

Union Calendar No. 537

119TH CONGRESS
2^D SESSION

H. R. 7567

[Report No. 119–620]

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.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

FEBRUARY 13, 2026

Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Agriculture

APRIL 21, 2026

Reported with an amendment, committed to the Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union, and ordered to be printed

[Strike out all after the enacting clause and insert the part printed in *italic*]

[For text of introduced bill, see copy of bill as introduced on February 13, 2026]

A BILL

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,*

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

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

6 (b) *TABLE OF CONTENTS.*—*The table of contents for*
 7 *this Act is as follows:*

Sec. 1. Short title; table of contents.

Sec. 2. Definitions.

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Sec. 1001. Suspension of permanent price support authority.

Sec. 1002. Tree assistance program.

Sec. 1003. Specialty crop emergency assistance framework.

Sec. 1004. Assistance in the form of block grants.

Sec. 1005. Dairy-related extensions.

Sec. 1006. Mandatory reporting of dairy product processing costs.

Sec. 1007. Dairy reports.

Sec. 1008. Processing of certain loans.

Sec. 1009. Storage facility loans.

Sec. 1010. Strengthening domestic food production supply chains.

Sec. 1011. Regulations.

Sec. 1012. Restoration of tobacco as agricultural commodity in Commodity Credit Corporation Charter Act.

TITLE II—CONSERVATION

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Sec. 2002. Mitigation banking.

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Sec. 2101. Conservation reserve.

Sec. 2102. Farmable wetland program.

Subtitle C—Environmental Quality Incentives Program

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Sec. 2202. Establishment and administration.

Sec. 2203. Limitation on payments.

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Subtitle D—Conservation Stewardship Program

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Sec. 2302. Duties of the Secretary.

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Sec. 2402. Feral swine eradication and control program.
Sec. 2403. Watershed Protection and Flood Prevention Act.
Sec. 2404. Emergency conservation program.
Sec. 2405. Emergency watershed program.
Sec. 2406. National agriculture flood vulnerability study.
Sec. 2407. Study on environmental benefits of winter wheat as a cover crop.

Subtitle F—Funding and Administration

Sec. 2501. Commodity Credit Corporation.
Sec. 2502. Delivery of technical assistance.
Sec. 2503. Administrative requirements for conservation programs.

Subtitle G—Agricultural Conservation Easement Program

Sec. 2601. Definitions.
Sec. 2602. Agricultural land easements.
Sec. 2603. Wetland reserve easements.
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Sec. 2701. Forest conservation easement program.
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Subtitle I—Regional Conservation Partnership Program

Sec. 2801. Establishment and purposes.
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Sec. 2803. Regional conservation partnerships.
Sec. 2804. Assistance to producers.
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Sec. 2806. Administration.
Sec. 2807. Critical conservation areas.

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Sec. 3101. Transfer of authorities to the Secretary of Agriculture.
Sec. 3102. Food aid quality assurance.
Sec. 3103. Repeal of minimum levels of assistance.
Sec. 3104. Food aid consultative group.
Sec. 3105. Issuance of regulations; oversight, monitoring, and evaluation.
Sec. 3106. International food relief partnership.
Sec. 3107. Use of commodity credit corporation.
Sec. 3108. Pre-positioning of agricultural commodities and annual report regarding food aid programs and activities.
Sec. 3109. Deadline for agreements to finance sales or to provide other assistance.
Sec. 3110. Minimum level of nonemergency food assistance.
Sec. 3111. Termination date for micronutrient fortification programs.
Sec. 3112. John Ogonowski and Doug Bereuter farmer-to-farmer program.
Sec. 3113. Food for Peace Act administration.

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- Sec. 3201. Agricultural trade promotion and facilitation.*
- Sec. 3202. Preserving foreign markets for goods using common names.*
- Sec. 3203. Interagency seasonal and perishable fruits and vegetable working group.*

Subtitle C—Other Agricultural Trade Laws

- Sec. 3301. Growing American food exports.*
- Sec. 3302. Food for Progress Act of 1985.*
- Sec. 3303. Bill Emerson Humanitarian Trust Act.*
- Sec. 3304. Promotion of agricultural exports to emerging markets.*
- Sec. 3305. International agricultural education fellowship program.*
- Sec. 3306. International agriculture cultural immersion and exchange program.*
- Sec. 3307. International food security technical assistance.*
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- Sec. 3309. Global crop diversity trust.*
- Sec. 3310. Local and regional food aid procurement projects.*
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- Sec. 3312. Report on international shrimp trade.*

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- Sec. 4302. Buy American requirements for certain school meals.*
- Sec. 4303. Reauthorization of the Gus Schumacher nutrition incentive program.*
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- Sec. 5403. Loan fund set-asides.*
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- Sec. 5504. Farm credit system regulation.*
- Sec. 5505. Loan guarantees.*
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- Sec. 5507. State agricultural mediation programs.*
- Sec. 5508. Technical corrections.*
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- Sec. 6102. Distance learning and telemedicine loans and grants.*

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- Sec. 6202. Expansion of middle mile infrastructure into rural areas.*
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- Sec. 6302. Promoting precision agriculture.*
- Sec. 6303. Food supply chain guaranteed loans.*
- Sec. 6304. New, mobile, and expanded meat processing and rendering grants.*
- Sec. 6305. Expanding Childcare in Rural America Initiative.*
- Sec. 6306. Technical assistance for geographically underserved and distressed areas.*
- Sec. 6307. Establishment of the Rural Development Innovation Center.*
- Sec. 6308. Rural Health Liaison report.*

Subtitle D—Additional Amendments to the Consolidated Farm and Rural Development Act

- Sec. 6401. Water, waste disposal, and wastewater facility grants.*
- Sec. 6402. Rural water and wastewater circuit rider program.*
- Sec. 6403. Zero and low interest loans for distressed water systems.*
- Sec. 6404. Tribal college and university essential community facilities.*
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- Sec. 6406. Water systems for rural and native villages in Alaska.*
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- Sec. 6408. Assistance to rural entities.*
- Sec. 6409. Solid waste management grants.*
- Sec. 6410. Rural business development grants.*
- Sec. 6411. Rural cooperative development grants.*
- Sec. 6412. Lender fees in guaranteed loan programs.*
- Sec. 6413. Locally or regionally produced agricultural food products.*
- Sec. 6414. Appropriate technology transfer for rural areas program.*
- Sec. 6415. Rural economic area partnership zones.*
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- Sec. 6417. Rural health care facility assistance.*
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- Sec. 6419. Rural Business-Cooperative Service programs technical assistance and training.*
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- Sec. 6423. Health care services.*
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- Sec. 6427. Rural business investment program.*
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Subtitle E—Additional Amendments to the Rural Electrification Act of 1936

- Sec. 6501. Guarantees for bonds and notes issued for utility infrastructure purposes.*
- Sec. 6502. Extension of the rural economic development loan and grant program.*
- Sec. 6503. Expansion of 911 access.*

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- Sec. 7102. Specialty crop committee.*
- Sec. 7103. Veterinary medicine loan repayment.*
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- Sec. 7106. Agricultural and food policy research centers.*
- Sec. 7107. Education grants to Alaska Native serving institutions and Native Hawaiian serving institutions.*
- Sec. 7108. Nutrition education program.*
- Sec. 7109. Continuing animal health and disease research programs.*
- Sec. 7110. Extension and agricultural research at 1890 land-grant colleges, including Tuskegee University.*
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- Sec. 7112. Grants to upgrade agricultural and food sciences facilities at 1890 land-grant colleges, including Tuskegee University.*
- Sec. 7113. Grants to upgrade agriculture and food sciences facilities and equipment and support tropical and subtropical agricultural research at insular area land-grant colleges and universities.*
- Sec. 7114. Matching funds requirement for research and extension activities at eligible institutions.*
- Sec. 7115. New beginning for Tribal students.*
- Sec. 7116. Education grants programs for Hispanic-serving institutions.*
- Sec. 7117. Binational agricultural research and development.*
- Sec. 7118. Grants and partnerships for international agricultural research, extension, and education.*
- Sec. 7119. Research equipment grants.*

- Sec. 7120. University research.*
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- Sec. 7123. Grants for community college agriculture and natural resources programs.*
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- Sec. 7126. Aquaculture assistance programs.*
- Sec. 7127. Special authorization for biosecurity planning and response.*
- Sec. 7128. Agriculture and food protection grant program.*
- Sec. 7129. Distance education grants for insular areas.*
- Sec. 7130. Resident instruction grants for insular areas.*
- Sec. 7131. Repeals.*

Subtitle B—Food, Agriculture, Conservation, and Trade Act of 1990

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- Sec. 7202. National Genetics Resources Program.*
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- Sec. 7204. High-priority research and extension initiatives.*
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- Sec. 7302. Integrated research, education, and extension competitive grants program.*
- Sec. 7303. Support for research regarding diseases of wheat, triticale, and barley caused by fusarium graminearum or by tilletia indica.*
- Sec. 7304. Grants for youth organizations.*
- Sec. 7305. Specialty crop research initiative.*
- Sec. 7306. Agriculture grants for veteran education and training services.*
- Sec. 7307. Food Animal Residue Avoidance Database program.*
- Sec. 7308. Office of Pest Management Policy.*
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- Sec. 7402. Farm and Ranch Stress Assistance Network.*
- Sec. 7403. Sun grant program.*
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- Sec. 7502. Research Facilities Act.*
- Sec. 7503. Agriculture and Food Research Initiative.*
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- Sec. 7506. Renewable Resources Extension Act of 1978.*
- Sec. 7507. National Aquaculture Act of 1980.*
- Sec. 7508. Reports on disbursement of funds for agricultural research and extension at 1862 and 1890 land-grant colleges, including Tuskegee University.*
- Sec. 7509. Repeal.*
- Sec. 7510. Amendment to Smith-Lever Act.*

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- Sec. 7601. Foundation for food and agriculture research.*
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- Sec. 7605. Hatch Act of 1887.*
- Sec. 7606. Commission on national agricultural statistics service modernization.*
- Sec. 7607. Restoration of 4-H name and emblem authority.*
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- Sec. 8403. Wildfire resilience project size.*
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- Sec. 8503. Accurate hazardous fuels reduction reports.*
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- Sec. 8508. Improving the emergency forest restoration program.*
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- Sec. 8602. White oak restoration initiative coalition.*
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- Sec. 8604. White oak regeneration and upland oak habitat.*

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- Sec. 9005. Bioenergy program for advanced biofuels.*
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- Sec. 9009. Biomass Crop Assistance Program.*
- Sec. 9010. Carbon utilization and biogas education program.*
- Sec. 9011. Study on effects of solar panel installations on covered farmland.*
- Sec. 9012. Limitation on USDA funding for ground-mounted solar energy systems.*
- Sec. 9013. Sustainable aviation fuels strategy.*
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- Sec. 10003. Office of Urban Agriculture and Innovative Production.*
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Sec. 11008. Marketability.

Sec. 11009. Reimbursement rates for administrative and operating costs.

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Sec. 11012. Whole farm improvements.

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Sec. 11014. Research and development priorities.

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Sec. 11017. Risk management study for lamb.

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Sec. 12002. Cattle Fever Tick Eradication Program review and report.

Sec. 12003. Additional training facilities for National Detector Dog Training Center.

Sec. 12004. Regionalization, zoning, and compartmentalization agreements.

Sec. 12005. Importation of live dogs.

Sec. 12006. Ensuring the free movement of livestock-derived products in interstate commerce.

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Sec. 12112. Hazard analysis and critical control point guidance and resources for small and very small poultry and meat establishments.

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Subtitle B—Department of Agriculture Reorganization Act of 1994

- Sec. 12201. Office of Homeland Security.*
Sec. 12202. Office of Partnerships and Public Engagement.
Sec. 12203. Burden of proof for national appeals division hearings.
Sec. 12204. Termination of authority.
Sec. 12205. Functions of the Office of Tribal Relations.

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- Sec. 12301. Agricultural foreign investment disclosure improvements.*
Sec. 12302. Report on agricultural land purchasing activities in the United States by countries designated as state sponsors of terrorism and certain other countries.
Sec. 12303. Investigative actions.
Sec. 12304. Digitization and consolidation of foreign land ownership data collection and publication.
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- Sec. 12401. Commission on Farm Transitions—Needs for 2050.*
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Sec. 12407. Protecting animals with shelter.
Sec. 12408. Report on available assistance to agricultural producers in the State of Texas that have suffered economic losses due to the failure of Mexico to deliver water.
Sec. 12409. Qualified renewable biomass.
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Sec. 12412. Rio Grande Valley agricultural water interagency working group.
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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.*

1 ***TITLE I—COMMODITIES***

2 ***SEC. 1001. SUSPENSION OF PERMANENT PRICE SUPPORT***

3 ***AUTHORITY.***

4 *Section 1602 of the Agricultural Act of 2014 (7 U.S.C.*
 5 *9092) is amended by striking “2023” each place it appears*
 6 *and inserting “2031”.*

7 ***SEC. 1002. TREE ASSISTANCE PROGRAM.***

8 *(a) DEFINITIONS.—Section 1501(e)(1) of the Agricul-*
 9 *tural 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 in-*
 19 *serting “to provide assistance under subparagraphs*
 20 *(A) and (B) of paragraph (3) to eligible orchardists*
 21 *and nursery tree growers that planted trees for com-*
 22 *mercial purposes but lost the trees or the trees no*
 23 *longer produce an economically viable crop as a re-*
 24 *sult of a natural disaster, as determined by the Sec-*
 25 *retary.”.*

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 the
 3 matter before subparagraph (A) by striking “and (5)” and
 4 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 fol-
 8 lowing:

9 “(6) *TIMING REQUIREMENTS*.—An eligible or-
 10 chardist or nursery tree grower shall agree, as a con-
 11 dition on receipt of assistance under this subsection,
 12 to carry out any replacement and rehabilitation ac-
 13 tivities for which such assistance is provided not later
 14 than—

15 “(A) 2 years after the application for such
 16 assistance is approved; or

17 “(B) if the period specified in subparagraph
 18 (A) is not adequate for tree survival, at such
 19 time as is necessary to ensure tree survival.

20 “(7) *ALTERNATIVES USED IN REPLANTING*.—

21 “(A) *IN GENERAL*.—An eligible orchardist
 22 or nursery tree grower receiving assistance under
 23 this subsection with respect to tree loss may use
 24 such assistance to replant using—

1 “(i) *an alternative variety from the va-*
2 *riety used prior to the loss;*

3 “(ii) *an alternative stand density from*
4 *the stand density used prior to the loss; and*

5 “(iii) *an alternative location than was*
6 *used prior to the loss.*

7 “(B) *COST SHARE LIMITATIONS WITH RE-*
8 *SPECT TO ALTERNATIVES.—The assistance pro-*
9 *vided by the Secretary to eligible orchardists and*
10 *nursery tree growers—*

11 “(i) *for losses described in subpara-*
12 *graph (A)(i), shall be an amount that is not*
13 *greater than the amount the eligible or-*
14 *chardist or nursery tree grower would re-*
15 *ceive if the eligible orchardist or nursery*
16 *tree grower planted the variety lost;*

17 “(ii) *for losses described in subpara-*
18 *graph (A)(ii) shall be an amount that is not*
19 *greater than the amount the eligible or-*
20 *chardist or nursery tree grower would re-*
21 *ceive if the eligible orchardist or nursery*
22 *tree grower planted the stand density lost;*
23 *and*

24 “(iii) *for losses described in subpara-*
25 *graph (A)(iii), shall be an amount that is*

1 *not greater than the amount the eligible or-*
 2 *chardist or nursery tree grower would re-*
 3 *ceive if the eligible orchardist or nursery*
 4 *tree grower planted the location in which*
 5 *the loss occurred.”.*

6 (e) *DEADLINE FOR NOTICE REGARDING APPLICATION*
 7 *STATUS.—Section 1501(e) of the Agricultural Act of 2014*
 8 *(7 U.S.C. 9801(e)) is further amended by adding at the end*
 9 *the following:*

10 “(8) *DEADLINE FOR NOTICE REGARDING APPLI-*
 11 *CATION STATUS.—Not later than 120 days after re-*
 12 *ceiving an application for assistance under this sub-*
 13 *section, the Secretary shall—*

14 “(A) *approve or deny such application; and*
 15 “(B) *notify the applicant of such approval*
 16 *or denial.”.*

17 (f) *INITIAL PAYMENTS UNDER TREE ASSISTANCE*
 18 *PROGRAM.—Section 1501(e) of the Agricultural Act of 2014*
 19 *(7 U.S.C. 9081(e)) is amended by adding at the end the*
 20 *following:*

21 “(9) *INITIAL PAYMENTS.—*

22 “(A) *IN GENERAL.—An eligible orchardist*
 23 *or nursery tree grower may opt to receive an ini-*
 24 *tial assistance payment with respect to losses de-*
 25 *scribed in paragraph (2) before incurring the*

1 *costs described in paragraph (3) relating to such*
2 *losses.*

3 “(B) *AMOUNT.*—*An initial assistance pay-*
4 *ment under subparagraph (A) shall be in an*
5 *amount that is equal to the fair market value of*
6 *the estimated costs described in paragraph (3)*
7 *that the eligible orchardist or nursery tree grower*
8 *is likely to incur with respect to losses described*
9 *in paragraph (2), as determined by the Sec-*
10 *retary.*

11 “(C) *SUBSEQUENT PAYMENT.*—

12 “(i) *IN GENERAL.*—*In the case of an*
13 *eligible orchardist or nursery tree grower*
14 *that opts to receive an initial payment*
15 *under subparagraph (A) with respect to*
16 *losses described in paragraph (2), the Sec-*
17 *retary shall, as soon as practicable after*
18 *providing such initial payment, provide a*
19 *subsequent payment to the eligible orchard-*
20 *ist or nursery tree grower in an amount*
21 *equal to—*

22 “(I) *the payment amount the eli-*
23 *gible orchardist or nursery tree grower*
24 *would have received with respect to*

1 *such losses under paragraph (3) or*
 2 *pursuant to paragraph (5); minus*

3 *“(II) the initial payment amount*
 4 *provided to such eligible orchardist or*
 5 *nursery tree grower under subpara-*
 6 *graph (B) with respect to such losses.*

7 *“(ii) OVERPAYMENT.—If an initial*
 8 *payment under subparagraph (B) with re-*
 9 *spect to losses described in paragraph (2) is*
 10 *greater than the amount an eligible or-*
 11 *chardist or nursery tree grower would have*
 12 *received under paragraph (3) or pursuant*
 13 *to paragraph (5) for such losses, such eligi-*
 14 *ble orchardist or nursery tree grower shall*
 15 *repay the Secretary the excess amount.*

16 *“(D) SUNSET.—The authority to make pay-*
 17 *ments under this paragraph shall terminate on*
 18 *September 30, 2035.”.*

19 **SEC. 1003. SPECIALTY CROP EMERGENCY ASSISTANCE**
 20 **FRAMEWORK.**

21 *(a) IN GENERAL.—The Federal Agriculture Improve-*
 22 *ment and Reform Act of 1996 is amended by inserting after*
 23 *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 spe-*
5 *cialty crops the production of which was impacted by an*
6 *adverse event (including an economic crisis or market dis-*
7 *ruption), as determined by the Secretary, in accordance*
8 *with this section.*

9 “(b) *PAYMENT CALCULATION.*—*In determining a pay-*
10 *ment calculation for purposes of direct assistance to a pro-*
11 *ducer of specialty crops under subsection (a), the Secretary*
12 *shall calculate payments based on—*

13 “(1) *the producer’s sales of specialty crops for a*
14 *calendar year that precedes the year in which the ad-*
15 *verse event described in such subsection occurred or*
16 *the average of such sales over a set of consecutive cal-*
17 *endar years that precedes the year in which such ad-*
18 *verse event occurred, as determined by the Secretary;*
19 *multiplied by*

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

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

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

1 “(2) the greater input costs required to grow spe-
2 cialty crops; and

3 “(3) diverse types of legal entities and structures
4 used by specialty crop producers.

5 “(d) LIMITATIONS.—

6 “(1) TOTAL AMOUNT.—

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

18 “(B) EXCEPTION.—In the case of a person
19 or legal entity with an average gross income (as
20 calculated under section 1001D(b)(4)(B) of the
21 Food Security Act of 1985 (7 U.S.C. 1308–
22 3a(b)(4)(B))) for which greater than or equal to
23 75 percent of the average derives from farming,
24 ranching, or silviculture activities—

1 “(i) subparagraph (A) shall not apply;

2 and

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

9 “(2) NOTIFICATION OF INTERESTS; ELIGIBILITY;
10 DENIALS.—Sections 1001A(a), 1001B, and 1001C of
11 the Food Security Act of 1985 (7 U.S.C. 1308–1(a);
12 1308–2; 1308–3) shall apply to a producer of a spe-
13 cialty crop under this section in the same manner as
14 such sections apply to a person or legal entity with
15 respect to a covered commodity, except to the extent
16 such sections relate to the application of subsections
17 (b) through (d) of section 1001A.”.

18 (b) PAYMENT LIMITATION CONFORMING AMEND-
19 MENT.—Section 1001D(b) of the Food Security Act of 1985
20 (7 U.S.C. 1308–3a(b)) is amended—

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

23 (2) in paragraph (4)(A)(i)(II), by inserting “or
24 196A” after “section 196”.

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

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

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

6 “(a) *IN GENERAL.*—In the case additional funds made
7 available after the date of the enactment of this section for
8 covered losses, the Secretary may make assistance for such
9 losses available in the form of block grants.

10 “(b) *COVERED LOSSES.*—In this section, the term ‘cov-
11 ered losses’ means losses—

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

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

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

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

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

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

1 (b) *INDEMNITY PROGRAM*.—Section 3 of Public Law
 2 90–484 (7 U.S.C. 4553) is amended by striking “2023” and
 3 inserting “2031”.

4 (c) *PROMOTION AND RESEARCH*.—Section 113(e)(2) of
 5 the Dairy Production Stabilization Act of 1983 (7 U.S.C.
 6 4504(e)(2)) is amended by striking “2023” and inserting
 7 “2031”.

8 **SEC. 1006. MANDATORY REPORTING OF DAIRY PRODUCT**
 9 **PROCESSING COSTS.**

10 Section 273 of the Agricultural Marketing Act of 1946
 11 (7 U.S.C. 1637b) is amended—

12 (1) in subsection (b)—

13 (A) in paragraph (1)—

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

16 (ii) in subparagraph (B), by striking
 17 the period at the end and inserting “; and”;
 18 and

19 (iii) by adding at the end the fol-
 20 lowing:

21 “(C) for each manufacturer required to re-
 22 port under subparagraph (A) for any product,
 23 require that manufacturer to report production
 24 cost and product yield information, as deter-

1 *mined by the Secretary, for all products proc-*
 2 *essed in the same facility or facilities.”;*

3 *(B) in paragraph (2)(A), by inserting*
 4 *“products and” after “those”;*

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

7 *(3) in subsection (d)—*

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

11 *(B) in paragraph (1)—*

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

15 *(ii) by striking “this section” and in-*
 16 *serting “subparagraphs (A) and (B) of sub-*
 17 *section (b)(1)”;*

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

21 *(D) by adding at the end the following:*

22 *“(3) DAIRY PRODUCT PROCESSING COSTS.—Not*
 23 *later than 2 years after the date of enactment of this*
 24 *paragraph, and every 2 years thereafter, the Secretary*
 25 *shall publish a report containing the information ob-*

1 *tained under subparagraph (C) of subsection (b)(1),*
 2 *subject to the conditions described in subsection*
 3 *(b)(2).”;*

4 *(4) by redesignating subsection (e) as subsection*
 5 *(f); and*

6 *(5) by adding after subsection (d) the following:*

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

11 **SEC. 1007. DAIRY REPORTS.**

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

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

21 *(a) MARKETING ASSISTANCE LOANS.—Section 1204 of*
 22 *the Agricultural Act of 2014 (7 U.S.C. 9034) is amended*
 23 *by adding at the end the following:*

24 *“(j) EFFECT OF LAPSE IN APPROPRIATIONS.—The*
 25 *servicing of a marketing assistance loan under section 1201*

1 *by an officer or employee of the Department shall be*
 2 *deemed, for purposes of section 1342 of title 31, services for*
 3 *emergencies involving the safety of human life or the protec-*
 4 *tion of property.”.*

5 *(b) LOANS UNDER SUGAR PROGRAM.—Section 156(d)*
 6 *of the Federal Agriculture Improvement and Reform Act*
 7 *of 1996 (7 U.S.C. 7272(d)) is amended by adding at the*
 8 *end the following:*

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

15 **SEC. 1009. STORAGE FACILITY LOANS.**

16 *Section 1614(a) of the Food, Conservation, and Energy*
 17 *Act of 2008 (7 U.S.C. 8789(a)) is amended—*

18 *(1) by striking “funds for producers” and insert-*
 19 *ing the following: “funds for—*

20 *“(1) producers”; and*

21 *(2) by striking the period at the end and insert-*
 22 *ing “; and”; and*

23 *(3) by adding at the end the following:*

24 *“(2) producers to construct or upgrade storage*
 25 *facilities for propane that is primarily used for agri-*

7 (a) *IN GENERAL.*—*Subtitle C of title I of the Agricul-*
8 *tural Act of 2014 (Public Law 113–79) is amended by add-*
9 *ing at the end the following:*

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

18 “(b) *DOMESTIC PRODUCTION DESCRIBED.*—The do-
19 mestic production described in this subsection is the produc-
20 tion of an agricultural commodity—

21 “(1) described in this subtitle; and

22 “(2) from which a food ingredient that serves an
23 important function throughout the domestic food pro-
24 duction supply chain is derived.”.

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

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

4 **SEC. 1011. REGULATIONS.**

5 (a) *ADMINISTRATION.*—*Section 1601(c) of the Agricul-*
 6 *tural Act of 2014 (7 U.S.C. 9091(c)) is amended—*

7 (1) *in paragraph (2), by striking “this title, sec-*
 8 *tions 11003 and 11017, title I of the Agriculture Im-*
 9 *provement Act of 2018 and the amendments made by*
 10 *that title, and section 10109 of that Act” and insert-*
 11 *ing “a covered provision of law”; and*

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

13 “(4) *COVERED PROVISION OF LAW DEFINED.*—*In*
 14 *this subsection, the term ‘covered provision of law’*
 15 *means—*

16 “(A) *this title and sections 11003 and*
 17 *11017;*

18 “(B) *title I of the Agriculture Improvement*
 19 *Act of 2018 and the amendments made by that*
 20 *title, and section 10109 of that Act; and*

21 “(C) *title I of the Farm Food and National*
 22 *Security Act of 2026 and the amendments made*
 23 *by that title.”.*

24 (b) *LOAN IMPLEMENTATION.*—*Section 1614(d) of the*
 25 *Agricultural Act of 2014 (7 U.S.C. 9097(d)) is amended—*

1 (1) in paragraph (1), by striking “subtitle B”
 2 the first place it appears and all that follows through
 3 the period at the end and inserting “a covered provi-
 4 sion of law.”;

5 (2) in paragraph (2)—

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

7 (B) by striking “under subtitles B or C”
 8 and inserting “under the repayment provisions”;
 9 and

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

11 “(3) *DEFINITIONS.—In this subsection:*

12 “(A) *COVERED PROVISION OF LAW.—The*
 13 *term ‘covered provision of law’ means—*

14 “(i) subtitle B or C or the amendments
 15 made by subtitle B or C;

16 “(ii) the amendments made by subtitle
 17 B or C of the Agriculture Improvement Act
 18 of 2018, except with respect to the assistance
 19 provided under sections 1207(c) and 1208;
 20 and

21 “(iii) section 156 of the Federal Agri-
 22 cultural Improvement and Reform Act of
 23 1996 (7 U.S.C. 7272).

1 “(B) *REPAYMENT PROVISIONS*.—The term
2 ‘repayment provisions’ means the repayment re-
3 quirements under—

4 “(i) subtitle B or C; or

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

8 **SEC. 1012. RESTORATION OF TOBACCO AS AGRICULTURAL**
9 **COMMODITY IN COMMODITY CREDIT COR-**
10 **PORATION CHARTER ACT.**

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

14 **TITLE II—CONSERVATION**
15 **Subtitle A—Definitions**

16 **SEC. 2001. DEFINITIONS.**

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

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

22 (2) in paragraph (14), by striking “term ‘Indian
23 tribe’ has the meaning given the term” and inserting
24 “terms ‘Indian tribe’ and ‘Indian Tribe’ have the
25 meaning given those terms”;

1 (3) by redesignating paragraphs (20) through
2 (27) as paragraphs (22) through (29), respectively;

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

5 “(20) *PRECISION AGRICULTURE*.—The term ‘pre-
6 cision agriculture’ means managing, tracking, or re-
7 ducing crop or livestock production inputs, including
8 seed, feed, fertilizer, chemicals, water, and time, at a
9 heightened level of spatial and temporal granularity
10 and biological targeting to improve efficiencies, reduce
11 waste, and maintain environmental quality.

12 “(21) *PRECISION AGRICULTURE TECHNOLOGY*.—
13 The term ‘precision agriculture technology’ means
14 any technology (including targeted inputs and the
15 equipment that is necessary for the deployment of
16 such technology) that directly contributes to a reduc-
17 tion in, or improved efficiency of, inputs used in crop
18 or livestock production, including—

19 “(A) *Global Positioning System-based or*
20 *geospatial mapping technology;*

21 “(B) *satellite or aerial imagery technology;*

22 “(C) *yield monitors;*

23 “(D) *soil mapping technology;*

24 “(E) *sensors for gathering data on crop,*
25 *soil, or livestock conditions;*

1 “(F) *Internet of Things and telematics tech-*
2 *nologies;*

3 “(G) *data management software and ad-*
4 *vanced analytics;*

5 “(H) *network connectivity products and so-*
6 *lutions;*

7 “(I) *Global Positioning System guidance or*
8 *auto-steer systems;*

9 “(J) *variable rate technology for applying*
10 *inputs, such as section control; and*

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

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

18 “(30) *WILDLIFE HABITAT CONNECTIVITY.—The*
19 *term ‘wildlife habitat connectivity’ means the degree*
20 *to which landscape or habitat elements facilitate na-*
21 *tive species movement among seasonal habitats.”.*

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

23 *Section 1222(k)(1)(B) of the Food Security Act of 1985*
24 *(16 U.S.C. 3822(k)(1)(B)) is amended to read as 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 through*
 5 *2031.”.*

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

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

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

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

14 (1) *in paragraph (1)(B), by striking “the date of*
 15 *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 “September*
 20 *30, 2017, or September 30, 2018” and inserting “Sep-*
 21 *tember 30, 2025, or September 30, 2026”.*

22 (c) *ENROLLMENT.—*

23 (1) *MAXIMUM ACREAGE ENROLLED.—Section*
 24 *1231(d)(1)(E) of the Food Security Act of 1985 (16*
 25 *U.S.C. 3831(d)(1)(E)) is amended by striking “fiscal*

1 *year 2023” and inserting “each of fiscal years 2023*
 2 *through 2031”.*

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

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

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

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

22 **SEC. 2102. FARMABLE WETLAND PROGRAM.**

23 *Section 1231B(a)(1) of the Food Security Act of 1985*
 24 *(16 U.S.C. 3831b(a)(1)) is amended by striking “2023” and*
 25 *inserting “2031”.*

1 ***Subtitle C—Environmental Quality***
 2 ***Incentives Program***

3 **SEC. 2201. DEFINITIONS.**

4 *Section 1240A(6)(B)(v) of the Food Security Act of*
 5 *1985 (16 U.S.C. 3839aa–1(6)(B)(v)) is amended by insert-*
 6 *ing “(including the adoption of precision agriculture prac-*
 7 *tices and the acquisition of precision agriculture tech-*
 8 *nology)” after “planning”.*

9 **SEC. 2202. ESTABLISHMENT AND ADMINISTRATION.**

10 *(a) PAYMENTS.—*

11 *(1) SPECIAL RULE INVOLVING PAYMENTS FOR*
 12 *FOREGONE INCOME.—Section 1240B(d)(3)(F) of the*
 13 *Food Security Act of 1985 (16 U.S.C. 3839aa–*
 14 *2(d)(3)(F)) is amended by inserting “and wildlife*
 15 *habitat connectivity” before “; or”.*

16 *(2) OTHER PAYMENTS.—Section 1240B(d)(6) of*
 17 *the Food Security Act of 1985 (16 U.S.C. 3839aa–*
 18 *2(d)(6)) is amended—*

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

21 *“(A) PAYMENTS UNDER THIS SUBTITLE.—*
 22 *Except as provided in paragraph (9), a producer*
 23 *shall”; and*

24 *(B) by adding at the end the following:*

1 “(B) *CONSERVATION LOAN AND LOAN GUAR-*
2 *ANTEE PROGRAM PAYMENTS.*—

3 “(i) *IN GENERAL.*—A producer receiv-
4 ing payments for practices on eligible land
5 under the program may also receive a loan
6 or loan guarantee under section 304 of the
7 Consolidated Farm and Rural Development
8 Act to cover costs for the same practices on
9 the same land.

10 “(ii) *NOTICE TO PRODUCER.*—The Sec-
11 retary shall inform a producer partici-
12 pating in the program in writing that they
13 may apply to receive a loan or loan guar-
14 antee under section 304 of the Consolidated
15 Farm and Rural Development Act as it re-
16 lates to costs of implementing practices
17 under this program.”.

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

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

25 (B) in subparagraph (A)—

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

3 (ii) in clause (iv), by striking the pe-
4 riod at the end and inserting a semicolon;
5 and

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

8 “(v) addresses the conservation and
9 restoration of wildlife habitat, including
10 wildlife habitat connectivity and wildlife
11 migration corridors; or

12 “(vi) increases carbon sequestration or
13 reduces greenhouse gas emissions, including
14 emissions of methane and nitrous oxide.”.

15 (4) *INCREASED PAYMENTS FOR PRECISION AGRI-*
16 *CULTURE.*—Section 1240B(d) of the Food Security
17 Act of 1985 (16 U.S.C. 3839aa–2(d)) is amended by
18 adding at the end the following:

19 “(8) *INCREASED PAYMENTS FOR PRECISION AG-*
20 *RICULTURE PRACTICES.*—Notwithstanding paragraph
21 (2), the Secretary may increase the amount that
22 would otherwise be provided for a practice under this
23 subsection to not more than 90 percent of the costs as-
24 sociated with adopting precision agriculture practices

1 *and acquiring precision agriculture technology for the*
 2 *purpose of implementing conservation practices.”.*

3 (5) *COST-SHARE PAYMENTS FOR GRASSLAND.—*
 4 *Section 1240B(d) of the Food Security Act of 1985*
 5 *(16 U.S.C. 3839aa–2(d)) is further amended by add-*
 6 *ing at the end the following:*

7 “(9) *COST-SHARE PAYMENTS FOR GRASSLAND*
 8 *ENROLLED IN THE CONSERVATION RESERVE PRO-*
 9 *GRAM.—*

10 “(A) *IN GENERAL.—The Secretary may*
 11 *provide payments under the program for costs*
 12 *associated with planning, design, materials,*
 13 *equipment, installation, labor, management,*
 14 *maintenance, or training, for the purpose of a*
 15 *wildlife corridor, with respect to eligible land*
 16 *that is—*

17 “(i) *enrolled in the conservation reserve*
 18 *program under section 1231(d)(2)(A); and*

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

21 “(B) *LIMITATION.—A producer shall not be*
 22 *eligible for payments under subparagraph (A)*
 23 *for a practice if the producer receives payments*
 24 *or other benefits for the same practice on the*
 25 *same land under this title.”.*

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

4 (c) *WATER CONSERVATION OR IRRIGATION EFFI-*
 5 *CIENCY PRACTICE.*—Section 1240B(h)(1) of the Food Secu-
 6 rity Act of 1985 (16 U.S.C. 3839aa–2(h)(1)) is amended—
 7 (1) in subparagraph (B), by striking “; or” and
 8 inserting a semicolon;
 9 (2) in subparagraph (C), by striking the period
 10 and inserting “; or”; and

11 (3) by adding at the end the following:
 12 “(D) the adoption of precision agriculture
 13 practices or the acquisition of precision agri-
 14 culture technology to achieve water conservation
 15 and energy efficiency.”.

16 (d) *PAYMENTS FOR CONSERVATION PRACTICE RE-*
 17 *LATED TO ORGANIC PRODUCTION.*—Section
 18 1240B(i)(3)(A)(ii) of the Food Security Act of 1985 (16
 19 U.S.C. 3839aa–2(i)(3)(A)(ii)) is amended by striking
 20 “2019 through 2023, \$140,000” and inserting “2027
 21 through 2031, \$200,000”.

22 (e) *CONSERVATION INCENTIVE CONTRACTS.*—Section
 23 1240B(j)(2)(A)(i) of the Food Security Act of 1985 (16
 24 U.S.C. 3839aa–2(j)(2)(A)(i)) is amended by inserting
 25 “(which may include the adoption of precision agriculture

1 *practices and the acquisition of precision agriculture tech-*
 2 *nology)” after “incentive practices”.*

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

6 *“(k) SOUTHERN BORDER INITIATIVE.—*

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

13 *“(2) CONTRACT TERM.—In the case of a contract*
 14 *under the program entered into for the implementa-*
 15 *tion of practices described in paragraph (1), such*
 16 *contract shall have a term of 1 year.*

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

18 *“(A) COVERED DAMAGE.—The term ‘covered*
 19 *damage’ means damage to agricultural land or*
 20 *farming infrastructure.*

21 *“(B) COVERED LAND.—The term ‘covered*
 22 *land’ means eligible land in a county at or near*
 23 *the southern border of the United States, as de-*
 24 *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 and
22 innovative technologies that may be incorporated into
23 conservation practice standards.”; and

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

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

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

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

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

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

14 (1) *in clause (i)—*

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

18 (B) *by striking “and” at the end;*

19 (2) *by redesignating clause (ii) as clause (iii);*

20 (3) *by inserting after clause (i) the following:*

21 *“(ii) data that may be used to evaluate*
 22 *new and emerging technologies and rec-*
 23 *ommendations for State and regional appli-*
 24 *cations of such new and emerging tech-*
 25 *nologies; and”;* *and*

(4) in clause (iii), as so redesignated, by inserting “for consideration under the streamlined process developed under section 1242(h)(3)” before the period at the end.

Subtitle D—Conservation Stewardship Program

SEC. 2301. CONSERVATION STEWARDSHIP PROGRAM.

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

(1) in paragraph (1), in the matter preceding subparagraph (A), by inserting “and except as provided in paragraph (3),” after “paragraph (2),”; and
(2) by adding at the end the following:

“(3) *COST-SHARE PAYMENTS FOR GRASSLAND ENROLLED IN THE CONSERVATION RESERVE PROGRAM.*—

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

“(i) enrolled in the conservation reserve program under section 1231(d)(2)(A); and

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

3 “(B) *LIMITATION*.—A producer shall not be
4 eligible for payments under subparagraph (A)
5 for a conservation activity if the producer re-
6 ceives payments or other benefits for the same
7 conservation activity on the same land under
8 this title.

9 “(C) *EMERGENCY GRAZING AND HAYING AC-
10 CESS PRESERVED*.—No priority resource con-
11 cern, practice, or incentive pertaining to restora-
12 tion and enhancement of wildlife habitat
13 connectivity and wildlife migration corridors on
14 the acres described above will prevent or alter
15 emergency grazing and haying access for grass-
16 land acres enrolled in the conservation reserve
17 program.”.

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

19 (a) *CONSERVATION STEWARDSHIP PAYMENTS*.—Sec-
20 tion 1240L(c) of the Food Security Act of 1985 (16 U.S.C.
21 3839aa–24(c)) is amended—

22 (1) in paragraph (2)(A), by inserting before the
23 period “(including increased costs associated with
24 planning and adopting precision agriculture con-

1 *ervation activities and acquiring precision agri-*
 2 *culture technology)’’; and*

3 *(2) by adding at the end the following:*

4 *“(6) MINIMUM PAYMENT.—The amount of an an-*
 5 *nual payment under the program shall be not less*
 6 *than \$4,000.”.*

7 *(b) SUPPLEMENTAL PAYMENTS FOR RESOURCE-CON-*
 8 *SERVING CROP ROTATIONS AND ADVANCED GRAZING MAN-*
 9 *AGEMENT.—Section 1240L(d) of the Food Security Act of*
 10 *1985 (16 U.S.C. 3839aa–24(d)) is amended—*

11 *(1) in the subsection heading, by striking “AND*
 12 *ADVANCED GRAZING MANAGEMENT” and inserting “,*
 13 *ADVANCED GRAZING MANAGEMENT, AND PRECISION*
 14 *AGRICULTURE”;*

15 *(2) in paragraph (2)—*

16 *(A) in subparagraph (A), by striking “; or”*
 17 *and inserting a semicolon;*

18 *(B) in subparagraph (B), by striking the*
 19 *period at the end and inserting “; or”; and*

20 *(C) by adding at the end the following:*

21 *“(C) precision agriculture conservation ac-*
 22 *tivities.”; and*

23 *(3) in paragraph (3), by striking “or advanced*
 24 *grazing management” and inserting “, advanced*

1 *grazing management, or precision agriculture con-*
 2 *servation activities”.*

3 (c) *PAYMENT LIMITATIONS.*—Section 1240L(f) of the
 4 *Food Security Act of 1985 (16 U.S.C. 3839aa–24(f)) is*
 5 *amended by striking “2019 through 2023” and inserting*
 6 *“2027 through 2031”.*

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

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

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

12 *“(a) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:*

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

15 *“(A) implementing a soil health program*
 16 *for the area over which the Indian Tribe has ju-*
 17 *risdiction; and*

18 *“(B) meeting or exceeding performance*
 19 *measures established by the Indian Tribe for the*
 20 *soil health program.*

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

23 *“(A) implementing a soil health program*
 24 *for the State; and*

1 “(B) meeting or exceeding performance
2 measures established by the State for the soil
3 health program.

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

7 “(A) is broadly consistent with the soil
8 health principles of the Natural Resources Con-
9 servation Service, as determined by the Sec-
10 retary; and

11 “(B) may include—

12 “(i) technical assistance;

13 “(ii) financial assistance;

14 “(iii) on-farm research and demonstra-
15 tion;

16 “(iv) education, outreach, and train-
17 ing;

18 “(v) monitoring and evaluation; or

19 “(vi) such other components as the Sec-
20 retary determines appropriate.

21 “(b) AVAILABILITY AND PURPOSE OF GRANTS.—For
22 fiscal years 2027 through 2031, the Secretary shall make
23 grants to eligible States and eligible Indian Tribes for the
24 purpose of improving soil health on agricultural lands

1 *through the implementation of State and Tribal soil health*
2 *programs.*

3 “(c) *APPLICATIONS.*—

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

10 “(A) *a description of performance measures*
11 *to be used to evaluate the State or Tribal soil*
12 *health program and the results of any activities*
13 *carried out using grant funds received under this*
14 *section; and*

15 “(B) *an assurance that grant funds received*
16 *under this section will supplement the expendi-*
17 *ture of State or Tribal funds in support of soil*
18 *health, rather than replace such funds.*

19 “(2) *TRIBAL OPTION.*—*An Indian Tribe shall*
20 *have the option, at the sole discretion of the Indian*
21 *Tribe, to be incorporated into the application of an*
22 *eligible State.*

23 “(d) *GRANTS.*—

1 “(1) *AMOUNT.*—*The amount of a grant to an eli-*
 2 *gible State or eligible Indian Tribe under this section*
 3 *for a fiscal year may not exceed the lower of—*

4 “(A) \$5,000,000; or

5 “(B) *as applicable—*

6 “(i) *50 percent of the cost of imple-*
 7 *menting the State soil health program in*
 8 *the fiscal year; or*

9 “(ii) *75 percent of the cost of imple-*
 10 *menting the Tribal soil health program in*
 11 *the fiscal year.*

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

14 “(e) *AUDITS AND REVIEWS.*—*An eligible State or eligi-*
 15 *ble Indian Tribe receiving a grant under this section shall*
 16 *submit to the Secretary—*

17 “(1) *for each year for which the State or Indian*
 18 *Tribe receives such a grant, the results of an audit of*
 19 *the expenditures of the grant funds; and*

20 “(2) *at such intervals as the Secretary shall es-*
 21 *tablish, a review and evaluation of the State or Tribal*
 22 *soil health program.*

23 “(f) *EFFECT OF NONCOMPLIANCE.*—*If the Secretary,*
 24 *after reasonable notice to an eligible State or eligible Indian*
 25 *Tribe receiving a grant under this section, finds that the*

1 *State or Indian Tribe has failed to comply with the terms*
 2 *of the grant, the Secretary may disqualify, for 1 or more*
 3 *years, the State or Indian Tribe from receipt of future*
 4 *grants under this section.*

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

8 “(h) *ADMINISTRATION.*—

9 “(1) *DEPARTMENT.*—*The Secretary may not use*
 10 *more than 3 percent of the funds made available to*
 11 *carry out this section for a fiscal year for administra-*
 12 *tive expenses.*

13 “(2) *STATES OR INDIAN TRIBES.*—*An eligible*
 14 *State or eligible Indian Tribe receiving a grant under*
 15 *this section may not use more than 7 percent of the*
 16 *granted funds for a fiscal year for administrative ex-*
 17 *penses.”.*

18 ***Subtitle E—Other Conservation*** 19 ***Programs***

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

21 *Section 1240M(e) of the Food Security Act of 1985 (16*
 22 *U.S.C. 3839bb) is amended by striking “2023” and insert-*
 23 *ing “2031”.*

1 **SEC. 2402. FERAL SWINE ERADICATION AND CONTROL PRO-**
 2 **GRAM.**

3 (a) *FERAL SWINE ERADICATION AND CONTROL PRO-*
 4 *GRAM.—Chapter 5 of subtitle D of title XII of the Food Se-*
 5 *curity Act of 1985 (16 U.S.C. 3839bb et seq.) is amended*
 6 *by inserting after section 1240M the following:*

7 **“SEC. 1240N. FERAL SWINE ERADICATION AND CONTROL**
 8 **PROGRAM.**

9 “(a) *IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall establish a*
 10 *feral swine eradication and control program (in this section*
 11 *referred to as the ‘program’) to respond to the threat feral*
 12 *swine pose to agriculture, native ecosystems, and human*
 13 *and animal health.*

14 “(b) *DUTIES OF THE SECRETARY.—In carrying out*
 15 *the program, the Secretary shall—*

16 “(1) *study and assess the nature and extent of*
 17 *damage to the threatened areas caused by feral swine;*

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

20 “(3) *develop methods to restore damage caused*
 21 *by feral swine; and*

22 “(4) *provide financial assistance to agricultural*
 23 *producers in threatened areas.*

24 “(c) *ASSISTANCE.—The Secretary may provide finan-*
 25 *cial assistance to agricultural producers under the program*
 26 *to implement methods to—*

1 “(1) *eradicate or control feral swine in the*
2 *threatened areas; and*

3 “(2) *restore damage caused by feral swine.*

4 “(d) *COORDINATION.—The Secretary shall ensure that*
5 *the Natural Resources Conservation Service and the Animal*
6 *and Plant Health Inspection Service coordinate for pur-*
7 *poses of this section through State technical committees es-*
8 *tablished under section 1261(a).*

9 “(e) *COST SHARING.—*

10 “(1) *FEDERAL SHARE.—The Federal share of the*
11 *costs of activities under the program may not exceed*
12 *75 percent of the total costs of such activities.*

13 “(2) *IN-KIND CONTRIBUTIONS.—The non-Federal*
14 *share of the costs of activities under the program may*
15 *be provided in the form of in-kind contributions of*
16 *materials or services.*

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

22 “(g) *FUNDING.—*

23 “(1) *MANDATORY FUNDING.—Of the funds of the*
24 *Commodity Credit Corporation, the Secretary shall*
25 *use to carry out this section \$75,000,000 for the pe-*

1 *riod of fiscal years 2019 through 2023, \$15,000,000*
 2 *for fiscal year 2024, and \$150,000,000 for the period*
 3 *of fiscal years 2025 through 2031.*

4 *“(2) DISTRIBUTION OF FUNDS.—Of the funds*
 5 *made available under paragraph (1)—*

6 *“(A) 40 percent shall be allocated to the*
 7 *Natural Resources Conservation Service to carry*
 8 *out the program, including the provision of fi-*
 9 *nancial assistance to producers for on-farm trap-*
 10 *ping and technology related to capturing and*
 11 *confining feral swine; and*

12 *“(B) 60 percent shall be allocated to the*
 13 *Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service to*
 14 *carry out the program, including the use of es-*
 15 *tablished, and testing of innovative, population*
 16 *reduction methods.*

17 *“(3) LIMITATION ON ADMINISTRATIVE EX-*
 18 *PENSES.—Not more than 10 percent of funds made*
 19 *available under this section may be used for adminis-*
 20 *trative expenses of the program.*

21 *“(h) COORDINATION AND COOPERATION WITH A LAND-*
 22 *GRANT COLLEGE OR UNIVERSITY.—*

23 *“(1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall direct*
 24 *the Natural Resources Conservation Service and the*
 25 *Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service to enter*

1 *into a contract with 1 or more land-grant colleges or*
 2 *universities to assist with the program in achieving*
 3 *its goals.*

4 “(2) *ELIGIBLE LAND-GRANT COLLEGES AND UNI-*
 5 *VERSITIES.—A land-grant college or university is eli-*
 6 *gible to enter into a contract under paragraph (1) if*
 7 *such college or university—*

8 “(A) *has developed and implemented a sys-*
 9 *tem of evaluating damages from feral swine and*
 10 *effectiveness of control efforts in response to the*
 11 *Agriculture Improvement Act of 2018 (Public*
 12 *Law 115–334);*

13 “(B) *shows evidence of a strong working re-*
 14 *lationship with Wildlife Services in the Animal*
 15 *and Plant Health Inspection Service; and*

16 “(C) *has maintained a State-funded, non-*
 17 *Federal Wildlife Services program that has an*
 18 *active cooperative agreement with Wildlife Serv-*
 19 *ices in the Animal and Plant Health Inspection*
 20 *Service within the structure of the Land Grant*
 21 *University System.*

22 “(3) *ROLE OF THE LAND-GRANT COLLEGE OR*
 23 *UNIVERSITY.—A land-grant college or university that*
 24 *enters into a contract under paragraph (1) shall, as*
 25 *a condition on entering into such a contract, assist*

1 *the program by acting as a strategic, neutral entity*
2 *that is able to advance the program beyond the exper-*
3 *tise of the Department to achieve the stated goals of*
4 *the program by—*

5 *“(A) identifying and carrying out research*
6 *on novel methods of feral swine control and land*
7 *remediation;*

8 *“(B) assisting in establishing strategic*
9 *areas for feral swine control based on data col-*
10 *lected in response to the Agriculture Improve-*
11 *ment Act of 2018;*

12 *“(C) coordinating and collaborating be-*
13 *tween field staff, programmatic staff, and re-*
14 *search staff within the Natural Resources Con-*
15 *servation Service and the Animal and Plant*
16 *Health Inspection Service; and*

17 *“(D) establishing and consulting with the*
18 *Department on research goals and priorities in*
19 *the program.*

20 *“(4) FUNDING.—Funding made available under*
21 *(g)(2) shall be available to fund activities under this*
22 *subsection, as determined by the Secretary.*

23 *“(5) LAND-GRANT COLLEGE OR UNIVERSITY DE-*
24 *FINED.—In this subsection, the term ‘land-grant col-*
25 *lege or university’ has the meaning given the term*

1 *‘land-grant colleges and universities’ in section 1404*
 2 *of the National Agricultural Research, Extension, and*
 3 *Teaching Policy Act of 1977 (7 U.S.C. 3103).’.*

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

6 **(c) CLERICAL AMENDMENT.**—*The table of contents in*
 7 *section 1(b) of the Agriculture Improvement Act of 2018 is*
 8 *amended by striking the item relating to section 2408.*

9 **SEC. 2403. WATERSHED PROTECTION AND FLOOD PREVEN-**
 10 **TION ACT.**

11 **(a) ASSISTANCE TO LOCAL ORGANIZATIONS.**—

12 **(1) IN GENERAL.**—*Section 3(a) of the Watershed*
 13 *Protection and Flood Prevention Act (16 U.S.C.*
 14 *1003(a)) is amended by redesignating paragraph (6)*
 15 *as paragraph (7) and inserting after paragraph (5)*
 16 *the following:*

17 *“(6) to provide technical and financial assist-*
 18 *ance for remedial actions in accordance with sub-*
 19 *section (c); and”.*

20 **(2) ASSISTANCE FOR REMEDIAL ACTIONS;**
 21 **STREAMLINING.**—*Section 3 of the Watershed Protec-*
 22 *tion and Flood Prevention Act (16 U.S.C. 1003) is*
 23 *amended by adding at the end the following:*

24 *“(c) ASSISTANCE FOR REMEDIAL ACTIONS.—*

1 “(1) *IN GENERAL.*—*In carrying out subsection*
2 *(a)(6), the Secretary may provide technical and fi-*
3 *nancial assistance to local organizations for remedial*
4 *actions for a completed work of improvement installed*
5 *under this Act with respect to which—*

6 “(A) *deterioration of a structural compo-*
7 *nent of the work of improvement is occurring at*
8 *an abnormal rate, including situations in which*
9 *such deterioration is due to a design deficiency*
10 *or to site conditions that were unknown at the*
11 *time of installation of the work of improvement;*

12 “(B) *the planned service life of the work of*
13 *improvement exceeds the service life of a struc-*
14 *tural component of such work of improvement; or*

15 “(C) *structural damage to such work of im-*
16 *provement, or to a structural component of such*
17 *work of improvement, was caused by a storm*
18 *event that exceeded the maximum storm event for*
19 *which the work of improvement was designed.*

20 “(2) *COST SHARE.*—*Financial assistance pro-*
21 *vided under this subsection shall be provided in ac-*
22 *cordance with the cost-share rate established in the*
23 *agreement with the local organization for the work of*
24 *improvement.*

1 “(d) *STREAMLINING.*—*The Secretary shall, on an on-*
2 *going basis—*

3 “(1) *engage with relevant Federal agencies to re-*
4 *duce or eliminate regulatory, policy, or procedural*
5 *barriers to timely provision of assistance under this*
6 *Act;*

7 “(2) *provide for streamlined procedures relating*
8 *to coordination with other Federal or State agencies*
9 *for required reviews and permitting of projects pursu-*
10 *ant to this Act, and ensure such procedures are com-*
11 *mensurate with the size and scale of the projects;*

12 “(3) *conduct an assessment of internal Depart-*
13 *ment of Agriculture planning, technical support, and*
14 *approvals to determine best practices to be used for*
15 *the purpose of maximizing the decisionmaking au-*
16 *thority of State conservationists with respect to ap-*
17 *provals required for projects under this Act; and*

18 “(4) *prioritize the use of agreements and con-*
19 *tracting authorities under this Act to provide funding*
20 *to local organizations for the planning, design, and*
21 *construction of works of improvement.”.*

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

1 **“SEC. 13. DATA.**

2 “(a) *IN GENERAL.*—*The Secretary shall collect and*
3 *maintain, and make publicly available—*

4 “(1) *data, on a national and State-by-State*
5 *basis, concerning—*

6 “(A) *expenditures for the individual flood*
7 *control and conservation measures for which as-*
8 *sistance is provided under this Act; and*

9 “(B) *the expected flood control or environ-*
10 *mental (including soil erosion) benefits that will*
11 *result from the implementation of such measures;*
12 *and*

13 “(2) *data, with respect to each project for which*
14 *assistance is provided under this Act, concerning—*

15 “(A) *total allocated and expended funds for*
16 *planning, design, construction, remedial actions,*
17 *and rehabilitation; and*

18 “(B) *contracts and agreements entered into*
19 *by the Secretary with a local organization to*
20 *provide services, including—*

21 “(i) *the services provided through such*
22 *contracts and agreements;*

23 “(ii) *the total funds allocated to such*
24 *contracts and agreements; and*

1 “(iii) any modifications or adjust-
 2 ments made to such contracts and agree-
 3 ments.

4 “(b) *PROHIBITION.—The Secretary may not make*
 5 *publicly available under this section an agreement entered*
 6 *into with an individual landowner, operator, or occupier*
 7 *under this Act, or any disaggregated information that iden-*
 8 *tifies such individual landowner, operator, or occupier.”.*

9 (c) *REHABILITATION OF STRUCTURAL MEASURES*
 10 *NEAR, AT, OR PAST THEIR EVALUATED LIFE EXPECT-*
 11 *ANCY.—*

12 (1) *COST SHARE ASSISTANCE FOR REHABILITA-*
 13 *TION.—Section 14(b) of the Watershed Protection and*
 14 *Flood Prevention Act (16 U.S.C. 1012(b)) is amend-*
 15 *ed—*

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

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

19 “(4) *RELATION TO REQUIREMENTS OF AUTHOR-*
 20 *IZED PROJECTS.—A rehabilitation project for which*
 21 *assistance is provided under this section shall not be*
 22 *subject to—*

23 “(A) *the requirement under section 2 that a*
 24 *project contain benefits directly related to agri-*
 25 *culture, including rural communities, that ac-*

1 *count for at least 20 percent of the total benefits*
 2 *of the project; or*

3 *“(B) section 4(5).”.*

4 (2) *FUNDING.*—*Section 14(h)(2)(E) of the Water-*
 5 *shed Protection and Flood Prevention Act (16 U.S.C.*
 6 *1012(h)(2)(E)) is amended by striking “2023” and*
 7 *inserting “2031”.*

8 **SEC. 2404. EMERGENCY CONSERVATION PROGRAM.**

9 *Section 401 of the Agricultural Credit Act of 1978 (16*
 10 *U.S.C. 2201) is amended—*

11 (1) *in subsection (b)—*

12 (A) *in the subsection heading, by inserting*
 13 *“AND OTHER EMERGENCY CONSERVATION MEAS-*
 14 *URES” after “FENCING”;*

15 (B) *by amending paragraph (1) to read as*
 16 *follows:*

17 “(1) *IN GENERAL.*—*With respect to a payment to*
 18 *an agricultural producer under subsection (a) for the*
 19 *repair or replacement of fencing, or for other emer-*
 20 *gency measures to rehabilitate farmland or to repair*
 21 *or replace a farmland or conservation structure, the*
 22 *Secretary shall give the agricultural producer the op-*
 23 *tion of receiving—*

24 (A) *before carrying out such replacement*
 25 *or rehabilitation, not more than 75 percent of*

1 *the payment for such replacement or rehabilita-*
2 *tion, which shall be based on the fair market*
3 *value of the replacement or rehabilitation, as de-*
4 *termined by the Secretary; and*

5 *“(B) before carrying out such repair, not*
6 *more than 50 percent of the payment for such re-*
7 *pair, which shall be based on the fair market*
8 *value of the repair, as determined by the Sec-*
9 *retary.”; and*

10 *(C) by adding at the end the following:*

11 *“(3) NEW OR EMERGING TECHNOLOGIES.—Re-*
12 *pair or replacement of fencing under this section may*
13 *include updating of fencing to new or emerging tech-*
14 *nology if such updating does not increase the cost of*
15 *the repair or replacement.”; and*

16 *(2) by adding at the end the following:*

17 *“(c) WILDFIRES.—A wildfire that causes damage with*
18 *respect to which a payment may be made under subsection*
19 *(a) includes any wildfire that is not caused naturally, in-*
20 *cluding a wildfire that is caused by the Federal Govern-*
21 *ment, if the damage is caused by the spread of the fire due*
22 *to natural causes.”.*

1 **SEC. 2405. EMERGENCY WATERSHED PROGRAM.**

2 (a) *FLOODPLAIN EASEMENTS*.—Section 403(b) of the
3 *Agricultural Credit Act of 1978* (16 U.S.C. 2203(b)) is
4 amended—

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

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

9 “(1) *EASEMENT RESTORATION*.—The Secretary
10 is authorized to restore appropriate vegetative cover,
11 hydrological functions, and other functions and values
12 of the land subject to a floodplain easement acquired
13 under subsection (a).

