

119TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

H. R. 7567

AN ACT

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,*

1 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE; TABLE OF CONTENTS.**

2 (a) SHORT TITLE.—This Act may be cited as the
3 “Farm, Food, and National Security Act of 2026”.

4 (b) TABLE OF CONTENTS.—The table of contents for
5 this Act is as follows:

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- Sec. 12504. Testing of equipment.
- Sec. 12505. Limitation on administrative and supervisory costs.
- Sec. 12506. General authorities.
- Sec. 12507. Registration requirements.
- Sec. 12508. Reporting requirements.
- Sec. 12509. Funding.
- Sec. 12510. Advisory committee.

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 PPLICATION 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 or the average of such sales over a set of consecutive
17 calendar years that precedes the year in which such
18 adverse event occurred, as determined by the Sec-
19 retary; multiplied by

20 “(2) a payment factor the Secretary deter-
21 mines, subject to the availability of funds, to address
22 losses of such specialty crops from such adverse
23 event.

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

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

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

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

6 “(d) LIMITATIONS.—

7 “(1) TOTAL AMOUNT.—

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

20 “(B) EXCEPTION.—In the case of a person
21 or legal entity with an average gross income (as
22 calculated under section 1001D(b)(4)(B) of the
23 Food Security Act of 1985 (7 U.S.C. 1308–
24 3a(b)(4)(B))) for which greater than or equal

1 to 75 percent of the average derives from farm-
2 ing, ranching, or silviculture activities—

3 “(i) subparagraph (A) shall not apply;
4 and

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

11 “(2) NOTIFICATION OF INTERESTS; ELIGI-
12 BILITY; DENIALS.—Sections 1001A(a), 1001B, and
13 1001C of the Food Security Act of 1985 (7 U.S.C.
14 1308–1(a); 1308–2; 1308–3) shall apply to a pro-
15 ducer of a specialty crop under this section in the
16 same manner as such sections apply to a person or
17 legal entity with respect to a covered commodity, ex-
18 cept to the extent such sections relate to the applica-
19 tion of subsections (b) through (d) of section
20 1001A.”.

21 (b) PAYMENT LIMITATION CONFORMING AMEND-
22 MENT.—Section 1001D(b) of the Food Security Act of
23 1985 (7 U.S.C. 1308–3a(b)) is amended—

24 (1) in paragraph (2)(E), by inserting “or
25 196A” after “section 196”; and

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

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

4 (a) IN GENERAL.—Subtitle E of title I of the Agricul-
5 tural Act of 2014 (7 U.S.C. 9081 et seq.) is amended by
6 adding at the end the following:

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

5 (b) INDEMNITY PROGRAM.—Section 3 of Public Law
6 90–484 (7 U.S.C. 4553) is amended by striking “2023”
7 and inserting “2031”.

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

12 **SEC. 1006. MANDATORY REPORTING OF DAIRY PRODUCT**
13 **PROCESSING COSTS.**

14 Section 273 of the Agricultural Marketing Act of
15 1946 (7 U.S.C. 1637b) is amended—

16 (1) in subsection (b)—

17 (A) in paragraph (1)—

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

20 (ii) in subparagraph (B), by striking
21 the period at the end and inserting “;
22 and”; and

23 (iii) by adding at the end the fol-
24 lowing:

25 “(C) for each manufacturer required to re-
26 port under subparagraph (A) for any product,

1 require that manufacturer to report production
 2 cost and product yield information, as deter-
 3 mined by the Secretary, for all products proc-
 4 essed in the same facility or facilities.”;

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

7 (2) in subsection (c)(3)(B), by inserting “, sub-
 8 ject to subsection (b)(1),” after “of information”;

9 (3) in subsection (d)—

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

13 (B) in paragraph (1)—

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

17 (ii) by striking “this section” and in-
 18 serting “subparagraphs (A) and (B) of
 19 subsection (b)(1)”;

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

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

24 “(3) DAIRY PRODUCT PROCESSING COSTS.—Not
 25 later than 2 years after the date of enactment of

1 this paragraph, and every 2 years thereafter, the
2 Secretary shall publish a report containing the infor-
3 mation obtained under subparagraph (C) of sub-
4 section (b)(1), subject to the conditions described in
5 subsection (b)(2).”;

6 (4) by redesignating subsection (e) as sub-
7 section (f); and

8 (5) by adding after subsection (d) the following:

9 “(e) REGULATION.—Any actions taken by the Sec-
10 retary under this section shall not be subject to review
11 under Executive Order 12866 (58 Fed. Reg. 51735) or
12 any successor order.”.

13 **SEC. 1007. DAIRY REPORTS.**

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

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

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

1 “(j) EFFECT OF LAPSE IN APPROPRIATIONS.—The
 2 servicing of a marketing assistance loan under section
 3 1201 by an officer or employee of the Department shall
 4 be deemed, for purposes of section 1342 of title 31, serv-
 5 ices for emergencies involving the safety of human life or
 6 the protection of property.”.

7 (b) LOANS UNDER SUGAR PROGRAM.—Section
 8 156(d) of the Federal Agriculture Improvement and Re-
 9 form Act of 1996 (7 U.S.C. 7272(d)) is amended by add-
 10 ing at the end the following:

11 “(4) EFFECT OF LAPSE IN APPROPRIATIONS.—
 12 The servicing of a loan under this section by an offi-
 13 cer or employee of the Department shall be deemed,
 14 for purposes of section 1342 of title 31, services for
 15 emergencies involving the safety of human life or the
 16 protection of property.”.

17 **SEC. 1009. STORAGE FACILITY LOANS.**

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

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

22 “(1) producers”; and

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

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

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

7 **SEC. 1010. STRENGTHENING DOMESTIC FOOD PRODUCTION**
 8 **SUPPLY CHAINS.**

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

12 **“SEC. 1302. STRENGTHENING DOMESTIC FOOD PRODUC-**
 13 **TION SUPPLY CHAINS.**

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

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

23 “(1) described in this subtitle; and

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

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

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

7 **SEC. 1011. REGULATIONS.**

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

10 (1) in paragraph (2), by striking “this title, sec-
 11 tions 11003 and 11017, title I of the Agriculture
 12 Improvement Act of 2018 and the amendments
 13 made by that title, and section 10109 of that Act”
 14 and inserting “a covered provision of law”; and

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

16 “(4) COVERED PROVISION OF LAW DEFINED.—
 17 In this subsection, the term ‘covered provision of
 18 law’ means—

19 “(A) this title and sections 11003 and
 20 11017;

21 “(B) title I of the Agriculture Improve-
 22 ment Act of 2018 and the amendments made
 23 by that title, and section 10109 of that Act;
 24 and

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

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

7 (1) in paragraph (1), by striking “subtitle B”
8 the first place it appears and all that follows
9 through the period at the end and inserting “a cov-
10 ered provision of law.”;

11 (2) in paragraph (2)—

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

13 (B) by striking “under subtitles B or C”
14 and inserting “under the repayment provi-
15 sions”; and

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

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

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

20 “(i) subtitle B or C or the amend-
21 ments made by subtitle B or C;

22 “(ii) the amendments made by sub-
23 title B or C of the Agriculture Improve-
24 ment Act of 2018, except with respect to

1 the assistance provided under sections
 2 1207(c) and 1208; and

3 “(iii) section 156 of the Federal Agri-
 4 cultural Improvement and Reform Act of
 5 1996 (7 U.S.C. 7272).

6 “(B) REPAYMENT PROVISIONS.—The term
 7 ‘repayment provisions’ means the repayment re-
 8 quirements under—

9 “(i) subtitle B or C; or

10 “(ii) section 156 of the Federal Agri-
 11 cultural Improvement and Reform Act of
 12 1996 (7 U.S.C. 7272).”.

13 **SEC. 1012. RESTORATION OF TOBACCO AS AGRICULTURAL**
 14 **COMMODITY IN COMMODITY CREDIT COR-**
 15 **PORATION CHARTER ACT.**

16 Section 5 of the Commodity Credit Corporation Char-
 17 ter Act (15 U.S.C. 714c) is amended by striking “(other
 18 than tobacco)” each place such term appears.

19 **SEC. 1013. STUDY ON STORAGE FACILITY LOANS FOR ON-**
 20 **FARM FERTILIZER STORAGE.**

21 (a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall conduct a
 22 study on the feasibility to provide storage facility loans
 23 to producers to construct or maintain facilities for on-farm
 24 fertilizer storage.

1 (b) CONTENTS.—In conducting the study under this
2 section, the Secretary shall include data, as of the date
3 of enactment of this section, on—

4 (1) the market for on-farm fertilizer storage fa-
5 cilities, including—

6 (A) the number of farms in the United
7 States equipped with on-farm fertilizer storage
8 facilities; and

9 (B) the overall availability of, and producer
10 demand for, on-farm fertilizer storage facilities;

11 (2) producer access to financing for the con-
12 struction or maintenance of on-farm fertilizer stor-
13 age facilities; and

14 (3) storage facility loan rates and terms pro-
15 vided by commercial lending institutions in compari-
16 son to storage facility loan rates and terms provided
17 by the Secretary.

18 (c) REPORT.—Not later than 1 year after the date
19 of enactment of this section, the Secretary shall submit
20 to the Committee on Agriculture of the House of Rep-
21 resentatives and the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition,
22 and Forestry of the Senate a report on the findings of
23 the study under this section.

1 **SEC. 1014. ELECTRONIC FORMS FOR COVERED DISASTER**
2 **ASSISTANCE PROGRAMS.**

3 (a) IN GENERAL.—As soon as practicable after the
4 date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary shall, in
5 addition to paper forms, make available on the website of
6 the Department of Agriculture electronic forms that en-
7 able producers to enroll in a covered disaster assistance
8 program online.

9 (b) COVERED DISASTER ASSISTANCE PROGRAM DE-
10 FINED.—In this section, the term “covered disaster assist-
11 ance program” means—

- 12 (1) each program under section 1501 of the Ag-
13 ricultural Act of 2014 (7 U.S.C. 9081); and
14 (2) the emergency conservation program under
15 title IV of the Agricultural Credit Act of 1978 (16
16 U.S.C. 2201 et seq.).

17 **SEC. 1015. DAIRY BUSINESS INNOVATION INITIATIVES.**

18 Section 12513 of the Agriculture Improvement Act
19 of 2018 (7 U.S.C. 1632d) is amended—

- 20 (1) in subsection (b), by striking “3” and in-
21 serting “4”; and
22 (2) in subsection (g)(1)(A), by striking “3” and
23 inserting “4”.

1 **SEC. 1016. REVISION OF EVIDENCE STANDARDS FOR LIVE-**
 2 **STOCK INDEMNITY PAYMENTS FOR LOSSES**
 3 **BY MEXICAN WOLVES.**

4 Not later than 180 days after the date of the enact-
 5 ment of this Act, the Secretary shall accept proof of death
 6 that does not rely predominately on subcutaneous hem-
 7 orrhaging when determining livestock depredation losses
 8 by Mexican wolves under paragraph (1)(A) of section
 9 1501(b) of the Agricultural Act of 2014 (7 U.S.C.
 10 9081(b)).

11 **TITLE II—CONSERVATION**
 12 **Subtitle A—Definitions**

13 **SEC. 2001. DEFINITIONS.**

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

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

19 (2) in paragraph (14), by striking “term ‘In-
 20 dian tribe’ has the meaning given the term” and in-
 21 serting “‘terms ‘Indian tribe’ and ‘Indian Tribe’ have
 22 the meaning given those terms”;

23 (3) by redesignating paragraphs (20) through
 24 (27) as paragraphs (22) through (29), respectively;

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

1 “(20) PRECISION AGRICULTURE.—The term
2 ‘precision agriculture’ means managing, tracking, or
3 reducing crop or livestock production inputs, includ-
4 ing seed, feed, fertilizer, chemicals, water, and time,
5 at a heightened level of spatial and temporal granu-
6 larity and biological targeting to improve efficiencies,
7 reduce waste, and maintain environmental quality.

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

16 “(A) Global Positioning System-based or
17 geospatial mapping technology;

18 “(B) satellite or aerial imagery technology;

19 “(C) yield monitors;

20 “(D) soil mapping technology;

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

23 “(F) Internet of Things and telematics
24 technologies;

1 “(G) data management software and ad-
2 vanced analytics;

3 “(H) network connectivity products and
4 solutions;

5 “(I) Global Positioning System guidance or
6 auto-steer systems;

7 “(J) variable rate technology for applying
8 inputs, such as section control;

9 “(K) immersive technologies; and

10 “(L) any other technology, as determined
11 by the Secretary, that directly contributes to a
12 reduction in, or improved efficiency of, the use
13 of crop or livestock production inputs, which
14 may include seed, feed, fertilizer, soil amend-
15 ments, chemicals, water, and time.”; and

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

17 “(30) WILDLIFE HABITAT CONNECTIVITY.—

18 The term ‘wildlife habitat connectivity’ means the
19 degree to which landscape or habitat elements facili-
20 tate native species movement among seasonal habi-
21 tats.”.

22 **SEC. 2002. MITIGATION BANKING.**

23 Section 1222(k)(1)(B) of the Food Security Act of
24 1985 (16 U.S.C. 3822(k)(1)(B)) is amended to read as
25 follows:

1 “(B) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIA-
 2 TIONS.—There is authorized to be appropriated
 3 to the Secretary to carry out this paragraph
 4 \$5,000,000 for each of fiscal years 2027
 5 through 2031.”.

6 **Subtitle B—Conservation Reserve**
 7 **Program**

8 **SEC. 2101. CONSERVATION RESERVE.**

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

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

14 (1) in paragraph (1)(B), by striking “the date
 15 of enactment of the Agriculture Improvement Act of
 16 2018” and inserting “the date of enactment of the
 17 Farm, Food, and National Security Act of 2026”;
 18 and

19 (2) in paragraph (7)(A), by striking “Sep-
 20 tember 30, 2017, or September 30, 2018” and in-
 21 serting “September 30, 2025, or September 30,
 22 2026”.

23 (c) ENROLLMENT.—

24 (1) MAXIMUM ACREAGE ENROLLED.—Section
 25 1231(d)(1)(E) of the Food Security Act of 1985 (16

1 U.S.C. 3831(d)(1)(E)) is amended by striking “fis-
 2 cal year 2023” and inserting “each of fiscal years
 3 2023 through 2031”.

4 (2) GRASSLANDS.—Section
 5 1231(d)(2)(A)(ii)(III) of the Food Security Act of
 6 1985 (16 U.S.C. 3831(d)(2)(A)(ii)(III)) is amended
 7 by striking “2023” and inserting “2031”.

8 (3) STATE ENROLLMENT RATES.—Section
 9 1231(d)(4) of the Food Security Act of 1985 (16
 10 U.S.C. 3831(d)(4)) is amended by striking “2019
 11 through 2023” and inserting “2026 through 2031”
 12 each place it appears.

13 (4) CONTINUOUS ENROLLMENT PROCEDURE.—
 14 Section 1231(d)(6)(B) of the Food Security Act of
 15 1985 (16 U.S.C. 3831(d)(6)(B)) is amended to read
 16 as follows:

17 “(B) LIMITATION.—For purposes of apply-
 18 ing the limitations in paragraph (1), the Sec-
 19 retary shall, to the maximum extent practicable,
 20 enroll and maintain not fewer than 8,600,000
 21 acres of land under subparagraph (A) by Sep-
 22 tember 30, 2031.”.

23 (5) STATE ACRES FOR WILDLIFE ENHANCE-
 24 MENT CONTINUOUS ENROLLMENT.—Section

1 1231(d)(6)(A)(i) of the Food Security Act of 1985
2 (16 U.S.C. 3831(d)(6)(A)(i)) is amended—

3 (A) in subclause (II), by striking “and” at
4 the end; and

5 (B) by inserting after subclause (III) the
6 following:

7 “(IV) land that will be enrolled
8 under the State acres for wildlife en-
9 hancement initiative established by
10 the Secretary; and”.

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) of the Food Security Act of 1985
19 (16 U.S.C. 3839aa–1(6)) is amended—

20 (1) in subparagraph (A)(ii), by inserting “, in-
21 cluding composting practices” before the semicolon
22 at the end; and

23 (2) in subparagraph (B)(v), by inserting “(in-
24 cluding the adoption of precision agriculture prac-

1 tices and the acquisition of precision agriculture
 2 technology)” after “planning”.

3 **SEC. 2202. ESTABLISHMENT AND ADMINISTRATION.**

4 (a) PAYMENTS.—

5 (1) SPECIAL RULE INVOLVING PAYMENTS FOR
 6 FOREGONE INCOME.—Section 1240B(d)(3)(F) of the
 7 Food Security Act of 1985 (16 U.S.C. 3839aa–
 8 2(d)(3)(F)) is amended by inserting “and wildlife
 9 habitat connectivity” before “; or”.

10 (2) OTHER PAYMENTS.—Section 1240B(d)(6)
 11 of the Food Security Act of 1985 (16 U.S.C.
 12 3839aa–2(d)(6)) is amended—

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

15 “(A) PAYMENTS UNDER THIS SUBTITLE.—
 16 Except as provided in paragraph (9), a pro-
 17 ducer shall”; and

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

19 “(B) CONSERVATION LOAN AND LOAN
 20 GUARANTEE PROGRAM PAYMENTS.—

21 “(i) IN GENERAL.—A producer receiv-
 22 ing payments for practices on eligible land
 23 under the program may also receive a loan
 24 or loan guarantee under section 304 of the
 25 Consolidated Farm and Rural Develop-

ment Act to cover costs for the same practices on the same land.

“(ii) NOTICE TO PRODUCER.—The Secretary shall inform a producer participating in the program in writing that they may apply to receive a loan or loan guarantee under section 304 of the Consolidated Farm and Rural Development Act as it relates to costs of implementing practices under this program.”.

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

(A) in the paragraph heading, by inserting “STATE-DETERMINED” before “HIGH-PRIORITY”; and

(B) in subparagraph (A)—

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

(ii) in clause (iv), by striking the period at the end and inserting a semicolon; and

(iii) by adding at the end the following:

1 “(v) addresses the conservation and
2 restoration of wildlife habitat, including
3 wildlife habitat connectivity and wildlife
4 migration corridors; or

5 “(vi) increases carbon sequestration
6 or reduces greenhouse gas emissions, in-
7 cluding emissions of methane and nitrous
8 oxide.”.

9 (4) INCREASED PAYMENTS FOR PRECISION AG-
10 RICULTURE.—Section 1240B(d) of the Food Secu-
11 rity Act of 1985 (16 U.S.C. 3839aa–2(d)) is amend-
12 ed by adding at the end the following:

13 “(8) INCREASED PAYMENTS FOR PRECISION AG-
14 RICULTURE PRACTICES.—Notwithstanding para-
15 graph (2), the Secretary may increase the amount
16 that would otherwise be provided for a practice
17 under this subsection to not more than 90 percent
18 of the costs associated with adopting precision agri-
19 culture practices and acquiring precision agriculture
20 technology for the purpose of implementing con-
21 servation practices.”.

22 (5) COST-SHARE PAYMENTS FOR GRASSLAND.—
23 Section 1240B(d) of the Food Security Act of 1985
24 (16 U.S.C. 3839aa–2(d)) is further amended by
25 adding at the end the following:

1 “(9) COST-SHARE PAYMENTS FOR GRASSLAND
2 ENROLLED IN THE CONSERVATION RESERVE PRO-
3 GRAM.—

4 “(A) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary may
5 provide payments under the program for costs
6 associated with planning, design, materials,
7 equipment, installation, labor, management,
8 maintenance, or training, for the purpose of a
9 wildlife corridor, with respect to eligible land
10 that is—

11 “(i) enrolled in the conservation re-
12 serve program under section
13 1231(d)(2)(A); and

14 “(ii) of ecological significance, as de-
15 scribed in section 1231(d)(2)(B)(iii).

16 “(B) LIMITATION.—A producer shall not
17 be eligible for payments under subparagraph
18 (A) for a practice if the producer receives pay-
19 ments or other benefits for the same practice on
20 the same land under this title.”.

21 (b) ALLOCATION OF FUNDING.—Section 1240B(f)(1)
22 of the Food Security Act of 1985 (16 U.S.C. 3839aa–
23 2(f)(1)) is amended by striking “2023” and inserting
24 “2031”.

1 (c) WATER CONSERVATION OR IRRIGATION EFFI-
 2 CIENCY PRACTICE.—Section 1240B(h)(1) of the Food Se-
 3 curity Act of 1985 (16 U.S.C. 3839aa–2(h)(1)) is amend-
 4 ed—

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

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

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

10 “(D) the adoption of precision agriculture
 11 practices or the acquisition of precision agri-
 12 culture technology to achieve water conservation
 13 and energy efficiency.”.

14 (d) PAYMENTS FOR CONSERVATION PRACTICE RE-
 15 LATED TO ORGANIC PRODUCTION.—Section
 16 1240B(i)(3)(A)(ii) of the Food Security Act of 1985 (16
 17 U.S.C. 3839aa–2(i)(3)(A)(ii)) is amended by striking
 18 “2019 through 2023, \$140,000” and inserting “2027
 19 through 2031, \$200,000”.

20 (e) CONSERVATION INCENTIVE CONTRACTS.—Sec-
 21 tion 1240B(j)(2)(A)(i) of the Food Security Act of 1985
 22 (16 U.S.C. 3839aa–2(j)(2)(A)(i)) is amended by inserting
 23 “(which may include the adoption of precision agriculture
 24 practices and the acquisition of precision agriculture tech-
 25 nology)” after “incentive practices”.

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

4 “(k) SOUTHERN BORDER INITIATIVE.—

5 “(1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall provide
6 payments under the program to producers to imple-
7 ment conservation practices on covered lands of such
8 producers that address and repair covered damage
9 that may contribute to a natural resource concern or
10 problem.

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

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

16 “(A) COVERED DAMAGE.—The term ‘cov-
17 ered damage’ means damage to agricultural
18 land or farming infrastructure.

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

1 **SEC. 2203. LIMITATION ON PAYMENTS.**

2 Section 1240G of the Food Security Act of 1985 (16
3 U.S.C. 3839aa–7) is amended by striking “2019 through
4 2023” and inserting “2027 through 2031”.

5 **SEC. 2204. CONSERVATION INNOVATION GRANTS AND PAY-**
6 **MENTS.**

7 (a) COMPETITIVE GRANTS FOR INNOVATIVE CON-
8 SERVATION APPROACHES.—Section 1240H(a) of the Food
9 Security Act of 1985 (16 U.S.C. 3839aa–8(a)) is amend-
10 ed—

11 (1) by amending paragraph (1) to read as fol-
12 lows:

13 “(1) GRANTS.—Out of the funds made available
14 to carry out this subchapter, the Secretary may
15 award competitive grants that are intended to stimu-
16 late development and evaluation of new and innova-
17 tive approaches to leveraging the Federal investment
18 in environmental enhancement and protection, in
19 conjunction with agricultural production or forest re-
20 source management, through the program, including
21 grants for the development and evaluation of new
22 and innovative technologies that may be incor-
23 porated into conservation practice standards.”; and

24 (2) in paragraph (2)(H), by inserting before the
25 period “(including precision agriculture practices
26 and precision agriculture technologies)”.

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

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

7 (2) by inserting after subclause (VII) the fol-
 8 lowing:

9 “(VIII) perennial production sys-
 10 tems, including agroforestry and pe-
 11 rennial forages and grain crops; and”.

12 (c) REPORTING AND DATABASE.—Section
 13 1240H(d)(2)(A) of the Food Security Act of 1985 (16
 14 U.S.C. 3839aa–8(d)(2)(A)) is amended—

15 (1) in clause (i)—

16 (A) by inserting “, including both manage-
 17 ment and structural conservation practices,”
 18 after “conservation practices”; and

19 (B) by striking “and” at the end;

20 (2) by redesignating clause (ii) as clause (iii);

21 (3) by inserting after clause (i) the following:

22 “(ii) data that may be used to evalu-
 23 ate new and emerging technologies and
 24 recommendations for State and regional

1 applications of such new and emerging
 2 technologies; and”; and
 3 (4) in clause (iii), as so redesignated, by insert-
 4 ing “for consideration under the streamlined process
 5 developed under section 1242(h)(3)” before the pe-
 6 riod at the end.

7 **SEC. 2205. CONSERVATION ACTIVITIES DEFINED.**

8 Section 1240I(2)(B)(i) of the Food Security Act of
 9 1985 (16 U.S.C. 3839aa–21(2)(B)(i)) is amended by in-
 10 serting “, composting practices” after “agriculture drain-
 11 age management systems”.

12 **Subtitle D—Conservation**
 13 **Stewardship Program**

14 **SEC. 2301. CONSERVATION STEWARDSHIP PROGRAM.**

15 Section 1240J(b) of the Food Security Act of 1985
 16 (16 U.S.C. 3839aa–22(b)) is amended—

17 (1) in paragraph (1), in the matter preceding
 18 subparagraph (A), by inserting “and except as pro-
 19 vided in paragraph (3),” after “paragraph (2),”; and
 20 (2) by adding at the end the following:

21 “(3) COST-SHARE PAYMENTS FOR GRASSLAND
 22 ENROLLED IN THE CONSERVATION RESERVE PRO-
 23 GRAM.—

24 “(A) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary may
 25 provide payments under the program for costs

1 associated with planning, design, materials,
2 equipment, installation, labor, management,
3 maintenance, or training, for the purpose of a
4 wildlife corridor, with respect to eligible land
5 that is—

6 “(i) enrolled in the conservation re-
7 serve program under section
8 1231(d)(2)(A); and

9 “(ii) of ecological significance, as de-
10 scribed in section 1231(d)(2)(B)(iii).

11 “(B) LIMITATION.—A producer shall not
12 be eligible for payments under subparagraph
13 (A) for a conservation activity if the producer
14 receives payments or other benefits for the
15 same conservation activity on the same land
16 under this title.

17 “(C) EMERGENCY GRAZING AND HAYING
18 ACCESS PRESERVED.—No priority resource con-
19 cern, practice, or incentive pertaining to res-
20 toration and enhancement of wildlife habitat
21 connectivity and wildlife migration corridors on
22 the acres described above will prevent or alter
23 emergency grazing and haying access for grass-
24 land acres enrolled in the conservation reserve
25 program.”.

1 **SEC. 2302. DUTIES OF THE SECRETARY.**

2 (a) CONSERVATION STEWARDSHIP PAYMENTS.—Sec-
3 tion 1240L(c) of the Food Security Act of 1985 (16
4 U.S.C. 3839aa–24(c)) is amended—

5 (1) in paragraph (2)(A), by inserting before the
6 period “(including increased costs associated with
7 planning and adopting precision agriculture con-
8 servation activities and acquiring precision agri-
9 culture technology)”; and

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

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

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

18 (1) in the subsection heading, by striking “AND
19 ADVANCED GRAZING MANAGEMENT” and inserting
20 “, ADVANCED GRAZING MANAGEMENT, AND PRECI-
21 SION AGRICULTURE”;

22 (2) in paragraph (2)—

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

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

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

2 “(C) precision agriculture conservation ac-
3 tivities.”; and

4 (3) in paragraph (3), by striking “or advanced
5 grazing management” and inserting “, advanced
6 grazing management, or precision agriculture con-
7 servation activities”.

8 (c) PAYMENT LIMITATIONS.—Section 1240L(f) of
9 the Food Security Act of 1985 (16 U.S.C. 3839aa–24(f))
10 is amended by striking “2019 through 2023” and insert-
11 ing “2027 through 2031”.

12 **SEC. 2303. STATE ASSISTANCE FOR SOIL HEALTH.**

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

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

17 “(a) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

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

20 “(A) implementing a soil health program
21 for the area over which the Indian Tribe has ju-
22 risdiction; and

23 “(B) meeting or exceeding performance
24 measures established by the Indian Tribe for
25 the soil health program.

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

3 “(A) implementing a soil health program
4 for the State; and

5 “(B) meeting or exceeding performance
6 measures established by the State for the soil
7 health program.

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

11 “(A) is broadly consistent with the soil
12 health principles of the Natural Resources Con-
13 servation Service, as determined by the Sec-
14 retary; and

15 “(B) may include—

16 “(i) technical assistance;

17 “(ii) financial assistance;

18 “(iii) on-farm research and dem-
19 onstration;

20 “(iv) education, outreach, and train-
21 ing;

22 “(v) monitoring and evaluation; or

23 “(vi) such other components as the
24 Secretary determines appropriate.

1 “(b) AVAILABILITY AND PURPOSE OF GRANTS.—For
2 fiscal years 2027 through 2031, the Secretary shall make
3 grants to eligible States and eligible Indian Tribes for the
4 purpose of improving soil health on agricultural lands
5 through the implementation of State and Tribal soil health
6 programs.

7 “(c) APPLICATIONS.—

8 “(1) IN GENERAL.—To receive a grant under
9 this section, an eligible State or eligible Indian Tribe
10 shall submit to the Secretary an application at such
11 time, in such a manner, and containing such infor-
12 mation as the Secretary shall require, which shall in-
13 clude—

14 “(A) a description of performance meas-
15 ures to be used to evaluate the State or Tribal
16 soil health program and the results of any ac-
17 tivities carried out using grant funds received
18 under this section; and

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

23 “(2) TRIBAL OPTION.—An Indian Tribe shall
24 have the option, at the sole discretion of the Indian

1 Tribe, to be incorporated into the application of an
2 eligible State.

3 “(d) GRANTS.—

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

7 “(A) \$5,000,000; or

8 “(B) as applicable—

9 “(i) 50 percent of the cost of imple-
10 menting the State soil health program in
11 the fiscal year; or

12 “(ii) 75 percent of the cost of imple-
13 menting the Tribal soil health program in
14 the fiscal year.

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

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

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

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

1 “(f) EFFECT OF NONCOMPLIANCE.—If the Secretary,
2 after reasonable notice to an eligible State or eligible In-
3 dian Tribe receiving a grant under this section, finds that
4 the State or Indian Tribe has failed to comply with the
5 terms of the grant, the Secretary may disqualify, for 1
6 or more years, the State or Indian Tribe from receipt of
7 future grants under this section.

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

12 “(h) ADMINISTRATION.—

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

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

1 **Subtitle E—Other Conservation**
2 **Programs**

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

4 Section 1240M(e) of the Food Security Act of 1985
5 (16 U.S.C. 3839bb) is amended by striking “2023” and
6 inserting “2031”.

7 **SEC. 2402. FERAL SWINE ERADICATION AND CONTROL PRO-**
8 **GRAM.**

9 (a) FERAL SWINE ERADICATION AND CONTROL PRO-
10 GRAM.—Chapter 5 of subtitle D of title XII of the Food
11 Security Act of 1985 (16 U.S.C. 3839bb et seq.) is amend-
12 ed by inserting after section 1240M the following:

13 **“SEC. 1240N. FERAL SWINE ERADICATION AND CONTROL**
14 **PROGRAM.**

15 “(a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall establish a
16 feral swine eradication and control program (in this sec-
17 tion referred to as the ‘program’) to respond to the threat
18 feral swine pose to agriculture, native ecosystems, and
19 human and animal health.

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

22 “(1) study and assess the nature and extent of
23 damage to the threatened areas caused by feral
24 swine;

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

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

5 “(4) provide financial assistance to agricultural
6 producers in threatened areas.

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

10 “(1) eradicate or control feral swine in the
11 threatened areas; and

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

13 “(d) COORDINATION.—The Secretary shall ensure
14 that the Natural Resources Conservation Service and the
15 Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service coordinate for
16 purposes of this section through State technical commit-
17 tees established under section 1261(a).

18 “(e) COST SHARING.—

19 “(1) FEDERAL SHARE.—The Federal share of
20 the costs of activities under the program may not
21 exceed 75 percent of the total costs of such activi-
22 ties.

23 “(2) IN-KIND CONTRIBUTIONS.—The non-Fed-
24 eral share of the costs of activities under the pro-

1 gram may be provided in the form of in-kind con-
2 tributions of materials or services.

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

8 “(g) FUNDING.—

9 “(1) MANDATORY FUNDING.—Of the funds of
10 the Commodity Credit Corporation, the Secretary
11 shall use to carry out this section \$75,000,000 for
12 the period of fiscal years 2019 through 2023,
13 \$15,000,000 for fiscal year 2024, and \$150,000,000
14 for the period of fiscal years 2025 through 2031.

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

17 “(A) 40 percent shall be allocated to the
18 Natural Resources Conservation Service to
19 carry out the program, including the provision
20 of financial assistance to producers for on-farm
21 trapping and technology related to capturing
22 and confining feral swine; and

23 “(B) 60 percent shall be allocated to the
24 Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service to
25 carry out the program, including the use of es-

1 tablished, and testing of innovative, population
2 reduction methods.

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

7 “(h) COORDINATION AND COOPERATION WITH A
8 LAND-GRANT COLLEGE OR UNIVERSITY.—

9 “(1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall direct
10 the Natural Resources Conservation Service and the
11 Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service to enter
12 into a contract with 1 or more land-grant colleges or
13 universities to assist with the program in achieving
14 its goals.

15 “(2) ELIGIBLE LAND-GRANT COLLEGES AND
16 UNIVERSITIES.—A land-grant college or university is
17 eligible to enter into a contract under paragraph (1)
18 if such college or university—

19 “(A) has developed and implemented a sys-
20 tem of evaluating damages from feral swine and
21 effectiveness of control efforts in response to
22 the Agriculture Improvement Act of 2018 (Pub-
23 lic Law 115–334);

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

4 “(C) has maintained a State-funded, non-
5 Federal Wildlife Services program that has an
6 active cooperative agreement with Wildlife Serv-
7 ices in the Animal and Plant Health Inspection
8 Service within the structure of the Land Grant
9 University System.

10 “(3) ROLE OF THE LAND-GRANT COLLEGE OR
11 UNIVERSITY.—A land-grant college or university
12 that enters into a contract under paragraph (1)
13 shall, as a condition on entering into such a con-
14 tract, assist the program by acting as a strategic,
15 neutral entity that is able to advance the program
16 beyond the expertise of the Department to achieve
17 the stated goals of the program by—

18 “(A) identifying and carrying out research
19 on novel methods of feral swine control and
20 land remediation;

21 “(B) assisting in establishing strategic
22 areas for feral swine control based on data col-
23 lected in response to the Agriculture Improve-
24 ment Act of 2018;

1 “(C) coordinating and collaborating be-
2 tween field staff, programmatic staff, and re-
3 search staff within the Natural Resources Con-
4 servations Service and the Animal and Plant
5 Health Inspection Service; and

6 “(D) establishing and consulting with the
7 Department on research goals and priorities in
8 the program.

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

12 “(5) LAND-GRANT COLLEGE OR UNIVERSITY
13 DEFINED.—In this subsection, the term ‘land-grant
14 college or university’ has the meaning given the term
15 ‘land-grant colleges and universities’ in section 1404
16 of the National Agricultural Research, Extension,
17 and Teaching Policy Act of 1977 (7 U.S.C. 3103).”.

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

20 (c) CLERICAL AMENDMENT.—The table of contents
21 in section 1(b) of the Agriculture Improvement Act of
22 2018 is amended by striking the item relating to section
23 2408.

1 **SEC. 2403. WATERSHED PROTECTION AND FLOOD PREVEN-**
2 **TION ACT.**

3 (a) ASSISTANCE TO LOCAL ORGANIZATIONS.—

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

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

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

16 “(c) ASSISTANCE FOR REMEDIAL ACTIONS.—

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

22 “(A) deterioration of a structural compo-
23 nent of the work of improvement is occurring at
24 an abnormal rate, including situations in which
25 such deterioration is due to a design deficiency

1 or to site conditions that were unknown at the
2 time of installation of the work of improvement;

3 “(B) the planned service life of the work of
4 improvement exceeds the service life of a struc-
5 tural component of such work of improvement;
6 or

7 “(C) structural damage to such work of
8 improvement, or to a structural component of
9 such work of improvement, was caused by a
10 storm event that exceeded the maximum storm
11 event for which the work of improvement was
12 designed.

13 “(2) COST SHARE.—Financial assistance pro-
14 vided under this subsection shall be provided in ac-
15 cordance with the cost-share rate established in the
16 agreement with the local organization for the work
17 of improvement.

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

20 “(1) engage with relevant Federal agencies to
21 reduce or eliminate regulatory, policy, or procedural
22 barriers to timely provision of assistance under this
23 Act;

24 “(2) provide for streamlined procedures relating
25 to coordination with other Federal or State agencies

1 for required reviews and permitting of projects pur-
2 suant to this Act, and ensure such procedures are
3 commensurate with the size and scale of the
4 projects;

5 “(3) conduct an assessment of internal Depart-
6 ment of Agriculture planning, technical support, and
7 approvals to determine best practices to be used for
8 the purpose of maximizing the decisionmaking au-
9 thority of State conservationists with respect to ap-
10 provals required for projects under this Act; and

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

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

18 **“SEC. 13. DATA.**

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

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

23 “(A) expenditures for the individual flood
24 control and conservation measures for which as-
25 sistance is provided under this Act; and

1 “(B) the expected flood control or environ-
2 mental (including soil erosion) benefits that will
3 result from the implementation of such meas-
4 ures; and

5 “(2) data, with respect to each project for
6 which assistance is provided under this Act, con-
7 cerning—

8 “(A) total allocated and expended funds
9 for planning, design, construction, remedial ac-
10 tions, and rehabilitation; and

11 “(B) contracts and agreements entered
12 into by the Secretary with a local organization
13 to provide services, including—

14 “(i) the services provided through
15 such contracts and agreements;

16 “(ii) the total funds allocated to such
17 contracts and agreements; and

18 “(iii) any modifications or adjust-
19 ments made to such contracts and agree-
20 ments.

21 “(b) PROHIBITION.—The Secretary may not make
22 publicly available under this section an agreement entered
23 into with an individual landowner, operator, or occupier
24 under this Act, or any disaggregated information that

1 identifies such individual landowner, operator, or occu-
2 pier.”.

3 (c) REHABILITATION OF STRUCTURAL MEASURES
4 NEAR, AT, OR PAST THEIR EVALUATED LIFE EXPECT-
5 ANCY.—

6 (1) COST SHARE ASSISTANCE FOR REHABILITA-
7 TION.—Section 14(b) of the Watershed Protection
8 and Flood Prevention Act (16 U.S.C. 1012(b)) is
9 amended—

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

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

13 “(4) RELATION TO REQUIREMENTS OF AU-
14 THORIZED PROJECTS.—A rehabilitation project for
15 which assistance is provided under this section shall
16 not be subject to—

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

22 “(B) section 4(5).”.

23 (2) FUNDING.—Section 14(h)(2)(E) of the Wa-
24 tershed Protection and Flood Prevention Act (16

1 U.S.C. 1012(h)(2)(E)) is amended by striking
2 “2023” and inserting “2031”.

3 **SEC. 2404. EMERGENCY CONSERVATION PROGRAM.**

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

6 (1) in subsection (b)—

7 (A) in the subsection heading, by inserting
8 “AND OTHER EMERGENCY CONSERVATION
9 MEASURES” after “FENCING”;

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

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

19 “(A) before carrying out such replacement
20 or rehabilitation, not more than 75 percent of
21 the payment for such replacement or rehabilita-
22 tion, which shall be based on the fair market
23 value of the replacement or rehabilitation, as
24 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 (C) by adding at the end the following:

7 “(3) NEW OR EMERGING TECHNOLOGIES.—Re-
8 pair or replacement of fencing under this section
9 may include updating of fencing to new or emerging
10 technology if such updating does not increase the
11 cost of the repair or replacement.”; and

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

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

19 **SEC. 2405. EMERGENCY WATERSHED PROGRAM.**

20 (a) FLOODPLAIN EASEMENTS.—Section 403(b) of
21 the Agricultural Credit Act of 1978 (16 U.S.C. 2203(b))
22 is amended—

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

1 (2) by inserting before paragraph (5), as so re-
2 designated, the following:

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

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

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

17 “(A) enter into contracts with landowners;
18 and

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

22 “(4) COMPATIBLE USE AUTHORITY.—The Sec-
23 retary may authorize a landowner to carry out ac-
24 tivities on land subject to a floodplain easement ac-
25 quired under subsection (a) that are—

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

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

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

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

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

1 (c) PREAGREEMENT COSTS.—Section 403 of the Ag-
2 ricultural Credit Act of 1978 (16 U.S.C. 2203) is further
3 amended by adding at the end the following:

4 “(d) PREAGREEMENT COSTS.—

5 “(1) DEFINITION OF SPONSOR.—In this sub-
6 section, the term ‘sponsor’ means—

7 “(A) a State or local government; and

8 “(B) an Indian Tribe (as defined in section
9 4 of the Indian Self-Determination and Edu-
10 cation Assistance Act (25 U.S.C. 5304)).

11 “(2) PREAGREEMENT PROJECT COSTS.—Not
12 later than 180 days after the date of enactment of
13 this subsection, the Secretary shall—

14 “(A) identify a list of emergency watershed
15 protection measures the cost of which may be
16 incurred by a sponsor prior to entering into an
17 agreement with the Secretary under this sec-
18 tion; and

19 “(B) develop a procedure, including appro-
20 priate deadlines, to be implemented at the State
21 level, through which a sponsor may request, for
22 a specified natural disaster, additional emer-
23 gency watershed protection measure the cost of
24 which may be incurred by a sponsor prior to en-

1 tering into an agreement with the Secretary
2 under this section.

3 “(3) AGREEMENT CONTRIBUTION.—If the Sec-
4 retary and a sponsor enter into an agreement under
5 this section, the Secretary shall consider any appli-
6 cable preagreement costs incurred by the sponsor for
7 undertaking emergency watershed protection meas-
8 ures identified under paragraph (2) as meeting part
9 of the contribution of the sponsor toward the cost of
10 the project.

11 “(4) ASSUMPTION OF RISK.—A sponsor that
12 undertakes emergency watershed protection meas-
13 ures prior to entering into an agreement with the
14 Secretary under this section shall assume the risk of
15 incurring any cost of undertaking those measures.

16 “(5) EFFECT.—Nothing in this subsection re-
17 quires the Secretary to enter into an agreement with
18 a sponsor.”.

19 **SEC. 2406. NATIONAL AGRICULTURE FLOOD VULNER-**
20 **ABILITY STUDY.**

21 Not later than 2 years after the date of enactment
22 of this Act, the Secretary shall submit to the Committee
23 on Agriculture of the House of Representatives and the
24 Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry of the
25 Senate a national agriculture flood vulnerability report

1 containing the results of a Conservation Effects Assess-
2 ment Project assessment of flood risk on agricultural
3 lands, including—

4 (1) an analysis of economic losses of crops and
5 livestock resulting from flooding under different re-
6 currence scenarios;

7 (2) an analysis of the downstream effects of
8 mitigation activities carried out as part of a water-
9 shed management approach;

10 (3) an analysis of available Federal and State
11 data relating to flood risk, as applicable to agricul-
12 tural land, including data relating to riverine flood-
13 ing, coastal flooding, storm surge, extreme precipita-
14 tion, and flash flooding; and

15 (4) a description of ongoing producer-level con-
16 servation practices and broader government initia-
17 tives to manage the effects of flooding and flood risk
18 within and across watersheds, and recommendations
19 for additional practices and initiatives to further ad-
20 dress such effects and risk.

21 **SEC. 2407. STUDY ON ENVIRONMENTAL BENEFITS OF WIN-**
22 **TER WHEAT AS A COVER CROP.**

23 The Secretary, acting through the Chief of the Nat-
24 ural Resources Conservation Service, shall submit to the
25 Committee on Agriculture of the House of Representatives

1 the results of a study on the environmental benefits of
 2 using winter wheat as a cover crop, including use as a
 3 cover crop that is removed during harvest.

4 **Subtitle F—Funding and** 5 **Administration**

6 **SEC. 2501. COMMODITY CREDIT CORPORATION.**

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

9 (1) in paragraph (1)—

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

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

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

18 “(i) \$2,530,000,000 for fiscal year
 19 2027;

20 “(ii) \$2,730,000,000 for fiscal year
 21 2028;

22 “(iii) \$3,130,000,000 for fiscal year
 23 2029;

24 “(iv) \$3,175,000,000 for fiscal year
 25 2030; and

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

15 (C) by striking subparagraph (C); and

16 (D) by redesignating subparagraph (D) as
17 subparagraph (C).

18 (d) REPORT ON PROGRAM ENROLLMENTS AND AS-
19 SISTANCE.—Section 1241(i) of the Food Security Act of
20 1985 (16 U.S.C. 3841(i)) is amended—

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

1 (2) in paragraph (2)(E), by striking “section
2 1265B(b)(2)(B)(ii)” and inserting “section
3 1265B(b)(2)(A)(iii)”.

4 (e) CONSERVATION STANDARDS AND REQUIRE-
5 MENTS.—Section 1241(j) of the Food Security Act of
6 1985 (16 U.S.C. 3841(j)) is amended—

7 (1) by redesignating paragraph (2) as para-
8 graph (3); and

9 (2) by inserting after paragraph (1) the fol-
10 lowing new paragraph:

11 “(2) COMPOSTING AS CONSERVATION PRACTICE
12 AND ACTIVITY.—

13 “(A) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall by
14 regulation provide that composting is a con-
15 servation practice and a conservation activity
16 for the purposes of this title.

17 “(B) COMPOSTING DEFINED.—

18 “(i) IN GENERAL.—For the purposes
19 of this paragraph, the term ‘composting’
20 means—

21 “(I) an activity (including an ac-
22 tivity that does not require the use of
23 a composting facility) to produce com-
24 post from organic waste that is—

1 “(aa) generated on a farm;
2 or

3 “(bb) brought to a farm
4 from a nearby community and
5 used to produce compost on that
6 farm; and

7 “(II) the use and active manage-
8 ment of compost on a farm, in accord-
9 ance with any applicable Federal,
10 State, or local law, to improve water
11 retention and soil health.

12 “(ii) DETERMINATION OF NEARBY
13 COMMUNITIES.—The Secretary, in con-
14 sultation with the Administrator of the En-
15 vironmental Protection Agency, shall issue
16 regulations for determining whether a com-
17 munity is nearby for purposes of clause
18 (i)(I), which shall ensure that bringing or-
19 ganic waste from the community to the
20 farm to produce compost results in a net
21 reduction of greenhouse gas emissions.”.

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

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

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

3 (2) by inserting after paragraph (1) the fol-
4 lowing:

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

11 “(3) FARMER-TO-FARMER NETWORK.—The
12 term ‘farmer-to-farmer network’ means any affili-
13 ation or association of farmers that share informa-
14 tion, technical assistance, or any other type of mutu-
15 ally beneficial support.”.

16 (b) PURPOSE OF TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE.—Section
17 1242(b) of the Food Security Act of 1985 (16 U.S.C.
18 3842(b)) is amended by inserting “timely,” after “con-
19 sistent,”.

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

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

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

7 (2) by amending paragraph (3)(A) to read as
8 follows:

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

20 (3) by striking paragraphs (4) and (5) and in-
21 serting the following:

22 “(4) CERTIFICATION.—A third-party provider
23 may be certified to provide technical assistance
24 under this section only—

1 “(A) through a certification process admin-
 2 istered by the Secretary, acting through the
 3 Chief of the Natural Resources Conservation
 4 Service;

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

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

12 “(D) by a State agency that—

13 “(i) has statutory authority to certify,
 14 administer, or license professionals in one
 15 or more fields of natural resources, agri-
 16 culture, or engineering; and

17 “(ii) is approved by the Secretary
 18 under paragraph (5) to certify a third-
 19 party provider.

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

21 “(A) ESTABLISHMENT OF APPROVAL
 22 PROCESS.—Not later than 180 days after the
 23 date of enactment of the Farm, Food, and Na-
 24 tional Security Act of 2026, the Secretary shall
 25 establish a process to approve a non-Federal

1 entity (including a State agency and an Indian
2 Tribe), to become a non-Federal certifying enti-
3 ty.

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

10 “(C) ELIGIBILITY.—In carrying out sub-
11 paragraph (B), the Secretary shall take into
12 consideration—

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

17 “(ii) the experience of the applicable
18 non-Federal entity in working with third-
19 party providers and eligible participants;

20 “(iii) the expertise of the applicable
21 non-Federal entity in the technical skills
22 described in paragraph (3)(A); and

23 “(iv) such other qualifications as the
24 Secretary determines to be appropriate.

1 “(D) AGREEMENT.—Upon approving an
2 application under this paragraph, the Secretary
3 shall enter into an agreement with the non-Fed-
4 eral entity to become a non-Federal certifying
5 entity.

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

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

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

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

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

1 “(II) each third-party provider
2 the certification of which is withdrawn
3 by the non-Federal certifying entity.

4 “(6) TIMELY DECISIONS.—

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

12 “(i) make a final decision with respect
13 to such application; and

14 “(ii) if the final decision is to certify
15 the third-party provider, include the name
16 of the certified third-party provider on the
17 registry of certified third-party providers
18 maintained by the Secretary.

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

1 servation activities, the Secretary shall include
2 the name of the certified third-party provider
3 on the registry of certified third-party providers
4 maintained by the Secretary.

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

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

16 (1) in paragraph (1)—

17 (A) by striking “each of the programs
18 specified in section 1241” and inserting “con-
19 servation programs administered by the Sec-
20 retary”; and

21 (B) by inserting “and for the purpose of
22 carrying out subsection (l)” before the period at
23 the end;

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

4 (3) by amending paragraph (3) to read as fol-
5 lows:

6 “(3) UPDATE OF CERTIFICATION PROCESS BY
7 THE SECRETARY.—Not later than 1 year after the
8 date of enactment of the Farm, Food, and National
9 Security Act of 2026, and periodically thereafter, the
10 Secretary shall—

11 “(A) review the certification processes
12 under paragraphs (4)(A) and (7) of subsection
13 (e);

14 “(B) make any adjustments considered
15 necessary by the Secretary to—

16 “(i) increase the number of third-
17 party providers delivering technical assist-
18 ance; and

19 “(ii) improve the quality of technical
20 assistance delivered by third-party pro-
21 viders;

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

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

3 “(ii) other interested parties associ-
4 ated with eligible participants; and

5 “(D) set a target rate of utilization of
6 third-party providers to deliver technical assist-
7 ance across all conservation programs adminis-
8 tered by the Secretary.”;

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

11 (5) by striking paragraph (5) and inserting the
12 following:

13 “(5) PAYMENT AMOUNT.—

14 “(A) IN GENERAL.—For payments pro-
15 vided by the Secretary under paragraph (2) or
16 (3) of subsection (c), the Secretary shall deter-
17 mine payment amounts for technical assistance
18 provided by third-party providers, which shall
19 be at rates equivalent to, but that do not ex-
20 ceed, the cost to the Secretary of providing
21 technical assistance directly to an eligible par-
22 ticipant.

23 “(B) CONSIDERATIONS.—In determining
24 payment amounts under subparagraph (A), the
25 Secretary shall consider specialized equipment,

1 frequency of site visits, training, travel and
2 transportation, and such other factors as the
3 Secretary determines to be appropriate.

4 “(C) EXCLUSION.—A payment provided
5 under subsection (c)(3) shall be excluded from
6 calculations relating to any cost-sharing re-
7 quirements of the applicable conservation pro-
8 gram under which the payment was provided.

9 “(6) TRANSPARENCY.—Not later than 1 year
10 after the date of enactment of the Farm, Food, and
11 National Security Act of 2026, and periodically
12 thereafter, the Secretary shall make publicly avail-
13 able information on—

14 “(A) funds obligated to third-party pro-
15 viders through—

16 “(i) contracts entered into between el-
17 igible participants and individual third-
18 party providers; and

19 “(ii) agreements with public and pri-
20 vate sector entities to secure third-party
21 technical assistance;

22 “(B) the certification process under this
23 section, including—

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

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

3 “(iii) the number of third-party pro-
4 viders certified by non-Federal certifying
5 entities (other than State agencies and In-
6 dian Tribes);

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

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

11 “(vi) the number of third-party pro-
12 viders certified through the streamlined
13 certification process described in sub-
14 section (e)(7);

15 “(C) how third-party providers contribute
16 to the quality and effectiveness of conservation
17 practices implemented and adopted through
18 conservation programs administered by the Sec-
19 retary, and what improvements are needed; and

20 “(D) the target rate of utilization of third-
21 party providers set under paragraph (3)(D) and
22 how actual rate of utilization compares to the
23 target rate.”; and

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

1 “(7) SOIL HEALTH PLANNING.—The Secretary
2 shall emphasize the use of third-party providers in
3 providing technical assistance for soil health plan-
4 ning, including planning related to the use of cover
5 crops, precision agriculture practices, comprehensive
6 nutrient management planning, and other innovative
7 plans.”.

8 (f) REVIEW OF CONSERVATION PRACTICE STAND-
9 ARDS.—Section 1242(h) of the Food Security Act of 1985
10 (16 U.S.C. 3842(h)) is amended—

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

14 (2) in paragraph (1)—

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

17 “(A) not later than 1 year after the date
18 of enactment of the Farm, Food, and National
19 Security Act of 2026, and at least every 5 years
20 thereafter, complete a review of each conserva-
21 tion practice standard, including engineering
22 design specifications;”;

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

1 (C) by amending subparagraph (D) to read
2 as follows:

3 “(D) evaluate opportunities to increase
4 flexibility in conservation practice standards in
5 a manner that integrates new and innovative
6 technologies that provide equivalent or im-
7 proved natural resource benefits compared to
8 the standards in effect at the time of the re-
9 view;”; and

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

11 “(E) provide a process for public input on
12 each conservation practice standard under such
13 review, including a process for consideration of
14 State and local input;

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

18 “(G) revise any conservation practice
19 standard based on the results of such review, as
20 determined appropriate by the Secretary, and
21 publish any such revised standard.”;

22 (3) by amending paragraph (3) to read as fol-
23 lows:

1 “(3) PROCESS FOR ESTABLISHMENT OF IN-
2 TERIM AND NEW CONSERVATION PRACTICE STAND-
3 ARDS.—

4 “(A) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 1 year
5 after the date of enactment of the Farm, Food,
6 and National Security Act of 2026, the Sec-
7 retary shall develop a streamlined process under
8 which the Secretary shall establish interim con-
9 servation practice standards and new conserva-
10 tion practice standards.

11 “(B) DEVELOPMENT.—In developing the
12 streamlined process under subparagraph (A),
13 the Secretary shall—

14 “(i) ensure that the public can engage
15 with the Department of Agriculture, in-
16 cluding by recommending interim conserva-
17 tion practice standards; and

18 “(ii) establish—

19 “(I) the types of data, metrics,
20 and other relevant information that
21 are necessary for the establishment of
22 interim conservation practice stand-
23 ards and new conservation practice
24 standards;

1 “(II) the process by which an in-
2 terim conservation practice standard
3 may become a new conservation prac-
4 tice standard; and

5 “(III) specific requirements for
6 an expedited review of a new con-
7 servation practice for the purpose of
8 establishing a new conservation prac-
9 tice standard for such practice.

10 “(C) CONSIDERATIONS.—In establishing
11 an interim conservation practice standard or a
12 new conservation practice standard under this
13 subsection, the Secretary shall consider—

14 “(i) input from State technical com-
15 mittees on recommendations that identify
16 innovations or advancements in conserva-
17 tion practices;

18 “(ii) technological advancements, in-
19 cluding advancements from projects devel-
20 oped under section 1240H;

21 “(iii) State and local input in the
22 form of—

23 “(I) recommendations for interim
24 conservation practice standards; and

1 “(II) partnership-led proposals
2 for new and innovative techniques to
3 facilitate implementing agreements
4 and grants under this title; and

5 “(iv) input from native entities in the
6 form of information relating to native tra-
7 ditional ecological knowledge that can in-
8 form conservation practice standards.

9 “(D) INNOVATIVE TECHNOLOGY PRI-
10 ORITY.—In reviewing conservation practice
11 standards under this subsection, the Secretary
12 shall prioritize the review of interim conserva-
13 tion practice standards and new conservation
14 practice standards that integrate innovative
15 technologies, including—

16 “(i) precision agriculture technologies;

17 “(ii) biological fertilizers, biostimu-
18 lants, enhanced efficiency fertilizers, and
19 other tools determined by the Secretary to
20 reduce nutrient loss;

21 “(iii) animal feed additives;

22 “(iv) perennial production systems, in-
23 cluding agroforestry and perennial forages
24 and grain crops; and

1 “(v) any other innovative technology,
2 as determined by the Secretary.

3 “(E) TRANSPARENCY.—The Secretary
4 shall make available on a public website a de-
5 tailed description of the process for recom-
6 mending, reviewing, and establishing interim
7 conservation practice standards and new con-
8 servation practice standards under this para-
9 graph.”;

10 (4) in paragraph (4)—

11 (A) in the matter preceding subparagraph
12 (A)—

13 (i) by striking “Agriculture Improve-
14 ment Act of 2018” and inserting “Farm,
15 Food, and National Security Act of 2026”;
16 and

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

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

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

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

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

1 “(D) any other information the Secretary
2 determines useful to improve such streamlined
3 process for reviewing and establishing conserva-
4 tion practice standards.”; and

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

6 “(5) OFFICE OF CONSERVATION INNOVATION.—

7 “(A) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall
8 establish within the Office of the Chief of the
9 Natural Resources Conservation Service an Of-
10 fice of Conservation Innovation (referred to in
11 this paragraph as the ‘Office’) which shall be
12 under the direct supervision of the Chief.

13 “(B) DUTIES.—The Office shall—

14 “(i) provide support to the Chief in
15 meeting the requirements of this sub-
16 section; and

17 “(ii) encourage innovation in con-
18 servation practices through—

19 “(I) revisions of existing con-
20 servation practice standards;

21 “(II) recommendations of interim
22 conservation practice standards; and

23 “(III) recommendations of new
24 conservation practice standards.

1 “(C) STAFF.—The Chief shall detail to the
2 Office not more than 6 employees of the De-
3 partment of Agriculture who are technical spe-
4 cialists that possess an understanding of con-
5 ventional, organic, and other production tech-
6 niques, representing—

7 “(i) agronomy and agroecology (in-
8 cluding soil health, biological nutrient
9 sources, and compatible cover cropping
10 systems);

11 “(ii) grazing lands ecology (including
12 rangeland, pastureland, and grazed forest
13 land);

14 “(iii) animal husbandry (including
15 animal nutrition and feed management);

16 “(iv) water conservation, drainage
17 water management, and irrigation engi-
18 neering technology;

19 “(v) agricultural engineering (includ-
20 ing animal waste management, energy, and
21 structural measures); and

22 “(vi) forest ecology and agroforestry.

23 “(6) FUNDING.—The Secretary shall use fund-
24 ing from the annual appropriations for conservation

1 operations of the Natural Resources Conservation
2 Service to carry out this subsection.

3 “(7) DEVELOPMENT OF COMPOSTING PRACTICE
4 STANDARD.—In addition to conducting a review
5 under this subsection of any composting facility
6 practice standard established before the date of en-
7 actment of this paragraph, the Secretary shall estab-
8 lish a composting practice standard under the proc-
9 ess developed under paragraph (3).”.

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

13 “(j) NRCS DIRECT HIRE AUTHORITY.—

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

23 “(2) QUALIFICATIONS.—Paragraph (1) applies
24 to a candidate who—

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

4 “(B) meets qualification standards estab-
5 lished by the Office of Personnel Manage-
6 ment.”.

7 (h) ADDRESSING BARRIERS TO WILDLIFE HABITAT
8 CONNECTIVITY.—Section 1242 of the Food Security Act
9 of 1985 (16 U.S.C. 3842) is further amended by adding
10 at the end the following:

11 “(k) ADDRESSING BARRIERS TO WILDLIFE HABITAT
12 CONNECTIVITY.—

13 “(1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall—

14 “(A) to the maximum extent practicable,
15 fully incorporate nonstructural methods to con-
16 trol livestock distribution, such as virtual fence-
17 ing, into the conservation practice standards;
18 and

19 “(B) provide for the appropriate range of
20 conservation practices and resource mitigation
21 measures available to landowners using non-
22 structural methods described in subparagraph
23 (A).

24 “(2) AVAILABILITY OF ADEQUATE TECHNICAL
25 ASSISTANCE.—The Secretary shall ensure that ade-

1 quate technical assistance is available for the imple-
2 mentation of—

3 “(A) nonstructural methods described in
4 paragraph (1)(A); and

5 “(B) other practices that support wildlife
6 habitat connectivity through Federal conserva-
7 tion programs.”.

8 (i) PROVISION OF ASSISTANCE TO FARMER-TO-FARM-
9 ER NETWORKS.—Section 1242 of the Food Security Act
10 of 1985 (16 U.S.C. 3842) is further amended by adding
11 at the end the following:

12 “(l) PROVISION OF ASSISTANCE TO FARMER-TO-
13 FARMER NETWORKS.—

14 “(1) PURPOSES.—The purposes of this sub-
15 section are—

16 “(A) to build capacity for farmer-to-farmer
17 networks, connect farmers with mentors or
18 group learning opportunities, and support goal
19 setting to increase long-term adoption of con-
20 sistent, science-based, site-specific practices de-
21 signed to achieve conservation objectives on
22 land active in agricultural, forestry, or related
23 uses;

24 “(B) to increase the provision of technical
25 assistance that meets the specific needs of, and

1 is accessible to, farmers, ranchers, and forest
2 owners using different farming models, prac-
3 tices, and scales;

4 “(C) to establish and steward farmer-to-
5 farmer networks; and

6 “(D) to establish reporting requirements
7 for activities carried out under this subsection.

8 “(2) COOPERATIVE AGREEMENTS.—

9 “(A) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary may
10 enter into cooperative agreements with eligible
11 entities to carry out the purposes described in
12 paragraph (1).

13 “(B) ELIGIBLE ENTITIES.—An entity eligi-
14 ble to enter into a cooperative agreement with
15 the Secretary under subparagraph (A) is—

16 “(i) a nonprofit entity described in
17 section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue
18 Code of 1986 and exempt from taxation
19 under section 501(a) of that Code;

20 “(ii) a farmer-to-farmer network;

21 “(iii) an Indian Tribe or a Tribal or-
22 ganization (as such term is defined in sec-
23 tion 4 of the Indian Self-Determination
24 and Education Assistance Act);

1 “(iv) a unit of local government (in-
2 cluding a conservation district and a con-
3 servation district association);

4 “(v) an institution of higher edu-
5 cation;

6 “(vi) a State; and

7 “(vii) any other entity designated by
8 the Secretary.

9 “(C) PRIORITIZATION.—In selecting eligi-
10 ble entities with which to enter into cooperative
11 agreements under subparagraph (A), the Sec-
12 retary shall give priority to eligible entities that
13 seek to meet the specific needs of, and are ac-
14 cessible to—

15 “(i) historically underserved farmers,
16 ranchers, and forest owners, including lim-
17 ited-resource farmers, ranchers, and forest
18 owners (as determined by the Secretary);
19 or

20 “(ii) farmers, ranchers, and forest
21 owners operating in high-poverty areas (as
22 determined by the Secretary).

23 “(3) RESPONSIBILITIES OF PROVIDERS OF AS-
24 SISTANCE TO FARMER-TO-FARMER NETWORKS.—

1 “(A) IN GENERAL.—If an eligible entity
2 provides assistance to establish a farmer-to-
3 farmer network using assistance provided
4 through a cooperative agreement under para-
5 graph (2), the eligible entity shall be responsible
6 for not less than 2 of the following actions:

7 “(i) Facilitating and increasing farm-
8 er access to farmer-to-farmer networks.

9 “(ii) Facilitating mentor and mentee
10 matchmaking among farmers.

11 “(iii) Coordinating training and re-
12 sources to build the skills of farmer-to-
13 farmer network leaders and participants
14 for effective education, grassroots-based
15 learning, and cross-training with respect to
16 the facilitation of, information about, and
17 other skills with respect to building effec-
18 tive farmer-to-farmer networks.

19 “(iv) Maintaining and promulgating a
20 list of relevant entities, associations, and
21 individuals that are supporting, or have an
22 interest in supporting, farmer-to-farmer
23 networks.

24 “(v) Administering subawards to in-
25 crease farmer access to farmer-to-farmer

1 assistance in accordance with paragraph
2 (4).

3 “(vi) Other actions determined appro-
4 priate by the Secretary.

5 “(B) LANGUAGE ASSISTANCE.—If an eligi-
6 ble entity provides assistance described in sub-
7 paragraph (A) to a non-English speaking farm-
8 er, rancher, or forest owner, the eligible entity
9 shall, to the greatest extent practicable, provide
10 that assistance in the native language of the
11 farmer, rancher, or forest owner.

12 “(C) REPORTING.—An eligible entity that
13 enters into a cooperative agreement under para-
14 graph (2) shall annually submit to the Sec-
15 retary a report describing—

16 “(i) the conservation activities carried
17 out under the cooperative agreement; and

18 “(ii) any subawards administered pur-
19 suant to subparagraph (A)(v).

20 “(4) SUBAWARDS.—

21 “(A) IN GENERAL.—If an eligible entity
22 awards a subaward pursuant to paragraph
23 (3)(A)(v) to an eligible subawardee described in
24 subparagraph (B), the eligible subawardee shall
25 use that award—

1 “(i) to plan and conduct events, and
2 identify and develop innovative activities,
3 to support building capacity for farmer-to-
4 farmer networks, connecting farmers with
5 mentors or group learning opportunities,
6 and supporting goal setting to increase
7 long-term adoption of consistent, science-
8 based, site-specific conservation objectives
9 on land active in agricultural, forestry, or
10 related uses; and

11 “(ii) to compensate participants in the
12 events and activities described in clause (i)
13 at market rates.

14 “(B) ELIGIBLE SUBAWARDEES.—An entity
15 eligible for a subaward under paragraph
16 (3)(A)(v) is—

17 “(i) a nonprofit entity described in
18 section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue
19 Code of 1986 and exempt from taxation
20 under section 501(a) of that Code;

21 “(ii) a farmer-to-farmer network;

22 “(iii) an Indian Tribe or a Tribal or-
23 ganization (as such term is defined in sec-
24 tion 4 of the Indian Self-Determination
25 and Education Assistance Act);

1 “(iv) a unit of local government (in-
2 cluding a conservation district and a con-
3 servation district association);

4 “(v) an institution of higher edu-
5 cation;

6 “(vi) an individual; and

7 “(vii) any other entity designated by
8 the Secretary.

9 “(C) REQUIREMENTS.—The Secretary, in
10 conjunction with the Chief of the Natural Re-
11 sources Conservation Service, shall establish
12 any necessary additional requirements for sub-
13 awards under paragraph (3)(A)(v).

14 “(5) REPORTING.—Not later than 4 years after
15 the date of enactment of this subsection, the Sec-
16 retary shall submit to the Committee on Agriculture
17 of the House of Representatives and the Committee
18 on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry of the Sen-
19 ate a report describing the status of activities funded
20 under this subsection, including—

21 “(A) funding awarded;

22 “(B) the results of the activities, including,
23 if feasible, conservation practice adoption out-
24 comes; and

1 “(C) if applicable, outreach activities the
 2 Secretary has considered incorporating into
 3 other conservation technical assistance efforts
 4 as a result of the program established under
 5 this subsection.”.

6 **SEC. 2503. ADMINISTRATIVE REQUIREMENTS FOR CON-**
 7 **SERVATION PROGRAMS.**

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

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

14 (1) by amending paragraph (1) to read as fol-
 15 lows:

16 “(1) **LIMITATION.**—The Secretary shall not en-
 17 roll more than 25 percent of the cropland in any
 18 county in the conservation reserve program estab-
 19 lished under subchapter B of chapter 1 of subtitle
 20 D and wetland reserve easements under section
 21 1265C.”;

22 (2) in paragraph (2)—

23 (A) in the matter preceding subparagraph
 24 (A), by striking “paragraph (1)(A)” and insert-
 25 ing “paragraph (1)”; and

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

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

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

7 (c) REVIEW AND GUIDANCE FOR PRACTICE COSTS
8 AND PAYMENT RATES.—

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

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

20 (B) by amending subparagraph (A) to read
21 as follows:

22 “(A) review, with respect to each State,
23 the actual practice costs and rates of payments
24 (or, where actual practice costs and rates of
25 payments are not available, estimates of such

practice costs and rates) made to producers pursuant to programs under this title for practices on eligible land; and”; and

(C) in subparagraph (B)—

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

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

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

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

(iv) in clause (iv), as so redesignated, by striking “regional, State, and” and inserting “State and”.

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

(A) in subparagraph (A), by striking “estimates for”; and

(B) in subparagraph (B)—

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

1 (ii) by redesignating clause (ii) as
2 clause (iii);

3 (iii) by inserting after clause (i) the
4 following:

5 “(ii) monitoring for and identifying
6 significant variability in practice costs in
7 each year; and”; and

8 (iv) in clause (iii), as so redesignated,
9 by inserting “and, when appropriate,
10 adopting any recommendations made by
11 such State technical committee” after
12 “that State”.

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

17 “(3) EFFECT ON EXISTING CONTRACTS.—In
18 order to provide rates of payments that are commen-
19 surate with the costs of implementing practices pur-
20 suant to programs under this title, the Secretary
21 shall establish processes and procedures for updating
22 rates of payments under a contract or agreement in
23 effect under this title to reflect the appropriate prac-
24 tice costs and rates of payments determined under

1 paragraph (2)(B) for the year in which the practice
 2 is implemented.”.

3 (d) SOURCE WATER PROTECTION THROUGH TAR-
 4 GETING OF AGRICULTURAL PRACTICES.—Section 1244(n)
 5 of the Food Security Act of 1985 (16 U.S.C. 3844(n))
 6 is amended—

7 (1) in paragraph (2)—

8 (A) in subparagraph (A)—

9 (i) by redesignating clause (ii) as
 10 clause (iii);

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

13 (iii) by inserting after clause (i) the
 14 following:

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

20 (B) in subparagraph (B), by striking

21 “under subparagraph (A)(ii)” and inserting

22 “under subparagraph (A)(iii)”;

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

24 “(4) PUBLICLY AVAILABLE INFORMATION.—Be-
 25 ginning on the date of enactment of the Farm,

1 Food, and National Security Act of 2026, the Sec-
2 retary, acting through the Chief of the Natural Re-
3 sources Conservation Service, shall make publicly
4 available—

5 “(A) an annual report that details—

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

8 “(I) the conservation programs
9 under which assistance is provided
10 pursuant to paragraph (1);

11 “(II) the practices implemented
12 pursuant to paragraph (1); and

13 “(III) the number of contracts
14 and acres devoted to such practices;

15 “(ii) for each conservation program
16 administered by the Secretary—

17 “(I) the amount of funds obli-
18 gated and expended for practices im-
19 plemented pursuant to paragraph (1);
20 and

21 “(II) information regarding the
22 status of compliance with paragraph
23 (3); and

24 “(iii) the practices, by State, that are
25 receiving increased incentives and higher

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

2 and

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

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

5 (e) ENCOURAGEMENT OF HABITAT CONNECTIVITY

6 AND WILDLIFE CORRIDORS.—Section 1244 of the Food

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

8 adding at the end the following:

9 “(q) ENCOURAGEMENT OF HABITAT CONNECTIVITY

10 AND WILDLIFE CORRIDORS.—In carrying out any con-

11 servation program administered by the Secretary, the Sec-

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

13 tion practices that support the development, restoration,

14 and maintenance of habitat connectivity and wildlife cor-

15 ridors.”.

16 **Subtitle G—Agricultural** 17 **Conservation Easement Program**

18 **SEC. 2601. DEFINITIONS.**

19 Section 1265A of the Food Security Act of 1985 (16

20 U.S.C. 3865a) is amended—

21 (1) by striking paragraph (2);

22 (2) by redesignating paragraphs (3) through

23 (7) as paragraphs (2) through (6), respectively; and

24 (3) in paragraph (3)(A), as so redesignated, by

25 amending clause (i) to read as follows:

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

4 **SEC. 2602. AGRICULTURAL LAND EASEMENTS.**

5 (a) AVAILABILITY OF ASSISTANCE.—Section
 6 1265B(a) of the Food Security Act of 1985 (16 U.S.C.
 7 3865b) is amended—

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

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

12 (3) by striking paragraph (3).

13 (b) COST-SHARE ASSISTANCE.—

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

17 (A) by amending subparagraph (A) to read
 18 as follows:

19 “(A) FEDERAL SHARE.—

20 “(i) IN GENERAL.—An agreement de-
 21 scribed in paragraph (4) shall provide for
 22 a Federal share determined by the Sec-
 23 retary of an amount not to exceed 65 per-
 24 cent of the fair market value of the agri-

1 cultural land easement, as determined by
2 the Secretary using—

3 “(I) the Uniform Standards of
4 Professional Appraisal Practice;

5 “(II) an areawide market anal-
6 ysis or survey; or

7 “(III) another industry-approved
8 method.

9 “(ii) SOCIALLY DISADVANTAGED
10 FARMERS AND RANCHERS EXCEPTION.—In
11 the case of eligible land with respect to
12 which a socially disadvantaged farmer or
13 rancher holds an ownership interest of not
14 less than 50 percent, the Secretary may
15 provide an amount not to exceed 90 per-
16 cent of the fair market value of the agri-
17 cultural land easement.

18 “(iii) GRASSLANDS EXCEPTION.—In
19 the case of grassland of special environ-
20 mental significance, as determined by the
21 Secretary, the Secretary may provide an
22 amount not to exceed 75 percent of the
23 fair market value of the agricultural land
24 easement.”;

25 (B) in subparagraph (B)—

1 (i) by amending clause (i) to read as
2 follows:

3 “(i) IN GENERAL.—Under the agree-
4 ment, the eligible entity shall provide a
5 non-Federal share that is equivalent to the
6 remainder of the fair market value of the
7 agricultural land easement not provided by
8 the Secretary under subparagraph (A).”;

9 (ii) by striking clause (ii);

10 (iii) by redesignating clause (iii) as
11 clause (ii); and

12 (iv) in clause (ii), as so redesignated,
13 in the matter preceding subclause (I), by
14 striking “subparagraph” and inserting
15 “paragraph”; and

16 (C) by inserting after subparagraph (B)
17 the following:

18 “(C) LOWER COST-SHARE OPTION.—

19 “(i) IN GENERAL.—Notwithstanding
20 paragraph (4)(C)(v), an eligible entity may
21 elect to enter into an agreement under
22 paragraph (4) in which the terms and con-
23 ditions of an agricultural land easement
24 funded under the agreement do not include
25 a right of enforcement for the Secretary if

1 the eligible entity agrees to a Federal
2 share that does not exceed 25 percent of
3 the fair market value of the agricultural
4 land easement, as determined by the Sec-
5 retary under subparagraph (A).

6 “(ii) MINIMUM TERMS AND CONDI-
7 TIONS.—Under an agreement described in
8 clause (i), an eligible entity shall be au-
9 thorized to use its own terms and condi-
10 tions for agricultural land easements so
11 long as the Secretary determines such
12 terms and conditions—

13 “(I) are consistent with the pur-
14 poses of the program; and

15 “(II) permit effective enforce-
16 ment of the conservation purposes of
17 such easements.

18 “(iii) ENTITY ENFORCEMENT.—Under
19 an agreement described in clause (i), the
20 Secretary shall require the terms and con-
21 ditions for the agricultural land easement
22 to include a right of enforcement for the
23 eligible entity.

24 “(iv) CASH CONTRIBUTION.—Under
25 an agreement described in clause (i), the

1 eligible entity shall provide cash resources
2 in an amount that is not less than 50 per-
3 cent of the fair market value of the agri-
4 cultural land easement, as determined by
5 the Secretary under subparagraph (A).”.

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

10 “(F) POOLING OF APPLICATIONS.—The
11 Secretary may evaluate and rank applications
12 submitted by eligible entities for the purchase
13 of agricultural land easements from landowners
14 who are socially disadvantaged farmers or
15 ranchers separately from applications submitted
16 for the purchase of agricultural land easements
17 from other landowners.”.

18 (3) AGREEMENTS WITH ELIGIBLE ENTITIES.—
19 Section 1265B(b)(4) of the Food Security Act of
20 1985 (42 U.S.C. 3865b(b)(4)) is amended—

21 (A) in subparagraph (C)—

22 (i) by striking clause (iii);

23 (ii) by redesignating clauses (iv) and

24 (v) as clauses (iii) and (iv), respectively;

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

3 (iv) in clause (iv), as so redesignated,
4 by striking the period at the end and in-
5 serting “;”; and

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

7 “(v) include a right of enforcement for
8 the Secretary that—

9 “(I) may be used only if the
10 terms and conditions of the easement
11 are not enforced by the eligible entity;
12 and

13 “(II) does not extend to a right
14 of inspection unless—

15 “(aa)(AA) the holder of the
16 easement fails to provide moni-
17 toring reports in a timely man-
18 ner; or

19 “(BB) the Secretary has a
20 reasonable and articulable belief
21 that the terms and conditions of
22 the easement have been violated;
23 and

24 “(bb) prior to the inspection,
25 the Secretary notifies the eligible

1 entity and the landowner of the
2 inspection and provides a reason-
3 able opportunity for the eligible
4 entity and the landowner to par-
5 ticipate in the inspection; and

6 “(vi) include a right of the Secretary
7 to require the transfer of the easement to
8 a different eligible entity if the eligible en-
9 tity that holds the easement ceases to exist
10 or is no longer eligible to participate in the
11 program, as determined by the Secretary.”;
12 and

13 (B) in subparagraph (D)—

14 (i) in clause (ii)—

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

17 (II) in subclause (II), by striking
18 the “and” at the end;

19 (ii) in subclause (iii), by striking the
20 period at the end and inserting “; and”;
21 and

22 (iii) by inserting at the end the fol-
23 lowing:

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

4 (4) CERTIFICATION OF ELIGIBLE ENTITIES.—
5 Section 1265B(b)(5) of the Food Security Act of
6 1985 (16 U.S.C. 3865b(b)(5)) is amended—

7 (A) in subparagraph (A)—

8 (i) in the matter preceding clause (i),
9 by striking “under which the Secretary
10 may” and inserting “, to minimize admin-
11 istrative burdens on the Secretary and rec-
12 ognize the ability of experienced eligible
13 entities to administer easements with mini-
14 mal oversight by the Secretary, under
15 which the Secretary shall”; and

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

18 (B) in subparagraph (B)—

19 (i) in clause (ii)—

20 (I) in subclause (II), by striking
21 “10” and inserting “5”; and

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

24 (ii) in clause (iii)—

1 (I) in subclause (I), by striking
2 “10” and inserting “5”; and

3 (II) in subclause (II), by striking
4 the period at the end and inserting “;
5 or”;

6 (iii) by adding at the end the fol-
7 lowing:

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

10 “(I) acquired not fewer than 10
11 agricultural land easements under the
12 program or any predecessor program;
13 and

14 “(II) successfully met the respon-
15 sibilities of the eligible entity under
16 the applicable agreements with the
17 Secretary, as determined by the Sec-
18 retary, relating to agricultural land
19 easements that the eligible entity has
20 acquired under the program or any
21 predecessor program.”; and

22 (C) in subparagraph (C)—

23 (i) in the header, by striking “REVIEW
24 AND REVISION” and inserting “REVIEW
25 AND REVOCATION”;

1 (ii) in the header of clause (i) by
2 striking “REVIEW” and inserting “CER-
3 TIFIED ENTITY REVIEW”; and

4 (iii) by adding at the end the fol-
5 lowing:

6 “(iii) EASEMENT REVIEW.—The Sec-
7 retary shall establish and conduct an an-
8 nual quality review process to—

9 “(I) review a sample set of ease-
10 ments acquired by certified eligible en-
11 tities;

12 “(II) ensure the integrity of the
13 easement acquisition process under
14 this section;

15 “(III) establish and enforce a
16 process for corrective actions; and

17 “(IV) provide for a waiver of suc-
18 cessive easement reviews based on
19 demonstrated compliance.”.

20 **SEC. 2603. WETLAND RESERVE EASEMENTS.**

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

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

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

3 “(D) POOLING OF APPLICATIONS.—The
4 Secretary may evaluate and rank offers from
5 landowners who are socially disadvantaged
6 farmers or ranchers separately from offers from
7 other landowners.”.

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

12 (c) EASEMENT STEWARDSHIP.—Section 1265C of
13 the Food Security Act of 1985 (16 U.S.C. 3865c) is
14 amended—

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

17 (2) by inserting after subsection (c), the fol-
18 lowing:

19 “(d) EASEMENT STEWARDSHIP.—

20 “(1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall provide
21 financial assistance to owners of eligible land en-
22 rolled under this section for the repair, necessary
23 maintenance, and enhancement activities described
24 in the wetland reserve easement plan developed for
25 the eligible land under subsection (g)(1).

1 “(2) EVALUATION OF STEWARDSHIP NEED.—

2 The Secretary shall—

3 “(A) regularly assess land enrolled under
4 this section to identify maintenance and man-
5 agement needs, including any needed repair or
6 enhancement of existing structural practices, in
7 accordance with the applicable wetland reserve
8 easement plan;

9 “(B) consistent with the purposes of the
10 program, create, execute, and update as nec-
11 essary based on the assessments carried out
12 under subparagraph (A), a stewardship strategy
13 for—

14 “(i) prioritizing and addressing the
15 needs identified under subparagraph (A);
16 and

17 “(ii) projecting the amount of annual
18 funding needed for financial and technical
19 assistance to address such needs; and

20 “(C) establish a 5-year schedule to address
21 such needs.

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

1 “(4) REPORT.—Not later than 2 years after the
2 date of enactment of the Farm, Food, and National
3 Security Act of 2026, the Secretary shall submit to
4 the Committee on Agriculture of the House of Rep-
5 resentatives and the Committee on Agriculture, Nu-
6 trition, and Forestry of the Senate a report that in-
7 cludes—

8 “(A) an inventory of the existing steward-
9 ship needs of all wetland reserve easements,
10 based on the assessments carried out under
11 paragraph (2);

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

14 “(C) the amounts the Secretary plans to
15 allocate to address such stewardship needs,
16 based on projections made pursuant to para-
17 graph (2)(B)(ii); and

18 “(D) the planned use of compatible uses
19 under subsection (b)(5)(C), contracts or agree-
20 ments under subsection (e)(2), or wetland re-
21 serve easement plans under subsection (g)(1) to
22 ensure that each such stewardship need is ad-
23 dressed.”.

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

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

6 (2) by amending paragraph (2) to read as fol-
7 lows:

8 “(2) CONTRACTS OR AGREEMENTS.—The Sec-
9 retary may enter into 1 or more contracts or agree-
10 ments with a Federal, State, or local agency, a non-
11 governmental organization, an Indian Tribe, or a
12 private entity to carry out necessary restoration, en-
13 hancement, maintenance, repair, assessment, or
14 monitoring of a wetland reserve easement if the Sec-
15 retary determines that the contract or agreement
16 will advance the purposes of the program.”.

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

21 (1) by striking “The Secretary” and inserting
22 the following:

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

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

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

5 **SEC. 2604. ADMINISTRATION.**

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

9 (1) by amending paragraph (2) to read as fol-
10 lows:

11 “(2) MODIFICATION AND EXCHANGE OF INTER-
12 EST IN LAND.—

13 “(A) MODIFICATION.—

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

21 “(I) will support the long-term
22 agricultural viability of the applicable
23 farm or ranch operation and the con-
24 servation values of the applicable
25 easement;

1 “(II) will result in equal or in-
2 creased conservation values;

3 “(III) is consistent with the origi-
4 nal intent of the easement;

5 “(IV) is consistent with the pur-
6 poses of the program; and

7 “(V) is in the public interest or
8 furthers the practical administration
9 of the program, including correcting
10 errors, exercising reserved rights, and
11 increasing flexibility to recognize
12 changes in water availability or ad-
13 ministration.

14 “(ii) LIMITATION.—In modifying an
15 interest in land, or portion of such inter-
16 est, under this subparagraph, the Sec-
17 retary may not, except in the case of a
18 modification that includes a change to an
19 easement to add acreage, increase any pay-
20 ment to an eligible entity.

21 “(iii) NEPA COMPLIANCE.—An action
22 taken pursuant to this subparagraph may
23 not be considered a major Federal action
24 under section 102(2)(C) of the National

1 Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (42
2 U.S.C. 4332(2)(C)).

3 “(B) EXCHANGE.—

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

11 “(I) no reasonable alternative ex-
12 ists and the effect on the interest in
13 land is avoided or minimized to the
14 extent practicable; and

15 “(II) the exchange—

16 “(aa) results in equal or in-
17 creased conservation values;

18 “(bb) results in equal or
19 greater economic value to the
20 United States;

21 “(cc) is consistent with the
22 original intent of the easement;

23 “(dd) is consistent with the
24 purposes of the program; and

1 “(ee) is in the public inter-
 2 est or furthers the practical ad-
 3 ministration of the program.

4 “(ii) LIMITATION.—In exchanging an
 5 interest in land, or portion of such inter-
 6 est, under this subparagraph, the Sec-
 7 retary may not increase any payment to an
 8 eligible entity.”; and

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

10 “(6) DE MINIMIS ADJUSTMENTS.—

11 “(A) IN GENERAL.—An eligible entity may
 12 make de minimis adjustments to any interest in
 13 land, or a portion of such interest, administered
 14 by the Secretary, directly or on behalf of the
 15 Commodity Credit Corporation, under the pro-
 16 gram if the adjustment—

17 “(i) furthers the practical administra-
 18 tion of the program; and

19 “(ii) is not a subordination, modifica-
 20 tion, exchange, or termination, as deter-
 21 mined by the Secretary.

22 “(B) TYPES OF DE MINIMIS ADJUST-
 23 MENTS.—De minimis adjustments made under
 24 this paragraph may include title corrections and
 25 other minor adjustments, including—

- 1 “(i) typographical error corrections;
- 2 “(ii) minor changes in legal descrip-
- 3 tions as a result of survey or mapping er-
- 4 rors;
- 5 “(iii) the transfer of an interest of an
- 6 eligible entity to another eligible entity;
- 7 “(iv) changes to a building envelope
- 8 boundary;
- 9 “(v) relocation of easement access;
- 10 “(vi) authorization of temporary work
- 11 areas not associated with other easement
- 12 administration actions; and
- 13 “(vii) other adjustments determined
- 14 appropriate by the Secretary.

15 “(7) MODIFICATION OF ELIGIBLE ENTITY
16 TERMS AND CONDITIONS.—An eligible entity shall be
17 authorized to modify a term or condition of an agri-
18 cultural land easement that is the subject of an
19 agreement entered into under section
20 1265B(b)(4)(A) if such modification does not con-
21 flict with any minimum term or condition required
22 by the Secretary under such section.”.

23 (b) ADJUSTED GROSS INCOME.—

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

4 “(f) ADJUSTED GROSS INCOME EXEMPTION.—The
 5 adjusted gross income limitation described in section
 6 1001D(b)(1) shall not apply to any payment or other as-
 7 sistance under this subtitle.”.

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

11 “(5) EXCEPTION FOR COMPENSATION UNDER
 12 ACEP.—For purposes of this subsection, the ad-
 13 justed gross income of a person or legal entity that
 14 is a landowner of eligible land (as defined in section
 15 1265A) shall not include any income received as
 16 compensation for the acquisition of an agricultural
 17 land easement or a wetland reserve easement on that
 18 eligible land under subtitle H of title XII.”.

19 **Subtitle H—Forest Conservation** 20 **Easement Program**

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

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

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

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

3 **“Subtitle I—Forest Conservation**
4 **Easement Program**

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

6 “(a) ESTABLISHMENT.—The Secretary shall estab-
7 lish a forest conservation easement program for the con-
8 servation and restoration of eligible land and natural re-
9 sources through the acquisition of conservation easements
10 or other interests in land.

11 “(b) PURPOSES.—The purposes of the program
12 are—

13 “(1) to protect the viability and sustainability
14 of working forest land, and related conservation val-
15 ues of eligible land, by limiting the negative effects
16 of nonforest land uses of such land;

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

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

22 “(4) to carry out the purposes and functions of
23 the healthy forests reserve program established
24 under title V of the Healthy Forests Restoration Act

1 of 2003 (16 U.S.C. 6571 et seq.), as in effect on the
2 day before the date of enactment of this section.

3 **“SEC. 1267A. DEFINITIONS.**

4 “In this subtitle:

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

6 The term ‘acreage owned by an Indian Tribe’
7 means—

8 “(A) land that is held in trust by the
9 United States for Indian Tribes or individual
10 Indians;

11 “(B) land, the title to which is held by In-
12 dian Tribes or individual Indians subject to
13 Federal restrictions against alienation or en-
14 cumbrance;

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

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

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

21 “(i) section 17 of the Act of June 18,
22 1934 (commonly known as the ‘Indian Re-
23 organization Act’) (25 U.S.C. 5124); or

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

4 “(F) a combination of 1 or more types of
5 land described in subparagraphs (A) through
6 (E).

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

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

12 “(B) an organization that is—

13 “(i) organized for, and at all times
14 since the formation of the organization has
15 been operated principally for, 1 or more of
16 the conservation purposes specified in
17 clause (i), (ii), (iii), or (iv) of section
18 170(h)(4)(A) of the Internal Revenue Code
19 of 1986;

20 “(ii) an organization described in sec-
21 tion 501(c)(3) of that Code that is exempt
22 from taxation under section 501(a) of that
23 Code; or

24 “(iii) described in—

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

3 “(II) section 509(a)(3) of that
4 Code and is controlled by an organiza-
5 tion described in section 509(a)(2) of
6 that Code.

7 “(3) ELIGIBLE LAND.—The term ‘eligible land’
8 means private land or acreage owned by an Indian
9 Tribe—

10 “(A) that is—

11 “(i) forest land; or

12 “(ii) being restored to forest land;

13 “(B) in the case of a forest land ease-
14 ment—

15 “(i) the enrollment of which would
16 protect working forests and related con-
17 servation values by conserving land; or

18 “(ii) the protection of which will fur-
19 ther a State or local policy consistent with
20 the purposes of the program; and

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

24 “(i) increase the likelihood of recovery
25 of a species that is listed as endangered or

1 threatened under section 4 of the Endan-
2 gered Species Act of 1973 (16 U.S.C.
3 1533); or

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

6 “(I) not listed as endangered or
7 threatened under that section; and

8 “(II)(aa) a candidate for that
9 listing, a State-listed species, or a spe-
10 cial concern species; or

11 “(bb) designated as a species of
12 greatest conservation need by a State
13 wildlife action plan.

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

17 “(A) is conveyed to an eligible entity for
18 the purpose of protecting natural resources and
19 the forest nature of the eligible land; and

20 “(B) permits the landowner the right to
21 continue working forest production and related
22 uses, consistent with an applicable forest man-
23 agement plan.

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

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

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

6 “(C) a plan developed under a third-party
7 certification system determined appropriate by
8 the Secretary; or

9 “(D) another plan determined appropriate
10 by the Secretary.

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

14 “(A) is conveyed to the Secretary for the
15 purpose of protecting natural resources and the
16 forest nature of the eligible land; and

17 “(B) permits the landowner the right to
18 continue working forest production and related
19 uses consistent with the applicable forest re-
20 serve easement plan developed under section
21 1267C(c)(1)(A).

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

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

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

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

10 “(1) the purchase by eligible entities of forest
 11 land easements on eligible land;

12 “(2) the development of a forest management
 13 plan; and

14 “(3) technical assistance to implement this sec-
 15 tion.

16 “(b) COST-SHARE ASSISTANCE.—

17 “(1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall protect
 18 working forests, and related conservation values of
 19 eligible land, through cost-share assistance to eligible
 20 entities for purchasing forest land easements.

21 “(2) SCOPE OF ASSISTANCE AVAILABLE.—

22 “(A) FEDERAL SHARE.—

23 “(i) IN GENERAL.—Except as pro-
 24 vided in clause (ii), an agreement described
 25 in paragraph (4) shall provide for a Fed-

1 eral share of 50 percent of the fair market
2 value of the forest land easement, as deter-
3 mined by the Secretary.

4 “(ii) EXCEPTION.—An agreement de-
5 scribed in paragraph (4) may provide for a
6 Federal share of not more than 75 percent
7 of the fair market value of a forest land
8 easement in the case of eligible land that
9 is—

10 “(I) a forest of special environ-
11 mental significance, as determined by
12 the Secretary; or

13 “(II) owned by a socially dis-
14 advantaged forest landowner.

15 “(B) NON-FEDERAL SHARE.—

16 “(i) IN GENERAL.—Under an agree-
17 ment described in paragraph (4), the eligi-
18 ble entity shall provide a non-Federal
19 share that is equivalent to the remainder
20 of the fair market value of the forest land
21 easement not provided by the Secretary
22 under subparagraph (A).

23 “(ii) PERMISSIBLE FORMS.—The non-
24 Federal share provided by an eligible entity
25 under this paragraph may comprise—

1 “(I) cash resources;

2 “(II) a charitable donation or
3 qualified conservation contribution (as
4 defined in section 170(h) of the Inter-
5 nal Revenue Code of 1986) from the
6 private forest landowner from which
7 the forest land easement will be pur-
8 chased;

9 “(III) costs associated with se-
10 curing a deed to the forest land ease-
11 ment, including the cost of appraisal,
12 survey, inspection, and title; and

13 “(IV) other costs, as determined
14 by the Secretary.

15 “(C) DETERMINATION OF FAIR MARKET
16 VALUE.—For purposes of this paragraph, the
17 Secretary shall determine the fair market value
18 of a forest land easement using—

19 “(i) the Uniform Standards of Profes-
20 sional Appraisal Practice;

21 “(ii) an areawide market analysis or
22 survey; or

23 “(iii) another industry-approved meth-
24 od.

1 “(3) EVALUATION AND RANKING OF APPLICA-
2 TIONS.—

3 “(A) CRITERIA.—The Secretary shall es-
4 tablish evaluation and ranking criteria to maxi-
5 mize the benefit of Federal investment under
6 the program.

7 “(B) PRIORITY.—In evaluating applica-
8 tions under the program, the Secretary shall
9 give priority to an application for the purchase
10 of a forest land easement—

11 “(i) that maintains the viability of a
12 working forest, as determined by the Sec-
13 retary; and

14 “(ii) on eligible land for which a forest
15 management plan has been developed at
16 the time of application.

17 “(C) CONSIDERATIONS.—In establishing
18 the criteria under subparagraph (A), the Sec-
19 retary shall emphasize support for—

20 “(i) protecting working forests and re-
21 lated conservation values of eligible land;

22 “(ii) reducing fragmentation of forest
23 land; and

24 “(iii) maximizing the areas protected
25 from conversion to nonforest uses.

1 “(4) AGREEMENTS WITH ELIGIBLE ENTITIES.—

2 “(A) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall
3 enter into agreements with eligible entities to
4 stipulate the terms and conditions under which
5 the eligible entity is permitted to use cost-share
6 assistance provided under this section.

7 “(B) LENGTH OF AGREEMENTS.—An
8 agreement under subparagraph (A) shall be for
9 a term that is not less than 3, but not more
10 than 5, years, unless the Secretary determines
11 that a longer term is justified.

12 “(C) MINIMUM TERMS AND CONDITIONS.—
13 An eligible entity shall be authorized to use its
14 own terms and conditions for forest land ease-
15 ments so long as the Secretary determines such
16 terms and conditions—

17 “(i) are consistent with—

18 “(I) the purposes of the program;

19 and

20 “(II) the forestry activities to be
21 conducted on the eligible land;

22 “(ii) permit effective enforcement of
23 the conservation purposes of the forest
24 land easements;

1 “(iii) include a requirement to imple-
2 ment a forest management plan on eligible
3 land subject to a forest land easement;

4 “(iv) include a limit on the impervious
5 surfaces to be allowed that is consistent
6 with the forestry activities to be conducted;
7 and

8 “(v) include a right of enforcement for
9 the Secretary that—

10 “(I) may be used only if the
11 terms and conditions of the forest
12 land easement are not enforced by the
13 eligible entity; and

14 “(II) does not extend to a right
15 of inspection unless—

16 “(aa)(AA) the holder of the
17 forest land easement fails to pro-
18 vide monitoring reports in a
19 timely manner; or

20 “(BB) the Secretary has a
21 reasonable and articulable belief
22 that the terms and conditions of
23 the forest land easement have
24 been violated; and

1 “(bb) prior to the inspection,
2 the Secretary notifies the eligible
3 entity and the landowner of the
4 inspection and provides a reason-
5 able opportunity for the eligible
6 entity and the landowner to par-
7 ticipate in the inspection.

8 “(D) ADDITIONAL PERMITTED TERMS AND
9 CONDITIONS.—An eligible entity may include
10 terms and conditions for a forest land easement
11 that—

12 “(i) are intended to keep the eligible
13 land subject to the forest land easement in
14 active forest management, as determined
15 by the Secretary;

16 “(ii) allow subsurface mineral develop-
17 ment on the eligible land subject to the
18 forest land easement and in accordance
19 with applicable State law if, as determined
20 by the Secretary—

21 “(I) the subsurface mineral de-
22 velopment—

23 “(aa) has a limited and lo-
24 calized impact;

1 “(bb) does not harm the for-
2 est use and conservation values
3 of the eligible land subject to the
4 forest land easement;

5 “(cc) does not materially
6 alter or affect the existing topog-
7 raphy;

8 “(dd) complies with a sub-
9 surface mineral development plan
10 that—

11 “(AA) includes a plan
12 for the remediation of im-
13 pacts to the forest use and
14 conservation values of the el-
15 igible land subject to the
16 forest land easement; and

17 “(BB) is approved by
18 the Secretary prior to the
19 initiation of mineral develop-
20 ment activity;

21 “(ee) is not accomplished by
22 any surface mining method;

23 “(ff) is within the imper-
24 vious surface limits of the forest

1 land easement under subpara-
2 graph (C)(iv); and

3 “(gg) uses practices and
4 technologies that minimize the
5 duration and intensity of impacts
6 to the forest use and conserva-
7 tion values of the eligible land
8 subject to the forest land ease-
9 ment; and

10 “(II) each area impacted by the
11 subsurface mineral development is re-
12 claimed and restored by the holder of
13 the mineral rights at cessation of op-
14 eration; and

15 “(iii) include other relevant activities
16 relating to the forest land easement, as de-
17 termined by the Secretary.

18 “(E) SUBSTITUTION OF QUALIFIED
19 PROJECTS.—An agreement under subparagraph
20 (A) shall allow, upon mutual agreement of the
21 parties, substitution of qualified projects that
22 are identified at the time of the proposed sub-
23 stitution.

1 “(F) EFFECT OF VIOLATION.—If a viola-
2 tion of a term or condition of an agreement
3 under subparagraph (A) occurs—

4 “(i) the Secretary may terminate the
5 agreement; and

6 “(ii) the Secretary may require the el-
7 igible entity to refund all or part of any
8 payments received by the eligible entity
9 under the program, with interest on the
10 payments as determined appropriate by the
11 Secretary.

12 “(5) FOREST MANAGEMENT PLAN.—

13 “(A) IN GENERAL.—If the eligible land
14 does not have a forest management plan at the
15 time of application, prior to the acquisition of
16 the forest land easement the landowner shall
17 develop, in partnership with the eligible entity,
18 a forest management plan for the land subject
19 to the forest land easement.

20 “(B) REIMBURSEMENT.—The Secretary
21 may reimburse the landowner for the cost of
22 the development of a forest management plan
23 for eligible land enrolled under this section.

1 “(c) METHOD OF ENROLLMENT.—The Secretary
 2 shall enroll eligible land under this section through the use
 3 of—

4 “(1) permanent easements; or

5 “(2) easements for the maximum duration al-
 6 lowed under applicable State laws.

7 “(d) TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE.—The Secretary may
 8 provide technical assistance, on request, to assist in com-
 9 pliance with the terms and conditions of forest land ease-
 10 ments.

11 **“SEC. 1267C. FOREST RESERVE EASEMENTS.**

12 “(a) AVAILABILITY OF ASSISTANCE.—The Secretary
 13 shall provide assistance to owners of eligible land to re-
 14 store, protect, and enhance eligible land through—

15 “(1) forest reserve easements and related forest
 16 reserve easement plans; and

17 “(2) technical assistance to implement this sec-
 18 tion.

19 “(b) EASEMENTS.—

20 “(1) METHOD OF ENROLLMENT.—

21 “(A) AUTHORIZED METHODS.—The Sec-
 22 retary shall enroll eligible land under this sec-
 23 tion—

24 “(i) through the use of—

25 “(I) permanent easements;

1 “(II) 30-year easements; and

2 “(III) easements for the max-
3 imum duration allowed under applica-
4 ble State laws; and

5 “(ii) in the case of acreage owned by
6 an Indian Tribe, through the use of—

7 “(I) 30-year contracts (the com-
8 pensation for which shall be equiva-
9 lent to the compensation for 30-year
10 easements); or

11 “(II) permanent easements.

12 “(B) LIMITATION.—Not more than 10 per-
13 cent of amounts made available to carry out
14 this section in a fiscal year may be used for 30-
15 year easements under this section.

16 “(2) EVALUATION AND RANKING OF OFFERS.—

17 “(A) CRITERIA.—The Secretary shall es-
18 tablish evaluation and ranking criteria for of-
19 fers from landowners under this section.

20 “(B) PRIORITY.—The Secretary shall give
21 priority to the enrollment of eligible land under
22 this section that provides the greatest conserva-
23 tion benefit to—

24 “(i) primarily, species listed as endan-
25 gered or threatened under section 4 of the

Endangered Species Act of 1973 (16
U.S.C. 1533); and

“(ii) secondarily, species that are—

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

“(II)(aa) candidates for that list-
ing, State-listed species, or special
concern species; or

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

“(C) OTHER CONSIDERATIONS.—The Sec-
retary may give additional consideration to eli-
gible land the enrollment under this section of
which will—

“(i) improve biological diversity;

“(ii) restore native forest ecosystems;

“(iii) conserve forest land that pro-
vides habitat for species described in sub-
paragraph (B);

“(iv) reduce fragmentation of forest
land; and

“(v) increase carbon sequestration.

“(3) TERMS AND CONDITIONS OF EASE-
MENTS.—

1 “(A) IN GENERAL.—A forest reserve ease-
2 ment shall include terms and conditions that—

3 “(i) are consistent with the purposes
4 of the program and the forestry activities
5 to be conducted on the eligible land;

6 “(ii) are consistent with the manage-
7 ment objectives of the owner of the eligible
8 land and the implementation of the forest
9 reserve easement plan developed under
10 subsection (c)(1)(A);

11 “(iii) permit effective enforcement of
12 the conservation purposes of the forest re-
13 serve easements;

14 “(iv) provide for the efficient and ef-
15 fective establishment or enhancement of
16 forest ecosystem functions and values; and

17 “(v) include such additional provisions
18 as the Secretary determines are desirable
19 to carry out the program or facilitate the
20 practical administration of the program.

21 “(B) REQUESTED TERMS AND CONDI-
22 TIONS.—An owner of eligible land may request
23 that a term or condition be included in a forest
24 reserve easement, and the Secretary may in-
25 clude such term or condition, if it—

1 “(i) is consistent with the manage-
2 ment objectives of the owner of the eligible
3 land and the implementation of the forest
4 reserve easement plan developed under
5 subsection (c)(1)(A); and

6 “(ii) does not conflict with any terms
7 or conditions included under subparagraph
8 (A).

9 “(4) COMPENSATION.—

10 “(A) PERMANENT EASEMENTS.—In the
11 case of eligible land enrolled in a permanent
12 easement under this section, the Secretary shall
13 pay the owner of the eligible land an amount
14 equal to the difference between, as determined
15 by the Secretary—

16 “(i) the fair market value of the eligi-
17 ble land before the enrollment in the per-
18 manent easement; and

19 “(ii) the fair market value of the eligi-
20 ble land as encumbered by the permanent
21 easement.

22 “(B) OTHER.—The Secretary shall pay the
23 owner of eligible land enrolled under this sec-
24 tion in a 30-year contract, a 30-year easement,
25 or an easement for the maximum duration al-

lowed under applicable State laws, not less than 50 percent, and not more than 75 percent, of the compensation that would be paid under subparagraph (A) if the land were being enrolled in a permanent easement.

“(C) DETERMINATION OF FAIR MARKET VALUE.—The Secretary shall determine the fair market value of eligible land for purposes of this paragraph using the Uniform Standards of Professional Appraisal Practice or another industry-approved method.

“(c) EASEMENT RESTORATION AND MANAGEMENT.—

“(1) FOREST RESERVE EASEMENT PLAN.—

“(A) IN GENERAL.—Land enrolled in a forest reserve easement shall be subject to a forest reserve easement plan, to be developed jointly by the landowner and the Secretary, that describes such activities to be carried out on the land as are necessary to restore, maintain, and enhance habitat for species described in subsection (b)(2)(B).

“(B) PRACTICES AND MEASURES.—A forest reserve easement plan developed under subparagraph (A) shall require implementation of

1 such practices and measures as are necessary to
2 accomplish the activities described in the plan
3 under such subparagraph, which may include—

4 “(i) vegetative management and
5 silviculture practices;

6 “(ii) structural practices and meas-
7 ures;

8 “(iii) practices to increase carbon se-
9 questration;

10 “(iv) practices to improve biological
11 diversity; and

12 “(v) other practices and measures, as
13 determined by the Secretary.

14 “(2) FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE.—

15 “(A) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall
16 provide financial assistance to owners of eligible
17 land to carry out the activities, practices, and
18 measures described in the forest reserve ease-
19 ment plan developed for the eligible land under
20 paragraph (1).

21 “(B) PAYMENTS.—With respect to finan-
22 cial assistance provided under subparagraph
23 (A), the Secretary shall pay—

24 “(i) in the case of a forest reserve
25 easement plan for eligible land enrolled in

1 a permanent easement, an amount that is
2 not more than 100 percent of the eligible
3 costs described in subparagraph (C), as de-
4 termined by the Secretary; and

5 “(ii) in the case of a forest reserve
6 easement plan for eligible land enrolled in
7 a 30-year contract, a 30-year easement, or
8 an easement for the maximum duration al-
9 lowed under applicable State laws, an
10 amount that is not less than 50 percent,
11 and not more than 75 percent, of the eligi-
12 ble costs described in subparagraph (C), as
13 determined by the Secretary.

14 “(C) ELIGIBLE COSTS.—Costs eligible for
15 payments under this paragraph are the costs of
16 activities, practices, and measures referred to in
17 subparagraph (A) that are associated with the
18 restoration or enhancement of the habitat con-
19 ditions specified for the applicable species in the
20 forest reserve easement plan.

21 “(D) TIMING OF PAYMENTS.—Payments
22 under this paragraph shall be made—

23 “(i) only on a determination by the
24 Secretary that an activity, practice, or
25 measure described in subparagraph (C)

1 has been established in compliance with
2 appropriate standards and specifications,
3 which determination shall be made as soon
4 as practicable after establishment; and

5 “(ii) as soon as possible after such de-
6 termination is made.

7 “(E) LIMITATIONS.—Financial assistance
8 provided by the Secretary under this paragraph
9 to an owner of eligible land may not exceed
10 \$500,000 per easement or contract.

11 “(d) TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE.—

12 “(1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall provide
13 to owners of eligible land technical assistance to as-
14 sist the owners in—

15 “(A) developing a forest reserve easement
16 plan; and

17 “(B) complying with the terms and condi-
18 tions of a forest reserve easement, including the
19 implementation of a forest reserve easement
20 plan.

21 “(2) CONTRACTS OR AGREEMENTS.—The Sec-
22 retary may enter into 1 or more contracts with pri-
23 vate entities or agreements with a State, nongovern-
24 mental organization, or Indian Tribe to provide tech-
25 nical assistance described in paragraph (1), if the

1 Secretary determines that the contract or agreement
2 will advance the purposes of the program.

3 “(e) PROTECTIONS AND MEASURES.—

4 “(1) PROTECTIONS.—In the case of a land-
5 owner who enrolls eligible land in a forest reserve
6 easement, and whose conservation activities under
7 the forest reserve easement plan developed for such
8 land result in a net conservation benefit for a species
9 described in subsection (b)(2)(B), the Secretary shall
10 make available to the landowner safe harbor or simi-
11 lar assurances and protection under—

12 “(A) section 7(b)(4) of the Endangered
13 Species Act of 1973 (16 U.S.C. 1536(b)(4)); or

14 “(B) section 10(a)(1) of that Act (16
15 U.S.C. 1539(a)(1)).

