(d)(1)) is amended by
5 striking “3,000 acres” and inserting “10,000 acres”.

6 **SEC. 8405. GREATER SAGE-GROUSE AND MULE DEER HABI-**
7 **TAT.**

8 Section 606 of the Healthy Forests Restoration Act
9 of 2003 (16 U.S.C. 6591e) is amended—

10 (1) in subsection (a)(1)(A)—

11 (A) by striking clause (ii);

12 (B) by redesignating clauses (iii) through
13 (vii) as clauses (ii) through (vi), respectively;
14 and

15 (C) in clause (iii), as so redesignated, by
16 striking “in a sagebrush steppe ecosystem”;

17 (2) in subsection (c), by striking “concurrently
18 for both greater sage-grouse and” and inserting “for
19 greater sage-grouse or”;

20 (3) by amending subsection (g) to read as fol-
21 lows:

22 “(g) **LIMITATION.**—A covered vegetation manage-
23 ment activity that is covered by the categorical exclusion
24 under subsection (b) may not exceed 4,500 acres in a for-
25 ested ecosystem or 7,500 acres in a rangeland eco-
26 system.”.

1 **SEC. 8406. CATEGORICAL EXCLUSION FOR ELECTRIC UTIL-**
2 **ITY LINES RIGHTS-OF-WAY.**

3 (a) CATEGORICAL EXCLUSION ESTABLISHED.—For-
4 est management activities described in subsection (b) are
5 a category of activities designated as being categorically
6 excluded from the preparation of an environmental assess-
7 ment or an environmental impact statement under section
8 102 of the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (42
9 U.S.C. 4332).

10 (b) FOREST MANAGEMENT ACTIVITIES DESIGNATED
11 FOR CATEGORICAL EXCLUSION.—The forest management
12 activities designated as being categorically excluded under
13 subsection (a) are—

14 (1) the development and approval of a vegeta-
15 tion management, facility inspection, and operation
16 and maintenance plan submitted under section
17 512(c)(1) of the Federal Land Policy and Manage-
18 ment Act of 1976 (43 U.S.C. 1772(c)(1)) to the
19 Secretary; and

20 (2) the implementation of routine activities con-
21 ducted under the plan referred to in paragraph (1).

22 (c) AVAILABILITY OF CATEGORICAL EXCLUSION.—
23 On and after the date of the enactment of this Act, the
24 Secretary may use the categorical exclusion established
25 under subsection (a) in accordance with this section.

1 (d) EXCLUSION OF CERTAIN AREAS.—The categor-
2 ical exclusion established under subsection (a) shall not
3 apply to any forest management activity conducted—

4 (1) in a component of the National Wilderness
5 Preservation System; or

6 (2) on National Forest System lands on which,
7 by Act of Congress, the removal of vegetation is re-
8 stricted or prohibited.

9 (e) PERMANENT ROADS.—

10 (1) PROHIBITION ON ESTABLISHMENT.—A for-
11 est management activity designated under subsection
12 (b) shall not include the establishment of a perma-
13 nent road.

14 (2) EXISTING ROADS.—The Secretary may
15 carry out necessary maintenance and repair on an
16 existing permanent road for the purposes of con-
17 ducting a forest management activity designated
18 under subsection (b).

19 (3) TEMPORARY ROADS.—The Secretary shall
20 decommission any temporary road constructed for a
21 forest management activity designated under sub-
22 section (b) not later than 3 years after the date on
23 which the action is completed.

24 (f) APPLICABLE LAW.—A forest management activity
25 designated under subsection (b) shall not be subject to sec-

1 tion 7 of the Endangered Species Act of 1973 (16 U.S.C.
2 1536) or section 106 of the National Historic Preservation
3 Act.

4 **SEC. 8407. FOREST MANAGEMENT ACTIVITIES ON NA-**
5 **TIONAL FOREST SYSTEM LANDS.**

6 (a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary may conduct forest
7 management activities on National Forest System land.

8 (b) COORDINATION.—In carrying out forest manage-
9 ment activities, the Secretary shall, as appropriate, coordi-
10 nate with impacted parties to increase efficiency and maxi-
11 mize the compatibility of management practices across
12 National Forest System lands.

13 (c) OBJECTIVES.—

14 (1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall conduct
15 forest management activities on National Forest
16 System land in a manner that attains multiple eco-
17 system benefits, including.—

18 (A) reducing forest fuels;

19 (B) maintaining the diversity of plant and
20 animal communities;

21 (C) improving soil, streams, lakes, wet-
22 lands, and water quality, including in riparian
23 areas; and

24 (D) increasing resilience to changing water
25 temperature and precipitation regimes.

1 (d) GROUND DISTURBANCE.—Consistent with appli-
2 cable Federal law and any applicable forest plan, the Sec-
3 retary shall—

4 (1) establish criteria for ground conditions fol-
5 lowing a forest management activity carried out
6 under a forest plan that results in ground disturb-
7 ances; and

8 (2) monitor such ground conditions to deter-
9 mine whether desired outcomes or conditions are
10 achieved.

11 (e) AVAILABILITY OF CATEGORICAL EXCLUSION FOR
12 CERTAIN FOREST MANAGEMENT ACTIVITIES.—A forest
13 management activity conducted on National Forest Sys-
14 tem land for the purpose of reducing forest fuels is cat-
15 egorically excluded from the requirements of the National
16 Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (42 U.S.C. 4321 et
17 seq.) if the forest management activity—

18 (1) does not exceed 10,000 acres, including not
19 more than 3,000 acres of mechanical thinning;

20 (2) is developed—

21 (A) in coordination with impacted parties,
22 specifically including representatives of local
23 governments, such as county supervisors or
24 county commissioners; and

1 (B) in consultation with other entities, as
2 determined by the Secretary/any other entity
3 determined relevant by the Secretary; and

4 (3) is consistent with any applicable forest plan.

5 (f) COOPERATIVE AUTHORITIES.—The Secretary
6 may enter into contracts and cooperative agreements with
7 an impacted party to provide for fuel reduction, soil res-
8 toration, erosion control, reforestation, riparian restora-
9 tion, revegetation, and similar management activities on
10 Federal land and non-Federal land.

11 (g) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

12 (1) FOREST MANAGEMENT ACTIVITY.—The
13 term “forest management activity” means a project
14 or activity that is carried out by the Secretary on
15 National Forest System land and is consistent with
16 any applicable forest plan.

17 (2) FOREST PLAN.—The term “forest plan”
18 means a land and resource management plan under
19 section 6 of the Forest and Rangeland Renewable
20 Resources Planning Act of 1974 (16 U.S.C. 1406).

21 (3) IMPACTED PARTIES.—The term “impacted
22 parties” includes—

23 (A) State, local, and Tribal governments;

24 (B) local fire departments;

25 (C) other relevant volunteer groups.

1 (4) NATIONAL FOREST SYSTEM.—The term
2 “National Forest System” has the meaning given
3 that term in section 11(a) of the Forest and Range-
4 land Renewable Resources Planning Act of 1974 (16
5 U.S.C. 1609(a)).

6 **SEC. 8408. SUPPRESSION OF WILDFIRES.**

7 (a) IN GENERAL.—With respect to National Forest
8 System lands described in subsection (b), the Secretary,
9 acting through the Chief of the Forest Service—

10 (1) shall—

11 (A) use available resources to carry out
12 wildfire suppression with the purpose of con-
13 taining wildfires detected on such lands not
14 later than 24 hours after such a wildfire is de-
15 tected; and

16 (B) carry out wildfire suppression under
17 subparagraph (A) in a manner that is con-
18 sistent with interagency agreements and appli-
19 cable standards of firefighter safety;

20 (2) shall not inhibit the suppression efforts of
21 State or local firefighting agencies that are author-
22 ized to respond to wildfire on such lands;

23 (3) may only use fire as a resource manage-
24 ment tool if the fire is a prescribed fire that com-
25 plies with applicable law and regulations;

1 (4) may only initiate a backfire or burnout dur-
2 ing a wildfire—

3 (A) by order of the responsible incident
4 commander, in consultation with the appro-
5 priate Forest Service line officer; or

6 (B) in instances that are necessary to pro-
7 tect the health and safety of firefighting per-
8 sonnel;

9 (5) shall use available resources to control any
10 such initiated backfire or burnout until contained;

11 (6) shall use available resources, including in-
12 frared technologies, to ensure prescribed fires are
13 contained; and

14 (7) shall update the prescribed fire policies of
15 the Forest Service to reflect the findings and rec-
16 ommendations included in the report entitled “Na-
17 tional Prescribed Fire Program Review” published
18 in September 2022 by the Forest Service.

19 (b) LIMITATIONS ON SCOPE.—For purposes of sub-
20 section (a), the National Forest System lands described
21 in this subsection are National Forest System lands
22 that—

23 (1) the National Interagency Fire Center has
24 established as a National Wildland Fire Prepared-
25 ness Level of 5;

1 (2) contain areas that the U.S. Drought Mon-
2 itor has rated as having a D2 (severe drought) in-
3 tensity, D3 (extreme drought) intensity, or D4 (ex-
4 ceptional drought) intensity; or

5 (3) the Secretary, acting through the Chief of
6 the Forest Service, has identified as being located in
7 a fireshed ranked in the top 10 percent of wildfire
8 exposure, as determined using the most recent pub-
9 lished models of fireshed risk exposure published by
10 the Forest Service.

11 (c) NATIONAL FOREST SYSTEM DEFINED.—In this
12 section, the term “National Forest System” has the mean-
13 ing given such term in section 11(a) of the Forest and
14 Rangeland Renewable Resources Planning Act of 1974
15 (16 U.S.C. 1609(a)).

16 **PART II—FOREST MANAGEMENT ACTIVITIES**

17 **SEC. 8411. NO ADDITIONAL CONSULTATION REQUIRED.**

18 (a) FOREST SERVICE PLANS.—Section 6(d)(2) of the
19 Forest and Rangeland Renewable Resources Planning Act
20 of 1974 (16 U.S.C. 1604(d)(2)) is amended to read as
21 follows:

22 “(2) NO ADDITIONAL CONSULTATION RE-
23 QUIRED UNDER CERTAIN CIRCUMSTANCES.—Not-
24 withstanding any other provision of law, the Sec-
25 retary shall not be required to reinitiate consultation

1 under section 7(a)(2) of the Endangered Species Act
2 of 1973 (16 U.S.C. 1536(a)(2)) or section 402.16 of
3 title 50, Code of Federal Regulations (or a successor
4 regulation), on a land management plan approved,
5 amended, or revised under this section when—

6 “(A) a new species is listed or critical habi-
7 tat is designated under the Endangered Species
8 Act of 1973 (16 U.S.C. 1531 et seq.); or

9 “(B) new information reveals effects of the
10 land management plan that may affect a spe-
11 cies listed or critical habitat designated under
12 that Act in a manner or to an extent not pre-
13 viously considered.”.

14 (b) BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT PLANS.—Sec-
15 tion 202 of the Federal Land Policy and Management Act
16 of 1976 (43 U.S.C. 1712) is amended by adding at the
17 end the following:

18 “(g) NO ADDITIONAL CONSULTATION REQUIRED
19 UNDER CERTAIN CIRCUMSTANCES.—Notwithstanding
20 any other provision of law, the Secretary shall not be re-
21 quired to reinitiate consultation under section 7(a)(2) of
22 the Endangered Species Act of 1973 (16 U.S.C.
23 1536(a)(2)) or section 402.16 of title 50, Code of Federal
24 Regulations (or a successor regulation), on a land use plan
25 approved, amended, or revised under this section when—

1 “(1) a new species is listed or critical habitat
2 is designated under the Endangered Species Act of
3 1973 (16 U.S.C. 1531 et seq.); or

4 “(2) new information reveals effects of the land
5 use plan that may affect a species listed or critical
6 habitat designated under that Act in a manner or to
7 an extent not previously considered.”.

8 **SEC. 8412. GOOD NEIGHBOR AUTHORITY.**

9 (a) GOOD NEIGHBOR AUTHORITY.—Section 8206 of
10 the Agricultural Act of 2014 (16 U.S.C. 2113a) is amend-
11 ed—

12 (1) in subsection (a)(6), by striking “or Indian
13 tribe”;

14 (2) in subsection (a), by adding at the end the
15 following:

16 “(11) SPECIAL DISTRICT.—The term ‘special
17 district’ means a political subdivision of a State
18 that—

19 “(A) has significant budgetary autonomy
20 or control;

21 “(B) was created by or pursuant to the
22 laws of the State for the purpose of performing
23 a limited and specific governmental or propri-
24 etary function; and

1 “(C) is distinct from any other local gov-
2 ernment unit within the State.”.

3 (3) in subsection (b)—

4 (A) in paragraph (1)(A), by inserting “,
5 Indian Tribe, special district,” after “Gov-
6 ernor”;

7 (B) in paragraph (2)(C)—

8 (i) in clause (i)—

9 (I) by inserting “special district,”
10 after “Indian Tribe,” each place it ap-
11 pears;

12 (II) in subclause (I)—

13 (aa) by striking “on”; and

14 (bb) by striking “; and” and
15 inserting a semicolon;

16 (III) in subclause (II)(bb), by
17 striking the period at the end and in-
18 serting a semicolon; and

19 (IV) by adding at the end the fol-
20 lowing:

21 “(III) to construct new perma-
22 nent roads on Federal lands that
23 are—

1 “(aa) necessary to imple-
2 ment authorized restoration ac-
3 tivities; and

4 “(bb) approved by the Fed-
5 eral agency through environ-
6 mental analysis or categorical ex-
7 clusion decision;

8 “(IV) to complete new permanent
9 road construction to replace and de-
10 commission an existing permanent
11 road that is adversely impacting for-
12 est, rangeland, or watershed health;
13 and

14 “(V) if there are funds remaining
15 after carrying out subclauses (I)
16 through (IV), to carry out authorized
17 restoration services under other good
18 neighbor agreements and for the ad-
19 ministration of a good neighbor au-
20 thority program by a Governor, In-
21 dian Tribe, special district, or coun-
22 try.”; and

23 (ii) in clause (ii), by striking “2028”
24 and inserting “2030”;

1 (C) in paragraph (3), by inserting “, In-
2 dian Tribe, special district,” after “Governor”;
3 and

4 (D) by striking paragraph (4).

5 (b) CONFORMING AMENDMENTS.—Section 8206(a)
6 of the Agricultural Act of 2014 (16 U.S.C. 2113a(a)) is
7 amended—

8 (1) in paragraph (1)(B), by inserting “, Indian
9 Tribe, special district,” after “Governor”; and

10 (2) in paragraph (5), by inserting “, Indian
11 Tribe, special district,” after “Governor”.

12 (c) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendments made by
13 this section apply to any project initiated pursuant to a
14 good neighbor agreement (as defined in section 8206(a)
15 of the Agricultural Act of 2014 (16 U.S.C. 2113a(a)))—

16 (1) before the date of enactment of this Act, if
17 the project was initiated after the date of enactment
18 of the Agriculture Improvement Act of 2018 (Public
19 Law 115–334; 132 Stat. 4490); or

20 (2) on or after the date of enactment of this
21 Act.

22 **SEC. 8413. COLLABORATIVE FOREST LANDSCAPE RESTORA-**
23 **TION PROGRAM.**

24 Section 4003 of the Omnibus Public Land Manage-
25 ment Act of 2009 (16 U.S.C. 7303) is amended—

1 (1) in subsection (b)(3)—

2 (A) in subparagraph (D), by inserting “or
3 pathogens” after “species”;

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

6 (C) in subparagraph (H), by adding “and”
7 after the semicolon at the end; and

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

9 “(I) address standardized monitoring ques-
10 tions and indicators;”;

11 (2) in subsection (d)—

12 (A) in paragraph (2)—

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

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

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

20 “(G) proposals that seek to use innovative
21 implementation mechanisms, including good
22 neighbor agreements entered into under section
23 8206 of the Agricultural Act of 2014 (16
24 U.S.C. 2113a), and similar implementation
25 mechanisms; and

1 “(H) proposals that seek to reduce the risk
2 of uncharacteristic wildfire or increase ecologi-
3 cal restoration activities—

4 “(i) within areas across land owner-
5 ships, including State, Tribal, and private
6 land; and

7 “(ii) within the wildland-urban inter-
8 face; and

9 “(I) proposals that seek to enhance water-
10 shed health and drinking water sources.”; and

11 (B) in paragraph (3)—

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

14 “(A) 4 proposals in any 1 region of the
15 National Forest System to be funded during
16 any fiscal year; and”;

17 (ii) by striking subparagraph (B); and

18 (iii) by redesignating subparagraph

19 (C) as subparagraph (B); and

20 (3) in subsection (f)(6), by striking “2019
21 through 2023” and inserting “2027 through 2031”.

22 **SEC. 8414. PUBLIC-PRIVATE WILDFIRE TECHNOLOGY DE-**
23 **PLOYMENT AND TESTBED PARTNERSHIP.**

24 (a) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

1 (1) APPROPRIATE COMMITTEES.—The term
2 “appropriate committees” means—

3 (A) the Committees on Agriculture, Nat-
4 ural Resources, and Science, Space, and Tech-
5 nology of the House of Representatives; and

6 (B) the Committees on Agriculture, Nutri-
7 tion, and Forestry, Energy and Natural Re-
8 sources, and Commerce, Science, and Transpor-
9 tation of the Senate.

10 (2) COVERED AGENCY.—The term “covered
11 agency” means—

12 (A) the National Park Service;

13 (B) the United States Fish and Wildlife
14 Service;

15 (C) the Bureau of Land Management;

16 (D) the Bureau of Reclamation;

17 (E) the Forest Service;

18 (F) the Department of Defense;

19 (G) the National Oceanic and Atmospheric
20 Administration;

21 (H) the United States Fire Administra-
22 tion;

23 (I) the Federal Emergency Management
24 Agency;

1 (J) the National Aeronautics and Space
2 Administration;

3 (K) the Bureau of Indian Affairs; and

4 (L) any other Federal agency involved in
5 wildfire response.

6 (3) COVERED ENTITY.—The term “covered en-
7 tity” means—

8 (A) a private entity;

9 (B) a nonprofit organization; or

10 (C) an institution of higher education (as
11 defined in section 101 of the Higher Education
12 Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 1001)).

13 (4) PILOT PROGRAM.—The term “Pilot Pro-
14 gram” means the deployment and testbed pilot pro-
15 gram developed under subsection (b).

16 (5) SECRETARIES.—The term “Secretaries”
17 means the Secretary of Agriculture and the Sec-
18 retary of the Interior, acting jointly.

19 (b) DEPLOYMENT AND TESTBED PILOT PROGRAM
20 ESTABLISHED.—Not later than 1 year after the date of
21 the enactment of this Act, the Secretaries, in coordination
22 with the heads of the covered agencies, shall establish a
23 deployment and testbed pilot program for new and innova-
24 tive wildfire prevention, detection, communication, and
25 mitigation technologies.

1 (c) FUNCTIONS.—In carrying out the Pilot Program,
2 the Secretaries shall—

3 (1) incorporate the Pilot Program into an exist-
4 ing interagency coordinating group on wildfires;

5 (2) in consultation with the heads of covered
6 agencies, identify key technology priority areas with
7 respect to the deployment of wildfire prevention, de-
8 tection, communication, and mitigation technologies,
9 including—

10 (A) hazardous fuels reduction treatments
11 or activities;

12 (B) dispatch communications;

13 (C) remote sensing and tracking;

14 (D) safety equipment; and

15 (E) common operating pictures or oper-
16 ational dashboards; and

17 (3) partner with each covered entity selected to
18 participate in the Pilot Program with the appro-
19 priate covered agency to coordinate real-time and
20 on-the-ground testing of technology during wildland
21 fire mitigation activities and training.

22 (d) APPLICATIONS.—To participate in the Pilot Pro-
23 gram, a covered entity shall submit to the Secretaries an
24 application at such time, in such manner, and containing
25 such information as the Secretaries may require, which

1 shall include a proposal to test technologies specific to key
2 technology priority areas identified under subsection
3 (c)(2).

4 (e) PRIORITIZATION OF EMERGING TECH-
5 NOLOGIES.—In selecting covered entities to participate in
6 the Pilot Program, the Secretaries shall give priority to
7 covered entities developing and applying emerging tech-
8 nologies that address issues identified by the Secretaries,
9 including artificial intelligence, quantum sensing, com-
10 puting and quantum-hybrid applications, augmented re-
11 ality, and 5G private networks and device-to-device com-
12 munications supporting nomadic mesh networks, for wild-
13 fire mitigation.

14 (f) OUTREACH.—The Secretaries, in coordination
15 with the heads of the covered agencies, shall make publicly
16 available the key technology priority areas identified under
17 subsection (c)(2) and invite covered entities to apply to
18 test and demonstrate their technologies to address those
19 priority areas.

20 (g) REPORTS AND RECOMMENDATIONS.—Not later
21 than 1 year after the date of the enactment of this Act,
22 and each year thereafter for the duration of the Pilot Pro-
23 gram, the Secretaries shall submit to the appropriate com-
24 mittees a report that includes the following with respect
25 to the Pilot Program:

1 (1) A list of participating covered entities.

2 (2) A brief description of the technologies test-
3 ed by such covered entities.

4 (3) An estimate of the cost of acquiring the
5 technology tested in the program and applying it at
6 scale.

7 (4) Outreach efforts by Federal agencies to cov-
8 ered entities developing wildfire technologies.

9 (5) Assessments of, and recommendations relat-
10 ing to, new technologies with potential adoption and
11 application at-scale in Federal land management
12 agencies' wildfire prevention, detection, communica-
13 tion, and mitigation efforts.

14 (h) TERMINATION.—The Pilot Program shall expire
15 on September 30, 2031.

16 **SEC. 8415. FOREST SERVICE PARTICIPATION IN EXPERI-**
17 **ENCED SERVICES PROGRAM.**

18 Section 8302 of the Agricultural Act of 2014 (16
19 U.S.C. 3851a) is amended—

20 (1) in the section heading, by striking “**ACES**”
21 and inserting “**EXPERIENCED SERVICES**”;

22 (2) in subsection (a)—

23 (A) by striking “(a) IN GENERAL.—”;

24 (B) by striking “Agriculture Conserva-
25 tion”; and

1 (C) by inserting “, professional, or admin-
2 istrative” after “technical”; and
3 (3) by striking subsection (b).

4 **SEC. 8416. TIMBER SALES ON NATIONAL FOREST SYSTEM**
5 **LAND.**

6 Section 14 of the National Forest Management Act
7 of 1976 (16 U.S.C. 472a) is amended—

8 (1) in subsection (d) by striking “\$10,000” and
9 inserting “\$55,000”; and

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

11 “(j) In the event of extreme risks to a unit of Na-
12 tional Forest System land, including catastrophic wildfire,
13 insect and disease outbreak, wind, hurricane, flood,
14 drought, or to avoid impacts from such extreme events,
15 the Secretary may, without an appraisal and under such
16 rules and regulations prescribed by the Secretary, dispose
17 of by sale or otherwise, portions of trees, or forest prod-
18 ucts located on such unit of National Forest System
19 land.”.

20 **SEC. 8417. PERMITS AND AGREEMENTS WITH ELECTRICAL**
21 **UTILITIES.**

22 (a) IN GENERAL.—In any special use permit or ease-
23 ment on National Forest System lands provided to an elec-
24 tric utility company (as defined in section 1262 of the En-
25 ergy Policy Act of 2005 (42 U.S.C. 16451)) the Secretary

1 may provide permission to cut and remove trees or other
2 vegetation from within the vicinity of distribution lines or
3 transmission lines, including hazardous vegetation that in-
4 creases fire risk, without requiring a separate timber sale
5 if that cutting and removal is consistent with the applica-
6 ble land management plan.

7 (b) USE OF PROCEEDS.—A special use permit or
8 easement that includes permission for the cutting and re-
9 moval of trees or other vegetation described in subsection
10 (a), shall include a requirement that, if the applicable elec-
11 trical utility sells any portion of the material removed
12 under the permit or easement, the electrical utility shall
13 provide to the Secretary, acting through the Chief of the
14 Forest Service, any proceeds received from the sale, less
15 any transportation costs incurred in the sale.

16 (c) RULE OF CONSTRUCTION.—Nothing in this sec-
17 tion shall be construed to require the sale of any material
18 removed under a special use permit or easement that in-
19 cludes permission for the cutting and removal of trees or
20 other vegetation described in subsection (a).

21 **SEC. 8418. UTILIZING GRAZING FOR WILDFIRE RISK RE-**
22 **DUCTION.**

23 (a) STRATEGY.—

24 (1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 18 months
25 after the date of enactment of this Act, the Sec-

1 retary concerned shall develop and implement a
2 strategy to utilize livestock grazing as a wildfire risk
3 reduction tool on Federal land under the jurisdiction
4 of the Secretary concerned.

5 (2) INCLUSIONS.—The strategy under para-
6 graph (1) shall include—

7 (A) the completion of any reviews required
8 under the National Environmental Policy Act of
9 1969 (42 U.S.C. 4321 et seq.) to allow a per-
10 mittee with a grazing permit in effect to graze
11 on vacant grazing allotments during instances
12 of drought, wildfire, or other natural disaster
13 that disrupt grazing on the allotments covered
14 by such grazing permit;

15 (B) the use of targeted grazing to reduce
16 hazardous fuels;

17 (C) an increase in the use of temporary
18 grazing permits to promote targeted fuels re-
19 duction and reduction of invasive annual
20 grasses;

21 (D) an increase in the use of livestock
22 grazing—

23 (i) to eradicate invasive annual
24 grasses; and

1 (ii) as a restoration strategy and for
2 post-fire recovery, as appropriate;

3 (E) the integrated use of advanced tech-
4 nologies to dynamically adjust livestock place-
5 ment on Federal land under the jurisdiction of
6 the Secretary concerned;

7 (F) an increase in the use of any authori-
8 ties applicable to livestock grazing, including
9 modifications to grazing permits or leases to
10 allow variances; and

11 (G) the use of grazing on Federal land
12 under the jurisdiction of the Secretary con-
13 cerned in a manner that—

14 (i) avoids conflicts with other uses of
15 such land; and

16 (ii) is consistent with any applicable
17 land management plan.

18 (b) EFFECT ON EXISTING GRAZING PROGRAMS.—

19 Nothing in this section affects—

20 (1) any livestock grazing program carried out
21 by the Secretary concerned as of the date of enact-
22 ment of this Act; or

23 (2) any statutory authority for any program de-
24 scribed in paragraph (1).

1 (c) SECRETARY CONCERNED DEFINED.—In this sec-
2 tion, the term “Secretary concerned” means—

3 (1) the Secretary of Agriculture, with respect to
4 National Forest System lands; and

5 (2) the Secretary of the Interior, with respect
6 to public lands.

7 **SEC. 8419. JOINT CHIEFS LANDSCAPE RESTORATION PART-**
8 **NERSHIP PROGRAM.**

9 Section 40808 of the Infrastructure Investment and
10 Jobs Act is amended—

11 (1) in subsection (g)(2), by inserting “and at
12 least once every 2 fiscal years thereafter” after “and
13 2023”; and

14 (2) in subsection (h)(1), by striking “and
15 2023” and inserting “through 2031”.

16 **SEC. 8420. TRIBAL FOREST MANAGEMENT PROGRAM TECH-**
17 **NICAL CORRECTION.**

18 Section 8703 of the Agriculture Improvement Act of
19 2018 is amended—

20 (1) in the heading, by striking “**DEMONSTRA-**
21 **TION PROJECT**” and inserting “**PROGRAM**”; and

22 (2) in subsection (a), by striking “demonstra-
23 tion projects by” and inserting “a program under”.

1 **PART III—TIMBER INNOVATION**

2 **SEC. 8431. COMMUNITY WOOD FACILITIES PROGRAM.**

3 Section 9013 of the Farm Security and Rural Invest-
4 ment Act of 2002 (7 U.S.C. 8113) is amended—

5 (1) in the heading, by striking “**COMMUNITY**
6 **WOOD ENERGY AND WOOD INNOVATION PRO-**
7 **GRAM**” and inserting “**COMMUNITY WOOD FA-**
8 **CILITIES PROGRAM**”;

9 (2) in subsection (a)—

10 (A) in paragraph (1)(A)(iii), in the matter
11 preceding subclause (I) by striking “woody bio-
12 mass, including residuals” and inserting “pri-
13 marily forest biomass, including processing or
14 manufacturing residuals”; and

15 (B) in paragraph (4), by striking “Com-
16 munity Wood Energy and Wood Innovation
17 Program” and inserting “Community Wood Fa-
18 cilities Program”;

19 (3) in subsection (b), by striking “to be known
20 as” and all that follows through the period at the
21 end and inserting “to be known as the ‘Community
22 Wood Facilities Program’.”;

23 (4) in subsection (d), by striking “exceed—” in
24 the matter preceding paragraph (1) and all that fol-
25 lows through the period at the end of paragraph (2)
26 and inserting “exceed \$5,000,000.”;

1 (5) in subsection (e)—

2 (A) by striking paragraph (1);

3 (B) by redesignating paragraphs (2)
4 through (8) as (1) through (7), respectively;
5 and

6 (C) in paragraph (1), as so redesignated,
7 by inserting “or market competitiveness” after
8 “cost effectiveness”;

9 (6) in subsection (f)—

10 (A) by striking paragraph (2);

11 (B) by redesignating paragraphs (3) and
12 (4) as paragraphs (2) and (3), respectively; and

13 (C) in paragraph (2), as so redesignated,
14 by striking “use or retrofitting (or both) of ex-
15 isting sawmill” and inserting “construction, use
16 or retrofitting of forest products manufac-
17 turing”;

18 (7) in subsection (g)—

19 (A) in paragraph (1), by striking “5
20 megawatts of thermal energy or combined ther-
21 mal and electric energy” and inserting “15
22 megawatts of thermal energy or combined ther-
23 mal and electric energy”; and

24 (B) in paragraph (2), by striking “25 per-
25 cent” and inserting “50 percent”; and

1 (8) in subsection (h), by striking “2023” and
2 inserting “2031”.

3 **SEC. 8432. WOOD INNOVATION GRANT PROGRAM.**

4 (a) APPLICATION TO TRANSPORTATION COSTS.—
5 Section 8643(b)(1) of the Agriculture Improvement Act
6 of 2018 (7 U.S.C. 7655d(b)(1)) is amended by inserting
7 “, including the construction of new facilities that advance
8 the purposes of the program and for the hauling of mate-
9 rial removed to reduce hazardous fuels to locations where
10 that material can be utilized” before the period at the end.

11 (b) TARGETING TO SUPPORT ECONOMIC DEVELOP-
12 MENT, ENHANCED BUILDING DESIGN, AND IMPACT AS-
13 SESSMENT.—Section 8643(c) of the Agriculture Improve-
14 ment Act of 2018 (7 U.S.C. 7655d(c)) is amended to read
15 as follows:

16 “(c) TARGETING TO SUPPORT ECONOMIC DEVELOP-
17 MENT, ENHANCED BUILDING DESIGN, AND IMPACT AS-
18 SESSMENT.—In selecting among proposals of eligible enti-
19 ties under subsection (b)(2), the Secretary may give pri-
20 ority to proposals for projects that—

21 “(1) include the use or retrofitting (or both) of
22 existing sawmill facilities located in counties in
23 which the average annual unemployment rate ex-
24 ceeded the national average unemployment rate by
25 more than 1 percent in the previous calendar year;

1 “(2) recognize or enhance carbon reduction
2 strategies in building design and interior wood prod-
3 ucts, including forest impacts, which can be im-
4 proved or by North American manufacturing; or

5 “(3) includes in the proposal of the entity an
6 analysis of the benefits that forest management
7 under the proposal will have on the resilience and
8 economy of the community, including benefits associ-
9 ated with—

10 “(A) wood products from anticipated wood
11 supply areas;

12 “(B) wildfire risk reduction;

13 “(C) increased fiber flow;

14 “(D) the increase of forest or mill jobs;

15 and

16 “(E) support for forested communities.”.

17 (c) MATCHING REQUIREMENT.—Section 8643(d) of
18 the Agriculture Improvement Act of 2018 (7 U.S.C.
19 7655d(d)) is amended by inserting “50 percent of” before
20 “the amount”.

21 **SEC. 8433. FOREST AND WOOD PRODUCTS DATA TRACKER.**

22 (a) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 2 years after the
23 date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary, acting
24 through the Chief of the Forest Service, in collaboration
25 with the Chief of the Natural Resources Conservation

1 Service and in consultation with federally-recognized In-
2 dian Tribes, State foresters, and private sector partners,
3 shall establish a publicly available platform to provide
4 measurement, monitoring, verification, and reporting data
5 regarding the carbon emissions, sequestration, storage,
6 and related atmospheric impacts of forest management
7 and wood products.

8 (b) ACTIVITIES.—In carrying out subsection (a), the
9 Secretary shall source data, information, and data anal-
10 ysis from Department programs and interagency pro-
11 grams, including—

12 (1) the Forest Inventory and Analysis program,
13 including the Timber Products Output survey;

14 (2) Forest Service and Natural Resources Con-
15 servation Service soil carbon estimations;

16 (3) the Forest Products Laboratory;

17 (4) the Federal Life Cycle Assessment Com-
18 mons;

19 (5) Department entity level guidelines; and

20 (6) other relevant programmatic data and infor-
21 mation sources, as published and made available.

22 (c) PRIORITIES.—The platform established by sub-
23 section (a) shall provide tools that calculate—

24 (1) the above- and below-ground forest carbon
25 stocks and stock changes associated with species

1 composition, forest management regime, and land-
2 owner types (including small area estimations for re-
3 gional and localized geographies across the United
4 States) made available through Forest Inventory and
5 Analysis updates and annual reports;

6 (2) the embodied carbon involved in the manu-
7 facture of products, using data from published envi-
8 ronmental product declarations and life cycle assess-
9 ments, updated as new and more refined data be-
10 comes available;

11 (3) the long-term stored carbon in manufac-
12 tured timber products; and

13 (4) the carbon displacement of wood products,
14 compared to other materials, using substitution fac-
15 tors.