14 “(2) *EASEMENT MAINTENANCE*.—The Secretary
15 is authorized to monitor, maintain, and enhance ap-
16 propriate vegetative cover, hydrological restoration
17 measures, and other restoration measures on land
18 subject to a floodplain easement acquired under sub-
19 section (a).

20 “(3) *CONTRACTS AND AGREEMENTS*.—In car-
21 rying out paragraphs (1) and (2), the Secretary
22 may—

23 “(A) enter into contracts with landowners;
24 and

1 “(B) enter into agreements with States,
 2 nongovernmental organizations, and Indian
 3 Tribes.

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

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

10 “(B) compatible economic uses (including
 11 such activities as hunting and fishing, managed
 12 timber harvest, water management, or periodic
 13 haymaking or grazing) if such uses are consistent
 14 with the long-term protection of the floodplain
 15 functions and values for which the easement was
 16 acquired.”; and

17 (3) in paragraph (6), as so redesignated, by
 18 striking “paragraph (1)” and inserting “paragraph
 19 (5)” each place it appears.

20 (b) LEVEL OF RESTORATION.—Section 403 of the Ag-
 21 ricultural Credit Act of 1978 (16 U.S.C. 2203) is amended
 22 by adding at the end the following:

23 “(c) LEVEL OF RESTORATION.—In carrying out this
 24 section, the Secretary may undertake measures that in-
 25 crease the level of protection above that which would be nec-

1 *essary to address the immediate impairment of the water-*
 2 *shed if the Secretary determines that such restoration is in*
 3 *the best interest of the long-term health of the watershed and*
 4 *the long-term protection of the watershed from repetitive*
 5 *impairments.”.*

6 **SEC. 2406. NATIONAL AGRICULTURE FLOOD VULNER-**
 7 **ABILITY STUDY.**

8 *Not later than 2 years after the date of enactment of*
 9 *this Act, the Secretary shall submit to the Committee on*
 10 *Agriculture of the House of Representatives and the Com-*
 11 *mittee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry of the Senate*
 12 *a national agriculture flood vulnerability report containing*
 13 *the results of a Conservation Effects Assessment Project as-*
 14 *essment of flood risk on agricultural lands, including—*

15 *(1) an analysis of economic losses of crops and*
 16 *livestock resulting from flooding under different recur-*
 17 *rence scenarios;*

18 *(2) an analysis of the downstream effects of miti-*
 19 *gation activities carried out as part of a watershed*
 20 *management approach;*

21 *(3) an analysis of available Federal and State*
 22 *data relating to flood risk, as applicable to agricul-*
 23 *tural land, including data relating to riverine flood-*
 24 *ing, coastal flooding, storm surge, extreme precipita-*
 25 *tion, and flash flooding; and*

1 (4) a description of ongoing producer-level con-
 2 servation practices and broader government initia-
 3 tives to manage the effects of flooding and flood risk
 4 within and across watersheds, and recommendations
 5 for additional practices and initiatives to further ad-
 6 dress such effects and risk.

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

9 The Secretary, acting through the Chief of the Natural
 10 Resources Conservation Service, shall submit to the Com-
 11 mittee on Agriculture of the House of Representatives the
 12 results of a study on the environmental benefits of using
 13 winter wheat as a cover crop, including use as a cover crop
 14 that is removed during harvest.

15 **Subtitle F—Funding and**
 16 **Administration**

17 **SEC. 2501. COMMODITY CREDIT CORPORATION.**

18 (a) *ANNUAL FUNDING*.—Section 1241(a) of the Flood
 19 Security Act of 1985 (16 U.S.C. 3841(a)) is amended—

20 (1) in paragraph (1)—

21 (A) in subparagraph (A), by striking “2019
 22 through 2023” and inserting “2027 through
 23 2031”; and

1 *(B) in subparagraph (B), by striking “2019*
2 *through 2023” and inserting “2027 through*
3 *2031”;*

4 *(2) in paragraph (3)(A), by striking clauses (i)*
5 *through (vi) and inserting the following:*

6 *“(i) \$2,530,000,000 for fiscal year*
7 *2027;*

8 *“(ii) \$2,730,000,000 for fiscal year*
9 *2028;*

10 *“(iii) \$3,130,000,000 for fiscal year*
11 *2029;*

12 *“(iv) \$3,175,000,000 for fiscal year*
13 *2030; and*

14 *“(v) \$3,255,000,000 for fiscal year*
15 *2031; and”;* and

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

17 *“(5) The forest conservation easement program*
18 *under subtitle I, using, to the maximum extent prac-*
19 *ticable—*

20 *“(A) \$25,000,000 for fiscal year 2027;*

21 *“(B) \$50,000,000 for fiscal year 2028;*

22 *“(C) \$50,000,000 for fiscal year 2029;*

23 *“(D) \$50,000,000 for fiscal year 2030; and*

24 *“(E) \$65,000,000 for fiscal year 2031.*

1 “(6) *The regional conservation partnership pro-*
 2 *gram under subtitle J, to the maximum extent prac-*
 3 *ticable—*

4 “(A) \$450,000,000 for fiscal year 2027;

5 “(B) \$450,000,000 for fiscal year 2028;

6 “(C) \$450,000,000 for fiscal year 2029;

7 “(D) \$450,000,000 for fiscal year 2030; and

8 “(E) \$450,000,000 for fiscal year 2031.”.

9 (b) *REGIONAL EQUITY.*—Section 1241(e)(1) of the
 10 *Food Security Act of 1985 (16 U.S.C. 3841(e)(1)) is amend-*
 11 *ed by striking “subtitle I” and inserting “subtitle J”.*

12 (c) *ACCEPTANCE AND USE OF CONTRIBUTIONS FOR*
 13 *PUBLIC-PRIVATE PARTNERSHIPS.*—Section 1241(f) of the
 14 *Food Security Act of 1985 (16 U.S.C. 3841(f)) is amend-*
 15 *ed—*

16 (1) in paragraph (6)(A)(ii), by inserting “of” be-
 17 fore “any terms”; and

18 (2) in paragraph (9)—

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

21 “(A) subtitle D (except for subchapter B of
 22 chapter 1 of such subtitle), subtitle H, subtitle I,
 23 or subtitle J;”;

24 (B) in subparagraph (B), by striking the
 25 semicolon and inserting “; or”;

1 (C) by striking subparagraph (C); and
 2 (D) by redesignating subparagraph (D) as
 3 subparagraph (C).

4 (d) *REPORT ON PROGRAM ENROLLMENTS AND ASSIST-*
 5 *ANCE.—Section 1241(i) of the Food Security Act of 1985*
 6 *(16 U.S.C. 3841(i)) is amended—*

7 (1) in the matter preceding paragraph (1), by
 8 striking “2019 through 2023” and inserting “2027
 9 through 2031”; and

10 (2) in paragraph (2)(E), by striking “section
 11 1265B(b)(2)(B)(ii)” and inserting “section
 12 1265B(b)(2)(A)(iii)”.

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

14 (a) *DEFINITIONS.—Section 1242(a) of the Food Secu-*
 15 *rity Act of 1985 (16 U.S.C. 3842(a)) is amended—*

16 (1) by redesignating paragraph (2) as para-
 17 graph (3); and

18 (2) by inserting after paragraph (1) the fol-
 19 lowing:

20 “(2) *NON-FEDERAL CERTIFYING ENTITY.—The*
 21 *term ‘non-Federal certifying entity’ means a non-Fed-*
 22 *eral entity, an Indian Tribe, or a State agency de-*
 23 *scribed in subparagraph (B), (C), or (D) of subsection*
 24 *(e)(4) that has entered into an agreement under sub-*
 25 *section (e)(5)(D).’.*”.

1 (b) *PURPOSE OF TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE.*—Section
 2 1242(b) of the Food Security Act of 1985 (16 U.S.C.
 3 3842(b)) is amended by inserting “timely,” after “con-
 4 sistent,”.

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

9 (d) *CERTIFICATION OF THIRD-PARTY PROVIDERS.*—
 10 Section 1242(e) of the Food Security Act of 1985 (16 U.S.C.
 11 3842(e)) is amended—

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

15 (2) by amending paragraph (3)(A) to read as
 16 follows:

17 “(A) ensure that persons (including com-
 18 mercial entities, nonprofit entities, State or local
 19 governments or agencies, and other Federal agen-
 20 cies) with expertise in the technical aspects of
 21 conservation planning, watershed planning, en-
 22 vironmental engineering, conservation practice
 23 design, implementation, and evaluation, and
 24 any other technical skills determined appropriate

1 *by the Secretary, are eligible to become approved*
2 *providers of the technical assistance;”;* and

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

5 “(4) *CERTIFICATION.—A third-party provider*
6 *may be certified to provide technical assistance under*
7 *this section only—*

8 “(A) *through a certification process admin-*
9 *istered by the Secretary, acting through the Chief*
10 *of the Natural Resources Conservation Service;*

11 “(B) *by a non-Federal entity (other than a*
12 *State agency or an Indian Tribe) approved by*
13 *the Secretary under paragraph (5) to certify a*
14 *third-party provider;*

15 “(C) *by an Indian Tribe approved by the*
16 *Secretary under paragraph (5) to certify a third-*
17 *party provider; or*

18 “(D) *by a State agency that—*

19 “(i) *has statutory authority to certify,*
20 *administer, or license professionals in one*
21 *or more fields of natural resources, agri-*
22 *culture, or engineering; and*

23 “(ii) *is approved by the Secretary*
24 *under paragraph (5) to certify a third-*
25 *party provider.*

1 “(5) *NON-FEDERAL CERTIFYING ENTITY.*—

2 “(A) *ESTABLISHMENT OF APPROVAL PROC-*
3 *ESS.*—*Not later than 180 days after the date of*
4 *enactment of the Farm, Food, and National Se-*
5 *curity Act of 2026, the Secretary shall establish*
6 *a process to approve a non-Federal entity (in-*
7 *cluding a State agency and an Indian Tribe), to*
8 *become a non-Federal certifying entity.*

9 “(B) *APPROVAL.*—*Not later than 60 days*
10 *after the date on which the Secretary receives an*
11 *application by a non-Federal entity to certify*
12 *third-party providers under this section, the Sec-*
13 *retary shall make a decision on whether to ap-*
14 *prove such application.*

15 “(C) *ELIGIBILITY.*—*In carrying out sub-*
16 *paragraph (B), the Secretary shall take into con-*
17 *sideration—*

18 “(i) *the ability of the applicable non-*
19 *Federal entity to assess the qualifications of*
20 *a third-party provider and to certify third-*
21 *party providers at scale;*

22 “(ii) *the experience of the applicable*
23 *non-Federal entity in working with third-*
24 *party providers and eligible participants;*

1 “(iii) the expertise of the applicable
2 non-Federal entity in the technical skills de-
3 scribed in paragraph (3)(A); and

4 “(iv) such other qualifications as the
5 Secretary determines to be appropriate.

6 “(D) AGREEMENT.—Upon approving an
7 application under this paragraph, the Secretary
8 shall enter into an agreement with the non-Fed-
9 eral entity to become a non-Federal certifying
10 entity.

11 “(E) DUTIES OF NON-FEDERAL CERTIFYING
12 ENTITIES.—In certifying third-party providers
13 under this section, a non-Federal certifying enti-
14 ty shall—

15 “(i) assess the ability of a third-party
16 provider to appropriately provide technical
17 assistance to eligible participants for speci-
18 fied practices and conservation activities;

19 “(ii) provide training to ensure that a
20 third-party provider is qualified to provide
21 technical assistance upon certification by
22 the non-Federal certifying entity; and

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

1 “(I) each third-party provider
 2 certified by the non-Federal certifying
 3 entity, for inclusion on the registry of
 4 certified third-party providers main-
 5 tained by the Secretary; and

6 “(II) each third-party provider
 7 the certification of which is withdrawn
 8 by the non-Federal certifying entity.

9 “(6) *TIMELY DECISIONS.*—

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

17 “(i) make a final decision with respect
 18 to such application; and

19 “(ii) if the final decision is to certify
 20 the third-party provider, include the name
 21 of the certified third-party provider on the
 22 registry of certified third-party providers
 23 maintained by the Secretary.

24 “(B) *CERTIFICATION BY NON-FEDERAL CER-*
 25 *TIFYING ENTITY.*—Not later than 10 days after

1 *the date on which the Secretary receives a notifi-*
2 *cation from a non-Federal certifying entity that*
3 *a third-party provider was certified, pursuant to*
4 *subparagraph (B), (C), or (D) of paragraph (4),*
5 *for particular practices and conservation activi-*
6 *ties, the Secretary shall include the name of the*
7 *certified third-party provider on the registry of*
8 *certified third-party providers maintained by the*
9 *Secretary.*

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

19 *(e) ADMINISTRATION.*—*Section 1242(f) of the Food Se-*
20 *curity Act of 1985 (16 U.S.C. 3842(f)) is amended—*

21 *(1) in paragraph (1), by striking “each of the*
22 *programs specified in section 1241” and inserting*
23 *“conservation programs administered by the Sec-*
24 *retary”;*

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 under
 12 paragraphs (4)(A) and (7) of subsection (e);

13 “(B) make any adjustments considered nec-
 14 essary by the Secretary to—

15 “(i) increase the number of third-party
 16 providers delivering technical assistance;
 17 and

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

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

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

1 “(ii) other interested parties associated
2 with eligible participants; and

3 “(D) set a target rate of utilization of third-
4 party providers to deliver technical assistance
5 across all conservation programs administered
6 by the Secretary.”;

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

9 (5) by striking paragraph (5) and inserting the
10 following:

11 “(5) PAYMENT AMOUNT.—

12 “(A) IN GENERAL.—For payments provided
13 by the Secretary under paragraph (2) or (3) of
14 subsection (c), the Secretary shall determine pay-
15 ment amounts for technical assistance provided
16 by third-party providers, which shall be at rates
17 equivalent to, but that do not exceed, the cost to
18 the Secretary of providing technical assistance
19 directly to an eligible participant.

20 “(B) CONSIDERATIONS.—In determining
21 payment amounts under subparagraph (A), the
22 Secretary shall consider specialized equipment,
23 frequency of site visits, training, travel and
24 transportation, and such other factors as the Sec-
25 retary determines to be appropriate.

1 “(C) *EXCLUSION.*—A payment provided
 2 under subsection (c)(3) shall be excluded from
 3 calculations relating to any cost-sharing require-
 4 ments of the applicable conservation program
 5 under which the payment was provided.

6 “(6) *TRANSPARENCY.*—Not later than 1 year
 7 after the date of enactment of the Farm, Food, and
 8 National Security Act of 2026, and periodically there-
 9 after, the Secretary shall make publicly available in-
 10 formation on—

11 “(A) *funds obligated to third-party pro-*
 12 *viders through—*

13 “(i) *contracts entered into between eli-*
 14 *gible participants and individual third-*
 15 *party providers; and*

16 “(ii) *agreements with public and pri-*
 17 *vate sector entities to secure third-party*
 18 *technical assistance;*

19 “(B) *the certification process under this sec-*
 20 *tion, including—*

21 “(i) *the number of third-party pro-*
 22 *viders certified by the Secretary;*

23 “(ii) *the number of non-Federal certi-*
 24 *fying entities approved by the Secretary;*

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

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

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

9 “(vi) the number of third-party pro-
10 viders certified through the streamlined cer-
11 tification process described in subsection
12 (e)(7);

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

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

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

23 “(7) SOIL HEALTH PLANNING.—The Secretary
24 shall emphasize the use of third-party providers in
25 providing technical assistance for soil health plan-

1 *ning, including planning related to the use of cover*
 2 *crops, precision agriculture practices, comprehensive*
 3 *nutrient management planning, and other innovative*
 4 *plans.”.*

5 *(f) REVIEW OF CONSERVATION PRACTICE STAND-*
 6 *ARDS.—Section 1242(h) of the Food Security Act of 1985*
 7 *(16 U.S.C. 3842(h)) is amended—*

8 *(1) in the subsection heading, by striking “RE-*
 9 *VIEW” and inserting “ESTABLISHMENT AND RE-*
 10 *VIEW”;*

11 *(2) in paragraph (1)—*

12 *(A) by amending subparagraph (A) to read*
 13 *as follows:*

14 *“(A) not later than 1 year after the date of*
 15 *enactment of the Farm, Food, and National Se-*
 16 *curity Act of 2026, and at least every 5 years*
 17 *thereafter, complete a review of each conservation*
 18 *practice standard, including engineering design*
 19 *specifications;”;*

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

22 *(C) by amending subparagraph (D) to read*
 23 *as follows:*

24 *“(D) evaluate opportunities to increase*
 25 *flexibility in conservation practice standards in*

1 *a manner that integrates new and innovative*
 2 *technologies that provide equivalent or improved*
 3 *natural resource benefits compared to the stand-*
 4 *ards in effect at the time of the review;”;* and

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

6 *“(E) provide a process for public input on*
 7 *each conservation practice standard under such*
 8 *review, including a process for consideration of*
 9 *State and local input;*

10 *“(F) publicly post a summary of any input*
 11 *received under subparagraph (E) and any deci-*
 12 *sions made relating to such input; and*

13 *“(G) revise any conservation practice stand-*
 14 *ard based on the results of such review, as deter-*
 15 *mined appropriate by the Secretary, and publish*
 16 *any such revised standard.”;*

17 *(3) by amending paragraph (3) to read as fol-*
 18 *lows:*

19 *“(3) PROCESS FOR ESTABLISHMENT OF INTERIM*
 20 *AND NEW CONSERVATION PRACTICE STANDARDS.—*

21 *“(A) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 1 year*
 22 *after the date of enactment of the Farm, Food,*
 23 *and National Security Act of 2026, the Secretary*
 24 *shall develop a streamlined process under which*
 25 *the Secretary shall establish interim conservation*

1 *practice standards and new conservation prac-*
2 *tice standards.*

3 “(B) *DEVELOPMENT.*—*In developing the*
4 *streamlined process under subparagraph (A), the*
5 *Secretary shall—*

6 “(i) *ensure that the public can engage*
7 *with the Department of Agriculture, includ-*
8 *ing by recommending interim conservation*
9 *practice standards; and*

10 “(ii) *establish—*

11 “(I) *the types of data, metrics,*
12 *and other relevant information that*
13 *are necessary for the establishment of*
14 *interim conservation practice stand-*
15 *ards and new conservation practice*
16 *standards;*

17 “(II) *the process by which an in-*
18 *terim conservation practice standard*
19 *may become a new conservation prac-*
20 *tice standard; and*

21 “(III) *specific requirements for an*
22 *expedited review of a new conservation*
23 *practice for the purpose of establishing*
24 *a new conservation practice standard*
25 *for such practice.*

1 “(C) *CONSIDERATIONS.*—*In establishing an*
2 *interim conservation practice standard or a new*
3 *conservation practice standard under this sub-*
4 *section, the Secretary shall consider—*

5 “(i) *input from State technical com-*
6 *mittees on recommendations that identify*
7 *innovations or advancements in conserva-*
8 *tion practices;*

9 “(ii) *technological advancements, in-*
10 *cluding advancements from projects devel-*
11 *oped under section 1240H;*

12 “(iii) *State and local input in the*
13 *form of—*

14 “(I) *recommendations for interim*
15 *conservation practice standards; and*

16 “(II) *partnership-led proposals for*
17 *new and innovative techniques to fa-*
18 *cilitate implementing agreements and*
19 *grants under this title; and*

20 “(iv) *input from native entities in the*
21 *form of information relating to native tra-*
22 *ditional ecological knowledge that can in-*
23 *form conservation practice standards.*

24 “(D) *INNOVATIVE TECHNOLOGY PRIORITY.*—
25 *In reviewing conservation practice standards*

under this subsection, the Secretary shall
prioritize the review of interim conservation
practice standards and new conservation prac-
tice standards that integrate innovative tech-
nologies, including—

“(i) precision agriculture technologies;

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

“(iii) animal feed additives;

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

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

“(E) TRANSPARENCY.—The Secretary shall
make available on a public website a detailed de-
scription of the process for recommending, re-
viewing, and establishing interim conservation
practice standards and new conservation prac-
tice standards under this paragraph.”;

(4) in paragraph (4)—

(A) in the matter preceding subparagraph

(A)—

1 (i) by striking “Agriculture Improve-
 2 ment Act of 2018” and inserting “Farm,
 3 Food, and National Security Act of 2026”;
 4 and

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

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

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

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

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

14 “(D) any other information the Secretary
 15 determines useful to improve such streamlined
 16 process for reviewing and establishing conserva-
 17 tion practice standards.”; and

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

19 “(5) OFFICE OF CONSERVATION INNOVATION.—

20 “(A) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall es-
 21 tablish within the Office of the Chief of the Nat-
 22 ural Resources Conservation Service an Office of
 23 Conservation Innovation (referred to in this
 24 paragraph as the ‘Office’) which shall be under
 25 the direct supervision of the Chief.

1 “(B) *DUTIES.*—*The Office shall—*

2 “*(i) provide support to the Chief in*
3 *meeting the requirements of this subsection;*
4 *and*

5 “*(ii) encourage innovation in con-*
6 *servation practices through—*

7 “*(I) revisions of existing conserva-*
8 *tion practice standards;*

9 “*(II) recommendations of interim*
10 *conservation practice standards; and*

11 “*(III) recommendations of new*
12 *conservation practice standards.*

13 “(C) *STAFF.*—*The Chief shall detail to the*
14 *Office not more than 6 employees of the Depart-*
15 *ment of Agriculture who are technical specialists*
16 *that possess an understanding of conventional,*
17 *organic, and other production techniques, rep-*
18 *resenting—*

19 “*(i) agronomy and agroecology (in-*
20 *cluding soil health, biological nutrient*
21 *sources, and compatible cover cropping sys-*
22 *tems);*

23 “*(ii) grazing lands ecology (including*
24 *rangeland, pastureland, and grazed forest*
25 *land);*

1 “(iii) *animal husbandry (including*
2 *animal nutrition and feed management);*

3 “(iv) *water conservation, drainage*
4 *water management, and irrigation engi-*
5 *neering technology;*

6 “(v) *agricultural engineering (includ-*
7 *ing animal waste management, energy, and*
8 *structural measures); and*

9 “(vi) *forest ecology and agroforestry.*

10 “(6) *FUNDING.—The Secretary shall use funding*
11 *from the annual appropriations for conservation op-*
12 *erations of the Natural Resources Conservation Serv-*
13 *ice to carry out this subsection.”.*

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

17 “(j) *NRCS DIRECT HIRE AUTHORITY.—*

18 “(1) *IN GENERAL.—The Secretary may appoint,*
19 *without regard to the provisions of subchapter I of*
20 *chapter 33 of title 5, United States Code (other than*
21 *sections 3303 and 3328 of such title), qualified can-*
22 *didates, as described in paragraph (2), directly to po-*
23 *sitions within the Natural Resources Conservation*
24 *Service that provide technical assistance under con-*

1 *ervation programs administered by the Natural Re-*
 2 *sources Conservation Service.*

3 *“(2) QUALIFICATIONS.—Paragraph (1) applies*
 4 *to a candidate who—*

5 *“(A) is qualified to provide the technical as-*
 6 *sistance described in paragraph (1), as deter-*
 7 *mined by the Secretary; and*

8 *“(B) meets qualification standards estab-*
 9 *lished by the Office of Personnel Management.”.*

10 *(h) ADDRESSING BARRIERS TO WILDLIFE HABITAT*
 11 *CONNECTIVITY.—Section 1242 of the Food Security Act of*
 12 *1985 (16 U.S.C. 3842) is further amended by adding at*
 13 *the end the following:*

14 *“(k) ADDRESSING BARRIERS TO WILDLIFE HABITAT*
 15 *CONNECTIVITY.—*

16 *“(1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall—*

17 *“(A) to the maximum extent practicable,*
 18 *fully incorporate nonstructural methods to con-*
 19 *trol livestock distribution, such as virtual fenc-*
 20 *ing, into the conservation practice standards;*
 21 *and*

22 *“(B) provide for the appropriate range of*
 23 *conservation practices and resource mitigation*
 24 *measures available to landowners using non-*

1 *structural methods described in subparagraph*
 2 *(A).*

3 “(2) *AVAILABILITY OF ADEQUATE TECHNICAL AS-*
 4 *SISTANCE.—The Secretary shall ensure that adequate*
 5 *technical assistance is available for the implementa-*
 6 *tion of—*

7 “(A) *nonstructural methods described in*
 8 *paragraph (1)(A); and*

9 “(B) *other practices that support wildlife*
 10 *habitat connectivity through Federal conserva-*
 11 *tion programs.”.*

12 **SEC. 2503. ADMINISTRATIVE REQUIREMENTS FOR CON-**
 13 **SERVATION PROGRAMS.**

14 (a) *TENANT PROTECTIONS.—Section 1244(d) of the*
 15 *Food Security Act of 1985 (16 U.S.C. 3844(d)) is amended*
 16 *by striking “I.” and inserting “J.”.*

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

20 (1) *by amending paragraph (1) to read as fol-*
 21 *lows:*

22 “(1) *LIMITATION.—The Secretary shall not en-*
 23 *roll more than 25 percent of the cropland in any*
 24 *county in the conservation reserve program estab-*

lished under subchapter B of chapter 1 of subtitle D
and wetland reserve easements under section 1265C.”;

(2) in paragraph (2)—

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

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

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

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

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

(1) *IN GENERAL.*—Section 1244(j)(1) of the Flood
Security Act of 1985 (16 U.S.C. 3844(j)(1)) is amend-
ed—

(A) in the matter preceding subparagraph
(A), by striking “Not later than 1 year after the
date of enactment of the Agriculture Improve-
ment Act of 2018, and not later than October 1
of each year thereafter, the Secretary shall” and
inserting “The Secretary shall establish a process
under which the Secretary shall annually”;

1 (B) by amending subparagraph (A) to read
2 as follows:

3 “(A) review, with respect to each State, the
4 actual practice costs and rates of payments (or,
5 where actual practice costs and rates of pay-
6 ments are not available, estimates of such prac-
7 tice costs and rates) made to producers pursuant
8 to programs under this title for practices on eli-
9 gible land; and”; and

10 (C) in subparagraph (B)—

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

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

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

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

20 (iv) in clause (iv), as so redesignated,
21 by striking “regional, State, and” and in-
22 serting “State and”.

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

1 (A) in subparagraph (A), by striking “esti-
2 mates for”; and

3 (B) in subparagraph (B)—

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

6 (ii) by redesignating clause (ii) as
7 clause (iii);

8 (iii) by inserting after clause (i) the
9 following:

10 “(ii) monitoring for and identifying
11 significant variability in practice costs in
12 each year; and”; and

13 (iv) in clause (iii), as so redesignated,
14 by inserting “and, when appropriate,
15 adopting any recommendations made by
16 such State technical committee” after “that
17 State”.

18 (3) *EFFECT ON EXISTING CONTRACTS.*—Section
19 1244(j) of the Food Security Act of 1985 (16 U.S.C.
20 3844(j)) is amended by adding at the end the fol-
21 lowing:

22 “(3) *EFFECT ON EXISTING CONTRACTS.*—In
23 order to provide rates of payments that are commen-
24 surate with the costs of implementing practices pursu-
25 ant to programs under this title, the Secretary shall

1 *establish processes and procedures for updating rates*
 2 *of payments under a contract or agreement in effect*
 3 *under this title to reflect the appropriate practice*
 4 *costs and rates of payments determined under para-*
 5 *graph (2)(B) for the year in which the practice is im-*
 6 *plemented.”.*

7 (d) *SOURCE WATER PROTECTION THROUGH TAR-*
 8 *GETING OF AGRICULTURAL PRACTICES.*—Section 1244(n)
 9 *of the Food Security Act of 1985 (16 U.S.C. 3844(n)) is*
 10 *amended—*

11 (1) *in paragraph (2)—*

12 (A) *in subparagraph (A)—*

13 (i) *by redesignating clause (ii) as*
 14 *clause (iii);*

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

17 (iii) *by inserting after clause (i) the*
 18 *following:*

19 “(ii) *identify in each State a source*
 20 *water protection coordinator who shall be*
 21 *responsible for coordinating such collabora-*
 22 *tion with community water systems under*
 23 *this subsection; and”;* and

1 *(B) in subparagraph (B), by striking*
2 *“under subparagraph (A)(ii)” and inserting*
3 *“under subparagraph (A)(iii)”;* and
4 *(2) by adding at the end the following:*

5 *“(4) PUBLICLY AVAILABLE INFORMATION.—Be-*
6 *ginning on the date of enactment of the Farm, Food,*
7 *and National Security Act of 2026, the Secretary,*
8 *acting through the Chief of the Natural Resources*
9 *Conservation Service, shall make publicly available—*

10 *“(A) an annual report that details—*

11 *“(i) for each local priority area identi-*
12 *fied under paragraph (2)(A)(i)—*

13 *“(I) the conservation programs*
14 *under which assistance is provided*
15 *pursuant to paragraph (1);*

16 *“(II) the practices implemented*
17 *pursuant to paragraph (1); and*

18 *“(III) the number of contracts*
19 *and acres devoted to such practices;*

20 *“(ii) for each conservation program*
21 *administered by the Secretary—*

22 *“(I) the amount of funds obligated*
23 *and expended for practices imple-*
24 *mented pursuant to paragraph (1);*
25 *and*

1 “(II) information regarding the
 2 status of compliance with paragraph
 3 (3); and

4 “(iii) the practices, by State, that are
 5 receiving increased incentives and higher
 6 payment rates under paragraph (2)(A)(iii);
 7 and

8 “(B) through an interactive map, aggre-
 9 gated data detailed under subparagraph (A).”.

10 (e) *ENCOURAGEMENT OF HABITAT CONNECTIVITY AND*
 11 *WILDLIFE CORRIDORS.*—Section 1244 of the Food Security
 12 Act of 1985 (16 U.S.C. 3844) is amended by adding at the
 13 end the following:

14 “(q) *ENCOURAGEMENT OF HABITAT CONNECTIVITY*
 15 *AND WILDLIFE CORRIDORS.*—In carrying out any con-
 16 servation program administered by the Secretary, the Sec-
 17 retary may, as appropriate, encourage the use of conserva-
 18 tion practices that support the development, restoration,
 19 and maintenance of habitat connectivity and wildlife cor-
 20 ridors.”.

21 ***Subtitle G—Agricultural***
 22 ***Conservation Easement Program***

23 ***SEC. 2601. DEFINITIONS.***

24 Section 1265A of the Food Security Act of 1985 (16
 25 U.S.C. 3865a) is amended—

1 (1) *by striking paragraph (2);*

2 (2) *by redesignating paragraphs (3) through (7)*

3 *as paragraphs (2) through (6), respectively; and*

4 (3) *in paragraph (3)(A), as so redesignated, by*

5 *amending clause (i) to read as follows:*

6 “(i) *that is subject to a pending offer*

7 *for purchase of an agricultural land ease-*

8 *ment from an eligible entity;”.*

9 **SEC. 2602. AGRICULTURAL LAND EASEMENTS.**

10 (a) *AVAILABILITY OF ASSISTANCE.—Section 1265B(a)*

11 *of the Food Security Act of 1985 (16 U.S.C. 3865b) is*

12 *amended—*

13 (1) *in paragraph (1), by striking “in eligible*

14 *land;” and inserting “on eligible land; and”;*

15 (2) *in paragraph (2), by striking “(iv); and”*

16 *and inserting “(iii).”; and*

17 (3) *by striking paragraph (3).*

18 (b) *COST-SHARE ASSISTANCE.—*

19 (1) *SCOPE OF ASSISTANCE AVAILABLE.—Section*

20 *1265B(b)(2) of the Food Security Act of 1985 (16*

21 *U.S.C. 3865b(b)(2)) is amended—*

22 (A) *by amending subparagraph (A) to read*

23 *as follows:*

24 “(A) *FEDERAL SHARE.—*

1 “(i) *IN GENERAL.*—An agreement de-
 2 scribed in paragraph (4) shall provide for a
 3 Federal share determined by the Secretary
 4 of an amount not to exceed 65 percent of the
 5 fair market value of the agricultural land
 6 easement, as determined by the Secretary
 7 using—

8 “(I) *the Uniform Standards of*
 9 *Professional Appraisal Practice;*

10 “(II) *an areawide market anal-*
 11 *ysis or survey; or*

12 “(III) *another industry-approved*
 13 *method.*

14 “(ii) *SOCIALLY DISADVANTAGED FARM-*
 15 *ERS AND RANCHERS EXCEPTION.*—In the
 16 case of eligible land with respect to which a
 17 socially disadvantaged farmer or rancher
 18 holds an ownership interest of not less than
 19 50 percent, the Secretary may provide an
 20 amount not to exceed 90 percent of the fair
 21 market value of the agricultural land ease-
 22 ment.

23 “(iii) *GRASSLANDS EXCEPTION.*—In
 24 the case of grassland of special environ-
 25 mental significance, as determined by the

Secretary, the Secretary may provide an amount not to exceed 75 percent of the fair market value of the agricultural land easement.”;

(B) in subparagraph (B)—

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

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

(ii) by striking clause (ii);

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

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

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

“(C) *LOWER COST-SHARE OPTION.*—

“(i) *IN GENERAL.*—Notwithstanding paragraph (4)(C)(v), an eligible entity may

1 *elect to enter into an agreement under para-*
2 *graph (4) in which the terms and condi-*
3 *tions of an agricultural land easement*
4 *funded under the agreement do not include*
5 *a right of enforcement for the Secretary if*
6 *the eligible entity agrees to a Federal share*
7 *that does not exceed 25 percent of the fair*
8 *market value of the agricultural land ease-*
9 *ment, as determined by the Secretary under*
10 *subparagraph (A).*

11 “(ii) *MINIMUM TERMS AND CONDI-*
12 *TIONS.—Under an agreement described in*
13 *clause (i), an eligible entity shall be author-*
14 *ized to use its own terms and conditions for*
15 *agricultural land easements so long as the*
16 *Secretary determines such terms and condi-*
17 *tions—*

18 “(I) *are consistent with the pur-*
19 *poses of the program; and*

20 “(II) *permit effective enforcement*
21 *of the conservation purposes of such*
22 *easements.*

23 “(iii) *ENTITY ENFORCEMENT.—Under*
24 *an agreement described in clause (i), the*
25 *Secretary shall require the terms and condi-*

tions for the agricultural land easement to include a right of enforcement for the eligible entity.

“(iv) *CASH CONTRIBUTION*.—Under an agreement described in clause (i), the eligible entity shall provide cash resources in an amount that is not less than 50 percent of the fair market value of the agricultural land easement, as determined by the Secretary under subparagraph (A).”.

(2) *EVALUATION AND RANKING OF APPLICATIONS*.—Section 1265B(b)(3) of the Food Security Act of 1985 (16 U.S.C. 3865b(b)(3)) is amended by adding at the end the following:

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

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

1 (A) in subparagraph (C)—

2 (i) by striking clause (iii);

3 (ii) by redesignating clauses (iv) and
4 (v) as clauses (iii) and (iv), respectively;

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

7 (iv) in clause (iv), as so redesignated,
8 by striking the period at the end and insert-
9 ing “;”; and

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

11 “(v) include a right of enforcement for
12 the Secretary that—

13 “(I) may be used only if the terms
14 and conditions of the easement are not
15 enforced by the eligible entity; and

16 “(II) does not extend to a right of
17 inspection unless—

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

22 “(BB) the Secretary has a
23 reasonable and articulable belief
24 that the terms and conditions of

1 the easement have been violated;
2 and

3 “(bb) prior to the inspection,
4 the Secretary notifies the eligible
5 entity and the landowner of the
6 inspection and provides a reason-
7 able opportunity for the eligible
8 entity and the landowner to par-
9 ticipate in the inspection; and

10 “(vi) include a right of the Secretary
11 to require the transfer of the easement to a
12 different eligible entity if the eligible entity
13 that holds the easement ceases to exist or is
14 no longer eligible to participate in the pro-
15 gram, as determined by the Secretary.”;
16 and

17 (B) in subparagraph (D)—

18 (i) in clause (ii)—

19 (I) in subclause (I)(ff), by striking
20 “(v)” and inserting “(iv)”;

21 (II) in subclause (II), by striking
22 the “and” at the end;

23 (ii) in subclause (iii), by striking the
24 period at the end and inserting “; and”;
25 and

1 (iii) by inserting at the end the fol-
2 lowing:

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

6 (4) CERTIFICATION OF ELIGIBLE ENTITIES.—
7 Section 1265B(b)(5) of the Food Security Act of 1985
8 (16 U.S.C. 3865b(b)(5)) is amended—

9 (A) in subparagraph (A)—

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

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

20 (B) in subparagraph (B)—

21 (i) in clause (ii)—

22 (I) in subclause (II), by striking
23 “10” and inserting “5”; and

24 (II) in subclause (III), by striking
25 the “or” at the end;

1 (ii) in clause (iii)—

2 (I) in subclause (I), by striking

3 “10” and inserting “5”; and

4 (II) in subclause (II), by striking

5 the period at the end and inserting “;

6 or”;

7 (iii) by adding at the end the fol-

8 lowing:

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

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

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

23 (C) in subparagraph (C)—

1 (i) in the header, by striking “*REVIEW*
2 *AND REVISION*” and inserting “*REVIEW AND*
3 *REVOCATION*”;

4 (ii) in the header of clause (i) by strik-
5 ing “*REVIEW*” and inserting “*CERTIFIED*
6 *ENTITY REVIEW*”; and

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

9 “(iii) *EASEMENT REVIEW*.—The Sec-
10 retary shall establish and conduct an an-
11 nual quality review process to—

12 “(I) review a sample set of ease-
13 ments acquired by certified eligible en-
14 tities;

15 “(II) ensure the integrity of the
16 easement acquisition process under this
17 section;

18 “(III) establish and enforce a
19 process for corrective actions; and

20 “(IV) provide for a waiver of suc-
21 cessive easement reviews based on dem-
22 onstrated compliance.”.

23 **SEC. 2603. WETLAND RESERVE EASEMENTS.**

24 (a) *EASEMENTS*.—Section 1265C(b) of the Food Secu-
25 rity Act of 1985 (16 U.S.C. 3865c(b)) is amended—

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

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

6 “(D) *POOLING OF APPLICATIONS.*—The Sec-
 7 retary may evaluate and rank offers from land-
 8 owners who are socially disadvantaged farmers
 9 or ranchers separately from offers from other
 10 landowners.”.

11 (b) *EASEMENT RESTORATION.*—Section 1265C(c)(1) of
 12 the Food Security Act of 1985 (16 U.S.C. 3865c(c)(1)) is
 13 amended by striking “subsection (f)” and inserting “sub-
 14 section (g)”.

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

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

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

21 “(d) *EASEMENT STEWARDSHIP.*—

22 “(1) *IN GENERAL.*—The Secretary shall provide
 23 financial assistance to owners of eligible land enrolled
 24 under this section for the repair, necessary mainte-
 25 nance, and enhancement activities described in the

1 *wetland reserve easement plan developed for the eligi-*
2 *ble land under subsection (g)(1).*

3 *“(2) EVALUATION OF STEWARDSHIP NEED.—The*
4 *Secretary shall—*

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

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

16 *“(i) prioritizing and addressing the*
17 *needs identified under subparagraph (A);*
18 *and*

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

22 *“(C) establish a 5-year schedule to address*
23 *such needs.*

24 *“(3) PAYMENTS.—In carrying out paragraph*
25 *(1), the Secretary shall make payments in an amount*

1 *that is not more than 100 percent of the eligible costs,*
2 *as determined by the Secretary.*

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

10 “(A) *an inventory of the existing steward-*
11 *ship needs of all wetland reserve easements, based*
12 *on the assessments carried out under paragraph*
13 *(2);*

14 “(B) *the stewardship strategy created under*
15 *paragraph (2)(B);*

16 “(C) *the amounts the Secretary plans to al-*
17 *locate to address such stewardship needs, based*
18 *on projections made pursuant to paragraph*
19 *(2)(B)(ii); and*

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

1 (d) *ASSISTANCE*.—Subsection (e) of section 1265C of
 2 the Food Security Act of 1985 (16 U.S.C. 3865c), as so re-
 3 designated, 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 moni-
 14 toring of a wetland reserve easement if the Secretary
 15 determines that the contract or agreement will ad-
 16 vance 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 amended—

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

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

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

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

4 **SEC. 2604. ADMINISTRATION.**

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

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

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

12 “(A) *MODIFICATION.*—

13 “(i) *AUTHORITY.*—*The Secretary may*
 14 *approve a modification of any interest in*
 15 *land, or portion of such interest, adminis-*
 16 *tered by the Secretary, either directly or on*
 17 *behalf of the Commodity Credit Corpora-*
 18 *tion, under the program if the Secretary de-*
 19 *termines that the modification—*

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

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 of
9 the program, including correcting er-
10 rors, exercising reserved rights, and in-
11 creasing flexibility to recognize changes
12 in water availability or administra-
13 tion.

14 “(ii) *LIMITATION.*—In modifying an
15 interest in land, or portion of such interest,
16 under this subparagraph, the Secretary may
17 not, except in the case of a modification
18 that includes a change to an easement to
19 add acreage, increase any payment to an el-
20 igible 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 En-

1 *vironmental Policy Act of 1969 (42 U.S.C.*
2 *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 on*
8 *behalf of the Commodity Credit Corpora-*
9 *tion, under the program if the Secretary de-*
10 *termines that—*

11 “(I) *no reasonable alternative ex-*
12 *ists and the effect on the interest in*
13 *land is avoided or minimized to the ex-*
14 *tent 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 interest
2 or furthers the practical adminis-
3 tration of the program.

4 “(ii) *LIMITATION.*—In exchanging an
5 interest in land, or portion of such interest,
6 under this subparagraph, the Secretary may
7 not increase any payment to an eligible en-
8 tity.”; 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 TERMS*
16 *AND CONDITIONS.—An eligible entity shall be author-*
17 *ized to modify a term or condition of an agricultural*
18 *land easement that is the subject of an agreement en-*
19 *tered into under section 1265B(b)(4)(A) if such modi-*
20 *fication does not conflict with any minimum term or*
21 *condition required by the Secretary under such sec-*
22 *tion.”.*

23 *(b) ADJUSTED GROSS INCOME.—*

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

4 “(f) *ADJUSTED GROSS INCOME EXEMPTION.*—The ad-
 5 justed gross income limitation described in section
 6 1001D(b)(1) shall not apply to any payment or other assist-
 7 ance 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 adjusted
 13 gross income of a person or legal entity that is a
 14 landowner of eligible land (as defined in section
 15 1265A) shall not include any income received as com-
 16 pensation for the acquisition of an agricultural land
 17 easement or a wetland reserve easement on that eligi-
 18 ble 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 U.S.C.
 23 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. 3865
2 *et seq.*) the following:

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

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

6 “(a) *ESTABLISHMENT.*—The Secretary shall establish
7 a forest conservation easement program for the conservation
8 and restoration of eligible land and natural resources
9 through the acquisition of conservation easements or other
10 interests in land.

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

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

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

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

21 “(4) to carry out the purposes and functions of
22 the healthy forests reserve program established under
23 title V of the Healthy Forests Restoration Act of 2003
24 (16 U.S.C. 6571 *et seq.*), as in effect on the day before
25 the date of enactment of this section.

1 **“SEC. 1267A. DEFINITIONS.**

2 *“In this subtitle:*

3 *“(1) ACREAGE OWNED BY AN INDIAN TRIBE.—*

4 *The term ‘acreage owned by an Indian Tribe’*
5 *means—*

6 *“(A) land that is held in trust by the*
7 *United States for Indian Tribes or individual*
8 *Indians;*

9 *“(B) land, the title to which is held by In-*
10 *dian Tribes or individual Indians subject to*
11 *Federal restrictions against alienation or encum-*
12 *brance;*

13 *“(C) land that is subject to rights of use, oc-*
14 *cupancy, and benefit of certain Indian Tribes;*

15 *“(D) land that is held in fee title by an In-*
16 *dian Tribe;*

17 *“(E) land that is owned by a native cor-*
18 *poration formed under—*

19 *“(i) section 17 of the Act of June 18,*
20 *1934 (commonly known as the ‘Indian Re-*
21 *organization Act’) (25 U.S.C. 5124); or*

22 *“(ii) section 8 of the Alaska Native*
23 *Claims Settlement Act (43 U.S.C. 1607);*
24 *and*

1 “(F) a combination of 1 or more types of
 2 land described in subparagraphs (A) through
 3 (E).

4 “(2) *ELIGIBLE ENTITY*.—The term ‘eligible enti-
 5 ty’ means—

6 “(A) an agency of State or local government
 7 or an Indian Tribe (including a land resource
 8 council established under State law); or

9 “(B) an organization that is—

10 “(i) organized for, and at all times
 11 since the formation of the organization has
 12 been operated principally for, 1 or more of
 13 the conservation purposes specified in clause
 14 (i), (ii), (iii), or (iv) of section 170(h)(4)(A)
 15 of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986;

16 “(ii) an organization described in sec-
 17 tion 501(c)(3) of that Code that is exempt
 18 from taxation under section 501(a) of that
 19 Code; or

20 “(iii) described in—

21 “(I) paragraph (1) or (2) of sec-
 22 tion 509(a) of that Code; or

23 “(II) section 509(a)(3) of that
 24 Code and is controlled by an organiza-

1 *tion described in section 509(a)(2) of*
2 *that Code.*

3 “(3) *ELIGIBLE LAND.*—*The term ‘eligible land’*
4 *means private land or acreage owned by an Indian*
5 *Tribe—*

6 “(A) *that is—*

7 “(i) *forest land; or*

8 “(ii) *being restored to forest land;*

9 “(B) *in the case of a forest land easement—*

10 “(i) *the enrollment of which would pro-*
11 *tect working forests and related conservation*
12 *values by conserving land; or*

13 “(ii) *the protection of which will fur-*
14 *ther a State or local policy consistent with*
15 *the purposes of the program; and*

16 “(C) *in the case of a forest reserve easement,*
17 *the enrollment of which will maintain, restore,*
18 *enhance, or otherwise measurably—*

19 “(i) *increase the likelihood of recovery*
20 *of a species that is listed as endangered or*
21 *threatened under section 4 of the Endan-*
22 *gered Species Act of 1973 (16 U.S.C. 1533);*
23 *or*

24 “(ii) *improve the well-being of a spe-*
25 *cies that is—*

1 “(I) not listed as endangered or
2 threatened under that section; and

3 “(II)(aa) a candidate for that list-
4 ing, a State-listed species, or a special
5 concern species; or

6 “(bb) designated as a species of
7 greatest conservation need by a State
8 wildlife action plan.

9 “(4) *FOREST LAND EASEMENT*.—The term ‘forest
10 land easement’ means an easement or other interest
11 in eligible land that—

12 “(A) is conveyed to an eligible entity for the
13 purpose of protecting natural resources and the
14 forest nature of the eligible land; and

15 “(B) permits the landowner the right to
16 continue working forest production and related
17 uses, consistent with an applicable forest man-
18 agement plan.

19 “(5) *FOREST MANAGEMENT PLAN*.—The term
20 ‘forest management plan’ means—

21 “(A) a forest stewardship plan described in
22 section 5(f) of the Cooperative Forestry Assist-
23 ance Act of 1978 (16 U.S.C. 2103a(f));

24 “(B) another plan approved by the applica-
25 ble State forester or State forestry agency;

1 “(C) a plan developed under a third-party
2 certification system determined appropriate by
3 the Secretary; or

4 “(D) another plan determined appropriate
5 by the Secretary.

6 “(6) *FOREST RESERVE EASEMENT*.—The term
7 ‘forest reserve easement’ means an easement or other
8 interest in eligible land that—

9 “(A) is conveyed to the Secretary for the
10 purpose of protecting natural resources and the
11 forest nature of the eligible land; and

12 “(B) permits the landowner the right to
13 continue working forest production and related
14 uses consistent with the applicable forest reserve
15 easement plan developed under section
16 1267C(c)(1)(A).

17 “(7) *PROGRAM*.—The term ‘program’ means the
18 forest conservation easement program established
19 under this subtitle.

20 “(8) *SOCIALLY DISADVANTAGED FOREST LAND-*
21 *OWNER*.—The term ‘socially disadvantaged forest
22 landowner’ means a forest landowner who is a mem-
23 ber of a socially disadvantaged group (as defined in
24 section 2501(a) of the Food, Agriculture, Conserva-
25 tion, and Trade Act of 1990 (7 U.S.C. 2279(a))).

1 **“SEC. 1267B. FOREST LAND EASEMENTS.**

2 “(a) *AVAILABILITY OF ASSISTANCE.—The Secretary*
3 *shall facilitate and provide funding for—*

4 “(1) *the purchase by eligible entities of forest*
5 *land easements on eligible land;*

6 “(2) *the development of a forest management*
7 *plan; and*

8 “(3) *technical assistance to implement this sec-*
9 *tion.*

10 **“(b) *COST-SHARE ASSISTANCE.—***

11 “(1) *IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall protect*
12 *working forests, and related conservation values of eli-*
13 *gible land, through cost-share assistance to eligible en-*
14 *tities for purchasing forest land easements.*

15 **“(2) *SCOPE OF ASSISTANCE AVAILABLE.—***

16 **“(A) *FEDERAL SHARE.—***

17 “(i) *IN GENERAL.—Except as provided*
18 *in clause (ii), an agreement described in*
19 *paragraph (4) shall provide for a Federal*
20 *share of 50 percent of the fair market value*
21 *of the forest land easement, as determined*
22 *by the Secretary.*

23 “(ii) *EXCEPTION.—An agreement de-*
24 *scribed in paragraph (4) may provide for a*
25 *Federal share of not more than 75 percent*
26 *of the fair market value of a forest land*

1 *easement in the case of eligible land that*
2 *is—*

3 *“(I) a forest of special environ-*
4 *mental significance, as determined by*
5 *the Secretary; or*

6 *“(II) owned by a socially dis-*
7 *advantaged forest landowner.*

8 *“(B) NON-FEDERAL SHARE.—*

9 *“(i) IN GENERAL.—Under an agree-*
10 *ment described in paragraph (4), the eligi-*
11 *ble entity shall provide a non-Federal share*
12 *that is equivalent to the remainder of the*
13 *fair market value of the forest land ease-*
14 *ment not provided by the Secretary under*
15 *subparagraph (A).*

16 *“(ii) PERMISSIBLE FORMS.—The non-*
17 *Federal share provided by an eligible entity*
18 *under this paragraph may comprise—*

19 *“(I) cash resources;*

20 *“(II) a charitable donation or*
21 *qualified conservation contribution (as*
22 *defined in section 170(h) of the Inter-*
23 *nal Revenue Code of 1986) from the*
24 *private forest landowner from which*

1 *the forest land easement will be pur-*
2 *chased;*

3 *“(III) costs associated with secur-*
4 *ing a deed to the forest land easement,*
5 *including the cost of appraisal, survey,*
6 *inspection, and title; and*

7 *“(IV) other costs, as determined*
8 *by the Secretary.*

9 *“(C) DETERMINATION OF FAIR MARKET*
10 *VALUE.—For purposes of this paragraph, the*
11 *Secretary shall determine the fair market value*
12 *of a forest land easement using—*

13 *“(i) the Uniform Standards of Profes-*
14 *sional Appraisal Practice;*

15 *“(ii) an areawide market analysis or*
16 *survey; or*

17 *“(iii) another industry-approved meth-*
18 *od.*

19 *“(3) EVALUATION AND RANKING OF APPLICA-*
20 *TIONS.—*

21 *“(A) CRITERIA.—The Secretary shall estab-*
22 *lish evaluation and ranking criteria to maximize*
23 *the benefit of Federal investment under the pro-*
24 *gram.*

1 “(B) *PRIORITY.*—*In evaluating applica-*
2 *tions under the program, the Secretary shall give*
3 *priority to an application for the purchase of a*
4 *forest land easement—*

5 “(i) *that maintains the viability of a*
6 *working forest, as determined by the Sec-*
7 *retary; and*

8 “(ii) *on eligible land for which a forest*
9 *management plan has been developed at the*
10 *time of application.*

11 “(C) *CONSIDERATIONS.*—*In establishing the*
12 *criteria under subparagraph (A), the Secretary*
13 *shall emphasize support for—*

14 “(i) *protecting working forests and re-*
15 *lated conservation values of eligible land;*

16 “(ii) *reducing fragmentation of forest*
17 *land; and*

18 “(iii) *maximizing the areas protected*
19 *from conversion to nonforest uses.*

20 “(4) *AGREEMENTS WITH ELIGIBLE ENTITIES.*—

21 “(A) *IN GENERAL.*—*The Secretary shall*
22 *enter into agreements with eligible entities to*
23 *stipulate the terms and conditions under which*
24 *the eligible entity is permitted to use cost-share*
25 *assistance provided under this section.*

1 “(B) *LENGTH OF AGREEMENTS.*—An agree-
 2 ment under subparagraph (A) shall be for a term
 3 that is not less than 3, but not more than 5,
 4 years, unless the Secretary determines that a
 5 longer term is justified.

6 “(C) *MINIMUM TERMS AND CONDITIONS.*—
 7 An eligible entity shall be authorized to use its
 8 own terms and conditions for forest land ease-
 9 ments so long as the Secretary determines such
 10 terms and conditions—

11 “(i) are consistent with—

12 “(I) the purposes of the program;

13 and

14 “(II) the forestry activities to be
 15 conducted on the eligible land;

16 “(ii) permit effective enforcement of the
 17 conservation purposes of the forest land
 18 easements;

19 “(iii) include a requirement to imple-
 20 ment a forest management plan on eligible
 21 land subject to a forest land easement;

22 “(iv) include a limit on the impervious
 23 surfaces to be allowed that is consistent with
 24 the forestry activities to be conducted; and

1 “(v) include a right of enforcement for
2 the Secretary that—

3 “(I) may be used only if the terms
4 and conditions of the forest land ease-
5 ment are not enforced by the eligible
6 entity; and

7 “(II) does not extend to a right of
8 inspection unless—

9 “(aa)(AA) the holder of the
10 forest land easement fails to pro-
11 vide monitoring reports in a time-
12 ly manner; or

13 “(BB) the Secretary has a
14 reasonable and articulable belief
15 that the terms and conditions of
16 the forest land easement have been
17 violated; and

18 “(bb) prior to the inspection,
19 the Secretary notifies the eligible
20 entity and the landowner of the
21 inspection and provides a reason-
22 able opportunity for the eligible
23 entity and the landowner to par-
24 ticipate in the inspection.

1 “(D) *ADDITIONAL PERMITTED TERMS AND*
2 *CONDITIONS.—An eligible entity may include*
3 *terms and conditions for a forest land easement*
4 *that—*

5 “(i) *are intended to keep the eligible*
6 *land subject to the forest land easement in*
7 *active forest management, as determined by*
8 *the Secretary;*

9 “(ii) *allow subsurface mineral develop-*
10 *ment on the eligible land subject to the for-*
11 *est land easement and in accordance with*
12 *applicable State law if, as determined by*
13 *the Secretary—*

14 “(I) *the subsurface mineral devel-*
15 *opment—*

16 “(aa) *has a limited and lo-*
17 *calized impact;*

18 “(bb) *does not harm the for-*
19 *est use and conservation values of*
20 *the eligible land subject to the for-*
21 *est land easement;*

22 “(cc) *does not materially*
23 *alter or affect the existing topog-*
24 *raphy;*

1 “(dd) complies with a sub-
2 surface mineral development plan
3 that—

4 “(AA) includes a plan
5 for the remediation of im-
6 pacts to the forest use and
7 conservation values of the eli-
8 gible land subject to the forest
9 land easement; and

10 “(BB) is approved by
11 the Secretary prior to the
12 initiation of mineral develop-
13 ment activity;

14 “(ee) is not accomplished by
15 any surface mining method;

16 “(ff) is within the impervious
17 surface limits of the forest land
18 easement under subparagraph
19 (C)(iv); and

20 “(gg) uses practices and tech-
21 nologies that minimize the dura-
22 tion and intensity of impacts to
23 the forest use and conservation
24 values of the eligible land subject
25 to the forest land easement; and

1 “(II) *each area impacted by the*
2 *subsurface mineral development is re-*
3 *claimed and restored by the holder of*
4 *the mineral rights at cessation of oper-*
5 *ation; and*

6 “(iii) *include other relevant activities*
7 *relating to the forest land easement, as de-*
8 *termined by the Secretary.*

9 “(E) SUBSTITUTION OF QUALIFIED
10 PROJECTS.—*An agreement under subparagraph*
11 *(A) shall allow, upon mutual agreement of the*
12 *parties, substitution of qualified projects that are*
13 *identified at the time of the proposed substi-*
14 *tution.*

15 “(F) EFFECT OF VIOLATION.—*If a violation*
16 *of a term or condition of an agreement under*
17 *subparagraph (A) occurs—*

18 “(i) *the Secretary may terminate the*
19 *agreement; and*

20 “(ii) *the Secretary may require the eli-*
21 *gible entity to refund all or part of any*
22 *payments received by the eligible entity*
23 *under the program, with interest on the*
24 *payments as determined appropriate by the*
25 *Secretary.*

1 “(5) *FOREST MANAGEMENT PLAN.*—

2 “(A) *IN GENERAL.*—*If the eligible land does*
 3 *not have a forest management plan at the time*
 4 *of application, prior to the acquisition of the for-*
 5 *est land easement the landowner shall develop, in*
 6 *partnership with the eligible entity, a forest*
 7 *management plan for the land subject to the for-*
 8 *est land easement.*

9 “(B) *REIMBURSEMENT.*—*The Secretary*
 10 *may reimburse the landowner for the cost of the*
 11 *development of a forest management plan for eli-*
 12 *gible land enrolled under this section.*

13 “(c) *METHOD OF ENROLLMENT.*—*The Secretary shall*
 14 *enroll eligible land under this section through the use of—*

15 “(1) *permanent easements; or*

16 “(2) *easements for the maximum duration al-*
 17 *lowed under applicable State laws.*

18 “(d) *TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE.*—*The Secretary may*
 19 *provide technical assistance, on request, to assist in compli-*
 20 *ance with the terms and conditions of forest land easements.*

21 **“SEC. 1267C. FOREST RESERVE EASEMENTS.**

22 “(a) *AVAILABILITY OF ASSISTANCE.*—*The Secretary*
 23 *shall provide assistance to owners of eligible land to restore,*
 24 *protect, and enhance eligible land through—*

1 “(1) *forest reserve easements and related forest*
2 *reserve easement plans; and*

3 “(2) *technical assistance to implement this sec-*
4 *tion.*

5 “(b) *EASEMENTS.—*

6 “(1) *METHOD OF ENROLLMENT.—*

7 “(A) *AUTHORIZED METHODS.—The Sec-*
8 *retary shall enroll eligible land under this sec-*
9 *tion—*

10 “(i) *through the use of—*

11 “(I) *permanent easements;*

12 “(II) *30-year easements; and*

13 “(III) *easements for the maximum*
14 *duration allowed under applicable*
15 *State laws; and*

16 “(ii) *in the case of acreage owned by*
17 *an Indian Tribe, through the use of—*

18 “(I) *30-year contracts (the com-*
19 *ensation for which shall be equivalent*
20 *to the compensation for 30-year ease-*
21 *ments); or*

22 “(II) *permanent easements.*

23 “(B) *LIMITATION.—Not more than 10 per-*
24 *cent of amounts made available to carry out this*

1 *section in a fiscal year may be used for 30-year*
2 *easements under this section.*

3 “(2) *EVALUATION AND RANKING OF OFFERS.—*

4 “(A) *CRITERIA.—The Secretary shall estab-*
5 *lish evaluation and ranking criteria for offers*
6 *from landowners under this section.*

7 “(B) *PRIORITY.—The Secretary shall give*
8 *priority to the enrollment of eligible land under*
9 *this section that provides the greatest conserva-*
10 *tion benefit to—*

11 “(i) *primarily, species listed as endan-*
12 *gered or threatened under section 4 of the*
13 *Endangered Species Act of 1973 (16 U.S.C.*
14 *1533); and*

15 “(ii) *secondarily, species that are—*

16 “(I) *not listed as endangered or*
17 *threatened under that section; and*

18 “(II)(aa) *candidates for that list-*
19 *ing, State-listed species, or special con-*
20 *cern species; or*

21 “(bb) *designated as species of*
22 *greatest conservation need by a State*
23 *wildlife action plan.*

24 “(C) *OTHER CONSIDERATIONS.—The Sec-*
25 *retary may give additional consideration to eli-*

1 *gible land the enrollment under this section of*
2 *which will—*

3 *“(i) improve biological diversity;*

4 *“(ii) restore native forest ecosystems;*

5 *“(iii) conserve forest land that provides*
6 *habitat for species described in subpara-*
7 *graph (B);*

8 *“(iv) reduce fragmentation of forest*
9 *land; and*

10 *“(v) increase carbon sequestration.*

11 *“(3) TERMS AND CONDITIONS OF EASEMENTS.—*

12 *“(A) IN GENERAL.—A forest reserve ease-*
13 *ment shall include terms and conditions that—*

14 *“(i) are consistent with the purposes of*
15 *the program and the forestry activities to be*
16 *conducted on the eligible land;*

17 *“(ii) are consistent with the manage-*
18 *ment objectives of the owner of the eligible*
19 *land and the implementation of the forest*
20 *reserve easement plan developed under sub-*
21 *section (c)(1)(A);*

22 *“(iii) permit effective enforcement of*
23 *the conservation purposes of the forest re-*
24 *serve easements;*

1 “(iv) provide for the efficient and effec-
 2 tive establishment or enhancement of forest
 3 ecosystem functions and values; and

4 “(v) include such additional provisions
 5 as the Secretary determines are desirable to
 6 carry out the program or facilitate the
 7 practical administration of the program.