16 “(2) MEASURES.—If protection under para-
17 graph (1) requires the taking of measures that are
18 in addition to the measures covered by the forest re-
19 serve easement plan developed for the eligible land,
20 the cost of the additional measures, and the cost of
21 any permit, shall be considered costs eligible for pay-
22 ments under subsection (c)(2).

23 “(f) ADMINISTRATION.—

24 “(1) DELEGATION OF EASEMENT ADMINISTRA-
25 TION.—

1 “(A) FEDERAL AND STATE AGENCIES.—

2 The Secretary may delegate any of the manage-
3 ment, monitoring, and enforcement responsibil-
4 ities of the Secretary under this section to other
5 Federal or State agencies that have the appro-
6 priate authority, expertise, and resources nec-
7 essary to carry out those delegated responsibil-
8 ities.

9 “(B) CONSERVATION ORGANIZATIONS.—

10 The Secretary may delegate any of the manage-
11 ment responsibilities of the Secretary under this
12 section to a nonprofit conservation organization
13 if the Secretary determines the organization has
14 the appropriate expertise and resources nec-
15 essary to carry out those delegated responsibil-
16 ities.

17 “(2) INVOLVEMENT BY OTHER AGENCIES AND
18 ORGANIZATIONS.—In carrying out this section, the
19 Secretary may consult with—

20 “(A) private forest landowners;

21 “(B) other Federal agencies;

22 “(C) State forestry agencies;

23 “(D) State fish and wildlife agencies;

24 “(E) State environmental quality agencies;

1 “(F) other State conservation agencies;
2 and
3 “(G) nonprofit conservation organizations.

4 **“SEC. 1267D. ADMINISTRATION.**

5 “(a) INELIGIBLE LAND.—The Secretary shall not use
6 amounts made available to carry out the program for the
7 purposes of acquiring an easement on—

8 “(1) land owned by a Federal agency, other
9 than such land that is acreage owned by an Indian
10 Tribe;

11 “(2) land owned in fee title by a State, includ-
12 ing an agency or a subdivision of a State, or a unit
13 of local government;

14 “(3) land subject to an easement or deed re-
15 striction that, as determined by the Secretary, pro-
16 vides similar protection as would be provided by en-
17 rollment in the program; or

18 “(4) land the enrollment in the program of
19 which would undermine the purposes of the program
20 due to on-site or off-site conditions, such as risk of
21 hazardous substances, permitted or existing rights of
22 way, infrastructure development, or adjacent land
23 uses.

24 “(b) SUBORDINATION, EXCHANGE, MODIFICATION,
25 AND TERMINATION.—

1 “(1) SUBORDINATION.—The Secretary may
2 subordinate any interest in eligible land, or portion
3 of such an interest, administered by the Secretary
4 (including for the purposes of utilities and energy
5 transmission services) directly or on behalf of the
6 Commodity Credit Corporation under the program if
7 the Secretary determines that the subordination—

8 “(A) increases conservation values or has a
9 limited negative effect on conservation values;

10 “(B) minimally affects the acreage subject
11 to the interest in eligible land; and

12 “(C) is in the public interest or furthers
13 the practical administration of the program.

14 “(2) MODIFICATION AND EXCHANGE OF INTER-
15 EST IN LAND.—

16 “(A) MODIFICATION.—

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

24 “(I) will support the viability and
25 sustainability of working forests and

1 the conservation values of the applica-
2 ble easement;

3 “(II) will result in equal or in-
4 creased conservation values;

5 “(III) is consistent with the origi-
6 nal intent of the easement;

7 “(IV) is consistent with the pur-
8 poses of the program; and

9 “(V) is in the public interest or
10 furthers the practical administration
11 of the program, including correcting
12 errors and exercising reserved rights.

13 “(ii) LIMITATION.—In modifying an
14 interest in land, or portion of such inter-
15 est, under this subparagraph, the Sec-
16 retary may not, except in the case of a
17 modification that includes a change to an
18 easement to add acreage, increase any pay-
19 ment to an eligible entity.

20 “(B) EXCHANGE.—

21 “(i) AUTHORITY.—The Secretary may
22 approve an exchange of any interest in
23 land, or portion of such interest, adminis-
24 tered by the Secretary, either directly or
25 on behalf of the Commodity Credit Cor-

1 poration, under the program if the Sec-
2 retary determines that—

3 “(I) no reasonable alternative ex-
4 ists and the effect on the interest in
5 land is avoided or minimized to the
6 extent practicable; and

7 “(II) the exchange—

8 “(aa) results in equal or in-
9 creased conservation values;

10 “(bb) results in equal or
11 greater economic value to the
12 United States;

13 “(cc) is consistent with the
14 original intent of the easement;

15 “(dd) is consistent with the
16 purposes of the program; and

17 “(ee) is in the public inter-
18 est or furthers the practical ad-
19 ministration of the program.

20 “(ii) LIMITATION.—In exchanging an
21 interest in land, or portion of such inter-
22 est, under this subparagraph, the Sec-
23 retary may not increase any payment to an
24 eligible entity.

1 “(3) TERMINATION.—The Secretary may ap-
2 prove a termination of any interest in eligible land,
3 or portion of such an interest, administered by the
4 Secretary, directly or on behalf of the Commodity
5 Credit Corporation under the program if the Sec-
6 retary determines that—

7 “(A) termination is in the interest of the
8 Federal Government;

9 “(B) the United States will be fully com-
10 pensated for—

11 “(i) the value of the interest in the
12 land, as determined by the Secretary;

13 “(ii) any costs relating to the termi-
14 nation; and

15 “(iii) any damages determined appro-
16 priate by the Secretary; and

17 “(C) the termination will—

18 “(i) address a compelling public need
19 for which there is no practicable alter-
20 native even with avoidance and minimiza-
21 tion; and

22 “(ii) further the practical administra-
23 tion of the program.

24 “(4) CONSENT.—The Secretary shall obtain
25 consent from the landowner and eligible entity, if ap-

1 plicable, for any subordination, exchange, modifica-
2 tion, or termination of an interest in eligible land, or
3 portion of such an interest, under this subsection.

4 “(5) NOTICE.—Not fewer than 90 days before
5 taking any termination action described in para-
6 graph (3), the Secretary shall provide written notice
7 of that action to the Committee on Agriculture of
8 the House of Representatives and the Committee on
9 Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry of the Senate.

10 “(c) LAND ENROLLED IN OTHER PROGRAMS.—In
11 accordance with the provisions of section 2702 of the
12 Farm, Food, and National Security Act of 2026, land en-
13 rolled in the healthy forests reserve program established
14 under title V of the Healthy Forests Restoration Act of
15 2003 (16 U.S.C. 6571 et seq.) on the day before the date
16 of enactment of this section shall be considered enrolled
17 in the program.”.

18 **SEC. 2702. HEALTHY FORESTS RESERVE PROGRAM.**

19 (a) REPEAL.—

20 (1) IN GENERAL.—Title V of the Healthy For-
21 ests Restoration Act of 2003 (16 U.S.C. 6571 et
22 seq.) is repealed.

23 (2) CONFORMING AMENDMENT.—The table of
24 contents in section 1(b) of the Healthy Forests Res-
25 toration Act of 2003 (Public Law 108–148; 117

1 Stat. 1887) is amended by striking the items relat-
2 ing to title V.

3 (b) TRANSITIONAL PROVISIONS.—

4 (1) EFFECT ON EXISTING CONTRACTS, AGREE-
5 MENTS, AND EASEMENTS.—The repeal made by sub-
6 section (a) shall not affect the validity or terms of
7 any contract, agreement, or easement entered into
8 by the Secretary under title V of the Healthy For-
9 ests Restoration Act of 2003 (16 U.S.C. 6571 et
10 seq.) before the date of enactment of this Act, or
11 any payments or technical assistance required to be
12 made in connection with the contract, agreement, or
13 easement.

14 (2) FUNDING.—

15 (A) USE OF PRIOR YEAR FUNDS.—Not-
16 withstanding the repeal made by subsection (a),
17 any funds made available from the Commodity
18 Credit Corporation to carry out the healthy for-
19 ests reserve program established under title V
20 of the Healthy Forests Restoration Act of 2003
21 (16 U.S.C. 6571 et seq.) (as in effect on the
22 day before the date of enactment of this Act)
23 for any of fiscal years 2019 through 2025 shall
24 be made available to carry out contracts, agree-
25 ments, or easements referred to in paragraph

(1), subject to the condition that no such contract, agreement, or easement may be modified so as to increase the amount of any payment received.

(B) OTHER.—The Secretary may use funds made available to carry out the forest conservation easement program established under subtitle I of the Food Security Act of 1985 to continue to carry out contracts, agreements, or easements referred to in paragraph (1) using the provisions of law (including regulations) applicable to those contracts, agreements, and easements as in existence on the day before the date of enactment of this Act.

Subtitle I—Regional Conservation Partnership Program

SEC. 2801. ESTABLISHMENT AND PURPOSES.

Section 1271(b)(2) of the Food Security Act of 1985 (16 U.S.C. 3871(b)(2)) is amended to read as follows:

“(2) To address natural resource concerns on eligible land on a regional or watershed scale, including through—

“(A) the conservation, protection, restoration, and sustainable use of soil;

1 “(B) the conservation and protection of
2 water, including sources of drinking water and
3 groundwater;

4 “(C) the prevention and mitigation of the
5 effects of flooding and drought, and the im-
6 provement or expansion of flood resiliency; and

7 “(D) the conservation of wildlife, agricul-
8 tural land, and related natural resources.”.

9 **SEC. 2802. DEFINITIONS.**

10 Section 1271A(1) of the Food Security Act of 1985
11 (16 U.S.C. 3871a(1)) is amended by striking subpara-
12 graph (D) and inserting the following:

13 “(D) The forest conservation easement
14 program established under subtitle I.”.

15 **SEC. 2803. REGIONAL CONSERVATION PARTNERSHIPS.**

16 (a) PARTNERSHIP AGREEMENTS AUTHORIZED.—
17 Section 1271B(a) of the Food Security Act of 1985 (16
18 U.S.C. 3871b(a)) is amended to read as follows:

19 “(a) PARTNERSHIP AGREEMENTS AUTHORIZED.—

20 “(1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary may enter
21 into a partnership agreement with an eligible part-
22 ner to implement a project that will assist producers
23 with installing and maintaining an eligible activity
24 on eligible land.

1 “(2) STREAMLINING REQUIRED.—The Sec-
2 retary shall ensure that a partnership agreement
3 under paragraph (1)—

4 “(A) is entered into not later than 180
5 days after the date on which an application is
6 selected under subsection (e); and

7 “(B) contains only—

8 “(i) the information, described under
9 subsection (e)(3), necessary to fund and
10 initiate the project to be implemented
11 under the partnership agreement; and

12 “(ii) any adjustments to the require-
13 ments of a covered program determined
14 necessary by the Secretary under para-
15 graph (2) of section 1271E(f), and any
16 waiver provided under paragraph (3) of
17 such section.

18 “(3) PROCESS FOR REQUESTING WAIVERS AND
19 ADJUSTMENTS.—The Secretary shall make available
20 information on the process for requesting a waiver
21 or an adjustment to the requirements of a covered
22 program pursuant to section 1271E(f).”.

23 (b) DUTIES OF SECRETARY.—Section 1271B(d) of
24 the Food Security Act of 1985 (16 U.S.C. 3871b(d)) is
25 amended—

1 (1) in paragraph (4)(B), by striking “how the
2 Secretary used amounts reserved by the Secretary
3 for that year for technical assistance under section
4 1271D(f); and” and inserting “the use of funds for
5 technical assistance under section 1271D(e);”;

6 (2) in paragraph (5), by striking the period at
7 the end and inserting “; and”; and

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

9 “(6) ensure payments to eligible partners under
10 a partnership agreement are made not later than 30
11 days after the date on which the eligible partner
12 submits to the Secretary a request for payment.”.

13 (c) APPLICATIONS.—Section 1271B(e)(3) of the
14 Food Security Act of 1985 (16 U.S.C. 3871b(e)(3)) is
15 amended—

16 (1) in subparagraph (D), by striking “and” at
17 the end;

18 (2) by redesignating subparagraph (E) as sub-
19 paragraph (F); and

20 (3) by inserting after subparagraph (D) the fol-
21 lowing:

22 “(E) any requests by an eligible partner
23 for a waiver or an adjustment to the require-
24 ments of a covered program pursuant to section
25 1271E(f); and”.

1 **SEC. 2804. ASSISTANCE TO PRODUCERS.**

2 Section 1271C(d)(3) of the Food Security Act of
3 1985 (16 U.S.C. 3871c(d)(3)) is amended—

4 (1) by redesignating subparagraph (B) as sub-
5 paragraph (C);

6 (2) in subparagraph (A)(iv), by striking the
7 “and” at the end; and

8 (3) by inserting after subparagraph (A)(iv) the
9 following:

10 “(B) provide, under section 1271B(c)(2),
11 not less than 50 percent of the overall costs of
12 the scope of the project that is the subject of
13 a partnership agreement funded pursuant to
14 paragraph (1) in direct funding; and”.

15 **SEC. 2805. FUNDING.**

16 (a) **ALLOCATION OF FUNDING.**—Section 1271D of
17 the Food Security Act of 1985 (16 U.S.C. 3871d) is
18 amended—

19 (1) by striking subsections (a) and (b);

20 (2) by redesignating subsections (c), (d), and
21 (e) as subsections (a), (b), and (c), respectively; and

22 (3) in subsection (a), as so redesignated, by
23 striking “subsection (a)” and inserting “section
24 1241(a)(6)”.

25 (b) **LIMITATION ON ADMINISTRATIVE EXPENSES.**—
26 Subsection (b) of section 1271D of the Food Security Act

1 of 1985 (16 U.S.C. 3871d), as so redesignated, is amend-
2 ed to read as follows:

3 “(b) LIMITATION ON ADMINISTRATIVE EXPENSES.—

4 “(1) IN GENERAL.—Of the funds made avail-
5 able to implement a project under a partnership
6 agreement, the Secretary may use not more than ten
7 percent to reimburse the eligible partner for admin-
8 istrative expenses relating to the project.

9 “(2) CONSIDERATION.—Any amounts expended
10 by an eligible partner for administrative expenses
11 that are not reimbursed under paragraph (1) may be
12 considered to be a part of the contribution of the eli-
13 gible partner under section 1271B(c)(2).”.

14 (c) TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE.—Subsection (c) of sec-
15 tion 1271D of the Food Security Act of 1985 (16 U.S.C.
16 3871d), as so redesignated, is amended to read as follows:

17 “(c) TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE.—

18 “(1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall,
19 through a partnership agreement, identify—

20 “(A) the total amount of funds that will be
21 used for technical assistance; and

22 “(B) the share of such funds that will be
23 provided to eligible partners under paragraph
24 (2).

25 “(2) PROVISION OF ASSISTANCE.—

1 “(A) REIMBURSEMENT.—Under a partner-
2 ship agreement that is not funded through an
3 alternative funding arrangement or grant agree-
4 ment under section 1271C(d), the Secretary
5 may reimburse eligible partners for the costs of
6 technical assistance provided through such part-
7 nership agreement, including—

8 “(i) the costs of technical assistance
9 needed to facilitate the maximum conserva-
10 tion benefit of the applicable project;

11 “(ii) the costs of providing outreach
12 and education to producers for potential
13 participation in the applicable project;

14 “(iii) the costs of establishing baseline
15 metrics to support the development of the
16 assessment required under section
17 1271B(c)(1)(E); and

18 “(iv) other costs necessary to support
19 the implementation of eligible activities, as
20 determined by the Secretary.

21 “(B) ADVANCEMENT OF FUNDS.—The
22 Secretary may advance to eligible partners rea-
23 sonable amounts of funds for costs that may be
24 reimbursed under subparagraph (A), as deter-
25 mined by the Secretary.

1 “(3) LIMITATION.—The Secretary shall limit
2 costs of the Secretary for technical assistance to
3 costs necessary to carry out the objectives of the
4 program.

5 “(4) REDUCTION OF ADMINISTRATIVE BAR-
6 RIERS.—The Secretary shall provide a single, sim-
7 plified process for reimbursements or advancements
8 to eligible partners for the costs of technical assist-
9 ance under this subsection.

10 “(5) THIRD-PARTY PROVIDERS.—The Secretary
11 shall develop and implement strategies to encourage
12 third-party technical service providers to provide
13 technical assistance to eligible partners pursuant to
14 a partnership agreement.”.

15 **SEC. 2806. ADMINISTRATION.**

16 (a) REPORTING.—Section 1271E(b) of the Food Se-
17 curity Act of 1985 (16 U.S.C. 3871e(b)) is amended in
18 the matter preceding paragraph (1) by inserting “make
19 publicly available and” after “the Secretary shall”.

20 (b) CONSISTENCY WITH COVERED PROGRAM
21 RULES.—Section 1271E of the Food Security Act of 1985
22 (16 U.S.C. 3871e) is amended by adding at the end the
23 following:

24 “(f) CONSISTENCY WITH COVERED PROGRAM RE-
25 QUIREMENTS.—

1 “(1) IN GENERAL.—Except as provided in this
2 subsection, the Secretary shall ensure that the terms
3 and conditions of a program contract are consistent
4 with the requirements of the applicable covered pro-
5 gram to be used as part of the applicable partner-
6 ship agreement.

7 “(2) ADJUSTMENTS.—

8 “(A) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary may, if
9 the Secretary determines necessary, adjust a
10 regulatory requirement of a covered program to
11 be used as a part of a partnership agreement,
12 or related guidance, as it applies to an eligible
13 activity carried out under a program contract
14 entered into pursuant to the partnership agree-
15 ment—

16 “(i) to provide a simplified process; or

17 “(ii) to better reflect unique local cir-
18 cumstances.

19 “(B) LIMITATION.—The Secretary shall
20 not adjust the application of statutory require-
21 ments for a covered program to be used as a
22 part of a partnership agreement, including re-
23 quirements governing appeals, payment limits,
24 and conservation compliance.

1 “(3) WAIVER.—With respect to a program con-
2 tract for an eligible activity under the agricultural
3 conservation easement program, the Secretary may,
4 in the applicable partnership agreement, waive the
5 application of clauses (ii) or (iii)(III) of section
6 1265A(4)(A) for purposes of determining the eligi-
7 bility of land.

8 “(4) CERTIFICATION APPLICABILITY.—With re-
9 spect to a partnership agreement entered into for ac-
10 quisition of easements, the Secretary shall apply the
11 authorities applicable to the eligible partner under
12 section 1265B(b)(5)(A) if the eligible partner is an
13 eligible entity certified under such section.

14 “(5) EXEMPTION.—With respect to a program
15 contract that includes an eligible activity under the
16 environmental quality incentives program to be in-
17 stalled and maintained in a State in which irrigation
18 has not been used significantly for agricultural pur-
19 poses, as determined by the Secretary, the Secretary
20 may not consider prior irrigation history when deter-
21 mining the eligibility of land.

22 “(6) APPLICATION.—Paragraph (1) shall not
23 apply to partnership agreements funded pursuant to
24 section 1271C(d).”.

1 **SEC. 2807. CRITICAL CONSERVATION AREAS.**

2 (a) DEFINITIONS.—Section 1271F(a)(2)(C) of the
3 Food Security Act of 1985 (16 U.S.C. 3871f(a)(2)(C)) is
4 amended by inserting “, including restoration and en-
5 hancement of wildlife habitat connectivity and wildlife mi-
6 gration corridors” before the semicolon at the end.

7 (b) APPLICATIONS.—Section 1271F(b) of the Food
8 Security Act of 1985 (16 U.S.C. 3871f(b)) is amended
9 by striking “funds under section 1271D(d)(2)” and insert-
10 ing “funds allocated under section 1271D(a)(2)”.

11 (c) INCLUSION OF COLUMBIA BASIN PROJECT
12 AREA.—The Secretary shall include in the Wester Waters
13 Region Critical Conservation Area designated under sec-
14 tion 1271F of the Food Security Act of 1985 (16 U.S.C.
15 3871f) the project area of the Columbia Basin project au-
16 thorized by the first section of the Act of May 27, 1937
17 (chapter 269, 50 Stat. 208; 57 Stat. 14).

18 **TITLE III—TRADE**

19 **Subtitle A—Food for Peace Act**

20 **SEC. 3101. TRANSFER OF AUTHORITIES TO THE SECRETARY**
21 **OF AGRICULTURE.**

22 (a) IN GENERAL.—Section 201 of the Food for Peace
23 Act (7 U.S.C. 1721) is amended by striking “(to be imple-
24 mented by the Administrator)” and inserting “(to be im-
25 plemented by the Secretary)”.

26 (b) CONFORMING AMENDMENTS.—

1 (1) EMERGENCY AND PRIVATE ASSISTANCE
2 PROGRAMS.—Sections 202, 203, 205, 207, and 208
3 of the Food for Peace Act (7 U.S.C. 1722, 1723,
4 1725, 1726a, and 1726b) are each amended by
5 striking “Administrator” each place it appears and
6 inserting “Secretary”.

7 (2) FOOD FOR DEVELOPMENT.—Title III of the
8 Food for Peace Act (7 U.S.C. 1727 et seq.) is
9 amended by striking “Administrator” each place it
10 appears and inserting “Secretary”.

11 (3) DEFINITIONS.—Section 402 of the Food for
12 Peace Act (7 U.S.C. 1732) is amended—

13 (A) by striking paragraph (1); and

14 (B) by redesignating paragraphs (2)
15 through (9) as paragraphs (1) through (8), re-
16 spectively.

17 (4) GENERAL PROVISIONS.—Sections 403 and
18 404 of the Food for Peace Act (7 U.S.C. 1733 and
19 1734) are each amended—

20 (A) by striking “or the Administrator, as
21 appropriate,” each place it appears;

22 (B) in section 403(h), by striking “or Ad-
23 ministrator”; and

24 (C) in section 404(d), by striking “or the
25 Administrator”.

1 (5) CONSULTATION.—Section 405 of the Food
2 for Peace Act (7 U.S.C. 1735) is repealed.

3 (c) TRANSFER OF ASSETS AND LIABILITIES.—The
4 Food for Peace Act (7 U.S.C. 1691 et seq.) is amended
5 by adding at the end the following new title:

6 **“TITLE VII—TRANSFER**
7 **PROVISIONS**

8 **“SEC. 701. TRANSFER OF ASSETS AND LIABILITIES FROM**
9 **USAID TO SECRETARY OF AGRICULTURE.**

10 “On and after the date of the enactment of this title,
11 the assets, liabilities, orders, determinations, permits,
12 grants, loans, contracts, agreements, certificates, and li-
13 censes of the Administrator of the United States Agency
14 for International Development, pursuant to any authority
15 under this Act on or after January 1, 2026, shall be trans-
16 ferred to the Secretary of Agriculture.

17 **“SEC. 702. TRANSFER OF OTHER AUTHORITIES.**

18 “On and after the date of the enactment of this title,
19 any authority or responsibility provided by any other pro-
20 vision of law that was or could have been used by the Ad-
21 ministrator of the United States Agency for International
22 Development, prior to such date of enactment to carry out
23 any function, duty, or responsibility under this Act may
24 be exercised by the Secretary of Agriculture. A reference
25 to such Administrator or to such Agency in any provision

1 of law or regulation relating to any authority or responsi-
2 bility described in the preceding sentence shall be deemed
3 to be a reference to the Secretary of Agriculture or the
4 Department of Agriculture, respectively.

5 **“SEC. 703. RULES AND REGULATIONS.**

6 “Beginning on the date of the enactment of this title,
7 the Secretary of Agriculture shall promulgate or amend
8 such rules and regulations (including by issuing or re-
9 issuing interim final rules) as the Secretary may deter-
10 mine appropriate, including by amending such rules and
11 regulations issued by the Administrator of the United
12 States Agency for International Development with respect
13 to the authorities and responsibilities provided by this Act
14 and as in effect on the day before such date of enactment,
15 in order to effectuate and complete the transfer of all
16 functions and duties previously carried out by that Admin-
17 istrator to the Secretary.

18 **“SEC. 704. CONSULTATION.**

19 “The Secretary of Agriculture shall consult with the
20 Secretary of State from time to time in carrying out the
21 authorities under this Act.”.

22 **SEC. 3102. FOOD AID QUALITY ASSURANCE.**

23 Section 202 of the Food for Peace Act (7 U.S.C.
24 1722), as amended by section 3101(b)(1), is further
25 amended—

1 (1) in subsection (a), by striking “any other
2 provision of law” and inserting “any other provision
3 of this Act”;

4 (2) in subsection (b)(1), by inserting “assist-
5 ance, including in the form of” before “agricultural
6 commodities”;

7 (3) in subsection (b)(2)—

8 (A) in subparagraph (A), by striking
9 “Agency for International Development” and
10 inserting “Department of Agriculture”; and

11 (B) in subparagraph (B), by striking
12 “Agency” and inserting “Department”;

13 (4) in subsection (d)—

14 (A) in paragraph (1), by striking “or” at
15 the end;

16 (B) in paragraph (2), by striking the pe-
17 riod at the end and inserting “; or”; and

18 (C) by adding at the end the following new
19 paragraph:

20 “(3) a nongovernmental organization, as deter-
21 mined by the Secretary.”;

22 (5) in subsection (e), by adding at the end the
23 following new paragraph:

24 “(5) LIMITATION ON DIVERSION OF FUNDS.—
25 Of the funds made available in each fiscal year

1 under this title to the Secretary, not more than 50
2 percent may be made available for expenses other
3 than the procurement of United States-grown agri-
4 cultural commodities and ocean transportation of
5 such commodities.”; and

6 (6) in subsection (h)(3), by striking “2023”
7 and inserting “2031”.

8 **SEC. 3103. REPEAL OF MINIMUM LEVELS OF ASSISTANCE.**

9 Section 204 of the Food for Peace Act (7 U.S.C.
10 1724) is repealed.

11 **SEC. 3104. FOOD AID CONSULTATIVE GROUP.**

12 Section 205 of the Food for Peace Act (7 U.S.C.
13 1725), as amended by section 3101(b)(1), is further
14 amended—

15 (1) in subsection (b)(2), by striking “the Under
16 Secretary” and all that follows through the end of
17 the paragraph and inserting “the Secretary of
18 State”;

19 (2) in subsection (b)(3), by striking “the Agen-
20 cy for International Development” and inserting
21 “the Department of Agriculture”;

22 (3) in subsection (b)(4), by striking “Agency”
23 and inserting “Secretary”; and

24 (4) in subsection (f), by striking “December 31,
25 2023” and inserting “December 31, 2031”.

1 **SEC. 3105. ISSUANCE OF REGULATIONS; OVERSIGHT, MONI-**
2 **TORING, AND EVALUATION.**

3 Section 207 of the Food for Peace Act (7 U.S.C.
4 1726a), as amended by section 3101(b)(1), is further
5 amended—

6 (1) in subsection (c)(1), by striking “the Agri-
7 culture Improvement Act of 2018” and inserting
8 “the Farm, Food, and National Security Act of
9 2026”;

10 (2) in subsection (d), by striking “, in consulta-
11 tion with the Secretary,”; and

12 (3) in subsection (f)—

13 (A) in paragraph (1), by striking “, in con-
14 sultation with the Secretary,”; and

15 (B) in paragraph (4), by striking “2023”
16 each place it appears and inserting “2031”.

17 **SEC. 3106. INTERNATIONAL FOOD RELIEF PARTNERSHIP.**

18 Section 208(f) of the Food for Peace Act (7 U.S.C.
19 1726b(f)) is amended to read as follows:

20 “(f) AVAILABILITY OF APPROPRIATIONS.—In addi-
21 tion to amounts otherwise made available to carry out this
22 section, of the funds made available in each fiscal year
23 under this title to the Secretary, not less than
24 \$15,000,000 shall be made available in each of fiscal years
25 2027 through 2031 to carry out this section, to remain
26 available until expended.”.

1 **SEC. 3107. USE OF COMMODITY CREDIT CORPORATION.**

2 Subsection (b) of section 406 of the Food for Peace
3 Act (7 U.S.C. 1736) is amended to read as follows:

4 “(b) INCLUDED EXPENSES.—With respect to com-
5 modities made available under titles II and III, the Com-
6 modity Credit Corporation may pay all associated and in-
7 cidental costs of such commodities.”.

8 **SEC. 3108. PRE-POSITIONING OF AGRICULTURAL COMMOD-**
9 **ITIES AND ANNUAL REPORT REGARDING**
10 **FOOD AID PROGRAMS AND ACTIVITIES.**

11 Section 407 of the Food for Peace Act (7 U.S.C.
12 1736a) is amended—

13 (1) by amending subsection (c)(1) to read as
14 follows:

15 “(1) ACQUISITION.—The Secretary shall trans-
16 fer, arrange for the transportation, and take other
17 steps necessary to make available agricultural com-
18 modities to be provided under title II and title III.”;

19 (2) in subsection (c)(2), by striking “Adminis-
20 trator” and inserting “Secretary”;

21 (3) in subsection (c)(3), by striking “Agency for
22 International Development” and inserting “Sec-
23 retary”;

24 (4) in subsection (c)(4)(A), by striking “2023”
25 each place it appears and inserting “2031”;

1 (5) in subsection (c)(4), by striking “Adminis-
2 trator” each place it appears and inserting “Sec-
3 retary”;

4 (6) in subsection (d), in the matter preceding
5 paragraph (1), by striking “or the Administrator, as
6 appropriate,”;

7 (7) by amending subsection (f)(1) to read as
8 follows:

9 “(1) ANNUAL REPORT.—Not later than April 1
10 of each fiscal year, the Secretary shall submit to the
11 appropriate committees of Congress a report regard-
12 ing each program and activity carried out under this
13 Act during the prior fiscal year.”;

14 (8) in subsection (f)(2)—

15 (A) by striking subparagraph (I);

16 (B) by amending subparagraph (H) to
17 read as follows:

18 “(H) A statement of the amount of funds
19 provided to each eligible organization that re-
20 ceived assistance under this Act and the man-
21 ner in which those funds were used, including
22 whether such use was for commodity transpor-
23 tation or administrative costs.”;

1 (C) by redesignating subparagraphs (E)
2 through (H) (as amended) as subparagraphs
3 (F) through (I), respectively; and

4 (D) by inserting after subparagraph (D)
5 the following new subparagraph:

6 “(E) An assessment of activities specifi-
7 cally targeting women and girls and the impact
8 of those activities in addressing the unique
9 needs of women and girls.”; and

10 (9) by striking subsection (f)(3).

11 **SEC. 3109. DEADLINE FOR AGREEMENTS TO FINANCE**

12 **SALES OR TO PROVIDE OTHER ASSISTANCE.**

13 Section 408 of the Food for Peace Act (7 U.S.C.
14 1736b) is amended by striking “2023” and inserting
15 “2031”.

16 **SEC. 3110. MINIMUM LEVEL OF NONEMERGENCY FOOD AS-**

17 **SISTANCE.**

18 Section 412 of the Food for Peace Act (7 U.S.C.
19 1736f) is amended—

20 (1) in subsection (e)(1), by striking “2023” and
21 inserting “2031”; and

22 (2) by adding at the end the following new sub-
23 section:

24 “(f) MINIMUM LEVELS OF FUNDING TO ADDRESS
25 CHILD WASTING.—

1 “(1) MINIMUM LEVEL.—For each of fiscal
2 years 2027 through 2031, in addition to amounts
3 otherwise made available, not less than
4 \$200,000,000 of the amounts made available to
5 carry out emergency food assistance programs under
6 title II shall be expended for the procurement and
7 distribution of ready-to-use therapeutic foods.

8 “(2) APPLICABILITY.—The minimum expendi-
9 ture requirement under paragraph (1) shall only
10 apply with respect to a fiscal year if—

11 “(A) the most recent Joint Child Malnutri-
12 tion Estimates, published annually by the
13 World Health Organization, the World Bank,
14 and the United Nations Children’s Fund, report
15 a rate of children under 5 years of age affected
16 by child wasting above 5 percent for the year
17 covered by such report; and

18 “(B) the total amount made available to
19 carry out programs under title II in the fiscal
20 year is greater than \$1,200,000,000.

21 “(3) RULE OF CONSTRUCTION.—Nothing in
22 this subsection may be construed to limit on the au-
23 thority of the Secretary to purchase or distribute
24 ready-to-use therapeutic foods in a fiscal year.”.

1 **SEC. 3111. TERMINATION DATE FOR MICRONUTRIENT FOR-**
2 **TIFICATION PROGRAMS.**

3 Section 415 of the Food for Peace Act (7
4 U.S.C.1736g-2) is amended—

5 (1) in subsection (a)(1)—

6 (A) by striking “Administrator, in con-
7 sultation with the”; and

8 (B) by striking the comma after “Sec-
9 retary”; and

10 (2) in subsection (c), by striking “2023” and
11 inserting “2031”.

12 **SEC. 3112. JOHN Ogonowski and Doug Bereuter Farm-**
13 **ER-TO-FARMER PROGRAM.**

14 Section 501 of the Food for Peace Act (7 U.S.C.
15 1737) is amended—

16 (1) by striking “2023” each place it appears
17 and inserting “2031”; and

18 (2) in subsection (f)(1), by striking “Adminis-
19 trator of the Agency for International Development”
20 and inserting “Secretary”.

21 **SEC. 3113. FOOD FOR PEACE ACT ADMINISTRATION.**

22 (a) IN GENERAL.—During fiscal years 2026 through
23 2031, the Secretary may use funds made available for the
24 salaries and expenses of the Foreign Agricultural Service
25 under an appropriations Act or any other provision of law,
26 including such funds otherwise obligated as of the date

1 of the enactment of this Act, to pay the administrative
2 expenses of the Department of Agriculture in the imple-
3 mentation of the Food for Peace Act (7 U.S.C. 1691 et
4 seq.), as amended by this subtitle.

5 (b) CARRYOVER.—For fiscal years 2026 through
6 2031, the balance of any funds provided to carry out sub-
7 section (a) for a fiscal year that remains unexpended at
8 the end of that fiscal year may be carried over for use
9 during the following fiscal year.

10 **Subtitle B—Agricultural Trade Act** 11 **of 1978**

12 **SEC. 3201. AGRICULTURAL TRADE PROMOTION AND FA-** 13 **CILITATION.**

14 (a) MODIFICATION TO FOREIGN MARKET DEVELOP-
15 MENT COOPERATOR PROGRAM.—Section 203(c) of the
16 Agricultural Trade Act of 1978 (7 U.S.C. 5623(c)) is
17 amended by adding at the end the following new para-
18 graph:

19 “(4) TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE TO IMPROVE IN-
20 FRASTRUCTURE IN FOREIGN MARKETS FOR UNITED
21 STATES AGRICULTURAL COMMODITIES.—

22 “(A) IN GENERAL.—As part of the pro-
23 gram established under this subsection, the Sec-
24 retary shall enter into contracts or other agree-
25 ments, with eligible trade organizations or with

1 nonprofit organizations with expertise in supply
2 chain infrastructure, to provide needs assess-
3 ments, training, and other technical assistance
4 to enhance the capabilities of infrastructure in
5 new and developing foreign markets, including
6 infrastructure relating to cold chain capacity,
7 port improvements, and other developments, to
8 ensure that United States agricultural commod-
9 ities are not damaged or lost due to deficiencies
10 of such infrastructure.

11 “(B) LIMITATION.—Of the amounts made
12 available to carry out the program established
13 under this subsection, not more than
14 \$1,500,000 for fiscal year 2027 and not more
15 than \$5,000,000 for fiscal year 2028 and each
16 fiscal year thereafter may be made available to
17 carry out this paragraph.”.

18 (b) REPORT ON COMPETITIVENESS OF UNITED
19 STATES SPECIALTY CROPS.—Section 203(e)(7) of the Ag-
20 ricultural Trade Act of 1978 (7 U.S.C. 5623(e)(7)) is
21 amended to read as follows:

22 “(7) BIENNIAL REPORT.—

23 “(A) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary, in con-
24 sultation with the United States Trade Rep-
25 resentative, shall submit every two years to the

1 appropriate congressional committees a report
2 detailing the competitiveness of United States
3 specialty crops.

4 “(B) ELEMENTS.—The report required by
5 subparagraph (A) shall—

6 “(i) identify and analyze acts, policies,
7 or practices of foreign countries that con-
8 stitute significant barriers to, or distor-
9 tions of, United States exports of specialty
10 crops, including the imposition of—

11 “(I) tariffs (including retaliatory
12 tariffs) or quotas (including tariff-rate
13 quotas); and

14 “(II) nontariff barriers, including
15 technical barriers to trade, sanitary
16 and phytosanitary measures, import
17 licensing procedures, and subsidies;

18 “(ii) identify acts, policies, or prac-
19 tices of foreign countries that enhance the
20 competitiveness of imported specialty crops
21 with domestic specialty crop producers;

22 “(iii) identify and analyze any dif-
23 ferences in applicable food safety regula-
24 tions of foreign countries that may result

1 in imported specialty crops posing a risk to
2 United States consumers;

3 “(iv) make an estimate of the impacts
4 on the competitiveness of United States
5 specialty crops of any act, policy, or prac-
6 tice identified under clauses (i) and (ii);

7 “(v) assess the extent to which each
8 act, policy, or practice identified under
9 clauses (i) and (ii) are subject to inter-
10 national agreements to which the United
11 States is a party;

12 “(vi) include information with respect
13 to any action taken by the executive or leg-
14 islative branches during the two years pre-
15 ceding submission of the report, or ex-
16 pected to be taken after submission of the
17 report, to eliminate any act, policy, or
18 practice identified under clauses (i) and
19 (ii), including—

20 “(I) any action under section
21 301;

22 “(II) negotiations or consulta-
23 tions with foreign governments, which
24 may include engagement through the
25 standing committee on sanitary and

1 phytosanitary matters established
2 under a free trade agreement to which
3 the United States is a party; and

4 “(III) action at the World Trade
5 Organization, including dispute settle-
6 ment actions, consultations, or nego-
7 tiations; and

8 “(vii) a description of—

9 “(I) any funds provided under
10 subsection (f)(3)(A)(iv) that were not
11 obligated in the fiscal year preceding
12 submission of the report; and

13 “(II) the reason such funds were
14 not obligated.

15 “(C) COMMENT PERIOD.—In preparing the
16 report required by subparagraph (A), the Sec-
17 retary, in coordination with the United States
18 Trade Representative, shall seek and consider
19 comments from the public and from the Agri-
20 cultural Technical Advisory Committee for
21 Trade in Fruits and Vegetables.

22 “(D) FORM OF REPORT.—The report re-
23 quired by subparagraph (A) shall be made
24 available to the public in machine-readable for-
25 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, limburger 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, samso,
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 DEVELOPMENT”
16 and inserting “DEVELOPMENT”;

17 (6) in subsection (m)(2), by striking “humani-
18 tarian and”; and

19 (7) in subsection (n)(2)(C), by striking “Com-
20 mittee on International Relations” and inserting
21 “Committee on Foreign Affairs”.

22 **SEC. 3303. BILL EMERSON HUMANITARIAN TRUST ACT.**

23 Section 302 of the Bill Emerson Humanitarian Trust
24 Act (7 U.S.C. 1736f–1) is amended—

- 1 (1) in subsection (b)(2)(B)(i), by striking
- 2 “2023” each place it appears and inserting “2031”;
- 3 (2) in subsection (c)(1)(C), by striking “the Ad-
- 4 ministrator” and inserting “the Secretary”;
- 5 (3) by striking subsection (c)(1)(D);
- 6 (4) in subsection (f)(2)(A), by inserting “by the
- 7 Secretary” after “reimbursed”; and
- 8 (5) in subsection (h),
- 9 (A) in paragraph (1), by striking “2023”
- 10 and inserting “2031”; and
- 11 (B) in paragraph (2), by striking “2026”
- 12 and inserting “2031”.

13 **SEC. 3304. PROMOTION OF AGRICULTURAL EXPORTS TO**
 14 **EMERGING MARKETS.**

15 Section 1542(a) of the Food, Agriculture, Conserva-
 16 tion, and Trade Act of 1990 (7 U.S.C. 5622 note; Public
 17 Law 101–624) is amended by striking “2023” and insert-
 18 ing “2031”.

19 **SEC. 3305. INTERNATIONAL AGRICULTURAL EDUCATION**
 20 **FELLOWSHIP PROGRAM.**

21 Section 3307 of the Agriculture Improvement Act of
 22 2018 (7 U.S.C. 3295) is amended—

- 23 (1) in subsection (g)(1), by striking “2019
- 24 through 2023” and inserting “2027 through 2031”;

1 (2) by redesignating subsection (g) as sub-
2 section (h); and

3 (3) by inserting after subsection (f) the fol-
4 lowing:

5 “(g) PROGRAM CONTINUITY.—To assist eligible
6 countries in the long-term development of enduring,
7 school-based agricultural education and youth extension
8 programs, the Secretary shall, to the maximum extent
9 practicable—

10 “(1) implement the fellowship program in each
11 participating host country for not fewer than 3 con-
12 secutive years; and

13 “(2) ensure that contracts awarded to outside
14 organizations are multiyear.”.

15 **SEC. 3306. INTERNATIONAL AGRICULTURE CULTURAL IM-**
16 **MERSION AND EXCHANGE PROGRAM.**

17 Title III of the Agriculture Improvement Act of 2018
18 (Public Law 115–334) is amended by adding at the end
19 the following new section (and by conforming the table of
20 contents in section 1(b) accordingly):

21 **“SEC. 3313. INTERNATIONAL AGRICULTURE CULTURAL IM-**
22 **MERSION AND EXCHANGE PROGRAM.**

23 “(a) DEFINITION.—In this section:

24 “(1) ELIGIBLE CANDIDATE.—The term ‘eligible
25 candidate’ means an individual that—

1 “(A) is between the ages of 19 and 30
2 years;

3 “(B) has demonstrated experience in agri-
4 cultural sciences, food systems, and food and
5 nutrition education;

6 “(C) is prepared to live in 1 or more host
7 countries for at least 2 months or up to 6
8 months; and

9 “(D) is a resident of the United States.

10 “(2) ELIGIBLE COUNTRY.—The term ‘eligible
11 country’ means a country that has agricultural trade
12 relations with the United States, as recognized by
13 the Foreign Agriculture Service.

14 “(3) PROGRAM.—The term ‘Program’ means
15 the International Agriculture Cultural Immersion
16 and Exchange Program established under subsection
17 (b).

18 “(4) SECRETARY.—The term ‘Secretary’ means
19 the Secretary of Agriculture.

20 “(b) ESTABLISHMENT.—The Secretary shall estab-
21 lish an international cultural immersion and exchange pro-
22 gram, to be known as the ‘International Agriculture Cul-
23 tural Immersion and Exchange Program’, under which the
24 Secretary shall—

1 “(1) provide eligible candidates with inter-
2 national cultural exchange and immersion experi-
3 ences focused on agricultural sciences, food systems,
4 and food and nutrition education through placement
5 with host families in eligible countries; and

6 “(2) place in the United States with host fami-
7 lies individuals that meet the requirement of sub-
8 section (a)(1)(A) and are residents of eligible coun-
9 tries to experience United States agriculture, trade
10 relations, and culture.

11 “(c) PURPOSES.—The purposes of the Program
12 are—

13 “(1) to develop globally minded citizens of the
14 United States; and

15 “(2) to strengthen and enhance trade between
16 eligible countries and the United States in agricul-
17 tural, food, nutrition, and environmental industries.

18 “(d) COOPERATIVE AGREEMENT.—

19 “(1) IN GENERAL.—To administer the Pro-
20 gram, the Secretary shall enter into a cooperative
21 agreement with a nonprofit organization that has ex-
22 perience in implementing international cultural ex-
23 change programs focused on agricultural sciences,
24 food and nutrition education, and cultural under-
25 standing through placement with host families.

1 “(2) PRIORITY.—In carrying out paragraph (1),
 2 the Secretary shall give priority to a nonprofit orga-
 3 nization with which the Secretary has a memo-
 4 randum of understanding dated not earlier than
 5 January 1, 2019.

6 “(3) MATCHING FUNDS.—As a condition of en-
 7 tering into a cooperative agreement under this sub-
 8 section, a nonprofit organization shall provide equal
 9 matching funds from non-Federal sources.

10 “(e) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There
 11 is authorized to be appropriated \$10,000,000 for each of
 12 fiscal years 2027 through 2031 to carry out this section.”.

13 **SEC. 3307. INTERNATIONAL FOOD SECURITY TECHNICAL**
 14 **ASSISTANCE.**

15 Section 1543B(f) of the Food, Agriculture, Conserva-
 16 tion, and Trade Act of 1990 is amended by striking
 17 “2023” and inserting “2031”.

18 **SEC. 3308. MCGOVERN-DOLE INTERNATIONAL FOOD FOR**
 19 **EDUCATION AND CHILD NUTRITION PRO-**
 20 **GRAM.**

21 Section 3107 of the Farm Security and Rural Invest-
 22 ment Act of 2002 (7 U.S.C. 1736o–1) is amended—

23 (1) in subsection (c)(2)(B)(ii), by inserting “or
 24 lower middle” before “income”;

1 (2) in subsection (h)(2), by striking “Com-
2 mittee on International Relations” and inserting
3 “Committee on Foreign Affairs”;

4 (3) in subsection (l)(2), by striking “2023” and
5 inserting “2031”; and

6 (4) in subsection (l)(4), by striking “not more
7 than 10 percent” and inserting “not less than 8 per-
8 cent, but not more than 15 percent”.

9 **SEC. 3309. GLOBAL CROP DIVERSITY TRUST.**

10 Section 3202 of the Food, Conservation, and Energy
11 Act of 2008 (22 U.S.C. 2220a note; Public Law 110–246)
12 is amended—

13 (1) by amending subsection (b)(1) to read as
14 follows:

15 “(1) IN GENERAL.—For the period of fiscal
16 years 2027 through 2031, the aggregate contribu-
17 tions of funds of the Federal Government provided
18 to the Trust under this section shall not exceed 33
19 percent of the total amount of funds contributed to
20 the Trust from all sources and for all purposes.”;

21 (2) in subsection (b)(2)—

22 (A) by inserting “under this section” after
23 “Trust”; and

24 (B) by striking “2023” and inserting
25 “2031”; and

1 (3) in subsection (c), by striking “fiscal years
2 2014 through 2023” and inserting “fiscal years
3 2023 through 2031”.

4 **SEC. 3310. LOCAL AND REGIONAL FOOD AID PROCURE-**
5 **MENT PROJECTS.**

6 Section 3206(e)(1) of the Food, Conservation, and
7 Energy Act of 2008 (7 U.S.C. 1726c(e)(1)) is amended
8 by striking “2023” and inserting “2031”.

9 **SEC. 3311. AGRICULTURAL TRADE ENFORCEMENT TASK**
10 **FORCE.**

11 (a) ESTABLISHMENT.—Not later than 30 days after
12 the date of the enactment of this Act, the President shall
13 establish a joint task force, to be known as the “Agricul-
14 tural Trade Enforcement Task Force” (referred to in this
15 section as the “Task Force”).

16 (b) DUTIES.—

17 (1) IN GENERAL.—The Task Force shall—

18 (A) identify trade barriers to United States
19 agricultural exports that are vulnerable to dis-
20 pute settlement under the World Trade Organi-
21 zation (“WTO”) or other trade agreements;

22 (B) develop and implement a strategy for
23 enforcing violations of trade agreements related
24 to these trade barriers;

1 (C) identify like-minded trading partners
2 for specific trade barriers that could act as co-
3 complainants or primary complainants on dis-
4 putes that are systemically or economically im-
5 portant to the United States; and

6 (D) report quarterly to Congress on
7 progress toward resolving cases or filing dis-
8 putes.

9 (2) CONSULTATION.—In carrying out its duties
10 under this subsection, the Task Force shall regularly
11 consult, to the extent necessary and appropriate,
12 with the following:

13 (A) Relevant stakeholders in the private
14 sector, including the agricultural trade advisory
15 committees.

16 (B) Federal departments and agencies that
17 are not represented on the Task Force.

18 (C) Like-minded trading partners that are
19 similarly concerned with trade barriers and are
20 potential participants in the dispute settlement
21 process.

22 (c) MEMBERSHIP.—

23 (1) IN GENERAL.—The Task Force shall be
24 comprised of the following members:

1 (A) One or more employees of the Foreign
2 Agricultural Service, who shall be appointed by
3 the Under Secretary for Trade and Foreign Ag-
4 ricultural Affairs.

5 (B) One of more employees of the Office of
6 the United States Trade Representative, who
7 shall be appointed jointly by the General Coun-
8 sel for the Office of the United States Trade
9 Representative and the Chief Agricultural Ne-
10 gotiator.

11 (C) One or more employees of other Fed-
12 eral agencies as needed, who shall be appointed
13 jointly by the officials specified in subpara-
14 graphs (A) and (B).

15 (2) QUALIFICATION.—Employees of the Federal
16 agencies specified in subparagraphs (A), (B), and
17 (C) of paragraph (1) may be appointed as members
18 of the Task Force only if such employees have ap-
19 propriate expertise in agricultural trade policy and
20 trade enforcement.

21 (d) REPORT.—

22 (1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 90 days after
23 the date of enactment of this Act, and on a quar-
24 terly basis thereafter, the Task Force shall submit
25 to Congress a report on its progress in identifying

1 and addressing trade barriers to United States agri-
2 cultural exports.

3 (2) MATTERS TO BE INCLUDED.—The report
4 required by this subsection shall include the fol-
5 lowing:

6 (A) A description of the systemic and eco-
7 nomically significant trade barriers that have
8 been identified.

9 (B) A justification for including the identi-
10 fied trade barriers.

11 (C) A description of the progress that has
12 been made in developing dispute settlement
13 cases and further information that is required.

14 (D) The current status of ongoing disputes
15 at the WTO and implementation of panel, arbi-
16 tration, or appellate body decisions.

17 (3) ADDITIONAL MATTERS TO BE INCLUDED IN
18 INITIAL REPORT.—The initial report required by this
19 subsection shall, in addition to the matters described
20 in subparagraphs (A), (B), (C), and (D) of para-
21 graph (2), include a plan to file a request under the
22 WTO dispute settlement process for consultations to
23 address India's minimum price supports. The plan
24 shall include—

1 (A) an identification of like-minded trading
2 partners that could act as co-complainants or
3 primary complainants with respect to the re-
4 quest;

5 (B) a description of specific claims the
6 United States intends to make with respect to
7 the request; and

8 (C) a timeline to—

9 (i) request consultations; and

10 (ii) request the establishment of a
11 panel not later than 60 days after the date
12 of the request for consultations if India
13 does not provide assurances that it will ad-
14 dress its minimum price supports.

15 (e) CONGRESSIONAL BRIEFINGS.—The United States
16 Trade Representative and the Secretary of Agriculture
17 shall provide briefings on the Task Force to appropriate
18 Members of Congress and congressional staff.

19 **SEC. 3312. REPORT ON INTERNATIONAL SHRIMP TRADE.**

20 (a) REPORT REQUIRED.—Not later than 180 days
21 after the date of enactment of this Act, the Comptroller
22 General of the United States shall submit to the appro-
23 priate congressional committees a report that examines
24 policy options available to the Secretary of Agriculture to

1 boost the competitiveness of domestic shrimp in global and
2 domestic markets.

3 (b) CONTENTS.—The report required by subsection
4 (a) shall—

5 (1) include an analysis of—

6 (A) the Secretary’s authority with regard
7 to shrimp and other seafood products;

8 (B) domestic shrimp and other seafood
9 producers’ access to financial support pro-
10 grams; and

11 (C) ways to facilitate interagency coordina-
12 tion under existing authorities around common
13 goals for shrimp and other seafood commodities
14 with respect to tariffs, market access policies,
15 and other nontariff barriers; and

16 (2) identify trade or other legal barriers to
17 United States shrimp and seafood production that
18 are vulnerable to dispute settlement through the
19 World Trade Organization or otherwise under bilat-
20 eral or multilateral trade agreements.

21 (c) APPROPRIATE CONGRESSIONAL COMMITTEES.—

22 In this section, the term “appropriate congressional com-
23 mittees” means—

1 (1) the Committee on Agriculture and the Com-
2 mittee on Energy and Commerce of the House of
3 Representatives; and

4 (2) the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition,
5 and Forestry and the Committee on Health, Edu-
6 cation, Labor, and Pensions of the Senate.

7 **Subtitle D—Other Trade Matters**

8 **SEC. 3401. REPORT ON MODIFICATIONS TO USMCA.**

9 (a) REPORT REQUIRED.—The Secretary of Agri-
10 culture, in coordination with the United States Trade Rep-
11 resentative, shall submit to the appropriate congressional
12 committees and concurrently make publicly available,
13 prior to July 1, 2026, a report on how any expected or
14 implemented modification or revocation of any part of the
15 USMCA (as such term is defined in section 3 of the
16 United States-Mexico-Canada Agreement Implementation
17 Act (19 U.S.C. 4502(9))) in any manner will affect the
18 importation or exportation of any article that is a covered
19 agricultural commodity, including—

20 (1) the anticipated effects on relevant product
21 prices and projections as a result of such revocation
22 or modification, including—

23 (A) the short- and long-term impacts on
24 domestic pricing;

25 (B) changes in consumer food prices;

1 (C) expected or anticipated shifts in input
2 costs for domestic producers; and

3 (D) regional or sector-specific variations in
4 pricing impacts; and

5 (2) the forecasted shifts in farm revenue and
6 profitability for domestic farmers, foresters, ranch-
7 ers, and other producers as a result of such revoca-
8 tion or modification, including—

9 (A) impacts on net farm income and debt-
10 to-asset ratios;

11 (B) sector-specific effects on crops, live-
12 stock, and specialty crops;

13 (C) effects on small, medium, and large
14 farm operations;

15 (D) impacts on agricultural exports, mar-
16 ket access, and global competitiveness; and

17 (E) estimated effects on rural employment
18 and economies.

19 (b) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

20 (1) APPROPRIATE CONGRESSIONAL COMMIT-
21 TEES.—The term “appropriate congressional com-
22 mittees” means—

23 (A) the Committee on Agriculture, the
24 Committee on Ways and Means, and the Com-

1 committee on Foreign Affairs of the House of Rep-
2 resentatives; and

3 (B) the Committee on Agriculture, Nutri-
4 tion, and Forestry, the Committee on Finance,
5 and the Committee on Foreign Relations of the
6 Senate.

7 (2) COVERED AGRICULTURAL COMMODITY.—
8 The term “covered agricultural commodity” has the
9 meaning given the term “agricultural commodity”
10 under section 102(1) of the Agricultural Trade Act
11 of 1978 (7 U.S.C. 5602(1)).

12 **SEC. 3402. SENSE OF CONGRESS AND REPORT ON ARGEN-**
13 **TINE BEEF IMPORTS.**

14 (a) SENSE OF CONGRESS.—It is the sense of Con-
15 gress as follows:

16 (1) Congress finds that United States ranchers
17 and cattle producers produce the healthiest and
18 highest quality beef on the planet.

19 (2) Any official trade agreement between the
20 United States and Argentina—including the United
21 States of America—Argentine Republic Agreement
22 on Reciprocal Trade and Investment—that allow Ar-
23 gentina to export ship fresh and frozen beef into the
24 United States market under expanded quotas is det-

1 rimental to domestic ranchers, cattle producers, and
2 cattle markets.

3 (3) Congress recognizes that many Americans
4 enjoy eating beef and recognizes that many Ameri-
5 cans want their beef raised domestically.

6 (4) Congress further concludes that any agree-
7 ment to allow increased beef from Argentina into
8 United States markets introduces unfair competition
9 into an already volatile market as this imported beef
10 could depress cattle prices at United States sale
11 barns and have a ripple effect throughout the do-
12 mestic economy affecting feed suppliers, equipment
13 dealers, veterinarians, and other rural businesses.

14 (5) Congress additionally concludes that United
15 States beef production is the safest in the world and
16 that inconsistent enforcement abroad could put
17 American consumers at risk and create an uneven
18 regulatory playing field.

19 (b) REPORT.—

20 (1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 180 days
21 after the date on which the United States signs any
22 formal trade agreement with Argentina that includes
23 a change to the tariff rate quotas or other duties on
24 fresh and frozen beef imported from Argentina the
25 Secretary of Agriculture and the United States

1 Trade Representative shall jointly submit to the ap-
2 propriate congressional committees a report on the
3 effect of such imported beef on domestic beef and
4 cattle markets, including—

5 (A) American consumer sentiment about
6 the quality of beef in the United States;

7 (B) impacts on domestic cattle prices;

8 (C) effects on domestic beef prices;

9 (D) changes to the domestic cattle herd
10 size; and

11 (E) rancher sentiments toward expanding
12 their herds.

13 (2) APPROPRIATE CONGRESSIONAL COMMIT-
14 TEES DEFINED.—In this section, the term “appro-
15 priate congressional committees” means—

16 (A) the Committee on Agriculture, the
17 Committee on Ways and Means, and the Com-
18 mittee on Foreign Affairs of the House of Rep-
19 resentatives; and

20 (B) the Committee on Agriculture, Nutri-
21 tion, and Forestry, the Committee on Finance,
22 and the Committee on Foreign Relations of the
23 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 “Effective through fiscal year 2023, neither” and insert-
7 ing “Neither”.

8 **SEC. 4103. SNAP STAFFING FLEXIBILITY.**

9 Section 11 of the Food and Nutrition Act of 2008
10 (7 U.S.C. 2020) is amended by adding at the end the fol-
11 lowing:

12 “(y) SNAP STAFFING FLEXIBILITY.—

13 “(1) IN GENERAL.—Notwithstanding section
14 11(e)(6)(B), a State agency (as defined in section 3
15 of the Food and Nutrition Act of 2008) may, by
16 contract with the State agency at a reasonable cost
17 in accordance with the State agency’s standard con-
18 tracting rules, hire a contractor to undertake supple-
19 mental nutrition assistance program certification or
20 carry out any other function of the State agency
21 under such program so long as—

22 “(A) the contract does not provide incen-
23 tives for the agency or contractor to delay eligi-
24 bility determinations or to deny eligibility for

1 individuals otherwise eligible for supplemental
2 nutrition assistance program benefits; and

3 “(B) the contractor has no direct or indi-
4 rect financial interest in an approved retail
5 store.

6 “(2) USE.—A State agency may use the au-
7 thority provided in paragraph (1) when—

8 “(A) the State experiences an inability to
9 timely process supplemental nutrition assistance
10 program applications from causes that include
11 but are not limited to—

12 “(i) pandemics and other health emer-
13 gencies;

14 “(ii) seasonal workforce cycles;

15 “(iii) temporary staffing shortages;

16 and

17 “(iv) weather or other natural disas-
18 ters;

19 “(B) the State’s payment error rate, as de-
20 fined in section 16, is greater than or equal to
21 6 percent based on the most recent available
22 Department of Agriculture data; or

23 “(C) the State experiences an increase in
24 supplemental nutrition assistance program ap-
25 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 plications 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 of 2008 is amended by inserting “, on two con-
21 secutive occasions within a 3-year-period,” after “does not
22 meet”.

23 **SEC. 4105. REPORT ON ALL IDENTIFIED PAYMENT ERRORS.**

24 Section 16(c) of the Food and Nutrition Act of 2008
25 (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 “(l) 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 2 years 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 (c) OPTION FOR PURCHASING THROUGH DoD
4 FRESH.—Section 214(c) of the Emergency Food Assist-
5 ance Act of 1983 (7 U.S.C. 7515(c)) is amended by add-
6 ing at the end the following:

7 “(3) OPTION FOR PURCHASING THROUGH DOD
8 FRESH.—At the request of a State agency, the Sec-
9 retary may allow the State agency to use not more
10 than 20 percent of the cost of the commodities allo-
11 cated to that State agency under this section to
12 order commodities through the Department of De-
13 fense Fresh Fruit and Vegetable Program.”.

14 **SEC. 4113. FOOD DISTRIBUTION PROGRAM ON INDIAN RES-**
15 **ERVATIONS.**

16 Section 4(b)(6)(E) of the Food and Nutrition Act of
17 2008 (7 U.S.C. 2013(b)(6)(E)) is amended by striking
18 “2023” and inserting “2031”.

19 **SEC. 4114. SNAP ELIGIBLE HOT ROTISSERIE CHICKEN.**

20 Section 3(k)(1) of the Food and Nutrition Act of
21 2008 (7 U.S.C. 2012(k)(1)) is amended—

22 (1) by inserting “hot rotisserie chicken and” be-
23 fore “those authorized”;

24 (2) by striking “clauses” and inserting “para-
25 graphs”; and

1 (3) by striking “of this subsection”.

2 **SEC. 4115. FOODS ELIGIBLE FOR PURCHASE WITH SNAP**
3 **BENEFITS.**

4 Not later than 120 days after the conclusion of the
5 all demonstration projects carried out by the Secretary of
6 Agriculture regarding the statutory definition of food eligi-
7 ble for purchase by recipients of supplemental nutrition
8 assistance program (SNAP) benefits, the Secretary shall
9 submit to the Committee on Agriculture of the House of
10 Representatives, and the Committee on Agriculture, Nu-
11 trition, and Forestry of the Senate, a report on the feasi-
12 bility, implementation, and effectiveness of such projects,
13 including recommendations to the Congress for legislative
14 changes to such definition.

15 **Subtitle B—Commodity**
16 **Distribution Programs**

17 **SEC. 4201. COMMODITY DISTRIBUTION PROGRAM.**

18 (a) EXPANSION OF THE SENIORS FARMERS’ MARKET
19 NUTRITION PROGRAM.—Section 4402 of the Farm Secu-
20 rity and Rural Investment Act of 2002 (7 U.S.C. 3007)
21 is amended—

22 (1) in subsection (a), by striking “2008 through
23 2023” and inserting “2027 through 2031”; and

1 (2) in subsection (b)(1), by striking “and
2 herbs” and inserting “herbs, maple syrup, and tree
3 nuts (including shelled tree nuts)”.

4 (b) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—The 1st
5 sentence of section 4(a) of the Agriculture and Consumer
6 Protection Act of 1973 (7 U.S.C. 612c note) is amended
7 by striking “2023” and inserting “2031”.

8 **SEC. 4202. COMMODITY SUPPLEMENTAL FOOD PROGRAM.**

9 Section 5 of the Agriculture and Consumer Protec-
10 tion Act of 1973 (7 U.S.C. 612c note; Public Law 93–
11 86) is amended—

12 (1) in subsection (a)—

13 (A) in paragraph (1) by striking “2023”
14 and inserting “2031”, and

15 (B) in paragraph (2)(B), in the matter
16 preceding clause (i), by striking “2023” and in-
17 serting “2031”,

18 (2) in subsection (d)(2), in the 1st sentence, by
19 striking “2023” and inserting “2031”; and

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

21 “(n) COMMODITY SUPPLEMENTAL FOOD PROGRAM
22 DELIVERY PILOT PROGRAM.—

23 “(1) PURPOSE.—The purpose of this subsection
24 is to award grants for the operation of projects that
25 increase the access of low-income elderly persons to

1 commodities through home delivery or other means
2 and to evaluate such projects.

3 “(2) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall award,
4 on a competitive basis, grants directly to State agen-
5 cies, or to State agencies on behalf of eligible enti-
6 ties, to carry out the activities described in para-
7 graph (5).

8 “(3) MAXIMUM GRANT AWARD.—A grant
9 awarded to a State agency under this subsection
10 shall not exceed—

11 “(A) the greater of—

12 “(i) the State’s commodity supple-
13 mental food program caseload at time of
14 application multiplied by 60; or

15 “(ii) \$10,000; or

16 “(B) \$4,000,000;

17 whichever is less.

18 “(4) APPLICATION.—A State agency seeking a
19 grant under this subsection shall submit to the Sec-
20 retary an application in such form, at such time,
21 and containing such information as the Secretary
22 may require.

23 “(5) GRANT USES.—A State agency awarded a
24 grant under this subsection shall distribute grant
25 funds to eligible entities to operate projects that fa-

1 facilitate delivery of commodities to participants in the
2 commodity supplemental food program, including
3 with respect to costs associated with—

4 “(A) transportation and distribution of
5 commodities to participants in the commodity
6 supplemental food program, including transpor-
7 tation and distribution services provided by a
8 third party;

9 “(B) staffing required to operate delivery
10 services; and

11 “(C) outreach to participants or potential
12 participants in the commodity supplemental
13 food program with respect to home delivery.

14 “(6) PRIORITY.—A State agency awarded a
15 grant under this subsection must prioritize eligible
16 entities that serve participants in the commodity
17 supplemental food program who reside in a rural
18 area.

19 “(7) REPORT TO THE SECRETARY.—Not later
20 than 180 days after the end of the fiscal year in
21 which a State agency is awarded a grant under this
22 subsection and has distributed grant funds to eligi-
23 ble entities, and in each succeeding fiscal year until
24 grant funds are expended, a State agency shall sub-
25 mit a report to the Secretary that includes—

“(A) a summary of the activities carried out under the project, including the quantity of commodities delivered, number of participants in the commodity supplemental food program served, and total number of deliveries;

“(B) an assessment of the effectiveness of the project, including a calculation of the average cost per delivery, and an evaluation of any services provided by a third party; and

“(C) best practices regarding use of home delivery to improve the effectiveness of the commodity supplemental food program.

“(8) DEFINITIONS.—In this subsection:

“(A) TERMS IN REGULATIONS.—The term ‘State agency’, ‘local agency’, and ‘subdistributing agency’ have the meanings given such terms in section 247.1 of title 7 of the Code of Federal Regulations (or any successor regulations).

“(B) ELIGIBLE ENTITY.—The term ‘eligible entity’ means—

“(i) a local agency; or

“(ii) a subdistributing agency.

“(C) RURAL AREA.—The term ‘rural area’ has the meaning given such term in section

1 343(a) of the Consolidated Farm and Rural
2 Development Act (7 U.S.C. 1991(a)).

3 “(9) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—
4 There is authorized to be appropriated to carry out
5 this subsection \$10,000,000 for each of fiscal years
6 2027 through 2031 to remain available until ex-
7 pended.”.

8 **SEC. 4203. DISTRIBUTION OF SURPLUS COMMODITIES TO**
9 **SPECIAL NUTRITION PROJECTS.**

10 Section 1114(a)(2)(A) of the Agriculture and Food
11 Act of 1981 (7 U.S.C. 1431e(2)(A)) is amended by strik-
12 ing “2023” and inserting “2031”.

13 **SEC. 4204. COMMODITY SUPPLEMENTAL FOOD PROGRAM**
14 **DEMONSTRATION PROJECT FOR TRIBAL OR-**
15 **GANIZATIONS.**

16 (a) DEMONSTRATION PROJECT FOR TRIBAL ORGANI-
17 ZATIONS.—

18 (1) DEFINITIONS.—In this subsection:

19 (A) DEMONSTRATION PROJECT.—The term
20 “demonstration project” means the demonstra-
21 tion project established under paragraph (2).

22 (B) FOOD DISTRIBUTION PROGRAM.—The
23 term “food distribution program” means the
24 commodity supplemental food program identi-
25 fied in section 4 of the Agriculture and Con-

sumer Protection Act of 1973 (7 U.S.C. 612c note; Public Law 93–86).

(C) INDIAN RESERVATION.—The term “Indian reservation” has the meaning given the term “reservation” in section 3 of the Food and Nutrition Act of 2008 (7 U.S.C. 2012).

(D) INDIAN TRIBE.—The term “Indian Tribe” has the meaning given the term in section 4 of the Indian Self-Determination and Education Assistance Act (25 U.S.C. 5304).

(E) SELF-DETERMINATION CONTRACT.—The term “self-determination contract” has the meaning given the term in section 4 of the Indian Self-Determination and Education Assistance Act (25 U.S.C. 5304) with modification as determined by the Secretary.

(F) TRIBAL ORGANIZATION.—The term “Tribal organization” has the meaning given the term in section 3 of the Food and Nutrition Act of 2008 (7 U.S.C. 2012).

(2) ESTABLISHMENT.—Subject to the availability of appropriations, the Secretary shall establish a demonstration project under which 1 or more Tribal organizations may enter into self-determination contracts to purchase agricultural commodities

1 under the food distribution program for the Indian
2 reservation of that Tribal organization.

3 (3) ELIGIBILITY.—

4 (A) CONSULTATION.—The Secretary shall
5 consult with Indian Tribes to determine the
6 process and criteria under which a Tribal orga-
7 nization may participate in the demonstration
8 project.

9 (B) CRITERIA.—The Secretary shall select
10 for participation in the demonstration project
11 Tribal organizations that—

12 (i) are successfully administering the
13 food distribution program of the Tribal or-
14 ganization under section 4(b)(2)(B) of the
15 Food and Nutrition Act of 2008 (7 U.S.C.
16 2013(b)(2)(B));

17 (ii) have the capacity to purchase ag-
18 ricultural commodities in accordance with
19 paragraph (4) for the food distribution
20 program of the Tribal organization; and

21 (iii) meet any other criteria deter-
22 mined by the Secretary, in consultation
23 with the Secretary of the Interior and In-
24 dian Tribes.

1 (4) PROCUREMENT OF AGRICULTURAL COM-
2 MODITIES.—Any agricultural commodities purchased
3 by a Tribal organization under the demonstration
4 project shall—

5 (A) be domestically produced;

6 (B) not result in a material increase in the
7 amount of food in the food package of that
8 Tribal organization compared to the amount of
9 food that the Secretary authorized to be pro-
10 vided through the Commodity Supplemental
11 Food Program Guide Rate;

12 (C) be of similar or higher nutritional
13 value as the type of agricultural commodities
14 that would be supplanted in the existing food
15 package for that Tribal organization or be an
16 agricultural commodity with Tribal significance
17 to that Indian Tribe; and

18 (D) meet any other criteria determined by
19 the Secretary.

20 (5) REPORT.—Not later than 1 year after the
21 date on which funds are appropriated under para-
22 graph (6) and annually thereafter, the Secretary
23 shall submit to the Committee on Agriculture of the
24 House of Representatives and the Committee on Ag-
25 riculture, Nutrition, and Forestry of the Senate a

1 report describing the activities carried out under the
2 demonstration project during the preceding year.

3 (6) FUNDING.—

4 (A) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIA-
5 TIONS.—There is authorized to be appropriated
6 to carry out this subsection \$1,000,000, to re-
7 main available until expended.

8 (B) APPROPRIATIONS IN ADVANCE.—Only
9 funds appropriated under subparagraph (A) in
10 advance specifically to carry out this subsection
11 shall be available to carry out this subsection.

12 (b) ADMINISTRATION OF TRIBAL SELF-DETERMINA-
13 TION CONTRACTS.—

14 (1) ADMINISTRATION.—The Secretary shall ap-
15 point an existing office of the United States Depart-
16 ment of Agriculture to administer Tribal self-deter-
17 mination contracts to include but not limited to:

18 (A) awarding of Food and Nutrition Serv-
19 ice nutrition program self-determination con-
20 tracts to selected Tribal organizations; and

21 (B) hiring contract officers and program
22 staff in order to manage the selection of Tribal
23 organizations and execution of self-determina-
24 tion contracts.

1 (2) STAFFING MINIMUM FUNDING.—Notwith-
 2 standing any other provision of law, there is author-
 3 ized to be appropriated \$1,200,000 for each of fiscal
 4 years 2027 through 2031 for the payment of De-
 5 partment contract officers and program staff sala-
 6 ries and benefits.

7 **Subtitle C—Miscellaneous**

8 **SEC. 4301. PURCHASE OF FRESH FRUITS AND VEGETABLES** 9 **FOR DISTRIBUTION TO SCHOOLS AND SERV-** 10 **ICE INSTITUTIONS.**

11 Section 10603(b) of the Farm Security and Rural In-
 12 vestment Act of 2002 (7 U.S.C. 612c–4(b)) is amended
 13 by striking “2023” and inserting “2031”.

14 **SEC. 4302. BUY AMERICAN REQUIREMENTS FOR CERTAIN** 15 **SCHOOL MEALS.**

16 (a) IN GENERAL.—Section 12(n)(2)(A) of the Rich-
 17 ard B. Russell National School Lunch Act (42 U.S.C.
 18 1760(n)(2)(A)) is amended to read as follows:

19 “(A) REQUIREMENTS.—

20 “(i) PURCHASE EXPENDITURES BY
 21 CATEGORY.—Subject to clause (ii) and
 22 subparagraph (B), the Secretary shall re-
 23 quire that a school food authority pur-
 24 chase, with respect to each food purchase
 25 category designated by the Agricultural

1 Marketing Service, at least 95 percent do-
2 mestic products and commodities in each
3 such category.

4 “(ii) DOMESTICALLY UNAVAILABLE
5 PRODUCTS AND COMMODITIES.—Domesti-
6 cally unavailable products and commodities
7 included on a list issued pursuant to clause
8 (iii) with respect to a school year and pur-
9 chased by a school food authority during
10 such school year shall not be used to cal-
11 culate whether such school food authority
12 meets the requirements under clause (i).

13 “(iii) UPDATED LIST.—Not later than
14 6 months after the date of the enactment
15 of this subparagraph, and every 2 years
16 thereafter, the Secretary shall make avail-
17 able to school food authorities a list of do-
18 mestically unavailable products and com-
19 modities.

20 “(iv) LIMITED WAIVER AUTHORITY.—
21 Except with respect to a domestically un-
22 available product or commodity included on
23 a list pursuant to clause (iii), the Secretary
24 may not waive or make accommodations

1 for any of the requirements of this sub-
2 paragraph.

3 “(v) PROHIBITION ON CERTAIN PROD-
4 UCTS FROM CHINA OR RUSSIA.—The Sec-
5 retary shall prohibit school food authorities
6 from purchasing raw or processed poultry
7 products or seafood imported into the
8 United States from the People’s Republic
9 of China or the Russian Federation.”.

10 (b) APPLICATION.—The amendments made by sub-
11 section (a) shall apply to school food authorities beginning
12 on the first day of the first school year that begins after
13 the date of the enactment of this Act.

14 **SEC. 4303. REAUTHORIZATION OF THE GUS SCHUMACHER**
15 **NUTRITION INCENTIVE PROGRAM.**

16 Section 4405 of the Food, Conservation, and Energy
17 Act of 2008 (7 U.S.C. 7517) is amended—

18 (1) in subsection (b)—

19 (A) in paragraph (1), by amending sub-
20 paragraph (C) to read as follows:

21 “(C) FEDERAL SHARE.—

22 “(i) IN GENERAL.—Except as pro-
23 vided in clause (ii) and subparagraph
24 (D)(iii), the Federal share of the cost of
25 carrying out an activity under this sub-

1 section shall not exceed 50 percent of the
2 total cost of the activity.

3 “(ii) WAIVER FOR PERSISTENT POV-
4 ERTY AREAS.—The Secretary may waive
5 the application of clause (i) in the case of
6 an activity carried out—

7 “(I) in a county that, during the
8 preceding 30-year period has had a
9 population of which greater than or
10 equal to 20 percent of such population
11 are living in poverty (as measured by
12 the most recent decennial censuses
13 and most recent Small Area Income
14 and Poverty Estimates of the Bureau
15 of the Census); or

16 “(II) in a census tract with a
17 poverty rate of at least 20 percent
18 during the preceding 30-year period,
19 as measured by the most recent 5-
20 year data series available from the
21 American Community Survey of the
22 Bureau of the Census.”; and

23 (B) in paragraph (2)(B)—

24 (i) by redesignating clauses (ix) and
25 (x) as clauses (x) and (xi); and

1 (ii) by inserting after clause (viii) the
2 following:

3 “(ix) increase year-round availability
4 of incentives by offering all forms of fruits
5 or vegetables;”;

6 (2) in subsection (c), by striking “fresh fruits
7 and vegetables” and inserting “all forms of fruits,
8 vegetables, and legumes” each place it appears; and

9 (3) in subsection (f)—

10 (A) in paragraph (1), by striking “2023”
11 and inserting “2031”; and

12 (B) in paragraph (3), by striking “2023”
13 each place it appears and inserting “2031”.

14 **SEC. 4304. FOOD LOSS AND WASTE REDUCTION LIAISON AN-**
15 **NUAL REPORT.**

16 Section 224(e)(2) of the Department of Agriculture
17 Reorganization Act of 1994 (7 U.S.C. 6924(e)(2)) is
18 amended—

19 (1) in the heading, by inserting “ANNUAL” be-
20 fore “REPORT”;

21 (2) in the matter preceding subparagraph (A),
22 by inserting “and annually thereafter,” before “the
23 Secretary shall”;

24 (3) in subparagraph (A), by striking “and” at
25 the end;

1 (4) in subparagraph (B), by striking the period
2 at the end and inserting a semicolon; and

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

4 “(C) a general description of each project
5 and activity implemented pursuant to this sec-
6 tion;

7 “(D) a summary of the cooperative agree-
8 ments entered into pursuant to subsection (c);

9 “(E) a detailed account of how the Sec-
10 retary avoided, managed, or will manage mar-
11 ket disruption; and

12 “(F) a summary of coordinated activities
13 with the Administrator of the Environmental
14 Protection Agency and the Commissioner of the
15 Food and Drug Administration, including inter-
16 agency communication and coordination related
17 to the promotion or exclusion of practices and
18 technologies to limit food waste.”.

19 **SEC. 4305. DAIRY NUTRITION INCENTIVES PROJECTS.**

20 Section 4208 of the Agriculture Improvement Act of
21 2018 (7 U.S.C. 2026a) is amended—

22 (1) in the section heading, by striking
23 “**HEALTHY FLUID MILK**” and inserting “**DAIRY**
24 **NUTRITION**” (and by conforming the item of such
25 section in the table of contents accordingly);

1 (2) by striking “healthy fluid milk” and insert-
2 ing “dairy nutrition” each place it appears;

3 (3) by amending subsection (a) to read as fol-
4 lows:

5 “(a) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

6 “(1) COVERED DAIRY PRODUCTS.—The term
7 ‘covered dairy products’ means—

8 “(A) cheese (including nonstandardized
9 cheese) that is—

10 “(i) made from pasteurized cow’s
11 milk;

12 “(ii) a good source of protein, as de-
13 termined by the Secretary; and

14 “(iii) sold as a block, chunk, shred,
15 slice, stick, string or in snack-size form;
16 and

17 “(B) yogurt (or other cultured dairy prod-
18 uct) that—

19 “(i) is made from pasteurized cow’s
20 milk;

21 “(ii) is a good source of protein, as
22 determined by the Secretary; and

23 “(iii) contains limited amounts of
24 added sugars.

1 “(2) FLUID MILK.—The term ‘fluid milk’
2 means all varieties of pasteurized cow’s milk that—

3 “(A) is packaged in liquid form; and

4 “(B) contains vitamins A and D at levels
5 consistent with the Food and Drug Administra-
6 tion, State, and local standards for fluid milk.”;

7 (4) in subsection (b), by inserting “and covered
8 dairy products” after “of fluid milk” each place it
9 appears;

10 (5) in subsection (c)(3), by inserting “and cov-
11 ered dairy products” after “purchase of fluid milk”;
12 and

13 (6) in subsection (e)(1), by striking
14 “\$20,000,000” and inserting “\$50,000,000”.

15 **SEC. 4306. LOCAL FARMERS FEEDING OUR COMMUNITIES**
16 **PROGRAM.**

17 (a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary of Agriculture shall
18 establish a program under which the Secretary will enter
19 into cooperative agreements (on a noncompetitive basis)
20 with eligible entities—

21 (1) to help support covered local producers
22 through building and expanding economic opportuni-
23 ties;

24 (2) to establish and broaden partnerships with
25 such covered local producers and the food distribu-

1 tion community to ensure distribution of fresh (in-
2 cluding fresh frozen) and nutritious foods; and

3 (3) to strengthen such entity's local and re-
4 gional food security and systems.

5 (b) USE OF FUNDS.—An eligible entity selected to
6 enter into a cooperative agreement under this section shall
7 use funds received through such agreement—

8 (1) to purchase unprocessed or minimally proc-
9 essed local foods (including seafood, meat, milk and
10 dairy products, eggs, produce, and poultry) from
11 covered producers;

12 (2) to ensure that at least 25 percent of the
13 total annual value of products purchased by the eli-
14 gible entity comprises purchases from small-size pro-
15 ducers, mid-size producers, beginning farmers or
16 ranchers, or veteran farmers or ranchers;

17 (3) to provide technical assistance supporting—

18 (A) covered local producers, including in
19 obtaining food safety training and certifications;
20 and

21 (B) efforts to grow the local agricultural
22 value chain;

23 (4) to distribute such local foods to organiza-
24 tions, including nonprofit organizations, that have

1 experience in food distribution to improve access to
2 healthy and nutritious food; and

3 (5) to build and expand economic opportunity
4 for covered local producers.

5 (c) LIMITATION ON USE OF FUNDS.—

6 (1) IN GENERAL.—Of the amount made avail-
7 able to an eligible entity through a cooperative
8 agreement under this section, an eligible entity may
9 use not more than 15 percent of such amount—

10 (A) to cover administrative expenses; and

11 (B) to provide technical assistance de-
12 scribed in subsection (b)(3);

13 (2) ALLOCATION FOR TECHNICAL ASSIST-
14 ANCE.—Of the amount described in paragraph (1),
15 an eligible entity shall use not less than 50 percent
16 to provide technical assistance described in sub-
17 section (b)(3).

18 (d) TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE TO ELIGIBLE ENTI-
19 TIES.—The Secretary shall provide to eligible entities en-
20 tering into a cooperative agreement under this section
21 guidance, technical assistance, instruction, and monitoring
22 throughout the life cycle of the cooperative agreement.

23 (e) AMOUNT OF ALLOCATION.—Of the amounts
24 made available to carry out this section for each fiscal
25 year, the Secretary shall—

1 (1) allocate 10 percent to Tribal Governments,
2 to be allocated using a funding formula determined
3 by the Secretary; and

4 (2) of the amounts remaining after making the
5 allocation under paragraph (1), allocate 1 percent to
6 each State (other than Tribal Governments); and

7 (3) after making the allocations under para-
8 graphs (1) and (2), allocate the remaining amounts
9 to each eligible entity (other than Tribal Govern-
10 ments) by applying the formula described in section
11 214 of the Emergency Food Assistance Act of 1983
12 (7 U.S.C. 7515).

13 (f) FUNDING.—There is authorized to be appro-
14 priated to carry out this section \$200,000,000 for each
15 of fiscal years 2027 through 2031.

16 (g) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

17 (1) BEGINNING FARMER OR RANCHER; VET-
18 ERAN FARMER OR RANCHER.—The terms “beginning
19 farmer or rancher” and “veteran farmer or rancher”
20 have the meanings given such terms in section 2501
21 of the Food, Agriculture, Conservation, and Trade
22 Act of 1990 (7 U.S.C. 2279).

23 (2) COVERED PRODUCER.—The term “covered
24 producer” means a fisherman, farmer, producer,

1 rancher, processor, or cooperative processor that
2 is—

3 (A) within the geographic boundaries of
4 the eligible entity in which the food will be de-
5 livered; or

6 (B) not more than 400 miles from the de-
7 livery destination of the food.

8 (3) ELIGIBLE ENTITY.—The term “eligible enti-
9 ty” means a State agency, commission, or depart-
10 ment that is responsible for agriculture, procure-
11 ment, food distribution, emergency response, or
12 other similar activities within the State.

13 (4) MID-SIZE PRODUCER.—The term “mid-
14 sized producer” means an individual whose annual
15 gross cash farm income is equal to or exceeds
16 \$350,000 and is less than \$999,999.

17 (5) SMALL-SIZE PRODUCER.—The term “small-
18 sized producer” means one whose annual gross cash
19 farm income is less than \$350,000.

20 (6) STATE.—The term “State” means each of
21 the several States, the District of Columbia, each
22 territory or possession of the United States, and
23 each federally recognized Indian Tribe.

24 (7) UNPROCESSED OR MINIMALLY PROCESSED
25 LOCAL FOODS.—The term “unprocessed or mini-

1 mally processed local foods” means food products
2 means only those agricultural products that retain
3 their inherent character. Such term includes—

4 (A) fruits and vegetables (including 100
5 percent juices);

6 (B) grain products, such as pastas and
7 rice;

8 (C) meats (including whole carcasses,
9 pieces thereof, or ground meat);

10 (D) protein sources that are meat alter-
11 natives (such as beans or legumes) and fluid
12 milk and other dairy foods (such as cheese and
13 yogurt); and

14 (E) foods in a wide variety of minimal
15 processing states (such as whole, cut, or pu-
16 reed) or forms (such as fresh, frozen, canned,
17 or dried).

18 **SEC. 4307. HEALTHY FOOD FINANCING INITIATIVE.**

19 Section 243(d) of the Department of Agriculture Re-
20 organization Act of 1994 (7 U.S.C. 6953(d)) is amended
21 by striking “\$125,000,000” and inserting
22 “\$135,000,000”.

1 **SEC. 4308. DIETARY GUIDELINES.**

2 (a) IN GENERAL.—Section 301(a) of the National
3 Nutrition Monitoring and Related Research Act of 1990
4 (7 U.S.C. 5341(a)) is amended—

5 (1) in paragraph (1)—

6 (A) by striking “At least every five years”
7 and inserting “Beginning with the 2030 report
8 and at least every 10 years thereafter,”; and

9 (B) by adding at the end the following:
10 “Rulemaking requirements under section 553 of
11 title 5, United States Code, shall apply to the
12 development of each report under this para-
13 graph.”;

14 (2) in paragraph (2), by striking “shall be
15 based on the preponderance of the scientific and
16 medical knowledge which is current at the time the
17 report is prepared.” and inserting “shall—

18 “(A) be based on significant scientific
19 agreement that is determined by evidence-based
20 review (as defined in paragraph (8)(A));

21 “(B) be current at the time the report is
22 prepared;

23 “(C) be derived from questions generated
24 under paragraph (5)(E);

25 “(D) address high-priority areas of concern
26 to advance health outcomes;

“(E) be designed to achieve nutritional adequacy and promote health, as specified by the Food and Nutrition Board of the National Academies of Sciences, Engineering and Medicine, from the consumption of food, including nutrients and bioactive food components occurring naturally and in fortified foods;

“(F) include nutritional and dietary information relevant to individuals with nutrition-related common chronic diseases, as defined by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention; and

“(G) include recommendations that are affordable, available, and accessible for the general population.”;

(3) by redesignating paragraph (3) as paragraph (7);

(4) by inserting after paragraph (2) the following:

“(3) FREQUENCY.—The Secretaries may publish the report required under paragraph (1) more frequently than required under that paragraph if the Secretaries determine that more frequent publication is necessary to promote health, based on the updated dietary reference intake values specified by—

1 “(A) the Food and Nutrition Board of the
2 National Academies of Sciences, Engineering
3 and Medicine; and

4 “(B) other relevant scientific advancements
5 based on continuous monitoring of the totality
6 of publicly available scientific evidence.

7 “(4) NOTIFICATION OF UPDATE.—

8 “(A) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 90
9 days before the Secretaries plan to update a re-
10 port under paragraph (1), the Secretaries shall
11 submit notification of that plan, in writing, to
12 the Committees on Agriculture, Nutrition, and
13 Forestry and Health, Education, Labor, and
14 Pensions of the Senate and the Committees on
15 Agriculture and Energy and Commerce of the
16 House of Representatives.

17 “(B) JUSTIFICATION.—The notification
18 under subparagraph (A) shall include a jus-
19 tification for updating the report.

20 “(5) INDEPENDENT ADVISORY BOARD.—

21 “(A) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 90
22 days after the Secretaries submit a notification
23 under paragraph (4)(A), the Secretaries shall
24 establish an Independent Advisory Board (re-
25 ferred to in this paragraph as the ‘Board’).

1 “(B) MEMBERS.—The Board shall be com-
2 prised of at least 4 members and not more than
3 8 members, of which—

4 “(i) 4 shall be appointed by the Secre-
5 taries, 2 of whom shall not be Federal em-
6 ployees; and

7 “(ii) 1 may be appointed by each of
8 the highest ranking Member of Congress
9 on each Committee described in paragraph
10 (4)(A) of the opposite political party of the
11 President of the United States at the time
12 of the appointment.

13 “(C) EXPERTISE.—Each member ap-
14 pointed to the Board shall have expertise in nu-
15 trition science or food science, including aca-
16 demic and applied experience.

17 “(D) MEETINGS.—

18 “(i) IN GENERAL.—The first meeting
19 of the Board—

20 “(I) may only take place on or
21 after the date that 4 members are ap-
22 pointed to the Board under subpara-
23 graph (B); and

24 “(II) shall take place on or after
25 the date that is 90 days after the Sec-

1 retaries submit a notification under
2 paragraph (4)(A).

3 “(ii) QUORUM.—A majority of the
4 members shall constitute a quorum for the
5 transaction of the business of the Board.

6 “(E) DUTIES.—Not later than 1 year after
7 the establishment of the Board, the Board shall
8 submit to the Secretaries and the Committees
9 described in paragraph (4)(A) a list of scientific
10 questions relating to the report for purposes of
11 paragraph (2)(C).

12 “(F) TERMINATION.—The authority of the
13 Board shall terminate, and the Board shall dis-
14 band, immediately after carrying out subpara-
15 graph (E).

16 “(6) EXCLUSION.—The information and guide-
17 lines contained in each report required under para-
18 graph (1) shall not be based on or include topics
19 that are not relevant to dietary guidance, as deter-
20 mined by the Secretaries, in consultation with the
21 Independent Advisory Board established under para-
22 graph (5), including taxation, social welfare policies,
23 purchases under Federal feeding programs, food and
24 agricultural production practices, food labeling, so-

1 socioeconomic status, race, religion, ethnicity, culture,
2 or regulations relating to nutrition.”; and

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

4 “(8) EVIDENCE-BASED REVIEW.—

5 “(A) DEFINITION.—In this paragraph, the
6 term ‘evidence-based review’ means a process
7 under which—

8 “(i) the totality of the scientific evi-
9 dence relevant to a question of interest is
10 collected, analyzed, and evaluated;

11 “(ii) scientific studies, conclusions,
12 and recommendations are rated, adhering
13 strictly to standardized, generally accepted
14 evidence-based review methods; and

15 “(iii) external peer review is con-
16 ducted by nongovernment experts with rec-
17 ognized expertise in quality of evidence
18 evaluation.

19 “(B) STRENGTH OF EVIDENCE.—Each
20 guideline contained in a report published under
21 paragraph (1) shall be assigned a rating by the
22 Secretaries for the strength of evidence used,
23 including to the extent by which the guideline
24 will improve the Healthy Eating Index.

25 “(9) TRANSPARENCY.—

1 “(A) DISCLOSURE.—Any individual ap-
2 pointed to the Dietary Guidelines Advisory
3 Committee or an Independent Advisory Board
4 established under paragraph (5) shall—

5 “(i) be appointed as a special govern-
6 ment employee;

7 “(ii) comply with financial disclosure
8 requirements applicable to such a special
9 government employee under subpart I of
10 part 2634 of title 5, Code of Federal Regu-
11 lations (or successor regulations), including
12 the requirement to file the Office of Gov-
13 ernment Ethics Form 450 (or successor
14 Form); and

15 “(iii) prior to such an appointment,
16 provide a report to the Secretaries regard-
17 ing, for the 10-year period preceding such
18 report, any research funding or profes-
19 sional affiliation relating to a report under
20 paragraph (1).

21 “(B) PUBLICATION.—Notwithstanding any
22 other provision of law, not later than 30 days
23 after the date on which a Dietary Guidelines
24 Advisory Committee or an Independent Advi-

1 sory Board is established, the Secretaries shall
2 make publicly available—

3 “(i) a summary of the financial disclo-
4 sures reported by members of such Com-
5 mittee or Board;

6 “(ii) the research funding and profes-
7 sional affiliations reported by such mem-
8 bers under subparagraph (A)(iii), cat-
9 egorized by the name of the individual; and

10 “(iii) a detailed plan for managing
11 any disclosed conflicts of interest, includ-
12 ing financial or ethical conflicts of interest,
13 preferences, values, and beliefs.”.

14 (b) CONTROLLING REPORT.—The 2025 Dietary
15 Guidelines for Americans published by the Secretaries
16 under subsection (a)(1) of section 301 of the National Nu-
17 trition Monitoring and Related Research Act of 1990 (7
18 U.S.C. 5341(a)(1)) shall be controlling and considered to
19 be the most recent Dietary Guidelines for Americans until
20 the publication of the first report under such subsection
21 in accordance with the amendments made to such section
22 by this Act.

1 **SEC. 4309. FRESH FRUITS AND VEGETABLES CATEGORIZA-**
2 **TION.**

3 (a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary of Agriculture, in
4 coordination with the Secretary of Health and Human
5 Services, shall develop a low-risk classification for fresh
6 fruits, vegetables, and other foods that are typically con-
7 sumed raw or with minimal processing, and update rel-
8 evant nutrition and food safety and preparation regula-
9 tions and guidelines for child care providers in accordance
10 with the classification under this section.

11 (b) CLASSIFICATION.—In developing the classifica-
12 tion under this section, the Secretaries shall consider—

13 (1) the limited risks of food-born illness and
14 negative health impacts associated with handling
15 and preparing fresh fruits, vegetables, and other
16 foods that are typically consumed raw or with mini-
17 mal processing;

18 (2) best practices to minimize food safety risks
19 without obstructing access to low-risk foods as de-
20 fined under the classification under this section, in-
21 cluding but not limited to access to a handwashing
22 sink; and

23 (3) existing barriers that privilege packaged,
24 processed foods over fresh fruits, vegetables, and
25 other foods that are typically consumed raw or with
26 minimal processing.

1 (c) IMPLEMENTATION.—The Secretaries shall ensure
2 the effective coordination of policies and activities within
3 the Department of Agriculture and the Department of
4 Health and Human Services related to nutrition and food
5 safety and preparation in child care facilities to ensure
6 State regulations that impact such activities reflect the
7 classification under this section and protect child care pro-
8 viders from any penalties as a result of providing children
9 foods in compliance with this section.

10 (d) COMPLIANCE.—States that fail to comply with
11 the policies and activities described in subsection (c) may
12 have funds withheld.

13 **SEC. 4310. PROMOTING ACCESS TO LOCAL AGRICULTURE.**

14 (a) STREAMLINING APPLICATIONS FOR FARMERS.—

15 (1) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

16 (A) COVERED NUTRITION PROGRAM.—The
17 term “covered nutrition program” means—

18 (i) the supplemental nutrition assist-
19 ance program established under the Food
20 and Nutrition Act of 2008 (7 U.S.C. 2011
21 et seq.);

22 (ii) the senior farmers’ market nutri-
23 tion program established under section
24 4402 of the Farm Security and Rural In-
25 vestment Act of 2002 (7 U.S.C. 3007);

1 (iii) the special supplemental nutrition
2 program for women, infants, and children
3 established by section 17 of the Child Nu-
4 trition Act of 1966 (42 U.S.C. 1786), in-
5 cluding the farmers' market nutrition pro-
6 gram under that program; and

7 (iv) the Gus Schumacher Nutrition
8 Incentive Program established under sec-
9 tion 4405 of the Food, Conservation, and
10 Energy Act of 2008 (7 U.S.C. 7517), as
11 practicable with respect to the activities
12 carried out by the Secretary under para-
13 graphs (2) and (3).

14 (B) SECRETARY.—The term “Secretary”
15 means the Secretary of Agriculture.

16 (2) STREAMLINED APPLICATION PROCESS.—

17 (A) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall es-
18 tablish a streamlined application process—

19 (i) for direct marketing farmers and
20 ranchers to apply to be vendors under each
21 of the covered nutrition programs; and

22 (ii) by—

23 (I) developing a single application
24 that a direct marketing farmer or

1 rancher may use to apply to each of
2 the covered nutrition programs; or

3 (II) developing an information
4 sharing system that—

5 (aa) shares the information
6 of a direct marketing farmer or
7 rancher who is approved as an
8 authorized vendor under a cov-
9 ered nutrition program with each
10 of the other covered nutrition
11 programs; and

12 (bb) deems that direct mar-
13 keting farmer or rancher as a
14 prequalified eligible vendor for
15 those other covered nutrition pro-
16 grams.

17 (B) REPORT.—Not later than 1 year after
18 the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary
19 shall submit to the Committee on Agriculture,
20 Nutrition, and Forestry of the Senate and the
21 Committee on Agriculture of the House of Rep-
22 resentatives a report describing progress made
23 in carrying out subparagraph (A).

24 (3) STREAMLINED PROCESSING OF BENE-
25 FITS.—The Secretary shall establish a streamlined

1 process for direct marketing farmers and ranchers
2 that are vendors under any of the covered nutrition
3 programs to process benefits under those programs
4 through the use of standardized technology, such as
5 a single piece of equipment or a mobile application.

6 (b) SUPPORT FOR WIRELESS AND MOBILE EQUIP-
7 MENT FOR CERTAIN ENTITIES.—Section 7(f)(2) of the
8 Food and Nutrition Act of 2008 (7 U.S.C. 2016(f)(2))
9 is amended—

10 (1) by redesignating subparagraph (C) as sub-
11 paragraph (D); and

12 (2) by inserting after subparagraph (B) the fol-
13 lowing:

14 “(C) REQUIREMENT.—The Secretary shall
15 ensure that equipment or systems made avail-
16 able to entities described in clauses (i) and (ii)
17 of subparagraph (B) by a State agency or an
18 implementing partner of a State agency is ap-
19 propriate for the entity, including, with respect
20 to farmers markets and other direct-to-con-
21 sumer markets, wireless or mobile processing
22 equipment and technology systems.”.

1 **TITLE V—CREDIT**
2 **Subtitle A—Farm Ownership Loans**

3 **SEC. 5101. PERSONS ELIGIBLE FOR REAL ESTATE LOANS.**

4 Section 302(a) of the Consolidated Farm and Rural
5 Development Act (7 U.S.C. 1922(a)) is amended—

6 (1) in the 2nd sentence of paragraph (1), by
7 striking “a majority” each place it appears and in-
8 serting “at least a 50 percent”;

9 (2) in paragraph (2), by striking subparagraphs
10 (A) and (B) and inserting the following:

11 “(A) ELIGIBILITY OF QUALIFIED OPERA-
12 TORS.—Qualified operators, as defined by the
13 Secretary, shall be considered to meet the oper-
14 ator requirement of paragraph (1).

15 “(B) ELIGIBILITY OF CERTAIN OPER-
16 ATING-ONLY ENTITIES.—An applicant that is or
17 will become only the operator of farm real es-
18 tate acquired, improved, or supported with
19 funds under this subtitle shall be considered to
20 meet the owner-operator requirements of para-
21 graph (1) if 1 or more of the individuals who
22 is an owner of the farm real estate owns at
23 least 50 percent (or such other percentage as
24 the Secretary determines is appropriate) of the
25 applicant.

1 “(C) ELIGIBILITY OF CERTAIN EMBEDDED
 2 ENTITIES.—An entity that is an owner-operator
 3 described in paragraph (1), or an operator de-
 4 scribed in subparagraph (B) of this paragraph
 5 that is owned, in whole or in part, by 1 or more
 6 other entities, shall be considered to meet the
 7 direct ownership requirement imposed under
 8 paragraph (1) if at least 75 percent of the total
 9 ownership interests of the embedded entity, or
 10 of the other entities, is owned, directly or indi-
 11 rectly, by qualified operators of the farm ac-
 12 quired, improved, or supported with funds
 13 under this subtitle.”.

14 **SEC. 5102. EXPERIENCE REQUIREMENTS.**

15 Section 302(b) of the Consolidated Farm and Rural
 16 Development Act (7 U.S.C. 1922(b)) is amended—

17 (1) in paragraph (1), in the matter preceding
 18 subparagraph (A), by striking “3 years” and insert-
 19 ing “2 years”; and

20 (2) in paragraph (4)—

21 (A) in subparagraph (A)—

22 (i) in the matter preceding clause

23 (i)—

24 (I) by striking “3-year” and in-
 25 serting “2-year”; and

1 (II) by striking “1 or 2 years”
 2 and inserting “1 year”;
 3 (ii) in clause (iii), by inserting “or
 4 operational” before “responsibilities”;
 5 (iii) in clause (vii), by striking “or”;
 6 and
 7 (iv) by adding at the end the fol-
 8 lowing:
 9 “(ix) met any other criteria estab-
 10 lished by the Secretary; or”; and
 11 (B) in subparagraph (B), by striking “3-
 12 year” and inserting “2-year”.

13 **SEC. 5103. REFINANCING OF INDEBTEDNESS INTO DIRECT**
 14 **LOANS.**

15 Section 303 of the Consolidated Farm and Rural De-
 16 velopment Act (7 U.S.C. 1923) is amended by adding at
 17 the end the following:

18 “(d) REFINANCING OF GUARANTEED LOANS INTO
 19 DIRECT LOANS.—Within 1 year after the date of the en-
 20 actment of this subsection, the Secretary, acting through
 21 the Administrator of the Farm Service Agency (referred
 22 to in this section as the ‘Secretary’), shall promulgate reg-
 23 ulations allowing certain loans guaranteed by the Farm
 24 Service Agency to be refinanced into direct loans issued

1 by the Farm Service Agency, in accordance with this sub-
2 section.

3 “(1) REQUIREMENTS.—

4 “(A) IN GENERAL.—A guaranteed loan
5 may be refinanced into a direct loan pursuant
6 to this subsection only if the Secretary deter-
7 mines that—

8 “(i) the guaranteed loan is distressed
9 due to its status as a nonperforming loan
10 that does not have a positive cash flow at
11 rates and terms available from the lender;

12 “(ii) the borrower on the guaranteed
13 loan is in monetary default and subject to
14 liquidation or foreclosure action;

15 “(iii) a reasonable chance for the suc-
16 cess of the operation financed by the guar-
17 anteed loan exists; and

18 “(iv) all other criteria established by
19 the Secretary for purposes of this sub-
20 section to protect taxpayer funds and the
21 loan programs of the Farm Service Agency
22 have been satisfied.

23 “(B) REASONABLE CHANCE OF SUC-
24 CESS.—For purposes of subparagraph (A)(iii),
25 the Secretary may determine that a reasonable

1 chance for the success of an operation exists if
2 the Secretary determines that—

3 “(i) all relevant problems with the op-
4 eration financed by the guaranteed loan—

5 “(I) have been identified; and

6 “(II) can be corrected; and

7 “(ii) on correction of the problems,
8 the operation can achieve, or be returned
9 to, a sound financial basis.

10 “(2) LOAN PROGRAMS.—In making direct loans
11 pursuant to the regulations promulgated under this
12 subsection, the Secretary may refinance a loan guar-
13 anteed under 1 program of the Farm Service Agency
14 into a direct loan issued under another program of
15 the Farm Service Agency, as the Secretary deter-
16 mines to be appropriate and in accordance with the
17 laws applicable to the program under which the di-
18 rect loan is issued.

19 “(3) REFINANCED GUARANTEED LOANS.—A di-
20 rect loan issued by the Farm Service Agency pursu-
21 ant to the regulations promulgated under subsection
22 (a) of this section shall be subject to any otherwise
23 applicable limitation on the maximum amount of a
24 direct loan issued by the Farm Service Agency, in-

1 including, if applicable, the limitations described in
2 sections 305 and 313.”.

3 **SEC. 5104. CONSERVATION LOAN AND LOAN GUARANTEE**
4 **PROGRAM.**

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

7 (1) in subsection (d)—

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

10 (B) in paragraph (3), by striking “1985.”
11 and inserting “1985 (16 U.S.C. 3812); and”;
12 and

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

14 “(4) producers who use the loans to adopt pre-
15 cision agriculture practices or acquire precision agri-
16 culture technologies, including adoption or acquisi-
17 tion for the purpose of participating in the environ-
18 mental quality incentives program under subchapter
19 A of chapter 4 of subtitle D of title XII of the Food
20 Security Act of 1985 (16 U.S.C. 3839aa et seq.).”;
21 and

22 (2) in subsection (h), by striking “2023” and
23 inserting “2031”.

1 **SEC. 5105. LIMITATIONS ON AMOUNT OF FARM OWNERSHIP**
2 **LOANS.**

3 Section 305(a)(2) of the Consolidated Farm and
4 Rural Development Act (7 U.S.C. 1925(a)(2)) is amended
5 by striking “\$600,000, or, in the case of a loan guaranteed
6 by the Secretary, \$1,750,000 (increased, beginning with
7 fiscal year 2019” and inserting “\$850,000, or, in the case
8 of a loan guaranteed by the Secretary, \$3,500,000 (in-
9 creased, beginning with fiscal year 2026”.

10 **SEC. 5106. INFLATION PERCENTAGE.**

11 Section 305(c) of the Consolidated Farm and Rural
12 Development Act (7 U.S.C. 1925(c)) is amended—

13 (1) in paragraph (1), by striking “of the Prices
14 Paid By Farmers Index (as compiled by the Na-
15 tional Agricultural Statistics Service of the Depart-
16 ment of Agriculture) for the 12-month period ending
17 on July 31 of the immediately preceding fiscal year”
18 and inserting “of the per acre average United States
19 farm real estate value, the per acre average United
20 States cropland value, and the per acre average
21 United States pasture value for the preceding year
22 (as published in the applicable Agricultural Land
23 Values report of the National Agricultural Statistics
24 Service of the Department of Agriculture), weighted
25 equally”; and

1 (2) in paragraph (2), by striking “of such index
 2 (as so defined) for the 12-month period that imme-
 3 diately precedes the 12-month period described in
 4 paragraph (1)” and inserting “of the per acre aver-
 5 age United States farm real estate value, the per
 6 acre average United States cropland value, and the
 7 per acre average United States pasture value for the
 8 year immediately preceding the year described in
 9 paragraph (1) (as so published), weighted equally”.

10 **SEC. 5107. AUTHORITY OF FARM CREDIT SYSTEM INSTITU-**
 11 **TIONS TO PROVIDE FINANCIAL SUPPORT FOR**
 12 **ESSENTIAL RURAL COMMUNITY FACILITIES**
 13 **PROJECTS.**

14 (a) IN GENERAL.—The Farm Credit Act of 1971 is
 15 amended by inserting after section 4.18A (12 U.S.C.
 16 2206a) the following:

17 **“SEC. 4.18B. ESSENTIAL COMMUNITY FACILITIES.**

18 “(a) IN GENERAL.—A Farm Credit Bank, direct
 19 lender association, or bank for cooperatives chartered
 20 under this Act may, for the purpose of making available
 21 capital to develop, build, maintain, improve, or provide re-
 22 lated equipment or other support for essential community
 23 facilities in rural areas, make and participate in loans and
 24 commitments, and extend other technical and financial as-
 25 sistance for projects for essential community facilities eli-

1 gible for financing under section 306(a) of the Consoli-
2 dated Farm and Rural Development Act.

3 “(b) ELIGIBILITY.—Only an entity eligible for financ-
4 ing under section 306(a) of the Consolidated Farm and
5 Rural Development Act may receive financing or any other
6 assistance under subsection (a) of this section.

7 “(c) LIMITATIONS.—

8 “(1) FINANCING.—A Farm Credit System insti-
9 tution described in subsection (a) shall not provide
10 financing or assistance under this section in an ag-
11 gregate amount that exceeds 15 percent of the total
12 of all outstanding loans of the institution.

13 “(2) OFFER REQUIREMENT.—

14 “(A) IN GENERAL.—A Farm Credit Sys-
15 tem institution shall not provide financing or
16 assistance under this section unless the institu-
17 tion—

18 “(i) has offered, under reasonable
19 terms and conditions acceptable to the bor-
20 rower involved, an interest in the financing
21 to at least 1 domestic lending institution
22 not referred to in subsection (a) other than
23 the Department of Agriculture; and

24 “(ii) has reported the offer to the
25 Farm Credit Administration.