16 (d) **RULE OF CONSTRUCTION.**—Nothing in this sec-
17 tion may be construed to provide authority with respect
18 to the generation, consumption, or trading of carbon or
19 environmental credits from National Forest System lands
20 in any voluntary or compliance environmental markets.

21 **SEC. 8434. BIOCHAR APPLICATION DEMONSTRATION**
22 **PROJECT.**

23 (a) **DEFINITIONS.**—In this section:

24 (1) **BIOCHAR.**—The term “biochar” means car-
25 bonized biomass produced by converting feedstock

1 through reductive thermal processing for non-fuel
2 uses.

3 (2) COVERED SECRETARIES.—The term “cov-
4 ered Secretaries” means—

5 (A) the Secretary, acting through the Chief
6 of the Forest Service;

7 (B) the Secretary of the Interior, acting
8 through the Director of the Bureau of Land
9 Management; and

10 (C) the Secretary of Energy, acting
11 through the Director of the Office of Science.

12 (3) ELIGIBLE ENTITY.—The term “eligible enti-
13 ty” means—

14 (A) a private, non-private, or cooperative
15 entity or organization;

16 (B) a State, local, special district, or Trib-
17 al government;

18 (C) an eligible institution;

19 (D) a National Laboratory (as such term
20 is defined in section 2 of the Energy Policy Act
21 of 2005 (42 U.S.C. 15801)); or

22 (E) a partnership or consortium of two or
23 more entities described in subparagraphs (A)
24 through (D).

1 (4) ELIGIBLE INSTITUTION.—The term “eligi-
2 ble institution” means land-grant colleges and uni-
3 versities, including institutions eligible for funding
4 under—

5 (A) the Act of July 2, 1862 (12 Stat. 503,
6 chapter 130; 7 U.S.C. 301 et seq.);

7 (B) the Act of August 30, 1890 (26 Stat.
8 417, chapter 841; 7 U.S.C. 321 et seq.), includ-
9 ing Tuskegee University;

10 (C) Public Law 87–788 (commonly known
11 as the “McIntire-Stennis Act of 1962”); or

12 (D) the Equity in Educational Land-Grant
13 Status Act of 1994 (7 U.S.C. 301 note; Public
14 Law 103–382).

15 (5) FEEDSTOCK.—The term “feedstock” means
16 excess biomass in the form of plant matter or mate-
17 rials that serves as the raw material for the produc-
18 tion of biochar.

19 (b) DEMONSTRATION PROJECTS.—

20 (1) ESTABLISHMENT.—

21 (A) IN GENERAL.—Subject to the avail-
22 ability of appropriations made in advance for
23 such purpose, not later than 2 years after the
24 date of the enactment of this Act, the covered
25 Secretaries shall establish a program to enter

1 into partnerships with eligible entities to carry
2 out demonstration projects to support the devel-
3 opment and commercialization of biochar in ac-
4 cordance with this subsection.

5 (B) LOCATION OF DEMONSTRATION
6 PROJECTS.—In carrying out the program estab-
7 lished under subparagraph (A), the covered
8 Secretaries shall, to the maximum extent prac-
9 ticable, enter into partnerships with eligible en-
10 tities such that not fewer than one demonstra-
11 tion project is carried out in each region of the
12 Forest Service and each region of the Bureau
13 of Land Management.

14 (2) PROPOSALS.—To be eligible to enter into a
15 partnership to carry out a biochar demonstration
16 project under paragraph (1)(A), an eligible entity
17 shall submit to the covered Secretaries a proposal at
18 such time, in such manner, and containing such in-
19 formation as the covered Secretaries may require.

20 (3) USE OF FUNDS.—In carrying out the pro-
21 gram established under paragraph (1)(A), the cov-
22 ered Secretaries may enter into partnerships and
23 provide funding to such partnerships to carry out
24 demonstration projects to—

1 (A) acquire and test various feedstocks and
2 their efficacy;

3 (B) develop and optimize commercially and
4 technologically viable biochar production units,
5 including mobile and permanent units;

6 (C) demonstrate—

7 (i) the production of biochar from for-
8 est residue; and

9 (ii) the use of biochar to restore forest
10 health and resiliency;

11 (D) build, expand, or establish biochar fa-
12 cilities;

13 (E) conduct research on new and innova-
14 tive uses of biochar;

15 (F) demonstrate cost-effective market op-
16 portunities for biochar and biochar-based prod-
17 ucts;

18 (G) carry out any other activities the cov-
19 ered Secretaries determine appropriate; or

20 (H) any combination of the purposes speci-
21 fied in subparagraphs (A) through (F).

22 (4) PRIORITY.—In selecting proposals under
23 paragraph (2), the covered Secretaries shall give pri-
24 ority to entering into partnerships with eligible enti-

1 ties that submit proposals to carry out biochar dem-
2 onstration projects that—

3 (A) have the most potential to create new
4 jobs and contribute to local economies, particu-
5 larly in rural areas;

6 (B) have the most potential to dem-
7 onstrate—

8 (i) new and innovative uses of biochar;

9 (ii) market viability for cost effective
10 biochar-based products;

11 (iii) the restorative benefits of biochar
12 with respect to forest health and resiliency,
13 including forest soils and watersheds; or

14 (iv) any combination of purposes spec-
15 ified in clauses (i) through (iii);

16 (C) are located in areas that have a high
17 need for biochar production, as determined by
18 the covered Secretaries, due to—

19 (i) nearby lands identified as having
20 high or very high or extreme risk of wild-
21 fire;

22 (ii) availability of sufficient quantities
23 of feedstocks; or

1 (iii) a high level of demand for
2 biochar or other commercial byproducts of
3 biochar; or

4 (D) satisfy any combination of purposes
5 specified in subparagraphs (A) through (C).

6 (5) FEEDSTOCK REQUIREMENTS.—To the max-
7 imum extent practicable, an eligible entity that car-
8 ries out a biochar demonstration project under this
9 subsection shall, with respect to the feedstock used
10 under such project, derive at least 50 percent of
11 such feedstock from forest thinning and manage-
12 ment activities, including mill residues, conducted on
13 National Forest System lands or public lands.

14 (6) REVIEW OF BIOCHAR DEMONSTRATION.—

15 (A) IN GENERAL.—The covered Secretaries
16 shall conduct regionally-specific research, in-
17 cluding economic analyses and life-cycle assess-
18 ments, on any biochar produced from a dem-
19 onstration project carried out under the pro-
20 gram established in paragraph (1)(A), includ-
21 ing—

22 (i) the effects of such biochar on—

23 (I) forest health and resiliency;

- 1 (II) carbon capture and seques-
2 tration, including increasing soil car-
3 bon in the short-term and long-term;
- 4 (III) productivity, reduced input
5 costs, and water retention in agricul-
6 tural practices;
- 7 (IV) the health of soil and grass-
8 lands used for grazing activities, in-
9 cluding grazing activities on National
10 Forest System land and public land;
11 and
- 12 (V) environmental remediation
13 activities, including abandoned mine
14 land remediation;
- 15 (ii) the effectiveness of biochar as a
16 co-product of biofuels or in biochemicals;
17 and
- 18 (iii) the effectiveness of other poten-
19 tial uses of biochar to determine if any
20 such use is technologically and commer-
21 cially viable.
- 22 (B) COORDINATION.—The covered Secre-
23 taries shall, to the maximum extent practicable,
24 provide data, analyses, and other relevant infor-

1 mation collected under subparagraph (A) with
2 recipients of a grant under subsection (b).

3 (7) LIMITATION ON FUNDING FOR ESTAB-
4 LISHING BIOCHAR FACILITIES.—If the covered Sec-
5 retaries provide to an eligible entity that enters into
6 a partnership with the covered Secretaries under
7 paragraph (1)(A) funding for establishing a biochar
8 facility, such funding may not exceed 35 percent of
9 the capital cost of establishing such biochar facility.

10 (c) BIOCHAR RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT GRANT
11 PROGRAM.—

12 (1) ESTABLISHMENT.—The Secretary of the In-
13 terior, in consultation with the Secretary of Energy,
14 shall establish or expand an existing applied biochar
15 research and development grant program to make
16 competitive grants to eligible institutions to carry
17 out the activities described in paragraph (3).

18 (2) APPLICATIONS.—To be eligible to receive a
19 grant under this subsection, an eligible institution
20 shall submit to the Secretary a proposal at such
21 time, in such manner, and containing such informa-
22 tion as the Secretary may require.

23 (3) USE OF FUNDS.—An eligible institution
24 that receives a grant under this subsection shall use
25 the grant funds to conduct applied research on—

1 (A) the effect of biochar on forest health
2 and resiliency, accounting for variations in
3 biochar, soil, climate, and other factors;

4 (B) the effect of biochar on soil health and
5 water retention, accounting for variations in
6 biochar, soil, climate, and other factors;

7 (C) the long-term carbon sequestration po-
8 tential of biochar;

9 (D) the best management practices with
10 respect to biochar and biochar-based product
11 that maximize—

12 (i) carbon sequestration benefits; and

13 (ii) the commercial viability and appli-
14 cation of such products in forestry, agri-
15 culture, environmental remediation, water
16 quality improvement, and any other similar
17 uses, as determined by the Secretary;

18 (E) the regional uses of biochar to increase
19 productivity and profitability, including—

20 (i) uses in agriculture and environ-
21 mental remediation; and

22 (ii) use as a co-product in fuel produc-
23 tion;

24 (F) new and innovative uses for biochar
25 byproducts; and

1 (G) opportunities to expand markets for
2 biochar and create related jobs, particularly in
3 rural areas.

4 (d) REPORTS.—

5 (1) REPORT TO CONGRESS.—Not later than 2
6 years after the date of enactment of this Act, the
7 covered Secretaries shall submit to Congress a re-
8 port that—

9 (A) includes policy and program rec-
10 ommendations to improve the widespread use of
11 biochar;

12 (B) identifies any area of research needed
13 to advance biochar commercialization; and

14 (C) identifies barriers to further biochar
15 commercialization, including permitting and
16 siting considerations.

17 (2) MATERIALS SUBMITTED IN SUPPORT OF
18 THE PRESIDENT'S BUDGET.—Beginning with the
19 second fiscal year that begins after the date of en-
20 actment of this Act and annually thereafter until the
21 date described in subsection (e), the covered Secre-
22 taries shall include in the materials submitted to
23 Congress in support of the President's budget pursu-
24 ant to section 1105 of title 31, United States Code,
25 a report describing, for the fiscal year covered by the

1 report, the status of each demonstration project car-
2 ried out under subsection (a) and each research and
3 development grant carried out under subsection (b).

4 (e) SUNSET.—The authority to carry out this section
5 shall terminate on the date that is 7 years after the date
6 of enactment of this Act.

7 **Subtitle E—Other Matters**

8 **SEC. 8501. RURAL REVITALIZATION TECHNOLOGIES.**

9 Section 2371(d)(2) of the Food, Agriculture, Con-
10 servation, and Trade Act of 1990 (7 U.S.C. 6601(d)(2))
11 is amended by striking “2023” and inserting “2031”.

12 **SEC. 8502. RESOURCE ADVISORY COMMITTEES.**

13 Section 205 of the Secure Rural Schools and Commu-
14 nity Self-Determination Act of 2000 (16 U.S.C. 7125) is
15 amended—

16 (1) in subsection (c), by adding at the end the
17 following:

18 “(6) APPOINTMENTS BY APPLICABLE REGIONAL
19 FORESTERS.—In making appointments under this
20 subsection, the Secretary concerned may act through
21 the applicable regional forester so long as before the
22 applicable regional forester makes an appointment,
23 the applicable regional forester conducts the review
24 and analysis that would otherwise be conducted for
25 an appointment to a resource advisory committee,

1 including any review and analysis with respect to
2 civil rights, budgetary requirements, vetting, and re-
3 porting, as the Secretary concerned determines ap-
4 propriate.”;

5 (2) in subsection (d)(6), by striking “October 1,
6 2026” and inserting “October 1, 2031”; and

7 (3) by striking subsection (g).

8 **SEC. 8503. ACCURATE HAZARDOUS FUELS REDUCTION RE-**
9 **PORTS.**

10 (a) MATERIALS SUBMITTED IN SUPPORT OF PRESI-
11 DENT’S BUDGET.—

12 (1) IN GENERAL.—Beginning with the first fis-
13 cal year that begins after the date of the enactment
14 of this Act, and annually thereafter, the Secretary
15 concerned shall include in the materials submitted to
16 Congress in support of the President’s budget pursu-
17 ant to section 1105 of title 31, United States Code,
18 a report describing the number of acres of Federal
19 land on which the Secretary concerned carried out
20 hazardous fuels reduction activities during the pre-
21 ceding fiscal year, as determined using—

22 (A) the methodology of the Secretary con-
23 cerned in effect on the day before the date of
24 enactment of this Act; and

1 (B) the methodology described in para-
2 graph (2).

3 (2) REQUIREMENTS.—For purposes of a report
4 required under paragraph (1), the Secretary con-
5 cerned shall—

6 (A) in determining the number of acres of
7 Federal land on which the Secretary concerned
8 carried out hazardous fuels reduction activities
9 during the period covered by the report—

10 (i) record acres of Federal land on
11 which hazardous fuels reduction activities
12 were completed during that period; and

13 (ii) record each acre described in
14 clause (i) once in the report, regardless of
15 whether multiple hazardous fuels reduction
16 activities were carried out on that acre
17 during the applicable period; and

18 (B) with respect to the acres of Federal
19 land recorded in the report, include information
20 relating to—

21 (i) which acres are located in the
22 wildland-urban interface;

23 (ii) the level of hazard potential of the
24 acres on the first and last day of the pe-
25 riod covered by the report;

1 (iii) the types of hazardous fuels re-
2 duction activities completed with respect to
3 the acres, including a description of wheth-
4 er those hazardous fuels reduction activi-
5 ties were conducted—

6 (I) in a wildfire managed for re-
7 source benefits; or

8 (II) through a planned hazardous
9 fuels reduction project;

10 (iv) the cost per-acre of the hazardous
11 fuels reduction activities carried out during
12 the period covered by the report;

13 (v) the region or System unit in which
14 the acres are located; and

15 (vi) the effectiveness of the hazardous
16 fuels reduction activities with respect to re-
17 ducing the risk of wildfire.

18 (3) TRANSPARENCY.—The Secretary concerned
19 shall make each report submitted under paragraph
20 (1) publicly available on the website of the Depart-
21 ment of Agriculture or the Department of the Inte-
22 rior, as applicable.

23 (b) ACCURATE DATA COLLECTION.—

24 (1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 90 days after
25 the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary con-

1 cerned shall implement standardized procedures for
2 tracking data related to hazardous fuels reduction
3 activities carried out by the Secretary concerned.

4 (2) ELEMENTS.—The standardized procedures
5 required under paragraph (1) shall include—

6 (A) regular, standardized data reviews of
7 the accuracy and timely input of data used to
8 track hazardous fuels reduction activities;

9 (B) verification methods that validate
10 whether those data accurately correlate to the
11 hazardous fuels reduction activities carried out
12 by the Secretary concerned;

13 (C) an analysis of the short- and long-term
14 effectiveness of the hazardous fuels reduction
15 activities on reducing the risk of wildfire; and

16 (D) for hazardous fuels reduction activities
17 that occur partially within the wildland-urban
18 interface, methods to distinguish which acres
19 are located within the wildland-urban interface
20 and which acres are located outside the
21 wildland-urban interface.

22 (3) REPORT.—Not later than 45 days after im-
23 plementing the standardized procedures required
24 under paragraph (1), the Secretary concerned shall
25 submit to Congress a report that describes—

1 (A) the standardized procedures; and

2 (B) any programmatic or policy rec-
3 ommendations to Congress to address limita-
4 tions in tracking data relating to hazardous
5 fuels reduction activities under this subsection.

6 (c) GAO STUDY.—Not later than 2 years after the
7 date of enactment of this Act, the Comptroller General
8 of the United States shall—

9 (1) conduct a study regarding the implementa-
10 tion of this section, including any limitations with
11 respect to—

12 (A) reporting hazardous fuels reduction ac-
13 tivities under subsection (a); or

14 (B) tracking data relating to hazardous
15 fuels reduction activities under subsection (b);
16 and

17 (2) submit to Congress a report that describes
18 the results of the study under paragraph (1).

19 (d) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

20 (1) HAZARDOUS FUELS REDUCTION ACTIV-
21 ITY.—

22 (A) IN GENERAL.—The term “hazardous
23 fuels reduction activity” means any vegetation
24 management activity to reduce the risk of wild-

1 fire, including mechanical treatments, grazing,
2 and prescribed burning.

3 (B) EXCLUSION.—The term “hazardous
4 fuels reduction activity” does not include the
5 awarding of a contract to conduct an activity
6 described in subparagraph (A).

7 (2) FEDERAL LAND.—The term “Federal land”
8 means any land under the jurisdiction of—

9 (A) the Secretary; or

10 (B) the Secretary of the Interior.

11 (3) SECRETARY CONCERNED.—The term “Sec-
12 retary concerned” means—

13 (A) the Secretary of Agriculture, with re-
14 spect to National Forest System lands; and

15 (B) the Secretary of the Interior, with re-
16 spect to public lands.

17 (e) NO ADDITIONAL FUNDS AUTHORIZED.—

18 (1) IN GENERAL.—No additional funds are au-
19 thorized to carry out this section.

20 (2) SUBJECT TO APPROPRIATIONS.—The activi-
21 ties authorized by this section are subject to the
22 availability of appropriations made in advance for
23 those purposes.

1 **SEC. 8504. SPECIAL USE AUTHORIZATION RENTAL FEE**
2 **WAIVER.**

3 All or part of the programmatic administrative fee,
4 and any fees related to the special use authorization, as
5 appropriate, may be waived by the Secretary, acting
6 through the Chief of the Forest Service, when equitable
7 and in the public interest as determined by the Chief of
8 the Forest Service, for the use and occupancy of National
9 Forest System land in the following circumstances:

10 (1) The holder of the special use authorization
11 is a State or local government or any agency or in-
12 strumentality thereof, excluding municipal utilities
13 and cooperatives whose principal source of revenue is
14 customer charges.

15 (2) The holder is—

16 (A) an organization described in section
17 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986
18 and is exempt from taxation under section
19 501(a) of such Code;

20 (B) not controlled or owned by profit-mak-
21 ing corporation or business enterprise; and

22 (C) is engaged in public or semi-public ac-
23 tivity to further public health, safety, or wel-
24 fare.

25 (3) The holder is an amateur station, amateur
26 operator, or provides amateur radio services, as

1 those terms are defined in section 97.3 of title 47,
2 Code of Federal Regulations (or successor regula-
3 tions).

4 (4) Other circumstances the Secretary, acting
5 through the Chief of the Forest Service, determines
6 appropriate.

7 **SEC. 8505. CHARGES AND FEES FOR HARVEST OF FOREST**
8 **BOTANICAL PRODUCTS.**

9 (a) RECOVERY OF FAIR MARKET VALUE FOR PROD-
10 UCTS.—

11 (1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary, acting
12 through the Chief of the Forest Service, shall estab-
13 lish and carry out a program to charge and collect
14 fees under subsection (b) for forest botanical prod-
15 ucts harvested on National Forest System lands.

16 (2) APPRAISAL METHODS; BIDDING PROCE-
17 DURES.—The Secretary, acting through the Chief of
18 the Forest Service, shall establish a fee system based
19 on fair market value for forest botanical products
20 harvested on National Forest System lands.

21 (b) FEES.—

22 (1) IMPOSITION AND COLLECTION.—The Sec-
23 retary shall charge and collect fees from persons who
24 harvest forest botanical products on National Forest
25 System lands.

1 (2) AMOUNT OF FEE.—The fees collected under
2 paragraph (1) shall be based on the fair market
3 value of the harvested forest botanical products and
4 the costs incurred by the Secretary associated with
5 the granting, modifying, or monitoring the author-
6 ization for harvest of the forest botanical products,
7 including the costs of any environmental or other
8 analysis.

9 (3) SECURITY.—The Secretary, acting through
10 the Chief of the Forest Service, may require a per-
11 son assessed a fee under this subsection to provide
12 security to ensure that the Secretary receives the
13 fees imposed under this subsection from the person.

14 (c) SUSTAINABLE HARVEST LEVELS FOR FOREST
15 BOTANICAL PRODUCTS.—

16 (1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary, acting
17 through the Chief of the Forest Service, shall—

18 (A) conduct appropriate analyses to deter-
19 mine whether and how the harvest of forest bo-
20 tanical products on National Forest System
21 lands can be conducted on a sustainable basis;
22 and

23 (B) establish procedures and timeframes to
24 monitor and revise the harvest levels established
25 for forest botanical products.

1 (2) PROHIBITION ON HARVEST IN EXCESS OF
2 SUSTAINABLE LEVELS.—The Secretary, acting
3 through the Chief of the Forest Service, may not
4 permit under the program under this section the
5 harvest of forest botanical products on National
6 Forest System lands at levels in excess of sustain-
7 able harvest levels, as defined under section 4 of the
8 Multiple-Use Sustained-Yield Act of 1960 (16
9 U.S.C. 531).

10 (d) WAIVER AUTHORITY.—

11 (1) PERSONAL USE.—The Secretary, acting
12 through the Chief of the Forest Service, shall estab-
13 lish a personal use harvest level for each forest bo-
14 tanical product, and the harvest of a forest botanical
15 product below that level by a person for personal use
16 shall not be subject to charges and fees under sub-
17 sections (a) and (b).

18 (2) OTHER EXCEPTIONS.—The Secretary, act-
19 ing through the Chief of the Forest Service, may
20 also waive the application of subsection (a) or (b)
21 pursuant to such regulations as the Secretary may
22 prescribe.

23 (e) DEPOSIT AND USE OF FUNDS.—

24 (1) DEPOSIT.—Funds collected under the pro-
25 gram in accordance with subsections (a) and (b)

1 shall be deposited into a special account in the
2 United States Treasury.

3 (2) FUNDS AVAILABLE.—Funds deposited into
4 the special account in accordance with paragraph (1)
5 shall remain available until expended without further
6 appropriation.

7 (3) AUTHORIZED USES.—The funds made avail-
8 able under paragraph (2) shall be expended at units
9 of the National Forest System in proportion to the
10 charges and fees collected at that unit under the
11 program under this section to pay for—

12 (A) the costs of conducting inventories of
13 forest botanical products, determining sustain-
14 able levels of harvest, monitoring and assessing
15 the impacts of harvest levels and methods, and
16 for restoration activities, including any nec-
17 essary revegetation; and

18 (B) the costs described in subsection
19 (b)(2).

20 (4) TREATMENT OF FEES.—Funds collected
21 under the program in accordance with subsections
22 (a) and (b) shall not be taken into account for the
23 purposes of the following laws:

24 (A) The sixth paragraph under the head-
25 ing “forest service” in the Act of May 23, 1908

1 (16 U.S.C. 500), and section 13 of the Act of
2 March 1, 1911 (commonly known as the Weeks
3 Act; 16 U.S.C. 500).

4 (B) The fourteenth paragraph under the
5 heading “forest service” in the Act of March 4,
6 1913 (16 U.S.C. 501).

7 (C) Section 33 of the Bankhead-Jones
8 Farm Tenant Act (7 U.S.C. 1012).

9 (D) The Act of August 28, 1937 (43
10 U.S.C. 2601 et seq.) and the Act of May 24,
11 1939 (43 U.S.C. 2621 et seq.).

12 (E) Section 6 of the Act of June 14, 1926
13 (commonly known as the Recreation and Public
14 Purposes Act; 43 U.S.C. 869–4).

15 (F) Chapter 69 of title 31, United States
16 Code.

17 (G) Section 401 of the Act of June 15,
18 1935 (16 U.S.C. 715s).

19 (H) Section 100904 of title 54, United
20 States Code.

21 (I) Any other provision of law relating to
22 revenue allocation.

23 (f) REPORTING REQUIREMENTS.—As soon as prac-
24 ticable after the end of each fiscal year in which the Sec-
25 retary collects charges and fees under the program in ac-

1 cordance with subsections (a) and (b) or expends funds
2 from the special account under subsection (e), the Sec-
3 retary, acting through the Chief of the Forest Service,
4 shall submit to the Congress a report summarizing the ac-
5 tivities of the Secretary under the program under this sec-
6 tion, including the funds collected under the program in
7 accordance with subsections (a) and (b), the expenses in-
8 curred to carry out the program under this section, and
9 the expenditures made from the special account during
10 that fiscal year.

11 (g) DEFINITIONS.—For purposes of this section:

12 (1) FOREST BOTANICAL PRODUCT.—The term
13 “forest botanical product”—

14 (A) means any naturally occurring mush-
15 room, fungus, flower, seed, root, bark, leaf,
16 berry, bough, bryophyte, bulb, burl, cone,
17 epiphyte, fern, forb, grass, moss, nut, pine
18 straw, sedge, shrub, transplant, tree sap, or
19 other vegetation (or portion thereof) that grows
20 on National Forest System lands; and

21 (B) does not include trees, or portions of
22 trees, except as provided in regulations issued
23 under section 339 of the Department of the In-
24 terior and Related Agencies Appropriations Act

1 of 2000 (16 U.S.C. 528 note) by the Secretary
2 before the date of enactment of this Act.

3 (2) NATIONAL FOREST SYSTEM.—The term
4 “National Forest System” has the meaning given
5 that term in section 11(a) of the Forest and Range-
6 land Renewable Resources Planning Act of 1974 (16
7 U.S.C. 1609(a)).

8 **SEC. 8506. FOREST SERVICE LEGACY ROAD AND TRAIL RE-**
9 **MEDIATION PROGRAM TRANSPARENCY.**

10 Section 8 of Public Law 88–657 (16 U.S.C. 538a)
11 is amended—

12 (1) in subsection (c)(2)—

13 (A) by striking subparagraph (B) and in-
14 serting the following:

15 “(B) solicit and consider public input re-
16 gionally in selecting projects for funding under
17 the Program by—

18 “(i) publishing annually, for each re-
19 gion, a list of projects considered for fund-
20 ing under the Program;

21 “(ii) accepting public comment on the
22 projects described in clause (i); and

23 “(iii) considering public comments in
24 selecting projects for funding under the
25 Program;”; and

1 (B) in subparagraph (D)—

2 (i) in the matter preceding clause (i),
3 by inserting “annually, for each region,”
4 before “publish”; and

5 (ii) by striking clause (ii) and insert-
6 ing the following:

7 “(ii) a list that includes a description
8 of—

9 “(I) each project considered for
10 funding under the Program;

11 “(II) public comments received
12 on each project described in subclause
13 (I);

14 “(III) the ranking within the ap-
15 plicable region of each project de-
16 scribed in subclause (I); and

17 “(IV) the proposed outcome of
18 each project funded under the Pro-
19 gram for the applicable fiscal year.”;
20 and

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

22 “(f) DEFINITION OF REGION.—In this section, the
23 term ‘region’ means one of the 9 regions of the Forest
24 Service.”.

1 **SEC. 8507. DIRECT HIRE AUTHORITY.**

2 For fiscal year 2026 and each fiscal year thereafter,
3 the Secretary may appoint, without regard to the provi-
4 sions of subchapter I of chapter 33 of title 5, United
5 States Code, other than sections 3303 and 3328 of that
6 title, a Job Corps graduate (as defined in section 142(5)
7 of the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (29
8 U.S.C. 3192(5))) to a position in the competitive service
9 in the Forest Service for which the graduate meets the
10 qualification standards.

11 **SEC. 8508. IMPROVING THE EMERGENCY FOREST RESTORA-**
12 **TION PROGRAM.**

13 Section 407 of the Agricultural Credit Act of 1978
14 (16 U.S.C. 2206) is amended—

15 (1) by redesignating subsection (e) as sub-
16 section (f); and

17 (2) by inserting after subsection (d) the fol-
18 lowing:

19 “(e) ADVANCE PAYMENTS.—

20 “(1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall give an
21 owner of nonindustrial private forest land the option
22 of receiving, before the owner carries out emergency
23 measures under this section, not more than 75 per-
24 cent of the cost of the emergency measures, as de-
25 termined by the Secretary based on the fair market
26 value of the cost of the emergency measures using

1 the estimated cost of the applicable practice pub-
2 lished in the Field Office Technical Guide of each
3 State by the Natural Resources Conservation Serv-
4 ice.

5 “(2) RETURN OF FUNDS.—If the funds pro-
6 vided under paragraph (1) are not expended by the
7 end of the 180-day period beginning on the date on
8 which the owner of nonindustrial private forest land
9 receives those funds, the funds shall be returned to
10 the Secretary within a reasonable timeframe, as de-
11 termined by the Secretary.”

12 **SEC. 8509. EXEMPTION FOR PREVIOUSLY ANALYZED AREAS**
13 **OF NATIONAL FOREST SYSTEM LANDS.**

14 (a) IN GENERAL.—The requirements under the Na-
15 tional Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (42 U.S.C. 4321
16 et seq.) or division A of subtitle 54, United States Code,
17 shall not apply to an application for a communications use
18 authorization on National Forest System lands, including
19 National Forest System lands on which authorized utili-
20 ties, communications facilities, powerline facilities or roads
21 have been installed, if—

22 (1) the communications equipment is located in
23 or on existing infrastructure; or

1 (2) the communications facility is located on
2 previously analyzed areas of National Forest System
3 lands.

4 (b) NO ADDITIONAL CONSULTATION REQUIRED
5 UNDER CERTAIN CIRCUMSTANCES.—Notwithstanding
6 any other provision of law, the Secretary shall not be re-
7 quired to reinitiate consultation of the requirements under
8 the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (42 U.S.C.
9 4321 et seq.) or division A of subtitle 54, United States
10 Code, for an application for a communications use author-
11 ization on previously analyzed areas of National Forest
12 System lands if new information concerning a previously
13 analyzed area of National Forest System lands becomes
14 available.

15 (c) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

16 (1) COMMUNICATIONS FACILITY; COMMUNICA-
17 TIONS USE AUTHORIZATION.—The terms “commu-
18 nications facility” and “communications use author-
19 ization” have the meanings given the terms, respec-
20 tively, in section 8705 of the Agriculture Improve-
21 ment Act of 2018 (43 U.S.C. 1761a).

22 (2) PREVIOUSLY ANALYZED AREAS OF NA-
23 TIONAL FOREST SYSTEM LANDS.—The term “pre-
24 viously analyzed areas of National Forest System

1 lands” means any National Forest System lands
2 with respect to which the Secretary has—

3 (A) granted, issued, and executed a com-
4 munications use authorization; and

5 (B) conducted sufficient environmental or
6 historical reviews.

7 (3) SECRETARY.—The term “Secretary” means
8 the Secretary of Agriculture, acting through the
9 Chief of the Forest Service.

10 **SEC. 8510. RELEASE OF REVERSIONARY INTEREST IN**
11 **BLACK RIVER STATE FOREST.**

12 (a) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

13 (1) DELI, INC.—The term “Deli, Inc.” means
14 Deli, Inc., a sphagnum moss production business lo-
15 cated in Millston, Wisconsin.

16 (2) DELI LAND.—The term “Deli land” means
17 the approximately 37.27 acres of land owned or
18 optioned to acquire, subject to the approval of the
19 land exchange by the Wisconsin Department of Nat-
20 ural Resources, the Wisconsin Natural Resources
21 Board, and the Governor of Wisconsin, in 2 separate
22 parcels, by Deli, Inc., and located in Millston, Wis-
23 consin, as depicted on the map and as described as
24 follows:

1 (A) A parcel of real property containing
2 approximately 31.3 acres (which includes land
3 within the road right-of-way), together with any
4 improvements—

5 (i) comprising the NE¹/₄NE¹/₄ sec.
6 29, T. 20 N., R. 2 W., Town of Millston,
7 Jackson County, Wisconsin;

8 (ii) excluding—

9 (I) land lying north of the rail-
10 road right-of-way; and

11 (II) a parcel 150 feet wide, with
12 50 feet lying to the northeast, and
13 100 feet to the southwest, of a line
14 commencing at a point 5 feet east of
15 the northwest corner of the quarter-
16 quarter section described in clause (i),
17 thence south 56° east 39“ a distance
18 of 222 feet, thence south 57° east 31”
19 a distance of 1359 feet; and

20 (iii) subject to—

21 (I) any public water use or ease-
22 ments on Lee Lake; and

23 (II) any easements or restrictions
24 of record, public roadways, zoning and

1 use ordinances, and the railroad right-
2 of-way.

3 (B) A parcel of real property containing
4 approximately 5.97 acres located in the
5 SW¹/₄SW¹/₄ sec. 20, T. 20 N., R. 4 W., Town
6 of Millston, Jackson County, Wisconsin, com-
7 prising lot 7 of Certified Survey Map No. 4483,
8 as recorded in volume 19S of the certified sur-
9 vey maps, page 334, as Document No. 413440
10 in the Jackson County Register of Deeds.

11 (3) MAP.—The term “map” means the map en-
12 titled “Black River State Forest—Deli, Inc.” and
13 dated June 26, 2023.

14 (4) STATE.—The term “State” means the State
15 of Wisconsin.

16 (5) STATE FOREST LAND.—The term “State
17 forest land” means the approximately 31.83 acres of
18 land located in the Black River State Forest in
19 Millston, Wisconsin, as depicted on the map and as
20 described as follows:

21 (A) A parcel containing 23.13 acres—

22 (i) comprising the portion of the
23 E¹/₂SE¹/₄ sec. 20, T. 20 N., R. 2. W.,
24 Town of Millston, Jackson County, Wis-

1 consin, lying south of the Interstate High-
2 way 94 southern right-of-way; and

3 (ii) excluding a triangular parcel in
4 the southwest corner described as com-
5 mencing at the southwest corner, thence
6 east 260 feet, thence northwesterly to a
7 point on the west boundary thereof 200
8 feet north of the southwest corner, thence
9 south to the place of beginning.

10 (B) A parcel containing 8.70 acres com-
11 prising the portion of the NE¹/₄NE¹/₄ sec. 29,
12 T. 20 N., R. 2. W., Town of Millston, Jackson
13 County, Wisconsin, lying north of the railroad
14 right-of-way, forming a triangular piece and de-
15 scribed as commencing at the northeast corner
16 of that quarter-quarter section, thence west
17 1010 feet to the north line of the railroad right-
18 of-way, thence southeasterly along the boundary
19 of the railroad to the east line of that quarter-
20 quarter section, thence north on the east line
21 750 feet to the place of beginning.