8 “(B) REQUESTED TERMS AND CONDI-
 9 TIONS.—An owner of eligible land may request
 10 that a term or condition be included in a forest
 11 reserve easement, and the Secretary may include
 12 such term or condition, if it—

13 “(i) is consistent with the management
 14 objectives of the owner of the eligible land
 15 and the implementation of the forest reserve
 16 easement plan developed under subsection
 17 (c)(1)(A); and

18 “(ii) does not conflict with any terms
 19 or conditions included under subparagraph
 20 (A).

21 “(4) COMPENSATION.—

22 “(A) PERMANENT EASEMENTS.—In the case
 23 of eligible land enrolled in a permanent easement
 24 under this section, the Secretary shall pay the
 25 owner of the eligible land an amount equal to the

1 *difference between, as determined by the Sec-*
2 *retary—*

3 “(i) *the fair market value of the eligi-*
4 *ble land before the enrollment in the perma-*
5 *nent easement; and*

6 “(ii) *the fair market value of the eligi-*
7 *ble land as encumbered by the permanent*
8 *easement.*

9 “(B) *OTHER.—The Secretary shall pay the*
10 *owner of eligible land enrolled under this section*
11 *in a 30-year contract, a 30-year easement, or an*
12 *easement for the maximum duration allowed*
13 *under applicable State laws, not less than 50*
14 *percent, and not more than 75 percent, of the*
15 *compensation that would be paid under subpara-*
16 *graph (A) if the land were being enrolled in a*
17 *permanent easement.*

18 “(C) *DETERMINATION OF FAIR MARKET*
19 *VALUE.—The Secretary shall determine the fair*
20 *market value of eligible land for purposes of this*
21 *paragraph using the Uniform Standards of Pro-*
22 *fessional Appraisal Practice or another industry-*
23 *approved method.*

24 “(c) *EASEMENT RESTORATION AND MANAGEMENT.—*

25 “(1) *FOREST RESERVE EASEMENT PLAN.—*

1 “(A) *IN GENERAL.*—Land enrolled in a for-
2 est reserve easement shall be subject to a forest
3 reserve easement plan, to be developed jointly by
4 the landowner and the Secretary, that describes
5 such activities to be carried out on the land as
6 are necessary to restore, maintain, and enhance
7 habitat for species described in subsection
8 (b)(2)(B).

9 “(B) *PRACTICES AND MEASURES.*—A forest
10 reserve easement plan developed under subpara-
11 graph (A) shall require implementation of such
12 practices and measures as are necessary to ac-
13 complish the activities described in the plan
14 under such subparagraph, which may include—

15 “(i) vegetative management and
16 silviculture practices;

17 “(ii) structural practices and meas-
18 ures;

19 “(iii) practices to increase carbon se-
20 questration;

21 “(iv) practices to improve biological
22 diversity; and

23 “(v) other practices and measures, as
24 determined by the Secretary.

25 “(2) *FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE.*—

1 “(A) *IN GENERAL.*—The Secretary shall
2 provide financial assistance to owners of eligible
3 land to carry out the activities, practices, and
4 measures described in the forest reserve easement
5 plan developed for the eligible land under para-
6 graph (1).

7 “(B) *PAYMENTS.*—With respect to financial
8 assistance provided under subparagraph (A), the
9 Secretary shall pay—

10 “(i) in the case of a forest reserve ease-
11 ment plan for eligible land enrolled in a
12 permanent easement, an amount that is not
13 more than 100 percent of the eligible costs
14 described in subparagraph (C), as deter-
15 mined by the Secretary; and

16 “(ii) in the case of a forest reserve ease-
17 ment plan for eligible land enrolled in a 30-
18 year contract, a 30-year easement, or an
19 easement for the maximum duration al-
20 lowed under applicable State laws, an
21 amount that is not less than 50 percent,
22 and not more than 75 percent, of the eligi-
23 ble costs described in subparagraph (C), as
24 determined by the Secretary.

1 “(C) *ELIGIBLE COSTS.*—Costs eligible for
2 payments under this paragraph are the costs of
3 activities, practices, and measures referred to in
4 subparagraph (A) that are associated with the
5 restoration or enhancement of the habitat condi-
6 tions specified for the applicable species in the
7 forest reserve easement plan.

8 “(D) *TIMING OF PAYMENTS.*—Payments
9 under this paragraph shall be made—

10 “(i) only on a determination by the
11 Secretary that an activity, practice, or
12 measure described in subparagraph (C) has
13 been established in compliance with appro-
14 priate standards and specifications, which
15 determination shall be made as soon as
16 practicable after establishment; and

17 “(ii) as soon as possible after such de-
18 termination is made.

19 “(E) *LIMITATIONS.*—Financial assistance
20 provided by the Secretary under this paragraph
21 to an owner of eligible land may not exceed
22 \$500,000 per easement or contract.

23 “(d) *TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE.*—

1 “(1) *IN GENERAL.*—*The Secretary shall provide*
2 *to owners of eligible land technical assistance to assist*
3 *the owners in—*

4 “(A) *developing a forest reserve easement*
5 *plan; and*

6 “(B) *complying with the terms and condi-*
7 *tions of a forest reserve easement, including the*
8 *implementation of a forest reserve easement plan.*

9 “(2) *CONTRACTS OR AGREEMENTS.*—*The Sec-*
10 *retary may enter into 1 or more contracts with pri-*
11 *vate entities or agreements with a State, nongovern-*
12 *mental organization, or Indian Tribe to provide tech-*
13 *nical assistance described in paragraph (1), if the*
14 *Secretary determines that the contract or agreement*
15 *will advance the purposes of the program.*

16 “(e) *PROTECTIONS AND MEASURES.*—

17 “(1) *PROTECTIONS.*—*In the case of a landowner*
18 *who enrolls eligible land in a forest reserve easement,*
19 *and whose conservation activities under the forest re-*
20 *serve easement plan developed for such land result in*
21 *a net conservation benefit for a species described in*
22 *subsection (b)(2)(B), the Secretary shall make avail-*
23 *able to the landowner safe harbor or similar assur-*
24 *ances and protection under—*

1 “(A) section 7(b)(4) of the *Endangered Spe-*
 2 *cies Act of 1973 (16 U.S.C. 1536(b)(4))*; or

3 “(B) section 10(a)(1) of that Act (16 U.S.C.
 4 1539(a)(1)).

5 “(2) *MEASURES*.—If protection under paragraph
 6 (1) requires the taking of measures that are in addi-
 7 tion to the measures covered by the forest reserve ease-
 8 ment plan developed for the eligible land, the cost of
 9 the additional measures, and the cost of any permit,
 10 shall be considered costs eligible for payments under
 11 subsection (c)(2).

12 “(f) *ADMINISTRATION*.—

13 “(1) *DELEGATION OF EASEMENT ADMINISTRA-*
 14 *TION*.—

15 “(A) *FEDERAL AND STATE AGENCIES*.—The
 16 Secretary may delegate any of the management,
 17 monitoring, and enforcement responsibilities of
 18 the Secretary under this section to other Federal
 19 or State agencies that have the appropriate au-
 20 thority, expertise, and resources necessary to
 21 carry out those delegated responsibilities.

22 “(B) *CONSERVATION ORGANIZATIONS*.—The
 23 Secretary may delegate any of the management
 24 responsibilities of the Secretary under this sec-
 25 tion to a nonprofit conservation organization if

1 *the Secretary determines the organization has*
 2 *the appropriate expertise and resources necessary*
 3 *to carry out those delegated responsibilities.*

4 “(2) *INVOLVEMENT BY OTHER AGENCIES AND OR-*
 5 *GANIZATIONS.—In carrying out this section, the Sec-*
 6 *retary may consult with—*

7 “(A) *private forest landowners;*

8 “(B) *other Federal agencies;*

9 “(C) *State forestry agencies;*

10 “(D) *State fish and wildlife agencies;*

11 “(E) *State environmental quality agencies;*

12 “(F) *other State conservation agencies; and*

13 “(G) *nonprofit conservation organizations.*

14 **“SEC. 1267D. ADMINISTRATION.**

15 “(a) *INELIGIBLE LAND.—The Secretary shall not use*
 16 *amounts made available to carry out the program for the*
 17 *purposes of acquiring an easement on—*

18 “(1) *land owned by a Federal agency, other than*
 19 *such land that is acreage owned by an Indian Tribe;*

20 “(2) *land owned in fee title by a State, including*
 21 *an agency or a subdivision of a State, or a unit of*
 22 *local government;*

23 “(3) *land subject to an easement or deed restric-*
 24 *tion that, as determined by the Secretary, provides*

1 *similar protection as would be provided by enrollment*
 2 *in the program; or*

3 “(4) *land the enrollment in the program of*
 4 *which would undermine the purposes of the program*
 5 *due to on-site or off-site conditions, such as risk of*
 6 *hazardous substances, permitted or existing rights of*
 7 *way, infrastructure development, or adjacent land*
 8 *uses.*

9 “(b) *SUBORDINATION, EXCHANGE, MODIFICATION, AND*
 10 *TERMINATION.—*

11 “(1) *SUBORDINATION.—The Secretary may sub-*
 12 *ordinate any interest in eligible land, or portion of*
 13 *such an interest, administered by the Secretary (in-*
 14 *cluding for the purposes of utilities and energy trans-*
 15 *mission services) directly or on behalf of the Com-*
 16 *modity Credit Corporation under the program if the*
 17 *Secretary determines that the subordination—*

18 “(A) *increases conservation values or has a*
 19 *limited negative effect on conservation values;*

20 “(B) *minimally affects the acreage subject*
 21 *to the interest in eligible land; and*

22 “(C) *is in the public interest or furthers the*
 23 *practical administration of the program.*

24 “(2) *MODIFICATION AND EXCHANGE OF INTER-*
 25 *EST IN LAND.—*

1 “(A) *MODIFICATION.*—

2 “(i) *AUTHORITY.*—*The Secretary may*
3 *approve a modification of any interest in*
4 *land, or portion of such interest, adminis-*
5 *tered by the Secretary, either directly or on*
6 *behalf of the Commodity Credit Corpora-*
7 *tion, under the program if the Secretary de-*
8 *termines that the modification—*

9 “(I) *will support the viability and*
10 *sustainability of working forests and*
11 *the conservation values of the applica-*
12 *ble easement;*

13 “(II) *will result in equal or in-*
14 *creased conservation values;*

15 “(III) *is consistent with the origi-*
16 *nal intent of the easement;*

17 “(IV) *is consistent with the pur-*
18 *poses of the program; and*

19 “(V) *is in the public interest or*
20 *furtheres the practical administration of*
21 *the program, including correcting er-*
22 *rors and exercising reserved rights.*

23 “(ii) *LIMITATION.*—*In modifying an*
24 *interest in land, or portion of such interest,*
25 *under this subparagraph, the Secretary may*

1 *not, except in the case of a modification*
2 *that includes a change to an easement to*
3 *add acreage, increase any payment to an el-*
4 *igible entity.*

5 “(B) *EXCHANGE.*—

6 “(i) *AUTHORITY.*—*The Secretary may*
7 *approve an exchange of any interest in*
8 *land, or portion of such interest, adminis-*
9 *tered by the Secretary, either directly or on*
10 *behalf of the Commodity Credit Corpora-*
11 *tion, under the program if the Secretary de-*
12 *termines that—*

13 “(I) *no reasonable alternative ex-*
14 *ists and the effect on the interest in*
15 *land is avoided or minimized to the ex-*
16 *tent practicable; and*

17 “(II) *the exchange—*

18 “(aa) *results in equal or in-*
19 *creased conservation values;*

20 “(bb) *results in equal or*
21 *greater economic value to the*
22 *United States;*

23 “(cc) *is consistent with the*
24 *original intent of the easement;*

1 “(dd) is consistent with the
2 purposes of the program; and

3 “(ee) is in the public interest
4 or furthers the practical adminis-
5 tration of the program.

6 “(ii) *LIMITATION.*—In exchanging an
7 interest in land, or portion of such interest,
8 under this subparagraph, the Secretary may
9 not increase any payment to an eligible en-
10 tity.

11 “(3) *TERMINATION.*—The Secretary may ap-
12 prove a termination of any interest in eligible land,
13 or portion of such an interest, administered by the
14 Secretary, directly or on behalf of the Commodity
15 Credit Corporation under the program if the Sec-
16 retary determines that—

17 “(A) termination is in the interest of the
18 Federal Government;

19 “(B) the United States will be fully com-
20 pensated for—

21 “(i) the value of the interest in the
22 land, as determined by the Secretary;

23 “(ii) any costs relating to the termi-
24 nation; and

1 “(iii) any damages determined appro-
2 priate by the Secretary; and

3 “(C) the termination will—

4 “(i) address a compelling public need
5 for which there is no practicable alternative
6 even with avoidance and minimization; and

7 “(ii) further the practical administra-
8 tion of the program.

9 “(4) CONSENT.—The Secretary shall obtain con-
10 sent from the landowner and eligible entity, if appli-
11 cable, for any subordination, exchange, modification,
12 or termination of an interest in eligible land, or por-
13 tion of such an interest, under this subsection.

14 “(5) NOTICE.—Not fewer than 90 days before
15 taking any termination action described in para-
16 graph (3), the Secretary shall provide written notice
17 of that action to the Committee on Agriculture of the
18 House of Representatives and the Committee on Agri-
19 culture, Nutrition, and Forestry of the Senate.

20 “(c) LAND ENROLLED IN OTHER PROGRAMS.—In ac-
21 cordance with the provisions of section 2702 of the Farm,
22 Food, and National Security Act of 2026, land enrolled in
23 the healthy forests reserve program established under title
24 V of the Healthy Forests Restoration Act of 2003 (16 U.S.C.

1 6571 *et seq.*) on the day before the date of enactment of
 2 this section shall be considered enrolled in the program.”.

3 **SEC. 2702. HEALTHY FORESTS RESERVE PROGRAM.**

4 (a) *REPEAL.*—

5 (1) *IN GENERAL.*—Title V of the Healthy Forests
 6 Restoration Act of 2003 (16 U.S.C. 6571 *et seq.*) is
 7 repealed.

8 (2) *CONFORMING AMENDMENT.*—The table of
 9 contents in section 1(b) of the Healthy Forests Res-
 10 toration Act of 2003 (Public Law 108–148; 117 Stat.
 11 1887) is amended by striking the items relating to
 12 title V.

13 (b) *TRANSITIONAL PROVISIONS.*—

14 (1) *EFFECT ON EXISTING CONTRACTS, AGREE-*
 15 *MENTS, AND EASEMENTS.*—The repeal made by sub-
 16 section (a) shall not affect the validity or terms of
 17 any contract, agreement, or easement entered into by
 18 the Secretary under title V of the Healthy Forests
 19 Restoration Act of 2003 (16 U.S.C. 6571 *et seq.*) be-
 20 fore the date of enactment of this Act, or any pay-
 21 ments or technical assistance required to be made in
 22 connection with the contract, agreement, or easement.

23 (2) *FUNDING.*—

24 (A) *USE OF PRIOR YEAR FUNDS.*—Notwith-
 25 standing the repeal made by subsection (a), any

1 *funds made available from the Commodity Cred-*
2 *it Corporation to carry out the healthy forests re-*
3 *serve program established under title V of the*
4 *Healthy Forests Restoration Act of 2003 (16*
5 *U.S.C. 6571 et seq.) (as in effect on the day be-*
6 *fore the date of enactment of this Act) for any*
7 *of fiscal years 2019 through 2025 shall be made*
8 *available to carry out contracts, agreements, or*
9 *easements referred to in paragraph (1), subject to*
10 *the condition that no such contract, agreement,*
11 *or easement may be modified so as to increase*
12 *the amount of any payment received.*

13 *(B) OTHER.—The Secretary may use funds*
14 *made available to carry out the forest conserva-*
15 *tion easement program established under subtitle*
16 *I of the Food Security Act of 1985 to continue*
17 *to carry out contracts, agreements, or easements*
18 *referred to in paragraph (1) using the provisions*
19 *of law (including regulations) applicable to those*
20 *contracts, agreements, and easements as in exist-*
21 *ence on the day before the date of enactment of*
22 *this Act.*

1 ***Subtitle I—Regional Conservation***
2 ***Partnership Program***

3 **SEC. 2801. ESTABLISHMENT AND PURPOSES.**

4 *Section 1271(b)(2) of the Food Security Act of 1985*
5 *(16 U.S.C. 3871(b)(2)) is amended to read as follows:*

6 “(2) *To address natural resource concerns on eli-*
7 *gible land on a regional or watershed scale, including*
8 *through—*

9 “(A) *the conservation, protection, restora-*
10 *tion, and sustainable use of soil;*

11 “(B) *the conservation and protection of*
12 *water, including sources of drinking water and*
13 *groundwater;*

14 “(C) *the prevention and mitigation of the*
15 *effects of flooding and drought, and the improve-*
16 *ment or expansion of flood resiliency; and*

17 “(D) *the conservation of wildlife, agricul-*
18 *tural land, and related natural resources.”.*

19 **SEC. 2802. DEFINITIONS.**

20 *Section 1271A(1) of the Food Security Act of 1985 (16*
21 *U.S.C. 3871a(1)) is amended by striking subparagraph (D)*
22 *and inserting the following:*

23 “(D) *The forest conservation easement pro-*
24 *gram established under subtitle I.”.*

1 **SEC. 2803. REGIONAL CONSERVATION PARTNERSHIPS.**

2 (a) *PARTNERSHIP AGREEMENTS AUTHORIZED.*—Sec-
3 *tion 1271B(a) of the Food Security Act of 1985 (16 U.S.C.*
4 *3871b(a)) is amended to read as follows:*

5 “(a) *PARTNERSHIP AGREEMENTS AUTHORIZED.*—

6 “(1) *IN GENERAL.*—*The Secretary may enter*
7 *into a partnership agreement with an eligible partner*
8 *to implement a project that will assist producers with*
9 *installing and maintaining an eligible activity on eli-*
10 *gible land.*

11 “(2) *STREAMLINING REQUIRED.*—*The Secretary*
12 *shall ensure that a partnership agreement under*
13 *paragraph (1)—*

14 “(A) *is entered into not later than 180 days*
15 *after the date on which an application is selected*
16 *under subsection (e); and*

17 “(B) *contains only—*

18 “(i) *the information, described under*
19 *subsection (e)(3), necessary to fund and ini-*
20 *tiate the project to be implemented under*
21 *the partnership agreement; and*

22 “(ii) *any adjustments to the require-*
23 *ments of a covered program determined nec-*
24 *essary by the Secretary under paragraph*
25 *(2) of section 1271E(f), and any waiver*

1 *provided under paragraph (3) of such sec-*
2 *tion.*

3 “(3) *PROCESS FOR REQUESTING WAIVERS AND*
4 *ADJUSTMENTS.—The Secretary shall make available*
5 *information on the process for requesting a waiver or*
6 *an adjustment to the requirements of a covered pro-*
7 *gram pursuant to section 1271E(f).”.*

8 (b) *DUTIES OF SECRETARY.—Section 1271B(d) of the*
9 *Food Security Act of 1985 (16 U.S.C. 3871b(d)) is amend-*
10 *ed—*

11 (1) *in paragraph (4)(B), by striking “how the*
12 *Secretary used amounts reserved by the Secretary for*
13 *that year for technical assistance under section*
14 *1271D(f); and” and inserting “the use of funds for*
15 *technical assistance under section 1271D(c);”;*

16 (2) *in paragraph (5), by striking the period at*
17 *the end and inserting “; and”; and*

18 (3) *by adding at the end the following:*

19 “(6) *ensure payments to eligible partners under*
20 *a partnership agreement are made not later than 30*
21 *days after the date on which the eligible partner sub-*
22 *mits to the Secretary a request for payment.”.*

23 (c) *APPLICATIONS.—Section 1271B(e)(3) of the Food*
24 *Security Act of 1985 (16 U.S.C. 3871b(e)(3)) is amended—*

1 (1) in subparagraph (D), by striking “and” at
2 the end;

3 (2) by redesignating subparagraph (E) as sub-
4 paragraph (F); and

5 (3) by inserting after subparagraph (D) the fol-
6 lowing:

7 “(E) any requests by an eligible partner for
8 a waiver or an adjustment to the requirements
9 of a covered program pursuant to section
10 1271E(f); and”.

11 **SEC. 2804. ASSISTANCE TO PRODUCERS.**

12 Section 1271C(d)(3) of the Food Security Act of 1985
13 (16 U.S.C. 3871c(d)(3)) is amended—

14 (1) by redesignating subparagraph (B) as sub-
15 paragraph (C);

16 (2) in subparagraph (A)(iv), by striking the
17 “and” at the end; and

18 (3) by inserting after subparagraph (A)(iv) the
19 following:

20 “(B) provide, under section 1271B(c)(2),
21 not less than 50 percent of the overall costs of the
22 scope of the project that is the subject of a part-
23 nership agreement funded pursuant to para-
24 graph (1) in direct funding; and”.

1 **SEC. 2805. FUNDING.**

2 (a) *ALLOCATION OF FUNDING.*—Section 1271D of the
3 *Food Security Act of 1985 (16 U.S.C. 3871d)* is amended—

4 (1) *by striking subsections (a) and (b);*

5 (2) *by redesignating subsections (c), (d), and (e)*
6 *as subsections (a), (b), and (c), respectively; and*

7 (3) *in subsection (a), as so redesignated, by*
8 *striking “subsection (a)” and inserting “section*
9 *1241(a)(6)”.*

10 (b) *LIMITATION ON ADMINISTRATIVE EXPENSES.*—
11 *Subsection (b) of section 1271D of the Food Security Act*
12 *of 1985 (16 U.S.C. 3871d), as so redesignated, is amended*
13 *to read as follows:*

14 “(b) *LIMITATION ON ADMINISTRATIVE EXPENSES.*—

15 “(1) *IN GENERAL.*—Of the funds made available
16 to implement a project under a partnership agree-
17 ment, the Secretary may use not more than ten per-
18 cent to reimburse the eligible partner for administra-
19 tive expenses relating to the project.

20 “(2) *CONSIDERATION.*—Any amounts expended
21 by an eligible partner for administrative expenses
22 that are not reimbursed under paragraph (1) may be
23 considered to be a part of the contribution of the eligi-
24 ble partner under section 1271B(c)(2).”.

1 (c) *TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE*.—Subsection (c) of section
 2 1271D of the Food Security Act of 1985 (16 U.S.C. 3871d),
 3 as so redesignated, is amended to read as follows:

4 “(c) *TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE*.—

5 “(1) *IN GENERAL*.—The Secretary shall, through
 6 a partnership agreement, identify—

7 “(A) the total amount of funds that will be
 8 used for technical assistance; and

9 “(B) the share of such funds that will be
 10 provided to eligible partners under paragraph
 11 (2).

12 “(2) *PROVISION OF ASSISTANCE*.—

13 “(A) *REIMBURSEMENT*.—Under a partner-
 14 ship agreement that is not funded through an al-
 15 ternative funding arrangement or grant agree-
 16 ment under section 1271C(d), the Secretary may
 17 reimburse eligible partners for the costs of tech-
 18 nical assistance provided through such partner-
 19 ship agreement, including—

20 “(i) the costs of technical assistance
 21 needed to facilitate the maximum conserva-
 22 tion benefit of the applicable project;

23 “(ii) the costs of providing outreach
 24 and education to producers for potential
 25 participation in the applicable project;

1 “(iii) *the costs of establishing baseline*
2 *metrics to support the development of the*
3 *assessment required under section*
4 *1271B(c)(1)(E); and*

5 “(iv) *other costs necessary to support*
6 *the implementation of eligible activities, as*
7 *determined by the Secretary.*

8 “(B) *ADVANCEMENT OF FUNDS.—The Sec-*
9 *retary may advance to eligible partners reason-*
10 *able amounts of funds for costs that may be re-*
11 *imbursed under subparagraph (A), as deter-*
12 *mined by the Secretary.*

13 “(3) *LIMITATION.—The Secretary shall limit*
14 *costs of the Secretary for technical assistance to costs*
15 *necessary to carry out the objectives of the program.*

16 “(4) *REDUCTION OF ADMINISTRATIVE BAR-*
17 *RIERS.—The Secretary shall provide a single, sim-*
18 *plified process for reimbursements or advancements to*
19 *eligible partners for the costs of technical assistance*
20 *under this subsection.*

21 “(5) *THIRD-PARTY PROVIDERS.—The Secretary*
22 *shall develop and implement strategies to encourage*
23 *third-party technical service providers to provide*
24 *technical assistance to eligible partners pursuant to a*
25 *partnership agreement.”.*

1 **SEC. 2806. ADMINISTRATION.**

2 (a) *REPORTING.*—Section 1271E(b) of the Food Secu-
3 rity Act of 1985 (16 U.S.C. 3871e(b)) is amended in the
4 matter preceding paragraph (1) by inserting “make pub-
5 licly available and” after “the Secretary shall”.

6 (b) *CONSISTENCY WITH COVERED PROGRAM*
7 *RULES.*—Section 1271E of the Food Security Act of 1985
8 (16 U.S.C. 3871e) is amended by adding at the end the
9 following:

10 “(f) *CONSISTENCY WITH COVERED PROGRAM RE-*
11 *QUIREMENTS.*—

12 “(1) *IN GENERAL.*—Except as provided in this
13 subsection, the Secretary shall ensure that the terms
14 and conditions of a program contract are consistent
15 with the requirements of the applicable covered pro-
16 gram to be used as part of the applicable partnership
17 agreement.

18 “(2) *ADJUSTMENTS.*—

19 “(A) *IN GENERAL.*—The Secretary may, if
20 the Secretary determines necessary, adjust a reg-
21 ulatory requirement of a covered program to be
22 used as a part of a partnership agreement, or re-
23 lated guidance, as it applies to an eligible activ-
24 ity carried out under a program contract entered
25 into pursuant to the partnership agreement—

26 “(i) to provide a simplified process; or

1 “(ii) to better reflect unique local cir-
2 cumstances.

3 “(B) *LIMITATION.*—The Secretary shall not
4 adjust the application of statutory requirements
5 for a covered program to be used as a part of a
6 partnership agreement, including requirements
7 governing appeals, payment limits, and con-
8 servation compliance.

9 “(3) *WAIVER.*—With respect to a program con-
10 tract for an eligible activity under the agricultural
11 conservation easement program, the Secretary may,
12 in the applicable partnership agreement, waive the
13 application of clauses (ii) or (iii)(III) of section
14 1265A(4)(A) for purposes of determining the eligi-
15 bility of land.

16 “(4) *CERTIFICATION APPLICABILITY.*—With re-
17 spect to a partnership agreement entered into for ac-
18 quisition of easements, the Secretary shall apply the
19 authorities applicable to the eligible partner under
20 section 1265B(b)(5)(A) if the eligible partner is an el-
21 igible entity certified under such section.

22 “(5) *EXEMPTION.*—With respect to a program
23 contract that includes an eligible activity under the
24 environmental quality incentives program to be in-
25 stalled and maintained in a State in which irriga-

1 *tion has not been used significantly for agricultural*
 2 *purposes, as determined by the Secretary, the Sec-*
 3 *retary may not consider prior irrigation history when*
 4 *determining the eligibility of land.*

5 “(6) *APPLICATION.—Paragraph (1) shall not*
 6 *apply to partnership agreements funded pursuant to*
 7 *section 1271C(d).”.*

8 **SEC. 2807. CRITICAL CONSERVATION AREAS.**

9 (a) *DEFINITIONS.—Section 1271F(a)(2)(C) of the*
 10 *Food Security Act of 1985 (16 U.S.C. 3871f(a)(2)(C)) is*
 11 *amended by inserting “, including restoration and enhance-*
 12 *ment of wildlife habitat connectivity and wildlife migration*
 13 *corridors” before the semicolon at the end.*

14 (b) *APPLICATIONS.—Section 1271F(b) of the Food Se-*
 15 *curity Act of 1985 (16 U.S.C. 3871f(b)) is amended by*
 16 *striking “funds under section 1271D(d)(2)” and inserting*
 17 *“funds allocated under section 1271D(a)(2)”.*

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 imple-*
 25 *mented by the Secretary)”.*

1 (b) *CONFORMING AMENDMENTS.*—

2 (1) *EMERGENCY AND PRIVATE ASSISTANCE PRO-*
3 *GRAMS.*—Sections 202, 203, 205, 207, and 208 of the
4 *Food for Peace Act* (7 U.S.C. 1722, 1723, 1725,
5 1726a, and 1726b) are each amended by striking
6 “Administrator” each place it appears and inserting
7 “Secretary”.

8 (2) *FOOD FOR DEVELOPMENT.*—Title III of the
9 *Food for Peace Act* (7 U.S.C. 1727 et seq.) is amended
10 by striking “Administrator” each place it appears
11 and inserting “Secretary”.

12 (3) *DEFINITIONS.*—Section 402 of the *Food for*
13 *Peace Act* (7 U.S.C. 1732) is amended—

14 (A) by striking paragraph (1); and

15 (B) by redesignating paragraphs (2)
16 through (9) as paragraphs (1) through (8), re-
17 spectively.

18 (4) *GENERAL PROVISIONS.*—Sections 403 and
19 404 of the *Food for Peace Act* (7 U.S.C. 1733 and
20 1734) are each amended—

21 (A) by striking “or the Administrator, as
22 appropriate,” each place it appears;

23 (B) in section 403(h), by striking “or Ad-
24 ministrator”; and

1 (C) in section 404(d), by striking “or the
2 Administrator”.

3 (5) CONSULTATION.—Section 405 of the Food for
4 Peace Act (7 U.S.C. 1735) is repealed.

5 (c) TRANSFER OF ASSETS AND LIABILITIES.—The
6 Food for Peace Act (7 U.S.C. 1691 et seq.) is amended by
7 adding at the end the following new title:

8 **“TITLE VII—TRANSFER**
9 **PROVISIONS**

10 **“SEC. 701. TRANSFER OF ASSETS AND LIABILITIES FROM**
11 **USAID TO SECRETARY OF AGRICULTURE.**

12 “On and after the date of the enactment of this title,
13 the assets, liabilities, orders, determinations, permits,
14 grants, loans, contracts, agreements, certificates, and li-
15 censes of the Administrator of the United States Agency for
16 International Development, pursuant to any authority
17 under this Act on or after January 1, 2026, shall be trans-
18 ferred to the Secretary of Agriculture.

19 **“SEC. 702. TRANSFER OF OTHER AUTHORITIES.**

20 “On and after the date of the enactment of this title,
21 any authority or responsibility provided by any other pro-
22 vision of law that was or could have been used by the Ad-
23 ministrator of the United States Agency for International
24 Development, prior to such date of enactment to carry out
25 any function, duty, or responsibility under this Act may

1 *be exercised by the Secretary of Agriculture. A reference to*
2 *such Administrator or to such Agency in any provision of*
3 *law or regulation relating to any authority or responsi-*
4 *bility described in the preceding sentence shall be deemed*
5 *to be a reference to the Secretary of Agriculture or the De-*
6 *partment of Agriculture, respectively.*

7 **“SEC. 703. RULES AND REGULATIONS.**

8 *“Beginning on the date of the enactment of this title,*
9 *the Secretary of Agriculture shall promulgate or amend*
10 *such rules and regulations (including by issuing or re-*
11 *issuing interim final rules) as the Secretary may determine*
12 *appropriate, including by amending such rules and regula-*
13 *tions issued by the Administrator of the United States*
14 *Agency for International Development with respect to the*
15 *authorities and responsibilities provided by this Act and*
16 *as in effect on the day before such date of enactment, in*
17 *order to effectuate and complete the transfer of all functions*
18 *and duties previously carried out by that Administrator to*
19 *the Secretary.*

20 **“SEC. 704. CONSULTATION.**

21 *“The Secretary of Agriculture shall consult with the*
22 *Secretary of State from time to time in carrying out the*
23 *authorities under this Act.”.*

1 **SEC. 3102. FOOD AID QUALITY ASSURANCE.**

2 *Section 202 of the Food for Peace Act (7 U.S.C. 1722),*
3 *as amended by section 3101(b)(1), is further amended—*

4 *(1) in subsection (a), by striking “any other pro-*
5 *vision of law” and inserting “any other provision of*
6 *this Act”;*

7 *(2) in subsection (b)(1), by inserting “assistance,*
8 *including in the form of” before “agricultural com-*
9 *modities”;*

10 *(3) in subsection (b)(2)—*

11 *(A) in subparagraph (A), by striking*
12 *“Agency for International Development” and in-*
13 *serting “Department of Agriculture”; and*

14 *(B) in subparagraph (B), by striking*
15 *“Agency” and inserting “Department”;*

16 *(4) in subsection (d)—*

17 *(A) in paragraph (1), by striking “or” at*
18 *the end;*

19 *(B) in paragraph (2), by striking the period*
20 *at the end and inserting “; or”; and*

21 *(C) by adding at the end the following new*
22 *paragraph:*

23 *“(3) a nongovernmental organization, as deter-*
24 *mined by the Secretary.”;*

25 *(5) in subsection (e), by adding at the end the*
26 *following new paragraph:*

1 “(5) *LIMITATION ON DIVERSION OF FUNDS.*—Of
 2 *the funds made available in each fiscal year under*
 3 *this title to the Secretary, not more than 50 percent*
 4 *may be made available for expenses other than the*
 5 *procurement of United States-grown agricultural*
 6 *commodities and ocean transportation of such com-*
 7 *modities.”; and*

8 (6) *in subsection (h)(3), by striking “2023” and*
 9 *inserting “2031”.*

10 **SEC. 3103. REPEAL OF MINIMUM LEVELS OF ASSISTANCE.**

11 *Section 204 of the Food for Peace Act (7 U.S.C. 1724)*
 12 *is repealed.*

13 **SEC. 3104. FOOD AID CONSULTATIVE GROUP.**

14 *Section 205 of the Food for Peace Act (7 U.S.C. 1725),*
 15 *as amended by section 3101(b)(1), is further amended—*

16 (1) *in subsection (b)(3), by striking “the Agency*
 17 *for International Development” and inserting “the*
 18 *Department of Agriculture”;*

19 (2) *in subsection (b)(4), by striking “Agency”*
 20 *and inserting “Secretary”;*

21 (3) *in subsection (b)—*

22 (A) *by striking paragraph (2); and*

23 (B) *by redesignating paragraphs (3)*
 24 *through (8), as amended, as paragraphs (2)*
 25 *through (7), respectively; and*

1 (4) in subsection (f), by striking “December 31,
2 2023” and inserting “December 31, 2031”.

3 **SEC. 3105. ISSUANCE OF REGULATIONS; OVERSIGHT, MONI-**
4 **TORING, AND EVALUATION.**

5 Section 207 of the Food for Peace Act (7 U.S.C.
6 1726a), as amended by section 3101(b)(1), is further
7 amended—

8 (1) in subsection (c)(1), by striking “the Agri-
9 culture Improvement Act of 2018” and inserting “the
10 Farm, Food, and National Security Act of 2026”;

11 (2) in subsection (d), by striking “, in consulta-
12 tion with the Secretary,”; and

13 (3) in subsection (f)—

14 (A) in paragraph (1), by striking “, in con-
15 sultation with the Secretary,”; and

16 (B) in paragraph (4), by striking “2023”
17 each place it appears and inserting “2031”.

18 **SEC. 3106. INTERNATIONAL FOOD RELIEF PARTNERSHIP.**

19 Section 208(f) of the Food for Peace Act (7 U.S.C.
20 1726b(f)) is amended to read as follows:

21 “(f) *AVAILABILITY OF APPROPRIATIONS.*—In addition
22 to amounts otherwise made available to carry out this sec-
23 tion, of the funds made available in each fiscal year under
24 this title to the Secretary, not less than \$15,000,000 shall
25 be made available in each of fiscal years 2027 through 2031

1 *to carry out this section, to remain available until ex-*
 2 *pendent.”.*

3 **SEC. 3107. USE OF COMMODITY CREDIT CORPORATION.**

4 *Subsection (b) of section 406 of the Food for Peace Act*
 5 *(7 U.S.C. 1736) is amended to read as follows:*

6 *“(b) INCLUDED EXPENSES.—With respect to commod-*
 7 *ities made available under titles II and III, the Commodity*
 8 *Credit Corporation may pay all associated and incidental*
 9 *costs of such commodities.”.*

10 **SEC. 3108. PRE-POSITIONING OF AGRICULTURAL COMMOD-**
 11 **ITIES AND ANNUAL REPORT REGARDING**
 12 **FOOD AID PROGRAMS AND ACTIVITIES.**

13 *Section 407 of the Food for Peace Act (7 U.S.C. 1736a)*
 14 *is amended—*

15 *(1) by amending subsection (c)(1) to read as fol-*
 16 *lows:*

17 *“(1) ACQUISITION.—The Secretary shall transfer,*
 18 *arrange for the transportation, and take other steps*
 19 *necessary to make available agricultural commodities*
 20 *to be provided under title II and title III.”;*

21 *(2) in subsection (c)(2), by striking “Adminis-*
 22 *trator” and inserting “Secretary”;*

23 *(3) in subsection (c)(3), by striking “Agency for*
 24 *International Development” and inserting “Sec-*
 25 *retary”;*

1 (4) in subsection (c)(4)(A), by striking “2023”
2 each place it appears and inserting “2031”;

3 (5) in subsection (c)(4), by striking “Adminis-
4 trator” each place it appears and inserting “Sec-
5 retary”;

6 (6) in subsection (d), in the matter preceding
7 paragraph (1), by striking “or the Administrator, as
8 appropriate,”;

9 (7) by amending subsection (f)(1) to read as fol-
10 lows:

11 “(1) ANNUAL REPORT.—Not later than April 1
12 of each fiscal year, the Secretary shall submit to the
13 appropriate committees of Congress a report regard-
14 ing each program and activity carried out under this
15 Act during the prior fiscal year.”;

16 (8) in subsection (f)(2)—

17 (A) by striking subparagraph (I);

18 (B) by amending subparagraph (H) to read
19 as follows:

20 “(H) A statement of the amount of funds
21 provided to each eligible organization that re-
22 ceived assistance under this Act and the manner
23 in which those funds were used, including wheth-
24 er such use was for commodity transportation or
25 administrative costs.”;

1 (C) by redesignating subparagraphs (E)
 2 through (H) (as amended) as subparagraphs (F)
 3 through (I), respectively; and

4 (D) by inserting after subparagraph (D) the
 5 following new subparagraph:

6 “(E) An assessment of activities specifically
 7 targeting women and girls and the impact of
 8 those activities in addressing the unique needs of
 9 women and girls.”; and

10 (9) by striking subsection (f)(3).

11 **SEC. 3109. DEADLINE FOR AGREEMENTS TO FINANCE SALES**

12 **OR TO PROVIDE OTHER ASSISTANCE.**

13 Section 408 of the Food for Peace Act (7 U.S.C. 1736b)
 14 is amended by striking “2023” and inserting “2031”.

15 **SEC. 3110. MINIMUM LEVEL OF NONEMERGENCY FOOD AS-**

16 **SISTANCE.**

17 Section 412 of the Food for Peace Act (7 U.S.C. 1736f)
 18 is amended—

19 (1) in subsection (e)(1), by striking “2023” and
 20 inserting “2031”; and

21 (2) by adding at the end the following new sub-
 22 section:

23 “(f) MINIMUM LEVELS OF FUNDING TO ADDRESS
 24 CHILD WASTING.—

1 “(1) *MINIMUM LEVEL.*—For each of fiscal years
2 2027 through 2031, in addition to amounts otherwise
3 made available, not less than \$200,000,000 of the
4 amounts made available to carry out emergency food
5 assistance programs under title II shall be expended
6 for the procurement and distribution of ready-to-use
7 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 World
13 Health Organization, the World Bank, and the
14 United Nations Children’s Fund, report a rate of
15 children under 5 years of age affected by child
16 wasting above 5 percent for the year covered by
17 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 this
22 subsection may be construed to limit on the authority
23 of the Secretary to purchase or distribute ready-to-use
24 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 U.S.C.1736g–*
 4 *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 in-*
 11 *serting “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. 1737)*
 15 *is amended—*

16 *(1) by striking “2023” each place it appears and*
 17 *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 of*

1 *the enactment of this Act, to pay the administrative ex-*
 2 *penses of the Department of Agriculture in the implementa-*
 3 *tion of the Food for Peace Act (7 U.S.C. 1691 et seq.), as*
 4 *amended by this subtitle.*

5 (b) *CARRYOVER.—For fiscal years 2026 through 2031,*
 6 *the balance of any funds provided to carry out subsection*
 7 *(a) for a fiscal year that remains unexpended at the end*
 8 *of that fiscal year may be carried over for use during the*
 9 *following fiscal year.*

10 ***Subtitle B—Agricultural Trade Act*** 11 ***of 1978***

12 ***SEC. 3201. AGRICULTURAL TRADE PROMOTION AND FACILI-*** 13 ***TATION.***

14 (a) *MODIFICATION TO FOREIGN MARKET DEVELOP-*
 15 *MENT COOPERATOR PROGRAM.—Section 203(c) of the Agri-*
 16 *cultural Trade Act of 1978 (7 U.S.C. 5623(c)) is amended*
 17 *by adding at the end the following new paragraph:*

18 “(4) *TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE TO IMPROVE INFRA-*
 19 *STRUCTURE IN FOREIGN MARKETS FOR UNITED*
 20 *STATES AGRICULTURAL COMMODITIES.—*

21 “(A) *IN GENERAL.—As part of the program*
 22 *established under this subsection, the Secretary*
 23 *shall enter into contracts or other agreements,*
 24 *with eligible trade organizations or with non-*
 25 *profit organizations with expertise in supply*

1 chain infrastructure, to provide needs assess-
 2 ments, training, and other technical assistance to
 3 enhance the capabilities of infrastructure in new
 4 and developing foreign markets, including infra-
 5 structure relating to cold chain capacity, port
 6 improvements, and other developments, to ensure
 7 that United States agricultural commodities are
 8 not damaged or lost due to deficiencies of such
 9 infrastructure.

10 “(B) *LIMITATION.*—Of the amounts made
 11 available to carry out the program established
 12 under this subsection, not more than \$1,500,000
 13 for fiscal year 2027 and not more than
 14 \$5,000,000 for fiscal year 2028 and each fiscal
 15 year thereafter may be made available to carry
 16 out this paragraph.”.

17 (b) *REPORT ON COMPETITIVENESS OF UNITED STATES*
 18 *SPECIALTY CROPS.*—Section 203(e)(7) of the *Agricultural*
 19 *Trade Act of 1978 (7 U.S.C. 5623(e)(7))* is amended to read
 20 as follows:

21 “(7) *BIENNIAL REPORT.*—

22 “(A) *IN GENERAL.*—The Secretary, in con-
 23 sultation with the United States Trade Rep-
 24 resentative, shall submit every two years to the
 25 appropriate congressional committees a report

1 *detailing the competitiveness of United States*
2 *specialty crops.*

3 “(B) *ELEMENTS.*—*The report required by*
4 *subparagraph (A) shall—*

5 “(i) *identify and analyze acts, policies,*
6 *or practices of foreign countries that con-*
7 *stitute significant barriers to, or distortions*
8 *of, United States exports of specialty crops,*
9 *including the imposition of—*

10 “(I) *tariffs (including retaliatory*
11 *tariffs) or quotas (including tariff-rate*
12 *quotas); and*

13 “(II) *nontariff barriers, including*
14 *technical barriers to trade, sanitary*
15 *and phytosanitary measures, import*
16 *licensing procedures, and subsidies;*

17 “(ii) *identify and analyze acts, poli-*
18 *cies, or practices of foreign countries that*
19 *enhance the competitiveness of imported*
20 *specialty crops with domestic specialty crop*
21 *producers, including—*

22 “(I) *the subsidization of exports*
23 *from the producing country; and*

1 “(II) the impact of any lack or
2 circumvention of labor and environ-
3 mental laws in the producing country;

4 “(iii) identify and analyze any dif-
5 ferences in applicable food safety regula-
6 tions of foreign countries that may result in
7 imported specialty crops posing a risk to
8 United States consumers;

9 “(iv) make an estimate of the impacts
10 on the competitiveness of United States spe-
11 cialty crops of any act, policy, or practice
12 identified under clauses (i) and (ii);

13 “(v) assess the extent to which each act,
14 policy, or practice identified under clauses
15 (i) and (ii) are subject to international
16 agreements to which the United States is a
17 party;

18 “(vi) include information with respect
19 to any action taken by the executive or leg-
20 islative branches during the two years pre-
21 ceding submission of the report, or expected
22 to be taken after submission of the report, to
23 eliminate any act, policy, or practice iden-
24 tified under clauses (i) and (ii), includ-
25 ing—

1 “(I) any action under section 301;

2 “(II) negotiations or consultations
3 with foreign governments, which may
4 include engagement through the stand-
5 ing committee on sanitary and
6 phytosanitary matters established
7 under a free trade agreement to which
8 the United States is a party; and

9 “(III) action at the World Trade
10 Organization, including dispute settle-
11 ment actions, consultations, or negotia-
12 tions; and

13 “(vii) a description of—

14 “(I) any funds provided under
15 subsection (f)(3)(A)(iv) that were not
16 obligated in the fiscal year preceding
17 submission of the report; and

18 “(II) the reason such funds were
19 not obligated.

20 “(C) COMMENT PERIOD.—In preparing the
21 report required by subparagraph (A), the Sec-
22 retary, in coordination with the United States
23 Trade Representative, shall seek and consider
24 comments from the public and from the Agricul-

1 *tural Technical Advisory Committee for Trade*
 2 *in Fruits and Vegetables.*

3 “(D) *FORM OF REPORT.*—*The report re-*
 4 *quired by subparagraph (A) shall be made avail-*
 5 *able to the public in machine-readable format.*

6 “(E) *APPROPRIATE CONGRESSIONAL COM-*
 7 *MITTEES DEFINED.*—*In this paragraph, the term*
 8 *‘appropriate congressional committees’ means—*

9 “(i) *the Committee on Agriculture and*
 10 *the Committee on Ways and Means of the*
 11 *House of Representatives; and*

12 “(ii) *the Committee on Agriculture,*
 13 *Nutrition, and Forestry and the Committee*
 14 *on Finance of the Senate.”.*

15 (c) *MODIFICATION AND EXTENSION OF FUNDING.*—

16 *Section 203(f) of the Agricultural Trade Act of 1978 (7*
 17 *U.S.C. 5623(f)) is amended—*

18 (1) *by amending paragraph (2) to read as fol-*
 19 *lows:*

20 “(2) *FUNDING AMOUNT.*—*Of the funds of, or an*
 21 *equal value of commodities owned by, the Commodity*
 22 *Credit Corporation, the Secretary shall use to carry*
 23 *out this section the following amounts, to remain*
 24 *available until expended:*

25 “(A) *For fiscal year 2026, \$255,000,000.*

1 “(B) For fiscal year 2027, \$500,000,000.

2 “(C) For each of fiscal years 2028 through
3 2031, \$533,000,000.”; and

4 (2) in paragraph (3)—

5 (A) in the matter preceding subparagraph
6 (A)(i), by striking “For each of fiscal years 2019
7 through 2023, the Secretary” and inserting “The
8 Secretary”;

9 (B) in subparagraph (A)—

10 (i) in clause (i), by striking “not less
11 than” and all that follows through the end
12 and inserting: “not less than—

13 “(I) \$200,000,000 for fiscal year
14 2026;

15 “(II) \$400,000,000 for fiscal year
16 2027; and

17 “(III) \$410,000,000 for each of
18 fiscal years 2028 through 2031.”;

19 (ii) in clause (ii), by striking “not less
20 than” and all that follows through the end
21 and inserting: “not less than—

22 “(I) \$34,500,000 for fiscal year
23 2026;

24 “(II) \$70,500,000 for fiscal year
25 2027; and

1 “(III) \$82,000,000 for each of fis-
2 cal years 2028 through 2031.”;

3 (iii) in clause (iii), by striking “not
4 more than” and all that follows through the
5 end and inserting: “not more than—

6 “(I) \$8,000,000 for each of fiscal
7 year 2026 and 2027; and

8 “(II) \$16,000,000 for each of fis-
9 cal years 2028 through 2031.”;

10 (iv) in clause (iv), by striking “Cor-
11 poration” and all that follows through the
12 end and inserting: “Corporation—

13 “(I) \$9,000,000 for fiscal year
14 2026; and

15 “(II) \$18,000,000 for each of fis-
16 cal years 2027 through 2031.”; and

17 (v) in clause (v)(I), by striking “com-
18 modities,” and all that follows through the
19 end and inserting “commodities, \$3,500,000
20 for each of fiscal years 2026 and 2027 and
21 \$7,000,000 for each of fiscal years 2028
22 through 2031”.

23 (d) *REPEALS.*—The following provisions of law are re-
24 pealed:

1 (1) *Section 718 of title VII of the Agriculture,*
 2 *Rural Development, Food and Drug Administration,*
 3 *and Related Agencies Appropriations Act, 1999 (as*
 4 *enacted by section 101(a) of division A of Public Law*
 5 *105–277; 7 U.S.C. 5623 note).*

6 (2) *Section 10602 of Public Law 119–21 (7*
 7 *U.S.C. 5623a).*

8 **SEC. 3202. PRESERVING FOREIGN MARKETS FOR GOODS**
 9 **USING COMMON NAMES.**

10 (a) *DEFINITIONS.*—*Section 102 of the Agricultural*
 11 *Trade Act of 1978 (7 U.S.C. 5602) is amended—*

12 (1) *in the matter preceding paragraph (1), by*
 13 *striking “As used in this Act—” and inserting “In*
 14 *this Act:”;*

15 (2) *by redesignating paragraphs (2) through (8)*
 16 *as paragraphs (3), (5), (6), (7), (8), (9), and (4), re-*
 17 *spectively, and reordering such paragraphs in numer-*
 18 *ical sequence;*

19 (3) *by inserting after paragraph (1) the fol-*
 20 *lowing:*

21 “(2) *COMMON NAME.*—

22 “(A) *IN GENERAL.*—*The term ‘common*
 23 *name’ means a name that, as determined by the*
 24 *Secretary—*

1 “(i) *is ordinarily or customarily used*
 2 *for an agricultural commodity or food prod-*
 3 *uct;*

4 “(ii) *is typically placed on the pack-*
 5 *aging and product label of the agricultural*
 6 *commodity or food product;*

7 “(iii) *with respect to wine—*

8 “(I) *is—*

9 “(aa) *ordinarily or custom-*
 10 *arily used for a wine grape vari-*
 11 *etal name; or*

12 “(bb) *a traditional term or*
 13 *expression that is typically placed*
 14 *on the packaging and label of the*
 15 *wine; and*

16 “(II) *does not mean any appella-*
 17 *tion of origin for wine listed in sub-*
 18 *part C of part 9 of title 27, Code of*
 19 *Federal Regulations (or successor regu-*
 20 *lations); and*

21 “(iv) *the use of which is consistent*
 22 *with standards of the Codex Alimentarius*
 23 *Commission.*

24 “(B) *EXAMPLES.—The following names,*
 25 *among others, shall be considered as common*

1 *names as such term is defined for purposes of*
 2 *carrying out subparagraph (A):*

3 “(i) *With respect to food products:*
 4 *american, asiago, basmati, black forest*
 5 *ham, blue, blue vein, bologna, bologne, brat-*
 6 *wurst, brie, burrata, camembert, capicola*
 7 *and capocollo, cheddar, chevre, chorizo,*
 8 *colby, cottage cheese, coulommiers, cream*
 9 *cheese, danbo, edam, emmental, feta,*
 10 *fontina, gorgonzola, gouda, grana, gruyere,*
 11 *havarti, kielbasa, limburger and limburgo,*
 12 *mascarpone, monterey jack, mortadella,*
 13 *munster and muenster, neufchatel, par-*
 14 *mesan, pancetta, pecorino, pepper jack,*
 15 *prosciutto, provolone, ricotta, romano,*
 16 *saint-paulin, salame, salami, samso, and*
 17 *swiss, tilsiter, and tomme.*

18 “(ii) *With respect to wine:*

19 “(I) *The list of grape varietal*
 20 *terms in section 4.91 of title 27, Code*
 21 *of Federal Regulations (or a successor*
 22 *regulation).*

23 “(II) *The grape variety designa-*
 24 *tions administratively approved by the*

1 *Alcohol and Tobacco Tax and Trade*
 2 *Bureau.*

3 “(III) *The following nonvarietal*
 4 *descriptors: chateau, classic, clos,*
 5 *cream, crusted and crusting, noble,*
 6 *ruby, sur lie, tawny, vintage, and vin-*
 7 *tage character.*

8 “(iii) *With respect to beer: bitter, pale*
 9 *ale, india pale ale, mild, porter, stout,*
 10 *barleywine, dubbel, quadrupel, witbier,*
 11 *saison, biere de garde, oud red, altbier,*
 12 *weisse, gose, hefeweizen, dunkel, helles,*
 13 *rauchbier, pilsener, maerzen, schwarzbier,*
 14 *doppelbock, bock, kellerbier, munchener and*
 15 *munich style, oktoberfest, dortmunder,*
 16 *kolsch and koelsch, cream, grodziskie, lager.*

17 “(C) *CONSIDERATIONS.—In making a de-*
 18 *termination under subparagraph (A), the Sec-*
 19 *retary may take into account—*

20 “(i) *competent sources, such as diction-*
 21 *aries, newspapers, professional journals and*
 22 *literature, and information posted on*
 23 *websites that are determined by the Sec-*
 24 *retary to be reliable in reporting market in-*
 25 *formation;*

1 “(ii) *the use of the common name in a*
2 *domestic, regional, or international product*
3 *standard, including a standard promul-*
4 *gated by the Codex Alimentarius Commis-*
5 *sion, for the agricultural commodity or food*
6 *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 the*
15 *ability of the Secretary to determine, consistent*
16 *with subparagraph (A), that any other name is*
17 *a common name for purposes of this section.”;*
18 *and*

19 *(4) in subparagraph (A) of paragraph (7) (as so*
20 *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 (2).”.

4 (b) *NEGOTIATIONS TO DEFEND USE OF COMMON*
5 *NAMES.*—*Title III of the Agricultural Trade Act of 1978*
6 *(7 U.S.C. 5652 et seq.) is amended by adding at the end*
7 *the following:*

8 **“SEC. 303. NEGOTIATIONS TO DEFEND THE USE OF COM-**
9 **MON NAMES.**

10 “(a) *IN GENERAL.*—*The Secretary shall coordinate ef-*
11 *forts with the United States Trade Representative to secure*
12 *the right of United States agricultural producers, proc-*
13 *essors, and exporters to use common names for agricultural*
14 *commodities or food products in foreign markets through*
15 *the negotiation of bilateral, plurilateral, or multilateral*
16 *agreements, memoranda of understanding, or exchanges of*
17 *letters that assure the current and future use of each com-*
18 *mon name identified by the Secretary in connection with*
19 *United States agricultural commodities or food products.*

20 “(b) *BRIEFING.*—*The Secretary and the United States*
21 *Trade Representative shall jointly provide to the Committee*
22 *on Agriculture of the House of Representatives, the Com-*
23 *mittee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry of the Sen-*
24 *ate, the Committee on Ways and Means of the House of*
25 *Representatives, and the Committee on Finance of the Sen-*

1 ate, a briefing, twice annually, on efforts and successes in
 2 carrying out subsection (a).”.

3 **SEC. 3203. INTERAGENCY SEASONAL AND PERISHABLE**
 4 **FRUITS AND VEGETABLE WORKING GROUP.**

5 Subtitle B of title IV of the Agricultural Trade Act
 6 of 1978 (7 U.S.C. 5671 et seq.) is amended by adding at
 7 the end the following:

8 **“SEC. 418. INTERAGENCY SEASONAL AND PERISHABLE**
 9 **FRUITS AND VEGETABLES WORKING GROUP.**

10 “(a) *IN GENERAL.*—The Secretary (acting through the
 11 Under Secretary of Agriculture for Trade and Foreign Ag-
 12 ricultural Affairs), the United States Trade Representative,
 13 the Secretary of Commerce, and the heads of other Federal
 14 agencies or entities as determined to be appropriate by the
 15 Secretary, shall jointly establish an interagency working
 16 group (referred to in this section as the ‘working group’)
 17 composed of representatives from each agency to monitor
 18 and assess, on an ongoing basis, seasonal and perishable
 19 fruits and vegetables trade data and related information.

20 “(b) *CONSULTATION.*—The working group shall con-
 21 sult with the Agricultural Trade Advisory Committee, rel-
 22 evant seasonal or perishable agricultural producers, and
 23 other relevant trade associations to identify threats that im-
 24 ports pose to domestic producers of seasonal and perishable
 25 fruits and vegetables.

1 “(c) *TRADE ACTIONS AND INVESTIGATIONS.*—The
 2 *working group shall coordinate as appropriate regarding*
 3 *potential additional trade actions and investigations with*
 4 *respect to any seasonal or perishable fruits and vegetables,*
 5 *as determined to be advisable by the working group.*

6 “(d) *RECOMMENDATIONS TO THE SECRETARY.*—The
 7 *working group shall recommend programs or assistance*
 8 *that the Secretary could provide to producers of seasonal*
 9 *and perishable fruits and vegetables to address market im-*
 10 *pacts.”.*

11 ***Subtitle C—Other Agricultural*** 12 ***Trade Laws***

13 ***SEC. 3301. GROWING AMERICAN FOOD EXPORTS.***

14 *Section 1543A of the Food, Agriculture, Conservation,*
 15 *and Trade Act of 1990 (7 U.S.C. 5679) is amended in sub-*
 16 *section (d), by striking “2023” and inserting “2031”.*

17 ***SEC. 3302. FOOD FOR PROGRESS ACT OF 1985.***

18 *Section 1110 of the Food Security Act of 1985 (com-*
 19 *monly referred to as the “Food for Progress Act of 1985”;*
 20 *7 U.S.C. 1736o) is amended—*

21 *(1) in subsection (c)—*

22 *(A) by striking “enter into” and inserting*
 23 *“annually enter into two or more”; and*

24 *(B) by inserting “two or more” before “eli-*
 25 *gible entities”;*

1 (2) in subsection (f)(3), by striking “2023” and
2 inserting “2031”;

3 (3) in subsection (g), by striking “2023” and in-
4 serting “2031”;

5 (4) in subsection (k), by striking “2023” and in-
6 serting “2031”;

7 (5) in subsection (l)—

8 (A) in paragraph (1), by striking “2023”
9 and inserting “2031”; and

10 (B) in the heading of paragraph (4), by
11 striking “HUMANITARIAN OR DEVELOPMENT”
12 and inserting “DEVELOPMENT”;

13 (6) in subsection (m)(2), by striking “humani-
14 tarian and”; and

15 (7) in subsection (n)(2)(C), by striking “Com-
16 mittee on International Relations” and inserting
17 “Committee on Foreign Affairs”.