1 “(B) RURAL COMMUNITY BANK PRI-
2 ORITY.—In offering an interest in a financing
3 to a domestic lending institution described in
4 subparagraph (A)(i), the Farm Credit System
5 institution shall give priority to community
6 banks located in the service area of the essen-
7 tial community facility being financed.

8 “(d) ANNUAL REPORT TO CONGRESS.—Within 1
9 year after the date of the enactment of this section and
10 annually thereafter, the Farm Credit Administration shall
11 provide a report to the Committee on Agriculture of the
12 House of Representatives and the Committee on Agri-
13 culture, Nutrition, and Forestry of the Senate on the ac-
14 tivities undertaken pursuant to this section by Farm Cred-
15 it System institutions during the period covered by the re-
16 port, including through partnerships between such an in-
17 stitution and other lending institutions, which shall also
18 be posted on the website of the Farm Credit Administra-
19 tion.”.

20 (b) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendment made by
21 subsection (a) shall take effect on October 1, 2026.

22 **SEC. 5108. DOWN PAYMENT LOAN PROGRAM.**

23 Section 310E(b)(1) of the Consolidated Farm and
24 Rural Development Act (7 U.S.C. 1935(b)(1)) is amend-
25 ed—

1 (1) in the matter preceding subparagraph (A),
 2 by striking “exceed 45 percent of the least” and in-
 3 serting “exceed, subject to section 305(a), 45 per-
 4 cent of the lesser”;

5 (2) in subparagraph (A), by adding “or” after
 6 the semicolon;

7 (3) in subparagraph (B), by striking “; or” and
 8 inserting a period; and

9 (4) by striking subparagraph (C).

10 **SEC. 5109. HEIRS PROPERTY.**

11 (a) REAUTHORIZATION OF THE HEIRS PROPERTY
 12 INTERMEDIARY RELENDING PROGRAM.—Section 310I(g)
 13 of the Consolidated Farm and Rural Development Act (7
 14 U.S.C. 1936c(g)) is amended by striking “2023” and in-
 15 serting “2031”.

16 (b) COOPERATIVE AGREEMENTS FOR HEIRS PROP-
 17 ERTY RESOLUTION THROUGH DIRECT PUBLIC INTEREST
 18 LEGAL SERVICES.—Title V of the Rural Development Act
 19 of 1972 (7 U.S.C. 2661–2669) is amended by adding at
 20 the end the following:

21 **“SEC. 509. COOPERATIVE AGREEMENTS FOR HEIRS PROP-**
 22 **ERTY RESOLUTION THROUGH DIRECT PUB-**
 23 **LIC INTEREST LEGAL SERVICES.**

24 “(a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall enter into
 25 cooperative agreements with eligible entities to provide

1 legal or accounting services to underserved heirs, at no
2 cost to the underserved heirs, to assist in resolving undi-
3 vided ownership interests on farmland or forest land, or
4 land transitioning to farmland or forest land, that has
5 multiple owners. Such a cooperative agreement must be
6 for any of the following purposes:

7 “(1) To assist with transitioning land to agri-
8 cultural production.

9 “(2) To maintain land in agricultural produc-
10 tion.

11 “(3) To increase access to programs adminis-
12 tered by the Secretary through the resolution of real
13 property claims in order to allow real property own-
14 ers to meet land ownership eligibility requirements
15 for participation in a program administered by the
16 Secretary.

17 “(b) ADMINISTRATION OF COOPERATIVE AGREE-
18 MENTS.—

19 “(1) DURATION.—

20 “(A) IN GENERAL.—A cooperative agree-
21 ment under subsection (a) shall be in effect for
22 not more than 4 years, subject to subparagraph
23 (B).

24 “(B) SPECIAL RULE.—The Secretary may
25 extend a cooperative agreement or re-enter into

1 a cooperative agreement with the same or a dif-
2 ferent eligible entity to provide continued serv-
3 ices for heirs if—

4 “(i) property ownership is not resolved
5 within the initial term of the original coop-
6 erative agreement; and

7 “(ii) the entity certifies that the entity
8 understands that the cooperative agree-
9 ment is not guaranteed to be funded for
10 more than 4 years after the commence-
11 ment of the original cooperative agreement.

12 “(2) MANAGEMENT OF PERFORMANCE.—

13 “(A) ANNUAL REPORTS.—An eligible enti-
14 ty must provide annual reports to the Secretary
15 summarizing the progress made during each fis-
16 cal year towards achieving the goals of the co-
17 operative agreement for the heirs for whom
18 services are provided under the cooperative
19 agreement.

20 “(B) INFORMATION AND DATA.—The Sec-
21 retary may require an eligible entity to provide
22 the Secretary with such information or data as
23 the Secretary deems necessary to determine
24 that the eligible entity is making acceptable

1 progress. The data may not include personally
2 identifiable information.

3 “(C) EFFECT OF FAILURE TO DEM-
4 ONSTRATE SUCCESS.—If an eligible entity pro-
5 viding services under such a cooperative agree-
6 ment does not demonstrate success, as deter-
7 mined by the Secretary, in resolving or reason-
8 ably attempting to resolve the property claims
9 of an heir, the Secretary may terminate the
10 agreement.

11 “(3) IMPLEMENTATION.—The Secretary may
12 utilize requests for public input or the formal rule-
13 making process to effectuate this section. At a min-
14 imum, the Secretary shall make publicly available
15 the criteria for selecting an eligible entity to enter
16 into an agreement to provide services, the adminis-
17 trative and performance requirements for coopera-
18 tive agreements under this section, as well as codify
19 within its internal policy its implementation process.

20 “(4) HEIRS PROPERTY NOT IN FARMING.—On
21 a limited basis, and when determined by the Sec-
22 retary to meet the purposes of a program adminis-
23 tered by the Secretary and to expand access to such
24 a program, the Secretary may allow an eligible enti-

1 ty to provide services at no cost to an heir who is
2 not an underserved heir if—

3 “(A) the land with respect to which the
4 services are to be provided is not farmland or
5 in agricultural production, but could be viably
6 productive for agricultural, conservation, or for-
7 estry purposes;

8 “(B) the heir satisfies all other require-
9 ments of the definition of ‘underserved heir’;

10 “(C) the heir can provide proof to substan-
11 tiate that the heir is in control of the real prop-
12 erty; and

13 “(D) the heir certifies to the Secretary
14 that the heir intends to apply for, and make a
15 good faith effort to enroll the land in, a pro-
16 gram administered by the Secretary once prop-
17 erty claims to the land are resolved through
18 services provided under a cooperative agreement
19 entered into under this section.

20 “(c) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

21 “(1) ELIGIBLE ENTITY.—The term ‘eligible en-
22 tity’ means a nonprofit organization that—

23 “(A) provides legal or accounting services
24 to an underserved heir at no cost to the under-

1 served heir to resolve property ownership issues;
2 and

3 “(B) has demonstrated experience in re-
4 solving issues related to ownership and succes-
5 sion on farmland or forest land that has mul-
6 tiple owners.

7 “(2) LIMITED RESOURCE HEIR.—An heir shall
8 be considered a limited resource heir for purposes of
9 this section if—

10 “(A) the total household income of the heir
11 is at or below the national poverty level for a
12 family of 4, or less than 50 percent of the coun-
13 ty median household income for the 2 imme-
14 diately preceding calendar years, as determined
15 annually using data of the Department of Com-
16 merce; or

17 “(B) the property of the heir for which
18 legal services are provided pursuant to a coop-
19 erative agreement entered into under this sec-
20 tion is in a persistent poverty community, as
21 determined annually on the basis of data from
22 the Department of Commerce, or a socially vul-
23 nerable area, as designated by the Centers on
24 Disease Control and Prevention.

1 “(3) UNDERSERVED HEIR.—The term ‘under-
2 served heir’ means an heir with an undivided owner-
3 ship interest in farmland or forest land that has
4 multiple owners, who is—

5 “(A) a limited resource heir;

6 “(B) a member of a socially disadvantaged
7 group (as defined in section 2501(a) of the
8 Food, Agriculture, Conservation, and Trade Act
9 of 1990); or

10 “(C) a veteran (as defined in section
11 101(2) of title 38, United States Code).

12 “(d) ANNUAL REPORTS TO CONGRESS.—Within 1
13 year after the date of the enactment of this section, and
14 annually thereafter, the Secretary shall prepare, make
15 public, and submit to the Committee on Agriculture of the
16 House of Representatives and the Committee on Agri-
17 culture, Nutrition, and Forestry of the Senate a written
18 report on the activities carried out under this section in
19 the year covered by the report.

20 “(e) LIMITATIONS ON AUTHORIZATION OF APPRO-
21 PRIATIONS.—To carry out this section, there is authorized
22 to be appropriated to the Secretary \$60,000,000 for each
23 of fiscal years 2027 through 2031.”.

24 (c) ANNUAL REPORT ON OPERATIONS AND OUT-
25 COMES UNDER THE RELENDING PROGRAM TO RESOLVE

1 OWNERSHIP AND SUCCESSION ON FARMLAND.—Section
 2 310I(f) of the Consolidated Farm and Rural Development
 3 Act (7 U.S.C. 1936c(f)), is amended by striking “Not
 4 later than 1 year after the date of enactment of this sec-
 5 tion, the Secretary shall” and inserting “The Secretary
 6 shall annually”.

7 **SEC. 5110. PROMPT APPROVAL OF LOANS AND LOAN GUAR-**
 8 **ANTEES.**

9 Section 333A of the of the Consolidated Farm and
 10 Rural Development Act (7 U.S.C. 1983a) is amended—

11 (1) in subsection (g)—

12 (A) by striking paragraph (1) and insert-
 13 ing the following:

14 “(1) REAL ESTATE AND OPERATING GUARAN-
 15 TEED LOANS.—

16 “(A) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall
 17 provide to lenders a short, simplified application
 18 form for real estate and operating guaranteed
 19 loans under this title, for loans of not more
 20 than \$1,000,000.

21 “(B) NOTICE.—Within 5 business days
 22 after receipt of a complete application to guar-
 23 antee a farm ownership or operating loan that
 24 meets the requirements under subparagraph
 25 (A) originated by a Preferred Certified Lender

1 or Certified Lender, the Secretary shall notify
2 the lender as to whether the application is ap-
3 proved or disapproved.

4 “(C) MAXIMUM GUARANTEE.—Notwith-
5 standing any other provision of this Act, the
6 percentage of the principal amount of a loan
7 which may be guaranteed pursuant to this
8 paragraph shall not exceed—

9 “(i) 90 percent, in the case of a loan
10 not exceeding \$125,000;

11 “(ii) 75 percent, in the case of a loan
12 of more than \$125,000 and not more than
13 \$500,000; or

14 “(iii) 50 percent, in the case of a loan
15 of more than \$500,000 and not more than
16 \$1,000,000.”; and

17 (B) by redesignating paragraphs (2) and
18 (3) as paragraphs (3) and (4), respectively, and
19 inserting after paragraph (1) the following:

20 “(2) BUSINESS AND INDUSTRY GUARANTEED
21 LOANS TO ASSIST RURAL ENTITIES.—

22 “(A) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall
23 develop an application process that accelerates,
24 to the maximum extent practicable, the proc-
25 essing of applications for business and industry

1 guaranteed loans to assist rural entities, as de-
2 scribed under section 310B(a)(2)(A), for loans
3 not exceeding \$400,000.

4 “(B) EXCEPTION.—The accelerated appli-
5 cation process, as provided under subparagraph
6 (A), shall apply to loans not exceeding
7 \$600,000 if there is not a significant increased
8 risk of a default on the loan, as determined by
9 the Secretary.”; and
10 (2) by striking subsection (h).

11 **SEC. 5111. EXPEDITED APPROVAL PILOT PROGRAM.**

12 (a) IN GENERAL.—Subtitle D of the Consolidated
13 Farm and Rural Development Act is amended by inserting
14 after section 333D (7 U.S.C. 1983d) the following:

15 **“SEC. 333E. EXPEDITED APPROVAL PILOT PROGRAM.**

16 “(a) IN GENERAL.—Beginning not later than 1 year
17 after the date of the enactment of this section, the Sec-
18 retary shall carry out a pilot program to establish an expe-
19 dited qualification and approval process for borrowers
20 seeking—

21 “(1) a direct farm ownership loan under this
22 Act; or

23 “(2) a guaranteed farm ownership loan under
24 this Act that is serviced by a Preferred Certified
25 Lender under section 339(d) and provided to a cred-

1 itworthy borrower, as determined by the Preferred
2 Certified Lender.

3 “(b) LOAN ASSESSMENTS.—In carrying out this sec-
4 tion, the Secretary shall consider streamlining the process
5 for making—

6 “(1) determinations necessary to make the cer-
7 tifications and assessments referred to in section
8 339(c)(5); and

9 “(2) determinations under section 360(b).

10 “(c) RULE OF INTERPRETATION.—Except as other-
11 wise provided in subsections (a) and (b), this section shall
12 not be interpreted to authorize the waiver or modification
13 of any requirement, other than an application process tim-
14 ing requirement, imposed by or under this Act.

15 “(d) REPORT.—Within 1 year after the date of the
16 enactment of this section, and annually thereafter, the
17 Secretary shall submit to the Committee on Agriculture
18 of the House of Representatives and the Committee on
19 Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry of the Senate a re-
20 port examining the actions undertaken under, and the re-
21 sults of, the pilot program.

22 “(e) TERMINATION OF EFFECTIVENESS.—The au-
23 thority provided by this section shall terminate effective
24 September 30, 2031.”.

1 (b) CONFORMING AMENDMENTS.—Section 346(b)(2)
 2 of such Act (7 U.S.C. 1994(b)(2)) is amended—

3 (1) in subparagraph (A)(i)(II), by inserting “,
 4 to the extent practicable” after “April 1 of the fiscal
 5 year”;

6 (2) in subparagraph (A)(iii), by inserting “, to
 7 the extent practicable” after “September 1 of the
 8 fiscal year”; and

9 (3) in subparagraph (B)(iii), in the text, by in-
 10 serting “, to the extent practicable” after “April 1
 11 of the fiscal year”.

12 **Subtitle B—Operating Loans**

13 **SEC. 5201. PERSONS ELIGIBLE FOR OPERATING LOANS.**

14 Section 311(a) of the Consolidated Farm and Rural
 15 Development Act (7 U.S.C. 1941(a)) is amended—

16 (1) in the 2nd sentence of paragraph (1), by
 17 striking “a majority” each place it appears and in-
 18 serting “at least a 50 percent”; and

19 (2) in paragraph (2)—

20 (A) in the paragraph heading, by striking
 21 “(2) SPECIAL RULE.—An entity” and inserting
 22 the following:

23 “(2) SPECIAL RULES.—

24 “(A) ELIGIBILITY OF QUALIFIED OPERA-
 25 TORS.—Qualified operators, as defined by the

1 Secretary, shall be considered to meet the oper-
 2 ator requirement of paragraph (1).

3 “(B) ELIGIBILITY OF CERTAIN OPER-
 4 ATING-ONLY ENTITIES.—An entity”; and

5 (B) by striking “ownership interests of
 6 each embedded entity of the entity is owned di-
 7 rectly or indirectly by the individuals that own
 8 the family farm” and inserting “total ownership
 9 interests of the embedded entity, or of the other
 10 entities, is owned, directly or indirectly, by
 11 qualified operators of the farm improved or
 12 supported with funds under this subtitle”.

13 **SEC. 5202. LIMITATIONS ON AMOUNT OF OPERATING**
 14 **LOANS.**

15 Section 313(a)(1) of the Consolidated Farm and
 16 Rural Development Act (7 U.S.C. 1943(a)(1)) is amended
 17 by striking “\$400,000, or, in the case of a loan guaranteed
 18 by the Secretary, \$1,750,000 (increased, beginning with
 19 fiscal year 2019” and inserting “\$750,000, or, in the case
 20 of a loan guaranteed by the Secretary, \$3,000,000 (in-
 21 creased, beginning with fiscal year 2026”.

22 **SEC. 5203. LIMITATION ON MICROLOAN AMOUNTS.**

23 Section 313(c)(2) of the Consolidated Farm and
 24 Rural Development Act (7 U.S.C. 1943(c)(2)) is amended
 25 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 paragraph (3) (as so redesignated), by
12 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 co-
21 operatives may make and participate in loans and commit-
22 ments and provide technical and other financial assistance
23 to cooperatives and any other public or private entity (ex-
24 cept for the Federal Government) for the purpose of in-
25 stalling, maintaining, expanding, improving, or operating
26 facilities in a rural area for the processing or disposal of

1 waste from any source, the provision of telecommunication
2 services, and producing electricity from any source for use
3 or sale by the borrower.”.

4 **SEC. 5504. FARM CREDIT SYSTEM REGULATION.**

5 (a) IN GENERAL.—The Farm Credit Act of 1971 (12
6 U.S.C. 2001 et seq.) is amended by inserting after section
7 4.20 the following:

8 **“SEC. 4.21. FARM CREDIT SYSTEM REGULATION.**

9 “(a) The Farm Credit Administration shall be the
10 sole and independent regulator of the Farm Credit System
11 with respect to activities subject to this Act.

12 “(b) Nothing in this section shall limit or affect any
13 regulatory or other authority granted to the Farm Credit
14 System Insurance Corporation under this Act.

15 “(c) A law enacted or rule promulgated after the date
16 of the enactment of this section shall not be held to modify
17 or supersede the exclusive authority provided by sub-
18 section (a), except to the extent that the enacted law does
19 so expressly.”.

20 (b) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendment made by
21 subsection (a) shall take effect on the date of the enact-
22 ment of this Act.

23 **SEC. 5505. LOAN GUARANTEES.**

24 Section 8.0(7)(B) of the Farm Credit Act of 1971
25 (12 U.S.C. 2279aa(7)(B)) is amended by inserting “ or

1 section 9007(c)(1) of the Farm Security and Rural Invest-
2 ment Act of 2002 (7 U.S.C. 8107(c)(1))” before the 1st
3 comma.

4 **SEC. 5506. STANDARDS FOR QUALIFIED LOANS.**

5 Section 8.8 of the Farm Credit Act of 1971 (12
6 U.S.C. 2279aa–8) is amended—

7 (1) in subsection (a)(3), by striking “mortgage
8 investors” and inserting “investors in those types of
9 loans”; and

10 (2) by striking subsection (c) and inserting the
11 following:

12 “(c) QUALIFIED LOAN LIMITATION FOR SINGLE
13 BORROWERS.—

14 “(1) IN GENERAL.—The Corporation shall not
15 treat a loan secured by agricultural real estate as a
16 qualified loan when the cumulative principal amount
17 of all loans to a single borrower or related borrowers
18 exceeds 10 percent of the Corporation’s tier 1 cap-
19 ital, as defined by the Farm Credit Administration.

20 “(2) REGULATOR DETERMINATION.—The Farm
21 Credit Administration may issue regulations estab-
22 lishing a single borrower concentration limit lower
23 than the percentage specified in paragraph (1) if the
24 Farm Credit Administration determines that such a

1 lower limit is necessary for the safe and sound oper-
2 ation of the Corporation.”.

3 **SEC. 5507. STATE AGRICULTURAL MEDIATION PROGRAMS.**

4 (a) DEFINITION OF STATE.—Section 501 of the Agri-
5 cultural Credit Act of 1987 (7 U.S.C. 5101) is amended
6 by adding at the end the following:

7 “(e) DEFINITION OF STATE.—In this title, the term
8 ‘State’ has the meaning given the term in section 2 of
9 the Animal Welfare Act, and includes any Indian tribe (as
10 defined in section 4 of the Indian Self-Determination and
11 Education Assistance Act).”.

12 (b) MATCHING GRANTS TO STATES.—Section 502 of
13 the Agricultural Credit Act of 1987 (7 U.S.C. 5102) is
14 amended—

15 (1) in subsection (b)(2), by striking “\$500,000”
16 and inserting “\$700,000”; and

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

18 “(e) CARRYOVER OF FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE.—The
19 Secretary shall permit a State that receives financial as-
20 sistance under subsection (a) for a fiscal year to carry over
21 not more than 25 percent of the financial assistance that
22 is not expended by the end of the fiscal year, for use dur-
23 ing the next fiscal year without deducting the amount
24 from any assistance provided under this Act in subsequent
25 fiscal years.”.

1 (c) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—Section
2 506 of the Agricultural Credit Act of 1987 (7 U.S.C.
3 5106) is amended by striking “2023” and inserting
4 “2031”.

5 **SEC. 5508. TECHNICAL CORRECTIONS.**

6 (a) ELIMINATION OF OBSOLETE REFERENCES TO
7 COUNTY COMMITTEES.—

8 (1) Section 333A(a)(2)(B)(vi) of the Consoli-
9 dated Farm and Rural Development Act (7 U.S.C.
10 1983a(a)(2)(B)(vi)) is amended by striking “by the
11 county committee” and inserting “of the applica-
12 tion”.

13 (2) Section 336 of such Act (7 U.S.C. 1986) is
14 amended—

15 (A) by striking the last sentence of sub-
16 section (b); and

17 (B) by striking subsection (c) and redesign-
18 ating subsection (d) as subsection (c).

19 (3) Section 339 of such Act (7 U.S.C. 1989) is
20 amended—

21 (A) in subsection (c)(4)(A), by striking
22 “county committee certification that the bor-
23 rower of the loan meets the eligibility require-
24 ments and” and inserting “the borrower meet-
25 ing”; and

1 (B) in subsection (d)(4)(A), by striking
2 “county committee certification that the bor-
3 rower meets the eligibility requirements or” and
4 inserting “the borrower meeting”.

5 (4) Section 359(c)(1) of such Act (7 U.S.C.
6 2006a(c)(1)) is amended by striking “(as determined
7 by the appropriate county committee during the de-
8 termination of eligibility for the loan)”.

9 (b) REVISION OF LOAN ASSESSMENT REQUIRE-
10 MENTS.—Section 360(d)(1) of such Act (7 U.S.C.
11 2006b(d)(1)) is amended by striking “annual review of di-
12 rect loans, and periodic review (as determined necessary
13 by the Secretary) of guaranteed loans” and inserting
14 “periodic review (as determined by the Secretary) of direct
15 and guaranteed loans”.

16 (c) UPDATING OF OUTDATED REFERENCES TO THE
17 FARMERS HOME ADMINISTRATION AND THE RURAL DE-
18 VELOPMENT AGENCY.—

19 (1) Section 309(e) of such Act (7 U.S.C.
20 1928(e)) is amended by striking “Farmers Home
21 Administration and the Rural Development Adminis-
22 tration” and inserting “Farm Service Agency and
23 Rural Development”.

24 (2) Section 331(b)(4) of such Act (7 U.S.C.
25 1981(b)(4)) is amended by striking “Consolidated”.

1 (3) Section 331(b) of such Act (7 U.S.C.
2 1981(b)) is amended in each of paragraphs (5) and
3 (7) by striking “Farmers Home Administration”
4 each place it appears and inserting “Farm Service
5 Agency and Rural Development”.

6 (4) Section 331(b)(8) of such Act (7 U.S.C.
7 1981(b)(8)) is amended by striking “Rural Develop-
8 ment Administration or by the Farmers Home Ad-
9 ministration” and inserting “Farm Service Agency
10 and Rural Development”.

11 (5) Section 331A(a) of such Act (7 U.S.C.
12 1981a(a)) is amended by striking “Farmers Home
13 Administration or by the Rural Development Admin-
14 istration” and inserting “Farm Service Agency or by
15 Rural Development”.

16 (6) Section 335(a) of such Act (7 U.S.C.
17 1985(a)) is amended by striking “Farmers Home
18 Administration or the Rural Development Adminis-
19 tration” and inserting “Farm Service Agency or
20 Rural Development”.

21 (7) Section 335(f)(1) of such Act (7 U.S.C.
22 1985(f)(1)) is amended—

23 (A) by striking “Agricultural Stabilization
24 and Conservation Service payments” and insert-
25 ing “Farm Service Agency farm program”;

1 (B) by striking “Farmers Home Adminis-
2 tration liens” and inserting “liens for a farmer
3 program loan”; and

4 (C) by striking “Farmers Home Adminis-
5 tration farmer” and inserting “Farm Service
6 Agency farmer”.

7 (8) Section 338(a) of such Act (7 U.S.C.
8 1988(a)) is amended by striking “Farmers Home
9 Administration or the Rural Development Adminis-
10 tration” and inserting “Farm Service Agency and
11 Rural Development”.

12 (9) Section 347 of such Act (7 U.S.C. 1995) is
13 amended by striking “Farmers Home Administra-
14 tion” and inserting “Farm Service Agency and
15 Rural Development”.

16 (10) Section 356 of such Act (7 U.S.C. 2004)
17 is amended—

18 (A) by striking “Farmers Home Adminis-
19 tration may” and inserting “Farm Service
20 Agency and Rural Development may”; and

21 (B) by striking “the inventory of the
22 Farmers Home Administration” and inserting
23 “inventory”.

24 (11) Section 370(a) of such Act (7 U.S.C.
25 2008e(a)) is amended by striking “the Rural Devel-

opment Administration, the Farmers Home Administration, the Rural Electrification Administration” and inserting “Rural Development, the Farm Service Agency, the Rural Utilities Service”.

(12) Each of the following provisions of such Act is amended by striking “Farmers Home Administration” each place it appears and inserting “Farm Service Agency”:

(A) Section 309(g)(1) (7 U.S.C. 1929(g)(1)).

(B) Section 331A(a) (7 U.S.C. 1981a(a)).

(C) Section 333A(e)(1) (7 U.S.C. 1983a(e)(1)).

(D) Section 335(d) (7 U.S.C. 1985(d)).

(E) Section 353A (7 U.S.C. 2001a).

(F) Section 349(e)(1)(B) (7 U.S.C. 1997(e)(1)(B)).

(G) Section 361 (7 U.S.C. 2006c).

(d) Section 335(c)(1) of such Act (7 U.S.C. 1985(c)(1)) is amended—

(1) in subparagraph (A), by striking “15” and inserting “60”;

(2) in subparagraph (B)(i)—

(A) by striking “135” and inserting “180”; and

1 (B) by inserting “suitable for farming and
2 ranching, as determined by the Secretary” be-
3 fore the comma; and

4 (3) in subparagraph (C), by striking “not later
5 than 135 days after acquiring the real property, the
6 Secretary shall, not later than 30 days after the
7 135-day period,” and inserting “or if the property is
8 not suitable for farming and ranching as determined
9 by the Secretary, not later than 60 days after the
10 180-day period, the Secretary shall”.

11 (e) CORRECTION OF INFEASIBLE INVENTORY PROP-
12 erty DISPOSITION FRAMEWORK.—

13 (1) Section 331(b)(1) of such Act (7 U.S.C.
14 1981(b)(1)) is amended by striking “, and until Jan-
15 uary” and all that follows through “fit)”.

16 (2) Section 335(f) of such Act (7 U.S.C.
17 1985(f)) is amended—

18 (A) by striking paragraphs (3) through (5)
19 and redesignating paragraph (6) as paragraph
20 (3); and

21 (B) by striking paragraph (7) and insert-
22 ing the following:

23 “(4) The Secretary shall issue regulations consistent
24 with this section that ensures the release of funds to each
25 borrower.”.

1 (f) REPLACEMENT OF REFERENCES TO DISTRICT
2 OFFICE WITH REFERENCES TO DISTRICT DIRECTOR.—
3 Section 333A(a)(2)(B) of such Act (7 U.S.C.
4 1983a(a)(2)(B)) is amended by striking “district office”
5 each place it appears and inserting “District Director”.

6 (g) CORRECTION OF OBSOLETE REFERENCE TO
7 FORMER TRUST TERRITORIES.—Section 343(a)(6) of
8 such Act (7 U.S.C. 1991(a)(6)) is amended by striking
9 “the Trust Territory of the Pacific Islands” and inserting
10 “the Federated States of Micronesia, the Republic of
11 Palau, and the Republic of the Marshall Islands”.

12 (h) REVISION OF FARMER PROGRAM LOAN DEFINI-
13 TION.—Section 343(a)(10) of such Act (7 U.S.C.
14 1991(a)(10)) is amended by inserting “before June 18,
15 2008, conservation loan (CL) under section 304 on or
16 after June 18, 2008,” before “emergency loan (EM)”.

17 (i) ELIMINATION OF INCONSISTENCY BETWEEN
18 RULES APPLICABLE TO BEGINNING FARMERS.—Section
19 343(a)(11)(C) of such Act (7 U.S.C. 1991(a)(11)(C)) is
20 amended by striking “related to one another by blood or
21 marriage” and inserting “qualified beginning farmers”.

22 (j) UPDATING OF PROVISIONS TO REFLECT
23 REPURPOSING OF CONSERVATION LOAN PROVISIONS.—

1 (1) Section 303(a) of such Act (7 U.S.C.
2 1923(a)) is amended in each of paragraphs (1)(D)
3 and (2)(D) by striking “described in section 304”.

4 (2) Section 310D of such Act (7 U.S.C. 1934)
5 is amended by striking “, or paragraphs (1) through
6 (5) of section 304(a),” and inserting “section
7 304(a)”.

8 (k) UPDATING OF NOTICE PROVISION REQUIREMENT
9 AND LIFETIME DEBT FORGIVENESS LIMIT.—Section
10 353(i)(1) of such Act (7 U.S.C. 2001(i)(1)) is amended
11 by striking “registered or certified mail” and inserting
12 “any method that provides documentation of delivery”.

13 (l) UPDATING OF OBSOLETE REFERENCE TO THE
14 SOIL CONSERVATION SERVICE.—Section 306(a)(13) of
15 such Act (7 U.S.C. 1926(a)(13)) is amended by striking
16 “Soil Conservation Service” and inserting “Natural Re-
17 sources Conservation Service”.

18 (m) CLARIFICATION OF INTEREST RATE REQUIRE-
19 MENTS.—

20 (1) Section 307(a)(3)(B) of such Act (7 U.S.C.
21 1927(a)(3)(B)) is amended by striking “not be—”
22 and all that follows and inserting “be equal to the
23 interest rate for direct farm ownership loans under
24 this subtitle, not to exceed 5 percent per year.”.

1 (2) Section 316(a)(2) of such Act (7 U.S.C.
2 1946(a)(2)) is amended by striking “not be—” and
3 all that follows and inserting “be equal to the inter-
4 est rate for direct farm ownership loans under this
5 subtitle, not to exceed 5 percent per year.”.

6 (n) CORRECTION OF HEADING.—Section 309(h)(6)
7 of such Act (7 U.S.C. 1929(h)(6)) is amended in the para-
8 graph heading by striking “BEGINNING FARMER LOANS”
9 and inserting “DOWN PAYMENT LOAN PROGRAM PARTICI-
10 PANT”.

11 (o) ELIMINATION OF SUPERFLUOUS RESTRIC-
12 TIONS.—Section 312 of such Act (7 U.S.C. 1942) is
13 amended by striking subsection (d) and redesignating sub-
14 section (e) as subsection (d).

15 (p) ELIMINATION OF CONFUSING REFERENCES TO
16 LOAN GUARANTEES.—Section 319 of such Act (7 U.S.C.
17 1949) is amended—

18 (1) in the section heading, by striking “**OR**
19 **GUARANTEES**”; and

20 (2) by striking “or with respect to whom there
21 is an outstanding guarantee under this subtitle”.

22 (q) ELIMINATION OF OBSOLETE REPORTING RE-
23 QUIREMENTS.—Section 346 of such Act (7 U.S.C. 1994)
24 is amended by striking subsections (c) and (d).

1 (r) CORRECTION OF OBSOLETE APPEALS PROVI-
2 SIONS.—

3 (1) Section 352(c)(3) of such Act (7 U.S.C.
4 2000(c)(3)) is amended by striking “section 333B”
5 and inserting “subtitle H of title II of Federal Crop
6 Insurance Reform and Department of Agriculture
7 Reorganization Act of 1994”.

8 (2) Section 353 of such Act (7 U.S.C. 2001) is
9 amended—

10 (A) in subsection (h), by striking “under
11 section 333B”; and

12 (B) in subsection (j)—

13 (i) by striking “filed with the appeals
14 division under section 333B” and inserting
15 “to the National Appeals Division”;

16 (ii) by striking “appeals division
17 shall” and inserting “Secretary shall”; and

18 (iii) by striking “county supervisor”
19 and inserting “Secretary”.

20 (s) ELIMINATION OF UNNECESSARY CONSTRAINT ON
21 PILOT PROJECTS.—Section 333D(a) of such Act (7
22 U.S.C. 1983d(a)) is amended by striking “that are con-
23 sistent with subtitle A through this subtitle”.

24 (t) CORRECTION OF HEADING.—The paragraph
25 heading in section 8.8(a)(3) of the Farm Credit Act of

1 1971 (12 U.S.C. 2279aa–8(a)(3)) is amended by striking
2 “MORTGAGE LOANS” and inserting “LOAN QUALITY”.

3 **SEC. 5509. REPORT ON IMPROVING CREDITWORTHINESS OF**
4 **DIRECT AND GUARANTEED LOAN BOR-**
5 **ROWERS.**

6 (a) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 1 year after the
7 date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary shall submit
8 to the Committee on Agriculture of the House of Rep-
9 resentatives and the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition,
10 and Forestry of the Senate a report evaluating the feasi-
11 bility of requiring the adoption of certain risk manage-
12 ment practices as a condition for approving certain direct
13 and guaranteed farm loans.

14 (b) REQUIREMENT.—In the report under subsection
15 (a), the Secretary shall evaluate the feasibility of requir-
16 ing, as a condition for approving certain direct and guar-
17 anteed farm loans, the adoption of 1 or more of the fol-
18 lowing risk management practices:

19 (1) Hedging and marketing price or revenue
20 risk management strategies.

21 (2) Insurance coverage optimization or coordi-
22 nation.

23 (3) Periodic financial reporting or financial
24 management practices.

1 (4) Cash management services to facilitate
2 timely disbursement of funds and structured collec-
3 tion of operating revenues.

4 (5) The use of integrated monitoring and ana-
5 lytics tools to align risk management and financial
6 decisions with observed environmental and produc-
7 tion conditions.

8 (6) Other risk mitigation practices as deter-
9 mined by the Secretary.

10 (7) Voluntary lender incentives to promote inte-
11 grated risk management support without increasing
12 costs or burdens for applicants.

13 (c) CERTIFICATION.—In completing the report under
14 subsection (a), the Secretary shall also evaluate the feasi-
15 bility of establishing a certification program that identifies
16 loans approved contingent on the adoption of enhanced
17 risk management practices, including through voluntary
18 lender incentives to promote integrated risk management
19 support without increasing costs or burdens for applicants.

20 (d) APPLICABILITY.—The requirements and evalua-
21 tions under this section shall apply only to operating, pro-
22 duction, and working capital loans made for agricultural
23 production purposes and shall not apply to real estate
24 loans, rural development loans, housing loans, business

1 and industry loans, or other non-operating credit pro-
2 grams administered by the Secretary.

3 **SEC. 5510. FARM CREDIT ADMINISTRATION OPTION TO EX-**
4 **AMINE LOW-RISK FARM CREDIT SYSTEM IN-**
5 **STITUTIONS ON A 24-MONTH CYCLE.**

6 (a) IN GENERAL.—Section 5.19(a) of the Farm
7 Credit Act of 1971 (12 U.S.C. 2254(a)) is amended in
8 the 1st sentence—

9 (1) by striking “in no event” and inserting
10 “not”; and

11 (2) by inserting “, except that the Farm Credit
12 Administration, in its sole discretion, may extend the
13 time period between mandatory examinations of in-
14 stitutions deemed by the Farm Credit Administra-
15 tion to be small, low-risk institutions to not more
16 than 24 months” before the period.

17 (b) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendments made by
18 subsection (a) shall take effect on October 1, 2026.

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 (II) by inserting “at rural health
20 facilities” before “that provide”; and

21 (III) by inserting “, mental
22 health, behavioral health, or maternal
23 health” before “treatment”; and

1 (ii) in clause (ii), by inserting “mental
2 health, behavioral health, maternal health,
3 or” before “substance”;

4 (C) in subparagraph (B)—

5 (i) in clause (i)—

6 (I) in the heading, by striking
7 “SUBSTANCE USE DISORDER SELEC-
8 TION” and inserting “SELECTION”;

9 (II) in subclause (I), by inserting
10 “mental health, behavioral health, ma-
11 ternal health, or” before “substance”
12 the first place it appears; and

13 (III) in subclause (II), by insert-
14 ing “mental health concerns, behav-
15 ioral health concerns, maternal health
16 concerns, or” before “substance”; and

17 (ii) in clause (ii), by inserting “, be-
18 havioral health treatment, mental health
19 treatment, or maternal health, respec-
20 tively” before the period; and

21 (D) in subparagraph (C), by inserting “be-
22 havioral health, mental health, maternal health,
23 or” before “substance” the first place it ap-
24 pears; and

1 (2) in paragraph (2), by striking “2025” and
 2 inserting “2027”.

3 **SEC. 6102. DISTANCE LEARNING AND TELEMEDICINE**
 4 **LOANS AND GRANTS.**

5 Section 2335A of the Food, Agriculture, Conserva-
 6 tion, and Trade Act of 1990 (7 U.S.C. 950aaa–5) is
 7 amended by striking “\$82,000,000 for each of fiscal years
 8 2019 through 2023” and inserting “\$82,000,000 for each
 9 of fiscal years 2027 through 2031, to remain available for
 10 2 fiscal years after the fiscal year for which appropriated”.

11 **Subtitle B—Connecting Rural**
 12 **Americans to High Speed**
 13 **Broadband**

14 **SEC. 6201. RURAL BROADBAND PROGRAM LOANS AND**
 15 **GRANTS.**

16 (a) IN GENERAL.—Section 601 of the Rural Elec-
 17 trification Act of 1936 (7 U.S.C. 950bb) is amended—

18 (1) in the section heading, by striking “**AC-**
 19 **CESS TO BROADBAND TELECOMMUNICATIONS**
 20 **SERVICES IN RURAL AREAS**” and inserting “**RE-**
 21 **CONNECT RURAL BROADBAND PROGRAM**”;

22 (2) in subsection (a), by striking “The purpose”
 23 and all that follows through “provide funds for” and
 24 inserting “The Secretary shall establish a program,
 25 which shall be known as the ‘ReConnect Rural

1 Broadband Program’, to provide grants, loans, and
2 loan guarantees to finance”;

3 (3) in subsection (c)—

4 (A) by striking paragraph (1) and insert-
5 ing the following:

6 “(1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall make
7 grants, loans, and loan guarantees to eligible entities
8 described in subsection (d) for the purpose of financ-
9 ing the construction, improvement, or acquisition of
10 facilities and equipment necessary for delivering
11 broadband service in rural areas.”;

12 (B) in paragraph (2), by striking subpara-
13 graphs (A) and (B) and inserting the following:

14 “(A) IN GENERAL.—In making grants,
15 making loans, and guaranteeing loans under
16 paragraph (1), the Secretary shall give the
17 highest priority to applications for projects to
18 provide broadband service to unserved rural
19 communities that do not have any residential
20 broadband service of at least—

21 “(i) a 25-Mbps downstream trans-
22 mission capacity; and

23 “(ii) a 3-Mbps upstream transmission
24 capacity.

1 “(B) OTHER.—After giving priority to the
2 applications described in subparagraph (A), the
3 Secretary shall then give priority to applica-
4 tions—

5 “(i) for projects to provide broadband
6 service to rural communities—

7 “(I) with a population of less
8 than 10,000 inhabitants; or

9 “(II) in geographically under-
10 served and distressed areas, includ-
11 ing—

12 “(aa) a socially vulnerable
13 community (as determined by the
14 Secretary);

15 “(bb) a persistent poverty
16 county (as determined by the
17 Secretary); or

18 “(cc) in an economically dis-
19 tressed area (as determined by
20 the Secretary);

21 “(ii) that were developed with the par-
22 ticipation of, and will receive a substantial
23 portion of the funding or in-kind assistance
24 for the project from, 2 or more stake-
25 holders, including—

1 “(I) State, local, and Tribal gov-
2 ernments;

3 “(II) nonprofit institutions;

4 “(III) community anchor institu-
5 tions, such as—

6 “(aa) public libraries;

7 “(bb) elementary schools
8 and secondary schools (as defined
9 in section 8101 of the Elemen-
10 tary and Secondary Education
11 Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 7801));

12 “(cc) institutions of higher
13 education (including 1862 Land-
14 Grant Institutions, 1890 Land-
15 Grant Institutions, 1994 Land-
16 Grant Institutions, Hispanic-
17 Serving Institutions, and Histori-
18 cally Black Colleges and Univer-
19 sities);

20 “(dd) health care facilities;
21 and

22 “(ee) facilities essential for
23 local or regional commerce or for
24 the movement of goods;

25 “(IV) private entities;

1 “(V) philanthropic organizations;
2 and

3 “(VI) cooperatives; or

4 “(iii) that are submitted by an eligible
5 entity or is owned by an entity that has
6 provided broadband service or other utility
7 service for at least 5 years in rural areas
8 in the State in which the project would be
9 carried out.

10 “(C) AFFORDABILITY.—In determining
11 whether a household is unserved for purposes of
12 this section, the Secretary shall consider the af-
13 fordability of broadband service.”;

14 (C) in paragraph (3)—

15 (i) in subparagraph (B)—

16 (I) by striking “and” at the end
17 of clause (i);

18 (II) by striking the period at the
19 end of clause (ii) and inserting “;
20 and”; and

21 (III) by adding at the end the
22 following:

23 “(iii) shall be subject to a grant
24 agreement of not less than 10 years.”;

1 (ii) by striking subparagraphs (C) and
2 (D) and inserting the following:

3 “(C) APPLICATIONS.—

4 “(i) GRANT-ONLY APPLICATIONS.—

5 The Secretary shall establish an applica-
6 tion process that permits an application for
7 a grant-only award.

8 “(ii) COMBINED APPLICATIONS.—The
9 Secretary shall establish an application
10 process that—

11 “(I) permits a single application
12 for a grant and a loan under title I or
13 II, or this title, that is associated with
14 the grant; and

15 “(II) provides a single decision to
16 award the grant and the loan.”;

17 (iii) by redesignating subparagraph
18 (E) as subparagraph (D); and

19 (iv) by striking subparagraph (F); and
20 (D) by striking paragraph (4) and insert-
21 ing the following:

22 “(4) FEES.—

23 “(A) INITIAL GUARANTEE FEE.—The Sec-
24 retary may assess an initial guarantee fee for
25 any insured or guaranteed loan issued or modi-

1 fied under this section in an amount that does
2 not exceed 3 percent of the guaranteed prin-
3 cipal portion of the loan.

4 “(B) PERIODIC RETENTION FEE.—The
5 Secretary may assess a periodic retention fee
6 for any insured or guaranteed loan issued or
7 modified under this section in an amount that
8 does not exceed 0.75 percent of the outstanding
9 principal of the guarantee loan.

10 “(C) DISCLOSURE.—In altering any fee
11 charged for any insured or guaranteed loan
12 issued or modified under this section, the Sec-
13 retary, not less than 30 days in advance of any
14 fee change, shall provide a public disclosure, of
15 the financial data, economic and behavioral as-
16 sumptions, calculations, and other factors used
17 to determine the new fee rates.”;

18 (4) in subsection (d)—

19 (A) in paragraph (1)—

20 (i) in subparagraph (A)—

21 (I) in clause (i), by adding “and”

22 at the end; and

23 (II) by striking “require; and”

24 and all that follows through “agree”

25 and insert “require, and agree”;

1 (ii) by redesignating subparagraph
2 (B) as subparagraph (E) and inserting
3 after subparagraph (A) the following:

4 “(B) INCLUSIONS.—An entity eligible to
5 obtain assistance under subsection (c) may in-
6 clude—

7 “(i) a State or local government, in-
8 cluding any agency, subdivision, instru-
9 mentality, or political subdivision of a
10 State or local government;

11 “(ii) a territory or possession of the
12 United States;

13 “(iii) an Indian Tribe (as defined in
14 section 4 of the Indian Self-Determination
15 and Education Assistance Act (25 U.S.C.
16 5304));

17 “(iv) a cooperative or mutual organi-
18 zation;

19 “(v) an organization of 2 or more in-
20 corporated areas that have established an
21 intermunicipal legal agreement for the pur-
22 poses of delivering communication services
23 to residents;

24 “(vi) a corporation; or

1 “(vii) a limited liability company or
2 limited liability partnership.

3 “(C) INELIGIBLE ENTITIES.—An indi-
4 vidual or legal general partnership that is
5 formed with individuals shall not be eligible to
6 obtain a grant, loan, or grant and loan com-
7 bination under subsection (c).

8 “(D) AFFILIATED OWNED AND OPERATED
9 NETWORKS.—Under this subsection, the Sec-
10 retary may fund the construction of networks
11 owned and operated by an affiliate of an eligible
12 entity receiving the grant, loan, or loan guar-
13 antee, if the eligible entity, the affiliate, or
14 both, as determined necessary by the Secretary,
15 furnishes adequate security for the grant, loan,
16 or loan guarantee.”; and

17 (iii) in subparagraph (E) (as so redes-
18 ignated by clause (ii) of this subpara-
19 graph), by inserting “, directly or in con-
20 junction with any combination of affili-
21 ates,” before “may not”;

22 (B) in paragraph (2)—

23 (i) in subparagraph (A)—

1 (I) by striking “subparagraphs
2 (B) and (C)” and inserting “subpara-
3 graph (B)”;

4 (II) by striking “is submitted—”
5 and all that follows through “(i) not
6 less than 50” and inserting “is sub-
7 mitted not less than 75”; and

8 (III) by striking “(e); and” and
9 all that follows and inserting “(e).”;

10 (ii) in subparagraph (B), by striking
11 “(A)(i)” and inserting “(A)”; and

12 (iii) by striking subparagraph (C) and
13 inserting the following:

14 “(C) AFFORDABILITY.—In deciding wheth-
15 er a proposed service territory is unserved for
16 purposes of subparagraph (A), the Secretary
17 shall consider the affordability of broadband
18 service in the service territory.”; and

19 (C) by striking paragraphs (4) and (5);
20 (5) in subsection (e)—

21 (A) in paragraph (1)—

22 (i) by striking “Subject to paragraph
23 (2), for” and inserting “For”;

24 (ii) in subparagraph (A), by striking
25 “25” and inserting “50”; and

1 (iii) in subparagraph (B), by striking
2 “3” and inserting “25”;

3 (B) by striking paragraph (2) and insert-
4 ing the following:

5 “(2) ADJUSTMENTS.—The Secretary may ad-
6 just, through a 30-day public notice and comment
7 period published in the Federal Register, an increase
8 in the minimum level of broadband service under
9 paragraph (1) of no more than 50 percent from the
10 preceding year, if less than 95 percent of the funds
11 of the program are obligated in the preceding 2
12 funding rounds.”; and

13 (C) in paragraph (4)—

14 (i) in the paragraph heading, by strik-
15 ing “BUILDOUT” and inserting “PROJECT
16 AGREEMENT”; and

17 (ii) by striking subparagraphs (B)
18 through (D) and inserting the following:

19 “(B) BROADBAND BUILDOUT STANDARDS
20 DEFINED.—A project must meet the following
21 applicable broadband standard in order to be
22 considered for assistance;

23 “(i) A project with an award term of
24 less than 8 years must provide service at

1 2 times the minimum broadband speed es-
2 tablished in subsection (e)(1).

3 “(ii) A project with an award term of
4 at least 8 years and less than 14 years
5 must provide service at 5 times the min-
6 imum broadband speed established in sub-
7 section (e)(1).

8 “(iii) A project with an award term of
9 14 or more years must provide service at
10 10 times the minimum broadband speed
11 established in subsection (e)(1).

12 “(C) NETWORK UPGRADE PLANNING.—
13 The Secretary may prioritize an applicant seek-
14 ing to meet the broadband buildout standards
15 under clause (i) or (ii) of subparagraph (B) if
16 the applicant submits information regarding the
17 potential for the physical infrastructure of the
18 network to be upgraded to meet the broadband
19 buildout standards under subparagraph (B)(iii)
20 at the time of the application, assuming reason-
21 able progress in relevant networking tech-
22 nologies.”;
23 (6) by striking subsection (j) and inserting the
24 following:

1 “(j) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There
2 is authorized to be appropriated to the Secretary to carry
3 out this section \$350,000,000 for each of fiscal years 2027
4 through 2031, to remain available until expended.”; and
5 (7) in subsection (k), by striking “2023” and
6 inserting “2031”.

7 (b) REGULATIONS.—Not later than 270 days after
8 the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary shall
9 promulgate rules to carry out the amendments made by
10 subsection (a) of this section, and complete the biennial
11 review process required by section 601(e)(2) of the Rural
12 Electrification Act of 1936.

13 (c) SUNSET.—The authorities provided by section
14 779 of the Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2018 (Public
15 Law 115–141) shall have no force or effect beginning 270
16 days after the date of the enactment of this Act.

17 (d) TRANSITION RULES.—

18 (1) AVAILABILITY OF FUNDS FOR ADMINISTRA-
19 TIVE COSTS.—Not more than 1 percent of the unob-
20 ligated balances of amounts made available, as of
21 the date that is 270 days after the date of the enact-
22 ment of this Act, to carry out the pilot program de-
23 scribed in section 779 of the Consolidated Appro-
24 priations Act, 2018 (Public Law 115–141) may be
25 used for the costs of transitioning from the pilot

1 program to the program under section 601 of the
2 Rural Electrification Act of 1936, as amended by
3 this Act.

4 (2) CONSOLIDATION OF FUNDS.—

5 (A) IN GENERAL.—The unobligated bal-
6 ances of all amounts made available on or be-
7 fore June 30, 2025, to carry out the pilot pro-
8 gram described in section 779 of the Consoli-
9 dated Appropriations Act, 2018 (Public Law
10 115–141) that are in excess of the amount de-
11 scribed in subparagraph (B) of this paragraph
12 are hereby transferred to and merged with
13 amounts made available to carry out the pro-
14 gram authorized under section 601 of the Rural
15 Electrification Act of 1936.

16 (B) UNFUNDED APPROVALS.—The amount
17 described in this subparagraph is the amount
18 required to fully fund each project approved as
19 of the date that is 270 days after the date of
20 the enactment of this Act, under the pilot pro-
21 gram described in such section 779 for which
22 amounts were not obligated or partially obli-
23 gated as of such date.

1 **SEC. 6202. EXPANSION OF MIDDLE MILE INFRASTRUCTURE**
2 **INTO RURAL AREAS.**

3 Section 602(g) of the Rural Electrification Act of
4 1936 (7 U.S.C. 950bb–1(g)) is amended by striking
5 “2018 through 2023” and inserting “2027 through
6 2031”.

7 **SEC. 6203. INNOVATIVE BROADBAND ADVANCEMENT PRO-**
8 **GRAM.**

9 Section 603 of the Rural Electrification Act of 1936
10 (7 U.S.C. 950bb–2) is amended to read as follows:

11 **“SEC. 603. INNOVATIVE BROADBAND ADVANCEMENT PRO-**
12 **GRAM.**

13 “(a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall establish a
14 program to be known as the ‘Innovative Broadband Ad-
15 vancement Program’, under which the Secretary may pro-
16 vide a grant, a loan, or both to an eligible entity for the
17 purpose of demonstrating innovative broadband tech-
18 nologies or methods of broadband deployment that signifi-
19 cantly decrease the cost of broadband deployment, and
20 provide substantially faster broadband speeds than are
21 available, in a rural area.

22 “(b) TERRESTRIAL BROADBAND DEMONSTRATION
23 PROJECTS.—

24 “(1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall provide
25 grants or loans to eligible entities for the purpose of
26 deploying innovative broadband technologies to

1 qualified consumers who subscribe to terrestrial
2 broadband service in rural areas.

3 “(2) ELIGIBILITY.—To be eligible to obtain as-
4 sistance under this subsection for a project, an enti-
5 ty shall—

6 “(A) submit to the Secretary an applica-
7 tion—

8 “(i) that describes a terrestrial
9 broadband demonstration project designed
10 to decrease the cost of broadband deploy-
11 ment, and substantially increase broadband
12 speed to not less than the maximum
13 broadband project agreement requirements
14 established under section 601(e)(4), to
15 qualified consumers in a rural area to be
16 served by the project; and

17 “(ii) at such time, in such manner,
18 and containing such other information as
19 the Secretary may require;

20 “(B) demonstrate that the entity is able to
21 carry out the project; and

22 “(C) agree to complete the project build-
23 out within 5 years after the date the assistance
24 is first provided for the project.

1 “(3) PRIORITIZATION.—In awarding assistance
2 under this subsection, the Secretary shall give pri-
3 ority to proposals for projects that—

4 “(A) involve partnerships between or
5 among multiple entities;

6 “(B) would provide broadband service to
7 the greatest number of rural entities at or
8 above the broadband requirements referred to
9 in paragraph (2)(A)(i);

10 “(C) the Secretary determines could be
11 replicated in rural areas described in paragraph
12 (2); and

13 “(D) are located in States and territories
14 selected by the Secretary to be diverse on the
15 basis of geography, topography, and demo-
16 graphics.

17 “(4) QUALIFIED CONSUMER.—In this sub-
18 section, the term ‘qualified consumer’ means—

19 “(A) an individual or member of a house-
20 hold who lives in a rural area;

21 “(B) a rural small business; or

22 “(C) an essential community facility, as
23 defined pursuant to section 306(a) of the Con-
24 solidated Farm and Rural Development Act (7
25 U.S.C. 1926(a)).

1 “(5) RURAL AREA.—In this subsection, the
2 term ‘rural area’ has the meaning provided in sec-
3 tion 601(b)(3).

4 “(c) SATELLITE BROADBAND DEMONSTRATION
5 PROJECTS.—

6 “(1) PURPOSE.—The purpose of this subsection
7 is to reduce or eliminate the costs to access satellite
8 broadband service for remote subscribers.

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

10 “(A) ELIGIBLE ENTITY.—The term ‘eligi-
11 ble entity’ means a broadband service provider
12 that provides Internet access directly to quali-
13 fied consumers in remote areas via satellite
14 technology.

15 “(B) QUALIFIED CONSUMER.—The term
16 ‘qualified consumer’ means a consumer served
17 by an eligible entity that receives a grant under
18 paragraph (3), who is—

19 “(i) an individual or a member of a
20 household at or below the poverty line (as
21 defined in section 673(2) of the Omnibus
22 Budget Reconciliation Act of 1981, includ-
23 ing any revision required by such section,
24 applicable to a family of the size involved);
25 or

1 “(ii) an essential community facility,
2 as defined pursuant to section 306(a) of
3 the Consolidated Farm and Rural Develop-
4 ment Act (7 U.S.C. 1926(a)).

5 “(C) SATELLITE BROADBAND EQUIP-
6 MENT.—The term ‘satellite broadband equip-
7 ment’ means user terminals, Wi-Fi routers,
8 power supplies, mounts, and any other equip-
9 ment necessary to connect a qualified consumer
10 to satellite broadband service.

11 “(D) SECRETARY.—The term ‘Secretary’
12 means the Secretary of Agriculture, acting
13 through the Administrator of the Rural Utilities
14 Service.

15 “(E) REMOTE.—The term ‘remote’ means
16 a region classified within level 3 or level 4 of
17 the frontier and remote ZIP Code areas pub-
18 lished by the Economic Research Service of the
19 Department of Agriculture.

20 “(3) GRANTS TO ELIGIBLE ENTITIES.—

21 “(A) IN GENERAL.—Subject to paragraph
22 (B), the Secretary shall make grants to eligible
23 entities for the purpose of reducing or elimi-
24 nating the cost associated with the purchase or
25 installation, or both, of satellite broadband

1 equipment to qualified consumers to subscribe
2 to satellite broadband service in remote areas.

3 “(B) REQUIREMENTS.—As a condition of
4 receiving a grant under this subsection, an eli-
5 gible entity shall—

6 “(i) provide retail broadband service
7 delivered via satellite technology to quali-
8 fied consumers, that—

9 “(I) enables a qualified consumer
10 to the service to originate and receive
11 high-quality voice, data, graphics,
12 video; and

13 “(II) has a latency which does
14 not exceed 250 milliseconds;

15 “(ii) submit to the Secretary an appli-
16 cation at such time, in such manner, and
17 containing such other information as the
18 Secretary may require;

19 “(iii) agree to reduce or eliminate the
20 cost associated with the purchase, installa-
21 tion, or both, of satellite broadband equip-
22 ment for qualified consumers; and

23 “(iv) agree to provide qualified con-
24 sumers with the reduction or elimination of

1 that cost within 1 year of the assistance
2 being obligated to the eligible entity.

3 “(C) ELIGIBILITY MAP OF QUALIFIED CON-
4 SUMERS.—Within 1 year after the date of the
5 enactment of this Act, and annually thereafter,
6 the Secretary shall publish a map of the remote
7 areas of qualified consumers that do not have
8 access to terrestrial broadband service of at
9 least—

10 “(i) a 25-Mbps downstream trans-
11 mission capacity; and

12 “(ii) a 3-Mbps upstream transmission
13 capacity.

14 “(d) REPORT.—Within 1 year after the date of the
15 enactment of this section, and annually thereafter, the
16 Secretary shall submit a comprehensive report to the Com-
17 mittee on Agriculture of the House of Representatives and
18 the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry of
19 the Senate that shall provide the outcomes, effectiveness,
20 and impact of the Innovative Broadband Advancement
21 Program, including—

22 “(1) an assessment of the broadband infra-
23 structure funded, including the scope, scale, nature
24 and geographic locations of each award;

1 “(2) the broadband access and speeds achieved,
2 including the download and upload speeds, latency,
3 and overall network reliability;

4 “(3) any technical or logistical challenges en-
5 countered by the eligible entities; and

6 “(4) any recommendations for future innovative
7 broadband deployment initiatives in rural areas.

8 “(e) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There
9 is authorized to be appropriated to carry out this section
10 \$10,000,000 for each of fiscal years 2027 through 2031.”.

11 **SEC. 6204. COMMUNITY CONNECT GRANTS.**

12 Section 604 of the Rural Electrification Act of 1936
13 (7 U.S.C. 950bb–3) is amended—

14 (1) in subsection (a)(2)—

15 (A) in subparagraph (A), by striking “10”
16 and inserting “25”; and

17 (B) in subparagraph (B), by striking “1”
18 and inserting “3”;

19 (2) in subsection (c)—

20 (A) in paragraph (1), by striking “and” at
21 the end;

22 (B) in paragraph (2), by striking the pe-
23 riod at the end and inserting “; and”; and

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

1 “(3) provides broadband speeds not less than
 2 the broadband project agreement requirements es-
 3 tablished under section 601(e)(4)(B)(ii) to the eligi-
 4 ble entity within the proposed eligible service area.”;
 5 and

6 (3) in subsection (g), by striking “2019 through
 7 2023” and inserting “2027 through 2031”.

8 **SEC. 6205. RATE REGULATION.**

9 Title VI of the Rural Electrification Act of 1936 (7
 10 U.S.C. 950bb–5) is amended by adding at the end the fol-
 11 lowing:

12 **“SEC. 607. RATE REGULATION.**

13 “Nothing in this title authorizes the Secretary to reg-
 14 ulate rates charged for broadband service.”.

15 **SEC. 6206. PUBLIC NOTICE, ASSESSMENTS, TECHNICAL AS-**
 16 **SISTANCE, AND REPORTING REQUIREMENTS.**

17 Section 701 of the Rural Electrification Act of 1936
 18 (7 U.S.C. 950cc) is amended—

19 (1) in the section heading, by inserting “**TECH-**
 20 **NICAL ASSISTANCE,**” before “**AND**”;

21 (2) in subsection (a)(1)(B)(i), by inserting “,
 22 including a complete shapefile map” before the semi-
 23 colon;

24 (3) in subsection (b)—

25 (A) in paragraph (1)—

1 (i) in subparagraph (A), by striking
2 “and” at the end;

3 (ii) by redesignating subparagraph
4 (B) as subparagraph (C) and inserting
5 after subparagraph (A) the following:

6 “(B) validate the information submitted by
7 service providers under subparagraph (A)
8 through procedures established by the Sec-
9 retary, which shall include an agency deter-
10 mination provided to the submitter, an oppor-
11 tunity of the submitter to respond, and a final
12 non-appealable determination of the Secretary;
13 and”; and

14 (iii) in subparagraph (C) (as so redes-
15 ignated by clause (ii) of this subpara-
16 graph), by striking “paragraph (1)” and
17 inserting “subparagraph (A)”; and

18 (B) in paragraph (2), by striking all that
19 precedes subparagraph (B) and inserting the
20 following:

21 “(2) ASSESSMENT OF ELIGIBILITY.—In making
22 any determination to award a loan, loan guarantee,
23 or grant for any retail broadband project provided
24 assistance or for which assistance is sought that is
25 administered by the Secretary, the Secretary shall

1 confirm that each unserved rural community identi-
2 fied in the application is eligible for funding by—

3 “(A) utilizing the map created by the Fed-
4 eral Communications Commission under section
5 802(c)(1)(A) of the Communications Act of
6 1934 and the Deployment Locations Map estab-
7 lished under section 60104(b) of the Infrastruc-
8 ture Investment and Jobs Act (47 U.S.C.
9 1704(b));”; and

10 (4) by striking subsection (e) and inserting the
11 following:

12 “(e) BROADBAND TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE PRO-
13 GRAM.—

14 “(1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall make
15 grants to private, nonprofit, or public organizations
16 to provide or receive eligible entities broadband tech-
17 nical assistance and training to expand access to
18 broadband service in rural communities through the
19 broadband programs of the Department of Agri-
20 culture including—

21 “(A) preparing applications for grants,
22 loans and loan guarantees under this section;

23 “(B) identifying resources to finance
24 broadband facilities from public and private
25 sources, including other Federal agencies;

1 “(C) preparing feasibility studies, financial
2 forecasts, market surveys, environmental stud-
3 ies, and technical design information to support
4 broadband services;

5 “(D) preparing reports and surveys nec-
6 essary to support the need for broadband serv-
7 ices, the price range, and request financial as-
8 sistance;

9 “(E) analyzing and improving operations
10 related to the management, including financial
11 management, of broadband facilities and to the
12 efficiency of the entity;

13 “(F) collecting broadband infrastructure
14 data; or

15 “(G) assisting with other areas of need
16 identified by the Secretary.

17 “(2) ELIGIBLE ENTITIES.—To be eligible to ob-
18 tain assistance under this subsection, an entity shall
19 be—

20 “(A) a federally recognized Tribe or Tribal
21 entity;

22 “(B) a State or local government, includ-
23 ing any agency, subdivision, instrumentality, or
24 political subdivision thereof;

1 “(C) a territory or possession of the
2 United States;

3 “(D) an institution of higher education (in-
4 cluding a 1862 Land-Grant Institution, 1890
5 Land-Grant Institution, 1994 Land-Grant In-
6 stitution, Hispanic-Serving Institution, or His-
7 torically Black College or University);

8 “(E) a nonprofit organization described in
9 section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code
10 of 1986;

11 “(F) a cooperative or mutual organization;

12 “(G) a corporation; or

13 “(H) a limited liability company or limited
14 liability partnership.

15 “(3) SELECTION PRIORITY.—In selecting recipi-
16 ents of grants under this paragraph, the Secretary
17 shall give priority to organizations that have experi-
18 ence in providing technical assistance and training
19 to rural entities.

20 “(4) NATIONAL APPLICATIONS.—The Secretary
21 shall allow applications for grants under this para-
22 graph from qualified organizations for the sole pur-
23 pose of providing on-site community technical assist-
24 ance and training on a national or multi-State re-
25 gional basis.

1 “(f) ASSISTANCE FOR COMMUNITY BROADBAND
2 MAPPING.—

3 “(1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary may make
4 grants to eligible entities for the purpose of col-
5 lecting broadband service data to assist the Sec-
6 retary in—

7 “(A) establishing the availability of
8 broadband service or middle mile infrastructure
9 in a rural area;

10 “(B) determining the eligibility of a com-
11 munity for assistance under any broadband pro-
12 gram administered by the Secretary;

13 “(C) undertaking a service area assess-
14 ment under this section; or

15 “(D) collecting information to submit a
16 challenge to the National Broadband Map cre-
17 ated by the Federal Communications Commis-
18 sion pursuant to section 802(c)(1) of the Com-
19 munications Act of 1934 (47 U.S.C. 642(c)(1)).

20 “(2) APPLICATION.—To apply for a grant
21 under this section, an entity shall submit an applica-
22 tion which identifies—

23 “(A) the data collection area;

24 “(B) the purpose of the data collection;

1 “(C) the types of broadband service data
2 to be collected;

3 “(D) the survey and data collection meth-
4 ods utilized; and

5 “(E) any other information the Secretary
6 determines necessary to promote the integrity
7 of broadband service collected under this sec-
8 tion.

9 “(3) LIMITATION OF GRANT AMOUNT.—The
10 amount of a grant made available under this sub-
11 section shall not exceed \$50,000.

12 “(4) BROADBAND SERVICE DATA USAGE.—The
13 Secretary shall ensure that any broadband service
14 data collected under this section is—

15 “(A) measured or assessed in accordance
16 with such standards as are established by the
17 Federal Communications Commission pursuant
18 to section 802(a)(1)(A) of the Communications
19 Act of 1934 (47 U.S.C. 642(a)(1)(A));

20 “(B) accurate and verifiable in accordance
21 with such standards as are established by the
22 Federal Communications Commission pursuant
23 to section 802(a)(1)(A) of the Communications
24 Act of 1934 (47 U.S.C. 642(a)(1)(A));

1 “(C) included in any broadband maps or
2 data sets maintained by the Secretary; and

3 “(D) made available to the Chair of the
4 Federal Communications Commission and the
5 Administrator of the National Telecommuni-
6 cations and Information Administration for in-
7 clusion in any broadband maps or data sets ei-
8 ther may maintain.

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

10 “(A) BROADBAND SERVICE.—The term
11 ‘broadband service’ has the same meaning given
12 the term in section 601.

13 “(B) BROADBAND SERVICE DATA.—

14 “(i) IN GENERAL.—The term
15 ‘broadband service data’ means informa-
16 tion related to—

17 “(I) the location and type of
18 broadband service;

19 “(II) the location and type of
20 broadband infrastructure;

21 “(III) the advertised, maximum,
22 and average speed of broadband serv-
23 ice;

1 “(IV) the average price of the
2 most subscribed tier of broadband
3 service;

4 “(V) the speed tiers of broadband
5 service available in the area; or

6 “(VI) any additional metric the
7 Secretary deems appropriate.

8 “(ii) FURTHER DEFINITION.—The
9 Secretary shall further define the term
10 ‘broadband service area’ to ensure that
11 data is measured and collected in a man-
12 ner consistent with the reporting require-
13 ments under this section, and any
14 broadband coordination or data-sharing ob-
15 ligations.

16 “(C) ELIGIBLE ENTITY.—The term ‘eligi-
17 ble entity’ means—

18 “(i) a unit of local government in a
19 rural area;

20 “(ii) a Tribal Government or unit of
21 Tribal Government;

22 “(iii) an economic development or
23 other community organization;

24 “(iv) an eligible entity under title I or
25 II that serves persons in rural areas;

1 “(v) an internet service provider that
2 has not more than 100,000 subscribers; or

3 “(vi) any other entity eligible under a
4 title VI program that is not an internet
5 service provider.

6 “(D) MIDDLE MILE INFRASTRUCTURE.—
7 The term ‘middle mile infrastructure’ has the
8 meaning given the term in section 602.

9 “(E) RURAL AREA.—The term ‘rural area’
10 has the meaning given the term in section 601.

11 “(6) LIMITATION ON AMOUNT MADE AVAILABLE
12 FOR GRANTS.—The Secretary may not expend more
13 than 1 percent of the amounts made available under
14 subsection (g) for each of fiscal years 2027 through
15 2031 to carry out this subsection.

16 “(g) LIMITATIONS ON RESERVATION OF FUNDS.—
17 Not less than 3 but not more than 5 percent of the
18 amounts appropriated to the program to carry out title
19 VI shall be set aside to be used for—

20 “(1) conducting oversight under such title;

21 “(2) implementing accountability measures and
22 related activities authorized under such title; or

23 “(3) carrying out this section.”.

1 **SEC. 6207. LIMITATION ON OVERBUILDING.**

2 Title VI of the Rural Electrification Act of 1936 (7
3 U.S.C. 950bb et seq.) is amended by adding at the end
4 the following:

5 **“SEC. 608. LIMITATION ON OVERBUILDING.**

6 “Any area in a proposed service area under this title
7 shall not be considered unserved if an applicant in another
8 Federal or State broadband program has received an obli-
9 gation of funding to offer retail broadband service in the
10 area not more than 5 years from the date of the obligation
11 of funds, at a speed of at least 100 Mbps download and
12 20 Mbps upload.”.

13 **Subtitle C—Miscellaneous**

14 **SEC. 6301. RURAL ENERGY SAVINGS PROGRAM.**

15 Section 6407 of the Farm Security and Rural Invest-
16 ment Act of 2002 (7 U.S.C. 8107a) is amended—

17 (1) in subsection (b)—

18 (A) in paragraph (1)—

19 (i) in subparagraph (A), by inserting
20 “, if the entity continues to serve rural
21 areas (as defined in section 343(a)(13)(A)
22 of the Consolidated Farm and Rural De-
23 velopment Act (7 U.S.C. 1991(a)(13)(A))”
24 before the semicolon;

25 (ii) in subparagraph (B), by striking
26 “or” at the end; and

1 (iii) by redesignating subparagraph
2 (C) as subparagraph (E) and inserting
3 after subparagraph (B) the following:

4 “(C) any Indian Tribe (as defined in sec-
5 tion 4 of the Indian Self-Determination and
6 Education Assistance Act (25 U.S.C. 5304));

7 “(D) any public, quasi-public, or nonprofit
8 entity that uses innovative financing techniques
9 and market development tools to accelerate the
10 deployment of energy efficiency technology; or”;

11 (B) by striking paragraph (2) and insert-
12 ing the following:

13 “(2) ENERGY EFFICIENCY MEASURES.—The
14 term ‘energy efficiency measures’ means, with re-
15 spect to any property service by an eligible entity—

16 “(A) a structural improvement or invest-
17 ment in a cost-effective, commercial technology
18 to increase energy efficiency (including cost-ef-
19 fective on- or off-grid renewable energy or en-
20 ergy storage system); and

21 “(B) the replacement of a manufactured
22 housing unit or large appliance with a substan-
23 tially similar manufacturing housing unit or ap-
24 pliance, respectively, if that replacement is a

1 cost-effective option with respect to energy sav-
2 ings.”;

3 (2) in subsection (c)—

4 (A) in the subsection heading, by inserting
5 “AND GRANTS” before “TO”;

6 (B) by striking paragraph (1) and insert-
7 ing the following:

8 “(1) IN GENERAL.—Subject to this subsection,
9 the Secretary shall provide—

10 “(A) loans to eligible entities that agree to
11 use the loan funds to make loans under sub-
12 section (d) to qualified consumers for the pur-
13 pose of implementing energy efficiency meas-
14 ures; and

15 “(B) at the election of any eligible entity
16 that receives a loan under subparagraph (A) of
17 this paragraph, a grant in accordance with
18 paragraph (11).”;

19 (C) by redesignating paragraphs (2)
20 through (9) as paragraphs (3) through (10), re-
21 spectively, and inserting after paragraph (1) the
22 following:

23 “(2) PRIORITIZATION.—The Secretary shall
24 give priority to applications from eligible entities
25 serving at least 80 percent of their ratepayers resid-

1 ing in rural areas, as defined in section
2 343(a)(13)(A) of the Consolidated Farm and Rural
3 Development Act (7 U.S.C. 1991(a)(13)(A)).”;

4 (D) in paragraph (3) (as so redesignated
5 by subparagraph (C) of this paragraph)—

6 (i) in the paragraph heading, by in-
7 serting “FOR LOANS” before the period;
8 and

9 (ii) in subparagraph (A)(i), by strik-
10 ing “that is”;

11 (E) by striking paragraph (6) (as so redesi-
12 gnated by subparagraph (C) of this paragraph)
13 and inserting the following:

14 “(6) REPAYMENT.—

15 “(A) IN GENERAL.—Subject to subpara-
16 graph (B) of this paragraph, with respect to a
17 loan under paragraph (1)(A)—

18 “(i) the term shall not exceed 20
19 years from the date on which the loan is
20 closed; and

21 “(ii) except as provided in paragraph
22 (8), the repayment of each advance shall
23 be amortized for a period not to exceed 10
24 years.

1 “(B) EXTENSIONS.—The Secretary may
2 extend the term of a loan under subparagraph
3 (A)(i), or the deadline for repayment of an ad-
4 vance under subparagraph (A)(ii), as the Sec-
5 retary determines appropriate.”;

6 (F) in paragraph (8) (as so redesignated
7 by subparagraph (C) of this paragraph)—

8 (i) in subparagraph (B), by striking
9 “(1)” and inserting “(1)(A)”; and

10 (ii) in subparagraph (C), by striking
11 “Repayment” and inserting “Subject to an
12 applicable extension under paragraph
13 (6)(B), repayment”;

14 (G) by striking paragraph (9) (as so redesi-
15 gnated by subparagraph (C) of this paragraph)
16 and inserting the following:

17 “(9) LIMITATIONS.—

18 “(A) SPECIAL ADVANCES.—All special ad-
19 vances shall be made under a loan described in
20 paragraph (1) during the first 10 years of the
21 term of the loan.

22 “(B) REPLACEMENT OF MANUFACTURED
23 HOUSING UNITS OR LARGE APPLIANCES.—Not
24 more than 10 percent of the total annual
25 amount of budget authority for loans described

1 in paragraph (1) may be used for the replace-
2 ment of manufactured housing units or large
3 appliances.”; and

4 (H) by adding at the end the following:

5 “(11) GRANTS.—

6 “(A) IN GENERAL.—At the election of an
7 eligible entity that receives a loan under this
8 subsection, the Secretary may provide to the eli-
9 gible entity a grant to pay for a portion of the
10 costs incurred in—

11 “(i) making repairs to the property of
12 a qualified consumer that facilitates the
13 energy efficiency measures for the property
14 financed through a loan provided to the
15 qualified consumer under subsection (d); or

16 “(ii) providing technical assistance,
17 outreach, and training.

18 “(B) AMOUNT.—

19 “(i) IN GENERAL.—Except as pro-
20 vided in clause (ii), the amount of a grant
21 provided to an eligible entity under this
22 paragraph shall be equal to not more than
23 5 percent of the amount of the loan pro-
24 vided to the eligible entity under this sub-
25 section.

1 “(ii) PERSISTENT POVERTY COUN-
2 TIES.—The amount of a grant provided
3 under this paragraph to an eligible entity
4 that will use the grant to make loans
5 under subsection (d) to qualified con-
6 sumers located in a persistent poverty
7 county (as determined by the Secretary)
8 shall be equal to 10 percent of the amount
9 of the loan provided to the eligible entity
10 under this subsection.”;

11 (3) in subsection (d)—

12 (A) in paragraph (1)—

13 (i) in the matter preceding subpara-
14 graph (A), by inserting “or grant” before
15 “funds”; and

16 (ii) by striking subparagraphs (B) and
17 (C) and inserting the following:

18 “(B)(i) may have a term and amortization
19 schedule the length of which is the useful life
20 of the energy efficiency measures implemented
21 using the loan, if the loan term does not exceed
22 20 years; and

23 “(ii) shall finance energy efficiency meas-
24 ures for the purpose of decreasing energy usage
25 or costs of the qualified consumer by an

1 amount that ensures, to the maximum extent
2 practicable, that the applicable loan term de-
3 scribed in clause (i) will not pose an undue fi-
4 nancial burden on the qualified consumer, as
5 determined by the eligible entity;

6 “(C) shall not be used to fund purchases
7 of, or modifications to, personal property unless
8 the personal property—

9 “(i) is a manufactured housing unit or
10 large appliance described in subsection
11 (b)(2)(B); or

12 “(ii) is or becomes attached to real
13 property as a fixture;” and

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

15 “(3) CLARIFICATION OF ELIGIBILITY.—Not-
16 withstanding any other provision of law (including
17 regulations), an eligible entity may make a loan
18 under this subsection to any qualified consumer lo-
19 cated within the service territory of the eligible enti-
20 ty, regardless of whether the qualified consumer is
21 located in a rural area.”;

22 (4) in subsection (e)—

23 (A) in the subsection heading, by inserting

24 “OUTREACH,” before “AND TECHNICAL ASSIST-
25 ANCE”;

1 (B) in paragraph (1)—

2 (i) in subparagraph (A), by striking
3 “and technical assistance of the program”
4 and inserting “outreach, and technical as-
5 sistance relating to the program under this
6 section”; and

7 (ii) in subparagraph (B)(ii), by insert-
8 ing “, outreach,” before “and training”;
9 and

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

11 “(3) FUNDING.—Not less than 3 but not more
12 than 5 percent of amounts appropriated under sub-
13 section (i) may be used to provide outreach, train-
14 ing, and technical assistance under this subsection.”;
15 and

16 (5) in subsection (i), by striking “2014 through
17 2023” and inserting “2027 through 2031”.

18 **SEC. 6302. PROMOTING PRECISION AGRICULTURE.**

19 (a) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

20 (1) ADVANCED WIRELESS COMMUNICATIONS
21 TECHNOLOGY.—The term “advanced wireless com-
22 munications technology” means advanced technology
23 that contributes to mobile (5G or beyond) networks,
24 next-generation Wi-Fi networks, or other future net-
25 works using other technologies, regardless of wheth-

1 er the network is operating on an exclusive licensed,
2 shared licensed, or unlicensed frequency band.

3 (2) ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE.—The term “ar-
4 tificial intelligence” has the meaning given the term
5 in section 238(g) of the John S. McCain National
6 Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2019
7 (Public Law 115–232; 10 U.S.C. note prec. 4061).

8 (3) FOREIGN ADVERSARY.—The term “foreign
9 adversary” means any foreign government or foreign
10 nongovernment person engaged in a long-term pat-
11 tern or serious instances of conduct significantly ad-
12 verse to the national security of the United States,
13 or security and safety of United States persons.

14 (4) PRECISION AGRICULTURE; PRECISION AGRI-
15 CULTURE TECHNOLOGY.—The terms “precision agri-
16 culture” and “precision agriculture technology” have
17 the meanings given the terms in section 1201 of the
18 Food Security Act of 1985.

19 (5) TRUSTED.—The term “trusted” means,
20 with respect to a provider of advanced communica-
21 tions service or a supplier of communications equip-
22 ment or service, that the Secretary has determined
23 that the provider or supplier is not owned by, con-
24 trolled by, or subject to the influence of, a foreign
25 adversary.

1 (6) VOLUNTARY CONSENSUS STANDARDS DE-
2 VELOPMENT ORGANIZATION.—The term “voluntary
3 consensus standards development organization”
4 means an organization that develops standards in a
5 process that meets the principles for the develop-
6 ment of voluntary consensus standards (as defined
7 in the document of the Office of Management and
8 Budget entitled “Federal Participation in the Devel-
9 opment and Use of Voluntary Consensus Standards
10 and in Conformity Assessment Activities” (OMB
11 Circular A–119)).

12 (b) PURPOSES.—The purposes of this section are—

13 (1) to enhance the participation of precision ag-
14 riculture in the United States; and

15 (2) to promote United States leadership in vol-
16 untary consensus standards development organiza-
17 tions that set standards for precision agriculture.

18 (c) INTERCONNECTIVITY STANDARDS FOR PRECI-
19 SION AGRICULTURE.—

20 (1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 2 years after
21 the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary, in
22 consultation with the Director of the National Insti-
23 tute of Standards and Technology and the Federal
24 Communications Commission, shall—

1 (A) develop voluntary, consensus-based,
2 private sector-led interconnectivity standards,
3 guidelines, and best practices for precision agri-
4 culture that will promote economies of scale and
5 ease the burden of the adoption of precision ag-
6 riculture; and

7 (B) in carrying out subparagraph (A)—

8 (i) coordinate with relevant public and
9 trusted private sector stakeholders and
10 other relevant industry organizations, in-
11 cluding voluntary consensus standards de-
12 velopment organizations; and

13 (ii) consult with sector-specific agen-
14 cies, other appropriate agencies, and State
15 and local governments.

16 (2) CONSIDERATIONS.—The Secretary, in car-
17 rying out paragraph (1), shall, in consultation with
18 the Federal Communications Commission and the
19 Director of the National Institute of Standards and
20 Technology, consider—

21 (A) the evolving demands of precision agri-
22 culture;

23 (B) the connectivity needs of precision ag-
24 riculture technology;

1 (C) the cybersecurity challenges facing pre-
2 cision agriculture, including cybersecurity
3 threats for agriculture producers and agri-
4 culture supply chains;

5 (D) the impact of advanced wireless com-
6 munications technology on precision agriculture;
7 and

8 (E) the impact of artificial intelligence on
9 precision agriculture.

10 (d) GAO ASSESSMENT OF PRECISION AGRICULTURE
11 STANDARDS.—

12 (1) STUDY.—Not later than 1 year after the
13 Secretary develops standards under subsection (c),
14 and every 2 years thereafter for the following 8
15 years, the Comptroller General of the United States
16 shall conduct a study that assesses those standards,
17 including the extent to which those standards, as ap-
18 plicable—

19 (A) are voluntary;

20 (B) were developed in coordination with
21 relevant industry organizations, including vol-
22 untary consensus standards development orga-
23 nizations; and

24 (C) have successfully encouraged the adop-
25 tion of precision agriculture.

1 (2) REPORT.—The Comptroller General of the
2 United States shall submit to the Committee on
3 Commerce, Science, and Transportation of the Sen-
4 ate, the Committee on Science, Space, and Tech-
5 nology of the House of Representatives, the Com-
6 mittee on Agriculture of the House of Representa-
7 tives, and the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition,
8 and Forestry of the Senate a report that summa-
9 rizes the findings of each study conducted under
10 paragraph (1).

11 **SEC. 6303. FOOD SUPPLY CHAIN GUARANTEED LOANS.**

12 Section 310B of the Consolidated Farm and Rural
13 Development Act (7 U.S.C. 1932) is amended by inserting
14 after subsection (e) the following:

15 “(f) FOOD SUPPLY CHAIN CAPACITY AND RESIL-
16 IENCE GUARANTEED LOANS.—

17 “(1) DEFINITION OF FOOD SUPPLY CHAIN
18 GUARANTEED LOAN.—In this subsection, the term
19 ‘food supply chain guaranteed loan’ means a busi-
20 ness and industry guaranteed loan that is made or
21 guaranteed by the Secretary under subsection
22 (a)(2)(A), including a guarantee described in sub-
23 section (a)(3).

24 “(2) PURPOSE.—A food supply chain guaran-
25 teed loan may be made for the purpose of financing

1 new investments in the start-up or expansion of
2 projects in the United States that will increase the
3 capacity of the food supply chain in the United
4 States to aggregate, process, manufacture, store,
5 transport, wholesale, or distribute food, agricultural
6 products, or agricultural inputs.

7 “(3) LIMITATIONS.—The maximum amount of
8 a food supply chain guaranteed loan shall not exceed
9 \$40,000,000.

10 “(4) LOAN GUARANTEES IN NONRURAL
11 AREAS.—The Secretary may guarantee a food supply
12 chain guaranteed loan to an eligible entity for a fa-
13 cility that is not located in a rural area if—

14 “(A) the primary purpose of the loan guar-
15 antee is for a facility to aggregate, process,
16 manufacture, store, transport, wholesale, or dis-
17 tribute food agricultural products, or agricul-
18 tural inputs for agricultural producers or proc-
19 essors that are located within 80 miles of the
20 facility;

21 “(B) the applicant demonstrates to the
22 Secretary that the primary benefit of the loan
23 guarantee will be to provide employment for
24 residents of a rural area; and

1 “(C) the total principal amount of food
2 supply chain guaranteed loans guaranteed for a
3 fiscal year under this paragraph does not ex-
4 ceed 10 percent of the total principal amount of
5 food supply chain guaranteed loans made for
6 the fiscal year under subsection (a)(2)(A).

7 “(5) QUARTERLY REPORTS TO CONGRESS.—
8 Within 30 days after the end of each calendar quar-
9 ter, the Secretary shall submit to the Committee on
10 Agriculture of the House of Representatives and the
11 Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry
12 of the Senate a report that contains—

13 “(A) an evaluation of the outcomes
14 achieved through use of the assistance, and the
15 ability of the recipient of the assistance to meet
16 performance goals;

17 “(B) a description of any debt recovery
18 made with respect to a loan guaranteed under
19 this subsection, and agency projections for ac-
20 tivities for which the assistance is provided; and

21 “(C) any recommendations of the Sec-
22 retary regarding the implementation of this
23 subsection.

24 “(6) RESERVATION OF FUNDS.—

“(A) IN GENERAL.—For each of fiscal years 2025 through 2029, the Secretary shall reserve not more than 5 percent of the funds made available to carry out subsection (a) to carry out this subsection.

“(B) AVAILABILITY OF FUNDS.—Funds reserved under subparagraph (A) for a fiscal year shall be reserved until April 1 of the fiscal year.”.

SEC. 6304. NEW, MOBILE, AND EXPANDED MEAT PROCESSING AND RENDERING GRANTS.

(a) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

(1) ELIGIBLE ENTITY.—The term “eligible entity” means—

(A) a public, private, or cooperative organization organized on a for-profit or nonprofit basis, including a small establishment and very small establishment;

(B) an Indian Tribe (as defined in section 4 of the Indian Self-Determination and Education Assistance Act (25 U.S.C. 5304));

(C) a land-grant college or university (as defined in section 1404 of the National Agricultural Research, Extension, and Teaching Policy Act of 1977 (7 U.S.C. 3103));

1 (D) a non-land-grant college of agriculture
2 (as defined in that section); and

3 (E) a State department of agriculture or
4 other applicable State office with authority over
5 meat and poultry processing and rendering.

6 (2) SMALL ESTABLISHMENT; VERY SMALL ES-
7 TABLISHMENT.—The terms “small establishment”
8 and “very small establishment” have the meanings
9 given the terms “smaller establishment” and “very
10 small establishment”, respectively, in the final rule
11 entitled “Pathogen Reduction; Hazard Analysis and
12 Critical Control Point (HACCP) Systems” (61 Fed.
13 Reg. 38806 (July 25, 1996)) (or successor regula-
14 tions).

15 (b) PURPOSES.—The purposes of this section are—

16 (1) to create more resilient local and regional
17 food systems;

18 (2) to expand, diversify, and increase resilience
19 in meat and poultry processing and rendering activi-
20 ties;

21 (3) to increase farmer and rancher access to
22 animal slaughter options;

23 (4) to improve compliance of processors with
24 livestock and poultry processing statutes (including
25 regulations), including the Federal Meat Inspection

1 Act (21 U.S.C. 601 et seq.) and the Poultry Prod-
2 ucts Inspection Act (21 U.S.C. 451 et seq.);

3 (5) to reduce barriers to entry for new meat
4 and poultry processors and renderers;

5 (6) to establish new, or update, expand, or oth-
6 erwise improve existing, meat and poultry processing
7 and rendering facilities; and

8 (7) to support the processing and slaughtering
9 of niche production methods such as halal, kosher,
10 and other specific cultural methods.

11 (c) GRANTS.—

12 (1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall award
13 grants to eligible entities to use in accordance with
14 subsection (d).

15 (2) MAXIMUM AMOUNT.—The maximum
16 amount of a grant awarded under paragraph (1)
17 shall not exceed \$500,000.

18 (3) DURATION.—The term of a grant awarded
19 under paragraph (1) shall not exceed 3 years.

20 (4) PRIORITY.—In awarding grants under para-
21 graph (1), the Secretary shall give priority to small
22 establishments and very small establishments.

23 (d) USE OF FUNDS.—An eligible entity receiving a
24 grant under this section shall use the grant to carry out

1 activities in support of the purposes described in sub-
2 section (b), including activities—

3 (1) to identify and analyze business opportuni-
4 ties, including feasibility studies required for credit
5 worthiness;

6 (2) to achieve compliance with applicable Fed-
7 eral, State, or local regulations;

8 (3) to conduct regional, community, and local
9 economic development planning and coordination
10 and leadership development;

11 (4) to incentivize new, innovative, or mobile en-
12 terprises for increasing or improving local and re-
13 gional meat or poultry processing and rendering;

14 (5) to implement humane handling infrastruc-
15 ture, including holding space for livestock prior to
16 slaughter, shade structures, and structures and
17 equipment for humane slaughter;

18 (6) to develop a feasibility study or business
19 plan for, or carry out any other activity associated
20 with, establishing or expanding a small meat or
21 poultry slaughter, processing, or rendering facility;

22 (7) to purchase equipment that enables the fur-
23 ther use or value-added sale of coproducts or by-
24 products; and

1 (8) to purchase cold storage and related equip-
2 ment.

3 (e) FEDERAL SHARE.—The Federal share of the ac-
4 tivities carried out using a grant awarded under this sec-
5 tion shall not exceed—

6 (1) 90 percent in the case of a grant in the
7 amount of \$100,000 or less; or

8 (2) 75 percent in the case of a grant in an
9 amount greater than \$100,000.

10 (f) QUARTERLY REPORTS TO CONGRESS.—Within 30
11 days after the end of each calendar quarter, the Secretary
12 shall submit to the Committee on Agriculture of the House
13 of Representatives and the Committee on Agriculture, Nu-
14 trition, and Forestry of the Senate a report that con-
15 tains—

16 (1) an evaluation of the outcomes achieved
17 through use of the grant, and the ability of the
18 grantee to meet performance goals;

19 (2) an evaluation of the compliance of the
20 grantee with the terms and conditions of the grant;

21 (3) a determination as to whether the grant re-
22 cipient maintains adequate financial capacity to
23 carry out the activities for which the grant is pro-
24 vided; and

1 (4) any recommendations of the Secretary re-
2 garding the implementation of this section.

3 (g) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There is
4 authorized to be appropriated to the Secretary to carry
5 out this section \$3,000,000 for each of fiscal years 2027
6 through 2031.

7 **SEC. 6305. EXPANDING CHILDCARE IN RURAL AMERICA INI-**
8 **TIATIVE.**

9 (a) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

10 (1) CHILDCARE.—

11 (A) IN GENERAL.—The term “childcare”
12 means any program that—

13 (i) provides quality care and early
14 education for children who have not yet en-
15 tered first grade; and

16 (ii) is operated by—

17 (I) an eligible childcare provider
18 described in section 658P(6)(A) of the
19 Child Care and Development Block
20 Grant Act of 1990 (42 U.S.C.
21 9858n(6)(A)); or

22 (II) a childcare provider that, on
23 the date of enactment of this Act—

24 (aa) is licensed, regulated,
25 or registered in the State, terri-

1 tory, or Indian Tribe in which
2 the provider is located; and

3 (bb) meets applicable State,
4 Tribal, territorial, and local
5 health and safety requirements.

6 (B) INCLUSIONS.—The term “childcare”
7 includes—

8 (i) a school-based program described
9 in subparagraph (A);

10 (ii) a program described in subpara-
11 graph (A) that is a Head Start program,
12 including a migrant and seasonal Head
13 Start program, or an American Indian and
14 Alaska Native Head Start program carried
15 out under the Head Start Act (42 U.S.C.
16 9831 et seq.);

17 (iii) a facility used for a program de-
18 scribed in subparagraph (A); and

19 (iv) a service provided under a pro-
20 gram described in subparagraph (A).

21 (2) INITIATIVE.—The term “Initiative” means
22 the Expanding Childcare in Rural America Initiative
23 established under subsection (b).

24 (3) RURAL AREA.—The term “rural area” has
25 the meaning given the term in section 343(a)(13)(A)

1 of the Consolidated Farm and Rural Development
2 Act.

3 (b) ESTABLISHMENT.—The Secretary shall establish
4 an initiative, to be known as the “Expanding Childcare
5 in Rural America Initiative”, under which the Secretary
6 shall provide, for each of fiscal years 2027 through 2029,
7 priority in accordance with subsection (c) to address the
8 availability, quality, and cost of childcare in rural areas.

9 (c) CHILDCARE PRIORITIES.—

10 (1) IN GENERAL.—Notwithstanding any other
11 provision of law, in selecting recipients of loans and
12 grants under a program described in paragraph (2),
13 the Secretary shall give priority to any qualified ap-
14 plicant that proposes to use the loan or grant to ad-
15 dress the availability, quality, or cost of childcare.

16 (2) DESCRIPTION OF PROGRAMS.—The pro-
17 grams referred to in paragraph (1) are the following:

18 (A) The essential community facilities loan
19 and grant programs authorized under section
20 306(a) of the Consolidated Farm and Rural
21 Development Act (7 U.S.C. 1926(a)).

22 (B) The business and industry direct and
23 guaranteed loan program authorized under sec-
24 tion 310B(g) of that Act (7 U.S.C. 1932(g)).

1 (C) The rural microentrepreneur assistance
2 program authorized under section 379E of that
3 Act (7 U.S.C. 2008s).

4 (D) The intermediary relending program
5 authorized under the Food Security Act of
6 1985 (7 U.S.C. 1936b).

7 (d) REQUIREMENTS.—In providing funding in ac-
8 cordance with the Initiative, the Secretary shall ensure a
9 balanced geographical distribution of the benefits under
10 the Initiative.

11 (e) EVALUATION; REPORT.—

12 (1) EVALUATION.—Not later than 3 years after
13 the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary
14 shall conduct a comprehensive quantitative and qual-
15 itative evaluation of the projects carried out using
16 assistance provided under the Initiative, including—

17 (A) a description of—

18 (i) the types of projects carried out;

19 (ii) the communities in which the
20 projects are carried out;

21 (iii) the organizations and entities
22 participating in the projects; and

23 (iv) the types of partnerships devel-
24 oped to carry out the projects; and

1 (B) the economic and social impacts of the
2 investments in the projects.

3 (2) REPORT.—Not later than 4 years after the
4 date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary shall
5 submit to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition,
6 and Forestry of the Senate and the Committee on
7 Agriculture of the House of Representatives a report
8 describing the evaluation conducted under paragraph
9 (1), including a thorough analysis of the outcomes of
10 the evaluation.

11 **SEC. 6306. TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE FOR GEOGRAPHICALLY**
12 **UNDERSERVED AND DISTRESSED AREAS.**

13 (a) IN GENERAL.—Within 1 year after the date of
14 the enactment of this section, the Secretary shall directly,
15 or through cooperative agreements, provide technical as-
16 sistance and strengthen local capacity to improve access
17 to rural development programs administered by the Sec-
18 retary for local partners (including local governments, co-
19 operatives, businesses, and community anchor institu-
20 tions) in geographically underserved and distressed areas.

21 (b) REPORTS.—Beginning 1 year after the date of
22 the enactment of this section, the Secretary shall annually
23 publish, make available to the public, and submit to the
24 Committee on Agriculture of the House of Representatives
25 and the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and For-

1 estry of the Senate a report on how the provision of tech-
2 nical assistance under subsection (a) has affected geo-
3 graphically underserved and distressed areas in the year
4 covered by the report.

5 (c) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

6 (1) GEOGRAPHICALLY UNDERSERVED AND DIS-
7 TRESSED AREA.—The term “geographically under-
8 served and distressed area” means a rural area (as
9 defined in section 343(a)(13)(A) of the Consolidated
10 Farm and Rural Development Act (7 U.S.C.
11 1991(a)(13)(A)))—

12 (A) in a socially vulnerable community (as
13 determined by the Secretary);

14 (B) in a persistent poverty county (as de-
15 termined by the Secretary);

16 (C) in an economically distressed area (as
17 determined by the Secretary); or

18 (D) in a colonia.

19 (2) COMMUNITY ANCHOR INSTITUTION.—The
20 term “community anchor institution” means—

21 (A) a public library;

22 (B) an elementary or secondary school;

23 (C) an institution of higher education;

24 (D) a health care facility; or

1 (E) any other nonprofit or governmental
2 community support organization.

3 **SEC. 6307. ESTABLISHMENT OF THE RURAL DEVELOPMENT**
4 **INNOVATION CENTER.**

5 Subtitle D of the Consolidated Farm and Rural De-
6 velopment Act (7 U.S.C. 1981 et seq.) is amended by add-
7 ing at the end the following:

8 **“SEC. 379J. RURAL DEVELOPMENT INNOVATION CENTER.**

9 “(a) DEFINITION OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT MISSION
10 AREAS.—In this section, the term ‘Rural Development
11 Mission Areas’ means the agencies under the Rural Devel-
12 opment Agency at the Department of Agriculture, includ-
13 ing the Rural Utilities Service, Rural Business-Coopera-
14 tive Service, and the Rural Housing Service.

15 “(b) ESTABLISHMENT.—There is hereby established
16 within the Rural Development Mission Areas a Rural De-
17 velopment Innovation Center (the ‘Innovation Center’) to
18 promote and facilitate innovation in the administration
19 and implementation of rural development programs and
20 initiatives.

21 “(c) FUNCTIONS.—The Innovation Center shall—

22 “(1) review all processes for Rural Development
23 Mission Area programs to identify inefficiencies,
24 redundancies, and barriers to access, including—

1 “(A) unnecessary delays in loan and grant
2 applications processing and approvals;

3 “(B) high application costs; and

4 “(C) deficiencies in technical assistance for
5 programs;

6 “(2) establish and maintain an ongoing public
7 process for public and private stakeholders to pro-
8 vide perspectives on the challenges faced when ap-
9 plying for, utilizing, or participating in Rural Devel-
10 opment Mission Area programs;

11 “(3) identify and assess any innovative strate-
12 gies and collaborative models to enhance the effi-
13 ciency and effectiveness of rural development pro-
14 grams and initiatives;

15 “(4) foster and maintain partnerships with pub-
16 lic and private stakeholders to leverage expertise and
17 resources for the Rural Development Mission Areas;

18 “(5) promote cross-agency collaborations and
19 identify best practices in rural economic develop-
20 ment;

21 “(6) identify and implement technological solu-
22 tions and software applications to improve the effec-
23 tiveness and efficiency of Rural Development Mis-
24 sion Area programs, including enhancing data man-
25 agement systems;

1 “(7) conduct research, analysis, and evaluation
2 to modernize, simplify, and improve Rural Develop-
3 ment Mission Area programs, and ensure that the
4 programs are accessible, transparent, and user-
5 friendly; and

6 “(8) disseminate information, guidance, and
7 training materials to Rural Development Mission
8 Area personnel and stakeholders on innovative rural
9 development practices and opportunities.

10 “(d) MODERNIZATION PLAN.—The Innovation Cen-
11 ter shall develop, and periodically update, a modernization
12 plan to facilitate innovation in administering and imple-
13 menting rural development programs and initiatives
14 that—

15 “(1) outlines strategies aimed at harnessing the
16 potential of emerging technologies for program deliv-
17 ery and overall service;

18 “(2) enhances program efficiencies by identi-
19 fying and implementing measures to streamline pro-
20 gram and administrative processes, reduce
21 redundancies, and optimize resource allocation;

22 “(3) expands the availability and accessibility of
23 digital services, leveraging digital platforms and
24 tools to broaden the reach of the programs and im-

1 prove the overall user experience for rural stake-
2 holders;

3 “(4) integrates data-driven solutions to optimize
4 program delivery and maximize impact and effective-
5 ness of the efforts in rural development; and

6 “(5) establishes periodic milestones and goals to
7 track the progress of the modernization plan.

8 “(e) REPORT.—The Secretary shall submit an annual
9 report to the Committee on Agriculture of the House of
10 Representatives and the Committee on Agriculture, Nutri-
11 tion, and Forestry of the Senate on—

12 “(1) the activities and accomplishments of the
13 Innovation Center, including progress in advancing
14 rural development innovation and the outcome
15 achieved;

16 “(2) a comprehensive working plan designed to
17 actively engage public and private stakeholders, as
18 described in subsection (c)(2); and

19 “(3) the progress on the modernization plan de-
20 scribed in subsection (d).”.

21 **SEC. 6308. RURAL HEALTH LIAISON REPORT.**

22 Section 236 of the Department of Agriculture Reor-
23 ganization Act of 1994 (7 U.S.C. 6946) is amended—

24 (1) in subsection (b)—

1 (A) in paragraph (8), by striking “and” at
2 the end;

3 (B) in paragraph (9), by striking the pe-
4 riod and inserting “; and”; and

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

6 “(10) coordinate with the National Institute of
7 Food and Agriculture in implementation of the
8 Farm and Ranch Stress Assistance Network pro-
9 vided for in section 7522 of the Food, Conservation,
10 and Energy Act of 2008 (7 U.S.C. 5936).”; and

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

12 “(c) REPORT.—The Rural Health Liaison shall sub-
13 mit an annual report to the Committee on Agriculture of
14 the House of Representatives and the Committee on Agri-
15 culture, Nutrition, and Forestry of the Senate outlining
16 the activities conducted under subsection (b).”.

17 **Subtitle D—Additional Amend-**
18 **ments to the Consolidated Farm**
19 **and Rural Development Act**

20 **SEC. 6401. WATER, WASTE DISPOSAL, AND WASTEWATER**
21 **FACILITY GRANTS.**

22 Section 306(a)(2)(B)(vii) of the Consolidated Farm
23 and Rural Development Act (7 U.S.C. 1926(a)(2)(B)(vii))
24 is amended by striking “2019 through 2023” and insert-
25 ing “2027 through 2031”.

1 **SEC. 6402. RURAL WATER AND WASTEWATER CIRCUIT**
2 **RIDER PROGRAM.**

3 Section 306(a)(22) of the Consolidated Farm and
4 Rural Development Act (7 U.S.C. 1926(a)(22)) is amend-
5 ed to read as follows:

6 “(22) RURAL WATER AND WASTEWATER CIR-
7 CUIT RIDER PROGRAM.—

8 “(A) ESTABLISHMENT.—The Secretary,
9 through the Rural Utilities Service, shall con-
10 tinue a national rural water and wastewater cir-
11 cuit rider program that is consistent with the
12 activities and results of the program conducted
13 before the date of enactment of this Act, and
14 with this section, as determined by the Sec-
15 retary.

16 “(B) PURPOSE.—The Rural Water and
17 Wastewater Circuit Rider Program shall pro-
18 vide a network of expert rural water Circuit
19 Riders located in all 50 States, including
20 United States territories and Freely Associated
21 States, which work one-on-one with eligible
22 rural water and wastewater systems in major
23 assistance categories described in subparagraph
24 (D). The program is intended to help rural
25 water systems operate effectively and efficiently
26 and achieve long-term sustainability and com-

1 pliance with certain Federal laws and require-
2 ments, including the Safe Water Drinking Act
3 (42 U.S.C. 300f et seq.) and the Clean Water
4 Act (33 U.S.C. 1251 et seq.).

5 “(C) ELIGIBLE ENTITIES.—In selecting re-
6 cipients of grants, contracts, and cooperative
7 agreements to be made available for activities
8 listed under subparagraph (D), the Secretary
9 shall select nonprofit organizations that have
10 demonstrated experience providing technical as-
11 sistance and disaster and recovery assistance
12 for water and wastewater utilities nationwide.
13 Awardees shall rely on personnel that possess
14 active water and wastewater operators’ licenses
15 or overall knowledge of water utilities necessary
16 to carry out eligible activities under subpara-
17 graph (D).

18 “(D) ELIGIBLE USES OF FUNDS.—An eli-
19 gible entity shall use funds under the Rural
20 Water and Wastewater Circuit Rider program
21 for a rural water, wastewater, or wastewater
22 disposal facility for—

23 “(i) technical assistance, including—

24 “(I) Board training;

1 “(II) managerial and financial
2 operations with the effort to enhance
3 the long-term sustainability of rural
4 water and wastewater systems, includ-
5 ing partnerships, consolidation, and
6 regionalization;

7 “(III) physical operation and
8 maintenance of rural water and
9 wastewater infrastructure;

10 “(IV) water treatment;

11 “(V) regulatory compliance;

12 “(VI) facility security;

13 “(VII) loan application and re-
14 porting;

15 “(VIII) cybersecurity;

16 “(IX) implementation of cyberse-
17 curity plans, procedures, and tech-
18 nologies to protect against
19 cyberthreats; or

20 “(X) other areas the Secretary
21 deems appropriate;

22 “(ii) disaster and recovery assistance
23 including—

24 “(I) direct on-site personnel and
25 equipment to eligible utilities;

1 “(II) coordinating in statewide
2 emergency response networks;

3 “(III) facilitating the develop-
4 ment of action plans between utilities,
5 local governments, the Federal Emer-
6 gency Management Agency and the
7 State emergency management agen-
8 cies;

9 “(IV) resiliency and mitigation
10 planning;

11 “(V) GIS mapping;

12 “(VI) updating vulnerability as-
13 sessments, preparation of emergency
14 response plans, communication proto-
15 cols, hazard recognition and evalua-
16 tion skills;

17 “(VII) conducting preliminary
18 damage assessments of critical infra-
19 structure;

20 “(VIII) addressing outstanding
21 deficiencies focused on resolving
22 health-based regulatory, operational,
23 financial, and managerial deficiencies
24 that impact the sustainability of the
25 affected utilities;

1 “(IX) application and reporting
2 assistance for Federal and State re-
3 quirements including Federal Emer-
4 gency Management Agency and insur-
5 ance recovery claims;

6 “(X) providing for disaster readi-
7 ness, support, and response activities
8 targeted to disadvantaged commu-
9 nities that lack the financial resources
10 and human capital necessary to ade-
11 quately address significant health,
12 safety, or sanitary concerns; and

13 “(XI) other areas the Secretary
14 deems appropriate.

15 “(iii) ADDITIONAL USES.—In response
16 to activities under subparagraph (B) re-
17 lated to natural disasters and emergencies,
18 not more than 5 percent of each award
19 may be used to purchase or reimburse the
20 rental costs of appropriate emergency
21 equipment, as determined by the Sec-
22 retary.

23 “(E) ELIGIBLE PROJECT AREAS.—To re-
24 ceive assistance under the Rural Water and

1 Wastewater Circuit Rider Program and carry
2 out activities, an eligible entity must serve—

3 “(i) an area with a population of—

4 “(I) 10,000 or fewer inhabitants
5 for technical assistance under sub-
6 paragraph (D)(i); or

7 “(II) 50,000 or fewer inhabitants
8 for disaster and recovery assistance
9 under subparagraph (D)(ii); and

10 “(ii) a public body, nonprofit corpora-
11 tion, or Indian tribe with legal authority to
12 own and operate the water facility.

13 “(F) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIA-
14 TIONS.—There is authorized to be appropriated
15 to carry out this paragraph \$25,000,000 for fis-
16 cal year 2027 through fiscal year 2031.

17 “(G) CONTINUITY OF ESSENTIAL CIRCUIT
18 RIDER ACTIVITIES.—Activities carried out
19 under this subparagraph that are necessary to
20 prevent imminent harm to life or property may
21 continue during a lapse in appropriations, using
22 unobligated balances previously appropriated
23 under the heading ‘Rural Water and Waste
24 Disposal Program Account’.”.

1 **SEC. 6403. ZERO AND LOW INTEREST LOANS FOR DIS-**
2 **TRESSED WATER SYSTEMS.**

3 Section 306(a) of the Consolidated Farm and Rural
4 Development Act (7 U.S.C. 1926(a)) is amended by in-
5 serting after paragraph (22) the following:

6 “(23) ASSISTANCE FOR DISTRESSED WATER
7 SYSTEMS.—

8 “(A) To promote the long-term sustain-
9 ability and financial viability of eligible rural
10 community waste disposal and water facilities
11 as described in subparagraph (B), for any enti-
12 ty described in subparagraph (C), the Secretary
13 may—

14 “(i) make a zero percent interest loan
15 or a 1 percent interest loan pursuant to
16 paragraph (1);

17 “(ii) forgive the principal or interest,
18 or modify any term or condition of a new
19 or existing loan made pursuant to para-
20 graph (1);

21 “(iii) refinance all or part of any
22 other loan made for an eligible purpose
23 under paragraph (1) of this subsection or
24 section 306C; or

1 “(iv) waive any fee required to insure
2 or guarantee a loan pursuant to paragraph
3 (1) or (24).