22 (b) CONDITIONAL RELEASE.—

23 (1) FINDINGS.—Congress finds that—

24 (A) the State forest land is subject to a re-
25 versionary interest of the United States pursu-

1 ant to section 32(c) of The Bankhead-Jones
2 Farm Tenant Act (7 U.S.C. 1011(c)), requiring
3 that the State forest land be used for public
4 purposes in perpetuity; and

5 (B) the State and Deli, Inc. have agreed
6 that the State will convey the State forest land
7 in exchange for the Deli land, and the Deli land
8 will be added to Black River State Forest in the
9 State.

10 (2) CONDITIONAL RELEASE.—If the State of-
11 fers in a written agreement to convey the State for-
12 est land to Deli, Inc., in exchange for the conveyance
13 of the Deli land to the State—

14 (A) the reversionary interest of the United
15 States in the State forest land shall be released;
16 and

17 (B) the Secretary shall provide, as expedi-
18 tiously as possible, recordable evidence of the
19 release under subparagraph (A) in the form of
20 a quitclaim deed, which shall—

21 (i) convey any interest of the United
22 States in the State forest land without
23 consideration; and

1 (ii) be provided to the State for re-
2 cording before the exchange deeds are re-
3 corded.

4 (3) CORRECTIONS.—The Secretary, in consulta-
5 tion with the State, may make any necessary correc-
6 tions to the legal description of the State forest land
7 for purposes of the quitclaim deed described in para-
8 graph (2)(B).

9 **TITLE IX—ENERGY**

10 **SEC. 9001. DEFINITION OF ADVANCED BIOFUEL.**

11 Section 9001(3)(B)(iv) of the Farm Security and
12 Rural Investment Act of 2002 (7 U.S.C. 8101(3)(B)(iv))
13 is amended by inserting “and sustainable aviation fuel”
14 after “diesel-equivalent fuel”.

15 **SEC. 9002. BIOBASED MARKETS PROGRAM.**

16 Section 9002 of the Farm Security and Rural Invest-
17 ment Act of 2002 (7 U.S.C. 8102) is amended—

18 (1) in subsection (a)—

19 (A) in paragraph (2), by adding at the end
20 the following:

21 “(G) **PROCUREMENT RESOURCES.**—The
22 Office of Federal Procurement Policy, in coordi-
23 nation with the Secretary, shall provide edu-
24 cational materials to procuring agencies to con-
25 sider the longevity of a product, economic sav-

1 ings, and the efficacy and performance of a
2 product when making procurement decisions
3 under this subsection.”; and

4 (B) in paragraph (4)—

5 (i) in subparagraph (A), by striking
6 clause (ii) and redesignating clauses (iii)
7 and (iv) as clauses (ii) and (iii), respec-
8 tively;

9 (ii) in subparagraph (B)(i)—

10 (I) in the matter preceding sub-
11 clause (I)—

12 (aa) by inserting “and the
13 Secretary” after “Policy”; and

14 (bb) by striking “informa-
15 tion concerning—” and inserting
16 “a report that describes, for the
17 year covered by the report—”;

18 (II) in subclause (I), by inserting
19 “, including the actions taken by the
20 procuring agency to establish and im-
21 plement the biobased procurement
22 program of the procuring agency
23 under that paragraph” before the
24 semicolon;

1 (III) in subclause (IV), by strik-
2 ing “and” at the end;

3 (IV) in subclause (V), by striking
4 “and” at the end; and

5 (V) by adding at the end the fol-
6 lowing:

7 “(VI)(aa) the specific categories
8 of biobased products that are unavail-
9 able to meet procurement needs of the
10 procuring agencies; and

11 “(bb) the desired performance
12 characteristics and other relevant
13 specifications for those products; and

14 “(VII) if applicable, an expla-
15 nation of the procurement require-
16 ment or updated procurement require-
17 ment established under paragraph
18 (2)(A)(i) that procuring agencies
19 failed to meet and reasons for the fail-
20 ure; and”;

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

23 “(D) ACCOUNTABILITY.—The Office of
24 Federal Procurement Policy, in consultation
25 with the Secretary, shall annually—

1 “(i) collect the information required to
2 be reported under subparagraph (B) and
3 make the information publicly available;

4 “(ii) using the information collected
5 under subparagraph (B) of this paragraph,
6 document relevant procuring agencies
7 under paragraph (2)(A)(i) that, as applica-
8 ble, have established a procurement pro-
9 gram in accordance with paragraph
10 (2)(A)(i)(I); and

11 “(iii) make the information publicly
12 available, subject to the exemptions from
13 disclosure under section 552(b) of title 5,
14 United States Code.”;

15 (2) in subsection (f)—

16 (A) in paragraph (1)—

17 (i) in the heading, by inserting “AND
18 NAPCS” before “CODES”;

19 (ii) by inserting “and North American
20 Products Classification System codes” be-
21 fore “for—”; and

22 (iii) by striking subparagraphs (A)
23 and (B) and inserting the following:

24 “(A) renewable chemicals manufacturers
25 and biobased products manufacturers; and

1 “(B) renewable chemicals and biobased
2 products.”; and

3 (B) by redesignating paragraph (2) as
4 paragraph (3) and inserting after paragraph
5 (1) the following:

6 “(2) REPORT.—To inform the development of
7 codes under paragraph (1), the Secretary shall,
8 within 90 days after the date of the enactment of
9 this paragraph, submit to the Committee on Agri-
10 culture of the House of Representatives and the
11 Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry
12 of the Senate, a report that provides—

13 “(A) the Federal statistical collections of
14 information related to the North American In-
15 dustry Classification System codes and the
16 North American Product Classification System
17 codes that utilize bioeconomy-specific data;

18 “(B) recommendations to implement any
19 bioeconomy related changes as part of the 2027
20 revisions of the North American Industry Clas-
21 sification System codes and the North Amer-
22 ican Product Classification System codes; and

23 “(C) an assessment of the impacts that
24 bioeconomy-specific North American Industry
25 Classification System codes and North Amer-

1 ican Products Classification System codes
2 would have on the measurement by the agency
3 of the economic contributions of the bio-
4 economy.”; and

5 (3) in subsection (k)—

6 (A) in paragraph (1), by striking “2024”
7 and inserting “2031”; and

8 (B) in paragraph (2), by striking “2023”
9 and inserting “2031”.

10 **SEC. 9003. BIOREFINERY ASSISTANCE.**

11 (a) IN GENERAL.—Section 9003 of the Farm Secu-
12 rity and Rural Investment Act of 2002 (7 U.S.C. 8103)
13 is amended—

14 (1) in subsection (b)(1)—

15 (A) by inserting “or innovative” before
16 “commercial-scale”; and

17 (B) by inserting “, renewable chemicals, or
18 biobased products” after “end-user products”;

19 (2) in subsection (d)(1)—

20 (A) in subparagraph (B)—

21 (i) by striking all that precedes “a
22 loan guarantee” and inserting the fol-
23 lowing:

24 “(B) FEASIBILITY.—

1 “(i) IN GENERAL.—In approving”;

2 and

3 (ii) by adding after and below the end
4 the following:

5 “(ii) WAIVER.—The Secretary may
6 waive the requirement that the applicant
7 must demonstrate commercial viability for
8 projects adopting commercially available
9 technology.”;

10 (B) by redesignating subparagraphs (C)
11 and (D) as subparagraphs (D) and (E), respec-
12 tively; and

13 (C) by inserting after subparagraph (B)
14 the following:

15 “(C) TECHNICAL REVIEW AGREEMENT.—

16 “(i) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary
17 shall enter into an agreement with each
18 project applicant that clearly outlines the
19 specific objectives, outcomes, and condi-
20 tions by which the Secretary determines
21 successful technical feasibility of the
22 project under this section.

23 “(ii) CONDITIONS OF AGREEMENT.—
24 The agreement provided under clause (i)
25 shall include clear guidelines and expecta-

1 tions for the methodologies, protocols, and
2 procedures, and what the eligible tech-
3 nology must demonstrate, for the Depart-
4 ment to determine technical feasibility
5 from an integrated demonstration unit, in-
6 cluding—

7 “(I) a set timeline for the inte-
8 grated demonstration unit campaign
9 and final technical report to show reli-
10 able evidence of continuous, steady-
11 state production;

12 “(II) criteria and methods for
13 evaluating the project’s success, in-
14 cluding any third-party assessments
15 or evaluations that may be conducted
16 during the demonstration period and
17 at the conclusion of the set timeline;

18 “(III) criteria and methods to
19 prove the ability of the integrated
20 demonstration unit to use project-spe-
21 cific feedstock for the production of
22 advanced biofuels, renewable chemi-
23 cals, or biobased products at a yield
24 and quality consistent with the design
25 basis of the project;

1 “(IV) required information and
2 conditions that demonstrate operation
3 duration, quality, and quantity speci-
4 fications; and

5 “(V) any other information that,
6 if supplied to the Secretary, would as-
7 sist the eligible entity in sufficiently
8 demonstrating a project’s technical
9 feasibility.

10 “(iii) FAILURE TO COMPLY WITH
11 AGREEMENT.—

12 “(I) NONCOMPLIANCE NOTIFICA-
13 TION.—If a project applicant fails to
14 comply with the technical feasibility
15 requirements as provided under clause
16 (ii), the Secretary shall issue a written
17 notice to the project applicant detail-
18 ing the specific deficiencies and pro-
19 viding a reasonable timeframe for the
20 project applicant to rectify the issues.

21 “(II) CORRECTIVE ACTION PE-
22 RIOD.—The project applicant shall
23 have a period of not more than 90
24 days from the date of issuance of the
25 noncompliance notice to address the

1 identified deficiencies and submit a
2 revised technical feasibility assessment
3 for reconsideration.

4 “(iv) TECHNICAL FEASIBILITY AP-
5 PROVAL.—Upon fulfillment of the condi-
6 tions of agreement established under
7 clause (ii) or approval of the revised tech-
8 nical feasibility assessment under clause
9 (iii)(II), the Secretary shall determine the
10 project to be technically feasible.”; and

11 (3) in subsection (g)—

12 (A) by striking all that precedes “is au-
13 thorized” and inserting the following:

14 “(g) FUNDING.—There”; and

15 (B) by striking “2023” and inserting
16 “2031”.

17 (b) RESCISSION.—Of the unobligated balances of
18 amounts made available under section 9003 of the Farm
19 Security and Rural Investment Act of 2002, \$18,000,000
20 are rescinded.

21 **SEC. 9004. BIOPRODUCT LABELING TERMINOLOGY.**

22 Title IX of the Farm Security and Rural Investment
23 Act of 2002 (7 U.S.C. 8101–8115) is amended by insert-
24 ing after section 9003 the following:

1 **“SEC. 9004. BIOPRODUCT LABELING TERMINOLOGY.**

2 “(a) UNIFORM STANDARDS.—

3 “(1) IN GENERAL.—Within 1 year after the
4 date of the enactment of this section, the Secretary
5 shall issue rules implementing national uniform la-
6 beling standards for, and ensuring the proper use of,
7 the following terms in the labeling and marketing of
8 bioproducts:

9 “(A) Bio-attributed plastic.

10 “(B) Bio-attributed product.

11 “(C) Biobased plastic.

12 “(D) Plant-based product.

13 “(2) INCLUSION OF CERTAIN DEFINED
14 TERMS.—In implementing the national uniform la-
15 beling standards under paragraph (1), the Secretary
16 shall include the following terms, as defined in sec-
17 tion 9001:

18 “(A) Biobased product.

19 “(B) Intermediate ingredient or feedstock.

20 “(C) Renewable biomass.

21 “(D) Renewable chemical.

22 “(b) CONSULTATION.—In defining terms under sub-
23 section (a), the Secretary shall consult with—

24 “(1) biomanufacturers;

25 “(2) entities engaged in research and develop-
26 ment of bioproducts;

1 “(3) feedstock growers; and

2 “(4) other industry stakeholders.”.

3 **SEC. 9005. BIOENERGY PROGRAM FOR ADVANCED**
4 **BIOFUELS.**

5 Section 9005(g)(2) of the Farm Security and Rural
6 Investment Act of 2002 (7 U.S.C. 8105(g)(2)) is amended
7 by striking “2023” and inserting “2031”.

8 **SEC. 9006. BIODIESEL FUEL EDUCATION PROGRAM.**

9 Section 9006 of the Farm Security and Rural Invest-
10 ment Act of 2002 (7 U.S.C. 8106) is repealed.

11 **SEC. 9007. RURAL ENERGY FOR AMERICA PROGRAM.**

12 Section 9007 of the Farm Security and Rural Invest-
13 ment Act of 2002 (7 U.S.C. 8107) is amended—

14 (1) in subsection (b)(3)—

15 (A) in subparagraph (D), by inserting “,
16 cost savings,” after “savings”;

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

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

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

22 “(G) the potential of the proposed program
23 to meaningfully improve the financial conditions
24 of the agricultural producers or rural small
25 businesses.”;

1 (2) in subsection (c)—

2 (A) in paragraph (2)—

3 (i) in subparagraph (F), by striking
4 “and” at the end;

5 (ii) by redesignating subparagraph
6 (G) as subparagraph (H); and

7 (iii) by inserting after subparagraph
8 (F) the following:

9 “(G) the potential improvements to the fi-
10 nancial conditions of the agricultural producer
11 or rural small business; and”;

12 (B) in paragraph (3)(B), by striking
13 “\$25,000,000” and inserting “\$50,000,000”;

14 (3) in subsection (f)(3), by striking “2023” and
15 inserting “2031”; and

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

17 “(g) PROJECT DIVERSITY.—In approving grant or
18 loan guarantee applications under this section, the Sec-
19 retary shall ensure that, to the extent practicable, there
20 is diversity in the types of projects approved for grants
21 or loan guarantees to ensure that as wide a range as pos-
22 sible of technologies, products, and approaches are as-
23 sisted.”.

1 **SEC. 9008. FEEDSTOCK FLEXIBILITY.**

2 Section 9010(b) of the Farm Security and Rural In-
3 vestment Act of 2002 (7 U.S.C. 8110(b)) is amended—

4 (1) in paragraph (1)(A), by striking “2026”
5 and inserting “2031”; and

6 (2) in paragraph (2)(A), by striking “2026”
7 and inserting “2031”.

8 **SEC. 9009. BIOMASS CROP ASSISTANCE PROGRAM.**

9 Section 9011(f)(1) of the Farm Security and Rural
10 Investment Act of 2002 (7 U.S.C. 8111(f)(1)) is amended
11 by striking “2023” and inserting “2031”.

12 **SEC. 9010. CARBON UTILIZATION AND BIOGAS EDUCATION**
13 **PROGRAM.**

14 Section 9014 of the Farm Security and Rural Invest-
15 ment Act of 2002 (7 U.S.C. 8115) is repealed.

16 **SEC. 9011. STUDY ON EFFECTS OF SOLAR PANEL INSTALLA-**
17 **TIONS ON COVERED FARMLAND.**

18 Title IX of the Farm Security and Rural Investment
19 Act of 2002 (7 U.S.C. 8101–8115) is amended by adding
20 at the end the following:

21 **“SEC. 9015. STUDY ON EFFECTS OF SOLAR PANEL INSTAL-**
22 **LATIONS ON COVERED FARMLAND.**

23 “(a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary, in consultation
24 with the Secretary of Energy, shall conduct a study on
25 the effects of solar panel installations on the conversion

1 of covered farmland out of agricultural production in ac-
2 cordance with this section.

3 “(b) CONTENT.—In conducting the study under this
4 section, the Secretary shall—

5 “(1) analyze the economic effects of solar panel
6 installations on covered farmland, including the ef-
7 fects on—

8 “(A) crop yields;

9 “(B) land values, including adjacent prop-
10 erties;

11 “(C) land access and tenure;

12 “(D) local economies; and

13 “(E) food security;

14 “(2) investigate impacts of solar panel installa-
15 tion, operation, and decommissioning on covered
16 farmland, and suggest best practices to protect—

17 “(A) soil health;

18 “(B) water resources;

19 “(C) wildlife;

20 “(D) vegetation;

21 “(E) water drainage; and

22 “(F) air quality;

23 “(3) assess the impacts of shared solar energy
24 and agricultural production on covered farmland, in-
25 cluding best practices to—

1 “(A) maintain or increase agricultural pro-
2 duction;

3 “(B) increase agricultural resilience;

4 “(C) retain covered farmland;

5 “(D) increase economic opportunities in
6 farming and rural communities, including new
7 revenue streams and job creation;

8 “(E) reduce nonfarmer ownership of cov-
9 ered farmland; and

10 “(F) enhance biodiversity;

11 “(4) assess the types of agricultural land best
12 suited and worst suited for shared solar energy and
13 agricultural production;

14 “(5) study the compatibility of different species
15 of livestock with different solar panel system de-
16 signs, including—

17 “(A) the optimal height of and distance be-
18 tween solar panels for livestock grazing and
19 shade for livestock;

20 “(B) manure management considerations;

21 “(C) fencing requirements; and

22 “(D) other animal handling considerations;

23 “(6) study the compatibility of different crop
24 types with different solar panel system designs, in-
25 cluding—

1 “(A) the optimal height of and distance be-
2 tween solar panels for plant shading and farm
3 equipment use; and

4 “(B) the impact on crop yield;

5 “(7) evaluate the degree to which existing Fed-
6 eral, State, or local tax incentives result in the devel-
7 opment of covered farmland under study;

8 “(8) recommend effective incentives that could
9 shift solar panel installations towards the built envi-
10 ronment, brownfield sites, and other contaminated
11 sites;

12 “(9) evaluate the effectiveness of programs ad-
13 ministered by the federal government related to solar
14 energy development that—

15 “(A) results in the development of con-
16 taminated lands, the built environment, and
17 other preferred sites; and

18 “(B) discourages solar panel installations
19 that would convert covered farmland out of ag-
20 ricultural production; and

21 “(10) estimate the loss of agricultural produc-
22 tion on covered farmland due to solar panel installa-
23 tions.

24 “(c) CONSULTATION WITH RELEVANT STAKE-
25 HOLDERS.—In addition to consultation with the Secretary

1 of Energy, while conducting the study under this section,
2 the Secretary shall consult with—

3 “(1) farmers;

4 “(2) ranchers;

5 “(3) landowners;

6 “(4) agricultural organizations;

7 “(5) State departments of agriculture and en-
8 ergy;

9 “(6) units of local government;

10 “(7) conservation organizations;

11 “(8) land-grant colleges and universities (as de-
12 fined in section 1404 of the National Agricultural
13 Research, Extension, and Teaching Policy Act of
14 1977 (7 U.S.C. 3103)); and

15 “(9) solar developers.

16 “(d) REPORT.—Within 2 years after the date of en-
17 actment of this Act, the Secretary of Agriculture shall sub-
18 mit to the Committee on Agriculture of the House of Rep-
19 resentatives and the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition,
20 and Forestry of the Senate, a written report on the find-
21 ings of the study and recommendations under this section.

22 “(e) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

23 “(1) COVERED FARMLAND.—The term ‘covered
24 farmland’ includes—

1 “(A) farmland, as defined in section
2 1540(c)(1) of the Farmland Protection Policy
3 Act (7 U.S.C. 4201(c)(1)); and

4 “(B) nonindustrial private forest land, as
5 defined in section 201(a)(18) of the Food Secu-
6 rity Act of 1985 (16 U.S.C. 3801(a)(18)).

7 “(2) BROWNFIELD SITE.—The term ‘brownfield
8 site’ has the meaning given that term in section
9 101(39) of the Comprehensive Environmental Re-
10 sponse, Compensation, and Liability Act of 1980 (42
11 U.S.C. 9601(39)).

12 “(3) SECRETARY.—The term ‘Secretary’ means
13 the Secretary of Agriculture.”.

14 **SEC. 9012. LIMITATION ON USDA FUNDING FOR GROUND**
15 **MOUNTED SOLAR SYSTEMS.**

16 Title IX of the Farm Security and Rural Investment
17 Act of 2002 (7 U.S.C. 8101–8115) is further amended
18 by adding at the end the following:

19 **“SEC. 9016. LIMITATION ON USDA FUNDING FOR GROUND**
20 **MOUNTED SOLAR ENERGY SYSTEMS.**

21 “(a) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

22 “(1) COVERED FARMLAND.—The term ‘covered
23 farmland’ includes—

1 “(A) farmland, as defined in section
2 1540(c)(1) of the Farmland Protection Policy
3 Act (7 U.S.C. 4201(c)(1)); and

4 “(B) nonindustrial private forest land, as
5 defined in section 201(a)(18) of the Food Secu-
6 rity Act of 1985 (16 U.S.C. 3801(a)(18)).

7 “(2) CONVERSION.—The term ‘conversion’
8 means, with respect to covered farmland, any activ-
9 ity that results in the covered farmland failing to
10 meet the requirements of a State (as defined in sec-
11 tion 343 of the Consolidated Farm and Rural Devel-
12 opment Act (7 U.S.C. 1991)) for agricultural pro-
13 duction, activity, or use or timber harvest.

14 “(3) SECRETARY.—The term ‘Secretary’ means
15 the Secretary of Agriculture.

16 “(b) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary may not provide
17 financial assistance for a project that would result in the
18 conversion of covered farmland for solar energy produc-
19 tion.

20 “(c) EXCEPTION.—Subsection (b) shall not apply to
21 a project if the project—

22 “(1) results in the conversion of less than 5
23 acres of covered farmland; or

24 “(2) results in the conversion of less than 50
25 acres of covered farmland with—

1 “(A) the majority of the energy produced
2 being for on-farm use; and

3 “(B) receipt of a resolution of approval or
4 support, or other similar instrument, from each
5 county and municipality in which the project is
6 sited.

7 “(d) COVERED FARMLAND PROTECTION.—

8 “(1) FARMLAND CONSERVATION PLAN RE-
9 QUIRED.—A person who has applied to the Secretary
10 for financial assistance for a project to which sub-
11 section (c)(3) applies shall—

12 “(A) develop a farmland conservation plan
13 for the project to—

14 “(i) implement best practices to pro-
15 tect future soil health and productivity,
16 and mitigate soil erosion, compaction, and
17 other effects of solar energy production
18 during construction, operation, and decom-
19 missioning; and

20 “(ii) remediate and restore the soil
21 health of the farmland to that of the farm-
22 land before the solar energy production
23 project construction; and

24 “(B) ensure that sufficient funds, as deter-
25 mined by the Secretary, are provided for the de-

1 commissioning of the solar energy production
2 system and the remediation and restoration of
3 covered farmland to carry out the farmland
4 conservation plan described in subparagraph
5 (A).

6 “(2) OBLIGATION AND DISBURSMENT OF
7 FUNDS.—The Secretary may obligate financial as-
8 sistance for a project described in paragraph (1),
9 but shall not disburse the financial assistance until
10 the Secretary has determined that the applicant for
11 the financial assistance has complied with paragraph
12 (1).

13 “(3) FARMLAND CONSERVATION PLAN IMPLE-
14 MENTATION.—A person referred to in paragraph (1)
15 shall carry out—

16 “(A) the provisions of the plan that are de-
17 scribed in paragraph (1)(A)(i), on the receipt
18 by the project of financial assistance from the
19 Secretary and for the duration of solar energy
20 production under the project; and

21 “(B) the provisions of the plan that are de-
22 scribed in paragraph (1)(A)(ii), on the cessation
23 of solar energy production under the project.

24 “(4) COMPLIANCE.—A person who fails to com-
25 ply with paragraph (3) with respect to a project

1 shall repay to the Secretary the full amount of the
2 financial assistance provided by the Secretary to the
3 person for the project.

4 “(e) ADDITIONAL LIMITATIONS.—The Secretary may
5 not provide financial assistance for a project that procures
6 a solar energy component (as defined in section 45x(c)(3)
7 of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986) produced, manu-
8 factured, or assembled—

9 “(1) in a foreign country of concern (as defined
10 in section 10638(2) of the CHIPS Act of 2022 (42
11 U.S.C. 19237(2))); or

12 “(2) by—

13 “(A) an entity domiciled or controlled by
14 such a foreign country; or

15 “(B) a foreign entity of concern (as de-
16 fined in section 10638(3) of the CHIPS Act of
17 2022 (42 U.S.C. 19237(3))).”.

18 **SEC. 9013. SUSTAINABLE AVIATION FUELS STRATEGY.**

19 The Secretary shall establish a Department-wide
20 strategy to advance the production of sustainable aviation
21 fuels by—

22 (1) facilitating the collaboration between rel-
23 evant Department mission areas to encourage the
24 advancement of the sustainable aviation fuels supply

1 chain, including utilization of agricultural crops
2 grown for sustainable aviation fuel production;

3 (2) identifying opportunities to maximize sus-
4 tainable aviation fuels development, deployment, and
5 commercialization;

6 (3) leveraging the capabilities of America’s
7 farmers, ranchers, foresters, and producers to cap-
8 ture opportunities in the sustainable aviation fuels
9 market;

10 (4) supporting rural economic development
11 through sustainable aviation fuel production; and

12 (5) promoting public private partnerships for
13 the development, deployment, and commercialization
14 of sustainable aviation fuels.

15 **TITLE X—HORTICULTURE, MAR-**
16 **KETING, AND REGULATORY**
17 **REFORM**

18 **Subtitle A—Horticulture**

19 **SEC. 10001. SPECIALTY CROP BLOCK GRANTS.**

20 Section 101 of the Specialty Crops Competitiveness
21 Act of 2004 (7 U.S.C. 1621 note; Public Law 108–465)
22 is amended—

23 (1) in subsection (a), in the matter preceding
24 paragraph (1)—

1 (A) by striking “2023” and inserting
2 “2031”; and

3 (B) by striking “specialty crops, includ-
4 ing—” and inserting “specialty crops through
5 priorities established annually by State program
6 administrators in consultation with specialty
7 crop producers and producer groups, includ-
8 ing—”; and

9 (2) by striking subsection (e), and inserting the
10 following:

11 “(e) PLAN REQUIREMENTS.—The State plan shall
12 identify the lead agency charged with the responsibility of
13 carrying out the plan and indicate—

14 “(1) how the grant funds will be utilized to en-
15 hance the competitiveness of specialty crops; and

16 “(2) how outreach to, and consultation with,
17 specialty crop producers and producer groups will be
18 achieved.”.

19 **SEC. 10002. SPECIALTY CROPS MARKET NEWS ALLOCATION.**

20 Section 10107(b) of the Food, Conservation, and En-
21 ergy Act of 2008 (7 U.S.C. 1622b(b)) is amended by strik-
22 ing “2023” and inserting “2031”.

1 **SEC. 10003. OFFICE OF URBAN AGRICULTURE AND INNOVA-**
2 **TIVE PRODUCTION.**

3 Section 222 of the Department of Agriculture Reor-
4 ganization Act of 1994 (7 U.S.C. 6923) is amended—

5 (1) in subsection (a)(3)—

6 (A) in the matter preceding subparagraph
7 (A), by inserting “production” after “emerging
8 agricultural”;

9 (B) in subparagraph (D)—

10 (i) by inserting “controlled-envirom-
11 ent agriculture, including” before “hy-
12 droponic”; and

13 (ii) by striking “and” at the end;

14 (C) by redesignating subparagraph (E) as
15 subparagraph (H); and

16 (D) by inserting after subparagraph (D)
17 the following:

18 “(E) using the resources of the Depart-
19 ment and of State, Tribal, and local agencies to
20 provide technical assistance for business incor-
21 poration, navigating local zoning, and managing
22 farm tract numbers for smaller, noncontiguous
23 parcels to growers implementing activities de-
24 scribed in this paragraph;

25 “(F) using the resources of the Depart-
26 ment and of State, Tribal, and local agencies to

1 promote conservation techniques unique to
2 urban agriculture and innovative production, in-
3 cluding techniques that address stormwater
4 runoff and the impacted nature of urban land
5 and the subsurface of the land;

6 “(G) assisting urban and innovative pro-
7 ducers in navigating Federal, State, Tribal, and
8 local policies and regulations that impact busi-
9 ness or operations; and”;

10 (2) in subsection (b)—

11 (A) in paragraph (5)(B), by striking
12 “2023” and inserting “2031”; and

13 (B) in paragraph (7)(A), by striking “the
14 date that is 5 years after the date on which the
15 members are appointed under paragraph
16 (2)(B)” and inserting “September 30, 2031”;

17 (3) by amending subsection (c) to read as fol-
18 lows:

19 “(c) GRANTS AND COOPERATIVE AGREEMENTS.—

20 “(1) GRANTS.—

21 “(A) IN GENERAL.—The Director shall
22 award competitive grants to support the devel-
23 opment of urban and innovative agricultural
24 production and technical or financial assistance
25 to producers.

1 “(B) SUBGRANTS.—An eligible entity may
2 use funds from a grant under subparagraph (A)
3 to provide subgrants to urban and innovative
4 producers to support the growth of the farm or
5 farm business of the urban and innovative pro-
6 ducers.

7 “(C) ELIGIBLE ENTITIES.—An entity eligi-
8 ble to receive a grant under subparagraph (A)
9 is—

10 “(i) a nonprofit organization;

11 “(ii) a unit of local government;

12 “(iii) a Tribal organization;

13 “(iv) an agricultural cooperative or
14 other agricultural business entity or a pro-
15 ducer network or association; or

16 “(v) a school that serves any of
17 grades kindergarten through grade 12.

18 “(2) COOPERATIVE AGREEMENTS.—

19 “(A) IN GENERAL.—The Director may
20 enter into cooperative agreements with eligible
21 entities to support the development of urban
22 and innovative agricultural production.

23 “(B) ELIGIBLE ENTITIES.—An entity eligi-
24 ble to enter into cooperative agreements under
25 subparagraph (A) is—

- 1 “(i) a nonprofit organization;
2 “(ii) a unit of local government;
3 “(iii) a Tribal organization; or
4 “(iv) an agricultural cooperative or
5 other agricultural business entity or a pro-
6 ducer network or association.”;

7 (4) in subsection (d)—

8 (A) in the subsection heading, by striking
9 “PILOT”;

10 (B) by striking “pilot” each place it ap-
11 pears in paragraphs (1) and (2);

12 (C) in paragraph (1)(A), by striking “Not
13 later than 1 year after the date of enactment of
14 this section, the Secretary shall establish a pilot
15 program for not fewer than 5 years that” and
16 inserting “The Secretary shall continue to im-
17 plement a program that”;

18 (D) in paragraph (1)(C), in the matter
19 preceding clause (i), by striking “2023” and in-
20 serting “2031”; and

21 (E) in paragraph (2)—

22 (i) in subparagraph (A), by inserting
23 “and construct at-scale composting, food-
24 to-feed, or anaerobic digestion food waste-

1 to-energy projects” before the period at the
2 end; and

3 (ii) in subparagraph (B)—

4 (I) in the subparagraph heading,
5 strike “PILOT”;

6 (II) in the matter preceding
7 clause (i), by inserting “Tribal gov-
8 ernments,” after “local govern-
9 ments,”;

10 (III) by redesignating clauses (vi)
11 through (viii) as clauses (vii) through
12 (ix), respectively; and

13 (IV) by inserting after clause (v)
14 the following:

15 “(vi) develop food waste-to-energy op-
16 erations;”; and

17 (5) in subsection (e), by striking “2023” and
18 inserting “2031”.

19 **SEC. 10004. NATIONAL PLANT DIAGNOSTICS NETWORK.**

20 Section 12203(c)(5) of the Agriculture Improvement
21 Act of 2018 (7 U.S.C. 8914(c)(5)) is amended by striking
22 “2023” and inserting “2031”.

1 **SEC. 10005. HEMP PRODUCTION.**

2 (a) STATE AND TRIBAL PLANS.—Section 297B of
3 the Agricultural Marketing Act of 1946 (7 U.S.C. 1639p)
4 is amended—

5 (1) in subsection (a)—

6 (A) in paragraph (2)—

7 (i) in subparagraph (A)—

8 (I) by redesignating clauses (ii)
9 through (vii) as clauses (iii) through
10 (viii), respectively;

11 (II) by inserting after clause (i)
12 the following:

13 “(ii) a procedure under which a hemp
14 producer shall be required to designate the
15 type of production of the hemp producer
16 as—

17 “(I) only industrial hemp; or

18 “(II) hemp grown for any pur-
19 pose other than industrial hemp;”;
20 and

21 (III) in clause (iii), as redesi-
22 gnated by clause (i) of this subpara-
23 graph—

24 (aa) by inserting “except as
25 provided in subparagraph

1 (B)(i)”, before “a procedure”;
2 and

3 (bb) by striking “delta-9
4 tetrahydrocannabinol concentra-
5 tion” and inserting “total
6 tetrahydrocannabinol concentra-
7 tion (including
8 tetrahydrocannabinolic acid)”;
9 and

10 (ii) in subparagraph (B), by striking
11 “include any other practice” and inserting
12 the following: “include—

13 “(i) notwithstanding subparagraph
14 (A)(iii), a procedure for the use of visual
15 inspections, performance-based sampling
16 methodologies, certified seed, or a similar
17 procedure when developing sampling plans
18 for any producer who elects to be des-
19 ignated as a producer of only industrial
20 hemp under subparagraph (A)(ii)(I);

21 “(ii) notwithstanding subsection
22 (e)(3)(B)(i), a procedure for eliminating
23 the 10-year period of ineligibility following
24 the date of conviction for a felony related
25 to a controlled substance for producers

1 who elect to be designated as producers of
2 only industrial hemp under subparagraph
3 (A)(ii); and

4 “(iii) any other practice”; and

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

6 “(4) INSPECTION OF INDUSTRIAL HEMP PRO-
7 DUCERS.—

8 “(A) IN GENERAL.—If a State or Tribal
9 plan referred to in paragraph (1) includes pro-
10 cedures for reducing or eliminating sampling or
11 testing requirements under paragraph (2)(B)(i)
12 for a producer of industrial hemp, the State or
13 Indian tribe shall require the producer to pro-
14 vide documentation that demonstrates a clear
15 intent to produce, and use in-field practices
16 consistent with production of, only industrial
17 hemp, such as a seed tag, sales contract, Farm
18 Service Agency report, harvest technique, or
19 harvest inspection.