18 **SEC. 3303. BILL EMERSON HUMANITARIAN TRUST ACT.**

19 Section 302 of the Bill Emerson Humanitarian Trust
20 Act (7 U.S.C. 1736f–1) is amended—

21 (1) in subsection (b)(2)(B)(i), by striking “2023”
22 each place it appears and inserting “2031”;

23 (2) in subsection (c)(1)(C), by striking “the Ad-
24 ministrator” and inserting “the Secretary”;

25 (3) by striking subsection (c)(1)(D);

1 (4) in subsection (f)(2)(A), by inserting “by the
 2 Secretary” after “reimbursed”; and
 3 (5) in subsection (h),
 4 (A) in paragraph (1), by striking “2023”
 5 and inserting “2031”; and
 6 (B) in paragraph (2), by striking “2026”
 7 and inserting “2031”.

8 **SEC. 3304. PROMOTION OF AGRICULTURAL EXPORTS TO**
 9 **EMERGING MARKETS.**

10 Section 1542(a) of the Food, Agriculture, Conserva-
 11 tion, and Trade Act of 1990 (7 U.S.C. 5622 note; Public
 12 Law 101–624) is amended by striking “2023” and inserting
 13 “2031”.

14 **SEC. 3305. INTERNATIONAL AGRICULTURAL EDUCATION**
 15 **FELLOWSHIP PROGRAM.**

16 Section 3307 of the Agriculture Improvement Act of
 17 2018 (7 U.S.C. 3295) is amended—

18 (1) in subsection (g)(1), by striking “2019
 19 through 2023” and inserting “2027 through 2031”;

20 (2) by redesignating subsection (g) as subsection
 21 (h); and

22 (3) by inserting after subsection (f) the following:

23 “(g) *PROGRAM CONTINUITY.*—To assist eligible coun-
 24 tries in the long-term development of enduring, school-based

1 *agricultural education and youth extension programs, the*
 2 *Secretary shall, to the maximum extent practicable—*

3 *“(1) implement the fellowship program in each*
 4 *participating host country for not fewer than 3 con-*
 5 *secutive years; and*

6 *“(2) ensure that contracts awarded to outside or-*
 7 *ganizations are multiyear.”.*

8 **SEC. 3306. INTERNATIONAL AGRICULTURE CULTURAL IM-**
 9 **MERSION AND EXCHANGE PROGRAM.**

10 *Title III of the Agriculture Improvement Act of 2018*
 11 *(Public Law 115–334) is amended by adding at the end*
 12 *the following new section (and by conforming the table of*
 13 *contents in section 1(b) accordingly):*

14 **“SEC. 3313. INTERNATIONAL AGRICULTURE CULTURAL IM-**
 15 **MERSION AND EXCHANGE PROGRAM.**

16 *“(a) DEFINITION.—In this section:*

17 *“(1) ELIGIBLE CANDIDATE.—The term ‘eligible*
 18 *candidate’ means an individual that—*

19 *“(A) is between the ages of 19 and 30 years;*

20 *“(B) has demonstrated experience in agri-*
 21 *cultural sciences, food systems, and food and nu-*
 22 *trition education;*

23 *“(C) is prepared to live in 1 or more host*
 24 *countries for at least 2 months or up to 6*
 25 *months; and*

1 “(D) is a resident of the United States.

2 “(2) *ELIGIBLE COUNTRY*.—The term ‘eligible
3 country’ means a country that has agricultural trade
4 relations with the United States, as recognized by the
5 Foreign Agriculture Service.

6 “(3) *PROGRAM*.—The term ‘Program’ means the
7 International Agriculture Cultural Immersion and
8 Exchange Program established under subsection (b).

9 “(4) *SECRETARY*.—The term ‘Secretary’ means
10 the Secretary of Agriculture.

11 “(b) *ESTABLISHMENT*.—The Secretary shall establish
12 an international cultural immersion and exchange pro-
13 gram, to be known as the ‘International Agriculture Cul-
14 tural Immersion and Exchange Program’, under which the
15 Secretary shall—

16 “(1) provide eligible candidates with inter-
17 national cultural exchange and immersion experiences
18 focused on agricultural sciences, food systems, and
19 food and nutrition education through placement with
20 host families in eligible countries; and

21 “(2) place in the United States with host fami-
22 lies individuals that meet the requirement of sub-
23 section (a)(1)(A) and are residents of eligible coun-
24 tries to experience United States agriculture, trade re-
25 lations, and culture.

1 “(c) *PURPOSES.*—*The purposes of the Program are—*

2 “(1) *to develop globally minded citizens of the*
3 *United States; and*

4 “(2) *to strengthen and enhance trade between eli-*
5 *gible countries and the United States in agricultural,*
6 *food, nutrition, and environmental industries.*

7 “(d) *COOPERATIVE AGREEMENT.*—

8 “(1) *IN GENERAL.*—*To administer the Program,*
9 *the Secretary shall enter into a cooperative agreement*
10 *with a nonprofit organization that has experience in*
11 *implementing international cultural exchange pro-*
12 *grams focused on agricultural sciences, food and nu-*
13 *trition education, and cultural understanding through*
14 *placement with host families.*

15 “(2) *PRIORITY.*—*In carrying out paragraph (1),*
16 *the Secretary shall give priority to a nonprofit orga-*
17 *nization with which the Secretary has a memo-*
18 *randum of understanding dated not earlier than Jan-*
19 *uary 1, 2019.*

20 “(3) *MATCHING FUNDS.*—*As a condition of en-*
21 *tering into a cooperative agreement under this sub-*
22 *section, a nonprofit organization shall provide equal*
23 *matching funds from non-Federal sources.*

1 “(e) *AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There is*
 2 *authorized to be appropriated \$10,000,000 for each of fiscal*
 3 *years 2027 through 2031 to carry out this section.*”.

4 **SEC. 3307. INTERNATIONAL FOOD SECURITY TECHNICAL**
 5 **ASSISTANCE.**

6 *Section 1543B(f) of the Food, Agriculture, Conserva-*
 7 *tion, and Trade Act of 1990 is amended by striking “2023”*
 8 *and inserting “2031”.*

9 **SEC. 3308. MCGOVERN-DOLE INTERNATIONAL FOOD FOR**
 10 **EDUCATION AND CHILD NUTRITION PRO-**
 11 **GRAM.**

12 *Section 3107 of the Farm Security and Rural Invest-*
 13 *ment Act of 2002 (7 U.S.C. 1736o–1) is amended—*

14 *(1) in subsection (c)(2)(B)(ii), by inserting “or*
 15 *lower middle” before “income”;*

16 *(2) in subsection (h)(2), by striking “Committee*
 17 *on International Relations” and inserting “Com-*
 18 *mittee on Foreign Affairs”;*

19 *(3) in subsection (l)(2), by striking “2023” and*
 20 *inserting “2031”; and*

21 *(4) in subsection (l)(4), by striking “not more*
 22 *than 10 percent” and inserting “not less than 8 per-*
 23 *cent, but not more than 15 percent”.*

1 **SEC. 3309. GLOBAL CROP DIVERSITY TRUST.**

2 *Section 3202 of the Food, Conservation, and Energy*
 3 *Act of 2008 (22 U.S.C. 2220a note; Public Law 110–246)*
 4 *is amended—*

5 *(1) by amending subsection (b)(1) to read as fol-*
 6 *lows:*

7 *“(1) IN GENERAL.—For the period of fiscal years*
 8 *2027 through 2031, the aggregate contributions of*
 9 *funds of the Federal Government provided to the*
 10 *Trust under this section shall not exceed 33 percent*
 11 *of the total amount of funds contributed to the Trust*
 12 *from all sources and for all purposes.”;*

13 *(2) in subsection (b)(2)—*

14 *(A) by inserting “under this section” after*
 15 *“Trust”; and*

16 *(B) by striking “2023” and inserting*
 17 *“2031”; and*

18 *(3) in subsection (c), by striking “fiscal years*
 19 *2014 through 2023” and inserting “fiscal years 2023*
 20 *through 2031”.*

21 **SEC. 3310. LOCAL AND REGIONAL FOOD AID PROCUREMENT**
 22 **PROJECTS.**

23 *Section 3206(e)(1) of the Food, Conservation, and En-*
 24 *ergy Act of 2008 (7 U.S.C. 1726c(e)(1)) is amended by*
 25 *striking “2023” and inserting “2031”.*

1 **SEC. 3311. AGRICULTURAL TRADE ENFORCEMENT TASK**
2 **FORCE.**

3 (a) *ESTABLISHMENT.*—Not later than 30 days after
4 the date of the enactment of this Act, the President shall
5 establish a joint task force, to be known as the “Agricultural
6 Trade Enforcement Task Force” (referred to in this section
7 as the “Task Force”).

8 (b) *DUTIES.*—

9 (1) *IN GENERAL.*—The Task Force shall—

10 (A) identify trade barriers to United States
11 agricultural exports that are vulnerable to dis-
12 pute settlement under the World Trade Organi-
13 zation (“WTO”) or other trade agreements;

14 (B) develop and implement a strategy for
15 enforcing violations of trade agreements related
16 to these trade barriers;

17 (C) identify like-minded trading partners
18 for specific trade barriers that could act as co-
19 complainants or primary complainants on dis-
20 putes that are systemically or economically im-
21 portant to the United States; and

22 (D) report quarterly to Congress on progress
23 toward resolving cases or filing disputes.

24 (2) *CONSULTATION.*—In carrying out its duties
25 under this subsection, the Task Force shall regularly

1 *consult, to the extent necessary and appropriate, with*
2 *the following:*

3 *(A) Relevant stakeholders in the private sec-*
4 *tor, including the agricultural trade advisory*
5 *committees.*

6 *(B) Federal departments and agencies that*
7 *are not represented on the Task Force.*

8 *(C) Like-minded trading partners that are*
9 *similarly concerned with trade barriers and are*
10 *potential participants in the dispute settlement*
11 *process.*

12 *(c) MEMBERSHIP.—*

13 *(1) IN GENERAL.—The Task Force shall be com-*
14 *prised of the following members:*

15 *(A) One or more employees of the Foreign*
16 *Agricultural Service, who shall be appointed by*
17 *the Under Secretary for Trade and Foreign Ag-*
18 *ricultural Affairs.*

19 *(B) One of more employees of the Office of*
20 *the United States Trade Representative, who*
21 *shall be appointed jointly by the General Counsel*
22 *for the Office of the United States Trade Rep-*
23 *resentative and the Chief Agricultural Nego-*
24 *tiator.*

1 (C) *One or more employees of other Federal*
2 *agencies as needed, who shall be appointed joint-*
3 *ly by the officials specified in subparagraphs (A)*
4 *and (B).*

5 (2) *QUALIFICATION.—Employees of the Federal*
6 *agencies specified in subparagraphs (A), (B), and (C)*
7 *of paragraph (1) may be appointed as members of the*
8 *Task Force only if such employees have appropriate*
9 *expertise in agricultural trade policy and trade en-*
10 *forcement.*

11 (d) *REPORT.—*

12 (1) *IN GENERAL.—Not later than 90 days after*
13 *the date of enactment of this Act, and on a quarterly*
14 *basis thereafter, the Task Force shall submit to Con-*
15 *gress a report on its progress in identifying and ad-*
16 *dresssing trade barriers to United States agricultural*
17 *exports.*

18 (2) *MATTERS TO BE INCLUDED.—The report re-*
19 *quired by this subsection shall include the following:*

20 (A) *A description of the systemic and eco-*
21 *nomically significant trade barriers that have*
22 *been identified.*

23 (B) *A justification for including the identi-*
24 *fied trade barriers.*

1 (C) A description of the progress that has
 2 been made in developing dispute settlement cases
 3 and further information that is required.

4 (D) The current status of ongoing disputes
 5 at the WTO and implementation of panel, arbi-
 6 tration, or appellate body decisions.

7 (3) *ADDITIONAL MATTERS TO BE INCLUDED IN*
 8 *INITIAL REPORT.*—The initial report required by this
 9 subsection shall, in addition to the matters described
 10 in subparagraphs (A), (B), (C), and (D) of para-
 11 graph (2), include a plan to file a request under the
 12 WTO dispute settlement process for consultations to
 13 address India’s minimum price supports. The plan
 14 shall include—

15 (A) an identification of like-minded trading
 16 partners that could act as co-complainants or
 17 primary complainants with respect to the re-
 18 quest;

19 (B) a description of specific claims the
 20 United States intends to make with respect to the
 21 request; and

22 (C) a timeline to—

23 (i) request consultations; and

24 (ii) request the establishment of a
 25 panel not later than 60 days after the date

1 *of the request for consultations if India does*
2 *not provide assurances that it will address*
3 *its minimum price supports.*

4 (e) *CONGRESSIONAL BRIEFINGS.*—*The United States*
5 *Trade Representative and the Secretary of Agriculture shall*
6 *provide briefings on the Task Force to appropriate Members*
7 *of Congress and congressional staff.*

8 **SEC. 3312. REPORT ON INTERNATIONAL SHRIMP TRADE.**

9 (a) *REPORT REQUIRED.*—*Not later than 180 days*
10 *after the date of enactment of this Act, the Comptroller Gen-*
11 *eral of the United States shall submit to the appropriate*
12 *congressional committees a report that examines policy op-*
13 *tions available to the Secretary of Agriculture to boost the*
14 *competitiveness of domestic shrimp in global and domestic*
15 *markets.*

16 (b) *CONTENTS.*—*The report required by subsection (a)*
17 *shall—*

18 (1) *include an analysis of—*

19 (A) *the Secretary's authority with regard to*
20 *shrimp and other seafood products;*

21 (B) *domestic shrimp and other seafood pro-*
22 *ducers' access to financial support programs;*
23 *and*

24 (C) *ways to facilitate interagency coordina-*
25 *tion under existing authorities around common*

1 *goals for shrimp and other seafood commodities*
 2 *with respect to tariffs, market access policies,*
 3 *and other nontariff barriers; and*

4 (2) *identify trade or other legal barriers to*
 5 *United States shrimp and seafood production that are*
 6 *vulnerable to dispute settlement through the World*
 7 *Trade Organization or otherwise under bilateral or*
 8 *multilateral trade agreements.*

9 (c) *APPROPRIATE CONGRESSIONAL COMMITTEES.—In*
 10 *this section, the term “appropriate congressional commit-*
 11 *tees” means—*

12 (1) *the Committee on Agriculture and the Com-*
 13 *mittee on Energy and Commerce of the House of Rep-*
 14 *resentatives; and*

15 (2) *the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and*
 16 *Forestry and the Committee on Health, Education,*
 17 *Labor, and Pensions of the Senate.*

18 ***Subtitle D—Other Trade Matters***

19 ***SEC. 3401. REPORT ON MODIFICATIONS TO USMCA.***

20 (a) *REPORT REQUIRED.—The Secretary of Agri-*
 21 *culture, in coordination with the United States Trade Rep-*
 22 *resentative, shall submit to the appropriate congressional*
 23 *committees and concurrently make publicly available, prior*
 24 *to July 1, 2026, a report on how any expected or imple-*
 25 *mented modification or revocation of any part of the*

1 *USMCA (as such term is defined in section 3 of the United*
2 *States-Mexico-Canada Agreement Implementation Act (19*
3 *U.S.C. 4502(9))) in any manner will affect the importation*
4 *or exportation of any article that is a covered agricultural*
5 *commodity, including—*

6 *(1) the anticipated effects on relevant product*
7 *prices and projections as a result of such revocation*
8 *or modification, including—*

9 *(A) the short- and long-term impacts on do-*
10 *mestic pricing;*

11 *(B) changes in consumer food prices;*

12 *(C) expected or anticipated shifts in input*
13 *costs for domestic producers; and*

14 *(D) regional or sector-specific variations in*
15 *pricing impacts; and*

16 *(2) the forecasted shifts in farm revenue and*
17 *profitability for domestic farmers, foresters, ranchers,*
18 *and other producers as a result of such revocation or*
19 *modification, including—*

20 *(A) impacts on net farm income and debt-*
21 *to-asset ratios;*

22 *(B) sector-specific effects on crops, livestock,*
23 *and specialty crops;*

24 *(C) effects on small, medium, and large*
25 *farm operations;*

1 (D) impacts on agricultural exports, market
2 access, and global competitiveness; and

3 (E) estimated effects on rural employment
4 and economies.

5 (b) *DEFINITIONS.*—*In this section:*

6 (1) *APPROPRIATE CONGRESSIONAL COMMIT-*
7 *TEES.*—*The term “appropriate congressional commit-*
8 *tees” means—*

9 (A) *the Committee on Agriculture, the Com-*
10 *mittee on Ways and Means, and the Committee*
11 *on Foreign Affairs of the House of Representa-*
12 *tives; and*

13 (B) *the Committee on Agriculture, Nutri-*
14 *tion, and Forestry, the Committee on Finance,*
15 *and the Committee on Foreign Relations of the*
16 *Senate.*

17 (2) *COVERED AGRICULTURAL COMMODITY.*—*The*
18 *term “covered agricultural commodity” has the mean-*
19 *ing given the term “agricultural commodity” under*
20 *section 102(1) of the Agricultural Trade Act of 1978*
21 *(7 U.S.C. 5602(1)).*

22 **SEC. 3402. SENSE OF CONGRESS AND REPORT ON ARGEN-**
23 **TINE BEEF IMPORTS.**

24 (a) *SENSE OF CONGRESS.*—*It is the sense of Congress*
25 *as follows:*

1 (1) Congress finds that United States ranchers
2 and cattle producers produce the healthiest and high-
3 est quality beef on the planet.

4 (2) Any official trade agreement between the
5 United States and Argentina—including the United
6 States of America—Argentine Republic Agreement on
7 Reciprocal Trade and Investment—that allow Argen-
8 tina to export ship fresh and frozen beef into the
9 United States market under expanded quotas is detri-
10 mental to domestic ranchers, cattle producers, and
11 cattle markets.

12 (3) Congress recognizes that many Americans
13 enjoy eating beef and recognizes that many Americans
14 want their beef raised domestically.

15 (4) Congress further concludes that any agree-
16 ment to allow increased beef from Argentina into
17 United States markets introduces unfair competition
18 into an already volatile market as this imported beef
19 could depress cattle prices at United States sale barns
20 and have a ripple effect throughout the domestic econ-
21 omy affecting feed suppliers, equipment dealers, vet-
22 erinarians, and other rural businesses.

23 (5) Congress additionally concludes that United
24 States beef production is the safest in the world and
25 that inconsistent enforcement abroad could put Amer-

1 *ican consumers at risk and create an uneven regu-*
2 *latory playing field.*

3 *(b) REPORT.—*

4 *(1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 180 days after*
5 *the date on which the United States signs any formal*
6 *trade agreement with Argentina that includes a*
7 *change to the tariff rate quotas or other duties on*
8 *fresh and frozen beef imported from Argentina the*
9 *Secretary of Agriculture and the United States Trade*
10 *Representative shall jointly submit to the appropriate*
11 *congressional committees a report on the effect of such*
12 *imported beef on domestic beef and cattle markets, in-*
13 *cluding—*

14 *(A) American consumer sentiment about the*
15 *quality of beef in the United States;*

16 *(B) impacts on domestic cattle prices;*

17 *(C) effects on domestic beef prices;*

18 *(D) changes to the domestic cattle herd size;*

19 *and*

20 *(E) rancher sentiments toward expanding*
21 *their herds.*

22 *(2) APPROPRIATE CONGRESSIONAL COMMITTEES*
23 *DEFINED.—In this section, the term “appropriate*
24 *congressional committees” means—*

(A) the Committee on Agriculture, the Committee on Ways and Means, and the Committee on Foreign Affairs of the House of Representatives; and

(B) the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry, the Committee on Finance, and the Committee on Foreign Relations of the Senate.

TITLE IV—NUTRITION

Subtitle A—Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program

SEC. 4101. DECLARATION OF POLICY.

Section 2 of the Food and Nutrition Act of 2008 (7 U.S.C. 2011) is amended—

(1) by inserting “(a)” before “It”, and

(2) by adding at the end the following:

“(b) Congress recognizes the supplemental nutrition assistance program allows low-income households to obtain supplemental food for an active, healthy life that supports the prevention of—

“(1) diet-related chronic disease, including—

“(A) obesity;

“(B) diabetes;

“(C) hypertension;

“(D) heart disease; and

1 “(E) cancer;
 2 “(2) disability;
 3 “(3) premature death;
 4 “(4) unsustainable health care costs; and
 5 “(5) undermining of military readiness.

6 “(c) Accordingly, it is also the policy of the Congress
 7 that the Secretary should administer the supplemental nu-
 8 trition assistance program in a manner that will provide
 9 participants, especially children, access to a variety of foods
 10 essential to optimal health and well-being.”.

11 **SEC. 4102. PROHIBITED FEES.**

12 Section 7(h)(13)(B) of the Food and Nutrition Act of
 13 2008 (7 U.S.C. 2016(h)(13)(B)) is amended by striking
 14 “Effective through fiscal year 2023, neither” and inserting
 15 “Neither”.

16 **SEC. 4103. SNAP STAFFING FLEXIBILITY.**

17 Section 11 of the Food and Nutrition Act of 2008 (7
 18 U.S.C. 2020) is amended by adding at the end the following:

19 “(y) **SNAP STAFFING FLEXIBILITY.**—

20 “(1) **IN GENERAL.**—Notwithstanding section
 21 11(e)(6)(B), a State agency (as defined in section 3
 22 of the Food and Nutrition Act of 2008) may, by con-
 23 tract with the State agency at a reasonable cost in ac-
 24 cordance with the State agency’s standard contracting
 25 rules, hire a contractor to undertake supplemental nu-

1 *trition assistance program certification or carry out*
2 *any other function of the State agency under such*
3 *program so long as—*

4 *“(A) the contract does not provide incen-*
5 *tives for the agency or contractor to delay eligi-*
6 *bility determinations or to deny eligibility for*
7 *individuals otherwise eligible for supplemental*
8 *nutrition assistance program benefits; and*

9 *“(B) the contractor has no direct or indirect*
10 *financial interest in an approved retail store.*

11 *“(2) USE.—A State agency may use the author-*
12 *ity provided in paragraph (1) when—*

13 *“(A) the State experiences an inability to*
14 *timely process supplemental nutrition assistance*
15 *program applications from causes that include*
16 *but are not limited to—*

17 *“(i) pandemics and other health emer-*
18 *gencies;*

19 *“(ii) seasonal workforce cycles;*

20 *“(iii) temporary staffing shortages;*

21 *and*

22 *“(iv) weather or other natural disas-*
23 *ters;*

24 *“(B) the State’s payment error rate, as de-*
25 *finied in section 16, is greater than or equal to*

1 6 percent based on the most recent available De-
2 partment of Agriculture data; or

3 “(C) the State experiences an increase in
4 supplemental nutrition assistance program ap-
5 plications.

6 “(3) *REQUIREMENTS.*—A State agency that hires
7 a contractor under paragraph (1) shall ensure such
8 action—

9 “(A) is consistent with all principles under
10 section 900.603 of title 5 of the Code of Federal
11 Regulations; and

12 “(B) is part of a blended workforce and does
13 not supplant existing merit-based personnel in
14 the State.

15 “(4) *NOTIFICATION.*—A State agency shall notify
16 the Secretary of its intent to use the authority pro-
17 vided in this section and shall provide any informa-
18 tion or data supporting State agency increases in
19 supplemental nutrition assistance program applica-
20 tions or any inability to timely process such applica-
21 tions.

22 “(5) *PUBLIC AVAILABILITY.*—Not later than 10
23 days after the date of the receipt of a notification sub-
24 mitted by a State agency under paragraph (4), the
25 Secretary shall make publicly available on the website

1 *of the Department of Agriculture the notification sub-*
2 *mitted by such State agency and any accompanying*
3 *information or data supporting such notification so*
4 *submitted.*

5 “(6) *PROGRAM DESIGN.*—*Any action taken by a*
6 *State agency under paragraph (1) shall not be—*

7 “(A) *considered to be a major change in the*
8 *operations of such State agency for purposes of*
9 *section 11(a)(4) of this Act, or*

10 “(B) *subject to any requirement specified in*
11 *such section.*

12 “(7) *ANNUAL REPORT.*—*The Secretary shall sub-*
13 *mit to the Committee on Agriculture of the House of*
14 *Representatives and the Committee on Agriculture,*
15 *Nutrition, and Forestry of the Senate, an annual re-*
16 *port that contains—*

17 “(A) *a description of measures taken to ad-*
18 *dress increases in supplemental nutrition assist-*
19 *ance program applications and any inability to*
20 *timely process such applications;*

21 “(B) *information or data supporting State*
22 *agency notifications provided pursuant to para-*
23 *graph (4); and*

24 “(C) *recommendations for changes to the*
25 *Secretary’s authority under this Act to assist the*

1 *Secretary, States, and local governments of*
 2 *States in preparing for any future increases in*
 3 *supplemental nutrition assistance program ap-*
 4 *plications or inability to timely process such ap-*
 5 *plications.*

6 “(8) *TEMPORARY STAFFING SHORTAGES.—In*
 7 *cases of temporary staffing shortages, the authority*
 8 *provided to State agencies under paragraph (1)*
 9 *shall—*

10 *“(A) expire when the backlog of supple-*
 11 *mental nutrition assistance program applica-*
 12 *tions has been eliminated;*

13 *“(B) not override any collective bargaining*
 14 *agreement or memorandum of understanding in*
 15 *effect between the State and employees of the*
 16 *State or of a local government of such State; and*

17 *“(C) expire when the error rate, as defined*
 18 *in section 16, is less than 6 percent.”.*

19 **SEC. 4104. UPDATES TO ADMINISTRATIVE PROCESSES FOR**
 20 **SNAP RETAILERS.**

21 *The 2d sentence of section 9(d) of the Food and Nutri-*
 22 *tion Act of 2008 is amended by inserting “, on two consec-*
 23 *utive occasions within a 3-year-period,” after “does not*
 24 *meet”.*

1 **SEC. 4105. REPORT ON ALL IDENTIFIED PAYMENT ERRORS.**

2 *Section 16(c) of the Food and Nutrition Act of 2008*
3 *(7 U.S.C. 2025(c)) is amended—*

4 *(1) by redesignating paragraph (9) as para-*
5 *graph (10); and*

6 *(2) by inserting after paragraph (8) the fol-*
7 *lowing:*

8 *“(9) REPORT ON ALL IDENTIFIED PAYMENT ER-*
9 *RORS.—*

10 *“(A) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall in-*
11 *clude all identified payment errors, including*
12 *small errors under paragraph (1)(A)(ii), regard-*
13 *less of dollar amount, in a supplemental section*
14 *of the annual payment error rate measurement*
15 *report for the supplemental nutrition assistance*
16 *program.*

17 *“(B) RULE OF CONSTRUCTION.—The infor-*
18 *mation reported under subparagraph (A) shall*
19 *not alter, modify, or affect the calculation of the*
20 *tolerance level for excluding small errors under*
21 *paragraph (1)(A)(ii).”.*

22 **SEC. 4106. AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.**

23 *The 1st sentence of section 18(a)(1) of the Food and*
24 *Nutrition Act of 2008 (7 U.S.C. 2027(a)(1)) is amended*
25 *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 2008*
4 *(7 U.S.C. 2036b) is amended by striking “2023” and insert-*
5 *ing “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 defined*
11 *in section 3(i) of the Food and Nutrition Act; 7 U.S.C.*
12 *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, Nu-*
18 *trition, 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 following:*

11 *“(l) ONLINE PURCHASING PROGRAM.—*

12 *“(1) PERMANENT AUTHORITY.—Not later than*
13 *120 days after the effective date of this subsection, the*
14 *Secretary shall begin transitioning the supplemental*
15 *nutrition assistance program online purchasing ini-*
16 *tiative from pilot or demonstration status to perma-*
17 *nent nationwide program operations, with the com-*
18 *pletion of the regulations marking the end of the tran-*
19 *sition.*

20 *“(2) REGULATIONS.—The Secretary shall issue*
21 *such regulations and guidance as may be necessary to*
22 *carry out paragraph (1), including provisions related*
23 *to program integrity, consumer protections, and equi-*
24 *table access in rural areas. Such regulations shall be*
25 *issued not later than 2 years after the effective date*
26 *of this subsection.*

1 “(3) *STAKEHOLDER CONSULTATION.*—*The Sec-*
 2 *retary shall establish a formal process for consultation*
 3 *with State agencies, authorized retailers, electronic*
 4 *benefit transfer processors, consumer advocates, and*
 5 *other relevant stakeholders to incorporate lessons*
 6 *learned from online purchasing operations during the*
 7 *period of 2014 through 2025.*

8 “(4) *REPORT TO CONGRESS.*—*Not later than 120*
 9 *days after the effective date of this subsection, the Sec-*
 10 *retary shall submit to the Committee on Agriculture*
 11 *of the House of Representatives and the Committee on*
 12 *Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry of the Senate a*
 13 *report describing the consultation process and rec-*
 14 *ommendations received.”.*

15 **SEC. 4112. EMERGENCY FOOD ASSISTANCE PROGRAMS.**

16 (a) *EMERGENCY FOOD PROGRAM INFRASTRUCTURE*
 17 *GRANTS.*—*Section 209(d) of the Emergency Food Assist-*
 18 *ance Act of 1983 (7 U.S.C. 7511a(d)) is amended by strik-*
 19 *ing “2023” and inserting “2031”.*

20 (b) *AVAILABILITY OF COMMODITIES FOR THE EMER-*
 21 *GENCY FOOD ASSISTANCE PROGRAM.*—*Section 27(a)(1) of*
 22 *the Food and Nutrition Act of 2008 (7 U.S.C. 2036(a)(1))*
 23 *is amended by striking “2023” and inserting “2031”.*

24 (c) *OPTION FOR PURCHASING THROUGH DoD*
 25 *FRESH.*—*Section 214(c) of the Emergency Food Assistance*

1 *Act of 1983 (7 U.S.C. 7515(c)) is amended by adding at*
 2 *the end the following:*

3 “(3) *OPTION FOR PURCHASING THROUGH DOD*
 4 *FRESH.—At the request of a State agency, the Sec-*
 5 *retary may allow the State agency to use not more*
 6 *than 20 percent of the cost of the commodities allo-*
 7 *cated to that State agency under this section to order*
 8 *commodities through the Department of Defense Fresh*
 9 *Fruit and Vegetable Program.”.*

10 ***SEC. 4113. FOOD DISTRIBUTION PROGRAM ON INDIAN RES-***
 11 ***ERVATIONS.***

12 *Section 4(b)(6)(E) of the Food and Nutrition Act of*
 13 *2008 (7 U.S.C. 2013(b)(6)(E)) is amended by striking*
 14 *“2023” and inserting “2031”.*

15 ***Subtitle B—Commodity Distribution***
 16 ***Programs***

17 ***SEC. 4201. COMMODITY DISTRIBUTION PROGRAM.***

18 *(a) EXPANSION OF THE SENIORS FARMERS’ MARKET*
 19 *NUTRITION PROGRAM.—Section 4402 of the Farm Security*
 20 *and Rural Investment Act of 2002 (7 U.S.C. 3007) is*
 21 *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 herbs”*
 2 *and inserting “herbs, maple syrup, and tree nuts (in-*
 3 *cluding 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 Protection*
 10 *Act of 1973 (7 U.S.C. 612c note; Public Law 93–86) is*
 11 *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 pre-*
 16 *ceding clause (i), by striking “2023” and insert-*
 17 *ing “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 entities,*
6 *to carry out the activities described in paragraph (5).*

7 “(3) *MAXIMUM GRANT AWARD.*—*A grant award-*
8 *ed to a State agency under this subsection shall not*
9 *exceed—*

10 “(A) *the greater of—*

11 “(i) *the State’s commodity supple-*
12 *mental food program caseload at time of*
13 *application multiplied by 60; or*

14 “(ii) *\$10,000; or*

15 “(B) *\$4,000,000;*

16 *whichever is less.*

17 “(4) *APPLICATION.*—*A State agency seeking a*
18 *grant under this subsection shall submit to the Sec-*
19 *retary an application in such form, at such time, and*
20 *containing such information as the Secretary may re-*
21 *quire.*

22 “(5) *GRANT USES.*—*A State agency awarded a*
23 *grant under this subsection shall distribute grant*
24 *funds to eligible entities to operate projects that facili-*
25 *tate delivery of commodities to participants in the*

1 *commodity supplemental food program, including*
2 *with respect to costs associated with—*

3 “(A) *transportation and distribution of*
4 *commodities to participants in the commodity*
5 *supplemental food program, including transpor-*
6 *tation and distribution services provided by a*
7 *third party;*

8 “(B) *staffing required to operate delivery*
9 *services; and*

10 “(C) *outreach to participants or potential*
11 *participants in the commodity supplemental*
12 *food program with respect to home delivery.*

13 “(6) *PRIORITY.—A State agency awarded a*
14 *grant under this subsection must prioritize eligible*
15 *entities that serve participants in the commodity sup-*
16 *plemental food program who reside in a rural area.*

17 “(7) *REPORT TO THE SECRETARY.—Not later*
18 *than 180 days after the end of the fiscal year in*
19 *which a State agency is awarded a grant under this*
20 *subsection and has distributed grant funds to eligible*
21 *entities, and in each succeeding fiscal year until*
22 *grant funds are expended, a State agency shall sub-*
23 *mit a report to the Secretary that includes—*

24 “(A) *a summary of the activities carried*
25 *out under the project, including the quantity of*

1 *commodities delivered, number of participants in*
2 *the commodity supplemental food program*
3 *served, and total number of deliveries;*

4 “(B) *an assessment of the effectiveness of the*
5 *project, including a calculation of the average*
6 *cost per delivery, and an evaluation of any serv-*
7 *ices provided by a third party; and*

8 “(C) *best practices regarding use of home*
9 *delivery to improve the effectiveness of the com-*
10 *modity supplemental food program.*

11 “(8) *DEFINITIONS.—In this subsection:*

12 “(A) *TERMS IN REGULATIONS.—The term*
13 *‘State agency’, ‘local agency’, and ‘subdistrib-*
14 *uting agency’ have the meanings given such*
15 *terms in section 247.1 of title 7 of the Code of*
16 *Federal Regulations (or any successor regula-*
17 *tions).*

18 “(B) *ELIGIBLE ENTITY.—The term ‘eligible*
19 *entity’ means—*

20 “(i) *a local agency; or*

21 “(ii) *a subdistributing agency.*

22 “(C) *RURAL AREA.—The term ‘rural area’*
23 *has the meaning given such term in section*
24 *343(a) of the Consolidated Farm and Rural De-*
25 *velopment Act (7 U.S.C. 1991(a)).*

1 “(9) *AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.*—
 2 *There is authorized to be appropriated to carry out*
 3 *this subsection \$10,000,000 for each of fiscal years*
 4 *2027 through 2031 to remain available until ex-*
 5 *pended.*”.

6 **SEC. 4203. DISTRIBUTION OF SURPLUS COMMODITIES TO**
 7 **SPECIAL NUTRITION PROJECTS.**

8 *Section 1114(a)(2)(A) of the Agriculture and Food Act*
 9 *of 1981 (7 U.S.C. 1431e(2)(A)) is amended by striking*
 10 *“2023” and inserting “2031”.*

11 **SEC. 4204. COMMODITY SUPPLEMENTAL FOOD PROGRAM**
 12 **DEMONSTRATION PROJECT FOR TRIBAL OR-**
 13 **GANIZATIONS.**

14 *(a) DEMONSTRATION PROJECT FOR TRIBAL ORGANI-*
 15 *ZATIONS.*—

16 *(1) DEFINITIONS.*—*In this subsection:*

17 *(A) DEMONSTRATION PROJECT.*—*The term*
 18 *“demonstration project” means the demonstra-*
 19 *tion project established under paragraph (2).*

20 *(B) FOOD DISTRIBUTION PROGRAM.*—*The*
 21 *term “food distribution program” means the*
 22 *commodity supplemental food program identified*
 23 *in section 4 of the Agriculture and Consumer*
 24 *Protection Act of 1973 (7 U.S.C. 612c note; Pub-*
 25 *lic Law 93–86).*

1 (C) *INDIAN RESERVATION.*—*The term “In-*
2 *dian reservation” has the meaning given the*
3 *term “reservation” in section 3 of the Food and*
4 *Nutrition Act of 2008 (7 U.S.C. 2012).*

5 (D) *INDIAN TRIBE.*—*The term “Indian*
6 *Tribe” has the meaning given the term in section*
7 *4 of the Indian Self-Determination and Edu-*
8 *cation Assistance Act (25 U.S.C. 5304).*

9 (E) *SELF-DETERMINATION CONTRACT.*—*The*
10 *term “self-determination contract” has the mean-*
11 *ing given the term in section 4 of the Indian*
12 *Self-Determination and Education Assistance*
13 *Act (25 U.S.C. 5304) with modification as deter-*
14 *mined by the Secretary.*

15 (F) *TRIBAL ORGANIZATION.*—*The term*
16 *“Tribal organization” has the meaning given the*
17 *term in section 3 of the Food and Nutrition Act*
18 *of 2008 (7 U.S.C. 2012).*

19 (2) *ESTABLISHMENT.*—*Subject to the avail-*
20 *ability of appropriations, the Secretary shall establish*
21 *a demonstration project under which 1 or more Trib-*
22 *al organizations may enter into self-determination*
23 *contracts to purchase agricultural commodities under*
24 *the food distribution program for the Indian reserva-*
25 *tion of that Tribal organization.*

1 (3) *ELIGIBILITY.*—

2 (A) *CONSULTATION.*—*The Secretary shall*
3 *consult with Indian Tribes to determine the*
4 *process and criteria under which a Tribal orga-*
5 *nization may participate in the demonstration*
6 *project.*

7 (B) *CRITERIA.*—*The Secretary shall select*
8 *for participation in the demonstration project*
9 *Tribal organizations that—*

10 (i) *are successfully administering the*
11 *food distribution program of the Tribal or-*
12 *ganization under section 4(b)(2)(B) of the*
13 *Food and Nutrition Act of 2008 (7 U.S.C.*
14 *2013(b)(2)(B));*

15 (ii) *have the capacity to purchase agri-*
16 *cultural commodities in accordance with*
17 *paragraph (4) for the food distribution pro-*
18 *gram of the Tribal organization; and*

19 (iii) *meet any other criteria deter-*
20 *mined by the Secretary, in consultation*
21 *with the Secretary of the Interior and In-*
22 *dian Tribes.*

23 (4) *PROCUREMENT OF AGRICULTURAL COMMOD-*
24 *ITIES.*—*Any agricultural commodities purchased by a*

1 *Tribal organization under the demonstration project*
2 *shall—*

3 *(A) be domestically produced;*

4 *(B) not result in a material increase in the*
5 *amount of food in the food package of that Trib-*
6 *al organization compared to the amount of food*
7 *that the Secretary authorized to be provided*
8 *through the Commodity Supplemental Food Pro-*
9 *gram Guide Rate;*

10 *(C) be of similar or higher nutritional value*
11 *as the type of agricultural commodities that*
12 *would be supplanted in the existing food package*
13 *for that Tribal organization or be an agricul-*
14 *tural commodity with Tribal significance to that*
15 *Indian Tribe; and*

16 *(D) meet any other criteria determined by*
17 *the Secretary.*

18 (5) *REPORT.—Not later than 1 year after the*
19 *date on which funds are appropriated under para-*
20 *graph (6) and annually thereafter, the Secretary shall*
21 *submit to the Committee on Agriculture of the House*
22 *of Representatives and the Committee on Agriculture,*
23 *Nutrition, and Forestry of the Senate a report de-*
24 *scribing the activities carried out under the dem-*
25 *onstration project during the preceding year.*

1 (6) *FUNDING.*—

2 (A) *AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIA-*
 3 *TIONS.*—*There is authorized to be appropriated*
 4 *to carry out this subsection \$1,000,000, to re-*
 5 *main available until expended.*

6 (B) *APPROPRIATIONS IN ADVANCE.*—*Only*
 7 *funds appropriated under subparagraph (A) in*
 8 *advance specifically to carry out this subsection*
 9 *shall be available to carry out this subsection.*

10 (b) *ADMINISTRATION OF TRIBAL SELF-DETERMINA-*
 11 *TION CONTRACTS.*—

12 (1) *ADMINISTRATION.*—*The Secretary shall ap-*
 13 *point an existing office of the United States Depart-*
 14 *ment of Agriculture to administer Tribal self-deter-*
 15 *mination contracts to include but not limited to:*

16 (A) *awarding of Food and Nutrition Serv-*
 17 *ice nutrition program self-determination con-*
 18 *tracts to selected Tribal organizations; and*

19 (B) *hiring contract officers and program*
 20 *staff in order to manage the selection of Tribal*
 21 *organizations and execution of self-determination*
 22 *contracts.*

23 (2) *STAFFING MINIMUM FUNDING.*—*Notwith-*
 24 *standing any other provision of law, there is author-*
 25 *ized to be appropriated \$1,200,000 for each of fiscal*

years 2027 through 2031 for the payment of Department contract officers and program staff salaries and benefits.

Subtitle C—Miscellaneous

SEC. 4301. PURCHASE OF FRESH FRUITS AND VEGETABLES FOR DISTRIBUTION TO SCHOOLS AND SERVICE INSTITUTIONS.

Section 10603(b) of the Farm Security and Rural Investment Act of 2002 (7 U.S.C. 612c–4(b)) is amended by striking “2023” and inserting “2031”.

SEC. 4302. BUY AMERICAN REQUIREMENTS FOR CERTAIN SCHOOL MEALS.

(a) *IN GENERAL.*—Section 12(n)(2)(A) of the Richard B. Russell National School Lunch Act (42 U.S.C. 1760(n)(2)(A)) is amended to read as follows:

“(A) *REQUIREMENTS.*—

“(i) *PURCHASE EXPENDITURES BY CATEGORY.*—Subject to clause (ii) and subparagraph (B), the Secretary shall require that a school food authority purchase, with respect to each food purchase category designated by the Agricultural Marketing Service, at least 95 percent domestic products and commodities in each such category.

1 “(ii) *DOMESTICALLY UNAVAILABLE*
2 *PRODUCTS AND COMMODITIES.*—*Domesti-*
3 *cally unavailable products and commodities*
4 *included on a list issued pursuant to clause*
5 *(iii) with respect to a school year and pur-*
6 *chased by a school food authority during*
7 *such school year shall not be used to cal-*
8 *culate whether such school food authority*
9 *meets the requirements under clause (i).*

10 “(iii) *UPDATED LIST.*—*Not later than*
11 *6 months after the date of the enactment of*
12 *this subparagraph, and every 2 years there-*
13 *after, the Secretary shall make available to*
14 *school food authorities a list of domestically*
15 *unavailable products and commodities.*

16 “(iv) *LIMITED WAIVER AUTHORITY.*—
17 *Except with respect to a domestically un-*
18 *available product or commodity included on*
19 *a list pursuant to clause (iii), the Secretary*
20 *may not waive or make accommodations for*
21 *any of the requirements of this subpara-*
22 *graph.*

23 “(v) *PROHIBITION ON CERTAIN PROD-*
24 *UCTS FROM CHINA OR RUSSIA.*—*The Sec-*
25 *retary shall prohibit school food authorities*

1 *from purchasing raw or processed poultry*
 2 *products or seafood imported into the*
 3 *United States from the People’s Republic of*
 4 *China or the Russian Federation.”.*

5 **(b) APPLICATION.**—*The amendments made by sub-*
 6 *section (a) shall apply to school food authorities beginning*
 7 *on the first day of the first school year that begins after*
 8 *the date of the enactment of this Act.*

9 **SEC. 4303. REAUTHORIZATION OF THE GUS SCHUMACHER**
 10 **NUTRITION INCENTIVE PROGRAM.**

11 *Section 4405 of the Food, Conservation, and Energy*
 12 *Act of 2008 (7 U.S.C. 7517) is amended—*

13 *(1) in subsection (b)—*

14 *(A) in paragraph (1), by amending sub-*
 15 *paragraph (C) to read as follows:*

16 **“(C) FEDERAL SHARE.—**

17 **“(i) IN GENERAL.**—*Except as provided*
 18 *in clause (ii) and subparagraph (D)(iii),*
 19 *the Federal share of the cost of carrying out*
 20 *an activity under this subsection shall not*
 21 *exceed 50 percent of the total cost of the ac-*
 22 *tivity.*

23 **“(ii) WAIVER FOR PERSISTENT POV-**
 24 **ERTY AREAS.**—*The Secretary may waive*

1 *the application of clause (i) in the case of*
2 *an activity carried out—*

3 *“(I) in a county that, during the*
4 *preceding 30-year period has had a*
5 *population of which greater than or*
6 *equal to 20 percent of such population*
7 *are living in poverty (as measured by*
8 *the most recent decennial censuses and*
9 *most recent Small Area Income and*
10 *Poverty Estimates of the Bureau of the*
11 *Census); or*

12 *“(II) in a census tract with a*
13 *poverty rate of at least 20 percent dur-*
14 *ing the preceding 30-year period, as*
15 *measured by the most recent 5-year*
16 *data series available from the Amer-*
17 *ican Community Survey of the Bureau*
18 *of the Census.”; and*

19 *(B) in paragraph (2)(B)—*

20 *(i) by redesignating clauses (ix) and*
21 *(x) as clauses (x) and (xi); and*

22 *(ii) by inserting after clause (viii) the*
23 *following:*

1 “(ix) increase year-round availability
2 of incentives by offering all forms of fruits
3 or vegetables;”;

4 (2) in subsection (c), by striking “fresh fruits
5 and vegetables” and inserting “all forms of fruits,
6 vegetables, and legumes” each place it appears; and

7 (3) in subsection (f)—

8 (A) in paragraph (1), by striking “2023”
9 and inserting “2031”; and

10 (B) in paragraph (3), by striking “2023”
11 each place it appears and inserting “2031”.

12 **SEC. 4304. FOOD LOSS AND WASTE REDUCTION LIAISON AN-**
13 **NUAL REPORT.**

14 Section 224(e)(2) of the Department of Agriculture Re-
15 organization Act of 1994 (7 U.S.C. 6924(e)(2)) is amend-
16 ed—

17 (1) in the heading, by inserting “ANNUAL” before
18 “REPORT”;

19 (2) in the matter preceding subparagraph (A),
20 by inserting “and annually thereafter,” before “the
21 Secretary shall”;

22 (3) in subparagraph (A), by striking “and” at
23 the end;

24 (4) in subparagraph (B), by striking the period
25 at the end and inserting a semicolon; and

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

2 “(C) *a general description of each project*
3 *and activity implemented pursuant to this sec-*
4 *tion;*

5 “(D) *a summary of the cooperative agree-*
6 *ments entered into pursuant to subsection (c);*

7 “(E) *a detailed account of how the Sec-*
8 *retary avoided, managed, or will manage market*
9 *disruption; and*

10 “(F) *a summary of coordinated activities*
11 *with the Administrator of the Environmental*
12 *Protection Agency and the Commissioner of the*
13 *Food and Drug Administration, including inter-*
14 *agency communication and coordination related*
15 *to the promotion or exclusion of practices and*
16 *technologies to limit food waste.”.*

17 **SEC. 4305. DAIRY NUTRITION INCENTIVES PROJECTS.**

18 *Section 4208 of the Agriculture Improvement Act of*
19 *2018 (7 U.S.C. 2026a) is amended—*

20 (1) *in the section heading, by striking*
21 **“HEALTHY FLUID MILK”** *and inserting “DAIRY*
22 **NUTRITION”** *(and by conforming the item of such*
23 *section in the table of contents accordingly);*

24 (2) *by striking “healthy fluid milk” and insert-*
25 *ing “dairy nutrition” each place it appears;*

1 (3) *by amending subsection (a) to read as fol-*
 2 *lows:*

3 “(a) *DEFINITIONS.—In this section:*

4 “(1) *COVERED DAIRY PRODUCTS.—The term*
 5 *‘covered dairy products’ means—*

6 “(A) *cheese (including nonstandardized*
 7 *cheese) that is—*

8 “(i) *made from pasteurized cow’s milk;*

9 “(ii) *a good source of protein, as deter-*
 10 *mined by the Secretary; and*

11 “(iii) *sold as a block, chunk, shred,*
 12 *slice, stick, string or in snack-size form; and*

13 “(B) *yogurt (or other cultured dairy prod-*
 14 *uct) that—*

15 “(i) *is made from pasteurized cow’s*
 16 *milk;*

17 “(ii) *is a good source of protein, as de-*
 18 *termined by the Secretary; and*

19 “(iii) *contains limited amounts of*
 20 *added sugars.*

21 “(2) *FLUID MILK.—The term ‘fluid milk’ means*
 22 *all varieties of pasteurized cow’s milk that—*

23 “(A) *is packaged in liquid form; and*

1 “(B) contains vitamins A and D at levels
2 consistent with the Food and Drug Administra-
3 tion, State, and local standards for fluid milk.”;

4 (4) in subsection (b), by inserting “and covered
5 dairy products” after “of fluid milk” each place it
6 appears;

7 (5) in subsection (c)(3), by inserting “and cov-
8 ered dairy products” after “purchase of fluid milk”;
9 and

10 (6) in subsection (e)(1), by striking
11 “\$20,000,000” and inserting “\$50,000,000”.

12 **SEC. 4306. LOCAL FARMERS FEEDING OUR COMMUNITIES**
13 **PROGRAM.**

14 (a) *IN GENERAL.*—The Secretary of Agriculture shall
15 establish a program under which the Secretary will enter
16 into cooperative agreements (on a noncompetitive basis)
17 with eligible entities—

18 (1) to help support covered local producers
19 through building and expanding economic opportuni-
20 ties;

21 (2) to establish and broaden partnerships with
22 such covered local producers and the food distribution
23 community to ensure distribution of fresh (including
24 fresh frozen) and nutritious foods; and

1 (3) to strengthen such entity's local and regional
2 food security and systems.

3 (b) *USE OF FUNDS.*—An eligible entity selected to
4 enter into a cooperative agreement under this section shall
5 use funds received through such agreement—

6 (1) to purchase unprocessed or minimally proc-
7 essed local foods (including seafood, meat, milk and
8 dairy products, eggs, produce, and poultry) from cov-
9 ered producers;

10 (2) to ensure that at least 25 percent of the total
11 annual value of products purchased by the eligible en-
12 tity comprises purchases from small-size producers,
13 mid-size producers, beginning farmers or ranchers, or
14 veteran farmers or ranchers;

15 (3) to provide technical assistance supporting—

16 (A) covered local producers, including in ob-
17 taining food safety training and certifications;
18 and

19 (B) efforts to grow the local agricultural
20 value chain;

21 (4) to distribute such local foods to organiza-
22 tions, including nonprofit organizations, that have ex-
23 perience in food distribution to improve access to
24 healthy and nutritious food; and

1 (5) *to build and expand economic opportunity*
2 *for covered local producers.*

3 (c) *LIMITATION ON USE OF FUNDS.—*

4 (1) *IN GENERAL.—Of the amount made available*
5 *to an eligible entity through a cooperative agreement*
6 *under this section, an eligible entity may use not*
7 *more than 15 percent of such amount—*

8 (A) *to cover administrative expenses; and*

9 (B) *to provide technical assistance described*
10 *in subsection (b)(3);*

11 (2) *ALLOCATION FOR TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE.—*

12 *Of the amount described in paragraph (1), an eligible*
13 *entity shall use not less than 50 percent to provide*
14 *technical assistance described in subsection (b)(3).*

15 (d) *TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE TO ELIGIBLE ENTI-*
16 *TIES.—The Secretary shall provide to eligible entities enter-*
17 *ing into a cooperative agreement under this section guid-*
18 *ance, technical assistance, instruction, and monitoring*
19 *throughout the life cycle of the cooperative agreement.*

20 (e) *AMOUNT OF ALLOCATION.—Of the amounts made*
21 *available to carry out this section for each fiscal year, the*
22 *Secretary shall—*

23 (1) *allocate 10 percent to Tribal Governments, to*
24 *be allocated using a funding formula determined by*
25 *the Secretary; and*

(2) of the amounts remaining after making the allocation under paragraph (1), allocate 1 percent to each State (other than Tribal Governments); and

(3) after making the allocations under paragraphs (1) and (2), allocate the remaining amounts to each eligible entity (other than Tribal Governments) by applying the formula described in section 214 of the Emergency Food Assistance Act of 1983 (7 U.S.C. 7515).

(f) *FUNDING.*—There is authorized to be appropriated to carry out this section \$200,000,000 for each of fiscal years 2027 through 2031.

(g) *DEFINITIONS.*—In this section:

(1) *BEGINNING FARMER OR RANCHER; VETERAN FARMER OR RANCHER.*—The terms “beginning farmer or rancher” and “veteran farmer or rancher” have the meanings given such terms in section 2501 of the Food, Agriculture, Conservation, and Trade Act of 1990 (7 U.S.C. 2279).

(2) *COVERED PRODUCER.*—The term “covered producer” means a fisherman, farmer, producer, rancher, processor, or cooperative processor that is—

(A) within the geographic boundaries of the eligible entity in which the food will be delivered;

or

1 (B) not more than 400 miles from the deliv-
2 ery destination of the food.

3 (3) *ELIGIBLE ENTITY*.—The term “eligible enti-
4 ty” means a State agency, commission, or department
5 that is responsible for agriculture, procurement, food
6 distribution, emergency response, or other similar ac-
7 tivities within the State.

8 (4) *MID-SIZE PRODUCER*.—The term “mid-sized
9 producer” means an individual whose annual gross
10 cash farm income is equal to or exceeds \$350,000 and
11 is less than \$999,999.

12 (5) *SMALL-SIZE PRODUCER*.—The term “small-
13 sized producer” means one whose annual gross cash
14 farm income is less than \$350,000.

15 (6) *STATE*.—The term “State” means each of the
16 several States, the District of Columbia, each territory
17 or possession of the United States, and each federally
18 recognized Indian Tribe.

19 (7) *UNPROCESSED OR MINIMALLY PROCESSED*
20 *LOCAL FOODS*.—The term “unprocessed or minimally
21 processed local foods” means food products means
22 only those agricultural products that retain their in-
23 herent character. Such term includes—

24 (A) fruits and vegetables (including 100
25 percent juices);

1 (B) grain products, such as pastas and rice;

2 (C) meats (including whole carcasses, pieces
3 thereof, or ground meat);

4 (D) protein sources that are meat alter-
5 natives (such as beans or legumes) and fluid
6 milk and other dairy foods (such as cheese and
7 yogurt); and

8 (E) foods in a wide variety of minimal
9 processing states (such as whole, cut, or pureed)
10 or forms (such as fresh, frozen, canned, or dried).

11 **SEC. 4307. HEALTHY FOOD FINANCING INITIATIVE.**

12 Section 243(d) of the Department of Agriculture Reor-
13 ganization Act of 1994 (7 U.S.C. 6953(d)) is amended by
14 striking “\$125,000,000” and inserting “\$135,000,000”.

15 **SEC. 4308. DIETARY GUIDELINES.**

16 (a) *IN GENERAL.*—Section 301(a) of the National Nu-
17 trition Monitoring and Related Research Act of 1990 (7
18 U.S.C. 5341(a)) is amended—

19 (1) in paragraph (1)—

20 (A) by striking “At least every five years”
21 and inserting “Beginning with the 2030 report
22 and at least every 10 years thereafter,”; and

23 (B) by adding at the end the following:
24 “Rulemaking requirements under section 553 of

1 *title 5, United States Code, shall apply to the de-*
2 *velopment of each report under this paragraph.”;*

3 *(2) in paragraph (2), by striking “shall be based*
4 *on the preponderance of the scientific and medical*
5 *knowledge which is current at the time the report is*
6 *prepared.” and inserting “shall—*

7 *“(A) be based on significant scientific agree-*
8 *ment that is determined by evidence-based review*
9 *(as defined in paragraph (8)(A));*

10 *“(B) be current at the time the report is*
11 *prepared;*

12 *“(C) be derived from questions generated*
13 *under paragraph (5)(E);*

14 *“(D) address high-priority areas of concern*
15 *to advance health outcomes;*

16 *“(E) be designed to achieve nutritional ade-*
17 *quacy and promote health, as specified by the*
18 *Food and Nutrition Board of the National Acad-*
19 *emies of Sciences, Engineering and Medicine,*
20 *from the consumption of food, including nutri-*
21 *ents and bioactive food components occurring*
22 *naturally and in fortified foods;*

23 *“(F) include nutritional and dietary infor-*
24 *mation relevant to individuals with nutrition-re-*

1 *lated common chronic diseases, as defined by the*
 2 *Centers for Disease Control and Prevention; and*

3 *“(G) include recommendations that are af-*
 4 *fordable, available, and accessible for the general*
 5 *population.”;*

6 *(3) by redesignating paragraph (3) as para-*
 7 *graph (7);*

8 *(4) by inserting after paragraph (2) the fol-*
 9 *lowing:*

10 *“(3) FREQUENCY.—The Secretaries may publish*
 11 *the report required under paragraph (1) more fre-*
 12 *quently than required under that paragraph if the*
 13 *Secretaries determine that more frequent publication*
 14 *is necessary to promote health, based on the updated*
 15 *dietary reference intake values specified by—*

16 *“(A) the Food and Nutrition Board of the*
 17 *National Academies of Sciences, Engineering*
 18 *and Medicine; and*

19 *“(B) other relevant scientific advancements*
 20 *based on continuous monitoring of the totality of*
 21 *publicly available scientific evidence.*

22 *“(4) NOTIFICATION OF UPDATE.—*

23 *“(A) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 90 days*
 24 *before the Secretaries plan to update a report*
 25 *under paragraph (1), the Secretaries shall sub-*

1 *mit notification of that plan, in writing, to the*
2 *Committees on Agriculture, Nutrition, and For-*
3 *estry and Health, Education, Labor, and Pen-*
4 *sions of the Senate and the Committees on Agri-*
5 *culture and Energy and Commerce of the House*
6 *of Representatives.*

7 “(B) *JUSTIFICATION.*—*The notification*
8 *under subparagraph (A) shall include a jus-*
9 *tification for updating the report.*

10 “(5) *INDEPENDENT ADVISORY BOARD.*—

11 “(A) *IN GENERAL.*—*Not later than 90 days*
12 *after the Secretaries submit a notification under*
13 *paragraph (4)(A), the Secretaries shall establish*
14 *an Independent Advisory Board (referred to in*
15 *this paragraph as the ‘Board’).*

16 “(B) *MEMBERS.*—*The Board shall be com-*
17 *prised of at least 4 members and not more than*
18 *8 members, of which—*

19 “(i) *4 shall be appointed by the Secre-*
20 *taries, 2 of whom shall not be Federal em-*
21 *ployees; and*

22 “(ii) *1 may be appointed by each of*
23 *the highest ranking Member of Congress on*
24 *each Committee described in paragraph*
25 *(4)(A) of the opposite political party of the*

1 *President of the United States at the time*
2 *of the appointment.*

3 “(C) *EXPERTISE.*—*Each member appointed*
4 *to the Board shall have expertise in nutrition*
5 *science or food science, including academic and*
6 *applied experience.*

7 “(D) *MEETINGS.*—

8 “(i) *IN GENERAL.*—*The first meeting of*
9 *the Board—*

10 “(I) *may only take place on or*
11 *after the date that 4 members are ap-*
12 *pointed to the Board under subpara-*
13 *graph (B); and*

14 “(II) *shall take place on or after*
15 *the date that is 90 days after the Sec-*
16 *retaries submit a notification under*
17 *paragraph (4)(A).*

18 “(ii) *QUORUM.*—*A majority of the*
19 *members shall constitute a quorum for the*
20 *transaction of the business of the Board.*

21 “(E) *DUTIES.*—*Not later than 1 year after*
22 *the establishment of the Board, the Board shall*
23 *submit to the Secretaries and the Committees de-*
24 *scribed in paragraph (4)(A) a list of scientific*

1 *questions relating to the report for purposes of*
2 *paragraph (2)(C).*

3 “(F) *TERMINATION.*—*The authority of the*
4 *Board shall terminate, and the Board shall dis-*
5 *band, immediately after carrying out subpara-*
6 *graph (E).*

7 “(6) *EXCLUSION.*—*The information and guide-*
8 *lines contained in each report required under para-*
9 *graph (1) shall not be based on or include topics that*
10 *are not relevant to dietary guidance, as determined*
11 *by the Secretaries, in consultation with the Inde-*
12 *pendent Advisory Board established under paragraph*
13 *(5), including taxation, social welfare policies, pur-*
14 *chases under Federal feeding programs, food and ag-*
15 *ricultural production practices, food labeling, socio-*
16 *economic status, race, religion, ethnicity, culture, or*
17 *regulations relating to nutrition.”; and*

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

19 “(8) *EVIDENCE-BASED REVIEW.*—

20 “(A) *DEFINITION.*—*In this paragraph, the*
21 *term ‘evidence-based review’ means a process*
22 *under which—*

23 “(i) *the totality of the scientific evi-*
24 *dence relevant to a question of interest is*
25 *collected, analyzed, and evaluated;*

1 “(ii) *scientific studies, conclusions, and*
2 *recommendations are rated, adhering strict-*
3 *ly to standardized, generally accepted evi-*
4 *dence-based review methods; and*

5 “(iii) *external peer review is conducted*
6 *by nongovernment experts with recognized*
7 *expertise in quality of evidence evaluation.*

8 “(B) *STRENGTH OF EVIDENCE.—Each*
9 *guideline contained in a report published under*
10 *paragraph (1) shall be assigned a rating by the*
11 *Secretaries for the strength of evidence used, in-*
12 *cluding to the extent by which the guideline will*
13 *improve the Healthy Eating Index.*

14 “(9) *TRANSPARENCY.—*

15 “(A) *DISCLOSURE.—Any individual ap-*
16 *pointed to the Dietary Guidelines Advisory Com-*
17 *mittee or an Independent Advisory Board estab-*
18 *lished under paragraph (5) shall—*

19 “(i) *be appointed as a special govern-*
20 *ment employee;*

21 “(ii) *comply with financial disclosure*
22 *requirements applicable to such a special*
23 *government employee under subpart I of*
24 *part 2634 of title 5, Code of Federal Regu-*
25 *lations (or successor regulations), including*

1 *the requirement to file the Office of Govern-*
2 *ment Ethics Form 450 (or successor Form);*
3 *and*

4 “(iii) prior to such an appointment,
5 provide a report to the Secretaries regard-
6 ing, for the 10-year period preceding such
7 report, any research funding or professional
8 affiliation relating to a report under para-
9 graph (1).