4 “(B) To promote the long-term sustain-
5 ability and financial viability of the services pro-
6 vided by eligible entities, the Secretary shall—

7 “(i) provide assistance to an eligible
8 entity for the purpose of—

9 “(I) ensuring the entity has nec-
10 essary resources to maintain public
11 health, safety, or order;

12 “(II) addressing financial hard-
13 ships of the eligible entity, its cus-
14 tomers, and the community it serves;

15 “(III) improving the financial
16 stability of the eligible entity, includ-
17 ing changes to—

18 “(aa) operational practices;

19 “(bb) revenue enhance-
20 ments;

21 “(cc) policy revisions; and

22 “(dd) contract services; and

23 “(IV) supporting a partnership,
24 regionalization, or consolidation of the
25 entity with another water system; and

1 “(ii) require an applicant to—

2 “(I) receive financial planning as-
3 sistance and prepare a long-term fi-
4 nancial plan; or

5 “(II) partner, regionalize, or con-
6 solidate with another water system.

7 “(C) An entity shall be eligible for assist-
8 ance under this paragraph if the entity—

9 “(i) is a rural water, wastewater, or
10 wastewater disposal system with respect to
11 which assistance may be provided under a
12 water or wastewater, or waste disposal pro-
13 gram under this subsection or section
14 306A, 306C, or 306D, and

15 “(ii) is—

16 “(I) located in a socially dis-
17 advantaged community, a persistent
18 poverty county, colonia, or distressed
19 tribal area, as determined by the Sec-
20 retary; or

21 “(II) facing an economic hard-
22 ship as defined by the Secretary.

23 “(D) An entity eligible under paragraph
24 (1) or (2) of subsection (a) may designate a
25 water and wastewater utility provider to apply

1 for a loan under this paragraph and carry out
2 the loan application on behalf of the eligible en-
3 tity.

4 “(E)(i) The Secretary shall evaluate such a
5 loan application on the basis of the needs of the
6 eligible entity and the beneficiaries of the eligi-
7 ble entity rather than the needs of the applicant
8 water and wastewater utility provider.

9 “(ii) A water and wastewater utility pro-
10 vider to whom a loan is made under this para-
11 graph on the basis of an application submitted
12 on behalf of an eligible entity may use the loan
13 only for the benefit of the residents of the eligi-
14 ble area for which the loan is provided.”.

15 **SEC. 6404. TRIBAL COLLEGE AND UNIVERSITY ESSENTIAL**
16 **COMMUNITY FACILITIES.**

17 Section 306(a)(25)(C) of the Consolidated Farm and
18 Rural Development Act (7 U.S.C. 1926(a)(25)(C)) is
19 amended by striking “2008 through 2023” and inserting
20 “2027 through 2031”.

21 **SEC. 6405. EMERGENCY AND IMMINENT COMMUNITY**
22 **WATER ASSISTANCE GRANT PROGRAM.**

23 Section 306A(i)(2) of the Consolidated Farm and
24 Rural Development Act (7 U.S.C. 1926a(i)(2)) is amended

1 by striking “2019 through 2023” and inserting “2027
2 through 2031”.

3 **SEC. 6406. WATER SYSTEMS FOR RURAL AND NATIVE VIL-**
4 **LAGES IN ALASKA.**

5 Section 306D(d)(1) of the Consolidated Farm and
6 Rural Development Act (7 U.S.C. 1926d(d)(1)) is amend-
7 ed by striking “2008 through 2023” and inserting “2027
8 through 2031”.

9 **SEC. 6407. RURAL DECENTRALIZED WATER SYSTEMS.**

10 Section 306E of the Consolidated Farm and Rural
11 Development Act (7 U.S.C. 1926e) is amended to read
12 as follows:

13 **“SEC. 306E. RURAL DECENTRALIZED WATER SYSTEMS.**

14 **“(a) DEFINITIONS.—**In this section:

15 **“(1) ELIGIBLE INDIVIDUAL.—**The term ‘eligible
16 individual’ means an individual who is a member of
17 a household the members of which have a combined
18 income (for the most recent 12-month period for
19 which the information is available) that is not more
20 than 80 percent of the median nonmetropolitan
21 household income for the State or territory in which
22 the individual resides, according to the most recent
23 decennial census of the United States.

24 **“(2) ELIGIBLE GRANT RECIPIENT.—**The term
25 ‘eligible grant recipient’ means a private nonprofit

1 organization that uses a grant provided under this
2 section for the purposes described in subsection
3 (b)(1).

4 “(3) QUALIFIED WATER QUALITY TESTING.—
5 The term ‘qualified water quality testing’ means a
6 baseline analysis of the bacterial and chemical char-
7 acteristics of concern from a drinking water sample
8 collected at the point of consumption and tested by
9 a laboratory certified to conduct water quality test-
10 ing that is provided to—

11 “(A) the Secretary; and

12 “(B) the eligible grant recipient receiving a
13 grant under this section and any eligible indi-
14 vidual served by the eligible grant recipient.

15 “(b) GRANTS.—

16 “(1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary may make
17 grants to an eligible grant recipient for the purpose
18 of—

19 “(A) providing loans and subgrants to eli-
20 gible individuals for—

21 “(i) the construction, refurbishing,
22 and servicing of individual household water
23 well systems and individually owned house-
24 hold decentralized wastewater systems in

1 rural areas that are or will be owned by
2 the eligible individuals; or

3 “(ii) in the event of ground well water
4 contamination, the installation or replace-
5 ment of water treatment, where needed as
6 determined by a qualified water quality
7 test or other third-party documentation to
8 the satisfaction of the Secretary;

9 “(B) performing qualified water quality
10 testing of individual household water well sys-
11 tems and individually utilized household decen-
12 tralized wastewater systems in rural areas that
13 are or will be utilized by the eligible individuals;
14 or

15 “(C) providing technical assistance to eligi-
16 ble individuals for—

17 “(i) the installation or replacement of
18 individual household water well systems
19 and individually owned household decen-
20 tralized wastewater systems in rural areas
21 that are or will be owned by the eligible in-
22 dividuals;

23 “(ii) interpreting qualified water qual-
24 ity tests; or

1 “(iii) addressing ground well water
2 contamination.

3 “(2) TERMS AND AMOUNTS FOR LOANS AND
4 SUBGRANTS.—

5 “(A) TERMS OF LOANS.—A loan made
6 with grant funds under this section—

7 “(i) shall have an interest rate of 1
8 percent; and

9 “(ii) shall have a term not to exceed
10 20 years.

11 “(B) AMOUNTS.—A loan or subgrant made
12 with grant funds under this section shall not
13 exceed \$20,000 for each water well system or
14 decentralized wastewater system described in
15 paragraph (1).

16 “(3) ADMINISTRATIVE EXPENSES.—A recipient
17 of a grant made under this section may use grant
18 funds to pay administrative expenses associated with
19 providing the assistance described in paragraph (1),
20 as determined by the Secretary.

21 “(4) WATER TREATMENT STANDARDS.—Water
22 treatment provided under this section shall—

23 “(A) incorporate components that are
24 third-party certified as compliant with relevant
25 consensus-based standards for drinking water

1 treatment units or systems, as determined by
2 the Secretary; and

3 “(B) be installed, according to the instruc-
4 tions of the manufacturer, by a qualified, cer-
5 tified, or licensed water treatment professional,
6 including a professional credentialed through a
7 manufacturer or third-party.

8 “(c) PRIORITY IN AWARDING GRANTS.—In awarding
9 grants under this section, the Secretary shall give priority
10 to an applicant that has substantial expertise and experi-
11 ence in promoting the safe and effective use of individually
12 owned household water well systems, individually owned
13 household decentralized wastewater systems, and ground
14 water.

15 “(d) LIMITATION.—An eligible grant recipient cannot
16 use more than 10 percent of a grant awarded under this
17 section for the activities described under subparagraphs
18 (B) and (C) of subsection (b)(1).

19 “(e) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There
20 is authorized to be appropriated to carry out this section
21 \$20,000,000 for each of fiscal years 2027 through 2031.”.

22 **SEC. 6408. ASSISTANCE TO RURAL ENTITIES.**

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

1 (1) in paragraph (1), by adding at the end the
2 following:

3 “(C) PRECISION AGRICULTURE; PRECISION
4 AGRICULTURE TECHNOLOGY.—The terms ‘pre-
5 cision agriculture’ and ‘precision agriculture
6 technology’ have the meanings given those
7 terms in section 1201 of the Food Security Act
8 of 1985.”; and

9 (2) in paragraph (2)—

10 (A) by striking “and” at the end of sub-
11 paragraph (C);

12 (B) by striking the period at the end of
13 subparagraph (D) and inserting “; and”; and

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

15 “(E) expanding the adoption of precision
16 agriculture practices, including by financing the
17 acquisition of precision agriculture technology,
18 in order to promote best practices, reduce costs,
19 and improve the environment.”.

20 **SEC. 6409. SOLID WASTE MANAGEMENT GRANTS.**

21 Section 310B(b) of the Consolidated Farm and Rural
22 Development Act (7 U.S.C. 1932(b)) is amended—

23 (1) in paragraph (1), by striking “governments
24 and related agencies” and inserting “governments,
25 related agencies, and Indian tribes”; and

1 (2) in paragraph (2), by striking “2014
2 through 2023” and inserting “2027 through 2031”.

3 **SEC. 6410. RURAL BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT GRANTS.**

4 Section 310B(c)(4)(A) of the Consolidated Farm and
5 Rural Development Act (7 U.S.C. 1932(c)(4)(A)) is
6 amended by striking “2014 through 2023” and inserting
7 “2027 through 2031”.

8 **SEC. 6411. RURAL COOPERATIVE DEVELOPMENT GRANTS.**

9 Section 310B(e) of the Consolidated Farm and Rural
10 Development Act (7 U.S.C. 1932(e)) is amended—

11 (1) in paragraph (1), by adding at the end the
12 following:

13 “(C) COOPERATIVE DEVELOPMENT.—The
14 term ‘cooperative development’ means activities
15 including education, training, and technical as-
16 sistance, to support the start-up, expansion, or
17 ongoing sustainability of new and existing co-
18 operatives.”;

19 (2) in paragraph (5)—

20 (A) in subparagraph (D), by striking “un-
21 derserved and economically distressed areas in
22 rural areas of the United States” and inserting
23 “socially vulnerable, underserved, or distressed
24 communities”; and

25 (B) in subparagraph (F)—

1 (i) by inserting “at least” before “a
2 25 percent”; and

3 (ii) by inserting “, and all applications
4 that satisfy this subparagraph shall be
5 given the same priority for the scoring cri-
6 terion based on satisfying this subpara-
7 graph” before the period;

8 (3) in paragraph (6), by striking subparagraph
9 (B) and inserting the following:

10 “(B) AWARD RENEWALS FOR QUALIFIED
11 NONPROFIT INSTITUTIONS.—The Secretary
12 shall award a grant under this subsection to a
13 nonprofit institution on the same terms and for
14 the establishment or operation of the same cen-
15 ter or centers for cooperative development for
16 which the nonprofit institution was awarded a
17 grant in the current fiscal year, if the nonprofit
18 institution—

19 “(i) is a recipient of an award under
20 this subsection;

21 “(ii) requests a renewal under this
22 subparagraph;

23 “(iii) has submitted a complete appli-
24 cation under this subsection in the pre-
25 ceding 2 fiscal years; and

1 “(iv) has operated the center or cen-
 2 ters for cooperative development in a man-
 3 ner which successfully meets the param-
 4 eters described in paragraph (5), as deter-
 5 mined by the Secretary.”;

6 (4) in paragraph (10), by adding at the end the
 7 following: “The Secretary shall analyze the data re-
 8 sulting from the research, and include the data and
 9 the analysis in the annual report submitted by the
 10 interagency working group under paragraph (12).”;

11 (5) in paragraph (12), by adding at the end the
 12 following: “Not later than 180 days after the date
 13 of the enactment of this sentence and annually
 14 thereafter, the interagency working group shall sub-
 15 mit to the Congress a report describing the activities
 16 carried out by the working group.”; and

17 (6) in paragraph (13), by striking “2014
 18 through 2023” and inserting “2027 through 2031”.

19 **SEC. 6412. LENDER FEES IN GUARANTEED LOAN PRO-**
 20 **GRAMS.**

21 (a) IN GENERAL.—Section 333 of such Act (7 U.S.C.
 22 1983) is amended—

23 (1) by inserting “(A) IN GENERAL.—” before
 24 “In connection”;

1 (2) in paragraph (5), by adding “and” at the
2 end;

3 (3) in paragraph (6)(E), by striking “; and”
4 and inserting a period;

5 (4) by striking paragraph (7); and

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

7 “(b) FEES.—

8 “(1) INITIAL GUARANTEE FEE.—The Secretary
9 may assess an initial guarantee fee for any insured
10 or guaranteed loan issued or modified under section
11 306(a) in an amount that does not exceed 3 percent
12 of the guaranteed principal portion of the loan.

13 “(2) PERIODIC RETENTION FEE.—The Sec-
14 retary may assess a periodic retention fee for any in-
15 sured or guaranteed loan issued or modified under
16 section 306(a) in an amount that does not exceed
17 0.75 percent of the outstanding principal of the
18 guaranteed loan.

19 “(3) DISCLOSURE.—In altering any fee charged
20 for any insured or guaranteed loan issued or modi-
21 fied under section 306(a), the Secretary, not less
22 than 30 days in advance of any fee change, shall
23 provide a public disclosure of the financial data, eco-
24 nomic and behavioral assumptions, calculations, and
25 other factors used to determine the new fee rates.”.

1 (b) CONFORMING AMENDMENT.—Section 310B(g)(5)
2 of such Act (7 U.S.C. 1932(g)(5)) is amended to read as
3 follows:

4 “(5) FEES.—

5 “(A) INITIAL GUARANTEE FEE.—The Sec-
6 retary may assess an initial guarantee fee for
7 any guaranteed business and industry loan in
8 an amount that does not exceed 3 percent of
9 the guaranteed principal portion of the loan.

10 “(B) PERIODIC RETENTION FEE.—The
11 Secretary may assess a periodic retention fee
12 for any guaranteed business and industry loan
13 in an amount that does not exceed 0.75 percent
14 of the outstanding principal of the guaranteed
15 loan.

16 “(C) DISCLOSURE.—In altering any fee
17 charged for any guaranteed business and indus-
18 try loan, the Secretary, not less than 30 days
19 in advance of any fee change, shall provide a
20 public disclosure of the financial data, economic
21 and behavioral assumptions, calculations, and
22 other factors used to determine the new fee
23 rates.”.

1 **SEC. 6413. LOCALLY OR REGIONALLY PRODUCED AGRICUL-**
2 **TURAL FOOD PRODUCTS.**

3 Section 310B(g)(9)(B)(iv)(I) of the Consolidated
4 Farm and Rural Development Act (7 U.S.C.
5 1932(g)(9)(B)(iv)(I)) is amended by striking “2008
6 through 2023” and inserting “2027 through 2031”.

7 **SEC. 6414. APPROPRIATE TECHNOLOGY TRANSFER FOR**
8 **RURAL AREAS PROGRAM.**

9 Section 310B(i) of the Consolidated Farm and Rural
10 Development Act (7 U.S.C. 1932(i)) is amended—

11 (1) in paragraph (2)—

12 (A) by striking “and” at the end of sub-
13 paragraph (C);

14 (B) by striking the period at the end of
15 subparagraph (D) and inserting “; and”; and

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

17 “(E) provides training opportunities and
18 resources for veterans (as defined in section
19 101(2) of title 38, United States Code) who ac-
20 tively are or are seeking to become agricultural
21 producers, which shall be known as the ‘Armed
22 to Farm Initiative’.”; and

23 (2) in paragraph (4), by striking “2008
24 through 2023.” and inserting the following: “2027
25 through 2031, of which—

1 “(A) \$3,500,000 shall be made available
 2 for each fiscal year for activities described in
 3 subparagraphs (A) through (D) of paragraph
 4 (2); and

5 “(B) \$1,500,000 shall be available for each
 6 fiscal year for activities described in paragraph
 7 (2)(E).”.

8 **SEC. 6415. RURAL ECONOMIC AREA PARTNERSHIP ZONES.**

9 Section 310B(j) of the Consolidated Farm and Rural
 10 Development Act (7 U.S.C. 1932(j)) is amended by strik-
 11 ing “2023” and inserting “2031”.

12 **SEC. 6416. INTERMEDIARY RELENDING PROGRAM.**

13 Section 310H(i) of the Consolidated Farm and Rural
 14 Development Act (7 U.S.C. 1936b(i)) is amended by strik-
 15 ing “2014 through 2023” and inserting “2027 through
 16 2031”.

17 **SEC. 6417. RURAL HEALTH CARE FACILITY ASSISTANCE.**

18 (a) IN GENERAL.—Section 342 of the Consolidated
 19 Farm and Rural Development Act (7 U.S.C. 1990a) is
 20 amended—

21 (1) by striking “Assistance” and inserting the
 22 following:

23 “(a) REFINANCING OF CERTAIN RURAL HEALTH
 24 CARE FACILITY DEBT.—

25 “(1) IN GENERAL.—Assistance”;

1 (2) by striking “rural hospital” and inserting
2 “an eligible health care facility”;

3 (3) by striking “a community” and inserting
4 “an area”;

5 (4) by striking “hospital,” and inserting “eligible
6 health care facility,”; and

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

8 “(2) REQUIREMENTS.—To promote the long-
9 term sustainability and financial viability of an eligible
10 health care facility, the Secretary shall—

11 “(A) provide assistance to an eligible
12 health care facility for the purpose of—

13 “(i) ensuring the facility has necessary
14 resources to maintain public health,
15 safety, or order;

16 “(ii) addressing financial hardships of
17 the facility, its patients, and the area it
18 serves; and

19 “(iii) identifying the financial stability
20 of the facility, including—

21 “(I) operational practices;

22 “(II) revenue enhancements;

23 “(III) policy revisions;

1 “(IV) partnerships, regionaliza-
2 tion, or consolidation of rural health
3 systems; and

4 “(V) contract services; and

5 “(B) require an applicant to—

6 “(i) receive financial planning assist-
7 ance; and

8 “(ii) prepare a long-term financial
9 plan.

10 “(3) WAIVER.—In the case of an application
11 for refinancing pursuant to this section, the Sec-
12 retary may waive the requirement of section
13 302(a)(1)(D) if the eligible health care facility is in-
14 solvent.

15 “(b) RURAL HEALTH CARE FACILITY TECHNICAL
16 ASSISTANCE PROGRAM.—

17 “(1) IN GENERAL.—In lieu of any other author-
18 ity under which the Secretary may provide technical
19 assistance to any eligible health care facility, the
20 Secretary shall establish, and maintain, directly or
21 by grant, contract, or cooperative agreement, a
22 Rural Health Care Facility Technical Assistance
23 Program (in this section referred to as the ‘Pro-
24 gram’) to provide technical assistance and training,
25 tailored to the capacity and needs of each eligible

1 health care facility, to help eligible health care facili-
2 ties in rural areas—

3 “(A) identify development needs for main-
4 taining essential health care services, and sup-
5 port action plans for operational and quality
6 improvement projects to meet the development
7 needs;

8 “(B) better manage their financial and
9 business strategies, including providing finan-
10 cial planning assistance and preparing long-
11 term financial plans; and

12 “(C) identify, and apply for assistance
13 from, loan and grant programs of the Depart-
14 ment of Agriculture for which the facilities are
15 eligible.

16 “(2) GOALS.—The goals of the Program shall
17 be to—

18 “(A) improve the long-term financial posi-
19 tion and operational efficiency of the eligible
20 health care facilities;

21 “(B) prevent the closure of eligible health
22 care facilities;

23 “(C) strengthen the delivery of health care
24 in rural areas;

1 “(D) help eligible health care facilities bet-
2 ter access and compete for loans and grants
3 from programs administered by the Department
4 of Agriculture; and

5 “(E) continue the activities of the Rural
6 Hospital Technical Assistance Program in ef-
7 fect as of the date of the enactment of this sub-
8 section.

9 “(3) PROGRAM PARTICIPATION.—

10 “(A) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall
11 engage in outreach and engagement strategies
12 to encourage eligible health care facilities to
13 participate in the Program.

14 “(B) ELIGIBLE HEALTH CARE FACILITY
15 SELECTION.—In selecting eligible health care
16 facilities to participate in the Program, the Sec-
17 retary shall give priority to borrowers and
18 grantees of the Rural Housing Service, Rural
19 Business-Cooperative Service, and Rural Utili-
20 ties Service. The Secretary may also consider—

21 “(i) the age and physical state of the
22 health care facility involved;

23 “(ii) the financial vulnerability of the
24 eligible health care facility, and the ability

1 of the eligible health care facility to meet
2 debt obligations;

3 “(iii) the electronic health record im-
4 plementation needs of the health care facil-
5 ity;

6 “(iv) whether the eligible health care
7 facility is located in a health professional
8 shortage area or a medically underserved
9 area;

10 “(v) whether the eligible health care
11 facility serves a medically underserved pop-
12 ulation; and

13 “(vi) such other criteria and priorities
14 as are determined by the Secretary of Ag-
15 riculture.

16 “(C) REPORTING REQUIREMENTS.—Not
17 later than 1 year after the date of the enact-
18 ment of this section, and annually thereafter,
19 the Secretary shall submit to the Committee on
20 Agriculture of the House of Representatives
21 and the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition,
22 and Forestry of the Senate a written report de-
23 scribing the progress and results of the pro-
24 gram conducted under this section, which
25 should include—

1 “(i) a brief description of each project
2 to provide technical assistance to an eligi-
3 ble health care facility under this section,
4 including—

5 “(I) the name and location of the
6 facility;

7 “(II) a description of the assist-
8 ance provided;

9 “(III) a description of the out-
10 comes for completed projects;

11 “(IV) the cost of the technical
12 assistance; and

13 “(V) any other information the
14 Secretary deems appropriate;

15 “(ii) a summary of the technical as-
16 sistance projects completed;

17 “(iii) a summary of the outcomes of
18 the technical assistance projects;

19 “(iv) an assessment of the effective-
20 ness of the Program; and

21 “(v) recommendations for improving
22 the Program.

23 “(D) LIMITATIONS ON AUTHORIZATION OF
24 APPROPRIATIONS.—To carry out this section,
25 there are authorized to be appropriated to the

1 Secretary not more than \$2,000,000 for each of
2 fiscal years 2027 through 2031.

3 “(c) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

4 “(1) RURAL AREA.—The term ‘rural area’ has
5 the meaning given the term in section 343(a)(13)(A)
6 of the Consolidated Farm and Rural Development
7 Act (7 U.S.C. 1991(a)(13)(A)).

8 “(2) DEVELOPMENT NEEDS.—The term ‘devel-
9 opment needs’ includes—

10 “(A) constructing, expanding, renovating
11 or otherwise modernizing health care facilities;

12 “(B) increasing telehealth capabilities;

13 “(C) acquiring or upgrading health care
14 information systems such as electronic health
15 records;

16 “(D) providing financial planning assist-
17 ance and preparing a long-term financial plan;
18 and

19 “(E) such other needs as the Secretary
20 deems critical to maintaining health care serv-
21 ices in the community in which an eligible
22 health care facility is located.

23 “(3) ELIGIBLE HEALTH CARE FACILITY.—The
24 term ‘eligible health care facility’ means a facility
25 that is located in a rural area and is—

1 “(A) a hospital (as defined in section
2 1861(e) of the Social Security Act;

3 “(B) a psychiatric hospital (as defined in
4 section 1861(f) of such Act);

5 “(C) a long-term care hospital (as defined
6 in section 1861(ccc) of such Act);

7 “(D) a critical access hospital (as defined
8 in section 1861(mm)(1) of such Act);

9 “(E) a rural health clinic (as defined in
10 section 1861(aa)(2) of such Act);

11 “(F) a religious nonmedical health care in-
12 stitution (as defined in section 1861(ss)(1) of
13 such Act);

14 “(G) a sole community hospital (as defined
15 in section 1886(d)(5)(C)(iii) of such Act);

16 “(H) a rural emergency hospital (as de-
17 fined in section 1861(kkk)(2) of such Act);

18 “(I) a home health agency (as defined in
19 section 1861(o) of such Act); or

20 “(J) a community health center (as de-
21 fined in section 330 of the Public Health Serv-
22 ice Act).

23 “(4) HEALTH PROFESSIONAL SHORTAGE
24 AREA.—The term ‘health professional shortage area’

1 has the meaning given the term in section
2 332(a)(1)(A) of the Public Health Service Act.

3 “(5) MEDICALLY UNDERSERVED AREA.—The
4 term ‘medically underserved area’ has the meaning
5 given the term in section 330I(a)(5) of the Public
6 Health Service Act.

7 “(6) MEDICALLY UNDERSERVED POPU-
8 LATION.—The term ‘medically underserved popu-
9 lation’ has the meaning given the term in section
10 330(b)(3) of the Public Health Service Act.”.

11 (b) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendments made by
12 subsection (a) shall take effect on the completion of a rule-
13 making carrying out such amendments.

14 **SEC. 6418. PROHIBITION ON USE OF LOAN OR GRANT FOR**
15 **CERTAIN PURPOSES.**

16 Section 363 of the Consolidated Farm and Rural De-
17 velopment Act (7 U.S.C. 2006e) is amended to read as
18 follows:

19 **“SEC. 363. PROHIBITION ON USE OF LOAN OR GRANT FOR**
20 **CERTAIN PURPOSES.**

21 “(a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall not approve
22 any loan or grant under this title to drain, dredge, fill,
23 or level, or otherwise manipulate a wetland (as defined in
24 section 1201(a)(16) of the Food Security Act of 1985 (16
25 U.S.C. 3801(a)(16))), or to engage in any activity that

1 results in impairing or reducing the flow, circulation, or
2 reach of water, except in the case of activity related to
3 the maintenance of previously converted wetlands, or in
4 the case of such activity that commenced before November
5 29, 1990.

6 “(b) EXCLUSIONS.—

7 “(1) UTILITIES LINES.—This section shall not
8 apply to a loan made or guaranteed under this title
9 for a utility line.

10 “(2) PERMITTED ACTIVITIES AND PROJECTS.—

11 This section shall not apply to a rural development
12 loan made or guaranteed under section 306 or 306C
13 of this Act for an activity or project for which the
14 applicant or borrower has obtained or is required to
15 obtain a permit from the Secretary of the Army, act-
16 ing through the Chief of Engineers, under section 10
17 of the Act of March 3, 1899 (33 U.S.C. 403; 30
18 Stat. 1151, chapter 425), or section 404 of the Fed-
19 eral Water Pollution Control Act (33 U.S.C.
20 1344).”.

21 **SEC. 6419. RURAL BUSINESS-COOPERATIVE SERVICE PRO-**
22 **GRAMS TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE AND TRAIN-**
23 **ING.**

24 Section 368(d)(1) of the Consolidated Farm and
25 Rural Development Act (7 U.S.C. 2008c(d)(1)) is amend-

1 ed by striking “2019 through 2023” and inserting “2027
2 through 2031”.

3 **SEC. 6420. NATIONAL RURAL DEVELOPMENT PARTNER-**
4 **SHIP.**

5 Section 378 of the Consolidated Farm and Rural De-
6 velopment Act (7 U.S.C. 2008m) is amended—

7 (1) in subsection (g)(1), by striking “2008
8 through 2023” and inserting “2027 through 2031”;
9 and

10 (2) in subsection (h), by striking “2023” and
11 inserting “2031”.

12 **SEC. 6421. GRANTS FOR NOAA WEATHER RADIO TRANSMIT-**
13 **TERS.**

14 Section 379B(d) of the Consolidated Farm and Rural
15 Development Act (7 U.S.C. 2008p(d)) is amended by
16 striking “2014 through 2023” and inserting “2027
17 through 2031”.

18 **SEC. 6422. RURAL MICROENTREPRENEUR ASSISTANCE**
19 **PROGRAM.**

20 Section 379E of the Consolidated Farm and Rural
21 Development Act (7 U.S.C. 2008s) is amended—

22 (1) in subsection (a)(4), by striking “\$50,000”
23 and inserting “\$75,000”;

24 (2) in subsection (c)(1)(A), by striking “shall
25 not exceed 75 percent” and inserting “may be up to

1 100 percent, and a loan under this section for a
2 project may be used to cover not more than 50 per-
3 cent of any renovation, construction, or related costs
4 of real estate improvements under the project”;

5 (3) in subsection (c)(1)(B), by inserting “(or 5
6 percent, in the case of a microenterprise develop-
7 ment organization serving a persistent poverty coun-
8 ty, as determined by the Secretary)” before “of the
9 total amount”; and

10 (4) in subsection (d), by striking “2019 through
11 2023” and inserting “2027 through 2031”.

12 **SEC. 6423. HEALTH CARE SERVICES.**

13 Section 379G(e) of the Consolidated Farm and Rural
14 Development Act (7 U.S.C. 2008u(e)) is amended by
15 striking “2008 through 2023” and inserting “2027
16 through 2031”.

17 **SEC. 6424. STRATEGIC ECONOMIC AND COMMUNITY DEVEL-**
18 **OPMENT.**

19 Section 379H(d)(4) of the Consolidated Farm and
20 Rural Development Act (7 U.S.C. 2008v(d)(4)) is amend-
21 ed by striking “2019 through 2023” and inserting “2027
22 through 2031”.

1 **SEC. 6425. RURAL INNOVATION STRONGER ECONOMY**
2 **GRANT PROGRAM.**

3 Section 379I of the Consolidated Farm and Rural
4 Development Act (7 U.S.C. 2008w) is amended—

5 (1) in subsection (a)—

6 (A) in paragraph (1)(A)—

7 (i) in clause (iii)—

8 (I) by striking subclause (I) and
9 inserting the following:

10 “(I) an institution of higher edu-
11 cation (as defined in section 101, and
12 subparagraphs (A) and (B) of section
13 102(a)(1), of the Higher Education
14 Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 1001,
15 1002(a)(1)));”;

16 (II) by redesignating subclauses
17 (II) and (III) as subclauses (III) and
18 (IV), respectively, and inserting after
19 subclause (I) the following:

20 “(II) an area career and tech-
21 nical education school (as defined in
22 section 3 of the Carl D. Perkins Ca-
23 reer and Technical Education Act of
24 2006 (20 U.S.C. 2302));”;

1 (III) in subclause (IV) (as so re-
2 designated by subclause (II) of this
3 clause), by striking “and”;

4 (ii) in clause (iv)—

5 (I) by striking subclause (IV)
6 and inserting the following:

7 “(IV) an institution of higher
8 education (as defined in section 101,
9 and subparagraphs (A) and (B) of
10 section 102(a)(1), of the Higher Edu-
11 cation Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 1001,
12 1002(a)(1)))”; and

13 (II) by redesignating subclause
14 (V) as subclause (VI) and inserting
15 after subclause (IV) the following:

16 “(V) an area career and technical
17 education school (as defined in section
18 3 of the Carl D. Perkins Career and
19 Technical Education Act of 2006 (20
20 U.S.C. 2302)); or”; and

21 (iii) by adding at the end the fol-
22 lowing:

23 “(v) in the case of a career pathway
24 program, includes 1 or more members of
25 the local workforce development board es-

1 tablished under section 107 of the Work-
2 force Innovation and Opportunity Act and
3 serving the region to ensure the program is
4 integrated with the activities carried out by
5 the local workforce development board;
6 and”;

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

8 “(6) CAREER PATHWAY.—The term ‘career
9 pathway’ has the meaning given the term in section
10 3(7) of the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity
11 Act (29 U.S.C. 3102(7)).

12 “(7) INDUSTRY OR SECTOR PARTNERSHIP.—
13 The term ‘industry or sector partnership’ has the
14 meaning given the term in section 3 of the Work-
15 force Innovation and Opportunity Act (29 U.S.C.
16 3102).”;

17 (2) in subsection (b)—

18 (A) in paragraph (1)—

19 (i) in the matter preceding subpara-
20 graph (A), by inserting “or carry out ca-
21 reer pathway training programs or indus-
22 try or sector partnerships aligned with in-
23 dustry sectors in rural communities” be-
24 fore “, including”;

1 (ii) in subparagraph (A), by striking
2 “and” after the semicolon;

3 (iii) in subparagraph (B), by striking
4 the period and inserting a semicolon; and

5 (iv) by adding at the end the fol-
6 lowing:

7 “(C) address workforce challenges, includ-
8 ing worker displacement, faced by specific in-
9 dustry sectors in rural communities; and

10 “(D) promote targeted skills development
11 and training initiatives to stimulate innovation
12 and enhance economic development in rural re-
13 gions.”;

14 (B) in paragraph (3)—

15 (i) in subparagraph (A)—

16 (I) in clause (i), by inserting “,
17 career pathway programs, or industry
18 or sector partnerships” before the
19 semicolon; and

20 (II) in clause (ii)—

21 (aa) by inserting “, career
22 pathway programs, or industry or
23 sector partnerships” before “to
24 provide”; and

1 (bb) by inserting “leadership
2 development,” before “cus-
3 tomized training”;

4 (ii) in subparagraph (F), by striking
5 the period and inserting “; and”; and

6 (iii) by adding at the end the fol-
7 lowing:

8 “(G) the ability of the eligible entity to
9 carry out activities to address the issues of
10 worker displacement, an aging workforce, and
11 youth migration.”; and

12 (C) by striking paragraph (5) and insert-
13 ing the following:

14 “(5) GEOGRAPHIC DISTRIBUTION.—The Sec-
15 retary shall ensure regional diversity of recipients of
16 grants or participants in providing grants under
17 paragraph (1) for jobs accelerators, career pathway
18 programs, and related programming.”;

19 (3) in subsection (d)(1)—

20 (A) in subparagraph (B)(xi), by striking
21 the period and inserting “; and”; and

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

23 “(C) to support career pathway programs
24 or industry or sector partnerships to be carried

1 out within industries in rural communities, in-
2 cluding—

3 “(i) telecommunications or broadband
4 services;

5 “(ii) water, waste water, or disposal
6 services;

7 “(iii) electric supply services;

8 “(iv) forestry and logging operations;

9 “(v) conservation practices and man-
10 agement;

11 “(vi) health care and child care;

12 “(vii) manufacturing;

13 “(viii) agribusiness related to produc-
14 tion, processing, and distribution;

15 “(ix) veterinarian services; and

16 “(x) any other sectors identified by
17 the local workforce development board
18 serving the region to be an in-demand in-
19 dustry sector or occupation, as defined in
20 section 3 of the Workforce Innovation and
21 Opportunity Act.”;

22 (4) in subsection (e)—

23 (A) in paragraph (1), by striking “and”;

24 (B) in paragraph (2)(B)—

25 (i) in clause (xvii), by striking “or”;

1 (ii) by redesignating clause (xviii) as
2 clause (xix) and inserting after clause
3 (xvii) the following:

4 “(xviii) the number of individuals who have
5 completed skills development, recognized post-
6 secondary credentials, or gained specialized edu-
7 cation through career pathways programs or in-
8 dustry or sector partnerships; or”; and

9 (iii) in clause (xix) (as so redesignated
10 by subparagraph (B) of this paragraph),
11 by striking the period and inserting “;
12 and”; and

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

14 “(3) in the case of a career pathway program
15 or industry or sector partnership, report to the Sec-
16 retary the employment and earnings outcomes for
17 individuals who participate in the program on the in-
18 dicators described in subclauses (I) through (III) of
19 section 116(b)(2)(A)(i) of the Workforce Innovation
20 and Opportunity Act.”; and

21 (5) in subsection (f), by striking “2019 through
22 2023” and inserting “2027 through 2031”.

1 **SEC. 6426. LIMITATION ON RURAL BUSINESS INVESTMENT**
2 **COMPANIES CONTROLLED BY FARM CREDIT**
3 **SYSTEM INSTITUTIONS.**

4 Section 384J(c) of the Consolidated Farm and Rural
5 Development Act (7 U.S.C. 2009cc–9(c)) is amended by
6 striking “50” and inserting “75”.

7 **SEC. 6427. RURAL BUSINESS INVESTMENT PROGRAM.**

8 Section 384S of the Consolidated Farm and Rural
9 Development Act (7 U.S.C. 2009cc–18) is amended by
10 striking “2014 through 2023” and inserting “2027
11 through 2031”.

12 **SEC. 6428. TECHNICAL CORRECTIONS.**

13 Each of the following provisions of the Consolidated
14 Farm and Rural Development Act are amended by strik-
15 ing “urbanized” and inserting “urban”:

16 (1) Section 343(a)(13)(A)(ii) (7 U.S.C.
17 1991(a)(13)(A)(ii)).

18 (2) Section 343(a)(13)(D)(i)(I) (7 U.S.C.
19 1991(a)(13)(D)(i)(I)), in the matter preceding item
20 (aa).

21 (3) Section 343(a)(13)(D)(i)(I)(bb) (7 U.S.C.
22 1991(a)(13)(D)(i)(I)(bb)).

23 (4) Section 343(a)(13)(D)(i)(II) (7 U.S.C.
24 1991(a)(13)(D)(i)(II)).

25 (5) Section 343(a)(13)(E) (7 U.S.C.
26 1991(a)(13)(E)).

1 (6) Section 343(a)(13)(F)(i)(II) (7 U.S.C.
2 1991(a)(13)(F)(i)(II)).

3 (7) Section 384I(c)(4)(C) (7 U.S.C. 2009cc–
4 8(c)(4)(C)).

5 **SEC. 6429. RURAL WATER AND WASTEWATER TECHNICAL**
6 **ASSISTANCE AND TRAINING PROGRAMS.**

7 Section 306(a)(14) of the Consolidated Farm and
8 Rural Development Act (7 U.S.C. 1926(a)(14)) is amend-
9 ed—

10 (1) in subparagraph (A)—

11 (A) by striking “technical assistance and
12 training to—” and inserting “for—”;

13 (B) in clause (v), by striking the period
14 and inserting “; or”; and

15 (C) by redesignating clauses (i) through
16 (v) as subclauses (I) through (V), respectively,
17 and moving each such provision 2 ems to the
18 right; and

19 (D) by inserting before the matter so re-
20 designated the following:

21 “(i) technical assistance and training
22 to—”; and

23 (E) by adding after and below the end the
24 following:

1 “(ii) disaster and recovery assist-
2 ance.”; and

3 (2) in subparagraph (B), by inserting “or dis-
4 aster and recovery assistance” before “described”.

5 **Subtitle E—Additional Amend-**
6 **ments to the Rural Electrifica-**
7 **tion Act of 1936**

8 **SEC. 6501. GUARANTEES FOR BONDS AND NOTES ISSUED**
9 **FOR UTILITY INFRASTRUCTURE PURPOSES.**

10 Section 313A(f) of the Rural Electrification Act of
11 1936 (7 U.S.C. 940c–1(f)) is amended by striking “2023”
12 and inserting “2031”.

13 **SEC. 6502. EXTENSION OF THE RURAL ECONOMIC DEVEL-**
14 **OPMENT LOAN AND GRANT PROGRAM.**

15 Section 313B of the Rural Electrification Act of 1936
16 (7 U.S.C. 940c–2) is amended—

17 (1) by striking subsection (b) and inserting the
18 following:

19 “(b) REPAYMENTS.—

20 “(1) IN GENERAL.—In the case of zero interest
21 loans, the Secretary shall establish such reasonable
22 repayment terms as will encourage borrower partici-
23 pation.

24 “(2) LETTERS OF CREDIT.—The Secretary
25 shall not require a letter of credit or other similar

1 guarantee from a recipient of a zero-interest loan
 2 under this section if the borrower assigns the Sec-
 3 retary a security interest in any collateral provided
 4 to secure a loan made with funds loaned under this
 5 section, or makes other similar arrangements to the
 6 satisfaction of the Secretary.”; and

7 (2) in subsection (e)(1), by striking “2019
 8 through 2023” and inserting “2027 through 2031”.

9 **SEC. 6503. EXPANSION OF 911 ACCESS.**

10 Section 315(d) of the Rural Electrification Act of
 11 1936 (7 U.S.C. 940e(d)) is amended by striking “2008
 12 through 2023” and inserting “2027 through 2031”.

13 **TITLE VII—RESEARCH, EXTEN-**
 14 **SION, AND RELATED MAT-**
 15 **TERS**

16 **Subtitle A—National Agricultural**
 17 **Research, Extension, and Teach-**
 18 **ing Policy Act of 1977**

19 **SEC. 7101. NATIONAL AGRICULTURAL RESEARCH, EXTEN-**
 20 **SION, EDUCATION, AND ECONOMICS ADVI-**
 21 **SORY BOARD.**

22 Section 1408 of the National Agricultural Research,
 23 Extension, and Teaching Policy Act of 1977 (7 U.S.C.
 24 3123) is amended—

25 (1) in subsection (b)—

1 (A) in paragraph (1), by striking “15” and
2 inserting “16”;

3 (B) in paragraph (3), by adding at the end
4 the following:

5 “(E) 1 member representing the industry,
6 consumer, or rural interests of insular areas.”;
7 and

8 (C) in paragraph (5), by striking “7” and
9 inserting “3”; and

10 (2) in subsection (h), by striking “2023” and
11 inserting “2031”.

12 **SEC. 7102. SPECIALTY CROP COMMITTEE.**

13 Section 1408A of the National Agricultural Research,
14 Extension, and Teaching Policy Act of 1977 (7 U.S.C.
15 3123a) is amended—

16 (1) in subsection (a)—

17 (A) in paragraph (1), by striking “Not
18 later than” and all that follows through “initial
19 members of” and inserting “The Secretary shall
20 continue to implement, and appoint the mem-
21 bers of”; and

22 (B) in paragraph (2)—

23 (i) in subparagraph (C), by adding a
24 period at the end; and

1 (ii) in subparagraph (D), by striking
2 “2023” and inserting “2031”; and
3 (2) in subsection (b)(2), by striking “executive
4 committee” and inserting “Secretary”.

5 **SEC. 7103. VETERINARY MEDICINE LOAN REPAYMENT.**

6 Section 1415A of the National Agricultural Research,
7 Extension, and Teaching Policy Act of 1977 (7 U.S.C.
8 3151a) is amended—

9 (1) by amending subsection (b) to read as fol-
10 lows:

11 “(b) DETERMINATION OF VETERINARIAN SHORTAGE
12 SITUATIONS.—In determining ‘veterinarian shortage situ-
13 ations’, the Secretary—

14 “(1) may consider—

15 “(A) geographical areas that the Secretary
16 determines have a shortage of veterinarians;

17 “(B) areas of veterinary practice that the
18 Secretary determines have a shortage of veteri-
19 narians, such as food animal medicine, public
20 health, epidemiology, and food safety; and

21 “(C) areas described in subparagraphs (A)
22 and (B) identified by appropriate State agen-
23 cies; and

24 “(2) shall—

1 “(A) develop quantitative mechanisms for
2 predicting the emergence of new veterinarian
3 shortage situations in the short-term and long-
4 term; and

5 “(B) make available to State agencies de-
6 scribed in paragraph (1)(C) the quantitative
7 mechanisms developed under subparagraph
8 (A).”; and

9 (2) in subsection (c), by adding at the end the
10 following:

11 “(9) ELIGIBILITY.—The Secretary shall not
12 make a veterinarian ineligible for the program under
13 this section based on a veterinarian’s participation in
14 a comparable Federal, State, or local program.

15 “(10) APPLICATION PROCESS.—Not later than
16 1 year after the date of the enactment of the Farm,
17 Food, and National Security Act of 2026, the Sec-
18 retary shall establish streamlined application proce-
19 dures and guidelines for entering into agreements
20 with veterinarians under this section.”.

21 **SEC. 7104. VETERINARY SERVICES GRANT PROGRAM.**

22 Section 1415B of the National Agricultural Research,
23 Extension, and Teaching Policy Act of 1977 (7 U.S.C.
24 3151b) is amended—

25 (1) in subsection (a)—

1 (A) in paragraph (1)(A)(i), by striking “,
2 as defined in” and all that follows through
3 “1991(a))”; and

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

5 “(3) RURAL AREA.—The term “rural area” has
6 the meaning given such term in section 343(a) of
7 the Consolidated Farm and Rural Development Act
8 (7 U.S.C. 1991(a)).”;

9 (2) in subsection (b)(2)—

10 (A) by redesignating subparagraphs (B)
11 and (C) as subparagraphs (C) and (D), respec-
12 tively; and

13 (B) by inserting after subparagraph (A)
14 the following:

15 “(B) expand, retain, or attract additional
16 veterinary practices in rural areas;”;

17 (3) in subsection (c), by adding at the end the
18 following:

19 “(5) APPLICATION PROCESS.—Not later than 1
20 year after the date of enactment of the Farm, Food,
21 and National Security Act of 2026 the Secretary
22 shall establish a streamlined application process.”;
23 and

24 (4) in subsection (d)—

1 (A) in the subsection heading, by striking
2 “TO RELIEVE VETERINARIAN SHORTAGE SITU-
3 ATIONS AND SUPPORT VETERINARY SERV-
4 ICES”; and

5 (B) in paragraph (1)—

6 (i) in the matter preceding subpara-
7 graph (A), by striking “situations and sup-
8 port” and inserting “situations, to expand,
9 retain, or attract additional veterinary
10 practices in rural areas, and to support”;
11 and

12 (ii) by adding at the end the fol-
13 lowing:

14 “(G) To cover expenses associated with
15 starting a new veterinary practice or attracting
16 new veterinarians to existing practices, includ-
17 ing—

18 “(i) relocation expenses;

19 “(ii) the purchase of necessary start-
20 up equipment; and

21 “(iii) housing or living stipends for
22 veterinary students, veterinary interns,
23 externs, fellows, and residents, and veteri-
24 nary technician students.”.

1 **SEC. 7105. GRANTS AND FELLOWSHIPS FOR FOOD AND AG-**
2 **RICULTURE SCIENCES EDUCATION.**

3 Section 1417(m)(2) of the National Agricultural Re-
4 search, Extension, and Teaching Policy Act of 1977 (7
5 U.S.C. 3152(m)(2)) is amended by striking “2023” and
6 inserting “2031”.

7 **SEC. 7106. AGRICULTURAL AND FOOD POLICY RESEARCH**
8 **CENTERS.**

9 Section 1419A(e) of the National Agricultural Re-
10 search, Extension, and Teaching Policy Act of 1977 (7
11 U.S.C. 3155(e)) is amended by striking “2023” and in-
12 serting “2031”.

13 **SEC. 7107. EDUCATION GRANTS TO ALASKA NATIVE SERV-**
14 **ING INSTITUTIONS AND NATIVE HAWAIIAN**
15 **SERVING INSTITUTIONS.**

16 Section 1419B of the National Agricultural Research,
17 Extension, and Teaching Policy Act of 1977 (7 U.S.C.
18 3156) is amended—

19 (1) in subsection (a)—

20 (A) in paragraph (1), by adding at the end
21 the following: “The term of such grants may be
22 for a period of more than 1 year, but not more
23 than 5 years.”; and

24 (B) in paragraph (3), by striking “2023”
25 and inserting “2031”; and

26 (2) in subsection (b)—

1 (A) in paragraph (1), by adding at the end
2 the following: “The term of such grants may be
3 for a period of more than 1 year, but not more
4 than 5 years.”; and

5 (B) in paragraph (3), by striking “2023”
6 and inserting “2031”.

7 **SEC. 7108. NUTRITION EDUCATION PROGRAM.**

8 Section 1425(g) of the National Agricultural Re-
9 search, Extension, and Teaching Policy Act of 1977 (7
10 U.S.C. 3175(g)) is amended by striking “2023” and in-
11 serting “2031”.

12 **SEC. 7109. CONTINUING ANIMAL HEALTH AND DISEASE RE-**
13 **SEARCH PROGRAMS.**

14 Section 1433 of the National Agricultural Research,
15 Extension, and Teaching Policy Act of 1977 (7 U.S.C.
16 3195) is amended—

17 (1) in subsection (a), by adding at the end the
18 following:

19 “(4) CARRYOVER.—The balance of any annual
20 funds provided to an eligible institution for a fiscal
21 year under this subsection that remains unexpended
22 at the end of that fiscal year may be carried over
23 for use during the following fiscal year.”; and

24 (2) in subsection (c)(1), by striking “2023” and
25 inserting “2031”.

1 **SEC. 7110. EXTENSION AND AGRICULTURAL RESEARCH AT**
2 **1890 LAND-GRANT COLLEGES, INCLUDING**
3 **TUSKEGEE UNIVERSITY.**

4 (a) EXTENSION.—Section 1444(a)(2) of the National
5 Agricultural Research, Extension, and Teaching Policy
6 Act of 1977 (7 U.S.C. 3221(a)(2)) is amended by striking
7 “20 percent” and inserting “40 percent”.

8 (b) RESEARCH.—Section 1445 of the National Agri-
9 cultural Research, Extension, and Teaching Policy Act of
10 1977 (7 U.S.C. 3222) is amended—

11 (1) in subsection (a)(2), by striking “30 per-
12 cent” and inserting “40 percent”;

13 (2) in subsection (c), by striking “the research
14 director” each place it appears and inserting “the
15 agricultural research director”; and

16 (3) in subsection (d)—

17 (A) by striking “a research director” and
18 inserting “an agricultural research director”;
19 and

20 (B) by striking “or other officer”.

21 **SEC. 7111. SCHOLARSHIPS FOR STUDENTS AT 1890 INSTITU-**
22 **TIONS.**

23 Section 1446 of the National Agricultural Research,
24 Extension, and Teaching Policy Act of 1977 (7 U.S.C.
25 3222a) is amended—

1 (1) in the section heading, by inserting “**(COM-**
 2 **MONLY KNOWN AS THE DAVID A. SCOTT**
 3 **SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM FOR STUDENTS AT**
 4 **1890 INSTITUTIONS)**” before the period at the end;
 5 and

6 (2) in subsection (b)(2), by striking “2023”
 7 and inserting “2031”.

8 **SEC. 7112. GRANTS TO UPGRADE AGRICULTURAL AND**
 9 **FOOD SCIENCES FACILITIES AT 1890 LAND-**
 10 **GRANT COLLEGES, INCLUDING TUSKEGEE**
 11 **UNIVERSITY.**

12 Section 1447(b) of the National Agricultural Re-
 13 search, Extension, and Teaching Policy Act of 1977 (7
 14 U.S.C. 3222b(b)) is amended by striking “2023” and in-
 15 serting “2031”.

16 **SEC. 7113. GRANTS TO UPGRADE AGRICULTURE AND FOOD**
 17 **SCIENCES FACILITIES AND EQUIPMENT AND**
 18 **SUPPORT TROPICAL AND SUBTROPICAL AG-**
 19 **RICULTURAL RESEARCH AT INSULAR AREA**
 20 **LAND-GRANT COLLEGES AND UNIVERSITIES.**

21 Section 1447B(d) of the National Agricultural Re-
 22 search, Extension, and Teaching Policy Act of 1977 (7
 23 U.S.C. 3222b–2(d)) is amended by striking “2023” and
 24 inserting “2031”.

1 **SEC. 7114. MATCHING FUNDS REQUIREMENT FOR RE-**
2 **SEARCH AND EXTENSION ACTIVITIES AT ELI-**
3 **GIBLE INSTITUTIONS.**

4 Section 1449 of the National Agricultural Research,
5 Extension, and Teaching Policy Act of 1977 (7 U.S.C.
6 3222d) is amended—

7 (1) in subsection (b)—

8 (A) by striking “Not later than September
9 30, 1999” and inserting “Beginning on Sep-
10 tember 30, 2026, and not later than September
11 30 of each fiscal year thereafter”; and

12 (B) by striking “fiscal year 1999” and in-
13 serting “the fiscal year ending on that Sep-
14 tember 30”; and

15 (2) by amending subsection (c) to read as fol-
16 lows:

17 “(c) **STATE MATCHING FUNDS REQUIREMENT.**—
18 Notwithstanding any other provision of this subtitle, for
19 each fiscal year, a State shall provide to each eligible insti-
20 tution located in the State matching funds from non-Fed-
21 eral sources in an amount equal to the amounts provided
22 to the eligible institution under sections 1444 and 1445
23 for the purposes described in subsection (b)(1).”.

1 **SEC. 7115. NEW BEGINNING FOR TRIBAL STUDENTS.**

2 Section 1450 of the National Agricultural Research,
3 Extension, and Teaching Policy Act of 1977 (7 U.S.C.
4 3222e) is amended—

5 (1) in subsection (b)—

6 (A) in paragraph (4), by striking “land-
7 grant college or university” and inserting
8 “land-grant college or university (except for a
9 1994 Institution (as defined in section 532 of
10 the Equity in Educational Land-Grant Status
11 Act of 1994 (Public Law 103–382; 7 U.S.C.
12 301 note)))”; and

13 (B) by striking paragraph (5); and

14 (2) in subsection (d), by striking “2023” and
15 inserting “2031”.

16 **SEC. 7116. EDUCATION GRANTS PROGRAMS FOR HISPANIC-**
17 **SERVING INSTITUTIONS.**

18 Section 1455(c) of the National Agricultural Re-
19 search, Extension, and Teaching Policy Act of 1977 (7
20 U.S.C. 3241(c)) is amended by striking “2023” and in-
21 serting “2031”.

22 **SEC. 7117. BINATIONAL AGRICULTURAL RESEARCH AND**
23 **DEVELOPMENT.**

24 Section 1458(e) of the National Agricultural Re-
25 search, Extension, and Teaching Policy Act of 1977 (7
26 U.S.C. 3291(e)) is amended—

1 (1) in paragraph (1), by striking “entered into”
2 and inserting “, as entered into in 1977,”;

3 (2) in paragraph (2), by striking “United
4 States and Israel” and inserting “United States,
5 Israel, or other signatories of the Abraham Accords
6 Declaration”; and

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

8 “(3) BARD FUND ACCELERATOR.—The BARD
9 Fund shall establish an accelerator program that
10 supports mid-stage research, as determined by the
11 technology readiness level, in priority areas estab-
12 lished by the BARD Fund that—

13 “(A) fast-tracks cooperative research be-
14 tween scientists participating in activities de-
15 scribed in paragraph (2);

16 “(B) accelerates the successful develop-
17 ment of agricultural research through resources
18 and services developed or orchestrated by the
19 BARD Fund;

20 “(C) provides management guidance, tech-
21 nical assistance, and consulting to scientists
22 participating in activities described in para-
23 graph (2); or

24 “(D) advances cooperative agricultural re-
25 search projects of mutual interest to the United

1 States, Israel, or other signatories of the Abra-
 2 ham Accords Declaration.”.

3 **SEC. 7118. GRANTS AND PARTNERSHIPS FOR INTER-**
 4 **NATIONAL AGRICULTURAL RESEARCH, EX-**
 5 **TENSION, AND EDUCATION.**

6 (a) IN GENERAL.—Section 1458A of the National
 7 Agricultural Research, Extension, and Teaching Policy
 8 Act of 1977 (7 U.S.C. 3292) is amended—

9 (1) by amending the section heading to read as
 10 follows “**GRANTS AND PARTNERSHIPS FOR**
 11 **INTERNATIONAL AGRICULTURAL RESEARCH,**
 12 **EXTENSION, AND EDUCATION**”;

13 (2) by striking subsections (a) and (b) and in-
 14 serting the following:

15 “(a) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

16 “(1) DEVELOPING COUNTRY.—The term ‘devel-
 17 oping country’ means a country that meets such cri-
 18 teria as determined by the Secretary, established
 19 using a gross national income per capita test se-
 20 lected by the Secretary.

21 “(2) ELIGIBLE INSTITUTION.—The term ‘eligi-
 22 ble institution’ means—

23 “(A) a land-grant colleges or university;

24 “(B) a non-land-grant college of agri-
 25 culture;

1 “(C) a Hispanic-serving agricultural col-
2 lege or university; and

3 “(D) a cooperating forestry school.

4 “(3) INTERNATIONAL PARTNER INSTITUTION.—

5 The term ‘international partner institution’ means a
6 higher education institution in a developing country
7 that is performing, or desiring to perform, activities
8 similar to agricultural research, extension, and edu-
9 cation activities carried out through eligible institu-
10 tions in the United States.

11 “(b) GRANTS AND PARTNERSHIPS.—

12 “(1) GRANTS.—The Secretary may make com-
13 petitive grants to eligible institutions in order to
14 strengthen United States economic competitiveness
15 and to promote international market development
16 through—

17 “(A) enhancing the international content
18 of the curricula in colleges and universities so
19 as to ensure that United States students ac-
20 quire an understanding of the international di-
21 mensions and trade implications of their stud-
22 ies;

23 “(B) ensuring that United States sci-
24 entists, extension agents, and educators in-
25 volved in agricultural research and development

1 activities outside of the United States have the
2 opportunity to convey the implications of their
3 activities and findings to their peers and stu-
4 dents in the United States and to the users of
5 agricultural research, extension, and teaching;

6 “(C) enhancing the capabilities of colleges
7 and universities to do collaborative research
8 with other countries, in cooperation with other
9 Federal agencies, on issues relevant to United
10 States agricultural competitiveness;

11 “(D) enhancing the capabilities of colleges
12 and universities to provide cooperative extension
13 education to promote the application of new
14 technology developed in foreign countries to
15 United States agriculture; and

16 “(E) enhancing the capability of United
17 States colleges and universities, in cooperation
18 with other Federal agencies, to provide leader-
19 ship and educational programs that will assist
20 United States natural resources and food pro-
21 duction, processing, and distribution businesses
22 and industries to compete internationally, in-
23 cluding through the use of product market iden-
24 tification, international policies limiting or en-
25 hancing market production, the development of

1 new or enhancement of existing markets, and
2 production efficiencies.

3 “(2) PARTNERSHIPS.—The Secretary may pro-
4 mote cooperation and coordination between eligible
5 institutions and international partner institutions
6 through—

7 “(A) improving extension by—

8 “(i) encouraging the exchange of re-
9 search materials and results between eligi-
10 ble institutions and international partner
11 institutions;

12 “(ii) facilitating the broad dissemina-
13 tion of agricultural research through exten-
14 sion;

15 “(iii) assisting with efforts to plan
16 and initiate extension services in devel-
17 oping countries; and

18 “(iv) developing self-sustaining re-
19 gional agricultural markets and promoting
20 the application of new agricultural tech-
21 nologies and techniques;

22 “(B) improving agricultural research by—

23 “(i) in partnership with international
24 partner institutions, encouraging research
25 that addresses problems affecting food pro-

duction and security, human nutrition, agriculture, forestry, livestock, and fisheries, including local challenges; and

“(ii) supporting and strengthening national agricultural research systems in developing countries;

“(C) improving agricultural teaching and education by—

“(i) in partnership with international partner institutions, supporting education and teaching relating to food and agricultural sciences, including technical assistance, degree training, research collaborations, classroom instruction, workforce training, and education programs; and

“(ii) assisting with efforts to increase student capacity, including to encourage equitable access for women and other underserved populations, at international partner institutions by promoting partnerships with, and improving the capacity of, eligible institutions;

“(D) assisting eligible institutions in strengthening their capacity for food, agricultural, and related research, extension, and

1 teaching programs relevant to agricultural de-
2 velopment activities in developing countries to
3 promote the application of new technology to
4 improve education delivery;

5 “(E) providing support for the internation-
6 alization of resident instruction programs of eli-
7 gible institutions;

8 “(F) establishing a program, to be coordi-
9 nated by the Director of the National Institute
10 of Food and Agriculture and the Administrator
11 of the Foreign Agricultural Service, to place in-
12 terns from eligible institutions in, or in service
13 to benefit, developing countries; and

14 “(G) establishing a program to provide fel-
15 lowships to students at eligible institutions to
16 study at foreign agricultural colleges and uni-
17 versities.”;

18 (3) in subsection (c), in the matter preceding
19 paragraph (1), by striking “covered Institutions”
20 and inserting “eligible institutions”; and

21 (4) in subsection (d), by striking “2023” and
22 inserting “2031”.

23 (b) CONFORMING AMENDMENT.—Section 1459A of
24 the National Agricultural Research, Extension, and
25 Teaching Policy Act of 1977 (7 U.S.C. 3292b) is repealed.

1 **SEC. 7119. RESEARCH EQUIPMENT GRANTS.**

2 Section 1462A(e) of the National Agricultural Re-
3 search, Extension, and Teaching Policy Act of 1977 (7
4 U.S.C. 3310a(e)) is amended by striking “2023” and in-
5 serting “2031”.

6 **SEC. 7120. UNIVERSITY RESEARCH.**

7 Section 1463 of the National Agricultural Research,
8 Extension, and Teaching Policy Act of 1977 (7 U.S.C.
9 3311) is amended by striking “2023” each place it ap-
10 pears in subsections (a) and (b) and inserting “2031”.

11 **SEC. 7121. EXTENSION SERVICE.**

12 Section 1464 of the National Agricultural Research,
13 Extension, and Teaching Policy Act of 1977 (7 U.S.C.
14 3312) is amended by striking “2023” and inserting
15 “2031”.

16 **SEC. 7122. SUPPLEMENTAL AND ALTERNATIVE CROPS.**

17 Section 1473D of the National Agricultural Re-
18 search, Extension, and Teaching Policy Act of 1977 (7
19 U.S.C. 3319d) is amended—

20 (1) in subsection (a), by striking “2023” and
21 inserting “2031”;

22 (2) in subsection (c)(3)—

23 (A) in subparagraph (E), by striking
24 “and” at the end;

25 (B) by redesignating subparagraph (F) as
26 subparagraph (G); and

1 (C) by inserting after subparagraph (E)
 2 the following:

3 “(F) to examine potential benefits and opportu-
 4 nities for supplemental and alternative crops (includ-
 5 ing winter-planted rapeseed and winter-planted
 6 canola crops); and”; and

7 (3) in subsection (e)(3), by striking “2023” and
 8 inserting “2031”.

9 **SEC. 7123. GRANTS FOR COMMUNITY COLLEGE AGRI-**
 10 **CULTURE AND NATURAL RESOURCES PRO-**
 11 **GRAMS.**

12 Section 1473E of the National Agricultural Research,
 13 Extension, and Teaching Policy Act of 1977 (7 U.S.C.
 14 3319e) is amended—

15 (1) by amending the section heading to read as
 16 follows: “**GRANTS FOR COMMUNITY COLLEGE**
 17 **AGRICULTURE AND NATURAL RESOURCES**
 18 **PROGRAMS**”;

19 (2) by redesignating subsection (d) as sub-
 20 section (e);

21 (3) by striking subsections (a) through (c) and
 22 inserting the following:

23 “(a) **DEFINITIONS.**—In this section:

24 “(1) **ELIGIBLE ENTITY.**—The term ‘eligible en-
 25 tity’ means—

1 “(A) a junior or community college (as de-
2 fined in section 312 of the Higher Education
3 Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 1058)) supporting agri-
4 culture advancement;

5 “(B) a consortium or alliance of 2-year
6 public colleges supporting agriculture advance-
7 ment; or

8 “(C) an area career and technical edu-
9 cation school (as defined in section 3 of the
10 Carl D. Perkins Career and Technical Edu-
11 cation Act of 2006 (20 U.S.C. 2302)) that of-
12 fers a program of study in agriculture.

13 “(2) WORK-BASED LEARNING.—The term
14 ‘work-based learning’ has the meaning given such
15 term in section 3 of the Carl D. Perkins Career and
16 Technical Education Act of 2006 (20 U.S.C. 2302).

17 “(b) COMPETITIVE GRANTS.—The Secretary shall
18 make competitive grants to eligible entities to conduct
19 workforce training, education, research, and outreach ac-
20 tivities relating to food and agricultural sciences.

21 “(c) PRIORITY.—In making grants under subsection
22 (b), the Secretary shall give priority to an eligible entity
23 coordinating with a local agriculture industry operator or
24 conservation district to provide work-based learning, expe-
25 riential training, and other opportunities for students.

1 “(d) USE OF FUNDS.—An eligible entity that receives
2 a grant under subsection (b) may use the funds made
3 available through the grant—

4 “(1) to offer educational programming on agri-
5 cultural industry jobs, including farm business man-
6 agement-related subjects, such as accounting, para-
7 legal studies, finance, and soil, water, and related re-
8 source conservation;

9 “(2) to develop apprenticeships and other work-
10 based learning opportunities; and

11 “(3) other services that would increase work-
12 force training, education, research, and outreach ac-
13 tivities relating to food and agricultural sciences, as
14 determined by the Secretary.”; and

15 (4) in subsection (e), as so redesignated, by
16 striking “2023” and inserting “2031”.

17 **SEC. 7124. CAPACITY BUILDING GRANTS FOR NLGCA INSTI-**
18 **TUTIONS.**

19 Section 1473F(b) of the National Agricultural Re-
20 search, Extension, and Teaching Policy Act of 1977 (7
21 U.S.C. 3319i(b)) is amended by striking “2023” and in-
22 serting “2031”.

1 **SEC. 7125. AGRICULTURE ADVANCED RESEARCH AND DE-**
2 **VELOPMENT AUTHORITY.**

3 Section 1473H of the National Agricultural Re-
4 search, Extension, and Teaching Policy Act of 1977 (7
5 U.S.C. 3319k) is amended—

6 (1) in subsection (a)—

7 (A) in paragraph (2)—

8 (i) by inserting “, including precision
9 agriculture,” after “equipment”; and

10 (ii) by striking “relating to the re-
11 search and development of qualified prod-
12 ucts and projects”;

13 (B) in paragraph (5)—

14 (i) in the paragraph heading, by strik-
15 ing “PERSON” and inserting “ELIGIBLE
16 ENTITY”;

17 (ii) in the matter preceding subpara-
18 graph (A), by striking “person” and in-
19 serting “eligible entity”;

20 (iii) by striking subparagraph (E);

21 and

22 (iv) by redesignating subparagraphs
23 (F) through (H) as subparagraphs (E)
24 through (G), respectively;

25 (C) in paragraph (6)—

1 (i) in subparagraph (B)(iii), by strik-
2 ing “and” at the end;

3 (ii) in subparagraph (C)(ii), by strik-
4 ing the period at the end and inserting “;
5 or”; and

6 (iii) by adding at the end the fol-
7 lowing:

8 “(D) any other product or project, as de-
9 termined by the Secretary.”;

10 (D) in paragraph (7), by striking “that is
11 developed to assist in the discovery, develop-
12 ment, or manufacture of a qualified product or
13 project”; and

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

15 “(8) PRECISION AGRICULTURE.—The term
16 ‘precision agriculture’ means managing, tracking, or
17 reducing crop or livestock production inputs (includ-
18 ing seed, feed, fertilizer, chemicals, water, and time)
19 at a heightened level of spatial and temporal granu-
20 larity to improve efficiencies, reduce waste, and
21 maintain environmental quality.”;

22 (2) in subsection (b)—

23 (A) in paragraph (2)—

24 (i) by amending subparagraph (B) to
25 read as follows:

1 “(B) to overcome the long-term and high-
2 risk technological barriers in the development of
3 agricultural technologies, research tools, and
4 qualified products and projects that enhance ex-
5 port competitiveness, environmental sustain-
6 ability, water conservation, and resilience to ex-
7 treme weather, drought, infectious diseases,
8 plant and animal pathogens, and plant and ani-
9 mal pests;”;

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

12 (iii) by redesignating subparagraph
13 (D) as subparagraph (E); and

14 (iv) by inserting after subparagraph
15 (C) the following:

16 “(D) to enhance the role of sustainable ag-
17 riculture (as defined in section 1404) in innova-
18 tive voluntary resilience solutions in the United
19 States through the development of agricultural
20 technologies that may address—

21 “(i) the impact of extreme weather on
22 crop production;

23 “(ii) the effects of drought and the
24 potential of building water holding capacity
25 in soils on crop and rangelands;

1 “(iii) the expansion of the potential
2 for long-term carbon storage through sus-
3 tainable agriculture;

4 “(iv) increased economic and practical
5 feasibility for sustainable energy, including
6 conventional and advanced biofuels, on
7 farms and in the agriculture industry;

8 “(v) increased voluntary adoption of
9 conservation practices that sequester car-
10 bon and build on-farm climate resilience;
11 and

12 “(vi) increased economic and practical
13 feasibility for, and voluntary adoption of,
14 precision agriculture technology; and”;

15 (B) in paragraph (4)—

16 (i) in subparagraph (C), by striking
17 “persons” and inserting “eligible entities”;
18 and

19 (ii) in subparagraph (G), by striking
20 “persons” and inserting “eligible entities”;
21 and

22 (C) in paragraph (7)(A)—

23 (i) by striking “a person” and insert-
24 ing “an eligible entity”; and

1 (ii) by striking “the person” and in-
2 serting “the eligible entity”;

3 (3) in subsection (c)—

4 (A) in paragraph (2), by striking “per-
5 sons” and inserting “eligible entities”; and

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

7 “(4) USE OF STRATEGIC PLAN.—The Secretary
8 shall use the strategic plan developed under para-
9 graph (1) to inform the administration of AGARDA
10 under this section.”;

11 (4) in subsection (d)(3), by striking “2023”
12 and inserting “2031”; and

13 (5) in subsection (e)—

14 (A) in paragraph (1), by striking “5
15 years” and inserting “13 years”; and

16 (B) in paragraph (2)(B), by striking “5-
17 year” and inserting “13-year”.

18 **SEC. 7126. AQUACULTURE ASSISTANCE PROGRAMS.**

19 (a) IN GENERAL.—Section 1477(a)(2) of the Na-
20 tional Agricultural Research, Extension, and Teaching
21 Policy Act of 1977 (7 U.S.C. 3324(a)(2)) is amended by
22 striking “2023” and insert “2031”.

23 (b) STUDY ON DEVELOPMENT OF AQUACULTURE
24 BUSINESSES.—

1 (1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 180 days
2 after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Sec-
3 retary shall conduct a study to identify locations in
4 the United States Virgin Islands and Guam that are
5 suitable for the development of aquaculture small
6 businesses, including an assessment of water quality,
7 coastal access, infrastructure needs, and applicable
8 environmental and regulatory requirements.

9 (2) CONSULTATION.—In conducting the study
10 under paragraph (1), the Secretary shall consult
11 with the Virgin Islands Department of Planning and
12 Natural Resources and the Guam Department of
13 Agriculture.

14 **SEC. 7127. SPECIAL AUTHORIZATION FOR BIOSECURITY**
15 **PLANNING AND RESPONSE.**

16 Section 1484(a)(3) of the National Agricultural Re-
17 search, Extension, and Teaching Policy Act of 1977 (7
18 U.S.C. 3351(a)(3)) is amended by striking “2023” and
19 inserting “2031”.

20 **SEC. 7128. AGRICULTURE AND FOOD PROTECTION GRANT**
21 **PROGRAM.**

22 (a) IN GENERAL.—Section 1485 of the National Ag-
23 ricultural Research, Extension, and Teaching Policy Act
24 of 1977 (7 U.S.C. 3352) is amended—

1 (1) by amending the section heading to read as
2 follows: “**AGRICULTURE AND FOOD PROTEC-**
3 **TION GRANT PROGRAM**”;

4 (2) by striking subsections (a), (b), (c), (d), (e),
5 and (f) and inserting the following:

6 “(a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall establish a
7 competitive grant program under which the Secretary will
8 award grants to eligible entities to support research, ex-
9 tension, and education activities that improve the capa-
10 bility of the United States to protect the food and agricul-
11 tural system from any chemical, biological, cybersecurity,
12 or bioterrorism attack.

13 “(b) USE OF FUNDS.—Grants made under this sec-
14 tion shall be used to—

15 “(1) encourage basic and applied research and
16 development of agricultural countermeasures;

17 “(2) promote the development and expansion of
18 teaching programs in agriculture, veterinary medi-
19 cine, and other disciplines closely allied to the food
20 and agriculture system to increase the number of
21 trained individuals with an expertise in agricultural
22 biosecurity and cybersecurity;

23 “(3) expand or upgrade facilities to meet bio-
24 safety and biosecurity requirements necessary to
25 protect facility staff, members of the public, and the

1 food supply while carrying out agricultural biosecu-
2 rity research;

3 “(4) costs associated with the acquisition of
4 equipment and other capital costs related to expan-
5 sion of food, agriculture, and veterinary medicine
6 teaching programs in agricultural biosecurity and cy-
7 bersecurity; or

8 “(5) otherwise improve the capacity of the
9 United States to respond in a timely manner to
10 emerging or existing threats.

11 “(c) ELIGIBLE ENTITIES.—Entities eligible to receive
12 a grant under this section include—

13 “(1) State agricultural experiment stations;

14 “(2) State departments of agriculture;

15 “(3) colleges and universities;

16 “(4) university research foundations;

17 “(5) other research institutions and organiza-
18 tions;

19 “(6) Federal agencies;

20 “(7) national laboratories; or

21 “(8) any group consisting of 2 or more of the
22 entities described in paragraphs (1) through (7).”;

23 (3) by redesignating subsection (g) as sub-
24 section (d); and

1 (4) in subsection (d), as so redesignated, by
2 striking “for each fiscal year.” and inserting “for
3 each of fiscal years 2027 through 2031.”.

4 (b) CONFORMING AMENDMENTS.—Chapters 1 and 2
5 of subtitle B of title XIV of the Food, Conservation, and
6 Energy Act of 2008 (7 U.S.C. 8912, 8913, 8921, and
7 8922) are repealed.

8 **SEC. 7129. DISTANCE EDUCATION GRANTS FOR INSULAR**
9 **AREAS.**

10 Section 1490(f)(2) of the National Agricultural Re-
11 search, Extension, and Teaching Policy Act of 1977 (7
12 U.S.C. 3362(f)(2)) is amended by striking “2023” and in-
13 serting “2031”.

14 **SEC. 7130. RESIDENT INSTRUCTION GRANTS FOR INSULAR**
15 **AREAS.**

16 Section 1491(c)(2) of the National Agricultural Re-
17 search, Extension, and Teaching Policy Act of 1977 (7
18 U.S.C. 3363(c)(2)) is amended by striking “2023” and
19 inserting “2031”.

20 **SEC. 7131. REPEALS.**

21 (a) Section 1410 of the National Agricultural Re-
22 search, Extension, and Teaching Policy Act of 1977 ((7
23 U.S.C. 3125) is repealed.

1 (b) Section 1419C of the National Agricultural Re-
2 search, Extension, and Teaching Policy Act of 1977 (7
3 U.S.C. 3158) is repealed.

4 (c) Section 1447A of the National Agricultural Re-
5 search, Extension, and Teaching Policy Act of 1977 (7
6 U.S.C. 3222b–1) is repealed.

7 (d) Subtitle M of the National Agricultural Research,
8 Extension, and Teaching Policy Act of 1977 (7 U.S.C.
9 3331 et seq.) is repealed.

10 **Subtitle B—Food, Agriculture, Con-**
11 **servation, and Trade Act of 1990**

12 **SEC. 7201. SUSTAINABLE AGRICULTURE RESEARCH AND**
13 **EDUCATION.**

14 Subtitle B of title XVI of the Food, Agriculture, Con-
15 servation, and Trade Act of 1990 (7 U.S.C. 5801 et seq.)
16 is amended by striking “2023” each place it appears in
17 sections 1624 (7 U.S.C. 5814), 1627(d) (7 U.S.C.
18 5821(d)), 1628(f)(2) (7 U.S.C. 5831(f)(2)), and 1629(i)
19 (7 U.S.C. 5832(i)), and inserting “2031”.

20 **SEC. 7202. NATIONAL GENETICS RESOURCES PROGRAM.**

21 Section 1635(b)(2) of the Food, Agriculture, Con-
22 servation, and Trade Act of 1990 (7 U.S.C. 5844(b)(2))
23 is amended by striking “2023” and inserting “2031”.

1 **SEC. 7203. AGRICULTURAL GENOME TO PHENOME INITIA-**
2 **TIVE.**

3 Section 1671(g) of the Food, Agriculture, Conserva-
4 tion, and Trade Act of 1990 (7 U.S.C. 5924(g)) is amend-
5 ed by striking “2023” and inserting “2031”.

6 **SEC. 7204. HIGH-PRIORITY RESEARCH AND EXTENSION INI-**
7 **TIATIVES.**

8 Section 1672 of the Food, Agriculture, Conservation,
9 and Trade Act of 1990 (7 U.S.C. 5925) is amended—

10 (1) in subsection (d)—

11 (A) by striking paragraphs (5), (6), (9),
12 (10), (11), (13), and (18);

13 (B) by redesignating paragraphs (7), (8),
14 (12), (14), (15), (16), (17), (19), and (20) as
15 paragraphs (5), (6), (7), (8), (9), (10), (11),
16 (12), and (13), respectively;

17 (C) in paragraph (11), as so redesignated,
18 by inserting “and harmful algal blooms” after
19 “macro-algae systems”; and

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

21 “(14) FERTILIZER AND NUTRIENT MANAGE-
22 MENT INITIATIVE.—Research and extension grants
23 may be made under this section for the purposes of
24 carrying out research to improve fertilizer use effi-
25 ciency in crops and examining nutrient management

1 based on the source, rate, timing, and placement of
2 crop nutrients.

3 “(15) TROPICAL PLANT HEALTH INITIATIVE.—
4 Research and extension grants may be made under
5 this section for the purposes of—

6 “(A) developing and disseminating science-
7 based tools and treatments to combat plant
8 pests and noxious weeds (as those terms are de-
9 fined in section 403 of the Plant Protection Act
10 (7 U.S.C. 7702)) that impact tropical plants,
11 including—

12 “(i) coffee plants;

13 “(ii) macadamia trees;

14 “(iii) cacao trees;

15 “(iv) plantains and bananas;

16 “(v) mangos;

17 “(vi) vanilla plants;

18 “(vii) tropical floriculture and nursery
19 crops; and

20 “(viii) any other tropical plant as de-
21 termined by the Secretary;

22 “(B) establishing an areawide integrated
23 pest management program in areas affected by,
24 or areas at risk of being affected by, plant pests
25 or noxious weeds;

1 “(C) surveying and collecting data on trop-
2 ical plant production and health;

3 “(D) investigating tropical plant biology,
4 immunology, ecology, genomics, and
5 bioinformatics; and

6 “(E) conducting research on various fac-
7 tors that may contribute to, or be associated
8 with, tropical plant immune systems and other
9 serious threats to tropical plants.

10 “(16) BIOCHAR RESEARCH.—Research and ex-
11 tension grants may be made under this section for
12 the purpose of testing the full range of biochar types
13 across soil types, soil health and soil management
14 conditions, application methods, and climatic and
15 agronomic regions, including through the establish-
16 ment of a national biochar research network, to—

17 “(A) assess the soil carbon sequestration
18 potential of various biochars and management
19 systems integrating biochar use;

20 “(B) understand how to use biochar pro-
21 ductively to contribute to climate mitigation,
22 crop production, resilience to extreme weather
23 events, ecosystem and soil health, natural re-
24 source conservation, and farm profitability; and

1 “(C) deliver science-based, region-specific,
2 cost-effective, and practical information to
3 farmers, ranchers, foresters, land reclamation
4 managers, urban land managers, and other land
5 and natural resource managers and businesses
6 on sustainable biochar production and applica-
7 tion.

8 “(17) WILDFIRE SMOKE EXPOSURE RE-
9 SEARCH.—Research and extension grants may be
10 made under this section for the purposes of studying
11 the impact of wildfire smoke exposure on specialty
12 crops, including wine grapes, hops, stone fruit, and
13 apples, by—

14 “(A) conducting research—

15 “(i) to identify the compounds respon-
16 sible for smoke exposure; and

17 “(ii) to establish standard methodolo-
18 gies for sampling and testing smoke-ex-
19 posed specialty crops and smoke-affected
20 products, including fast and inexpensive
21 screening methods;

22 “(B) establishing a reliable database of
23 background levels of smoke exposure com-
24 pounds that occur naturally in specialty crops;

1 “(C) developing risk assessment tools or
2 mitigation methods to reduce or eliminate
3 smoke exposure; and

4 “(D) studying compounds that can act as
5 a barrier between specialty crops and smoke
6 compounds.

7 “(18) INVASIVE SPECIES RESEARCH.—Research
8 and extension grants may be made under this sec-
9 tion for the purposes of developing and dissemi-
10 nating science-based tools and treatments to manage
11 or eradicate (including through methods of biocon-
12 trol and sterile insect techniques) invasive species of
13 plants and animals, such as the spotted lanternfly
14 (*Lycorma delicatula*), navel orangeworm (*Amyelois*
15 *transitella*), and spotted wing drosophila (*Drosophila*
16 *suzukii*).

17 “(19) MICROPLASTICS AND PER- AND
18 POLYFLUOROALKYL SUBSTANCES ON FARMLAND.—
19 Research and extension grants may be made under
20 this section for the purposes of carrying out or en-
21 hancing research on the agricultural impacts of
22 microplastics and per- and polyfluoroalkyl sub-
23 stances, including structural firefighting foam, in
24 land-applied biosolids or compost on farmland, in-
25 cluding by—

1 “(A) conducting surveys and collecting
2 data on concentration, particle size, and chem-
3 ical composition of such substances in land-ap-
4 plied biosolids on farmland;

5 “(B) the development or analysis of tech-
6 niques, including wastewater treatment and
7 composting, to filter out or biodegrade such
8 substances from biosolids intended to be used
9 for agricultural purposes;

10 “(C) conducting an analysis of the impact
11 on agricultural crops and soil health of such
12 substances in land-applied biosolids on farm-
13 land, including the uptake of such substances
14 by various crops or livestock;

15 “(D) conducting research to better under-
16 stand how wastewater processing impacts such
17 substances;

18 “(E) conducting research to better under-
19 stand the fate, residence time, and transport of
20 such substances on farmland; and

21 “(F) conducting research on how to reme-
22 diate soil and water systems contaminated with
23 such substances.

24 “(20) AGRICULTURAL BYPRODUCTS RE-
25 SEARCH.—Research and extension grants may be

1 made under this section for the purposes of con-
2 verting agricultural byproducts or forest residuals
3 into valuable materials and products, including inno-
4 vations in production processes for easily deployable
5 refining facilities, developing alternatives to agricul-
6 tural burning, and fostering energy production
7 through recycling animal byproducts, wet waste, and
8 plant-based waste.

9 “(21) SOIL HEALTH RESEARCH.—Research and
10 extension grants may be made under this section for
11 the purposes of—

12 “(A) developing management practices
13 that improve soil health, including establishing
14 tools that aid soil preservation or improve com-
15 position of soil organic compounds that are ben-
16 efcial to soil quality and the environment; and

17 “(B) disseminating such practices through
18 methods such as innovative coursework and
19 work-based learning.

20 “(22) WHITE OAK RESEARCH.—Research and
21 extension grants may be made under this section for
22 the purposes of white oak research, including con-
23 ducting research on—

24 “(A) white oak genes with resistance and
25 stress tolerance;

1 “(B) white oak trees that exhibit vigor for
2 the purpose of increasing survival and growth;

3 “(C) establishing a diverse white oak seed
4 bank capable of responding to stressors;

5 “(D) providing a sustainable supply of
6 white oak seedlings and genetic resources;

7 “(E) reforestation of white oak through
8 natural and artificial regeneration; and

9 “(F) the best methods for reforesting
10 abandoned mine land sites.

11 “(23) ALTERNATIVE GROWING MEDIA RE-
12 SEARCH.—Research and extension grants may be
13 made under this section for the purposes of devel-
14 oping and enhancing research on the characteriza-
15 tion, utilization, and evaluation of alternative grow-
16 ing media, including science-based techniques that
17 maximize functions in the growth of plants and har-
18 vest yields.

19 “(24) RANGELAND RESEARCH.—Research and
20 extension grants may be made under this section for
21 the purposes of carrying out or enhancing research
22 on the development of forage production and im-
23 proved grazing and range management, including
24 the adoption of virtual fencing technology that si-

1 multaneously enhance wildlife habitat, protect water-
2 sheds, and reduce hazards of erosion and flooding.

3 “(25) SPECIALTY CROP MECHANIZATION AND
4 AUTOMATION RESEARCH.—Research and extension
5 grants may be made under this section for the pur-
6 pose of developing and evaluating mechanization and
7 automation technologies for specialty crops.

8 “(26) BIOLOGICAL PEST CONTROL.—Research
9 and extension grants may be made under this sec-
10 tion for the purposes of supporting research, devel-
11 opment, or education materials, information, and
12 outreach programs regarding biological pest control
13 to limit crop damage and food-borne illnesses.”;

14 (2) in subsection (e)(5), by striking “2023” and
15 inserting “2031”;

16 (3) in subsection (f)(5), by striking “2023” and
17 inserting “2031”;

18 (4) in subsection (g)—

19 (A) in paragraph (1)(B), by striking
20 “2023” and inserting “2031”;

21 (B) in paragraph (2)(B), by striking
22 “2023” and inserting “2031”; and

23 (C) in paragraph (3), by striking “2023”
24 and inserting “2031”;

1 (5) by redesignating subsection (h) as sub-
2 section (i);

3 (6) by inserting after subsection (g) the fol-
4 lowing:

5 “(h) REPORT.—Not later than February 1, 2028,
6 and not less frequently than once every other year there-
7 after, the Secretary shall submit to the Committee on Ag-
8 riculture of the House of Representatives and the Com-
9 mittee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry of the Sen-
10 ate a report describing how the Department carried out
11 research and extension activities specified in subsections
12 (d) through (f) for the previous two fiscal years, including
13 the amount of funding allocated to each high-priority re-
14 search and extension initiative, through—

15 “(1) amounts made available under appropria-
16 tions Acts to the Agricultural Research Service;

17 “(2) amounts made available to the National
18 Institute of Food and Agriculture under capacity
19 and infrastructure programs (as defined in section
20 251 of the Department of Agriculture Reorganiza-
21 tion Act of 1994 (7 U.S.C. 6971));

22 “(3) amounts made available to the National
23 Institute of Food and Agriculture under competitive
24 programs (as defined in such section); and

1 “(4) amounts made available through other
2 agencies within the Department.”; and

3 (7) in subsection (i) (as redesignated by para-
4 graph (4)), by striking “2023” and inserting
5 “2031”.

6 **SEC. 7205. ORGANIC AGRICULTURE RESEARCH AND EXTEN-**
7 **SION INITIATIVE.**

8 Section 1672B of the Food, Agriculture, Conserva-
9 tion, and Trade Act of 1990 (7 U.S.C. 5925b) is amend-
10 ed—

11 (1) in subsection (a), in the matter preceding
12 paragraph (1), by striking “2023” and inserting
13 “2031”;

14 (2) by striking subsection (e);

15 (3) by redesignating subsection (f) as sub-
16 section (e); and

17 (4) in subsection (e), as so redesignated—

18 (A) in paragraph (2), by striking “2023”
19 and inserting “2031”; and

20 (B) by striking paragraph (3).

21 **SEC. 7206. FARM BUSINESS MANAGEMENT.**

22 Section 1672D(d)(2) of the Food, Agriculture, Con-
23 servation, and Trade Act of 1990 (7 U.S.C. 5925f(d)(2))
24 is amended by striking “2023” and inserting “2031”.

1 **SEC. 7207. URBAN, INDOOR, AND OTHER EMERGING AGRI-**
2 **CULTURAL PRODUCTION RESEARCH, EDU-**
3 **CATION, AND EXTENSION INITIATIVE.**

4 Section 1672E(a) of the Food, Agriculture, Con-
5 servation, and Trade Act of 1990 (7 U.S.C. 5925g(a))—

6 (1) in the matter preceding paragraph (1)—

7 (A) by striking “the Urban Agriculture
8 and Innovative Production Advisory Committee
9 established under section 222(b) of the Depart-
10 ment of Agriculture Reorganization Act of
11 1994” and inserting “the Urban Agriculture
12 and Innovative Production Advisory Committee
13 and the Office of Urban Agriculture and Inno-
14 vative Production established under section 222
15 of the Department of Agriculture Reorganiza-
16 tion Act of 1994 (7 U.S.C. 6923)”; and

17 (B) by striking “emerging agricultural pro-
18 duction” and inserting “emerging agricultural
19 production practices (as described in subsection
20 (a)(3) of such section)”; and

21 (2) in paragraph (3), by striking “emerging ag-
22 ricultural production” and inserting “emerging agri-
23 cultural production practices”;

24 (3) in paragraph (7), by striking “or” at the
25 end;

1 (4) in paragraph (8), by striking the period at
2 the end and inserting a semicolon; and

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

4 “(9) managing waste streams to improve the
5 environmental footprint; or

6 “(10) advising land-grant colleges and univer-
7 sities (as defined in section 1404 of the National Ag-
8 ricultural Research, Extension, and Teaching Policy
9 Act of 1977 (7 U.S.C. 3103)), minority-serving in-
10 stitutions (as described in section 371(a) of the
11 Higher Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C.
12 1067q(a))), junior or community colleges (as defined
13 in section 312(f) of such Act (20 U.S.C. 1058(f))),
14 and vocational schools, with respect to career and
15 technical education.”.

16 **SEC. 7208. CENTERS OF EXCELLENCE.**

17 Section 1673 of the Food, Agriculture, Conservation,
18 and Trade Act of 1990 (7 U.S.C. 5926) is amended—

19 (1) by striking subsections (a), (b), and (c) and
20 inserting the following:

21 “(a) CENTERS OF EXCELLENCE.—

22 “(1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary of Agri-
23 culture shall establish at least one center of excel-
24 lence for the purpose of carrying out research, ex-

1 tension, or education activities for each of the areas
2 of focus described in paragraph (3).

3 “(2) HOST INSTITUTIONS.—

4 “(A) IN GENERAL.—Institutions eligible to
5 host or co-host a center of excellence estab-
6 lished under this subsection include—

7 “(i) 1862 Institutions, as defined in
8 section 2 of the Agricultural Research, Ex-
9 tension, and Education Reform Act of
10 1998 (7 U.S.C. 7601);

11 “(ii) 1890 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 “(iii) 1994 Institutions, as defined in
16 section 532 of the Equity in Educational
17 Land-Grant Status Act of 1994 (7 U.S.C.
18 301 note);

19 “(iv) non-land-grant colleges of agri-
20 culture, as defined in section 1404 of the
21 National Agricultural Research, Extension,
22 and Teaching Policy Act of 1977 (7 U.S.C.
23 3103);

24 “(v) Hispanic-serving agricultural col-
25 leges or universities, as defined in section

1 1404 of the National Agricultural Re-
2 search, Extension, and Teaching Policy
3 Act of 1977 (7 U.S.C. 3103); and

4 “(vi) accredited schools of veterinary
5 medicine.

6 “(B) DISTRIBUTION.—To the maximum
7 extent practicable, the Secretary shall ensure
8 the geographic diversity of institutions selected
9 to host or co-host a center of excellence estab-
10 lished under this subsection.

11 “(C) LIMITATION.—An institution may
12 host or co-host only one center of excellence
13 under this subsection at a time.

14 “(D) DUTIES.—The institution or institu-
15 tions selected to host or co-host a center of ex-
16 cellence established under this subsection shall
17 partner with the Agricultural Research Service,
18 other Federal agencies, State governments,
19 other institutions of higher education (as de-
20 fined in section 101 of the Higher Education
21 Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 1001)), agricultural in-
22 dustry groups, or other relevant entities to—

23 “(i) reduce duplicative efforts and
24 focus on filling gaps across research, ex-
25 tension, or education activities by enhance-

1 ing coordination and improving cost-effec-
2 tiveness;

3 “(ii) leverage available resources by
4 using public-private partnerships;

5 “(iii) implement training and edu-
6 cational initiatives to increase awareness
7 and effectively disseminate solutions to tar-
8 get audiences through extension activities;

9 “(iv) increase the economic returns to
10 rural communities by identifying, attract-
11 ing, and directing funds to high-priority
12 agricultural issues;

13 “(v) rapidly respond to emerging
14 issues that threaten any sector of the
15 United States agricultural industry;

16 “(vi) focus on workforce development
17 for employers to recruit and retain high-
18 quality employees in rural areas; and

19 “(vii) engage in assistance for admin-
20 istrative management and education re-
21 garding potentially valuable intellectual
22 property derived from federally-supported
23 research, extension, or education activities.

24 “(3) AREAS OF FOCUS.—

1 “(A) AQUACULTURE.—A center of excel-
2 lence established under this subsection may en-
3 gage in research, extension, or education activi-
4 ties focused on developing and applying aqua-
5 culture methods, including through the propa-
6 gation and rearing of economically and eco-
7 logically valuable aquatic and marine species.

8 “(B) BEGINNING FARMERS AND RANCH-
9 ERS.—A center of excellence established under
10 this subsection may engage in research, exten-
11 sion or education activities focused on training
12 beginning farmers and ranchers, including farm
13 and agribusiness management, mentoring and
14 technical assistance, and access to capital.

15 “(C) BIOSECURITY AND CYBERSECU-
16 RITY.—A center of excellence established under
17 this subsection may engage in research, exten-
18 sion, or education activities focused on agricul-
19 tural biosecurity and cybersecurity efforts to de-
20 fend the United States food supply from any at-
21 tacks.

22 “(D) BIOSYSTEMS AND AGRICULTURAL
23 ENGINEERING.—A center of excellence estab-
24 lished under this subsection may engage in re-
25 search, extension, or education activities fo-

1 cused on biosystems and agricultural engineer-
2 ing, including precision agriculture technologies
3 and mechanization and automation technologies
4 for specialty crops.

5 “(E) BIOTECHNOLOGY.—A center of excel-
6 lence established under this subsection may en-
7 gage in research, extension, or education activi-
8 ties focused on development of animal and plant
9 biotechnologies that will increase agricultural
10 productivity.

11 “(F) CROP PRODUCTION, PROTECTION,
12 AND RESILIENCE.—A center of excellence estab-
13 lished under this subsection may engage in re-
14 search, extension, or education activities fo-
15 cused on crop production and protection, in-
16 cluding the development, manufacture, and use
17 of fertilizer, crop protection tools, and adju-
18 vants in increasing productivity and protecting
19 crops from damaging pests and diseases.

20 “(G) DIGITAL AGRICULTURE.—A center of
21 excellence established under this subsection may
22 engage in research, extension, or education ac-
23 tivities focused on developing, evaluating, and
24 deploying digital agriculture, including artificial
25 intelligence and remote sensing systems.

1 “(H) FARM BUSINESS AND FINANCIAL
2 MANAGEMENT.—A center of excellence estab-
3 lished under this subsection may engage in re-
4 search, extension, or education activities fo-
5 cused on farm business and financial manage-
6 ment activities, including marketing plans, pro-
7 duction diversification, and cash forward con-
8 tracting.

9 “(I) FOOD QUALITY.—A center of excel-
10 lence established under this subsection may en-
11 gage in research, extension, or education activi-
12 ties focused on improving food quality, includ-
13 ing research on the uptake of per- and
14 polyfluoroalkyl substances in food, the presence
15 of microplastics in biosolids, and the efficacy
16 and feasibility of reducing levels of inorganic
17 arsenic, lead, cadmium, or mercury in food.

18 “(J) FOREIGN ANIMAL DISEASE.—A center
19 of excellence established under this subsection
20 may engage in research, extension, or education
21 activities focused on foreign animal diseases, in-
22 cluding the ecology and etiology of emerging
23 diseases, control methods, and implementation
24 strategies to enhance preparedness and re-

1 sponse efforts to protect the livestock and poul-
2 try industry.

3 “(K) FORESTRY.—A center of excellence
4 established under this subsection may engage in
5 research, extension, or education activities fo-
6 cused on forest productivity and forest health,
7 including invasive species control, biochar and
8 pyrolysis development and commercialization,
9 reforestation and restoration of damaged land-
10 scapes, and new wood-based materials.

11 “(L) INVASIVE SPECIES.—A center of ex-
12 cellence established under this subsection may
13 engage in research, extension, or education ac-
14 tivities focused on the control and eradication of
15 invasive species that pose a persistent and
16 growing threat to United States agricultural
17 production, forest resources, global food secu-
18 rity, and rural economies.

19 “(M) LIVESTOCK AND POULTRY.—A cen-
20 ter of excellence established under this sub-
21 section may engage in research, extension, or
22 education activities focused on issues impacting
23 livestock (including equines) and poultry pro-
24 duction in the United States, including eco-

1 nomic research to understand policy implica-
2 tions for producers.

3 “(N) VETERINARY MEDICINE.—A center of
4 excellence established under this subsection may
5 engage in research, extension, or education ac-
6 tivities focused on developing additional veteri-
7 narians, including large animal veterinarians, to
8 address the veterinarian shortage in rural
9 areas.

10 “(O) WATER QUALITY AND QUANTITY.—A
11 center of excellence established under this sub-
12 section may engage in research, extension, or
13 education activities focused on water quality
14 and quantity efforts, including drought, water
15 management, natural resource benefits, and the
16 health and resilience of the water supply in the
17 United States.

18 “(4) TERMS.—

19 “(A) DURATION.—The term of an award
20 under this subsection shall be for a five-year pe-
21 riod, and may be renewed for not more than
22 one additional five-year period.

23 “(B) CONSTRUCTION PROHIBITED.—
24 Funds made available under this subsection
25 shall not be used for the construction of a new

1 building or facility or the acquisition, expan-
2 sion, remodeling, or alteration of an existing
3 building or facility (including site grading and
4 improvement, and architect fees).

5 “(5) ANNUAL REPORT.—Not later than one
6 year after the date of enactment of this subsection,
7 and every year thereafter, the Secretary shall submit
8 to the Committee on Agriculture of the House of
9 Representatives and the Committee on Agriculture,
10 Nutrition, and Forestry of the Senate a report de-
11 scribing—

12 “(A) the projects initiated by each center
13 of excellence established under this subsection
14 in the preceding year;

15 “(B) the amount of funding for each such
16 project and the funding source;

17 “(C) the institutions participating in each
18 such project and their shares of the overall
19 funding for each project;

20 “(D) the level of cost sharing for each such
21 project;

22 “(E) any technology transfer and intellec-
23 tual property management actions taken by
24 each such center of excellence, such as the num-
25 ber of relevant invention disclosures, any provi-

1 sional patents filed, any non-provisional patents
2 filed and issued, the number of licenses exe-
3 cuted, and any start-up companies registered;
4 and

5 “(F) any additional information deemed
6 necessary.”;

7 (2) by redesignating subsection (d) as sub-
8 section (b);

9 (3) in subsection (b), as so redesignated—

10 (A) in paragraph (1)—

11 (i) by striking “The Secretary” and
12 inserting “In addition to the centers of ex-
13 cellence established under subsection (a),
14 the Secretary”; and

15 (ii) by striking “not less than 3 cen-
16 ters of excellence” and inserting “not less
17 than 8 centers of excellence”;

18 (B) in paragraph (2)—

19 (i) in subparagraph (A)—

20 (I) in the subparagraph heading,
21 by striking “AND WORKFORCE DEVEL-
22 OPMENT” and inserting “, WORK-
23 FORCE DEVELOPMENT, AND RURAL
24 STUDIES”; and

1 (II) by inserting “economics, psy-
2 chology, rural sociology, data
3 sciences,” after “mathematics,”;

4 (ii) in subparagraph (E), by inserting
5 “and nature-based solutions to improve the
6 composition of soil organic compounds, in-
7 cluding carbon, that are beneficial to soil
8 quality and the environment” before the
9 period at the end; and

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

12 “(G) FOREST HEALTH AND CONSERVA-
13 TION.—A center of excellence established under
14 paragraph (1) may focus on forest health, sus-
15 tainable forest management, agroforestry, en-
16 hancing forest resilience to catastrophic wild-
17 fire, supporting rural infrastructure, and urban
18 and community forestry programs to promote
19 healthy forest ecosystems and resilient commu-
20 nities.

21 “(H) FOOD SAFETY, BIOPROCESSING, AND
22 VALUE-ADDED AGRICULTURE.—A center of ex-
23 cellence established under paragraph (1) may
24 focus on food safety, bioprocessing, value-added
25 agriculture enterprise development, and innova-

1 tive food and agriculture product develop-
2 ment.”; and

3 (C) in paragraph (3), by striking “2023”
4 and inserting “2031”.

5 **SEC. 7209. ASSISTIVE TECHNOLOGY PROGRAM FOR FARM-**
6 **ERS WITH DISABILITIES.**

7 Section 1680 of the Food, Agriculture, Conservation,
8 and Trade Act of 1990 (7 U.S.C. 5933) is amended—

9 (1) in subsection (a)(3)—

10 (A) in subparagraph (D), by striking
11 “and” at the end;

12 (B) in subparagraph (E), by striking the
13 period at the end and inserting “; and”; and

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

15 “(F) provide education and support to
16 youth and young adults with disabilities inter-
17 ested in farming and farm-related occupa-
18 tions.”; and

19 (2) in subsection (c)(1)(B), by striking “2023”
20 and inserting “2031”.

21 **SEC. 7210. FARMING OPPORTUNITIES TRAINING AND OUT-**
22 **REACH.**

23 Section 2501 of the Food, Agriculture, Conservation,
24 and Trade Act of 1990 (7 U.S.C. 2279) is amended—

25 (1) in subsection (c)—

1 (A) in paragraph (2), in the matter pre-
2 ceding subparagraph (A)—

3 (i) by striking “Secretary of Agri-
4 culture” and inserting “Secretary of Agri-
5 culture, acting through the Director of the
6 National Institute of Food and Agri-
7 culture,”; and

8 (ii) by striking “2023” and inserting
9 “2031”; and

10 (B) in paragraph (4)—

11 (i) in subparagraph (F), by inserting
12 “and organizations that provide training
13 and technical assistance in budgeting, busi-
14 ness planning, and similar financial and
15 management skills that focus on the ongo-
16 ing economic viability of beginning farm
17 and ranch enterprises” after “veteran
18 farmers and ranchers”;

19 (ii) in subparagraph (I)(ii), by strik-
20 ing “shall include a broad representation
21 of peers of the eligible entity” and insert-
22 ing “shall include a broad representation
23 of individuals with demonstrated expertise
24 in farm business management”; and

1 (iii) in subparagraph (J), by striking
2 “to the eligible entities providing that tech-
3 nical assistance” and inserting “to the
4 needs of farmers and ranchers’ ongoing
5 economic viability”;

6 (2) in subsection (d)—

7 (A) in paragraph (1), by striking “2023”
8 and inserting “2031”;

9 (B) in paragraph (2)—

10 (i) by striking subparagraph (J); and

11 (ii) by redesignating subparagraphs
12 (K), (L), (M), (N), and (O) as subpara-
13 graphs (J), (K), (L), (M) and (N), respec-
14 tively;

15 (C) in paragraph (8), by striking “to part-
16 nerships and collaborations that are led by or
17 include nongovernmental, community-based or-
18 ganizations and school-based educational orga-
19 nizations with expertise in new agricultural pro-
20 ducer training and outreach” and inserting “to
21 programs that provide training and technical
22 assistance in budgeting, business planning, and
23 similar financial and management skills that
24 focus on the ongoing economic viability of be-
25 ginning farm and ranch enterprises”; and

1 (D) in paragraph (12)(B), by striking “a
 2 broad representation of peers of the applicant
 3 for the grant or cooperative agreement” and in-
 4 serting “a broad representation of the United
 5 States agriculture industry and individuals with
 6 demonstrated expertise in farm business man-
 7 agement”; and
 8 (3) in subsection (l)(2), by striking “2023” and
 9 inserting “2031”.

10 **SEC. 7211. NATIONAL RURAL INFORMATION CENTER**
 11 **CLEARINGHOUSE.**

12 Section 2381(e) of the Food, Agriculture, Conserva-
 13 tion, and Trade Act of 1990 (7 U.S.C. 3125b(e)) is
 14 amended by striking “2023” and inserting “2031”.

15 **SEC. 7212. REPEAL.**

16 Subtitle D of title XVI of the Food, Agriculture, Con-
 17 servation, and Trade Act of 1990 (7 U.S.C. 5851 et seq.)
 18 is repealed.

19 **SEC. 7213. RESEARCHING THE TRANSITION TO ORGANIC.**

20 Title XVI of the Food, Agriculture, Conservation,
 21 and Trade Act of 1990 is amended by inserting after sec-
 22 tion 1673 (7 U.S.C. 5926) the following:

23 **“SEC. 1674. RESEARCHING THE TRANSITION TO ORGANIC.**

24 **“(a) COMPETITIVE SPECIALIZED RESEARCH AND**
 25 **EXTENSION GRANTS AUTHORIZED.—**The Secretary of

1 Agriculture (referred to in this section as the ‘Secretary’),
2 in consultation with the National Agricultural Research,
3 Extension, Education, and Economics Advisory Board,
4 may make competitive grants to support research, edu-
5 cation, and extension activities relating to the transition
6 of nonorganic production systems into organic agricultural
7 production systems for the purposes of—

8 “(1) overcoming barriers to transitioning to or-
9 ganic agricultural production;

10 “(2) documenting and understanding the effects
11 of organic practices on ecosystem services, including
12 soil health and fertility, greenhouse gas mitigation
13 and sequestration, water management, biodiversity-
14 related services, and pest management; and

15 “(3) developing improved technologies, methods,
16 models, and metrics to document, describe, and opti-
17 mize ecosystem services of transitioning agricultural
18 production into organic management.

19 “(b) GRANT ADMINISTRATION.—Paragraphs (4), (7),
20 (8), and (11)(B) of subsection (b) of the Competitive, Spe-
21 cial, and Facilities Research Grant Act (7 U.S.C. 3157(b))
22 shall apply with respect to the making of grants under
23 this section.

24 “(c) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There
25 are authorized to be appropriated to carry out this section

1 \$7,500,000 for fiscal year 2027 and each fiscal year there-
2 after.”.

3 **Subtitle C—Agricultural Research,**
4 **Extension, and Education Re-**
5 **form Act of 1998**

6 **SEC. 7301. NATIONAL FOOD SAFETY TRAINING, EDUCATION,**
7 **EXTENSION, OUTREACH, AND TECHNICAL AS-**
8 **SISTANCE PROGRAM.**

9 Section 405 of the Agricultural Research, Extension,
10 and Education Reform Act of 1998 (7 U.S.C. 7625) is
11 amended—

12 (1) by striking subsection (d);

13 (2) by redesignating subsections (e) through (j)
14 as subsections (d) through (i), respectively; and

15 (3) in subsection (i), as so redesignated, by
16 striking “2023” and inserting “2031”.

17 **SEC. 7302. INTEGRATED RESEARCH, EDUCATION, AND EX-**
18 **TENSION COMPETITIVE GRANTS PROGRAM.**

19 Section 406(f) of the Agricultural Research, Exten-
20 sion, and Education Reform Act of 1998 (7 U.S.C.
21 7626(f)) is amended by striking “2023” and inserting
22 “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:

“(D) REALLOCATION.—Notwithstanding paragraph (4), any funds reserved under subparagraph (C) that remain unobligated at the end of the fiscal year following the fiscal year in which such funds are first made available shall be reallocated to carry out activities of the specialty crop research initiative established under subsection (b).”;

(B) in paragraph (2)—

(i) in the paragraph heading, by striking “FOR FISCAL YEARS 2014 THROUGH 2023”; and

(ii) by striking “2023” and inserting “2031”;

(C) by striking paragraph (3); and

(D) by redesignating paragraphs (4) and (5) as paragraphs (3) and (4), respectively.

SEC. 7306. AGRICULTURE GRANTS FOR VETERAN EDUCATION AND TRAINING SERVICES.