20 “(B) TESTING.—If a producer fails to pro-
21 vide the documentation required under subpara-
22 graph (A), the State or Indian tribe involved
23 shall require the producer to conduct the test-
24 ing described in paragraph (2)(A)(iii).”;

1 (2) in subsection (e)(2)(A)(iii), by striking
2 “delta-9” and all that follows through “percent” and
3 inserting the following: “total tetrahydrocannabinol
4 concentration (including tetrahydrocannabinolic
5 acid) of not more than 0.3 percent in the plant”;
6 and

7 (2) in subsection (e)(3)—

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

10 “(A) REPORTING.—

11 “(i) IN GENERAL.—In the case of a
12 State department of agriculture or a Tribal
13 government with respect to which a State
14 or Tribal plan is approved under sub-
15 section (b), such State department of agri-
16 culture or Tribal government (as applica-
17 ble) shall immediately report a hemp pro-
18 ducer to the Attorney General, and, as ap-
19 plicable, the chief law enforcement officer
20 of the State or Indian tribe, if the State
21 department of agriculture or Tribal gov-
22 ernment (as applicable) determines that
23 the hemp producer has—

1 “(I) violated the State or Tribal
2 plan with a culpable mental state
3 greater than negligence; or

4 “(II) violated the State or Tribal
5 plan by producing a crop that is in-
6 consistent with the designation of only
7 industrial hemp under subsection
8 (a)(2)(A)(ii).

9 “(ii) EXCEPTION.—Paragraph (1)
10 shall not apply with respect to—

11 “(I) a violation described in sub-
12 clause (I) of clause (i); or

13 “(II) the production of a crop in-
14 consistent with its designation, as de-
15 scribed in subclause (II) of such
16 clause.”;

17 (B) in subparagraph (B), by amending
18 clause (ii) to read as follows:

19 “(ii) EXCEPTION.—Clause (i) shall
20 not apply to any person growing hemp that
21 designates the type of production as only
22 industrial hemp under subsection
23 (a)(2)(A)(ii) if—

24 “(I) the State or Tribal plan ap-
25 proved under subsection (b) includes a

1 procedure described in subsection
2 (a)(2)(B)(ii); or

3 “(II) the plan established by the
4 Secretary under section 297C includes
5 a procedure described in subsection
6 (a)(2)(B)(ii) of such section.”; and

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

8 “(D) PRODUCTION INCONSISTENT WITH
9 INDUSTRIAL HEMP DESIGNATION.—Any person
10 who knowingly produces a crop that is incon-
11 sistent with the designation of only industrial
12 hemp under subsection (a)(2)(A)(ii) shall be in-
13 eligible to participate in the program estab-
14 lished under this section for a period of 5 years
15 beginning on the date of the violation.”.

16 (b) DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE.—Section 297C
17 of the Agricultural Marketing Act of 1946 (7 U.S.C.
18 1639q) is amended—

19 (1) in subsection (a)—

20 (A) in paragraph (2)—

21 (i) by striking “paragraph (1) shall”
22 and all that follows through “practice to
23 maintain” and inserting the following:

24 “paragraph (1)—

25 “(A) shall include—

1 “(i) a practice to maintain”;

2 (ii) in subparagraph (C), by redesignating clauses (i) and (ii) as subclauses (I)
3 and (II), respectively, and moving the margins of such subclauses (as so redesignated) two ems to the right;

4
5
6
7 (iii) by redesignating subparagraphs
8 (B) through (E) as clauses (iii) through
9 (vi), respectively, and moving the margins
10 of such clauses (as so redesignated) two
11 ems to the right;

12 (iv) by inserting after clause (i) (as
13 designated by clause (i) of this subpara-
14 graph) the following:

15 “(ii) a procedure under which the Sec-
16 retary shall require a hemp producer to
17 designate the type of production of the
18 hemp producer as—

19 “(I) only industrial hemp; or

20 “(II) hemp grown for any pur-
21 pose other than industrial hemp;”;

22 (v) in clause (iii) (as redesignated by
23 clause (iii) of this subparagraph)—

1 (I) by inserting “except as pro-
2 vided in subparagraph (B)(i),” before
3 “a procedure”; and

4 (II) by striking “delta-9
5 tetrahydrocannabinol concentration”
6 and inserting “total
7 tetrahydrocannabinol concentration
8 (including tetrahydrocannabinolic
9 acid)”;

10 (vi) by striking subparagraph (F); and

11 (vii) by adding at the end the fol-
12 lowing:

13 “(B) may include—

14 “(i) notwithstanding subparagraph
15 (A)(iii), a procedure for the use of visual
16 inspections, performance-based sampling
17 methodologies, certified seed, or a similar
18 procedure when developing sampling plans
19 for any producer who elects to be des-
20 ignated as a producer of only industrial
21 hemp under subparagraph (A)(ii);

22 “(ii) notwithstanding section
23 297B(e)(3)(B)(i), a procedure for elimi-
24 nating the 10-year period of ineligibility
25 following the date of conviction for a felony

1 related to a controlled substance for pro-
2 ducers who elect to be designated as pro-
3 ducers of only industrial hemp under sub-
4 paragraph (A)(ii); and

5 “(iii) such other practices or proce-
6 dures as the Secretary considers to be ap-
7 propriate, to the extent that the practice or
8 procedure is consistent with this subtitle.”;
9 and

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

11 “(3) INSPECTIONS OF INDUSTRIAL HEMP PRO-
12 DUCERS.—

13 “(A) IN GENERAL.—If a plan referred to
14 in paragraph (1) includes procedures for reduc-
15 ing or eliminating sampling or testing require-
16 ments under paragraph (2)(B)(i) for a producer
17 of only industrial hemp, the Secretary shall re-
18 quire the producer to provide documentation
19 that demonstrates a clear intent to produce,
20 and use in-field practices consistent with pro-
21 duction of, industrial hemp, such as a seed tag,
22 sales contract, Farm Service Agency report,
23 harvest technique, or harvest inspection.

24 “(B) TESTING.—If a producer fails to pro-
25 vide the appropriate documentation required

1 under subparagraph (A), the Secretary shall re-
2 quire the producer to conduct the testing de-
3 scribed in paragraph (2)(A)(iii).”; and
4 (2) in subsection (d)(2)—
5 (A) in subparagraph (B), by striking
6 “and” at the end;
7 (B) in subparagraph (C)—
8 (i) by redesignating clauses (i) and
9 (ii) as clauses (ii) and (iii), respectively;
10 (ii) by inserting before clause (ii) (as
11 so redesignated), the following:
12 “(i) the designation of the type of pro-
13 duction of the hemp producers under sec-
14 tion 297B(a)(2)(A)(ii) or under subsection
15 (a)(2)(A)(ii) of this section;”; and
16 (iii) in clause (iii), (as so redesign-
17 ated), by striking the period at the end
18 and inserting “; and”; and
19 (C) by adding at the end the following:
20 “(D) the laboratory certificate of analysis
21 for hemp disposed of under section
22 297B(a)(2)(A)(iv) or subsection (a)(2)(A)(iv) of
23 this section.”.

1 (c) REGULATIONS AND GUIDELINES; EFFECT ON
2 OTHER LAW.—Section 297D of the Agricultural Mar-
3 keting Act of 1946 (7 U.S.C. 1639r) is amended—

4 (1) in the section heading, by striking “**REGU-**
5 **LATIONS AND GUIDELINES**” and inserting “**AD-**
6 **MINISTRATION, REGULATIONS, AND GUIDE-**
7 **LINES**”; and

8 (2) in subsection (a)—

9 (A) in the subsection heading, by striking
10 “PROMULGATION OF REGULATIONS
11 AND GUIDELINES” and inserting “ADMIN-
12 ISTRATION, REGULATIONS, AND GUIDE-
13 LINES”; and

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

15 “(3) LABORATORY ACCREDITATION.—The Sec-
16 retary, in consultation with the Administrator of the
17 Drug Enforcement Administration, shall establish a
18 process by which the Department of Agriculture can
19 issue certificates of accreditation to laboratories for
20 the purposes of testing hemp in accordance with this
21 subtitle.”.

1 **SEC. 10006. PILOT PROGRAM FOR THE INTRA-ORGANIZA-**
2 **TIONAL MOVEMENT OF GENETICALLY ENGI-**
3 **NEERED MICROORGANISMS BY CERTAIN AU-**
4 **THORIZED PARTIES.**

5 Subtitle A of the Plant Protection Act (7 U.S.C.
6 7711 et seq.) is amended by adding at the end the fol-
7 lowing:

8 **“SEC. 420A. PILOT PROGRAM FOR THE INTRA-ORGANIZA-**
9 **TIONAL MOVEMENT OF GENETICALLY ENGI-**
10 **NEERED MICROORGANISMS BY CERTAIN AU-**
11 **THORIZED PARTIES.**

12 “(a) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

13 “(1) COVERED MICROORGANISM.—The term
14 ‘covered microorganism’—

15 “(A) means a genetically engineered micro-
16 organism that is a plant pest or may pose a
17 plant pest risk; and

18 “(B) does not include listed agents or tox-
19 ins (as defined in section 212(l) of the Agricul-
20 tural Bioterrorism Protection Act of 2002 (7
21 U.S.C. 8401(l))).

22 “(2) COVERED UNAUTHORIZED RELEASE.—The
23 term ‘covered unauthorized release’ means an unau-
24 thorized release of a covered microorganism, includ-
25 ing such a release that a responsible party suspects
26 took place.

1 “(3) PILOT PROGRAM.—The term ‘pilot pro-
2 gram’ means the pilot program established under
3 subsection (b).

4 “(4) PLANT PEST RISK.—The term ‘plant pest
5 risk’ has the meaning given such term in section
6 340.3 of title 7, Code of Federal Regulations (or
7 successor regulations).

8 “(5) RESPONSIBLE PARTY.—The term ‘respon-
9 sible party’ means a partnership, corporation, asso-
10 ciation, joint venture, or other legal entity that—

11 “(A) has a physical address in the United
12 States;

13 “(B) is not owned by or otherwise affili-
14 ated with the government of a country of con-
15 cern (as defined in section 10638 of the CHIPS
16 Act of 2022 (42 U.S.C. 19237));

17 “(C) has more than 1 responsible party
18 biocontainment facility;

19 “(D) employs quality control personnel
20 that are capable of overseeing the movement
21 and control of covered microorganisms;

22 “(E) has, in each of the 3 years preceding
23 enrollment in the pilot program, moved plant
24 pests pursuant to permits granted by the Sec-
25 retary under this Act;

1 “(F) has the ability and resources to en-
2 sure compliance with the requirements under
3 subsection (e) for the duration of the pilot pro-
4 gram;

5 “(G) has implemented the precautions
6 specified in subsection (e) to prevent the unau-
7 thorized release of covered microorganisms; and

8 “(H) has not, during the 5-year period
9 preceding the date on which the relevant appli-
10 cation is submitted under subsection (c)—

11 “(i) caused an unauthorized release of
12 a plant pest;

13 “(ii) materially failed to comply with
14 a permit granted by the Secretary for the
15 interstate movement of plant pests; or

16 “(iii) violated any provision of this
17 section (including regulations promulgated
18 thereunder).

19 “(6) RESPONSIBLE PARTY BIOCONTAINMENT
20 FACILITY.—The term ‘responsible party biocontain-
21 ment facility’—

22 “(A) means a physical structure or portion
23 thereof, constructed and maintained in order to
24 contain plant pests, that is under the control of,

1 or operated by, a responsible party within the
2 contiguous United States; and

3 “(B) includes sites under the control of, or
4 operated by, any parent organization, sub-
5 sidiary, or affiliate of the responsible party.

6 “(b) ESTABLISHMENT.—Not later than 100 days
7 after the date of enactment of this section, the Secretary
8 shall establish a pilot program under which the Secretary
9 shall authorize not more than 75 responsible parties—

10 “(1) to move covered microorganisms in inter-
11 state commerce between responsible party bio-
12 containment facilities without a permit; and

13 “(2) to maintain control over and dispose of
14 such covered microorganisms.

15 “(c) APPLICATION.—

16 “(1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall accept
17 applications from responsible parties for enrollment
18 in the pilot program during a 45-day application pe-
19 riod, beginning on the date on which the pilot pro-
20 gram is established under subsection (b), using a
21 web-based application process established by the
22 Secretary.

23 “(2) CONTENTS.—An application submitted by
24 a responsible party for enrollment in the pilot pro-
25 gram shall include the following:

1 “(A) The name and contact information of
2 the responsible party and any agent of the re-
3 sponsible party that will be involved in the
4 movement of a covered microorganism.

5 “(B) The methods by which a covered
6 microorganism will be moved and the measures
7 taken to ensure that there is no unauthorized
8 release of the covered microorganism.

9 “(C) The manner in which a shipping con-
10 tainer, packaging material, or any other mate-
11 rial accompanying the covered microorganism
12 will be disposed of to prevent the unauthorized
13 release of a covered microorganism.

14 “(D) A list of responsible party biocontain-
15 ment facilities to which the responsible party
16 intends to move covered microorganisms.

17 “(E) A list of the predominant covered
18 microorganism chassis strains that, at the time
19 of the application, the responsible party intends
20 to move.

21 “(F) A sworn certification that the respon-
22 sible party meets each criterion specified in sub-
23 section (a)(5).

24 “(3) SUPPLEMENTAL APPLICATIONS.—

1 “(A) IN GENERAL.—A responsible party
2 may submit a supplemental application to the
3 Secretary to update a list under subparagraph
4 (D) or (E) of paragraph (2) at any time during
5 such enrollment. The Secretary shall make a
6 determination with respect to such supple-
7 mental application not later than 30 days after
8 the date on which such supplemental applica-
9 tion is submitted to the Secretary.

10 “(B) DENIALS.—The Secretary may only
11 deny a supplemental application if the Sec-
12 retary has made the determination set forth in
13 subsection (d)(2)(B). A denial of a supple-
14 mental application shall be subject to appeal in
15 accordance with the terms specified in sub-
16 section (d)(3).

17 “(d) SELECTION PROCESS.—

18 “(1) TIMING.—The Secretary shall—

19 “(A) evaluate applications received under
20 subsection (c)(1) in the order in which the ap-
21 plications are received; and

22 “(B) approve or deny all applications re-
23 ceived during the period described in that sub-
24 section not later than 45 days after the end of
25 that period.

1 “(2) DENIAL.—The Secretary shall deny an ap-
2 plication received under subsection (c)(1) if—

3 “(A) the Secretary has already selected 75
4 responsible parties for enrollment in the pilot
5 program; or

6 “(B) the Secretary determines that the re-
7 sponsible party submitting the application does
8 not meet each criterion specified in subsection
9 (a)(5).

10 “(3) APPEAL.—

11 “(A) IN GENERAL.—A responsible party
12 seeking to enroll in the pilot program whose ap-
13 plication has been denied under paragraph (2)
14 may submit to the Secretary a written appeal
15 within—

16 “(i) the 10-day period beginning on
17 the date on which the responsible party re-
18 ceives written notification of the denial; or

19 “(ii) a longer period, if the responsible
20 party makes a request for additional time
21 to submit such appeal and the Secretary
22 grants such request.

23 “(B) DECISION.—The Secretary shall,
24 within a reasonably prompt period, grant or
25 deny an appeal under subparagraph (A) in writ-

1 ing, which shall include the reasons for the de-
2 cision.

3 “(e) REQUIREMENTS.—A responsible party shall, as
4 a condition of enrollment in the pilot program, agree to—

5 “(1) maintain, move, and dispose of covered
6 microorganisms in a manner that prevents unau-
7 thorized release, spread, dispersal, or persistence of
8 those covered microorganisms in the environment;

9 “(2) unless otherwise authorized under a permit
10 under this Act, only move a covered microorganism
11 between sites that are responsible party biocontain-
12 ment facilities;

13 “(3) maintain, move, and dispose of each cov-
14 ered microorganism separately from other orga-
15 nisms;

16 “(4) ensure that each covered microorganism is
17 maintained, moved, and disposed of in a manner
18 commensurate with the plant pest risk posed by that
19 covered microorganism;

20 “(5) use, at a minimum, a package for move-
21 ment—

22 “(A) that consists of a securely sealed
23 inner and outer container, each of which is an
24 effective barrier to the escape or unauthorized
25 dissemination of the covered microorganism;

1 “(B) the inner container of which—

2 “(i) contains all of the applicable cov-
3 ered microorganism; and

4 “(ii) is cushioned and sealed in such
5 a manner as to remain sealed during any
6 shock, impact, or change in pressure; and

7 “(C) the outer container of which is rigid
8 and strong enough to withstand typical ship-
9 ping conditions (such as dropping, stacking,
10 and impact from other freight) without opening;

11 “(6) on request, grant the Secretary access—

12 “(A) to sample materials associated with
13 the interstate movement of covered microorga-
14 nisms under the pilot program;

15 “(B) to observe and inspect the interstate
16 movement of those covered microorganisms; and

17 “(C) to audit records of the activities of
18 the responsible party under the pilot program;

19 “(7) maintain detailed and accurate records of
20 all activities carried out under the pilot program to
21 demonstrate compliance with the applicable require-
22 ments;

23 “(8) on request, grant the Secretary access to
24 each responsible party biocontainment facility for in-

1 specification in relation to a responsible party's enroll-
2 ment in the pilot program; and

3 “(9) comply with any additional requirement
4 for the containment of covered microorganisms in
5 interstate commerce that the Secretary may require
6 if—

7 “(A) the Secretary determines that such
8 an additional requirement is reasonable; and

9 “(B) the sole purpose of such additional
10 requirement is to avoid a covered unauthorized
11 release.

12 “(f) PROHIBITION ON CERTAIN PREFERENCES.—In
13 carrying out the pilot program, the Secretary shall take
14 no action or promulgate any regulation that—

15 “(1) treats genetically engineered covered
16 microorganisms less favorably than nongenetically
17 engineered covered microorganisms; or

18 “(2) limits the quantity or type of covered
19 microorganisms that may be moved under the pilot
20 program between responsible party biocontainment
21 facilities.

22 “(g) REPORTING BY RESPONSIBLE PARTIES.—A re-
23 sponsible party shall submit to the Secretary a quarterly
24 report that describes the activities of the responsible party

1 under the pilot program during the period covered by the
2 report, including—

3 “(1) a description of each covered microorga-
4 nism moved in interstate commerce, including—

5 “(A) the 1 or more countries or localities
6 at which the covered microorganism was col-
7 lected, developed, manufactured, reared, cul-
8 tivated, or cultured, as applicable;

9 “(B) the genus, species, and any relevant
10 subspecies and common name information of
11 the covered microorganism; and

12 “(C) when applicable, a brief description of
13 the genetic modifications made in the micro-
14 organism, including—

15 “(i) the intended phenotype that the 1
16 or more modifications are expected to con-
17 fer;

18 “(ii) any targeted deletions, inser-
19 tions, or base pair substitutions; and

20 “(iii) the genetic elements used in im-
21 parting the modification, including the
22 name, donor organism, and a brief descrip-
23 tion of the function;

24 “(2) each method by which the covered micro-
25 organism was moved in interstate commerce;

1 “(3) the quantity of the covered microorganism
2 moved in interstate commerce; and

3 “(4) the specific responsible party biocontain-
4 ment facilities between which the covered microorga-
5 nism was moved in interstate commerce.

6 “(h) UNAUTHORIZED RELEASE.—In the case of a
7 covered unauthorized release, a responsible party shall—

8 “(1) contact the applicable office within the
9 Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service within
10 48 hours of discovery of the covered unauthorized
11 release; and

12 “(2) submit to the Secretary a statement of
13 facts pertaining to such release, in writing, not later
14 than 5 business days after the date of that dis-
15 covery.

16 “(i) DISENROLLMENT FROM PILOT PROGRAM.—

17 “(1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall termi-
18 nate the enrollment of a responsible party in the
19 pilot program if the Secretary has a sound factual
20 basis to determine that—

21 “(A) the responsible party no longer meets
22 the eligibility criteria of a responsible party de-
23 scribed in subsection (a)(5);

1 “(B) the responsible party has materially
2 failed to comply with the requirements under
3 subsection (e); or

4 “(C) as a result of a failure by a respon-
5 sible party under subparagraph (B), the respon-
6 sible party caused a covered unauthorized re-
7 lease during the pilot program.

8 “(2) DISENROLLMENT DECISION.—If the Sec-
9 retary terminates the enrollment of a responsible
10 party under paragraph (1), the Secretary shall sub-
11 mit that decision in writing to the responsible party.

12 “(3) APPEAL.—The appeal process described in
13 subsection (d)(3) shall apply in the case of a respon-
14 sible party that seeks to appeal a termination of en-
15 rollment under paragraph (1).

16 “(j) TERMINATION.—The pilot program shall termi-
17 nate on the date that is 3 years after the date on which
18 the Secretary completes the application selection process
19 under subsection (d)(1)(B).

20 “(k) REPORT.—Not later than 6 months after the
21 date of termination of the pilot program described in sub-
22 section (j), the Secretary shall submit to Congress a report
23 that describes—

24 “(1) the activities carried out under the pilot
25 program, including—

1 “(A) the quantities and identities of cov-
2 ered microorganisms that were moved; and

3 “(B) a description of any unauthorized re-
4 lease of covered microorganisms that were
5 moved, including a description of the cause and
6 consequence of any unauthorized release; and

7 “(2) recommendations on—

8 “(A) whether the pilot program should be-
9 come a permanent program; and

10 “(B) whether, as a permanent program,
11 changes should be made to the criteria for a re-
12 sponsible party under subsection (a)(5) or to
13 the requirements under subsection (e).”.

14 **Subtitle B—Marketing**

15 **SEC. 10101. MARKETING ORDERS.**

16 Section 8e(a) of the Agricultural Adjustment Act (7
17 U.S.C. 608e–1(a)), reenacted with amendments by the Ag-
18 ricultural Marketing Agreement Act of 1937, is amend-
19 ed—

20 (1) by inserting “mandarin oranges,” after “or-
21 anges,”;

22 (2) by inserting “almonds,” after “onions,”;
23 and

24 (3) by striking “, other than dates for proc-
25 essing,” each place it appears.

1 **SEC. 10102. LOCAL AGRICULTURE MARKET PROGRAM.**

2 Section 210A of the Agricultural Marketing Act of
3 1946 (7 U.S.C. 1627c) is amended—

4 (1) in subsection (a)—

5 (A) by redesignating paragraphs (5)
6 through (13) as paragraphs (6) through (14),
7 respectively; and

8 (B) by inserting after paragraph (4) the
9 following:

10 “(5) FOOD HUB.—The term ‘food hub’ means
11 a business or organization that actively manages the
12 aggregation, distribution, and marketing of source-
13 identified food products to multiple buyers from
14 multiple producers, who are primarily local and re-
15 gional producers, to strengthen the ability of such
16 producers to satisfy local and regional wholesale, re-
17 tail, and institutional demands.”;

18 (2) in subsection (b)(4), by inserting “, regional
19 food chain coordination,” after “collaboration”;

20 (3) in subsection (c)(4), by striking “stake-
21 holders” and inserting “stakeholders before and
22 after providing grants under the program”;

23 (4) in subsection (d)—

24 (A) in paragraph (1), by striking “2023”
25 and inserting “2031”;

26 (B) in paragraph (2)—

1 (i) in subparagraph (I), by striking
2 “or”;

3 (ii) in subparagraph (J)(ii), by strik-
4 ing the period at the end and inserting “;
5 or”; and

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

8 “(K) to support the purchase of special
9 purpose equipment.”; and

10 (C) in paragraph (6)—

11 (i) in subparagraph (B)—

12 (I) by redesignating clauses (vii)
13 and (viii) as clauses (viii) and (ix), re-
14 spectively; and

15 (II) by inserting after clause (vi)
16 the following:

17 “(vii) a food hub;”;

18 (ii) in subparagraph (C)—

19 (I) in the matter preceding clause
20 (i), by striking “applications that”
21 and inserting “applications, outreach,
22 and technical assistance that would”;

23 (II) in clause (i), by striking “or”
24 at the end;

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

3 (IV) by inserting after clause (i)
4 the following:

5 “(ii) provide greater geographic bal-
6 ance relative to the benefits of the Pro-
7 gram; or”; and

8 (V) in clause (iii) (as so redesi-
9 gnated), by striking “are used” and in-
10 serting “be used”;

11 (iii) by redesignating subparagraphs
12 (D) and (E) as subparagraphs (E) and
13 (F); and

14 (iv) by inserting after subparagraph
15 (C) the following:

16 “(D) SIMPLIFIED APPLICATIONS.—

17 “(i) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary
18 shall establish a simplified application form
19 for eligible entities described in subpara-
20 graph (B) that—

21 “(I) request less than \$100,000;
22 and

23 “(II) choose from the project cat-
24 egories described in clause (ii), which
25 shall include a specific, limited set of

1 key activities with predefined require-
2 ments established by the Secretary.

3 “(ii) PROJECT CATEGORIES.—The
4 Secretary shall establish a simplified appli-
5 cation form for the following project cat-
6 egories but may include additional project
7 categories as necessary:

8 “(I) DIRECT-TO-CONSUMER
9 PROJECTS.—In the case of a direct-to-
10 consumer project, an application form
11 described in clause (i) may be avail-
12 able for the following categories of
13 projects:

14 “(aa) An outreach and pro-
15 motion project.

16 “(bb) A project to provide
17 funding for farmers market man-
18 ager staff time.

19 “(cc) A project to provide
20 vendor training.

21 “(dd) A planning and design
22 project.

23 “(ee) A data collection and
24 evaluation project.

1 “(II) LOCAL AND REGIONAL
2 FOOD MARKETS AND ENTERPRISE
3 PROJECTS.—In the case of a local and
4 regional food market and enterprise
5 project, an application form described
6 in clause (i) may be available for the
7 following categories of projects:

8 “(aa) A food hub feasibility
9 study project.

10 “(bb) A project to provide
11 funding for regional food chain
12 coordination staff time.

13 “(cc) A project to provide
14 technical assistance.

15 “(dd) A data collection and
16 evaluation project.

17 “(ee) A project to support
18 the purchase of special purpose
19 equipment.”;

20 (5) in subsection (e)(2)(A), by striking “2019
21 through 2023” and all that follows through the pe-
22 riod at the end and inserting the following: “2026
23 through 2031 to support partnerships—

24 “(i) to plan a local or regional food
25 system;

1 “(ii) to implement a local or regional
2 food system plan;

3 “(iii) to develop and implement a re-
4 gional food chain coordination project; and

5 “(iv) to develop and implement a re-
6 gional outreach, technical assistance, and
7 evaluation project.”.

8 (6) in subsection (f)(1)—

9 (A) in subparagraph (A), by striking “sub-
10 section (d); or” and inserting “subsection
11 (d)(5);”;

12 (B) by redesignating subparagraph (B) as
13 subparagraph (C); and

14 (C) by inserting after subparagraph (A)
15 the following:

16 “(B) are eligible to submit an application
17 in accordance with subsection (d)(6)(D); or”;
18 and

19 (7) in subsection (i)(3)(B)—

20 (A) by striking “Of the funds” and insert-
21 ing the following:

22 “(i) IN GENERAL.—Of the funds”;

23 and

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

1 “(ii) SIMPLIFIED APPLICATIONS.—Of
2 the funds made available for grants under
3 subsection (d)(6) for a fiscal year, not less
4 than 10 percent, and not more than 50
5 percent, shall be used to provide grants to
6 eligible entities that submit an application
7 in accordance with subsection (d)(6)(D).”.

8 **SEC. 10103. ACER ACCESS AND DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM.**

9 Section 12306 of the Agricultural Act of 2014 (7
10 U.S.C. 1632c) is amended—

11 (1) by redesignating subsections (e) and (f) as
12 subsections (f) and (g), respectively;

13 (2) by inserting after subsection (d) the fol-
14 lowing:

15 “(e) CONSULTATIONS.—

16 “(1) IN GENERAL.—Beginning with the first re-
17 quest for applications under this section that occurs
18 at least 1 year after the date of enactment of this
19 Act, not later than 6 months before such a request
20 for applications, the Secretary shall solicit input
21 from maple syrup industry stakeholders with respect
22 to the research and education priorities of the maple
23 syrup industry.

24 “(2) CONSIDERATION.—The Secretary shall
25 consider the information provided through the con-

1 sultation required under paragraph (1) when making
2 grants under this section.”; and

3 (3) in subsection (g), as so redesignated, by
4 striking “2023” and inserting “2031”.

5 **SEC. 10104. ORGANIC PRODUCTION AND MARKET DATA INI-**
6 **TIATIVE.**

7 Section 7407 of the Farm Security and Rural Invest-
8 ment Act of 2002 (7 U.S.C. 5925c) is amended—

9 (1) in subsection (b)—

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

12 (B) in paragraph (3), by striking the pe-
13 riod at the end and inserting “; and”; and

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

15 “(4) collect and publish cost-of-production data
16 for organic milk, through support from regional and
17 national programs, including regularly reported data
18 related to—

19 “(A) the costs of major organic feedstuffs,
20 including—

21 “(i) the prices for major organic
22 feedstuffs produced domestically;

23 “(ii) the prices for imported major or-
24 ganic feedstuffs; and

1 “(iii) all other costs relating to the
2 production of organic milk;

3 “(B) establishment of an Organic All Milk
4 Prices Survey, which shall be analogous to the
5 existing All Milk Prices Survey conducted by
6 the National Agricultural Statistics Service, to
7 gather and report monthly data about the
8 amounts organic dairy farmers are being paid
9 for organic milk and prices received for organic
10 dairy cows, including—

11 “(i) national data; and

12 “(ii) data relating to, at a minimum,
13 the 6 regions with the greatest quantity of
14 organic dairy production; and

15 “(C) periodic organic milk reporting under
16 which the Secretary, using data collected by the
17 National Agricultural Statistics Service, the
18 Economic Research Service, or the Agricultural
19 Marketing Service, publishes new periodic re-
20 ports that include, or add to existing periodic
21 reports relating to, data for organic milk, which
22 shall be equivalent to data reported for conven-
23 tionally produced milk.”; and

24 (2) in subsection (d)(2), by striking “2023”
25 and inserting “2031”.

1 **SEC. 10105. ORGANIC CERTIFICATION.**

2 (a) REPORTS.—Section 2122(d)(1) of the Organic
3 Foods Production Act of 1990 (7 U.S.C. 6521(d)(1)) is
4 amended by striking “2023” and inserting “2031”.

5 (b) ORGANIC TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE.—The Or-
6 ganic Foods Production Act of 1990 is amended by insert-
7 ing after section 2122A (7 U.S.C. 6521a) the following:

8 **“SEC. 2122B. ORGANIC TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE.**

9 “(a) IN GENERAL.—In carrying out this title, the
10 Secretary may provide technical assistance, outreach, and
11 education to support organic production through existing
12 programs implemented by a covered agency.

13 “(b) COVERED AGENCY.—For the purposes of this
14 section, the term ‘covered agency’ means—

15 “(1) the Agricultural Marketing Service;

16 “(2) the Agricultural Research Service;

17 “(3) the National Institute of Food and Agri-
18 culture;

19 “(4) the Farm Service Agency;

20 “(5) the Risk Management Agency;

21 “(6) the Natural Resources Conservation Serv-
22 ice;

23 “(7) the Rural Business-Cooperative Service;

24 “(8) the Food and Nutrition Service; and

25 “(9) other agencies, as determined by the Sec-
26 retary.”.

1 (c) FUNDING.—Section 2123(b)(6) of the Organic
2 Foods Production Act of 1990 (7 U.S.C. 6522(b)(6)) is
3 amended by striking “for fiscal year 2023” and inserting
4 “for each of fiscal years 2023 through 2031”.

5 **SEC. 10106. REPORT ON PROCUREMENT.**

6 Not later than 1 year after the date of the enactment
7 of the Farm, Food, and National Security Act of 2026,
8 the Secretary shall submit to the Committee on Agri-
9 culture of the House of Representatives and the Com-
10 mittee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry of the Sen-
11 ate a report that examines—

12 (1) the process by which domestic commodities
13 or products (as defined in section 220.16 of title 7,
14 Code of Federal Regulations (or any successor regu-
15 lation)) are procured by the Secretary, including the
16 solicitation process used to procure such commod-
17 ities or products;

18 (2) barriers to entry into such procurement
19 process that are for nontraditional, culturally rel-
20 evant, or local and regional commodities or products;

21 (3) the diet quality and accessibility of commod-
22 ities or products that are so procured; and

23 (4) the Secretary’s recommendations for admin-
24 istrative, regulatory, and legislative changes to im-
25 prove such procurement process.

1 **Subtitle C—Regulatory Reform**

2 **PART I—FEDERAL INSECTICIDE, FUNGICIDE,** 3 **AND RODENTICIDE ACT**

4 **SEC. 10201. EXCLUSION OF CERTAIN SUBSTANCES.**

5 (a) DEFINITIONS.—Section 2 of the Federal Insecti-
6 cide, Fungicide, and Rodenticide Act (7 U.S.C. 136) is
7 amended—

8 (1) by amending subsection (v) to read as fol-
9 lows:

10 “(v) PLANT REGULATOR.—

11 “(1) IN GENERAL.—The term ‘plant regulator’
12 means any substance or mixture of substances in-
13 tended, through physiological action, for accelerating
14 or retarding the rate of growth or rate of matura-
15 tion, or for otherwise altering the behavior of plants
16 or the produce thereof.