10 “(B) *PUBLICATION.*—Notwithstanding any
11 other provision of law, not later than 30 days
12 after the date on which a Dietary Guidelines Ad-
13 visory Committee or an Independent Advisory
14 Board is established, the Secretaries shall make
15 publicly available—

16 “(i) a summary of the financial disclo-
17 sures reported by members of such Com-
18 mittee or Board;

19 “(ii) the research funding and profes-
20 sional affiliations reported by such members
21 under subparagraph (A)(iii), categorized by
22 the name of the individual; and

23 “(iii) a detailed plan for managing
24 any disclosed conflicts of interest, including

1 *financial or ethical conflicts of interest,*
 2 *preferences, values, and beliefs.”.*

3 (b) *CONTROLLING REPORT.—The 2025 Dietary Guide-*
 4 *lines for Americans published by the Secretaries under sub-*
 5 *section (a)(1) of section 301 of the National Nutrition Moni-*
 6 *toring and Related Research Act of 1990 (7 U.S.C.*
 7 *5341(a)(1)) shall be controlling and considered to be the*
 8 *most recent Dietary Guidelines for Americans until the*
 9 *publication of the first report under such subsection in ac-*
 10 *cordance with the amendments made to such section by this*
 11 *Act.*

12 **TITLE V—CREDIT**

13 **Subtitle A—Farm Ownership Loans**

14 **SEC. 5101. PERSONS ELIGIBLE FOR REAL ESTATE LOANS.**

15 *Section 302(a) of the Consolidated Farm and Rural*
 16 *Development Act (7 U.S.C. 1922(a)) is amended—*

17 (1) *in the 2nd sentence of paragraph (1), by*
 18 *striking “a majority” each place it appears and in-*
 19 *serting “at least a 50 percent”;*

20 (2) *in paragraph (2), by striking subparagraphs*
 21 *(A) and (B) and inserting the following:*

22 *“(A) ELIGIBILITY OF QUALIFIED OPERA-*
 23 *TORS.—Qualified operators, as defined by the*
 24 *Secretary, shall be considered to meet the oper-*
 25 *ator requirement of paragraph (1).*

1 “(B) *ELIGIBILITY OF CERTAIN OPERATING-*
2 *ONLY ENTITIES.*—An applicant that is or will
3 become only the operator of farm real estate ac-
4 quired, improved, or supported with funds under
5 this subtitle shall be considered to meet the
6 owner-operator requirements of paragraph (1) if
7 1 or more of the individuals who is an owner of
8 the farm real estate owns at least 50 percent (or
9 such other percentage as the Secretary deter-
10 mines is appropriate) of the applicant.

11 “(C) *ELIGIBILITY OF CERTAIN EMBEDDED*
12 *ENTITIES.*—An entity that is an owner-operator
13 described in paragraph (1), or an operator de-
14 scribed in subparagraph (B) of this paragraph
15 that is owned, in whole or in part, by 1 or more
16 other entities, shall be considered to meet the di-
17 rect ownership requirement imposed under para-
18 graph (1) if at least 75 percent of the total own-
19 ership interests of the embedded entity, or of the
20 other entities, is owned, directly or indirectly, by
21 qualified operators of the farm acquired, im-
22 proved, or supported with funds under this sub-
23 title.”.

1 **SEC. 5102. EXPERIENCE REQUIREMENTS.**

2 *Section 302(b) of the Consolidated Farm and Rural*
3 *Development Act (7 U.S.C. 1922(b)) is amended—*

4 *(1) in paragraph (1), in the matter preceding*
5 *subparagraph (A), by striking “3 years” and insert-*
6 *ing “2 years”; and*

7 *(2) in paragraph (4)—*

8 *(A) in subparagraph (A)—*

9 *(i) in the matter preceding clause (i)—*

10 *(I) by striking “3-year” and in-*
11 *serting “2-year”; and*

12 *(II) by striking “1 or 2 years”*
13 *and inserting “1 year”;*

14 *(ii) in clause (iii), by inserting “or*
15 *operational” before “responsibilities”;*

16 *(iii) in clause (vii), by striking “or”;*
17 *and*

18 *(iv) by adding at the end the following:*

19 *“(ix) met any other criteria established*
20 *by the Secretary; or”; and*

21 *(B) in subparagraph (B), by striking “3-*
22 *year” and inserting “2-year”.*

1 **SEC. 5103. REFINANCING OF INDEBTEDNESS INTO DIRECT**
 2 **LOANS.**

3 *Section 303 of the Consolidated Farm and Rural De-*
 4 *velopment Act (7 U.S.C. 1923) is amended by adding at*
 5 *the end the following:*

6 “(d) *REFINANCING OF GUARANTEED LOANS INTO DI-*
 7 *RECT LOANS.*—*Within 1 year after the date of the enact-*
 8 *ment of this subsection, the Secretary, acting through the*
 9 *Administrator of the Farm Service Agency (referred to in*
 10 *this section as the ‘Secretary’), shall promulgate regulations*
 11 *allowing certain loans guaranteed by the Farm Service*
 12 *Agency to be refinanced into direct loans issued by the*
 13 *Farm Service Agency, in accordance with this subsection.*

14 “(1) *REQUIREMENTS.*—

15 “(A) *IN GENERAL.*—*A guaranteed loan may*
 16 *be refinanced into a direct loan pursuant to this*
 17 *subsection only if the Secretary determines*
 18 *that—*

19 “(i) *the guaranteed loan is distressed*
 20 *due to its status as a nonperforming loan*
 21 *that does not have a positive cash flow at*
 22 *rates and terms available from the lender;*

23 “(ii) *the borrower on the guaranteed*
 24 *loan is in monetary default and subject to*
 25 *liquidation or foreclosure action;*

1 “(iii) a reasonable chance for the suc-
 2 cess of the operation financed by the guar-
 3 anteed loan exists; and

4 “(iv) all other criteria established by
 5 the Secretary for purposes of this subsection
 6 to protect taxpayer funds and the loan pro-
 7 grams of the Farm Service Agency have
 8 been satisfied.

9 “(B) REASONABLE CHANCE OF SUCCESS.—
 10 For purposes of subparagraph (A)(iii), the Sec-
 11 retary may determine that a reasonable chance
 12 for the success of an operation exists if the Sec-
 13 retary determines that—

14 “(i) all relevant problems with the op-
 15 eration financed by the guaranteed loan—

16 “(I) have been identified; and

17 “(II) can be corrected; and

18 “(ii) on correction of the problems, the
 19 operation can achieve, or be returned to, a
 20 sound financial basis.

21 “(2) LOAN PROGRAMS.—In making direct loans
 22 pursuant to the regulations promulgated under this
 23 subsection, the Secretary may refinance a loan guar-
 24 anteed under 1 program of the Farm Service Agency
 25 into a direct loan issued under another program of

1 *the Farm Service Agency, as the Secretary determines*
 2 *to be appropriate and in accordance with the laws*
 3 *applicable to the program under which the direct loan*
 4 *is issued.*

5 “(3) *REFINANCED GUARANTEED LOANS.*—A di-
 6 *rect loan issued by the Farm Service Agency pursu-*
 7 *ant to the regulations promulgated under subsection*
 8 *(a) of this section shall be subject to any otherwise ap-*
 9 *plicable limitation on the maximum amount of a di-*
 10 *rect loan issued by the Farm Service Agency, includ-*
 11 *ing, if applicable, the limitations described in sections*
 12 *305 and 313.”.*

13 **SEC. 5104. CONSERVATION LOAN AND LOAN GUARANTEE**
 14 **PROGRAM.**

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

17 *(1) in subsection (d)—*

18 *(A) in paragraph (2), by striking “and” at*
 19 *the end;*

20 *(B) in paragraph (3), by striking “1985.”*
 21 *and inserting “1985 (16 U.S.C. 3812); and”;*
 22 *and*

23 *(C) by adding at the end the following:*

24 *“(4) producers who use the loans to adopt preci-*
 25 *sion agriculture practices or acquire precision agri-*

1 *culture technologies, including adoption or acquisi-*
 2 *tion for the purpose of participating in the environ-*
 3 *mental quality incentives program under subchapter*
 4 *A of chapter 4 of subtitle D of title XII of the Food*
 5 *Security Act of 1985 (16 U.S.C. 3839aa et seq.).”;*
 6 *and*

7 *(2) in subsection (h), by striking “2023” and in-*
 8 *serting “2031”.*

9 **SEC. 5105. LIMITATIONS ON AMOUNT OF FARM OWNERSHIP**
 10 **LOANS.**

11 *Section 305(a)(2) of the Consolidated Farm and Rural*
 12 *Development Act (7 U.S.C. 1925(a)(2)) is amended by*
 13 *striking “\$600,000, or, in the case of a loan guaranteed by*
 14 *the Secretary, \$1,750,000 (increased, beginning with fiscal*
 15 *year 2019” and inserting “\$850,000, or, in the case of a*
 16 *loan guaranteed by the Secretary, \$3,500,000 (increased, be-*
 17 *ginning with fiscal year 2026”.*

18 **SEC. 5106. INFLATION PERCENTAGE.**

19 *Section 305(c) of the Consolidated Farm and Rural*
 20 *Development Act (7 U.S.C. 1925(c)) is amended—*

21 *(1) in paragraph (1), by striking “of the Prices*
 22 *Paid By Farmers Index (as compiled by the National*
 23 *Agricultural Statistics Service of the Department of*
 24 *Agriculture) for the 12-month period ending on July*
 25 *31 of the immediately preceding fiscal year” and in-*

1 serting “of the per acre average United States farm
 2 real estate value, the per acre average United States
 3 cropland value, and the per acre average United
 4 States pasture value for the preceding year (as pub-
 5 lished in the applicable Agricultural Land Values re-
 6 port of the National Agricultural Statistics Service of
 7 the Department of Agriculture), weighted equally”;
 8 and

9 (2) in paragraph (2), by striking “of such index
 10 (as so defined) for the 12-month period that imme-
 11 diately precedes the 12-month period described in
 12 paragraph (1)” and inserting “of the per acre average
 13 United States farm real estate value, the per acre av-
 14 erage United States cropland value, and the per acre
 15 average United States pasture value for the year im-
 16 mediately preceding the year described in paragraph
 17 (1) (as so published), weighted equally”.

18 **SEC. 5107. AUTHORITY OF FARM CREDIT SYSTEM INSTITU-**
 19 **TIONS TO PROVIDE FINANCIAL SUPPORT FOR**
 20 **ESSENTIAL RURAL COMMUNITY FACILITIES**
 21 **PROJECTS.**

22 (a) *IN GENERAL.*—The Farm Credit Act of 1971 is
 23 amended by inserting after section 4.18A (12 U.S.C. 2206a)
 24 the following:

1 **“SEC. 4.18B. ESSENTIAL COMMUNITY FACILITIES.**

2 “(a) *IN GENERAL.*—A Farm Credit Bank, direct lend-
 3 er association, or bank for cooperatives chartered under this
 4 Act may, for the purpose of making available capital to
 5 develop, build, maintain, improve, or provide related equip-
 6 ment or other support for essential community facilities in
 7 rural areas, make and participate in loans and commit-
 8 ments, and extend other technical and financial assistance
 9 for projects for essential community facilities eligible for fi-
 10 nancing under section 306(a) of the Consolidated Farm and
 11 Rural Development Act.

12 “(b) *ELIGIBILITY.*—Only an entity eligible for financ-
 13 ing under section 306(a) of the Consolidated Farm and
 14 Rural Development Act may receive financing or any other
 15 assistance under subsection (a) of this section.

16 “(c) *LIMITATIONS.*—

17 “(1) *FINANCING.*—A Farm Credit System insti-
 18 tution described in subsection (a) shall not provide fi-
 19 nancing or assistance under this section in an aggre-
 20 gate amount that exceeds 15 percent of the total of all
 21 outstanding loans of the institution.

22 “(2) *OFFER REQUIREMENT.*—

23 “(A) *IN GENERAL.*—A Farm Credit System
 24 institution shall not provide financing or assist-
 25 ance under this section unless the institution—

1 “(i) has offered, under reasonable terms
2 and conditions acceptable to the borrower
3 involved, an interest in the financing to at
4 least 1 domestic lending institution not re-
5 ferred to in subsection (a) other than the
6 Department of Agriculture; and

7 “(ii) has reported the offer to the Farm
8 Credit Administration.

9 “(B) RURAL COMMUNITY BANK PRIORITY.—
10 In offering an interest in a financing to a do-
11 mestic lending institution described in subpara-
12 graph (A)(i), the Farm Credit System institu-
13 tion shall give priority to community banks lo-
14 cated in the service area of the essential commu-
15 nity facility being financed.

16 “(d) ANNUAL REPORT TO CONGRESS.—Within 1 year
17 after the date of the enactment of this section and annually
18 thereafter, the Farm Credit Administration shall provide
19 a report to the Committee on Agriculture of the House of
20 Representatives and the Committee on Agriculture, Nutri-
21 tion, and Forestry of the Senate on the activities under-
22 taken pursuant to this section by Farm Credit System in-
23 stitutions during the period covered by the report, including
24 through partnerships between such an institution and other

1 *lending institutions, which shall also be posted on the*
 2 *website of the Farm Credit Administration.”.*

3 (b) *EFFECTIVE DATE.*—*The amendment made by sub-*
 4 *section (a) shall take effect on October 1, 2026.*

5 **SEC. 5108. DOWN PAYMENT LOAN PROGRAM.**

6 *Section 310E(b)(1) of the Consolidated Farm and*
 7 *Rural Development Act (7 U.S.C. 1935(b)(1)) is amended—*

8 (1) *in the matter preceding subparagraph (A),*
 9 *by striking “exceed 45 percent of the least” and in-*
 10 *serting “exceed, subject to section 305(a), 45 percent*
 11 *of the lesser”;*

12 (2) *in subparagraph (A), by adding “or” after*
 13 *the semicolon;*

14 (3) *in subparagraph (B), by striking “; or” and*
 15 *inserting a period; and*

16 (4) *by striking subparagraph (C).*

17 **SEC. 5109. HEIRS PROPERTY.**

18 (a) *REAUTHORIZATION OF THE HEIRS PROPERTY*
 19 *INTERMEDIARY RELENDING PROGRAM.*—*Section 310I(g) of*
 20 *the Consolidated Farm and Rural Development Act (7*
 21 *U.S.C. 1936c(g)) is amended by striking “2023” and insert-*
 22 *ing “2031”.*

23 (b) *COOPERATIVE AGREEMENTS FOR HEIRS PROP-*
 24 *ERTY RESOLUTION THROUGH DIRECT PUBLIC INTEREST*

1 *LEGAL SERVICES.—Section 310I of such Act (7 U.S.C.*
 2 *1936c) is amended—*

3 *(1) by redesignating subsections (f) and (g) as*
 4 *subsections (g) and (h), respectively; and*

5 *(2) by inserting after subsection (e) the following:*

6 *“(f) COOPERATIVE AGREEMENTS FOR HEIRS PROP-*
 7 *ERTY RESOLUTION THROUGH DIRECT PUBLIC INTEREST*

8 *LEGAL SERVICES.—*

9 *“(1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall enter*
 10 *into cooperative agreements with eligible entities to*
 11 *provide legal or accounting services to underserved*
 12 *heirs, at no cost to the underserved heirs, to assist in*
 13 *resolving undivided ownership interests on farmland*
 14 *or forest land, or land transitioning to farmland or*
 15 *forest land, that has multiple owners. Such a coopera-*
 16 *tive agreement must be for any of the following pur-*
 17 *poses:*

18 *“(A) To assist with transitioning land to*
 19 *agricultural production.*

20 *“(B) To maintain land in agricultural pro-*
 21 *duction.*

22 *“(C) To increase access to programs admin-*
 23 *istered by the Secretary through the resolution of*
 24 *real property claims in order to allow real prop-*
 25 *erty owners to meet land ownership eligibility*

1 *requirements for participation in a program ad-*
2 *ministered by the Secretary.*

3 “(2) *ADMINISTRATION OF COOPERATIVE AGREE-*
4 *MENTS.—*

5 “(A) *DURATION.—*

6 “(i) *IN GENERAL.—A cooperative*
7 *agreement under paragraph (1) shall be in*
8 *effect for not more than 4 years, subject to*
9 *clause (ii).*

10 “(ii) *SPECIAL RULE.—The Secretary*
11 *may extend a cooperative agreement or re-*
12 *enter into a cooperative agreement with the*
13 *same or a different eligible entity to provide*
14 *continued services for heirs if—*

15 “(I) *property ownership is not re-*
16 *solved within the initial term of the*
17 *original cooperative agreement; and*

18 “(II) *the entity certifies that the*
19 *entity understands that the cooperative*
20 *agreement is not guaranteed to be*
21 *funded for more than 4 years after the*
22 *commencement of the original coopera-*
23 *tive agreement.*

24 “(B) *MANAGEMENT OF PERFORMANCE.—*

1 “(i) *ANNUAL REPORTS.*—An eligible
2 entity must provide annual reports to the
3 Secretary summarizing the progress made
4 during each fiscal year towards achieving
5 the goals of the cooperative agreement for
6 the heirs for whom services are provided
7 under the cooperative agreement.

8 “(ii) *INFORMATION AND DATA.*—The
9 Secretary may require an eligible entity to
10 provide the Secretary with such information
11 or data as the Secretary deems necessary to
12 determine that the eligible entity is making
13 acceptable progress. The data may not in-
14 clude personally identifiable information.

15 “(iii) *EFFECT OF FAILURE TO DEM-*
16 *ONSTRATE SUCCESS.*—If an eligible entity
17 providing services under such a cooperative
18 agreement does not demonstrate success, as
19 determined by the Secretary, in resolving or
20 reasonably attempting to resolve the prop-
21 erty claims of an heir, the Secretary may
22 terminate the agreement.

23 “(C) *IMPLEMENTATION.*—The Secretary
24 may utilize requests for public input or the for-
25 mal rulemaking process to effectuate this sub-

1 *section. At a minimum, the Secretary shall make*
2 *publicly available the criteria for selecting an el-*
3 *igible entity to enter into an agreement to pro-*
4 *vide services, the administrative and perform-*
5 *ance requirements for cooperative agreements*
6 *under this subsection, as well as codify within*
7 *its internal policy its implementation process.*

8 *“(D) HEIRS PROPERTY NOT IN FARMING.—*
9 *On a limited basis, and when determined by the*
10 *Secretary to meet the purposes of a program ad-*
11 *ministered by the Secretary and to expand access*
12 *to such a program, the Secretary may allow an*
13 *eligible entity to provide services at no cost to an*
14 *heir who is not an underserved heir if—*

15 *“(i) the land with respect to which the*
16 *services are to be provided is not farmland*
17 *or in agricultural production, but could be*
18 *viably productive for agricultural, conserva-*
19 *tion, or forestry purposes;*

20 *“(ii) the heir satisfies all other require-*
21 *ments of the definition of ‘underserved heir’;*

22 *“(iii) the heir can provide proof to sub-*
23 *stantiate that the heir is in control of the*
24 *real property; and*

1 “(iv) the heir certifies to the Secretary
2 that the heir intends to apply for, and make
3 a good faith effort to enroll the land in, a
4 program administered by the Secretary once
5 property claims to the land are resolved
6 through services provided under a coopera-
7 tive agreement entered into under this sub-
8 section.

9 “(3) *DEFINITIONS.*—In this subsection:

10 “(A) *ELIGIBLE ENTITY.*—The term ‘eligible
11 entity’ means a nonprofit organization that—

12 “(i) provides legal or accounting serv-
13 ices to an underserved heir at no cost to the
14 underserved heir to resolve property owner-
15 ship issues; and

16 “(ii) has demonstrated experience in
17 resolving issues related to ownership and
18 succession on farmland or forest land that
19 has multiple owners.

20 “(B) *LIMITED RESOURCE HEIR.*—An heir
21 shall be considered a limited resource heir for
22 purposes of this subsection if—

23 “(i) the total household income of the
24 heir is at or below the national poverty level
25 for a family of 4, or less than 50 percent of

1 the county median household income for the
2 2 immediately preceding calendar years, as
3 determined annually using data of the De-
4 partment of Commerce; or

5 “(ii) the property of the heir for which
6 legal services are provided pursuant to a co-
7 operative agreement entered into under this
8 subsection is in a persistent poverty com-
9 munity, as determined annually on the
10 basis of data from the Department of Com-
11 merce, or a socially vulnerable area, as des-
12 ignated by the Centers on Disease Control
13 and Prevention.

14 “(C) *UNDERSERVED HEIR*.—The term ‘un-
15 derserved heir’ means an heir with an undivided
16 ownership interest in farmland or forest land
17 that has multiple owners, who is—

18 “(i) a limited resource heir;

19 “(ii) a member of a socially disadvan-
20 taged group (as defined in section 2501(a)
21 of the Food, Agriculture, Conservation, and
22 Trade Act of 1990); or

23 “(iii) a veteran (as defined in section
24 101(2) of title 38, United States Code).

1 “(4) *ANNUAL REPORTS TO CONGRESS.*—Within 1
 2 *year after the date of the enactment of this subsection,*
 3 *and annually thereafter, the Secretary shall prepare,*
 4 *make public, and submit to the Committee on Agri-*
 5 *culture of the House of Representatives and the Com-*
 6 *mittee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry of the*
 7 *Senate a written report on the activities carried out*
 8 *under this subsection in the year covered by the re-*
 9 *port.*

10 “(5) *LIMITATIONS ON AUTHORIZATION OF AP-*
 11 *PROPRIATIONS.*—To carry out this subsection, there is
 12 *authorized to be appropriated to the Secretary*
 13 *\$60,000,000 for each of fiscal years 2027 through*
 14 *2031.’’.*

15 (c) *ANNUAL REPORT ON OPERATIONS AND OUTCOMES*
 16 *UNDER THE RELENDING PROGRAM TO RESOLVE OWNER-*
 17 *SHIP AND SUCCESSION ON FARMLAND.*—Section 310I(g) of
 18 *such Act, as so redesignated by subsection (b) of this section,*
 19 *is amended by striking “Not later than 1 year after the*
 20 *date of enactment of this section, the Secretary shall” and*
 21 *inserting “The Secretary shall annually”.*

22 **SEC. 5110. PROMPT APPROVAL OF LOANS AND LOAN GUAR-**
 23 **ANTEES.**

24 Section 333A of the of the Consolidated Farm and
 25 Rural Development Act (7 U.S.C. 1983a) is amended—

1 (1) in subsection (g)—

2 (A) by striking paragraph (1) and inserting
3 the following:

4 “(1) *REAL ESTATE AND OPERATING GUARAN-*
5 *TEED LOANS.*—

6 “(A) *IN GENERAL.*—*The Secretary shall*
7 *provide to lenders a short, simplified application*
8 *form for real estate and operating guaranteed*
9 *loans under this title, for loans of not more than*
10 *\$1,000,000.*

11 “(B) *NOTICE.*—*Within 5 business days*
12 *after receipt of a complete application to guar-*
13 *antee a farm ownership or operating loan that*
14 *meets the requirements under subparagraph (A)*
15 *originated by a Preferred Certified Lender or*
16 *Certified Lender, the Secretary shall notify the*
17 *lender as to whether the application is approved*
18 *or disapproved.*

19 “(C) *MAXIMUM GUARANTEE.*—*Notwith-*
20 *standing any other provision of this Act, the per-*
21 *centage of the principal amount of a loan which*
22 *may be guaranteed pursuant to this paragraph*
23 *shall not exceed—*

24 “(i) 90 percent, in the case of a loan
25 not exceeding \$125,000;

1 “(ii) 75 percent, in the case of a loan
2 of more than \$125,000 and not more than
3 \$500,000; or

4 “(iii) 50 percent, in the case of a loan
5 of more than \$500,000 and not more than
6 \$1,000,000.”; and

7 (B) by redesignating paragraphs (2) and
8 (3) as paragraphs (3) and (4), respectively, and
9 inserting after paragraph (1) the following:

10 “(2) *BUSINESS AND INDUSTRY GUARANTEED*
11 *LOANS TO ASSIST RURAL ENTITIES.—*

12 “(A) *IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall de-*
13 *velop an application process that accelerates, to*
14 *the maximum extent practicable, the processing*
15 *of applications for business and industry guar-*
16 *anteed loans to assist rural entities, as described*
17 *under section 310B(a)(2)(A), for loans not ex-*
18 *ceeding \$400,000.*

19 “(B) *EXCEPTION.—The accelerated applica-*
20 *tion process, as provided under subparagraph*
21 *(A), shall apply to loans not exceeding \$600,000*
22 *if there is not a significant increased risk of a*
23 *default on the loan, as determined by the Sec-*
24 *retary.”; and*
25 (2) by striking subsection (h).

1 **SEC. 5111. EXPEDITED APPROVAL PILOT PROGRAM.**

2 (a) *IN GENERAL.*—Subtitle D of the Consolidated
3 *Farm and Rural Development Act* is amended by inserting
4 *after section 333D (7 U.S.C. 1983d) the following:*

5 **“SEC. 333E. EXPEDITED APPROVAL PILOT PROGRAM.**

6 “(a) *IN GENERAL.*—Beginning not later than 1 year
7 *after the date of the enactment of this section, the Secretary*
8 *shall carry out a pilot program to establish an expedited*
9 *qualification and approval process for borrowers seeking—*

10 “(1) *a direct farm ownership loan under this*
11 *Act; or*

12 “(2) *a guaranteed farm ownership loan under*
13 *this Act that is serviced by a Preferred Certified*
14 *Lender under section 339(d) and provided to a credit-*
15 *worthy borrower, as determined by the Preferred Cer-*
16 *tified Lender.*

17 “(b) *LOAN ASSESSMENTS.*—*In carrying out this sec-*
18 *tion, the Secretary shall consider streamlining the process*
19 *for making—*

20 “(1) *determinations necessary to make the cer-*
21 *tifications and assessments referred to in section*
22 *339(c)(5); and*

23 “(2) *determinations under section 360(b).*

24 “(c) *RULE OF INTERPRETATION.*—*Except as otherwise*
25 *provided in subsections (a) and (b), this section shall not*
26 *be interpreted to authorize the waiver or modification of*

1 *any requirement, other than an application process timing*
 2 *requirement, imposed by or under this Act.*

3 “(d) *REPORT.*—*Within 1 year after the date of the en-*
 4 *actment of this section, and annually thereafter, the Sec-*
 5 *retary shall submit to the Committee on Agriculture of the*
 6 *House of Representatives and the Committee on Agri-*
 7 *culture, Nutrition, and Forestry of the Senate a report ex-*
 8 *amining the actions undertaken under, and the results of,*
 9 *the pilot program.*

10 “(e) *TERMINATION OF EFFECTIVENESS.*—*The author-*
 11 *ity provided by this section shall terminate effective Sep-*
 12 *tember 30, 2031.”.*

13 (b) *CONFORMING AMENDMENTS.*—*Section 346(b)(2) of*
 14 *such Act (7 U.S.C. 1994(b)(2)) is amended—*

15 (1) *in subparagraph (A)(i)(II), by inserting “, to*
 16 *the extent practicable” after “April 1 of the fiscal*
 17 *year”;*

18 (2) *in subparagraph (A)(iii), by inserting “, to*
 19 *the extent practicable” after “September 1 of the fiscal*
 20 *year”; and*

21 (3) *in subparagraph (B)(iii), in the text, by in-*
 22 *serting “, to the extent practicable” after “April 1 of*
 23 *the fiscal year”.*

1 ***Subtitle B—Operating Loans***

2 ***SEC. 5201. PERSONS ELIGIBLE FOR OPERATING LOANS.***

3 *Section 311(a) of the Consolidated Farm and Rural*
 4 *Development Act (7 U.S.C. 1941(a)) is amended—*

5 *(1) in the 2nd sentence of paragraph (1), by*
 6 *striking “a majority” each place it appears and in-*
 7 *serting “at least a 50 percent”; and*

8 *(2) in paragraph (2)—*

9 *(A) in the paragraph heading, by striking*
 10 *“(2) SPECIAL RULE.—An entity” and inserting*
 11 *the following:*

12 *“(2) SPECIAL RULES.—*

13 *“(A) ELIGIBILITY OF QUALIFIED OPERA-*
 14 *TORS.—Qualified operators, as defined by the*
 15 *Secretary, shall be considered to meet the oper-*
 16 *ator requirement of paragraph (1).*

17 *“(B) ELIGIBILITY OF CERTAIN OPERATING-*
 18 *ONLY ENTITIES.—An entity”; and*

19 *(B) by striking “ownership interests of each*
 20 *embedded entity of the entity is owned directly*
 21 *or indirectly by the individuals that own the*
 22 *family farm” and inserting “total ownership in-*
 23 *terests of the embedded entity, or of the other en-*
 24 *tities, is owned, directly or indirectly, by quali-*

1 *fied operators of the farm improved or supported*
 2 *with funds under this subtitle”.*

3 **SEC. 5202. LIMITATIONS ON AMOUNT OF OPERATING**
 4 **LOANS.**

5 *Section 313(a)(1) of the Consolidated Farm and Rural*
 6 *Development Act (7 U.S.C. 1943(a)(1)) is amended by*
 7 *striking “\$400,000, or, in the case of a loan guaranteed by*
 8 *the Secretary, \$1,750,000 (increased, beginning with fiscal*
 9 *year 2019” and inserting “\$750,000, or, in the case of a*
 10 *loan guaranteed by the Secretary, \$3,000,000 (increased, be-*
 11 *ginning with fiscal year 2026”.*

12 **SEC. 5203. LIMITATION ON MICROLOAN AMOUNTS.**

13 *Section 313(c)(2) of the Consolidated Farm and Rural*
 14 *Development Act (7 U.S.C. 1943(c)(2)) is amended by strik-*
 15 *ing “\$50,000” and inserting “\$100,000”.*

16 **SEC. 5204. COOPERATIVE LENDING PILOT PROJECTS.**

17 *Section 313(c)(4)(A) of the Consolidated Farm and*
 18 *Rural Development Act (7 U.S.C. 1943(c)(4)(A)) is amend-*
 19 *ed by striking “2023” and inserting “2031”.*

20 ***Subtitle C—Emergency Loans***

21 **SEC. 5301. PERSONS ELIGIBLE FOR EMERGENCY LOANS.**

22 *Section 321 of the Consolidated Farm and Rural De-*
 23 *velopment Act (7 U.S.C. 1961) is amended—*

24 *(1) in subsection (a)—*

25 *(A) in the 1st sentence—*

1 (i) by striking “(A)” and inserting
2 “(i”;

3 (ii) by striking “(B)” and inserting
4 “(ii”;

5 (iii) by striking “(1)” and inserting
6 “(A”;

7 (iv) by striking “(2)” and inserting
8 “(B”;

9 (v) by striking “a majority” each place
10 it appears and inserting “at least a 50 per-
11 cent”;

12 (B) in the 2nd sentence, by striking “this
13 subsection” and inserting “this paragraph”;

14 (C) by striking the 5th sentence; and

15 (D) by adding after and below the end the
16 following:

17 “(2) SPECIAL RULES.—

18 “(A) ELIGIBILITY OF QUALIFIED OPERA-
19 TORS.—Qualified operators, as defined by the
20 Secretary, shall be considered to meet the oper-
21 ator requirement of paragraph (1).

22 “(B) ELIGIBILITY OF CERTAIN OPERATING-
23 ONLY ENTITIES.— An applicant that is or will
24 become only the operator of farm real estate ac-
25 quired, improved, or supported with funds under

1 *this subtitle shall be considered to meet the*
 2 *owner-operator requirements of paragraph (1) if*
 3 *1 or more of the individuals who is an owner of*
 4 *the real estate owns at least 50 percent (or such*
 5 *other percentage as the Secretary determines is*
 6 *appropriate) of the applicant.*

7 *“(C) ELIGIBILITY OF CERTAIN EMBEDDED*
 8 *ENTITIES.—An entity that is an owner-operator*
 9 *described in paragraph (1), or an operator de-*
 10 *scribed in subparagraph (B) of this paragraph*
 11 *that is owned, in whole or in part, by 1 or more*
 12 *other entities, shall be considered to meet the di-*
 13 *rect ownership requirement imposed under para-*
 14 *graph (1) if at least 75 percent of the total own-*
 15 *ership interests of the embedded entity, or of the*
 16 *other entities, is owned, directly or indirectly, by*
 17 *qualified operators of the farm acquired, im-*
 18 *proved, or supported with funds under this sub-*
 19 *title.”; and*

20 *(2) by striking all that precedes “shall make and*
 21 *insure” and inserting the following:*

22 **“SEC. 321. ELIGIBILITY FOR LOANS.**

23 *“(a) IN GENERAL.—*

24 *“(1) ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS.—The Sec-*
 25 *retary”.*

***Subtitle D—Administrative
Provisions***

***SEC. 5401. BEGINNING FARMER AND RANCHER INDIVIDUAL
DEVELOPMENT ACCOUNTS PILOT PROGRAM.***

*Section 333B(h) of the Consolidated Farm and Rural
Development Act (7 U.S.C. 1983b(h)) is amended by strik-
ing “2023” and inserting “2031”.*

SEC. 5402. LOAN AUTHORIZATION LEVELS.

*Section 346(b)(1) of the Consolidated Farm and Rural
Development Act (7 U.S.C. 1994(b)(1)) is amended in the
matter preceding subparagraph (A) by striking “2023” and
inserting “2031”.*

SEC. 5403. LOAN FUND SET-ASIDES.

*Section 346(b)(2)(A)(ii)(III) of the Consolidated Farm
and Rural Development Act (7 U.S.C.
1994(b)(2)(A)(ii)(III)) is amended by striking “2023” and
inserting “2031”.*

***SEC. 5404. USE OF ADDITIONAL FUNDS FOR DIRECT OPER-
ATING MICROLOANS UNDER CERTAIN CONDI-
TIONS.***

*Section 346(b)(5)(C) of the Consolidated Farm and
Rural Development Act (7 U.S.C. 1994(b)(5)(C)) is amend-
ed by striking “2023” and inserting “2031”.*

1 ***Subtitle E—Miscellaneous***

2 ***SEC. 5501. EXTENSION OF CREDIT TO BUSINESSES PRO-***
 3 ***VIDING SERVICES TO PRODUCERS OR HAR-***
 4 ***VESTERS OF AQUATIC PRODUCTS.***

5 (a) *ELIGIBILITY FOR CREDIT AND FINANCIAL SERV-*
 6 *ICES.—Section 1.9 of the Farm Credit Act of 1971 (12*
 7 *U.S.C. 2017) is amended—*

8 (1) *in paragraph (2), by striking “or” at the*
 9 *end;*

10 (2) *by redesignating paragraph (3) as para-*
 11 *graph (4); and*

12 (3) *by inserting after paragraph (2) the fol-*
 13 *lowing:*

14 “(3) *persons furnishing to producers or har-*
 15 *vesters of aquatic products services directly related to*
 16 *their operating needs; or”.*

17 (b) *PURPOSES FOR EXTENSIONS OF CREDIT.—Section*
 18 *1.11(c)(1) of such Act (12 U.S.C. 2019(c)(1)) is amended*
 19 *by inserting “and to persons furnishing services directly re-*
 20 *lated to the operating needs of producers or harvesters of*
 21 *aquatic products” after “needs”.*

22 (c) *PRODUCTION CREDIT ASSOCIATIONS.—Section*
 23 *2.4(a) of such Act (12 U.S.C. 2075(a)) is amended—*

24 (1) *in paragraph (2), by striking “and” at the*
 25 *end;*

1 (2) *in paragraph (3), by striking the period at*
 2 *the end and inserting “; and”; and*

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

4 “(4) *persons furnishing to producers or har-*
 5 *vesters of aquatic products services directly related to*
 6 *their operating needs.”.*

7 **SEC. 5502. EXPORT FINANCE AUTHORITY.**

8 *Section 3.7(b)(2)(A)(i) of the Farm Credit Act of 1971*
 9 *(12 U.S.C. 2128(b)(2)(A)(i)) is amended—*

10 (1) *by striking “50 percent of the bank’s capital”*
 11 *and inserting “15 percent of the total assets of the*
 12 *bank”; and*

13 (2) *by striking “an amount equal to 50 percent*
 14 *of the bank’s capital” and inserting “15 percent of the*
 15 *total assets of the bank”.*

16 **SEC. 5503. SUPPORT FOR RURAL WATER AND WASTE SYS-**
 17 **TEMS.**

18 *Section 3.7(f) of the Farm Credit Act of 1971 (12*
 19 *U.S.C. 2128(f)) is amended—*

20 (1) *by redesignating paragraphs (1) and (2) as*
 21 *subparagraphs (A) and (B);*

22 (2) *by striking “The banks” and inserting “(1)*
 23 *The banks”;*

24 (3) *striking “For purposes” and inserting “(3)*
 25 *For purposes”;*

1 (4) in paragraph (3) (as so redesignated), by in-
 2 serting “, or in the case of such loans, commitments,
 3 and assistance that are guaranteed, the term ‘rural
 4 area’ means an area described in section
 5 343(a)(13)(A) of the Consolidated Farm and Rural
 6 Development Act (7 U.S.C. 1991(a)(13)(A))” before
 7 the period at the end; and

8 (5) by inserting after paragraph (1) (as so redesi-
 9 gnated) the following:

10 “(2) Notwithstanding paragraph (1), a bank for co-
 11 operatives may make and participate in loans and commit-
 12 ments and provide technical and other financial assistance
 13 to cooperatives and any other public or private entity (ex-
 14 cept for the Federal Government) for the purpose of install-
 15 ing, maintaining, expanding, improving, or operating fa-
 16 cilities in a rural area for the processing or disposal of
 17 waste from any source, the provision of telecommunication
 18 services, and producing electricity from any source for use
 19 or sale by the borrower.”.

20 **SEC. 5504. FARM CREDIT SYSTEM REGULATION.**

21 (a) *IN GENERAL.*—The Farm Credit Act of 1971 (12
 22 U.S.C. 2001 *et seq.*) is amended by inserting after section
 23 4.20 the following:

1 **“SEC. 4.21. FARM CREDIT SYSTEM REGULATION.**

2 “(a) *The Farm Credit Administration shall be the sole*
 3 *and independent regulator of the Farm Credit System with*
 4 *respect to activities subject to this Act.*

5 “(b) *Nothing in this section shall limit or affect any*
 6 *regulatory or other authority granted to the Farm Credit*
 7 *System Insurance Corporation under this Act.*

8 “(c) *A law enacted or rule promulgated after the date*
 9 *of the enactment of this section shall not be held to modify*
 10 *or supersede the exclusive authority provided by subsection*
 11 *(a), except to the extent that the enacted law does so ex-*
 12 *pressly.”.*

13 (b) *EFFECTIVE DATE.*—*The amendment made by sub-*
 14 *section (a) shall take effect on the date of the enactment*
 15 *of this Act.*

16 **SEC. 5505. LOAN GUARANTEES.**

17 *Section 8.0(7)(B) of the Farm Credit Act of 1971 (12*
 18 *U.S.C. 2279aa(7)(B)) is amended by inserting “ or section*
 19 *9007(c)(1) of the Farm Security and Rural Investment Act*
 20 *of 2002 (7 U.S.C. 8107(c)(1))” before the 1st comma.*

21 **SEC. 5506. STANDARDS FOR QUALIFIED LOANS.**

22 *Section 8.8 of the Farm Credit Act of 1971 (12 U.S.C.*
 23 *2279aa–8) is amended—*

24 (1) *in subsection (a)(3), by striking “mortgage*
 25 *investors” and inserting “investors in those types of*
 26 *loans”; and*

1 (2) *by striking subsection (c) and inserting the*
 2 *following:*

3 “(c) *QUALIFIED LOAN LIMITATION FOR SINGLE BOR-*
 4 *ROWERS.—*

5 “(1) *IN GENERAL.—The Corporation shall not*
 6 *treat a loan secured by agricultural real estate as a*
 7 *qualified loan when the cumulative principal amount*
 8 *of all loans to a single borrower or related borrowers*
 9 *exceeds 10 percent of the Corporation’s tier 1 capital,*
 10 *as defined by the Farm Credit Administration.*

11 “(2) *REGULATOR DETERMINATION.—The Farm*
 12 *Credit Administration may issue regulations estab-*
 13 *lishing a single borrower concentration limit lower*
 14 *than the percentage specified in paragraph (1) if the*
 15 *Farm Credit Administration determines that such a*
 16 *lower limit is necessary for the safe and sound oper-*
 17 *ation of the Corporation.”.*

18 **SEC. 5507. STATE AGRICULTURAL MEDIATION PROGRAMS.**

19 “(a) *MATCHING GRANTS TO STATES.—Section 502 of*
 20 *the Agricultural Credit Act of 1987 (7 U.S.C. 5102) is*
 21 *amended—*

22 (1) *in subsection (b)(2), by striking “\$500,000”*
 23 *and inserting “\$700,000”; and*

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

1 “(e) *CARRYOVER OF FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE.*—The
 2 *Secretary shall permit a State that receives financial assist-*
 3 *ance under subsection (a) for a fiscal year to carry over*
 4 *not more than 25 percent of the financial assistance that*
 5 *is not expended by the end of the fiscal year, for use during*
 6 *the next fiscal year without deducting the amount from any*
 7 *assistance provided under this Act in subsequent fiscal*
 8 *years.”.*

9 (b) *AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.*—Section
 10 506 of the Agricultural Credit Act of 1987 (7 U.S.C. 5106)
 11 is amended by striking “2023” and inserting “2031”.

12 **SEC. 5508. TECHNICAL CORRECTIONS.**

13 (a) *ELIMINATION OF OBSOLETE REFERENCES TO*
 14 *COUNTY COMMITTEES.*—

15 (1) *Section 333A(a)(2)(B)(vi) of the Consoli-*
 16 *dated Farm and Rural Development Act (7 U.S.C.*
 17 *1983a(a)(2)(B)(vi)) is amended by striking “by the*
 18 *county committee” and inserting “of the application”.*

19 (2) *Section 336 of such Act (7 U.S.C. 1986) is*
 20 *amended—*

21 (A) *by striking the last sentence of sub-*
 22 *section (b); and*

23 (B) *by striking subsection (c) and redesign-*
 24 *ating subsection (d) as subsection (c).*

1 (3) *Section 339 of such Act (7 U.S.C. 1989) is*
 2 *amended—*

3 (A) *in subsection (c)(4)(A), by striking*
 4 *“county committee certification that the bor-*
 5 *rower of the loan meets the eligibility require-*
 6 *ments and” and inserting “the borrower meet-*
 7 *ing”; and*

8 (B) *in subsection (d)(4)(A), by striking*
 9 *“county committee certification that the bor-*
 10 *rower meets the eligibility requirements or” and*
 11 *inserting “the borrower meeting”.*

12 (4) *Section 359(c)(1) of such Act (7 U.S.C.*
 13 *2006a(c)(1)) is amended by striking “(as determined*
 14 *by the appropriate county committee during the de-*
 15 *termination of eligibility for the loan)”.*

16 (b) *REVISION OF LOAN ASSESSMENT REQUIRE-*
 17 *MENTS.—Section 360(d)(1) of such Act (7 U.S.C.*
 18 *2006b(d)(1)) is amended by striking “annual review of di-*
 19 *rect loans, and periodic review (as determined necessary by*
 20 *the Secretary) of guaranteed loans” and inserting “periodic*
 21 *review (as determined by the Secretary) of direct and guar-*
 22 *anteed loans”.*

23 (c) *UPDATING OF OUTDATED REFERENCES TO THE*
 24 *FARMERS HOME ADMINISTRATION AND THE RURAL DE-*
 25 *VELOPMENT AGENCY.—*

1 (1) *Section 309(e) of such Act (7 U.S.C. 1928(e))*
2 *is amended by striking “Farmers Home Administra-*
3 *tion and the Rural Development Administration” and*
4 *inserting “Farm Service Agency and Rural Develop-*
5 *ment”.*

6 (2) *Section 331(b)(4) of such Act (7 U.S.C.*
7 *1981(b)(4)) is amended by striking “Consolidated”.*

8 (3) *Section 331(b) of such Act (7 U.S.C. 1981(b))*
9 *is amended in each of paragraphs (5) and (7) by*
10 *striking “Farmers Home Administration” each place*
11 *it appears and inserting “Farm Service Agency and*
12 *Rural Development”.*

13 (4) *Section 331(b)(8) of such Act (7 U.S.C.*
14 *1981(b)(8)) is amended by striking “Rural Develop-*
15 *ment Administration or by the Farmers Home Ad-*
16 *ministration” and inserting “Farm Service Agency*
17 *and Rural Development”.*

18 (5) *Section 331A(a) of such Act (7 U.S.C.*
19 *1981a(a)) is amended by striking “Farmers Home*
20 *Administration or by the Rural Development Admin-*
21 *istration” and inserting “Farm Service Agency or by*
22 *Rural Development”.*

23 (6) *Section 335(a) of such Act (7 U.S.C.*
24 *1985(a)) is amended by striking “Farmers Home Ad-*
25 *ministration or the Rural Development Administra-*

1 *tion” and inserting “Farm Service Agency or Rural*
2 *Development”.*

3 (7) *Section 335(f)(1) of such Act (7 U.S.C.*
4 *1985(f)(1)) is amended—*

5 (A) *by striking “Agricultural Stabilization*
6 *and Conservation Service payments” and insert-*
7 *ing “Farm Service Agency farm program”;*

8 (B) *by striking “Farmers Home Adminis-*
9 *tration liens” and inserting “liens for a farmer*
10 *program loan”; and*

11 (C) *by striking “Farmers Home Adminis-*
12 *tration farmer” and inserting “Farm Service*
13 *Agency farmer”.*

14 (8) *Section 338(a) of such Act (7 U.S.C.*
15 *1988(a)) is amended by striking “Farmers Home Ad-*
16 *ministration or the Rural Development Administra-*
17 *tion” and inserting “Farm Service Agency and Rural*
18 *Development”.*

19 (9) *Section 347 of such Act (7 U.S.C. 1995) is*
20 *amended by striking “Farmers Home Administra-*
21 *tion” and inserting “Farm Service Agency and Rural*
22 *Development”.*

23 (10) *Section 356 of such Act (7 U.S.C. 2004) is*
24 *amended—*

1 (A) by striking “Farmers Home Adminis-
 2 tration may” and inserting “Farm Service
 3 Agency and Rural Development may”; and

4 (B) by striking “the inventory of the Farm-
 5 ers Home Administration” and inserting “inven-
 6 tory”.

7 (11) Section 370(a) of such Act (7 U.S.C.
 8 2008e(a)) is amended by striking “the Rural Develop-
 9 ment Administration, the Farmers Home Administra-
 10 tion, the Rural Electrification Administration” and
 11 inserting “Rural Development, the Farm Service
 12 Agency, the Rural Utilities Service”.

13 (12) Each of the following provisions of such Act
 14 is amended by striking “Farmers Home Administra-
 15 tion” each place it appears and inserting “Farm
 16 Service Agency”:

17 (A) Section 309(g)(1) (7 U.S.C. 1929(g)(1)).

18 (B) Section 331A(a) (7 U.S.C. 1981a(a)).

19 (C) Section 333A(e)(1) (7 U.S.C.
 20 1983a(e)(1)).

21 (D) Section 335(d) (7 U.S.C. 1985(d)).

22 (E) Section 353A (7 U.S.C. 2001a).

23 (F) Section 349(e)(1)(B) (7 U.S.C.
 24 1997(e)(1)(B)).

25 (G) Section 361 (7 U.S.C. 2006c).

1 (d) *Section 335(c)(1) of such Act (7 U.S.C. 1985(c)(1))*

2 *is amended—*

3 (1) *in subparagraph (A), by striking “15” and*
 4 *inserting “60”;*

5 (2) *in subparagraph (B)(i)—*

6 (A) *by striking “135” and inserting “180”;*

7 *and*

8 (B) *by inserting “suitable for farming and*
 9 *ranching, as determined by the Secretary” before*
 10 *the comma; and*

11 (3) *in subparagraph (C), by striking “not later*
 12 *than 135 days after acquiring the real property, the*
 13 *Secretary shall, not later than 30 days after the 135-*
 14 *day period,” and inserting “or if the property is not*
 15 *suitable for farming and ranching as determined by*
 16 *the Secretary, not later than 60 days after the 180-*
 17 *day period, the Secretary shall”.*

18 (e) *CORRECTION OF INFEASIBLE INVENTORY PROP-*
 19 *ERTY DISPOSITION FRAMEWORK.—*

20 (1) *Section 331(b)(1) of such Act (7 U.S.C.*
 21 *1981(b)(1)) is amended by striking “, and until Jan-*
 22 *uary” and all that follows through “fit)”.*

23 (2) *Section 335(f) of such Act (7 U.S.C. 1985(f))*
 24 *is amended—*

1 (A) by striking paragraphs (3) through (5)
 2 and redesignating paragraph (6) as paragraph
 3 (3); and

4 (B) by striking paragraph (7) and inserting
 5 the following:

6 “(4) The Secretary shall issue regulations consistent
 7 with this section that ensures the release of funds to each
 8 borrower.”.

9 (f) *REPLACEMENT OF REFERENCES TO DISTRICT OF-*
 10 *FICE WITH REFERENCES TO DISTRICT DIRECTOR.*—Sec-
 11 *tion 333A(a)(2)(B) of such Act (7 U.S.C. 1983a(a)(2)(B))*
 12 *is amended by striking “district office” each place it ap-*
 13 *pears and inserting “District Director”.*

14 (g) *CORRECTION OF OBSOLETE REFERENCE TO*
 15 *FORMER TRUST TERRITORIES.*—Section 343(a)(6) of such
 16 Act (7 U.S.C. 1991(a)(6)) is amended by striking “the
 17 Trust Territory of the Pacific Islands” and inserting “the
 18 Federated States of Micronesia, the Republic of Palau, and
 19 the Republic of the Marshall Islands”.

20 (h) *REVISION OF FARMER PROGRAM LOAN DEFINI-*
 21 *TION.*—Section 343(a)(10) of such Act (7 U.S.C.
 22 1991(a)(10)) is amended by inserting “before June 18,
 23 2008, conservation loan (CL) under section 304 on or after
 24 June 18, 2008,” before “emergency loan (EM)”.

1 (i) *ELIMINATION OF INCONSISTENCY BETWEEN RULES*
 2 *APPLICABLE TO BEGINNING FARMERS.*—Section
 3 343(a)(11)(C) of such Act (7 U.S.C. 1991(a)(11)(C)) is
 4 amended by striking “related to one another by blood or
 5 marriage” and inserting “qualified beginning farmers”.

6 (j) *UPDATING OF PROVISIONS TO REFLECT*
 7 *REPURPOSING OF CONSERVATION LOAN PROVISIONS.*—

8 (1) Section 303(a) of such Act (7 U.S.C.
 9 1923(a)) is amended in each of paragraphs (1)(D)
 10 and (2)(D) by striking “described in section 304”.

11 (2) Section 310D of such Act (7 U.S.C. 1934) is
 12 amended by striking “, or paragraphs (1) through (5)
 13 of section 304(a),” and inserting “section 304(a)”.

14 (k) *UPDATING OF NOTICE PROVISION REQUIREMENT*
 15 *AND LIFETIME DEBT FORGIVENESS LIMIT.*—Section
 16 353(i)(1) of such Act (7 U.S.C. 2001(i)(1)) is amended by
 17 striking “registered or certified mail” and inserting “any
 18 method that provides documentation of delivery”.

19 (l) *UPDATING OF OBSOLETE REFERENCE TO THE SOIL*
 20 *CONSERVATION SERVICE.*—Section 306(a)(13) of such Act
 21 (7 U.S.C. 1926(a)(13)) is amended by striking “Soil Con-
 22 servation Service” and inserting “Natural Resources Con-
 23 servation Service”.

24 (m) *CLARIFICATION OF INTEREST RATE REQUIRE-*
 25 *MENTS.*—

1 (1) *Section 307(a)(3)(B) of such Act (7 U.S.C.*
 2 *1927(a)(3)(B)) is amended by striking “not be—”*
 3 *and all that follows and inserting “be equal to the in-*
 4 *terest rate for direct farm ownership loans under this*
 5 *subtitle, not to exceed 5 percent per year.”.*

6 (2) *Section 316(a)(2) of such Act (7 U.S.C.*
 7 *1946(a)(2)) is amended by striking “not be—” and*
 8 *all that follows and inserting “be equal to the interest*
 9 *rate for direct farm ownership loans under this sub-*
 10 *title, not to exceed 5 percent per year.”.*

11 (n) *CORRECTION OF HEADING.—Section 309(h)(6) of*
 12 *such Act (7 U.S.C. 1929(h)(6)) is amended in the para-*
 13 *graph heading by striking “BEGINNING FARMER LOANS”*
 14 *and inserting “DOWN PAYMENT LOAN PROGRAM PARTICI-*
 15 *PANT”.*

16 (o) *ELIMINATION OF SUPERFLUOUS RESTRICTIONS.—*
 17 *Section 312 of such Act (7 U.S.C. 1942) is amended by*
 18 *striking subsection (d) and redesignating subsection (e) as*
 19 *subsection (d).*

20 (p) *ELIMINATION OF CONFUSING REFERENCES TO*
 21 *LOAN GUARANTEES.—Section 319 of such Act (7 U.S.C.*
 22 *1949) is amended—*

23 (1) *in the section heading, by striking “OR*
 24 **GUARANTEES”**; and

1 (2) *by striking “or with respect to whom there*
 2 *is an outstanding guarantee under this subtitle”.*

3 (q) *ELIMINATION OF OBSOLETE REPORTING REQUIRE-*
 4 *MENTS.—Section 346 of such Act (7 U.S.C. 1994) is amend-*
 5 *ed by striking subsections (c) and (d).*

6 (r) *CORRECTION OF OBSOLETE APPEALS PROVI-*
 7 *SIONS.—*

8 (1) *Section 352(c)(3) of such Act (7 U.S.C.*
 9 *2000(c)(3)) is amended by striking “section 333B”*
 10 *and inserting “subtitle H of title II of Federal Crop*
 11 *Insurance Reform and Department of Agriculture Re-*
 12 *organization Act of 1994”.*

13 (2) *Section 353 of such Act (7 U.S.C. 2001) is*
 14 *amended—*

15 (A) *in subsection (h), by striking “under*
 16 *section 333B”; and*

17 (B) *in subsection (j)—*

18 (i) *by striking “filed with the appeals*
 19 *division under section 333B” and inserting*
 20 *“to the National Appeals Division”;*

21 (ii) *by striking “appeals division*
 22 *shall” and inserting “Secretary shall”; and*

23 (iii) *by striking “county supervisor”*
 24 *and inserting “Secretary”.*

1 (s) *ELIMINATION OF UNNECESSARY CONSTRAINT ON*
 2 *PILOT PROJECTS.*—Section 333D(a) of such Act (7 U.S.C.
 3 1983d(a)) is amended by striking “that are consistent with
 4 subtitle A through this subtitle”.

5 (t) *CORRECTION OF HEADING.*—The paragraph head-
 6 ing in section 8.8(a)(3) of the Farm Credit Act of 1971 (12
 7 U.S.C. 2279aa–8(a)(3)) is amended by striking “MORT-
 8 GAGE LOANS” and inserting “LOAN QUALITY”.

9 **SEC. 5509. REPORT ON IMPROVING CREDITWORTHINESS OF**
 10 **DIRECT AND GUARANTEED LOAN BOR-**
 11 **ROWERS.**

12 (a) *IN GENERAL.*—Not later than 1 year after the date
 13 of enactment of this Act, the Secretary shall submit to the
 14 Committee on Agriculture of the House of Representatives
 15 and the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry
 16 of the Senate a report evaluating the feasibility of requiring
 17 the adoption of certain risk management practices as a con-
 18 dition for approving certain direct and guaranteed farm
 19 loans.