Title IV of the Agricultural Research, Extension, and Education Reform Act of 1998 (7 U.S.C. 7624 et seq.) 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 (a) IN GENERAL.—Section 7522 of the Food, Con-
14 servation, and Energy Act of 2008 (7 U.S.C. 5936) is
15 amended—

16 (1) in subsection (b)(1)(A), by inserting “, in-
17 cluding crisis hotlines” after “websites”;

18 (2) in subsection (d), by striking “2023” and
19 inserting “2031”;

20 (3) by redesignating subsection (f) as sub-
21 section (g); and

22 (4) by inserting after subsection (e) the fol-
23 lowing:

24 “(f) REFERRALS TO PROVIDERS.—As part of the ef-
25 forts of the recipient of a grant under subsection (a) to

1 connect individuals to behavioral health counseling and
2 wellness support and to ensure individuals have access to
3 a comprehensive scope of mental health and substance use
4 treatments and supports, when applicable, the grant re-
5 cipient may establish referral relationships with—

6 “(1) certified community behavioral health clin-
7 ics described in section 223 of the Protecting Access
8 to Medicare Act of 2014 (42 U.S.C. 1396a note;
9 Public Law 113–93);

10 “(2) health centers (as defined in section
11 330(a) of the Public Health Service Act (42 U.S.C.
12 254b(a)));

13 “(3) rural health clinics (as defined in section
14 1861(aa) of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C.
15 1395x(aa)));

16 “(4) Federally qualified health centers (as de-
17 fined in that section); and

18 “(5) critical access hospitals (as defined in sec-
19 tion 1861(mm) of the Social Security Act (42
20 U.S.C. 1395x(mm))).”.

21 (b) FARMER ASSISTANCE, RESILIENCE, AND MEN-
22 TAL HEALTH EVALUATION RESEARCH STUDY.—

23 (1) STUDY.—Not later than 2 years after the
24 date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary
25 shall, in coordination with the regional lead institu-

1 tions of the Farm and Ranch Stress Assistance Net-
2 work established under section 7522 of the Food,
3 Conservation, and Energy Act of 2008 (7 U.S.C.
4 5936), submit to Congress a report that contains—

5 (A) an assessment on the availability and
6 usage of mental health care, including tele-men-
7 tal health services, by agricultural professionals,
8 including—

9 (i) the incidence and prevalence of
10 common mental health conditions, such as
11 depression, anxiety disorders, trauma- and
12 stressor- related disorder (including adjust-
13 ment disorders), or suicidal ideation,
14 among agricultural professionals;

15 (ii) the incidence and prevalence of
16 agricultural professionals seeking treat-
17 ment for mental health conditions, includ-
18 ing counseling, psychotherapy, or support
19 groups in traditional mental health care
20 settings;

21 (iii) the incidence and prevalence of
22 agricultural professionals seeking treat-
23 ment for mental health conditions includ-
24 ing counseling, psychotherapy, or support
25 groups via tele-mental health care;

1 (iv) the availability of traditional men-
2 tal health care settings and treatment in
3 rural areas, including counseling, psycho-
4 therapy, or support groups;

5 (v) the availability of tele-mental
6 health care treatment in rural areas, in-
7 cluding counseling, psychotherapy, or sup-
8 port groups; and

9 (B) the Secretary's recommendations to
10 improve the uptake, effectiveness, and deploy-
11 ment of, and access to, traditional mental
12 health services and tele-mental health services
13 among agricultural professionals in rural areas.

14 (2) COORDINATION.—In preparing the report
15 under paragraph (1), the Secretary may consult with
16 the following:

17 (A) The Centers for Medicare & Medicaid
18 Services.

19 (B) The Substance Abuse and Mental
20 Health Services Administration.

21 (C) State departments of agriculture.

22 (D) Cooperative extension services (as de-
23 fined in section 1404 of the National Agricul-
24 tural Research, Extension, and Teaching Policy
25 Act of 1977 (7 U.S.C. 3103)).

1 (E) Within the Department—

2 (i) the Economic Research Service;

3 and

4 (ii) the Office of Rural Development,

5 including the Rural Health Liaison.

6 (3) DEFINITIONS.—In this subsection:

7 (A) The term “farmer” means an indi-
8 vidual whose primary occupation is the planting
9 and cultivation of crops or other agricultural
10 products.

11 (B) The term “rancher” means an indi-
12 vidual whose primary occupation is the rearing
13 and care of animals for agricultural purposes.

14 (C) The term “agricultural professional”
15 means a farmer or a rancher.

16 (D) The term “mental health condition”
17 means a condition commonly affecting individ-
18 uals as prescribed by clinical guidance or con-
19 sensus, including conditions listed in the most
20 recent edition of the Diagnostic and Statistical
21 Manual of Mental Disorders, or another source,
22 as determined appropriate by the Secretary.

23 (E) The term “tele-mental health care”
24 means mental health care that is furnished by
25 a mental health care provider primarily through

1 the use of a phone, the internet, or
2 videoconferencing.

3 **SEC. 7403. SUN GRANT PROGRAM.**

4 Section 7526 of the Food, Conservation, and Energy
5 Act of 2008 (7 U.S.C. 8114) is amended—

6 (1) in subsection (a)—

7 (A) in paragraph (1), by inserting “and
8 bioproduct” before “technologies”;

9 (B) in paragraph (2), by striking “prod-
10 uct” and inserting “bioproduct”; and

11 (C) in paragraph (3), by striking “prod-
12 uct” and inserting “bioproduct”;

13 (2) in subsection (c)(2), by striking “4 percent”
14 and inserting “30 percent”; and

15 (3) in subsection (g), by striking “2023” and
16 inserting “2031”.

17 **SEC. 7404. REPEALS.**

18 The Food, Conservation, and Energy Act of 2008 (7
19 U.S.C. 8701 et seq.) is amended—

20 (1) by striking section 7521 (7 U.S.C. 3202);

21 and

22 (2) by striking section 7525 (7 U.S.C. 5937).

1 **Subtitle E—Amendments to Other**
2 **Laws**

3 **SEC. 7501. EQUITY IN EDUCATIONAL LAND-GRANT STATUS**
4 **ACT OF 1994.**

5 The Equity in Educational Land-Grant Status Act
6 of 1994 (7 U.S.C. 301 note; Public Law 103–382) is
7 amended—

8 (1) in section 533(b), by striking “2023” and
9 inserting “2031”;

10 (2) in section 534(a)(1), by striking “equal to”
11 and inserting “that is not less than”;

12 (3) in section 535, by striking “2023” each
13 place it appears in subsections (b)(1) and (c) and in-
14 serting “2031”; and

15 (4) in section 536—

16 (A) in subsection (a), by inserting before
17 the period at the end the following: “and to ac-
18 quire, alter, repair, maintain, and operate rel-
19 evant equipment necessary for strengthening
20 the capacity of the Institution to conduct re-
21 search in the food and agricultural sciences”;

22 (B) by striking subsection (b);

23 (C) by redesignating subsection (c) as sub-
24 section (b); and

1 (D) in subsection (b) (as so redesignated),
2 by striking “2023” and inserting “2031”.

3 **SEC. 7502. RESEARCH FACILITIES ACT.**

4 Section 6(a) of the Research Facilities Act (7 U.S.C.
5 390d(a)) is amended by striking “2023” and inserting
6 “2031”.

7 **SEC. 7503. AGRICULTURE AND FOOD RESEARCH INITIA-**
8 **TIVE.**

9 Subsection (b) of the Competitive, Special, and Fa-
10 cilities Research Grant Act (7 U.S.C. 3157(b)) is amend-
11 ed—

12 (1) in paragraph (2)—

13 (A) in subparagraph (A)(iii)—

14 (i) by inserting “regionally adapted”
15 before “cultivar”; and

16 (ii) by inserting “breeding for environ-
17 mental resilience,” before “and
18 participatory breeding”;

19 (B) in subparagraph (B)(i), by inserting “,
20 including methods of increasing survival rate
21 and adaptability of shellfish” after “aqua-
22 culture”;

23 (C) in subparagraph (E)—

24 (i) in clause (iv), by striking “and” at
25 the end;

1 (ii) in clause (v), by striking the pe-
2 riod at the end and inserting “; and”; and

3 (iii) by adding at the end the fol-
4 lowing:

5 “(vi) hydroponics, aquaponics,
6 aeroponics, and other production tech-
7 nologies used in controlled-environment ag-
8 riculture production.”; and

9 (D) in subparagraph (F)—

10 (i) in clause (i), by inserting “, includ-
11 ing supply chain coordination and capacity
12 building” after “overseas markets”;

13 (ii) in clause (vii), by striking “; and”
14 at the end and inserting a semicolon;

15 (iii) in clause (viii), by striking the pe-
16 riod at the end and inserting a semicolon;
17 and

18 (iv) by adding at the end the fol-
19 lowing:

20 “(ix) workforce training and develop-
21 ment, including meat and poultry proc-
22 essing (including rendering) and precision
23 agriculture; and

24 “(x) reducing food loss and food
25 waste.”;

1 (2) in paragraph (7)—

2 (A) by redesignating subparagraphs (D)
3 through (I) as subparagraphs (E) through (J),
4 respectively;

5 (B) by inserting after subparagraph (C)
6 the following:

7 “(D) area career and technical education
8 schools;”; and

9 (C) in subparagraph (J), as so redesign-
10 nated, by striking “(H)” and inserting “(I)”;
11 and

12 (3) in paragraph (11)(A), in the matter pre-
13 ceding clause (i), by striking “2023” and inserting
14 “2031”.

15 **SEC. 7504. EXTENSION DESIGN AND DEMONSTRATION INI-**
16 **TIATIVE.**

17 Subsection (d)(6) of the Competitive, Special, and
18 Facilities Research Grant Act (7 U.S.C. 3157(d)(6)) is
19 amended by striking “2023” and inserting “2031”.

20 **SEC. 7505. BIOMASS RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT.**

21 Section 9008(h)(2) of the Farm Security and Rural
22 Investment Act of 2002 (7 U.S.C. 8108(h)(2)) is amended
23 by striking “2023” and inserting “2031”.

1 **SEC. 7506. RENEWABLE RESOURCES EXTENSION ACT OF**
2 **1978.**

3 The Renewable Resources Extension Act of 1978 (16
4 U.S.C. 1671 et seq.) is amended—

5 (1) in section 6 (16 U.S.C. 1675), in the first
6 sentence, by striking “2023” and inserting “2031”;
7 and

8 (2) in section 8 (16 U.S.C. 1671 note), by
9 striking “2023” and inserting “2031”.

10 **SEC. 7507. NATIONAL AQUACULTURE ACT OF 1980.**

11 The National Aquaculture Act of 1980 (16 U.S.C.
12 2801 et seq.) is amended—

13 (1) in section 4 (16 U.S.C. 2803)—

14 (A) in subsection (a)(2), by striking
15 “acquaculture” and inserting “aquaculture”;

16 (B) in subsection (d), in the matter pre-
17 ceding paragraph (1), by inserting “, not less
18 than once every 3 years,” after “periodic re-
19 views”; and

20 (C) in subsection (e)—

21 (i) in the matter preceding paragraph
22 (1), by inserting “, not less than once
23 every 3 years,” after “undertake a con-
24 tinuing assessment of aquaculture in the
25 United States”;

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

3 (iii) in paragraph (6), by striking the
4 period at the end and inserting a semi-
5 colon; and

6 (iv) by adding at the end the fol-
7 lowing:

8 “(7) a catalog of new and existing capital con-
9 straints, as described in the capital requirements
10 plan formulated under section 8(b), that affect the
11 development of the aquaculture industry in the
12 United States; and

13 “(8) a catalog of new and existing Federal or
14 State regulatory barriers, as described in the regu-
15 latory constraints plan formulated under section
16 9(b), to the initiation and operation of commercial
17 aquaculture ventures.”;

18 (2) in section 5 (16 U.S.C. 2804), by striking
19 subsection (d) and inserting the following:

20 “(d) AQUACULTURE ADVISORY COMMITTEE.—

21 “(1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 180 days
22 after the date of enactment of the Farm, Food, and
23 National Security Act of 2026, the Secretary shall
24 establish an advisory committee, to be known as the
25 Aquaculture Advisory Committee (referred to in this

1 subsection as the ‘Committee’), to advise the Sec-
2 retary on—

3 “(A) oversight of programs of the Depart-
4 ment and other members of the coordinating
5 group to support development of, and to ad-
6 vance, aquaculture best practices using the best
7 available science, in consultation with farmers
8 and industry partners;

9 “(B) providing technical assistance to
10 aquaculture farmers and businesses, including
11 technical assistance that pertains to shellfish,
12 algae, and land-based aquaculture systems,
13 using the best available science; and

14 “(C) any other aspects of the implementa-
15 tion of this Act.

16 “(2) MEMBERSHIP.—

17 “(A) IN GENERAL.—The Committee shall
18 be composed of 14 members, who are not offi-
19 cers or employees of the Federal Government.

20 “(B) INITIAL APPOINTMENTS.—The Sec-
21 retary shall appoint the members of the Com-
22 mittee not later than 180 days after the date of
23 enactment of this section.

24 “(C) PERIOD OF INITIAL APPOINTMENT;
25 VACANCIES.—

1 “(i) IN GENERAL.—Except as pro-
2 vided in clause (ii), a member of the Com-
3 mittee shall be appointed for a term of 3
4 years.

5 “(ii) INITIAL APPOINTMENTS.—Of the
6 members first appointed to the Com-
7 mittee—

8 “(I) 5 of the members, as deter-
9 mined by the Secretary, shall be ap-
10 pointed for a term of 3 years;

11 “(II) 5 of the members, as deter-
12 mined by the Secretary, shall be ap-
13 pointed for a term of 2 years; and

14 “(III) 4 of the members, as de-
15 termined by the Secretary, shall be
16 appointed for a term of 1 year.

17 “(iii) VACANCIES.—Any vacancy in
18 the Committee—

19 “(I) shall not affect the powers of
20 the Committee; and

21 “(II) shall be filled as soon as
22 practicable in the same manner as the
23 original appointment.

24 “(D) CONSECUTIVE TERMS.—An initial
25 appointee of the Committee may serve an addi-

1 tional consecutive term if the member is re-
2 appointed by the Secretary.

3 “(3) MEETINGS.—

4 “(A) FREQUENCY.—The Committee shall
5 meet not fewer than 3 times per year.

6 “(B) INITIAL MEETING.—Not later than
7 180 days after the date on which the members
8 are appointed under paragraph (2)(B), the
9 Committee shall hold the first meeting of the
10 Committee.

11 “(4) DUTIES.—The Committee shall—

12 “(A) develop recommendations and advise
13 the Secretary on aquaculture policies, initia-
14 tives, and outreach administered by the Depart-
15 ment;

16 “(B) evaluate and review ongoing research
17 and extension activities relating to aquaculture
18 practices;

19 “(C) identify new and existing barriers to
20 successful aquaculture practices; and

21 “(D) provide additional assistance and ad-
22 vice to the Secretary as appropriate.

23 “(5) PERSONNEL MATTERS.—

24 “(A) COMPENSATION.—A member of the
25 Committee shall serve without compensation.

1 “(B) TRAVEL EXPENSES.—A member of
2 the Committee shall be allowed travel expenses,
3 including per diem in lieu of subsistence, in ac-
4 cordance with section 5703 of title 5, United
5 States Code.

6 “(6) TERMINATION.—

7 “(A) IN GENERAL.—Subject to subpara-
8 graph (B), the Committee shall terminate on
9 the date that is 5 years after the date on which
10 the members are appointed under paragraph
11 (2)(B).

12 “(B) EXTENSIONS.—Before the date on
13 which the Committee terminates, the Secretary
14 may renew the Committee for 1 or more 2-year
15 periods.

16 “(e) ANNUAL REPORT.—Not later than 1 year after
17 the date of the enactment of the Farm, Food, and Na-
18 tional Security Act of 2026, and each year thereafter, the
19 Secretary, acting through the coordinating group and in
20 consultation with the Secretary of Commerce and the Sec-
21 retary of the Interior, shall prepare on an annual basis,
22 and submit to Congress, a report on the status of aqua-
23 culture in the United States. Such report shall contain—

1 “(1) a description and evaluation of the actions
2 undertaken with respect to the Plan during the re-
3 porting period;

4 “(2) an explanation of any revisions made to
5 the Plan during the reporting period;

6 “(3) the results of the continuing assessment
7 established under section 4(e);

8 “(4) an evaluation of the role each Federal de-
9 partment or agency has in supporting the aqua-
10 culture industry;

11 “(5) the total amount and value of expenditures
12 of Federal departments or agencies on—

13 “(A) aquaculture purchases;

14 “(B) aquaculture promotion and outreach
15 supporting the aquaculture industry;

16 “(C) grants made to the aquaculture in-
17 dustry; and

18 “(D) grants to facilitate aquaculture re-
19 search and the subject matter of such research;

20 “(6) a summary of the activities and rec-
21 ommendations of the Aquaculture Advisory Com-
22 mittee established under subsection (d);

23 “(7) a summary of the activities and rec-
24 ommendations of the coordinating group; and

1 “(8) such other comments and recommenda-
2 tions as the Secretary determines appropriate.”; and
3 (3) in section 10 (16 U.S.C. 2809), by striking
4 “2023” each place it appears in paragraphs (1), (2),
5 and (3) and inserting “2031”.

6 **SEC. 7508. REPORTS ON DISBURSEMENT OF FUNDS FOR AG-**
7 **RICULTURAL RESEARCH AND EXTENSION AT**
8 **1862 AND 1890 LAND-GRANT COLLEGES, IN-**
9 **CLUDING TUSKEGEE UNIVERSITY.**

10 Section 7116 of the Agriculture Improvement Act of
11 2018 (7 U.S.C. 2207d) is amended—

12 (1) in the matter preceding paragraph (1), by
13 striking “Not later than” and inserting the fol-
14 lowing:

15 “(a) IN GENERAL.—Not later than”; and

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

17 “(b) OUTREACH.—Not later than February 1 of each
18 fiscal year, the Secretary shall provide information relat-
19 ing to each matching requirement applicable to the State
20 under the programs referred to in subsection (a) to the
21 Governor and legislature of each State in which an 1862
22 Institution or 1890 Institution (as those terms are defined
23 in section 2 of the Agricultural Research, Extension, and
24 Education Reform Act of 1998 (7 U.S.C. 7601)) is lo-
25 cated.

1 “(c) ATTESTATIONS.—

2 “(1) IN GENERAL.—Not less frequently than
3 once each calendar year, the Governor of each State
4 described in subsection (b) shall submit to the Sec-
5 retary an attestation that describes if the State is
6 able to fulfill each matching requirement with re-
7 spect to which information is provided by the Sec-
8 retary under such subsection for such State and cal-
9 endar year.

10 “(2) REPORTS.—Not later than December 31
11 of each calendar year, the Secretary shall submit to
12 Congress, and make publicly available on the website
13 of the Department of Agriculture, an annual report
14 describing the attestations received under paragraph
15 (1) during that calendar year.”.

16 **SEC. 7509. REPEAL.**

17 Section 1431 of the National Agricultural Research,
18 Extension, and Teaching Policy Act Amendments of 1985
19 (title XIV of Public Law 99–198; 99 Stat. 1556) is re-
20 pealed.

21 **SEC. 7510. AMENDMENT TO SMITH-LEVER ACT.**

22 Section 3(b)(3) of the Smith-Lever Act (7 U.S.C.
23 343(b)(3)) is amended by inserting after “for the purposes
24 set forth in section 2” the following: “, and for 1994 Insti-
25 tutions to acquire, alter, repair, maintain, and operate rel-

1 evant equipment necessary to strengthen the capacity of
 2 such 1994 Institutions to achieve the purposes set forth
 3 in section 2”.

4 **Subtitle F—Other Matters**

5 **SEC. 7601. FOUNDATION FOR FOOD AND AGRICULTURE RE-** 6 **SEARCH.**

7 Section 7601 of the Agricultural Act of 2014 (7
 8 U.S.C. 5939) is amended—

9 (1) in subsection (d)(1)—

10 (A) in subparagraph (B)—

11 (i) in clause (ii), by striking “of Agri-
 12 culture; and” and inserting a semicolon;
 13 and

14 (ii) by striking clause (iii); and

15 (B) in subparagraph (C), by striking “the
 16 roadmap for agricultural research, education,
 17 and extension authorized by section 7504 of the
 18 Food, Conservation, and Energy Act of 2008 (7
 19 U.S.C. 7614a)” and inserting “the national re-
 20 search policies and priorities set forth in section
 21 1402 of the National Agricultural Research,
 22 Extension, and Teaching Policy Act of 1977 (7
 23 U.S.C. 3101)”;

24 (2) in subsection (e)(2)(C)(i)—

1 (A) in subclause (I), by striking “National
2 Academy of Sciences” and inserting “National
3 Agricultural Research, Extension, Education,
4 and Economics Advisory Board established
5 under section 1408 of the National Agricultural
6 Research, Extension, and Teaching Policy Act
7 of 1977 (7 U.S.C. 3123)”; and

8 (B) in subclause (II), by striking “indus-
9 try” and inserting “national farm, producer, or
10 research organizations”; and

11 (3) in subsection (f)(3)(B)(i)—

12 (A) in subclause (I)—

13 (i) in the matter preceding item (aa),
14 by striking “and post online” and inserting
15 “online and submit to the Committee on
16 Agriculture of the House of Representa-
17 tives and the Committee on Agriculture,
18 Nutrition, and Forestry of the Senate”;

19 (ii) in item (bb), by striking “and” at
20 the end;

21 (iii) in item (cc), by striking the pe-
22 riod at the end and inserting a semicolon;
23 and

24 (iv) by adding at the end the fol-
25 lowing:

1 “(dd) the source and a de-
2 scription of all gifts to the Foun-
3 dation of real or personal prop-
4 erty;

5 “(ee) the source and amount
6 of each gift to the Foundation of
7 money, including a specification
8 of any restrictions on the pur-
9 poses for which a gift to the
10 Foundation may be used;

11 “(ff) the source and amount
12 of any Federal or State grant,
13 contract, or cooperative agree-
14 ment awarded to the Foundation;

15 “(gg) an accounting of the
16 use of funds made available
17 under subsection (g)(1);

18 “(hh) a description of the
19 Foundation’s outreach activities
20 to agricultural stakeholders and
21 potential research partners; and

22 “(ii) a description of the
23 Foundation’s consultation proc-
24 ess with the Department under
25 subsection (d)(1)(B).”;

1 (B) by striking subclauses (II) and (III);
2 and
3 (C) by redesignating subclause (IV) as
4 subclause (II).

5 **SEC. 7602. AGRICULTURE INNOVATION CENTER DEM-**
6 **ONSTRATION PROGRAM.**

7 Section 6402 of the Farm Security and Rural Invest-
8 ment Act of 2002 (7 U.S.C. 1632b) is amended—

9 (1) in subsection (d)—

10 (A) in paragraph (2)—

11 (i) by striking “Each Agriculture In-
12 novation Center” and inserting “Subject to
13 paragraph (3), each Agriculture Innovation
14 Center”; and

15 (ii) by striking “following:” and in-
16 serting “following:”; and

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

18 “(3) WAIVER.—The Secretary may waive the
19 requirement described in paragraph (2) with respect
20 to an eligible entity if the Secretary determines that
21 the eligible entity has a board of directors adequate
22 for the purpose of carrying out this section.”; and

23 (2) in subsection (g), by striking “2023” and
24 inserting “2031”.

1 **SEC. 7603. LIVESTOCK INSECTS LABORATORY.**

2 Public Law 100–208 (101 Stat. 1439) is amended
3 by striking “Knipling-Bushland Research Laboratory”
4 each place it appears and inserting “Knipling-Bushland
5 Research Center”.

6 **SEC. 7604. U.S. ABIT MASSEY NATIONAL POULTRY RE-**
7 **SEARCH CENTER.**

8 (a) DESIGNATION.—The U.S. National Poultry Re-
9 search Center of the Department of Agriculture located
10 in Athens, Georgia shall be known and designated as the
11 “U.S. Abit Massey National Poultry Research Center”.

12 (b) REFERENCES.—Any reference in a law, map, reg-
13 ulation, document, paper, or other record of the United
14 States to the facility referred to in subsection (a) shall
15 be deemed to be a reference to the “U.S. Abit Massey Na-
16 tional Poultry Research Center”.

17 **SEC. 7605. HATCH ACT OF 1887.**

18 Section 5 of the Hatch Act of 1887 (7 U.S.C. 361e)
19 is amended—

20 (1) in the second sentence—

21 (A) by striking “known as a director” and
22 inserting “known as an experiment station di-
23 rector”; and

24 (B) by striking “or other officer appointed
25 by the government board of the station”;

1 (2) in the third sentence, by striking “or other
2 officer”; and

3 (3) in the fourth sentence, by striking “the au-
4 thorized receiving officer” and inserting “the experi-
5 ment station director”.

6 **SEC. 7606. COMMISSION ON NATIONAL AGRICULTURAL STA-**
7 **TISTICS SERVICE MODERNIZATION.**

8 (a) ESTABLISHMENT.—There is established a com-
9 mission to be known as the Commission on National Agri-
10 cultural Statistics Service Modernization (referred to in
11 this section as the “Commission”).

12 (b) STUDY.—The Commission shall conduct a study
13 of the National Agricultural Statistics Service and provide
14 recommendations on—

15 (1) how data collection can be modernized and
16 streamlined to—

17 (A) improve the quality of statistics re-
18 ported;

19 (B) account for differences of national, re-
20 gional, and local production;

21 (C) accelerate adoption of new and innova-
22 tive technologies to reduce the number of sur-
23 veys needed;

1 (D) improve producer response rates in
2 statistical surveys and identifying ways to re-
3 duce survey fatigue;

4 (E) increase transparency and confidence
5 in statistical reports through improved collabo-
6 ration with agricultural stakeholders;

7 (F) use more real-time statistical and envi-
8 ronmental data to complement existing survey-
9 based data and reporting; and

10 (G) improve collection and generation of
11 timely data on the specialty crop industry; and

12 (2) how the recommendations under paragraph
13 (1) with respect to modernizing and streamlining
14 data collection can be implemented and the esti-
15 mated costs of such implementation.

16 (c) MEMBERSHIP.—

17 (1) COMPOSITION.—The Commission shall be
18 composed of 11 members, as follows:

19 (A) The Administrator of the National Ag-
20 ricultural Statistics Service.

21 (B) The Administrator of the Economic
22 Research Service.

23 (C) The Chief Economist of the Depart-
24 ment.

1 (D) The Chair of the World Agricultural
2 Outlook Board of the Department.

3 (E) A representative from the Bureau of
4 Labor Statistics.

5 (F) 3 members appointed by the Com-
6 mittee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry
7 of the Senate, of which—

8 (i) 1 shall be appointed by the chair
9 of the Committee;

10 (ii) 1 shall be appointed by the rank-
11 ing member of the Committee; and

12 (iii) 1 shall be appointed jointly by the
13 chair and ranking member of the Com-
14 mittee.

15 (G) 3 members appointed by the Com-
16 mittee on Agriculture of the House of Rep-
17 resentatives, of which—

18 (i) 1 shall be appointed by the chair
19 of the Committee;

20 (ii) 1 shall be appointed by the rank-
21 ing member of the Committee; and

22 (iii) 1 shall be appointed jointly by the
23 chair and ranking member of the Com-
24 mittee.

1 (2) DATE OF APPOINTMENTS.—The appoint-
2 ment of all members of the Commission shall be
3 made not later than 60 days after the date of enact-
4 ment of this Act.

5 (3) TERM; VACANCIES.—

6 (A) TERM.—A member shall be appointed
7 for the life of the Commission.

8 (B) VACANCIES.—A vacancy on the Com-
9 mission—

10 (i) shall not affect the powers of the
11 Commission; and

12 (ii) shall be filled in the same manner
13 as the original appointment was made.

14 (4) INITIAL MEETING.—Not later than 60 days
15 after the date on which all members of the Commis-
16 sion have been appointed, the Commission shall hold
17 the initial meeting of the Commission.

18 (d) QUORUM.—A majority of the members of the
19 Commission shall constitute a quorum for the transaction
20 of business, but a lesser number of members may hold
21 hearings.

22 (e) CHAIR.—The Chair of the Commission shall be
23 selected by a majority of the members of the Commission.

24 (f) REPORT.—Not later than 3 years after the date
25 of enactment of this Act, the Commission shall submit to

1 the President, the Committee on Agriculture of the House
2 of Representatives, and the Committee on Agriculture,
3 Nutrition, and Forestry of the Senate a report containing
4 the results of the study required by subsection (b), includ-
5 ing—

6 (1) an inventory of surveys conducted by the
7 Commission, and the frequency with which they are
8 conducted; and

9 (2) such recommendations for administrative,
10 regulatory, and legislative changes as the Commis-
11 sion considers appropriate.

12 (g) HEARINGS.—The Commission shall hold such
13 hearings, meet and act at such times and places, take such
14 testimony, and receive such evidence as the Commission
15 considers advisable to carry out this section.

16 (h) STAKEHOLDER ENGAGEMENT.—The Commission
17 shall establish a process to collect feedback from agricul-
18 tural stakeholders to inform the results of the study re-
19 quired under subsection (b) and the report required under
20 subsection (f).

21 (i) INFORMATION FROM FEDERAL AGENCIES.—The
22 Commission may secure directly from a Federal agency
23 such information as the Commission considers necessary
24 to carry out this section. On request of the Chairperson

1 of the Commission, the head of the agency shall provide
2 the information to the Commission.

3 (j) POSTAL SERVICES.—The Commission may use
4 the United States mail in the same manner and under the
5 same conditions as other agencies of the Federal Govern-
6 ment.

7 (k) ASSISTANCE FROM SECRETARY.—The Secretary
8 shall provide to the Commission appropriate office space
9 and such reasonable administrative and support services
10 as the Commission may request.

11 (l) COMPENSATION OF MEMBERS.—

12 (1) NON-FEDERAL EMPLOYEES.—A member of
13 the Commission who is not an officer or employee of
14 the Federal Government shall be compensated at a
15 rate equal to the daily equivalent of the annual rate
16 of basic pay prescribed for level IV of the Executive
17 Schedule under section 5315 of title 5, United
18 States Code, for each day (including travel time)
19 during which the member is engaged in the perform-
20 ance of the duties of the Commission.

21 (2) FEDERAL EMPLOYEES.—A member of the
22 Commission who is an officer or employee of the
23 Federal Government shall serve without compensa-
24 tion in addition to the compensation received for the

1 services of the member as an officer or employee of
2 the Federal Government.

3 (3) TRAVEL EXPENSES.—A member of the
4 Commission shall be allowed travel expenses, includ-
5 ing per diem in lieu of subsistence, at rates author-
6 ized for an employee of an agency under subchapter
7 I of chapter 57 of title 5, United States Code, while
8 away from the home or regular place of business of
9 the member in the performance of the duties of the
10 Commission.

11 (m) FEDERAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE ACT.—Sec-
12 tions 1009 and 1013 of title 5, United States Code, shall
13 not apply to the Commission or any proceeding of the
14 Commission.

15 (n) TERMINATION.—The Commission shall terminate
16 on September 30, 2031.

17 (o) FUNDING.—Of the funds of the Commodity Cred-
18 it Corporation, the Secretary shall use to carry out this
19 section \$1,000,000 for fiscal year 2026, to remain avail-
20 able until expended.

21 **SEC. 7607. RESTORATION OF 4-H NAME AND EMBLEM AU-**
22 **THORITY.**

23 (a) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

24 (1) 4-H CLUB.—

1 (A) IN GENERAL.—The term “4-H club”
2 means a 4-H club recognized under the 4-H
3 Program.

4 (B) INCLUSION.—The term “4-H club”
5 includes an authorized agent of a 4-H club.

6 (2) 4-H EMBLEM OR NAME.—The term “4-H
7 emblem or name” means the 4-H sign or emblem,
8 consisting of a green four-leaf clover with stem and
9 the letter “H” in white or gold on each leaflet, and
10 the words “4-H”, “4-H Club”, and “4-H Clubs”,
11 used to identify and distinguish the 4-H Program
12 and the activities, clubs, members, goods, and serv-
13 ices of the 4-H Program.

14 (3) 4-H PROGRAM.—The term “4-H Pro-
15 gram”—

16 (A) IN GENERAL.—The term “4-H Pro-
17 gram” means the youth development program
18 of the land-grant colleges or universities, the
19 Cooperative Extension System (as defined by
20 the Secretary), and the Department.

21 (B) INCLUSION.—The term “4-H Pro-
22 gram” includes an authorized agent of the 4-
23 H Program.

24 (4) LAND-GRANT COLLEGE OR UNIVERSITY.—
25 The term “land-grant college or university”—

1 (A) IN GENERAL.—The term “land-grant
2 college or university” means an 1862 Institu-
3 tion, an 1890 Institution, or a 1994 Institution
4 (as those terms are defined in section 2 of the
5 Agricultural Research, Extension, and Edu-
6 cation Reform Act of 1998 (7 U.S.C. 7601)).

7 (B) INCLUSION.—The term “land-grant
8 college or university” includes an authorized
9 agent of a land-grant college or university.

10 (b) EFFECT OF REPEAL; RATIFICATION.—

11 (1) CIVIL ACTS.—Any civil act or action of the
12 4–H Program, a 4–H club, the Secretary, or a land-
13 grant college or university taken with respect to the
14 use of the 4–H emblem or name, or the recognition
15 of any 4–H club, during the period beginning on
16 May 8, 1914, and ending on the date of enactment
17 of this Act, is deemed to be of legal force and effect
18 and ratified as if 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) had not been en-
21 acted into law.

22 (2) EFFECT ON CRIMINAL LAW.—Nothing in
23 this subsection affects the effect on criminal law of
24 the repeal made by section 1002(3) of the Clean Up

1 the Code Act of 2019 (title X of division O of Public
2 Law 116–260; 134 Stat. 2155).

3 (c) AUTHORIZATIONS FOR USE OF 4–H EMBLEM OR
4 NAME; FEES; DEPOSITS.—

5 (1) AUTHORIZATION.—The Secretary may—

6 (A) use the 4–H emblem or name; and

7 (B) grant authorizations to use the 4–H
8 emblem or name, as provided by regulations
9 issued by the Secretary.

10 (2) FEES.—An authorization under paragraph

11 (1) may be granted—

12 (A) without a fee or other consideration; or

13 (B) for a fee or other consideration.

14 (3) USE OF FEES.—The Secretary shall deposit
15 into a special account any fees collected under para-
16 graph (2)(B), the amounts in which shall remain
17 available to the Secretary until expended, without
18 further appropriation, for furthering the 4–H Pro-
19 gram.

20 (d) UNAUTHORIZED USE OF 4–H EMBLEM OR
21 NAME.—

22 (1) PROHIBITION.—Whoever, other than the 4–
23 H Program, a 4–H club, the Department, a land-
24 grant college or university, and those authorized by
25 them, uses in commerce the 4–H emblem or name

1 or any reproduction, counterfeit, copy, or colorable
2 imitation of the 4-H emblem or name to indicate
3 membership in an association, organization, or other
4 collective group, or in connection with the sale, offer-
5 ing for sale, distribution, or advertising of goods or
6 services, on or in connection with which that use is
7 likely to cause confusion, to cause mistake, or to de-
8 ceive as to membership or participation in, an affili-
9 ation, connection, or association with, or authoriza-
10 tion or approval by, a 4-H club or the 4-H Pro-
11 gram, shall be subject to the civil action under para-
12 graph (2).

13 (2) CIVIL ACTION.—The Attorney General, on
14 behalf of the Secretary, or contract counsel procured
15 by the Secretary, may bring a civil action in an ap-
16 propriate district court of the United States against
17 whoever engages in any of the prohibited acts de-
18 scribed in paragraph (1) for the remedies provided
19 in the Act of July 5, 1946 (commonly known as the
20 “Trademark Act of 1946” or the “Lanham Act”)
21 (15 U.S.C. 1051 et seq.).

22 (e) SAVINGS CLAUSES.—

23 (1) PRIOR AUTHORIZED USES.—Nothing in this
24 section makes unlawful the use of any emblem,

1 name, sign, symbol, insignia, or words that was law-
2 ful on December 26, 2020.

3 (2) DELEGATION.—Nothing in this section lim-
4 its the authority of the Secretary to delegate the au-
5 thority of the Secretary as otherwise authorized by
6 law.

7 **SEC. 7608. UNDER SECRETARY OF AGRICULTURE FOR RE-**
8 **SEARCH, EDUCATION, AND ECONOMICS.**

9 Section 251 of the Department of Agriculture Reor-
10 ganization Act of 1994 (7 U.S.C. 6971) is amended—

11 (1) in subsection (c)—

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

14 (B) in paragraph (2), by striking the pe-
15 riod at the end and inserting “; and”; and

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

17 “(3) be responsible for the coordination of re-
18 search activities with other Federal agencies.”;

19 (2) in subsection (e)(3)(C), by striking “not less
20 than 3 years” and inserting “not less than 1 year”;
21 and

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

23 “(h) INTERAGENCY COORDINATION.—

24 “(1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall carry
25 out cross-cutting and collaborative research and de-

1 velopment activities focused on the joint advance-
2 ment of the mission requirements and priorities of
3 the Department of Agriculture and other Federal
4 agencies.

5 “(2) MEMORANDA OF UNDERSTANDING.—

6 “(A) DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY.—

7 “(i) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 1
8 year after the date of enactment of the
9 Farm, Food, and National Security Act of
10 2026, the Secretary and the Secretary of
11 Energy(referred to in this subparagraph as
12 the ‘Secretaries’) shall coordinate the ac-
13 tivities under paragraph (1) through the
14 establishment of memoranda of under-
15 standing or other appropriate interagency
16 agreements. Such a memorandum or such
17 an agreement shall require the use of a
18 competitive, merit-reviewed process as ap-
19 propriate. Activities may include compo-
20 nents proposed by Federal agencies, Na-
21 tional Laboratories, institutions of higher
22 education, nonprofit organizations, and
23 other entities deemed appropriate under
24 the memorandum or agreement.

1 “(ii) COORDINATION.—In carrying out
2 the activities under paragraph (1), the Sec-
3 retaries may—

4 “(I) conduct collaborative re-
5 search in a variety of focus areas;

6 “(II) develop methods to accom-
7 modate large voluntary standardized
8 and integrated data sets on agricul-
9 tural, environmental, supply chain,
10 and economic information with vari-
11 able accuracy and scale;

12 “(III) promote collaboration and
13 open community-based development
14 between—

15 “(aa) Federal agencies;

16 “(bb) National Laboratories;

17 “(cc) institutions of higher
18 education (as defined in section
19 101 of the Higher Education Act
20 of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 1001));

21 “(dd) nonprofit institutions;

22 “(ee) industry partners; and

23 “(ff) other entities deemed
24 appropriate under the memo-
25 randum or agreement involved;

1 “(IV) support research infra-
2 structure, including new facilities and
3 equipment, and workforce develop-
4 ment as the Secretaries determine
5 necessary;

6 “(V) conduct collaborative re-
7 search, development, and demonstra-
8 tion of methods and technologies; and

9 “(VI) facilitate relations between
10 public and private entities to carry on
11 the activities of this clause upon the
12 termination of any agreement estab-
13 lished under this subparagraph.

14 “(iii) AGREEMENTS.—In carrying out
15 the activities under this subparagraph, the
16 Secretaries are authorized to—

17 “(I) carry out reimbursable
18 agreements between the Department
19 of Agriculture, the Department of De-
20 fense, and other entities in order to
21 maximize the effectiveness of research
22 and development; and

23 “(II) collaborate with other Fed-
24 eral agencies, as appropriate.

25 “(B) NATIONAL SCIENCE FOUNDATION.—

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 Director of
5 the National Science Foundation (referred
6 to in this subparagraph as the “Director”)
7 shall coordinate the activities under para-
8 graph (1) through the establishment of
9 memoranda of understanding or other ap-
10 propriate interagency agreements. Such a
11 memorandum or such an agreement shall
12 require the use of a competitive, merit-re-
13 viewed process as appropriate. Activities
14 may include components proposed by Fed-
15 eral agencies, institutions of higher edu-
16 cation, nonprofit organizations, and other
17 entities deemed appropriate under the
18 memorandum or agreement.

19 “(ii) COORDINATION.—In carrying out
20 the activities under paragraph (1), the Sec-
21 retary and the Director may—

22 “(I) conduct collaborative re-
23 search in a variety of focus areas;

1 “(II) promote collaboration and
2 open, community-based development
3 between—

4 “(aa) Federal agencies;

5 “(bb) institutions of higher
6 education;

7 “(cc) community colleges (as
8 defined in section 3167B of the
9 Energy Science Education En-
10 hancement Act (42 U.S.C.
11 7381c–3));

12 “(dd) area career and tech-
13 nical education schools (as de-
14 fined in section 3 of the Carl D.
15 Perkins Career and Technical
16 Education Act of 2006 (20
17 U.S.C. 2302));

18 “(ee) nonprofit institutions;

19 “(ff) industry partners; and

20 “(gg) other entities deemed
21 appropriate under the memo-
22 randum or agreement;

23 “(III) support research infra-
24 structure, including new facilities,
25 equipment and broadband deploy-

1 ment, as the Secretary and Director
2 determine necessary;

3 “(IV) develop translational tech-
4 nologies for commercial utilization;

5 “(V) organize education, train-
6 ing, and research initiatives relating
7 to STEM education and workforce de-
8 velopment, which may include—

9 “(aa) activities supported by
10 the Cooperative Extension Sys-
11 tem;

12 “(bb) industrial partnership
13 programs;

14 “(cc) workshops for edu-
15 cating kindergarten through
16 grade 12 teachers on how to in-
17 crease agricultural literacy;

18 “(dd) development of agri-
19 cultural-based science curricula
20 for kindergarten through grade
21 12 students; and

22 “(ee) distribution of re-
23 sources for educators to imple-
24 ment curricula; and

1 “(VI) facilitate relationships be-
2 tween public and private entities to
3 carry on the activities under this
4 clause upon the termination of any
5 agreement established under this sub-
6 paragraph.

7 “(iii) AGREEMENTS.—In carrying out
8 the activities under this subparagraph, the
9 Secretary and the Director are authorized
10 to—

11 “(I) carry out reimbursable
12 agreements between the Department
13 of Agriculture, the National Science
14 Foundation, and other entities in
15 order to maximize the effectiveness of
16 research and development; and

17 “(II) collaborate with other Fed-
18 eral agencies as appropriate.

19 “(C) DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE.—

20 “(i) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 1
21 year after the date of enactment of the
22 Farm, Food, and National Security Act of
23 2026, the Secretary and the Secretary of
24 Defense (referred to in this subparagraph
25 as the ‘Secretaries’) shall coordinate the

1 activities under paragraph (1) through the
2 establishment of memoranda of under-
3 standing or other appropriate interagency
4 agreements. Such a memorandum or such
5 an agreement shall require the use of a
6 competitive, merit-reviewed process as ap-
7 propriate. Activities may include compo-
8 nents proposed by Federal agencies, Na-
9 tional Laboratories, institutions of higher
10 education, nonprofit organizations, indus-
11 try, and other entities deemed appropriate
12 under the memorandum or agreement.

13 “(ii) COORDINATION.—In carrying out
14 the activities under paragraph (1), the Sec-
15 retaries may—

16 “(I) conduct collaborative re-
17 search in a variety of focus areas, in-
18 cluding the areas specified in clause
19 (iv);

20 “(II) develop methods to accom-
21 modate large voluntary standardized
22 and integrated data sets on agricul-
23 tural, environmental, supply chain,
24 and economic information with vari-
25 able accuracy and scale;

1 “(III) promote collaboration and
2 secure information sharing with stake-
3 holders that are capable of increasing
4 market-based adoption of technologies
5 developed pursuant to the memoranda
6 of understanding or other appropriate
7 interagency agreements entered into
8 under this subparagraph;

9 “(IV) promote collaboration and
10 open community-based development
11 between—

12 “(aa) Federal agencies;

13 “(bb) National Laboratories;

14 “(cc) institutions of higher
15 education (as defined in section
16 101 of the Higher Education Act
17 of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 1001));

18 “(dd) nonprofit institutions;

19 “(ee) industry partners; and

20 “(ff) other entities deemed
21 appropriate under the memo-
22 randum or agreement involved;

23 “(V) support research infrastruc-
24 ture, including new facilities and
25 equipment, and workforce develop-

1 ment as the Secretaries determine
2 necessary;

3 “(VI) conduct collaborative re-
4 search, development, and demonstra-
5 tion of methods and technologies; and

6 “(VII) facilitate relations be-
7 tween public and private entities to
8 carry on the activities of this clause
9 upon the termination of any agree-
10 ment established under this subpara-
11 graph.

12 “(iii) AGREEMENTS.—In carrying out
13 the activities under this subparagraph, the
14 Secretaries are authorized to—

15 “(I) carry out reimbursable
16 agreements between the Department
17 of Agriculture, the Department of De-
18 fense, and other entities in order to
19 maximize the effectiveness of research
20 and development; and

21 “(II) collaborate with other Fed-
22 eral agencies, as appropriate.

23 “(iv) FOCUS AREAS DESCRIBED.—The
24 focus areas described in this clause are the
25 following:

1 “(I) Management strategies for
2 water, energy, soil, forests, and food
3 to reduce scarcity risks to civilian and
4 military operations.

5 “(II) Innovations applicable to
6 defense objectives and beneficial to
7 rural agricultural economies, includ-
8 ing—

9 “(aa) precision agriculture
10 technologies;

11 “(bb) drones;

12 “(cc) remote sensing; and

13 “(dd) positioning, naviga-
14 tion, and timing capabilities.

15 “(III) Mitigation of the impacts
16 of chemicals, specifically
17 perfluoroalkyl and polyfluoroalkyl sub-
18 stances (commonly referred to as
19 PFAS), released through activities
20 carried out by the Department of De-
21 fense, to farmland contiguous to mili-
22 tary bases.

23 “(D) DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND
24 HUMAN SERVICES.—

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 Health and Human Services (referred to in
6 this paragraph as the ‘Secretaries’) shall
7 coordinate the activities under paragraph
8 (1) through the establishment of memo-
9 randa of understanding or other appro-
10 priate interagency agreements. Such a
11 memorandum or such an agreement shall
12 require the use of a competitive, merit-re-
13 viewed process as appropriate. Activities
14 may include components proposed by Fed-
15 eral agencies, institutions of higher edu-
16 cation, nonprofit organizations, industry,
17 and other entities deemed appropriate
18 under 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 re-
24 lated to enhancing the capacity of do-
25 mestic producers to increase produc-

1 tion of those crops which are appro-
2 priate for natural color additives, in-
3 cluding—

4 “(aa) which crops are most
5 effectively used in the reliable
6 production of natural color addi-
7 tives;

8 “(bb) genetics of such crops;

9 “(cc) ways to address bar-
10 riers to production at scale, in-
11 cluding pest and disease pres-
12 sure, harvesting technologies, and
13 other such areas; and

14 “(dd) infrastructure needs
15 relevant to such production and
16 processing, such as juicing or ex-
17 traction facilities;

18 “(II) promote collaboration and
19 information sharing with stakeholders;

20 “(III) promote collaboration and
21 open, community-based development
22 between—

23 “(aa) Federal agencies;

24 “(bb) institutions of higher
25 education;

1 “(cc) nonprofit institutions;
2 “(dd) industry partners; and
3 “(ee) other entities deemed
4 appropriate under the memo-
5 randum or agreement involved;

6 “(IV) support research infra-
7 structure, including new facilities and
8 equipment, and workforce develop-
9 ment as the Secretaries deem nec-
10 essary;

11 “(V) conduct collaborative re-
12 search, development, and demonstra-
13 tion of methods and technologies;

14 “(VI) conduct research on eco-
15 nomic impact on the supply chain to
16 transition to natural colors; and

17 “(VII) facilitate relations be-
18 tween public and private entities to
19 carry on the activities of this clause
20 upon the termination of any agree-
21 ment established under this subpara-
22 graph.

23 “(iii) AGREEMENTS.—In carrying out
24 the activities under this subparagraph, the
25 Secretaries are authorized to—

1 “(I) carry out reimbursable
2 agreements between the Department,
3 the Department of Health and
4 Human Services, and other entities in
5 order to maximize the effectiveness of
6 research and development; and

7 “(II) collaborate with other Fed-
8 eral agencies, as appropriate.

9 “(E) OTHER FEDERAL AGENCIES.—In ad-
10 dition to the memoranda of understanding with
11 Federal agencies described in subparagraphs
12 (A) and (B), the Secretary shall, as appro-
13 priate, enter into memoranda of understanding
14 with the heads of other Federal agencies to co-
15 ordinate the activities under paragraph (1).

16 “(3) REPORT.—Not later than two years after
17 the date of enactment of the Farm, Food, and Na-
18 tional Security Act of 2026, the Secretary shall sub-
19 mit to the appropriate congressional committees a
20 report detailing—

21 “(A) interagency coordination between
22 each Federal agency involved in the research
23 and development activities carried out under
24 this section;

1 “(B) potential opportunities to expand the
2 technical capabilities of each Federal agency in-
3 volved in the research and development activi-
4 ties carried out under this section;

5 “(C) collaborative research achievements;

6 “(D) areas of future mutually beneficial
7 successes;

8 “(E) continuation of coordination activities
9 between each Federal agency involved in the re-
10 search and development activities carried out
11 under this section;

12 “(F) potential opportunities for additional
13 memoranda of understanding with other Fed-
14 eral agencies; and

15 “(G) any additional information as the
16 Secretary deems appropriate.

17 “(4) RESEARCH SECURITY.—The activities au-
18 thorized under this section shall be applied in a
19 manner consistent with subtitle D of title VI of the
20 Research and Development, Competition, and Inno-
21 vation Act (enacted as division B of the CHIPS Act
22 of 2022 (Public Law 117–167; 42 U.S.C. 19231 et
23 seq.)).”.

1 **SEC. 7609. AGRICULTURAL INNOVATION CORPS.**

2 (a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall establish an
3 Agricultural Innovation Corps (referred to in this section
4 as the “Ag I-Corps”) to promote technology transfer and
5 increase the economic impact of federally-funded research
6 through—

7 (1) supporting agricultural researchers, stu-
8 dents, and institutions of higher education (as de-
9 fined in section 101 of the Higher Education Act of
10 1965 (20 U.S.C. 1001)), in exploring the commer-
11 cial potential of technologies developed in labora-
12 tories through a standardized entrepreneurial train-
13 ing program; and

14 (2) bringing together Agriculture Research
15 Service researchers and institutions of higher edu-
16 cation within a distinct geographical region to col-
17 laborate and deliver a standardized entrepreneurial
18 training curriculum.

19 (b) ELIGIBILITY.—Agricultural researchers, stu-
20 dents, and institutions of higher education receiving funds
21 from the Department shall be eligible to participate in Ag
22 I-Corps.

23 (c) FOLLOW-ON GRANTS.—

24 (1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary may make
25 funds available from the Small Business Innovation

1 Research Program for competitive grants to Ag I–
2 Corps participants to help support—

3 (A) prototype or proof-of-concept develop-
4 ment; and

5 (B) such activities as the Secretary con-
6 siders necessary to build local, regional, and na-
7 tional infrastructure for agricultural entrepre-
8 neurship.

9 (2) LIMITATION.—Grants under paragraph (1)
10 shall be limited to participants in Ag I–Corps with
11 innovations that, because of the early stage of devel-
12 opment of such innovations, are not eligible to par-
13 ticipate in a Small Business Innovation Research
14 Program or Small Business Technology Transfer
15 Program (as defined in section 9 of the Small Busi-
16 ness Act (15 U.S.C. 638)).

17 (d) PARTNERSHIPS.—The Secretary may engage in
18 partnerships with other Federal agencies, State and local
19 governments, economic development organizations, and
20 nonprofit organizations to provide access to Ag I–Corps
21 to support entrepreneurship education and training for ag-
22 ricultural researchers, students, and institutions of higher
23 education under this section.

24 (e) REPORT.—Not later than September 30, 2027,
25 and not less frequently than once every other year, the

1 Secretary shall submit to the Committee on Agriculture
2 of the House of Representatives and the Committee on
3 Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry of the Senate a re-
4 port on the efficacy of Ag I–Corps, including metrics on
5 the effectiveness of the program.

6 **SEC. 7610. STUDY ON TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE WITH RE-**
7 **SPECT TO TRANSFER OF AGRICULTURAL**
8 **LAND AND ASSETS.**

9 (a) IN GENERAL.—Not later than September 30,
10 2026, the Secretary of Agriculture shall conduct a study
11 on, and submit to Congress a report on, ways to increase
12 opportunities for 1890 Institutions (as defined in section
13 2 of the Agricultural Research, Extension, and Education
14 Reform Act of 1998 (7 U.S.C. 7601)) to conduct edu-
15 cational programs and provide technical assistance with
16 respect to issues relating to the transfers of agricultural
17 land and assets, including heirs property, to the next gen-
18 eration of farmers and ranchers.

19 (b) HEIRS PROPERTY DEFINED.—In this section, the
20 term “heirs property” means real property held in tenancy
21 in common which, as of the date on which a partition ac-
22 tion is filed, satisfies all of the following requirements:

23 (1) There is no recorded agreement binding all
24 the co-tenants which governs the partition of the
25 property.

1 (2) One or more of the co-tenants acquired title
2 from a relative, whether living or deceased.

3 (3) Any of the following applies:

4 (A) 20 percent or more of the interests are
5 held by co-tenants who are relatives.

6 (B) 20 percent or more of the interests are
7 held by an individual who acquired title from a
8 relative, whether living or deceased.

9 (C) 20 percent or more of the co-tenants
10 are relatives.

11 **SEC. 7611. SENSE OF CONGRESS RELATING TO THE IMPOR-**
12 **TANCE OF COMMUNITY COLLEGES TO THE**
13 **UNITED STATES AGRICULTURE INDUSTRY.**

14 It is the Sense of Congress that—

15 (1) institutions of higher education that offer
16 two-year degree programs, such as junior or commu-
17 nity colleges (as defined in section 312 of the Higher
18 Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 1058)), are at
19 the forefront of agricultural workforce development
20 and education opportunities, especially in the con-
21 servation space;

22 (2) such programs have a proven record of suc-
23 cess in developing a skilled workforce for agriculture,
24 providing landowners the resources and expertise
25 necessary to reduce erosion and damage, improve

1 long-term sustainability, and solve land management
2 problems, which all ultimately improve agricultural
3 productivity; and

4 (3) investing in agricultural programs at two-
5 year degree programs at institutions of higher edu-
6 cation is crucial to the success of the United States
7 agriculture industry, economy, and environment.

8 **SEC. 7612. LIMITATION ON CERTAIN RESEARCH INVOLVING**
9 **DOGS AND CATS.**

10 (a) LIMITATION ON REE RESEARCH PORTFOLIO.—
11 The Secretary, acting through the Under Secretary for
12 Research, Education, and Economics, shall ensure that
13 none of the research, education, or extension activities car-
14 ried out or funded under the jurisdiction of the Research,
15 Education, and Economics mission area involve domestic
16 dogs (*Canis familiaris*) or domestic cats (*Felis catus*) in
17 which the animals are subjected to pain or distress that
18 is not alleviated with appropriate sedation, analgesia, or
19 anesthesia, consistent with pain categories established by
20 the Secretary pursuant to the Animal Welfare Act (7
21 U.S.C. 2131 et seq.) and described in paragraphs (5)
22 through (7) of section 2.36(b) of title 9, Code of Federal
23 Regulations (as in effect on the date of enactment of this
24 Act).

1 (b) EXCEPTION.—Subsection (a) shall not apply to
2 research related to the training and use of dogs for the
3 purpose of safeguarding domestic agricultural and natural
4 resources from foreign and invasive pests and diseases, in-
5 cluding activities authorized under the Beagle Brigade Act
6 of 2023 (Public Law 118–191).

7 (c) WAIVER AUTHORITY.—The Under Secretary for
8 Research, Education, and Economics, and the Under Sec-
9 retary alone, may waive the prohibition under subsection
10 (a) on a case-by-case basis if the Under Secretary deter-
11 mines that—

12 (1) the research is necessary to protect national
13 security, animal and crop health, or public health,
14 safety, or welfare; and

15 (2) no reasonable alternative methods exist that
16 would achieve the same scientific objective without
17 the use of procedures described in subsection (a).

18 (d) CONGRESSIONAL NOTIFICATION.—Not later than
19 30 days before granting a waiver under subsection (c), the
20 Under Secretary shall submit to the Committee on Agri-
21 culture of the House of Representatives and the Com-
22 mittee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry of the Sen-
23 ate a written notification that includes—

1 (1) a detailed justification for the waiver, in-
2 cluding the specific national security or public health
3 need;

4 (2) a description of the research to be con-
5 ducted, including the number and species of animals
6 involved;

7 (3) the projected cost to taxpayers;

8 (4) an explanation of why alternatives are not
9 feasible; and

10 (5) the expected duration of the waiver.

11 **SEC. 7613. REPORT ON NATIONAL GRAPE PRODUCTION.**

12 The Secretary, acting through the Administrator of
13 the National Agricultural Statistics Service, shall—

14 (1) not later than 1 year after the date of en-
15 actment of this Act—

16 (A) conduct a survey on grape production
17 in each State, including—

18 (i) total acreage; and

19 (ii) production, utilization, and acre-
20 age by type, variety, county, and year
21 planted; and

22 (B) make publicly available on the website
23 of the National Agricultural Statistics Service
24 the results of such survey, including the data
25 from such survey; and

1 (2) not later than 2 years after the date of en-
2 actment of this Act, and annually thereafter for 3
3 years, for each of the 5 States with the highest
4 grape production, as determined based on the survey
5 required under paragraph (1), conduct a survey in
6 the State, and make the results available, in accord-
7 ance with such paragraph.

8 **SEC. 7614. LIMITATION ON CERTAIN RESEARCH IN COUN-**
9 **TRIES OF CONCERN.**

10 (a) **LIMITATION ON FOREIGN RESEARCH.**—The Sec-
11 retary, acting through the Under Secretary for Research,
12 Education, and Economics, shall prohibit research, edu-
13 cation, or extension activities involving vertebrate animals
14 carried out or funded under the jurisdiction of the Re-
15 search, Education, and Economics mission area from
16 being conducted in, or performed in collaboration with, the
17 People’s Republic of China, the Russian Federation or
18 other foreign countries of concern (as defined in section
19 10638(2) of the CHIPS Act of 2022 (42 3 U.S.C.
20 19237(2)).

21 (b) **WAIVER AUTHORITY.**—The Under Secretary for
22 Research, Education, and Economics (and no other Fed-
23 eral official) may waive the prohibition under subsection
24 (a) on a case-by-case basis if the Under Secretary deter-
25 mines that the research is necessary to protect national

1 security, animal and crop health, or public health, safety,
2 or welfare.

3 (c) CONGRESSIONAL NOTIFICATION.—Not later than
4 30 days before granting a waiver under subsection (b),
5 the Under Secretary shall submit to the Committee on Ag-
6 riculture of the House of Representatives and the Com-
7 mittee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry of the Sen-
8 ate a written notification that includes—

9 (1) a detailed justification for the waiver, in-
10 cluding the specific national security or public health
11 need;

12 (2) a description of the research to be con-
13 ducted, including the location, collaborators, and
14 number and species of animals involved;

15 (3) the projected cost to taxpayers; and

16 (4) the expected duration of the waiver.

17 **TITLE VIII—FORESTRY**
18 **Subtitle A—Cooperative Forestry**
19 **Assistance Act of 1978**

20 **SEC. 8101. SUPPORT FOR STATE ASSESSMENTS AND STRAT-**
21 **EGIES FOR FOREST RESOURCES.**

22 Section 2A(f) of the Cooperative Forestry Assistance
23 Act of 1978 (16 U.S.C. 2101a(f)) is amended—

24 (1) in paragraph (1), by striking “2023” and
25 inserting “2031”; and

1 (2) in paragraph (2), by striking “to carry out
2 this section,” and all that follows through the period
3 at the end and inserting the following: “the Sec-
4 retary may use any other funds made available
5 under this Act to develop and implement the State-
6 wide assessment and State-wide strategy required by
7 subsection (a), except that the total amount of com-
8 bined funding used to develop and implement such
9 assessment and strategy may not exceed
10 \$10,000,000 in any fiscal year.”.

11 **SEC. 8102. FOREST LEGACY PROGRAM TECHNICAL COR-**
12 **RECTION.**

13 Section 7(l)(3) of the Cooperative Forestry Assist-
14 ance Act of 1978 (16 U.S.C. 2103c(l)(3)) is amended—

15 (1) in subparagraph (A), by striking “the State
16 of Vermont” and inserting “a State”; and

17 (2) in subparagraph (B)(ii), in the matter pre-
18 ceding subclause (I), by striking “of Vermont” and
19 inserting “involved”.

20 **SEC. 8103. STATE AND PRIVATE FOREST LANDSCAPE-SCALE**
21 **RESTORATION PROGRAM.**

22 Section 13A(l)(3) of the Cooperative Forestry Assist-
23 ance Act of 1978 (16 U.S.C. 2109a(l)(3)) is amended by
24 striking “2023” and inserting “2031”.

1 **SEC. 8104. RURAL FIRE PREVENTION AND CONTROL.**

2 Section 10 of the Cooperative Forestry Assistance
3 Act of 1978 (16 U.S.C 2106) is amended—

4 (1) in subsection (e)(2)(B), by striking “in kind
5 contributions.” and inserting “in-kind contributions.
6 The Secretary may waive the Federal share require-
7 ments of this subparagraph with respect to any such
8 funds made available to rural volunteer fire depart-
9 ments.”; and

10 (2) in subsection (g)(1)—

11 (A) by striking “any organized, not for
12 profit, fire protection organization” and insert-
13 ing “any fire protection organization that is or-
14 ganized as a not for profit organization or by
15 the authority of a local government and”;

16 (B) by striking “10,000” and inserting
17 “15,000”; and

18 (C) by striking “80” and inserting “70”.

19 **Subtitle B—Healthy Forests**
20 **Restoration Act of 2003**

21 **SEC. 8201. PROMOTING CROSS-BOUNDARY WILDFIRE MITI-**
22 **GATION.**

23 Section 103(e)(5) of the Healthy Forests Restoration
24 Act of 2003 (16 U.S.C. 6513(e)(5)) is amended by strik-
25 ing “2023” and inserting “2031”.

1 **SEC. 8202. AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS FOR HAZ-**
2 **ARDOUS FUEL REDUCTION ON FEDERAL**
3 **LAND.**

4 Section 108 of the Healthy Forests Restoration Act
5 of 2003 (16 U.S.C. 6518) is amended by striking “2023”
6 and inserting “2031”.

7 **SEC. 8203. WATER SOURCE PROTECTION PROGRAM.**

8 Section 303 of the Healthy Forests Restoration Act
9 of 2003 (16 U.S.C. 6542) is amended—

10 (1) in subsection (a)—

11 (A) by redesignating paragraphs (1)
12 through (7) as paragraphs (2) through (8), re-
13 spectively;

14 (B) by inserting before paragraph (2), as
15 so redesignated, the following:

16 “(1) ADJACENT LAND.—The term ‘adjacent
17 land’ means non-Federal land, including State, local,
18 and private land, that is adjacent to, and within the
19 same watershed as, National Forest System land on
20 which a watershed protection and restoration project
21 is carried out under this section.”; and

22 (C) in paragraph (2), as so redesignated—

23 (i) by redesignating subparagraphs
24 (G) and (H) as subparagraphs (K) and
25 (L), respectively; and

1 (ii) by inserting after subparagraph
2 (F) the following:

3 “(G) an acequia association;

4 “(H) a local, regional, or other public enti-
5 ty that manages stormwater or wastewater re-
6 sources or other related water infrastructure;

7 “(I) a land-grant mercedes;

8 “(J) a local, regional, or other private enti-
9 ty that has water delivery authority;”;

10 (2) in subsection (b)—

11 (A) by striking “The Secretary shall” and
12 inserting the following:

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

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

15 “(2) REQUIREMENTS.—A watershed protection
16 and restoration project under the Program shall be
17 designed to—

18 “(A) protect and restore watershed health,
19 water supply and quality, a municipal or agri-
20 cultural water supply system, and water-related
21 infrastructure;

22 “(B) protect and restore forest health from
23 insect infestation and disease or wildfire; or

24 “(C) advance any combination of the pur-
25 poses described in subparagraphs (A) and (B).

1 “(3) PRIORITIES.—In selecting watershed pro-
2 tection and restoration projects under the Program,
3 the Secretary shall give priority to projects that—

4 “(A) provide risk management benefits as-
5 sociated with drought; wildfire; post-wildfire
6 conditions; extreme weather; flooding; resilience
7 to climate change; and watershed and fire resil-
8 ience, including minimizing risks to watershed
9 health, water supply and quality, and water-re-
10 lated infrastructure, including municipal and
11 agricultural water supply systems;

12 “(B) support aquatic restoration and con-
13 servation efforts that complement existing or
14 planned forest restoration or wildfire risk re-
15 duction efforts; or

16 “(C) provide quantifiable benefits to water
17 supply or quality and include the use of nature-
18 based solutions, such as restoring wetland and
19 riparian ecosystems.

20 “(4) CONDITIONS FOR PROJECTS ON ADJACENT
21 LAND.—

22 “(A) IN GENERAL.—No project or activity
23 may be carried out under this section on adja-
24 cent land unless the owner of the adjacent land
25 agrees in writing that the owner is a willing and

1 engaged partner in carrying out that project or
2 activity.

3 “(B) EFFECT.—Nothing in this section
4 shall be construed to authorize any change in—

5 “(i) the ownership of adjacent land on
6 which a project or activity is carried out
7 under this section; or

8 “(ii) the management of adjacent land
9 on which a project or activity is carried out
10 under this section, except during the car-
11 rying out of that project or activity.”;

12 (3) in subsection (c)—

13 (A) in paragraph (1), by striking “water-
14 sheds that provide water to the end water
15 users” and inserting “watersheds, and lands
16 adjacent to any such watershed, that provide
17 water—

18 “(A) to the end water users subject to the
19 agreement; or

20 “(B) for the benefit of another end water
21 user.”;

22 (B) in paragraph (2)—

23 (i) in subparagraph (C), by striking
24 “or” at the end;

1 (ii) by redesignating subparagraph
2 (D) as subparagraph (E); and

3 (iii) by inserting after subparagraph
4 (C) the following:

5 “(D) a good neighbor agreement entered
6 into under section 8206 of the Agricultural Act
7 of 2014 (16 U.S.C. 2113a); or”; and

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

9 “(3) COOPERATION WITH NON-FEDERAL PART-
10 NERS.—The Secretary shall cooperate with non-Fed-
11 eral partners in carrying out assessments, planning,
12 project design, and project implementation under
13 this section.”;

14 (4) in subsection (d)—

15 (A) by amending paragraph (2) to read as
16 follows:

17 “(2) REQUIREMENTS.—A water source manage-
18 ment plan shall be—

19 “(A) designed to protect and restore eco-
20 logical integrity (as defined in section 219.19 of
21 title 36, Code of Federal Regulations (as in ef-
22 fect on the date of enactment of this subpara-
23 graph));

24 “(B) based on the best available scientific
25 information; and

1 “(C) conducted in a manner consistent
2 with the forest plan applicable to the National
3 Forest System land on which the watershed
4 protection and restoration project is carried
5 out.”; and

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

7 “(4) REDUCING REDUNDANCY.—An existing
8 watershed plan, such as a watershed protection and
9 restoration action plan developed under section
10 304(a)(3), or other applicable watershed planning
11 documents as approved by the Secretary may be
12 used as the basis for a water source management
13 plan under this subsection.”;

14 (5) in subsection (e)(1), by striking “primary
15 purpose of” and all that follows through the period
16 at the end and inserting “primary purpose of ad-
17 vancing any of the purposes described in subsection
18 (b)(2).”;

19 (6) in subsection (g), by amending paragraph
20 (2) to read as follows:

21 “(2) MATCHING FUNDS REQUIRED.—

22 “(A) IN GENERAL.—Subject to subpara-
23 graph (B), the Secretary shall require the con-
24 tribution of funds or in-kind support from non-
25 Federal partners to be in an amount that is not

1 less than 50 percent of the amount of Federal
2 funds.

3 “(B) WAIVER.—The requirement in sub-
4 paragraph (A) may be waived at the discretion
5 of the Secretary.”; and
6 (7) in subsection (g)(4)—

7 (A) in subparagraph (B), by striking
8 “2019 through 2023” and inserting “2027
9 through 2031”; and

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

11 “(D) SET-ASIDE FOR PARTNER PARTICIPA-
12 TION IN PLANNING AND TECHNICAL ASSIST-
13 ANCE.—Of the amounts made available under
14 subparagraph (B) to carry out this section for
15 each fiscal year, the Secretary may not use
16 more than 10 percent for non-Federal partner
17 planning and technical assistance efforts in de-
18 veloping or implementing a water source man-
19 agement plan under subsection (d).”.

20 **SEC. 8204. WATERSHED CONDITION FRAMEWORK TECH-**
21 **NICAL CORRECTIONS.**

22 Section 304(a) of the Healthy Forests Restoration
23 Act of 2003 (16 U.S.C. 6543(a)) is amended in para-
24 graphs (3) and (5) by striking “protection and”.

1 **SEC. 8205. AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS TO COM-**
2 **BAT INSECT INFESTATIONS AND RELATED**
3 **DISEASES.**

4 Section 406 of the Healthy Forests Restoration Act
5 of 2003 (16 U.S.C. 6556) is amended by striking “Octo-
6 ber 1, 2023” and inserting “October 1, 2031”.

7 **SEC. 8206. INSECT AND DISEASE INFESTATION.**

8 Section 602(d)(2) of the Healthy Forests Restoration
9 Act of 2003 (16 U.S.C. 6591a(d)(2)) is amended by strik-
10 ing “2023” and inserting “2031”.

11 **SEC. 8207. STEWARDSHIP END RESULT CONTRACTING**
12 **PROJECTS.**

13 Section 604 of the Healthy Forests Restoration Act
14 of 2003 (16 U.S.C. 6591c) is amended—

15 (1) in subsection (b), by inserting “, including
16 retaining and expanding existing forest products in-
17 frastructure necessary to carry out an agreement or
18 contract under this subsection” before the period at
19 the end;

20 (2) in subsection (d)(3)(B), by striking “10
21 years” and inserting “20 years”; and

22 (3) in subsection (h), by adding at the end the
23 following:

24 “(4) SPECIAL RULE FOR LONG-TERM STEWARD-
25 SHIP CONTRACTS.—

1 “(A) DEFINITION OF MULTIYEAR CON-
2 TRACT.—In this paragraph, the term ‘multiyear
3 contract’ means a contract entered into under
4 subsection (b) that—

5 “(i) has a term of at least 5 years;
6 and

7 “(ii) is entered into on or after the
8 date of enactment of this paragraph.

9 “(B) SPECIAL RULE.—A multiyear con-
10 tract entered into under subsection (b) by the
11 Chief or the Director with an entity shall pro-
12 vide that, in the case of cancellation or termi-
13 nation of the multiyear contract by the Chief or
14 the Director, the Chief or the Director, as ap-
15 plicable, shall provide to the entity a cancella-
16 tion or termination payment equal to the lesser
17 of—

18 “(i) an amount equal to 10 percent of
19 the multiyear contract; or

20 “(ii) the amount of unrecovered costs
21 that would have been recouped through
22 amortization over the full term of the con-
23 tract (including the term canceled).”.

Subtitle C—Other Forestry Programs

SEC. 8301. NATIONAL AND REGIONAL AGROFORESTRY CENTERS.

Section 1243 of the Food, Agriculture, Conservation, and Trade Act of 1990 (16 U.S.C. 1642 note; Public Law 101–624) is amended—

(1) by striking the section heading and inserting “**NATIONAL AND REGIONAL AGROFORESTRY CENTERS**”;

(2) by redesignating subsections (a), (b), (c), and (d) as subsections (b), (d), (e), and (h), respectively;

(3) by inserting before subsection (b) (as so redesignated) the following:

“(a) **DEFINITION OF AGROFORESTRY.**—In this section, the term ‘agroforestry’ means a management system that intentionally integrates trees and shrubs into crop and animal farming systems to build more profitable and weather-resilient farms, ranches, and communities, address natural resource concerns and conservation needs, and establish productive and sustainable land use practices, including—

“(1) riparian forest buffers;

“(2) alley cropping;

1 “(3) silvopasture;

2 “(4) forest farming and multistory cropping;

3 and

4 “(5) windbreaks, shelterbelts, hedgerows, and,
5 where applicable, field borders, and living snow
6 fences.”;

7 (4) in subsection (b) (as so redesignated)—

8 (A) in the subsection heading, by striking
9 “SEMIARID” and inserting “NATIONAL”;

10 (B) by inserting “(referred to in this sec-
11 tion as the ‘Secretary’)” after “Secretary of Ag-
12 riculture”;

13 (C) by striking “Semiarid Agroforestry Re-
14 search, Development, and Demonstration Cen-
15 ter (hereafter referred to in this section as the
16 ‘Center’)” and inserting “National Agroforestry
17 Research, Development, and Demonstration
18 Center”; and

19 (D) by striking “at the Center under sub-
20 section (b)” and inserting “under subsection
21 (d)”;

22 (5) by inserting after subsection (b) (as so re-
23 designated) the following:

24 “(c) REGIONAL AGROFORESTRY CENTERS.—

1 “(1) ESTABLISHMENT.—The Secretary, acting
2 through the Chief of the Forest Service and in co-
3 operation with the Natural Resources Conservation
4 Service, shall, subject to the availability of appro-
5 priations, establish 1 or more regional agroforestry
6 centers to advance agroforestry research, outreach,
7 technical assistance, and adoption.

8 “(2) DIRECTOR.—The Secretary, acting
9 through the Chief of the Forest Service and in co-
10 operation with the Natural Resources Conservation
11 Service, shall appoint a Director to manage and co-
12 ordinate the 1 or more regional agroforestry centers
13 established under paragraph (1).

14 “(3) LOCATION.—In selecting the locations for
15 the 1 or more regional agroforestry centers under
16 paragraph (1), the Secretary shall prioritize loca-
17 tions at which the Department of Agriculture has,
18 on the date of enactment of the Farm, Food, and
19 National Security Act of 2026, at least 1 employee
20 providing coordination among a diverse group of re-
21 search institutions and other partners.

22 “(4) ADMINISTRATION.—Regional agroforestry
23 centers established under paragraph (1) shall by ad-
24 ministered by the National Agroforestry Center.”;

25 (6) in subsection (d) (as so redesignated)—

1 (A) in the matter preceding paragraph

2 (1)—

3 (i) by striking “the Center” and in-
4 serting “each of the centers established
5 under subsections (b) and (c) (referred to
6 in this section as the ‘Centers’)”;

7 (ii) by inserting “and organizations”
8 after “nonprofit foundations”; and

9 (iii) by inserting “demonstration
10 projects,” after “studies,”;

11 (B) in paragraph (1)—

12 (i) by striking “on semiarid lands
13 that” and inserting “that build soil health
14 and”; and

15 (ii) by inserting “, including agro-
16 forestry systems on semiarid land and
17 other fragile agroecosystems where perma-
18 nent woody perennial plant communities
19 can enhance carbon sequestration and re-
20 duce greenhouse gas emissions” before the
21 semicolon;

22 (C) in paragraph (3), by striking “forestry
23 products for commercial sale from semiarid
24 land” and inserting “agroforestry products for
25 commercial sale”;

1 (D) in paragraph (4)—

2 (i) by striking “in semiarid regions”;

3 and

4 (ii) by striking “the Great Plains re-
5 gion” and inserting “particular regions”;

6 (E) in paragraph (5), by inserting “tech-
7 nical assistance, demonstration projects, and”
8 before “technology”;

9 (F) by redesignating paragraphs (7)
10 through (11) as paragraphs (8) through (12),
11 respectively;

12 (G) by striking paragraph (6) and insert-
13 ing the following:

14 “(6) develop improved silvopasture, alley crop-
15 ping, forest farming, multistory cropping, riparian
16 buffer, windbreak and shelterbelt, and other peren-
17 nial production and conservation systems and tech-
18 nologies to improve soil health, carbon sequestration,
19 drought preparedness, soil and water conservation,
20 environmental quality, and biological diversity;

21 “(7) address barriers to the adoption of agro-
22 forestry practices, including—

23 “(A) insufficient access to plant material;

24 “(B) insufficient infrastructure to contain
25 equipment and plant material;

1 “(C) insufficient machinery to implement
2 agroforestry practices;

3 “(D) insufficient technical service assist-
4 ance; and

5 “(E) insufficient research related to agro-
6 forestry systems, including silvopasture and
7 alley cropping;”;

8 (H) in paragraph (8) (as so redesignated),
9 by striking “on semiarid lands”;

10 (I) in paragraph (9) (as so redesignated),
11 by striking “on semiarid lands worldwide” and
12 inserting “worldwide, including on semiarid
13 land”; and

14 (J) in paragraph (10) (as so redesign-
15 ated)—

16 (i) by striking “on semiarid lands”;

17 and

18 (ii) by inserting “and extreme weath-
19 er” after “pollution”;

20 (7) in subsection (e) (as so redesignated)—

21 (A) in the matter preceding paragraph (1)
22 by striking “the Center” and inserting “each of
23 the Centers”;

24 (B) in paragraph (1), by striking “and” at
25 the end;

1 (C) in paragraph (2)—

2 (i) by striking “forestry” and insert-
3 ing “forestry, agroforestry,”; and

4 (ii) by striking the period at the end
5 and inserting “; and”; and

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

7 “(3) facilitate agroforestry adoption by dissemi-
8 nating comprehensive information on Federal, State,
9 local, and Tribal programs that provide support for
10 agroforestry.”;

11 (8) by inserting after subsection (e) (as so re-
12 designated) the following:

13 “(f) REGIONAL SUPPORT.—The Secretary shall pro-
14 vide targeted regional support for agroforestry projects,
15 including demonstration sites.

16 “(g) SURVEY.—Not later than 5 years after the date
17 of the enactment of the Farm, Food, and National Secu-
18 rity Act of 2026 and every 5 years thereafter, the Sec-
19 retary shall conduct a National Agroforestry Producers
20 Survey.”; and

21 (9) in subsection (h) (as so redesignated)—

22 (A) by striking “There are” and inserting
23 “In addition to amounts otherwise available,
24 there is”; and

1 (B) by striking “\$5,000,000 for each of
2 fiscal years 2019 through 2023” and inserting
3 “\$7,000,000 for each of fiscal years 2027
4 through 2031”.

5 **SEC. 8302. NATIONAL FOREST FOUNDATION ACT.**

6 (a) MATCHING FUNDS.—Section 405(b) of the Na-
7 tional Forest Foundation Act (16 U.S.C. 583j–3(b)) is
8 amended by striking “2023” and inserting “2031”.

9 (b) WHITE OAK RESTORATION FUND.—Section 409
10 of the National Forest Foundation Act (16 U.S.C. 583j–
11 7) is amended—

12 (1) by striking “The activities” and inserting
13 the following:

14 “(a) IN GENERAL.—The activities”; and

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

16 “(b) WHITE OAK RESTORATION FUND.—

17 “(1) IN GENERAL.—Funds described in para-
18 graph (2) shall be made available for activities—

19 “(A) on national forests that are approved
20 by the Secretary, acting through the Chief of
21 the Forest Service; and

22 “(B) to—

23 “(i) re-establish white oak forests
24 where appropriate;

1 “(ii) improve management of existing
2 white oak forests to foster natural regen-
3 eration of white oak;

4 “(iii) improve and expand white oak
5 nursery stock; and

6 “(iv) adapt and improve white oak
7 seedlings.

8 “(2) FUND.—The National Forest Foundation
9 may accept gifts, devises, or bequests for the pur-
10 poses of carrying out the activities specified in para-
11 graph (1).

12 “(3) SUMMARY.—Beginning 1 year after the
13 date of the enactment of this section, the National
14 Forest Foundation shall include in the budget jus-
15 tification materials submitted to Congress in support
16 of the budget of each such Foundation for each fis-
17 cal year (as submitted with the budget of the Presi-
18 dent under section 1105(a) of title 31, United States
19 Code) a summary of the activities carried out under
20 paragraph (1) and the funds accepted under para-
21 graph (2) that includes—

22 “(A) the amount—

23 “(i) accepted under paragraph (2) in
24 the preceding fiscal year; and

1 “(ii) described in clause (i) that is un-
2 obligated on the date of the report; and

3 “(B) a description of the activities under
4 paragraph (1) funded during the preceding fis-
5 cal year.”.

6 (c) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—Section
7 410(b) of the National Forest Foundation Act (16 U.S.C.
8 583j-8(b)) is amended by striking “2023” and inserting
9 “2031”.

10 **SEC. 8303. CONVEYANCES AND LEASES OF FOREST SERV-**
11 **ICE ADMINISTRATIVE SITES.**

12 (a) CONVEYANCE OF FOREST SERVICE ADMINISTRA-
13 TIVE SITES.—Section 503(f) of the Forest Service Facility
14 Realignment and Enhancement Act of 2005 (16 U.S.C.
15 580d note; Public Law 109–54) is amended by striking
16 “September 30, 2019” and inserting “September 30,
17 2031”.

18 (b) AUTHORIZATION FOR LEASE OF FOREST SERV-
19 ICE SITES.—Section 8623(i) of the Agriculture Improve-
20 ment Act of 2018 (16 U.S.C. 580d note; Public Law 115–
21 334) is amended by striking “2023” each place it appears
22 and inserting “2031”.

1 **SEC. 8304. FOREST INVENTORY AND ANALYSIS.**

2 (a) IN GENERAL.—Section 3(e) of the Forest and
3 Rangeland Renewable Resources Research Act of 1978
4 (16 U.S.C. 1642(e)) is amended—

5 (1) in paragraph (1)—

6 (A) by striking “their resources” and in-
7 serting “the resources of those forests, includ-
8 ing forest carbon,”;

9 (B) by striking “In compliance” and in-
10 serting the following:

11 “(A) IN GENERAL.—In compliance”; and

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

13 “(B) ADDITIONAL METHODS.—Under the
14 program under this subsection, the Secretary
15 shall carry out, as a data collection method—

16 “(i) a national timber products output
17 survey; and

18 “(ii) a national woodland owner sur-
19 vey.”;

20 (2) in paragraph (3)(C), by inserting “including
21 with respect to available forest carbon data,” after
22 “2 decades,”;

23 (3) in paragraph (4)—

24 (A) in the second sentence, by striking
25 “The standards” and inserting the following:

1 “(B) INCLUSIONS.—The standards de-
2 scribed in subparagraph (A)”;

3 (B) by striking “(4) NATIONAL STAND-
4 ARDS AND DEFINITIONS.—To ensure” and in-
5 serting the following:

6 “(4) NATIONAL CONSISTENCY.—

7 “(A) STANDARDS AND DEFINITIONS.—To
8 ensure”; and

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

10 “(C) TERMINOLOGY.—The Secretary shall
11 include a clear description of the definition of
12 ‘forest’ used for purposes of reporting data
13 from inventories and analyses of forests and the
14 resources of forests under this subsection
15 with—

16 “(i) any data or report provided under
17 the program under this subsection;

18 “(ii) Renewable Resource Assessments
19 prepared under section 3(a) of the Forest
20 and Rangeland Renewable Resources Plan-
21 ning Act of 1974 (16 U.S.C. 1601(a)); and

22 “(iii) any data or report provided to
23 an entity outside the United States.”;

24 (4) in paragraph (6)—

1 (A) in the matter preceding subparagraph
2 (A), by striking “Not later than 180 days after
3 the date of enactment of this subsection,” and
4 inserting “In accordance with paragraph (7),”;
5 and

6 (B) by striking subparagraphs (D) and (E)
7 and inserting the following:

8 “(D) the organization and procedures nec-
9 essary to understand and report on changes in
10 land cover and use;

11 “(E) the organization and procedures nec-
12 essary to sample and evaluate carbon-related
13 data variables, including soil carbon, collected
14 from forest inventory and analysis plots, timber
15 products output surveys, and national woodland
16 owner surveys to ensure that carbon accounting
17 information needs can be met; and”;

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

19 “(7) UPDATES TO STRATEGIC PLAN.—

20 “(A) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 180
21 days after the date of enactment of this para-
22 graph, the Secretary shall prepare an update to
23 the strategic plan under paragraph (6) to in-
24 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 stock
22 types specific for reforestation, restoration, or
23 conservation, including native plants and seeds
24 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 HABITAT.**
7

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”; and

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-

tion 7 of the Endangered Species Act of 1973 (16 U.S.C. 1536) or section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act.

SEC. 8407. FOREST MANAGEMENT ACTIVITIES ON NATIONAL FOREST SYSTEM LANDS.

(a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary may conduct forest management activities on National Forest System land.

(b) COORDINATION.—In carrying out forest management activities, the Secretary shall, as appropriate, coordinate with impacted parties to increase efficiency and maximize the compatibility of management practices across National Forest System lands.

(c) OBJECTIVES.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall conduct forest management activities on National Forest System land in a manner that attains multiple ecosystem benefits, including.—

(A) reducing forest fuels;

(B) maintaining the diversity of plant and animal communities;

(C) improving soil, streams, lakes, wetlands, and water quality, including in riparian areas; and

(D) increasing resilience to changing water 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) PRACTICES; TECHNOLOGY.—To the extent prac-
12 ticable, the Secretary shall employ fuels management
13 practices and work to develop technologies in order to
14 more effectively carry out the requirements under sub-
15 section (a)(1)(A).

16 (d) NATIONAL FOREST SYSTEM DEFINED.—In this
17 section, the term “National Forest System” has the mean-
18 ing given such term in section 11(a) of the Forest and
19 Rangeland Renewable Resources Planning Act of 1974
20 (16 U.S.C. 1609(a)).

21 **SEC. 8409. KAIBAB NATIONAL FOREST RESTORATION.**

22 (a) IN GENERAL.—Notwithstanding any requirement
23 for a Presidential emergency, disaster declaration, or any
24 other prerequisite for the use of the authority described
25 in this subsection, the Secretary is authorized to use emer-

1 agency acquisition flexibilities under part 18 of title 48,
2 Code of Federal Regulations (and any successor regula-
3 tions), in contracting for the following services within the
4 covered area:

5 (1) Forest management or restoration activities
6 carried out in response to the White Sage Fire.

7 (2) Rebuilding, planning, development, and de-
8 sign of structures affected by the White Sage Fire.

9 (3) Improvements to the grounds and struc-
10 tures.

11 (4) Recovery efforts.

12 (b) PROCESS FOR OTHER SERVICES.—Unless other-
13 wise provided by law or regulation, the authority granted
14 under subsection (a) does not apply to contracts for serv-
15 ices other than those described in paragraphs (1) through
16 (4) of subsection (a).

17 (c) REPORT.—Not later than 180 days after the Sec-
18 retary begins to use the authorization under subsection
19 (a), and every 180 days thereafter until the date that is
20 180 days after the date described in subsection (e), the
21 Secretary shall submit to the Committee on Agriculture
22 of the House of Representatives and the Committee on
23 Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry of the Senate a re-
24 port on all expenditures related to the recovery efforts for
25 the White Sage Fire, including the following:

1 (1) The expected cost of recovery efforts.

2 (2) Cost expenditures.

3 (3) Cost overruns.

4 (4) Identification of contractors performing the
5 work associated with the recovery from the White
6 Sage Fire.

7 (5) Any affiliations or conflicts of interest be-
8 tween the contractor and the contracting office at
9 the Kaibab National Forest or the Forest Service.

10 (6) Any waste fraud and abuse detected during
11 the recovery efforts.

12 (7) Any contracts that came in under expected
13 expenses.

14 (8) An estimated time of completion for all
15 projects and full recovery efforts related to the
16 White Sage Fire.

17 (9) If an extension is needed to this authority
18 to complete projects associated with the White Sage
19 Fire.

20 (d) EXTENSION.—If, after the date of the enactment
21 of this section, a new wildfire ignites within the covered
22 area and impacts recovery efforts related to the White
23 Sage Fire, the Secretary may request a 12-month exten-
24 sion of the authority granted under subsection (a), subject
25 to congressional approval.

1 (e) EXPIRATION.—The authority granted under sub-
2 section (a) shall expire on the date that is the earlier of
3 the following:

4 (1) 5 years after the date of the enactment of
5 this section.

6 (2) Recovery efforts within the covered area are
7 complete.

8 (f) COVERED AREA DEFINED.—The term “covered
9 area” means the areas within Kaibab National Forest im-
10 pacted by the White Sage Fire.

11 **PART II—FOREST MANAGEMENT ACTIVITIES**

12 **SEC. 8411. NO ADDITIONAL CONSULTATION REQUIRED.**

13 (a) FOREST SERVICE PLANS.—Section 6(d)(2) of the
14 Forest and Rangeland Renewable Resources Planning Act
15 of 1974 (16 U.S.C. 1604(d)(2)) is amended to read as
16 follows:

17 “(2) NO ADDITIONAL CONSULTATION RE-
18 QUIRED UNDER CERTAIN CIRCUMSTANCES.—Not-
19 withstanding any other provision of law, the Sec-
20 retary shall not be required to reinitiate consultation
21 under section 7(a)(2) of the Endangered Species Act
22 of 1973 (16 U.S.C. 1536(a)(2)) or section 402.16 of
23 title 50, Code of Federal Regulations (or a successor
24 regulation), on a land management plan approved,
25 amended, or revised under this section when—

1 “(A) a new species is listed or critical habi-
2 tat is designated under the Endangered Species
3 Act of 1973 (16 U.S.C. 1531 et seq.); or

4 “(B) new information reveals effects of the
5 land management plan that may affect a spe-
6 cies listed or critical habitat designated under
7 that Act in a manner or to an extent not pre-
8 viously considered.”.

9 (b) BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT PLANS.—Sec-
10 tion 202 of the Federal Land Policy and Management Act
11 of 1976 (43 U.S.C. 1712) is amended by adding at the
12 end the following:

13 “(g) NO ADDITIONAL CONSULTATION REQUIRED
14 UNDER CERTAIN CIRCUMSTANCES.—Notwithstanding
15 any other provision of law, the Secretary shall not be re-
16 quired to reinitiate consultation under section 7(a)(2) of
17 the Endangered Species Act of 1973 (16 U.S.C.
18 1536(a)(2)) or section 402.16 of title 50, Code of Federal
19 Regulations (or a successor regulation), on a land use plan
20 approved, amended, or revised under this section when—

21 “(1) a new species is listed or critical habitat
22 is designated under the Endangered Species Act of
23 1973 (16 U.S.C. 1531 et seq.); or

24 “(2) new information reveals effects of the land
25 use plan that may affect a species listed or critical

1 habitat designated under that Act in a manner or to
2 an extent not previously considered.”.

3 **SEC. 8412. GOOD NEIGHBOR AUTHORITY.**

4 (a) GOOD NEIGHBOR AUTHORITY.—Section 8206 of
5 the Agricultural Act of 2014 (16 U.S.C. 2113a) is amend-
6 ed—

7 (1) in subsection (a)(6), by striking “or Indian
8 tribe”;

9 (2) in subsection (a), by adding at the end the
10 following:

11 “(11) SPECIAL DISTRICT.—The term ‘special
12 district’ means a political subdivision of a State
13 that—

14 “(A) has significant budgetary autonomy
15 or control;

16 “(B) was created by or pursuant to the
17 laws of the State for the purpose of performing
18 a limited and specific governmental or propri-
19 etary function; and

20 “(C) is distinct from any other local gov-
21 ernment unit within the State.”.

22 (3) in subsection (b)—

23 (A) in paragraph (1)(A), by inserting “,
24 Indian Tribe, special district,” after “Gov-
25 ernor”;

1 (B) in paragraph (2)(C)—

2 (i) in clause (i)—

3 (I) by inserting “special district,”
4 after “Indian Tribe,” each place it ap-
5 pears;

6 (II) in subclause (I)—

7 (aa) by striking “on”; and

8 (bb) by striking “; and” and
9 inserting a semicolon;

10 (III) in subclause (II)(bb), by
11 striking the period at the end and in-
12 serting a semicolon; and

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

15 “(III) to construct new perma-
16 nent roads on Federal lands that
17 are—

18 “(aa) necessary to imple-
19 ment authorized restoration ac-
20 tivities; and

21 “(bb) approved by the Fed-
22 eral agency through environ-
23 mental analysis or categorical ex-
24 clusion decision;

1 “(IV) to complete new permanent
2 road construction to replace and de-
3 commission an existing permanent
4 road that is adversely impacting for-
5 est, rangeland, or watershed health;
6 and

7 “(V) if there are funds remaining
8 after carrying out subclauses (I)
9 through (IV), to carry out authorized
10 restoration services under other good
11 neighbor agreements and for the ad-
12 ministration of a good neighbor au-
13 thority program by a Governor, In-
14 dian Tribe, special district, or coun-
15 ty.”; and

16 (ii) in clause (ii), by striking “2028”
17 and inserting “2030”;

18 (C) in paragraph (3), by inserting “, In-
19 dian Tribe, special district,” after “Governor”;
20 and

21 (D) by striking paragraph (4).

22 (b) CONFORMING AMENDMENTS.—Section 8206(a)
23 of the Agricultural Act of 2014 (16 U.S.C. 2113a(a)) is
24 amended—

1 (1) in paragraph (1)(B), by inserting “, Indian
2 Tribe, special district,” after “Governor”; and

3 (2) in paragraph (5), by inserting “, Indian
4 Tribe, special district,” after “Governor”.

5 (c) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendments made by
6 this section apply to any project initiated pursuant to a
7 good neighbor agreement (as defined in section 8206(a)
8 of the Agricultural Act of 2014 (16 U.S.C. 2113a(a)))—

9 (1) before the date of enactment of this Act, if
10 the project was initiated after the date of enactment
11 of the Agriculture Improvement Act of 2018 (Public
12 Law 115–334; 132 Stat. 4490); or

13 (2) on or after the date of enactment of this
14 Act.

15 **SEC. 8413. COLLABORATIVE FOREST LANDSCAPE RESTORA-**
16 **TION PROGRAM.**

17 Section 4003 of the Omnibus Public Land Manage-
18 ment Act of 2009 (16 U.S.C. 7303) is amended—

19 (1) in subsection (b)(3)—

20 (A) in subparagraph (D), by inserting “or
21 pathogens” after “species”;

22 (B) in subparagraph (G), by striking
23 “and” at the end;

24 (C) in subparagraph (H), by adding “and”
25 after the semicolon at the end; and

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

2 “(I) address standardized monitoring ques-
3 tions and indicators;”;

4 (2) in subsection (d)—

5 (A) in paragraph (2)—

6 (i) in subparagraph (E), by striking
7 “and” at the end;

8 (ii) in subparagraph (F), by striking
9 the period at the end and inserting “;”;
10 and

11 (iii) by adding at the end the fol-
12 lowing:

13 “(G) proposals that seek to use innovative
14 implementation mechanisms, including good
15 neighbor agreements entered into under section
16 8206 of the Agricultural Act of 2014 (16
17 U.S.C. 2113a), and similar implementation
18 mechanisms;

19 “(H) proposals that seek to reduce the risk
20 of uncharacteristic wildfire or increase ecologi-
21 cal restoration activities—

22 “(i) within areas across land owner-
23 ships, including State, Tribal, and private
24 land; and

1 “(ii) within the wildland-urban inter-
2 face; and

3 “(I) proposals that seek to enhance water-
4 shed health and drinking water sources.”; and
5 (B) in paragraph (3)—

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

8 “(A) 4 proposals in any 1 region of the
9 National Forest System to be funded during
10 any fiscal year; and”;

11 (ii) by striking subparagraph (B); and

12 (iii) by redesignating subparagraph
13 (C) as subparagraph (B); and

14 (3) in subsection (f)(6), by striking “2019
15 through 2023” and inserting “2027 through 2031”.

16 **SEC. 8414. PUBLIC-PRIVATE WILDFIRE TECHNOLOGY DE-**
17 **PLOYMENT AND TESTBED PARTNERSHIP.**

18 (a) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

19 (1) APPROPRIATE COMMITTEES.—The term
20 “appropriate committees” means—

21 (A) the Committees on Agriculture, Nat-
22 ural Resources, and Science, Space, and Tech-
23 nology of the House of Representatives; and

24 (B) the Committees on Agriculture, Nutri-
25 tion, and Forestry, Energy and Natural Re-

1 sources, and Commerce, Science, and Transpor-
2 tation of the Senate.

3 (2) COVERED AGENCY.—The term “covered
4 agency” means—

5 (A) the National Park Service;

6 (B) the United States Fish and Wildlife
7 Service;

8 (C) the Bureau of Land Management;

9 (D) the Bureau of Reclamation;

10 (E) the Forest Service;

11 (F) the Department of Defense;

12 (G) the National Oceanic and Atmospheric
13 Administration;

14 (H) the United States Fire Administra-
15 tion;

16 (I) the Federal Emergency Management
17 Agency;

18 (J) the National Aeronautics and Space
19 Administration;

20 (K) the Bureau of Indian Affairs; and

21 (L) any other Federal agency involved in
22 wildfire response.

23 (3) COVERED ENTITY.—The term “covered en-
24 tity” means—

25 (A) a private entity;

1 (B) a nonprofit organization; or

2 (C) an institution of higher education (as
3 defined in section 101 of the Higher Education
4 Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 1001)).

5 (4) PILOT PROGRAM.—The term “Pilot Pro-
6 gram” means the deployment and testbed pilot pro-
7 gram developed under subsection (b).

8 (5) SECRETARIES.—The term “Secretaries”
9 means the Secretary of Agriculture and the Sec-
10 retary of the Interior, acting jointly.

11 (b) DEPLOYMENT AND TESTBED PILOT PROGRAM
12 ESTABLISHED.—Not later than 1 year after the date of
13 the enactment of this Act, the Secretaries, in coordination
14 with the heads of the covered agencies, shall establish a
15 deployment and testbed pilot program for new and innova-
16 tive wildfire prevention, detection, communication, and
17 mitigation technologies.

18 (c) FUNCTIONS.—In carrying out the Pilot Program,
19 the Secretaries shall—

20 (1) incorporate the Pilot Program into an exist-
21 ing interagency coordinating group on wildfires;

22 (2) in consultation with the heads of covered
23 agencies, identify key technology priority areas with
24 respect to the deployment of wildfire prevention, de-

1 tection, communication, and mitigation technologies,
2 including—

3 (A) hazardous fuels reduction treatments
4 or activities;

5 (B) dispatch communications;

6 (C) remote sensing and tracking;

7 (D) safety equipment; and

8 (E) common operating pictures or oper-
9 ational dashboards; and

10 (3) partner with each covered entity selected to
11 participate in the Pilot Program with the appro-
12 priate covered agency to coordinate real-time and
13 on-the-ground testing of technology during wildland
14 fire mitigation activities and training.

15 (d) APPLICATIONS.—To participate in the Pilot Pro-
16 gram, a covered entity shall submit to the Secretaries an
17 application at such time, in such manner, and containing
18 such information as the Secretaries may require, which
19 shall include a proposal to test technologies specific to key
20 technology priority areas identified under subsection
21 (c)(2).

22 (e) PRIORITIZATION OF EMERGING TECH-
23 NOLOGIES.—In selecting covered entities to participate in
24 the Pilot Program, the Secretaries shall give priority to
25 covered entities developing and applying emerging tech-

1 nologies that address issues identified by the Secretaries,
2 including artificial intelligence, quantum sensing, com-
3 puting and quantum-hybrid applications, augmented re-
4 ality, and 5G private networks and device-to-device com-
5 munications supporting nomadic mesh networks, for wild-
6 fire mitigation.

7 (f) OUTREACH.—The Secretaries, in coordination
8 with the heads of the covered agencies, shall make publicly
9 available the key technology priority areas identified under
10 subsection (c)(2) and invite covered entities to apply to
11 test and demonstrate their technologies to address those
12 priority areas.

13 (g) REPORTS AND RECOMMENDATIONS.—Not later
14 than 1 year after the date of the enactment of this Act,
15 and each year thereafter for the duration of the Pilot Pro-
16 gram, the Secretaries shall submit to the appropriate com-
17 mittees a report that includes the following with respect
18 to the Pilot Program:

19 (1) A list of participating covered entities.

20 (2) A brief description of the technologies test-
21 ed by such covered entities.

22 (3) An estimate of the cost of acquiring the
23 technology tested in the program and applying it at
24 scale.

1 (4) Outreach efforts by Federal agencies to cov-
2 ered entities developing wildfire technologies.

3 (5) Assessments of, and recommendations relat-
4 ing to, new technologies with potential adoption and
5 application at-scale in Federal land management
6 agencies' wildfire prevention, detection, communica-
7 tion, and mitigation efforts.

8 (h) TERMINATION.—The Pilot Program shall expire
9 on September 30, 2031.

10 **SEC. 8415. FOREST SERVICE PARTICIPATION IN EXPERI-**
11 **ENCED SERVICES PROGRAM.**

12 Section 8302 of the Agricultural Act of 2014 (16
13 U.S.C. 3851a) is amended—

14 (1) in the section heading, by striking “**ACES**”
15 and inserting “**EXPERIENCED SERVICES**” (and by
16 conforming the item relating to such section in the
17 table of sections accordingly);

18 (2) in subsection (a)—

19 (A) by striking “(a) IN GENERAL.—”;

20 (B) by striking “Agriculture Conserva-
21 tion”; and

22 (C) by inserting “, professional, or admin-
23 istrative” after “technical”; and

24 (3) by striking subsection (b).

1 **SEC. 8416. TIMBER SALES ON NATIONAL FOREST SYSTEM**

2 **LAND.**

3 Section 14 of the National Forest Management Act
4 of 1976 (16 U.S.C. 472a) is amended—

5 (1) in subsection (d), by striking “\$10,000”
6 and inserting “\$55,000”; and

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

8 “(j) In the event of extreme risks to a unit of Na-
9 tional Forest System land, including catastrophic wildfire,
10 insect and disease outbreak, wind, hurricane, flood,
11 drought, or to avoid impacts from such extreme events,
12 the Secretary may, without an appraisal and under such
13 rules and regulations prescribed by the Secretary, dispose
14 of by sale or otherwise, portions of trees or forest products
15 located on such unit of National Forest System land.”.

16 **SEC. 8417. PERMITS AND AGREEMENTS WITH ELECTRICAL**
17 **UTILITIES.**

18 (a) IN GENERAL.—In any special use permit or ease-
19 ment on National Forest System lands provided to an elec-
20 tric utility company (as defined in section 1262 of the En-
21 ergy Policy Act of 2005 (42 U.S.C. 16451)), the Secretary
22 may provide permission to cut and remove trees or other
23 vegetation from within the vicinity of distribution lines or
24 transmission lines, including hazardous vegetation that in-
25 creases fire risk, without requiring a separate timber sale

1 if that cutting and removal is consistent with the applica-
2 ble land management plan.

3 (b) USE OF PROCEEDS.—A special use permit or
4 easement that includes permission for the cutting and re-
5 moval of trees or other vegetation described in subsection
6 (a) shall include a requirement that, if the applicable elec-
7 trical utility sells any portion of the material removed
8 under the permit or easement, the electrical utility shall
9 provide to the Secretary, acting through the Chief of the
10 Forest Service, any proceeds received from the sale, less
11 any transportation costs incurred in the sale.

12 (c) RULE OF CONSTRUCTION.—Nothing in this sec-
13 tion shall be construed to require the sale of any material
14 removed under a special use permit or easement that in-
15 cludes permission for the cutting and removal of trees or
16 other vegetation described in subsection (a).

17 **SEC. 8418. UTILIZING GRAZING FOR WILDFIRE RISK RE-**
18 **DUCTION.**

19 (a) STRATEGY.—

20 (1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 18 months
21 after the date of enactment of this Act, the Sec-
22 retary concerned shall develop and implement a
23 strategy to utilize livestock grazing as a wildfire risk
24 reduction tool on Federal land under the jurisdiction
25 of the Secretary concerned.

1 (2) INCLUSIONS.—The strategy under para-
2 graph (1) shall include—

3 (A) the completion of any reviews required
4 under the National Environmental Policy Act of
5 1969 (42 U.S.C. 4321 et seq.) to allow a per-
6 mittee with a grazing permit in effect to graze
7 on vacant grazing allotments during instances
8 of drought, wildfire, or other natural disaster
9 that disrupt grazing on the allotments covered
10 by such grazing permit;

11 (B) the use of targeted grazing to reduce
12 hazardous fuels;

13 (C) an increase in the use of temporary
14 grazing permits to promote targeted fuels re-
15 duction and reduction of invasive annual
16 grasses;

17 (D) an increase in the use of livestock
18 grazing—

19 (i) to eradicate invasive annual
20 grasses; and

21 (ii) as a restoration strategy and for
22 post-fire recovery, as appropriate;

23 (E) the integrated use of advanced tech-
24 nologies to dynamically adjust livestock place-

1 ment on Federal land under the jurisdiction of
2 the Secretary concerned;

3 (F) an increase in the use of any authori-
4 ties applicable to livestock grazing, including
5 modifications to grazing permits or leases to
6 allow variances; and

7 (G) the use of grazing on Federal land
8 under the jurisdiction of the Secretary con-
9 cerned in a manner that—

10 (i) avoids conflicts with other uses of
11 such land; and

12 (ii) is consistent with any applicable
13 land management plan.

14 (b) EFFECT ON EXISTING GRAZING PROGRAMS.—
15 Nothing in this section affects—

16 (1) any livestock grazing program carried out
17 by the Secretary concerned as of the date of enact-
18 ment of this Act; or

19 (2) any statutory authority for any program de-
20 scribed in paragraph (1).

21 (c) SECRETARY CONCERNED DEFINED.—In this sec-
22 tion, the term “Secretary concerned” means—

23 (1) the Secretary of Agriculture, with respect to
24 National Forest System lands; and

1 (2) the Secretary of the Interior, with respect
2 to public lands.

3 **SEC. 8419. JOINT CHIEFS LANDSCAPE RESTORATION PART-**
4 **NERSHIP PROGRAM.**

5 Section 40808 of the Infrastructure Investment and
6 Jobs Act is amended—

7 (1) in subsection (g)(2), by inserting “and at
8 least once every 2 fiscal years thereafter” after “and
9 2023”; and

10 (2) in subsection (h)(1), by striking “and
11 2023” and inserting “through 2031”.

12 **SEC. 8420. TRIBAL FOREST MANAGEMENT PROGRAM TECH-**
13 **NICAL CORRECTION.**

14 Section 8703 of the Agriculture Improvement Act of
15 2018 is amended—

16 (1) in the heading, by striking “**DEMONSTRA-**
17 **TION PROJECT**” and inserting “**PROGRAM**” (and
18 by conforming the item relating to such section in
19 the table of contents accordingly); and

20 (2) in subsection (a), by striking “demonstra-
21 tion projects by” and inserting “a program under”.

22 **SEC. 8421. TIMBER PRODUCTION EXPANSION GUARANTEED**
23 **LOAN PROGRAM.**

24 (a) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

1 (1) ELIGIBLE ENTITY.—The term “eligible enti-
2 ty” means an individual or entity that owns or oper-
3 ates a sawmill or other wood-processing facility lo-
4 cated in a rural area (as defined in section 343(a)
5 of the Consolidated Farm and Rural Development
6 Act (7 U.S.C. 1991(a))) of the United States.

7 (2) ELIGIBLE FEDERAL LAND.—The term “eli-
8 gible Federal land” means any unit of Federal land,
9 including Indian forest land or rangeland, that has
10 been identified by the Secretary, in coordination
11 with the Secretary of the Interior, as high or very
12 high priority for ecological restoration involving
13 vegetation removal under subsection (b).

14 (3) PROGRAM.—The term “Program” means
15 the Timber Production Expansion Guaranteed Loan
16 Program of the Department of Agriculture.

17 (4) SECRETARY.—The term “Secretary” means
18 the Secretary of Agriculture.

19 (b) IDENTIFICATION OF ELIGIBLE FEDERAL
20 LAND.—Not later than 1 year after the date of enactment
21 of this Act, and not less frequently than once every 5 years
22 thereafter, the Secretary, in coordination with the Sec-
23 retary of the Interior, shall—

24 (1) review Federal land under the jurisdiction
25 of the Secretary or the Secretary of the Interior; and

1 (2) identify units of Federal land that, as deter-
2 mined by the Secretaries, are high or very high pri-
3 ority for ecological restoration involving vegetation
4 removal.