17 “(2) EXCLUSIONS.—Such term shall not in-
18 clude—

19 “(A) substances to the extent that they
20 are—

21 “(i) intended to be produced and used
22 within a plant; or

23 “(ii) intended as plant nutrients, trace
24 elements, nutritional chemicals, plant in-

- 1 oculants, soil amendments, or vitamin hor-
2 mone products; or
3 “(B) plant biostimulants that—
4 “(i) have a low-risk profile in relation
5 to humans and other organisms, as deter-
6 mined by the Agency; and
7 “(ii) are of biological origin or include
8 chemical compounds that are synthetically
9 derived, but structurally-similar and func-
10 tionally identical to, substances of biologi-
11 cal origin.”;
- 12 (2) in subsection (hh)—
- 13 (A) in paragraph (2), by striking “or”;
- 14 (B) in paragraph (3)—
- 15 (i) in the matter preceding subpara-
16 graph (A), by striking “substances.” and
17 inserting “substances”; and
- 18 (ii) in subparagraph (B)—
- 19 (I) by striking “volatilization
20 urease” and inserting “volatilization,
21 or urease”;
- 22 (II) by striking the period at the
23 end and inserting a semicolon; and
- 24 (C) by inserting after paragraph (3) the
25 following:

1 “(4) a plant biostimulant; or

2 “(5) a nutritional chemical.”; and

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

4 “(pp) PLANT BIOSTIMULANT.—The term ‘plant bio-
5 stimulant’ means any substance or mixture of substances
6 that, when applied to seeds, plants, the rhizosphere, or soil
7 or other growth media, acts to support a plant’s natural
8 nutrition processes independently of the nutrient content
9 of that substance or mixture of substances, and that there-
10 by improves—

11 “(1) nutrient availability, uptake, or use effi-
12 ciency;

13 “(2) tolerance to abiotic stress; or

14 “(3) consequent growth, development, quality,
15 or yield.

16 “(qq) NUTRITIONAL CHEMICAL.—The term ‘nutri-
17 tional chemical’ means any substance or mixture of sub-
18 stances that interacts with plant nutrients in a manner
19 that improves nutrient availability or aids the plant in ac-
20 quiring or utilizing plant nutrients.

21 “(rr) VITAMIN HORMONE PRODUCT.—The term ‘vi-
22 tamin hormone product’ means a product that—

23 “(1) consists of a mixture of plant hormones,
24 plant nutrients, plant inoculants, soil amendments,
25 trace elements, nutritional chemicals, plant biostimu-

1 lants, or vitamins that is intended for the improve-
2 ment, maintenance, survival, health, and propaga-
3 tion of plants;

4 “(2) is nontoxic and nonpoisonous in the undi-
5 luted packaged concentrations of the product; and

6 “(3) is not intended for use on food crop sites
7 and is labeled accordingly.

8 “(ss) PLANT-INCORPORATED PROTECTANT.—

9 “(1) IN GENERAL.—The term ‘plant-incor-
10 porated protectant’ means a pesticide that is—

11 “(A) intended for preventing, destroying,
12 repelling, or mitigating a pest; and

13 “(B) a substance or mixture of substances
14 intended to be produced and used within a liv-
15 ing plant, or in the produce thereof, and the ge-
16 netic material necessary for its production.

17 “(2) INCLUSIONS.—Such term includes any
18 inert ingredient (as defined in section 174.3 of title
19 40, Code of Federal Regulations (or any successor
20 regulation)).”.

21 (b) EXEMPTION FROM REGULATION.—Section 25(b)
22 of the Federal Insecticide, Fungicide, and Rodenticide Act
23 (7 U.S.C. 136w(b)) is amended to read as follows:

24 “(b) EXEMPTION OF PESTICIDES.—

1 “(1) EXEMPTION BY RULE.—The Adminis-
2 trator may exempt from the requirements of this Act
3 by regulation any pesticide which the Administrator
4 determines either—

5 “(A) to be adequately regulated by another
6 Federal agency; or

7 “(B) to be of a character which is unneces-
8 sary to be subject to this Act in order to carry
9 out the purposes of this Act.

10 “(2) EXEMPTION FOR CERTAIN PLANT-INCOR-
11 PORATED PROTECTANTS.—

12 “(A) EXEMPTION.—

13 “(i) IN GENERAL.—Upon the issuance
14 of guidance as described in subparagraph
15 (B), plant-incorporated protectants result-
16 ing from endogenous genetic material
17 found within or that could arise from the
18 plant’s gene pool are exempt from the re-
19 quirements of this Act.

20 “(ii) EXCEPTION.—A specific plant-
21 incorporated protectant arising from en-
22 dogenous genetic material found within or
23 that could arise from the plant’s gene pool
24 shall not be exempt from the requirements
25 of this Act if the Administrator determines

1 that such plant-incorporated protectant is
2 of a character which is necessary to be
3 subject to this Act in order to carry out
4 the purposes of this Act.

5 “(B) GUIDANCE.—Not later than 1 year
6 after the date of the enactment of the Farm,
7 Food, and National Security Act of 2026, the
8 Administrator shall issue guidance for the im-
9 plementation of subparagraph (A). The Admin-
10 istrator may update such guidance, as the Ad-
11 ministrator determines to be appropriate.

12 “(C) ORDER.—

13 “(i) IN GENERAL.—If the Adminis-
14 trator makes a determination described in
15 subparagraph (A)(ii) with respect to a
16 plant-incorporated protectant, the Admin-
17 istrator shall issue an order explaining the
18 basis for such determination, which may be
19 issued directly to any person who owns,
20 controls, or has custody of such plant-in-
21 corporated protectant or published in the
22 Federal Register.

23 “(ii) EFFECT OF ORDER.—After re-
24 ceipt or publication of an order described
25 in clause (i), the plant-incorporated pro-

1 tectant described in the order will no
2 longer be exempt from the requirements of
3 this Act.

4 “(D) TOLERANCE EXEMPTION.—The res-
5 idue of a plant-incorporated protectant that is
6 exempt under subparagraph (A)(i) shall be ex-
7 empt from the requirement for a tolerance
8 under section 408 of the Federal Food, Drug,
9 and Cosmetic Act (21 U.S.C. 346a) unless, and
10 until such time as, the Administrator issues or
11 publishes an order under subparagraph (C)(i).”.

12 (c) CONFORMING AMENDMENTS.—Section 17(c) of
13 the Federal Insecticide, Fungicide, and Rodenticide Act
14 (7 U.S.C. 136o(c)) is amended—

15 (1) in paragraph (2)—

16 (A) in the matter preceding subparagraph
17 (A), by striking “(as defined in section 174.3 of
18 title 40, Code of Federal Regulations (or any
19 successor regulation))”;

20 (B) in subparagraph (B), by striking “or”
21 at the end;

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

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

1 “(D) that plant-incorporated protectant is
2 exempt under section 25(b)(2) or part 174 of
3 title 40, Code of Federal Regulations (or any
4 successor regulation).”; and

5 (2) in paragraph (3)(A), by striking “(as de-
6 fined in section 174.3 of title 40, Code of Federal
7 Regulations (or any successor regulation))”.

8 **SEC. 10202. COORDINATION.**

9 Section 3 of the Federal Insecticide, Fungicide, and
10 Rodenticide Act (7 U.S.C. 136a) is amended by adding
11 at the end the following:

12 “(i) COORDINATION.—

13 “(1) RISK MITIGATION MEASURES.—If any risk
14 mitigation measures are required for any pesticide
15 registered under this Act, the Administrator shall—

16 “(A) develop such measures in coordina-
17 tion with the Secretary of Agriculture; and

18 “(B) conduct, and publish in the docket,
19 with the corresponding action, an economic
20 analysis determining the cost of implementation
21 of such measures.

22 “(2) DATA AND INFORMATION.—

23 “(A) COORDINATION OF DATA AND INFOR-
24 MATION.—With regard to the registration or
25 registration review of a pesticide under this Act

1 and for making a determination under section
2 408 of the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic
3 Act (21 U.S.C. 346a) with respect to any action
4 that impacts the sale, distribution, or use of a
5 pesticide, the Administrator shall coordinate
6 with the Secretary of Agriculture, acting
7 through the Director of the Office of Pest Man-
8 agement Policy, so that the Administrator has
9 for the Administrator’s use and consideration
10 for such processes—

11 “(i) agronomic use data from—

12 “(I) the Department of Agri-
13 culture; and

14 “(II) industry; and

15 “(ii) any information relating to the
16 availability and economic viability of alter-
17 natives to such pesticide.

18 “(B) DATA AND INFORMATION.—When
19 issuing any decision resulting from the proc-
20 esses referred to in subparagraph (A), the Ad-
21 ministrator shall publish—

22 “(i) a description of the use by the
23 Administrator of any data or information
24 provided by the Secretary of Agriculture
25 under subparagraph (A); and

1 “(ii) the determination of the Admin-
2 istrator on whether to use such data or in-
3 formation, including, as applicable, the
4 reasons that the data or information was
5 not used.

6 “(3) REASONABLE AND PRUDENT ACTIONS AND
7 MEASURES.—For implementation of reasonable and
8 prudent actions and measures with respect to the
9 use of a pesticide registered under this Act, the Ad-
10 ministrator shall coordinate with the Secretary of
11 Agriculture, the Secretary of the Interior, and the
12 Secretary of Commerce—

13 “(A) to review the development of any such
14 actions and measures that are a result of con-
15 sultations relating to actions under this Act;

16 “(B) to fully consider the risks and bene-
17 fits of any such actions and measures in a man-
18 ner consistent with practices established to
19 evaluate the risks and benefits of a pesticide
20 registered under this Act; and

21 “(C) to provide feedback to the Secretary
22 of the Interior and the Secretary of Commerce
23 on decisions relating to any such actions and
24 measures that may affect end users of a pes-
25 ticide registered under this Act.

1 “(4) WAIVER.—The coordination requirements
2 imposed by this subsection may be waived or modi-
3 fied for a specific action to the extent agreed upon
4 by the Administrator, the Secretary of Agriculture,
5 and the registrant so long as such agreement is pub-
6 lished by the Administrator in the docket for the
7 corresponding action.”.

8 **SEC. 10203. INTERAGENCY WORKING GROUP.**

9 Section 3(c)(11) of the Federal Insecticide, Fun-
10 gicide, and Rodenticide Act (7 U.S.C. 136a(c)(11)) is
11 amended—

12 (1) in subparagraph (B)—

13 (A) by striking “The Administrator shall”
14 and inserting the following:

15 “(i) IN GENERAL.—The Administrator
16 shall”; and

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

18 “(ii) PARTICIPATION.—The Secretary
19 of Agriculture shall include the Director of
20 the Office of Pest Management Policy in
21 all meetings of the interagency working
22 group.”;

23 (2) in subparagraph (D)—

24 (A) in clause (iv)—

1 (i) by striking “every 180 days there-
2 after” and inserting “each year there-
3 after”; and

4 (ii) by striking “during the 5-year pe-
5 riod beginning on that date”; and

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

7 “(v) AVAILABILITY.—All reports re-
8 quired under this subparagraph shall be
9 published on the website of the Environ-
10 mental Protection Agency.”.

11 (3) by amending subparagraph (E) to read as
12 follows:

13 “(E) CONSULTATION.—

14 “(i) WORKING GROUP WITH PRIVATE
15 SECTOR.—In carrying out the duties under
16 this paragraph, the working group shall, as
17 appropriate—

18 “(I) consult, including through
19 public meetings, with representatives
20 of interested industry stakeholders
21 and nongovernmental organizations
22 not less than once every year; and

23 “(II) take into consideration fac-
24 tors, such as actual and potential dif-
25 ferences in interest between, and the

1 views of, those stakeholders and orga-
2 nizations.

3 “(ii) ADMINISTRATOR WITH WORKING
4 GROUP.—Before the Administrator imple-
5 ments any policy, strategy, workplan, or
6 pilot program regarding the application of
7 the Endangered Species Act of 1973 (16
8 U.S.C.1531 et seq.) to the processes for
9 the registration or registration review of a
10 pesticide under this Act, the Administrator
11 shall—

12 “(I) consult with the covered
13 agencies on the policy, strategy,
14 workplan, or pilot program and take
15 into consideration input received; and

16 “(II) publish the input received
17 from the covered agencies in the dock-
18 et with the corresponding policy,
19 strategy, workplan, or pilot pro-
20 gram.”.

21 **SEC. 10204. REGISTRATION REVIEW.**

22 (a) EXTENSION OF DEADLINE.—Section
23 3(g)(1)(A)(iii) of the Federal Insecticide, Fungicide, and
24 Rodenticide Act (7 U.S.C. 136a(g)(1)(A)(iii)) is amend-
25 ed—

1 (1) in the matter preceding subclause (I), by
2 striking “the registration review of” and inserting
3 “the interim registration review decision of”; and

4 (2) in subclause (I), by striking “2022” and in-
5 serting “2031”.

6 (b) INTERIM REGISTRATION REVIEW DECISION RE-
7 QUIREMENTS.—Section 3(g)(1)(A) of the Federal Insecti-
8 cide, Fungicide, and Rodenticide Act (7 U.S.C.
9 136a(g)(1)(A)) is amended by adding at the end the fol-
10 lowing:

11 “(vi) INTERIM REGISTRATION REVIEW DE-
12 CISION REQUIREMENTS.—

13 “(I) REQUIREMENTS.—Any covered
14 interim registration review decision shall
15 include, where applicable, measures to re-
16 duce the effects of the applicable pesticide
17 on—

18 “(aa) species listed under the
19 Endangered Species Act of 1973 (16
20 U.S.C. 1531 et seq.); or

21 “(bb) any designated critical
22 habitat.

23 “(II) CONSULTATION.—In developing
24 measures described in subclause (I), the
25 Administrator shall take into account the

1 input received from the Secretary of Agri-
2 culture and other members of the inter-
3 agency working group established under
4 subsection (c)(11).

5 “(III) COVERED INTERIM REGISTRA-
6 TION REVIEW DECISION.—In this sub-
7 section, the term ‘covered interim registra-
8 tion review decision’ means an interim reg-
9 istration review decision—

10 “(aa) that is associated with an
11 initial registration review described in
12 clause (iii);

13 “(bb) that is noticed in the Fed-
14 eral Register during the period begin-
15 ning on the date of enactment of this
16 clause and ending on October 1, 2031;
17 and

18 “(cc) for which the Administrator
19 has not, as of the date on which the
20 decision is noticed in the Federal Reg-
21 ister, made effects determinations or
22 completed any necessary consultation
23 under section 7(a)(2) of the Endan-
24 gered Species Act of 1973 (16 U.S.C.
25 1536(a)(2)).”.

1 (c) CONFORMING REPEAL.—Section 711 of the Pes-
2 ticide Registration Improvement Act of 2022 (title VI of
3 division HH of Public Law 117–328) is repealed.

4 **SEC. 10205. UNIFORMITY OF PESTICIDE LABELING RE-**
5 **QUIREMENTS.**

6 (a) IN GENERAL.—Section 24(b) of the Federal In-
7 secticide, Fungicide, and Rodenticide Act (7 U.S.C.
8 136v(b)) shall be applied to require uniformity in pesticide
9 labeling nationally, and to prohibit any State, instrumen-
10 tality or political subdivision thereof, or a court from di-
11 rectly or indirectly imposing or continuing in effect any
12 requirements for, or penalize or hold liable any entity for
13 failing to comply with requirements that would require la-
14 beling or packaging that is in addition to or different from
15 the labeling or packaging approved by the Administrator
16 of the Environmental Protection Agency (referred to in
17 this section as the “Administrator”) under such Act (7
18 U.S.C. 136 et seq.), including any requirements relating
19 to warnings on such labeling or packaging, provided that
20 the entity is not in material violation of subparagraph (M),
21 (Q), or (R) of section 12(a)(2) of such Act (7 U.S.C.
22 136j(a)(2)), for which the entity has been penalized pursu-
23 ant to section 14 of such Act (7 U.S.C. 136l).

24 (b) RULE OF CONSTRUCTION.—Nothing in this sec-
25 tion shall be construed to alter or diminish the authority

1 of States under subsections (a) and (c) of section 24 of
2 the Federal Insecticide, Fungicide, and Rodenticide Act
3 (7 U.S.C. 136v).

4 **SEC. 10206. AUTHORITY OF STATES.**

5 Section 24 of the Federal Insecticide, Fungicide, and
6 Rodenticide Act (7 U.S.C. 136v) is amended—

7 (1) in the section heading by inserting “**AND**
8 **LOCALITIES**” after “**STATES**”; and

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

10 “(d) LOCAL REGULATION.—A political subdivision of
11 a State shall not impose, or continue in effect, any require-
12 ment relating to the sale, distribution, labeling, applica-
13 tion, or use of any pesticide or device that is subject to
14 regulation—

15 “(1) by a State pursuant to this section; or

16 “(2) by the Administrator under this Act.”.

17 **SEC. 10207. LAWFUL USE OF AUTHORIZED PESTICIDES.**

18 Section 3(f) of the Federal Insecticide, Fungicide,
19 and Rodenticide Act (7 U.S.C. 136a(f)) is amended by
20 adding at the end the following:

21 “(6) LAWFUL USE OF REGISTERED PES-
22 TICIDES.—Notwithstanding any other provision of
23 law, the use, application, or discharge of a registered
24 pesticide consistent with its labeling approved under
25 this Act shall be permitted and considered lawful,

1 without further permitting or approval require-
2 ments.”.

3 **PART II—OTHER REGULATORY REFORM**

4 **PROVISIONS**

5 **SEC. 10211. MULTIPLE CROP AND PESTICIDE USE SURVEY.**

6 Section 10109(b) of the Agriculture Improvement
7 Act of 2018 (Public Law 115–334; 132 Stat. 4906) is
8 amended to read as follows:

9 “(b) ADMINISTRATION.—

10 “(1) SUBMISSION.—The Secretary shall submit
11 to the Administrator of the Environmental Protec-
12 tion Agency, and make publicly available, the survey
13 described in subsection (a).

14 “(2) COMMERCIAL DATA.—The Secretary, act-
15 ing through the Director of the Office of Pest Man-
16 agement Policy, shall obtain commercial data on pes-
17 ticide use to inform the conduct of, and enhance the
18 results of, the survey described in subsection (a).

19 “(3) RULEMAKING PROCEDURE.—The adminis-
20 tration of this section shall be made without regard
21 to chapter 35 of title 44, United States Code (com-
22 monly known as the Paperwork Reduction Act).”.

1 **SEC. 10212. SAFE HARBOR FOR CERTAIN DISCHARGES OF**
2 **WILDLAND FIRE CHEMICALS.**

3 (a) IN GENERAL.—Subject to subsection (b), no
4 court may enjoin under the Federal Water Pollution Con-
5 trol Act (33 U.S.C. 1251 et seq.) a covered entity from
6 conducting an aerial application of a covered fire retardant
7 and water enhancer for wildfire suppression, control, or
8 prevention activities that results in a discharge, if such
9 aerial application is conducted in accordance with the re-
10 quirements of the Federal Facility Compliance Agreement
11 between the Environmental Protection Agency and the
12 U.S. Forest Service, as agreed to on February 16, 2023.

13 (b) PERIOD OF APPLICATION.—Subsection (a) shall
14 apply to any aerial application described in such sub-
15 section that is conducted before the effective date of a per-
16 mit issued by the Administrator of the Environmental
17 Protection Agency or a State, as applicable, under section
18 402 of the Federal Water Pollution Control Act (33
19 U.S.C. 1342) that authorizes the discharge, from such
20 aerial application, of a covered fire retardant and water
21 enhancer for wildfire suppression, control, or prevention
22 activities.

23 (c) EFFECT.—Nothing in this section affects the au-
24 thority of any court under the Federal Water Pollution
25 Control Act with respect to any discharge resulting from

1 an aerial application not conducted in accordance with the
2 requirements described in subsection (a).

3 (d) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

4 (1) COVERED ENTITY.—The term “covered en-
5 tity” means—

6 (A) any Federal agency, agency of a State
7 or political subdivision thereof, or Tribal agen-
8 cy, authorized by law to conduct an aerial appli-
9 cation of fire retardants and water enhancers
10 for wildfire suppression, control, or prevention
11 activities; and

12 (B) any contractor, subcontractor, or other
13 agent of an agency described in subparagraph
14 (A).

15 (2) COVERED FIRE RETARDANT AND WATER
16 ENHANCER.—The term “covered fire retardant and
17 water enhancer” means a fire retardant and water
18 enhancer that—

19 (A) has been evaluated, qualified, and ap-
20 proved by the Secretary; and

21 (B) appears on the most current Forest
22 Service Qualified Products List.

23 (3) DISCHARGE; STATE.—The terms “dis-
24 charge” and “State” have the meanings given those

1 terms in section 502 of the Federal Water Pollution
2 Control Act (33 U.S.C. 1362).

3 (e) SUNSET.—This section shall cease to be effective
4 on the date that is 5 years after the date of enactment
5 of this section.

6 **SEC. 10213. OFFICE OF BIOTECHNOLOGY POLICY.**

7 Subtitle A of the Department of Agriculture Reorga-
8 nization Act of 1994 (7 U.S.C. 6912 et seq.) is amended
9 by inserting after section 220 (7 U.S.C. 6920) the fol-
10 lowing:

11 **“SEC. 220A. OFFICE OF BIOTECHNOLOGY POLICY.**

12 “(a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall establish in
13 the Department an Office of Biotechnology Policy to pro-
14 vide for the effective coordination of policies and activities
15 within the Department of Agriculture related to bio-
16 technology, biomanufacturing, synthetic biology, and re-
17 lated emerging technologies, while taking into account the
18 effects of regulatory actions of other government agencies.

19 “(b) DIRECTOR.—The Office of Biotechnology Policy
20 shall be under the direction of a Director appointed by
21 the Secretary, who shall report directly to the Secretary
22 or a designee of the Secretary.

23 “(c) DUTIES.—The Director of the Office of Bio-
24 technology Policy shall—

1 “(1) develop and coordinate Department policy
2 on biotechnology and related topics;

3 “(2) coordinate activities and services of the
4 Department on biotechnology and related topics, in-
5 cluding—

6 “(A) research and development;

7 “(B) extension and education;

8 “(C) communication;

9 “(D) regulation and labeling; and

10 “(E) commercialization, use, and trade;

11 “(3) assist other offices and agencies of the De-
12 partment in fulfilling their responsibilities related to
13 biotechnology under applicable Federal law; and

14 “(4) perform such other functions as may be
15 required under Federal law or prescribed by the Sec-
16 retary.

17 “(d) INTERAGENCY COORDINATION.—In carrying out
18 the duties under subsection (b), the Director of the Office
19 of Biotechnology Policy shall provide leadership to ensure
20 coordination of interagency activities with the Environ-
21 mental Protection Agency, the Food and Drug Adminis-
22 tration, and other Federal and State agencies.

23 “(e) OUTREACH.—The Director of the Office of Bio-
24 technology Policy shall consult with biotechnology devel-
25 opers, academics, agricultural producers, and other enti-

1 ties that may be affected by biotechnology-related activi-
2 ties or actions of the Department or other Federal and
3 State agencies as necessary in carrying out the Office’s
4 responsibilities under this section.

5 “(f) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There
6 is authorized to be appropriated to carry out this section
7 \$1,000,000 for each of fiscal years 2027 through 2031.”.

8 **TITLE XI—CROP INSURANCE**

9 **SEC. 11001. SPECIALTY CROP ADVISORY COMMITTEE.**

10 (a) IN GENERAL.—Section 505 of the Federal Crop
11 Insurance Act (7 U.S.C. 1505) is amended—

12 (1) in subsection (a)—

13 (A) in paragraph (2)—

14 (i) by redesignating subparagraphs
15 (E), (F), and (G) as subparagraphs (F),
16 (G), and (H), respectively;

17 (ii) by inserting after subparagraph
18 (D) the following:

19 “(E) The Chairperson of the Specialty
20 Crop Advisory Committee established by sub-
21 section (f).”; and

22 (iii) in subparagraph (H), as so redesi-
23 gnated, by striking “specialty crop” and
24 inserting “livestock”;

1 (B) in paragraph (3), by striking “sub-
2 paragraphs (E), (F), and (G) of paragraph (2)”
3 and inserting “subparagraphs (F), (G), and
4 (H) of paragraph (2) and the members of the
5 Specialty Crop Advisory Committee described in
6 subsection (f)(2)”; and

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

8 “(f) SPECIALTY CROP ADVISORY COMMITTEE.—

9 “(1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 180 days
10 after the date of the enactment of this subsection,
11 the Secretary shall—

12 “(A) establish a Specialty Crop Advisory
13 Committee (in this subsection, referred to as
14 ‘the Committee’); and

15 “(B) appoint to the Committee in accord-
16 ance with paragraph (2) the initial members
17 that will assist the Corporation in the research,
18 creation, and improvement of policies or plans
19 of insurance for specialty crops.

20 “(2) COMPOSITION.—

21 “(A) CHAIRPERSON.—The chairperson of
22 the Committee shall be an individual with expe-
23 rience in crop insurance and the unique nature
24 of the specialty crop industry.

1 “(B) MEMBERS.—The Committee shall
2 consist of—

3 “(i) individuals with an understanding
4 of the production methods, markets, and
5 risks (including losses due to weather,
6 trade damages, and supply chain disrup-
7 tions) unique to specialty crop production;

8 “(ii) not less than 5 producers and
9 not more than 10 total members; and

10 “(iii) not less than one producer from
11 each of the West, Midwest, South, and
12 Northeast regions of the United States (as
13 identified by the Bureau of the Census).

14 “(3) DUTIES.—The Committee established by
15 this subsection shall—

16 “(A) advise the manager of the Corpora-
17 tion on issues relating to specialty crop insur-
18 ance policies;

19 “(B) provide input, through the Chair-
20 person of the Committee, to the Board on deci-
21 sions relating to specialty crop insurance poli-
22 cies;

23 “(C) review available educational programs
24 and make recommendations to the manager of
25 the Corporation on how to enhance the effec-

1 tiveness of such programs for specialty crop
2 producers;

3 “(D) provide recommendations to the man-
4 ager of the Corporation regarding the presen-
5 tation of policies to the Board required by sec-
6 tion 508(a)(6);

7 “(E) advise the manager of the Corpora-
8 tion on entering into partnerships to carry out
9 subsections (d) and (e)(2)(B) of section 522;
10 and

11 “(F) meet not less than two times each
12 year to carry out these duties.”.

13 (b) SPECIALTY CROPS COORDINATOR.—Section
14 507(g)(2) of the Federal Crop Insurance Act (7 U.S.C.
15 1507(g)(2)) is amended to read as follows:

16 “(2) RESPONSIBILITIES.—

17 “(A) IN GENERAL.—The Specialty Crops
18 Coordinator shall have primary responsibility
19 for addressing the needs of specialty crop pro-
20 ducers, and for providing information and ad-
21 vice, in connection with the activities of the
22 Corporation to improve and expand the insur-
23 ance program for specialty crops.

1 “(B) OTHER DUTIES.—In carrying out
2 this paragraph, the Specialty Crops Coordinator
3 shall—

4 “(i) act as the liaison of the Corpora-
5 tion with representatives of specialty crop
6 producers and the Specialty Crop Advisory
7 Committee; and

8 “(ii) assist the Corporation with the
9 knowledge, expertise, and familiarity of the
10 producers with risk management and pro-
11 duction issues pertaining to specialty
12 crops.”.

13 (c) ANNUAL REVIEW OF NEW AND SPECIALTY
14 CROPS.—Section 508(a)(6)(A) of the Federal Crop Insur-
15 ance Act (7 U.S.C. 1508(a)(6)(A)) is amended by insert-
16 ing “(in consultation with the Specialty Crop Advisory
17 Committee)” after “Corporation”.

18 **SEC. 11002. IDENTIFICATION OF HOLDERS OF SUBSTAN-**
19 **TIAL INTERESTS.**

20 Section 506(m) of the Federal Crop Insurance Act
21 (7 U.S.C. 1506(m)) is amended—

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

24 “(3) IDENTIFICATION OF HOLDERS OF SUB-
25 STANTIAL INTERESTS.—

1 “(A) IN GENERAL.—The Manager of the
2 Corporation may require each policyholder to
3 provide to the Manager, at such times and in
4 such manner as prescribed by the Manager, the
5 name of each individual or other entity that ac-
6 quires or holds a substantial beneficial interest
7 in such policyholder.

8 “(B) EXTENSION AVAILABLE.—

9 “(i) IN GENERAL.—In the case of a
10 policyholder that does not provide the in-
11 formation required pursuant to subpara-
12 graph (A) to the Manager at the time pre-
13 scribed by the Manager, the Manager shall
14 allow such policyholder to provide to the
15 Manager such information at any time
16 during the applicable crop year.

17 “(ii) EXCEPTION.—Clause (i) shall
18 not apply to a policyholder that an ap-
19 proved insurance provider determines—

20 “(I) would receive dispropor-
21 tionate benefits under a crop insur-
22 ance program as a result of failing to
23 provide the information required pur-
24 suant to subparagraph (A) to the

1 Manager at the time prescribed by the
2 Manager; or

3 “(II) failed to provide such infor-
4 mation to avoid an obligation or re-
5 quirement under any State or Federal
6 law.”; and

7 (2) in paragraph (4), by striking “5 percent”
8 and inserting “10 percent”.

9 **SEC. 11003. ACTUARIAL SOUNDNESS OF CERTAIN NEW**
10 **PRODUCTS.**

11 Section 506(n) of the Federal Crop Insurance Act (7
12 U.S.C. 1506(n)) is amended by adding at the end the fol-
13 lowing:

14 “(4) ACTUARIAL SOUNDNESS OF CERTAIN NEW
15 PRODUCTS.—The Corporation shall—

16 “(A) review each policy or product devel-
17 oped under section 508(h) periodically for actu-
18 arial soundness; and

19 “(B) take such actions, in consultation
20 with persons described in paragraph (1)(A) of
21 such section, as are necessary to improve the
22 actuarial soundness of such policies and prod-
23 ucts.”.

1 **SEC. 11004. COVERAGE OF REVENUE LOSSES.**

2 Section 508(a)(1) of the Federal Crop Insurance Act
3 (7 U.S.C. 1508(a)) is amended, in the second sentence,
4 by inserting “or a decline in the market price of the in-
5 sured commodity, so long as such decline was not directly
6 caused by the producer (as determined by the Secretary)”
7 before the period at the end.

8 **SEC. 11005. LIMITATION ON FARM PROGRAM PARTICIPA-**
9 **TION.**

10 (a) IN GENERAL.—The Federal Crop Insurance Act
11 (7 U.S.C. 1501 et seq.) is amended—

12 (1) in section 508(c)(4)(C)(iv) in the heading,
13 by striking “CROPS AND”; and

14 (2) in section 508B(f) is amended by striking
15 “Effective beginning with the 2019 crop year” and
16 inserting “Effective for the 2019 through 2025 crop
17 years”.

18 (b) CONFORMING AMENDMENT.—Section 1115 of the
19 Agricultural Act of 2014 (7 U.S.C. 9015) is amended by
20 adding at the end the following subsection:

21 “(j) LIMITATION.—Beginning with the 2026 crop
22 year, in the case of a farm for which a producer obtains
23 coverage under the Stacked Income Protection Plan for
24 upland cotton under section 508B of the Federal Crop In-
25 surance Act (7 U.S.C. 1508b) for a crop year, such farm

1 shall not be eligible to receive payments for seed cotton
2 for such crop year under—

3 “(1) price loss coverage under section 1116; or

4 “(2) agriculture risk coverage under section
5 1117.”.

6 **SEC. 11006. LIMITATION ON INTEREST ACCRUAL.**

7 Section 508(d) of Federal Crop Insurance Act (7
8 U.S.C. 1508(d)) is amended by inserting at the end the
9 following new paragraph:

10 “(5) LIMITATION ON INTEREST ACCRUED.—Ef-
11 fective beginning with the 2026 reinsurance year, in
12 the case of a producer that is delinquent in paying
13 a premium or administrative fee, an approved insur-
14 ance provider may charge such producer with re-
15 spect to such delinquency an amount less than or
16 equal to 1 percent of the simple interest of the
17 amount for which such producer is delinquent, for
18 each month (not to exceed 60-consecutive months)
19 the producer is so delinquent.”.

20 **SEC. 11007. CROP INSURANCE SUPPORT FOR BEGINNING
21 AND VETERAN FARMERS AND RANCHERS.**

22 (a) DEFINITION OF VETERAN FARMER OR RANCH-
23 ER.—Section 502(b)(14)(B) of the Federal Crop Insur-
24 ance Act (7 U.S.C. 1502(b)(14)(B)) is amended—

1 (1) in clause (ii), by striking “5 years” and in-
2 serting “10 years”; and

3 (2) in clause (iii), by striking “5-year” and in-
4 serting “10-year”.

5 (b) INCREASE IN ASSISTANCE.—Section 508(e)(9) of
6 the Federal Crop Insurance Act (7 U.S.C. 1508(e)) is
7 amended by inserting “or veteran farmer or rancher” after
8 “beginning farmer or rancher” each place it appears.

9 **SEC. 11008. MARKETABILITY.**

10 Section 508(h)(4) of the Federal Crop Insurance Act
11 (7 U.S.C. 1508(h)(4)) is amended—

12 (1) in subparagraph (A), by amending clause
13 (iii) to read as follows:

14 “(iii) APPLICATION.—

15 “(I) IN GENERAL.—Except as
16 provided in subclause (II), this sub-
17 paragraph shall apply with respect to
18 a proposal only during the period pre-
19 ceding any approval of the proposal
20 by the Board.

21 “(II) EXCEPTION.—An approved
22 insurance provider that submits a let-
23 ter of support for a concept proposal,
24 a policy, or plan of insurance shall—

1 “(aa) not be considered the
2 public for purposes of clause (ii);

3 “(bb) have access to data
4 and other product development
5 information submitted to the
6 Board during its review under
7 this subsection, and;

8 “(cc) be subject to the con-
9 fidentiality requirements as appli-
10 cable to the Board pursuant to
11 clauses (i) and (ii).”;

12 (2) in subparagraph (D), by adding at the end
13 the following:

14 “(iv) MARKETABILITY DEADLINE.—
15 Any new policy, plan of insurance, or other
16 material approved by the Board under this
17 subsection during a reinsurance year and
18 after the Standard Reinsurance Agreement
19 closing date of July 1, shall not be imple-
20 mented for such reinsurance year unless at
21 least 90 days prior to the sales closing date
22 for such policy, plan of insurance, or other
23 material, the Board makes available to the
24 approved insurance providers all necessary,
25 as determined by the Board, handbooks,

1 training materials, and other resources as-
2 sociated with such policy, plan of insur-
3 ance, or other material.”; and

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

5 “(F) MARKETABILITY DETERMINATION.—

6 “(i) SUBMISSION TO THE BOARD.—

7 Prior to the approval of a product, any ap-
8 proved insurance provider that submitted a
9 letter of support for the product shall pro-
10 vide information and analysis to the Board
11 on the marketability of such product.