20 (b) *REQUIREMENT.*—In the report under subsection
 21 (a), the Secretary shall evaluate the feasibility of requiring,
 22 as a condition for approving certain direct and guaranteed
 23 farm loans, the adoption of 1 or more of the following risk
 24 management practices:

1 (1) *Hedging and marketing price or revenue risk*
2 *management strategies.*

3 (2) *Insurance coverage optimization or coordina-*
4 *tion.*

5 (3) *Periodic financial reporting or financial*
6 *management practices.*

7 (4) *Cash management services to facilitate time-*
8 *ly disbursement of funds and structured collection of*
9 *operating revenues.*

10 (5) *The use of integrated monitoring and ana-*
11 *lytics tools to align risk management and financial*
12 *decisions with observed environmental and production*
13 *conditions.*

14 (6) *Other risk mitigation practices as deter-*
15 *mined by the Secretary.*

16 (7) *Voluntary lender incentives to promote inte-*
17 *grated risk management support without increasing*
18 *costs or burdens for applicants.*

19 (c) *CERTIFICATION.—In completing the report under*
20 *subsection (a), the Secretary shall also evaluate the feasi-*
21 *bility of establishing a certification program that identifies*
22 *loans approved contingent on the adoption of enhanced risk*
23 *management practices, including through voluntary lender*
24 *incentives to promote integrated risk management support*
25 *without increasing costs or burdens for applicants.*

1 (d) *APPLICABILITY.*—*The requirements and evalua-*
 2 *tions under this section shall apply only to operating, pro-*
 3 *duction, and working capital loans made for agricultural*
 4 *production purposes and shall not apply to real estate*
 5 *loans, rural development loans, housing loans, business and*
 6 *industry loans, or other non-operating credit programs ad-*
 7 *ministered by the Secretary.*

8 **SEC. 5510. FARM CREDIT ADMINISTRATION OPTION TO EX-**
 9 **AMINE LOW-RISK FARM CREDIT SYSTEM IN-**
 10 **STITUTIONS ON A 24-MONTH CYCLE.**

11 (a) *IN GENERAL.*—*Section 5.19(a) of the Farm Credit*
 12 *Act of 1971 (12 U.S.C. 2254(a)) is amended in the 1st sen-*
 13 *tence—*

14 (1) *by striking “in no event” and inserting*
 15 *“not”; and*

16 (2) *by inserting “, except that the Farm Credit*
 17 *Administration, in its sole discretion, may extend the*
 18 *time period between mandatory examinations of in-*
 19 *stitutions deemed by the Farm Credit Administration*
 20 *to be small, low-risk institutions to not more than 24*
 21 *months” before the period.*

22 (b) *EFFECTIVE DATE.*—*The amendments made by sub-*
 23 *section (a) shall take effect on October 1, 2026.*

1 ***TITLE VI—RURAL DEVELOPMENT***

2 ***Subtitle A—Improving Health***

3 ***Outcomes in Rural America***

4 ***SEC. 6101. PRIORITIZATIONS FOR DISTANCE LEARNING***

5 ***AND TELEMEDICINE AND COMMUNITY FACILI-***

6 ***TIES PROGRAM.***

7 *Section 6101(a) of the Agriculture Improvement Act*
 8 *of 2018 (132 Stat. 4726; Public Law 115–334) is amend-*
 9 *ed—*

10 *(1) in paragraph (1)—*

11 *(A) in the matter preceding subparagraph*

12 *(A), by striking “2025” and inserting “2027”;*

13 *(B) in subparagraph (A)—*

14 *(i) in clause (i)—*

15 *(I) in the heading, by striking*

16 *“SUBSTANCE USE DISORDER SET-*

17 *ASIDE” and inserting “SET-ASIDE”;*

18 *(II) by inserting “at rural health*

19 *facilities” before “that provide”; and*

20 *(III) by inserting “, mental*

21 *health, behavioral health, or maternal*

22 *health” before “treatment”; and*

23 *(ii) in clause (ii), by inserting “mental*

24 *health, behavioral health, maternal health,*

25 *or” before “substance”;*

1 (C) in subparagraph (B)—

2 (i) in clause (i)—

3 (I) in the heading, by striking
4 “SUBSTANCE USE DISORDER SELEC-
5 TION” and inserting “SELECTION”;

6 (II) in subclause (I), by inserting
7 “mental health, behavioral health, ma-
8 ternal health, or” before “substance”
9 the first place it appears; and

10 (III) in subclause (II), by insert-
11 ing “mental health concerns, behav-
12 ioral health concerns, maternal health
13 concerns, or” before “substance”; and

14 (ii) in clause (ii), by inserting “, be-
15 havioral health treatment, mental health
16 treatment, or maternal health, respectively”
17 before the period; and

18 (D) in subparagraph (C), by inserting “be-
19 havioral health, mental health, maternal health,
20 or” before “substance” the first place it appears;
21 and

22 (2) in paragraph (2), by striking “2025” and in-
23 serting “2027”.

1 **SEC. 6102. DISTANCE LEARNING AND TELEMEDICINE**
 2 **LOANS AND GRANTS.**

3 *Section 2335A of the Food, Agriculture, Conservation,*
 4 *and Trade Act of 1990 (7 U.S.C. 950aaa–5) is amended*
 5 *by striking “\$82,000,000 for each of fiscal years 2019*
 6 *through 2023” and inserting “\$82,000,000 for each of fiscal*
 7 *years 2027 through 2031, to remain available for 2 fiscal*
 8 *years after the fiscal year for which appropriated”.*

9 **Subtitle B—Connecting Rural**
 10 **Americans to High Speed**
 11 **Broadband**

12 **SEC. 6201. RURAL BROADBAND PROGRAM LOANS AND**
 13 **GRANTS.**

14 *(a) IN GENERAL.—Section 601 of the Rural Elec-*
 15 *trification Act of 1936 (7 U.S.C. 950bb) is amended—*

16 *(1) in the section heading, by striking “ACCESS*
 17 *TO BROADBAND TELECOMMUNICATIONS SERV-*
 18 *ICES IN RURAL AREAS” and inserting “RECON-*
 19 *NECT RURAL BROADBAND PROGRAM”;*

20 *(2) in subsection (a), by striking “The purpose”*
 21 *and all that follows through “provide funds for” and*
 22 *inserting “The Secretary shall establish a program,*
 23 *which shall be known as the ‘ReConnect Rural*
 24 *Broadband Program’, to provide grants, loans, and*
 25 *loan guarantees to finance”;*

26 *(3) in subsection (c)—*

1 (A) by striking paragraph (1) and inserting
2 the following:

3 “(1) *IN GENERAL.*—The Secretary shall make
4 grants, loans, and loan guarantees to eligible entities
5 described in subsection (d) for the purpose of financ-
6 ing the construction, improvement, or acquisition of
7 facilities and equipment necessary for delivering
8 broadband service in rural areas.”;

9 (B) in paragraph (2), by striking subpara-
10 graphs (A) and (B) and inserting the following:

11 “(A) *IN GENERAL.*—In making grants,
12 making loans, and guaranteeing loans under
13 paragraph (1), the Secretary shall give the high-
14 est priority to applications for projects to pro-
15 vide broadband service to unserved rural commu-
16 nities that do not have any residential
17 broadband service of at least—

18 “(i) a 25-Mbps downstream trans-
19 mission capacity; and

20 “(ii) a 3-Mbps upstream transmission
21 capacity.

22 “(B) *OTHER.*—After giving priority to the
23 applications described in subparagraph (A), the
24 Secretary shall then give priority to applica-
25 tions—

1 “(i) for projects to provide broadband
2 service to rural communities—

3 “(I) with a population of less
4 than 10,000 inhabitants; or

5 “(II) in geographically under-
6 served and distressed areas, includ-
7 ing—

8 “(aa) a socially vulnerable
9 community (as determined by the
10 Secretary);

11 “(bb) a persistent poverty
12 county (as determined by the Sec-
13 retary); or

14 “(cc) in an economically dis-
15 tressed area (as determined by the
16 Secretary);

17 “(ii) that were developed with the par-
18 ticipation of, and will receive a substantial
19 portion of the funding or in-kind assistance
20 for the project from, 2 or more stakeholders,
21 including—

22 “(I) State, local, and Tribal gov-
23 ernments;

24 “(II) nonprofit institutions;

1 “(III) *community anchor institu-*
2 *tions, such as—*

3 “(aa) *public libraries;*

4 “(bb) *elementary schools and*
5 *secondary schools (as defined in*
6 *section 8101 of the Elementary*
7 *and Secondary Education Act of*
8 *1965 (20 U.S.C. 7801));*

9 “(cc) *institutions of higher*
10 *education (including 1862 Land-*
11 *Grant Institutions, 1890 Land-*
12 *Grant Institutions, 1994 Land-*
13 *Grant Institutions, Hispanic-*
14 *Serving Institutions, and Histori-*
15 *cally Black Colleges and Univer-*
16 *sities);*

17 “(dd) *health care facilities;*
18 *and*

19 “(ee) *facilities essential for*
20 *local or regional commerce or for*
21 *the movement of goods;*

22 “(IV) *private entities;*

23 “(V) *philanthropic organizations;*

24 *and*

25 “(VI) *cooperatives; or*

1 “(iii) that are submitted by an eligible
 2 entity or is owned by an entity that has
 3 provided broadband service or other utility
 4 service for at least 5 years in rural areas in
 5 the State in which the project would be car-
 6 ried out.

7 “(C) *AFFORDABILITY.*—In determining
 8 whether a household is unserved for purposes of
 9 this section, the Secretary shall consider the af-
 10 fordability of broadband service.”;

11 (C) in paragraph (3)—

12 (i) in subparagraph (B)—

13 (I) by striking “and” at the end
 14 of clause (i);

15 (II) by striking the period at the
 16 end of clause (ii) and inserting “;
 17 and”; and

18 (III) by adding at the end the fol-
 19 lowing:

20 “(iii) shall be subject to a grant agree-
 21 ment of not less than 10 years.”;

22 (ii) by striking subparagraphs (C) and
 23 (D) and inserting the following:

24 “(C) *APPLICATIONS.*—

1 “(i) *GRANT-ONLY APPLICATIONS.—The*
 2 *Secretary shall establish an application*
 3 *process that permits an application for a*
 4 *grant-only award.*

5 “(ii) *COMBINED APPLICATIONS.—The*
 6 *Secretary shall establish an application*
 7 *process that—*

8 “(I) *permits a single application*
 9 *for a grant and a loan under title I or*
 10 *II, or this title, that is associated with*
 11 *the grant; and*

12 “(II) *provides a single decision to*
 13 *award the grant and the loan.”;*

14 “(iii) *by redesignating subparagraph*
 15 *(E) as subparagraph (D); and*

16 “(iv) *by striking subparagraph (F); and*
 17 *(D) by striking paragraph (4) and insert-*
 18 *ing the following:*

19 “(4) *FEES.—*

20 “(A) *INITIAL GUARANTEE FEE.—The Sec-*
 21 *retary may assess an initial guarantee fee for*
 22 *any insured or guaranteed loan issued or modi-*
 23 *fied under this section in an amount that does*
 24 *not exceed 3 percent of the guaranteed principal*
 25 *portion of the loan.*

1 “(B) *PERIODIC RETENTION FEE.*—*The Sec-*
 2 *retary may assess a periodic retention fee for*
 3 *any insured or guaranteed loan issued or modi-*
 4 *fied under this section in an amount that does*
 5 *not exceed 0.75 percent of the outstanding prin-*
 6 *cipal of the guarantee loan.*

7 “(C) *DISCLOSURE.*—*In altering any fee*
 8 *charged for any insured or guaranteed loan*
 9 *issued or modified under this section, the Sec-*
 10 *retary, not less than 30 days in advance of any*
 11 *fee change, shall provide a public disclosure, of*
 12 *the financial data, economic and behavioral as-*
 13 *sumptions, calculations, and other factors used to*
 14 *determine the new fee rates.”;*

15 *(4) in subsection (d)—*

16 *(A) in paragraph (1)—*

17 *(i) in subparagraph (A)—*

18 *(I) in clause (i), by adding “and”*
 19 *at the end; and*

20 *(II) by striking “require; and”*
 21 *and all that follows through “agree”*
 22 *and insert “require, and agree”;*

23 *(ii) by redesignating subparagraph (B)*
 24 *as subparagraph (E) and inserting after*
 25 *subparagraph (A) the following:*

1 “(B) *INCLUSIONS*.—An entity eligible to ob-
2 tain assistance under subsection (c) may in-
3 clude—

4 “(i) a State or local government, in-
5 cluding any agency, subdivision, instru-
6 mentality, or political subdivision of a
7 State or local government;

8 “(ii) a territory or possession of the
9 United States;

10 “(iii) an Indian Tribe (as defined in
11 section 4 of the Indian Self-Determination
12 and Education Assistance Act (25 U.S.C.
13 5304));

14 “(iv) a cooperative or mutual organi-
15 zation;

16 “(v) an organization of 2 or more in-
17 corporated areas that have established an
18 intermunicipal legal agreement for the pur-
19 poses of delivering communication services
20 to residents;

21 “(vi) a corporation; or

22 “(vii) a limited liability company or
23 limited liability partnership.

24 “(C) *INELIGIBLE ENTITIES*.—An individual
25 or legal general partnership that is formed with

1 *individuals shall not be eligible to obtain a*
 2 *grant, loan, or grant and loan combination*
 3 *under subsection (c).*

4 *“(D) AFFILIATED OWNED AND OPERATED*
 5 *NETWORKS.—Under this subsection, the Sec-*
 6 *retary may fund the construction of networks*
 7 *owned and operated by an affiliate of an eligible*
 8 *entity receiving the grant, loan, or loan guar-*
 9 *antee, if the eligible entity, the affiliate, or both,*
 10 *as determined necessary by the Secretary, fur-*
 11 *nishes adequate security for the grant, loan, or*
 12 *loan guarantee.”; and*

13 *(iii) in subparagraph (E) (as so redes-*
 14 *ignated by clause (ii) of this subparagraph),*
 15 *by inserting “, directly or in conjunction*
 16 *with any combination of affiliates,” before*
 17 *“may not”;*

18 *(B) in paragraph (2)—*

19 *(i) in subparagraph (A)—*

20 *(I) by striking “subparagraphs*
 21 *(B) and (C)” and inserting “subpara-*
 22 *graph (B)”;*

23 *(II) by striking “is submitted—”*
 24 *and all that follows through “(i) not*

1 less than 50” and inserting “is sub-
2 mitted not less than 75”; and

3 (III) by striking “(e); and” and
4 all that follows and inserting “(e).”;

5 (ii) in subparagraph (B), by striking
6 “(A)(i)” and inserting “(A)”; and

7 (iii) by striking subparagraph (C) and
8 inserting the following:

9 “(C) AFFORDABILITY.—In deciding whether
10 a proposed service territory is unserved for pur-
11 poses of subparagraph (A), the Secretary shall
12 consider the affordability of broadband service in
13 the service territory.”; and

14 (C) by striking paragraphs (4) and (5);

15 (5) in subsection (e)—

16 (A) in paragraph (1)—

17 (i) by striking “Subject to paragraph
18 (2), for” and inserting “For”;

19 (ii) in subparagraph (A), by striking
20 “25” and inserting “50”; and

21 (iii) in subparagraph (B), by striking
22 “3” and inserting “25”;

23 (B) by striking paragraph (2) and inserting
24 the following:

1 “(2) *ADJUSTMENTS.*—*The Secretary may adjust,*
 2 *through a 30-day public notice and comment period*
 3 *published in the Federal Register, an increase in the*
 4 *minimum level of broadband service under paragraph*
 5 *(1) of no more than 50 percent from the preceding*
 6 *year, if less than 95 percent of the funds of the pro-*
 7 *gram are obligated in the preceding 2 funding*
 8 *rounds.*”; and

9 *(C) in paragraph (4)—*

10 *(i) in the paragraph heading, by strik-*
 11 *ing “BUILDOUT” and inserting “PROJECT*
 12 *AGREEMENT”;* and

13 *(ii) by striking subparagraphs (B)*
 14 *through (D) and inserting the following:*

15 “(B) *BROADBAND BUILDOUT STANDARDS*
 16 *DEFINED.*—*A project must meet the following*
 17 *applicable broadband standard in order to be*
 18 *considered for assistance;*

19 “(i) *A project with an award term of*
 20 *less than 8 years must provide service at 2*
 21 *times the minimum broadband speed estab-*
 22 *lished in subsection (e)(1).*

23 “(ii) *A project with an award term of*
 24 *at least 8 years and less than 14 years must*
 25 *provide service at 5 times the minimum*

1 broadband speed established in subsection
2 (e)(1).

3 “(iii) A project with an award term of
4 14 or more years must provide service at 10
5 times the minimum broadband speed estab-
6 lished in subsection (e)(1).

7 “(C) NETWORK UPGRADE PLANNING.—The
8 Secretary may prioritize an applicant seeking to
9 meet the broadband buildout standards under
10 clause (i) or (ii) of subparagraph (B) if the ap-
11 plicant submits information regarding the poten-
12 tial for the physical infrastructure of the network
13 to be upgraded to meet the broadband buildout
14 standards under subparagraph (B)(iii) at the
15 time of the application, assuming reasonable
16 progress in relevant networking technologies.”;
17 (6) by striking subsection (j) and inserting the
18 following:

19 “(j) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There is
20 authorized to be appropriated to the Secretary to carry out
21 this section \$350,000,000 for each of fiscal years 2027
22 through 2031, to remain available until expended.”; and
23 (7) in subsection (k), by striking “2023” and in-
24 serting “2031”.

1 (b) *REGULATIONS.*—Not later than 270 days after the
 2 date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary shall pro-
 3 mulgate rules to carry out the amendments made by sub-
 4 section (a) of this section, and complete the biennial review
 5 process required by section 601(e)(2) of the Rural Elec-
 6 trification Act of 1936.

7 (c) *SUNSET.*—The authorities provided by section 779
 8 of the Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2018 (Public Law
 9 115–141) shall have no force or effect beginning 270 days
 10 after the date of the enactment of this Act.

11 (d) *TRANSITION RULES.*—

12 (1) *AVAILABILITY OF FUNDS FOR ADMINISTRA-*
 13 *TIVE COSTS.*—Not more than 1 percent of the unobli-
 14 gated balances of amounts made available, as of the
 15 date that is 270 days after the date of the enactment
 16 of this Act, to carry out the pilot program described
 17 in section 779 of the Consolidated Appropriations
 18 Act, 2018 (Public Law 115–141) may be used for the
 19 costs of transitioning from the pilot program to the
 20 program under section 601 of the Rural Electrifica-
 21 tion Act of 1936, as amended by this Act.

22 (2) *CONSOLIDATION OF FUNDS.*—

23 (A) *IN GENERAL.*—The unobligated balances
 24 of all amounts made available on or before June
 25 30, 2025, to carry out the pilot program de-

scribed in section 779 of the Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2018 (Public Law 115–141) that are in excess of the amount described in subparagraph (B) of this paragraph are hereby transferred to and merged with amounts made available to carry out the program authorized under section 601 of the Rural Electrification Act of 1936.

(B) *UNFUNDED APPROVALS.*—The amount described in this subparagraph is the amount required to fully fund each project approved as of the date that is 270 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, under the pilot program described in such section 779 for which amounts were not obligated or partially obligated as of such date.

**SEC. 6202. EXPANSION OF MIDDLE MILE INFRASTRUCTURE
INTO RURAL AREAS.**

Section 602(g) of the Rural Electrification Act of 1936 (7 U.S.C. 950bb–1(g)) is amended by striking “2018 through 2023” and inserting “2027 through 2031”.

SEC. 6203. INNOVATIVE BROADBAND ADVANCEMENT PROGRAM.

Section 603 of the Rural Electrification Act of 1936 (7 U.S.C. 950bb–2) is amended to read as follows:

1 **“SEC. 603. INNOVATIVE BROADBAND ADVANCEMENT PRO-**
2 **GRAM.**

3 “(a) *IN GENERAL.*—*The Secretary shall establish a*
4 *program to be known as the ‘Innovative Broadband Ad-*
5 *vancement Program’, under which the Secretary may pro-*
6 *vide a grant, a loan, or both to an eligible entity for the*
7 *purpose of demonstrating innovative broadband tech-*
8 *nologies or methods of broadband deployment that signifi-*
9 *cantly decrease the cost of broadband deployment, and pro-*
10 *vide substantially faster broadband speeds than are avail-*
11 *able, in a rural area.*

12 “(b) *TERRESTRIAL BROADBAND DEMONSTRATION*
13 *PROJECTS.*—

14 “(1) *IN GENERAL.*—*The Secretary shall provide*
15 *grants or loans to eligible entities for the purpose of*
16 *deploying innovative broadband technologies to quali-*
17 *fied consumers who subscribe to terrestrial broadband*
18 *service in rural areas.*

19 “(2) *ELIGIBILITY.*—*To be eligible to obtain as-*
20 *sistance under this subsection for a project, an entity*
21 *shall—*

22 “(A) *submit to the Secretary an applica-*
23 *tion—*

24 “(i) *that describes a terrestrial*
25 *broadband demonstration project designed*
26 *to decrease the cost of broadband deploy-*

1 *ment, and substantially increase broadband*
2 *speed to not less than the maximum*
3 *broadband project agreement requirements*
4 *established under section 601(e)(4), to quali-*
5 *fied consumers in a rural area to be served*
6 *by the project; and*

7 *“(ii) at such time, in such manner,*
8 *and containing such other information as*
9 *the Secretary may require;*

10 *“(B) demonstrate that the entity is able to*
11 *carry out the project; and*

12 *“(C) agree to complete the project build-out*
13 *within 5 years after the date the assistance is*
14 *first provided for the project.*

15 *“(3) PRIORITIZATION.—In awarding assistance*
16 *under this subsection, the Secretary shall give priority*
17 *to proposals for projects that—*

18 *“(A) involve partnerships between or among*
19 *multiple entities;*

20 *“(B) would provide broadband service to the*
21 *greatest number of rural entities at or above the*
22 *broadband requirements referred to in paragraph*
23 *(2)(A)(i);*

1 “(C) the Secretary determines could be rep-
 2 licated in rural areas described in paragraph
 3 (2); and

4 “(D) are located in States and territories
 5 selected by the Secretary to be diverse on the
 6 basis of geography, topography, and demo-
 7 graphics.

8 “(4) *QUALIFIED CONSUMER*.—In this subsection,
 9 the term ‘qualified consumer’ means—

10 “(A) an individual or member of a house-
 11 hold who lives in a rural area;

12 “(B) a rural small business; or

13 “(C) an essential community facility, as de-
 14 fined pursuant to section 306(a) of the Consoli-
 15 dated Farm and Rural Development Act (7
 16 U.S.C. 1926(a)).

17 “(5) *RURAL AREA*.—In this subsection, the term
 18 ‘rural area’ has the meaning provided in section
 19 601(b)(3).

20 “(c) *SATELLITE BROADBAND DEMONSTRATION*
 21 *PROJECTS*.—

22 “(1) *PURPOSE*.—The purpose of this subsection
 23 is to reduce or eliminate the costs to access satellite
 24 broadband service for remote subscribers.

25 “(2) *DEFINITIONS*.—In this subsection:

1 “(A) *ELIGIBLE ENTITY*.—The term ‘eligible
2 entity’ means a broadband service provider that
3 provides Internet access directly to qualified con-
4 sumers in remote areas via satellite technology.

5 “(B) *QUALIFIED CONSUMER*.—The term
6 ‘qualified consumer’ means a consumer served by
7 an eligible entity that receives a grant under
8 paragraph (3), who is—

9 “(i) an individual or a member of a
10 household at or below the poverty line (as
11 defined in section 673(2) of the Omnibus
12 Budget Reconciliation Act of 1981, includ-
13 ing any revision required by such section,
14 applicable to a family of the size involved);
15 or

16 “(ii) an essential community facility,
17 as defined pursuant to section 306(a) of the
18 Consolidated Farm and Rural Development
19 Act (7 U.S.C. 1926(a)).

20 “(C) *SATELLITE BROADBAND EQUIPMENT*.—
21 The term ‘satellite broadband equipment’ means
22 user terminals, Wi-Fi routers, power supplies,
23 mounts, and any other equipment necessary to
24 connect a qualified consumer to satellite
25 broadband service.

1 “(D) *SECRETARY.*—*The term ‘Secretary’*
2 *means the Secretary of Agriculture, acting*
3 *through the Administrator of the Rural Utilities*
4 *Service.*

5 “(E) *REMOTE.*—*The term ‘remote’ means a*
6 *region classified within level 3 or level 4 of the*
7 *frontier and remote ZIP Code areas published by*
8 *the Economic Research Service of the Depart-*
9 *ment of Agriculture.*

10 “(3) *GRANTS TO ELIGIBLE ENTITIES.*—

11 “(A) *IN GENERAL.*—*Subject to paragraph*
12 *(B), the Secretary shall make grants to eligible*
13 *entities for the purpose of reducing or elimi-*
14 *nating the cost associated with the purchase or*
15 *installation, or both, of satellite broadband*
16 *equipment to qualified consumers to subscribe to*
17 *satellite broadband service in remote areas.*

18 “(B) *REQUIREMENTS.*—*As a condition of*
19 *receiving a grant under this subsection, an eligi-*
20 *ble entity shall—*

21 “(i) *provide retail broadband service*
22 *delivered via satellite technology to qualified*
23 *consumers, that—*

24 “(I) *enables a qualified consumer*
25 *to the service to originate and receive*

1 *high-quality voice, data, graphics,*
2 *video; and*

3 “(II) *has a latency which does not*
4 *exceed 250 milliseconds;*

5 “(ii) *submit to the Secretary an appli-*
6 *cation at such time, in such manner, and*
7 *containing such other information as the*
8 *Secretary may require;*

9 “(iii) *agree to reduce or eliminate the*
10 *cost associated with the purchase, installa-*
11 *tion, or both, of satellite broadband equip-*
12 *ment for qualified consumers; and*

13 “(iv) *agree to provide qualified con-*
14 *sumers with the reduction or elimination of*
15 *that cost within 1 year of the assistance*
16 *being obligated to the eligible entity.*

17 “(C) *ELIGIBILITY MAP OF QUALIFIED CON-*
18 *SUMERS.—Within 1 year after the date of the en-*
19 *actment of this Act, and annually thereafter, the*
20 *Secretary shall publish a map of the remote*
21 *areas of qualified consumers that do not have ac-*
22 *cess to terrestrial broadband service of at least—*

23 “(i) *a 25-Mbps downstream trans-*
24 *mission capacity; and*

1 “(ii) a 3-Mbps upstream transmission
2 capacity.

3 “(d) *REPORT.*—Within 1 year after the date of the en-
4 actment of this section, and annually thereafter, the Sec-
5 retary shall submit a comprehensive report to the Com-
6 mittee on Agriculture of the House of Representatives and
7 the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry of
8 the Senate that shall provide the outcomes, effectiveness, and
9 impact of the Innovative Broadband Advancement Pro-
10 gram, including—

11 “(1) an assessment of the broadband infrastruc-
12 ture funded, including the scope, scale, nature and ge-
13 ographic locations of each award;

14 “(2) the broadband access and speeds achieved,
15 including the download and upload speeds, latency,
16 and overall network reliability;

17 “(3) any technical or logistical challenges en-
18 countered by the eligible entities; and

19 “(4) any recommendations for future innovative
20 broadband deployment initiatives in rural areas.

21 “(e) *AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.*—There is
22 authorized to be appropriated to carry out this section
23 \$10,000,000 for each of fiscal years 2027 through 2031.”.

1 **SEC. 6204. COMMUNITY CONNECT GRANTS.**

2 *Section 604 of the Rural Electrification Act of 1936*
 3 *(7 U.S.C. 950bb–3) is amended—*

4 *(1) in subsection (a)(2)—*

5 *(A) in subparagraph (A), by striking “10”*
 6 *and inserting “25”; and*

7 *(B) in subparagraph (B), by striking “1”*
 8 *and inserting “3”;*

9 *(2) in subsection (c)—*

10 *(A) in paragraph (1), by striking “and” at*
 11 *the end;*

12 *(B) in paragraph (2), by striking the period*
 13 *at the end and inserting “; and”; and*

14 *(C) by adding at the end the following:*

15 *“(3) provides broadband speeds not less than the*
 16 *broadband project agreement requirements established*
 17 *under section 601(e)(4)(B)(ii) to the eligible entity*
 18 *within the proposed eligible service area.”; and*

19 *(3) in subsection (g), by striking “2019 through*
 20 *2023” and inserting “2027 through 2031”.*

21 **SEC. 6205. RATE REGULATION.**

22 *Title VI of the Rural Electrification Act of 1936 (7*
 23 *U.S.C. 950bb–5) is amended by adding at the end the fol-*
 24 *lowing:*

1 **“SEC. 607. RATE REGULATION.**

2 *“Nothing in this title authorizes the Secretary to regu-*
 3 *late rates charged for broadband service.”.*

4 **SEC. 6206. PUBLIC NOTICE, ASSESSMENTS, TECHNICAL AS-**
 5 **SISTANCE, AND REPORTING REQUIREMENTS.**

6 *Section 701 of the Rural Electrification Act of 1936*
 7 *(7 U.S.C. 950cc) is amended—*

8 *(1) in the section heading, by inserting “**TECH-***
 9 ***NICAL ASSISTANCE,**” before “AND”;*

10 *(2) in subsection (a)(1)(B)(i), by inserting “, in-*
 11 *cluding a complete shapefile map” before the semi-*
 12 *colon;*

13 *(3) in subsection (b)—*

14 *(A) in paragraph (1)—*

15 *(i) in subparagraph (A), by striking*
 16 *“and” at the end;*

17 *(ii) by redesignating subparagraph (B)*
 18 *as subparagraph (C) and inserting after*
 19 *subparagraph (A) the following:*

20 *“(B) validate the information submitted by*
 21 *service providers under subparagraph (A)*
 22 *through procedures established by the Secretary,*
 23 *which shall include an agency determination*
 24 *provided to the submitter, an opportunity of the*
 25 *submitter to respond, and a final non-appealable*
 26 *determination of the Secretary; and”;* and

1 (iii) in subparagraph (C) (as so redes-
2 ignated by clause (ii) of this subparagraph),
3 by striking “paragraph (1)” and inserting
4 “subparagraph (A)”; and
5 (B) in paragraph (2), by striking all that
6 precedes subparagraph (B) and inserting the fol-
7 lowing:

8 “(2) ASSESSMENT OF ELIGIBILITY.—In making
9 any determination to award a loan, loan guarantee,
10 or grant for any retail broadband project provided as-
11 sistance or for which assistance is sought that is ad-
12 ministered by the Secretary, the Secretary shall con-
13 firm that each unserved rural community identified
14 in the application is eligible for funding by—

15 “(A) utilizing the map created by the Fed-
16 eral Communications Commission under section
17 802(c)(1)(A) of the Communications Act of 1934
18 and the Deployment Locations Map established
19 under section 60104(b) of the Infrastructure In-
20 vestment and Jobs Act (47 U.S.C. 1704(b));”;
21 and

22 (4) by striking subsection (e) and inserting the
23 following:

24 “(e) BROADBAND TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE PRO-
25 GRAM.—

1 “(1) *IN GENERAL.*—*The Secretary shall make*
2 *grants to private, nonprofit, or public organizations*
3 *to provide or receive eligible entities broadband tech-*
4 *nical assistance and training to expand access to*
5 *broadband service in rural communities through the*
6 *broadband programs of the Department of Agriculture*
7 *including—*

8 “(A) *preparing applications for grants,*
9 *loans and loan guarantees under this section;*

10 “(B) *identifying resources to finance*
11 *broadband facilities from public and private*
12 *sources, including other Federal agencies;*

13 “(C) *preparing feasibility studies, financial*
14 *forecasts, market surveys, environmental studies,*
15 *and technical design information to support*
16 *broadband services;*

17 “(D) *preparing reports and surveys nec-*
18 *essary to support the need for broadband serv-*
19 *ices, the price range, and request financial as-*
20 *sistance;*

21 “(E) *analyzing and improving operations*
22 *related to the management, including financial*
23 *management, of broadband facilities and to the*
24 *efficiency of the entity;*

1 “(F) collecting broadband infrastructure
2 data; or

3 “(G) assisting with other areas of need
4 identified by the Secretary.

5 “(2) *ELIGIBLE ENTITIES*.—To be eligible to ob-
6 tain assistance under this subsection, an entity shall
7 be—

8 “(A) a federally recognized Tribe or Tribal
9 entity;

10 “(B) a State or local government, including
11 any agency, subdivision, instrumentality, or po-
12 litical subdivision thereof;

13 “(C) a territory or possession of the United
14 States;

15 “(D) an institution of higher education (in-
16 cluding a 1862 Land-Grant Institution, 1890
17 Land-Grant Institution, 1994 Land-Grant Insti-
18 tution, Hispanic-Serving Institution, or Histori-
19 cally Black College or University);

20 “(E) a nonprofit organization described in
21 section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code of
22 1986;

23 “(F) a cooperative or mutual organization;

24 “(G) a corporation; or

1 “(H) a limited liability company or limited
2 liability partnership.

3 “(3) *SELECTION PRIORITY.*—*In selecting recipi-*
4 *ents of grants under this paragraph, the Secretary*
5 *shall give priority to organizations that have experi-*
6 *ence in providing technical assistance and training to*
7 *rural entities.*

8 “(4) *NATIONAL APPLICATIONS.*—*The Secretary*
9 *shall allow applications for grants under this para-*
10 *graph from qualified organizations for the sole pur-*
11 *pose of providing on-site community technical assist-*
12 *ance and training on a national or multi-State re-*
13 *gional basis.*

14 “(f) *ASSISTANCE FOR COMMUNITY BROADBAND MAP-*
15 *PING.*—

16 “(1) *IN GENERAL.*—*The Secretary may make*
17 *grants to eligible entities for the purpose of collecting*
18 *broadband service data to assist the Secretary in—*

19 “(A) *establishing the availability of*
20 *broadband service or middle mile infrastructure*
21 *in a rural area;*

22 “(B) *determining the eligibility of a com-*
23 *munity for assistance under any broadband pro-*
24 *gram administered by the Secretary;*

1 “(C) *undertaking a service area assessment*
2 *under this section; or*

3 “(D) *collecting information to submit a*
4 *challenge to the National Broadband Map cre-*
5 *ated by the Federal Communications Commis-*
6 *sion pursuant to section 802(c)(1) of the Com-*
7 *munications Act of 1934 (47 U.S.C. 642(c)(1)).*

8 “(2) *APPLICATION.—To apply for a grant under*
9 *this section, an entity shall submit an application*
10 *which identifies—*

11 “(A) *the data collection area;*

12 “(B) *the purpose of the data collection;*

13 “(C) *the types of broadband service data to*
14 *be collected;*

15 “(D) *the survey and data collection methods*
16 *utilized; and*

17 “(E) *any other information the Secretary*
18 *determines necessary to promote the integrity of*
19 *broadband service collected under this section.*

20 “(3) *LIMITATION OF GRANT AMOUNT.—The*
21 *amount of a grant made available under this sub-*
22 *section shall not exceed \$50,000.*

23 “(4) *BROADBAND SERVICE DATA USAGE.—The*
24 *Secretary shall ensure that any broadband service*
25 *data collected under this section is—*

1 “(A) *measured or assessed in accordance*
2 *with such standards as are established by the*
3 *Federal Communications Commission pursuant*
4 *to section 802(a)(1)(A) of the Communications*
5 *Act of 1934 (47 U.S.C. 642(a)(1)(A));*

6 “(B) *accurate and verifiable in accordance*
7 *with such standards as are established by the*
8 *Federal Communications Commission pursuant*
9 *to section 802(a)(1)(A) of the Communications*
10 *Act of 1934 (47 U.S.C. 642(a)(1)(A));*

11 “(C) *included in any broadband maps or*
12 *data sets maintained by the Secretary; and*

13 “(D) *made available to the Chair of the*
14 *Federal Communications Commission and the*
15 *Administrator of the National Telecommuni-*
16 *cations and Information Administration for in-*
17 *clusion in any broadband maps or data sets ei-*
18 *ther may maintain.*

19 “(5) *DEFINITIONS.—In this subsection:*

20 “(A) *BROADBAND SERVICE.—The term*
21 *‘broadband service’ has the same meaning given*
22 *the term in section 601.*

23 “(B) *BROADBAND SERVICE DATA.—*

1 “(i) IN GENERAL.—The term
2 ‘broadband service data’ means information
3 related to—

4 “(I) the location and type of
5 broadband service;

6 “(II) the location and type of
7 broadband infrastructure;

8 “(III) the advertised, maximum,
9 and average speed of broadband serv-
10 ice;

11 “(IV) the average price of the
12 most subscribed tier of broadband serv-
13 ice;

14 “(V) the speed tiers of broadband
15 service available in the area; or

16 “(VI) any additional metric the
17 Secretary deems appropriate.

18 “(ii) FURTHER DEFINITION.—The Sec-
19 retary shall further define the term
20 ‘broadband service area’ to ensure that data
21 is measured and collected in a manner con-
22 sistent with the reporting requirements
23 under this section, and any broadband co-
24 ordination or data-sharing obligations.

1 “(C) *ELIGIBLE ENTITY*.—The term ‘eligible
2 entity’ means—

3 “(i) a unit of local government in a
4 rural area;

5 “(ii) a Tribal Government or unit of
6 Tribal Government;

7 “(iii) an economic development or
8 other community organization;

9 “(iv) an eligible entity under title I or
10 II that serves persons in rural areas;

11 “(v) an internet service provider that
12 has not more than 100,000 subscribers; or

13 “(vi) any other entity eligible under a
14 title VI program that is not an internet
15 service provider.

16 “(D) *MIDDLE MILE INFRASTRUCTURE*.—The
17 term ‘middle mile infrastructure’ has the mean-
18 ing given the term in section 602.

19 “(E) *RURAL AREA*.—The term ‘rural area’
20 has the meaning given the term in section 601.

21 “(6) *LIMITATION ON AMOUNT MADE AVAILABLE*
22 *FOR GRANTS*.—The Secretary may not expend more
23 than 1 percent of the amounts made available under
24 subsection (g) for each of fiscal years 2027 through
25 2031 to carry out this subsection.

1 “(g) *LIMITATIONS ON RESERVATION OF FUNDS.*—Not
 2 *less than 3 but not more than 5 percent of the amounts*
 3 *appropriated to the program to carry out title VI shall be*
 4 *set aside to be used for—*

5 “(1) *conducting oversight under such title;*

6 “(2) *implementing accountability measures and*
 7 *related activities authorized under such title; or*

8 “(3) *carrying out this section.*”.

9 **SEC. 6207. LIMITATION ON OVERBUILDING.**

10 *Title VI of the Rural Electrification Act of 1936 (7*
 11 *U.S.C. 950bb et seq.) is amended by adding at the end the*
 12 *following:*

13 **“SEC. 608. LIMITATION ON OVERBUILDING.**

14 *“Any area in a proposed service area under this title*
 15 *shall not be considered unserved if an applicant in another*
 16 *Federal or State broadband program has received an obliga-*
 17 *tion of funding to offer retail broadband service in the area*
 18 *not more than 5 years from the date of the obligation of*
 19 *funds, at a speed of at least 100 Mbps download and 20*
 20 *Mbps upload.*”.

21 ***Subtitle C—Miscellaneous***

22 **SEC. 6301. RURAL ENERGY SAVINGS PROGRAM.**

23 *Section 6407 of the Farm Security and Rural Invest-*
 24 *ment Act of 2002 (7 U.S.C. 8107a) is amended—*

25 (1) *in subsection (b)—*

1 (A) in paragraph (1)—

2 (i) in subparagraph (A), by inserting
3 “, if the entity continues to serve rural
4 areas (as defined in section 343(a)(13)(A)
5 of the Consolidated Farm and Rural Devel-
6 opment Act (7 U.S.C. 1991(a)(13)(A))” be-
7 fore the semicolon;

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

10 (iii) by redesignating subparagraph
11 (C) as subparagraph (E) and inserting
12 after subparagraph (B) the following:

13 “(C) any Indian Tribe (as defined in sec-
14 tion 4 of the Indian Self-Determination and
15 Education Assistance Act (25 U.S.C. 5304));

16 “(D) any public, quasi-public, or nonprofit
17 entity that uses innovative financing techniques
18 and market development tools to accelerate the
19 deployment of energy efficiency technology; or”;

20 (B) by striking paragraph (2) and inserting
21 the following:

22 “(2) *ENERGY EFFICIENCY MEASURES.*—The term
23 ‘energy efficiency measures’ means, with respect to
24 any property service by an eligible entity—

1 “(A) a structural improvement or invest-
 2 ment in a cost-effective, commercial technology to
 3 increase energy efficiency (including cost-effective
 4 on- or off-grid renewable energy or energy stor-
 5 age system); and

6 “(B) the replacement of a manufactured
 7 housing unit or large appliance with a substan-
 8 tially similar manufacturing housing unit or
 9 appliance, respectively, if that replacement is a
 10 cost-effective option with respect to energy sav-
 11 ings.”;

12 (2) in subsection (c)—

13 (A) in the subsection heading, by inserting
 14 “AND GRANTS” before “TO”;

15 (B) by striking paragraph (1) and inserting
 16 the following:

17 “(1) IN GENERAL.—Subject to this subsection,
 18 the Secretary shall provide—

19 “(A) loans to eligible entities that agree to
 20 use the loan funds to make loans under sub-
 21 section (d) to qualified consumers for the purpose
 22 of implementing energy efficiency measures; and

23 “(B) at the election of any eligible entity
 24 that receives a loan under subparagraph (A) of

1 *this paragraph, a grant in accordance with*
2 *paragraph (11).”;*

3 *(C) by redesignating paragraphs (2)*
4 *through (9) as paragraphs (3) through (10), re-*
5 *spectively, and inserting after paragraph (1) the*
6 *following:*

7 *“(2) PRIORITIZATION.—The Secretary shall give*
8 *priority to applications from eligible entities serving*
9 *at least 80 percent of their ratepayers residing in*
10 *rural areas, as defined in section 343(a)(13)(A) of the*
11 *Consolidated Farm and Rural Development Act (7*
12 *U.S.C. 1991(a)(13)(A)).”;*

13 *(D) in paragraph (3) (as so redesignated by*
14 *subparagraph (C) of this paragraph)—*

15 *(i) in the paragraph heading, by in-*
16 *serting “FOR LOANS” before the period; and*

17 *(ii) in subparagraph (A)(i), by strik-*
18 *ing “that is”;*

19 *(E) by striking paragraph (6) (as so redesi-*
20 *gnated by subparagraph (C) of this paragraph)*
21 *and inserting the following:*

22 *“(6) REPAYMENT.—*

23 *“(A) IN GENERAL.—Subject to subpara-*
24 *graph (B) of this paragraph, with respect to a*
25 *loan under paragraph (1)(A)—*

1 “(i) the term shall not exceed 20 years
 2 from the date on which the loan is closed;
 3 and

4 “(ii) except as provided in paragraph
 5 (8), the repayment of each advance shall be
 6 amortized for a period not to exceed 10
 7 years.

8 “(B) *EXTENSIONS.*—The Secretary may ex-
 9 tend the term of a loan under subparagraph
 10 (A)(i), or the deadline for repayment of an ad-
 11 vance under subparagraph (A)(ii), as the Sec-
 12 retary determines appropriate.”;

13 (F) in paragraph (8) (as so redesignated by
 14 subparagraph (C) of this paragraph)—

15 (i) in subparagraph (B), by striking
 16 “(1)” and inserting “(1)(A)”; and

17 (ii) in subparagraph (C), by striking
 18 “Repayment” and inserting “Subject to an
 19 applicable extension under paragraph
 20 (6)(B), repayment”;

21 (G) by striking paragraph (9) (as so redес-
 22 ignated by subparagraph (C) of this paragraph)
 23 and inserting the following:

24 “(9) *LIMITATIONS.*—

1 “(A) *SPECIAL ADVANCES.*—*All special ad-*
 2 *vances shall be made under a loan described in*
 3 *paragraph (1) during the first 10 years of the*
 4 *term of the loan.*

5 “(B) *REPLACEMENT OF MANUFACTURED*
 6 *HOUSING UNITS OR LARGE APPLIANCES.*—*Not*
 7 *more than 10 percent of the total annual amount*
 8 *of budget authority for loans described in para-*
 9 *graph (1) may be used for the replacement of*
 10 *manufactured housing units or large appli-*
 11 *ances.”; and*

12 *(H) by adding at the end the following:*

13 “(11) *GRANTS.*—

14 “(A) *IN GENERAL.*—*At the election of an el-*
 15 *igible entity that receives a loan under this sub-*
 16 *section, the Secretary may provide to the eligible*
 17 *entity a grant to pay for a portion of the costs*
 18 *incurred in—*

19 “(i) *making repairs to the property of*
 20 *a qualified consumer that facilitates the en-*
 21 *ergy efficiency measures for the property fi-*
 22 *nanced through a loan provided to the*
 23 *qualified consumer under subsection (d); or*

24 “(ii) *providing technical assistance,*
 25 *outreach, and training.*

1 “(B) AMOUNT.—

2 “(i) *IN GENERAL.*—*Except as provided*
 3 *in clause (ii), the amount of a grant pro-*
 4 *vided to an eligible entity under this para-*
 5 *graph shall be equal to not more than 5 per-*
 6 *cent of the amount of the loan provided to*
 7 *the eligible entity under this subsection.*

8 “(ii) *PERSISTENT POVERTY COUN-*
 9 *TIES.*—*The amount of a grant provided*
 10 *under this paragraph to an eligible entity*
 11 *that will use the grant to make loans under*
 12 *subsection (d) to qualified consumers located*
 13 *in a persistent poverty county (as deter-*
 14 *mined by the Secretary) shall be equal to 10*
 15 *percent of the amount of the loan provided*
 16 *to the eligible entity under this subsection.”;*

17 (3) *in subsection (d)—*

18 (A) *in paragraph (1)—*

19 (i) *in the matter preceding subpara-*
 20 *graph (A), by inserting “or grant” before*
 21 *“funds”; and*

22 (ii) *by striking subparagraphs (B) and*
 23 *(C) and inserting the following:*

24 “(B)(i) *may have a term and amortization*
 25 *schedule the length of which is the useful life of*

1 the energy efficiency measures implemented
2 using the loan, if the loan term does not exceed
3 20 years; and

4 “(ii) shall finance energy efficiency meas-
5 ures for the purpose of decreasing energy usage
6 or costs of the qualified consumer by an amount
7 that ensures, to the maximum extent practicable,
8 that the applicable loan term described in clause
9 (i) will not pose an undue financial burden on
10 the qualified consumer, as determined by the eli-
11 gible entity;

12 “(C) shall not be used to fund purchases of,
13 or modifications to, personal property unless the
14 personal property—

15 “(i) is a manufactured housing unit or
16 large appliance described in subsection
17 (b)(2)(B); or

18 “(ii) is or becomes attached to real
19 property as a fixture;” and

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

21 “(3) CLARIFICATION OF ELIGIBILITY.—Notwith-
22 standing any other provision of law (including regu-
23 lations), an eligible entity may make a loan under
24 this subsection to any qualified consumer located
25 within the service territory of the eligible entity, re-

1 *ardless of whether the qualified consumer is located*
 2 *in a rural area.”;*

3 *(4) in subsection (e)—*

4 *(A) in the subsection heading, by inserting*
 5 *“OUTREACH,” before “AND TECHNICAL ASSIST-*
 6 *ANCE”;*

7 *(B) in paragraph (1)—*

8 *(i) in subparagraph (A), by striking*
 9 *“and technical assistance of the program”*
 10 *and inserting “outreach, and technical as-*
 11 *sistance relating to the program under this*
 12 *section”;* and

13 *(ii) in subparagraph (B)(ii), by insert-*
 14 *ing “, outreach,” before “and training”;*
 15 *and*

16 *(C) by adding at the end the following:*

17 *“(3) FUNDING.—Not less than 3 but not more*
 18 *than 5 percent of amounts appropriated under sub-*
 19 *section (i) may be used to provide outreach, training,*
 20 *and technical assistance under this subsection.”;* and

21 *(5) in subsection (i), by striking “2014 through*
 22 *2023” and inserting “2027 through 2031”.*

23 **SEC. 6302. PROMOTING PRECISION AGRICULTURE.**

24 *(a) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:*

1 (1) *ADVANCED WIRELESS COMMUNICATIONS*
2 *TECHNOLOGY.*—*The term “advanced wireless commu-*
3 *nications technology” means advanced technology that*
4 *contributes to mobile (5G or beyond) networks, next-*
5 *generation Wi-Fi networks, or other future networks*
6 *using other technologies, regardless of whether the net-*
7 *work is operating on an exclusive licensed, shared li-*
8 *censed, or unlicensed frequency band.*

9 (2) *ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE.*—*The term “arti-*
10 *ficial intelligence” has the meaning given the term in*
11 *section 238(g) of the John S. McCain National De-*
12 *fense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2019 (Public*
13 *Law 115–232; 10 U.S.C. note prec. 4061).*

14 (3) *FOREIGN ADVERSARY.*—*The term “foreign*
15 *adversary” means any foreign government or foreign*
16 *nongovernment person engaged in a long-term pattern*
17 *or serious instances of conduct significantly adverse*
18 *to the national security of the United States, or secu-*
19 *rity and safety of United States persons.*

20 (4) *PRECISION AGRICULTURE; PRECISION AGRI-*
21 *CULTURE TECHNOLOGY.*—*The terms “precision agri-*
22 *culture” and “precision agriculture technology” have*
23 *the meanings given the terms in section 1201 of the*
24 *Food Security Act of 1985.*

1 (5) *TRUSTED*.—The term “trusted” means, with
 2 respect to a provider of advanced communications
 3 service or a supplier of communications equipment or
 4 service, that the Secretary has determined that the
 5 provider or supplier is not owned by, controlled by,
 6 or subject to the influence of, a foreign adversary.

7 (6) *VOLUNTARY CONSENSUS STANDARDS DEVELOPMENT ORGANIZATION*.—The term “voluntary consensus standards development organization” means
 8 an organization that develops standards in a process
 9 that meets the principles for the development of voluntary consensus standards (as defined in the document of the Office of Management and Budget entitled
 10 “Federal Participation in the Development and Use
 11 of Voluntary Consensus Standards and in Conformity
 12 Assessment Activities” (OMB Circular A–119)).

13 (b) *PURPOSES*.—The purposes of this section are—

14 (1) to enhance the participation of precision agriculture in the United States; and

15 (2) to promote United States leadership in voluntary consensus standards development organizations that set standards for precision agriculture.

16 (c) *INTERCONNECTIVITY STANDARDS FOR PRECISION AGRICULTURE*.—

1 (1) *IN GENERAL.*—Not later than 2 years after
2 the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary, in
3 consultation with the Director of the National Insti-
4 tute of Standards and Technology and the Federal
5 Communications Commission, shall—

6 (A) develop voluntary, consensus-based, pri-
7 vate sector-led interconnectivity standards,
8 guidelines, and best practices for precision agri-
9 culture that will promote economies of scale and
10 ease the burden of the adoption of precision agri-
11 culture; and

12 (B) in carrying out subparagraph (A)—

13 (i) coordinate with relevant public and
14 trusted private sector stakeholders and other
15 relevant industry organizations, including
16 voluntary consensus standards development
17 organizations; and

18 (ii) consult with sector-specific agen-
19 cies, other appropriate agencies, and State
20 and local governments.

21 (2) *CONSIDERATIONS.*—The Secretary, in car-
22 rying out paragraph (1), shall, in consultation with
23 the Federal Communications Commission and the Di-
24 rector of the National Institute of Standards and
25 Technology, consider—

1 (A) the evolving demands of precision agri-
2 culture;

3 (B) the connectivity needs of precision agri-
4 culture technology;

5 (C) the cybersecurity challenges facing pre-
6 cision agriculture, including cybersecurity
7 threats for agriculture producers and agriculture
8 supply chains;

9 (D) the impact of advanced wireless com-
10 munications technology on precision agriculture;
11 and

12 (E) the impact of artificial intelligence on
13 precision agriculture.

14 (d) GAO ASSESSMENT OF PRECISION AGRICULTURE
15 STANDARDS.—

16 (1) STUDY.—Not later than 1 year after the Sec-
17 retary develops standards under subsection (c), and
18 every 2 years thereafter for the following 8 years, the
19 Comptroller General of the United States shall con-
20 duct a study that assesses those standards, including
21 the extent to which those standards, as applicable—

22 (A) are voluntary;

23 (B) were developed in coordination with rel-
24 evant industry organizations, including vol-

1 *untary consensus standards development organi-*
 2 *zations; and*

3 *(C) have successfully encouraged the adop-*
 4 *tion of precision agriculture.*

5 *(2) REPORT.—The Comptroller General of the*
 6 *United States shall submit to the Committee on Com-*
 7 *merce, Science, and Transportation of the Senate, the*
 8 *Committee on Science, Space, and Technology of the*
 9 *House of Representatives, the Committee on Agri-*
 10 *culture of the House of Representatives, and the Com-*
 11 *mittee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry of the*
 12 *Senate a report that summarizes the findings of each*
 13 *study conducted under paragraph (1).*

14 **SEC. 6303. FOOD SUPPLY CHAIN GUARANTEED LOANS.**

15 *Section 310B of the Consolidated Farm and Rural De-*
 16 *velopment Act (7 U.S.C. 1932) is amended by inserting*
 17 *after subsection (e) the following:*

18 *“(f) FOOD SUPPLY CHAIN CAPACITY AND RESILIENCE*
 19 *GUARANTEED LOANS.—*

20 *“(1) DEFINITION OF FOOD SUPPLY CHAIN GUAR-*
 21 *ANTEED LOAN.—In this subsection, the term ‘food*
 22 *supply chain guaranteed loan’ means a business and*
 23 *industry guaranteed loan that is made or guaranteed*
 24 *by the Secretary under subsection (a)(2)(A), including*
 25 *a guarantee described in subsection (a)(3).*

1 “(2) *PURPOSE.*—A food supply chain guaranteed
2 loan may be made for the purpose of financing new
3 investments in the start-up or expansion of projects
4 in the United States that will increase the capacity
5 of the food supply chain in the United States to ag-
6 gregate, process, manufacture, store, transport, whole-
7 sale, or distribute food, agricultural products, or agri-
8 cultural inputs.

9 “(3) *LIMITATIONS.*—The maximum amount of a
10 food supply chain guaranteed loan shall not exceed
11 \$40,000,000.

12 “(4) *LOAN GUARANTEES IN NONRURAL AREAS.*—
13 The Secretary may guarantee a food supply chain
14 guaranteed loan to an eligible entity for a facility
15 that is not located in a rural area if—

16 “(A) the primary purpose of the loan guar-
17 antee is for a facility to aggregate, process, man-
18 ufacture, store, transport, wholesale, or distribute
19 food agricultural products, or agricultural in-
20 puts for agricultural producers or processors that
21 are located within 80 miles of the facility;

22 “(B) the applicant demonstrates to the Sec-
23 retary that the primary benefit of the loan guar-
24 antee will be to provide employment for residents
25 of a rural area; and

1 “(C) *the total principal amount of food sup-*
2 *ply chain guaranteed loans guaranteed for a fis-*
3 *cal year under this paragraph does not exceed 10*
4 *percent of the total principal amount of food*
5 *supply chain guaranteed loans made for the fis-*
6 *cal 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 of*
12 *the Senate a report that contains—*

13 “(A) *an evaluation of the outcomes achieved*
14 *through use of the assistance, and the ability of*
15 *the recipient of the assistance to meet perform-*
16 *ance 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 activi-*
20 *ties for which the assistance is provided; and*

21 “(C) *any recommendations of the Secretary*
22 *regarding the implementation of this subsection.*

23 “(6) *RESERVATION OF FUNDS.—*

24 “(A) *IN GENERAL.—For each of fiscal years*
25 *2025 through 2029, the Secretary shall reserve*

1 *not more than 5 percent of the funds made avail-*
 2 *able to carry out subsection (a) to carry out this*
 3 *subsection.*

4 *“(B) AVAILABILITY OF FUNDS.—Funds re-*
 5 *served under subparagraph (A) for a fiscal year*
 6 *shall be reserved until April 1 of the fiscal*
 7 *year.”.*

8 **SEC. 6304. NEW, MOBILE, AND EXPANDED MEAT PROC-**
 9 **ESSING AND RENDERING GRANTS.**

10 *(a) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:*

11 *(1) ELIGIBLE ENTITY.—The term “eligible enti-*
 12 *ty” means—*

13 *(A) a public, private, or cooperative organi-*
 14 *zation organized on a for-profit or nonprofit*
 15 *basis, including a small establishment and very*
 16 *small establishment;*

17 *(B) an Indian Tribe (as defined in section*
 18 *4 of the Indian Self-Determination and Edu-*
 19 *cation Assistance Act (25 U.S.C. 5304));*

20 *(C) a land-grant college or university (as*
 21 *defined in section 1404 of the National Agricul-*
 22 *tural Research, Extension, and Teaching Policy*
 23 *Act of 1977 (7 U.S.C. 3103));*

24 *(D) a non-land-grant college of agriculture*
 25 *(as defined in that section); and*

1 (E) a State department of agriculture or
2 other applicable State office with authority over
3 meat and poultry processing and rendering.

4 (2) *SMALL ESTABLISHMENT; VERY SMALL ESTAB-*
5 *LISHMENT.*—The terms “small establishment” and
6 “very small establishment” have the meanings given
7 the terms “smaller establishment” and “very small es-

8 tablishment”, respectively, in the final rule entitled
9 “Pathogen Reduction; Hazard Analysis and Critical
10 Control Point (HACCP) Systems” (61 Fed. Reg.
11 38806 (July 25, 1996)) (or successor regulations).

12 (b) *PURPOSES.*—The purposes of this section are—

13 (1) to create more resilient local and regional
14 food systems;

15 (2) to expand, diversify, and increase resilience
16 in meat and poultry processing and rendering activi-

17 ties;

18 (3) to increase farmer and rancher access to ani-

19 mal slaughter options;

20 (4) to improve compliance of processors with
21 livestock and poultry processing statutes (including
22 regulations), including the Federal Meat Inspection
23 Act (21 U.S.C. 601 et seq.) and the Poultry Products
24 Inspection Act (21 U.S.C. 451 et seq.);

1 (5) *to reduce barriers to entry for new meat and*
2 *poultry processors and renderers;*

3 (6) *to establish new, or update, expand, or other-*
4 *wise improve existing, meat and poultry processing*
5 *and rendering facilities; and*

6 (7) *to support the processing and slaughtering of*
7 *niche production methods such as halal, kosher, and*
8 *other specific cultural methods.*

9 (c) *GRANTS.—*

10 (1) *IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall award*
11 *grants to eligible entities to use in accordance with*
12 *subsection (d).*

13 (2) *MAXIMUM AMOUNT.—The maximum amount*
14 *of a grant awarded under paragraph (1) shall not ex-*
15 *ceed \$500,000.*

16 (3) *DURATION.—The term of a grant awarded*
17 *under paragraph (1) shall not exceed 3 years.*

18 (4) *PRIORITY.—In awarding grants under para-*
19 *graph (1), the Secretary shall give priority to small*
20 *establishments and very small establishments.*

21 (d) *USE OF FUNDS.—An eligible entity receiving a*
22 *grant under this section shall use the grant to carry out*
23 *activities in support of the purposes described in subsection*
24 *(b), including activities—*

1 (1) *to identify and analyze business opportuni-*
2 *ties, including feasibility studies required for credit*
3 *worthiness;*

4 (2) *to achieve compliance with applicable Fed-*
5 *eral, State, or local regulations;*

6 (3) *to conduct regional, community, and local*
7 *economic development planning and coordination and*
8 *leadership development;*

9 (4) *to incentivize new, innovative, or mobile en-*
10 *terprises for increasing or improving local and re-*
11 *gional meat or poultry processing and rendering;*

12 (5) *to implement humane handling infrastruc-*
13 *ture, including holding space for livestock prior to*
14 *slaughter, shade structures, and structures and equip-*
15 *ment for humane slaughter;*

16 (6) *to develop a feasibility study or business*
17 *plan for, or carry out any other activity associated*
18 *with, establishing or expanding a small meat or poul-*
19 *try slaughter, processing, or rendering facility;*

20 (7) *to purchase equipment that enables the fur-*
21 *ther use or value-added sale of coproducts or byprod-*
22 *ucts; and*

23 (8) *to purchase cold storage and related equip-*
24 *ment.*

1 (e) *FEDERAL SHARE.*—*The Federal share of the activi-*
2 *ties carried out using a grant awarded under this section*
3 *shall not exceed—*

4 (1) *90 percent in the case of a grant in the*
5 *amount of \$100,000 or less; or*

6 (2) *75 percent in the case of a grant in an*
7 *amount greater than \$100,000.*

8 (f) *QUARTERLY REPORTS TO CONGRESS.*—*Within 30*
9 *days after the end of each calendar quarter, the Secretary*
10 *shall submit to the Committee on Agriculture of the House*
11 *of Representatives and the Committee on Agriculture, Nu-*
12 *trition, and Forestry of the Senate a report that contains—*

13 (1) *an evaluation of the outcomes achieved*
14 *through use of the grant, and the ability of the grant-*
15 *ee to meet performance goals;*

16 (2) *an evaluation of the compliance of the grant-*
17 *ee with the terms and conditions of the grant;*

18 (3) *a determination as to whether the grant re-*
19 *cipient maintains adequate financial capacity to*
20 *carry out the activities for which the grant is pro-*
21 *vided; and*

22 (4) *any recommendations of the Secretary re-*
23 *garding the implementation of this section.*

24 (g) *AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.*—*There is*
25 *authorized to be appropriated to the Secretary to carry out*

1 *this section \$3,000,000 for each of fiscal years 2027 through*
 2 *2031.*

3 **SEC. 6305. EXPANDING CHILDCARE IN RURAL AMERICA INI-**
 4 **TIATIVE.**

5 *(a) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:*

6 *(1) CHILDCARE.—*

7 *(A) IN GENERAL.—The term “childcare”*
 8 *means any program that—*

9 *(i) provides quality care and early*
 10 *education for children who have not yet en-*
 11 *tered first grade; and*

12 *(ii) is operated by—*

13 *(I) an eligible childcare provider*
 14 *described in section 658P(6)(A) of the*
 15 *Child Care and Development Block*
 16 *Grant Act of 1990 (42 U.S.C.*
 17 *9858n(6)(A)); or*

18 *(II) a childcare provider that, on*
 19 *the date of enactment of this Act—*

20 *(aa) is licensed, regulated, or*
 21 *registered in the State, territory,*
 22 *or Indian Tribe in which the pro-*
 23 *vider is located; and*

1 (bb) meets applicable State,
2 Tribal, territorial, and local
3 health and safety requirements.

