

119TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 2728

To require the Small Business Administration, the Appalachian Regional Commission, and the Delta Regional Authority to enter into an agreement to carry out activities to expand rural entrepreneurship, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

APRIL 8, 2025

Ms. LETLOW (for herself and Mr. DELUZIO) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure, and in addition to the Committees on Small Business, and Financial Services, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned

A BILL

To require the Small Business Administration, the Appalachian Regional Commission, and the Delta Regional Authority to enter into an agreement to carry out activities to expand rural entrepreneurship, 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 “Growing Regional En-
3 trepreneurship and Access To Economic Resilience Act”
4 or the “GREATER Act”.

5 **SEC. 2. MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING TO EXPAND**
6 **RURAL ENTREPRENEURSHIP AND SUPPORT**
7 **TO SMALL BUSINESS CONCERNS WITHIN AP-**
8 **PALACHIAN REGION AND THE DELTA RE-**
9 **GION.**

10 (a) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 120 days after the
11 date of the enactment of this Act, the Administrator of
12 the Small Business Administration, the appropriate head
13 of the Appalachian Regional Commission, and the appro-
14 priate head of the Delta Regional Authority (in this sec-
15 tion referred to as the “covered officials”) shall enter into
16 a memorandum of understanding or other appropriate
17 agreement to carry out activities within the Appalachian
18 region and the Delta region, as applicable, to expand rural
19 entrepreneurship and to support covered small business
20 concerns.

21 (b) MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING OR AGREE-
22 MENT.—The covered officials shall carry out and coordi-
23 nate the activities described in subsection (a) by entering
24 into one or more memoranda of understanding or other
25 appropriate agreements, as jointly determined by the cov-
26 ered officials.

1 (c) INCLUSION OF COVERED SMALL BUSINESS CON-
2 CERNS.—In carrying out the activities described in sub-
3 section (a), the covered officials shall ensure the inclusion
4 of covered small business concerns in such activities, as
5 appropriate.

6 (d) OTHER REQUIREMENTS.—In carrying out the ac-
7 tivities described in subsection (a), the covered officials
8 may—

9 (1) carry out reimbursable agreements between
10 the Appalachian Regional Commission, Delta Re-
11 gional Authority, the Small Business Administra-
12 tion, and other appropriate entities in order to maxi-
13 mize the effectiveness of activities carried out pursu-
14 ant to a memorandum or agreement described in
15 subsection (b); and

16 (2) collaborate with other Federal agencies as
17 appropriate to carry out such activities.

18 (e) REPORT.—Not later than two years after the date
19 of the enactment of this Act, the covered officials shall
20 jointly submit to Congress a report on activities carried
21 out pursuant to a memorandum or agreement described
22 in subsection (b) that includes the following:

23 (1) Coordination between the covered officials
24 involved in such activities.

1 (2) Potential opportunities to expand the ability
2 of the Appalachian Regional Commission, Delta Re-
3 gional Authority, and the Small Business Adminis-
4 tration to provide assistance to rural entrepreneurs
5 or covered small business concerns, as applicable.

6 (3) The number of rural entrepreneurs or cov-
7 ered small business concerns assisted through activi-
8 ties carried out pursuant to such memorandum or
9 agreement.

10 (4) Areas of future collaboration among the
11 covered officials for the benefit of rural entre-
12 preneurs or covered small business concerns located
13 within the Appalachian region or Delta region, as
14 applicable.

15 (5) Plans of the covered officials to continue co-
16 ordination on activities described in subsection (a).

17 (f) DEFINITIONS.—In this Act:

18 (1) COVERED SMALL BUSINESS CONCERN.—The
19 term “covered small business concern” means a
20 small business concern (as defined under section 3
21 of the Small Business Act (15 U.S.C. 632)) located
22 within the Appalachian region or Delta region.

23 (2) APPALACHIAN REGIONAL COMMISSION.—
24 The term “Appalachian Regional Commission”

1 means the commission established by section
2 14301(a) of title 40, United States Code.

3 (3) DELTA REGION.—The term “Delta region”
4 has the meaning given the term “region” in section
5 382A of the Consolidated Farm and Rural Develop-
6 ment Act (7 U.S.C. 2009aa).

7 (4) DELTA REGIONAL AUTHORITY.—The term
8 “Delta Regional Authority” means the entity estab-
9 lished under subtitle F of the Consolidated Farm
10 and Rural Development Act (7 U.S.C. 2009aa et
11 seq.).

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