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To leverage incentives for the adoption of precision agriculture equipment and technology, and for other purposes.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

MARCH 8, 2023

Mrs. FISCHER (for herself and Ms. KLOBUCHAR) introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry

A BILL

To leverage incentives for the adoption of precision agriculture equipment and technology, 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.**

4 This Act may be cited as the “Producing Responsible
5 Energy and Conservation Incentives and Solutions for the
6 Environment Act of 2023” or the “PRECISE Act of
7 2023”.

1 **SEC. 2. CONSERVATION LOAN AND LOAN GUARANTEE PRO-**
2 **GRAM.**

3 Section 304 of the Consolidated Farm and Rural De-
4 velopment Act (7 U.S.C. 1924) is amended—

5 (1) in subsection (b)—

6 (A) by redesignating paragraphs (1), (2),
7 and (3) as paragraphs (3), (4), and (1), respec-
8 tively, and moving the paragraphs so as to ap-
9 pear in numerical order;

10 (B) in paragraph (1) (as so redesign-
11 nated)—

12 (i) by redesignating subparagraphs
13 (F) and (G) as subparagraphs (G) and
14 (H), respectively; and

15 (ii) by inserting after subparagraph
16 (E) the following:

17 “(F) the adoption of precision agriculture
18 practices and the acquisition of precision agri-
19 culture technology;” and

20 (C) by inserting after paragraph (1) (as so
21 redesignated) the following:

22 “(2) **PRECISION AGRICULTURE; PRECISION AG-**
23 **RICULTURE TECHNOLOGY.**—The terms ‘precision agri-
24 culture’ and ‘precision agriculture technology’ have
25 the meanings given those terms in section 1201(a)

1 of the Food Security Act of 1985 (16 U.S.C.
2 3801(a)).”;

3 (2) in subsection (d)—

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

6 (B) in paragraph (3), by striking “1985.”
7 and inserting “1985 (16 U.S.C. 3812); and”;
8 and

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

10 “(4) producers who use the loans to adopt pre-
11 cision agriculture practices or acquire precision agri-
12 culture technology, including adoption or acquisition
13 for the purpose of participating in the environmental
14 quality incentives program under subchapter A of
15 chapter 4 of subtitle D of title XII of the Food Se-
16 curity Act of 1985 (16 U.S.C. 3839aa et seq.).”;

17 (3) in subsection (e), by striking paragraph (2)
18 and inserting the following:

19 “(2) 90 percent of the principal amount of the
20 loan in the case of—

21 “(A) a producer that is a qualified socially
22 disadvantaged farmer or rancher or a beginning
23 farmer or rancher; or

24 “(B) a loan that is used for the purchase
25 of precision agriculture technology.”; and

1 (4) in subsection (f)—

2 (A) by striking “(f) ADMINISTRATIVE PRO-
3 VISIONS.—The Secretary” and inserting the fol-
4 lowing:

5 “(f) ADMINISTRATIVE PROVISIONS.—

6 “(1) GEOGRAPHIC DIVERSITY.—The Sec-
7 retary”; and

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

9 “(2) COORDINATION WITH NRCS.—In making
10 or guaranteeing loans under this section, the Sec-
11 retary shall ensure that there is coordination be-
12 tween the Farm Service Agency and the Natural Re-
13 sources Conservation Service.”.

14 **SEC. 3. ASSISTANCE TO RURAL ENTITIES.**

15 Section 310B(a) of the Consolidated Farm and Rural
16 Development Act (7 U.S.C. 1932(a)) is amended—

17 (1) in paragraph (1)—

18 (A) by redesignating subparagraph (B) as
19 subparagraph (C); and

20 (B) by inserting after subparagraph (A)
21 the following:

22 “(B) PRECISION AGRICULTURE; PRECISION
23 AGRICULTURE TECHNOLOGY.—The terms ‘pre-
24 cision agriculture’ and ‘precision agriculture
25 technology’ have the meanings given those

1 terms in section 1201(a) of the Food Security
2 Act of 1985 (16 U.S.C. 3801(a)).”; and

3 (2) in paragraph (2)—

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

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

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

9 “(E) expanding the adoption of precision
10 agriculture practices, including by financing the
11 acquisition of precision agriculture technology,
12 in order to promote best practices, reduce costs,
13 and improve the environment.”.

14 **SEC. 4. FOOD SECURITY ACT OF 1985 DEFINITIONS.**

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

17 (1) by redesignating paragraphs (20) through
18 (27) as paragraphs (22) through (29), respectively;

19 and

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

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

1 at a heightened level of spatial and temporal granu-
2 larity to improve efficiencies, reduce waste, and
3 maintain environmental quality.