4 (B) INCLUSIONS.—The term “childcare” in-
5 cludes—

6 (i) a school-based program described in
7 subparagraph (A);

8 (ii) a program described in subpara-
9 graph (A) that is a Head Start program,
10 including a migrant and seasonal Head
11 Start program, or an American Indian and
12 Alaska Native Head Start program carried
13 out under the Head Start Act (42 U.S.C.
14 9831 et seq.);

15 (iii) a facility used for a program de-
16 scribed in subparagraph (A); and

17 (iv) a service provided under a pro-
18 gram described in subparagraph (A).

19 (2) INITIATIVE.—The term “Initiative” means
20 the Expanding Childcare in Rural America Initiative
21 established under subsection (b).

22 (3) RURAL AREA.—The term “rural area” has
23 the meaning given the term in section 343(a)(13)(A)
24 of the Consolidated Farm and Rural Development
25 Act.

1 (b) *ESTABLISHMENT.*—*The Secretary shall establish*
2 *an initiative, to be known as the “Expanding Childcare in*
3 *Rural America Initiative”, under which the Secretary shall*
4 *provide, for each of fiscal years 2027 through 2029, priority*
5 *in accordance with subsection (c) to address the avail-*
6 *ability, quality, and cost of childcare in rural areas.*

7 (c) *CHILDCARE PRIORITIES.*—

8 (1) *IN GENERAL.*—*Notwithstanding any other*
9 *provision of law, in selecting recipients of loans and*
10 *grants under a program described in paragraph (2),*
11 *the Secretary shall give priority to any qualified ap-*
12 *plicant that proposes to use the loan or grant to ad-*
13 *dress the availability, quality, or cost of childcare.*

14 (2) *DESCRIPTION OF PROGRAMS.*—*The programs*
15 *referred to in paragraph (1) are the following:*

16 (A) *The essential community facilities loan*
17 *and grant programs authorized under section*
18 *306(a) of the Consolidated Farm and Rural De-*
19 *velopment Act (7 U.S.C. 1926(a)).*

20 (B) *The business and industry direct and*
21 *guaranteed loan program authorized under sec-*
22 *tion 310B(g) of that Act (7 U.S.C. 1932(g)).*

23 (C) *The rural microentrepreneur assistance*
24 *program authorized under section 379E of that*
25 *Act (7 U.S.C. 2008s).*

1 (D) *The intermediary relending program*
2 *authorized under the Food Security Act of 1985*
3 *(7 U.S.C. 1936b).*

4 (d) *REQUIREMENTS.—In providing funding in accord-*
5 *ance with the Initiative, the Secretary shall ensure a bal-*
6 *anced geographical distribution of the benefits under the*
7 *Initiative.*

8 (e) *EVALUATION; REPORT.—*

9 (1) *EVALUATION.—Not later than 3 years after*
10 *the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary shall*
11 *conduct a comprehensive quantitative and qualitative*
12 *evaluation of the projects carried out using assistance*
13 *provided under the Initiative, including—*

14 (A) *a description of—*

15 (i) *the types of projects carried out;*

16 (ii) *the communities in which the*
17 *projects are carried out;*

18 (iii) *the organizations and entities*
19 *participating in the projects; and*

20 (iv) *the types of partnerships developed*
21 *to carry out the projects; and*

22 (B) *the economic and social impacts of the*
23 *investments in the projects.*

24 (2) *REPORT.—Not later than 4 years after the*
25 *date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary shall sub-*

9 (a) *IN GENERAL.*—Within 1 year after the date of the
10 enactment of this section, the Secretary shall directly, or
11 through cooperative agreements, provide technical assist-
12 ance and strengthen local capacity to improve access to
13 rural development programs administered by the Secretary
14 for local partners (including local governments, coopera-
15 tives, businesses, and community anchor institutions) in
16 geographically underserved and distressed areas.

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1 (c) *DEFINITIONS.—In this section:*

2 (1) *GEOGRAPHICALLY UNDERSERVED AND DIS-*
 3 *TRESSED AREA.—The term “geographically under-*
 4 *served and distressed area” means a rural area (as*
 5 *defined in section 343(a)(13)(A) of the Consolidated*
 6 *Farm and Rural Development Act (7 U.S.C.*
 7 *1991(a)(13)(A)))—*

8 (A) *in a socially vulnerable community (as*
 9 *determined by the Secretary);*

10 (B) *in a persistent poverty county (as deter-*
 11 *mined by the Secretary);*

12 (C) *in an economically distressed area (as*
 13 *determined by the Secretary); or*

14 (D) *in a colonia.*

15 (2) *COMMUNITY ANCHOR INSTITUTION.—The*
 16 *term “community anchor institution” means—*

17 (A) *a public library;*

18 (B) *an elementary or secondary school;*

19 (C) *an institution of higher education;*

20 (D) *a health care facility; or*

21 (E) *any other nonprofit or governmental*
 22 *community support organization.*

1 **SEC. 6307. ESTABLISHMENT OF THE RURAL DEVELOPMENT**
2 **INNOVATION CENTER.**

3 *Subtitle D of the Consolidated Farm and Rural Devel-*
4 *opment Act (7 U.S.C. 1981 et seq.) is amended by adding*
5 *at the end the following:*

6 **“SEC. 379J. RURAL DEVELOPMENT INNOVATION CENTER.**

7 *“(a) DEFINITION OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT MISSION*
8 *AREAS.—In this section, the term ‘Rural Development Mis-*
9 *sion Areas’ means the agencies under the Rural Develop-*
10 *ment Agency at the Department of Agriculture, including*
11 *the Rural Utilities Service, Rural Business-Cooperative*
12 *Service, and the Rural Housing Service.*

13 *“(b) ESTABLISHMENT.—There is hereby established*
14 *within the Rural Development Mission Areas a Rural De-*
15 *velopment Innovation Center (the ‘Innovation Center’) to*
16 *promote and facilitate innovation in the administration*
17 *and implementation of rural development programs and*
18 *initiatives.*

19 *“(c) FUNCTIONS.—The Innovation Center shall—*

20 *“(1) review all processes for Rural Development*
21 *Mission Area programs to identify inefficiencies,*
22 *redundancies, and barriers to access, including—*

23 *“(A) unnecessary delays in loan and grant*
24 *applications processing and approvals;*

25 *“(B) high application costs; and*

1 “(C) deficiencies in technical assistance for
2 programs;

3 “(2) establish and maintain an ongoing public
4 process for public and private stakeholders to provide
5 perspectives on the challenges faced when applying
6 for, utilizing, or participating in Rural Development
7 Mission Area programs;

8 “(3) identify and assess any innovative strate-
9 gies and collaborative models to enhance the efficiency
10 and effectiveness of rural development programs and
11 initiatives;

12 “(4) foster and maintain partnerships with pub-
13 lic and private stakeholders to leverage expertise and
14 resources for the Rural Development Mission Areas;

15 “(5) promote cross-agency collaborations and
16 identify best practices in rural economic development;

17 “(6) identify and implement technological solu-
18 tions and software applications to improve the effec-
19 tiveness and efficiency of Rural Development Mission
20 Area programs, including enhancing data manage-
21 ment systems;

22 “(7) conduct research, analysis, and evaluation
23 to modernize, simplify, and improve Rural Develop-
24 ment Mission Area programs, and ensure that the

1 *programs are accessible, transparent, and user-friend-*
2 *ly; and*

3 *“(8) disseminate information, guidance, and*
4 *training materials to Rural Development Mission*
5 *Area personnel and stakeholders on innovative rural*
6 *development practices and opportunities.*

7 *“(d) MODERNIZATION PLAN.—The Innovation Center*
8 *shall develop, and periodically update, a modernization*
9 *plan to facilitate innovation in administering and imple-*
10 *menting rural development programs and initiatives that—*

11 *“(1) outlines strategies aimed at harnessing the*
12 *potential of emerging technologies for program deliv-*
13 *ery and overall service;*

14 *“(2) enhances program efficiencies by identifying*
15 *and implementing measures to streamline program*
16 *and administrative processes, reduce redundancies,*
17 *and optimize resource allocation;*

18 *“(3) expands the availability and accessibility of*
19 *digital services, leveraging digital platforms and tools*
20 *to broaden the reach of the programs and improve the*
21 *overall user experience for rural stakeholders;*

22 *“(4) integrates data-driven solutions to optimize*
23 *program delivery and maximize impact and effective-*
24 *ness of the efforts in rural development; and*

1 “(5) establishes periodic milestones and goals to
2 track the progress of the modernization plan.

3 “(e) *REPORT.*—The Secretary shall submit an annual
4 report to the Committee on Agriculture of the House of Rep-
5 resentatives and the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition,
6 and Forestry of the Senate on—

7 “(1) the activities and accomplishments of the
8 Innovation Center, including progress in advancing
9 rural development innovation and the outcome
10 achieved;

11 “(2) a comprehensive working plan designed to
12 actively engage public and private stakeholders, as de-
13 scribed in subsection (c)(2); and

14 “(3) the progress on the modernization plan de-
15 scribed in subsection (d).”.

16 **SEC. 6308. RURAL HEALTH LIAISON REPORT.**

17 Section 236 of the Department of Agriculture Reorga-
18 nization Act of 1994 (7 U.S.C. 6946) is amended—

19 (1) in subsection (b)—

20 (A) in paragraph (8), by striking “and” at
21 the end;

22 (B) in paragraph (9), by striking the period
23 and inserting “; and”; and

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

1 “(10) coordinate with the National Institute of
 2 Food and Agriculture in implementation of the Farm
 3 and Ranch Stress Assistance Network provided for in
 4 section 7522 of the Food, Conservation, and Energy
 5 Act of 2008 (7 U.S.C. 5936).”; and

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

7 “(c) *REPORT.*—The Rural Health Liaison shall submit
 8 an annual report to the Committee on Agriculture of the
 9 House of Representatives and the Committee on Agri-
 10 culture, Nutrition, and Forestry of the Senate outlining the
 11 activities conducted under subsection (b).”.

12 ***Subtitle D—Additional Amendments to the Consolidated Farm***
 13 ***and Rural Development Act***
 14

15 ***SEC. 6401. WATER, WASTE DISPOSAL, AND WASTEWATER FA-***
 16 ***CILITY GRANTS.***

17 *Section 306(a)(2)(B)(vii) of the Consolidated Farm*
 18 *and Rural Development Act (7 U.S.C. 1926(a)(2)(B)(vii))*
 19 *is amended by striking “2019 through 2023” and inserting*
 20 *“2027 through 2031”.*

21 ***SEC. 6402. RURAL WATER AND WASTEWATER CIRCUIT***
 22 ***RIDER PROGRAM.***

23 *Section 306(a)(22) of the Consolidated Farm and*
 24 *Rural Development Act (7 U.S.C. 1926(a)(22)) is amended*
 25 *to read as follows:*

1 “(22) *RURAL WATER AND WASTEWATER CIRCUIT*
2 *RIDER PROGRAM.*—

3 “(A) *ESTABLISHMENT.*—*The Secretary,*
4 *through the Rural Utilities Service, shall con-*
5 *tinue a national rural water and wastewater cir-*
6 *cuit rider program that is consistent with the ac-*
7 *tivities and results of the program conducted be-*
8 *fore the date of enactment of this Act, and with*
9 *this section, as determined by the Secretary.*

10 “(B) *PURPOSE.*—*The Rural Water and*
11 *Wastewater Circuit Rider Program shall provide*
12 *a network of expert rural water Circuit Riders*
13 *located in all 50 States, including United States*
14 *territories and Freely Associated States, which*
15 *work one-on-one with eligible rural water and*
16 *wastewater systems in major assistance cat-*
17 *egories described in subparagraph (D). The pro-*
18 *gram is intended to help rural water systems op-*
19 *erate effectively and efficiently and achieve long-*
20 *term sustainability and compliance with certain*
21 *Federal laws and requirements, including the*
22 *Safe Water Drinking Act (42 U.S.C. 300f et seq.)*
23 *and the Clean Water Act (33 U.S.C. 1251 et*
24 *seq.).*

1 “(C) *ELIGIBLE ENTITIES.*—*In selecting re-*
2 *cipients of grants, contracts, and cooperative*
3 *agreements to be made available for activities*
4 *listed under subparagraph (D), the Secretary*
5 *shall select nonprofit organizations that have*
6 *demonstrated experience providing technical as-*
7 *sistance and disaster and recovery assistance for*
8 *water and wastewater utilities nationwide.*
9 *Awardees shall rely on personnel that possess ac-*
10 *tive water and wastewater operators’ licenses or*
11 *overall knowledge of water utilities necessary to*
12 *carry out eligible activities under subparagraph*
13 *(D).*

14 “(D) *ELIGIBLE USES OF FUNDS.*—*An eligi-*
15 *ble entity shall use funds under the Rural Water*
16 *and Wastewater Circuit Rider program for a*
17 *rural water, wastewater, or wastewater disposal*
18 *facility for—*

19 “(i) *technical assistance, including—*

20 “(I) *Board training;*

21 “(II) *managerial and financial*
22 *operations with the effort to enhance*
23 *the long-term sustainability of rural*
24 *water and wastewater systems, includ-*

1 *ing partnerships, consolidation, and*
2 *regionalization;*

3 *“(III) physical operation and*
4 *maintenance of rural water and waste-*
5 *water infrastructure;*

6 *“(IV) water treatment;*

7 *“(V) regulatory compliance;*

8 *“(VI) facility security;*

9 *“(VII) loan application and re-*
10 *porting;*

11 *“(VIII) cybersecurity;*

12 *“(IX) implementation of cyberse-*
13 *curity plans, procedures, and tech-*
14 *nologies to protect against cyberthreats;*
15 *or*

16 *“(X) other areas the Secretary*
17 *deems appropriate;*

18 *“(ii) disaster and recovery assistance*
19 *including—*

20 *“(I) direct on-site personnel and*
21 *equipment to eligible utilities;*

22 *“(II) coordinating in statewide*
23 *emergency response networks;*

24 *“(III) facilitating the development*
25 *of action plans between utilities, local*

1 *governments, the Federal Emergency*
2 *Management Agency and the State*
3 *emergency management agencies;*

4 *“(IV) resiliency and mitigation*
5 *planning;*

6 *“(V) GIS mapping;*

7 *“(VI) updating vulnerability as-*
8 *sessments, preparation of emergency*
9 *response plans, communication proto-*
10 *cols, hazard recognition and evaluation*
11 *skills;*

12 *“(VII) conducting preliminary*
13 *damage assessments of critical infra-*
14 *structure;*

15 *“(VIII) addressing outstanding*
16 *deficiencies focused on resolving health-*
17 *based regulatory, operational, finan-*
18 *cial, and managerial deficiencies that*
19 *impact the sustainability of the af-*
20 *ected utilities;*

21 *“(IX) application and reporting*
22 *assistance for Federal and State re-*
23 *quirements including Federal Emer-*
24 *gency Management Agency and insur-*
25 *ance recovery claims;*

1 “(X) providing for disaster readi-
2 ness, support, and response activities
3 targeted to disadvantaged communities
4 that lack the financial resources and
5 human capital necessary to adequately
6 address significant health, safety, or
7 sanitary concerns; and

8 “(XI) other areas the Secretary
9 deems appropriate.

10 “(iii) *ADDITIONAL USES.*—In response
11 to activities under subparagraph (B) related
12 to natural disasters and emergencies, not
13 more than 5 percent of each award may be
14 used to purchase or reimburse the rental
15 costs of appropriate emergency equipment,
16 as determined by the Secretary.

17 “(E) *ELIGIBLE PROJECT AREAS.*—To re-
18 ceive assistance under the Rural Water and
19 Wastewater Circuit Rider Program and carry
20 out activities, an eligible entity must serve—

21 “(i) an area with a population of—

22 “(I) 10,000 or fewer inhabitants
23 for technical assistance under subpara-
24 graph (D)(i); or

1 “(II) 50,000 or fewer inhabitants
 2 for disaster and recovery assistance
 3 under subparagraph (D)(ii); and
 4 “(ii) a public body, nonprofit corpora-
 5 tion, or Indian tribe with legal authority to
 6 own and operate the water facility.

7 “(F) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIA-
 8 TIONS.—There is authorized to be appropriated
 9 to carry out this paragraph \$25,000,000 for fis-
 10 cal year 2027 through fiscal year 2031.”.

11 **SEC. 6403. ZERO AND LOW INTEREST LOANS FOR DIS-**
 12 **TRESSED WATER SYSTEMS.**

13 Section 306(a) of the Consolidated Farm and Rural
 14 Development Act (7 U.S.C. 1926(a)) is amended by insert-
 15 ing after paragraph (22) the following:

16 “(23) ASSISTANCE FOR DISTRESSED WATER SYS-
 17 TEMS.—

18 “(A) To promote the long-term sustain-
 19 ability and financial viability of eligible rural
 20 community waste disposal and water facilities
 21 as described in subparagraph (B), for any entity
 22 described in subparagraph (C), the Secretary
 23 may—

1 “(i) make a zero percent interest loan
2 or a 1 percent interest loan pursuant to
3 paragraph (1);

4 “(ii) forgive the principal or interest,
5 or modify any term or condition of a new
6 or existing loan made pursuant to para-
7 graph (1);

8 “(iii) refinance all or part of any other
9 loan made for an eligible purpose under
10 paragraph (1) of this subsection or section
11 306C; or

12 “(iv) waive any fee required to insure
13 or guarantee a loan pursuant to paragraph
14 (1) or (24).

15 “(B) To promote the long-term sustain-
16 ability and financial viability of the services
17 provided by eligible entities, the Secretary
18 shall—

19 “(i) provide assistance to an eligible
20 entity for the purpose of—

21 “(I) ensuring the entity has nec-
22 essary resources to maintain public
23 health, safety, or order;

1 “(II) *addressing financial hard-*
2 *ships of the eligible entity, its cus-*
3 *tomers, and the community it serves;*

4 “(III) *improving the financial*
5 *stability of the eligible entity, includ-*
6 *ing changes to—*

7 “(aa) *operational practices;*

8 “(bb) *revenue enhancements;*

9 “(cc) *policy revisions; and*

10 “(dd) *contract services; and*

11 “(IV) *supporting a partnership,*
12 *regionalization, or consolidation of the*
13 *entity with another water system; and*

14 “(ii) *require an applicant to—*

15 “(I) *receive financial planning*
16 *assistance and prepare a long-term fi-*
17 *nancial plan; or*

18 “(II) *partner, regionalize, or con-*
19 *solidate with another water system.*

20 “(C) *An entity shall be eligible for assist-*
21 *ance under this paragraph if the entity—*

22 “(i) *is a rural water, wastewater, or*
23 *wastewater disposal system with respect to*
24 *which assistance may be provided under a*
25 *water or wastewater, or waste disposal pro-*

1 *gram under this subsection or section 306A,*
2 *306C, or 306D, and*

3 “(ii) is—

4 “(I) *located in a socially dis-*
5 *advantaged community, a persistent*
6 *poverty county, colonia, or distressed*
7 *tribal area, as determined by the Sec-*
8 *retary; or*

9 “(II) *facing an economic hardship*
10 *as defined by the Secretary.*

11 “(D) *An entity eligible under paragraph (1)*
12 *or (2) of subsection (a) may designate a water*
13 *and wastewater utility provider to apply for a*
14 *loan under this paragraph and carry out the*
15 *loan application on behalf of the eligible entity.*

16 “(E)(i) *The Secretary shall evaluate such a*
17 *loan application on the basis of the needs of the*
18 *eligible entity and the beneficiaries of the eligible*
19 *entity rather than the needs of the applicant*
20 *water and wastewater utility provider.*

21 “(ii) *A water and wastewater utility pro-*
22 *vider to whom a loan is made under this para-*
23 *graph on the basis of an application submitted*
24 *on behalf of an eligible entity may use the loan*

1 *only for the benefit of the residents of the eligible*
2 *area for which the loan is provided.”.*

3 **SEC. 6404. TRIBAL COLLEGE AND UNIVERSITY ESSENTIAL**
4 **COMMUNITY FACILITIES.**

5 *Section 306(a)(25)(C) of the Consolidated Farm and*
6 *Rural Development Act (7 U.S.C. 1926(a)(25)(C)) is*
7 *amended by striking “2008 through 2023” and inserting*
8 *“2027 through 2031”.*

9 **SEC. 6405. EMERGENCY AND IMMINENT COMMUNITY WATER**
10 **ASSISTANCE GRANT PROGRAM.**

11 *Section 306A(i)(2) of the Consolidated Farm and*
12 *Rural Development Act (7 U.S.C. 1926a(i)(2)) is amended*
13 *by striking “2019 through 2023” and inserting “2027*
14 *through 2031”.*

15 **SEC. 6406. WATER SYSTEMS FOR RURAL AND NATIVE VIL-**
16 **LAGES IN ALASKA.**

17 *Section 306D(d)(1) of the Consolidated Farm and*
18 *Rural Development Act (7 U.S.C. 1926d(d)(1)) is amended*
19 *by striking “2008 through 2023” and inserting “2027*
20 *through 2031”.*

21 **SEC. 6407. RURAL DECENTRALIZED WATER SYSTEMS.**

22 *Section 306E of the Consolidated Farm and Rural De-*
23 *velopment Act (7 U.S.C. 1926e) is amended to read as fol-*
24 *lows:*

1 **“SEC. 306E. RURAL DECENTRALIZED WATER SYSTEMS.**

2 “(a) *DEFINITIONS.—In this section:*

3 “(1) *ELIGIBLE INDIVIDUAL.—The term ‘eligible*
4 *individual’ means an individual who is a member of*
5 *a household the members of which have a combined*
6 *income (for the most recent 12-month period for*
7 *which the information is available) that is not more*
8 *than 80 percent of the median nonmetropolitan house-*
9 *hold income for the State or territory in which the in-*
10 *dividual resides, according to the most recent decen-*
11 *nial census of the United States.*

12 “(2) *ELIGIBLE GRANT RECIPIENT.—The term ‘el-*
13 *igible grant recipient’ means a private nonprofit or-*
14 *ganization that uses a grant provided under this sec-*
15 *tion for the purposes described in subsection (b)(1).*

16 “(3) *QUALIFIED WATER QUALITY TESTING.—The*
17 *term ‘qualified water quality testing’ means a base-*
18 *line analysis of the bacterial and chemical character-*
19 *istics of concern from a drinking water sample col-*
20 *lected at the point of consumption and tested by a*
21 *laboratory certified to conduct water quality testing*
22 *that is provided to—*

23 “(A) *the Secretary; and*

24 “(B) *the eligible grant recipient receiving a*
25 *grant under this section and any eligible indi-*
26 *vidual served by the eligible grant recipient.*

1 “(b) *GRANTS.*—

2 “(1) *IN GENERAL.*—*The Secretary may make*
3 *grants to an eligible grant recipient for the purpose*
4 *of—*

5 “(A) *providing loans and subgrants to eligi-*
6 *ble individuals for—*

7 “(i) *the construction, refurbishing, and*
8 *servicing of individual household water well*
9 *systems and individually owned household*
10 *decentralized wastewater systems in rural*
11 *areas that are or will be owned by the eligi-*
12 *ble individuals; or*

13 “(ii) *in the event of ground well water*
14 *contamination, the installation or replace-*
15 *ment of water treatment, where needed as*
16 *determined by a qualified water quality test*
17 *or other third-party documentation to the*
18 *satisfaction of the Secretary;*

19 “(B) *performing qualified water quality*
20 *testing of individual household water well sys-*
21 *tems and individually utilized household decen-*
22 *tralized wastewater systems in rural areas that*
23 *are or will be utilized by the eligible individuals;*
24 *or*

1 “(C) *providing technical assistance to eligi-*
2 *ble individuals for—*

3 “(i) *the installation or replacement of*
4 *individual household water well systems*
5 *and individually owned household decen-*
6 *tralized wastewater systems in rural areas*
7 *that are or will be owned by the eligible in-*
8 *dividuals;*

9 “(ii) *interpreting qualified water qual-*
10 *ity tests; or*

11 “(iii) *addressing ground well water*
12 *contamination.*

13 “(2) *TERMS AND AMOUNTS FOR LOANS AND SUB-*
14 *GRANTS.—*

15 “(A) *TERMS OF LOANS.—A loan made with*
16 *grant funds under this section—*

17 “(i) *shall have an interest rate of 1*
18 *percent; and*

19 “(ii) *shall have a term not to exceed 20*
20 *years.*

21 “(B) *AMOUNTS.—A loan or subgrant made*
22 *with grant funds under this section shall not ex-*
23 *ceed \$20,000 for each water well system or decen-*
24 *tralized wastewater system described in para-*
25 *graph (1).*

1 “(3) *ADMINISTRATIVE EXPENSES.*—A recipient
2 of a grant made under this section may use grant
3 funds to pay administrative expenses associated with
4 providing the assistance described in paragraph (1),
5 as determined by the Secretary.

6 “(4) *WATER TREATMENT STANDARDS.*—Water
7 treatment provided under this section shall—

8 “(A) incorporate components that are third-
9 party certified as compliant with relevant con-
10 sensus-based standards for drinking water treat-
11 ment units or systems, as determined by the Sec-
12 retary; and

13 “(B) be installed, according to the instruc-
14 tions of the manufacturer, by a qualified, cer-
15 tified, or licensed water treatment professional,
16 including a professional credentialed through a
17 manufacturer or third-party.

18 “(c) *PRIORITY IN AWARDING GRANTS.*—In awarding
19 grants under this section, the Secretary shall give priority
20 to an applicant that has substantial expertise and experi-
21 ence in promoting the safe and effective use of individually
22 owned household water well systems, individually owned
23 household decentralized wastewater systems, and ground
24 water.

1 “(d) *LIMITATION.*—An eligible grant recipient cannot
 2 use more than 10 percent of a grant awarded under this
 3 section for the activities described under subparagraphs (B)
 4 and (C) of subsection (b)(1).

5 “(e) *AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.*—There is
 6 authorized to be appropriated to carry out this section
 7 \$20,000,000 for each of fiscal years 2027 through 2031.”.

8 **SEC. 6408. ASSISTANCE TO RURAL ENTITIES.**

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

11 (1) in paragraph (1), by adding at the end the
 12 following:

13 “(C) *PRECISION AGRICULTURE; PRECISION*
 14 *AGRICULTURE TECHNOLOGY.*—The terms ‘preci-
 15 sion agriculture’ and ‘precision agriculture tech-
 16 nology’ have the meanings given those terms in
 17 section 1201 of the Food Security Act of 1985.”;
 18 and

19 (2) in paragraph (2)—

20 (A) by striking “and” at the end of sub-
 21 paragraph (C);

22 (B) by striking the period at the end of sub-
 23 paragraph (D) and inserting “; and”; and

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

1 “(E) expanding the adoption of precision
 2 agriculture practices, including by financing the
 3 acquisition of precision agriculture technology,
 4 in order to promote best practices, reduce costs,
 5 and improve the environment.”.

6 **SEC. 6409. SOLID WASTE MANAGEMENT GRANTS.**

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

9 (1) in paragraph (1), by striking “governments
 10 and related agencies” and inserting “governments, re-
 11 lated agencies, and Indian tribes”; and

12 (2) in paragraph (2), by striking “2014 through
 13 2023” and inserting “2027 through 2031”.

14 **SEC. 6410. RURAL BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT GRANTS.**

15 Section 310B(c)(4)(A) of the Consolidated Farm and
 16 Rural Development Act (7 U.S.C. 1932(c)(4)(A)) is amend-
 17 ed by striking “2014 through 2023” and inserting “2027
 18 through 2031”.

19 **SEC. 6411. RURAL COOPERATIVE DEVELOPMENT GRANTS.**

20 Section 310B(e) of the Consolidated Farm and Rural
 21 Development Act (7 U.S.C. 1932(e)) is amended—

22 (1) in paragraph (1), by adding at the end the
 23 following:

24 “(C) COOPERATIVE DEVELOPMENT.—The
 25 term ‘cooperative development’ means activities

1 *including education, training, and technical as-*
 2 *sistance, to support the start-up, expansion, or*
 3 *ongoing sustainability of new and existing co-*
 4 *operatives.”;*

5 *(2) in paragraph (5)—*

6 *(A) in subparagraph (D), by striking “un-*
 7 *derserved and economically distressed areas in*
 8 *rural areas of the United States” and inserting*
 9 *“socially vulnerable, underserved, or distressed*
 10 *communities”; and*

11 *(B) in subparagraph (F)—*

12 *(i) by inserting “at least” before “a 25*
 13 *percent”; and*

14 *(ii) by inserting “, and all applica-*
 15 *tions that satisfy this subparagraph shall be*
 16 *given the same priority for the scoring cri-*
 17 *terion based on satisfying this subpara-*
 18 *graph” before the period;*

19 *(3) in paragraph (6), by striking subparagraph*
 20 *(B) and inserting the following:*

21 *“(B) AWARD RENEWALS FOR QUALIFIED*
 22 *NONPROFIT INSTITUTIONS.—The Secretary shall*
 23 *award a grant under this subsection to a non-*
 24 *profit institution on the same terms and for the*
 25 *establishment or operation of the same center or*

1 *centers for cooperative development for which the*
2 *nonprofit institution was awarded a grant in*
3 *the current fiscal year, if the nonprofit institu-*
4 *tion—*

5 *“(i) is a recipient of an award under*
6 *this subsection;*

7 *“(ii) requests a renewal under this sub-*
8 *paragraph;*

9 *“(iii) has submitted a complete appli-*
10 *cation under this subsection in the pre-*
11 *ceding 2 fiscal years; and*

12 *“(iv) has operated the center or centers*
13 *for cooperative development in a manner*
14 *which successfully meets the parameters de-*
15 *scribed in paragraph (5), as determined by*
16 *the Secretary.”;*

17 *(4) in paragraph (10), by adding at the end the*
18 *following: “The Secretary shall analyze the data re-*
19 *sulting from the research, and include the data and*
20 *the analysis in the annual report submitted by the*
21 *interagency working group under paragraph (12).”;*

22 *(5) in paragraph (12), by adding at the end the*
23 *following: “Not later than 180 days after the date of*
24 *the enactment of this sentence and annually there-*
25 *after, the interagency working group shall submit to*

1 *the Congress a report describing the activities carried*
 2 *out by the working group.”; and*

3 (6) *in paragraph (13), by striking “2014*
 4 *through 2023” and inserting “2027 through 2031”.*

5 **SEC. 6412. LENDER FEES IN GUARANTEED LOAN PRO-**
 6 **GRAMS.**

7 (a) *IN GENERAL.*—*Section 333 of such Act (7 U.S.C.*
 8 *1983) is amended—*

9 (1) *by inserting “(A) IN GENERAL.—” before “In*
 10 *connection”;*

11 (2) *in paragraph (5), by adding “and” at the*
 12 *end;*

13 (3) *in paragraph (6)(E), by striking “; and”*
 14 *and inserting a period;*

15 (4) *by striking paragraph (7); and*

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

17 *“(b) FEES.—*

18 *“(1) INITIAL GUARANTEE FEE.—The Secretary*
 19 *may assess an initial guarantee fee for any insured*
 20 *or guaranteed loan issued or modified under section*
 21 *306(a) in an amount that does not exceed 3 percent*
 22 *of the guaranteed principal portion of the loan.*

23 *“(2) PERIODIC RETENTION FEE.—The Secretary*
 24 *may assess a periodic retention fee for any insured or*
 25 *guaranteed loan issued or modified under section*

1 306(a) in an amount that does not exceed 0.75 per-
2 cent of the outstanding principal of the guaranteed
3 loan.

4 “(3) *DISCLOSURE.*—In altering any fee charged
5 for any insured or guaranteed loan issued or modified
6 under section 306(a), the Secretary, not less than 30
7 days in advance of any fee change, shall provide a
8 public disclosure of the financial data, economic and
9 behavioral assumptions, calculations, and other fac-
10 tors used to determine the new fee rates.”.

11 (b) *CONFORMING AMENDMENT.*—Section 310B(g)(5) of
12 such Act (7 U.S.C. 1932(g)(5)) is amended to read as fol-
13 lows:

14 “(5) *FEEES.*—

15 “(A) *INITIAL GUARANTEE FEE.*—The Sec-
16 retary may assess an initial guarantee fee for
17 any guaranteed business and industry loan in
18 an amount that does not exceed 3 percent of the
19 guaranteed principal portion of the loan.

20 “(B) *PERIODIC RETENTION FEE.*—The Sec-
21 retary may assess a periodic retention fee for
22 any guaranteed business and industry loan in
23 an amount that does not exceed 0.75 percent of
24 the outstanding principal of the guaranteed loan.

1 “(C) *DISCLOSURE.*—*In altering any fee*
 2 *charged for any guaranteed business and indus-*
 3 *try loan, the Secretary, not less than 30 days in*
 4 *advance of any fee change, shall provide a public*
 5 *disclosure of the financial data, economic and be-*
 6 *havioral assumptions, calculations, and other*
 7 *factors used to determine the new fee rates.”.*

8 **SEC. 6413. LOCALLY OR REGIONALLY PRODUCED AGRICUL-**
 9 **TURAL FOOD PRODUCTS.**

10 *Section 310B(g)(9)(B)(iv)(I) of the Consolidated Farm*
 11 *and Rural Development Act (7 U.S.C. 1932(g)(9)(B)(iv)(I))*
 12 *is amended by striking “2008 through 2023” and inserting*
 13 *“2027 through 2031”.*

14 **SEC. 6414. APPROPRIATE TECHNOLOGY TRANSFER FOR**
 15 **RURAL AREAS PROGRAM.**

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

18 *(1) in paragraph (2)—*

19 *(A) by striking “and” at the end of sub-*
 20 *paragraph (C);*

21 *(B) by striking the period at the end of sub-*
 22 *paragraph (D) and inserting “; and”; and*

23 *(C) by adding at the end the following:*

24 *“(E) provides training opportunities and*
 25 *resources for veterans (as defined in section*

1 101(2) of title 38, United States Code) who ac-
 2 tively are or are seeking to become agricultural
 3 producers, which shall be known as the ‘Armed
 4 to Farm Initiative’.”; and

5 (2) in paragraph (4), by striking “2008 through
 6 2023.” and inserting the following: “2027 through
 7 2031, of which—

8 “(A) \$3,500,000 shall be made available for
 9 each fiscal year for activities described in sub-
 10 paragraphs (A) through (D) of paragraph (2);
 11 and

12 “(B) \$1,500,000 shall be available for each
 13 fiscal year for activities described in paragraph
 14 (2)(E).”.

15 **SEC. 6415. RURAL ECONOMIC AREA PARTNERSHIP ZONES.**

16 Section 310B(j) of the Consolidated Farm and Rural
 17 Development Act (7 U.S.C. 1932(j)) is amended by striking
 18 “2023” and inserting “2031”.

19 **SEC. 6416. INTERMEDIARY RELENDING PROGRAM.**

20 Section 310H(i) of the Consolidated Farm and Rural
 21 Development Act (7 U.S.C. 1936b(i)) is amended by strik-
 22 ing “2014 through 2023” and inserting “2027 through
 23 2031”.

1 **SEC. 6417. RURAL HEALTH CARE FACILITY ASSISTANCE.**

2 (a) *IN GENERAL.*—Section 342 of the Consolidated
3 *Farm and Rural Development Act* (7 U.S.C. 1990a) is
4 *amended—*

5 (1) *by striking “Assistance” and inserting the*
6 *following:*

7 “(a) *REFINANCING OF CERTAIN RURAL HEALTH CARE*
8 *FACILITY DEBT.*—

9 “(1) *IN GENERAL.*—*Assistance*”;

10 (2) *by striking “rural hospital” and inserting*
11 *“an eligible health care facility”;*

12 (3) *by striking “a community” and inserting*
13 *“an area”;*

14 (4) *by striking “hospital,” and inserting “eligi-*
15 *ble health care facility,”; and*

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

17 “(2) *REQUIREMENTS.*—*To promote the long-term*
18 *sustainability and financial viability of an eligible*
19 *health care facility, the Secretary shall—*

20 “(A) *provide assistance to an eligible health*
21 *care facility for the purpose of—*

22 “(i) *ensuring the facility has necessary*
23 *resources to maintain public health, safety,*
24 *or order;*

1 “(ii) addressing financial hardships of
2 the facility, its patients, and the area it
3 serves; and

4 “(iii) identifying the financial sta-
5 bility of the facility, including—

6 “(I) operational practices;

7 “(II) revenue enhancements;

8 “(III) policy revisions;

9 “(IV) partnerships, regionaliza-
10 tion, or consolidation of rural health
11 systems; and

12 “(V) contract services; and

13 “(B) require an applicant to—

14 “(i) receive financial planning assist-
15 ance; and

16 “(ii) prepare a long-term financial
17 plan.

18 “(3) *WAIVER.*—In the case of an application for
19 refinancing pursuant to this section, the Secretary
20 may waive the requirement of section 302(a)(1)(D) if
21 the eligible health care facility is insolvent.

22 “(b) *RURAL HEALTH CARE FACILITY TECHNICAL AS-*
23 *SISTANCE PROGRAM.*—

24 “(1) *IN GENERAL.*—In lieu of any other author-
25 ity under which the Secretary may provide technical

1 *assistance to any eligible health care facility, the Sec-*
2 *retary shall establish, and maintain, directly or by*
3 *grant, contract, or cooperative agreement, a Rural*
4 *Health Care Facility Technical Assistance Program*
5 *(in this section referred to as the ‘Program’) to pro-*
6 *vide technical assistance and training, tailored to the*
7 *capacity and needs of each eligible health care facil-*
8 *ity, to help eligible health care facilities in rural*
9 *areas—*

10 “(A) *identify development needs for main-*
11 *taining essential health care services, and sup-*
12 *port action plans for operational and quality*
13 *improvement projects to meet the development*
14 *needs;*

15 “(B) *better manage their financial and*
16 *business strategies, including providing financial*
17 *planning assistance and preparing long-term fi-*
18 *nancial plans; and*

19 “(C) *identify, and apply for assistance*
20 *from, loan and grant programs of the Depart-*
21 *ment of Agriculture for which the facilities are*
22 *eligible.*

23 “(2) *GOALS.—The goals of the Program shall be*
24 *to—*

1 “(A) improve the long-term financial posi-
2 tion and operational efficiency of the eligible
3 health care facilities;

4 “(B) prevent the closure of eligible health
5 care facilities;

6 “(C) strengthen the delivery of health care
7 in rural areas;

8 “(D) help eligible health care facilities bet-
9 ter access and compete for loans and grants from
10 programs administered by the Department of
11 Agriculture; and

12 “(E) continue the activities of the Rural
13 Hospital Technical Assistance Program in effect
14 as of the date of the enactment of this subsection.

15 “(3) PROGRAM PARTICIPATION.—

16 “(A) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall en-
17 gage in outreach and engagement strategies to
18 encourage eligible health care facilities to par-
19 ticipate in the Program.

20 “(B) ELIGIBLE HEALTH CARE FACILITY SE-
21 LECTION.—In selecting eligible health care facili-
22 ties to participate in the Program, the Secretary
23 shall give priority to borrowers and grantees of
24 the Rural Housing Service, Rural Business-Co-

operative Service, and Rural Utilities Service.

The Secretary may also consider—

“(i) the age and physical state of the health care facility involved;

“(ii) the financial vulnerability of the eligible health care facility, and the ability of the eligible health care facility to meet debt obligations;

“(iii) the electronic health record implementation needs of the health care facility;

“(iv) whether the eligible health care facility is located in a health professional shortage area or a medically underserved area;

“(v) whether the eligible health care facility serves a medically underserved population; and

“(vi) such other criteria and priorities as are determined by the Secretary of Agriculture.

“(C) *REPORTING REQUIREMENTS.*—Not later than 1 year after the date of the enactment of this section, and annually thereafter, the Secretary shall submit to the Committee on Agri-

1 *culture of the House of Representatives and the*
2 *Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and For-*
3 *estry of the Senate a written report describing*
4 *the progress and results of the program con-*
5 *ducted under this section, which should in-*
6 *clude—*

7 *“(i) a brief description of each project*
8 *to provide technical assistance to an eligible*
9 *health care facility under this section, in-*
10 *cluding—*

11 *“(I) the name and location of the*
12 *facility;*

13 *“(II) a description of the assist-*
14 *ance provided;*

15 *“(III) a description of the out-*
16 *comes for completed projects;*

17 *“(IV) the cost of the technical as-*
18 *sistance; and*

19 *“(V) any other information the*
20 *Secretary deems appropriate;*

21 *“(ii) a summary of the technical as-*
22 *sistance projects completed;*

23 *“(iii) a summary of the outcomes of*
24 *the technical assistance projects;*

1 “(iv) *an assessment of the effectiveness*
2 *of the Program; and*

3 “(v) *recommendations for improving*
4 *the Program.*

5 “(D) *LIMITATIONS ON AUTHORIZATION OF*
6 *APPROPRIATIONS.—To carry out this section,*
7 *there are authorized to be appropriated to the*
8 *Secretary not more than \$2,000,000 for each of*
9 *fiscal years 2027 through 2031.*

10 “(c) *DEFINITIONS.—In this section:*

11 “(1) *RURAL AREA.—The term ‘rural area’ has*
12 *the meaning given the term in section 343(a)(13)(A)*
13 *of the Consolidated Farm and Rural Development Act*
14 *(7 U.S.C. 1991(a)(13)(A)).*

15 “(2) *DEVELOPMENT NEEDS.—The term ‘develop-*
16 *ment needs’ includes—*

17 “(A) *constructing, expanding, renovating or*
18 *otherwise modernizing health care facilities;*

19 “(B) *increasing telehealth capabilities;*

20 “(C) *acquiring or upgrading health care in-*
21 *formation systems such as electronic health*
22 *records;*

23 “(D) *providing financial planning assist-*
24 *ance and preparing a long-term financial plan;*
25 *and*

1 “(E) such other needs as the Secretary
2 deems critical to maintaining health care serv-
3 ices in the community in which an eligible
4 health care facility is located.

5 “(3) *ELIGIBLE HEALTH CARE FACILITY*.—The
6 term ‘eligible health care facility’ means a facility
7 that is located in a rural area and is—

8 “(A) a hospital (as defined in section
9 1861(e) of the Social Security Act;

10 “(B) a psychiatric hospital (as defined in
11 section 1861(f) of such Act);

12 “(C) a long-term care hospital (as defined
13 in section 1861(ccc) of such Act);

14 “(D) a critical access hospital (as defined
15 in section 1861(mm)(1) of such Act);

16 “(E) a rural health clinic (as defined in
17 section 1861(aa)(2) of such Act);

18 “(F) a religious nonmedical health care in-
19 stitution (as defined in section 1861(ss)(1) of
20 such Act);

21 “(G) a sole community hospital (as defined
22 in section 1886(d)(5)(C)(iii) of such Act);

23 “(H) a rural emergency hospital (as defined
24 in section 1861(kkk)(2) of such Act);

1 “(I) a home health agency (as defined in
2 section 1861(o) of such Act); or

3 “(J) a community health center (as defined
4 in section 330 of the Public Health Service Act).

5 “(4) *HEALTH PROFESSIONAL SHORTAGE*
6 *AREA*.—The term ‘health professional shortage area’
7 has the meaning given the term in section
8 332(a)(1)(A) of the Public Health Service Act.

9 “(5) *MEDICALLY UNDERSERVED AREA*.—The
10 term ‘medically underserved area’ has the meaning
11 given the term in section 330I(a)(5) of the Public
12 Health Service Act.

13 “(6) *MEDICALLY UNDERSERVED POPULATION*.—
14 The term ‘medically underserved population’ has the
15 meaning given the term in section 330(b)(3) of the
16 Public Health Service Act.”.

17 (b) *EFFECTIVE DATE*.—The amendments made by sub-
18 section (a) shall take effect on the completion of a rule-
19 making carrying out such amendments.

20 **SEC. 6418. PROHIBITION ON USE OF LOAN OR GRANT FOR**
21 **CERTAIN PURPOSES.**

22 Section 363 of the Consolidated Farm and Rural De-
23 velopment Act (7 U.S.C. 2006e) is amended to read as fol-
24 lows:

1 **“SEC. 363. PROHIBITION ON USE OF LOAN OR GRANT FOR**
2 **CERTAIN PURPOSES.**

3 “(a) *IN GENERAL.*—*The Secretary shall not approve*
4 *any loan or grant under this title to drain, dredge, fill,*
5 *or level, or otherwise manipulate a wetland (as defined in*
6 *section 1201(a)(16) of the Food Security Act of 1985 (16*
7 *U.S.C. 3801(a)(16))), or to engage in any activity that re-*
8 *sults in impairing or reducing the flow, circulation, or*
9 *reach of water, except in the case of activity related to the*
10 *maintenance of previously converted wetlands, or in the*
11 *case of such activity that commenced before November 29,*
12 *1990.*

13 “(b) *EXCLUSIONS.*—

14 “(1) *UTILITIES LINES.*—*This section shall not*
15 *apply to a loan made or guaranteed under this title*
16 *for a utility line.*

17 “(2) *PERMITTED ACTIVITIES AND PROJECTS.*—

18 *This section shall not apply to a rural development*
19 *loan made or guaranteed under section 306 or 306C*
20 *of this Act for an activity or project for which the ap-*
21 *plicant or borrower has obtained or is required to ob-*
22 *tain a permit from the Secretary of the Army, acting*
23 *through the Chief of Engineers, under section 10 of*
24 *the Act of March 3, 1899 (33 U.S.C. 403; 30 Stat.*
25 *1151, chapter 425), or section 404 of the Federal*
26 *Water Pollution Control Act (33 U.S.C. 1344).”.*

1 **SEC. 6419. RURAL BUSINESS-COOPERATIVE SERVICE PRO-**
 2 **GRAMS TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE AND TRAIN-**
 3 **ING.**

4 *Section 368(d)(1) of the Consolidated Farm and Rural*
 5 *Development Act (7 U.S.C. 2008c(d)(1)) is amended by*
 6 *striking “2019 through 2023” and inserting “2027 through*
 7 *2031”.*

8 **SEC. 6420. NATIONAL RURAL DEVELOPMENT PARTNERSHIP.**

9 *Section 378 of the Consolidated Farm and Rural De-*
 10 *velopment Act (7 U.S.C. 2008m) is amended—*

11 *(1) in subsection (g)(1), by striking “2008*
 12 *through 2023” and inserting “2027 through 2031”;*
 13 *and*

14 *(2) in subsection (h), by striking “2023” and in-*
 15 *serting “2031”.*

16 **SEC. 6421. GRANTS FOR NOAA WEATHER RADIO TRANSMIT-**
 17 **TERS.**

18 *Section 379B(d) of the Consolidated Farm and Rural*
 19 *Development Act (7 U.S.C. 2008p(d)) is amended by strik-*
 20 *ing “2014 through 2023” and inserting “2027 through*
 21 *2031”.*

22 **SEC. 6422. RURAL MICROENTREPRENEUR ASSISTANCE PRO-**
 23 **GRAM.**

24 *Section 379E of the Consolidated Farm and Rural De-*
 25 *velopment Act (7 U.S.C. 2008s) is amended—*

1 (1) in subsection (a)(4), by striking “\$50,000”
2 and inserting “\$75,000”;

3 (2) in subsection (c)(1)(A), by striking “shall not
4 exceed 75 percent” and inserting “may be up to 100
5 percent, and a loan under this section for a project
6 may be used to cover not more than 50 percent of any
7 renovation, construction, or related costs of real estate
8 improvements under the project”;

9 (3) in subsection (c)(1)(B), by inserting “(or 5
10 percent, in the case of a microenterprise development
11 organization serving a persistent poverty county, as
12 determined by the Secretary)” before “of the total
13 amount”; and

14 (4) in subsection (d), by striking “2019 through
15 2023” and inserting “2027 through 2031”.

16 **SEC. 6423. HEALTH CARE SERVICES.**

17 Section 379G(e) of the Consolidated Farm and Rural
18 Development Act (7 U.S.C. 2008u(e)) is amended by strik-
19 ing “2008 through 2023” and inserting “2027 through
20 2031”.

21 **SEC. 6424. STRATEGIC ECONOMIC AND COMMUNITY DEVEL-**
22 **OPMENT.**

23 Section 379H(d)(4) of the Consolidated Farm and
24 Rural Development Act (7 U.S.C. 2008v(d)(4)) is amended

1 *by striking “2019 through 2023” and inserting “2027*
 2 *through 2031”.*

3 **SEC. 6425. RURAL INNOVATION STRONGER ECONOMY**
 4 **GRANT PROGRAM.**

5 *Section 379I of the Consolidated Farm and Rural De-*
 6 *velopment Act (7 U.S.C. 2008w) is amended—*

7 *(1) in subsection (a)—*

8 *(A) in paragraph (1)(A)—*

9 *(i) in clause (iii)—*

10 *(I) by striking subclause (I) and*
 11 *inserting the following:*

12 *“(I) an institution of higher edu-*
 13 *cation (as defined in section 101, and*
 14 *subparagraphs (A) and (B) of section*
 15 *102(a)(1), of the Higher Education Act*
 16 *of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 1001,*
 17 *1002(a)(1)))”;*

18 *(II) by redesignating subclauses*
 19 *(II) and (III) as subclauses (III) and*
 20 *(IV), respectively, and inserting after*
 21 *subclause (I) the following:*

22 *“(II) an area career and technical*
 23 *education school (as defined in section*
 24 *3 of the Carl D. Perkins Career and*

1 *Technical Education Act of 2006 (20*
2 *U.S.C. 2302));”;* and

3 *(III) in subclause (IV) (as so re-*
4 *designated by subclause (II) of this*
5 *clause), by striking “and”;*

6 *(ii) in clause (iv)—*

7 *(I) by striking subclause (IV) and*
8 *inserting the following:*

9 *“(IV) an institution of higher*
10 *education (as defined in section 101,*
11 *and subparagraphs (A) and (B) of sec-*
12 *tion 102(a)(1), of the Higher Edu-*
13 *cation Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 1001,*
14 *1002(a)(1));”;* and

15 *(II) by redesignating subclause*
16 *(V) as subclause (VI) and inserting*
17 *after subclause (IV) the following:*

18 *“(V) an area career and technical*
19 *education school (as defined in section*
20 *3 of the Carl D. Perkins Career and*
21 *Technical Education Act of 2006 (20*
22 *U.S.C. 2302)); or”;* and

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

“(v) *in the case of a career pathway program, includes 1 or more members of the local workforce development board established under section 107 of the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act and serving the region to ensure the program is integrated with the activities carried out by the local workforce development board; and*”;

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

“(6) *CAREER PATHWAY.—The term ‘career pathway’ has the meaning given the term in section 3(7) of the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (29 U.S.C. 3102(7)).*

“(7) *INDUSTRY OR SECTOR PARTNERSHIP.—The term ‘industry or sector partnership’ has the meaning given the term in section 3 of the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (29 U.S.C. 3102).’;*

(2) *in subsection (b)—*

(A) *in paragraph (1)—*

(i) *in the matter preceding subparagraph (A), by inserting “or carry out career pathway training programs or industry or sector partnerships aligned with industry*

1 *sectors in rural communities” before “, in-*
 2 *cluding”;*

3 *(ii) in subparagraph (A), by striking*
 4 *“and” after the semicolon;*

5 *(iii) in subparagraph (B), by striking*
 6 *the period and inserting a semicolon; and*

7 *(iv) by adding at the end the following:*

8 *“(C) address workforce challenges, including*
 9 *worker displacement, faced by specific industry*
 10 *sectors in rural communities; and*

11 *“(D) promote targeted skills development*
 12 *and training initiatives to stimulate innovation*
 13 *and enhance economic development in rural re-*
 14 *gions.”;*

15 *(B) in paragraph (3)—*

16 *(i) in subparagraph (A)—*

17 *(I) in clause (i), by inserting “,*
 18 *career pathway programs, or industry*
 19 *or sector partnerships” before the semi-*
 20 *colon; and*

21 *(II) in clause (ii)—*

22 *(aa) by inserting “, career*
 23 *pathway programs, or industry or*
 24 *sector partnerships” before “to*
 25 *provide”; and*

1 (bb) by inserting “leadership
2 development,” before “customized
3 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 work-
10 er displacement, an aging workforce, and youth
11 migration.”; and

12 (C) by striking paragraph (5) and inserting
13 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 the
 17 local workforce development board serving
 18 the region to be an in-demand industry sec-
 19 tor or occupation, as defined in section 3 of
 20 the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity
 21 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 (xvii)
3 the following:

4 “(xviii) the number of individuals who have
5 completed skills development, recognized postsec-
6 ondary 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), by
11 striking the period and inserting “; and”;
12 and

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

14 “(3) in the case of a career pathway program or
15 industry or sector partnership, report to the Secretary
16 the employment and earnings outcomes for individ-
17 uals who participate in the program on the indicators
18 described in subclauses (I) through (III) of section
19 116(b)(2)(A)(i) of the Workforce Innovation and Op-
20 portunity 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 De-*
 9 *velopment Act (7 U.S.C. 2009cc–18) is amended by striking*
 10 *“2014 through 2023” and inserting “2027 through 2031”.*

11 **SEC. 6428. TECHNICAL CORRECTIONS.**

12 *Each of the following provisions of the Consolidated*
 13 *Farm and Rural Development Act are amended by striking*
 14 *“urbanized” and inserting “urban”:*

15 (1) *Section 343(a)(13)(A)(ii) (7 U.S.C.*
 16 *1991(a)(13)(A)(ii)).*

17 (2) *Section 343(a)(13)(D)(i)(I) (7 U.S.C.*
 18 *1991(a)(13)(D)(i)(I)), in the matter preceding item*
 19 *(aa).*

20 (3) *Section 343(a)(13)(D)(i)(I)(bb) (7 U.S.C.*
 21 *1991(a)(13)(D)(i)(I)(bb)).*

22 (4) *Section 343(a)(13)(D)(i)(II) (7 U.S.C.*
 23 *1991(a)(13)(D)(i)(II)).*

24 (5) *Section 343(a)(13)(E) (7 U.S.C.*
 25 *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 and
14 inserting “; or”; and

15 (C) by redesignating clauses (i) through (v)
16 as subclauses (I) through (V), respectively, and
17 moving each such provision 2 ems to the right;
18 and

19 (D) by inserting before the matter so redes-
20 ignated 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 assistance.”;

2 and

3 (2) in subparagraph (B), by inserting “or dis-
4 aster and recovery assistance” before “described”.

5 ***Subtitle E—Additional Amendments***
6 ***to the Rural Electrification Act***
7 ***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 DEVELOP-***
14 ***MENT 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 re-*
22 *payment terms as will encourage borrower participa-*
23 *tion.*

24 “(2) *LETTERS OF CREDIT.*—*The Secretary shall*
25 *not require a letter of credit or other similar guar-*

1 *antee from a recipient of a zero-interest loan under*
 2 *this section if the borrower assigns the Secretary a se-*
 3 *curity interest in any collateral provided to secure a*
 4 *loan made with funds loaned under this section, or*
 5 *makes other similar arrangements to the satisfaction*
 6 *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 1936*
 11 *(7 U.S.C. 940e(d)) is amended by striking “2008 through*
 12 *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 in-
11 serting “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 later
18 than” and all that follows through “initial mem-
19 bers of” and inserting “The Secretary shall con-
20 tinue to implement, and appoint the members
21 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 situa-*
13 *tions’, 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 1
 16 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 the
7 *Consolidated Farm and Rural Development Act* (7
8 *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) the
14 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 shall
22 *establish a streamlined application process.*”; and

23 (4) in subsection (d)—

24 (A) in the subsection heading, by striking

25 “*TO RELIEVE VETERINARIAN SHORTAGE SITUA-*

1 TIONS AND SUPPORT VETERINARY SERVICES”;
2 and

3 (B) in paragraph (1)—

4 (i) in the matter preceding subpara-
5 graph (A), by striking “situations and sup-
6 port” and inserting “situations, to expand,
7 retain, or attract additional veterinary
8 practices in rural areas, and to support”;
9 and

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

11 “(G) To cover expenses associated with
12 starting a new veterinary practice or attracting
13 new veterinarians to existing practices, includ-
14 ing—

15 “(i) relocation expenses;

16 “(ii) the purchase of necessary startup
17 equipment; and

18 “(iii) housing or living stipends for
19 veterinary students, veterinary interns,
20 externs, fellows, and residents, and veteri-
21 nary technician students.”.

22 **SEC. 7105. GRANTS AND FELLOWSHIPS FOR FOOD AND AG-**
23 **RICULTURE SCIENCES EDUCATION.**

24 Section 1417(m)(2) of the National Agricultural Re-
25 search, Extension, and Teaching Policy Act of 1977 (7

1 *U.S.C. 3152(m)(2)) is amended by striking “2023” and in-*
 2 *serting “2031”.*

3 **SEC. 7106. AGRICULTURAL AND FOOD POLICY RESEARCH**
 4 **CENTERS.**

5 *Section 1419A(e) of the National Agricultural Re-*
 6 *search, Extension, and Teaching Policy Act of 1977 (7*
 7 *U.S.C. 3155(e)) is amended by striking “2023” and insert-*
 8 *ing “2031”.*

9 **SEC. 7107. EDUCATION GRANTS TO ALASKA NATIVE SERV-**
 10 **ING INSTITUTIONS AND NATIVE HAWAIIAN**
 11 **SERVING INSTITUTIONS.**

12 *Section 1419B of the National Agricultural Research,*
 13 *Extension, and Teaching Policy Act of 1977 (7 U.S.C.*
 14 *3156) is amended—*

15 *(1) in subsection (a)—*

16 *(A) in paragraph (1), by adding at the end*
 17 *the following: “The term of such grants may be*
 18 *for a period of more than 1 year, but not more*
 19 *than 5 years.”; and*

20 *(B) in paragraph (3), by striking “2023”*
 21 *and inserting “2031”; and*

22 *(2) in subsection (b)—*

23 *(A) in paragraph (1), by adding at the end*
 24 *the following: “The term of such grants may be*

1 *for a period of more than 1 year, but not more*
2 *than 5 years.”; and*

3 *(B) in paragraph (3), by striking “2023”*
4 *and inserting “2031”.*

5 **SEC. 7108. NUTRITION EDUCATION PROGRAM.**

6 *Section 1425(g) of the National Agricultural Research,*
7 *Extension, and Teaching Policy Act of 1977 (7 U.S.C.*
8 *3175(g)) is amended by striking “2023” and inserting*
9 *“2031”.*

10 **SEC. 7109. CONTINUING ANIMAL HEALTH AND DISEASE RE-**
11 **SEARCH PROGRAMS.**

12 *Section 1433 of the National Agricultural Research,*
13 *Extension, and Teaching Policy Act of 1977 (7 U.S.C.*
14 *3195) is amended—*

15 *(1) in subsection (a), by adding at the end the*
16 *following:*

17 *“(4) CARRYOVER.—The balance of any annual*
18 *funds provided to an eligible institution for a fiscal*
19 *year under this subsection that remains unexpended*
20 *at the end of that fiscal year may be carried over for*
21 *use during the following fiscal year.”; and*

22 *(2) in subsection (c)(1), by striking “2023” and*
23 *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 Act
 6 of 1977 (7 U.S.C. 3221(a)(2)) is amended by striking “20
 7 percent” and inserting “40 percent”.