5 (c) LOAN GUARANTEES.—

6 (1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary, in coordina-
7 tion with the Secretary of the Interior, shall provide
8 loan guarantees under the Program to eligible enti-
9 ties seeking to establish, reopen, retrofit, expand, or
10 improve a sawmill or other wood-processing facility
11 located within a 250-mile radius of, a unit of eligible
12 Federal land, if the presence of a sawmill or other
13 wood-processing facility would, or does, substantially
14 decrease the cost of conducting ecological restoration
15 projects involving vegetation removal on the eligible
16 Federal land, as determined by the Secretary, in co-
17 ordination with the Secretary of the Interior.

18 (2) CONDITIONS.—A loan guarantee under the
19 Program shall be provided in accordance with such
20 conditions as the Secretary determines to be nec-
21 essary.

22 (3) MAXIMUM AMOUNT.—The Secretary may
23 provide a total of not more than \$220,000,000 in
24 loan guarantees under the Program.

PART III—TIMBER INNOVATION

SEC. 8431. COMMUNITY WOOD FACILITIES PROGRAM.

Section 9013 of the Farm Security and Rural Investment Act of 2002 (7 U.S.C. 8113) is amended—

(1) in the heading, by striking “**COMMUNITY WOOD ENERGY AND WOOD INNOVATION PROGRAM**” and inserting “**COMMUNITY WOOD FACILITIES PROGRAM**”;

(2) in subsection (a)—

(A) in paragraph (1)(A)(iii), in the matter preceding subclause (I), by striking “woody biomass, including residuals” and inserting “primarily forest biomass, including processing or manufacturing residuals”; and

(B) in paragraph (4), by striking “Community Wood Energy and Wood Innovation Program” and inserting “Community Wood Facilities Program”;

(3) in subsection (b), by striking “to be known as” and all that follows through the period at the end and inserting “to be known as the ‘Community Wood Facilities Program’.”;

(4) in subsection (d), by striking “exceed—” in the matter preceding paragraph (1) and all that follows through the period at the end of paragraph (2) 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 by North American manufacturing; or

5 “(3) include 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 nonfuel
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, nonprivate, 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 or biostimulant facilities using sawmill
13 derived residuals;

14 (E) conduct research on new and innova-
15 tive uses of biochar;

16 (F) demonstrate cost-effective market op-
17 portunities for biochar and biochar-based prod-
18 ucts;

19 (G) carry out any other activities the cov-
20 ered Secretaries determine appropriate; or

21 (H) do any combination of the activities
22 specified in subparagraphs (A) through (F).

23 (4) PRIORITY.—In selecting proposals under
24 paragraph (2), the covered Secretaries shall give pri-
25 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 the purposes
15 specified 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 the pur-
5 poses specified in subparagraphs (A) through
6 (C).

7 (5) FEEDSTOCK REQUIREMENTS.—To the max-
8 imum extent practicable, an eligible entity that car-
9 ries out a biochar demonstration project under this
10 subsection shall, with respect to the feedstock used
11 under such project, derive at least 50 percent of
12 such feedstock from forest thinning and manage-
13 ment activities, including mill residues, conducted on
14 National Forest System lands or public lands.

15 (6) REVIEW OF BIOCHAR DEMONSTRATION.—

16 (A) IN GENERAL.—The covered Secretaries
17 shall conduct regionally specific research, in-
18 cluding economic analyses and life-cycle assess-
19 ments, on any biochar produced from a dem-
20 onstration project carried out under the pro-
21 gram established in paragraph (1)(A), includ-
22 ing—

23 (i) the effects of such biochar on—

24 (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 coproduct 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 (c).

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 coproduct 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 or biostimulants and create related
3 jobs, particularly in 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 (b) and each research and
 3 development grant carried out under subsection (c).
 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-

cerned shall implement standardized procedures for tracking data related to hazardous fuels reduction activities carried out by the Secretary concerned.

(2) ELEMENTS.—The standardized procedures required under paragraph (1) shall include—

(A) regular, standardized data reviews of the accuracy and timely input of data used to track hazardous fuels reduction activities;

(B) verification methods that validate whether those data accurately correlate to the hazardous fuels reduction activities carried out by the Secretary concerned;

(C) an analysis of the short- and long-term effectiveness of the hazardous fuels reduction activities on reducing the risk of wildfire; and

(D) for hazardous fuels reduction activities that occur partially within the wildland-urban interface, methods to distinguish which acres are located within the wildland-urban interface and which acres are located outside the wildland-urban interface.

(3) REPORT.—Not later than 45 days after implementing the standardized procedures required under paragraph (1), the Secretary concerned shall 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) FEDERAL LAND.—The term “Federal land”
21 means any land under the jurisdiction of—

22 (A) the Secretary; or

23 (B) the Secretary of the Interior.

24 (2) HAZARDOUS FUELS REDUCTION ACTIV-
25 ITY.—

1 (A) IN GENERAL.—The term “hazardous
2 fuels reduction activity” means any vegetation
3 management activity to reduce the risk of wild-
4 fire, including mechanical treatments, grazing,
5 and prescribed burning.

6 (B) EXCLUSION.—The term “hazardous
7 fuels reduction activity” does not include the
8 awarding of a contract to conduct an activity
9 described in subparagraph (A).

10 (3) SECRETARY CONCERNED.—The term “Sec-
11 retary concerned” means—

12 (A) the Secretary of Agriculture, with re-
13 spect to National Forest System lands; and

14 (B) the Secretary of the Interior, with re-
15 spect to public lands.

16 (e) NO ADDITIONAL FUNDS AUTHORIZED.—

17 (1) IN GENERAL.—No additional funds are au-
18 thorized to carry out this section.

19 (2) SUBJECT TO APPROPRIATIONS.—The activi-
20 ties authorized by this section are subject to the
21 availability of appropriations made in advance for
22 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 a profit-
21 making corporation or business enterprise; and

22 (C) is engaged in a public or semipublic
23 activity 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 granting, modifying, or monitoring the authorization
6 for harvest of the forest botanical products, includ-
7 ing the costs of any environmental or other analysis.

8 (3) SECURITY.—The Secretary, acting through
9 the Chief of the Forest Service, may require a per-
10 son assessed a fee under this subsection to provide
11 security to ensure that the Secretary receives the
12 fees imposed under this subsection from the person.

13 (c) SUSTAINABLE HARVEST LEVELS FOR FOREST
14 BOTANICAL PRODUCTS.—

15 (1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary, acting
16 through the Chief of the Forest Service, shall—

17 (A) conduct appropriate analyses to deter-
18 mine whether and how the harvest of forest bo-
19 tanical products on National Forest System
20 lands can be conducted on a sustainable basis;
21 and

22 (B) establish procedures and timeframes to
23 monitor and revise the harvest levels established
24 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
21 roads 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 **SEC. 8511. DOUG LAMALFA SECURE RURAL SCHOOLS ACT.**

10 Section 1 of the Secure Rural Schools and Commu-
 11 nity Self-Determination Act of 2000 (16 U.S.C. 7101
 12 note) is amended by inserting “or the ‘Doug LaMalfa Se-
 13 cure Rural Schools Act’” before the period at the end.

14 **SEC. 8512. MINOR RANGE IMPROVEMENTS UNDER FOREST**
 15 **SERVICE GRAZING PERMITS.**

16 (a) MINOR RANGE IMPROVEMENTS BY PERMIT-
 17 TEES.—Not later than 1 year after the date of the enact-
 18 ment of this Act, the Secretary shall issue regulations al-
 19 lowing a permittee to carry out a minor range improve-
 20 ment on the lands with respect to which the permittee
 21 holds a grazing permit if—

22 (1) the permittee notifies the applicable Forest
 23 Service district ranger at least 30 days prior to car-
 24 rying out such minor range improvement; and

25 (2) such applicable district ranger—

1 (A) approves the minor range improve-
2 ment; or

3 (B) does not respond to notification re-
4 garding the minor range improvement.

5 (b) RANGE IMPROVEMENTS BY THE SECRETARY.—
6 The Secretary, acting through the applicable district rang-
7 er, shall—

8 (1) respond to a covered request not later than
9 30 days after the date on which such request is sub-
10 mitted; and

11 (2) if such response confirms that the Sec-
12 retary, acting through the applicable district ranger,
13 will carry out the range improvement requested—

14 (A) notify the district office that serves the
15 area in which such range improvement will
16 occur; and

17 (B) expedite the carrying out of such
18 range improvement using any available adminis-
19 trative tools or authorities, including categorical
20 exclusions.

21 (c) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

22 (1) CFR TERMS.—The terms “grazing permit”,
23 “permittee”, and “range improvement” have the
24 meanings given those terms, respectively, in section

1 222.1 of title 36, Code of Federal Regulations (or
2 any successor regulations).

3 (2) COVERED REQUEST.—The term “covered
4 request” means a request submitted by a permittee
5 to the Secretary requesting that the Secretary carry
6 out a range improvement.

7 (3) MINOR RANGE IMPROVEMENT.—The term
8 “minor range improvement” includes improvements
9 to existing fences and fence lines, wells, water pipe-
10 lines, and stock tanks.

11 **SEC. 8513. ELIGIBILITY OF NATIONAL GRASSLANDS FOR**
12 **GRAZING LEASES AND PERMITS.**

13 (a) IN GENERAL.—Section 402(a) of the Federal
14 Land Policy and Management Act of 1976 (43 U.S.C.
15 1752(a)) is amended by striking “lands within National
16 Forests in the sixteen contiguous Western States” and in-
17 serting “National Forest System (as defined in section
18 11(a) of the Forest and Rangeland Renewable Resources
19 Planning Act of 1974 (16 U.S.C. 1609(a))) land”.

20 (b) EFFECT.—Nothing in the amendment made by
21 subsection (a) modifies or affects—

22 (1) the applicability to national grasslands of
23 any provision of the Federal Land Policy and Man-
24 agement Act of 1976 (43 U.S.C. 1701 et seq.) other
25 than section 402 of that Act (43 U.S.C. 1752);

1 (2) title III of the Bankhead-Jones Farm Ten-
2 ant Act (7 U.S.C. 1010 et seq.); or

3 (3) section 11 of the Public Rangelands Im-
4 provement Act of 1978 (43 U.S.C. 1907).

5 **Subtitle F—White Oak Resilience**

6 **SEC. 8601. SHORT TITLE.**

7 This subtitle may be cited as the “White Oak Resil-
8 ience Act”.

9 **SEC. 8602. WHITE OAK RESTORATION INITIATIVE COALI-** 10 **TION.**

11 (a) IN GENERAL.—The White Oak Restoration Ini-
12 tiative Coalition shall be established—

13 (1) as a voluntary collaborative group of Fed-
14 eral, State, Tribal, and local governments and pri-
15 vate and nongovernmental organizations to carry out
16 the duties described in subsection (b); and

17 (2) in accordance with the charter titled “White
18 Oak Initiative Coalition Charter” adopted by the
19 White Oak Initiative Board of Directors on March
20 21, 2023 (or any successor charter).

21 (b) DUTIES.—In addition to the duties specified in
22 the charter described in subsection (a)(2), the duties of
23 the White Oak Restoration Initiative Coalition are—

1 (1) to coordinate Federal, State, Tribal, local,
2 private, and nongovernmental restoration of white
3 oak in the United States; and

4 (2) to make program and policy recommenda-
5 tions, consistent with applicable forest management
6 plans, with respect to—

7 (A) changes necessary to address Federal
8 and State policies that impede activities to im-
9 prove the health, resiliency, and natural regen-
10 eration of white oak;

11 (B) adopting or modifying Federal and
12 State policies to increase the pace and scale of
13 white oak regeneration and resiliency of white
14 oak;

15 (C) options to enhance communication, co-
16 ordination, and collaboration between forest
17 landowners, particularly for cross-boundary
18 projects, to improve the health, resiliency, and
19 natural regeneration of white oak;

20 (D) research gaps that should be ad-
21 dressed to improve the best available science on
22 white oak;

23 (E) outreach to forest landowners with
24 white oak or white oak regeneration potential;
25 and

1 (F) options and policies necessary to im-
2 prove the quality and quantity of white oak in
3 tree nurseries.

4 (c) ADMINISTRATIVE SUPPORT, TECHNICAL SERV-
5 ICES, AND STAFF SUPPORT.—The Secretary of the Inte-
6 rior and the Secretary shall make such personnel available
7 to the White Oak Restoration Initiative Coalition for ad-
8 ministrative support, technical services, and development
9 and dissemination of educational materials as the Sec-
10 retary of the Interior or the Secretary, as applicable, de-
11 termines necessary to carry out this section.

12 **SEC. 8603. FOREST SERVICE PILOT PROGRAM.**

13 (a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary, acting through the
14 Chief of the Forest Service, shall establish and carry out
15 5 pilot projects in national forests to restore white oak
16 in such forests through white oak restoration and natural
17 regeneration practices that are consistent with applicable
18 forest management plans.

19 (b) NATIONAL FORESTS RESERVED OR WITHDRAWN
20 FROM PUBLIC DOMAIN.—At least 3 pilot projects re-
21 quired under subsection (a) shall be carried out on na-
22 tional forests reserved or withdrawn from the public do-
23 main.

24 (c) AUTHORITY TO ENTER INTO COOPERATIVE
25 AGREEMENTS.—The Secretary may enter into cooperative

1 agreements to carry out the pilot projects required under
2 subsection (a).

3 (d) SUNSET.—The authority under this section shall
4 terminate on the date that is 7 years after the date of
5 enactment of this Act.

6 **SEC. 8604. WHITE OAK REGENERATION AND UPLAND OAK**
7 **HABITAT.**

8 (a) ESTABLISHMENT.—Not later than 180 days after
9 the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary shall
10 establish a nonregulatory program to be known as the
11 “White Oak and Upland Oak Habitat Regeneration Pro-
12 gram” (in this section referred to as the “Program”).

13 (b) DUTIES.—In carrying out the Program, the Sec-
14 retary shall—

15 (1) draw upon the best available science and
16 management plans for species of white oak to iden-
17 tify, prioritize, and implement restoration and con-
18 servation activities that will improve the growth of
19 white oak within the United States;

20 (2) collaborate and coordinate with the White
21 Oak Restoration Initiative Coalition to prioritize
22 white oak restoration initiatives;

23 (3) adopt a white oak restoration strategy
24 that—

1 (A) supports the implementation of a
2 shared set of science-based restoration and con-
3 servation activities developed in accordance with
4 paragraph (1);

5 (B) targets cost-effective projects with
6 measurable results; and

7 (C) maximizes restoration outcomes with
8 no net gain of Federal full-time equivalent em-
9 ployees; and

10 (4) establish the voluntary grant and technical
11 assistance programs in accordance with subsection
12 (e).

13 (c) COORDINATION.—In establishing the Program,
14 the Secretary, acting through the Chief of the Forest Serv-
15 ice, shall consult with—

16 (1) the heads of Federal agencies, including—

17 (A) the Director of the United States Fish
18 and Wildlife Service; and

19 (B) the Chief of the Natural Resources
20 Conservation Service; and

21 (2) the Governor of each State in which res-
22 toration efforts will be carried out pursuant to the
23 Program.

24 (d) PURPOSES.—The purposes of the Program in-
25 clude—

1 (1) coordinating restoration and conservation
2 activities among Federal, State, Tribal, and local en-
3 tities and conservation partners to address white oak
4 restoration priorities;

5 (2) improving and regenerating white oak and
6 upland oak forests and the wildlife habitat such for-
7 ests provide;

8 (3) carrying out coordinated restoration and
9 conservation activities that lead to the increased
10 growth of species of white oak in native white oak
11 regions on Federal, State, Tribal, and private land;

12 (4) facilitating strategic planning to maximize
13 the resilience of white oak systems and habitats
14 under changing climate conditions;

15 (5) engaging the public through outreach, edu-
16 cation, and citizen involvement to increase capacity
17 and support for coordinated restoration and con-
18 servation activities for species of white oak; and

19 (6) increasing scientific capacity to support the
20 planning, monitoring, and research activities nec-
21 essary to carry out such coordinated restoration and
22 conservation activities.

23 (e) GRANTS AND ASSISTANCE.—

24 (1) IN GENERAL.—To the extent that funds are
25 available to carry out this section, the Secretary

1 shall establish a voluntary grant and technical as-
2 sistance program (in this section referred to as the
3 “grant program”) to achieve the purposes of the
4 Program, as described in subsection (d).

5 (2) ADMINISTRATION.—

6 (A) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall
7 enter into a cooperative agreement with the Na-
8 tional Fish and Wildlife Foundation (in this
9 subsection referred to as the “Foundation”) to
10 manage and administer the grant program.

11 (B) FUNDING.—Subject to the availability
12 of appropriations made in advance for such
13 purpose, after the Secretary enters into a coop-
14 erative agreement with the Foundation under
15 subparagraph (A), the Foundation shall, for
16 each fiscal year, receive amounts to carry out
17 this subsection in an advance payment of the
18 entire amount on October 1, or as soon as prac-
19 ticable thereafter, of that fiscal year.

20 (3) APPLICATION OF NATIONAL FISH AND
21 WILDLIFE FOUNDATION ESTABLISHMENT ACT.—
22 Amounts received by the Foundation to carry out
23 the grant program shall be subject to the National
24 Fish and Wildlife Foundation Establishment Act (16

1 U.S.C. 3701 et seq.), excluding section 10(a) of that
2 Act (16 U.S.C. 3709(a)).

3 (f) SUNSET.—The authority under this section shall
4 terminate on the date that is 7 years after the date of
5 the enactment of this Act.

6 **SEC. 8605. TREE NURSERY SHORTAGES.**

7 (a) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 1 year after the
8 date of the enactment of this section, the Secretary, acting
9 through the Chief of the Forest Service, shall—

10 (1) develop and implement a national strategy
11 to increase the capacity of Federal, State, Tribal,
12 and private tree nurseries to address the nationwide
13 shortage of tree seedlings; and

14 (2) coordinate such strategy with—

15 (A) the national reforestation strategy of
16 the Forest Service; and

17 (B) each regional implementation plan for
18 national forests.

19 (b) ELEMENTS.—The strategy required under sub-
20 section (a) shall—

21 (1) be based on the best available science and
22 data; and

23 (2) identify and address—

24 (A) regional seedling shortages of bareroot
25 and container tree seedlings;

1 (B) regional reforestation opportunities
2 and the seedling supply necessary to fulfill such
3 opportunities;

4 (C) opportunities to enhance seedling di-
5 versity and close gaps in seed inventories; and

6 (D) barriers to expanding, enhancing, or
7 creating new infrastructure to increase nursery
8 capacity.

9 **SEC. 8606. SHRUBLAND WILDFIRE MITIGATION STUDY.**

10 (a) STUDY.—

11 (1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 1 year after
12 the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary
13 shall conduct a study to evaluate the effectiveness of
14 wildfire mitigation methods available to the Forest
15 Service as a means of reducing the risk of wildfire
16 in covered ecosystems and the severity of damages
17 from such wildfire in communities within or adjacent
18 to covered ecosystems.

19 (2) ELEMENTS.—In carrying out the study
20 under paragraph (1), the Secretary shall, with re-
21 spect to covered ecosystems—

22 (A) evaluate the effectiveness and longevity
23 of—

1 (i) hazardous fuels management ac-
2 tivities, including fuel modification through
3 the use of strategic fuel breaks; and

4 (ii) practices for maintaining the
5 health of native ecosystems, including—

6 (I) mitigating the development
7 and spread of invasive species, includ-
8 ing invasive weeds, grasses, and other
9 vegetation; or

10 (II) improving the establishment
11 of native shrub and associated species
12 on lands affected by wildfire;

13 (B) evaluate the effectiveness of policies
14 and protocols of the Forest Service with respect
15 to limiting unintentional ember ignitions attrib-
16 utable to the public or man-made structures, in-
17 cluding electrical infrastructure;

18 (C) study the conditions (including weath-
19 er, seasonality, and topography) under which
20 each wildfire mitigation method evaluated under
21 the study is most and least effective in reducing
22 the risk of wildland fire;

23 (D) identify administrative, operational,
24 and budgetary factors that impede the ability of
25 wildland fire managers and wildland firefighters

1 to implement wildfire mitigation methods evalu-
2 ated under the study; and

3 (E) evaluate the effectiveness of partner-
4 ships between the Forest Service and non-Fed-
5 eral entities in reducing the vulnerability of
6 homes, roadways, and other high-risk structures
7 to ember ignition.

8 (3) COORDINATION; CONSULTATION.—

9 (A) INTERAGENCY COORDINATION.—In
10 carrying out the study under paragraph (1), the
11 Secretary shall, to the extent practicable and to
12 avoid the duplication of research activities of
13 the Federal Government, act in coordination
14 with—

15 (i) entities within the Forest Service
16 with expertise in wildfire risk reduction
17 and ecology in covered ecosystems, includ-
18 ing the Shrub Sciences Laboratory and the
19 Maintaining Resilient Dryland Ecosystems
20 program; and

21 (ii) the heads of Federal agencies con-
22 ducting wildfire mitigation methods or haz-
23 ardous fuels management activities in cov-
24 ered ecosystems, including the Secretary of
25 the Interior.

1 (B) CONSULTATION.—In carrying out the
2 study under paragraph (1), the Secretary may,
3 and is encouraged to, solicit consultation from
4 non-Federal public and private entities with rel-
5 evant expertise in wildfire mitigation methods
6 in covered ecosystems, as determined by the
7 Secretary.

8 (b) REPORT.—Not later than 90 days after the date
9 on which the study under subsection (a)(1) is complete,
10 the Secretary shall submit to the relevant Congressional
11 committees, and make publicly available, a report that in-
12 cludes—

13 (1) a summary of the results of the study;
14 (2) based on the results of the study, identifica-
15 tion by the Secretary of—

16 (A) best practices for land managers in re-
17 ducing the risk of wildfire in covered eco-
18 systems; and

19 (B) any areas implicated by the study that
20 merit further research;

21 (3) a comparison of the policies and protocols of
22 the Forest Service with respect to reducing the risk
23 of wildfire in covered ecosystems and the best prac-
24 tices identified under paragraph (2)(A); and

1 (4) an evaluation by the Secretary of opportuni-
2 ties to improve coordination between the Forest
3 Service and non-Federal entities on activities to im-
4 prove wildfire resilience in covered ecosystems and
5 reduce risks of harm from wildfire to the built envi-
6 ronment, particularly in the wildland-urban inter-
7 face.

8 (c) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

9 (1) COVERED ECOSYSTEMS.—The term “cov-
10 ered ecosystems” means shrubland ecosystems, in-
11 cluding—

12 (A) chaparral;

13 (B) coastal sage scrub;

14 (C) sagebrush;

15 (D) shrub-steppe;

16 (E) xeric shrubland; and

17 (F) any other dryland shrub ecosystem in
18 which wildfire management presents a signifi-
19 cant challenge, as determined by the Secretary.

20 (2) HAZARDOUS FUELS MANAGEMENT ACTIV-
21 ITY.—The term “hazardous fuels management activ-
22 ity” means an activity to manage vegetation to re-
23 duce the risk of wildfire.

1 (3) RELEVANT CONGRESSIONAL COMMIT-
2 TEES.—The term “relevant Congressional commit-
3 tees” means—

4 (A) the committees on Appropriations,
5 Natural Resources, and Agriculture of the
6 House of Representatives; and

7 (B) the committees on Appropriations, En-
8 ergy and Natural Resources, and Agriculture,
9 Nutrition, and Forestry of the Senate.

10 (4) SECRETARY.—The term “Secretary” means
11 the Secretary of Agriculture, acting through the
12 Chief of the Forest Service.

13 (5) WILDFIRE MITIGATION METHOD.—The
14 term “wildfire mitigation method” means an activ-
15 ity, including a hazardous fuels management activ-
16 ity, undertaken to prevent the ignition of a wildfire
17 or reduce the severity and negative effects of a wild-
18 fire.

19 (6) WILDLAND-URBAN INTERFACE.—The term
20 “wildland-urban interface” has the meaning given
21 such term in section 101 of the Healthy Forests
22 Restoration Act of 2003 (16 U.S.C. 6511).

1 **Subtitle G—Save Our Sequoias**

2 **SEC. 8701. SHORT TITLE; DEFINITIONS.**

3 (a) SHORT TITLE.—This subtitle may be cited as the
4 “Save Our Sequoias Act”.

5 (b) DEFINITIONS.—In this subtitle:

6 (1) ASSESSMENT.—The term “Assessment”
7 means the Giant Sequoia Health and Resiliency As-
8 sessment required by section 8704.

9 (2) COALITION.—The term “Coalition” means
10 the Giant Sequoia Lands Coalition codified under
11 section 8703(a).

12 (3) COLLABORATIVE PROCESS.—The term “col-
13 laborative process” means a collaborative process as
14 described in section 4003(b)(2) of the Omnibus Pub-
15 lic Land Management Act of 2009 (16 U.S.C.
16 7303(b)(2)).

17 (4) COVERED NATIONAL FOREST SYSTEM
18 LANDS.—The term “covered National Forest System
19 lands” means the proclaimed National Forest Sys-
20 tem lands reserved or withdrawn from the public do-
21 main of the United States covering the Sequoia Na-
22 tional Forest and Giant Sequoia National Monu-
23 ment, Sierra National Forest, and Tahoe National
24 Forest.

1 (5) COVERED PUBLIC LANDS.—The term “cov-
2 ered public lands” means—

3 (A) the Case Mountain Extensive Recre-
4 ation Management Area in California managed
5 by the Bureau of Land Management; and

6 (B) Kings Canyon National Park, Sequoia
7 National Park, and Yosemite National Park in
8 California managed by the National Park Serv-
9 ice.

10 (6) GIANT SEQUOIA.—The term “giant se-
11 quoia” means a tree of the species *Sequoiadendron*
12 *giganteum*.

13 (7) PROTECTION PROJECT.—The term “Protec-
14 tion Project” means a Giant Sequoia Protection
15 Project carried out under section 8705.

16 (8) REFORESTATION.—The term “reforest-
17 ation” means the act of renewing tree cover, taking
18 into consideration species composition and resilience,
19 by establishing young trees through—

20 (A) natural regeneration;

21 (B) natural regeneration with site prepara-
22 tion and vegetation competition control; or

23 (C) planting or direct seeding.

24 (9) REHABILITATION.—The term “rehabilita-
25 tion” means any action taken during the 5-year pe-

1 riod beginning on the last day of a wildland fire to
2 repair or improve fire-impacted lands which are un-
3 likely to recover to management-approved conditions.

4 (10) RELEVANT CONGRESSIONAL COMMIT-
5 TEES.—The term “relevant Congressional Commit-
6 tees” means—

7 (A) the Committees on Natural Resources,
8 Agriculture, and Appropriations of the House of
9 Representatives; and

10 (B) the Committees on Energy and Nat-
11 ural Resources, Agriculture, Nutrition, and
12 Forestry, and Appropriations of the Senate.

13 (11) RESPONSIBLE OFFICIAL.—The term “re-
14 sponsible official” means an employee of the Depart-
15 ment of the Interior or Forest Service who has the
16 authority to make and implement a decision on a
17 proposed action.

18 (12) SECRETARY.—The term “Secretary”
19 means the Secretary of the Interior.

20 (13) SECRETARY CONCERNED.—The term
21 “Secretary concerned” means—

22 (A) the Secretary of Agriculture, with re-
23 spect to covered National Forest System lands,
24 or their designee; and

1 (B) the Secretary of the Interior, with re-
2 spect to covered public lands, or their designee.

3 (14) STRATEGY.—The term “Strategy” means
4 the Giant Sequoia Reforestation and Rehabilitation
5 Strategy established under section 8706.

6 (15) STRIKE TEAM.—The term “Strike Team”
7 means a Giant Sequoia Strike Team established
8 under section 8707.

9 (16) TRIBE.—The term “Tribe” means the
10 Tule River Indian Tribe of the Tule River Reserva-
11 tion, California.

12 **SEC. 8702. SHARED STEWARDSHIP AGREEMENT FOR GIANT**
13 **SEQUOIAS.**

14 (a) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 90 days after re-
15 ceiving a request from the Governor of the State of Cali-
16 fornia or the Tribe, the Secretary shall enter into or ex-
17 pand an existing shared stewardship agreement or enter
18 into a similar agreement with the Secretary of Agriculture,
19 the Governor of the State of California, and the Tribe to
20 jointly carry out the short-term and long-term manage-
21 ment and conservation of giant sequoias.

22 (b) PARTICIPATION.—

23 (1) IN GENERAL.—If the Secretary has not re-
24 ceived a request from the Governor of the State of
25 California or the Tribe under subsection (a) before

1 the date that is 90 days after the date of enactment
2 of this Act, the Secretary shall enter into the agree-
3 ment under subsection (a) and jointly implement
4 such agreement with the Secretary of Agriculture.

5 (2) FUTURE PARTICIPATION.—If the Secretary
6 receives a request from the Governor of the State of
7 California or the Tribe any time after entering into
8 the agreement with the Secretary of Agriculture
9 under paragraph (1), the Secretary shall accept the
10 Governor of the State of California or the Tribe as
11 a party to such agreement.

12 **SEC. 8703. GIANT SEQUOIA LANDS COALITION.**

13 (a) CODIFICATION.—The Coalition is the entity es-
14 tablished under the charter titled “Giant Sequoia Lands
15 Coalition Charter” (or successor charter) signed during
16 the period beginning June 2, 2022 and ending August 2,
17 2022 by each of the following:

18 (1) The National Park Service, representing Se-
19 quioia and Kings Canyon National Parks.

20 (2) The National Park Service, representing
21 Yosemite National Park.

22 (3) The Forest Service, representing Sequoia
23 National Forest and Giant Sequoia National Monu-
24 ment.

1 (4) The Forest Service, representing Sierra Na-
2 tional Forest.

3 (5) The Forest Service, representing Tahoe Na-
4 tional Forest.

5 (6) The Bureau of Land Management, rep-
6 resenting Case Mountain Extensive Recreation Man-
7 agement Area.

8 (7) The Tribe, representing the Tule River In-
9 dian Reservation.

10 (8) The State of California, representing
11 Calaveras Big Trees State Park.

12 (9) The State of California, representing Moun-
13 tain Home Demonstration State Forest.

14 (10) The University of California, Berkeley,
15 representing Whitaker's Research Forest.

16 (11) The County of Tulare, California, rep-
17 resenting Balch Park.

18 (b) DUTIES.—In addition to the duties specified in
19 the charter referenced in subsection (a), the Coalition
20 shall—

21 (1) produce the Assessment under section 8704;

22 (2) observe implementation, and provide policy
23 recommendations to the Secretary concerned, with
24 respect to—

1 (A) Protection Projects carried out under
2 section 8705; and

3 (B) the Strategy established under section
4 8706;

5 (3) facilitate collaboration and coordination on
6 Protection Projects, particularly projects that cross
7 jurisdictional boundaries;

8 (4) facilitate information sharing, including best
9 available science as described in section 8704(d) and
10 mapping resources; and

11 (5) support the development and dissemination
12 of educational materials and programs that inform
13 the public about the threats to the health and resil-
14 iency of giant sequoia groves and actions being
15 taken to reduce the risk to such groves from high-
16 severity wildfire, insects, and drought.

17 (c) ADMINISTRATIVE SUPPORT, TECHNICAL SERV-
18 ICES, AND STAFF SUPPORT.—The Secretary shall make
19 personnel of the Department of the Interior available to
20 the Coalition for administrative support, technical serv-
21 ices, development and dissemination of educational mate-
22 rials, and staff support that the Secretary determines nec-
23 essary to carry out this section.

24 (d) PUBLIC MEETING REQUIREMENT.—

1 (1) IN GENERAL.—Except as provided in para-
2 graph (2), the Coalition shall provide for public ob-
3 servation at no less than one meeting annually.

4 (2) CLOSED SESSIONS.—The Coalition may
5 close portions of a meeting as provided in paragraph
6 (1) to the public only when discussion will involve—

7 (A) sensitive law enforcement, security, or
8 emergency response matters, the public disclo-
9 sure of which would compromise public safety;
10 or

11 (B) confidential commercial information,
12 private property information, or landowner in-
13 formation.

14 **SEC. 8704. GIANT SEQUOIA HEALTH AND RESILIENCY AS-**
15 **SESSMENT.**

16 (a) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 6 months after the
17 date of the enactment of this Act, the Coalition shall sub-
18 mit to the relevant Congressional Committees a Giant Se-
19 quoia Health and Resiliency Assessment that, based on
20 the best available science—

21 (1) identifies—

22 (A) each giant sequoia grove that has ex-
23 perienced a—

24 (i) stand-replacing disturbance; or

1 (ii) disturbance but continues to have
2 living giant sequoias within the grove, in-
3 cluding identifying the tree mortality and
4 regeneration of giant sequoias within such
5 grove;

6 (B) each giant sequoia grove that is at
7 high risk of experiencing a stand-replacing dis-
8 turbance;

9 (C) lands—

10 (i) contiguous or adjacent to giant se-
11 quoa groves that are at risk of experi-
12 encing high-severity wildfires that could
13 adversely impact such giant sequoia
14 groves; or

15 (ii) in which the placement of fuel
16 breaks could reduce the risk of high-sever-
17 ity wildfires that could adversely impact
18 giant sequoia groves; and

19 (D) each giant sequoia grove that has ex-
20 perience a disturbance and is unlikely to natu-
21 rally regenerate and is in need of reforestation;

22 (2) analyzes the resiliency of each giant sequoia
23 grove to threats, such as—

24 (A) high-severity wildfire;

25 (B) insects, including beetle kill; and

1 (C) drought;

2 (3) examines how historical, Tribal, or current
3 approaches to wildland fire suppression and forest
4 management activities across various jurisdictions
5 have impacted the health and resiliency of giant se-
6 quia groves with respect to—

7 (A) high-severity wildfires;

8 (B) insects, including beetle kill; and

9 (C) drought; and

10 (4) includes program and policy recommenda-
11 tions that address—

12 (A) options to enhance communication, co-
13 ordination, and collaboration, particularly for
14 cross-boundary projects, to improve the health
15 and resiliency of giant sequoias; and

16 (B) research gaps that should be addressed
17 to improve the best available science on the
18 giant sequoias.

19 (b) ANNUAL UPDATES.—Not later than 1 year after
20 the submission of the Assessment under subsection (a),
21 and annually thereafter, the Coalition shall submit an up-
22 dated Assessment to the relevant Congressional Commit-
23 tees that—

1 (1) includes any new data, information, or best
2 available science that has changed or become avail-
3 able since the previous Assessment was submitted;

4 (2) with respect to Protection Projects—

5 (A) includes information on the number of
6 Protection Projects initiated the previous year
7 and the estimated timeline for completing those
8 projects;

9 (B) includes information on the number of
10 Protection Projects planned in the upcoming
11 year and the estimated timeline for completing
12 those projects;

13 (C) provides status updates and long-term
14 monitoring reports on giant sequoia groves
15 after the completion of Protection Projects; and

16 (D) if the Secretary concerned failed to re-
17 duce hazardous fuels in at least 3 giant sequoia
18 groves in the previous year, a written expla-
19 nation that includes—

20 (i) a detailed explanation of what im-
21 pediments resulted in failing to reduce haz-
22 ardous fuels in at least 3 giant sequoia
23 groves; and

24 (ii) a detailed explanation of what ac-
25 tions the Secretary concerned is taking to

1 ensure that hazardous fuels are reduced in
2 at least 3 giant sequoia groves the fol-
3 lowing year; and

4 (3) with respect to reforestation and rehabilita-
5 tion of giant sequoias—

6 (A) contains updates on the implementa-
7 tion of the Strategy under section 8706, includ-
8 ing grove-level data on reforestation and reha-
9 bilitation activities; and

10 (B) provides status updates and moni-
11 toring reports on giant sequoia groves that have
12 experienced reforestation or rehabilitation as
13 part of the Strategy under section 8706.

14 (c) DASHBOARD.—

15 (1) REQUIREMENT TO MAINTAIN.—The Coali-
16 tion shall create and maintain a website that—

17 (A) publishes the Assessment, annual up-
18 dates to the Assessment, and other educational
19 materials developed by the Coalition;

20 (B) contains searchable information about
21 individual giant sequoia groves, including the—

22 (i) resiliency of such groves to threats
23 described in paragraphs (1) and (2) of
24 subsection (a);

1 (ii) Protection Projects that have been
2 proposed, initiated, or completed in such
3 groves; and

4 (iii) reforestation and rehabilitation
5 activities that have been proposed, initi-
6 ated, or completed in such groves; and

7 (C) maintains a searchable database to
8 track—

9 (i) the status of Federal environ-
10 mental reviews and authorizations for spe-
11 cific Protection Projects and reforestation
12 and rehabilitation activities; and

13 (ii) the projected cost of Protection
14 Projects and reforestation and rehabilita-
15 tion activities.

16 (2) SEARCHABLE DATABASE.—The Coalition
17 shall include information on the status of Protection
18 Projects in the searchable database created under
19 paragraph (1)(C), including—

20 (A) a comprehensive permitting timetable;

21 (B) the status of the compliance of each
22 lead agency, cooperating agency, and partici-
23 pating agency with the permitting timetable;

24 (C) any modifications of the permitting
25 timetable required under subparagraph (A), in-

cluding an explanation as to why the permitting timetable was modified; and

(D) information about project-related public meetings, public hearings, and public comment periods, which shall be presented in English and the predominant language of the community or communities most affected by the project, as that information becomes available.

(d) BEST AVAILABLE SCIENCE.—In utilizing the best available science for the Assessment, the Coalition shall include—

(1) data and peer-reviewed research from academic institutions with a demonstrated history of studying giant sequoias and with experience analyzing distinct management strategies to improve giant sequoia resiliency;

(2) traditional ecological knowledge from the Tribe related to improving the health and resiliency of giant sequoia groves; and

(3) data from Federal, State, Tribal, and local governments or agencies, and other interested stakeholders with a demonstrated history of studying giant sequoias and with experience analyzing distinct management strategies to improve giant sequoia resiliency.

1 (e) TECHNOLOGY IMPROVEMENTS.—In carrying out
2 this section, the Secretary may enter into memorandums
3 of understanding or agreements with other Federal agen-
4 cies or departments, State or local governments, Tribal
5 governments, private entities, or academic institutions to
6 improve, with respect to the Assessment, the use and inte-
7 gration of—

8 (1) advanced remote sensing and geospatial
9 technologies;

10 (2) statistical modeling and analysis; or

11 (3) any other technology the Secretary deter-
12 mines will benefit the quality of information used in
13 the Assessment.

14 (f) PLANNING.—The Coalition shall make informa-
15 tion from this Assessment available to the Secretary con-
16 cerned and State of California to integrate into the—

17 (1) State of California’s Wildfire and Forest
18 Resilience Action Plan;

19 (2) Forest Service’s 10-year Wildfire Crisis
20 Strategy (or successor plan); and

21 (3) Department of the Interior’s Wildfire Risk
22 Five-Year Monitoring, Maintenance, and Treatment
23 Plan (or successor plan).

24 (g) RELATION TO THE NATIONAL ENVIRONMENTAL
25 POLICY ACT OF 1969.—The development and submission

1 of the Assessment under subsection (a) shall not be sub-
2 ject to the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (42
3 U.S.C. 4321 et seq.).

4 **SEC. 8705. GIANT SEQUOIA EMERGENCY RESPONSE.**

5 (a) EMERGENCY RESPONSE TO PROTECT GIANT SE-
6 QUOIAS.—

7 (1) IN GENERAL.—

8 (A) EMERGENCY DETERMINATION.—Con-
9 gress determines that—

10 (i) an emergency exists on covered
11 public lands and covered National Forest
12 System lands that makes it necessary to
13 carry out Protection Projects that take
14 needed actions to respond to the threat of
15 wildfires, insects, and drought to giant se-
16 quoias; and

17 (ii) Protection Projects are necessary
18 to control the immediate impacts of the
19 emergency described in clause (i) and are
20 needed to mitigate harm to life, property,
21 or important natural or cultural resources
22 on covered public lands and covered Na-
23 tional Forest System lands.

24 (B) APPLICATION.—The emergency deter-
25 mination established under subparagraph (A)

1 shall apply to all covered public lands and cov-
2 ered National Forest System lands.

3 (C) EXPIRATION.—The emergency deter-
4 mination established under subparagraph (A)
5 shall expire on the date that is 7 years after the
6 date of the enactment of this Act.

7 (2) IMPLEMENTATION.—While the emergency
8 determination established under paragraph (1) is in
9 effect, the following shall apply:

10 (A) The Secretary concerned, acting
11 through a responsible official, shall carry out
12 Protection Projects on covered public lands and
13 covered National Forest System lands in ac-
14 cordance with this section, all applicable land
15 management plans, and the laws (including reg-
16 ulations) applicable to the Secretary concerned.

17 (B) A responsible official shall carry out
18 Protection Projects in accordance with the fol-
19 lowing, as applicable:

20 (i) Section 220.4(b) of title 36, Code
21 of Federal Regulations (as in effect July
22 21, 2022), with respect to covered Na-
23 tional Forest System lands.

24 (ii) Section 46.150 of title 43, Code of
25 Federal Regulations (as in effect October

1 12, 2022), with respect to covered public
2 lands.

3 (iii) Section 402.05 of title 50, Code
4 of Federal Regulations (as in effect July
5 21, 2022), with respect to covered Na-
6 tional Forest System lands and covered
7 public lands.

8 (iv) Section 800.12 of title 36, Code
9 of Federal Regulations (as in effect July
10 21, 2022), with respect to covered Na-
11 tional Forest System lands and covered
12 public lands.

13 (C) The rules established under sub-
14 sections (d) and (e) of section 40807 of the In-
15 frastructure Investment and Jobs Act (16
16 U.S.C. 6592c(d), (e)) shall apply with respect
17 to Protection Projects by substituting “Protec-
18 tion Projects” for “authorized emergency action
19 under this section” each place it appears in
20 such subsections.

21 (D) Protection Projects shall be subject to
22 the requirements of section 106 of the Healthy
23 Forests Restoration Act of 2003 (16 U.S.C.
24 6516).

1 (3) PROTECTION PROJECTS.—The responsible
2 official shall carry out the following forest manage-
3 ment activities as Protection Projects under the
4 emergency determination under this section:

5 (A) Conducting hazardous fuels manage-
6 ment, including mechanical thinning, mastica-
7 tion, and prescribed burning.

8 (B) Removing hazard trees, dead trees, or
9 dying trees, as determined by the responsible
10 official.

11 (C) Removing trees to address over-
12 stocking or crowding in a forest stand, con-
13 sistent with the appropriate basal area of the
14 forest stand and the best available science, as
15 determined by the responsible official.

16 (D) Activities to address insects, disease,
17 invasive species, and vegetative encroachment of
18 a giant sequoia grove.

19 (E) Any combination of activities described
20 in this paragraph.

21 (4) REQUIREMENTS.—

22 (A) IN GENERAL.—Protection Projects
23 carried out under paragraph (3) and reforest-
24 ation and rehabilitation activities carried out
25 under this subtitle that are described by sub-

1 paragraph (C) are categorically excluded from
2 the preparation of an environmental assessment
3 or an environmental impact statement under
4 section 102 of the National Environmental Pol-
5 icy Act of 1969 (42 U.S.C. 4332).

6 (B) AVAILABILITY.—The Secretary con-
7 cerned shall use the categorical exclusion estab-
8 lished under subparagraph (A) in accordance
9 with this section.

10 (C) REQUIREMENTS.—A Protection
11 Project or reforestation or rehabilitation activity
12 is described by this subparagraph if such Pro-
13 tection Project or reforestation or rehabilitation
14 activity—

15 (i) covers an area of no more than—

16 (I) 2,000 acres within giant se-
17 quia groves; and

18 (II) 3,000 acres on lands identi-
19 fied under section 8704(a)(1)(C); and

20 (ii) occurs on Federal land or non-
21 Federal land with the consent of the non-
22 Federal landowner.

23 (D) EXTRAORDINARY CIRCUMSTANCES.—
24 The extraordinary circumstances procedures
25 under provisions (e) through (g) of section 1b.3

1 of title 7, Code of Federal Regulations, shall
2 apply to a Protection Project or reforestation or
3 rehabilitation activity that is categorically ex-
4 cluded under subparagraph (A).

5 (E) USE OF OTHER AUTHORITIES.—To the
6 maximum extent practicable, the Secretary con-
7 cerned shall use the authorities provided under
8 this section in combination with other authori-
9 ties to carry out Protection Projects, includ-
10 ing—

11 (i) good neighbor agreements entered
12 into under section 8206 of the Agricultural
13 Act of 2014 (16 U.S.C. 2113a) (as amend-
14 ed by this Act); and

15 (ii) stewardship contracting projects
16 entered into under section 604 of the
17 Healthy Forests Restoration Act of 2003
18 (16 U.S.C. 6591c) (as amended by this
19 Act).

20 (F) SAVINGS CLAUSE.—With respect to
21 joint Protection Projects and reforestation and
22 rehabilitation activities involving the Tribe,
23 nothing in this section shall be construed to add
24 any additional regulatory requirements onto the
25 Tribe.

1 (b) IMPLEMENTATION.—To the maximum extent
2 practicable, the Secretary concerned shall reduce haz-
3 ardous fuels in no fewer than 3 giant sequoia groves each
4 year.

5 (c) PUBLIC NOTICE.—The Secretary concerned shall
6 provide notice of each Protection Project on a publicly
7 available website maintained by the Secretary concerned.

8 **SEC. 8706. GIANT SEQUOIA REFORESTATION AND REHA-**
9 **BILITATION STRATEGY.**

10 (a) REFORESTATION AND REHABILITATION STRAT-
11 EGY.—

12 (1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 6 months
13 after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Sec-
14 retary, in consultation with the Coalition, shall de-
15 velop and implement a strategy, to be known as the
16 Giant Sequoia Reforestation and Rehabilitation
17 Strategy, to enhance the reforestation and rehabili-
18 tation of giant sequoia groves that—

19 (A) identifies giant sequoia groves in need
20 of reforestation or rehabilitation, giving highest
21 priority to groves identified under section
22 8704(a)(1)(A)(i);

23 (B) creates a priority list of reforestation
24 and rehabilitation activities;

25 (C) identifies and addresses—

- 1 (i) barriers to reforestation or reha-
2 bilitation, including—
3 (I) regulatory and funding bar-
4 riers;
5 (II) seedling shortages or related
6 nursery infrastructure capacity con-
7 straints;
8 (III) labor and workforce short-
9 ages;
10 (IV) technology and science gaps;
11 and
12 (V) site preparation challenges;
13 (ii) potential public-private partner-
14 ship opportunities to complete high-priority
15 reforestation or rehabilitation projects;
16 (iii) a timeline for addressing the
17 backlog of reforestation for giant sequoias
18 in the 10-year period after the agreement
19 is entered into under section 8702; and
20 (iv) strategies to ensure genetic diver-
21 sity across giant sequoia groves; and
22 (D) includes program and policy rec-
23 ommendations needed to improve the efficiency
24 or effectiveness of the Strategy.

1 (2) ASSESSMENT.—The Secretary may incor-
 2 porate the Strategy into the Assessment under sec-
 3 tion 8704.

4 (b) PRIORITY REFORESTATION PROJECTS AMEND-
 5 MENT.—Section 3(e)(4)(C)(ii)(I) of the Forest and
 6 Rangeland Renewable Resources Planning Act of 1974
 7 (16 U.S.C. 1601(e)(4)(C)(ii)(I)) is amended—

8 (1) in item (bb), by striking “and”;

9 (2) in item (cc), by striking the period and in-
 10 serting “; and”; and

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

12 “(dd) shall include reforest-
 13 ation and rehabilitation activities
 14 conducted under section 8706 of
 15 the Save Our Sequoias Act.”.

16 **SEC. 8707. GIANT SEQUOIA STRIKE TEAMS.**

17 (a) GIANT SEQUOIA STRIKE TEAMS.—

18 (1) ESTABLISHMENT.—The Secretary con-
 19 cerned shall each establish a Giant Sequoia Strike
 20 Team to assist the Secretary concerned with the im-
 21 plementation of—

22 (A) primarily, section 8705; and

23 (B) secondarily, section 8706.

24 (2) DUTIES.—Each Strike Team shall—

1 (A) assist the Secretary concerned with
2 any reviews, including analysis under the Na-
3 tional Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (42
4 U.S.C. 4321 et seq.), consultations under divi-
5 sion A of subtitle III of title 54, United States
6 Code (commonly referred to as the National
7 Historic Preservation Act), and consultations
8 under the Endangered Species Act of 1973 (16
9 U.S.C. 1531 et seq.);

10 (B) implement any necessary site prepara-
11 tion work in advance of or as part of a Protec-
12 tion Project or reforestation or rehabilitation
13 activity;

14 (C) implement Protection Projects under
15 section 8705; and

16 (D) implement reforestation or rehabilita-
17 tion activities under section 8706.

18 (3) MEMBERS.—The Secretary concerned may
19 appoint no more than 10 individuals each to serve
20 on a Strike Team comprised of—

21 (A) employees of the Department of the
22 Interior;

23 (B) employees of the Forest Service;

24 (C) private contractors from any nonprofit
25 organization, State government, Tribal Govern-

1 ment, local government, academic institution, or
2 private organization; and

3 (D) volunteers from any nonprofit organi-
4 zation, State government, Tribal Government,
5 local government, academic institution, or pri-
6 vate organization.

7 **SEC. 8708. GIANT SEQUOIA COLLABORATIVE RESTORATION**
8 **GRANTS.**

9 (a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary, in consultation
10 with the parties to the agreement under section 8702,
11 shall establish a program or expand an existing program
12 to award grants to eligible entities to advance, facilitate,
13 or improve giant sequoia health and resiliency.

14 (b) ELIGIBLE ENTITY.—The Secretary may award
15 grants under this section to any nonprofit organization,
16 Tribal Government, local government, academic institu-
17 tion, or private organization to help advance, facilitate, or
18 improve giant sequoia health and resiliency.

19 (c) PRIORITY.—In awarding grants under this sec-
20 tion, the Secretary shall give priority to eligible entities
21 that—

22 (1) primarily, are likely to have the greatest im-
23 pact on giant sequoia health and resiliency; and

24 (2) secondarily—

1 (A) are small businesses or Tribal entities,
2 particularly in rural areas; and

3 (B) create or support jobs, particularly in
4 rural areas.

5 (d) USE OF GRANT FUNDS.—Funds from grants
6 awarded under this section shall be used to—

7 (1) create, expand, or develop markets for haz-
8 ardous fuels removed under section 8705, including
9 markets for biomass and biochar;

10 (2) facilitate hazardous fuel removal under sec-
11 tion 8705, including by reducing the cost of trans-
12 porting hazardous fuels removed as part of a Protec-
13 tion Project;

14 (3) expand, enhance, develop, or create facilities
15 or land that can store or process hazardous fuels re-
16 moved under section 8705;

17 (4) establish, develop, expand, enhance, or im-
18 prove nursery capacity or infrastructure necessary to
19 facilitate the Strategy established under section
20 8706; or

21 (5) support Tribal management and conserva-
22 tion of giant sequoias, including funding for Tribal
23 historic preservation officers.

1 **SEC. 8709. GIANT SEQUOIA INSECT MONITORING AND**
2 **TECHNOLOGY.**

3 (a) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 1 year after the
4 date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary concerned
5 shall—

6 (1) develop and implement a strategy for moni-
7 toring insects in giant sequoia groves with a high-
8 risk or previous history of insect infestations; and

9 (2) seek to enter into public-private partner-
10 ships to deploy technology to assist in the short-term
11 and long-term monitoring of giant sequoia groves
12 with current or potential insect infestations.

13 (b) REPORT.—Not later than 2 years after the date
14 of enactment of this Act, the Secretary concerned shall
15 submit a report to the relevant Congressional Committees
16 that contains—

17 (1) the strategy required under subsection
18 (a)(1);

19 (2) an update on the effectiveness of the moni-
20 toring program in preventing or addressing insect
21 infestations in giant sequoia groves; and

22 (3) program and policy recommendations to
23 further address—

24 (A) research gaps regarding giant sequoia
25 resiliency to insects; and

1 (B) opportunities to improve the resiliency
2 of giant sequoias to insects.

3 **SEC. 8710. STEWARDSHIP CONTRACTING FOR GIANT SE-**
4 **QUOIAS.**

5 (a) NATIONAL PARK SERVICE.—Section 604 of the
6 Healthy Forests Restoration Act of 2003 (16 U.S.C.
7 6591c) is amended—

8 (1) by amending subsection (a)(2) to read as
9 follows:

10 “(2) DIRECTOR.—The term ‘Director’ means
11 the Director of the Bureau of Land Management
12 with respect to Bureau of Land Management lands
13 and the Director of the National Park Service with
14 respect to lands within Kings Canyon National
15 Park, Sequoia National Park, and Yosemite Na-
16 tional Park.”; and

17 (2) in subsection (b), by striking “national for-
18 ests and the public lands” and inserting “national
19 forests, public lands, and lands within Kings Canyon
20 National Park, Sequoia National Park, and Yosem-
21 ite National Park”.

22 (b) GIANT SEQUOIA STEWARDSHIP CONTRACTS.—
23 Section 604(c) of the Healthy Forests Restoration Act of
24 2003 (16 U.S.C. 6591c(c)) is amended by adding at the
25 end the following:

1 “(8) Promoting the health and resiliency of
2 giant sequoias.”.

3 (c) STEWARDSHIP CONTRACTING IN CERTAIN NA-
4 TIONAL PARKS.—Stewardship contracting projects occur-
5 ring in Kings Canyon National Park, Sequoia National
6 Park, and Yosemite National Park shall be carried out
7 in accordance with the laws (including regulations) appli-
8 cable to the National Park Service, including section
9 100753 of title 54, United States Code.

10 **SEC. 8711. GIANT SEQUOIA EMERGENCY PROTECTION PRO-**
11 **GRAM AND FUND.**

12 (a) IN GENERAL.—Chapter 1011 of title 54, United
13 States Code, is amended by inserting at the end the fol-
14 lowing:

15 **“§ 101123. Giant Sequoia Emergency Protection Pro-**
16 **gram and Fund**

17 “(a) GIANT SEQUOIA EMERGENCY PROTECTION
18 PROGRAM.—The National Park Foundation, in coordina-
19 tion with the National Forest Foundation and the Foun-
20 dation for America’s Public Lands, shall design and imple-
21 ment a comprehensive program to assist and promote phil-
22 anthropic programs of support that benefit—

23 “(1) primarily, the management and conserva-
24 tion of giant sequoias on covered public lands and

1 covered National Forest System lands to promote re-
2 siliency to wildfires, insects, and drought; and

3 “(2) secondarily, the reforestation of giant se-
4 quoias on covered public lands and covered National
5 Forest System lands impacted by wildfire.

6 “(b) GIANT SEQUOIA EMERGENCY PROTECTION
7 FUND.—

8 “(1) IN GENERAL.—The National Park Foun-
9 dation, in coordination with the National Forest
10 Foundation and the Foundation for America’s Pub-
11 lic Lands, shall establish a joint special account to
12 be known as the Giant Sequoia Emergency Protec-
13 tion Fund (referred to in this section as ‘the Fund’),
14 to be administered in support of the program estab-
15 lished under subsection (a).

16 “(2) FUNDS FOR GIANT SEQUOIA EMERGENCY
17 PROTECTION.—The Fund shall consist of any gifts,
18 devises, or bequests that are provided to the Na-
19 tional Park Foundation, National Forest Founda-
20 tion, or Foundation for America’s Public Lands for
21 the purpose described in paragraph (1).

22 “(3) USE OF FUNDS.—Subject to the avail-
23 ability of appropriations made in advance for such
24 purpose, funds shall be available to the National
25 Park Foundation, National Forest Foundation, and

1 Foundation for America's Public Lands, subject to
2 paragraph (4), for projects and activities approved
3 by the Director of the National Park Service, Chief
4 of the Forest Service, or Director of the Bureau of
5 Land Management as appropriate, or their des-
6 ignees, to—

7 “(A) primarily, support the management
8 and conservation of giant sequoias on covered
9 public lands and covered National Forest Sys-
10 tem lands to promote resiliency to wildfires, in-
11 sects, and drought; and

12 “(B) secondarily, support the reforestation
13 of giant sequoias on covered public lands and
14 covered National Forest System lands impacted
15 by wildfire.

16 “(4) TRIBAL SUPPORT.—Of the funds provided
17 to the National Park Foundation, National Forest
18 Foundation, and Foundation for America's Public
19 Lands under paragraph (3), not less than 15 per-
20 cent of such funds shall be used to support Tribal
21 management and conservation of giant sequoias in-
22 cluding funding for Tribal historic preservation offi-
23 cers.

24 “(c) SUMMARY.—Beginning 1 year after the date of
25 the enactment of this Act, the National Park Foundation,

1 National Forest Foundation, and Foundation for Amer-
 2 ica’s Public Lands shall include with their annual reports
 3 a summary of the status of the program and Fund created
 4 under this section that includes—

5 “(1) a statement of the amounts deposited in
 6 the Fund during the fiscal year;

7 “(2) the amount of the balance remaining in
 8 the Fund at the end of the fiscal year; and

9 “(3) a description of the program and projects
 10 funded during the fiscal year.

11 “(d) DEFINITIONS.—In this section, the terms ‘cov-
 12 ered public lands’ and ‘covered National Forest System
 13 lands’ have the meaning given such terms in section 1(b)
 14 of the Save Our Sequoias Act.

15 “(e) TERMINATION OF EFFECTIVENESS.—The au-
 16 thority provided by this section shall terminate 7 years
 17 after the date of enactment of the Save Our Sequoias
 18 Act.”.

19 (b) CONFORMING AMENDMENT.—The table of sec-
 20 tions for chapter 1011 of title 54, United States Code,
 21 is amended by inserting at the end the following:

“101123. Giant Sequoia Emergency Protection Program and Fund.”.

22 **TITLE IX—ENERGY**

23 **SEC. 9001. DEFINITION OF ADVANCED BIOFUEL.**

24 Section 9001(3)(B)(iv) of the Farm Security and
 25 Rural Investment Act of 2002 (7 U.S.C. 8101(3)(B)(iv))

1 is amended by inserting “and sustainable aviation fuel”
2 after “diesel-equivalent fuel”.

3 **SEC. 9002. BIOBASED MARKETS PROGRAM.**

4 Section 9002 of the Farm Security and Rural Invest-
5 ment Act of 2002 (7 U.S.C. 8102) is amended—

6 (1) in subsection (a)—

7 (A) in paragraph (2), by adding at the end
8 the following:

9 “(G) PROCUREMENT RESOURCES.—The
10 Office of Federal Procurement Policy, in coordi-
11 nation with the Secretary, shall provide edu-
12 cational materials to procuring agencies to con-
13 sider the longevity of a product, economic sav-
14 ings, and the efficacy and performance of a
15 product when making procurement decisions
16 under this subsection.”; and

17 (B) in paragraph (4)—

18 (i) in subparagraph (A), by striking
19 clause (ii) and redesignating clauses (iii)
20 and (iv) as clauses (ii) and (iii), respec-
21 tively;

22 (ii) in subparagraph (B)(i)—

23 (I) in the matter preceding sub-
24 clause (I)—

1 (aa) by inserting “and the
2 Secretary” after “Policy”; and

3 (bb) by striking “informa-
4 tion concerning—” and inserting
5 “a report that describes, for the
6 year covered by the report—”;

7 (II) in subclause (I), by inserting
8 “, including the actions taken by the
9 procuring agency to establish and im-
10 plement the biobased procurement
11 program of the procuring agency
12 under that paragraph” before the
13 semicolon;

14 (III) in subclause (IV), by strik-
15 ing “and” at the end;

16 (IV) in subclause (V), by striking
17 “and” at the end; and

18 (V) by adding at the end the fol-
19 lowing:

20 “(VI)(aa) the specific categories
21 of biobased products that are unavail-
22 able to meet procurement needs of the
23 procuring agencies; and

1 “(bb) the desired performance
2 characteristics and other relevant
3 specifications for those products; and

4 “(VII) if applicable, an expla-
5 nation of the procurement require-
6 ment or updated procurement require-
7 ment established under paragraph
8 (2)(A)(i) that procuring agencies
9 failed to meet and reasons for the fail-
10 ure; and”; and

11 (iii) by adding at the end the fol-
12 lowing:

13 “(D) ACCOUNTABILITY.—The Office of
14 Federal Procurement Policy, in consultation
15 with the Secretary, shall annually—

16 “(i) collect the information required to
17 be reported under subparagraph (B) and
18 make the information publicly available;

19 “(ii) using the information collected
20 under subparagraph (B) of this paragraph,
21 document relevant procuring agencies
22 under paragraph (2)(A)(i) that, as applica-
23 ble, have established a procurement pro-
24 gram in accordance with paragraph
25 (2)(A)(i)(I); and

1 “(iii) make the information publicly
2 available, subject to the exemptions from
3 disclosure under section 552(b) of title 5,
4 United States Code.”;

5 (2) in subsection (f)—

6 (A) in paragraph (1)—

7 (i) in the heading, by inserting “AND
8 NAPCS” before “CODES”;

9 (ii) by inserting “and North American
10 Product Classification System codes” be-
11 fore “for—”; and

12 (iii) by striking subparagraphs (A)
13 and (B) and inserting the following:

14 “(A) renewable chemicals manufacturers
15 and biobased products manufacturers; and

16 “(B) renewable chemicals and biobased
17 products.”; and

18 (B) by redesignating paragraph (2) as
19 paragraph (3) and inserting after paragraph
20 (1) the following:

21 “(2) REPORT.—To inform the development of
22 codes under paragraph (1), the Secretary shall,
23 within 90 days after the date of the enactment of
24 this paragraph, submit to the Committee on Agri-
25 culture of the House of Representatives and the

1 Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry
2 of the Senate, a report that provides—

3 “(A) the Federal statistical collections of
4 information related to the North American In-
5 dustry Classification System codes and the
6 North American Product Classification System
7 codes that utilize bioeconomy-specific data;

8 “(B) recommendations to implement any
9 bioeconomy-related changes as part of the 2027
10 revisions of the North American Industry Clas-
11 sification System codes and the North Amer-
12 ican Product Classification System codes; and

13 “(C) an assessment of the impacts that
14 bioeconomy-specific North American Industry
15 Classification System codes and North Amer-
16 ican Product Classification System codes would
17 have on the measurement by the agency of the
18 economic contributions of the bioeconomy.”;
19 and

20 (3) in subsection (k)—

21 (A) in paragraph (1), by striking “2024”
22 and inserting “2031”; and

23 (B) in paragraph (2), by striking “2023”
24 and inserting “2031”.

1 **SEC. 9003. BIOREFINERY ASSISTANCE.**

2 (a) IN GENERAL.—Section 9003 of the Farm Secu-
3 rity and Rural Investment Act of 2002 (7 U.S.C. 8103)
4 is amended—

5 (1) in subsection (b)(1)—

6 (A) by inserting “or innovative” before
7 “commercial-scale”; and

8 (B) by inserting “, renewable chemicals, or
9 biobased products” after “end-user products”;

10 (2) in subsection (d)(1)—

11 (A) in subparagraph (B)—

12 (i) by striking all that precedes “a
13 loan guarantee” and inserting the fol-
14 lowing:

15 “(B) FEASIBILITY.—

16 “(i) IN GENERAL.—In approving”;
17 and

18 (ii) by adding after and below the end
19 the following:

20 “(ii) WAIVER.—The Secretary may
21 waive the requirement that the applicant
22 must demonstrate commercial viability for
23 projects adopting commercially available
24 technology.”;

(B) by redesignating subparagraphs (C) and (D) as subparagraphs (D) and (E), respectively; and

(C) by inserting after subparagraph (B) the following:

“(C) TECHNICAL REVIEW AGREEMENT.—

“(i) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall enter into an agreement with each project applicant that clearly outlines the specific objectives, outcomes, and conditions by which the Secretary determines successful technical feasibility of the project under this section.

“(ii) CONDITIONS OF AGREEMENT.—

The agreement provided under clause (i) shall include clear guidelines and expectations for the methodologies, protocols, and procedures, and what the eligible technology must demonstrate, for the Department to determine technical feasibility from an integrated demonstration unit, including—

“(I) a set timeline for the integrated demonstration unit campaign and final technical report to show reli-

1 able evidence of continuous, steady-
2 state production;

3 “(II) criteria and methods for
4 evaluating the project’s success, in-
5 cluding any third-party assessments
6 or evaluations that may be conducted
7 during the demonstration period and
8 at the conclusion of the set timeline;

9 “(III) criteria and methods to
10 prove the ability of the integrated
11 demonstration unit to use project-spe-
12 cific feedstock for the production of
13 advanced biofuels, renewable chemi-
14 cals, or biobased products at a yield
15 and quality consistent with the design
16 basis of the project;

17 “(IV) required information and
18 conditions that demonstrate operation
19 duration, quality, and quantity speci-
20 fications; and

21 “(V) any other information that,
22 if supplied to the Secretary, would as-
23 sist the eligible entity in sufficiently
24 demonstrating a project’s technical
25 feasibility.

1 “(iii) FAILURE TO COMPLY WITH
2 AGREEMENT.—

3 “(I) NONCOMPLIANCE NOTIFICA-
4 TION.—If a project applicant fails to
5 comply with the technical feasibility
6 requirements as provided under clause
7 (ii), the Secretary shall issue a written
8 notice to the project applicant detail-
9 ing the specific deficiencies and pro-
10 viding a reasonable timeframe for the
11 project applicant to rectify the issues.

12 “(II) CORRECTIVE ACTION PE-
13 RIOD.—The project applicant shall
14 have a period of not more than 90
15 days from the date of issuance of the
16 noncompliance notice to address the
17 identified deficiencies and submit a
18 revised technical feasibility assessment
19 for reconsideration.

20 “(iv) TECHNICAL FEASIBILITY AP-
21 PROVAL.—Upon fulfillment of the condi-
22 tions of agreement established under
23 clause (ii) or approval of the revised tech-
24 nical feasibility assessment under clause

1 (iii)(II), the Secretary shall determine the
 2 project to be technically feasible.”;

3 (3) in subsection (d)(2)(A), by striking
 4 “\$250,000,000” and inserting “\$400,000,000”; and
 5 (4) in subsection (g)—

6 (A) by striking all that precedes “is au-
 7 thorized” and inserting the following:

8 “(g) FUNDING.—There”; and

9 (B) by striking “2023” and inserting
 10 “2031”.

11 (b) RESCISSION.—Of the unobligated balances of
 12 amounts made available under section 9003 of the Farm
 13 Security and Rural Investment Act of 2002, \$18,000,000
 14 are rescinded.

15 **SEC. 9004. BIOPRODUCT LABELING TERMINOLOGY.**

16 Title IX of the Farm Security and Rural Investment
 17 Act of 2002 (7 U.S.C. 8101–8115) is amended by insert-
 18 ing after section 9003 the following:

19 **“SEC. 9004. BIOPRODUCT LABELING TERMINOLOGY.**

20 “(a) UNIFORM STANDARDS.—

21 “(1) IN GENERAL.—Within 1 year after the
 22 date of the enactment of this section, the Secretary
 23 shall issue rules implementing national uniform la-
 24 beling standards for, and ensuring the proper use of,

1 the following terms in the labeling and marketing of
2 bioproducts:

3 “(A) Bio-attributed plastic.

4 “(B) Bio-attributed product.

5 “(C) Biobased plastic.

6 “(D) Plant-based product.

7 “(2) INCLUSION OF CERTAIN DEFINED
8 TERMS.—In implementing the national uniform la-
9 beling standards under paragraph (1), the Secretary
10 shall include the following terms, as defined in sec-
11 tion 9001:

12 “(A) Biobased product.

13 “(B) Intermediate ingredient or feedstock.

14 “(C) Renewable biomass.

15 “(D) Renewable chemical.

16 “(b) CONSULTATION.—In defining terms under sub-
17 section (a), the Secretary shall consult with—

18 “(1) biomanufacturers;

19 “(2) entities engaged in research and develop-
20 ment of bioproducts;

21 “(3) feedstock growers; and

22 “(4) other industry stakeholders.”.

1 **SEC. 9005. BIOENERGY PROGRAM FOR ADVANCED**
2 **BIOFUELS.**

3 Section 9005(g)(2) of the Farm Security and Rural
4 Investment Act of 2002 (7 U.S.C. 8105(g)(2)) is amended
5 by striking “2023” and inserting “2031”.

6 **SEC. 9006. BIODIESEL FUEL EDUCATION PROGRAM.**

7 Section 9006 of the Farm Security and Rural Invest-
8 ment Act of 2002 (7 U.S.C. 8106) is repealed.

9 **SEC. 9007. RURAL ENERGY FOR AMERICA PROGRAM.**

10 (a) IN GENERAL.—Section 9007 of the Farm Secu-
11 rity and Rural Investment Act of 2002 (7 U.S.C. 8107)
12 is amended—

13 (1) in subsection (a), by inserting “(referred to
14 in this section as the ‘Program’)” after “Program”;

15 (2) in subsection (b)(3)—

16 (A) in subparagraph (D), by inserting “,
17 cost savings,” after “savings”;

18 (B) in subparagraph (E), by striking
19 “and” at the end;

20 (C) in subparagraph (F), by striking the
21 period at the end and inserting “; and”; and

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

23 “(G) the potential of the proposed program
24 to meaningfully improve the financial conditions
25 of the agricultural producer or rural small busi-
26 ness.”;

1 (3) in subsection (c)—

2 (A) in paragraph (1)(A)(i), by inserting “,
3 agricultural cooperatives with less than 2,500
4 employees,” before “and rural”;

5 (B) in paragraph (2)—

6 (i) in subparagraph (F), by striking
7 “and” at the end;

8 (ii) by redesignating subparagraph
9 (G) as subparagraph (H); and

10 (iii) by inserting after subparagraph
11 (F) the following:

12 “(G) the potential improvements to the fi-
13 nancial conditions of the agricultural producer
14 or rural small business; and”; and

15 (C) in paragraph (3)(B), by striking
16 “\$25,000,000” and inserting “\$50,000,000”;

17 (4) by redesignating subsections (d), (e), and
18 (f) as subsections (e), (f), and (g), respectively, and
19 inserting after subsection (c) the following:

20 “(d) STREAMLINED APPLICATION PROCESS.—The
21 Secretary shall develop a streamlined application process,
22 including within each tier described in subsection (c)(4),
23 under which an entity may apply for a grant under sub-
24 section (b), financial assistance under subsection (c), or

1 a bundled application for a project with components eligi-
2 ble under clauses (i) and (ii) of subsection (c)(1)(A).”;

3 (5) in subsection (e) (as so redesignated)—

4 (A) in the subsection heading, by striking
5 “OUTREACH” and inserting “OUTREACH,
6 TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE, AND EDUCATION”;

7 (B) by striking “that adequate” and in-
8 serting the following: “that—

9 “(1) adequate”;

10 (C) in paragraph (1) (as inserted by sub-
11 paragraph (B) of this paragraph), by striking
12 the period at the end and inserting a semicolon;
13 and

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

15 “(2) technical assistance is provided to entities
16 seeking to apply for a grant or financial assistance
17 under the Program; and

18 “(3) outreach, technical assistance, and edu-
19 cation is provided to recipients of grants and other
20 financial assistance under the Program relating to
21 integrating renewable energy projects on land shared
22 with crops or livestock.”;

23 (6) in subsection (g), (as so redesignated by
24 paragraph (4) of this section)—

1 (A) in paragraph (3), by striking “2023”
2 and inserting “2031”; and

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

4 “(4) RESERVE FUND.—

5 “(A) IN GENERAL.—Of the funds obligated
6 under paragraph (1) for each fiscal year , not
7 less than 10 percent shall be deposited in a re-
8 serve fund in the Treasury and reserved for use
9 in accordance with this subparagraph.

10 “(B) USE OF FUNDS.—

11 “(i) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary
12 shall use amounts reserved under subpara-
13 graph (A) to provide grants to support
14 projects using underutilized renewable en-
15 ergy technologies.

16 “(ii) COSTS.—The amount of the
17 grant for such a project shall not exceed
18 25 percent of the installation or mainte-
19 nance costs of the project for the year in
20 which the grant is awarded.

21 “(C) FREQUENCY OF SOLICITATIONS TO
22 FUND.—The Secretary shall carry out at least
23 2 solicitations for applications for grants from
24 the reserve fund in each fiscal year.

1 “(D) REALLOCATION.—Any funds reserved
2 under subparagraph (A) that remain unobli-
3 gated 1 year after the end of the fiscal year in
4 which made available under subparagraph (A)
5 shall be reallocated to carry out the program
6 established under this section.

7 “(E) DEFINITION OF UNDERUTILIZED RE-
8 NEWABLE ENERGY TECHNOLOGIES.—The term
9 ‘underutilized renewable energy technologies’
10 means renewable energy technologies for which
11 have been expended not more than 20 percent
12 of the average of the total amounts made avail-
13 able under this section for the 5 fiscal years
14 most recently ending before the date of the en-
15 actment of this paragraph.”; and

16 (7) by adding at the end the following:

17 “(h) 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.”.

24 (b) CONFORMING AMENDMENTS.—Section 9007 of
25 such Act (7 U.S.C. 8107) is amended by striking “sub-

1 section (f)” each place it appears and inserting “sub-
2 section (g)”.

3 **SEC. 9008. FEEDSTOCK FLEXIBILITY.**

4 Section 9010(b) of the Farm Security and Rural In-
5 vestment Act of 2002 (7 U.S.C. 8110(b)) is amended—

6 (1) in paragraph (1)(A), by striking “2026”
7 and inserting “2031”; and

8 (2) in paragraph (2)(A), by striking “2026”
9 and inserting “2031”.

10 **SEC. 9009. BIOMASS CROP ASSISTANCE PROGRAM.**

11 Section 9011(f)(1) of the Farm Security and Rural
12 Investment Act of 2002 (7 U.S.C. 8111(f)(1)) is amended
13 by striking “2023” and inserting “2031”.

14 **SEC. 9010. CARBON UTILIZATION AND BIOGAS EDUCATION**
15 **PROGRAM.**

16 Section 9014 of the Farm Security and Rural Invest-
17 ment Act of 2002 (7 U.S.C. 8115) is repealed.

18 **SEC. 9011. STUDY ON EFFECTS OF SOLAR PANEL INSTALLA-**
19 **TIONS ON COVERED FARMLAND.**

20 Title IX of the Farm Security and Rural Investment
21 Act of 2002 (7 U.S.C. 8101–8115) is amended by adding
22 at the end the following:

1 **“SEC. 9015. STUDY ON EFFECTS OF SOLAR PANEL INSTAL-**
2 **LATIONS ON COVERED FARMLAND.**

3 “(a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary, in consultation
4 with the Secretary of Energy, shall conduct a study on
5 the effects of solar panel installations on the conversion
6 of covered farmland out of agricultural production in ac-
7 cordance with this section.

8 “(b) CONTENT.—In conducting the study under this
9 section, the Secretary shall—

10 “(1) analyze the economic effects of solar panel
11 installations on covered farmland, including the ef-
12 fects on—

13 “(A) crop yields;

14 “(B) land values, including adjacent prop-
15 erties;

16 “(C) land access and tenure;

17 “(D) local economies; and

18 “(E) food security;

19 “(2) investigate impacts of solar panel installa-
20 tion, operation, and decommissioning on covered
21 farmland, and suggest best practices to protect—

22 “(A) soil health;

23 “(B) water resources;

24 “(C) wildlife;

25 “(D) vegetation;

26 “(E) water drainage; and

1 “(F) air quality;

2 “(3) assess the impacts of shared solar energy
3 and agricultural production on covered farmland, in-
4 cluding best practices to—

5 “(A) maintain or increase agricultural pro-
6 duction;

7 “(B) increase agricultural resilience;

8 “(C) retain covered farmland;

9 “(D) increase economic opportunities in
10 farming and rural communities, including new
11 revenue streams and job creation;

12 “(E) reduce nonfarmer ownership of cov-
13 ered farmland; and

14 “(F) enhance biodiversity;

15 “(4) assess the types of agricultural land best
16 suited and worst suited for shared solar energy and
17 agricultural production;

18 “(5) study the compatibility of different species
19 of livestock with different solar panel system de-
20 signs, including—

21 “(A) the optimal height of and distance be-
22 tween solar panels for livestock grazing and
23 shade for livestock;

24 “(B) manure management considerations;

25 “(C) fencing requirements; and

1 “(D) other animal-handling considerations;

2 “(6) study the compatibility of different crop
3 types with different solar panel system designs, in-
4 cluding—

5 “(A) the optimal height of and distance be-
6 tween solar panels for plant shading and farm
7 equipment use; and

8 “(B) the impact on crop yield;

9 “(7) evaluate the degree to which existing Fed-
10 eral, State, or local tax incentives result in the devel-
11 opment of covered farmland under study;

12 “(8) recommend effective incentives that could
13 shift solar panel installations toward the built envi-
14 ronment, brownfield sites, and other contaminated
15 sites;

16 “(9) evaluate the effectiveness of programs ad-
17 ministered by the Federal Government related to
18 solar energy development that—

19 “(A) result in the development of contami-
20 nated lands, the built environment, and other
21 preferred sites; and

22 “(B) discourage solar panel installations
23 that would convert covered farmland out of ag-
24 ricultural production; and

1 “(10) estimate the loss of agricultural produc-
2 tion on covered farmland due to solar panel installa-
3 tions.

4 “(c) CONSULTATION WITH RELEVANT STAKE-
5 HOLDERS.—In addition to consultation with the Secretary
6 of Energy, while conducting the study under this section,
7 the Secretary shall consult with—

8 “(1) farmers;

9 “(2) ranchers;

10 “(3) landowners;

11 “(4) agricultural organizations;

12 “(5) State departments of agriculture and en-
13 ergy;

14 “(6) units of local government;

15 “(7) conservation organizations;

16 “(8) land-grant colleges and universities (as de-
17 fined in section 1404 of the National Agricultural
18 Research, Extension, and Teaching Policy Act of
19 1977 (7 U.S.C. 3103)); and

20 “(9) solar developers.

21 “(d) REPORT.—Within 2 years after the date of en-
22 actment of this Act, the Secretary of Agriculture shall sub-
23 mit to the Committee on Agriculture and the Committee
24 on Energy and Commerce of the House of Representatives
25 and the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and For-

1 estry and the Committee on Energy and Natural Re-
2 sources of the Senate a written report on the findings of
3 the study and recommendations under this section.

4 “(e) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

5 “(1) COVERED FARMLAND.—The term ‘covered
6 farmland’ includes—

7 “(A) farmland, as defined in section
8 1540(c)(1) of the Farmland Protection Policy
9 Act (7 U.S.C. 4201(c)(1)); and

10 “(B) nonindustrial private forest land, as
11 defined in section 201(a)(18) of the Food Secu-
12 rity Act of 1985 (16 U.S.C. 3801(a)(18)).

13 “(2) BROWNFIELD SITE.—The term ‘brownfield
14 site’ has the meaning given that term in section
15 101(39) of the Comprehensive Environmental Re-
16 sponse, Compensation, and Liability Act of 1980 (42
17 U.S.C. 9601(39)).

18 “(3) SECRETARY.—The term ‘Secretary’ means
19 the Secretary of Agriculture.”.

20 **SEC. 9012. LIMITATION ON USDA FUNDING FOR GROUND-**
21 **MOUNTED SOLAR ENERGY SYSTEMS.**

22 Title IX of the Farm Security and Rural Investment
23 Act of 2002 (7 U.S.C. 8101–8115) is further amended
24 by adding at the end the following:

1 **“SEC. 9016. LIMITATION ON USDA FUNDING FOR GROUND-**
2 **MOUNTED SOLAR ENERGY SYSTEMS.**

3 “(a) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

4 “(1) COVERED FARMLAND.—The term ‘covered
5 farmland’ includes—

6 “(A) farmland, as defined in section
7 1540(c)(1) of the Farmland Protection Policy
8 Act (7 U.S.C. 4201(c)(1)); and

9 “(B) nonindustrial private forest land, as
10 defined in section 201(a)(18) of the Food Secu-
11 rity Act of 1985 (16 U.S.C. 3801(a)(18)).

12 “(2) CONVERSION.—The term ‘conversion’
13 means, with respect to covered farmland, any activ-
14 ity that results in the covered farmland failing to
15 meet the requirements of a State (as defined in sec-
16 tion 343 of the Consolidated Farm and Rural Devel-
17 opment Act (7 U.S.C. 1991)) for agricultural pro-
18 duction, activity, or use or timber harvest.

19 “(3) SECRETARY.—The term ‘Secretary’ means
20 the Secretary of Agriculture.

21 “(b) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary may not provide
22 financial assistance for a project that would result in the
23 conversion of covered farmland for solar energy produc-
24 tion.

25 “(c) EXCEPTION.—Subsection (b) shall not apply to
26 a project if the project—

1 “(1) results in the conversion of less than 5
2 acres of covered farmland; or

3 “(2) results in the conversion of less than 50
4 acres of covered farmland with—

5 “(A) the majority of the energy produced
6 being for on-farm use; and

7 “(B) receipt of a resolution of approval or
8 support, or other similar instrument, from each
9 county and municipality in which the project is
10 sited.

11 “(d) COVERED FARMLAND PROTECTION.—

12 “(1) FARMLAND CONSERVATION PLAN RE-
13 QUIRED.—A person who has applied to the Secretary
14 for financial assistance for a project to which sub-
15 section (c)(2) applies shall—

16 “(A) develop a farmland conservation plan
17 for the project to—

18 “(i) implement best practices to pro-
19 tect future soil health and productivity,
20 and mitigate soil erosion, compaction, and
21 other effects of solar energy production
22 during construction, operation, and decom-
23 missioning; and

24 “(ii) remediate and restore the soil
25 health of the farmland to that of the farm-

1 land before the solar energy production
2 project construction; and

3 “(B) ensure that sufficient funds, as deter-
4 mined by the Secretary, are provided for the de-
5 commissioning of the solar energy production
6 system and the remediation and restoration of
7 covered farmland to carry out the farmland
8 conservation plan described in subparagraph
9 (A).

10 “(2) OBLIGATION AND DISBURSEMENT OF
11 FUNDS.—The Secretary may obligate financial as-
12 sistance for a project described in paragraph (1),
13 but shall not disburse the financial assistance until
14 the Secretary has determined that the applicant for
15 the financial assistance has complied with paragraph
16 (1).

17 “(3) FARMLAND CONSERVATION PLAN IMPLE-
18 MENTATION.—A person referred to in paragraph (1)
19 shall carry out—

20 “(A) the provisions of the plan that are de-
21 scribed in paragraph (1)(A)(i), on the receipt
22 by the project of financial assistance from the
23 Secretary and for the duration of solar energy
24 production under the project; and

1 “(B) the provisions of the plan that are de-
2 scribed in paragraph (1)(A)(ii), on the cessation
3 of solar energy production under the project.

4 “(4) COMPLIANCE.—A person who fails to com-
5 ply with paragraph (3) with respect to a project
6 shall repay to the Secretary the full amount of the
7 financial assistance provided by the Secretary to the
8 person for the project.

9 “(e) ADDITIONAL LIMITATIONS.—The Secretary may
10 not provide financial assistance for a project that procures
11 a solar energy component (as defined in section 45x(c)(3)
12 of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986) produced, manu-
13 factured, or assembled—

14 “(1) in a foreign country of concern (as defined
15 in section 10638(2) of the CHIPS Act of 2022 (42
16 U.S.C. 19237(2))); or

17 “(2) by—

18 “(A) an entity domiciled or controlled by
19 such a foreign country; or

20 “(B) a foreign entity of concern (as de-
21 fined in section 10638(3) of the CHIPS Act of
22 2022 (42 U.S.C. 19237(3))).”.

1 **SEC. 9013. SUSTAINABLE AVIATION FUELS STRATEGY.**

2 The Secretary shall establish a Departmentwide
3 strategy to advance the production of sustainable aviation
4 fuels by—

5 (1) facilitating the collaboration between rel-
6 evant Department mission areas to encourage the
7 advancement of the sustainable aviation fuels supply
8 chain, including utilization of agricultural crops
9 grown for sustainable aviation fuels production;

10 (2) identifying opportunities to maximize sus-
11 tainable aviation fuels development, deployment, and
12 commercialization;

13 (3) leveraging the capabilities of America's
14 farmers, ranchers, foresters, and producers to cap-
15 ture opportunities in the sustainable aviation fuels
16 market;

17 (4) supporting rural economic development
18 through sustainable aviation fuels production; and

19 (5) promoting public-private partnerships for
20 the development, deployment, and commercialization
21 of sustainable aviation fuels.

22 **SEC. 9014. LEVERAGING EFFICIENCY AWARENESS FOR**
23 **PUMPING SYSTEMS.**

24 (a) FINDINGS.—Congress finds the following:

1 (1) There are over 600,000 pumping systems
2 used for irrigation on agricultural land in the United
3 States, many of which still rely on fossil fuels.

4 (2) Improving the efficiency of agricultural irri-
5 gation pumping systems can save up to
6 22,000,000,000 kilowatt hours of energy per year
7 and eliminate 8,300,000 metric tons of carbon emis-
8 sions annually.

9 (3) Energy savings from electrifying agricul-
10 tural irrigation pumping systems can save farmers
11 and ranchers more than \$1,800,000,000 annually in
12 energy costs.

13 (4) Pumping systems play a central role in the
14 watering of livestock and the management of animal
15 waste in every State.

16 (5) Pumping systems are a critical component
17 of the Nation's \$2,300,000,000 aquaculture indus-
18 try.

19 (6) Improving the efficiency of pumping sys-
20 tems used in raising livestock and fish can signifi-
21 cantly reduce energy use, save producers millions of
22 dollars annually, and provide meaningful reductions
23 in carbon emissions.

24 (7) Agricultural irrigation pumping systems uti-
25 lizing plastic piping can provide significant drought

1 relief benefits, dramatically reducing water losses
2 from evaporation and seepage; agriculture uses 37
3 percent of the Nation's surface and ground water,
4 30 percent of which is lost to seepage and evapo-
5 ration.

6 (8) Reducing the friction in piping used for ag-
7 ricultural irrigation and livestock watering can pro-
8 vide meaningful energy and cost savings; there are
9 potentially 2,500 kWh of energy savings for every 10
10 miles of plastic piping utilized in delivering water for
11 crops and livestock.

12 (9) Solar pumping systems can play an impor-
13 tant role in protecting riparian habitat and improv-
14 ing water quality in streams, rivers, lakes, and estu-
15 aries through providing alternative watering options
16 for livestock.

17 (b) INFORMATION ON ENERGY-EFFICIENT PUMPING
18 SYSTEMS.—

19 (1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 180 days
20 after the date of enactment of this section, the Sec-
21 retary, in consultation with pumping system experts,
22 in order to educate farmers on the benefits of en-
23 ergy-efficient pumping systems, shall develop and
24 make publicly available on the website of the De-
25 partment easily accessible information on cost sav-

1 ings, energy savings, water conservation, and carbon
2 emissions reductions that can be realized through
3 the use of energy-efficient pumping systems.

4 (2) CONTENTS.—In carrying out paragraph (1),
5 the Secretary shall include information on—

6 (A) pumps, pipes, motors, drives, and con-
7 trols that can provide energy savings and cost
8 savings, conserve water, and reduce carbon
9 emissions; and

10 (B) Department programs that provide
11 farmers resources for acquiring energy-efficient
12 pumping systems and drought management in-
13 frastructure, including the environmental qual-
14 ity incentives program, the Rural Energy for
15 America Program, and the conservation stew-
16 ardship program.

17 (c) ENERGY EFFICIENCY PREASSESSMENT TOOL.—

18 (1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 180 days
19 after the date of enactment of this section, the Sec-
20 retary, in consultation with pumping system experts,
21 in order to raise awareness of the benefits of energy-
22 efficient pumping systems and increase participation
23 in Department programs that promote energy effi-
24 ciency, shall develop and make publicly available on

1 the website of the Department a user-friendly tool
2 to—

3 (A) assist farmers in making a preliminary
4 assessment of the energy efficiency of existing
5 pumping systems; and

6 (B) provide an estimate of potential energy
7 savings, cost savings, and carbon emissions re-
8 ductions that may be realized through pumping
9 system improvements.

10 (2) REQUIREMENTS.—

11 (A) EASE OF USE.—The Secretary shall
12 ensure that the tool made available under para-
13 graph (1) provides a user with projected energy
14 savings, projected cost savings, and projected
15 carbon emissions reductions through the input
16 by the user of the following data relating to an
17 existing pumping system:

18 (i) Pump type.

19 (ii) Flow rating and actual flow.

20 (iii) Pressure rating and actual pres-
21 sure.

22 (iv) Speed rating and actual speed.

23 (B) CONSIDERATIONS.—The Secretary
24 shall ensure that the tool made available under
25 paragraph (1)—

1 (i) in assessing the energy efficiency
2 of a pumping system, takes into consider-
3 ation pumps, pipes, motors, drives, and
4 controls associated with the pumping sys-
5 tem; and

6 (ii) in projecting the energy savings,
7 cost savings, and carbon emissions reduc-
8 tions that may be realized through pump-
9 ing system improvements, takes into con-
10 sideration the cost of electricity and the
11 profile of the existing pumping system.

12 (d) ENERGY AUDITOR EDUCATION.—

13 (1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 180 days
14 after the date of enactment of this section, the Sec-
15 retary, in consultation with pumping system experts,
16 in order to increase the effectiveness of Department
17 of Agriculture energy efficiency programs, shall es-
18 tablish a process to educate persons performing en-
19 ergy efficiency audits for the Department of Agri-
20 culture on energy use and energy efficiency in pump-
21 ing systems.

22 (2) IMPLEMENTATION.—In carrying out para-
23 graph (1), the Secretary shall consider the use of ex-
24 isting education and training programs focused on

1 energy use and energy efficiency in pumping sys-
2 tems.

3 (e) CONSERVATION STEWARDSHIP PROGRAM ACTIVI-
4 TIES.—Section 1240I(2)(B)(i) of the Food Security Act
5 of 1985 (16 U.S.C. 3839aa–21(2)(B)(i)) is amended by
6 inserting “and energy-efficient pumping systems” before
7 “, as determined”.

8 (f) DEFINITION OF PUMPING SYSTEM.—In this sec-
9 tion, the term “pumping system” means any pumps,
10 pipes, motors, drives, and controls used to move water and
11 other fluids on farms, ranches, and aquaculture oper-
12 ations.

13 **SEC. 9015. ADDING WASTE ENERGY RECOVERY TO THE**
14 **RURAL ENERGY FOR AMERICA PROGRAM.**

15 Section 9001(15)(A) of the Farm Security and Rural
16 Investment Act of 2002 (7 U.S.C. 8101(15)(A)) is amend-
17 ed by striking “or hydroelectric” and inserting “hydro-
18 electric, or waste energy recovery”.

19 **SEC. 9016. STUDY ON UTILIZATION OF SECOND-USE BAT-**
20 **TERIES FOR AGRICULTURAL PURPOSES.**

21 Title IX of the Farm Security and Rural Investment
22 Act of 2002 (7 U.S.C. 8101–8115) is further amended
23 by adding at the end the following:

1 **“SEC. 9017. STUDY ON UTILIZATION OF SECOND-USE BAT-**
2 **TERIES FOR AGRICULTURAL PURPOSES.**

3 “(a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary of Agriculture, in
4 consultation with the Secretary of Energy, shall conduct
5 a study on the feasibility, costs, benefits, and barriers to
6 the deployment of second-use electric drive vehicle bat-
7 teries on farms and ranches.

8 “(b) CONTENT.—In conducting the study under this
9 section, the Secretary shall—

10 “(1) assess the potential of second-use electric
11 vehicle battery systems to support agricultural appli-
12 cations during power outages;

13 “(2) investigate the availability and projected
14 supply of retired electric vehicle batteries suitable for
15 stationary agricultural applications;

16 “(3) analyze the cost-effectiveness of second-use
17 systems relative to new battery storage systems for
18 agricultural producers;

19 “(4) review applicable safety standards and li-
20 ability considerations;

21 “(5) review the adequacy of Federal programs
22 to support the deployment; and

23 “(6) provide recommendations for Federal ac-
24 tions, including potential grant or cost-share pro-
25 grams, to accelerate deployment of such technologies
26 in rural communities.

1 “(d) REPORT.—Within 1 year after the date of enact-
2 ment of this Act, the Secretary of Agriculture shall submit
3 to the Committee on Agriculture and the Committee on
4 Energy and Commerce of the House of Representatives
5 and the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and For-
6 estry and the Committee on Energy and Natural Re-
7 sources of the Senate a written report on the findings of
8 the study and recommendations under this section.

9 “(e) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

10 “(1) ELECTRIC DRIVE VEHICLE.—The term
11 ‘electric drive vehicle’ has the meaning given such
12 term in section 641(b)(3) of the United States En-
13 ergy Storage Competitiveness Act of 2007.

14 “(2) SECOND-USE BATTERY.—The term ‘sec-
15 ond-use battery’ means a rechargeable electro-
16 chemical energy storage system that—

17 “(A) was originally manufactured for use
18 in a different application and retired from the
19 use;

20 “(B) retains adequate energy capacity at
21 the time of installation in a new application.”.

22 **SEC. 9017. TREE PLANTING GRANT PROGRAM.**

23 (a) ESTABLISHMENT.—Not later than 90 days after
24 the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary shall es-
25 tablish a program under which the Secretary may award

1 grants to eligible entities to facilitate covered projects in
2 accordance with this section.

3 (b) CONSULTATION.—In carrying out the Program,
4 the Secretary shall consult with the Secretary of Energy.

5 (c) APPLICATIONS.—To receive a grant under the
6 Program, an eligible entity shall submit to the Secretary
7 an application at such time, in such form, and containing
8 such information as the Secretary may require, including
9 the following:

10 (1) A description of how the proposed covered
11 project will reduce residential energy consumption.

12 (2) An estimate of the expected reduction in
13 residential energy consumption to be achieved by the
14 covered project.

15 (3) A description of the total eligible costs of
16 the project and other sources of funding for the cov-
17 ered project.

18 (4) A description of anticipated community en-
19 gagement in the covered project.

20 (5) A description of the tree species to be plant-
21 ed under the covered project and the suitability of
22 such species to the local environment.

23 (d) PRIORITY.—In awarding grants under the Pro-
24 gram, the Secretary shall give priority to covered projects
25 that—

1 (1) provide the largest potential reduction in
2 residential energy consumption for households with a
3 high energy burden;

4 (2) provide maximum amounts of—

5 (A) shade during periods when residences
6 are exposed to the most sun intensity; and

7 (B) wind protection during periods when
8 residences are exposed to the most wind inten-
9 sity;

10 (3) are located in a neighborhood with a low
11 percentage of tree canopy cover;

12 (4) are located in a neighborhood with a high
13 percentage of senior citizens or children;

14 (5) are located in an area where the average
15 annual income is below the regional median;

16 (6) will collaboratively engage community mem-
17 bers to be affected by the tree planting; and

18 (7) will employ local residents as a substantial
19 percentage of the workforce of the covered project,
20 with a focus on local residents who are unemployed
21 or underemployed.

22 (e) TREE PLANTING GOALS.—Subject to the avail-
23 ability of appropriations, the Secretary shall, to the max-
24 imum extent practicable, award grants under the Program

1 in a manner that facilitates the planting of at least
2 300,000 trees each year.

3 (f) FEDERAL SHARE.—The Federal share of the cost
4 of a covered project assisted by a grant awarded under
5 the Program shall be 90 percent.

6 (g) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There is
7 authorized to be appropriated to carry out the Program,
8 \$50,000,000 for each of fiscal years 2027 through 2030.

9 (h) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

10 (1) COVERED PROJECT.—The term “covered
11 project” means a tree planting project carried out to
12 reduce residential energy consumption.

13 (2) ELIGIBLE COST.—The term “eligible cost”
14 means, with respect to a covered project—

15 (A) the cost of carrying out the project, in-
16 cluding—

17 (i) planning and design activities;

18 (ii) establishing nurseries to supply
19 trees;

20 (iii) purchasing trees; and

21 (iv) preparing sites and planting trees;

22 (B) the cost of maintaining and monitoring
23 planted trees for a period of not more than 3
24 years;

25 (C) the cost of training activities; and

1 (D) any other cost determined appropriate
2 by the Secretary.

3 (3) ELIGIBLE ENTITY.—The term “eligible enti-
4 ty” means each of the following:

5 (A) A State government entity.

6 (B) A local government entity.

7 (C) An Indian Tribe.

8 (D) A nonprofit organization.

9 (E) A retail power provider.

10 (4) ENERGY BURDEN.—The term “energy bur-
11 den” means the percentage of household income
12 spent on residential energy bills.

13 (5) INDIAN TRIBE.—The term “Indian Tribe”
14 has the meaning given the term in section 4 of the
15 Indian Self-Determination and Education Assistance
16 Act (25 U.S.C. 5304).

17 (6) LOCAL GOVERNMENT ENTITY.—The term
18 “local government entity” means any municipal gov-
19 ernment or county government entity with jurisdic-
20 tion over local land use decisions.

21 (7) NONPROFIT ORGANIZATION.—The term
22 “nonprofit organization” means an organization de-
23 scribed in section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue
24 Code of 1986 and exempt from tax under section
25 501(a) of such Code.

1 (8) PROGRAM.—The term “Program” means
2 the program established under subsection (a).

3 (9) RETAIL POWER PROVIDER.—The term “re-
4 tail power provider” means any entity authorized
5 under State or Federal law to generate, distribute,
6 or provide retail electricity, natural gas, or fuel oil
7 service.

8 (10) SECRETARY.—The term “Secretary”
9 means the Secretary of Agriculture.

10 **TITLE X—HORTICULTURE, MAR-**
11 **KETING, AND REGULATORY**
12 **REFORM**

13 **Subtitle A—Horticulture**

14 **SEC. 10001. SPECIALTY CROP BLOCK GRANTS.**

15 Section 101 of the Specialty Crops Competitiveness
16 Act of 2004 (7 U.S.C. 1621 note; Public Law 108–465)
17 is amended—

18 (1) in subsection (a), in the matter preceding
19 paragraph (1)—

20 (A) by striking “2023” and inserting
21 “2031”; and

22 (B) by striking “specialty crops, includ-
23 ing—” and inserting “specialty crops through
24 priorities established annually by State program
25 administrators in consultation with specialty

1 crop producers and producer groups, includ-
2 ing—”;

3 (2) in subsection (c)—

4 (A) by redesignating paragraphs (1) and
5 (2) as subparagraphs (A) and (B), respectively,
6 and moving the margins of such subparagraphs
7 (as so redesignated) two ems to the right;

8 (B) by striking “Notwithstanding” and in-
9 serting “(1) IN GENERAL.—Notwithstanding”;
10 and

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

12 “(2) NO COST-SHARING OR MATCHING RE-
13 QUIREMENTS.—The Secretary may not impose any
14 cost-sharing or matching requirement on any award
15 or sub-award made using funds made available to
16 carry out this section.”.

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

19 “(e) PLAN REQUIREMENTS.—The State plan shall
20 identify the lead agency charged with the responsibility of
21 carrying out the plan and indicate—

22 “(1) how the grant funds will be utilized to en-
23 hance the competitiveness of specialty crops; and

1 “(2) how outreach to, and consultation with,
2 specialty crop producers and producer groups will be
3 achieved.”.

4 **SEC. 10002. SPECIALTY CROPS MARKET NEWS ALLOCATION.**

5 Section 10107(b) of the Food, Conservation, and En-
6 ergy Act of 2008 (7 U.S.C. 1622b(b)) is amended by strik-
7 ing “2023” and inserting “2031”.

8 **SEC. 10003. OFFICE OF URBAN AGRICULTURE AND INNOVA-**
9 **TIVE PRODUCTION.**

10 Section 222 of the Department of Agriculture Reor-
11 ganization Act of 1994 (7 U.S.C. 6923) is amended—

12 (1) in subsection (a)(3)—

13 (A) in the matter preceding subparagraph
14 (A), by inserting “production” after “emerging
15 agricultural”;

16 (B) in subparagraph (D)—

17 (i) by inserting “controlled-envi-
18 ronment agriculture, including” before “hy-
19 droponic”; and

20 (ii) by striking “and” at the end;

21 (C) by redesignating subparagraph (E) as
22 subparagraph (H); and

23 (D) by inserting after subparagraph (D)
24 the following:

1 “(E) using the resources of the Depart-
2 ment and of State, Tribal, and local agencies to
3 provide technical assistance for business incor-
4 poration, navigating local zoning, and managing
5 farm tract numbers for smaller, noncontiguous
6 parcels to growers implementing activities de-
7 scribed in this paragraph;

8 “(F) using the resources of the Depart-
9 ment and of State, Tribal, and local agencies to
10 promote conservation techniques unique to
11 urban agriculture and innovative production, in-
12 cluding techniques that address stormwater
13 runoff and the impacted nature of urban land
14 and the subsurface of the land;

15 “(G) assisting urban and innovative pro-
16 ducers in navigating Federal, State, Tribal, and
17 local policies and regulations that impact busi-
18 ness or operations; and”;

19 (2) in subsection (b)—

20 (A) in paragraph (5)(B), by striking
21 “2023” and inserting “2031”; and

22 (B) in paragraph (7)(A), by striking “the
23 date that is 5 years after the date on which the
24 members are appointed under paragraph
25 (2)(B)” and inserting “September 30, 2031”;

1 (3) by amending subsection (c) to read as fol-
2 lows:

3 “(c) GRANTS AND COOPERATIVE AGREEMENTS.—

4 “(1) GRANTS.—

5 “(A) IN GENERAL.—The Director shall
6 award competitive grants to support the devel-
7 opment of urban and innovative agricultural
8 production and technical or financial assistance
9 to producers.

10 “(B) SUBGRANTS.—An eligible entity may
11 use funds from a grant under subparagraph (A)
12 to provide subgrants to urban and innovative
13 producers to support the growth of the farm or
14 farm business of the urban and innovative pro-
15 ducers.

16 “(C) ELIGIBLE ENTITIES.—An entity eligi-
17 ble to receive a grant under subparagraph (A)
18 is—

19 “(i) a nonprofit organization;

20 “(ii) a unit of local government;

21 “(iii) a Tribal organization;

22 “(iv) an agricultural cooperative or
23 other agricultural business entity or a pro-
24 ducer network or association; or

1 “(v) a school that serves any of
2 grades kindergarten through grade 12.

3 “(2) COOPERATIVE AGREEMENTS.—

4 “(A) IN GENERAL.—The Director may
5 enter into cooperative agreements with eligible
6 entities to support the development of urban
7 and innovative agricultural production.

8 “(B) ELIGIBLE ENTITIES.—An entity eligi-
9 ble to enter into cooperative agreements under
10 subparagraph (A) is—

11 “(i) a nonprofit organization;

12 “(ii) a unit of local government;

13 “(iii) a Tribal organization; or

14 “(iv) an agricultural cooperative or
15 other agricultural business entity or a pro-
16 ducer network or association.”;

17 (4) in subsection (d)—

18 (A) in the subsection heading, by striking
19 “PILOT”;

20 (B) by striking “pilot” each place it ap-
21 pears in paragraphs (1) and (2);

22 (C) in paragraph (1)(A), by striking “Not
23 later than 1 year after the date of enactment of
24 this section, the Secretary shall establish a pilot
25 program for not fewer than 5 years that” and

1 inserting “The Secretary shall continue to im-
2 plement a program that”;

3 (D) in paragraph (1)(C), in the matter
4 preceding clause (i), by striking “2023” and in-
5 serting “2031”; and

6 (E) in paragraph (2)—

7 (i) in subparagraph (A), by inserting
8 “and construct at-scale composting, food-
9 to-feed, or anaerobic digestion food waste-
10 to-energy projects” before the period at the
11 end; and

12 (ii) in subparagraph (B)—

13 (I) in the subparagraph heading,
14 by striking “PILOT”;

15 (II) in the matter preceding
16 clause (i), by inserting “Tribal gov-
17 ernments,” after “local govern-
18 ments,”;

19 (III) by redesignating clauses (vi)
20 through (viii) as clauses (vii) through
21 (ix), respectively; and

22 (IV) by inserting after clause (v)
23 the following:

24 “(vi) develop food waste-to-energy op-
25 erations;”; and

1 (5) in subsection (e), by striking “2023” and
2 inserting “2031”.

3 **SEC. 10004. NATIONAL PLANT DIAGNOSTICS NETWORK.**

4 Section 12203(c)(5) of the Agriculture Improvement
5 Act of 2018 (7 U.S.C. 8914(c)(5)) is amended by striking
6 “2023” and inserting “2031”.

7 **SEC. 10005. HEMP PRODUCTION.**

8 (a) STATE AND TRIBAL PLANS.—Section 297B of
9 the Agricultural Marketing Act of 1946 (7 U.S.C. 1639p)
10 is amended—

11 (1) in subsection (a)—

12 (A) in paragraph (2)—

13 (i) in subparagraph (A)—

14 (I) by redesignating clauses (ii)
15 through (vii) as clauses (iii) through
16 (viii), respectively;

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

19 “(ii) a procedure under which a hemp
20 producer shall be required to designate the
21 type of production of the hemp producer
22 as—

23 “(I) only industrial hemp; or

24 “(II) hemp grown for any pur-
25 pose other than industrial hemp;”;

1 (III) in clause (iii), as redesign-
2 nated by clause (i) of this subpara-
3 graph—

4 (aa) by inserting “except as
5 provided in subparagraph
6 (B)(i),” before “a procedure”;
7 and

8 (bb) by striking “delta-9
9 tetrahydrocannabinol concentra-
10 tion” and inserting “total
11 tetrahydrocannabinol concentra-
12 tion (including
13 tetrahydrocannabinolic acid”;
14 and

15 (IV) in clause (viii), as redesign-
16 nated by clause (i) of this subpara-
17 graph, by striking “clauses (i)
18 through (vi)” and inserting “clauses
19 (i) through (vii)”;

20 (ii) in subparagraph (B), by striking
21 “include any other practice” and inserting
22 the following: “include—

23 “(i) notwithstanding subparagraph
24 (A)(iii), a procedure for the use of visual
25 inspections, performance-based sampling

1 methodologies, certified seed, or a similar
2 procedure when developing sampling plans
3 for any producer who elects to be des-
4 ignated as a producer of only industrial
5 hemp under subparagraph (A)(ii)(I);

6 “(ii) notwithstanding subsection
7 (e)(3)(B)(i), a procedure for eliminating
8 the 10-year period of ineligibility following
9 the date of conviction for a felony related
10 to a controlled substance for producers
11 who elect to be designated as producers of
12 only industrial hemp under subparagraph
13 (A)(ii); and

14 “(iii) any other practice”; and
15 (B) by adding at the end the following:

16 “(4) INSPECTION OF INDUSTRIAL HEMP PRO-
17 DUCERS.—

18 “(A) IN GENERAL.—If a State or Tribal
19 plan referred to in paragraph (1) includes pro-
20 cedures for reducing or eliminating sampling or
21 testing requirements under paragraph (2)(B)(i)
22 for a producer of industrial hemp, the State or
23 Indian tribe shall require the producer to pro-
24 vide documentation that demonstrates a clear
25 intent to produce, and use in-field practices

1 consistent with production of, only industrial
2 hemp, such as a seed tag, sales contract, Farm
3 Service Agency report, harvest technique, or
4 harvest inspection.

