

119TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 6496

To require the Secretary of Agriculture to establish a program to make direct payments to certain specialty crop growers or wine producers who experience certain losses due to increased tariff burdens, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

DECEMBER 5, 2025

Mr. THOMPSON of California (for himself, Mr. NEWHOUSE, Mr. LAMALFA, and Ms. SALINAS) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Agriculture

A BILL

To require the Secretary of Agriculture to establish a program to make direct payments to certain specialty crop growers or wine producers who experience certain losses due to increased tariff burdens, 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 “Specialty Crop & Wine
5 Producer Tariff Relief Act”.

1 **SEC. 2. USDA ASSISTANCE TO CERTAIN SPECIALTY CROP**
2 **GROWERS AND WINE PRODUCERS; AUTHOR-**
3 **ITY TO PURCHASE SURPLUS CROPS.**

4 (a) DIRECT PAYMENT PROGRAM.—

5 (1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 180 days
6 after the date of the enactment of this section, the
7 Secretary of Agriculture (hereinafter the “Sec-
8 retary”) shall establish a program to make direct
9 payments for covered losses, and distribute such
10 payments, to the following persons:

11 (A) Specialty crop growers.

12 (B) Wine producers.

13 (2) ADMINISTRATION.—The Secretary shall ad-
14 minister the program established under this sub-
15 section in a manner substantially similar to the Mar-
16 keting Assistance for Specialty Crops program au-
17 thorized by section 5(e) of the Commodity Credit
18 Corporation Charter Act (15 U.S.C. 714c(e)).

19 (b) PURCHASE OF SURPLUS CROPS.—The Secretary
20 may purchase surplus crops (other than wine grapes) to
21 be distributed for nutrition assistance programs.

22 (c) REPORTING.—Beginning not later than 120 days
23 after the date on which the Secretary first exercises any
24 authority under subsections (a) or (b), and annually there-
25 after until 2030, the Secretary shall provide to Congress
26 a report, organized by crop and region, on—

1 (1) the direct payments distributed under sub-
2 section (a); and

3 (2) any surplus crops purchased under sub-
4 section (b).

5 (d) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There is
6 authorized to be appropriated to the Secretary such sums
7 as are necessary to carry out this section for fiscal years
8 2026 through 2030.

9 (e) ADMINISTRATIVE COSTS.—Out of any funds
10 made available to carry out this section, the Secretary may
11 use not more than 1 percent for administrative costs.

12 (f) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

13 (1) COVERED LOSS.—

14 (A) IN GENERAL.—The term “covered
15 loss” includes—

16 (i) increased costs related to—

17 (I) the tenderness and perish-
18 ability of specialty crops;

19 (II) the need to use specialized
20 handling and transport equipment
21 with temperature and humidity con-
22 trol;

23 (III) packaging to prevent dam-
24 age;

1 (IV) moving perishables to mar-
2 ket quickly; and

3 (V) higher labor costs;

4 (ii) reduced exports due to an in-
5 creased tariff burden;

6 (iii) lost export revenue due to de-
7 creased foreign demand;

8 (iv) economic loss due to reduced mar-
9 ket access;

10 (v) reduced contracts with a foreign
11 buyer; and

12 (vi) cancelled or reduced contracts due
13 to reduced foreign demand.

14 (B) WINE OR WINE GRAPE PRODUCERS.—

15 With respect to a wine producer or a specialty
16 crop grower who produces wine grapes, the
17 term “covered loss”—

18 (i) has the meaning given such term
19 under paragraph (A); and

20 (ii) includes lost qualifying export rev-
21 enue for wine.

22 (2) INCREASED TARIFF BURDEN.—The term
23 “increased tariff burden” means a tariff that was in-
24 troduced by another country on United States prod-
25 ucts on or after January 20, 2025.

1 (3) NUTRITION PROGRAMS.—The term “nutri-
2 tion programs” includes the following:

3 (A) The school breakfast program estab-
4 lished under section 4 of the Child Nutrition
5 Act of 1966 (42 U.S.C. 1773).

6 (B) The school lunch program under the
7 Richard B. Russell National School Lunch Act
8 (42 U.S.C. 1751 et seq.).

9 (C) The supplemental nutrition assistance
10 program under the Food and Nutrition Act of
11 2008 (7 U.S.C. 2011 et seq.).

12 (D) Any other such programs as deter-
13 mined by the Secretary.

14 (4) QUALIFYING EXPORT REVENUE.—The term
15 “qualifying export revenue” means the percentage of
16 lost export revenue for wine in an amount equal to
17 the percentage of such wine produced in the United
18 States with United States-grown grapes.

19 (5) SPECIALTY CROP.—The term “specialty
20 crop”—

21 (A) has the meaning given such term in
22 section 3 of the Specialty Crops Competitive-
23 ness Act of 2004 (7 U.S.C. 1621 note); and

24 (B) includes wine grapes.

1 (6) WINE.—The term “wine” means the prod-
2 uct obtained from normal alcoholic fermentation of
3 the juice of sound ripe grapes or other agricultural
4 products containing natural or added sugar or any
5 such alcoholic beverage to which is added grape
6 brand, fruit brandy, or spirits of wine, which is dis-
7 tilled from the particular agricultural product or
8 products of which the wine is made and other rec-
9 tified wine products and by whatever name and
10 which does not contain more than 15 percent added
11 flavoring, coloring, and blending material and which
12 contains not more than 24 percent of alcohol by vol-
13 ume, and includes vermouth and sake, known as
14 Japanese rick wine.

15 (7) WINE PRODUCER.—The term “wine pro-
16 ducer” means any person who—

17 (A) owns, or has access to, a facility and
18 equipment for the conversion of grapes, berries,
19 or other fruit into wine;

20 (B) is engaged in the production of wine
21 for commercial sale; and

22 (C) holds all licenses, permits, or approvals
23 required under Federal or State law for the ac-

- 1 tivities described under subparagraphs (A) and
- 2 (B).