12 “(ii) DEEMED MARKETABLE.—In re-
13 viewing a policy, plan of insurance, or
14 other material submitted to the Board
15 under this subsection such product shall be
16 deemed marketable in accordance with
17 paragraph (3)(A)(ii)(I) if at least one ap-
18 proved insurance provider, in its submis-
19 sion pursuant to clause (i), expresses sup-
20 port for such policy, plan, or material.

21 “(iii) EVALUATION BY THE BOARD.—

22 In evaluating whether a product is market-
23 able in accordance with paragraph
24 (3)(A)(ii)(I), the Board shall take into con-

1 sideration any information and analysis
2 submitted pursuant to clause (ii).

3 “(iv) AIP PARTICIPATION.—The
4 Board shall not require the submission of
5 a letter of support from an approved insur-
6 ance provider in order to review and ap-
7 prove any policy, plan of insurance, or
8 other materials submitted pursuant to this
9 subsection.”.

10 **SEC. 11009. REIMBURSEMENT RATES FOR ADMINISTRATIVE**
11 **AND OPERATING COSTS.**

12 Section 508(k)(4) of the Federal Crop Insurance Act
13 (7 U.S.C. 1508(k)(4)) is amended—

14 (1) in subparagraph (A)—

15 (A) in the matter preceding clause (i), by
16 striking “not exceed”;

17 (B) in clause (i)—

18 (i) by inserting “not exceed” before
19 “for the”; and

20 (ii) by striking “and” after the semi-
21 colon;

22 (C) in clause (ii)—

23 (i) by striking “and subsequent” and
24 inserting “through 2026”;

1 (ii) by inserting “not exceed” before
2 “for each”; and

3 (iii) by striking the period and insert-
4 ing “; and”; and

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

6 “(iii) for each of the 2027 and subse-
7 quent reinsurance years, be determined in
8 accordance with subparagraph (F).”.

9 (2) by amending subparagraph (F) to read as
10 follows:

11 “(F) REIMBURSEMENT RATES FOR REIN-
12 SURANCE YEAR 2027 AND SUBSEQUENT REIN-
13 SURANCE YEARS.—Notwithstanding subpara-
14 graphs (A), (B), (C), and (E), for each of the
15 2027 and subsequent reinsurance years, the
16 rate established by the Board to reimburse ap-
17 proved insurance providers and agents for the
18 administrative and operating costs of the pro-
19 viders and agents with respect to each policy
20 made available under this Act shall be equal to
21 the rate applicable to the policy in effect for the
22 2026 reinsurance year.”.

23 **SEC. 11010. QUALITY LOSS ADJUSTMENT COVERAGE.**

24 Section 508(m)(3) of the Federal Crop Insurance Act
25 (7 U.S.C. 1508(m)(3)) is amended—

1 (1) by striking subparagraph (A) and inserting
2 the following:

3 “(A) PERIODIC REVIEW.—Beginning in
4 calendar year 2027 and once every 5 years
5 thereafter, the Corporation shall contract with a
6 qualified person to conduct a review, which
7 shall be completed within 1 year of initiation, of
8 the quality loss adjustment procedures of the
9 Corporation.”;

10 (2) in subparagraph (B), by striking “Effective
11 beginning not later than the 2004 reinsurance year,
12 based on the review, the Corporation” and inserting
13 “Based on each review conducted under subpara-
14 graph (A), the Corporation”;

15 (3) by redesignating subparagraph (B) as sub-
16 paragraph (C);

17 (4) by inserting after subparagraph (A) the fol-
18 lowing:

19 “(B) STAKEHOLDER ENGAGEMENT.—Each
20 review under subparagraph (A) shall include en-
21 gagement from regionally diverse industry
22 stakeholders for each agricultural commodity
23 for which a quality loss adjustment is offered.”;
24 and

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

1 “(D) REPORT.—On the completion of each
2 review under subparagraph (A), the Corpora-
3 tion shall submit to the Committee on Agri-
4 culture, Nutrition, and Forestry of the Senate
5 and the Committee on Agriculture of the House
6 of Representatives a report that describes—

7 “(i) the findings from that review;

8 “(ii) the changes to the quality loss
9 adjustment procedures;

10 “(iii) the stakeholder engagement for
11 that review conducted pursuant to sub-
12 paragraph (B); and

13 “(iv) plans for establishing specific
14 quality loss adjustment procedures for
15 unique regions, as determined by the Sec-
16 retary.”.

17 **SEC. 11011. PILOT PROGRAM TO REVIEW EFFECTIVENESS**
18 **OF COVERAGE PENALTY.**

19 The Federal Crop Insurance Act is amended by in-
20 serting after section 508D the following:

21 **“SEC. 508E. PILOT PROGRAM TO REVIEW EFFECTIVENESS**
22 **OF COVERAGE PENALTY.**

23 “(a) IN GENERAL.—Effective beginning with the
24 2027 crop year, the Risk Management Agency and the
25 Corporation shall establish a pilot program to evaluate the

1 effectiveness of the reduction in benefits applied to corn
2 and other crops, as determined by the Corporation, plant-
3 ed during the late planting period (as defined in section
4 457.8 of title 7, Code of Federal Regulations (or successor
5 regulation)).

6 “(b) LOCATION AND DURATION OF PILOT.—The
7 pilot program established under subsection (a) shall—

8 “(1) be conducted in not less than 10 counties
9 located within or adjacent to the North Plains
10 Groundwater Conservation District or the Panhandle
11 Groundwater Conservation District in the State of
12 Texas; and

13 “(2) operate for a period of not less than four
14 crop years.

15 “(c) EVALUATION.—In carrying out the pilot pro-
16 gram established under subsection (a), the Risk Manage-
17 ment Agency and the Corporation shall—

18 “(1) suspend any reduction to the insurance
19 guarantee applied to an insurance policy for a crop
20 that is planted during the late planting period;

21 “(2) gather and analyze data to determine if
22 the number of days beyond the final plant date in
23 which a crop was planted during the late planting
24 period correlates with a decrease in crop yields; and

1 “(3) determine if planting a crop after the final
2 plant date results in reduced usage of irrigation
3 from the Ogallala Aquifer.

4 “(d) REPORT REQUIRED.—Not later than 90 days
5 after the last day of crop year 2031, the Risk Management
6 Agency and the Corporation shall submit to the Com-
7 mittee on Agriculture of the House of Representatives and
8 the Committee on Agriculture, Forestry, and Nutrition of
9 the Senate a report that includes—

10 “(1) a summary of the results of the pilot pro-
11 gram established under subsection (a);

12 “(2) an analysis of the correlation between
13 planting date and final yields; and

14 “(3) any changes to existing policies that the
15 Corporation intends to make as a result of the infor-
16 mation obtained during the pilot program.

17 “(e) PARTNERSHIPS.—Of the amounts made avail-
18 able in section 522(e)(2)(A)(ii), the Corporation may use
19 not more than \$200,000 to enter into a partnership or
20 cooperative agreement with a nonprofit organization,
21 State agency, or public university that is familiar with ag-
22 ricultural production in the region described in subsection
23 (b)(1) to conduct the research and evaluation required
24 under paragraphs (2) and (3) of subsection (c).”.

1 **SEC. 11012. WHOLE FARM IMPROVEMENTS.**

2 Section 522(c)(7)(E) of the Federal Crop Insurance
3 Act (7 U.S.C. 1522(c)(7)(E)) is amended by adding at
4 the end the following:

5 “(iii) **ADDITIONAL REVIEW.**—Not
6 later than 12 months after the date of en-
7 actment of this clause and annually there-
8 after, the Corporation shall—

9 “(I) review any limitations on in-
10 surable revenue (including the overall
11 limitation and limitations specific to
12 animals, animal products, greenhouse
13 and nursery, and aquaculture) to en-
14 sure such limitations are adequate to
15 cover the financial risks associated
16 with the production of high-value agri-
17 cultural products; and

18 “(II) submit to the Committee on
19 Agriculture of the House of Rep-
20 resentatives and the Committee on
21 Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry
22 of the Senate a report that includes a
23 summary of the most recent review
24 conducted and any expected changes
25 to the policy for the following reinsur-
26 ance year.”.

1 **SEC. 11013. PROGRAM COMPLIANCE AND INTEGRITY.**

2 Section 515(b) of the Federal Crop Insurance Act (7
3 U.S.C. 1515(b)) is amended—

4 (1) in the subsection heading, by inserting “,
5 RESPONSE, AND FINAL DETERMINATION” after
6 “NOTIFICATION”;

7 (2) in paragraph (1), by striking “shall notify
8 in writing” and inserting “shall, through an initial
9 finding in writing, notify (unless such notification is
10 pursuant to the responsibilities to conduct reviews
11 and make corrections)”;

12 (3) in paragraph (2)—

13 (A) in the heading, by striking “TIME FOR
14 NOTIFICATION” and inserting “REQUIRED TIM-
15 ING”;

16 (B) by striking “Notice” and inserting the
17 following:

18 “(A) INITIAL FINDING.—Notice”; and

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

20 “(B) RESPONSE.—During the 90-day pe-
21 riod beginning on the date the Corporation no-
22 tifies an approved insurance provider through
23 an initial finding under paragraph (1), such ap-
24 proved insurance provider may appeal such ini-
25 tial finding in writing.

1 “(C) FINAL FINDING.—Not later than 90
2 days after the date on which an approved insur-
3 ance provider appeals pursuant to subpara-
4 graph (B), the Corporation shall issue a final
5 finding in writing to such approved insurance
6 provider.

7 “(D) REQUEST FOR FINAL ADMINISTRA-
8 TIVE DETERMINATION.—An approved insurance
9 provider shall have not more than 90 days after
10 the receipt of the Corporation’s final finding
11 under subparagraph (C) to request, in writing,
12 a final agency determination, if such approved
13 insurance provider has reason to believe that
14 the Corporation’s final finding under subpara-
15 graph (C) is not in accordance with—

16 “(i) the applicable laws, regulations,
17 custom, or practice of the crop insurance
18 industry; or

19 “(ii) the approved policy and proce-
20 dure of the Corporation.

21 “(E) FINAL DETERMINATION.—The Cor-
22 poration shall have not more than 90 days after
23 the receipt of a request for a final administra-
24 tive determination under subparagraph (D) to
25 provide such final administrative determination,

1 unless substantial new information, as deter-
2 mined by the Corporation, is provided by the
3 approved insurance provider.

4 “(F) APPEAL TO CIVILIAN BOARD OF CON-
5 TRACT APPEALS.—An approved insurance pro-
6 vider shall have not more than 90 days after re-
7 ceipt of final administrative determination pro-
8 vided pursuant to subparagraph (E) to appeal
9 such determination to the Civilian Board of
10 Contract Appeals.”; and

11 (4) by amending paragraph (3) to read as fol-
12 lows:

13 “(3) EFFECT OF FAILURE TO TIMELY NO-
14 TIFY.—

15 “(A) IN GENERAL.—Except as provided in
16 subparagraph (B), failure of the Corporation to
17 comply with the requirements under paragraph
18 (2) shall relieve the approved insurance provider
19 from the debt owed to the Corporation.

20 “(B) EXCEPTION.—Subparagraph (A)
21 shall not apply to any matters referred to the
22 Office of the Inspector General or the Depart-
23 ment of Justice.”.

1 **SEC. 11014. RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT PRIORITIES.**

2 (a) **EXPANSION OF REVENUE POLICIES.**—Section
3 522(c) of the Federal Crop Insurance Act (7 U.S.C.
4 522(c)) is amended by adding at the end the following:

5 “(20) **EXPANSION OF REVENUE POLICIES.**—

6 “(A) **IN GENERAL.**—The Corporation shall
7 carry out research and development, or offer to
8 enter into 1 or more contracts with 1 or more
9 qualified persons to carry out research and de-
10 velopment, to expand the availability of policies
11 that provide coverage against losses of revenue
12 for—

13 “(i) oilseeds, including camelina,
14 carinata, and pennycress;

15 “(ii) alfalfa;

16 “(iii) pulse crops (including dry edible
17 beans);

18 “(iv) sugarbeets;

19 “(v) sugarcane;

20 “(vi) blueberries; and

21 “(vii) other crops for which only indi-
22 vidual yield-based insurance policies are
23 available.

24 “(B) **AVAILABILITY OF POLICY.**—Notwith-
25 standing the last sentence of section 508(a)(1),
26 and section 508(a)(2), the Corporation shall

1 make a policy described in subparagraph (A)
2 available if the requirements of section 508(h)
3 are met.

4 “(C) DETERMINATION OF PROJECTED
5 PRICE.—In developing a policy described in sub-
6 paragraph (A) the Corporation may utilize al-
7 ternative methods of determining a projected
8 price for a crop, including the correlation of ac-
9 tual prices received for such crop to the futures
10 markets prices of other commodities.

11 “(D) PRICING LIBRARY.—In developing a
12 policy described in subparagraph (A) the Cor-
13 poration shall determine the feasibility of cre-
14 ating a pricing library for agents and approved
15 insurance providers using data from alternative
16 sources, as determined by the Secretary.

17 “(E) REPORT.—Not later than 18 months
18 after the date of enactment of this paragraph,
19 the Corporation shall submit to the Committee
20 on Agriculture of the House of Representatives
21 and the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition,
22 and Forestry of the Senate a report that de-
23 scribes—

1 “(i) the crops for which research and
2 development has been carried out under
3 subparagraph (A);

4 “(ii) the results of the research and
5 development carried out under subpara-
6 graph (A);

7 “(iii) any recommendations with re-
8 spect to those results; and

9 “(iv) additional crops for which re-
10 search and development under this para-
11 graph is planned to be carried out.”.

12 (b) WINE GRAPE LOSSES DUE TO SMOKE EXPO-
13 SURE.—Section 522(c) of the Federal Crop Insurance Act
14 (7 U.S.C. 1522(c)) is further amended by adding at the
15 end the following:

16 “(21) WINE GRAPE LOSSES DUE TO SMOKE EX-
17 POSURE.—

18 “(A) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 1 year
19 after the date of the enactment of this para-
20 graph, the Corporation shall carry out research
21 and development, or offer to enter into 1 or
22 more contracts with 1 or more qualified persons
23 to carry out research and development, regard-
24 ing a policy to insure wine grapes (including
25 wine grapes produced in the States of Cali-

1 fornia, Oregon, and Washington) against losses
2 due to wildfire smoke exposure.

3 “(B) AVAILABILITY OF POLICY.—Notwith-
4 standing the last sentence of section 508(a)(1),
5 and section 508(a)(2), not later than 18
6 months after the date of the enactment of this
7 paragraph, the Corporation shall make available
8 a policy described in subparagraph (A) if the
9 requirements of section 508(h) are met.

10 “(C) REPORT.—Not later than 2 years
11 after the date of enactment of this paragraph,
12 the Corporation shall submit to the Committees
13 on Appropriations and Agriculture of the House
14 of Representatives and the Committees on Ap-
15 propriations and Agriculture, Nutrition, and
16 Forestry of the Senate a report that includes—

17 “(i) the results of the research con-
18 ducted under subparagraph (A);

19 “(ii) a description of the policies made
20 available under this paragraph; and

21 “(iii) the feasibility of a product that
22 allows producers of wine grapes to claim
23 an indemnity through post-harvest, post-
24 vinification testing, if such testing dem-

1 onstrates smoke damage that was not de-
2 tectable prior to harvest.”.

3 (c) MUSHROOMS.—Section 522(c) of the Federal
4 Crop Insurance Act (7 U.S.C. 1522(c)) is further amend-
5 ed by adding at the end the following:

6 “(22) MUSHROOMS.—

7 “(A) IN GENERAL.—The Corporation shall
8 carry out research and development, or offer to
9 enter into 1 or more contracts with 1 or more
10 qualified persons to carry out research and de-
11 velopment, regarding a policy to insure—

12 “(i) the production of mushroom
13 growing media; and

14 “(ii) the production of mushrooms.

15 “(B) AVAILABILITY OF POLICY.—Notwith-
16 standing the second sentence of section
17 508(a)(1), and section 508(a)(2), the Corpora-
18 tion shall make a policy described in subpara-
19 graph (A) available if the requirements of sec-
20 tion 508(h) are met.

21 “(C) RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT DE-
22 SCRIBED.—Research and development described
23 in subparagraph (A) shall evaluate the effective-
24 ness of policies described in that subparagraph,
25 including policies that—

- 1 “(i) are based on the risk of—
- 2 “(I) pests, including mushroom
- 3 phorid flies and sciarid flies;
- 4 “(II) fungal pathogens; and
- 5 “(III) viral pathogens;
- 6 “(ii) consider other causes of loss ap-
- 7 plicable to mushroom compost and mush-
- 8 room production, such as—
- 9 “(I) a loss of electricity due to
- 10 weather; and
- 11 “(II) loss of growing media due
- 12 to excessive 5-year, 10-year, or 20-
- 13 year rainfall events;
- 14 “(iii) consider appropriate best prac-
- 15 tices to minimize the risk of loss;
- 16 “(iv) consider whether to provide cov-
- 17 erage for mushrooms under 1 policy or to
- 18 provide coverage for various phases of pro-
- 19 duction;
- 20 “(v) have streamlined reporting and
- 21 paperwork requirements that take into ac-
- 22 count short propagation schedules, variable
- 23 crop years, and the variety of mushrooms
- 24 that may be produced in a single facility;
- 25 and

1 “(vi) provide protection for revenue
2 losses.

3 “(D) REPORT.—Not later than 2 years
4 after the date of enactment of this paragraph,
5 the Corporation shall submit to the Committee
6 on Agriculture of the House of Representatives
7 and the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition,
8 and Forestry of the Senate a report that de-
9 scribes—

10 “(i) the results of the research and
11 development carried out under subpara-
12 graph (A); and

13 “(ii) any recommendations with re-
14 spect to those results.”.

15 (d) STUDY ON HURRICANE INSURANCE.—Section
16 522(c) of the Federal Crop Insurance Act (7 U.S.C.
17 1522(c)) is further amended by adding at the end the fol-
18 lowing:

19 “(23) STANDALONE POLICY FOR HURRICANES
20 AND TROPICAL STORMS.—

21 “(A) IN GENERAL.—The Corporation shall
22 carry out research and development, or offer to
23 enter into 1 or more contracts with 1 or more
24 qualified persons to conduct a study to deter-
25 mine the feasibility of offering insurance

1 against tropical storms and hurricanes made
2 available regardless of underlying crop insur-
3 ance policy (or lack thereof).

4 “(B) REPORT.—Not later than 1 year
5 after the date of enactment of this paragraph,
6 the Corporation shall submit to the Committee
7 on Agriculture of the House of Representatives
8 and the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition,
9 and Forestry of the Senate a report that de-
10 scribes the results of the study conducted under
11 subparagraph (A).”.

12 (e) FROST OR COLD WEATHER INSURANCE.—Section
13 522(c) of the Federal Crop Insurance Act (7 U.S.C.
14 1522(c)) is further amended by adding at the end the fol-
15 lowing:

16 “(24) FROST OR COLD WEATHER INSUR-
17 ANCE.—

18 “(A) IN GENERAL.—The Corporation shall
19 carry out research and development, or offer to
20 enter into 1 or more contracts with 1 or more
21 qualified persons to carry out research and de-
22 velopment, regarding an index-based policy to
23 insure crops (including table grapes, wine
24 grapes, juice grapes, tomatoes, peppers, sugar-
25 cane, strawberries, melons, citrus, peaches,

1 blueberries, and any other crop) on a nation-
2 ally-available basis against losses due to a frost
3 or cold weather event.

4 “(B) RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT.—
5 Research and development under subparagraph
6 (A) shall—

7 “(i) evaluate the effectiveness of risk
8 management tools, such as the use of an
9 index, with respect to low frequency and
10 catastrophic loss weather events; and

11 “(ii) result in a policy that provides
12 protection for at least 1 of the following:

13 “(I) Production loss.

14 “(II) Revenue loss.

15 “(C) REPORT.—Not later than 1 year
16 after the date of enactment of this paragraph,
17 the Corporation shall submit to the Committee
18 on Agriculture of the House of Representatives
19 and the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition,
20 and Forestry of the Senate a report that de-
21 scribes—

22 “(i) the results of the research and
23 development carried out under this para-
24 graph; and

1 “(ii) any recommendations with re-
2 spect to those results.”.

3 (f) STUDY OF INCLUSION OF CERTAIN OILSEED
4 CROPS UNDER DOUBLE AND ROTATIONAL CROPPING
5 POLICIES.—Section 522(c) of the Federal Crop Insurance
6 Act (7 U.S.C. 1522(c)) is further amended by adding at
7 the end the following:

8 “(25) DOUBLE CROPPING AND ROTATIONAL
9 CROPPING OF CERTAIN OILSEED CROPS.—

10 “(A) DEFINITION OF COVERED OILSEED
11 CROPS.—In this paragraph, the term ‘covered
12 oilseed crops’ means rapeseed, canola, camelina,
13 and other oilseed crops, as determined by the
14 Corporation.

15 “(B) RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT.—
16 The Corporation shall carry out research and
17 development, or offer to enter into 1 or more
18 contracts with 1 or more qualified persons to
19 carry out research and development, with re-
20 spect to insurance policies for covered oilseed
21 crops under double cropping and rotational
22 cropping practices.

23 “(C) REQUIREMENTS.—The research and
24 development carried out pursuant to subpara-

1 graph (B) shall be conducted in consultation
2 with stakeholders to evaluate—

3 “(i) the factors impacting availability
4 and cost of crop insurance when incor-
5 porating covered oilseed crops into double
6 cropping and rotational cropping policies;
7 and

8 “(ii) the potential risk management
9 benefits associated with incorporating cov-
10 ered oilseed crops into double cropping and
11 rotational cropping policies, specifically
12 with respect to winter planted covered oil-
13 seed crops, including risk management
14 benefits to soil health, biodiversity, and the
15 profitability of farming operations.

16 “(D) EMPHASIS.—In awarding contracts
17 under subparagraph (B), the Corporation may
18 give priority to awarding contracts to qualified
19 persons that—

20 “(i) have previous research experience
21 with covered oilseed crops; and

22 “(ii) have access to a facility with the
23 capacity to carry out the applicable re-
24 search.

1 “(E) REPORT.—Not later than 13 months
2 after the date of enactment of this paragraph,
3 the Corporation shall submit to the Committee
4 on Agriculture of the House of Representatives
5 and the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition,
6 and Forestry of the Senate a report that de-
7 scribes—

8 “(i) the results of the research and
9 development carried out under subpara-
10 graph (B); and

11 “(ii) any recommendations with re-
12 spect to those results.”.

13 (g) HARVEST INCENTIVES.—Section 522(c) of the
14 Federal Crop Insurance Act (7 U.S.C. 1522(c)) is further
15 amended by adding at the end the following:

16 “(26) HARVEST INCENTIVES.—

17 “(A) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 1 year
18 after the date of the enactment of this para-
19 graph, the Corporation shall carry out research
20 and development, or offer to enter into 1 or
21 more contracts with 1 or more qualified persons
22 to carry out research and development, regard-
23 ing harvest incentives for policies that provide
24 coverage against losses of revenue.

1 “(B) AVAILABILITY OF POLICY.—Notwith-
2 standing the last sentence of section 508(a)(1),
3 and section 508(a)(2), not later than 24
4 months after the date of the enactment of this
5 paragraph, the Corporation shall make available
6 a policy described in subparagraph (A) if the
7 requirements of section 508(h) are met.

8 “(C) REPORT.—Not later than 1 year
9 after the date of enactment of this paragraph,
10 the Corporation shall submit to the Committees
11 on Appropriations and Agriculture of the House
12 of Representatives and the Committees on Ap-
13 propriations and Agriculture, Nutrition, and
14 Forestry of the Senate a report that includes—

15 “(i) the results of the research con-
16 ducted under subparagraph (A); and

17 “(ii) a description of the policies made
18 available under this paragraph.”.

19 (h) PREVENTED PLANTING.—Section 522(c) of the
20 Federal Crop Insurance Act (7 U.S.C. 1522(c)) is further
21 amended by adding at the end the following:

22 “(27) PREVENTED PLANTING.—

23 “(A) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 1 year
24 after the date of the enactment of this para-
25 graph, the Corporation shall carry out research

1 and development, or offer to enter into 1 or
2 more contracts with 1 or more qualified persons
3 to carry out research and development, regard-
4 ing prevented planting coverage for insurance
5 policies for specialty crops that are not planted
6 on a perennial basis.

7 “(B) REPORT.—Not later than 18 months
8 after the date of the enactment of this para-
9 graph, the Corporation shall submit to the
10 Committee on Agriculture of the House of Rep-
11 resentatives and the Committee on Agriculture,
12 Nutrition, and Forestry of the Senate a report
13 that includes—

14 “(i) the results of the research con-
15 ducted under subparagraph (A); and

16 “(ii) any recommendations with re-
17 spect to those results.”.

18 **SEC. 11015. REPORT ON STANDARD REINSURANCE AGREE-**
19 **MENT.**

20 (a) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 90 days after the
21 date of the enactment of this section, the Federal Crop
22 Insurance Corporation shall submit to the Committee on
23 Agriculture of the House of Representatives and the Com-
24 mittee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry of the Sen-
25 ate a report on the Standard Reinsurance Agreement that

1 includes an analysis of any modifications to such Agree-
2 ment that are necessary to expand the availability of poli-
3 cies and plans of insurance that meet the risk manage-
4 ment needs of agricultural producers, States, regions, and
5 commodities.

6 (b) CONTENTS.—The analysis required under sub-
7 section (a) shall—

8 (1) take into account the requirements under
9 section 508(k)(8)(F) of the Federal Crop Insurance
10 Act (7 U.S.C. 1508(k)(8)(F)) related to budget neu-
11 trality of the Standard Reinsurance Agreement; and

12 (2) include an analysis of—

13 (A) any benefit related to establishing—

14 (i) at least one additional reinsurance
15 fund for States that have experienced con-
16 sistent high loss ratios; and

17 (ii) at least one additional reinsurance
18 fund to provide alternative risk sharing
19 terms for approved insurance providers
20 that sell insurance contracts offering area
21 plan coverage;

22 (B) with respect to any funds reimbursed
23 for administrative and operating costs under
24 section 507(c) of the Federal Crop Insurance
25 Act (7 U.S.C. 1507(c)), the best method for en-

1 suring that approved insurance providers obli-
2 gate such funds for—

3 (i) the delivery of risk management
4 tools to producers; and

5 (ii) agent workforce assistance for
6 producers, in an amount that is not less
7 than the historical percentage of such re-
8 imbursement; and

9 (C) with respect to each policy and plan of
10 insurance, compensation amounts for agents
11 that—

12 (i) are consistent with historical
13 norms; and

14 (ii) provide a reasonable return con-
15 sidering workload and the critical service
16 across programs that the agents provide.

17 (e) CONSULTATION.—In carrying out the analysis re-
18 quired under subsection (a), the Federal Crop Insurance
19 Corporation shall consult with—

20 (1) representatives of producers—

21 (A) from each State and region; and

22 (B) with respect to each commodity;

23 (2) representatives of agents and approved in-
24 surance providers;

1 (3) the Committee on Agriculture of the House
2 of Representatives; and

3 (4) the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition,
4 and Forestry of the Senate.

5 **SEC. 11016. HURRICANE INSURANCE PROTECTION-WIND**
6 **INDEX REPORT.**

7 (a) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 1 year after the
8 date of the enactment of this section, the Federal Crop
9 Insurance Corporation shall submit to the Committee on
10 Agriculture of the House of Representatives and the Com-
11 mittee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry of the Sen-
12 ate a report on the hurricane insurance protection-wind
13 index that includes an analysis of any events in the 5-
14 year period preceding the date of the enactment of this
15 section that caused an outage of a weather radio station
16 operated by the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Ad-
17 ministration.

18 (b) CONTENTS.—The analysis required under sub-
19 section (a) shall include—

20 (1) data on events where a producer lost crop
21 insurance coverage as a result of an outage of a
22 weather radio station operated by the National Oce-
23 anic and Atmospheric Administration that occurred
24 during the period described in subsection (a) and the
25 cause of such outage; and

1 “(i) training additional emergency re-
2 sponse personnel; and”; and

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

4 “(ii) improving animal disease
5 traceability.”; and

6 (2) in subparagraph (I), by inserting before the
7 period at the end the following: “, including activi-
8 ties approved by the Secretary as of the date of the
9 enactment of the Farm, Food, and National Security
10 Act of 2026”.

11 (b) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—

12 (1) NATIONAL ANIMAL HEALTH LABORA-
13 TORY.—Section 10409A(d)(2)(A) of the Animal
14 Health Protection Act (7 U.S.C. 8308a(d)(2)(A)) is
15 amended by striking “2019 through 2023” and in-
16 sserting “2027 through 2031”.

17 (2) NATIONAL ANIMAL DISEASE PREPAREDNESS
18 AND RESPONSE PROGRAM; NATIONAL ANIMAL VAC-
19 CINE AND VETERINARY COUNTERMEASURES
20 BANK.—Section 10409A(d)(2)(B) of the Animal
21 Health Protection Act (7 U.S.C. 8308a(d)(2)(B)) is
22 amended by striking “2019 through 2023” and in-
23 sserting “2027 through 2031”.

24 (3) AVAILABILITY AND PURPOSE OF FUND-
25 ING.—Section 10409A(e)(1) of the Animal Health

1 Protection Act (7 U.S.C. 8308a(e)(1)) is amended
2 by striking “2019 through 2023” and inserting
3 “2027 through 2031”.

4 **SEC. 12002. CATTLE FEVER TICK ERADICATION PROGRAM**
5 **REVIEW AND REPORT.**

6 (a) PROGRAM REVIEW.—

7 (1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 1 year after
8 the date of the enactment of this section, the Sec-
9 retary shall offer to enter into a contract with a cov-
10 ered institution under which the covered institution
11 shall conduct a review of the Program.

12 (2) REVIEW ELEMENTS.—The review conducted
13 pursuant to paragraph (1) shall include an evalua-
14 tion of—

15 (A) the effectiveness of the Program with
16 respect to preventing and reducing the spread
17 of tick-borne illnesses in cattle, including a re-
18 view of places from which the cattle fever tick
19 has been eradicated and the resulting economic
20 impact;

21 (B) with respect to cattle producers—

22 (i) the benefits of the Program; and

23 (ii) the burden of compliance with the
24 Program;

1 (C) the treatment protocols developed and
2 implemented under the Program; and

3 (D) the Federal and State funds allocated
4 to support the Program for the most recent fis-
5 cal year, including the funds allocated to each
6 research project associated with the Program.

7 (b) REPORT.—Not later than 1 year after the date
8 on which the Secretary and a covered institution enter into
9 a contract pursuant to subsection (a)(1), the Secretary
10 shall submit to the Committee on Agriculture of the House
11 of Representatives and the Committee on Agriculture, Nu-
12 trition, and Forestry of the Senate a report that in-
13 cludes—

14 (1) the results of the review conducted pursuant
15 to subsection (a); and

16 (2) recommendations for improvements to the
17 Program, including recommendations for reducing
18 the burden of compliance with the Program with re-
19 spect to cattle producers.

20 (c) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

21 (1) COVERED INSTITUTION.—The term “cov-
22 ered institution” means—

23 (A) a land-grant college or university (as
24 defined in section 1404(13) of the National Ag-

1 ricultural Research, Extension, and Teaching
2 Policy Act of 1977 (7 U.S.C. 3103(13))); or

3 (B) a non-land-grant college of agriculture
4 (as defined in section 1404(14) of the National
5 Agricultural Research, Extension, and Teaching
6 Policy Act of 1977 (7 U.S.C. 3103(14))).

7 (2) PROGRAM.—The term “Program” means
8 the Cattle Fever Tick Eradication Program carried
9 out by the Animal and Plant Health Inspection
10 Service of the Department in coordination with the
11 Texas Animal Health Commission.

12 (d) FUNDING.—The Secretary shall use funds made
13 available for the agricultural and food policy research cen-
14 ters under section 1419A of the National Agricultural Re-
15 search, Extension, and Teaching Policy Act of 1977 (7
16 U.S.C. 3155) to carry out this section.

17 **SEC. 12003. ADDITIONAL TRAINING FACILITIES FOR NA-**
18 **TIONAL DETECTOR DOG TRAINING CENTER.**

19 The Beagle Brigade Act of 2023 (Public Law 118–
20 191) is amended by adding at the end the following:

21 **“SEC. 4. ADDITIONAL TRAINING FACILITIES.**

22 “(a) IN GENERAL.—In addition to the Center estab-
23 lished under section 2(a), the Secretary may—

1 “(1) establish other dog training facilities,
2 which shall have the same duties as are specified in
3 section 2(b) for the Center; and

4 “(2) enter into a cooperative agreement with
5 the department of agriculture of a State (or political
6 subdivision thereof) to establish an off-site training
7 program for the purpose of providing training and
8 technical assistance in the training of dogs, as de-
9 scribed in section 2(b).

10 “(b) CONSIDERATIONS.—When determining the need
11 for additional training facilities under subsection (a), the
12 Secretary shall consider—

13 “(1) the location of international ports of entry;

14 “(2) the volume of international passengers and
15 cargo; and

16 “(3) regional agricultural production trends and
17 associated pest and disease threats.”.

18 **SEC. 12004. REGIONALIZATION, ZONING, AND**

19 **COMPARTMENTALIZATION AGREEMENTS.**

20 (a) IN GENERAL.—Section 10405 of the Animal
21 Health Protection Act (7 U.S.C. 8304) is amended—

22 (1) by redesignating subsection (d) as sub-
23 section (e); and

24 (2) by inserting after subsection (c) the fol-
25 lowing:

1 “(d) ENGAGEMENT WITH KEY EXPORT MARKETS.—
2 To reduce the impact of animal disease outbreaks on
3 United States exports, the Secretary, acting through the
4 Administrator of the Animal and Plant Health Inspection
5 Service, the Under Secretary of Agriculture for Trade and
6 Foreign Agricultural Affairs, and the Administrator of the
7 Food Safety and Inspection Service, in consultation with
8 the United States Trade Representative, is authorized to
9 negotiate in advance, to the extent practicable, regional-
10 ization, zoning, compartmentalization, and other agree-
11 ments regarding outbreaks of known animal disease
12 threats of trade significance with the governments of coun-
13 tries with export markets for livestock animals or animal
14 products from the United States.”.