5 “(B) TESTING.—If a producer fails to pro-
6 vide the documentation required under subpara-
7 graph (A), the State or Indian tribe involved
8 shall require the producer to conduct the test-
9 ing described in paragraph (2)(A)(iii).”;

10 (2) in subsection (e)(2)(A)(iii), by striking
11 “delta-9” and all that follows through “percent” and
12 inserting the following: “total tetrahydrocannabinol
13 concentration (including tetrahydrocannabinolic
14 acid) of not more than 0.3 percent in the plant”;
15 and

16 (3) in subsection (e)(3)—

17 (A) by amending subparagraph (A) to read
18 as follows:

19 “(A) REPORTING.—

20 “(i) IN GENERAL.—In the case of a
21 State department of agriculture or a Tribal
22 Government with respect to which a State
23 or Tribal plan is approved under sub-
24 section (b), such State department of agri-
25 culture or Tribal Government (as applica-

1 ble) shall immediately report a hemp pro-
2 ducer to the Attorney General and, as ap-
3 plicable, the chief law enforcement officer
4 of the State or Indian tribe, if the State
5 department of agriculture or Tribal Gov-
6 ernment (as applicable) determines that
7 the hemp producer has—

8 “(I) violated the State or Tribal
9 plan with a culpable mental state
10 greater than negligence; or

11 “(II) violated the State or Tribal
12 plan by producing a crop that is in-
13 consistent with the designation of only
14 industrial hemp under subsection
15 (a)(2)(A)(ii).

16 “(ii) EXCEPTION.—Paragraph (1)
17 shall not apply with respect to—

18 “(I) a violation described in sub-
19 clause (I) of clause (i); or

20 “(II) the production of a crop in-
21 consistent with its designation, as de-
22 scribed in subclause (II) of such
23 clause.”;

24 (B) in subparagraph (B), by amending
25 clause (ii) to read as follows:

1 “(ii) EXCEPTION.—Clause (i) shall
 2 not apply to any person growing hemp that
 3 designates the type of production as only
 4 industrial hemp under subsection
 5 (a)(2)(A)(ii) if—

6 “(I) the State or Tribal plan ap-
 7 proved under subsection (b) includes a
 8 procedure described in subsection
 9 (a)(2)(B)(ii); or

10 “(II) the plan established by the
 11 Secretary under section 297C includes
 12 a procedure described in subsection
 13 (a)(2)(B)(ii) of such section.”; and

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

15 “(D) PRODUCTION INCONSISTENT WITH
 16 INDUSTRIAL HEMP DESIGNATION.—Any person
 17 who knowingly produces a crop that is incon-
 18 sistent with the designation of only industrial
 19 hemp under subsection (a)(2)(A)(ii) shall be in-
 20 eligible to participate in the program estab-
 21 lished under this section for a period of 5 years
 22 beginning on the date of the violation.”.

23 (b) DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE.—Section 297C
 24 of the Agricultural Marketing Act of 1946 (7 U.S.C.
 25 1639q) is amended—

1 (1) in subsection (a)—

2 (A) in paragraph (2)—

3 (i) by striking “paragraph (1) shall”
4 and all that follows through “practice to
5 maintain” and inserting the following:
6 “paragraph (1)—

7 “(A) shall include—

8 “(i) a practice to maintain”;

9 (ii) in subparagraph (C), by redesignating clauses (i) and (ii) as subclauses (I)
10 and (II), respectively, and moving the margins of such subclauses (as so redesignated) two ems to the right;

11 (iii) by redesignating subparagraphs
12 (B) through (E) as clauses (iii) through
13 (vi), respectively, and moving the margins
14 of such clauses (as so redesignated) two
15 ems to the right;

16 (iv) by inserting after clause (i) (as
17 designated by clause (i) of this subparagraph) the following:

18 “(ii) a procedure under which the Secretary shall require a hemp producer to
19 designate the type of production of the
20 hemp producer as—

1 “(I) only industrial hemp; or

2 “(II) hemp grown for any pur-
3 pose other than industrial hemp;”;

4 (v) in clause (iii) (as redesignated by
5 clause (iii) of this subparagraph)—

6 (I) by inserting “except as pro-
7 vided in subparagraph (B)(i),” before
8 “a procedure”; and

9 (II) by striking “delta-9
10 tetrahydrocannabinol concentration”
11 and inserting “total
12 tetrahydrocannabinol concentration
13 (including tetrahydrocannabinolic
14 acid)”;

15 (vi) in clause (v) (as redesignated by
16 clause (iii) of this subparagraph), by in-
17 serting “and” after the semicolon at the
18 end;

19 (vii) by striking subparagraph (F);
20 and

21 (viii) by adding at the end the fol-
22 lowing:

23 “(B) may include—

24 “(i) notwithstanding subparagraph
25 (A)(iii), a procedure for the use of visual

1 inspections, performance-based sampling
2 methodologies, certified seed, or a similar
3 procedure when developing sampling plans
4 for any producer who elects to be des-
5 ignated as a producer of only industrial
6 hemp under subparagraph (A)(ii);

7 “(ii) notwithstanding section
8 297B(e)(3)(B)(i), a procedure for elimi-
9 nating the 10-year period of ineligibility
10 following the date of conviction for a felony
11 related to a controlled substance for pro-
12 ducers who elect to be designated as pro-
13 ducers of only industrial hemp under sub-
14 paragraph (A)(ii); and

15 “(iii) such other practices or proce-
16 dures as the Secretary considers to be ap-
17 propriate, to the extent that the practice or
18 procedure is consistent with this subtitle.”;
19 and

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

21 “(3) INSPECTIONS OF INDUSTRIAL HEMP PRO-
22 DUCERS.—

23 “(A) IN GENERAL.—If a plan referred to
24 in paragraph (1) includes procedures for reduc-
25 ing or eliminating sampling or testing require-

ments under paragraph (2)(B)(i) for a producer of only industrial hemp, the Secretary shall require the producer to provide documentation that demonstrates a clear intent to produce, and use in-field practices consistent with production of, industrial hemp, such as a seed tag, sales contract, Farm Service Agency report, harvest technique, or harvest inspection.

“(B) TESTING.—If a producer fails to provide the appropriate documentation required under subparagraph (A), the Secretary shall require the producer to conduct the testing described in paragraph (2)(A)(iii).”; and

(2) in subsection (d)(2)—

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

(B) in subparagraph (C)—

(i) by redesignating clauses (i) and

(ii) as clauses (ii) and (iii), respectively;

(ii) by inserting before clause (ii) (as so redesignated), the following:

“(i) the designation of the type of production of the hemp producers under section 297B(a)(2)(A)(ii) or under subsection (a)(2)(A)(ii) of this section;”; and

1 (iii) in clause (iii), (as so redesignated), by striking the period at the end
 2 and inserting “; and”; and
 3

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

5 “(D) the laboratory certificate of analysis
 6 for hemp disposed of under section
 7 297B(a)(2)(A)(iv) or subsection (a)(2)(A)(iv) of
 8 this section.”.

9 (c) REGULATIONS AND GUIDELINES; EFFECT ON
 10 OTHER LAW.—Section 297D of the Agricultural Mar-
 11 keting Act of 1946 (7 U.S.C. 1639r) is amended—

12 (1) in the section heading, by striking “**REGU-**
 13 **LATIONS AND GUIDELINES**” and inserting “**AD-**
 14 **MINISTRATION, REGULATIONS, AND GUIDE-**
 15 **LINES**”; and

16 (2) in subsection (a)—

17 (A) in the subsection heading, by striking
 18 “PROMULGATION OF REGULATIONS
 19 AND GUIDELINES” and inserting “ADMIN-
 20 ISTRATION, REGULATIONS, AND GUIDE-
 21 LINES”; and

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

23 “(3) LABORATORY ACCREDITATION.—The Sec-
 24 retary, in consultation with the Administrator of the
 25 Drug Enforcement Administration, shall establish a

1 process by which the Department of Agriculture can
2 issue certificates of accreditation to laboratories for
3 the purposes of testing hemp in accordance with this
4 subtitle.”.

5 **SEC. 10006. PILOT PROGRAM FOR THE INTRA-ORGANIZA-**
6 **TIONAL MOVEMENT OF GENETICALLY ENGI-**
7 **NEERED MICROORGANISMS BY CERTAIN AU-**
8 **THORIZED PARTIES.**

9 Subtitle A of the Plant Protection Act (7 U.S.C.
10 7711 et seq.) is amended by adding at the end the fol-
11 lowing:

12 **“SEC. 420A. PILOT PROGRAM FOR THE INTRA-ORGANIZA-**
13 **TIONAL MOVEMENT OF GENETICALLY ENGI-**
14 **NEERED MICROORGANISMS BY CERTAIN AU-**
15 **THORIZED PARTIES.**

16 “(a) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

17 “(1) COVERED MICROORGANISM.—The term
18 ‘covered microorganism’—

19 “(A) means a genetically engineered micro-
20 organism that is a plant pest or may pose a
21 plant pest risk; and

22 “(B) does not include listed agents or tox-
23 ins (as defined in section 212(l) of the Agricul-
24 tural Bioterrorism Protection Act of 2002 (7
25 U.S.C. 8401(l))).

1 “(2) COVERED UNAUTHORIZED RELEASE.—The
2 term ‘covered unauthorized release’ means an unau-
3 thorized release of a covered microorganism, includ-
4 ing such a release that a responsible party suspects
5 took place.

6 “(3) PILOT PROGRAM.—The term ‘pilot pro-
7 gram’ means the pilot program established under
8 subsection (b).

9 “(4) PLANT PEST RISK.—The term ‘plant pest
10 risk’ has the meaning given such term in section
11 340.3 of title 7, Code of Federal Regulations (or
12 successor regulations).

13 “(5) RESPONSIBLE PARTY.—The term ‘respon-
14 sible party’ means a partnership, corporation, asso-
15 ciation, joint venture, or other legal entity that—

16 “(A) has a physical address in the United
17 States;

18 “(B) is not owned by or otherwise affili-
19 ated with the government of a country of con-
20 cern (as defined in section 10638 of the CHIPS
21 Act of 2022 (42 U.S.C. 19237));

22 “(C) has more than 1 responsible party
23 biocontainment facility;

1 “(D) employs quality control personnel
2 that are capable of overseeing the movement
3 and control of covered microorganisms;

4 “(E) has, in each of the 3 years preceding
5 enrollment in the pilot program, moved plant
6 pests pursuant to permits granted by the Sec-
7 retary under this Act;

8 “(F) has the ability and resources to en-
9 sure compliance with the requirements under
10 subsection (e) for the duration of the pilot pro-
11 gram;

12 “(G) has implemented the precautions
13 specified in subsection (e) to prevent the unau-
14 thorized release of covered microorganisms; and

15 “(H) has not, during the 5-year period
16 preceding the date on which the relevant appli-
17 cation is submitted under subsection (c)—

18 “(i) caused an unauthorized release of
19 a plant pest;

20 “(ii) materially failed to comply with
21 a permit granted by the Secretary for the
22 interstate movement of plant pests; or

23 “(iii) violated any provision of this
24 section (including regulations promulgated
25 thereunder).

1 “(6) RESPONSIBLE PARTY BIOCONTAINMENT
2 FACILITY.—The term ‘responsible party biocontain-
3 ment facility’—

4 “(A) means a physical structure or portion
5 thereof, constructed and maintained in order to
6 contain plant pests, that is under the control of,
7 or operated by, a responsible party within the
8 contiguous United States; and

9 “(B) includes sites under the control of, or
10 operated by, any parent organization, sub-
11 sidiary, or affiliate of the responsible party.

12 “(b) ESTABLISHMENT.—Not later than 100 days
13 after the date of enactment of this section, the Secretary
14 shall establish a pilot program under which the Secretary
15 shall authorize not more than 75 responsible parties—

16 “(1) to move covered microorganisms in inter-
17 state commerce between responsible party bio-
18 containment facilities without a permit; and

19 “(2) to maintain control over and dispose of
20 such covered microorganisms.

21 “(c) APPLICATION.—

22 “(1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall accept
23 applications from responsible parties for enrollment
24 in the pilot program during a 45-day application pe-
25 riod, beginning on the date on which the pilot pro-

1 gram is established under subsection (b), using a
2 web-based application process established by the
3 Secretary.

4 “(2) CONTENTS.—An application submitted by
5 a responsible party for enrollment in the pilot pro-
6 gram shall include the following:

7 “(A) The name and contact information of
8 the responsible party and any agent of the re-
9 sponsible party that will be involved in the
10 movement of a covered microorganism.

11 “(B) The methods by which a covered
12 microorganism will be moved and the measures
13 taken to ensure that there is no unauthorized
14 release of the covered microorganism.

15 “(C) The manner in which a shipping con-
16 tainer, packaging material, or any other mate-
17 rial accompanying the covered microorganism
18 will be disposed of to prevent the unauthorized
19 release of a covered microorganism.

20 “(D) A list of responsible party biocontain-
21 ment facilities to which the responsible party
22 intends to move covered microorganisms.

23 “(E) A list of the predominant covered
24 microorganism chassis strains that, at the time

1 of the application, the responsible party intends
2 to move.

3 “(F) A sworn certification that the respon-
4 sible party meets each criterion specified in sub-
5 section (a)(5).

6 “(3) SUPPLEMENTAL APPLICATIONS.—

7 “(A) IN GENERAL.—A responsible party
8 may submit a supplemental application to the
9 Secretary to update a list under subparagraph
10 (D) or (E) of paragraph (2) at any time during
11 such enrollment. The Secretary shall make a
12 determination with respect to such supple-
13 mental application not later than 30 days after
14 the date on which such supplemental applica-
15 tion is submitted to the Secretary.

16 “(B) DENIALS.—The Secretary may only
17 deny a supplemental application if the Sec-
18 retary has made the determination set forth in
19 subsection (d)(2)(B). A denial of a supple-
20 mental application shall be subject to appeal in
21 accordance with the terms specified in sub-
22 section (d)(3).

23 “(d) SELECTION PROCESS.—

24 “(1) TIMING.—The Secretary shall—

1 “(A) evaluate applications received under
2 subsection (c)(1) in the order in which the ap-
3 plications are received; and

4 “(B) approve or deny all applications re-
5 ceived during the period described in that sub-
6 section not later than 45 days after the end of
7 that period.

8 “(2) DENIAL.—The Secretary shall deny an ap-
9 plication received under subsection (c)(1) if—

10 “(A) the Secretary has already selected 75
11 responsible parties for enrollment in the pilot
12 program; or

13 “(B) the Secretary determines that the re-
14 sponsible party submitting the application does
15 not meet each criterion specified in subsection
16 (a)(5).

17 “(3) APPEAL.—

18 “(A) IN GENERAL.—A responsible party
19 seeking to enroll in the pilot program whose ap-
20 plication has been denied under paragraph (2)
21 may submit to the Secretary a written appeal
22 within—

23 “(i) the 10-day period beginning on
24 the date on which the responsible party re-
25 ceives written notification of the denial; or

1 “(ii) a longer period, if the responsible
2 party makes a request for additional time
3 to submit such appeal and the Secretary
4 grants such request.

5 “(B) DECISION.—The Secretary shall,
6 within a reasonably prompt period, grant or
7 deny an appeal under subparagraph (A) in writ-
8 ing, which shall include the reasons for the de-
9 cision.

10 “(e) REQUIREMENTS.—A responsible party shall, as
11 a condition of enrollment in the pilot program, agree to—

12 “(1) maintain, move, and dispose of covered
13 microorganisms in a manner that prevents unau-
14 thorized release, spread, dispersal, or persistence of
15 those covered microorganisms in the environment;

16 “(2) unless otherwise authorized under a permit
17 under this Act, only move a covered microorganism
18 between sites that are responsible party biocontain-
19 ment facilities;

20 “(3) maintain, move, and dispose of each cov-
21 ered microorganism separately from other orga-
22 nisms;

23 “(4) ensure that each covered microorganism is
24 maintained, moved, and disposed of in a manner

1 commensurate with the plant pest risk posed by that
2 covered microorganism;

3 “(5) use, at a minimum, a package for move-
4 ment—

5 “(A) that consists of a securely sealed
6 inner and outer container, each of which is an
7 effective barrier to the escape or unauthorized
8 dissemination of the covered microorganism;

9 “(B) the inner container of which—

10 “(i) contains all of the applicable cov-
11 ered microorganism; and

12 “(ii) is cushioned and sealed in such
13 a manner as to remain sealed during any
14 shock, impact, or change in pressure; and

15 “(C) the outer container of which is rigid
16 and strong enough to withstand typical ship-
17 ping conditions (such as dropping, stacking,
18 and impact from other freight) without opening;

19 “(6) on request, grant the Secretary access—

20 “(A) to sample materials associated with
21 the interstate movement of covered microorga-
22 nisms under the pilot program;

23 “(B) to observe and inspect the interstate
24 movement of those covered microorganisms; and

1 “(C) to audit records of the activities of
2 the responsible party under the pilot program;

3 “(7) maintain detailed and accurate records of
4 all activities carried out under the pilot program to
5 demonstrate compliance with the applicable require-
6 ments;

7 “(8) on request, grant the Secretary access to
8 each responsible party biocontainment facility for in-
9 spection in relation to a responsible party’s enroll-
10 ment in the pilot program; and

11 “(9) comply with any additional requirement
12 for the containment of covered microorganisms in
13 interstate commerce that the Secretary may require
14 if—

15 “(A) the Secretary determines that such
16 an additional requirement is reasonable; and

17 “(B) the sole purpose of such additional
18 requirement is to avoid a covered unauthorized
19 release.

20 “(f) PROHIBITION ON CERTAIN PREFERENCES.—In
21 carrying out the pilot program, the Secretary shall take
22 no action or promulgate any regulation that—

23 “(1) treats genetically engineered covered
24 microorganisms less favorably than nongenetically
25 engineered covered microorganisms; or

1 “(2) limits the quantity or type of covered
2 microorganisms that may be moved under the pilot
3 program between responsible party biocontainment
4 facilities.

5 “(g) REPORTING BY RESPONSIBLE PARTIES.—A re-
6 sponsible party shall submit to the Secretary a quarterly
7 report that describes the activities of the responsible party
8 under the pilot program during the period covered by the
9 report, including—

10 “(1) a description of each covered microorga-
11 nism moved in interstate commerce, including—

12 “(A) the 1 or more countries or localities
13 at which the covered microorganism was col-
14 lected, developed, manufactured, reared, cul-
15 tivated, or cultured, as applicable;

16 “(B) the genus, species, and any relevant
17 subspecies and common name information of
18 the covered microorganism; and

19 “(C) when applicable, a brief description of
20 the genetic modifications made in the micro-
21 organism, including—

22 “(i) the intended phenotype that the 1
23 or more modifications are expected to con-
24 fer;

1 “(ii) any targeted deletions, inser-
2 tions, or base pair substitutions; and

3 “(iii) the genetic elements used in im-
4 parting the modification, including the
5 name, donor organism, and a brief descrip-
6 tion of the function;

7 “(2) each method by which the covered micro-
8 organism was moved in interstate commerce;

9 “(3) the quantity of the covered microorganism
10 moved in interstate commerce; and

11 “(4) the specific responsible party biocontain-
12 ment facilities between which the covered microorga-
13 nism was moved in interstate commerce.

14 “(h) UNAUTHORIZED RELEASE.—In the case of a
15 covered unauthorized release, a responsible party shall—

16 “(1) contact the applicable office within the
17 Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service within
18 48 hours of discovery of the covered unauthorized
19 release; and

20 “(2) submit to the Secretary a statement of
21 facts pertaining to such release, in writing, not later
22 than 5 business days after the date of that dis-
23 covery.

24 “(i) DISENROLLMENT FROM PILOT PROGRAM.—

1 “(1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall termi-
2 nate the enrollment of a responsible party in the
3 pilot program if the Secretary has a sound factual
4 basis to determine that—

5 “(A) the responsible party no longer meets
6 the eligibility criteria of a responsible party de-
7 scribed in subsection (a)(5);

8 “(B) the responsible party has materially
9 failed to comply with the requirements under
10 subsection (e); or

11 “(C) as a result of a failure by a respon-
12 sible party under subparagraph (B), the respon-
13 sible party caused a covered unauthorized re-
14 lease during the pilot program.

15 “(2) DISENROLLMENT DECISION.—If the Sec-
16 retary terminates the enrollment of a responsible
17 party under paragraph (1), the Secretary shall sub-
18 mit that decision in writing to the responsible party.

19 “(3) APPEAL.—The appeal process described in
20 subsection (d)(3) shall apply in the case of a respon-
21 sible party that seeks to appeal a termination of en-
22 rollment under paragraph (1).

23 “(j) TERMINATION.—The pilot program shall termi-
24 nate on the date that is 3 years after the date on which

1 the Secretary completes the application selection process
 2 under subsection (d)(1)(B).

3 “(k) REPORT.—Not later than 6 months after the
 4 date of termination of the pilot program described in sub-
 5 section (j), the Secretary shall submit to Congress a report
 6 that describes—

7 “(1) the activities carried out under the pilot
 8 program, including—

9 “(A) the quantities and identities of cov-
 10 ered microorganisms that were moved; and

11 “(B) a description of any unauthorized re-
 12 lease of covered microorganisms that were
 13 moved, including a description of the cause and
 14 consequence of any unauthorized release; and

15 “(2) recommendations on—

16 “(A) whether the pilot program should be-
 17 come a permanent program; and

18 “(B) whether, as a permanent program,
 19 changes should be made to the criteria for a re-
 20 sponsible party under subsection (a)(5) or to
 21 the requirements under subsection (e).”.

22 **Subtitle B—Marketing**

23 **SEC. 10101. MARKETING ORDERS.**

24 Section 8e(a) of the Agricultural Adjustment Act (7
 25 U.S.C. 608e–1(a)), reenacted with amendments by the Ag-

1 ricultural Marketing Agreement Act of 1937, is amend-
2 ed—

3 (1) by inserting “mandarin oranges,” after “or-
4 anges,”;

5 (2) by inserting “almonds,” after “onions,”;
6 and

7 (3) by striking “, other than dates for proc-
8 essing,” each place it appears.

9 **SEC. 10102. LOCAL AGRICULTURE MARKET PROGRAM.**

10 Section 210A of the Agricultural Marketing Act of
11 1946 (7 U.S.C. 1627c) is amended—

12 (1) in subsection (a)—

13 (A) by redesignating paragraphs (5)
14 through (13) as paragraphs (6) through (14),
15 respectively; and

16 (B) by inserting after paragraph (4) the
17 following:

18 “(5) FOOD HUB.—The term ‘food hub’ means
19 a business or organization that actively manages the
20 aggregation, distribution, and marketing of source-
21 identified food products to multiple buyers from
22 multiple producers, who are primarily local and re-
23 gional producers, to strengthen the ability of such
24 producers to satisfy local and regional wholesale, re-
25 tail, and institutional demands.”;

1 (2) in subsection (b)(4), by inserting “, regional
2 food chain coordination,” after “collaboration”;

3 (3) in subsection (c)(4), by striking “stake-
4 holders” and inserting “stakeholders before and
5 after providing grants under the program”;

6 (4) in subsection (d)—

7 (A) in paragraph (1), by striking “2023”
8 and inserting “2031”;

9 (B) in paragraph (2)—

10 (i) in subparagraph (I), by striking
11 “or”;

12 (ii) in subparagraph (J)(ii), by strik-
13 ing the period at the end and inserting “;
14 or”; and

15 (iii) by inserting at the end the fol-
16 lowing:

17 “(K) to support the purchase of special
18 purpose equipment.”; and

19 (C) in paragraph (6)—

20 (i) in subparagraph (B)—

21 (I) by redesignating clauses (vii)
22 and (viii) as clauses (viii) and (ix), re-
23 spectively; and

24 (II) by inserting after clause (vi)
25 the following:

1 “(vii) a food hub;”;

2 (ii) in subparagraph (C)—

3 (I) in the matter preceding clause

4 (i), by striking “applications that”

5 and inserting “applications, outreach,

6 and technical assistance that would”;

7 (II) in clause (i), by striking “or”

8 at the end;

9 (III) by redesignating clause (ii)

10 as clause (iii);

11 (IV) by inserting after clause (i)

12 the following:

13 “(ii) provide greater geographic bal-

14 ance relative to the benefits of the Pro-

15 gram; or”; and

16 (V) in clause (iii) (as so redesign-

17 nated), by striking “are used” and in-

18 serting “be used”;

19 (iii) by redesignating subparagraphs

20 (D) and (E) as subparagraphs (E) and

21 (F), respectively; and

22 (iv) by inserting after subparagraph

23 (C) the following:

24 “(D) SIMPLIFIED APPLICATIONS.—

1 “(i) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary
2 shall establish a simplified application form
3 for eligible entities described in subpara-
4 graph (B) that—

5 “(I) request less than \$100,000;

6 and

7 “(II) choose from the project cat-
8 egories described in clause (ii), which
9 shall include a specific, limited set of
10 key activities with predefined require-
11 ments established by the Secretary.

12 “(ii) PROJECT CATEGORIES.—The
13 Secretary shall establish a simplified appli-
14 cation form for the following project cat-
15 egories but may include additional project
16 categories as necessary:

17 “(I) DIRECT-TO-CONSUMER
18 PROJECTS.—In the case of a direct-to-
19 consumer project, an application form
20 described in clause (i) may be avail-
21 able for the following categories of
22 projects:

23 “(aa) An outreach and pro-
24 motion project.

1 “(bb) A project to provide
2 funding for farmers market man-
3 ager staff time.

4 “(cc) A project to provide
5 vendor training.

6 “(dd) A planning and design
7 project.

8 “(ee) A data collection and
9 evaluation project.

10 “(II) LOCAL AND REGIONAL
11 FOOD MARKETS AND ENTERPRISE
12 PROJECTS.—In the case of a local and
13 regional food market and enterprise
14 project, an application form described
15 in clause (i) may be available for the
16 following categories of projects:

17 “(aa) A food hub feasibility
18 study project.

19 “(bb) A project to provide
20 funding for regional food chain
21 coordination staff time.

22 “(cc) A project to provide
23 technical assistance.

24 “(dd) A data collection and
25 evaluation project.

1 “(ee) A project to support
2 the purchase of special purpose
3 equipment.”;

4 (5) in subsection (e)(2)(A), by striking “2019
5 through 2023” and all that follows through the pe-
6 riod at the end and inserting the following: “2026
7 through 2031 to support partnerships—

8 “(i) to plan a local or regional food
9 system;

10 “(ii) to implement a local or regional
11 food system plan;

12 “(iii) to develop and implement a re-
13 gional food chain coordination project; and

14 “(iv) to develop and implement a re-
15 gional outreach, technical assistance, and
16 evaluation project.”;

17 (6) in subsection (f)(1)—

18 (A) in subparagraph (A), by striking “sub-
19 section (d); or” and inserting “subsection
20 (d)(5);”;

21 (B) by redesignating subparagraph (B) as
22 subparagraph (C); and

23 (C) by inserting after subparagraph (A)
24 the following:

1 “(B) are eligible to submit an application
 2 in accordance with subsection (d)(6)(D); or”;
 3 and
 4 (7) in subsection (i)(3)(B)—

5 (A) by striking “Of the funds” and insert-
 6 ing the following:

7 “(i) IN GENERAL.—Of the funds”;

8 and

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

10 “(ii) SIMPLIFIED APPLICATIONS.—Of
 11 the funds made available for grants under
 12 subsection (d)(6) for a fiscal year, not less
 13 than 10 percent, and not more than 50
 14 percent, shall be used to provide grants to
 15 eligible entities that submit an application
 16 in accordance with subsection (d)(6)(D).”.

17 **SEC. 10103. ACER ACCESS AND DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM.**

18 Section 12306 of the Agricultural Act of 2014 (7
 19 U.S.C. 1632c) is amended—

20 (1) by redesignating subsections (e) and (f) as
 21 subsections (f) and (g), respectively;

22 (2) by inserting after subsection (d) the fol-
 23 lowing:

24 “(e) CONSULTATIONS.—

1 “(1) IN GENERAL.—Beginning with the first re-
 2 quest for applications under this section that occurs
 3 at least 1 year after the date of enactment of this
 4 Act, not later than 6 months before such a request
 5 for applications, the Secretary shall solicit input
 6 from maple syrup industry stakeholders with respect
 7 to the research and education priorities of the maple
 8 syrup industry.

9 “(2) CONSIDERATION.—The Secretary shall
 10 consider the information provided through the con-
 11 sultation required under paragraph (1) when making
 12 grants under this section.”; and

13 (3) in subsection (g), as so redesignated, by
 14 striking “2023” and inserting “2031, to remain
 15 available until expended”.

16 **SEC. 10104. ORGANIC PRODUCTION AND MARKET DATA INI-**
 17 **TIATIVE.**

18 Section 7407 of the Farm Security and Rural Invest-
 19 ment Act of 2002 (7 U.S.C. 5925c) is amended—

20 (1) in subsection (b)—

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

23 (B) in paragraph (3), by striking the pe-
 24 riod at the end and inserting “; and”; and

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

1 “(4) collect and publish cost-of-production data
2 for organic milk, through support from regional and
3 national programs, including regularly reported data
4 related to—

5 “(A) the costs of major organic feedstuffs,
6 including—

7 “(i) the prices for major organic
8 feedstuffs produced domestically;

9 “(ii) the prices for imported major or-
10 ganic feedstuffs; and

11 “(iii) all other costs relating to the
12 production of organic milk;

13 “(B) the establishment of an Organic All
14 Milk Prices Survey, which shall be analogous to
15 the existing All Milk Prices Survey conducted
16 by the National Agricultural Statistics Service,
17 to gather and report monthly data about the
18 amounts organic dairy farmers are being paid
19 for organic milk and prices received for organic
20 dairy cows, including—

21 “(i) national data; and

22 “(ii) data relating to, at a minimum,
23 the 6 regions with the greatest quantity of
24 organic dairy production; and

1 “(C) periodic organic milk reporting under
2 which the Secretary, using data collected by the
3 National Agricultural Statistics Service, the
4 Economic Research Service, or the Agricultural
5 Marketing Service, publishes new periodic re-
6 ports that include, or add to existing periodic
7 reports relating to, data for organic milk, which
8 shall be equivalent to data reported for conven-
9 tionally produced milk.”; and
10 (2) in subsection (d)(2), by striking “2023”
11 and inserting “2031”.

12 **SEC. 10105. ORGANIC CERTIFICATION.**

13 (a) REPORTS.—Section 2122(d)(1) of the Organic
14 Foods Production Act of 1990 (7 U.S.C. 6521(d)(1)) is
15 amended by striking “2023” and inserting “2031”.

16 (b) ORGANIC TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE.—The Or-
17 ganic Foods Production Act of 1990 is amended by insert-
18 ing after section 2122A (7 U.S.C. 6521a) the following:

19 **“SEC. 2122B. ORGANIC TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE.**

20 “(a) IN GENERAL.—In carrying out this title, the
21 Secretary may provide technical assistance, outreach, and
22 education to support organic production through existing
23 programs implemented by a covered agency.

24 “(b) COVERED AGENCY.—For the purposes of this
25 section, the term ‘covered agency’ means—

1 “(1) the Agricultural Marketing Service;
2 “(2) the Agricultural Research Service;
3 “(3) the National Institute of Food and Agri-
4 culture;
5 “(4) the Farm Service Agency;
6 “(5) the Risk Management Agency;
7 “(6) the Natural Resources Conservation Serv-
8 ice;
9 “(7) the Rural Business-Cooperative Service;
10 “(8) the Food and Nutrition Service; and
11 “(9) other agencies, as determined by the Sec-
12 retary.”.

13 (c) FUNDING.—Section 2123(b)(6) of the Organic
14 Foods Production Act of 1990 (7 U.S.C. 6522(b)(6)) is
15 amended by striking “for fiscal year 2023” and inserting
16 “for each of fiscal years 2023 through 2031”.

17 **SEC. 10106. REPORT ON PROCUREMENT.**

18 Not later than 1 year after the date of the enactment
19 of the Farm, Food, and National Security Act of 2026,
20 the Secretary shall submit to the Committee on Agri-
21 culture of the House of Representatives and the Com-
22 mittee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry of the Sen-
23 ate a report that examines—

24 (1) the process by which domestic commodities
25 or products (as defined in section 220.16 of title 7,

1 Code of Federal Regulations (or any successor regu-
 2 lation)) are procured by the Secretary, including the
 3 solicitation process used to procure such commod-
 4 ities or products;

5 (2) barriers to entry into such procurement
 6 process that are for nontraditional, culturally rel-
 7 evant, or local and regional commodities or products;

8 (3) the diet quality and accessibility of commod-
 9 ities or products that are so procured; and

10 (4) the Secretary's recommendations for admin-
 11 istrative, regulatory, and legislative changes to im-
 12 prove such procurement process.

13 **SEC. 10107. DEFINITIONS OF RISK TO ORGANIC INTEGRITY**
 14 **AND OVERSIGHT PROTOCOLS.**

15 Section 2103 of the Organic Foods Production Act
 16 of 1990 (7 U.S.C. 6502) is amended—

17 (1) by redesignating paragraphs (20) through
 18 (22) as paragraphs (22) through (24), respectively;

19 (2) by redesignating paragraphs (16) through
 20 (19) as paragraphs (17) through (20), respectively;

21 (3) by inserting after paragraph (15) the fol-
 22 lowing:

23 “(16) OVERSIGHT PROTOCOLS.—The term
 24 ‘oversight protocols’ means the regulations, policies,
 25 and procedures issued by the Secretary under the

1 authorities provided in sections 2104, 2107, 2114,
2 2115, 2116, and 2120.”; and

3 (4) by inserting after paragraph (20), as so re-
4 designated, the following:

5 “(21) RISK TO ORGANIC INTEGRITY.—The term
6 ‘risk to organic integrity’ means the likelihood that
7 a product marketed as organically produced is, or
8 contains, an agricultural product that was not pro-
9 duced using a system of organic farming in compli-
10 ance with this title, not processed in compliance with
11 this title, or both.”.

12 **SEC. 10108. MODERNIZATION OF INSPECTION REQUIRE-**
13 **MENTS.**

14 Paragraph (5) of section 2107(a) of the Organic
15 Foods Production Act of 1990 (7 U.S.C. 6506(a)) is
16 amended to read as follows:

17 “(5) provide for annual inspections by the certi-
18 fying agent of each farm and handling operation
19 that has been certified under this title, which inspec-
20 tions shall be—

21 “(A) in the case of a farm or handling op-
22 eration site located outside of the United
23 States, conducted on-site;

24 “(B) in the case of a farm or handling op-
25 eration site located in the United States, con-

ducted on-site once every three years with intervening annual inspections being conducted on-site or virtually based on the farm's or handling operation's risk to organic integrity, as determined by the Secretary; and

“(C) in the case of a handling operation that acquires but does not physically receive, process, package, or store organic products, conducted through inspection methods, including virtual methods, that provide sufficient assurance of compliance, as determined by the Secretary;”.

**SEC. 10109. STUDY AND REFORM OF NATIONAL ORGANIC
PROGRAM OVERSIGHT PROTOCOLS.**

The Organic Foods Production Act of 1990 (7 U.S.C. 6501 et seq.), as amended by section 10105, is further amended by inserting after section 2122B (as added by such section 10105) the following:

**“SEC. 2122C. STUDY AND REFORM OF NATIONAL ORGANIC
PROGRAM OVERSIGHT PROTOCOLS.**

“(a) STUDY.—Not later than 12 months after the date of enactment of this section, the Secretary shall conduct a comprehensive study for the purpose of determining whether the establishment of oversight protocols based on

1 risk to organic integrity and the implementation of related
2 reforms are necessary and appropriate.

3 “(b) ELEMENTS.—

4 “(1) IN GENERAL.—In conducting the study
5 under subsection (a), the Secretary shall examine
6 the feasibility, opportunities, and implications of im-
7 plementing oversight protocols that—

8 “(A) are based on risk to organic integrity;

9 “(B) include differential treatment of non-
10 compliance that increases the risk to organic in-
11 tegrity versus non-compliance that does not;

12 “(C) adopt standardized organic plans
13 under section 2114 aligned with the risk to or-
14 ganic integrity;

15 “(D) include a multi-tiered approach to
16 certification aligned with the risk to organic in-
17 tegrity and the scale of the organic operation;
18 and

19 “(E) provide increased guidance and inter-
20 pretations of standards and criteria established
21 under this title given by the National Organic
22 Program to certifying agents and to certified
23 organic farms and handling operations.

24 “(2) CONSIDERATION OF RELEVANT FAC-
25 TORS.—In administering paragraph (1), the Sec-

1 retary shall, with respect to certified organic farms,
2 certified organic handling operations, and certifying
3 agents, take into account—

4 “(A) the scope of certification or accredita-
5 tion of each entity;

6 “(B) the scale and complexity of each enti-
7 ty;

8 “(C) the domestic or international location
9 of each entity;

10 “(D) the history of compliance of each en-
11 tity; and

12 “(E) other relevant factors.

13 “(c) REPORT.—Not later than 18 months after the
14 date of enactment of this section, the Secretary shall sub-
15 mit to the appropriate congressional committees, and
16 make publicly available on the websites of the Department
17 of Agriculture, a report describing the findings of the
18 study conducted under subsection (a).

19 “(d) CONSULTATION.—In conducting the study
20 under subsection (a), the Secretary shall consult with—

21 “(1) the National Organic Standards Board;

22 “(2) certifying agents;

23 “(3) certified organic farms and handling oper-
24 ations;

25 “(4) organic consumers; and

1 “(5) other relevant organic stakeholders.

2 “(e) AUTHORITY TO ESTABLISH ADDITIONAL TERMS
3 AND CONDITIONS.—

4 “(1) ISSUANCE OF REGULATIONS.—Based on
5 the findings described in the report under subsection
6 (c), and after consultation with the appropriate con-
7 gressional committees, the Secretary may issue regu-
8 lations to establish or modify oversight protocols
9 under this title that the Secretary determines are
10 necessary and appropriate, provided such regulations
11 maintain strong organic integrity, support a resilient
12 domestic organic sector, and are consistent with the
13 requirements of this title.

14 “(2) REDUCING OVERSIGHT COSTS;
15 PRIORITIZATION.—In issuing the regulations under
16 paragraph (1), the Secretary may seek to—

17 “(A) reduce oversight costs and adminis-
18 trative burdens for certified organic farms, cer-
19 tified organic handling operations, and certi-
20 fying agents that present a lower risk to or-
21 ganic integrity; or

22 “(B) prioritize oversight resources for ac-
23 tivities that present a higher risk to organic in-
24 tegrity.

1 “(f) APPROPRIATE CONGRESSIONAL COMMITTEES
2 DEFINED.—In this section, the term ‘appropriate congres-
3 sional committees’ means—

4 “(1) the Committee on Agriculture of the
5 House of Representatives; and

6 “(2) the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition,
7 and Forestry of the Senate.

8 “(g) RULE OF CONSTRUCTION.—Nothing in this sec-
9 tion shall be construed to limit the Secretary’s authority
10 to enforce compliance with this title to protect organic in-
11 tegrity.”.

12 **Subtitle C—Regulatory Reform**

13 **PART I—FEDERAL INSECTICIDE, FUNGICIDE,** 14 **AND RODENTICIDE ACT**

15 **SEC. 10201. EXCLUSION OF CERTAIN SUBSTANCES.**

16 (a) DEFINITIONS.—Section 2 of the Federal Insecti-
17 cide, Fungicide, and Rodenticide Act (7 U.S.C. 136) is
18 amended—

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

21 “(v) PLANT REGULATOR.—

22 “(1) IN GENERAL.—The term ‘plant regulator’
23 means any substance or mixture of substances in-
24 tended, through physiological action, for accelerating
25 or retarding the rate of growth or rate of matura-

tion, or for otherwise altering the behavior of plants
or the produce thereof.

“(2) EXCLUSIONS.—Such term shall not include—

“(A) substances to the extent that they
are—

“(i) intended to be produced and used
within a plant; or

“(ii) intended as plant nutrients, trace
elements, nutritional chemicals, plant in-
oculants, soil amendments, or vitamin hor-
mone products; or

“(B) plant biostimulants that—

“(i) have a low-risk profile in relation
to humans and other organisms, as deter-
mined by the Agency; and

“(ii) are of biological origin or include
chemical compounds that are synthetically
derived, but structurally-similar and func-
tionally identical to, substances of biologi-
cal origin.”;

(2) in subsection (hh)—

(A) in paragraph (2), by striking “or”;

(B) in paragraph (3)—

1 (i) in the matter preceding subpara-
2 graph (A), by striking “substances.” and
3 inserting “substances”; and

4 (ii) in subparagraph (B)—

5 (I) by striking “volatilization
6 urease” and inserting “volatilization,
7 or urease”;

8 (II) by striking the period at the
9 end and inserting a semicolon; and

10 (C) by inserting after paragraph (3) the
11 following:

12 “(4) a plant biostimulant; or

13 “(5) a nutritional chemical.”; and

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

15 “(pp) PLANT BIOSTIMULANT.—The term ‘plant bio-
16 stimulant’ means any substance or mixture of substances
17 that, when applied to seeds, plants, the rhizosphere, or soil
18 or other growth media, acts to support a plant’s natural
19 nutrition processes independently of the nutrient content
20 of that substance or mixture of substances, and that there-
21 by improves—

22 “(1) nutrient availability, uptake, or use effi-
23 ciency;

24 “(2) tolerance to abiotic stress; or

1 “(3) consequent growth, development, quality,
2 or yield.

3 “(qq) NUTRITIONAL CHEMICAL.—The term ‘nutri-
4 tional chemical’ means any substance or mixture of sub-
5 stances that interacts with plant nutrients in a manner
6 that improves nutrient availability or aids the plant in ac-
7 quiring or utilizing plant nutrients.

8 “(rr) VITAMIN HORMONE PRODUCT.—The term ‘vi-
9 tamin hormone product’ means a product that—

10 “(1) consists of a mixture of plant hormones,
11 plant nutrients, plant inoculants, soil amendments,
12 trace elements, nutritional chemicals, plant biostimu-
13 lants, or vitamins that is intended for the improve-
14 ment, maintenance, survival, health, and propaga-
15 tion of plants;

16 “(2) is nontoxic and nonpoisonous in the undi-
17 luted packaged concentrations of the product; and

18 “(3) is not intended for use on food crop sites
19 and is labeled accordingly.

20 “(ss) PLANT-INCORPORATED PROTECTANT.—

21 “(1) IN GENERAL.—The term ‘plant-incor-
22 porated protectant’ means a pesticide that is—

23 “(A) intended for preventing, destroying,
24 repelling, or mitigating a pest; and

1 “(B) a substance or mixture of substances
2 intended to be produced and used within a liv-
3 ing plant, or in the produce thereof, and the ge-
4 netic material necessary for its production.

5 “(2) INCLUSIONS.—Such term includes any
6 inert ingredient (as defined in section 174.3 of title
7 40, Code of Federal Regulations (or any successor
8 regulation)).”.

9 (b) EXEMPTION FROM REGULATION.—Section 25(b)
10 of the Federal Insecticide, Fungicide, and Rodenticide Act
11 (7 U.S.C. 136w(b)) is amended to read as follows:

12 “(b) EXEMPTION OF PESTICIDES.—

13 “(1) EXEMPTION BY RULE.—The Adminis-
14 trator may exempt from the requirements of this Act
15 by regulation any pesticide which the Administrator
16 determines either—

17 “(A) to be adequately regulated by another
18 Federal agency; or

19 “(B) to be of a character which is unneces-
20 sary to be subject to this Act in order to carry
21 out the purposes of this Act.

22 “(2) EXEMPTION FOR CERTAIN PLANT-INCOR-
23 PORATED PROTECTANTS.—

24 “(A) EXEMPTION.—

1 “(i) IN GENERAL.—Upon the issuance
2 of guidance as described in subparagraph
3 (B), plant-incorporated protectants result-
4 ing from endogenous genetic material
5 found within or that could arise from the
6 plant’s gene pool are exempt from the re-
7 quirements of this Act.

8 “(ii) EXCEPTION.—A specific plant-
9 incorporated protectant arising from en-
10 dogenous genetic material found within or
11 that could arise from the plant’s gene pool
12 shall not be exempt from the requirements
13 of this Act if the Administrator determines
14 that such plant-incorporated protectant is
15 of a character which is necessary to be
16 subject to this Act in order to carry out
17 the purposes of this Act.

18 “(B) GUIDANCE.—Not later than 1 year
19 after the date of the enactment of the Farm,
20 Food, and National Security Act of 2026, the
21 Administrator shall issue guidance for the im-
22 plementation of subparagraph (A). The Admin-
23 istrator may update such guidance, as the Ad-
24 ministrator determines to be appropriate.

25 “(C) ORDER.—

1 “(i) IN GENERAL.—If the Adminis-
2 trator makes a determination described in
3 subparagraph (A)(ii) with respect to a
4 plant-incorporated protectant, the Admin-
5 istrator shall issue an order explaining the
6 basis for such determination, which may be
7 issued directly to any person who owns,
8 controls, or has custody of such plant-in-
9 corporated protectant or published in the
10 Federal Register.

11 “(ii) EFFECT OF ORDER.—After re-
12 ceipt or publication of an order described
13 in clause (i), the plant-incorporated pro-
14 tectant described in the order will no
15 longer be exempt from the requirements of
16 this Act.

17 “(D) TOLERANCE EXEMPTION.—The res-
18 idue of a plant-incorporated protectant that is
19 exempt under subparagraph (A)(i) shall be ex-
20 empt from the requirement for a tolerance
21 under section 408 of the Federal Food, Drug,
22 and Cosmetic Act (21 U.S.C. 346a) unless, and
23 until such time as, the Administrator issues or
24 publishes an order under subparagraph (C)(i).”.

1 (c) CONFORMING AMENDMENTS.—Section 17(c) of
 2 the Federal Insecticide, Fungicide, and Rodenticide Act
 3 (7 U.S.C. 136o(c)) is amended—

4 (1) in paragraph (2)—

5 (A) in the matter preceding subparagraph
 6 (A), by striking “(as defined in section 174.3 of
 7 title 40, Code of Federal Regulations (or any
 8 successor regulation))”;

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

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

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

14 “(D) that plant-incorporated protectant is
 15 exempt under section 25(b)(2) or part 174 of
 16 title 40, Code of Federal Regulations (or any
 17 successor regulation).”; and

18 (2) in paragraph (3)(A), by striking “(as de-
 19 fined in section 174.3 of title 40, Code of Federal
 20 Regulations (or any successor regulation))”.

21 **SEC. 10202. COORDINATION.**

22 Section 3 of the Federal Insecticide, Fungicide, and
 23 Rodenticide Act (7 U.S.C. 136a) is amended by adding
 24 at the end the following:

25 “(i) COORDINATION.—

1 “(1) RISK MITIGATION MEASURES.—If any risk
2 mitigation measures are required for any pesticide
3 registered under this Act, the Administrator shall—

4 “(A) develop such measures in coordina-
5 tion with the Secretary of Agriculture; and

6 “(B) conduct, and publish in the docket,
7 with the corresponding action, an economic
8 analysis determining the cost of implementation
9 of such measures.

10 “(2) DATA AND INFORMATION.—

11 “(A) COORDINATION OF DATA AND INFOR-
12 MATION.—With regard to the registration or
13 registration review of a pesticide under this Act
14 and for making a determination under section
15 408 of the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic
16 Act (21 U.S.C. 346a) with respect to any action
17 that impacts the sale, distribution, or use of a
18 pesticide, the Administrator shall coordinate
19 with the Secretary of Agriculture, acting
20 through the Director of the Office of Pest Man-
21 agement Policy, so that the Administrator has
22 for the Administrator’s use and consideration
23 for such processes—

24 “(i) agronomic use data from—

1 “(I) the Department of Agri-
2 culture; and

3 “(II) industry; and

4 “(ii) any information relating to the
5 availability and economic viability of alter-
6 natives to such pesticide.

7 “(B) DATA AND INFORMATION.—When
8 issuing any decision resulting from the proc-
9 esses referred to in subparagraph (A), the Ad-
10 ministrator shall publish—

11 “(i) a description of the use by the
12 Administrator of any data or information
13 provided by the Secretary of Agriculture
14 under subparagraph (A); and

15 “(ii) the determination of the Admin-
16 istrator on whether to use such data or in-
17 formation, including, as applicable, the
18 reasons that the data or information was
19 not used.

20 “(3) REASONABLE AND PRUDENT ACTIONS AND
21 MEASURES.—For implementation of reasonable and
22 prudent actions and measures with respect to the
23 use of a pesticide registered under this Act, the Ad-
24 ministrator shall coordinate with the Secretary of

1 Agriculture, the Secretary of the Interior, and the
2 Secretary of Commerce—

3 “(A) to review the development of any such
4 actions and measures that are a result of con-
5 sultations relating to actions under this Act;

6 “(B) to fully consider the risks and bene-
7 fits of any such actions and measures in a man-
8 ner consistent with practices established to
9 evaluate the risks and benefits of a pesticide
10 registered under this Act; and

11 “(C) to provide feedback to the Secretary
12 of the Interior and the Secretary of Commerce
13 on decisions relating to any such actions and
14 measures that may affect end users of a pes-
15 ticide registered under this Act.

16 “(4) WAIVER.—The coordination requirements
17 imposed by this subsection may be waived or modi-
18 fied for a specific action to the extent agreed upon
19 by the Administrator, the Secretary of Agriculture,
20 and the registrant so long as such agreement is pub-
21 lished by the Administrator in the docket for the
22 corresponding action.”.

1 **SEC. 10203. INTERAGENCY WORKING GROUP.**

2 Section 3(c)(11) of the Federal Insecticide, Fun-
3 gicide, and Rodenticide Act (7 U.S.C. 136a(c)(11)) is
4 amended—

5 (1) in subparagraph (B)—

6 (A) by striking “The Administrator shall”
7 and inserting the following:

8 “(i) IN GENERAL.—The Administrator
9 shall”; and

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

11 “(ii) PARTICIPATION.—The Secretary
12 of Agriculture shall include the Director of
13 the Office of Pest Management Policy in
14 all meetings of the interagency working
15 group.”;

16 (2) in subparagraph (D)—

17 (A) in clause (iv)—

18 (i) by striking “every 180 days there-
19 after” and inserting “each year there-
20 after”; and

21 (ii) by striking “during the 5-year pe-
22 riod beginning on that date”; and

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

24 “(v) AVAILABILITY.—All reports re-
25 quired under this subparagraph shall be

1 published on the website of the Environ-
2 mental Protection Agency.”; and

3 (3) by amending subparagraph (E) to read as
4 follows:

5 “(E) CONSULTATION.—

6 “(i) WORKING GROUP WITH PRIVATE
7 SECTOR.—In carrying out the duties under
8 this paragraph, the working group shall, as
9 appropriate—

10 “(I) consult, including through
11 public meetings, with representatives
12 of interested industry stakeholders
13 and nongovernmental organizations
14 not less than once every year; and

15 “(II) take into consideration fac-
16 tors, such as actual and potential dif-
17 ferences in interest between, and the
18 views of, those stakeholders and orga-
19 nizations.

20 “(ii) ADMINISTRATOR WITH WORKING
21 GROUP.—Before the Administrator imple-
22 ments any policy, strategy, workplan, or
23 pilot program regarding the application of
24 the Endangered Species Act of 1973 (16
25 U.S.C. 1531 et seq.) to the processes for

1 the registration or registration review of a
2 pesticide under this Act, the Administrator
3 shall—

4 “(I) consult with the covered
5 agencies on the policy, strategy,
6 workplan, or pilot program and take
7 into consideration input received; and

8 “(II) publish the input received
9 from the covered agencies in the dock-
10 et with the corresponding policy,
11 strategy, workplan, or pilot pro-
12 gram.”.

13 **SEC. 10204. REGISTRATION REVIEW.**

14 (a) EXTENSION OF DEADLINE.—Section
15 3(g)(1)(A)(iii) of the Federal Insecticide, Fungicide, and
16 Rodenticide Act (7 U.S.C. 136a(g)(1)(A)(iii)) is amend-
17 ed—

18 (1) in the matter preceding subclause (I), by
19 striking “the registration review of” and inserting
20 “the interim registration review decision of”; and

21 (2) in subclause (I), by striking “2022” and in-
22 serting “2031”.

23 (b) INTERIM REGISTRATION REVIEW DECISION RE-
24 QUIREMENTS.—Section 3(g)(1)(A) of the Federal Insecti-
25 cide, Fungicide, and Rodenticide Act (7 U.S.C.

1 136a(g)(1)(A)) is amended by adding at the end the fol-
2 lowing:

3 “(vi) INTERIM REGISTRATION REVIEW DE-
4 CISION REQUIREMENTS.—

5 “(I) REQUIREMENTS.—Any covered
6 interim registration review decision shall
7 include, where applicable, measures to re-
8 duce the effects of the applicable pesticide
9 on—

10 “(aa) species listed under the
11 Endangered Species Act of 1973 (16
12 U.S.C. 1531 et seq.); or

13 “(bb) any designated critical
14 habitat.

15 “(II) CONSULTATION.—In developing
16 measures described in subclause (I), the
17 Administrator shall take into account the
18 input received from the Secretary of Agri-
19 culture and other members of the inter-
20 agency working group established under
21 subsection (c)(11).

22 “(III) COVERED INTERIM REGISTRA-
23 TION REVIEW DECISION.—In this sub-
24 section, the term ‘covered interim registra-

tion review decision’ means an interim registration review decision—

“(aa) that is associated with an initial registration review described in clause (iii);

“(bb) that is noticed in the Federal Register during the period beginning on the date of enactment of this clause and ending on October 1, 2031; and

“(cc) for which the Administrator has not, as of the date on which the decision is noticed in the Federal Register, made effects determinations or completed any necessary consultation under section 7(a)(2) of the Endangered Species Act of 1973 (16 U.S.C. 1536(a)(2)).”.

(c) CONFORMING REPEAL.—Section 711 of the Pesticide Registration Improvement Act of 2022 (title VI of division HH of Public Law 117–328) is repealed.

1 **PART II—OTHER REGULATORY REFORM**

2 **PROVISIONS**

3 **SEC. 10211. MULTIPLE CROP AND PESTICIDE USE SURVEY.**

4 Section 10109(b) of the Agriculture Improvement
5 Act of 2018 (Public Law 115–334; 132 Stat. 4906) is
6 amended to read as follows:

7 “(b) ADMINISTRATION.—

8 “(1) SUBMISSION.—The Secretary shall submit
9 to the Administrator of the Environmental Protec-
10 tion Agency, and make publicly available, the survey
11 described in subsection (a).

12 “(2) COMMERCIAL DATA.—The Secretary, act-
13 ing through the Director of the Office of Pest Man-
14 agement Policy, shall obtain commercial data on pes-
15 ticide use to inform the conduct of, and enhance the
16 results of, the survey described in subsection (a).

17 “(3) RULEMAKING PROCEDURE.—The adminis-
18 tration of this section shall be made without regard
19 to chapter 35 of title 44, United States Code (com-
20 monly known as the Paperwork Reduction Act).”.

21 **SEC. 10212. SAFE HARBOR FOR CERTAIN DISCHARGES OF**
22 **WILDLAND FIRE CHEMICALS.**

23 (a) IN GENERAL.—Subject to subsection (b), no
24 court may enjoin under the Federal Water Pollution Con-
25 trol Act (33 U.S.C. 1251 et seq.) a covered entity from
26 conducting an aerial application of a covered fire retardant

1 and water enhancer for wildfire suppression, control, or
2 prevention activities that results in a discharge, if such
3 aerial application is conducted in accordance with the re-
4 quirements of the Federal Facility Compliance Agreement
5 between the Environmental Protection Agency and the
6 U.S. Forest Service, as agreed to on February 16, 2023.

7 (b) PERIOD OF APPLICATION.—Subsection (a) shall
8 apply to any aerial application described in such sub-
9 section that is conducted before the effective date of a per-
10 mit issued by the Administrator of the Environmental
11 Protection Agency or a State, as applicable, under section
12 402 of the Federal Water Pollution Control Act (33
13 U.S.C. 1342) that authorizes the discharge, from such
14 aerial application, of a covered fire retardant and water
15 enhancer for wildfire suppression, control, or prevention
16 activities.

17 (c) EFFECT.—Nothing in this section affects the au-
18 thority of any court under the Federal Water Pollution
19 Control Act with respect to any discharge resulting from
20 an aerial application not conducted in accordance with the
21 requirements described in subsection (a).

22 (d) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

23 (1) COVERED ENTITY.—The term “covered en-
24 tity” means—

1 (A) any Federal agency, agency of a State
2 or political subdivision thereof, or Tribal agency
3 authorized by law to conduct an aerial applica-
4 tion of fire retardants and water enhancers for
5 wildfire suppression, control, or prevention ac-
6 tivities; and

7 (B) any contractor, subcontractor, or other
8 agent of an agency described in subparagraph
9 (A).

10 (2) COVERED FIRE RETARDANT AND WATER
11 ENHANCER.—The term “covered fire retardant and
12 water enhancer” means a fire retardant and water
13 enhancer that—

14 (A) has been evaluated, qualified, and ap-
15 proved by the Secretary; and

16 (B) appears on the most current Forest
17 Service Qualified Products List.

18 (3) DISCHARGE; STATE.—The terms “dis-
19 charge” and “State” have the meanings given those
20 terms in section 502 of the Federal Water Pollution
21 Control Act (33 U.S.C. 1362).

22 (e) SUNSET.—This section shall cease to be effective
23 on the date that is 5 years after the date of enactment
24 of this section.

1 **SEC. 10213. OFFICE OF BIOTECHNOLOGY POLICY.**

2 Subtitle A of the Department of Agriculture Reorga-
3 nization Act of 1994 (7 U.S.C. 6912 et seq.) is amended
4 by inserting after section 220 (7 U.S.C. 6920) the fol-
5 lowing:

6 **“SEC. 220A. OFFICE OF BIOTECHNOLOGY POLICY.**

7 “(a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall establish in
8 the Department an Office of Biotechnology Policy to pro-
9 vide for the effective coordination of policies and activities
10 within the Department of Agriculture related to bio-
11 technology, biomanufacturing, synthetic biology, and re-
12 lated emerging technologies, while taking into account the
13 effects of regulatory actions of other government agencies.

14 “(b) DIRECTOR.—The Office of Biotechnology Policy
15 shall be under the direction of a Director appointed by
16 the Secretary, who shall report directly to the Secretary
17 or a designee of the Secretary.

18 “(c) DUTIES.—The Director of the Office of Bio-
19 technology Policy shall—

20 “(1) develop and coordinate Department policy
21 on biotechnology and related topics;

22 “(2) coordinate activities and services of the
23 Department on biotechnology and related topics, in-
24 cluding—

25 “(A) research and development;

26 “(B) extension and education;

1 “(C) communication;

2 “(D) regulation and labeling; and

3 “(E) commercialization, use, and trade;

4 “(3) assist other offices and agencies of the De-
5 partment in fulfilling their responsibilities related to
6 biotechnology under applicable Federal law; and

7 “(4) perform such other functions as may be
8 required under Federal law or prescribed by the Sec-
9 retary.

10 “(d) INTERAGENCY COORDINATION.—In carrying out
11 the duties under subsection (c), the Director of the Office
12 of Biotechnology Policy shall provide leadership to ensure
13 coordination of interagency activities with the Environ-
14 mental Protection Agency, the Food and Drug Adminis-
15 tration, and other Federal and State agencies.

16 “(e) OUTREACH.—The Director of the Office of Bio-
17 technology Policy shall consult with biotechnology devel-
18 opers, academics, agricultural producers, and other enti-
19 ties that may be affected by biotechnology-related activi-
20 ties or actions of the Department or other Federal and
21 State agencies as necessary in carrying out the Office’s
22 responsibilities under this section.

23 “(f) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There
24 is authorized to be appropriated to carry out this section
25 \$1,000,000 for each of fiscal years 2027 through 2031.”.

1 **TITLE XI—CROP INSURANCE**

2 **SEC. 11001. SPECIALTY CROP ADVISORY COMMITTEE.**

3 (a) IN GENERAL.—Section 505 of the Federal Crop
4 Insurance Act (7 U.S.C. 1505) is amended—

5 (1) in subsection (a)—

6 (A) in paragraph (2)—

7 (i) by redesignating subparagraphs
8 (E), (F), and (G) as subparagraphs (F),
9 (G), and (H), respectively;

10 (ii) by inserting after subparagraph
11 (D) the following:

12 “(E) The Chairperson of the Specialty
13 Crop Advisory Committee established by sub-
14 section (f).”; and

15 (iii) in subparagraph (H), as so redес-
16 ignated, by striking “specialty crop” and
17 inserting “livestock”;

18 (B) in paragraph (3), by striking “sub-
19 paragraphs (E), (F), and (G) of paragraph (2)”
20 and inserting “subparagraphs (F), (G), and
21 (H) of paragraph (2) and the members of the
22 Specialty Crop Advisory Committee described in
23 subsection (f)(2)”; and

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

25 “(f) SPECIALTY CROP ADVISORY COMMITTEE.—

1 “(1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 180 days
2 after the date of the enactment of this subsection,
3 the Secretary shall—

4 “(A) establish a Specialty Crop Advisory
5 Committee (in this subsection referred to as
6 ‘the Committee’); and

7 “(B) appoint to the Committee in accord-
8 ance with paragraph (2) the initial members
9 that will assist the Corporation in the research,
10 creation, and improvement of policies or plans
11 of insurance for specialty crops.

12 “(2) COMPOSITION.—

13 “(A) CHAIRPERSON.—The Chairperson of
14 the Committee shall be an individual with expe-
15 rience in crop insurance and the unique nature
16 of the specialty crop industry.

17 “(B) MEMBERS.—The Committee shall
18 consist of—

19 “(i) individuals with an understanding
20 of the production methods, markets, and
21 risks (including losses due to weather,
22 trade damages, and supply chain disrup-
23 tions) unique to specialty crop production;

24 “(ii) not less than 5 producers and
25 not more than 10 total members; and

1 “(iii) not less than 1 producer from
2 each of the West, Midwest, South, and
3 Northeast regions of the United States (as
4 identified by the Bureau of the Census).

5 “(3) DUTIES.—The Committee established by
6 this subsection shall—

7 “(A) advise the Manager of the Corpora-
8 tion on issues relating to specialty crop insur-
9 ance policies;

10 “(B) provide input, through the Chair-
11 person of the Committee, to the Board on deci-
12 sions relating to specialty crop insurance poli-
13 cies;

14 “(C) review available educational programs
15 and make recommendations to the Manager of
16 the Corporation on how to enhance the effec-
17 tiveness of such programs for specialty crop
18 producers;

19 “(D) provide recommendations to the Man-
20 ager of the Corporation regarding the presen-
21 tation of policies to the Board required by sec-
22 tion 508(a)(6);

23 “(E) advise the Manager of the Corpora-
24 tion on entering into partnerships to carry out

1 subsections (d) and (e)(2)(B) of section 522;
2 and

3 “(F) meet not less than 2 times each year
4 to carry out these duties.”.

5 (b) SPECIALTY CROPS COORDINATOR.—Section
6 507(g)(2) of the Federal Crop Insurance Act (7 U.S.C.
7 1507(g)(2)) is amended to read as follows:

8 “(2) RESPONSIBILITIES.—

9 “(A) IN GENERAL.—The Specialty Crops
10 Coordinator shall have primary responsibility
11 for addressing the needs of specialty crop pro-
12 ducers, and for providing information and ad-
13 vice, in connection with the activities of the
14 Corporation to improve and expand the insur-
15 ance program for specialty crops.

16 “(B) OTHER DUTIES.—In carrying out
17 this paragraph, the Specialty Crops Coordinator
18 shall—

19 “(i) act as the liaison of the Corpora-
20 tion with representatives of specialty crop
21 producers and the Specialty Crop Advisory
22 Committee; and

23 “(ii) assist the Corporation with the
24 knowledge, expertise, and familiarity of the
25 producers with risk management and pro-

1 duction issues pertaining to specialty
2 crops.”.

3 (c) ANNUAL REVIEW OF NEW AND SPECIALTY
4 CROPS.—Section 508(a)(6)(A) of the Federal Crop Insur-
5 ance Act (7 U.S.C. 1508(a)(6)(A)) is amended by insert-
6 ing “(in consultation with the Specialty Crop Advisory
7 Committee)” after “Corporation”.

8 **SEC. 11002. IDENTIFICATION OF HOLDERS OF SUBSTAN-**
9 **TIAL INTERESTS.**

10 Section 506(m) of the Federal Crop Insurance Act
11 (7 U.S.C. 1506(m)) is amended—

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

14 “(3) IDENTIFICATION OF HOLDERS OF SUB-
15 STANTIAL INTERESTS.—

16 “(A) IN GENERAL.—The Manager of the
17 Corporation may require each policyholder to
18 provide to the Manager, at such times and in
19 such manner as prescribed by the Manager, the
20 name of each individual or other entity that ac-
21 quires or holds a substantial beneficial interest
22 in such policyholder.

23 “(B) EXTENSION AVAILABLE.—

24 “(i) IN GENERAL.—In the case of a
25 policyholder that does not provide the in-

1 formation required pursuant to subpara-
2 graph (A) to the Manager at the time pre-
3 scribed by the Manager, the Manager shall
4 allow such policyholder to provide to the
5 Manager such information at any time
6 during the applicable crop year.

7 “(ii) EXCEPTION.—Clause (i) shall
8 not apply to a policyholder that an ap-
9 proved insurance provider determines—

10 “(I) would receive dispropor-
11 tionate benefits under a crop insur-
12 ance program as a result of failing to
13 provide the information required pur-
14 suant to subparagraph (A) to the
15 Manager at the time prescribed by the
16 Manager; or

17 “(II) failed to provide such infor-
18 mation to avoid an obligation or re-
19 quirement under any State or Federal
20 law.”; and

21 (2) in paragraph (4), by striking “5 percent”
22 and inserting “10 percent”.

1 **SEC. 11003. ACTUARIAL SOUNDNESS OF CERTAIN NEW**
 2 **PRODUCTS.**

3 Section 506(n) of the Federal Crop Insurance Act (7
 4 U.S.C. 1506(n)) is amended by adding at the end the fol-
 5 lowing:

6 “(4) ACTUARIAL SOUNDNESS OF CERTAIN NEW
 7 PRODUCTS.—The Corporation shall—

8 “(A) review each policy or product devel-
 9 oped under section 508(h) periodically for actu-
 10 arial soundness; and

11 “(B) take such actions, in consultation
 12 with persons described in paragraph (1)(A) of
 13 such section, as are necessary to improve the
 14 actuarial soundness of such policies and prod-
 15 ucts.”.

16 **SEC. 11004. COVERAGE OF REVENUE LOSSES.**

17 Section 508(a)(1) of the Federal Crop Insurance Act
 18 (7 U.S.C. 1508(a)(1)) is amended, in the second sentence,
 19 by inserting “or a decline in the market price of the in-
 20 sured commodity, so long as such decline was not directly
 21 caused by the producer (as determined by the Secretary)”
 22 before the period at the end.

23 **SEC. 11005. LIMITATION ON FARM PROGRAM PARTICIPA-**
 24 **TION.**

25 (a) IN GENERAL.—The Federal Crop Insurance Act
 26 (7 U.S.C. 1501 et seq.) is amended—

1 (1) in section 508(c)(4)(C)(iv) in the heading,
2 by striking “CROPS AND”; and

3 (2) in section 508B(f), by striking “Effective
4 beginning with the 2019 crop year” and inserting
5 “Effective for the 2019 through 2025 crop years”.

6 (b) CONFORMING AMENDMENT.—Section 1115 of the
7 Agricultural Act of 2014 (7 U.S.C. 9015) is amended by
8 adding at the end the following:

9 “(j) LIMITATION.—Beginning with the 2026 crop
10 year, in the case of a farm for which a producer obtains
11 coverage under the Stacked Income Protection Plan for
12 upland cotton under section 508B of the Federal Crop In-
13 surance Act (7 U.S.C. 1508b) for a crop year, such farm
14 shall not be eligible to receive payments for seed cotton
15 for such crop year under—

16 “(1) price loss coverage under section 1116; or

17 “(2) agriculture risk coverage under section
18 1117.”.

19 **SEC. 11006. LIMITATION ON INTEREST ACCRUAL.**

20 Section 508(d) of the Federal Crop Insurance Act (7
21 U.S.C. 1508(d)) is amended by inserting at the end the
22 following new paragraph:

23 “(5) LIMITATION ON INTEREST ACCRUAL.—Ef-
24 fective beginning with the 2026 reinsurance year, in
25 the case of a producer that is delinquent in paying

1 a premium or administrative fee, an approved insur-
2 ance provider may charge such producer with re-
3 spect to such delinquency an amount less than or
4 equal to 1 percent of the simple interest of the
5 amount for which such producer is delinquent, for
6 each month (not to exceed 60 consecutive months)
7 the producer is so delinquent.”.

8 **SEC. 11007. CROP INSURANCE SUPPORT FOR BEGINNING**
9 **AND VETERAN FARMERS AND RANCHERS.**

10 (a) DEFINITION OF VETERAN FARMER OR RANCH-
11 ER.—Section 502(b)(14)(B) of the Federal Crop Insur-
12 ance Act (7 U.S.C. 1502(b)(14)(B)) is amended—

13 (1) in clause (ii), by striking “5 years” and in-
14 serting “10 years”; and

15 (2) in clause (iii), by striking “5-year” and in-
16 serting “10-year”.

17 (b) INCREASE IN ASSISTANCE.—Section 508(e)(9) of
18 the Federal Crop Insurance Act (7 U.S.C. 1508(e)) is
19 amended by inserting “or veteran farmer or rancher” after
20 “beginning farmer or rancher” each place it appears.

21 **SEC. 11008. MARKETABILITY.**

22 Section 508(h)(4) of the Federal Crop Insurance Act
23 (7 U.S.C. 1508(h)(4)) is amended—

24 (1) in subparagraph (A), by amending clause
25 (iii) to read as follows:

1 “(iii) APPLICATION.—

2 “(I) IN GENERAL.—Except as
3 provided in subclause (II), this sub-
4 paragraph shall apply with respect to
5 a proposal only during the period pre-
6 ceding any approval of the proposal
7 by the Board.

8 “(II) EXCEPTION.—An approved
9 insurance provider that submits a let-
10 ter of support for a concept proposal,
11 a policy, or plan of insurance shall—

12 “(aa) not be considered the
13 public for purposes of clause (ii);

14 “(bb) have access to data
15 and other product development
16 information submitted to the
17 Board during its review under
18 this subsection; and

19 “(cc) be subject to the con-
20 fidentiality requirements as appli-
21 cable to the Board pursuant to
22 clauses (i) and (ii).”;

23 (2) in subparagraph (D), by adding at the end
24 the following:

1 “(iv) MARKETABILITY DEADLINE.—

2 Any new policy, plan of insurance, or other
3 material approved by the Board under this
4 subsection during a reinsurance year and
5 after the Standard Reinsurance Agreement
6 closing date of July 1 shall not be imple-
7 mented for such reinsurance year unless at
8 least 90 days prior to the sales closing date
9 for such policy, plan of insurance, or other
10 material, the Board makes available to the
11 approved insurance providers all necessary,
12 as determined by the Board, handbooks,
13 training materials, and other resources as-
14 sociated with such policy, plan of insur-
15 ance, or other material.”; and

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

17 “(F) MARKETABILITY DETERMINATION.—

18 “(i) SUBMISSION TO THE BOARD.—

19 Prior to the approval of a product, any ap-
20 proved insurance provider that submitted a
21 letter of support for the product shall pro-
22 vide information and analysis to the Board
23 on the marketability of such product.

24 “(ii) DEEMED MARKETABLE.—In re-
25 viewing a policy, plan of insurance, or

other material submitted to the Board under this subsection, such product shall be deemed marketable in accordance with paragraph (3)(A)(ii)(I) if at least one approved insurance provider, in its submission pursuant to clause (i), expresses support for such policy, plan, or material.

“(iii) EVALUATION BY THE BOARD.—In evaluating whether a product is marketable in accordance with paragraph (3)(A)(ii)(I), the Board shall take into consideration any information and analysis submitted pursuant to clause (ii).

“(iv) AIP PARTICIPATION.—The Board shall not require the submission of a letter of support from an approved insurance provider in order to review and approve any policy, plan of insurance, or other material submitted pursuant to this subsection.”.

**SEC. 11009. REIMBURSEMENT RATES FOR ADMINISTRATIVE
AND OPERATING COSTS.**

Section 508(k)(4) of the Federal Crop Insurance Act (7 U.S.C. 1508(k)(4)) is amended—

(1) in subparagraph (A)—

1 (A) in the matter preceding clause (i), by
2 striking “not exceed”;

3 (B) in clause (i)—

4 (i) by inserting “not exceed” before
5 “for the”; and

6 (ii) by striking “and” after the semi-
7 colon;

8 (C) in clause (ii)—

9 (i) by striking “and subsequent” and
10 inserting “through 2026”;

11 (ii) by inserting “not exceed” before
12 “for each”; and

13 (iii) by striking the period and insert-
14 ing “; and”; and

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

16 “(iii) for each of the 2027 and subse-
17 quent reinsurance years, be determined in
18 accordance with subparagraph (F).”; and

19 (2) by amending subparagraph (F) to read as
20 follows:

21 “(F) REIMBURSEMENT RATES FOR REIN-
22 SURANCE YEAR 2027 AND SUBSEQUENT REIN-
23 SURANCE YEARS.—Notwithstanding subpara-
24 graphs (A), (B), (C), and (E), for each of the
25 2027 and subsequent reinsurance years, the

1 rate established by the Board to reimburse ap-
2 proved insurance providers and agents for the
3 administrative and operating costs of the pro-
4 viders and agents with respect to each policy
5 made available under this Act shall be equal to
6 the rate applicable to the policy in effect for the
7 2026 reinsurance year.”.

8 **SEC. 11010. QUALITY LOSS ADJUSTMENT COVERAGE.**

9 Section 508(m)(3) of the Federal Crop Insurance Act
10 (7 U.S.C. 1508(m)(3)) is amended—

11 (1) by striking subparagraph (A) and inserting
12 the following:

13 “(A) PERIODIC REVIEW.—Beginning in
14 calendar year 2027 and once every 5 years
15 thereafter, the Corporation shall contract with a
16 qualified person to conduct a review, which
17 shall be completed within 1 year of initiation, of
18 the quality loss adjustment procedures of the
19 Corporation.”;

20 (2) in subparagraph (B), by striking “Effective
21 beginning not later than the 2004 reinsurance year,
22 based on the review, the Corporation” and inserting
23 “Based on each review conducted under subpara-
24 graph (A), the Corporation”;

1 (3) by redesignating subparagraph (B) as sub-
2 paragraph (C);

3 (4) by inserting after subparagraph (A) the fol-
4 lowing:

5 “(B) STAKEHOLDER ENGAGEMENT.—Each
6 review under subparagraph (A) shall include en-
7 gagement from regionally diverse industry
8 stakeholders for each agricultural commodity
9 for which a quality loss adjustment is offered.”;
10 and

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

12 “(D) REPORT.—On the completion of each
13 review under subparagraph (A), the Corpora-
14 tion shall submit to the Committee on Agri-
15 culture, Nutrition, and Forestry of the Senate
16 and the Committee on Agriculture of the House
17 of Representatives a report that describes—

18 “(i) the findings from that review;

19 “(ii) the changes to the quality loss
20 adjustment procedures;

21 “(iii) the stakeholder engagement for
22 that review conducted pursuant to sub-
23 paragraph (B); and

24 “(iv) plans for establishing specific
25 quality loss adjustment procedures for

1 unique regions, as determined by the Sec-
2 retary.”.

3 **SEC. 11011. PILOT PROGRAM TO REVIEW EFFECTIVENESS**
4 **OF COVERAGE PENALTY.**

5 The Federal Crop Insurance Act (7 U.S.C. 1501 et
6 seq.) is further amended by inserting after section 508D
7 the following:

8 **“SEC. 508E. PILOT PROGRAM TO REVIEW EFFECTIVENESS**
9 **OF COVERAGE PENALTY.**

10 “(a) IN GENERAL.—Effective beginning with the
11 2027 crop year, the Risk Management Agency and the
12 Corporation shall establish a pilot program to evaluate the
13 effectiveness of the reduction in benefits applied to corn
14 and other crops, as determined by the Corporation, plant-
15 ed during the late planting period (as defined in section
16 457.8 of title 7, Code of Federal Regulations (or successor
17 regulation)).

18 “(b) LOCATION AND DURATION OF PILOT.—The
19 pilot program established under subsection (a) shall—

20 “(1) be conducted in not less than 10 counties
21 located within or adjacent to the North Plains
22 Groundwater Conservation District or the Panhandle
23 Groundwater Conservation District in the State of
24 Texas; and

1 “(2) operate for a period of not less than 4 crop
2 years.

3 “(c) EVALUATION.—In carrying out the pilot pro-
4 gram established under subsection (a), the Risk Manage-
5 ment Agency and the Corporation shall—

6 “(1) suspend any reduction to the insurance
7 guarantee applied to an insurance policy for a crop
8 that is planted during the late planting period;

9 “(2) gather and analyze data to determine if
10 the number of days beyond the final plant date in
11 which a crop was planted during the late planting
12 period correlates with a decrease in crop yields; and

13 “(3) determine if planting a crop after the final
14 plant date results in reduced usage of irrigation
15 from the Ogallala Aquifer.

16 “(d) REPORT REQUIRED.—Not later than 90 days
17 after the last day of crop year 2031, the Risk Management
18 Agency and the Corporation shall submit to the Com-
19 mittee on Agriculture of the House of Representatives and
20 the Committee on Agriculture, Forestry, and Nutrition of
21 the Senate a report that includes—

22 “(1) a summary of the results of the pilot pro-
23 gram established under subsection (a);

24 “(2) an analysis of the correlation between
25 planting date and final yields; and

1 “(3) any changes to existing policies that the
2 Corporation intends to make as a result of the infor-
3 mation obtained during the pilot program.

4 “(e) PARTNERSHIPS.—Of the amounts made avail-
5 able in section 522(e)(2)(A)(ii), the Corporation may use
6 not more than \$200,000 to enter into a partnership or
7 cooperative agreement with a nonprofit organization,
8 State agency, or public university that is familiar with ag-
9 ricultural production in the region described in subsection
10 (b)(1) to conduct the research and evaluation required
11 under paragraphs (2) and (3) of subsection (c).”.

12 **SEC. 11012. WHOLE FARM IMPROVEMENTS.**

13 Section 522(c)(7)(E) of the Federal Crop Insurance
14 Act (7 U.S.C. 1522(c)(7)(E)) is amended by adding at
15 the end the following:

16 “(iii) ADDITIONAL REVIEW.—Not
17 later than 12 months after the date of en-
18 actment of this clause and annually there-
19 after, the Corporation shall—

20 “(I) review any limitations on in-
21 surable revenue (including the overall
22 limitation and limitations specific to
23 animals, animal products, greenhouse
24 and nursery, and aquaculture) to en-
25 sure such limitations are adequate to

1 cover the financial risks associated
2 with the production of high-value agri-
3 cultural products; and

4 “(II) submit to the Committee on
5 Agriculture of the House of Rep-
6 resentatives and the Committee on
7 Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry
8 of the Senate a report that includes a
9 summary of the most recent review
10 conducted and any expected changes
11 to the policy for the following reinsur-
12 ance year.”.

13 **SEC. 11013. PROGRAM COMPLIANCE AND INTEGRITY.**

14 (a) IN GENERAL.—Section 515(b) of the Federal
15 Crop Insurance Act (7 U.S.C. 1515(b)) is amended—

16 (1) in the subsection heading, by inserting “,
17 RESPONSE, AND FINAL DETERMINATION” after
18 “NOTIFICATION”;

19 (2) in paragraph (1), by striking “shall notify
20 in writing” and inserting “shall, through an initial
21 finding in writing, notify (unless such notification is
22 pursuant to the responsibilities to conduct reviews
23 and make corrections)”;

24 (3) in paragraph (2)—

1 (A) in the heading, by striking “TIME FOR
2 NOTIFICATION” and inserting “REQUIRED TIM-
3 ING”;

4 (B) by striking “Notice” and inserting the
5 following:

6 “(A) INITIAL FINDING.—Notice”; and

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

8 “(B) RESPONSE.—During the 90-day pe-
9 riod beginning on the date the Corporation no-
10 tifies an approved insurance provider through
11 an initial finding under paragraph (1), such ap-
12 proved insurance provider may appeal such ini-
13 tial finding in writing.

14 “(C) FINAL FINDING.—Not later than 90
15 days after the date on which an approved insur-
16 ance provider appeals pursuant to subpara-
17 graph (B), the Corporation shall issue a final
18 finding in writing to such approved insurance
19 provider.

20 “(D) REQUEST FOR FINAL ADMINISTRA-
21 TIVE DETERMINATION.—An approved insurance
22 provider shall have not more than 90 days after
23 the receipt of the Corporation’s final finding
24 under subparagraph (C) to request, in writing,
25 a final administrative determination, if such ap-

1 proved insurance provider has reason to believe
2 that the Corporation's final finding under sub-
3 paragraph (C) is not in accordance with—

4 “(i) the applicable laws, regulations,
5 custom, or practice of the crop insurance
6 industry; or

7 “(ii) the approved policy and proce-
8 dure of the Corporation.

9 “(E) FINAL DETERMINATION.—The Cor-
10 poration shall have not more than 90 days after
11 the receipt of a request for a final administra-
12 tive determination under subparagraph (D) to
13 provide such final administrative determination,
14 unless substantial new information, as deter-
15 mined by the Corporation, is provided by the
16 approved insurance provider.

17 “(F) APPEAL TO CIVILIAN BOARD OF CON-
18 TRACT APPEALS.—An approved insurance pro-
19 vider shall have not more than 90 days after re-
20 ceipt of a final administrative determination
21 provided pursuant to subparagraph (E) to ap-
22 peal such determination to the Civilian Board
23 of Contract Appeals.”; and

24 (4) by amending paragraph (3) to read as fol-
25 lows:

1 “(3) EFFECT OF FAILURE TO TIMELY NO-
2 TIFY.—

3 “(A) IN GENERAL.—Except as provided in
4 subparagraph (B), failure of the Corporation to
5 comply with the requirements under paragraph
6 (2) shall relieve the approved insurance provider
7 from the debt owed to the Corporation.

8 “(B) EXCEPTION.—Subparagraph (A)
9 shall not apply to any matters referred to the
10 Office of the Inspector General or the Depart-
11 ment of Justice.”.

12 (b) PROCEDURES FOR RESPONDING TO CERTAIN IN-
13 QUIRIES.—Section 506(r)(1) of the Federal Crop Insur-
14 ance Act (7 U.S.C. 1506(r)(1)) is amended by inserting
15 “binding” before “final agency determination”.

16 **SEC. 11014. RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT PRIORITIES.**

17 (a) EXPANSION OF REVENUE POLICIES.—Section
18 522(c) of the Federal Crop Insurance Act (7 U.S.C.
19 1522(c)) is amended by adding at the end the following:

20 “(20) EXPANSION OF REVENUE POLICIES.—

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 carry out research and de-
25 velopment, to expand the availability of policies

1 that provide coverage against losses of revenue
2 for—

3 “(i) oilseeds, including camelina,
4 carinata, and pennycress;

5 “(ii) alfalfa;

6 “(iii) pulse crops (including dry edible
7 beans);

8 “(iv) sugarbeets;

9 “(v) sugarcane;

10 “(vi) blueberries; and

11 “(vii) other crops for which only indi-
12 vidual yield-based insurance policies are
13 available.

14 “(B) AVAILABILITY OF POLICY.—Notwith-
15 standing the last sentence of section 508(a)(1),
16 and section 508(a)(2), the Corporation shall
17 make a policy described in subparagraph (A)
18 available if the requirements of section 508(h)
19 are met.

20 “(C) DETERMINATION OF PROJECTED
21 PRICE.—In developing a policy described in sub-
22 paragraph (A), the Corporation may utilize al-
23 ternative methods of determining a projected
24 price for a crop, including the correlation of ac-

1 tual prices received for such crop to the futures
2 markets prices of other commodities.

3 “(D) PRICING LIBRARY.—In developing a
4 policy described in subparagraph (A), the Cor-
5 poration shall determine the feasibility of cre-
6 ating a pricing library for agents and approved
7 insurance providers using data from alternative
8 sources, as determined by the Secretary.

9 “(E) DISCOUNT FACTOR.—For purposes of
10 developing a policy described in subparagraph
11 (A), the Corporation shall determine the feasi-
12 bility of—

13 “(i) establishing a State or regional
14 discount factor as an endorsement policy
15 to provide coverage against losses of rev-
16 enue due to quality discounts in soybeans;
17 and

18 “(ii) an alternative to applying the
19 term ‘zero-market value’ in the case of an
20 available salvage market.

21 “(F) REPORT.—Not later than 18 months
22 after the date of enactment of this paragraph,
23 the Corporation shall submit to the Committee
24 on Agriculture of the House of Representatives
25 and the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition,

1 and Forestry of the Senate a report that de-
2 scribes—

3 “(i) the crops for which research and
4 development has been carried out under
5 subparagraph (A);

6 “(ii) the results of the research and
7 development carried out under subpara-
8 graph (A);

9 “(iii) any recommendations with re-
10 spect to those results; and

11 “(iv) additional crops for which re-
12 search and development under this para-
13 graph is planned to be carried out.”.

14 (b) WINE GRAPE LOSSES DUE TO SMOKE EXPO-
15 SURE.—Section 522(c) of the Federal Crop Insurance Act
16 (7 U.S.C. 1522(c)) is further amended by adding at the
17 end the following:

18 “(21) WINE GRAPE LOSSES DUE TO SMOKE EX-
19 POSURE.—

20 “(A) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 1 year
21 after the date of the enactment of this para-
22 graph, the Corporation shall carry out research
23 and development, or offer to enter into 1 or
24 more contracts with 1 or more qualified persons
25 to carry out research and development, regard-

1 ing a policy to insure wine grapes (including
2 wine grapes produced in the States of Cali-
3 fornia, Oregon, and Washington) against losses
4 due to wildfire smoke exposure.

5 “(B) AVAILABILITY OF POLICY.—Notwith-
6 standing the last sentence of section 508(a)(1),
7 and section 508(a)(2), not later than 18
8 months after the date of the enactment of this
9 paragraph, the Corporation shall make available
10 a policy described in subparagraph (A) if the
11 requirements of section 508(h) are met.

12 “(C) REPORT.—Not later than 2 years
13 after the date of enactment of this paragraph,
14 the Corporation shall submit to the Committees
15 on Appropriations and Agriculture of the House
16 of Representatives and the Committees on Ap-
17 propriations and Agriculture, Nutrition, and
18 Forestry of the Senate a report that includes—

19 “(i) the results of the research carried
20 out under subparagraph (A);

21 “(ii) a description of the policies made
22 available under this paragraph; and

23 “(iii) the feasibility of a product that
24 allows producers of wine grapes to claim
25 an indemnity through post-harvest, post-

1 vinification testing, if such testing dem-
2 onstrates smoke damage that was not de-
3 tectable prior to harvest.”.

4 (c) MUSHROOMS.—Section 522(c) of the Federal
5 Crop Insurance Act (7 U.S.C. 1522(c)) is further amend-
6 ed by adding at the end the following:

7 “(22) MUSHROOMS.—

8 “(A) IN GENERAL.—The Corporation shall
9 carry out research and development, or offer to
10 enter into 1 or more contracts with 1 or more
11 qualified persons to carry out research and de-
12 velopment, regarding a policy to insure—

13 “(i) the production of mushroom
14 growing media; and

15 “(ii) the production of mushrooms.

16 “(B) AVAILABILITY OF POLICY.—Notwith-
17 standing the second sentence of section
18 508(a)(1), and section 508(a)(2), the Corpora-
19 tion shall make a policy described in subpara-
20 graph (A) available if the requirements of sec-
21 tion 508(h) are met.

22 “(C) RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT.—Re-
23 search and development described in subpara-
24 graph (A) shall evaluate the effectiveness of

1 policies described in that subparagraph, includ-
2 ing policies that—

3 “(i) are based on the risk of—

4 “(I) pests, including mushroom
5 phorid flies and sciarid flies;

6 “(II) fungal pathogens; and

7 “(III) viral pathogens;

8 “(ii) consider other causes of loss ap-
9 plicable to mushroom compost and mush-
10 room production, such as—

11 “(I) loss of electricity due to
12 weather; and

13 “(II) loss of growing media due
14 to excessive 5-year, 10-year, or 20-
15 year rainfall events;

16 “(iii) consider appropriate best prac-
17 tices to minimize the risk of loss;

18 “(iv) consider whether to provide cov-
19 erage for mushrooms under 1 policy or to
20 provide coverage for various phases of pro-
21 duction;

22 “(v) have streamlined reporting and
23 paperwork requirements that take into ac-
24 count short propagation schedules, variable
25 crop years, and the variety of mushrooms

1 that may be produced in a single facility;
2 and

3 “(vi) provide protection for revenue
4 losses.

5 “(D) REPORT.—Not later than 2 years
6 after the date of enactment of this paragraph,
7 the Corporation shall submit to the Committee
8 on Agriculture of the House of Representatives
9 and the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition,
10 and Forestry of the Senate a report that de-
11 scribes—

12 “(i) the results of the research and
13 development carried out under subpara-
14 graph (A); and

15 “(ii) any recommendations with re-
16 spect to those results.”.

17 (d) STUDY ON HURRICANE INSURANCE.—Section
18 522(c) of the Federal Crop Insurance Act (7 U.S.C.
19 1522(c)) is further amended by adding at the end the fol-
20 lowing:

21 “(23) STANDALONE POLICY FOR HURRICANES
22 AND TROPICAL STORMS.—

23 “(A) IN GENERAL.—The Corporation shall
24 carry out research and development, or offer to
25 enter into 1 or more contracts with 1 or more

1 qualified persons to conduct a study to deter-
2 mine the feasibility of offering insurance
3 against tropical storms and hurricanes made
4 available regardless of an underlying crop insur-
5 ance policy (or lack thereof).

6 “(B) REPORT.—Not later than 1 year
7 after the date of enactment of this paragraph,
8 the Corporation shall submit to the Committee
9 on Agriculture of the House of Representatives
10 and the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition,
11 and Forestry of the Senate a report that de-
12 scribes the results of the study conducted under
13 subparagraph (A).”.

14 (e) FROST OR COLD WEATHER INSURANCE.—Section
15 522(c) of the Federal Crop Insurance Act (7 U.S.C.
16 1522(c)) is further amended by adding at the end the fol-
17 lowing:

18 “(24) FROST OR COLD WEATHER INSUR-
19 ANCE.—

20 “(A) IN GENERAL.—The Corporation shall
21 carry out research and development, or offer to
22 enter into 1 or more contracts with 1 or more
23 qualified persons to carry out research and de-
24 velopment, regarding an index-based policy to
25 insure crops (including table grapes, wine

1 grapes, juice grapes, tomatoes, peppers, sugar-
2 cane, strawberries, melons, citrus, peaches,
3 blueberries, and any other crop) on a nationally
4 available basis against losses due to a frost or
5 cold weather event.

6 “(B) RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT.—
7 Research and development under subparagraph
8 (A) shall—

9 “(i) evaluate the effectiveness of risk
10 management tools, such as the use of an
11 index, with respect to low frequency and
12 catastrophic loss weather events; and

13 “(ii) result in a policy that provides
14 protection for at least 1 of the following:

15 “(I) Production loss.

16 “(II) Revenue loss.

17 “(C) REPORT.—Not later than 1 year
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 results of the research and
2 development carried out under subpara-
3 graph (A); and

4 “(ii) any recommendations with re-
5 spect to those results.”.

6 (f) STUDY OF INCLUSION OF CERTAIN OILSEED
7 CROPS UNDER DOUBLE AND ROTATIONAL CROPPING
8 POLICIES.—Section 522(c) of the Federal Crop Insurance
9 Act (7 U.S.C. 1522(c)) is further amended by adding at
10 the end the following:

11 “(25) DOUBLE CROPPING AND ROTATIONAL
12 CROPPING OF CERTAIN OILSEED CROPS.—

13 “(A) DEFINITION OF COVERED OILSEED
14 CROPS.—In this paragraph, the term ‘covered
15 oilseed crops’ means rapeseed, canola, camelina,
16 and other oilseed crops, as determined by the
17 Corporation.

18 “(B) RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT.—
19 The Corporation shall carry out research and
20 development, or offer to enter into 1 or more
21 contracts with 1 or more qualified persons to
22 carry out research and development, with re-
23 spect to insurance policies for covered oilseed
24 crops under double cropping and rotational
25 cropping practices.

1 “(C) REQUIREMENTS.—The research and
2 development carried out pursuant to subpara-
3 graph (B) shall be conducted in consultation
4 with stakeholders to evaluate—

5 “(i) the factors impacting availability
6 and cost of crop insurance when incor-
7 porating covered oilseed crops into double
8 cropping and rotational cropping policies;
9 and

10 “(ii) the potential risk management
11 benefits associated with incorporating cov-
12 ered oilseed crops into double cropping and
13 rotational cropping policies, specifically
14 with respect to winter-planted covered oil-
15 seed crops, including risk management
16 benefits to soil health, biodiversity, and the
17 profitability of farming operations.

18 “(D) EMPHASIS.—In awarding contracts
19 under subparagraph (B), the Corporation may
20 give priority to awarding contracts to qualified
21 persons that—

22 “(i) have previous research experience
23 with covered oilseed crops; and

1 “(ii) have access to a facility with the
2 capacity to carry out the applicable re-
3 search.

4 “(E) REPORT.—Not later than 13 months
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—

11 “(i) the results of the research and
12 development carried out under subpara-
13 graph (B); and

14 “(ii) any recommendations with re-
15 spect to those results.”.

16 (g) HARVEST INCENTIVES.—Section 522(c) of the
17 Federal Crop Insurance Act (7 U.S.C. 1522(c)) is further
18 amended by adding at the end the following:

19 “(26) HARVEST INCENTIVES.—

20 “(A) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 1 year
21 after the date of the enactment of this para-
22 graph, the Corporation shall carry out research
23 and development, or offer to enter into 1 or
24 more contracts with 1 or more qualified persons
25 to carry out research and development, regard-

1 ing harvest incentives for policies that provide
2 coverage against losses of revenue.

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 24
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 1 year
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 carried
18 out under subparagraph (A); and

19 “(ii) a description of the policies made
20 available under this paragraph.”.

21 (h) PREVENTED PLANTING.—Section 522(c) of the
22 Federal Crop Insurance Act (7 U.S.C. 1522(c)) is further
23 amended by adding at the end the following:

24 “(27) PREVENTED PLANTING.—

1 “(A) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 1 year
2 after the date of the enactment of this para-
3 graph, the Corporation shall carry out research
4 and development, or offer to enter into 1 or
5 more contracts with 1 or more qualified persons
6 to carry out research and development, regard-
7 ing prevented planting coverage for insurance
8 policies for specialty crops that are not planted
9 on a perennial basis.

10 “(B) REPORT.—Not later than 18 months
11 after the date of the enactment of this para-
12 graph, the Corporation shall submit to the
13 Committee on Agriculture of the House of Rep-
14 resentatives and the Committee on Agriculture,
15 Nutrition, and Forestry of the Senate a report
16 that includes—

17 “(i) the results of the research carried
18 out under subparagraph (A); and

19 “(ii) any recommendations with re-
20 spect to those results.”.

21 (i) POLICY FOR SWINE PRODUCERS FOR CATA-
22 STROPHIC EVENTS.—Section 522(c) of the Federal Crop
23 Insurance Act (7 U.S.C. 1522(c)) is further amended by
24 adding at the end the following:

1 “(28) POLICY FOR SWINE PRODUCERS FOR
2 CATASTROPHIC EVENTS.—

3 “(A) IN GENERAL.—For purposes of up-
4 dating any conclusions contained in the final re-
5 port for the study on swine catastrophic disease
6 published by the Risk Management Agency in
7 2015, the Corporation shall carry out research
8 and development, or offer to enter into 1 or
9 more contracts with 1 or more qualified persons
10 to carry out research and development, regard-
11 ing a policy to insure swine producers with re-
12 spect to financial losses due to a catastrophic
13 event.

14 “(B) REPORT.—Not later than 1 year
15 after the date of the enactment of this para-
16 graph, the Corporation shall submit to the
17 Committee on Agriculture of the House of Rep-
18 resentatives and the Committee on Agriculture,
19 Nutrition, and Forestry of the Senate a report
20 that describes the results of the research and
21 development carried out under subparagraph
22 (A).”.

1 **SEC. 11015. REPORT ON STANDARD REINSURANCE AGREE-**
2 **MENT.**

3 (a) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 90 days after the
4 date of the enactment of this section, the Federal Crop
5 Insurance Corporation shall submit to the Committee on
6 Agriculture of the House of Representatives and the Com-
7 mittee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry of the Sen-
8 ate a report on the Standard Reinsurance Agreement that
9 includes an analysis of any modifications to such Agree-
10 ment that are necessary to expand the availability of poli-
11 cies and plans of insurance that meet the risk manage-
12 ment needs of agricultural producers, States, regions, and
13 commodities.

14 (b) CONTENTS.—The analysis required under sub-
15 section (a) shall—

16 (1) take into account the requirements under
17 section 508(k)(8)(F) of the Federal Crop Insurance
18 Act (7 U.S.C. 1508(k)(8)(F)) related to budget neu-
19 trality of the Standard Reinsurance Agreement; and

20 (2) include an analysis of—

21 (A) any benefit related to establishing—

22 (i) at least one additional reinsurance
23 fund for States that have experienced con-
24 sistently high loss ratios; and

25 (ii) at least one additional reinsurance
26 fund to provide alternative risk-sharing

1 terms for approved insurance providers
2 that sell insurance contracts offering area
3 plan coverage;

4 (B) with respect to any funds reimbursed
5 for administrative and operating costs under
6 section 507(c) of the Federal Crop Insurance
7 Act (7 U.S.C. 1507(c)), the best method for en-
8 suring that approved insurance providers obli-
9 gate such funds for—

10 (i) the delivery of risk management
11 tools to producers; and

12 (ii) agent workforce assistance for
13 producers, in an amount that is not less
14 than the historical percentage of such re-
15 imbursement; and

16 (C) with respect to each policy and plan of
17 insurance, compensation amounts for agents
18 that—

19 (i) are consistent with historical
20 norms; and

21 (ii) provide a reasonable return con-
22 sidering workload and the critical service
23 across programs that the agents provide.

1 (c) CONSULTATION.—In carrying out the analysis re-
2 quired under subsection (a), the Federal Crop Insurance
3 Corporation shall consult with—

4 (1) representatives of producers—

5 (A) from each State and region; and

6 (B) with respect to each commodity;

7 (2) representatives of agents and approved in-
8 surance providers;

9 (3) the Committee on Agriculture of the House
10 of Representatives; and

11 (4) the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition,
12 and Forestry of the Senate.

13 **SEC. 11016. HURRICANE INSURANCE PROTECTION-WIND**
14 **INDEX REPORT.**

15 (a) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 1 year after the
16 date of the enactment of this section, the Federal Crop
17 Insurance Corporation shall submit to the Committee on
18 Agriculture of the House of Representatives and the Com-
19 mittee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry of the Sen-
20 ate a report on the hurricane insurance protection-wind
21 index that includes an analysis of any events in the 5-
22 year period preceding the date of the enactment of this
23 section that caused an outage of a weather radio station
24 operated by the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Ad-
25 ministration.

1 (b) CONTENTS.—The analysis required under sub-
2 section (a) shall include—

3 (1) data on events where a producer lost crop
4 insurance coverage as a result of an outage of a
5 weather radio station operated by the National Oce-
6 anic and Atmospheric Administration that occurred
7 during the period described in subsection (a) and the
8 cause of such outage; and

9 (2) a contingency plan that evaluates the feasi-
10 bility of obtaining data from land-grant colleges and
11 universities (as defined in section 1404 of the Na-
12 tional Agricultural Research, Extension, and Teach-
13 ing Policy Act of 1977 (7 U.S.C. 3103)) or other
14 third-party sources, as determined by the Secretary.

15 (c) CONSULTATION.—In carrying out the analysis re-
16 quired under subsection (a), the Federal Crop Insurance
17 Corporation shall consult with the Administrator of the
18 National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration.

19 **SEC. 11017. RISK MANAGEMENT STUDY FOR LAMB.**

20 (a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall conduct a
21 study that includes an analysis of any modifications to ex-
22 isting livestock protection and risk management programs
23 that may enhance risk management protection to domestic
24 lamb producers.

1 (b) CONTENT.—In conducting the study under this
2 section, the Secretary shall take into account the various
3 factors affecting risk management, including—

- 4 (1) market access;
- 5 (2) sources of feed;
- 6 (3) costs of, and fluctuation of costs of, feed;
- 7 (4) imports;
- 8 (5) consumer demand and trends;
- 9 (6) labor costs; and
- 10 (7) availability and accuracy of market data.

11 (c) REPORT.—Not later than 1 year after the date
12 of enactment of this section, the Secretary shall submit
13 to the Committee on Agriculture of the House of Rep-
14 resentatives and the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition,
15 and Forestry of the Senate a report on the findings of
16 the study under this section.

17 (d) DEFINITION.—In this section, the term “existing
18 livestock protection and risk management programs” in-
19 cludes—

- 20 (1) dairy margin coverage;
- 21 (2) livestock risk protection; and
- 22 (3) any other program designed to protect pro-
23 ducers from market volatility, as determined by the
24 Secretary.

1 **SEC. 11018. STUDY ON LIVESTOCK RISK PROTECTION POL-**
2 **ICY WITH RESPECT TO PRODUCERS OF FEED-**
3 **ER CATTLE AFFECTED BY ADVERSE WEATH-**
4 **ER EVENTS.**

5 (a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall conduct a
6 study on potential modifications to the livestock risk pro-
7 tection policy offered under section 523(b) of the Federal
8 Crop Insurance Act (7 U.S.C. 1523(b)) to improve the
9 flexibility of such policy with respect to producers of feeder
10 cattle affected by adverse weather events, as determined
11 by the Secretary, including drought and wildfires.

12 (b) CONTENTS.—In conducting the study under this
13 section, the Secretary shall, with respect to producers of
14 feeder cattle, evaluate—

15 (1) any impact drought, wildfire, and other ad-
16 verse weather events have on decisions made by such
17 producers related to the marketing of feeder cattle;

18 (2) in the case an adverse weather event occurs
19 more than 60 days prior to the end date of a specific
20 coverage endorsement under the livestock risk pro-
21 tection policy described in subsection (a), whether
22 the requirements or endorsement structures of such
23 policy (as in effect on the date of enactment of this
24 section) cause such producers not to market feeder
25 cattle so as to avoid a penalty under such policy;

1 (3) any option to provide additional flexibility
 2 or an exemption to such producers that market feed-
 3 er cattle more than 60 days prior to such end date
 4 due to an adverse weather event; and

5 (4) any other recommendation to improve the
 6 effectiveness of such policy for such producers.

7 (c) REPORT.—Not later than 1 year after the date
 8 of enactment of this section, the Secretary shall submit
 9 to the Committee on Agriculture of the House of Rep-
 10 resentatives and the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition,
 11 and Forestry of the Senate a report describing the find-
 12 ings of the study.

13 **TITLE XII—MISCELLANEOUS** 14 **PROVISIONS**

15 **Subtitle A—Livestock and Other** 16 **Animals**

17 **PART I—ANIMAL HEALTH AND PRODUCTION**

18 **SEC. 12001. ANIMAL DISEASE PREVENTION AND MANAGE-** 19 **MENT.**

20 (a) NADPRP PROGRAM ACTIVITIES.—Section
 21 10409A(b)(2) of the Animal Health Protection Act (7
 22 U.S.C. 8308A(b)(2)) is amended—

23 (1) in subparagraph (F)—

1 (A) by striking “including training addi-
2 tional emergency response personnel.” and in-
3 serting the following: “including—

4 “(i) training additional emergency re-
5 sponse personnel; and”; and

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

7 “(ii) improving animal disease
8 traceability.”; and

9 (2) in subparagraph (I), by inserting before the
10 period at the end the following: “, including activi-
11 ties approved by the Secretary as of the date of the
12 enactment of the Farm, Food, and National Security
13 Act of 2026”.

14 (b) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—

15 (1) NATIONAL ANIMAL HEALTH LABORA-
16 TORY.—Section 10409A(d)(2)(A) of the Animal
17 Health Protection Act (7 U.S.C. 8308a(d)(2)(A)) is
18 amended by striking “2019 through 2023” and in-
19 serting “2027 through 2031”.

20 (2) NATIONAL ANIMAL DISEASE PREPAREDNESS
21 AND RESPONSE PROGRAM; NATIONAL ANIMAL VAC-
22 CINE AND VETERINARY COUNTERMEASURES
23 BANK.—Section 10409A(d)(2)(B) of the Animal
24 Health Protection Act (7 U.S.C. 8308a(d)(2)(B)) is

1 amended by striking “2019 through 2023” and in-
2 serting “2027 through 2031”.

3 (3) ADMINISTRATIVE COSTS.—Section
4 10409A(d)(3)(B) of the Animal Health Protection
5 Act (7 U.S.C. 8308a(d)(3)(B)) is amended—

6 (A) by striking “carry out the National
7 Animal Disease Preparedness and Response
8 Program under subsection (b)” and inserting
9 “carry out the National Animal Health Labora-
10 tory Network under subsection (a) and the Na-
11 tional Animal Disease Preparedness and Re-
12 sponse Program under subsection (b)”;

13 (B) by striking “10 percent” and inserting
14 “15 percent”.

15 (4) AVAILABILITY AND PURPOSE OF FUND-
16 ING.—Section 10409A(e)(1) of the Animal Health
17 Protection Act (7 U.S.C. 8308a(e)(1)) is amended
18 by striking “2019 through 2023” and inserting
19 “2027 through 2031”.

20 **SEC. 12002. CATTLE FEVER TICK ERADICATION PROGRAM**
21 **REVIEW AND REPORT.**

22 (a) PROGRAM REVIEW.—

23 (1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 1 year after
24 the date of the enactment of this section, the Sec-
25 retary shall offer to enter into a contract with a cov-

1 ered institution under which the covered institution
2 shall conduct a review of the Program.

3 (2) REVIEW ELEMENTS.—The review conducted
4 pursuant to paragraph (1) shall include an evalua-
5 tion of—

6 (A) the effectiveness of the Program with
7 respect to preventing and reducing the spread
8 of tick-borne illnesses in cattle, including a re-
9 view of places from which the cattle fever tick
10 has been eradicated and the resulting economic
11 impact;

12 (B) with respect to cattle producers—

13 (i) the benefits of the Program; and

14 (ii) the burden of compliance with the
15 Program;

16 (C) the treatment protocols developed and
17 implemented under the Program; and

18 (D) the Federal and State funds allocated
19 to support the Program for the most recent fis-
20 cal year, including the funds allocated to each
21 research project associated with the Program.

22 (b) REPORT.—Not later than 1 year after the date
23 on which the Secretary and a covered institution enter into
24 a contract pursuant to subsection (a)(1), the Secretary
25 shall submit to the Committee on Agriculture of the House

1 of Representatives and the Committee on Agriculture, Nu-
2 trition, and Forestry of the Senate a report that in-
3 cludes—

4 (1) the results of the review conducted pursuant
5 to subsection (a); and

6 (2) recommendations for improvements to the
7 Program, including recommendations for reducing
8 the burden of compliance with the Program with re-
9 spect to cattle producers.

10 (c) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

11 (1) COVERED INSTITUTION.—The term “cov-
12 ered institution” means—

13 (A) a land-grant college or university (as
14 defined in section 1404(13) of the National Ag-
15 ricultural Research, Extension, and Teaching
16 Policy Act of 1977 (7 U.S.C. 3103(13))); or

17 (B) a non-land-grant college of agriculture
18 (as defined in section 1404(14) of the National
19 Agricultural Research, Extension, and Teaching
20 Policy Act of 1977 (7 U.S.C. 3103(14))).

21 (2) PROGRAM.—The term “Program” means
22 the Cattle Fever Tick Eradication Program carried
23 out by the Animal and Plant Health Inspection
24 Service of the Department in coordination with the
25 Texas Animal Health Commission.