4 “(21) PRECISION AGRICULTURE TECH-
5 NOLOGY.—The term ‘precision agriculture tech-
6 nology’ means any technology (including equipment
7 that is necessary for the deployment of such tech-
8 nology) that directly contributes to a reduction in, or
9 improved efficiency of, inputs used in crop or live-
10 stock production, including—

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

13 “(B) satellite or aerial imagery;

14 “(C) yield monitors;

15 “(D) soil mapping;

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 leads to a reduction in,
5 or improves efficiency of, crop and livestock
6 production inputs, which may include seed,
7 feed, fertilizer, chemicals, water, and time.”.

8 **SEC. 5. ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY INCENTIVES PROGRAM.**

9 (a) DEFINITIONS.—Section 1240A(6)(B)(v) of the
10 Food Security Act of 1985 (16 U.S.C. 3839aa–
11 1(6)(B)(v)) is amended by inserting “(including the adop-
12 tion of precision agriculture practices and the acquisition
13 of precision agriculture technology)” after “planning”.

14 (b) PAYMENTS.—

15 (1) OTHER PAYMENTS.—Section 1240B(d)(6)
16 of the Food Security Act of 1985 (16 U.S.C.
17 3839aa–2(d)(6)) is amended—

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

20 “(A) PAYMENTS UNDER THIS SUBTITLE.—
21 A producer shall”; and

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

23 “(B) CONSERVATION LOAN AND LOAN
24 GUARANTEE PROGRAM PAYMENTS.—

1 “(i) IN GENERAL.—A producer receiv-
2 ing payments for practices on eligible land
3 under the program may also receive a loan
4 or loan guarantee under section 304 of the
5 Consolidated Farm and Rural Develop-
6 ment Act (7 U.S.C. 1924) to cover costs
7 for the same practices on the same land.

8 “(ii) NOTICE TO PRODUCERS.—The
9 Secretary shall inform a producer partici-
10 pating in the program in writing of the
11 availability of a loan or loan guarantee
12 under section 304 of the Consolidated
13 Farm and Rural Development Act (7
14 U.S.C. 1924) as it relates to costs of im-
15 plementing practices under the program.”.

16 (2) INCREASED PAYMENTS FOR HIGH-PRIORITY
17 PRACTICES.—Section 1240B(d)(7) of the Food Se-
18 curity Act of 1985 (16 U.S.C. 3839aa–2(d)(7)) is
19 amended, in the paragraph heading, by inserting
20 “STATE-DETERMINED” before “HIGH-PRIORITY”.

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

1 “(8) INCREASED PAYMENTS FOR PRECISION AG-
2 RICULTURE.—Notwithstanding paragraph (2), the
3 Secretary may increase the amount that would oth-
4 erwise be provided for a practice under this sub-
5 section to not more than 90 percent of the costs as-
6 sociated with adopting precision agriculture practices
7 and acquiring precision agriculture technology.”.

8 (c) CONSERVATION INCENTIVE CONTRACTS.—Sec-
9 tion 1240B(j)(2)(A)(i) of the Food Security Act of 1985
10 (16 U.S.C. 3839aa–2(j)(2)(A)(i)) is amended by inserting
11 “(which may include the adoption of precision agriculture
12 practices and the acquisition of precision agriculture tech-
13 nology)” after “incentive practices”.

14 **SEC. 6. CONSERVATION STEWARDSHIP PROGRAM.**

15 (a) CONSERVATION STEWARDSHIP PAYMENTS.—Sec-
16 tion 1240L(c) of the Food Security Act of 1985 (16
17 U.S.C. 3839aa–24(c)) is amended by striking paragraph
18 (3) and inserting the following:

19 “(3) EXCLUSION.—A payment to a producer
20 under this subsection shall not be provided for con-
21 servation activities for which there is no cost in-
22 curred or income forgone by the producer.”.

23 (b) SUPPLEMENTAL PAYMENTS FOR RESOURCE-
24 CONSERVING CROP ROTATIONS AND ADVANCED GRAZING

1 MANAGEMENT.—Section 1240L(d) of the Food Security
2 Act of 1985 (16 U.S.C. 3839aa–24(d)) is amended—

3 (1) in the subsection heading, by striking “AND
4 ADVANCED GRAZING MANAGEMENT” and inserting
5 “, ADVANCED GRAZING MANAGEMENT, AND PRECI-
6 SION AGRICULTURE”;

7 (2) in paragraph (2)—

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

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

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

13 “(C) precision agriculture.”; and

14 (3) in paragraph (3), by striking “or advanced
15 grazing management” and inserting “, advanced
16 grazing management, or precision agriculture”.

17 **SEC. 7. DELIVERY OF TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE.**

18 Section 1242(f) of the Food Security Act of 1985 (16
19 U.S.C. 3842(f)) is amended by adding at the end the fol-
20 lowing:

21 “(6) SOIL HEALTH PLANNING.—The Secretary
22 shall emphasize the use of third-party providers in
23 providing technical assistance for soil health plan-
24 ning, including planning relating to the use of cover
25 crops, precision conservation management, com-

- 1 comprehensive nutrient management planning, and other
- 2 innovative plans.”.