15 (b) RULE OF CONSTRUCTION.—Nothing in this sec-
16 tion may be construed—

17 (1) to limit the ability of the United States
18 Trade Representative to negotiate trade agreements;
19 or

20 (2) to require the United States Trade Rep-
21 resentative to condition other trade agreements on
22 the inclusion of language relating to reducing the
23 impact of animal disease outbreaks on United States
24 exports, as described in subsection (d) of section

1 10405 of the Animal Health Protection Act (7
2 U.S.C. 8304) (as inserted by subsection (a)(2)).

3 **SEC. 12005. IMPORTATION OF LIVE DOGS.**

4 (a) IN GENERAL.—The Animal Health Protection
5 Act (7 U.S.C. 8301 et seq.) is amended by inserting after
6 section 10404 (7 U.S.C. 8303) the following:

7 **“SEC. 10404A. IMPORTATION OF LIVE DOGS.**

8 “(a) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

9 “(1) COMPENSATION.—The term ‘compensa-
10 tion’ means any act, consideration, or thing of value
11 received by a person directly, including cash or
12 noncash benefits, cost-avoidance, obtaining positive
13 or avoiding negative publicity, an exchange of serv-
14 ices, or maintaining a license issued under any local,
15 State, or Federal government authority.

16 “(2) IMPORTER.—The term ‘importer’ means
17 any person who transports or causes the transpor-
18 tation of a dog into the United States from a foreign
19 country.

20 “(3) IMPORT TRANSPORTER.—The term ‘import
21 transporter’ means any person or entity that—

22 “(A) receives an imported dog from any
23 importer, dealer, research facility, exhibitor, op-
24 erator of an auction sale, or department, agen-

1 cy, or instrumentality of the United States or
2 of any State or local government; and

3 “(B) receives compensation for moving
4 such dog in commerce.

5 “(4) TRANSFER.—The term ‘transfer’ means a
6 change of ownership or control of an imported dog
7 to another person, including by sale, adoption, ex-
8 change, or donation.

9 “(b) REQUIREMENTS.—

10 “(1) IN GENERAL.—Except as provided in para-
11 graph (2), no person shall import a dog into the
12 United States unless prior to transport to the
13 United States, the Secretary receives electronic doc-
14 umentation necessary, as determined by the Sec-
15 retary, to demonstrate that the dog—

16 “(A) is in good health;

17 “(B) has received all necessary vaccina-
18 tions and internal and external parasite treat-
19 ment, and demonstrated negative test results,
20 as required by the Secretary and evidenced by
21 a certificate that—

22 “(i) is issued by a licensed veteri-
23 narian accredited by a competent veteri-
24 nary authority recognized by the Secretary;
25 and

1 “(ii) is endorsed by that authority in
2 a manner representing that the veteri-
3 narian issuing the certificate was author-
4 ized to do so;

5 “(C) is officially identified by a permanent
6 method approved by the Secretary; and

7 “(D) in the case that the dog is intended
8 for transfer—

9 “(i) is at least 6 months old; and

10 “(ii) is accompanied by an import per-
11 mit issued by the Secretary under this Act.

12 “(2) EXCEPTIONS.—The Secretary, by regula-
13 tion, shall provide an exception to any requirement
14 under this Act in any case in which a dog is im-
15 ported for purposes of transfer—

16 “(A) as a personal pet of United States or-
17 igin returning to the United States;

18 “(B) as a United States military working
19 dog or contracted working dog supporting a
20 military mission or tasking;

21 “(C) for research purposes;

22 “(D) for veterinary treatment which is
23 paid for by the importer, subject to the condi-
24 tion that the dog—

1 “(i) is taken directly to a veterinary
2 facility for treatment with appropriate
3 quarantine until the dog meets the criteria
4 described in paragraph (1); and

5 “(ii) is then exported to its country of
6 origin; or

7 “(E) in the case of a dog that is less than
8 6 months old, for lawful importation into the
9 State of Hawaii from the British Isles, Aus-
10 tralia, Guam, or New Zealand in compliance
11 with the regulations of the State of Hawaii and
12 the other requirements of this section, if the
13 dog is not transported out of the State of Ha-
14 wahi for transfer at less than 6 months of age.

15 “(c) IMPLEMENTATION AND REGULATIONS.—Not
16 later than 18 months after the date of enactment of the
17 Farm, Food, and National Security Act of 2026, the Sec-
18 retary, in consultation with the Secretary of Health and
19 Human Services, the Secretary of Commerce, the Sec-
20 retary of Homeland Security, and the Secretary of Trans-
21 portation, shall promulgate such regulations as the Sec-
22 retary determines necessary to implement and enforce this
23 section, including regulations—

24 “(1) to facilitate electronic submission and
25 interagency sharing of all documentation required

1 prior to the importation of a dog into the United
2 States under subsection (b)(1);

3 “(2) to establish any necessary post-arrival
4 verification processes for imported dogs;

5 “(3) to ensure the denial of entry into the
6 United States of any dog attempted to be imported
7 into the United States in violation of subsection
8 (b)(1);

9 “(4) to provide that each importer, import
10 transporter, intermediate handler, or carrier receiv-
11 ing a certificate of veterinary inspection required
12 under this section shall submit a copy of the certifi-
13 cate to the Secretary, who shall, upon receipt—

14 “(A) record and maintain the information
15 in a centralized database; and

16 “(B) upon request by a State veterinarian,
17 share the information with such State veteri-
18 narian not later than 3 days after such request
19 is received by the Secretary;

20 “(5) to require the Secretary to annually aggre-
21 gate and publicly report the data submitted under
22 paragraph (4), including information on the coun-
23 tries of origin of the imported dogs and the purposes
24 for the importation of such dogs; and

1 “(6) to determine and establish such fees for
2 the verification of documentation and issuance of
3 permits required under subsection (b)(1) as may be
4 necessary to fund the implementation and enforce-
5 ment of this section.

6 “(d) RULE OF CONSTRUCTION.—Nothing in sub-
7 section (c)(5) shall be construed as limiting the availability
8 of funding made available under section 10417 to carry
9 out this section.

10 “(e) ENFORCEMENT.—

11 “(1) AUTHORITY.—The Secretary shall have
12 the authority granted under section 10414 to en-
13 force this section.

14 “(2) PENALTIES.—An importer or import
15 transporter that fails to comply with this section
16 shall—

17 “(A) be subject to penalties under section
18 10414; and

19 “(B) provide, as the Secretary may deter-
20 mine, at the expense of the importer or import
21 transporter, for—

22 “(i) the care (including appropriate
23 veterinary care), forfeiture, quarantine,
24 and removal from the United States of
25 each applicable dog; and

1 “(ii) the return of each applicable dog
2 to its place of export, with due care for the
3 welfare of each applicable dog.”.

4 (b) TRANSITION PERIOD.—

5 (1) IN GENERAL.—During the transition pe-
6 riod, regulations promulgated under section 18 of
7 the Animal Welfare Act (7 U.S.C. 2148) (as in ef-
8 fect on the day before the date of enactment of this
9 Act) shall continue to apply to the extent that such
10 regulations do not conflict with section 10404A of
11 the Animal Health Protection Act (as inserted by
12 subsection (a)).

13 (2) TRANSITION PERIOD DEFINED.—In this
14 subsection, the term “transition period” means the
15 period beginning on the date of enactment of this
16 Act and ending on the date on which final regula-
17 tions are promulgated under such section 10404A.

18 (c) CONFORMING AMENDMENT.—Section 18 of the
19 Animal Welfare Act (7 U.S.C. 2148) is repealed.

20 **SEC. 12006. ENSURING THE FREE MOVEMENT OF LIVE-**
21 **STOCK-DERIVED PRODUCTS IN INTERSTATE**
22 **COMMERCE.**

23 (a) PURPOSE.—The purpose of this section is to—

1 (1) protect the free movement in interstate
2 commerce of products derived from covered live-
3 stock;

4 (2) encourage a national market of such prod-
5 ucts;

6 (3) ensure that producers of covered livestock
7 are not subject to a patchwork of State laws restrict-
8 ing access to a national market; and

9 (4) ensure that the United States continues to
10 uphold its international trade obligations.

11 (b) IN GENERAL.—Producers of covered livestock
12 have a Federal right to raise and market their covered
13 livestock in interstate commerce and therefore no State
14 or subdivision thereof may enact or enforce, directly or
15 indirectly, a condition or standard on the production of
16 covered livestock other than for covered livestock phys-
17 ically raised in such State or subdivision.

18 (c) PROTECTING INTERSTATE COMMERCE.—Pro-
19 ducers of covered livestock have a Federal right to raise
20 and market their covered livestock in interstate commerce
21 and therefore no State or subdivision thereof may enact
22 or enforce, directly or indirectly, as a condition for sale
23 or consumption, any condition or standard of production
24 on products derived from covered livestock not physically
25 raised in such State or subdivision that is in addition to,

1 or different from, the conditions or standards of produc-
2 tion in the State in which the production occurs.

3 (d) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

4 (1) COVERED LIVESTOCK.—The term “covered
5 livestock”—

6 (A) means any domestic animal raised for
7 the purpose of—

8 (i) slaughter for human consumption;

9 or

10 (ii) producing products manufactured
11 for human consumption which are derived
12 from the processing of milk, including fluid
13 milk products; and

14 (B) does not include domestic animals
15 raised for the primary purpose of egg produc-
16 tion.

17 (2) PRODUCTION.—The term “production”—

18 (A) means the raising (including breeding)
19 of covered livestock; and

20 (B) does not include the movement, har-
21 vesting, or further processing of covered live-
22 stock.

1 **SEC. 12007. REPORT ON SUPPORT FOR LIVESTOCK AND**
2 **POULTRY PRODUCERS DURING A FOREIGN**
3 **ANIMAL DISEASE OUTBREAK.**

4 (a) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 6 months after the
5 date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary shall sub-
6 mit to the Committee on Agriculture of the House of Rep-
7 resentatives and the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition,
8 and Forestry of the Senate a report on the Department’s
9 preparedness to support livestock producers and poultry
10 growers facing economic losses in the event of an outbreak
11 of a foreign animal disease.

12 (b) CONTENTS.—The report submitted under sub-
13 section (a) shall include, with respect to the Department’s
14 ability to protect producers and growers from significant
15 economic losses as a result of a foreign animal disease—

16 (1) an assessment of—

17 (A) existing Federal programs, including
18 catastrophic risk management tools, indemnity,
19 direct payments, biosecurity assistance, and
20 herd buyouts; and

21 (B) the Department’s capacity to utilize
22 such programs to provide benefits to producers
23 and growers experiencing economic losses as a
24 result of having to sell livestock and poultry at
25 a reduced price, having to quarantine, treat, de-
26 stroy, or dispose of animals, having to imple-

1 ment additional biosecurity measures or as a re-
2 sult of catastrophic market conditions;

3 (2) a determination of gaps that exist in the
4 Department's ability to provide economic support for
5 producers and growers suffering such losses; and

6 (3) recommendations of the Secretary for modi-
7 fications to Federal law (including regulations) relat-
8 ing to protecting producers and growers from sig-
9 nificant economic losses related to a foreign animal
10 disease outbreak.

11 (c) PROVISION OF INFORMATION.—

12 (1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 90 days after
13 the date of enactment of this Act, for purposes of
14 facilitating the preparation of the report submitted
15 under subsection (a), the relevant Department offi-
16 cials described in paragraph (2) shall inform the
17 Secretary of the information described in subsection
18 (b).

19 (2) RELEVANT DEPARTMENT OFFICIALS DE-
20 SCRIBED.—The relevant Department officials de-
21 scribed in this paragraph are the following:

22 (A) The Under Secretary for Farm Pro-
23 duction and Conservation.

24 (B) The Under Secretary for Food, Nutri-
25 tion and Consumer Services.

1 (C) The Under Secretary for Rural Devel-
2 opment.

3 (D) The Under Secretary for Food Safety.

4 (E) The Under Secretary for Marketing
5 and Regulatory Programs.

6 (F) The Under Secretary for Trade and
7 Foreign Agricultural Affairs.

8 (G) Other officials, as specified by the Sec-
9 retary.

10 **PART II—MEAT AND POULTRY PROCESSING AND**
11 **INSPECTION**

12 **SEC. 12111. AMPLIFYING PROCESSING OF LIVESTOCK IN**
13 **THE UNITED STATES (A-PLUS).**

14 (a) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 1 year after the
15 date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary shall revise
16 section 201.67 of title 9, Code of Federal Regulations, as
17 in effect on January 1, 2024, to specify that—

18 (1) market agencies may have an ownership in-
19 terest in, finance, or participate in the management
20 or operation of, a packer, so long as such packer—

21 (A) with respect to cattle and sheep, has a
22 cumulative slaughter capacity of less than—

23 (i) 2,000 animals per day; or

24 (ii) 700,000 animals per year; and

1 (B) with respect to hogs, has a cumulative
2 slaughter capacity of less than—

3 (i) 10,000 animals per day; or

4 (ii) 3,000,000 animals per year; and

5 (2) market agencies that have an ownership in-
6 terest in, finance, or participate in the management
7 or operation of, a packer shall disclose to sellers of
8 livestock the existence of such ownership interest, fi-
9 nancial relationship, or participation.

10 (b) SAVINGS CLAUSE.—Nothing in this section shall
11 be interpreted as a limitation on the authority of the Sec-
12 retary to adopt or enforce rules or regulations under the
13 Packers and Stockyards Act, 1921 (7 U.S.C. 181 et seq.)
14 related to the protection of producers, competition, market
15 integrity, or the prevention of conflicts of interest.

16 **SEC. 12112. HAZARD ANALYSIS AND CRITICAL CONTROL**
17 **POINT GUIDANCE AND RESOURCES FOR**
18 **SMALL AND VERY SMALL POULTRY AND**
19 **MEAT ESTABLISHMENTS.**

20 (a) MEAT ESTABLISHMENTS.—The Federal Meat In-
21 spection Act is amended by inserting after section 25 (21
22 U.S.C. 625) the following:

1 **“SEC. 26. SMALL AND VERY SMALL ESTABLISHMENT GUID-**
2 **ANCE AND RESOURCES.**

3 “(a) STUDIES; MODEL PLANS.—Not later than 18
4 months after the date of the enactment of this section,
5 the Secretary shall, to the maximum extent practicable,
6 make publicly available—

7 “(1) a list of scientific studies (which the Sec-
8 retary shall update as necessary) for use by small
9 establishments and very small establishments in de-
10 veloping a Hazard Analysis and Critical Control
11 Points plan;

12 “(2) guidelines relating to best practices and
13 techniques by small establishments and very small
14 establishments in the production of raw or further
15 processed meat and meat food products; and

16 “(3) scale-appropriate model Hazard Analysis
17 and Critical Control Points plans for small establish-
18 ments and very small establishments, including
19 model plans for—

20 “(A) slaughter-only establishments;

21 “(B) processing-only establishments; and

22 “(C) slaughter and processing establish-
23 ments.

24 “(b) GUIDANCE.—Not later than 2 years after the
25 date of enactment of this section, the Secretary shall pub-
26 lish a guidance document, after notice and an opportunity

1 for public comment, providing information on the require-
2 ments that need to be met for small establishments and
3 very small establishments to develop, pursuant to this Act,
4 a Hazard Analysis and Critical Control Points plan.

5 “(c) DATA CONFIDENTIALITY.—In carrying out this
6 section, the Secretary shall not publish confidential busi-
7 ness information of any meat processing establishment, in-
8 cluding a Hazard Analysis and Critical Control Points
9 plan of a meat processing establishment.

10 “(d) SMALL ESTABLISHMENT AND VERY SMALL ES-
11 TABLISHMENT DEFINED.—In this section, the terms
12 ‘small establishment’ and ‘very small establishment’ have
13 the meanings given the terms ‘smaller establishment’ and
14 ‘very small establishment’, respectively, in the final rule
15 entitled ‘Pathogen Reduction; Hazard Analysis and Crit-
16 ical Control Point (HACCP) Systems’ (61 Fed. Reg.
17 38806 (July 25, 1996)) (or successor regulations).”.

18 (b) POULTRY ESTABLISHMENTS.—The Poultry Prod-
19 ucts Inspection Act is amended by inserting after section
20 14 (21 U.S.C. 463) the following:

21 **“SEC. 14A. SMALL AND VERY SMALL ESTABLISHMENT GUID-**
22 **ANCE AND RESOURCES.**

23 “(a) STUDIES; MODEL PLANS.—Not later than 18
24 months after the date of enactment of this section, the

1 Secretary shall, to the maximum extent practicable, make
2 publicly available—

3 “(1) a list of scientific studies (which the Sec-
4 retary shall update as necessary) for use by small
5 establishments and very small establishments in de-
6 veloping a Hazard Analysis and Critical Control
7 Points plan;

8 “(2) guidelines relating to best practices and
9 techniques used by small establishments and very
10 small establishments in the production of raw or fur-
11 ther processed poultry products; and

12 “(3) scale-appropriate model Hazard Analysis
13 and Critical Control Points plans for small establish-
14 ments and very small establishments, including
15 model plans for—

16 “(A) slaughter-only establishments;

17 “(B) processing-only establishments; and

18 “(C) slaughter and processing establish-
19 ments.

20 “(b) GUIDANCE.—Not later than 2 years after the
21 date of enactment of this section, the Secretary shall pub-
22 lish a guidance document, after notice and an opportunity
23 for public comment, providing information on the require-
24 ments that need to be met for small establishments and

1 very small establishments to develop a Hazard Analysis
2 and Critical Control Points plan pursuant to this Act.

3 “(c) DATA CONFIDENTIALITY.—In carrying out this
4 section, the Secretary shall not publish confidential busi-
5 ness information of any poultry processing establishment,
6 including a Hazard Analysis and Critical Control Points
7 plan of a poultry processing establishment.

8 “(d) SMALL ESTABLISHMENT AND VERY SMALL ES-
9 TABLISHMENT DEFINED.—In this section, the terms
10 ‘small establishment’ and ‘very small establishment’ have
11 the meanings given the terms ‘smaller establishment’ and
12 ‘very small establishment’, respectively, in the final rule
13 entitled ‘Pathogen Reduction; Hazard Analysis and Crit-
14 ical Control Point (HACCP) Systems’ (61 Fed. Reg.
15 38806 (July 25, 1996)) (or successor regulations).”.

16 **SEC. 12113. OUTREACH ON COOPERATIVE INTERSTATE**
17 **SHIPMENT.**

18 (a) MEAT.—Section 501 of the Federal Meat Inspec-
19 tion Act (21 U.S.C. 683) is amended by adding at the
20 end the following:

21 “(k) FEDERAL OUTREACH.—In each of fiscal years
22 2027 through 2031, the Secretary shall conduct outreach
23 to States that—

24 “(1) have a State meat inspection program in
25 effect pursuant to section 301; and

1 “(2) do not have a selected establishment.”.

2 (b) POULTRY.—Section 31 of the Poultry Products
3 Inspection Act (21 U.S.C. 472) is amended by adding at
4 the end the following:

5 “(j) FEDERAL OUTREACH.—In each of fiscal years
6 2027 through 2031, the Secretary shall conduct outreach
7 to States that—

8 “(1) have a State poultry product inspection
9 program in effect pursuant to section 5; and

10 “(2) do not have a selected establishment.”.

11 (c) REPORT.—At the conclusion of each of fiscal
12 years 2027 through 2031, the Secretary shall submit a
13 report detailing the activities and results of the outreach
14 conducted during that fiscal year under subsection (k) of
15 section 501 of the Federal Meat Inspection Act (21 U.S.C.
16 683) and subsection (j) of section 31 of the Poultry Prod-
17 ucts Inspection Act (21 U.S.C. 472), as added by sub-
18 sections (a) and (b), to—

19 (1) the Committee on Agriculture of the House
20 of Representatives;

21 (2) the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition,
22 and Forestry of the Senate;

23 (3) the Committee on Appropriations of the
24 House of Representatives; and

1 (4) the Committee on Appropriations of the
2 Senate.

3 **SEC. 12114. PILOT PROGRAM TO SUPPORT CUSTOM**
4 **SLAUGHTER ESTABLISHMENTS.**

5 (a) IN GENERAL.—

6 (1) STATE OPERATED PILOT PROGRAM.—Upon
7 the receipt of an application from a custom exempt
8 facility and subject to the requirements specified in
9 subsection (c), a State department of agriculture
10 may operate a pilot program to allow such custom
11 facility to sell slaughtered meat and meat food prod-
12 ucts (referred to in this section as “meat products”)
13 directly to consumers within the State in which the
14 facility is located in accordance with the pilot pro-
15 gram.

16 (2) LACK OF A STATE PILOT PROGRAM.—If a
17 State department of agriculture does not elect to op-
18 erate a pilot program, the Secretary shall, upon re-
19 quest from a custom exempt facility in such a State,
20 operate a pilot program administered by the Sec-
21 retary for that State in accordance with this section.

22 (b) ALLOWABLE NUMBER OF FACILITIES.—

23 (1) INITIAL APPROVAL.—Except as provided in
24 paragraph (2)—

1 (A) a State department of agriculture may
2 approve not more than 5 facilities in such State
3 for participation in a pilot program established
4 under subsection (a)(1); and

5 (B) the Secretary may approve not more
6 than 10 facilities to participate in all pilot pro-
7 grams established under subsection (a)(2).

8 (2) SUBSEQUENT APPROVAL OF FACILITIES.—

9 Not less than 2 years after the establishment of a
10 pilot program, a State department of agriculture or
11 the Secretary may, if no product produced at a facil-
12 ity that was initially approved under paragraph (1)
13 for participation in such pilot program has been sub-
14 ject to an emergency action under subsection (f)
15 during the 2-year period following such establish-
16 ment, approve—

17 (A) in the case of a State department of
18 agriculture, not more than 5 additional facilities
19 in the respective State; and

20 (B) in the case of the Secretary, not more
21 than 10 additional facilities in all States.

22 (c) PILOT PROGRAM REQUIREMENTS.—A pilot pro-
23 gram established under this section shall, at a minimum,
24 require—

1 (1) that meat products sold under the pilot pro-
2 gram are—

3 (A) sold directly to consumers within the
4 State from—

5 (i) the owner of the animals from
6 which such meat products are derived; or

7 (ii) the custom exempt facility at
8 which the meat products were processed;

9 (B) not eligible for re-sale; and

10 (C) clearly labeled to indicate—

11 (i) the name and address of the facil-
12 ity at which the meat products were proc-
13 essed;

14 (ii) the name and address of the
15 owner of the animals from which such
16 meat products are derived;

17 (iii) the location where animals from
18 which such meat products are derived were
19 raised;

20 (iv) the date of slaughter of such ani-
21 mals and the period of time over which the
22 owner raised such animals;

23 (v) that such meat products were not
24 subject to Federal inspection; and

1 (vi) that such meat products shall not
2 be resold;

3 (2) that custom exempt facilities participating
4 in the pilot program comply with—

5 (A) Public Law 85–765 (7 U.S.C. 1901 et
6 seq.; commonly known as the “Humane Meth-
7 ods of Slaughter Act of 1958”);

8 (B) applicable State and local laws;

9 (C) section 23(d) of the Federal Meat In-
10 spection Act (21 U.S.C. 623(d)); and

11 (D) Federal regulations pertaining to—

12 (i) sanitation standards and record
13 keeping requirements for custom exempt
14 facilities; and

15 (ii) the handling and disposition of
16 specified risk materials;

17 (3) that custom exempt facilities participating
18 in the pilot program be subject to onsite inspection
19 by the Secretary to ensure compliance with the re-
20 quirements specified in paragraphs (1) and (2); and

21 (4) that custom exempt facilities participating
22 in the pilot program be subject to onsite inspection
23 at least annually by the local authority responsible
24 for restaurant inspections or the State department
25 of agriculture.

1 (d) IMPLEMENTATION.—Not later than 90 days after
2 the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary shall
3 issue, and make publicly available, guidance for participa-
4 tion in a pilot program established pursuant to this sec-
5 tion.

6 (e) INELIGIBILITY.—An establishment subject to in-
7 spection by the Secretary under the Federal Meat Inspec-
8 tion Act (21 U.S.C. 601 et seq.) or operating pursuant
9 to a State meat inspection program authorized under sec-
10 tion 301 of the Federal Meat Inspection Act (21 U.S.C.
11 661) shall not be eligible to participate in a pilot program
12 established pursuant to this section.

13 (f) AUTHORITY FOR EMERGENCY ACTION.—If the
14 Secretary has credible evidence that a meat product pro-
15 duced at a custom exempt facility participating in a pilot
16 program established pursuant to this section is adulter-
17 ated, the Secretary—

18 (1) shall, pursuant to the Federal Meat Inspec-
19 tion Act (21 U.S.C. 601 et seq.), take such actions
20 as may be necessary to address the risk to public
21 health posed by such products; and

22 (2) may terminate the participation of a custom
23 exempt facility in a pilot program established pursu-
24 ant to this section.

25 (g) REPORT REQUIRED.—

1 (1) REPORTS BY STATE DEPARTMENTS OF AG-
2 RICULTURE TO SECRETARY.—Beginning September
3 30, 2026, and each fiscal year thereafter until Sep-
4 tember 30, 2031, each State department of agri-
5 culture operating a pilot program pursuant to this
6 section shall submit to the Secretary a report detail-
7 ing, with respect to each such pilot program within
8 the relevant State for the preceding fiscal year—

9 (A) the number and location of persons or
10 custom exempt facilities selling meat products
11 under each such pilot program;

12 (B) the outcomes of each such pilot pro-
13 gram;

14 (C) any instances in which a meat product
15 was subject to an emergency action under sub-
16 section (f); and

17 (D) aggregated data on the volume of
18 meat being processed under such pilot program.

19 (2) REPORT BY SECRETARY TO CONGRESS.—
20 Not later than 2 years after initiating a pilot pro-
21 gram under this section, the Secretary shall submit
22 to the Committee on Agriculture of the House of
23 Representatives and the Committee on Agriculture,
24 Nutrition, and Forestry of the Senate a report de-
25 tailing—

1 (A) the information received from partici-
2 pating State departments of agriculture under
3 paragraph (1); and

4 (B) for any custom exempt facilities par-
5 ticipating in a pilot program established by the
6 Secretary pursuant to subsection (a)(2)—

7 (i) the number and location of persons
8 or custom exempt facilities selling products
9 pursuant to such pilot program;

10 (ii) the outcomes of such pilot pro-
11 gram; and

12 (iii) any instances in which a meat
13 product was subject to an emergency ac-
14 tion under subsection (f).

15 (h) CUSTOM EXEMPT FACILITY DEFINED.—In this
16 section, the term “custom exempt facility” means an es-
17 tablishment engaged in the slaughter of animals and the
18 preparation of the carcasses, parts thereof, meat, and
19 meat food products for commerce that is not subject to
20 the Federal inspection requirements under title I of the
21 Federal Meat Inspection Act (21 U.S.C. 601 et seq.).

22 (i) SUNSET.—A State and the Secretary may not op-
23 erate a pilot program under this section on or after Sep-
24 tember 30, 2031, and no facility that is exempt from in-
25 spection under the Federal Meat Inspection Act (21

1 U.S.C. 601 et seq.) pursuant to this section shall be ex-
2 empt from that inspection on or after September 30,
3 2031.

4 **Subtitle B—Department of Agri-**
5 **culture Reorganization Act of**
6 **1994**

7 **SEC. 12201. OFFICE OF HOMELAND SECURITY.**

8 Section 221 of the Department of Agriculture Reor-
9 ganization Act of 1994 (7 U.S.C. 6922) is amended—

10 (1) in subsection (d)—

11 (A) in paragraph (7), by striking “and” at
12 the end;

13 (B) by redesignating paragraph (8) as
14 paragraph (9); and

15 (C) by inserting after paragraph (7) the
16 following:

17 “(8) conducting annual cross-sector crisis sim-
18 ulation exercises related to a food-related emergency
19 or disruption; and”;

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

21 “(f) DETAILEES.—The Secretary may detail employ-
22 ees of the Department of Agriculture to, and accept em-
23 ployees detailed from, the intelligence community (as de-
24 fined in section 3 of the National Security Act of 1947)

1 to assist in carrying out the duties of the Office of Home-
2 land Security.

3 “(g) RISK ASSESSMENTS AND REPORTS.—

4 “(1) RISK ASSESSMENTS.—Not later than 1
5 year after the date of enactment of the Farm, Food,
6 and National Security Act of 2026, and not less
7 than every 2 years thereafter, the Secretary shall
8 conduct an assessment of risks and security
9 vulnerabilities to the food and agriculture critical in-
10 frastructure sector, including—

11 “(A) naturally occurring, unintentional, or
12 intentional threats, including chemical, biologi-
13 cal, cybersecurity, or bioterrorism attacks;

14 “(B) influence of state-owned enterprise;

15 “(C) control of and access to agricultural
16 data;

17 “(D) foreign acquisition of intellectual
18 property, agricultural assets, and land;

19 “(E) agricultural input shortages and de-
20 pendence on foreign-sourced inputs;

21 “(F) supply chain and trade disruptions;

22 “(G) science and technology cooperation;

23 “(H) unequal investments in research, de-
24 velopment, and commercialization;

25 “(I) incongruent regulatory policies; and

1 “(J) any other vulnerabilities identified by
2 the Secretary.

3 “(2) BRIEFING AND REPORT.—

4 “(A) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 180
5 days after the completion of a risk assessment
6 under paragraph (1), the Secretary shall pro-
7 vide a briefing on the results of the risk assess-
8 ment and submit to the Committee on Agri-
9 culture and the Committee on Homeland Secu-
10 rity of the House of Representatives and the
11 Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and For-
12 estry and the Committee on Homeland Security
13 and Governmental Affairs of the Senate a re-
14 port that includes—

15 “(i) an assessment of any gaps or lim-
16 itations in national security efforts related
17 to the food and agriculture critical infra-
18 structure sector;

19 “(ii) any actions taken by the Sec-
20 retary to address any gaps or limitations
21 identified under clause (i), including
22 through interagency coordination, threat
23 information sharing, and stakeholder out-
24 reach;

1 “(iii) any recommendations for admin-
2 istrative, regulatory, or legislative actions
3 that can be taken to reduce any gaps or
4 limitations identified under clause (i), in-
5 cluding—

6 “(I) recommendations to reduce
7 the dependence on foreign-source in-
8 puts necessary for the food and agri-
9 culture critical infrastructure sector;
10 and

11 “(II) recommendations to ad-
12 dress the cybersecurity threats to, and
13 security vulnerabilities in, the food
14 and agriculture critical infrastructure
15 sector; and

16 “(iv) resources the Secretary requires
17 to address current and future national se-
18 curity vulnerabilities related to the food
19 and agriculture critical infrastructure sec-
20 tor.

21 “(B) EXEMPTION FROM ACCESS TO CON-
22 GRESSIONALLY MANDATED REPORTS ACT.—A
23 report required under subparagraph (A) shall
24 be exempt from the requirements of the Access
25 to Congressionally Mandated Reports Act (sub-

1 title D of title VII of Public Law 117–263; 136
2 Stat. 3677).”.

3 **SEC. 12202. OFFICE OF PARTNERSHIPS AND PUBLIC EN-**
4 **GAGEMENT.**

5 Section 226B(f)(3)(B) of the Department of Agri-
6 culture Reorganization Act of 1994 (7 U.S.C.
7 6934(f)(3)(B)) is amended by striking “2023” and insert-
8 ing “2031”.

9 **SEC. 12203. BURDEN OF PROOF FOR NATIONAL APPEALS**
10 **DIVISION HEARINGS.**

11 Section 277(c)(4) of the Department of Agriculture
12 Reorganization Act of 1994 (7 U.S.C. 6997(c)(4)) is
13 amended to read as follows:

14 “(4) BURDEN OF PROOF.—The agency shall
15 bear the burden of proving by substantial evidence
16 that the adverse decision of the agency was valid.”.

17 **SEC. 12204. TERMINATION OF AUTHORITY.**

18 Section 296(b) of the Department of Agriculture Re-
19 organization Act of 1994 (7 U.S.C. 7014(b)) is amended
20 by adding at the end the following:

21 “(11) The authority of the Secretary to carry
22 out the amendments made to this title by the Farm,
23 Food, and National Security Act of 2026.”.

1 **SEC. 12205. FUNCTIONS OF THE OFFICE OF TRIBAL RELA-**
2 **TIONS.**

3 Section 309 of the Federal Crop Insurance Reform
4 and Department of Agriculture Reorganization Act of
5 1994 (7 U.S.C. 6921) is amended—

6 (1) in subsection (a)—

7 (A) by striking “shall advise” and all that
8 follows through the period at the end and in-
9 serting “shall—”; and

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

11 “(1) advise the Secretary on policies related to
12 Indian tribes;

13 “(2) oversee—

14 “(A) each self-determination contract (as
15 defined in section 4 of the Indian Self-Deter-
16 mination and Education Assistance Act (25
17 U.S.C. 5304)) entered into between the Sec-
18 retary and a tribal organization; and

19 “(B) each self-governance compact (as de-
20 fined in section 401 of such Act (25 U.S.C.
21 5361)) entered into between the Secretary and
22 an Indian tribe; and

23 “(3) carry out such other functions as the Sec-
24 retary considers appropriate.”; and

25 (2) in subsection (b)(1), by striking “this sub-
26 section” and inserting “this section”.

1 **SEC. 12206. OFFICE OF THE OMBUDSMAN.**

2 Title III of the Federal Crop Insurance Reform and
3 Department of Agriculture Reorganization Act of 1994 (7
4 U.S.C. 2231b et seq.) is amended by adding at the end
5 the following:

6 **“SEC. 310. OFFICE OF THE OMBUDSMAN.**

7 “(a) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 120 days after
8 the date of enactment of this section, the Secretary shall
9 establish within the Department an Office of the Ombuds-
10 man (in this section referred to as the ‘Office’). The Office
11 shall be independent of Department agencies and offices.