1 (d) FUNDING.—The Secretary shall use funds made
 2 available for the agricultural and food policy research cen-
 3 ters under section 1419A of the National Agricultural Re-
 4 search, Extension, and Teaching Policy Act of 1977 (7
 5 U.S.C. 3155) to carry out this section.

6 **SEC. 12003. ADDITIONAL TRAINING FACILITIES FOR NA-**
 7 **TIONAL DETECTOR DOG TRAINING CENTER.**

8 The Beagle Brigade Act of 2023 (Public Law 118–
 9 191) is amended by adding at the end the following:

10 **“SEC. 4. ADDITIONAL TRAINING FACILITIES.**

11 “(a) IN GENERAL.—In addition to the Center estab-
 12 lished under section 2(a), the Secretary may—

13 “(1) establish other dog training facilities,
 14 which shall have the same duties as are specified in
 15 section 2(b) for the Center; and

16 “(2) enter into a cooperative agreement with
 17 the department of agriculture of a State (or political
 18 subdivision thereof) to establish an off-site training
 19 program for the purpose of providing training and
 20 technical assistance in the training of dogs, as de-
 21 scribed in section 2(b).

22 “(b) CONSIDERATIONS.—When determining the need
 23 for additional training facilities under subsection (a), the
 24 Secretary shall consider—

25 “(1) the location of international ports of entry;

1 “(2) the volume of international passengers and
2 cargo; and

3 “(3) regional agricultural production trends and
4 associated pest and disease threats.”.

5 **SEC. 12004. REGIONALIZATION, ZONING, AND**
6 **COMPARTMENTALIZATION AGREEMENTS.**

7 (a) IN GENERAL.—Section 10405 of the Animal
8 Health Protection Act (7 U.S.C. 8304) is amended—

9 (1) by redesignating subsection (d) as sub-
10 section (e); and

11 (2) by inserting after subsection (c) the fol-
12 lowing:

13 “(d) ENGAGEMENT WITH KEY EXPORT MARKETS.—
14 To reduce the impact of animal disease outbreaks on
15 United States exports, the Secretary, acting through the
16 Administrator of the Animal and Plant Health Inspection
17 Service, the Under Secretary of Agriculture for Trade and
18 Foreign Agricultural Affairs, and the Administrator of the
19 Food Safety and Inspection Service, in consultation with
20 the United States Trade Representative, is authorized to
21 negotiate in advance, to the extent practicable, regional-
22 ization, zoning, compartmentalization, and other agree-
23 ments regarding outbreaks of known animal disease
24 threats of trade significance with the governments of coun-

1 tries with export markets for livestock animals or animal
2 products from the United States.”.

3 (b) RULE OF CONSTRUCTION.—Nothing in this sec-
4 tion may be construed—

5 (1) to limit the ability of the United States
6 Trade Representative to negotiate trade agreements;
7 or

8 (2) to require the United States Trade Rep-
9 resentative to condition other trade agreements on
10 the inclusion of language relating to reducing the
11 impact of animal disease outbreaks on United States
12 exports, as described in subsection (d) of section
13 10405 of the Animal Health Protection Act (7
14 U.S.C. 8304) (as inserted by subsection (a)(2)).

15 **SEC. 12005. IMPORTATION OF LIVE DOGS.**

16 (a) IN GENERAL.—The Animal Health Protection
17 Act (7 U.S.C. 8301 et seq.) is amended by inserting after
18 section 10404 (7 U.S.C. 8303) the following:

19 **“SEC. 10404A. IMPORTATION OF LIVE DOGS.**

20 “(a) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

21 “(1) COMPENSATION.—The term ‘compensa-
22 tion’ means any act, consideration, or thing of value
23 received by a person directly, including cash or
24 noncash benefits, cost-avoidance, obtaining positive
25 or avoiding negative publicity, an exchange of serv-

1 ices, or maintaining a license issued under any local,
2 State, or Federal government authority.

3 “(2) IMPORTER.—The term ‘importer’ means
4 any person who transports or causes the transpor-
5 tation of a dog into the United States from a foreign
6 country.

7 “(3) IMPORT TRANSPORTER.—The term ‘import
8 transporter’ means any person or entity that—

9 “(A) receives an imported dog from any
10 importer, dealer, research facility, exhibitor, op-
11 erator of an auction sale, or department, agen-
12 cy, or instrumentality of the United States or
13 of any State or local government; and

14 “(B) receives compensation for moving
15 such dog in commerce.

16 “(4) TRANSFER.—The term ‘transfer’ means a
17 change of ownership or control of an imported dog
18 to another person, including by sale, adoption, ex-
19 change, or donation.

20 “(b) REQUIREMENTS.—

21 “(1) IN GENERAL.—Except as provided in para-
22 graph (2), no person shall import a dog into the
23 United States unless prior to transport to the
24 United States, the Secretary receives electronic doc-

1 umentation necessary, as determined by the Sec-
2 retary, to demonstrate that the dog—

3 “(A) is in good health;

4 “(B) has received all necessary vaccina-
5 tions and internal and external parasite treat-
6 ment, and demonstrated negative test results,
7 as required by the Secretary and evidenced by
8 a certificate that—

9 “(i) is issued by a licensed veteri-
10 narian accredited by a competent veteri-
11 nary authority recognized by the Secretary;
12 and

13 “(ii) is endorsed by that authority in
14 a manner representing that the veteri-
15 narian issuing the certificate was author-
16 ized to do so;

17 “(C) is officially identified by a permanent
18 method approved by the Secretary; and

19 “(D) in the case that the dog is intended
20 for transfer—

21 “(i) is at least 6 months old; and

22 “(ii) is accompanied by an import per-
23 mit issued by the Secretary under this Act.

24 “(2) EXCEPTIONS.—The Secretary, by regula-
25 tion, shall provide an exception to any requirement

1 under this Act in any case in which a dog is im-
2 ported for purposes of transfer—

3 “(A) as a personal pet of United States or-
4 igin returning to the United States;

5 “(B) as a United States military working
6 dog or contracted working dog supporting a
7 military mission or tasking;

8 “(C) for research purposes;

9 “(D) for veterinary treatment which is
10 paid for by the importer, subject to the condi-
11 tion that the dog—

12 “(i) is taken directly to a veterinary
13 facility for treatment with appropriate
14 quarantine until the dog meets the criteria
15 described in paragraph (1); and

16 “(ii) is then exported to its country of
17 origin; or

18 “(E) in the case of a dog that is less than
19 6 months old, for lawful importation into the
20 State of Hawaii from the British Isles, Aus-
21 tralia, Guam, or New Zealand in compliance
22 with the regulations of the State of Hawaii and
23 the other requirements of this section, if the
24 dog is not transported out of the State of Ha-
25 waii for transfer at less than 6 months of age.

1 “(c) IMPLEMENTATION AND REGULATIONS.—Not
2 later than 18 months after the date of enactment of the
3 Farm, Food, and National Security Act of 2026, the Sec-
4 retary, in consultation with the Secretary of Health and
5 Human Services, the Secretary of Commerce, the Sec-
6 retary of Homeland Security, and the Secretary of Trans-
7 portation, shall promulgate such regulations as the Sec-
8 retary determines necessary to implement and enforce this
9 section, including regulations—

10 “(1) to facilitate electronic submission and
11 interagency sharing of all documentation required
12 prior to the importation of a dog into the United
13 States under subsection (b)(1);

14 “(2) to establish any necessary post-arrival
15 verification processes for imported dogs;

16 “(3) to ensure the denial of entry into the
17 United States of any dog attempted to be imported
18 into the United States in violation of subsection
19 (b)(1);

20 “(4) to provide that each importer, import
21 transporter, intermediate handler, or carrier receiv-
22 ing a certificate of veterinary inspection required
23 under this section shall submit a copy of the certifi-
24 cate to the Secretary, who shall, upon receipt—

1 “(A) record and maintain the information
2 in a centralized database; and

3 “(B) upon request by a State veterinarian,
4 share the information with such State veteri-
5 narian not later than 3 days after such request
6 is received by the Secretary;

7 “(5) to require the Secretary to annually aggre-
8 gate and publicly report the data submitted under
9 paragraph (4), including information on the coun-
10 tries of origin of the imported dogs and the purposes
11 for the importation of such dogs; and

12 “(6) to determine and establish such fees for
13 the verification of documentation and issuance of
14 permits required under subsection (b)(1) as may be
15 necessary to fund the implementation and enforce-
16 ment of this section.

17 “(d) RULE OF CONSTRUCTION.—Nothing in sub-
18 section (c)(5) shall be construed as limiting the availability
19 of funding made available under section 10417 to carry
20 out this section.

21 “(e) ENFORCEMENT.—

22 “(1) AUTHORITY.—The Secretary shall have
23 the authority granted under section 10414 to en-
24 force this section.

1 “(2) PENALTIES.—An importer or import
2 transporter that fails to comply with this section
3 shall—

4 “(A) be subject to penalties under section
5 10414; and

6 “(B) provide, as the Secretary may deter-
7 mine, at the expense of the importer or import
8 transporter, for—

9 “(i) the care (including appropriate
10 veterinary care), forfeiture, quarantine,
11 and removal from the United States of
12 each applicable dog; and

13 “(ii) the return of each applicable dog
14 to its place of export, with due care for the
15 welfare of each applicable dog.”.

16 (b) TRANSITION PERIOD.—

17 (1) IN GENERAL.—During the transition pe-
18 riod, regulations promulgated under section 18 of
19 the Animal Welfare Act (7 U.S.C. 2148) (as in ef-
20 fect on the day before the date of enactment of this
21 Act) shall continue to apply to the extent that such
22 regulations do not conflict with section 10404A of
23 the Animal Health Protection Act (as inserted by
24 subsection (a)).

1 (2) TRANSITION PERIOD DEFINED.—In this
2 subsection, the term “transition period” means the
3 period beginning on the date of enactment of this
4 Act and ending on the date on which final regula-
5 tions are promulgated under such section 10404A.

6 (c) CONFORMING AMENDMENT.—Section 18 of the
7 Animal Welfare Act (7 U.S.C. 2148) is repealed.

8 **SEC. 12006. ENSURING THE FREE MOVEMENT OF LIVE-**
9 **STOCK-DERIVED PRODUCTS IN INTERSTATE**
10 **COMMERCE.**

11 (a) PURPOSE.—The purpose of this section is to—

12 (1) protect the free movement in interstate
13 commerce of products derived from covered live-
14 stock;

15 (2) encourage a national market of such prod-
16 ucts;

17 (3) ensure that producers of covered livestock
18 are not subject to a patchwork of State laws restrict-
19 ing access to a national market; and

20 (4) ensure that the United States continues to
21 uphold its international trade obligations.

22 (b) IN GENERAL.—Producers of covered livestock
23 have a Federal right to raise and market their covered
24 livestock in interstate commerce and therefore no State
25 or subdivision thereof may enact or enforce, directly or

1 indirectly, a condition or standard on the production of
2 covered livestock other than for covered livestock phys-
3 ically raised in such State or subdivision.

4 (c) PROTECTING INTERSTATE COMMERCE.—Pro-
5 ducers of covered livestock have a Federal right to raise
6 and market their covered livestock in interstate commerce
7 and therefore no State or subdivision thereof may enact
8 or enforce, directly or indirectly, as a condition for sale
9 or consumption, any condition or standard of production
10 on products derived from covered livestock not physically
11 raised in such State or subdivision that is in addition to,
12 or different from, the conditions or standards of produc-
13 tion in the State in which the production occurs.

14 (d) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

15 (1) COVERED LIVESTOCK.—The term “covered
16 livestock”—

17 (A) means any domestic animal raised for
18 the purpose of—

19 (i) slaughter for human consumption;

20 or

21 (ii) producing products manufactured
22 for human consumption which are derived
23 from the processing of milk, including fluid
24 milk products; and

1 (B) does not include domestic animals
2 raised for the primary purpose of egg produc-
3 tion.

4 (2) PRODUCTION.—The term “production”—
5 (A) means the raising (including breeding)
6 of covered livestock; and

7 (B) does not include the movement, har-
8 vesting, or further processing of covered live-
9 stock.

10 **SEC. 12007. REPORT ON SUPPORT FOR LIVESTOCK AND**
11 **POULTRY PRODUCERS DURING A FOREIGN**
12 **ANIMAL DISEASE OUTBREAK.**

13 (a) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 6 months after the
14 date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary shall sub-
15 mit to the Committee on Agriculture of the House of Rep-
16 resentatives and the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition,
17 and Forestry of the Senate a report on the Department’s
18 preparedness to support livestock producers and poultry
19 growers facing economic losses in the event of an outbreak
20 of a foreign animal disease.

21 (b) CONTENTS.—The report submitted under sub-
22 section (a) shall include, with respect to the Department’s
23 ability to protect producers and growers from significant
24 economic losses as a result of a foreign animal disease—

25 (1) an assessment of—

1 (A) existing Federal programs, including
2 catastrophic risk management tools, indemnity,
3 direct payments, biosecurity assistance, and
4 herd buyouts; and

5 (B) the Department's capacity to utilize
6 such programs to provide benefits to producers
7 and growers experiencing economic losses as a
8 result of having to sell livestock and poultry at
9 a reduced price, having to quarantine, treat, de-
10 stroy, or dispose of animals, having to imple-
11 ment additional biosecurity measures or as a re-
12 sult of catastrophic market conditions;

13 (2) a determination of gaps that exist in the
14 Department's ability to provide economic support for
15 producers and growers suffering such losses; and

16 (3) recommendations of the Secretary for modi-
17 fications to Federal law (including regulations) relat-
18 ing to protecting producers and growers from sig-
19 nificant economic losses related to a foreign animal
20 disease outbreak.

21 (c) PROVISION OF INFORMATION.—

22 (1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 90 days after
23 the date of enactment of this Act, for purposes of
24 facilitating the preparation of the report submitted
25 under subsection (a), the relevant Department offi-

1 cials described in paragraph (2) shall inform the
2 Secretary of the information described in subsection
3 (b).

4 (2) RELEVANT DEPARTMENT OFFICIALS DE-
5 SCRIBED.—The relevant Department officials de-
6 scribed in this paragraph are the following:

7 (A) The Under Secretary for Farm Pro-
8 duction and Conservation.

9 (B) The Under Secretary for Food, Nutri-
10 tion, and Consumer Services.

11 (C) The Under Secretary for Rural Devel-
12 opment.

13 (D) The Under Secretary for Food Safety.

14 (E) The Under Secretary for Marketing
15 and Regulatory Programs.

16 (F) The Under Secretary for Trade and
17 Foreign Agricultural Affairs.

18 (G) Other officials, as specified by the Sec-
19 retary.

20 **SEC. 12008. PROTECTION OF GREYHOUNDS.**

21 (a) IN GENERAL.—The Animal Welfare Act (7
22 U.S.C. 2131 et seq.) is amended by adding at the end
23 the following:

24 **“SEC. 30. PROTECTION OF GREYHOUNDS.**

25 **“(a) IN GENERAL.—It shall be unlawful—**

1 “(1) for any person to knowingly engage in
2 commercial greyhound racing in which any grey-
3 hound is moved in interstate or foreign commerce;

4 “(2) to conduct any commercial greyhound rac-
5 ing or racing meeting where any form of betting or
6 wagering on the speed or ability of greyhounds oc-
7 curs;

8 “(3) to engage in or facilitate simulcast betting
9 or wagering on greyhound races in interstate or for-
10 eign commerce; and

11 “(4) for any person to knowingly sell, buy, pos-
12 sess, train, transport, deliver, or receive any grey-
13 hound for purposes of having the greyhound partici-
14 pate in commercial greyhound racing.

15 “(b) INVESTIGATIONS.—The Secretary, or any other
16 person authorized by the Secretary, shall make such inves-
17 tigations as the Secretary determines necessary to deter-
18 mine whether any person has violated or is violating any
19 provision of this section. The Secretary may obtain the
20 assistance of the Federal Bureau of Investigation, the De-
21 partment of the Treasury, or other law enforcement agen-
22 cies of the United States, and State and local govern-
23 mental agencies, in the conduct of such investigations,
24 under cooperative agreements with such agencies.

1 “(c) PENALTIES.—Any person who violates any of
2 paragraphs (1) through (5) of subsection (a) shall be fined
3 under this Act, imprisoned for not more than 7 years, or
4 both, for each such violation. Each instance of a violation
5 of any such paragraph shall be considered a single viola-
6 tion.

7 “(d) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

8 “(1) COMMERCIAL GREYHOUND RACING.—The
9 term ‘commercial greyhound racing’ means any
10 event involving the participation of greyhounds in
11 which betting or wagering on the speed or ability of
12 such greyhounds occurs.

13 “(2) SIMULCAST.—The term ‘simulcast’ means
14 the simultaneous audio or visual transmission from
15 one location of foreign or domestic greyhound races
16 taking place at a different location and gambling on
17 the results of such races.”.

18 (b) APPLICABILITY.—The amendments made by this
19 section shall apply with respect to conduct occurring on
20 or after October 1, 2027.

21 (c) RULE OF CONSTRUCTION.—Nothing in this sec-
22 tion, or the amendments made by this section, shall be
23 construed—

24 (1) to preempt any State law prohibiting gam-
25 bling or protecting the welfare of animals; or

1 (2) to alter, limit, or extend the relationship be-
2 tween the Interstate Horseracing Act of 1978 (15
3 U.S.C. 3001 et seq.) as it relates to horse racing
4 and other Federal laws in effect on the date of en-
5 actment of this Act.

6 **SEC. 12009. ANIMAL FIGHTING.**

7 Section 26 of the Animal Welfare Act (7 U.S.C.
8 2156) is amended—

9 (1) by striking the section designation and all
10 that follows through “It shall be unlawful” in sub-
11 section (a)(2) and inserting the following:

12 **“SEC. 26. SPONSORING OR EXHIBITING AN ANIMAL IN, AT-**
13 **TENDING, CAUSING AN INDIVIDUAL WHO HAS**
14 **NOT ATTAINED THE AGE OF 16 TO ATTEND,**
15 **OR GAMBLING ON, AN ANIMAL FIGHTING**
16 **VENTURE.**

17 “(a) SPONSORING OR EXHIBITING.—

18 “(1) IN GENERAL.—It shall be unlawful for any
19 person to knowingly sponsor or exhibit an animal in
20 an animal fighting venture.

21 “(2) ATTENDING OR CAUSING AN INDIVIDUAL
22 WHO HAS NOT ATTAINED THE AGE OF 16 TO AT-
23 TEND.—It shall be unlawful”; and

24 (2) in subsection (a), by adding at the end the
25 following:

1 “(3) ANIMAL VENTURE GAMBLING.—It shall be
2 unlawful for any person to gamble on an animal
3 fighting venture, including an in-person or broadcast
4 event.”.

5 **SEC. 12010. PLACEMENT OF ANIMALS USED IN FEDERAL**
6 **RESEARCH.**

7 Section 14 of the Animal Welfare Act (7 U.S.C.
8 2144) is amended to read as follows:

9 **“SEC. 14. STANDARDS FOR FEDERAL FACILITIES.**

10 “(a) LABORATORY ANIMAL FACILITIES.—Any de-
11 partment, agency, or instrumentality of the United States
12 having laboratory animal facilities shall comply with the
13 standards and other requirements promulgated by the
14 Secretary under sections 13(a), (f), (g), and (h).

15 “(b) ADOPTION AND NON-LABORATORY PLACE-
16 MENT.—Any department, agency, or instrumentality of
17 the United States operating as a Federal research facility
18 shall, not later than one year after the date of the enact-
19 ment of this subsection, promulgate standards and other
20 requirements that, in the determination of the depart-
21 ment, agency, or instrumentality, facilitates the adoption
22 or non-laboratory placement of any eligible animal of the
23 facility no longer needed for research and determined to
24 be suitable for release to an animal rescue organization,
25 animal sanctuary, animal shelter, or individual.

1 “(c) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

2 “(1) ANIMAL RESCUE ORGANIZATION.—The
3 term ‘animal rescue organization’ means an organi-
4 zation—

5 “(A) described in section 501(c)(3) of the
6 Internal Revenue Code of 1986 and exempt
7 from taxation under section 501(a) of such
8 Code; and

9 “(B) with the purpose of rescuing animals
10 that are unwanted, abandoned, or otherwise in
11 need of placement and finding permanent adop-
12 tive homes for such animals.

13 “(2) ANIMAL SANCTUARY.—The term ‘animal
14 sanctuary’ means an organization described in sec-
15 tion 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986
16 and exempt from taxation under section 501(a) of
17 such Code that—

18 “(A) is registered with the Secretary;

19 “(B) operates a place of refuge—

20 “(i) where an unwanted, displaced, or
21 retired animal is provided care for the life-
22 time of such animal; and

23 “(ii) where an unescorted public visi-
24 tation of such an animal is not permitted;

1 “(C) does not engage in commercial trade
2 of such an animal;

3 “(D) does not breed such an animal;

4 “(E) does not permit direct contact be-
5 tween the public and such an animal;

6 “(F) does not allow the use of such an ani-
7 mal for performance or exhibition purposes; and

8 “(G) does not conduct research that pains
9 or distresses such an animal.

10 “(3) ANIMAL SHELTER.—The term ‘animal
11 shelter’ means a facility that accepts or seizes ani-
12 mals to care for such animals, place such animals in
13 a permanent adoptive home, or carry out law en-
14 forcement purposes.

15 “(4) ELIGIBLE ANIMAL.—The term ‘eligible
16 animal’ means any dog, cat, nonhuman primate,
17 guinea pig, hamster, or rabbit.

18 “(5) SUITABLE FOR RELEASE.—The term ‘suit-
19 able for release’ means an eligible animal that has
20 been evaluated and has received a certificate issued
21 by a veterinarian licensed to practice veterinary
22 medicine, certifying that they inspected the eligible
23 animal on a specified date that is not more than ten
24 days before such animal is released, and when so in-
25 spected, the eligible animal appeared free of any in-

1 fectious disease or physical abnormality which would
2 endanger the eligible animal, other animals, or pub-
3 lic health.”.

4 **PART II—MEAT AND POULTRY PROCESSING AND**
5 **INSPECTION**

6 **SEC. 12111. AMPLIFYING PROCESSING OF LIVESTOCK IN**
7 **THE UNITED STATES (A-PLUS).**

8 (a) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 1 year after the
9 date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary shall revise
10 section 201.67 of title 9, Code of Federal Regulations, as
11 in effect on January 1, 2024, to specify that—

12 (1) market agencies may have an ownership in-
13 terest in, finance, or participate in the management
14 or operation of, a packer, so long as such packer—

15 (A) with respect to cattle and sheep, has a
16 cumulative slaughter capacity of less than—

17 (i) 2,000 animals per day; or

18 (ii) 700,000 animals per year; and

19 (B) with respect to hogs, has a cumulative
20 slaughter capacity of less than—

21 (i) 10,000 animals per day; or

22 (ii) 3,000,000 animals per year; and

23 (2) market agencies that have an ownership in-
24 terest in, finance, or participate in the management
25 or operation of, a packer shall disclose to sellers of

1 livestock the existence of such ownership interest, fi-
2 nancial relationship, or participation.

3 (b) SAVINGS CLAUSE.—Nothing in this section shall
4 be interpreted as a limitation on the authority of the Sec-
5 retary to adopt or enforce rules or regulations under the
6 Packers and Stockyards Act, 1921 (7 U.S.C. 181 et seq.)
7 related to the protection of producers, competition, market
8 integrity, or the prevention of conflicts of interest.

9 **SEC. 12112. HAZARD ANALYSIS AND CRITICAL CONTROL**
10 **POINT GUIDANCE AND RESOURCES FOR**
11 **SMALL AND VERY SMALL POULTRY AND**
12 **MEAT ESTABLISHMENTS.**

13 (a) MEAT ESTABLISHMENTS.—The Federal Meat In-
14 spection Act is amended by inserting after section 25 (21
15 U.S.C. 625) the following:

16 **“SEC. 26. SMALL AND VERY SMALL ESTABLISHMENT GUID-**
17 **ANCE AND RESOURCES.**

18 “(a) STUDIES; MODEL PLANS.—Not later than 18
19 months after the date of the enactment of this section,
20 the Secretary shall, to the maximum extent practicable,
21 make publicly available—

22 “(1) a list of scientific studies (which the Sec-
23 retary shall update as necessary) for use by small
24 establishments and very small establishments in de-

1 veloping a Hazard Analysis and Critical Control
2 Points plan;

3 “(2) guidelines relating to best practices and
4 techniques by small establishments and very small
5 establishments in the production of raw or further
6 processed meat and meat food products; and

7 “(3) scale-appropriate model Hazard Analysis
8 and Critical Control Points plans for small establish-
9 ments and very small establishments, including
10 model plans for—

11 “(A) slaughter-only establishments;

12 “(B) processing-only establishments; and

13 “(C) slaughter and processing establish-
14 ments.

15 “(b) GUIDANCE.—Not later than 2 years after the
16 date of enactment of this section, the Secretary shall pub-
17 lish a guidance document, after notice and an opportunity
18 for public comment, providing information on the require-
19 ments that need to be met for small establishments and
20 very small establishments to develop, pursuant to this Act,
21 a Hazard Analysis and Critical Control Points plan.

22 “(c) DATA CONFIDENTIALITY.—In carrying out this
23 section, the Secretary shall not publish confidential busi-
24 ness information of any meat processing establishment, in-

cluding a Hazard Analysis and Critical Control Points plan of a meat processing establishment.

“(d) SMALL ESTABLISHMENT AND VERY SMALL ESTABLISHMENT DEFINED.—In this section, the terms ‘small establishment’ and ‘very small establishment’ have the meanings given the terms ‘smaller establishment’ and ‘very small establishment’, respectively, in the final rule entitled ‘Pathogen Reduction; Hazard Analysis and Critical Control Point (HACCP) Systems’ (61 Fed. Reg. 38806 (July 25, 1996)) (or successor regulations).”.

(b) POULTRY ESTABLISHMENTS.—The Poultry Products Inspection Act is amended by inserting after section 14 (21 U.S.C. 463) the following:

“SEC. 14A. SMALL AND VERY SMALL ESTABLISHMENT GUIDANCE AND RESOURCES.

“(a) STUDIES; MODEL PLANS.—Not later than 18 months after the date of enactment of this section, the Secretary shall, to the maximum extent practicable, make publicly available—

“(1) a list of scientific studies (which the Secretary shall update as necessary) for use by small establishments and very small establishments in developing a Hazard Analysis and Critical Control Points plan;

1 “(2) guidelines relating to best practices and
2 techniques used by small establishments and very
3 small establishments in the production of raw or fur-
4 ther processed poultry products; and

5 “(3) scale-appropriate model Hazard Analysis
6 and Critical Control Points plans for small establish-
7 ments and very small establishments, including
8 model plans for—

9 “(A) slaughter-only establishments;

10 “(B) processing-only establishments; and

11 “(C) slaughter and processing establish-
12 ments.

13 “(b) GUIDANCE.—Not later than 2 years after the
14 date of enactment of this section, the Secretary shall pub-
15 lish a guidance document, after notice and an opportunity
16 for public comment, providing information on the require-
17 ments that need to be met for small establishments and
18 very small establishments to develop a Hazard Analysis
19 and Critical Control Points plan pursuant to this Act.

20 “(c) DATA CONFIDENTIALITY.—In carrying out this
21 section, the Secretary shall not publish confidential busi-
22 ness information of any poultry processing establishment,
23 including a Hazard Analysis and Critical Control Points
24 plan of a poultry processing establishment.

1 “(d) SMALL ESTABLISHMENT AND VERY SMALL ES-
 2 TABLISHMENT DEFINED.—In this section, the terms
 3 ‘small establishment’ and ‘very small establishment’ have
 4 the meanings given the terms ‘smaller establishment’ and
 5 ‘very small establishment’, respectively, in the final rule
 6 entitled ‘Pathogen Reduction; Hazard Analysis and Crit-
 7 ical Control Point (HACCP) Systems’ (61 Fed. Reg.
 8 38806 (July 25, 1996)) (or successor regulations).”.

9 **SEC. 12113. OUTREACH ON COOPERATIVE INTERSTATE**
 10 **SHIPMENT.**

11 (a) MEAT.—Section 501 of the Federal Meat Inspec-
 12 tion Act (21 U.S.C. 683) is amended by adding at the
 13 end the following:

14 “(k) FEDERAL OUTREACH.—In each of fiscal years
 15 2027 through 2031, the Secretary shall conduct outreach
 16 to States that—

17 “(1) have a State meat inspection program in
 18 effect pursuant to section 301; and

19 “(2) do not have a selected establishment.”.

20 (b) POULTRY.—Section 31 of the Poultry Products
 21 Inspection Act (21 U.S.C. 472) is amended by adding at
 22 the end the following:

23 “(j) FEDERAL OUTREACH.—In each of fiscal years
 24 2027 through 2031, the Secretary shall conduct outreach
 25 to States that—

1 “(1) have a State poultry product inspection
2 program in effect pursuant to section 5; and

3 “(2) do not have a selected establishment.”.

4 (c) REPORT.—At the conclusion of each of fiscal
5 years 2027 through 2031, the Secretary shall submit a
6 report detailing the activities and results of the outreach
7 conducted during that fiscal year under subsection (k) of
8 section 501 of the Federal Meat Inspection Act (21 U.S.C.
9 683) and subsection (j) of section 31 of the Poultry Prod-
10 ucts Inspection Act (21 U.S.C. 472), as added by sub-
11 sections (a) and (b), to—

12 (1) the Committee on Agriculture of the House
13 of Representatives;

14 (2) the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition,
15 and Forestry of the Senate;

16 (3) the Committee on Appropriations of the
17 House of Representatives; and

18 (4) the Committee on Appropriations of the
19 Senate.

20 **SEC. 12114. PILOT PROGRAM TO SUPPORT CUSTOM**
21 **SLAUGHTER ESTABLISHMENTS.**

22 (a) IN GENERAL.—

23 (1) STATE OPERATED PILOT PROGRAM.—Upon
24 the receipt of an application from a custom exempt
25 facility and subject to the requirements specified in

1 subsection (c), a State department of agriculture
2 may operate a pilot program to allow such custom
3 facility to sell slaughtered meat and meat food prod-
4 ucts (referred to in this section as “meat products”)
5 directly to consumers within the State in which the
6 facility is located in accordance with the pilot pro-
7 gram.

8 (2) LACK OF A STATE PILOT PROGRAM.—If a
9 State department of agriculture does not elect to op-
10 erate a pilot program, the Secretary shall, upon re-
11 quest from a custom exempt facility in such a State,
12 operate a pilot program administered by the Sec-
13 retary for that State in accordance with this section.

14 (b) ALLOWABLE NUMBER OF FACILITIES.—

15 (1) INITIAL APPROVAL.—Except as provided in
16 paragraph (2)—

17 (A) a State department of agriculture may
18 approve not more than 5 facilities in such State
19 for participation in a pilot program established
20 under subsection (a)(1); and

21 (B) the Secretary may approve not more
22 than 10 facilities to participate in all pilot pro-
23 grams established under subsection (a)(2).

24 (2) SUBSEQUENT APPROVAL OF FACILITIES.—

25 Not less than 2 years after the establishment of a

1 pilot program, a State department of agriculture or
2 the Secretary may, if no product produced at a facil-
3 ity that was initially approved under paragraph (1)
4 for participation in such pilot program has been sub-
5 ject to an emergency action under subsection (f)
6 during the 2-year period following such establish-
7 ment, approve—

8 (A) in the case of a State department of
9 agriculture, not more than 5 additional facilities
10 in the respective State; and

11 (B) in the case of the Secretary, not more
12 than 10 additional facilities in all States.

13 (c) PILOT PROGRAM REQUIREMENTS.—A pilot pro-
14 gram established under this section shall, at a minimum,
15 require—

16 (1) that meat products sold under the pilot pro-
17 gram are—

18 (A) sold directly to consumers within the
19 State from—

20 (i) the owner of the animals from
21 which such meat products are derived; or

22 (ii) the custom exempt facility at
23 which the meat products were processed;

24 (B) not eligible for re-sale; and

25 (C) clearly labeled to indicate—

1 (i) the name and address of the facil-
2 ity at which the meat products were proc-
3 essed;

4 (ii) the name and address of the
5 owner of the animals from which such
6 meat products are derived;

7 (iii) the location where animals from
8 which such meat products are derived were
9 raised;

10 (iv) the date of slaughter of such ani-
11 mals and the period of time over which the
12 owner raised such animals;

13 (v) that such meat products were not
14 subject to Federal inspection; and

15 (vi) that such meat products shall not
16 be resold;

17 (2) that custom exempt facilities participating
18 in the pilot program comply with—

19 (A) Public Law 85–765 (7 U.S.C. 1901 et
20 seq.; commonly known as the “Humane Meth-
21 ods of Slaughter Act of 1958”);

22 (B) applicable State and local laws;

23 (C) section 23(d) of the Federal Meat In-
24 spection Act (21 U.S.C. 623(d)); and

25 (D) Federal regulations pertaining to—

1 (i) sanitation standards and record-
2 keeping requirements for custom exempt
3 facilities; and

4 (ii) the handling and disposition of
5 specified risk materials;

6 (3) that custom exempt facilities participating
7 in the pilot program be subject to onsite inspection
8 by the Secretary to ensure compliance with the re-
9 quirements specified in paragraphs (1) and (2); and
10 (4) that custom exempt facilities participating
11 in the pilot program be subject to onsite inspection
12 at least annually by the local authority responsible
13 for restaurant inspections or the State department
14 of agriculture.

15 (d) IMPLEMENTATION.—Not later than 90 days after
16 the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary shall
17 issue, and make publicly available, guidance for participa-
18 tion in a pilot program established pursuant to this sec-
19 tion.

20 (e) INELIGIBILITY.—An establishment subject to in-
21 spection by the Secretary under the Federal Meat Inspec-
22 tion Act (21 U.S.C. 601 et seq.) or operating pursuant
23 to a State meat inspection program authorized under sec-
24 tion 301 of the Federal Meat Inspection Act (21 U.S.C.

1 661) shall not be eligible to participate in a pilot program
2 established pursuant to this section.

3 (f) AUTHORITY FOR EMERGENCY ACTION.—If the
4 Secretary has credible evidence that a meat product pro-
5 duced at a custom exempt facility participating in a pilot
6 program established pursuant to this section is adulter-
7 ated, the Secretary—

8 (1) shall, pursuant to the Federal Meat Inspec-
9 tion Act (21 U.S.C. 601 et seq.), take such actions
10 as may be necessary to address the risk to public
11 health posed by such products; and

12 (2) may terminate the participation of a custom
13 exempt facility in a pilot program established pursu-
14 ant to this section.

15 (g) REPORT REQUIRED.—

16 (1) REPORTS BY STATE DEPARTMENTS OF AG-
17 RICULTURE TO SECRETARY.—Beginning September
18 30, 2026, and each fiscal year thereafter until Sep-
19 tember 30, 2031, each State department of agri-
20 culture operating a pilot program pursuant to this
21 section shall submit to the Secretary a report detail-
22 ing, with respect to each such pilot program within
23 the relevant State for the preceding fiscal year—

1 (A) the number and location of persons or
2 custom exempt facilities selling meat products
3 under each such pilot program;

4 (B) the outcomes of each such pilot pro-
5 gram;

6 (C) any instances in which a meat product
7 was subject to an emergency action under sub-
8 section (f); and

9 (D) aggregated data on the volume of
10 meat being processed under such pilot program.

11 (2) REPORT BY SECRETARY TO CONGRESS.—

12 Not later than 2 years after initiating a pilot pro-
13 gram under this section, the Secretary shall submit
14 to the Committee on Agriculture of the House of
15 Representatives and the Committee on Agriculture,
16 Nutrition, and Forestry of the Senate a report de-
17 tailing—

18 (A) the information received from partici-
19 pating State departments of agriculture under
20 paragraph (1); and

21 (B) for any custom exempt facilities par-
22 ticipating in a pilot program established by the
23 Secretary pursuant to subsection (a)(2)—

1 (i) the number and location of persons
2 or custom exempt facilities selling products
3 pursuant to such pilot program;

4 (ii) the outcomes of such pilot pro-
5 gram; and

6 (iii) any instances in which a meat
7 product was subject to an emergency ac-
8 tion under subsection (f).

9 (h) CUSTOM EXEMPT FACILITY DEFINED.—In this
10 section, the term “custom exempt facility” means an es-
11 tablishment engaged in the slaughter of animals and the
12 preparation of the carcasses, parts thereof, meat, and
13 meat food products for commerce that is not subject to
14 the Federal inspection requirements under title I of the
15 Federal Meat Inspection Act (21 U.S.C. 601 et seq.).

16 (i) SUNSET.—A State and the Secretary may not op-
17 erate a pilot program under this section on or after Sep-
18 tember 30, 2031, and no facility that is exempt from in-
19 spection under the Federal Meat Inspection Act (21
20 U.S.C. 601 et seq.) pursuant to this section shall be ex-
21 empt from that inspection on or after September 30,
22 2031.

1 **Subtitle B—Department of Agri-**
2 **culture Reorganization Act of**
3 **1994**

4 **SEC. 12201. OFFICE OF HOMELAND SECURITY.**

5 Section 221 of the Department of Agriculture Reor-
6 ganization Act of 1994 (7 U.S.C. 6922) is amended—

7 (1) in subsection (d)—

8 (A) in paragraph (7), by striking “and” at
9 the end;

10 (B) by redesignating paragraph (8) as
11 paragraph (9); and

12 (C) by inserting after paragraph (7) the
13 following:

14 “(8) conducting annual cross-sector crisis sim-
15 ulation exercises related to a food-related emergency
16 or disruption; and”; and

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

18 “(f) DETAILEES.—The Secretary may detail employ-
19 ees of the Department of Agriculture to, and accept em-
20 ployees detailed from, the intelligence community (as de-
21 fined in section 3 of the National Security Act of 1947)
22 to assist in carrying out the duties of the Office of Home-
23 land Security.

24 “(g) RISK ASSESSMENTS AND REPORTS.—

1 “(1) RISK ASSESSMENTS.—Not later than 1
2 year after the date of enactment of the Farm, Food,
3 and National Security Act of 2026, and not less
4 than every 2 years thereafter, the Secretary shall
5 conduct an assessment of risks and security
6 vulnerabilities to the food and agriculture critical in-
7 frastructure sector, including—

8 “(A) naturally occurring, unintentional, or
9 intentional threats, including chemical, biologi-
10 cal, cybersecurity, or bioterrorism attacks;

11 “(B) influence of state-owned enterprise;

12 “(C) control of and access to agricultural
13 data;

14 “(D) foreign acquisition of intellectual
15 property, agricultural assets, and land;

16 “(E) agricultural input shortages and de-
17 pendence on foreign-sourced inputs;

18 “(F) supply chain and trade disruptions;

19 “(G) science and technology cooperation;

20 “(H) unequal investments in research, de-
21 velopment, and commercialization;

22 “(I) incongruent regulatory policies; and

23 “(J) any other vulnerabilities identified by
24 the Secretary.

25 “(2) BRIEFING AND REPORT.—

1 “(A) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 180
2 days after the completion of a risk assessment
3 under paragraph (1), the Secretary shall pro-
4 vide a briefing on the results of the risk assess-
5 ment and submit to the Committee on Agri-
6 culture and the Committee on Homeland Secu-
7 rity of the House of Representatives and the
8 Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and For-
9 estry and the Committee on Homeland Security
10 and Governmental Affairs of the Senate a re-
11 port that includes—

12 “(i) an assessment of any gaps or lim-
13 itations in national security efforts related
14 to the food and agriculture critical infra-
15 structure sector;

16 “(ii) any actions taken by the Sec-
17 retary to address any gaps or limitations
18 identified under clause (i), including
19 through interagency coordination, threat
20 information sharing, and stakeholder out-
21 reach;

22 “(iii) any recommendations for admin-
23 istrative, regulatory, or legislative actions
24 that can be taken to reduce any gaps or

1 limitations identified under clause (i), in-
2 cluding—

3 “(I) recommendations to reduce
4 the dependence on foreign-source in-
5 puts necessary for the food and agri-
6 culture critical infrastructure sector;
7 and

8 “(II) recommendations to ad-
9 dress the cybersecurity threats to, and
10 security vulnerabilities in, the food
11 and agriculture critical infrastructure
12 sector; and

13 “(iv) resources the Secretary requires
14 to address current and future national se-
15 curity vulnerabilities related to the food
16 and agriculture critical infrastructure sec-
17 tor.

18 “(B) EXEMPTION FROM ACCESS TO CON-
19 GRESSIONALLY MANDATED REPORTS ACT.—A
20 report required under subparagraph (A) shall
21 be exempt from the requirements of the Access
22 to Congressionally Mandated Reports Act (sub-
23 title D of title VII of Public Law 117–263; 136
24 Stat. 3677).”.

1 **SEC. 12202. OFFICE OF PARTNERSHIPS AND PUBLIC EN-**
2 **GAGEMENT.**

3 Section 226B(f)(3)(B) of the Department of Agri-
4 culture Reorganization Act of 1994 (7 U.S.C.
5 6934(f)(3)(B)) is amended by striking “2023” and insert-
6 ing “2031”.

7 **SEC. 12203. BURDEN OF PROOF FOR NATIONAL APPEALS**
8 **DIVISION HEARINGS.**

9 Section 277(c)(4) of the Department of Agriculture
10 Reorganization Act of 1994 (7 U.S.C. 6997(c)(4)) is
11 amended to read as follows:

12 “(4) BURDEN OF PROOF.—The agency shall
13 bear the burden of proving by substantial evidence
14 that the adverse decision of the agency was valid.”.

15 **SEC. 12204. TERMINATION OF AUTHORITY.**

16 Section 296(b) of the Department of Agriculture Re-
17 organization Act of 1994 (7 U.S.C. 7014(b)) is amended
18 by adding at the end the following:

19 “(11) The authority of the Secretary to carry
20 out the amendments made to this title by the Farm,
21 Food, and National Security Act of 2026.”.

22 **SEC. 12205. FUNCTIONS OF THE OFFICE OF TRIBAL RELA-**
23 **TIONS.**

24 Section 309 of the Federal Crop Insurance Reform
25 and Department of Agriculture Reorganization Act of
26 1994 (7 U.S.C. 6921) is amended—

1 (1) in subsection (a)—

2 (A) by striking “shall advise” and all that
3 follows through the period at the end and in-
4 serting “shall—”; and

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

6 “(1) advise the Secretary on policies related to
7 Indian tribes;

8 “(2) oversee—

9 “(A) each self-determination contract (as
10 defined in section 4 of the Indian Self-Deter-
11 mination and Education Assistance Act (25
12 U.S.C. 5304)) entered into between the Sec-
13 retary and a tribal organization; and

14 “(B) each self-governance compact (as de-
15 fined in section 401 of such Act (25 U.S.C.
16 5361)) entered into between the Secretary and
17 an Indian tribe; and

18 “(3) carry out such other functions as the Sec-
19 retary considers appropriate.”; and

20 (2) in subsection (b)(1), by striking “this sub-
21 section” and inserting “this section”.

22 **Subtitle C—National Security**

23 **SEC. 12301. AGRICULTURAL FOREIGN INVESTMENT DIS-** 24 **CLOSURE IMPROVEMENTS.**

25 (a) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

1 (1) AFIDA.—The term “AFIDA” means the
2 Agricultural Foreign Investment Disclosure Act of
3 1978 (7 U.S.C. 3501 et seq.).

4 (2) FPAC–BC.—The term “FPAC–BC” means
5 the Farm Production and Conservation Business
6 Center of the Department of Agriculture.

7 (b) MOU WITH CFIUS.—Not later than 1 year after
8 the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary shall enter
9 into 1 or more memoranda of understanding with the
10 Committee on Foreign Investment in the United States
11 under which the Secretary shall provide the Committee
12 with all relevant information relating to reports on foreign
13 ownership of United States agricultural land submitted to
14 the Secretary under section 2 of AFIDA (7 U.S.C. 3501),
15 including information on—

16 (1) each report submitted to the Secretary; and

17 (2) with respect to each such report, the iden-
18 tity of the foreign persons included in the report and
19 the date of submission.

20 (c) AFIDA HANDBOOK UPDATES.—

21 (1) FIRST UPDATE.—Not later than 2 years
22 after the date of enactment of this Act, the Sec-
23 retary shall—

24 (A) update the most recent version of the
25 Farm Service Agency handbook titled “Foreign

1 Investment Disclosure” as determined nec-
2 essary by the Secretary for the effective imple-
3 mentation of AFIDA; and

4 (B) incorporate in such update the rec-
5 ommendations made by the report of the Gov-
6 ernment Accountability Office titled “Foreign
7 Investments in U.S. Agricultural Land: En-
8 hancing Efforts to Collect, Track, and Share
9 Key Information Could Better Identify National
10 Security Risks” and dated January 18, 2024.

11 (2) SUBSEQUENT UPDATES.—After updating
12 the handbook described in subparagraph (A) of
13 paragraph (1) under that paragraph, the Secretary
14 shall carry out an update of that handbook every 10
15 years thereafter, including by incorporating any rec-
16 ommendations of the Government Accountability Of-
17 fice.

18 (d) CIVIL PENALTIES.—Section 3 of the Agricultural
19 Foreign Investment Disclosure Act of 1978 (7 U.S.C.
20 3502) is amended—

21 (1) by redesignating subsection (b) as sub-
22 section (c);

23 (2) by striking the section designation and
24 heading and all that follows through “Any such civil

1 penalty shall be recoverable” and inserting the fol-
2 lowing:

3 **“SEC. 3. CIVIL PENALTIES.**

4 “(a) IN GENERAL.—A person shall be subject to a
5 civil penalty imposed by the Secretary if the Secretary de-
6 termines that the person—

7 “(1) has failed to submit a report in accordance
8 with the provisions of section 2; or

9 “(2) has knowingly submitted a report under
10 section 2 that—

11 “(A) does not contain all the information
12 required to be in such report; or

13 “(B) contains information that is mis-
14 leading or false.

15 “(b) CIVIL ACTION.—Any civil penalty imposed by
16 the Secretary under subsection (a) shall be recoverable”;
17 and

18 (3) in subsection (c) (as so redesignated)—

19 (A) by striking the subsection designation
20 and all that follows through “The amount” and
21 inserting the following:

22 “(c) AMOUNT OF PENALTY.—The amount”;

23 (B) by striking “of this section”; and

24 (C) by striking “shall not exceed 25 per-
25 cent” and inserting “for violations under sub-

1 section (a)(1) shall not exceed 25 percent, and
2 for violations under subsection (a)(2) shall be
3 not less than 5 percent, but not more than 25
4 percent.”.

5 (e) PUBLIC DISCLOSURE OF ENFORCEMENT AC-
6 TIONS.—Section 3 of the Agricultural Foreign Investment
7 Disclosure Act of 1978 (7 U.S.C. 3502) (as amended by
8 subsection (b)) is amended by adding at the end the fol-
9 lowing:

10 “(d) PUBLIC DISCLOSURE OF ENFORCEMENT AC-
11 TIONS.—The Secretary shall publicly disclose the name of
12 each person who paid to the Secretary a civil penalty im-
13 posed under subsection (a), including, if applicable, after
14 the completion of an appeal of a civil penalty.”.

15 (f) PUBLICATION OF REPORTING REQUIREMENTS.—
16 Section 3 of the Agricultural Foreign Investment Disclo-
17 sure Act of 1978 (7 U.S.C. 3502) (as amended by sub-
18 section (c)) is amended by adding at the end the following:

19 “(e) OUTREACH.—Using existing resources and ef-
20 forts to the maximum extent practicable, the Secretary
21 shall carry out a nationwide outreach program directed
22 primarily toward landlords, operators, owners, persons,
23 producers, and tenants (as those terms are defined in sec-
24 tion 718.2 of title 7, Code of Federal Regulations (as in
25 effect on the date of enactment of the Farm, Food, and

1 National Security Act of 2026)) of agricultural land and
2 county property appraiser offices, land appraisal compa-
3 nies, and real estate auction companies to increase public
4 awareness and provide education regarding the reporting
5 requirements under this Act.”.

6 **SEC. 12302. REPORT ON AGRICULTURAL LAND PUR-**
7 **CHASING ACTIVITIES IN THE UNITED STATES**
8 **BY COUNTRIES DESIGNATED AS STATE SPON-**
9 **SORS OF TERRORISM AND CERTAIN OTHER**
10 **COUNTRIES.**

11 (a) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

12 (1) AGRICULTURAL LAND.—The term “agricul-
13 tural land” has the meaning given the term in sec-
14 tion 9 of the Agricultural Foreign Investment Dis-
15 closure Act of 1978 (7 U.S.C. 3508).

16 (2) APPROPRIATE COMMITTEES OF CON-
17 GRESS.—The term “appropriate committees of Con-
18 gress” means—

19 (A) the Committee on Agriculture, Nutri-
20 tion, and Forestry of the Senate;

21 (B) the Committee on Homeland Security
22 and Governmental Affairs of the Senate;

23 (C) the Committee on Intelligence of the
24 Senate;

1 (D) the Committee on Homeland Security
2 of the House of Representatives;

3 (E) the Committee on Agriculture of the
4 House of Representatives; and

5 (F) the Permanent Select Committee on
6 Intelligence of the House of Representatives.

7 (3) COVERED FOREIGN COUNTRY.—The term
8 “covered foreign country” means a foreign country
9 of concern (as defined in section 10638 of the
10 CHIPS Act of 2022 (42 U.S.C. 19237)).

11 (4) COVERED FOREIGN PERSON.—The term
12 “covered foreign person” means a foreign person (as
13 defined in section 9 of the Agricultural Foreign In-
14 vestment Disclosure Act of 1978 (7 U.S.C. 3508))
15 that is a citizen of, or headquartered in, as applica-
16 ble, a covered foreign country.

17 (5) STATE.—The term “State” has the mean-
18 ing given the term in section 9 of the Agricultural
19 Foreign Investment Disclosure Act of 1978 (7
20 U.S.C. 3508).

21 (6) STATE SPONSOR OF TERRORISM.—The term
22 “state sponsor of terrorism” means a country the
23 government of which the Secretary of State has de-
24 termined has repeatedly provided support for acts of
25 international terrorism, for purposes of—

1 (A) section 1754(c)(1)(A)(i) of the Export
2 Control Reform Act of 2018 (50 U.S.C.
3 4813(c)(1)(A)(i));

4 (B) section 620A of the Foreign Assistance
5 Act of 1961 (22 U.S.C. 2371);

6 (C) section 40(d) of the Arms Export Con-
7 trol Act (22 U.S.C. 2780(d)); or

8 (D) any other provision of law.

9 (b) REPORT.—

10 (1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 180 days
11 after the date of enactment of this Act, and annually
12 thereafter, the Secretary of Agriculture, in coordina-
13 tion with the Secretary of Homeland Security and
14 the head of any other appropriate Federal agency,
15 shall submit to the appropriate committees of Con-
16 gress a report describing the national security risks
17 of the purchase and management of agricultural
18 land by covered foreign persons.

19 (2) CONTENTS.—A report submitted under
20 paragraph (1) shall include the following with re-
21 spect to the year covered by the report:

22 (A) A description of—

23 (i) the number of acres of agricultural
24 land owned, leased, or managed by covered
25 foreign persons, organized by State; and

1 (ii) for each State, the percentage of
2 land owned or managed by covered foreign
3 persons compared to the total acreage of
4 the State.

5 (B) An analysis of the possible threat to
6 food security, food safety, biosecurity, or envi-
7 ronmental protection due to the ownership of
8 agricultural land by each covered foreign coun-
9 try through covered foreign persons.

10 (C) An analysis of the annual and total
11 cost of support for agricultural land owned by
12 covered foreign persons through farm programs
13 administered by the Farm Service Agency.

14 (D) An analysis of the use of agricultural
15 land for industrial espionage or intellectual
16 property transfer by covered foreign persons.

17 (E) An analysis of the potential use by
18 covered foreign persons of agricultural land in
19 close proximity to manufacturing facilities,
20 water sources, and other critical infrastructure
21 to monitor, interrupt, or disrupt activities crit-
22 ical to the national and economic security of the
23 United States.

24 (F) An analysis of other threats to the ag-
25 ricultural industry or national security of the

1 United States due to the ownership of agricul-
2 tural land by covered foreign persons.

3 (3) UNCLASSIFIED FORM.—A report submitted
4 under this subsection shall—

5 (A) be submitted in unclassified form, but
6 may include a classified annex; and

7 (B) be consistent with the protection of in-
8 telligence sources and methods.

9 **SEC. 12303. INVESTIGATIVE ACTIONS.**

10 (a) INVESTIGATIVE ACTIONS.—Section 4 of the Agri-
11 cultural Foreign Investment Disclosure Act of 1978 (7
12 U.S.C. 3503) is amended to read as follows:

13 **“SEC. 4. INVESTIGATIVE ACTIONS.**

14 “(a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall appoint an
15 employee in the Senior Executive Service (as described in
16 section 3131 of title 5, United States Code) of the Depart-
17 ment of Agriculture to serve as Chief of Operations of In-
18 vestigative Actions (referred to in this section as the ‘Chief
19 of Operations’), who shall hire, appoint, and maintain ad-
20 ditional employees to monitor compliance with the provi-
21 sions of this Act.

22 “(b) CHIEF OF OPERATIONS.—The Chief of Oper-
23 ations may serve in such position simultaneously with a
24 concurrent position within the Department of Agriculture.

25 “(c) SECURITY.—The Secretary shall—

1 “(1) provide classified storage, meeting, and
2 other spaces, as necessary, for personnel of the Chief
3 of Operations; and

4 “(2) assist such personnel in obtaining security
5 clearances.

6 “(d) DUTIES.—The Chief of Operations shall—

7 “(1) monitor compliance with this Act;

8 “(2) refer noncompliance with this Act to the
9 Secretary, the Farm Service Agency, and any other
10 appropriate authority;

11 “(3) conduct investigations, in coordination
12 with the Department of Justice, the Federal Bureau
13 of Investigation, the Department of Homeland Secu-
14 rity, the Department of the Treasury, the National
15 Security Council, and State and local law enforce-
16 ment agencies, on malign efforts—

17 “(A) to steal agricultural knowledge and
18 technology; or

19 “(B) to disrupt the United States agricul-
20 tural base;

21 “(4) conduct an annual audit of the database
22 developed under section 12304(b) of the Farm,
23 Food, and National Security Act of 2026;

1 “(5) seek to enter into memoranda of agree-
2 ment and memoranda of understanding with the
3 Federal agencies described in paragraph (3)—

4 “(A) to ensure compliance with this Act;
5 and

6 “(B) to prevent the malign efforts de-
7 scribed in that paragraph;

8 “(6) refer to the Committee on Foreign Invest-
9 ment in the United States transactions that—

10 “(A) raise potential national security con-
11 cerns; and

12 “(B) result in agricultural land acquisition
13 by a foreign person that is a citizen of, or
14 headquartered in, as applicable, a foreign entity
15 of concern; and

16 “(7) publish annual reports that summarize the
17 information contained in every report received by the
18 Secretary under section 2 during the period covered
19 by the report.

20 “(e) ADMINISTRATION.—The Chief of Operations
21 shall report to—

22 “(1) the Secretary; or

23 “(2) if delegated by the Secretary, to—

24 “(A) the Administrator of the Farm Serv-
25 ice Agency; or

1 “(B) the Director of the Department of
2 Agriculture Office of Homeland Security.”.

3 (b) DEFINITION OF FOREIGN ENTITY OF CON-
4 CERN.—Section 9 of the Agricultural Foreign Investment
5 Disclosure Act of 1978 (7 U.S.C. 3508) is amended—

6 (1) in the matter preceding paragraph (1), by
7 striking “For purposes of this Act—” and inserting
8 “In this Act:”;

9 (2) in each of paragraphs (1) through (6)—

10 (A) by striking “the term” and inserting
11 “The term”; and

12 (B) by inserting a paragraph heading, the
13 text of which comprises the term defined in that
14 paragraph;

15 (3) in each of paragraphs (1) through (4), by
16 striking the semicolon and inserting a period;

17 (4) in paragraph (5), by striking “; and” and
18 inserting a period;

19 (5) by redesignating paragraphs (2) through
20 (6) as paragraphs (3), (4), (6), (7), and (8), respec-
21 tively;

22 (6) by inserting after paragraph (1) the fol-
23 lowing:

24 “(2) FOREIGN ENTITY OF CONCERN.—The
25 term ‘foreign entity of concern’ has the meaning

1 given the term in section 9901 of the William M.
2 (Mac) Thornberry National Defense Authorization
3 Act for Fiscal Year 2021 (15 U.S.C. 4651).”; and
4 (7) by inserting after paragraph (4) (as so re-
5 designated) the following:

6 “(5) **MALIGN EFFORT.**—The term ‘malign ef-
7 fort’ means any hostile effort undertaken by, at the
8 direction of, on behalf of, or with the substantial
9 support of the government of a foreign entity of con-
10 cern.”.

11 **SEC. 12304. DIGITIZATION AND CONSOLIDATION OF FOR-**
12 **EIGN LAND OWNERSHIP DATA COLLECTION**
13 **AND PUBLICATION.**

14 (a) **DEFINITIONS.**—In this section:

15 (1) **AGRICULTURAL LAND.**—The term “agricul-
16 tural land” has the meaning given the term in sec-
17 tion 781.2 of title 7, Code of Federal Regulations
18 (as in effect on the date of enactment of this Act).

19 (2) **DATABASE.**—The term “database” means
20 the database developed under subsection (c).

21 (3) **FOREIGN PERSON.**—The term “foreign per-
22 son” has the meaning given the term in section 9 of
23 the Agricultural Foreign Investment Disclosure Act
24 of 1978 (7 U.S.C. 3508).

1 (b) DATABASE.—Not later than 3 years after the
2 date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary shall develop
3 a database of agricultural land owned by foreign persons,
4 using data that are collected pursuant to the Agricultural
5 Foreign Investment Disclosure Act of 1978 (7 U.S.C.
6 3501 et seq.).

7 (c) CONTENTS.—Each entry in the database for each
8 registration or updated registration of agricultural land
9 owned or leased by a foreign person shall include pertinent
10 information, as determined by the Secretary, in the appli-
11 cable filing, except it shall not publicly disclose the name
12 of the filer and the purchase or lease price of such trans-
13 action for a period of at least 30 days following such filing.

14 (d) AUDIT.—Not later than 180 days after the data-
15 base is operational, and annually thereafter, the Chief of
16 Operations for Investigative Actions appointed under sec-
17 tion 4 of the Agricultural Foreign Investment Disclosure
18 Act of 1978 (as amended by section 12303(a)) shall—

19 (1) conduct an audit of the database; and

20 (2) submit to the appropriate committees of
21 Congress a report—

22 (A) evaluating the accuracy of the data-
23 base; and

24 (B) describing recommendations for im-
25 proving compliance with the reporting required

1 under the Agricultural Foreign Investment Dis-
2 closure Act of 1978 (7 U.S.C. 3501 et seq.).

3 (e) REPEAL.—Section 773 of division A of the Con-
4 solidated Appropriations Act, 2023 (Public Law 117–328)
5 is repealed.

6 **SEC. 12305. CFIUS CONSIDERATION OF CERTAIN AGRICUL-**
7 **TURAL LAND TRANSACTIONS.**

8 (a) INCLUSION OF THE SECRETARY OF AGRI-
9 CULTURE ON THE COMMITTEE ON FOREIGN INVESTMENT
10 IN THE UNITED STATES.—Section 721(k) of the Defense
11 Production Act of 1950 (50 U.S.C. 4565(k)) is amended
12 by adding at the end the following:

13 “(8) INCLUSION OF THE SECRETARY OF AGRI-
14 CULTURE.—The Secretary of Agriculture shall be a
15 member of the Committee with respect to a covered
16 transaction that involves—

17 “(A) agricultural land;

18 “(B) agriculture biotechnology; or

19 “(C) the agriculture industry, including ag-
20 ricultural transportation, storage, and proc-
21 essing.”.

22 (b) CONSIDERATION OF CERTAIN AGRICULTURAL
23 LAND TRANSACTIONS.—Section 721(b)(1) of the Defense
24 Production Act of 1950 (50 U.S.C. 4565(b)(1)) is amend-
25 ed by adding at the end the following:

1 “(I) CONSIDERATION OF CERTAIN AGRI-
2 CULTURAL LAND TRANSACTIONS.—

3 “(i) IN GENERAL.—After receiving no-
4 tification from the Secretary of Agriculture
5 of a reportable agricultural land trans-
6 action, the Committee shall determine—

7 “(I) whether the transaction is a
8 covered transaction; and

9 “(II) if the Committee deter-
10 mines that the transaction is a cov-
11 ered transaction, whether the Com-
12 mittee should initiate a review pursu-
13 ant to subparagraph (D), or take an-
14 other action authorized under this sec-
15 tion, with respect to the reportable ag-
16 ricultural land transaction.

17 “(ii) REPORTABLE AGRICULTURAL
18 LAND TRANSACTION.—In this subpara-
19 graph, the term ‘reportable agricultural
20 land transaction’ means a transaction—

21 “(I) that the Secretary of Agri-
22 culture has reason to believe is a cov-
23 ered transaction, based on information
24 from or in cooperation with the intel-
25 ligence community;

1 “(II) that involves the acquisition
2 of an interest in agricultural land by
3 a foreign person of the People’s Re-
4 public of China, the Democratic Peo-
5 ple’s Republic of Korea, the Russian
6 Federation, or the Islamic Republic of
7 Iran; and

8 “(III) with respect to which a
9 person is required to submit a report
10 to the Secretary of Agriculture under
11 section 2(a) of the Agricultural For-
12 eign Investment Disclosure Act of
13 1978.

14 “(iii) SUNSET.—The requirements
15 under this subparagraph shall terminate,
16 with respect to a foreign person of the re-
17 spective foreign country, on the date that
18 the People’s Republic of China, the Demo-
19 cratic People’s Republic of Korea, the Rus-
20 sian Federation, or the Islamic Republic of
21 Iran, as the case may be, is removed from
22 the list of foreign adversaries in section
23 791.4 of title 15, Code of Federal Regula-
24 tions.”.

1 **SEC. 12306. PROHIBITION ON PURCHASE OF AGRICUL-**
2 **TURAL LAND BY FOREIGN ADVERSARIES AND**
3 **STATE SPONSORS OF TERRORISM.**

4 Notwithstanding any other provision of law, the
5 President shall direct the heads of the Federal depart-
6 ments and agencies to promulgate rules and regulations
7 to prohibit the purchase of agricultural land located in the
8 United States by a foreign adversary, a state sponsor of
9 terrorism, any agent or instrumentality of a foreign adver-
10 sary or a state sponsor of terrorism, or any person owned
11 or controlled by, or affiliated with, a foreign adversary or
12 a state sponsor of terrorism. For purposes of this sec-
13 tion—

14 (1) the term “agricultural land” has the mean-
15 ing given the term in section 9 of the Agricultural
16 Foreign Investment Disclosure Act of 1978 (7
17 U.S.C. 3508).

18 (2) the term “foreign adversary” means any
19 foreign government or foreign nongovernment person
20 engaged in a long-term pattern or serious instances
21 of conduct significantly adverse to the national secu-
22 rity of the United States or security and safety of
23 United States persons;

24 (3) the term “state sponsor of terrorism”
25 means a country the government of which the Sec-

1 retary of State determines has repeatedly provided
2 support for international terrorism pursuant to—

3 (A) section 1754(c)(1)(A) of the Export
4 Control Reform Act of 2018 (50 U.S.C.
5 4318(c)(1)(A));

6 (B) section 620A of the Foreign Assistance
7 Act of 1961 (22 U.S.C. 2371);

8 (C) section 40 of the Arms Export Control
9 Act (22 U.S.C. 2780); or

10 (D) any other provision of law; and

11 (4) the term “United States” means the several
12 States, the District of Columbia, the Commonwealth
13 of Puerto Rico, the Commonwealth of the Northern
14 Mariana Islands, American Samoa, Guam, the
15 United States Virgin Islands, and any other terri-
16 tory or possession of the United States.

17 **Subtitle D—Other Miscellaneous** 18 **Provisions**

19 **SEC. 12401. COMMISSION ON FARM TRANSITIONS—NEEDS** 20 **FOR 2050.**

21 Section 12609 of the Agriculture Improvement Act
22 of 2018 (Public Law 115–334; 132 Stat. 5009) is amend-
23 ed—

24 (1) in subsection (a), by striking “There is es-
25 tablished” and inserting “Not later than 60 days

1 after the date of the enactment of the Farm, Food,
2 and National Security Act of 2026, the Secretary
3 shall establish”;

4 (2) in subsection (b)—

5 (A) in the subsection heading, by inserting
6 “AND RECOMMENDATIONS” after “STUDY”;

7 (B) in the matter preceding paragraph (1),
8 by inserting “, and make recommendations re-
9 lating to,” after “study on”;

10 (C) in paragraph (1)—

11 (i) in subparagraph (B), by inserting
12 “and timely” after “affordable”; and

13 (ii) by striking subparagraph (D) and
14 inserting the following:

15 “(D) apprenticeships, mentoring programs,
16 business training, and technical assistance pro-
17 grams;”;

18 (D) in paragraph (3)—

19 (i) in the matter preceding subpara-
20 graph (A), by striking “existing and new
21 Federal tax policies” and inserting “exist-
22 ing and new State and Federal policies, in-
23 cluding tax policies”; and

24 (ii) in subparagraph (A), by inserting
25 “or impede” after “facilitate”;

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

3 (F) in paragraph (5), by striking the pe-
4 riod at the end and inserting a semicolon; and

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

6 “(6) heirs’ property and succession of agricul-
7 tural land;

8 “(7) any unique barriers faced by historically
9 underserved and women farmers and ranchers in the
10 ability to transfer, inherit, or purchase agricultural
11 assets, including land; and

12 “(8) leasing and ownership trends, including
13 leasing and ownership trends by foreign persons or
14 entities.”;

15 (3) in subsection (f), by striking “1 year after
16 the date of enactment of this Act” and inserting “2
17 years after the date of enactment of the Farm,
18 Food, and National Security Act of 2026”;

19 (4) by amending subsection (l) to read as fol-
20 lows:

21 “(l) FEDERAL ADVISORY COMMITTEES.—Sections
22 1008 and 1013 of title 5, United States Code, shall not
23 apply to the Commission or any proceeding of the Com-
24 mission.”; and

1 (5) in subsection (m), by striking “2023” and
2 inserting “2031”.

3 **SEC. 12402. REPORT ON PERSONNEL.**

4 Section 12506 of the Agriculture Improvement Act
5 of 2018 (Public Law 115–334) is amended by striking
6 “2023” and inserting “2031”.

7 **SEC. 12403. IMPROVEMENTS TO UNITED STATES DROUGHT**
8 **MONITOR.**

9 Section 12512(d)(2) of the Agriculture Improvement
10 Act of 2018 (7 U.S.C. 5856(d)(2)) is amended by striking
11 “2023” and inserting “2031”.

12 **SEC. 12404. REPORTS ON LAND ACCESS AND FARMLAND**
13 **OWNERSHIP DATA COLLECTION.**

14 Section 12607 of the Agriculture Improvement Act
15 of 2018 (7 U.S.C. 2204i) is amended—

16 (1) in subsection (a)—

17 (A) in the matter preceding paragraph (1),
18 by inserting “and not less frequently than once
19 every 2 years thereafter,” before “the Secretary
20 of Agriculture”;

21 (B) in paragraph (2), by striking “and” at
22 the end;

23 (C) in paragraph (3), by striking the pe-
24 riod at the end and inserting “; and”; and

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

1 “(4) a catalog of existing Federal, State, or pri-
2 vate programs that facilitate access to land, capital,
3 and markets, including programs providing assist-
4 ance relating to—

5 “(A) acquiring of real property (including
6 air rights, water rights, and other interests
7 therein), including closing costs;

8 “(B) subsidizing interest rates and mort-
9 gage principal amounts for intended bene-
10 ficiaries;

11 “(C) providing down payment assistance to
12 decrease farm mortgages;

13 “(D) securing clear title on heirs’ property
14 farmland;

15 “(E) conducting surveys and assessments
16 of agricultural land;

17 “(F) improving or remediating land, water,
18 and soil;

19 “(G) constructing or repairing infrastruc-
20 ture;

21 “(H) supporting land use planning;

22 “(I) acquiring legal or financial planning
23 assistance;

24 “(J) carrying out Tribal consultation;

1 “(K) supporting acquisition of a Depart-
2 ment of Agriculture farm number; and

3 “(L) any other activities as determined by
4 the Secretary.”; and

5 (2) in subsection (c), by striking “2023” and
6 inserting “2031”.

7 **SEC. 12405. INCREASING TRANSPARENCY REGARDING DE-**
8 **TENTION OF IMPORTED PLANTS.**

9 (a) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 180 days after the
10 date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary, in coordi-
11 nation with the Director of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife
12 Service and the Commissioner of U.S. Customs and Bor-
13 der Protection, shall issue guidance to clarify the process
14 by which an importer of plants that have been denied
15 entry into the United States and detained under the Lacey
16 Act Amendments of 1981 (16 U.S.C. 3371 et seq.) may
17 obtain additional information on such denial and deten-
18 tion.

19 (b) INFORMATION PROVIDED.—The process referred
20 to in subsection (a) shall ensure that the Secretary shall
21 provide to an importer described in such subsection, upon
22 the detention of any plants of such importer, the following
23 information:

24 (1) The specific reasons for which the detention
25 of the plants was initiated, including the date on

1 which the plants were presented to the Secretary for
2 examination.

3 (2) The anticipated length of the detention of
4 such plants.

5 (3) The nature of the tests or inquiries to be
6 conducted on the plants, which the importer shall be
7 able to replicate.

8 (4) The nature of any information that, if sup-
9 plied to the Secretary, would accelerate the disposi-
10 tion of the detention.

11 **SEC. 12406. ENHANCEMENT OF PET PROTECTIONS.**

12 (a) REPORT.—Not later than 2 years after the date
13 of the enactment of this Act (or later, if the Secretary
14 determines appropriate after taking into consideration any
15 ongoing programmatic review of the Animal Care program
16 of the Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service), the
17 Secretary shall submit to the Committee on Agriculture
18 and the Committee on Appropriations of the House of
19 Representatives and the Committee on Agriculture, Nutri-
20 tion, and Forestry and the Committee on Appropriations
21 of the Senate a report with respect to companion animals
22 that—

23 (1) evaluates the enforcement of standards
24 under, and requirements of, the Animal Welfare Act

1 (7 U.S.C. 2131 et seq.) by the Secretary for both ef-
2 fectiveness and efficiency;

3 (2) evaluates the efforts by the Secretary to
4 educate and advise dealers of all standards under,
5 and requirements of, such Act;

6 (3) evaluates the capacity of the Secretary to
7 enforce the standards established by such Act;

8 (4) makes recommendations for the improve-
9 ment of—

10 (A) all standards (including animal welfare
11 standards) under, and requirements of, such
12 Act; and

13 (B) education efforts of the Secretary with
14 respect to such standards and requirements;
15 and

16 (5) considers the impact and associated costs of
17 any recommended improvements or amendments to
18 the standards under, and requirements of, such Act.

19 (b) VETERINARY CARE.—

20 (1) IN GENERAL.—Section 13(a)(2)(A) of the
21 Animal Welfare Act (7 U.S.C. 2143(a)(2)(A)) is
22 amended by inserting “(which shall include visual
23 dental examinations, whenever practicable)” after
24 “adequate veterinary care”.

1 (2) TECHNICAL AMENDMENT.—Section 13 of
2 the Animal Welfare Act (7 U.S.C. 2143) is amended
3 by redesignating the second subsection (f) (prohib-
4 iting delivery of certain animals without certificate
5 of inspection), subsection (g), and subsection (h) as
6 subsections (g) through (i), respectively.

7 **SEC. 12407. PROTECTING ANIMALS WITH SHELTER.**

8 Section 12502(b)(8) of the Agriculture Improvement
9 Act of 2018 (Public Law 115–334) is amended by striking
10 “2023” and inserting “2031”.

11 **SEC. 12408. REPORT ON AVAILABLE ASSISTANCE TO AGRI-**
12 **CULTURAL PRODUCERS IN THE STATE OF**
13 **TEXAS THAT HAVE SUFFERED ECONOMIC**
14 **LOSSES DUE TO THE FAILURE OF MEXICO TO**
15 **DELIVER WATER.**

16 Not later than 180 days after the date of the enact-
17 ment of this Act, the Secretary shall submit to the Com-
18 mittee on Agriculture of the House of Representatives and
19 the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry of
20 the Senate a report that lists all existing authorities of
21 the Secretary and programs within the Department that
22 are or could be made available to provide assistance to
23 agricultural producers in the State of Texas that have suf-
24 fered economic losses due to the failure of Mexico to de-
25 liver water to the United States in accordance with the

1 Treaty Relating to the Utilization of Waters of the Colo-
2 rado and Tijuana Rivers and of the Rio Grande signed
3 at Washington on February 3, 1944, and the Supple-
4 mentary Protocol signed at Washington November 14,
5 1944.

6 **SEC. 12409. QUALIFIED RENEWABLE BIOMASS.**

7 (a) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

8 (1) AGENCY ACTION.—The term “agency ac-
9 tion” has the meaning given the term in section 551
10 of title 5, United States Code.

11 (2) QUALIFIED RENEWABLE BIOMASS.—

12 (A) IN GENERAL.—The term “qualified re-
13 newable biomass” means—

14 (i) forest products manufacturing bio-
15 energy feedstocks, including from—

16 (I) forest products manufac-
17 turing residuals, including spent
18 pulping liquors, pulping by-products,
19 bark, woody manufacturing residuals,
20 paper recycling residuals, wastewater
21 and process water treatment plant re-
22 siduals, and anaerobic digester biogas;

23 (II) harvest residues, including
24 portions of harvested trees that are
25 too small or of too poor quality to be

1 utilized for wood products or paper
2 products;

3 (III) downed wood from extreme
4 weather events and natural disasters,
5 nonhazardous landscape or right-of-
6 way trimmings and municipal trim-
7 mings, and plant material removed for
8 purposes of invasive or noxious plant
9 species control;

10 (IV) biowaste, including landfill
11 gas; and

12 (V) non-chemically treated used
13 wood products, such as crates or pal-
14 lets; and

15 (ii) forest biomass derived from resi-
16 dues created as a by-product of timber
17 harvesting, including treetops, tree limbs,
18 and bark, but excluding stumps, roots, and
19 round wood suitable for industrial pur-
20 poses.

21 (B) EXCLUSION.—Such term does not in-
22 clude paper of a type that is commonly recy-
23 cled.

24 (b) IN GENERAL.—

1 (1) CONSIDERATION AS RENEWABLE ENERGY
2 SOURCE.—With respect to any agency action of the
3 Department related to qualified renewable biomass,
4 the Secretary shall consider qualified renewable bio-
5 mass to be a renewable energy source and assign it
6 (and a facility, to the extent it uses qualified renew-
7 able biomass as fuel) a greenhouse gas emission
8 rate, and a carbon intensity, of not greater than
9 zero, if the use of such qualified renewable biomass
10 as fuel does not cause the conversion of forests to
11 non-forest use.

12 (2) PETITIONS.—Not later than 1 year after re-
13 ceiving a petition requesting a change to a rule, pol-
14 icy, or program of the Department in order to com-
15 ply with the requirements of paragraph (1), the Sec-
16 retary shall take such action as may be necessary to
17 comply with such requirements with respect to such
18 rule, policy, or program.

19 (c) GUIDANCE.—

20 (1) ESTABLISHMENT.—Not later than 180 days
21 after the date of enactment of this Act, the Sec-
22 retary shall establish guidance for purposes of car-
23 rying out subsection (b).

1 (2) MODIFICATION.—The Secretary may peri-
2 odically update the guidance established under para-
3 graph (1) as the Secretary may determine necessary.

4 (3) CONSULTATION.—In carrying out this sub-
5 section, the Secretary shall consult with—

6 (A) the Administrator of the Environ-
7 mental Protection Agency;

8 (B) the Secretary of Energy; and

9 (C) any other relevant entities, as deter-
10 mined by the Secretary.

11 **SEC. 12410. WHOLE MILK UNDER THE SCHOOL BREAKFAST**
12 **PROGRAM.**

13 Section 9(a)(2) of the Richard B. Russell National
14 School Lunch Act (42 U.S.C. 1758(a)(2)) is amended—

15 (1) in subparagraph (A), in the matter pre-
16 ceding clause (i), by striking “Act—” and inserting
17 “Act and breakfasts served by schools participating
18 in the school breakfast program under section 4 of
19 the Child Nutrition Act of 1966 (42 U.S.C. 1773)—
20 ”;

21 (2) in subparagraph (C), by inserting “or the
22 school breakfast program under section 4 of the
23 Child Nutrition Act of 1966 (42 U.S.C. 1773)” after
24 “Act”; and

1 (3) in subparagraph (D), by striking “section
2 210.10” and inserting “sections 210.10 and 220.8”.

3 **SEC. 12411. SPOTTED LANTERNFLY AWARENESS CAM-**
4 **PAIGN.**

5 (a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary of Agriculture shall
6 carry out a national campaign to increase the awareness
7 and knowledge of the public with respect to spotted
8 lanternflies.

9 (b) REQUIRED ACTIVITIES.—In carrying out the na-
10 tional campaign under this section, the Secretary shall—

11 (1) place public service announcements on tele-
12 vision, radio, and billboards in areas of high inci-
13 dence of spotted lanternflies that—

14 (A) inform individuals of the fact that
15 spotted lanternflies are an invasive pest that
16 threaten local agriculture; and

17 (B) encourage individuals to kill any spot-
18 ted lanternflies that such individuals encounter;
19 and

20 (2) use such other awareness tools as the Sec-
21 retary determines appropriate to provide the infor-
22 mation described in paragraph (1).

1 **SEC. 12412. RIO GRANDE VALLEY AGRICULTURAL WATER**
2 **INTERAGENCY WORKING GROUP.**

3 (a) ESTABLISHMENT.—The Secretary, in coordina-
4 tion with the heads of the agencies described in subsection
5 (c), shall establish an interagency working group to coordi-
6 nate a whole-of-government strategy to protect the eco-
7 nomic interests of United States agricultural producers
8 impacted by water deliveries under the 1944 Water Trea-
9 ty.

10 (b) DUTIES.—The Working Group shall—

11 (1) analyze the economic impact of water deliv-
12 ery deficits under the 1944 Water Treaty on the
13 United States agricultural sector in the area affected
14 by such water delivery deficits, including specific as-
15 sessments of damages to perennial crops;

16 (2) develop and implement a multi-agency strat-
17 egy to—

18 (A) secure annual and predictable water
19 deliveries in accordance with the 1944 Water
20 Treaty through the coordinated use of Federal
21 diplomatic and operational authorities;

22 (B) enhance the resilience of the domestic
23 agricultural water supply through improved
24 conservation and infrastructure;

1 (C) assess trade-related mechanisms avail-
2 able to address agricultural supply chain dis-
3 ruptions caused by such water delivery deficits;

4 (D) ensure that water resources and infra-
5 structure in South Texas are efficiently man-
6 aged and operational for the beneficial use of
7 agricultural producers and municipal users; and

8 (E) support Federal officials in securing
9 annual and predictable water deliveries in ac-
10 cordance with the 1944 Water Treaty;

11 (3) facilitate coordination among Federal agen-
12 cies and with the State of Texas to align diplomatic,
13 trade, and infrastructure efforts with the critical
14 needs of the agricultural community in South Texas;
15 and

16 (4) provide a forum for public engagement and
17 transparency regarding—

18 (A) the status of water deliveries from
19 Mexico under the 1944 Water Treaty; and

20 (B) the findings of the Working Group and
21 the strategy developed under paragraph (2).

22 (c) COMPOSITION.—The Working Group shall be
23 composed of—

24 (1) the Secretary of Agriculture (who shall
25 serve as Chair);

1 (2) the Secretary of State;

2 (3) the Secretary of the Interior;

3 (4) the Commissioner of the United States Sec-
4 tion of the International Boundary and Water Com-
5 mission, United States and Mexico;

6 (5) the Administrator of the Environmental
7 Protection Agency;

8 (6) the United States Trade Representative;

9 (7) the Chief of Engineers and Commanding
10 General of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers; and

11 (8) the Assistant to the President of the United
12 States for National Security Affairs.

13 (d) MEETINGS.—

14 (1) FREQUENCY.—The Working Group shall
15 meet not less frequently than annually.

16 (2) PUBLIC ACCESS.—The Working Group
17 shall—

18 (A) hold the meetings described in para-
19 graph (1) in a manner open to the public; and

20 (B) provide an opportunity for interested
21 stakeholders, including agricultural producers
22 and irrigation districts, to provide oral and
23 written comments to the Working Group.

24 (e) REPORT.—Not later than 1 year after the date
25 of the enactment of this Act, and annually thereafter, the

1 Working Group shall submit to the Committees on Agri-
2 culture, Appropriations, Foreign Affairs, and Ways and
3 Means of the House of Representatives, and the Commit-
4 tees on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry, Appropria-
5 tions, Energy and Natural Resources, Foreign Relations,
6 and Finance of the Senate, a report describing—

7 (1) the findings resulting from the analysis
8 under subsection (b)(1);

9 (2) the status of diplomatic and operational ef-
10 forts to secure compliance with the annual water de-
11 livery requirements of the 1944 Water Treaty;

12 (3) an assessment of potential trade or adminis-
13 trative actions to secure long term water reliability
14 under treaties with Mexico; and

15 (4) recommendations for projects, resources,
16 and legislative authorities needed to fully implement
17 the strategy developed under subsection (b)(2).

18 (f) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

19 (1) 1944 WATER TREATY.—The term “1944
20 Water Treaty” means the Treaty Relating to the
21 Utilization of Waters of the Colorado and Tijuana
22 Rivers and of the Rio Grande signed at Washington
23 on February 3, 1944, and the Supplementary Pro-
24 tocol signed at Washington November 14, 1944.

1 (2) WORKING GROUP.—The term “Working
2 Group” means the interagency working group estab-
3 lished under subsection (a).

4 **SEC. 12413. COST-SHARE GRANTS FOR ROLLOVER PROTEC-**
5 **TION STRUCTURES.**

6 (a) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

7 (1) APPROVED ROLLOVER PROTECTION STRUC-
8 TURE.—The term “approved rollover protection
9 structure” means a rollover protection structure that
10 the Program Administrator determines—

11 (A) may be installed on eligible equipment;

12 (B) includes a seatbelt; and

13 (C) meets or exceeds the rollover protec-
14 tion structure standards.

15 (2) ELIGIBLE ENTITY.—The term “eligible enti-
16 ty” means, as determined by the Secretary—

17 (A) an agricultural producer; and

18 (B) an eligible school.

19 (3) ELIGIBLE EQUIPMENT.—The term “eligible
20 equipment” means an agricultural tractor that the
21 Program Administrator determines to be eligible for
22 installation of an approved rollover protection struc-
23 ture.

24 (4) ELIGIBLE SCHOOL.—The term “eligible
25 school” means—

1 (A) a vocational school that provides agri-
2 cultural instruction or training;

3 (B) an institution of higher education (as
4 defined in section 102 of the Higher Education
5 Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 1002)) that provides di-
6 rect, practical agricultural instruction or train-
7 ing; and

8 (C) a public or private secondary school
9 (as defined in section 8101 of the Elementary
10 and Secondary Education Act of 1965 (20
11 U.S.C. 8107)) the curriculum of which includes
12 an agricultural instruction or training compo-
13 nent.

14 (5) PROGRAM ADMINISTRATOR.—The term
15 “Program Administrator” means the organization
16 selected by the Secretary under subsection (c)(1)(B).

17 (6) ROLLOVER PROTECTION STRUCTURE
18 STANDARDS.—The term “rollover protection struc-
19 ture standards” includes the following:

20 (A) The SAE J2194 and SAE J1194
21 standards issued by the Society of Automotive
22 Engineers (and successor standards).

23 (B) Any other relevant national or inter-
24 national rollover protection structure manufac-
25 turing or testing standards.

1 (b) COST-SHARE GRANTS.—

2 (1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall award
3 grants to eligible entities for the cost of purchasing,
4 transporting, and installing on eligible equipment
5 approved rollover protection structures.

6 (2) LIMITATIONS.—

7 (A) IN GENERAL.—Except as provided in
8 subparagraph (B), the amount of a grant under
9 this section shall equal 70 percent of the costs
10 of the eligible entity to purchase, transport, and
11 install the approved rollover protection struc-
12 ture.

13 (B) EXCEPTION.—If, for an eligible entity
14 that is the recipient of a grant under this sec-
15 tion, the costs to purchase, transport, and in-
16 stall an approved rollover structure (as docu-
17 mented by the eligible entity) exceed \$500, the
18 amount of the grant shall be increased to cover
19 an increased percentage (as determined by the
20 Secretary) of such costs.

21 (c) ADMINISTRATION.—

22 (1) PROGRAM ADMINISTRATOR.—The Secretary
23 shall—

1 (A) seek competitive bids from nongovern-
2 mental organizations seeking to serve as the
3 Program Administrator under this section;

4 (B) select 1 organization from among the
5 organizations that submit bids under subpara-
6 graph (A); and

7 (C) enter into a cooperative agreement
8 with that organization to carry out the activities
9 described in paragraph (2).

10 (2) DUTIES.—The Program Administrator
11 shall—

12 (A) identify—

13 (i) approved rollover protection struc-
14 tures; and

15 (ii) eligible equipment;

16 (B) administer the application process
17 under subsection (d); and

18 (C) establish and administer a public
19 website and phone hotline with information nec-
20 essary—

21 (i) to inform eligible entities, as de-
22 scribed in subsection (a)(2), of the grant
23 opportunities made available by this Act,
24 and

1 (ii) to administer the application proc-
2 ess under subsection (d).

3 (d) APPLICATIONS.—

4 (1) IN GENERAL.—To apply for a grant under
5 this section, an eligible entity shall submit to the
6 Program Administrator an application, including
7 documentation of the cost described in subsection
8 (b)(2)(A).

9 (2) APPROVAL OR DENIAL.—On receipt of an
10 application under paragraph (1), the Program Ad-
11 ministrator shall—

12 (A) determine—

13 (i) whether the applicant is eligible for
14 a grant under this section; and

15 (ii) the amount of a grant under this
16 section for which the applicant is eligible;
17 and

18 (B) submit to the Secretary a notification
19 of the determinations under subparagraph (A).

20 (e) DISBURSEMENT.—On receipt of a notification
21 under subsection (d)(2)(B), if an applicant is eligible for
22 a grant under this section, the Secretary shall disburse
23 to the eligible entity the amount of the grant described
24 in subsection (d)(2)(A)(ii).

25 (f) FUNDING.—

1 (1) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—

2 There is authorized to be appropriated to carry out
3 this section \$725,000 for each of fiscal years 2027
4 through 2031.

5 (2) ALLOCATION.—Of the amounts made avail-
6 able to carry out this section for each fiscal year—

7 (A) the Secretary shall use 70 percent of
8 such amounts for grants under this section; and

9 (B) the Secretary shall transfer to the Pro-
10 gram Administrator—

11 (i) 15 percent of such amounts for the
12 promotion of, and upgrades to the website
13 referred to in subsection (c)(2)(C); and

14 (ii) 15 percent of such amounts for
15 the telephone hotline referred to in such
16 subsection.

17 **SEC. 12414. REPORT ON BARRIERS TO ACCESSING FEDERAL**
18 **PROGRAMS.**

19 (a) REPORT.—Not later than 180 days after the date
20 of enactment of this Act, the Secretary shall—

21 (1) submit to the appropriate congressional
22 committees a report on—

23 (A) barriers to organic farms taking part
24 in Federal programs made available under this
25 Act;

1 (B) what steps the Department can take
 2 without congressional action to remove such
 3 barriers; and

4 (C) what congressional action is needed to
 5 remove barriers the Department is unable to re-
 6 move; and

7 (2) make publicly available the report described
 8 in paragraph (1).

9 (b) APPROPRIATE CONGRESSIONAL COMMITTEE DE-
 10 FINED.—In this section, the term “appropriate congres-
 11 sional committee” means—

12 (1) the Committee on Agriculture of the House
 13 of Representatives; and

14 (2) the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition,
 15 and Forestry of the Senate.

16 **SEC. 12415. TRANSPARENCY OF RECORDS OF COMMODITY**
 17 **BOARDS.**

18 Section 501 of the Federal Agriculture Improvement
 19 and Reform Act of 1996 (7 U.S.C. 7401) is amended—

20 (1) by redesignating subsections (d) through (f)
 21 as subsections (e) through (g);

22 (2) by inserting after subsection (c) the fol-
 23 lowing:

24 “(d) TRANSPARENCY OF RECORDS OF COMMODITY
 25 BOARDS.—

1 “(1) IN GENERAL.—For each order issued by
2 the Secretary under a commodity promotion law, the
3 Secretary shall publish on the website of the Depart-
4 ment of Agriculture the following information:

5 “(A) The reports of audits submitted by
6 each commodity board to the Secretary for each
7 fiscal year pursuant to section 515(g)(2).

8 “(B) The activities and budgets of each
9 commodity board approved by the Secretary for
10 each fiscal year.

11 “(C) The results of each periodic inde-
12 pendent evaluation described in subsection (c).

13 “(2) PUBLICATION TIMELINE.—In carrying out
14 paragraph (1), the Secretary shall—

15 “(A) not later than 180 days after the date
16 of enactment of this subsection, publish the in-
17 formation described in such paragraph with re-
18 spect to the 5 full fiscal years preceding such
19 date of enactment; and

20 “(B) not later than 365 days after the end
21 of any subsequent fiscal year, publish the infor-
22 mation described in such paragraph with re-
23 spect to such fiscal year.”; and

1 (3) in subsection (f)(4) (as so redesignated), by
2 striking “subsection (f)” and inserting “subsection
3 (g)”.

4 **SEC. 12416. HONEY STANDARDS AND DEFINITIONS.**

5 Section 203(h)(6) of the Agricultural Marketing Act
6 of 1946 (7 U.S.C. 1622(h)(6)) is amended by adding at
7 the end the following:

8 “(A) Not later than 180 days after the
9 date of enactment of this subparagraph, the
10 Secretary shall initiate consultation with the
11 Commissioner of the Food and Drug Adminis-
12 tration and the Commissioner of U.S. Customs
13 and Border Protection to develop a detailed and
14 harmonized Federal definition for honey that
15 promotes honesty and fair dealing in the inter-
16 est of consumers and the honey market, and en-
17 sures consistency in labeling and enforcement
18 under the respective authorities of each agency.

19 “(B) The consultation required under sub-
20 paragraph (A) shall be conducted in coordina-
21 tion with domestic honey producer associations
22 and land-grant colleges and universities (as de-
23 fined in section 1404 of the National Agricul-
24 tural Research, Extension, and Teaching Policy
25 Act of 1977 (7 U.S.C. 3103)) with dem-

1 onstrated expertise in honey authenticity, qual-
2 ity, and related testing.

3 “(C) The harmonized definition developed
4 under this paragraph shall be used, as appro-
5 priate, to support enforcement under applicable
6 Federal law administered by the Secretary, the
7 Commissioner of Food and Drugs, and the
8 Commissioner of U.S. Customs and Border
9 Protection, including laws relating to adultera-
10 tion, misbranding, false or misleading labeling,
11 import declarations, country-of-origin claims,
12 and customs fraud.

13 “(D) The Secretary shall cease consulta-
14 tion under this paragraph if the Commissioner
15 of the Food and Drug Administration otherwise
16 publishes a standard of identity for honey
17 under section 401 of the Federal Food, Drug,
18 and Cosmetic Act (21 U.S.C. 341).”.

19 **SEC. 12417. REPORT ON ASSISTANCE AVAILABLE TO AGRI-**
20 **CULTURAL PRODUCERS IN ARIZONA FOR**
21 **CERTAIN LOSSES.**

22 Not later than 180 days after the date of the enact-
23 ment of this Act, the Secretary shall submit to the Com-
24 mittee on Agriculture of the House of Representatives and
25 the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry of

1 the Senate a report that lists all existing authorities of
2 the Secretary and programs within the Department that
3 are or could be made available to provide assistance to
4 agricultural producers in the State of Arizona that have
5 suffered economic losses due to the delivery of Colorado
6 River waters to Mexico while Mexico failed to deliver water
7 to the United States in accordance with the Treaty Relat-
8 ing to the Utilization of Waters of the Colorado and Ti-
9 juana Rivers and of the Rio Grande signed at Washington
10 on February 3, 1944, and the Supplementary Protocol
11 signed at Washington November 14, 1944.

12 **SEC. 12418. PRECISION AGRICULTURE SATELLITE**
13 **CONNECTIVITY.**

14 (a) REVIEW.—The Commission shall—

15 (1) review the rules of the Commission relating
16 to fixed satellite service, mobile satellite service, and
17 earth exploration satellite service to determine if
18 there are rule changes that the Commission could
19 implement under existing authority to promote pre-
20 cision agriculture; and

21 (2) if the Commission determines under para-
22 graph (1) that there are rule changes that the Com-
23 mission could implement, develop recommendations
24 for how to implement the changes.

1 (b) REPORT.—Not later than 15 months after the
2 date of the enactment of this Act, the Commission shall
3 submit to the Committee on Energy and Commerce of the
4 House of Representatives and the Committee on Com-
5 merce, Science, and Transportation of the Senate a report
6 on the results of the review conducted under subsection
7 (a), including any recommendations developed under para-
8 graph (2) of such subsection.

9 (c) COMMISSION DEFINED.—In this section, the term
10 “Commission” means the Federal Communications Com-
11 mission.

12 **SEC. 12419. ESTABLISHMENT OF OFFICE OF SEAFOOD IN**
13 **THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE.**

14 (a) IN GENERAL.—Subtitle A of the Department of
15 Agriculture Reorganization Act of 1994 (7 U.S.C. 6912
16 et seq.) is amended by adding at the end the following:
17 **“SEC. 224B. OFFICE OF SEAFOOD.**

18 **“(a) ESTABLISHMENT.—**The Secretary shall estab-
19 lish for the Department an Office of Seafood to provide
20 leadership, expertise, management, and advice to the Sec-
21 retary of Agriculture on matters impacting the seafood in-
22 dustry.

23 **“(b) DUTIES.—**The Office of Seafood shall be addi-
24 tionally responsible for—

1 “(1) coordinating across the Department to en-
2 sure fishermen are integrated into Department pro-
3 grams; and

4 “(2) working alongside appropriate counter-
5 parts of the Department of Commerce and other
6 Federal departments and agencies to revitalize the
7 American seafood industry.”.

8 (b) TECHNICAL CORRECTION.—Subtitle A of the De-
9 partment of Agriculture Reorganization Act of 1994 (7
10 U.S.C. 6912 et seq.), as amended by subsection (a), is
11 further amended by redesignating section 225 (relating to
12 the Food Access Liaison) as section 224A.

13 **SEC. 12420. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE LOANS AND**
14 **GRANTS FOR COMMERCIAL FISHING AND**
15 **FISH PROCESSING BUSINESSES.**

16 (a) DEFINITIONS OF FARMER AND FARMING.—Sec-
17 tion 343(a) of the Consolidated Farm and Rural Develop-
18 ment Act (7 U.S.C. 1991(a)) is amended—

19 (1) in paragraph (1), by striking “farming.”
20 and inserting “farming, commercial fishing, or fish
21 processing.”;

22 (2) in paragraph (2), by striking “farming.”
23 and inserting “farming, commercial fishing, and fish
24 processing.”; and

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

1 “(14) COMMERCIAL FISHING.—The term ‘com-
2 mercial fishing’ means fishing (as defined in section
3 3 of the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation
4 and Management Act (16 U.S.C. 1802)) in which
5 the fish harvested, either in whole or in part, are in-
6 tended to enter commerce or enter commerce
7 through sale, barter, or trade.

8 “(15) COMMERCIAL FISHING VESSEL.—The
9 term ‘commercial fishing vessel’ means a fishing ves-
10 sel and a fish processing vessel (as those terms are
11 defined in section 2101 of title 46, United States
12 Code).

13 “(16) FISH.—The term ‘fish’ has the meaning
14 given the term in section 2101 of title 46, United
15 States Code.

16 “(17) FISH PROCESSING.—The term ‘fish proc-
17 essing’ means the processing of fish for commercial
18 use or consumption.

19 “(18) FISH PROCESSING FACILITY.—The term
20 ‘fish processing facility’ means a facility or vessel,
21 boat, ship, or other craft used or equipped for fish
22 processing.”.

23 (b) FARM OWNERSHIP LOANS.—

1 (1) ELIGIBILITY.—Section 302(a) of such Act
2 (7 U.S.C. 1922(a)) is amended by adding at the end
3 the following:

4 “(3) ELIGIBILITY OF WILD-CAUGHT FISH AND
5 SHELLFISH.—Notwithstanding any other provision
6 of this Act, for purposes of direct and guaranteed
7 farm loans under this subtitle—

8 “(A) the terms ‘farmer’ and ‘rancher’ shall
9 include an individual or entity engaged in com-
10 mercial fishing or fish processing; and

11 “(B) the terms ‘farm’ and ‘ranch’ shall in-
12 clude—

13 “(i) a commercial fishing vessel; and

14 “(ii) a fish processing facility.”.

15 (2) PURPOSES.—Section 303(a) of such Act (7
16 U.S.C. 1923(a)) is amended by adding at the end
17 the following:

18 “(3) COMMERCIAL FISHERY PARTICIPANTS;
19 FISH PROCESSORS.—

20 “(A) COMMERCIAL FISHERY PARTICI-
21 PANTS.—An individual or entity engaged in
22 commercial fishing may only use a direct or
23 guaranteed loan under this subtitle for—

24 “(i) acquiring a commercial fishing
25 permit;

1 “(ii) acquiring a commercial fishing
2 vessel; and

3 “(iii) making capital improvements to
4 a commercial fishing vessel.

5 “(B) FISH PROCESSORS.—An individual or
6 entity engaged in fish processing may use a di-
7 rect or guaranteed loan under this subtitle for
8 acquiring or making capital improvements to a
9 fish processing facility.”.

10 (c) FARM OPERATING LOANS.—

11 (1) ELIGIBILITY.—Section 311(a) of such Act
12 (7 U.S.C. 1941(a)) is amended by adding at the end
13 the following:

14 “(3) ELIGIBILITY OF WILD-CAUGHT FISH AND
15 SHELLFISH.—Notwithstanding any other provision
16 of this Act, for purposes of direct and guaranteed
17 farm loans under this subtitle—

18 “(A) the terms ‘farmer’ and ‘rancher’ shall
19 include an individual or entity engaged in com-
20 mercial fishing or fish processing; and

21 “(B) the terms ‘farm’ and ‘ranch’ shall in-
22 clude—

23 “(i) a commercial fishing vessel; and

24 “(ii) a fish processing facility.”.

1 (2) PURPOSES.—Section 312 of such Act (7
2 U.S.C. 1942) is amended by adding at the end the
3 following:

4 “(f) COMMERCIAL FISHERY PARTICIPANTS; FISH
5 PROCESSORS.—

6 “(1) COMMERCIAL FISHERY PARTICIPANTS.—
7 An individual or entity engaged in commercial fish-
8 ing may only use a direct or guaranteed loan under
9 this subtitle for the costs associated with operating
10 and maintaining a commercial fishing vessel.

11 “(2) FISH PROCESSORS.—An individual or enti-
12 ty engaged in fish processing may use a direct or
13 guaranteed loan under this subtitle for the costs as-
14 sociated with operating and maintaining a fish proc-
15 essing facility.”.

16 (d) IMPLEMENTATION AND COORDINATION.—

17 (1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 1 year after
18 the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary
19 shall take such actions as are necessary to ensure
20 the successful and effective integration of individuals
21 and entities in the commercial fishing industry, in-
22 cluding those engaged in commercial fishing or fish
23 processing (as those terms are defined in section
24 343(a) of the Consolidated Farm and Rural Devel-
25 opment Act (7 U.S.C. 1991(a))), into each program

1 of the Department of Agriculture for which those in-
2 dividuals and entities are made eligible under the
3 amendments made by this section.

4 (2) TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE AND GUIDANCE.—

5 In carrying out paragraph (1), the Secretary shall—

6 (A) provide outreach and technical assist-
7 ance to participants in the commercial fishing
8 industry, including through cooperative agree-
9 ments and public-private and other partner-
10 ships, to promote awareness of and access to
11 relevant programs;

12 (B) provide guidance and training to rel-
13 evant agency personnel of the Department, in-
14 cluding through cooperative agreements and
15 public-private and other partnerships, to ensure
16 program services are effectively delivered to the
17 commercial fishing industry; and

18 (C) coordinate, as appropriate, with the
19 National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administra-
20 tion and other relevant Federal and State agen-
21 cies to implement the amendments made by this
22 section.

1 **SEC. 12421. HONEY TESTING STANDARDS.**

2 Section 203(h)(6) of the Agricultural Marketing Act
3 of 1946 (7 U.S.C. 1622(h)(6)) is amended by adding at
4 the end the following:

5 “Any sampling or analytical testing relied upon by
6 a packer, repacker, importer, distributor, or seller to sub-
7 stantiate that honey packed, repacked, labeled, marketed,
8 or sold in interstate commerce in the United States, in-
9 cluding imported honey, is honey, pure honey, or otherwise
10 meets any claim regarding purity, floral source, geo-
11 graphic origin, grade, or authenticity—

12 “(A) shall be conducted by a laboratory or
13 other qualified testing entity located in the
14 United States;

15 “(B) shall be conducted using methods rec-
16 ognized or approved by the Secretary; and

17 “(C) may not be satisfied solely by a for-
18 eign certificate of analysis, foreign government
19 certification, or testing conducted outside the
20 United States.

21 The Secretary may review and update methods
22 under this paragraph in consultation with one or
23 more land-grant colleges or universities.”.

1 **SEC. 12422. EXEMPTION OF FARM EQUIPMENT FROM**
 2 **CLEAN AIR ACT EMISSION STANDARDS.**

3 Section 213 of the Clean Air Act (42 U.S.C. 7547)
 4 is amended by adding at the end the following:

5 “(e) EXEMPTION FOR FARM EQUIPMENT.—The
 6 standards under this section shall not apply to new or in-
 7 use—

8 “(1) agricultural tractors, as such term is de-
 9 fined in section 1928.51 of title 29, Code of Federal
 10 Regulations; or

11 “(2) self-propelled agricultural equipment used
 12 to spray, fertilize, or harvest covered commodities,
 13 as such term is defined in section 1111(6) of the
 14 Agricultural Act of 2014 (7 U.S.C. 9011(6)).”.

15 **Subtitle E—United States Grain**
 16 **Standards Reauthorization**

17 **SEC. 12501. DECLARATION OF POLICY.**

18 Section 2(b) of the United States Grain Standards
 19 Act (7 U.S.C. 74(b)) is amended—

20 (1) in paragraph (2), by striking “and” at the
 21 end;

22 (2) in paragraph (3)(F), by striking the period
 23 at the end and inserting “; and”; and

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

25 “(4) that the Secretary shall prioritize the
 26 adoption of improved grain grading technology to

1 provide for efficient, accurate, and consistent grad-
2 ing of grain.”.

3 **SEC. 12502. OFFICIAL INSPECTION AUTHORITY AND FUND-**
4 **ING.**

5 Section 7 of the United States Grain Standards Act
6 (7 U.S.C. 79) is amended—

7 (1) in subsection (e), by adding at the end the
8 following:

9 “(5) The Secretary may provide that domestic non-
10 export grain loaded or unloaded into or out of a rail car,
11 barge, truck, or other container, at an export port loca-
12 tion, shall be inspected in the manner provided in this sub-
13 section or subsection (f), as the Secretary determines will
14 best meet the objectives of this Act.”;

15 (2) in subsection (g)(2), by striking “fund cre-
16 ated” and inserting “trust fund created”; and

17 (3) in subsection (j)—

18 (A) in paragraph (1)(C), by striking “fund
19 which” and inserting “trust fund which”;

20 (B) in paragraph (3)—

21 (i) by striking “fund created” and in-
22 serting “trust fund created”; and

23 (ii) by striking “credited to the fund”
24 and inserting “credited to the trust fund
25 account”; and

1 (C) in paragraph (5), by striking “2025”
2 and inserting “2033”.

3 **SEC. 12503. WEIGHING AUTHORITY.**

4 Section 7A of the United States Grain Standards Act
5 (7 U.S.C. 79a) is amended—

6 (1) in subsection (c)(2), by striking “State
7 agency” and inserting “State agency or official
8 agency”; and

9 (2) in subsection (l)—

10 (A) in paragraph (1)(C), by striking “fund
11 created” and inserting “trust fund created”;

12 (B) in paragraph (2), by striking “fund
13 created” and inserting “trust fund created”;
14 and

15 (C) in paragraph (4), by striking “2025”
16 and inserting “2033”.

17 **SEC. 12504. TESTING OF EQUIPMENT.**

18 Section 7B(a) of the United States Grain Standards
19 Act (7 U.S.C. 79b(a)) is amended by striking “fund cre-
20 ated” and inserting “trust fund created”.

21 **SEC. 12505. LIMITATION ON ADMINISTRATIVE AND SUPER-**
22 **VISORY COSTS.**

23 Section 7D of the United States Grain Standards Act
24 (7 U.S.C. 79d) is amended—

1 (1) by striking “activities)” and inserting “ac-
2 tivities, equipment, and development of technology”;
3 and

4 (2) by striking “2025” and inserting “2033”.

5 **SEC. 12506. GENERAL AUTHORITIES.**

6 Section 16 of the United States Grain Standards Act
7 (7 U.S.C. 87e) is amended—

8 (1) in subsection (e), by striking “Department
9 of Agriculture” and inserting “Department of Agri-
10 culture and official agencies”; and

11 (2) in subsection (j), by striking “fund created”
12 and inserting “trust fund created”.

13 **SEC. 12507. REGISTRATION REQUIREMENTS.**

14 Section 17A(e) of the United States Grain Standards
15 Act (7 U.S.C. 87f–1(e)) is amended by striking “fund de-
16 scribed” and inserting “trust fund described”.

17 **SEC. 12508. REPORTING REQUIREMENTS.**

18 Section 17B(e) of the United States Grain Standards
19 Act (7 U.S.C. 87f–2(e)) is amended—

20 (1) in the matter preceding paragraph (1), by
21 striking “The Secretary may, to the extent deter-
22 mined appropriate by the Secretary” and inserting
23 “On December 1 of each year, the Secretary shall”;

24 (2) in paragraph (1), by striking “and” at the
25 end;

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

3 (4) by inserting after paragraph (1) the fol-
4 lowing:

5 “(2) an analysis of any and all existing defi-
6 ciencies in the technology evaluation process and
7 recommendations to advance the efficiency, accu-
8 racy, and consistency of grain grading and minimize
9 costs imposed on the Federal Government and the
10 grain export industry; and”.

11 **SEC. 12509. FUNDING.**

12 Section 19 of the United States Grain Standards Act
13 (7 U.S.C. 87h) is amended—

14 (1) in subsection (a), by striking “2021 through
15 2025” and inserting “2026 through 2033”; and

16 (2) in subsection (b)(1)(A), by striking “other
17 services” and inserting “other services (excluding
18 grading services performed under the Agricultural
19 Marketing Act of 1946)”.

20 **SEC. 12510. ADVISORY COMMITTEE.**

21 Section 21 of the United States Grain Standards Act
22 (7 U.S.C. 87j) is amended—

23 (1) in subsection (a), by adding at the end the
24 following: “Notwithstanding the previous sentence, if
25 the Secretary does not make a new appointment

1 upon the completion of a term of an existing mem-
2 ber (including such existing member's second succes-
3 sive term), then such existing member shall continue
4 to serve until such appointment is made.”; and
5 (2) in subsection (e), by striking “2025” and
6 inserting “2033”.

Passed the House of Representatives April 30, 2026.

Attest:

Clerk.

119TH CONGRESS
2D Session

H. R. 7567

AN ACT

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.