

119TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

H. R. 1011

AN ACT

To amend the Agricultural Credit Act of 1978 to remove barriers to agricultural producers in accessing funds to carry out emergency measures under the emergency conservation program, and for other purposes.

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

1 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

2 This Act may be cited as the “Emergency Conserva-
3 tion Program Improvement Act of 2025”.

4 **SEC. 2. EMERGENCY CONSERVATION PROGRAM.**

5 Section 401 of the Agricultural Credit Act of 1978
6 (16 U.S.C. 2201) is amended—

7 (1) in subsection (b)—

8 (A) in the subsection heading, by inserting

9 “AND OTHER EMERGENCY CONSERVATION
10 MEASURES” after “FENCING”; and

11 (B) by amending paragraph (1) to read as
12 follows:

13 “(1) IN GENERAL.—With respect to a payment
14 to an agricultural producer under subsection (a) for
15 the repair or replacement of fencing, or for other
16 emergency measures to rehabilitate farmland or to
17 repair or replace a farmland or conservation struc-
18 ture, the Secretary shall give the agricultural pro-
19 ducer the option of receiving—

20 “(A) before carrying out such replacement
21 or rehabilitation, not more than 75 percent of
22 the payment for such replacement or rehabilita-
23 tion, which shall be based on the fair market
24 value of the replacement or rehabilitation, as
25 determined by the Secretary; and

1 “(B) before carrying out such repair, not
 2 more than 50 percent of the payment for such
 3 repair, which shall be based on the fair market
 4 value of the repair, as determined by the Sec-
 5 retary.”; and

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

7 “(c) WILDFIRES.—A wildfire that causes damage
 8 with respect to which a payment may be made under sub-
 9 section (a) includes any wildfire that is not caused natu-
 10 rally, including a wildfire that is caused by the Federal
 11 Government, if the damage is caused by the spread of the
 12 fire due to natural causes.”.

13 **SEC. 3. IMPROVING THE EMERGENCY FOREST RESTORA-**
 14 **TION PROGRAM.**

15 Section 407 of the Agricultural Credit Act of 1978
 16 (16 U.S.C. 2206) is amended—

17 (1) by redesignating subsection (e) as sub-
 18 section (f); and

19 (2) by inserting after subsection (d) the fol-
 20 lowing:

21 “(e) ADVANCE PAYMENTS.—

22 “(1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall give an
 23 owner of nonindustrial private forest land the option
 24 of receiving, before the owner carries out emergency
 25 measures under this section, not more than 75 per-

1 cent of the cost of the emergency measures, as de-
2 termined by the Secretary based on the fair market
3 value of the cost of the emergency measures using
4 the estimated cost of the applicable practice pub-
5 lished in the Field Office Technical Guide of each
6 State by the Natural Resources Conservation Serv-
7 ice.

8 “(2) RETURN OF FUNDS.—If the funds pro-
9 vided under paragraph (1) are not expended by the
10 end of the 180-day period beginning on the date on
11 which the owner of nonindustrial private forest land
12 receives those funds, the funds shall be returned
13 within a reasonable timeframe, as determined by the
14 Secretary.”.

Passed the House of Representatives April 14, 2026.

Attest:

Clerk.

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