12 “(b) OMBUDSMAN.—The Office shall be headed by an
13 Ombudsman that shall—

14 “(1) be considered a senior official; and

15 “(2) have a background in civil rights enforce-
16 ment.

17 “(c) FUNCTIONS.—The functions of the Office shall
18 be to—

19 “(1) assist producers and other customers of
20 Department programs in navigating the civil rights
21 review process;

22 “(2) ensure that participants (as defined in sec-
23 tion 271) are aware of the appeals process under
24 subtitle H of title II, including informal hearings
25 under section 275;

1 “(3) promote awareness of the Office and its
2 responsibilities among producers and other cus-
3 tomers of Department programs; and

4 “(4) raise issues and concerns with respect to,
5 and make recommendations to the Secretary about,
6 equitable access or implementation of Department
7 programs.

8 “(d) ACCESS TO INFORMATION.—The Secretary shall
9 establish procedures to provide the Ombudsman access to
10 all departmental records necessary to execute the func-
11 tions of the Office under subsection (d) not later than 60
12 days after a request from the Ombudsman for such infor-
13 mation.

14 “(e) EFFECT ON PROCEDURES FOR GRIEVANCES,
15 APPEALS, OR ADMINISTRATIVE MATTERS.—The estab-
16 lishment of the Office shall not affect any procedures for
17 grievances, appeals, or administrative matters in any other
18 provision of this Act, any other provision of law, or any
19 other Federal regulation.

20 “(f) ANNUAL REPORT.—Beginning not later than 1
21 year after the date of enactment of this section, and annu-
22 ally thereafter, the Ombudsman shall prepare and submit
23 to the Committee on Agriculture of the House of Rep-
24 resentatives and the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition,
25 and Forestry of the Senate a report on—

1 “(1) the activities carried out by the Office; and

2 “(2) the findings and recommendation of the
3 Office with respect to equitable access or implemen-
4 tation of Department programs.

5 “(g) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There
6 is authorized to be appropriated \$1,000,000 to carry out
7 this section for each of fiscal years 2027 through 2031.”.

8 **Subtitle C—National Security**

9 **SEC. 12301. AGRICULTURAL FOREIGN INVESTMENT DIS-** 10 **CLOSURE IMPROVEMENTS.**

11 (a) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

12 (1) AFIDA.—The term “AFIDA” means the
13 Agricultural Foreign Investment Disclosure Act of
14 1978 (7 U.S.C. 3501 et seq.).

15 (2) FPAC–BC.—The term “FPAC–BC” means
16 the Farm Production and Conservation Business
17 Center of the Department of Agriculture.

18 (b) MOU WITH CFIUS.—Not later than 1 year after
19 the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary shall enter
20 into 1 or more memoranda of understanding with the
21 Committee on Foreign Investment in the United States
22 under which the Secretary shall provide the Committee
23 with all relevant information relating to reports on foreign
24 ownership of United States agricultural land submitted to

1 the Secretary under section 2 of AFIDA (7 U.S.C. 3501),
2 including information on—

3 (1) each report submitted to the Secretary; and

4 (2) with respect to each such report, the iden-
5 tity of the foreign persons included in the report and
6 the date of submission.

7 (c) AFIDA HANDBOOK UPDATES.—

8 (1) FIRST UPDATE.—Not later than 2 years
9 after the date of enactment of this Act, the Sec-
10 retary shall—

11 (A) update the most recent version of the
12 Farm Service Agency handbook titled “Foreign
13 Investment Disclosure” as determined nec-
14 essary by the Secretary for the effective imple-
15 mentation of AFIDA; and

16 (B) incorporate in such update the rec-
17 ommendations made by the report of the Gov-
18 ernment Accountability Office titled “Foreign
19 Investments in U.S. Agricultural Land: En-
20 hancing Efforts to Collect, Track, and Share
21 Key Information Could Better Identify National
22 Security Risks” and dated January 18, 2024.

23 (2) SUBSEQUENT UPDATES.—After updating
24 the handbook described in subparagraph (A) of
25 paragraph (1) under that paragraph, the Secretary

1 shall carry out an update of that handbook every 10
2 years thereafter, including by incorporating any rec-
3 ommendations of the Government Accountability Of-
4 fice.

5 (d) CIVIL PENALTIES.—Section 3 of the Agricultural
6 Foreign Investment Disclosure Act of 1978 (7 U.S.C.
7 3502) is amended—

8 (1) by redesignating subsection (b) as sub-
9 section (c);

10 (2) in subsection (a), in the matter preceding
11 paragraph (1), by striking “(a) If the” and all that
12 follows through “Any such civil penalty shall be re-
13 coverable” and inserting the following:

14 “(a) IN GENERAL.—A person shall be subject to a
15 civil penalty imposed by the Secretary if the Secretary de-
16 termines that the person—

17 “(1) has failed to submit a report in accordance
18 with the provisions of section 2; or

19 “(2) has knowingly submitted a report under
20 section 2 that—

21 “(A) does not contain all the information
22 required to be in such report; or

23 “(B) contains information that is mis-
24 leading or false.

1 “(b) CIVIL ACTION.—Any civil penalty imposed by
2 the Secretary under subsection (a) shall be recoverable”;
3 and

4 (3) in subsection (c) (as so redesignated)—

5 (A) by striking the subsection designation
6 and all that follows through “The amount” and
7 inserting the following:

8 “(c) AMOUNT OF PENALTY.—The amount”;

9 (B) by striking “of this section”; and

10 (C) by striking “shall not exceed 25 per-
11 cent” and inserting “for violations under sub-
12 section (a)(1) shall not exceed 25 percent, and
13 for violations under subsection (a)(2) shall be
14 not less than 5 percent, but not more than 25
15 percent.”.

16 (e) PUBLIC DISCLOSURE OF ENFORCEMENT AC-
17 TIONS.—Section 3 of the Agricultural Foreign Investment
18 Disclosure Act of 1978 (7 U.S.C. 3502) (as amended by
19 subsection (b)) is amended by adding at the end the fol-
20 lowing:

21 “(d) PUBLIC DISCLOSURE OF ENFORCEMENT AC-
22 TIONS.—The Secretary shall publicly disclose the name of
23 each person who paid to the Secretary a civil penalty im-
24 posed under subsection (a), including, if applicable, after
25 the completion of an appeal of a civil penalty.”.

1 (f) PUBLICATION OF REPORTING REQUIREMENTS.—
2 Section 3 of the Agricultural Foreign Investment Dislo-
3 sure Act of 1978 (7 U.S.C. 3502) (as amended by sub-
4 section (c)) is amended by adding at the end the following:

5 “(e) OUTREACH.—Using existing resources and ef-
6 forts to the maximum extent practicable, the Secretary
7 shall carry out a nationwide outreach program directed
8 primarily toward landlords, operators, owners, persons,
9 producers, and tenants (as those terms are defined in sec-
10 tion 718.2 of title 7, Code of Federal Regulations (as in
11 effect on the date of enactment of the Farm, Food, and
12 National Security Act of 2026)) of agricultural land and
13 county property appraiser offices, land appraisal compa-
14 nies, and real estate auction companies to increase public
15 awareness and provide education regarding the reporting
16 requirements under this Act.”.

17 **SEC. 12302. REPORT ON AGRICULTURAL LAND PUR-**
18 **CHASING ACTIVITIES IN THE UNITED STATES**
19 **BY COUNTRIES DESIGNATED AS STATE SPON-**
20 **SORS OF TERRORISM AND CERTAIN OTHER**
21 **COUNTRIES.**

22 (a) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

23 (1) AGRICULTURAL LAND.—The term “agricul-
24 tural land” has the meaning given the term in sec-

1 tion 9 of the Agricultural Foreign Investment Dis-
2 closure Act of 1978 (7 U.S.C. 3508).

3 (2) APPROPRIATE COMMITTEES OF CON-
4 GRESS.—The term “appropriate committees of Con-
5 gress” means—

6 (A) the Committee on Agriculture, Nutri-
7 tion, and Forestry of the Senate;

8 (B) the Committee on Homeland Security
9 and Governmental Affairs of the Senate;

10 (C) the Committee on Intelligence of the
11 Senate;

12 (D) the Committee on Homeland Security
13 of the House of Representatives;

14 (E) the Committee on Agriculture of the
15 House of Representatives; and

16 (F) the Permanent Select Committee on
17 Intelligence of the House of Representatives.

18 (3) COVERED FOREIGN COUNTRY.—The term
19 “covered foreign country” means a foreign country
20 of concern (as defined in section 10638 of the
21 CHIPS Act of 2022 (42 U.S.C. 19237)).

22 (4) COVERED FOREIGN PERSON.—The term
23 “covered foreign person” means a foreign person (as
24 defined in section 9 of the Agricultural Foreign In-
25 vestment Disclosure Act of 1978 (7 U.S.C. 3508))

1 that is a citizen of, or headquartered in, as applica-
2 ble, a covered foreign country.

3 (5) STATE.—The term “State” has the mean-
4 ing given the term in section 9 of the Agricultural
5 Foreign Investment Disclosure Act of 1978 (7
6 U.S.C. 3508).

7 (6) STATE SPONSOR OF TERRORISM.—The term
8 “state sponsor of terrorism” means a country the
9 government of which the Secretary of State has de-
10 termined has repeatedly provided support for acts of
11 international terrorism, for purposes of—

12 (A) section 1754(c)(1)(A)(i) of the Export
13 Control Reform Act of 2018 (50 U.S.C.
14 4813(c)(1)(A)(i));

15 (B) section 620A of the Foreign Assistance
16 Act of 1961 (22 U.S.C. 2371);

17 (C) section 40(d) of the Arms Export Con-
18 trol Act (22 U.S.C. 2780(d)); or

19 (D) any other provision of law.

20 (b) REPORT.—

21 (1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 180 days
22 after the date of enactment of this Act, and annually
23 thereafter, the Secretary of Agriculture, in coordina-
24 tion with the Secretary of Homeland Security and
25 the head of any other appropriate Federal agency,

1 shall submit to the appropriate committees of Con-
2 gress a report describing the national security risks
3 of the purchase and management of agricultural
4 land by covered foreign persons.

5 (2) CONTENTS.—A report submitted under
6 paragraph (1) shall include the following with re-
7 spect to the year covered by the report:

8 (A) A description of—

9 (i) the number of acres of agricultural
10 land owned, leased, or managed by covered
11 foreign persons, organized by State; and

12 (ii) for each State, the percentage of
13 land owned or managed by covered foreign
14 persons compared to the total acreage of
15 the State.

16 (B) An analysis of the possible threat to
17 food security, food safety, biosecurity, or envi-
18 ronmental protection due to the ownership of
19 agricultural land by each covered foreign coun-
20 try through covered foreign persons.

21 (C) An analysis of the annual and total
22 cost of support for agricultural land owned by
23 covered foreign persons through farm programs
24 administered by the Farm Service Agency.

1 (D) An analysis of the use of agricultural
2 land for industrial espionage or intellectual
3 property transfer by covered foreign persons.

4 (E) An analysis of the potential use by
5 covered foreign persons of agricultural land in
6 close proximity to manufacturing facilities,
7 water sources, and other critical infrastructure
8 to monitor, interrupt, or disrupt activities crit-
9 ical to the national and economic security of the
10 United States.

11 (F) An analysis of other threats to the ag-
12 ricultural industry or national security of the
13 United States due to the ownership of agricul-
14 tural land by covered foreign persons.

15 (3) UNCLASSIFIED FORM.—A report submitted
16 under this subsection shall—

17 (A) be submitted in unclassified form, but
18 may include a classified annex; and

19 (B) be consistent with the protection of in-
20 telligence sources and methods.

21 **SEC. 12303. INVESTIGATIVE ACTIONS.**

22 (a) INVESTIGATIVE ACTIONS.—Section 4 of the Agri-
23 cultural Foreign Investment Disclosure Act of 1978 (7
24 U.S.C. 3503) is amended to read as follows:

1 **“SEC. 4. INVESTIGATIVE ACTIONS.**

2 “(a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall appoint an
3 employee in the Senior Executive Service (as described in
4 section 3131 of title 5, United States Code) of the Depart-
5 ment of Agriculture to serve as Chief of Operations of In-
6 vestigative Actions (referred to in this section as the ‘Chief
7 of Operations’), who shall hire, appoint, and maintain ad-
8 ditional employees to monitor compliance with the provi-
9 sions of this Act.

10 “(b) CHIEF OF OPERATIONS.—The Chief of Oper-
11 ations may serve in such position simultaneously with a
12 concurrent position within the Department of Agriculture.

13 “(c) SECURITY.—The Secretary shall—

14 “(1) provide classified storage, meeting, and
15 other spaces, as necessary, for personnel of the Chief
16 of Operations; and

17 “(2) assist such personnel in obtaining security
18 clearances.

19 “(d) DUTIES.—The Chief of Operations shall—

20 “(1) monitor compliance with this Act;

21 “(2) refer noncompliance with this Act to the
22 Secretary, the Farm Service Agency, and any other
23 appropriate authority;

24 “(3) conduct investigations, in coordination
25 with the Department of Justice, the Federal Bureau
26 of Investigation, the Department of Homeland Secu-

1 rity, the Department of the Treasury, the National
2 Security Council, and State and local law enforce-
3 ment agencies, on malign efforts—

4 “(A) to steal agricultural knowledge and
5 technology; or

6 “(B) to disrupt the United States agricul-
7 tural base;

8 “(4) conduct an annual audit of the database
9 developed under section 12304(b) of the Farm,
10 Food, and National Security Act of 2026;

11 “(5) seek to enter into memoranda of agree-
12 ment and memoranda of understanding with the
13 Federal agencies described in paragraph (3)—

14 “(A) to ensure compliance with this Act;

15 and

16 “(B) to prevent the malign efforts de-
17 scribed in that paragraph;

18 “(6) refer to the Committee on Foreign Invest-
19 ment in the United States transactions that—

20 “(A) raise potential national security con-
21 cerns; and

22 “(B) result in agricultural land acquisition
23 by a foreign person that is a citizen of, or
24 headquartered in, as applicable, a foreign entity
25 of concern; and

1 “(7) publish annual reports that summarize the
2 information contained in every report received by the
3 Secretary under section 2 during the period covered
4 by the report.

5 “(e) ADMINISTRATION.—The Chief of Operations
6 shall report to—

7 “(1) the Secretary; or

8 “(2) if delegated by the Secretary, to—

9 “(A) the Administrator of the Farm Serv-
10 ice Agency; or

11 “(B) the Director of the Department of
12 Agriculture Office of Homeland Security.”.

13 (b) DEFINITION OF FOREIGN ENTITY OF CON-
14 CERN.—Section 9 of the Agricultural Foreign Investment
15 Disclosure Act of 1978 (7 U.S.C. 3508) is amended—

16 (1) in the matter preceding paragraph (1), by
17 striking “For purposes of this Act—” and inserting
18 “In this Act.”;

19 (2) in each of paragraphs (1) through (6)—

20 (A) by striking “the term” and inserting
21 “The term”; and

22 (B) by inserting a paragraph heading, the
23 text of which comprises the term defined in that
24 paragraph;

1 (2) DATABASE.—The term “database” means
2 the database developed under subsection (c).

3 (3) FOREIGN PERSON.—The term “foreign per-
4 son” has the meaning given the term in section 9 of
5 the Agricultural Foreign Investment Disclosure Act
6 of 1978 (7 U.S.C. 3508).

7 (b) DATABASE.—Not later than 3 years after the
8 date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary shall develop
9 a database of agricultural land owned by foreign persons,
10 using data that are collected pursuant to the Agricultural
11 Foreign Investment Disclosure Act of 1978 (7 U.S.C.
12 3501 et seq.).

13 (c) CONTENTS.—Each entry in the database for each
14 registration or updated registration of agricultural land
15 owned or leased by a foreign person shall include pertinent
16 information, as determined by the Secretary, in the appli-
17 cable filing, except it shall not publicly disclose the name
18 of the filer and the purchase or lease price of such trans-
19 action for a period of at least 30 days following such filing.

20 (d) AUDIT.—Not later than 180 days after the data-
21 base is operational, and annually thereafter, the Chief of
22 Operations for Investigative Actions appointed under sec-
23 tion 4 of the Agricultural Foreign Investment Disclosure
24 Act of 1978 (as amended by section 12303(a)) shall—

25 (1) conduct an audit of the database; and

1 (2) submit to the appropriate committees of
2 Congress a report—

3 (A) evaluating the accuracy of the data-
4 base; and

5 (B) describing recommendations for im-
6 proving compliance with the reporting required
7 under the Agricultural Foreign Investment Dis-
8 closure Act of 1978 (7 U.S.C. 3501 et seq.).

9 (e) REPEAL.—Section 773 of division A of the Con-
10 solidated Appropriations Act, 2023 (Public Law 117–328)
11 is repealed.

12 **SEC. 12305. CFIUS CONSIDERATION OF CERTAIN AGRICUL-**
13 **TURAL LAND TRANSACTIONS.**

14 (a) INCLUSION OF THE SECRETARY OF AGRI-
15 CULTURE ON THE COMMITTEE ON FOREIGN INVESTMENT
16 IN THE UNITED STATES.—Section 721(k) of the Defense
17 Production Act of 1950 (50 U.S.C. 4565(k)) is amended
18 by adding at the end the following:

19 “(8) INCLUSION OF THE SECRETARY OF AGRI-
20 CULTURE.—The Secretary of Agriculture shall be a
21 member of the Committee with respect to a covered
22 transaction that involves—

23 “(A) agricultural land;

24 “(B) agriculture biotechnology; or

1 “(C) the agriculture industry, including ag-
2 ricultural transportation, storage, and proc-
3 essing.”.

4 (b) CONSIDERATION OF CERTAIN AGRICULTURAL
5 LAND TRANSACTIONS.—Section 721(b)(1) of the Defense
6 Production Act of 1950 (50 U.S.C. 4565(b)(1)) is amend-
7 ed by adding at the end the following:

8 “(I) CONSIDERATION OF CERTAIN AGRI-
9 CULTURAL LAND TRANSACTIONS.—

10 “(i) IN GENERAL.—After receiving no-
11 tification from the Secretary of Agriculture
12 of a reportable agricultural land trans-
13 action, the Committee shall determine—

14 “(I) whether the transaction is a
15 covered transaction; and

16 “(II) if the Committee deter-
17 mines that the transaction is a cov-
18 ered transaction, whether the Com-
19 mittee should initiate a review pursu-
20 ant to subparagraph (D), or take an-
21 other action authorized under this sec-
22 tion, with respect to the reportable ag-
23 ricultural land transaction.

24 “(ii) REPORTABLE AGRICULTURAL
25 LAND TRANSACTION.—In this subpara-

1 graph, the term ‘reportable agricultural
2 land transaction’ means a transaction—

3 “(I) that the Secretary of Agri-
4 culture has reason to believe is a cov-
5 ered transaction, based on information
6 from or in cooperation with the intel-
7 ligence community;

8 “(II) that involves the acquisition
9 of an interest in agricultural land by
10 a foreign person of the People’s Re-
11 public of China, the Democratic Peo-
12 ple’s Republic of Korea, the Russian
13 Federation, or the Islamic Republic of
14 Iran; and

15 “(III) with respect to which a
16 person is required to submit a report
17 to the Secretary of Agriculture under
18 section 2(a) of the Agricultural For-
19 eign Investment Disclosure Act of
20 1978.

21 “(iii) SUNSET.—The requirements
22 under this subparagraph shall terminate,
23 with respect to a foreign person of the re-
24 spective foreign country, on the date that
25 the People’s Republic of China, the Demo-

1 cratic People’s Republic of Korea, the Rus-
2 sian Federation, or the Islamic Republic of
3 Iran, as the case may be, is removed from
4 the list of foreign adversaries in section
5 791.4 of title 15, Code of Federal Regula-
6 tions.”.

7 **Subtitle D—Other Miscellaneous** 8 **Provisions**

9 **SEC. 12401. COMMISSION ON FARM TRANSITIONS—NEEDS** 10 **FOR 2050.**

11 Section 12609 of the Agriculture Improvement Act
12 of 2018 (Public Law 115–334; 132 Stat. 5009) is amend-
13 ed—

14 (1) in subsection (a), by striking “There is es-
15 tablished” and inserting “Not later than 60 days
16 after the date of the enactment of the Farm, Food,
17 and National Security Act of 2026, the Secretary
18 shall establish”;

19 (2) in subsection (b)—

20 (A) in the subsection heading, by inserting
21 “AND RECOMMENDATIONS” after “STUDY”;

22 (B) in the matter preceding paragraph (1),
23 by inserting “, and make recommendations re-
24 lating to,” after “study on”;

25 (C) in paragraph (1)—

1 (i) in subparagraph (B), by inserting
2 “and timely” after “affordable”; and

3 (ii) by striking subparagraph (D) and
4 inserting the following:

5 “(D) apprenticeships, mentoring programs,
6 business training, and technical assistance pro-
7 grams;”;

8 (D) in paragraph (3)—

9 (i) in the matter preceding subpara-
10 graph (A), by striking “existing and new
11 Federal tax policies” and inserting “exist-
12 ing and new State and Federal policies, in-
13 cluding tax policies”; and

14 (ii) in subparagraph (A), by inserting
15 “or impede” after “facilitate”;

16 (E) in paragraph (4), by striking “and” at
17 the end;

18 (F) in paragraph (5), by striking the pe-
19 riod at the end and inserting a semicolon; and

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

21 “(6) heirs’ property and succession of agricul-
22 tural land;

23 “(7) any unique barriers faced by historically
24 underserved and women farmers and ranchers in the

1 ability to transfer, inherit, or purchase agricultural
2 assets, including land; and

3 “(8) leasing and ownership trends, including
4 leasing and ownership trends by foreign persons or
5 entities.”;

6 (3) in subsection (f), by striking “1 year after
7 the date of enactment of this Act” and inserting “2
8 years after the date of enactment of the Farm,
9 Food, and National Security Act of 2026”; and

10 (4) in subsection (m), by striking “2023” and
11 inserting “2031”.

12 **SEC. 12402. REPORT ON PERSONNEL.**

13 Section 12506 of the Agriculture Improvement Act
14 of 2018 (Public Law 115–334) is amended by striking
15 “2023” and inserting “2031”.

16 **SEC. 12403. IMPROVEMENTS TO UNITED STATES DROUGHT
17 MONITOR.**

18 Section 12512(d)(2) of the Agriculture Improvement
19 Act of 2018 (7 U.S.C. 5856(d)(2)) is amended by striking
20 “2023” and inserting “2031”.

21 **SEC. 12404. REPORTS ON LAND ACCESS AND FARMLAND
22 OWNERSHIP DATA COLLECTION.**

23 Section 12607 of the Agriculture Improvement Act
24 of 2018 (7 U.S.C. 2204i) is amended—

25 (1) in subsection (a)—

1 (A) in the matter preceding paragraph (1),
2 by inserting “and not less frequently than once
3 every 2 years thereafter,” before “the Secretary
4 of Agriculture”;

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

7 (C) in paragraph (3), by striking the pe-
8 riod at the end and inserting “; and”; and

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

10 “(4) a catalog of existing Federal, State, or pri-
11 vate programs that facilitate access to land, capital,
12 and markets, including programs providing assist-
13 ance relating to—

14 “(A) acquiring of real property (including
15 air rights, water rights, and other interests
16 therein), including closing costs;

17 “(B) subsidizing interest rates and mort-
18 gage principal amounts for intended bene-
19 ficiaries;

20 “(C) providing down payment assistance to
21 decrease farm mortgages;

22 “(D) securing clear title on heirs’ property
23 farmland;

24 “(E) conducting surveys and assessments
25 of agricultural land;

1 “(F) improving or remediating land, water,
2 and soil;

3 “(G) constructing or repairing infrastruc-
4 ture;

5 “(H) supporting land use planning;

6 “(I) acquiring legal or financial planning
7 assistance;

8 “(J) carrying out Tribal consultation;

9 “(K) supporting acquisition of a Depart-
10 ment of Agriculture farm number; and

11 “(L) any other activities as determined by
12 the Secretary.”; and

13 (2) in subsection (c), by striking “2023” and
14 inserting “2031”.

15 **SEC. 12405. INCREASING TRANSPARENCY REGARDING DE-**
16 **TENTION OF IMPORTED PLANTS.**

17 (a) **IN GENERAL.**—Not later than 180 days after the
18 date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary, in coordi-
19 nation with the Director of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife
20 Service and the Commissioner of U.S. Customs and Bor-
21 der Protection, shall issue guidance to clarify the process
22 by which an importer of plants that have been denied
23 entry into the United States and detained under the Lacey
24 Act Amendments of 1981 (16 U.S.C. 3371 et seq.) may

1 obtain additional information on such denial and deten-
2 tion.

3 (b) INFORMATION PROVIDED.—The process referred
4 to in subsection (a) shall ensure that the Secretary shall
5 provide to an importer described in such subsection, upon
6 the detention of any plants of such importer, the following
7 information:

8 (1) The specific reasons for which the detention
9 of the plants was initiated, including the date on
10 which the plants were presented to the Secretary for
11 examination.

12 (2) The anticipated length of the detention of
13 such plants.

14 (3) The nature of the tests or inquiries to be
15 conducted on the plants, which the importer shall be
16 able to replicate.

17 (4) The nature of any information that, if sup-
18 plied to the Secretary, would accelerate the disposi-
19 tion of the detention.

20 **SEC. 12406. ENHANCEMENT OF PET PROTECTIONS.**

21 (a) REPORT.—Not later than 2 years after the date
22 of the enactment of this Act (or later, if the Secretary
23 determines appropriate after taking into consideration any
24 ongoing programmatic review of the Animal Care program
25 of the Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service), the

1 Secretary shall submit to the Committee on Agriculture
2 and the Committee on Appropriations of the House of
3 Representatives and the Committee on Agriculture, Nutri-
4 tion, and Forestry and the Committee on Appropriations
5 of the Senate a report with respect to companion animals
6 that—

7 (1) evaluates the enforcement of standards
8 under, and requirements of, the Animal Welfare Act
9 (7 U.S.C. 2131 et seq.) by the Secretary for both ef-
10 fectiveness and efficiency;

11 (2) evaluates the efforts by the Secretary to
12 educate and advise dealers of all standards under,
13 and requirements of, such Act;

14 (3) evaluates the capacity of the Secretary to
15 enforce the standards established by such Act;

16 (4) makes recommendations for the improve-
17 ment of—

18 (A) all standards (including animal welfare
19 standards) under, and requirements of, such
20 Act; and

21 (B) education efforts of the Secretary with
22 respect to such standards and requirements;
23 and

1 (5) considers the impact and associated costs of
2 any recommended improvements or amendments to
3 the standards under, and requirements of, such Act.

4 (b) VETERINARY CARE.—

5 (1) IN GENERAL.—Section 13(a)(2)(A) of the
6 Animal Welfare Act (7 U.S.C. 2143(a)(2)(A)) is
7 amended by inserting “(which shall include visual
8 dental examinations, whenever practicable)” after
9 “adequate veterinary care”.

10 (2) TECHNICAL AMENDMENT.—Section 13 of
11 the Animal Welfare Act (7 U.S.C. 2143) is amended
12 by redesignating the second subsection (f) (prohib-
13 iting delivery of certain animals without certificate
14 of inspection), subsection (g), and subsection (h) as
15 subsections (g) through (i), respectively.

16 (c) CONFISCATION FOR UNRELIEVED SUFFERING.—

17 (1) IN GENERAL.—Section 13 of the Animal
18 Welfare Act (7 U.S.C. 2143) is amended by adding
19 at the end the following:

20 “(i) The Secretary shall promulgate such rules and
21 regulations as may be necessary to, during the inspection
22 process under section 16—

23 “(1) provide for the notification of law enforce-
24 ment officials of appropriate jurisdiction (including

1 local law enforcement) or the State animal health of-
2 ficial (or designee of such official); or

3 “(2) consider immediate confiscation or de-
4 struction of a dog, in the event that such dog is de-
5 termined to be in a state of unrelieved suffering.”.

6 (2) DEFINITION.—Section 2 of the Animal Wel-
7 fare Act (7 U.S.C. 2132) is amended by adding at
8 the end the following:

9 “(p) The term ‘unrelieved suffering’ means, with re-
10 spect to a dog, a state in which the dog is forced to endure
11 conditions, arising out of a dealer’s failure to comply with
12 the provisions of this Act, which cause severe pain or dis-
13 tress or severe discomfort, or which could directly and neg-
14 atively impact the health and well-being of the dog if im-
15 mediate actions are not taken to remedy the situation.”.

16 **SEC. 12407. PROTECTING ANIMALS WITH SHELTER.**

17 Section 12502(b)(8) of the Agriculture Improvement
18 Act of 2018 (Public Law 115–334) is amended by striking
19 “2023” and inserting “2031”.

1 **SEC. 12408. REPORT ON AVAILABLE ASSISTANCE TO AGRICULTURAL PRODUCERS IN THE STATE OF TEXAS THAT HAVE SUFFERED ECONOMIC LOSSES DUE TO THE FAILURE OF MEXICO TO DELIVER WATER.**

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6 Not later than 180 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary shall submit to the Committee on Agriculture of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry of the Senate a report that lists all existing authorities of the Secretary and programs within the Department that are or could be made available to provide assistance to agricultural producers in the State of Texas that have suffered economic losses due to the failure of Mexico to deliver water to the United States in accordance with the Treaty Relating to the Utilization of Waters of the Colorado and Tijuana Rivers and of the Rio Grande signed at Washington on February 3, 1944 and the Supplementary Protocol signed at Washington November 14, 1944.

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21 **SEC. 12409. COMMODITY FUTURES TRADING COMMISSION WHISTLEBLOWER PROGRAM.**

22 Public Law 117–25 is amended—

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24 (1) in each of paragraphs (3) and (4) of section
25 1(b) (as amended through Public Law 119–75), by

1 striking “September 30, 2026” and inserting “Sep-
2 tember 30, 2031”; and

3 (2) by redesignating section 1 as section 2 and
4 inserting after the enacting clause the following:

5 **“SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

6 “This Act may be cited as the ‘CFTC Whistleblower
7 Office Account Act of 2021’.”.

8 **SEC. 12410. QUALIFIED RENEWABLE BIOMASS.**

9 (a) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

10 (1) AGENCY ACTION.—The term “agency ac-
11 tion” has the meaning given the term in section 551
12 of title 5, United States Code.

13 (2) QUALIFIED RENEWABLE BIOMASS.—

14 (A) IN GENERAL.—The term “qualified re-
15 newable biomass” means—

16 (i) forest products manufacturing bio-
17 energy feedstocks, including from—

18 (I) forest products manufac-
19 turing residuals, including spent
20 pulping liquors, pulping by-products,
21 bark, woody manufacturing residuals,
22 paper recycling residuals, wastewater
23 and process water treatment plant re-
24 siduals, and anaerobic digester biogas;

1 (II) harvest residues, including
2 portions of harvested trees that are
3 too small or of too poor quality to be
4 utilized for wood products or paper
5 products;

6 (III) downed wood from extreme
7 weather events and natural disasters,
8 nonhazardous landscape or right-of-
9 way trimmings and municipal trim-
10 mings, and plant material removed for
11 purposes of invasive or noxious plant
12 species control;

13 (IV) biowaste, including landfill
14 gas; and

15 (V) non-chemically treated used
16 wood products, such as crates or pal-
17 lets; and

18 (ii) forest biomass derived from resi-
19 dues created as a by-product of timber
20 harvesting, including treetops, tree limbs,
21 and bark, but excluding stumps, roots, and
22 round wood suitable for industrial pur-
23 poses.

1 (B) EXCLUSION.—Such term does not in-
2 clude paper of a type that is commonly recy-
3 cled.

4 (b) IN GENERAL.—

5 (1) CONSIDERATION AS RENEWABLE ENERGY
6 SOURCE.—With respect to any agency action of the
7 Department related to qualified renewable biomass,
8 the Secretary shall consider qualified renewable bio-
9 mass to be a renewable energy source and assign it
10 (and a facility, to the extent it uses qualified renew-
11 able biomass as fuel) a greenhouse gas emission
12 rate, and a carbon intensity, of not greater than
13 zero, if the use of such qualified renewable biomass
14 as fuel does not cause the conversion of forests to
15 non-forest use.

16 (2) PETITIONS.—Not later than 1 year after re-
17 ceiving a petition requesting a change to a rule, pol-
18 icy, or program of the Department in order to com-
19 ply with the requirements of paragraph (1), the Sec-
20 retary shall take such action as may be necessary to
21 comply with such requirements with respect to such
22 rule, policy, or program.

23 (c) GUIDANCE.—

24 (1) ESTABLISHMENT.—Not later than 180 days
25 after the date of enactment of this Act, the Sec-

1 retary shall establish guidance for purposes of car-
2 rying out subsection (b).

3 (2) MODIFICATION.—The Secretary may peri-
4 odically update the guidance established under para-
5 graph (1) as the Secretary may determine necessary.

6 (3) CONSULTATION.—In carrying out this sub-
7 section, the Secretary shall consult with—

8 (A) the Administrator of the Environ-
9 mental Protection Agency;

10 (B) the Secretary of Energy; and

11 (C) any other relevant entities, as deter-
12 mined by the Secretary.

13 **SEC. 12411. WHOLE MILK UNDER THE SCHOOL BREAKFAST**
14 **PROGRAM.**

15 Section 9(a)(2) of the Richard B. Russell National
16 School Lunch Act (42 U.S.C. 1758(a)(2)) is amended—

17 (1) in subparagraph (A), in the matter pre-
18 ceding clause (i), by striking “Act—” and inserting
19 “Act and breakfasts served by schools participating
20 in the school breakfast program under section 4 of
21 the Child Nutrition Act of 1966 (42 U.S.C. 1773)—
22 ”;

23 (2) in subparagraph (C), by inserting “or the
24 school breakfast program under section 4 of the

1 Child Nutrition Act of 1966 (42 U.S.C. 1773)” after
2 “Act”; and
3 (3) in subparagraph (D), by striking “section
4 210.10” and inserting “sections 210.10 and 220.8”.

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