8 (b) *RESEARCH*.—Section 1445 of the National Agricul-
 9 tural Research, Extension, and Teaching Policy Act of 1977
 10 (7 U.S.C. 3222) is amended—

11 (1) in subsection (a)(2), by striking “30 percent”
 12 and inserting “40 percent”;

13 (2) in subsection (c), by striking “the research
 14 director” each place it appears and inserting “the ag-
 15 ricultural 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 *ONLY 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” and*
 7 *inserting “2031”.*

8 **SEC. 7112. GRANTS TO UPGRADE AGRICULTURAL AND FOOD**
 9 **SCIENCES FACILITIES AT 1890 LAND-GRANT**
 10 **COLLEGES, INCLUDING TUSKEGEE UNIVER-**
 11 **SITY.**

12 *Section 1447(b) of the National Agricultural Research,*
 13 *Extension, and Teaching Policy Act of 1977 (7 U.S.C.*
 14 *3222b(b)) is amended by striking “2023” and inserting*
 15 *“2031”.*

16 **SEC. 7113. GRANTS TO UPGRADE AGRICULTURE AND FOOD**
 17 **SCIENCES FACILITIES AND EQUIPMENT AND**
 18 **SUPPORT TROPICAL AND SUBTROPICAL AGRI-**
 19 **CULTURAL 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 in-*
 24 *serting “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 September*
14 *30”; and*

15 *(2) by amending subsection (c) to read as fol-*
16 *lows:*

17 *“(c) STATE MATCHING FUNDS REQUIREMENT.—Not-*
18 *withstanding any other provision of this subtitle, for each*
19 *fiscal year, a State shall provide to each eligible institution*
20 *located in the State matching funds from non-Federal*
21 *sources in an amount equal to the amounts provided to the*
22 *eligible institution under sections 1444 and 1445 for the*
23 *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 “land-
8 grant college or university (except for a 1994 In-
9 stitution (as defined in section 532 of the Equity
10 in Educational Land-Grant Status Act of 1994
11 (Public Law 103–382; 7 U.S.C. 301 note)))”;
12 and

13 (B) by striking paragraph (5); and

14 (2) in subsection (d), by striking “2023” and in-
15 serting “2031”.

16 **SEC. 7116. EDUCATION GRANTS PROGRAMS FOR HISPANIC-**
17 **SERVING INSTITUTIONS.**

18 Section 1455(c) of the National Agricultural Research,
19 *Extension, and Teaching Policy Act of 1977* (7 U.S.C.
20 3241(c)) is amended by striking “2023” and inserting
21 “2031”.

22 **SEC. 7117. BINATIONAL AGRICULTURAL RESEARCH AND DE-**
23 **VELOPMENT.**

24 Section 1458(e) of the National Agricultural Research,
25 *Extension, and Teaching Policy Act of 1977* (7 U.S.C.
26 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 States
4 and Israel” and inserting “United States, Israel, or
5 other signatories of the Abraham Accords Declara-
6 tion”; 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 sup-
10 ports mid-stage research, as determined by the tech-
11 nology readiness level, in priority areas established by
12 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 development
17 of agricultural research through resources and
18 services developed or orchestrated by the *BARD*
19 *Fund*;

20 “(C) *provides* management guidance, tech-
21 nical assistance, and consulting to scientists par-
22 ticipating in activities described in paragraph
23 (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 Ag-
 7 ricultural Research, Extension, and Teaching Policy Act of
 8 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 selected*
 20 *by the Secretary.*

21 “(2) *ELIGIBLE INSTITUTION.*—*The term ‘eligible*
 22 *institution’ means—*

23 “(A) *a land-grant colleges or university;*

24 “(B) *a non-land-grant college of agriculture;*

1 “(C) a Hispanic-serving agricultural college
2 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 of*
18 *the curricula in colleges and universities so as to*
19 *ensure that United States students acquire an*
20 *understanding of the international dimensions*
21 *and trade implications of their studies;*

22 “(B) *ensuring that United States scientists,*
23 *extension agents, and educators involved in agri-*
24 *cultural research and development activities out-*
25 *side of the United States have the opportunity to*

1 *convey the implications of their activities and*
2 *findings to their peers and students in the*
3 *United States and to the users of agricultural re-*
4 *search, extension, and teaching;*

5 “(C) *enhancing the capabilities of colleges*
6 *and universities to do collaborative research with*
7 *other countries, in cooperation with other Fed-*
8 *eral agencies, on issues relevant to United States*
9 *agricultural competitiveness;*

10 “(D) *enhancing the capabilities of colleges*
11 *and universities to provide cooperative extension*
12 *education to promote the application of new*
13 *technology developed in foreign countries to*
14 *United States agriculture; and*

15 “(E) *enhancing the capability of United*
16 *States colleges and universities, in cooperation*
17 *with other Federal agencies, to provide leader-*
18 *ship and educational programs that will assist*
19 *United States natural resources and food produc-*
20 *tion, processing, and distribution businesses and*
21 *industries to compete internationally, including*
22 *through the use of product market identification,*
23 *international policies limiting or enhancing*
24 *market production, the development of new or*

1 *enhancement of existing markets, and production*
2 *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 eligible*
10 *institutions and international partner in-*
11 *stitutions;*

12 “(ii) *facilitating the broad dissemina-*
13 *tion of agricultural research through exten-*
14 *sion;*

15 “(iii) *assisting with efforts to plan and*
16 *initiate extension services in developing*
17 *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-*

1 *duction and security, human nutrition, ag-*
2 *riculture, forestry, livestock, and fisheries,*
3 *including local challenges; and*

4 *“(ii) supporting and strengthening na-*
5 *tional agricultural research systems in de-*
6 *veloping countries;*

7 *“(C) improving agricultural teaching and*
8 *education by—*

9 *“(i) in partnership with international*
10 *partner institutions, supporting education*
11 *and teaching relating to food and agricul-*
12 *tural sciences, including technical assist-*
13 *ance, degree training, research collabora-*
14 *tions, classroom instruction, workforce*
15 *training, and education programs; and*

16 *“(ii) assisting with efforts to increase*
17 *student capacity, including to encourage eq-*
18 *uitable access for women and other under-*
19 *served populations, at international partner*
20 *institutions by promoting partnerships*
21 *with, and improving the capacity of, eligi-*
22 *ble institutions;*

23 *“(D) assisting eligible institutions in*
24 *strengthening their capacity for food, agricul-*
25 *tural, and related research, extension, and teach-*

ing programs relevant to agricultural development activities in developing countries to promote the application of new technology to improve education delivery;

“(E) providing support for the internationalization of resident instruction programs of eligible institutions;

“(F) establishing a program, to be coordinated by the Director of the National Institute of Food and Agriculture and the Administrator of the Foreign Agricultural Service, to place interns from eligible institutions in, or in service to benefit, developing countries; and

“(G) establishing a program to provide fellowships to students at eligible institutions to study at foreign agricultural colleges and universities.”;

(3) in subsection (c), in the matter preceding paragraph (1), by striking “covered Institutions” and inserting “eligible institutions”; and

(4) in subsection (d), by striking “2023” and inserting “2031”.

(b) *CONFORMING AMENDMENT.*—Section 1459A of the National Agricultural Research, Extension, and 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 insert-*
 5 *ing “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 appears*
 10 *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 “2031”.*

15 **SEC. 7122. SUPPLEMENTAL AND ALTERNATIVE CROPS.**

16 *Section 1473D of the National Agricultural Research,*
 17 *Extension, and Teaching Policy Act of 1977 (7 U.S.C.*
 18 *3319d) is amended—*

19 *(1) in subsection (a), by striking “2023” and in-*
 20 *serting “2031”;*

21 *(2) in subsection (c)(3)—*

22 *(A) in subparagraph (E), by striking “and”*
 23 *at the end;*

24 *(B) by redesignating subparagraph (F) as*
 25 *subparagraph (G); and*

1 (C) by inserting after subparagraph (E) the
2 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 PRO-**
18 **GRAMS**”;

19 (2) by redesignating subsection (d) as subsection
20 (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 enti-*
25 *ty’ means—*

1 “(A) a junior or community college (as de-
2 fined in section 312 of the Higher Education Act
3 of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 1058)) supporting agriculture
4 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 education
9 school (as defined in section 3 of the Carl D.
10 Perkins Career and Technical Education Act of
11 2006 (20 U.S.C. 2302)) that offers a program of
12 study in agriculture.

13 “(2) *WORK-BASED LEARNING*.—The term ‘work-
14 based learning’ has the meaning given such term in
15 section 3 of the Carl D. Perkins Career and Technical
16 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 work-
19 force training, education, research, and outreach activities
20 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 avail-
 3 able 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 workforce
 12 training, education, research, and outreach activities
 13 relating to food and agricultural sciences, as deter-
 14 mined by the Secretary.”; and

15 (4) in subsection (e), as so redesignated, by strik-
 16 ing “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 insert-
 22 ing “2031”.

1 **SEC. 7125. AGRICULTURE ADVANCED RESEARCH AND DE-**
2 **VELOPMENT AUTHORITY.**

3 *Section 1473H of the National Agricultural Research,*
4 *Extension, and Teaching Policy Act of 1977 (7 U.S.C.*
5 *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 insert-*
19 *ing “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 deter-
9 mined by the Secretary.”; and

10 (D) in paragraph (7), by striking “that is
11 developed to assist in the discovery, development,
12 or manufacture of a qualified product or
13 project”;

14 (2) in subsection (b)—

15 (A) in paragraph (2), by amending sub-
16 paragraph (B) to read as follows:

17 “(B) to overcome the long-term and high-
18 risk technological barriers in the development of
19 agricultural technologies, research tools, and
20 qualified products and projects that enhance ex-
21 port competitiveness, environmental sustain-
22 ability, water conservation, and resilience to ex-
23 treme weather, drought, infectious diseases, plant
24 and animal pathogens, and plant and animal
25 pests;”;

1 (B) in paragraph (4)—

2 (i) in subparagraph (C), by striking
3 “persons” and inserting “eligible entities”;
4 and

5 (ii) in subparagraph (G), by striking
6 “persons” and inserting “eligible entities”;
7 and

8 (C) in paragraph (7)(A)—

9 (i) by striking “a person” and insert-
10 ing “an eligible entity”; and

11 (ii) by striking “the person” and in-
12 serting “the eligible entity”;

13 (3) in subsection (c)—

14 (A) in paragraph (2), by striking “persons”
15 and inserting “eligible entities”; and

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

17 “(4) *USE OF STRATEGIC PLAN.*—The Secretary
18 shall use the strategic plan developed under para-
19 graph (1) to inform the administration of AGARDA
20 under this section.”;

21 (4) in subsection (d)(3), by striking “2023” and
22 inserting “2031”; and

23 (5) in subsection (e)—

24 (A) in paragraph (1), by striking “5 years”
25 and inserting “13 years”; and

1 (B) in paragraph (2)(B), by striking “5-
2 year” and inserting “13-year”.

3 **SEC. 7126. AQUACULTURE ASSISTANCE PROGRAMS.**

4 Section 1477(a)(2) of the National Agricultural Re-
5 search, Extension, and Teaching Policy Act of 1977 (7
6 U.S.C. 3324(a)(2)) is amended by striking “2023” and in-
7 sert “2031”.

8 **SEC. 7127. SPECIAL AUTHORIZATION FOR BIOSECURITY**
9 **PLANNING AND RESPONSE.**

10 Section 1484(a)(3) of the National Agricultural Re-
11 search, Extension, and Teaching Policy Act of 1977 (7
12 U.S.C. 3351(a)(3)) is amended by striking “2023” and in-
13 serting “2031”.

14 **SEC. 7128. AGRICULTURE AND FOOD PROTECTION GRANT**
15 **PROGRAM.**

16 (a) *IN GENERAL.*—Section 1485 of the National Agri-
17 cultural Research, Extension, and Teaching Policy Act of
18 1977 (7 U.S.C. 3352) is amended—

19 (1) by amending the section heading to read as
20 follows: “**AGRICULTURE AND FOOD PROTECTION**
21 **GRANT PROGRAM**”;

22 (2) by striking subsections (a), (b), (c), (d), (e),
23 and (f) and inserting the following:

24 “(a) *IN GENERAL.*—The Secretary shall establish a
25 competitive grant program under which the Secretary will

1 *award grants to eligible entities to support research, exten-*
2 *sion, and education activities that improve the capability*
3 *of the United States to protect the food and agricultural*
4 *system from any chemical, biological, cybersecurity, or bio-*
5 *terrorism attack.*

6 “(b) *USE OF FUNDS.—Grants made under this section*
7 *shall be used to—*

8 “(1) *encourage basic and applied research and*
9 *development of agricultural countermeasures;*

10 “(2) *promote the development and expansion of*
11 *teaching programs in agriculture, veterinary medi-*
12 *cine, and other disciplines closely allied to the food*
13 *and agriculture system to increase the number of*
14 *trained individuals with an expertise in agricultural*
15 *biosecurity and cybersecurity;*

16 “(3) *expand or upgrade facilities to meet bio-*
17 *safety and biosecurity requirements necessary to pro-*
18 *tect facility staff, members of the public, and the food*
19 *supply while carrying out agricultural biosecurity re-*
20 *search;*

21 “(4) *costs associated with the acquisition of*
22 *equipment and other capital costs related to expan-*
23 *sion of food, agriculture, and veterinary medicine*
24 *teaching programs in agricultural biosecurity and cy-*
25 *bersecurity; or*

1 “(5) otherwise improve the capacity of the
 2 United States to respond in a timely manner to
 3 emerging or existing threats.

4 “(c) *ELIGIBLE ENTITIES*.—Entities eligible to receive
 5 a grant under this section include—

6 “(1) State agricultural experiment stations;

7 “(2) State departments of agriculture;

8 “(3) colleges and universities;

9 “(4) university research foundations;

10 “(5) other research institutions and organiza-
 11 tions;

12 “(6) Federal agencies;

13 “(7) national laboratories; or

14 “(8) any group consisting of 2 or more of the en-
 15 tities described in paragraphs (1) through (7).”;

16 (3) by redesignating subsection (g) as subsection
 17 (d); and

18 (4) in subsection (d), as so redesignated, by
 19 striking “for each fiscal year.” and inserting “for
 20 each of fiscal years 2027 through 2031.”.

21 (b) *CONFORMING AMENDMENTS*.—Chapters 1 and 2 of
 22 subtitle B of title XIV of the Food, Conservation, and En-
 23 ergy Act of 2008 (7 U.S.C. 8912, 8913, 8921, and 8922)
 24 are repealed.

1 **SEC. 7129. DISTANCE EDUCATION GRANTS FOR INSULAR**
2 **AREAS.**

3 *Section 1490(f)(2) of the National Agricultural Re-*
4 *search, Extension, and Teaching Policy Act of 1977 (7*
5 *U.S.C. 3362(f)(2)) is amended by striking “2023” and in-*
6 *serting “2031”.*

7 **SEC. 7130. RESIDENT INSTRUCTION GRANTS FOR INSULAR**
8 **AREAS.**

9 *Section 1491(c)(2) of the National Agricultural Re-*
10 *search, Extension, and Teaching Policy Act of 1977 (7*
11 *U.S.C. 3363(c)(2)) is amended by striking “2023” and in-*
12 *serting “2031”.*

13 **SEC. 7131. REPEALS.**

14 *(a) Section 1410 of the National Agricultural Re-*
15 *search, Extension, and Teaching Policy Act of 1977 ((7*
16 *U.S.C. 3125) is repealed.*

17 *(b) Section 1419C of the National Agricultural Re-*
18 *search, Extension, and Teaching Policy Act of 1977 (7*
19 *U.S.C. 3158) is repealed.*

20 *(c) Section 1447A of the National Agricultural Re-*
21 *search, Extension, and Teaching Policy Act of 1977 (7*
22 *U.S.C. 3222b–1) is repealed.*

23 *(d) Subtitle M of the National Agricultural Research,*
24 *Extension, and Teaching Policy Act of 1977 (7 U.S.C. 3331*
25 *et seq.) is repealed.*

1 ***Subtitle B—Food, Agriculture, Con-***
 2 ***servation, and Trade Act of 1990***

3 ***SEC. 7201. SUSTAINABLE AGRICULTURE RESEARCH AND***
 4 ***EDUCATION.***

5 *Subtitle B of title XVI of the Food, Agriculture, Con-*
 6 *servation, and Trade Act of 1990 (7 U.S.C. 5801 et seq.)*
 7 *is amended by striking “2023” each place it appears in*
 8 *sections 1624 (7 U.S.C. 5814), 1627(d) (7 U.S.C. 5821(d)),*
 9 *1628(f)(2) (7 U.S.C. 5831(f)(2)), and 1629(i) (7 U.S.C.*
 10 *5832(i)), and inserting “2031”.*

11 ***SEC. 7202. NATIONAL GENETICS RESOURCES PROGRAM.***

12 *Section 1635(b)(2) of the Food, Agriculture, Conserva-*
 13 *tion, and Trade Act of 1990 (7 U.S.C. 5844(b)(2)) is*
 14 *amended by striking “2023” and inserting “2031”.*

15 ***SEC. 7203. AGRICULTURAL GENOME TO PHENOME INITIA-***
 16 ***TIVE.***

17 *Section 1671(g) of the Food, Agriculture, Conserva-*
 18 *tion, and Trade Act of 1990 (7 U.S.C. 5924(g)) is amended*
 19 *by striking “2023” and inserting “2031”.*

20 ***SEC. 7204. HIGH-PRIORITY RESEARCH AND EXTENSION INI-***
 21 ***TIATIVES.***

22 *Section 1672 of the Food, Agriculture, Conservation,*
 23 *and Trade Act of 1990 (7 U.S.C. 5925) is amended—*

24 *(1) in subsection (d)—*

1 (A) by striking paragraphs (5), (6), (9),
2 (10), (11), (13), and (18);

3 (B) by redesignating paragraphs (7), (8),
4 (12), (14), (15), (16), (17), (19), and (20) as
5 paragraphs (5), (6), (7), (8), (9), (10), (11),
6 (12), and (13), respectively;

7 (C) in paragraph (11), as so redesignated,
8 by inserting “and harmful algal blooms” after
9 “macro-algae systems”; and

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

11 “(14) *FERTILIZER AND NUTRIENT MANAGEMENT*
12 *INITIATIVE.—Research and extension grants may be*
13 *made under this section for the purposes of carrying*
14 *out research to improve fertilizer use efficiency in*
15 *crops and examining nutrient management based on*
16 *the source, rate, timing, and placement of crop nutri-*
17 *ents.*

18 “(15) *TROPICAL PLANT HEALTH INITIATIVE.—*
19 *Research and extension grants may be made under*
20 *this section for the purposes of—*

21 “(A) *developing and disseminating science-*
22 *based tools and treatments to combat plant pests*
23 *and noxious weeds (as those terms are defined in*
24 *section 403 of the Plant Protection Act (7 U.S.C.*
25 *7702)) that impact tropical plants, including—*

- 1 “(i) coffee plants;
- 2 “(ii) macadamia trees;
- 3 “(iii) cacao trees;
- 4 “(iv) plantains and bananas;
- 5 “(v) mangos;
- 6 “(vi) vanilla plants;
- 7 “(vii) tropical floriculture and nursery
- 8 crops; and
- 9 “(viii) any other tropical plant as de-
- 10 termined by the Secretary;
- 11 “(B) establishing an areawide integrated
- 12 pest management program in areas affected by,
- 13 or areas at risk of being affected by, plant pests
- 14 or noxious weeds;
- 15 “(C) surveying and collecting data on trop-
- 16 ical plant production and health;
- 17 “(D) investigating tropical plant biology,
- 18 immunology, ecology, genomics, and
- 19 bioinformatics; and
- 20 “(E) conducting research on various factors
- 21 that may contribute to, or be associated with,
- 22 tropical plant immune systems and other serious
- 23 threats to tropical plants.
- 24 “(16) BIOCHAR RESEARCH.—Research and ex-
- 25 tension grants may be made under this section for the

1 *purpose of testing the full range of biochar types*
 2 *across soil types, soil health and soil management*
 3 *conditions, application methods, and climatic and ag-*
 4 *ronomic regions, including through the establishment*
 5 *of a national biochar research network, to—*

6 *“(A) assess the soil carbon sequestration po-*
 7 *tential of various biochars and management sys-*
 8 *tems integrating biochar use;*

9 *“(B) understand how to use biochar produc-*
 10 *tively to contribute to climate mitigation, crop*
 11 *production, resilience to extreme weather events,*
 12 *ecosystem and soil health, natural resource con-*
 13 *servation, and farm profitability; and*

14 *“(C) deliver science-based, region-specific,*
 15 *cost-effective, and practical information to farm-*
 16 *ers, ranchers, foresters, land reclamation man-*
 17 *agers, urban land managers, and other land and*
 18 *natural resource managers and businesses on*
 19 *sustainable biochar production and application.*

20 *“(17) WILDFIRE SMOKE EXPOSURE RE-*
 21 *SEARCH.—Research and extension grants may be*
 22 *made under this section for the purposes of studying*
 23 *the impact of wildfire smoke exposure on specialty*
 24 *crops, including wine grapes, hops, stone fruit, and*
 25 *apples, by—*

1 “(A) conducting research—

2 “(i) to identify the compounds respon-
3 sible for smoke exposure; and

4 “(ii) to establish standard methodolo-
5 gies for sampling and testing smoke-exposed
6 specialty crops and smoke-affected products,
7 including fast and inexpensive screening
8 methods;

9 “(B) establishing a reliable database of
10 background levels of smoke exposure compounds
11 that occur naturally in specialty crops;

12 “(C) developing risk assessment tools or
13 mitigation methods to reduce or eliminate smoke
14 exposure; and

15 “(D) studying compounds that can act as a
16 barrier between specialty crops and smoke com-
17 pounds.

18 “(18) *INVASIVE SPECIES RESEARCH.*—*Research*
19 *and extension grants may be made under this section*
20 *for the purposes of developing and disseminating*
21 *science-based tools and treatments to manage or*
22 *eradicate (including through methods of biocontrol*
23 *and sterile insect techniques) invasive species of*
24 *plants and animals, such as the spotted lanternfly*
25 *(*Lycorma delicatula*), navel orangeworm (*Amyelois**

1 *transitella*), and spotted wing drosophila (*Drosophila*
2 *suzukii*).

3 “(19) MICROPLASTICS AND PER- AND
4 POLYFLUOROALKYL SUBSTANCES ON FARMLAND.—*Re-*
5 *search and extension grants may be made under this*
6 *section for the purposes of carrying out or enhancing*
7 *research on the agricultural impacts of microplastics*
8 *and per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances, including*
9 *structural firefighting foam, in land-applied biosolids*
10 *or compost on farmland, including by—*

11 “(A) *conducting surveys and collecting data*
12 *on concentration, particle size, and chemical*
13 *composition of such substances in land-applied*
14 *biosolids on farmland;*

15 “(B) *the development or analysis of tech-*
16 *niques, including wastewater treatment and*
17 *composting, to filter out or biodegrade such sub-*
18 *stances from biosolids intended to be used for ag-*
19 *ricultural purposes;*

20 “(C) *conducting an analysis of the impact*
21 *on agricultural crops and soil health of such sub-*
22 *stances in land-applied biosolids on farmland,*
23 *including the uptake of such substances by var-*
24 *ious crops or livestock;*

1 “(D) conducting research to better under-
2 stand how wastewater processing impacts such
3 substances;

4 “(E) conducting research to better under-
5 stand the fate, residence time, and transport of
6 such substances on farmland; and

7 “(F) conducting research on how to reme-
8 diate soil and water systems contaminated with
9 such substances.

10 “(20) AGRICULTURAL BYPRODUCTS RE-
11 SEARCH.—Research and extension grants may be
12 made under this section for the purposes of converting
13 agricultural byproducts or forest residuals into valu-
14 able materials and products, including innovations in
15 production processes for easily deployable refining fa-
16 cilities, developing alternatives to agricultural burn-
17 ing, and fostering energy production through recy-
18 cling animal byproducts, wet waste, and plant-based
19 waste.

20 “(21) SOIL HEALTH RESEARCH.—Research and
21 extension grants may be made under this section for
22 the purposes of—

23 “(A) developing management practices that
24 improve soil health, including establishing tools
25 that aid soil preservation or improve composi-

1 *tion of soil organic compounds that are bene-*
 2 *ficial to soil quality and the environment; and*

3 *“(B) disseminating such practices through*
 4 *methods such as innovative coursework and*
 5 *work-based learning.*

6 *“(22) WHITE OAK RESEARCH.—Research and ex-*
 7 *tension grants may be made under this section for the*
 8 *purposes of white oak research, including conducting*
 9 *research on—*

10 *“(A) white oak genes with resistance and*
 11 *stress tolerance;*

12 *“(B) white oak trees that exhibit vigor for*
 13 *the purpose of increasing survival and growth;*

14 *“(C) establishing a diverse white oak seed*
 15 *bank capable of responding to stressors;*

16 *“(D) providing a sustainable supply of*
 17 *white oak seedlings and genetic resources;*

18 *“(E) reforestation of white oak through nat-*
 19 *ural and artificial regeneration; and*

20 *“(F) the best methods for reforesting aban-*
 21 *doned mine land sites.*

22 *“(23) ALTERNATIVE GROWING MEDIA RE-*
 23 *SEARCH.—Research and extension grants may be*
 24 *made under this section for the purposes of developing*
 25 *and enhancing research on the characterization, utili-*

1 *zation, and evaluation of alternative growing media,*
 2 *including science-based techniques that maximize*
 3 *functions in the growth of plants and harvest yields.*

4 “(24) *RANGELAND RESEARCH.—Research and*
 5 *extension grants may be made under this section for*
 6 *the purposes of carrying out or enhancing research on*
 7 *the development of forage production and improved*
 8 *grazing and range management, including the adop-*
 9 *tion of virtual fencing technology that simultaneously*
 10 *enhance wildlife habitat, protect watersheds, and re-*
 11 *duce hazards of erosion and flooding.*

12 “(25) *SPECIALTY CROP MECHANIZATION AND AU-*
 13 *TOMATION RESEARCH.—Research and extension*
 14 *grants may be made under this section for the pur-*
 15 *pose of developing and evaluating mechanization and*
 16 *automation technologies for specialty crops.”;*

17 (2) *in subsection (e)(5), by striking “2023” and*
 18 *inserting “2031”;*

19 (3) *in subsection (f)(5), by striking “2023” and*
 20 *inserting “2031”;*

21 (4) *in subsection (g)—*

22 (A) *in paragraph (1)(B), by striking*
 23 *“2023” and inserting “2031”;*

24 (B) *in paragraph (2)(B), by striking*
 25 *“2023” and inserting “2031”; and*

1 (C) in paragraph (3), by striking “2023”
2 and inserting “2031”;

3 (5) by redesignating subsection (h) as subsection
4 (i);

5 (6) by inserting after subsection (g) the fol-
6 lowing:

7 “(h) *REPORT*.—Not later than February 1, 2028, and
8 not less frequently than once every other year thereafter, the
9 Secretary shall submit to the Committee on Agriculture of
10 the House of Representatives and the Committee on Agri-
11 culture, Nutrition, and Forestry of the Senate a report de-
12 scribing how the Department carried out research and ex-
13 tension activities specified in subsections (d) through (f) for
14 the previous two fiscal years, including the amount of fund-
15 ing allocated to each high-priority research and extension
16 initiative, through—

17 “(1) amounts made available under appropria-
18 tions Acts to the Agricultural Research Service;

19 “(2) amounts made available to the National In-
20 stitute of Food and Agriculture under capacity and
21 infrastructure programs (as defined in section 251 of
22 the Department of Agriculture Reorganization Act of
23 1994 (7 U.S.C. 6971));

1 “(3) amounts made available to the National In-
 2 stitute of Food and Agriculture under competitive
 3 programs (as defined in such section); and

4 “(4) amounts made available through other agen-
 5 cies within the Department.”; and

6 (7) in subsection (i) (as redesignated by para-
 7 graph (4)), by striking “2023” and inserting “2031”.

8 **SEC. 7205. ORGANIC AGRICULTURE RESEARCH AND EXTEN-**
 9 **SION INITIATIVE.**

10 Section 1672B of the Food, Agriculture, Conservation,
 11 and Trade Act of 1990 (7 U.S.C. 5925b) is amended—

12 (1) in subsection (a), in the matter preceding
 13 paragraph (1), by striking “2023” and inserting
 14 “2031”;

15 (2) by striking subsection (e);

16 (3) by redesignating subsection (f) as subsection
 17 (e); and

18 (4) in subsection (e), as so redesignated—

19 (A) in paragraph (2), by striking “2023”
 20 and inserting “2031”; and

21 (B) by striking paragraph (3).

22 **SEC. 7206. FARM BUSINESS MANAGEMENT.**

23 Section 1672D(d)(2) of the Food, Agriculture, Con-
 24 servation, and Trade Act of 1990 (7 U.S.C. 5925f(d)(2))
 25 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, Conserva-*
5 *tion, 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 and*
8 *Innovative Production Advisory Committee es-*
9 *tablished under section 222(b) of the Department*
10 *of Agriculture Reorganization Act of 1994” and*
11 *inserting “the Urban Agriculture and Innovative*
12 *Production Advisory Committee and the Office of*
13 *Urban Agriculture and Innovative Production*
14 *established under section 222 of the Department*
15 *of Agriculture Reorganization Act of 1994 (7*
16 *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)”;*

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 en-*
 5 *vironmental 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 insti-*
 10 *tutions (as described in section 371(a) of the Higher*
 11 *Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 1067q(a))), junior*
 12 *or community colleges (as defined in section 312(f) of*
 13 *such Act (20 U.S.C. 1058(f))), and vocational schools,*
 14 *with respect to career and technical education.”.*

15 **SEC. 7208. CENTERS OF EXCELLENCE.**

16 *Section 1673 of the Food, Agriculture, Conservation,*
 17 *and Trade Act of 1990 (7 U.S.C. 5926) is amended—*

18 (1) *by striking subsections (a), (b), and (c) and*
 19 *inserting the following:*

20 “(a) **CENTERS OF EXCELLENCE.**—

21 “(1) **IN GENERAL.**—*The Secretary of Agriculture*
 22 *shall establish at least one center of excellence for the*
 23 *purpose of carrying out research, extension, or edu-*
 24 *cation activities for each of the areas of focus de-*
 25 *scribed in paragraph (3).*

1 “(2) *HOST INSTITUTIONS.*—

2 “(A) *IN GENERAL.*—*Institutions eligible to*
3 *host or co-host a center of excellence established*
4 *under this subsection include—*

5 “(i) *1862 Institutions, as defined in*
6 *section 2 of the Agricultural Research, Ex-*
7 *tension, and Education Reform Act of 1998*
8 *(7 U.S.C. 7601);*

9 “(ii) *1890 Institutions, as defined in*
10 *section 2 of the Agricultural Research, Ex-*
11 *tension, and Education Reform Act of 1998*
12 *(7 U.S.C. 7601);*

13 “(iii) *1994 Institutions, as defined in*
14 *section 532 of the Equity in Educational*
15 *Land-Grant Status Act of 1994 (7 U.S.C.*
16 *301 note);*

17 “(iv) *non-land-grant colleges of agri-*
18 *culture, as defined in section 1404 of the*
19 *National Agricultural Research, Extension,*
20 *and Teaching Policy Act of 1977 (7 U.S.C.*
21 *3103);*

22 “(v) *Hispanic-serving agricultural col-*
23 *leges or universities, as defined in section*
24 *1404 of the National Agricultural Research,*

1 *Extension, and Teaching Policy Act of 1977*
2 *(7 U.S.C. 3103); and*

3 “(vi) *accredited schools of veterinary*
4 *medicine.*

5 “(B) *DISTRIBUTION.*—*To the maximum ex-*
6 *tent practicable, the Secretary shall ensure the*
7 *geographic diversity of institutions selected to*
8 *host or co-host a center of excellence established*
9 *under this subsection.*

10 “(C) *LIMITATION.*—*An institution may host*
11 *or co-host only one center of excellence under this*
12 *subsection at a time.*

13 “(D) *DUTIES.*—*The institution or institu-*
14 *tions selected to host or co-host a center of excel-*
15 *lence established under this subsection shall part-*
16 *ner with the Agricultural Research Service, other*
17 *Federal agencies, State governments, other insti-*
18 *tutions of higher education (as defined in section*
19 *101 of the Higher Education Act of 1965 (20*
20 *U.S.C. 1001)), agricultural industry groups, or*
21 *other relevant entities to—*

22 “(i) *reduce duplicative efforts and*
23 *focus on filling gaps across research, exten-*
24 *sion, or education activities by enhancing*

1 *coordination and improving cost-effective-*
2 *ness;*

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 United*
15 *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 excellence
2 established under this subsection may engage in
3 research, extension, or education activities fo-
4 cused on developing and applying aquaculture
5 methods, including through the propagation and
6 rearing of economically and ecologically valuable
7 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, extension
11 or education activities focused on training begin-
12 ning farmers and ranchers, including farm and
13 agribusiness management, mentoring and tech-
14 nical assistance, and access to capital.

15 “(C) *BIOSECURITY AND CYBERSECURITY*.—
16 A center of excellence established under this sub-
17 section may engage in research, extension, or
18 education activities focused on agricultural bio-
19 security and cybersecurity efforts to defend the
20 United States food supply from any attacks.

21 “(D) *BIOSYSTEMS AND AGRICULTURAL EN-*
22 *GINEERING*.—A center of excellence established
23 under this subsection may engage in research,
24 extension, or education activities focused on bio-
25 systems and agricultural engineering, including

1 *precision agriculture technologies and mecha-*
2 *nization and automation technologies for spe-*
3 *cialty crops.*

4 “(E) *BIOTECHNOLOGY.*—A center of excel-
5 *lence established under this subsection may en-*
6 *gage in research, extension, or education activi-*
7 *ties focused on development of animal and plant*
8 *biotechnologies that will increase agricultural*
9 *productivity.*

10 “(F) *CROP PRODUCTION, PROTECTION, AND*
11 *RESILIENCE.*—A center of excellence established
12 *under this subsection may engage in research,*
13 *extension, or education activities focused on crop*
14 *production and protection, including the develop-*
15 *ment, manufacture, and use of fertilizer, crop*
16 *protection tools, and adjuvants in increasing*
17 *productivity and protecting crops from dam-*
18 *aging pests and diseases.*

19 “(G) *DIGITAL AGRICULTURE.*—A center of
20 *excellence established under this subsection may*
21 *engage in research, extension, or education ac-*
22 *tivities focused on developing, evaluating, and*
23 *deploying digital agriculture, including artificial*
24 *intelligence and remote sensing systems.*

1 “(H) *FARM BUSINESS AND FINANCIAL MAN-*
2 *AGEMENT.*—A center of excellence established
3 under this subsection may engage in research,
4 extension, or education activities focused on farm
5 business and financial management activities,
6 including marketing plans, production diver-
7 sification, and cash forward contracting.

8 “(I) *FOOD QUALITY.*—A center of excellence
9 established under this subsection may engage in
10 research, extension, or education activities fo-
11 cused on improving food quality, including re-
12 search on the uptake of per- and polyfluoroalkyl
13 substances in food, the presence of microplastics
14 in biosolids, and the efficacy and feasibility of
15 reducing levels of inorganic arsenic, lead, cad-
16 mium, or mercury in food.

17 “(J) *FOREIGN ANIMAL DISEASE.*—A center
18 of excellence established under this subsection
19 may engage in research, extension, or education
20 activities focused on foreign animal diseases, in-
21 cluding the ecology and etiology of emerging dis-
22 eases, control methods, and implementation
23 strategies to enhance preparedness and response
24 efforts to protect the livestock and poultry indus-
25 try.

1 “(K) *FORESTRY*.—A center of excellence es-
2 *tablished under this subsection may engage in*
3 *research, extension, or education activities fo-*
4 *cused on forest productivity and forest health, in-*
5 *cluding invasive species control, biochar and py-*
6 *rolysis development and commercialization, re-*
7 *forestation and restoration of damaged land-*
8 *scapes, and new wood-based materials.*

9 “(L) *INVASIVE SPECIES*.—A center of excel-
10 *lence established under this subsection may en-*
11 *gage in research, extension, or education activi-*
12 *ties focused on the control and eradication of*
13 *invasive species that pose a persistent and grow-*
14 *ing threat to United States agricultural produc-*
15 *tion, forest resources, global food security, and*
16 *rural economies.*

17 “(M) *LIVESTOCK AND POULTRY*.—A center
18 *of excellence established under this subsection*
19 *may engage in research, extension, or education*
20 *activities focused on issues impacting livestock*
21 *(including equines) and poultry production in*
22 *the United States, including economic research*
23 *to understand policy implications for producers.*

24 “(N) *VETERINARY MEDICINE*.—A center of
25 *excellence established under this subsection may*

1 *engage in research, extension, or education ac-*
2 *tivities focused on developing additional veteri-*
3 *narians, including large animal veterinarians,*
4 *to address the veterinarian shortage in rural*
5 *areas.*

6 “(O) *WATER QUALITY AND QUANTITY.—A*
7 *center of excellence established under this sub-*
8 *section may engage in research, extension, or*
9 *education activities focused on water quality and*
10 *quantity efforts, including drought, water man-*
11 *agement, natural resource benefits, and the*
12 *health and resilience of the water supply in the*
13 *United States.*

14 “(4) *TERMS.—*

15 “(A) *DURATION.—The term of an award*
16 *under this subsection shall be for a five-year pe-*
17 *riod, and may be renewed for not more than one*
18 *additional five-year period.*

19 “(B) *CONSTRUCTION PROHIBITED.—Funds*
20 *made available under this subsection shall not be*
21 *used for the construction of a new building or fa-*
22 *cility or the acquisition, expansion, remodeling,*
23 *or alteration of an existing building or facility*
24 *(including site grading and improvement, and*
25 *architect fees).*

1 “(5) *ANNUAL REPORT*.—Not later than one year
2 after the date of enactment of this subsection, and
3 every year thereafter, the Secretary shall submit to the
4 Committee on Agriculture of the House of Representa-
5 tives and the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition,
6 and Forestry of the Senate a report describing—

7 “(A) the projects initiated by each center of
8 excellence established under this subsection in the
9 preceding year;

10 “(B) the amount of funding for each such
11 project and the funding source;

12 “(C) the institutions participating in each
13 such project and their shares of the overall fund-
14 ing for each project;

15 “(D) the level of cost sharing for each such
16 project;

17 “(E) any technology transfer and intellec-
18 tual property management actions taken by each
19 such center of excellence, such as the number of
20 relevant invention disclosures, any provisional
21 patents filed, any non-provisional patents filed
22 and issued, the number of licenses executed, and
23 any start-up companies registered; and

24 “(F) any additional information deemed
25 necessary.”;

1 (2) *by redesignating subsection (d) as subsection*

2 **(b);**

3 (3) *in subsection (b), as so redesignated—*

4 (A) *in paragraph (1)—*

5 (i) *by striking “The Secretary” and*

6 *inserting “In addition to the centers of ex-*

7 *cellence established under subsection (a), the*

8 *Secretary”; and*

9 (ii) *by striking “not less than 3 centers*

10 *of excellence” and inserting “not less than 8*

11 *centers of excellence”;*

12 (B) *in paragraph (2)—*

13 (i) *in subparagraph (A)—*

14 (I) *in the subparagraph heading,*

15 *by striking “AND WORKFORCE DEVEL-*

16 *OPMENT” and inserting “, WORKFORCE*

17 *DEVELOPMENT, AND RURAL STUDIES”;*

18 *and*

19 (II) *by inserting “economics, psy-*

20 *chology, rural sociology, data sciences,”*

21 *after “mathematics,”;*

22 (ii) *in subparagraph (E), by inserting*

23 *“and nature-based solutions to improve the*

24 *composition of soil organic compounds, in-*

25 *cluding carbon, that are beneficial to soil*

quality and the environment” before the period at the end; and

(iii) by adding at the end the following:

“(G) *FOREST HEALTH AND CONSERVATION.*—A center of excellence established under paragraph (1) may focus on forest health, sustainable forest management, agroforestry, enhancing forest resilience to catastrophic wildfire, supporting rural infrastructure, and urban and community forestry programs to promote healthy forest ecosystems and resilient communities.

“(H) *FOOD SAFETY, BIOPROCESSING, AND VALUE-ADDED AGRICULTURE.*—A center of excellence established under paragraph (1) may focus on food safety, bioprocessing, value-added agriculture enterprise development, and innovative food and agriculture product development.”; and

(C) in paragraph (3), by striking “2023” and inserting “2031”.

SEC. 7209. ASSISTIVE TECHNOLOGY PROGRAM FOR FARMERS WITH DISABILITIES.

Section 1680 of the Food, Agriculture, Conservation, and Trade Act of 1990 (7 U.S.C. 5933) is amended—

(1) in subsection (a)(3)—

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

3 (B) in subparagraph (E), by striking the
4 period at the end and inserting “; and”; and

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

6 “(F) provide education and support to
7 youth and young adults with disabilities inter-
8 ested in farming and farm-related occupations.”;
9 and

10 (2) in subsection (c)(1)(B), by striking “2023”
11 and inserting “2031”.

12 **SEC. 7210. FARMING OPPORTUNITIES TRAINING AND OUT-**
13 **REACH.**

14 Section 2501 of the Food, Agriculture, Conservation,
15 and Trade Act of 1990 (7 U.S.C. 2279) is amended—

16 (1) in subsection (c)—

17 (A) in paragraph (2), in the matter pre-
18 ceding subparagraph (A)—

19 (i) by striking “Secretary of Agri-
20 culture” and inserting “Secretary of Agri-
21 culture, acting through the Director of the
22 National Institute of Food and Agri-
23 culture,”; and

24 (ii) by striking “2023” and inserting
25 “2031”; and

1 (B) in paragraph (4)—

2 (i) in subparagraph (F), by inserting
3 “and organizations that provide training
4 and technical assistance in budgeting, busi-
5 ness planning, and similar financial and
6 management skills that focus on the ongoing
7 economic viability of beginning farm and
8 ranch enterprises” after “veteran farmers
9 and ranchers”;

10 (ii) in subparagraph (I)(ii), by strik-
11 ing “shall include a broad representation of
12 peers of the eligible entity” and inserting
13 “shall include a broad representation of in-
14 dividuals with demonstrated expertise in
15 farm business management”; and

16 (iii) in subparagraph (J), by striking
17 “to the eligible entities providing that tech-
18 nical assistance” and inserting “to the
19 needs of farmers and ranchers’ ongoing eco-
20 nomic viability”;

21 (2) in subsection (d)—

22 (A) in paragraph (1), by striking “2023”
23 and inserting “2031”;

24 (B) in paragraph (2)—

25 (i) by striking subparagraph (J); and

1 (ii) by redesignating subparagraphs
2 (K), (L), (M), (N), and (O) as subpara-
3 graphs (J), (K), (L), (M) and (N), respec-
4 tively;

5 (C) in paragraph (8), by striking “to part-
6 nerships and collaborations that are led by or in-
7 clude nongovernmental, community-based orga-
8 nizations and school-based educational organiza-
9 tions with expertise in new agricultural producer
10 training and outreach” and inserting “to pro-
11 grams that provide training and technical assist-
12 ance in budgeting, business planning, and simi-
13 lar financial and management skills that focus
14 on the ongoing economic viability of beginning
15 farm and ranch enterprises”; and

16 (D) in paragraph (12)(B), by striking “a
17 broad representation of peers of the applicant for
18 the grant or cooperative agreement” and insert-
19 ing “a broad representation of the United States
20 agriculture industry and individuals with dem-
21 onstrated expertise in farm business manage-
22 ment”; and

23 (3) in subsection (l)(2), by striking “2023” and
24 inserting “2031”.

1 **SEC. 7211. NATIONAL RURAL INFORMATION CENTER**
2 **CLEARINGHOUSE.**

3 *Section 2381(e) of the Food, Agriculture, Conservation,*
4 *and Trade Act of 1990 (7 U.S.C. 3125b(e)) is amended by*
5 *striking “2023” and inserting “2031”.*

6 **SEC. 7212. REPEAL.**

7 *Subtitle D of title XVI of the Food, Agriculture, Con-*
8 *servation, and Trade Act of 1990 (7 U.S.C. 5851 et seq.)*
9 *is repealed.*

10 **SEC. 7213. RESEARCHING THE TRANSITION TO ORGANIC.**

11 *Title XVI of the Food, Agriculture, Conservation, and*
12 *Trade Act of 1990 is amended by inserting after section*
13 *1673 (7 U.S.C. 5926) the following:*

14 **“SEC. 1674. RESEARCHING THE TRANSITION TO ORGANIC.**

15 *“(a) COMPETITIVE SPECIALIZED RESEARCH AND EX-*
16 *TENSION GRANTS AUTHORIZED.—The Secretary of Agri-*
17 *culture (referred to in this section as the ‘Secretary’), in*
18 *consultation with the National Agricultural Research, Ex-*
19 *tension, Education, and Economics Advisory Board, may*
20 *make competitive grants to support research, education,*
21 *and extension activities relating to the transition of non-*
22 *organic production systems into organic agricultural pro-*
23 *duction systems for the purposes of—*

24 *“(1) overcoming barriers to transitioning to or-*
25 *ganic agricultural production;*

1 “(2) documenting and understanding the effects
2 of organic practices on ecosystem services, including
3 soil health and fertility, greenhouse gas mitigation
4 and sequestration, water management, biodiversity-re-
5 lated services, and pest management; and

6 “(3) developing improved technologies, methods,
7 models, and metrics to document, describe, and opti-
8 mize ecosystem services of transitioning agricultural
9 production into organic management.

10 “(b) GRANT ADMINISTRATION.—Paragraphs (4), (7),
11 (8), and (11)(B) of subsection (b) of the Competitive, Spe-
12 cial, and Facilities Research Grant Act (7 U.S.C. 3157(b))
13 shall apply with respect to the making of grants under this
14 section.

15 “(c) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There are
16 authorized to be appropriated to carry out this section
17 \$7,500,000 for fiscal year 2027 and each fiscal year there-
18 after.”.

1 ***Subtitle C—Agricultural Research,***
 2 ***Extension, and Education Re-***
 3 ***form Act of 1998***

4 ***SEC. 7301. NATIONAL FOOD SAFETY TRAINING, EDUCATION,***
 5 ***EXTENSION, OUTREACH, AND TECHNICAL AS-***
 6 ***SISTANCE PROGRAM.***

7 *Section 405 of the Agricultural Research, Extension,*
 8 *and Education Reform Act of 1998 (7 U.S.C. 7625) is*
 9 *amended—*

10 *(1) by striking subsection (d);*

11 *(2) by redesignating subsections (e) through (j)*
 12 *as subsections (d) through (i), respectively; and*

13 *(3) in subsection (i), as so redesignated, by strik-*
 14 *ing “2023” and inserting “2031”.*

15 ***SEC. 7302. INTEGRATED RESEARCH, EDUCATION, AND EX-***
 16 ***TENSION COMPETITIVE GRANTS PROGRAM.***

17 *Section 406(f) of the Agricultural Research, Extension,*
 18 *and Education Reform Act of 1998 (7 U.S.C. 7626(f)) is*
 19 *amended by striking “2023” and inserting “2031”.*

20 ***SEC. 7303. SUPPORT FOR RESEARCH REGARDING DISEASES***
 21 ***OF WHEAT, TRITICALE, AND BARLEY CAUSED***
 22 ***BY FUSARIUM GRAMINEARUM OR BY***
 23 ***TILLETIA INDICA.***

24 *Section 408(e)(3) of the Agricultural Research, Exten-*
 25 *sion, and Education Reform Act of 1998 (7 U.S.C.*

1 7628(e)(3)) is amended by striking “2023” and inserting
2 “2031”.

3 **SEC. 7304. GRANTS FOR YOUTH ORGANIZATIONS.**

4 Section 410(d)(2) of the Agricultural Research, Exten-
5 sion, and Education Reform Act of 1998 (7 U.S.C.
6 7630(d)(2)) is amended by striking “2023” and inserting
7 “2031”.

8 **SEC. 7305. SPECIALTY CROP RESEARCH INITIATIVE.**

9 Section 412 of the Agricultural Research, Extension,
10 and Education Reform Act of 1998 (7 U.S.C. 7632) is
11 amended—

12 (1) in subsection (f)(3), by striking “subsection
13 (d) and (j)” and inserting “subsections (d), (j), and
14 (k)”;

15 (2) in subsection (g)(3), by adding at the end the
16 following:

17 “(C) WAIVER.—The Secretary may waive
18 the matching funds requirement under subpara-
19 graph (A) with respect to a grant if the Sec-
20 retary determines that—

21 “(i) the results of the grant are of a
22 particular benefit to a specific specialty
23 crop, but such results are likely to be appli-
24 cable to specialty crops or agricultural com-
25 modities, generally; or

1 “(ii)(I) the grant—

2 “(aa) involves a minor com-
3 modity; and

4 “(bb) deals with scientifically im-
5 portant research; and

6 “(II) the recipient is unable to satisfy
7 the matching funds requirement.”;

8 (3) in subsection (j)(5), by striking “subsection
9 (k)(1)(C)” and inserting “subsection (l)(1)(C)”;

10 (4) by redesignating subsection (k) as subsection
11 (l);

12 (5) by inserting after subsection (j) the following:

13 “(k) *SPECIALTY CROP MECHANIZATION AND AUTOMA-
14 TION RESEARCH AND EXTENSION PROGRAM.—The Sec-
15 retary shall establish a competitive research and extension
16 grant program to award grants to eligible entities to in-
17 crease the competitiveness of specialty crops in the United
18 States through the advancement and acceleration of mecha-
19 nization and automation, including projects that—*

20 “(1) create or improve cost-effective mechaniza-
21 tion and automation technologies to—

22 “(A) reduce the manual labor requirements
23 of a specialty crop grower; or

24 “(B) increase the efficiency of—

25 “(i) crop production;

1 “(ii) resource management;

2 “(iii) harvesting;

3 “(iv) processing;

4 “(v) post-harvest technologies; or

5 “(vi) packing;

6 “(2) increase adoption of mechanization and au-
7 tomation technologies by—

8 “(A) emphasizing adoption drivers, includ-
9 ing—

10 “(i) connectivity;

11 “(ii) autonomy;

12 “(iii) reliability;

13 “(iv) durability;

14 “(v) in-field validation; or

15 “(vi) cost-effectiveness; or

16 “(B) investing in, and developing human
17 capital to, increase the capacity to—

18 “(i) utilize new technologies; or

19 “(ii) manage a more tech-focused farm
20 workforce; or

21 “(3) accelerate automation and mechanization
22 through—

23 “(A) prototype development;

24 “(B) in-field trial testing;

25 “(C) ongoing industry engagement; or

1 “(D) rapid commercialization.”; and
 2 (6) in subsection (l), as redesignated by para-
 3 graph (4)—

4 (A) in paragraph (1)—

5 (i) by amending subparagraph (C) to
 6 read as follows:

7 “(C) *RESERVATION FOR SPECIALTY CROP*
 8 *MECHANIZATION AND AUTOMATION RESEARCH*
 9 *AND EXTENSION PROGRAM.—For each of fiscal*
 10 *years 2027 through 2031, the Secretary shall re-*
 11 *serve not less than \$30,000,000 of the funds made*
 12 *available under subparagraph (B) to carry out*
 13 *the program established under subsection (k).”;*
 14 *and*

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

17 “(D) *REALLOCATION.—Notwithstanding*
 18 *paragraph (4), any funds reserved under sub-*
 19 *paragraph (C) that remain unobligated at the*
 20 *end of the fiscal year following the fiscal year in*
 21 *which such funds are first made available shall*
 22 *be reallocated to carry out activities of the spe-*
 23 *cialty crop research initiative established under*
 24 *subsection (b).”;*

25 (B) in paragraph (2)—

1 (i) in the paragraph heading, by strik-
 2 ing “FOR FISCAL YEARS 2014 THROUGH
 3 2023”; and

4 (ii) by striking “2023” and inserting
 5 “2031”;

6 (C) by striking paragraph (3); and

7 (D) by redesignating paragraphs (4) and
 8 (5) as paragraphs (3) and (4), respectively.

9 **SEC. 7306. AGRICULTURE GRANTS FOR VETERAN EDU-**
 10 **CATION AND TRAINING SERVICES.**

11 *Title IV of the Agricultural Research, Extension, and*
 12 *Education Reform Act of 1998 (7 U.S.C. 7624 et seq.) is*
 13 *amended by adding at the end the following:*

14 **“SEC. 414. AGRICULTURE GRANTS FOR VETERAN EDU-**
 15 **CATION AND TRAINING SERVICES.**

16 “(a) *IN GENERAL.*—The Secretary shall establish a
 17 program under which the Secretary will award competitive
 18 grants to eligible entities for the purpose of establishing and
 19 enhancing farming and ranching opportunities for veterans
 20 (as defined in section 101(2) of title 38, United States
 21 Code).

22 “(b) *ELIGIBLE ENTITIES.*—An entity is eligible for a
 23 grant under this section if such entity is—

24 “(1) a cooperative extension service;

1 “(2) a land-grant college or university (as de-
2 fined in section 1404 of the National Agricultural Re-
3 search, Extension, and Teaching Policy Act of 1977
4 (7 U.S.C. 3103));

5 “(3) a non-land-grant college of agriculture (as
6 defined in such section);

7 “(4) a Hispanic-serving agricultural college and
8 university (as defined in such section);

9 “(5) a State department of agriculture;

10 “(6) a nonprofit organization;

11 “(7) a community-based organization; or

12 “(8) a combination of 2 or more eligible entities
13 described in paragraphs (1) through (7).

14 “(c) *USE OF FUNDS.*—An eligible entity that receives
15 a grant under this section shall use the funds received
16 through the grant—

17 “(1) to provide training and classroom education
18 that leads to a comprehensive understanding of farm
19 and ranch business operations and management prac-
20 tices;

21 “(2) to develop or identify curriculum that vet-
22 eran farmers and ranchers can adopt to help manage
23 their enterprise;

24 “(3) to offer education, workshops, tours, and in-
25 structor-supervised field experiences; or

1 “(4) to support any other activity, as identified
 2 by the Secretary, to increase the number of veterans
 3 pursuing knowledge and skills development in agri-
 4 culture.

5 “(d) *MATCHING FUNDS.*—An entity that receives a
 6 grant under this section shall provide non-Federal match-
 7 ing funds for the purposes of carrying out this section in
 8 an amount equal to not less than the amount of the grant.

9 “(e) *AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.*—There are
 10 authorized to be appropriated to carry out this section
 11 \$3,000,000 for each of fiscal years 2025 through 2031.”.

12 **SEC. 7307. FOOD ANIMAL RESIDUE AVOIDANCE DATABASE**
 13 **PROGRAM.**

14 Section 604(e) of the Agricultural Research, Extension,
 15 and Education Reform Act of 1998 (7 U.S.C. 7642(e)) is
 16 amended by striking “2023” and inserting “2031”.

17 **SEC. 7308. OFFICE OF PEST MANAGEMENT POLICY.**

18 Section 614(f)(2) of the Agricultural Research, Exten-
 19 sion, and Education Reform Act of 1998 (7 U.S.C.
 20 7653(f)(2)) is amended by striking “2023” and inserting
 21 “2031”.

22 **SEC. 7309. FORESTRY PRODUCTS ADVANCED UTILIZATION**
 23 **RESEARCH.**

24 Section 617(f)(1) of the Agricultural Research, Exten-
 25 sion, and Education Reform Act of 1998 (7 U.S.C.

1 7655b(f)(1)) is amended by striking “2023” and inserting
2 “2031”.

3 **SEC. 7310. REPEALS.**

4 *The Agricultural Research, Extension, and Education*
5 *Reform Act of 1998 (7 U.S.C. 7601 et seq.) is amended—*

6 *(1) by striking section 404 (7 U.S.C. 7624); and*

7 *(2) by striking section 411 (7 U.S.C. 7631).*

8 ***Subtitle D—Food, Conservation,***
9 ***and Energy Act of 2008***

10 **SEC. 7401. GRAZINGLANDS RESEARCH LABORATORY.**

11 *Section 7502 of the Food, Conservation, and Energy*
12 *Act of 2008 (Public Law 110–246; 122 Stat. 2019) is*
13 *amended by striking “, or otherwise be conveyed or trans-*
14 *ferred in whole or in part, for the period beginning on the*
15 *date of the enactment of this Act and ending on September*
16 *30, 2026” and inserting “, beginning on the date of the*
17 *enactment of this Act”.*

18 **SEC. 7402. FARM AND RANCH STRESS ASSISTANCE NET-**
19 **WORK.**

20 *Section 7522 of the Food, Conservation, and Energy*
21 *Act of 2008 (7 U.S.C. 5936) is amended—*

22 *(1) in subsection (b)(1)(A), by inserting “, in-*
23 *cluding crisis hotlines” after “websites”;*

24 *(2) in subsection (d), by striking “2023” and in-*
25 *serting “2031”;*

1 (3) by redesignating subsection (f) as subsection
2 (g); and

3 (4) by inserting after subsection (e) the following:

4 “(f) *REFERRALS TO PROVIDERS.*—As part of the ef-
5 forts of the recipient of a grant under subsection (a) to con-
6 nect individuals to behavioral health counseling and
7 wellness support and to ensure individuals have access to
8 a comprehensive scope of mental health and substance use
9 treatments and supports, when applicable, the grant recipi-
10 ent may establish referral relationships with—

11 “(1) *certified community behavioral health clin-*
12 *ics described in section 223 of the Protecting Access*
13 *to Medicare Act of 2014 (42 U.S.C. 1396a note; Pub-*
14 *lic Law 113–93);*

15 “(2) *health centers (as defined in section 330(a)*
16 *of the Public Health Service Act (42 U.S.C. 254b(a))*);

17 “(3) *rural health clinics (as defined in section*
18 *1861(aa) of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C.*
19 *1395x(aa))*);

20 “(4) *Federally qualified health centers (as de-*
21 *finied in that section)*; and

22 “(5) *critical access hospitals (as defined in sec-*
23 *tion 1861(mm) of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C.*
24 *1395x(mm))*)).”.

1 **SEC. 7403. SUN GRANT PROGRAM.**

2 *Section 7526 of the Food, Conservation, and Energy*
3 *Act of 2008 (7 U.S.C. 8114) is amended—*

4 *(1) in subsection (a)—*

5 *(A) in paragraph (1), by inserting “and*
6 *bioproduct” before “technologies”;*

7 *(B) in paragraph (2), by striking “product”*
8 *and inserting “bioproduct”; and*

9 *(C) in paragraph (3), by striking “product”*
10 *and inserting “bioproduct”;*

11 *(2) in subsection (c)(2), by striking “4 percent”*
12 *and inserting “30 percent”; and*

13 *(3) in subsection (g), by striking “2023” and in-*
14 *serting “2031”.*

15 **SEC. 7404. REPEALS.**

16 *The Food, Conservation, and Energy Act of 2008 (7*
17 *U.S.C. 8701 et seq.) is amended—*

18 *(1) by striking section 7521 (7 U.S.C. 3202);*

19 *and*

20 *(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 of*
6 *1994 (7 U.S.C. 301 note; Public Law 103–382) is amend-*
7 *ed—*

8 *(1) in section 533(b), by striking “2023” and in-*
9 *serting “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 place*
13 *it appears in subsections (b)(1) and (c) and inserting*
14 *“2031”; and*

15 *(4) in section 536—*

16 *(A) in subsection (a), by inserting before the*
17 *period at the end the following: “and to acquire,*
18 *alter, repair, maintain, and operate relevant*
19 *equipment necessary for strengthening the capac-*
20 *ity of the Institution to conduct research in the*
21 *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 INITIATIVE.**

8 Subsection (b) of the Competitive, Special, and Facili-
9 ties Research Grant Act (7 U.S.C. 3157(b)) is amended—
10 (1) in paragraph (2)—

11 (A) in subparagraph (A)(iii)—

12 (i) by inserting “regionally adapted”
13 before “cultivar”; and

14 (ii) by inserting “breeding for environ-
15 mental resilience,” before “and
16 participatory breeding”;

17 (B) in subparagraph (B)(i), by inserting “,
18 including methods of increasing survival rate
19 and adaptability of shellfish” after “aqua-
20 culture”;

21 (C) in subparagraph (E)—

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

24 (ii) in clause (v), by striking the pe-
25 riod at the end and inserting “; and”; and

1 (iii) by adding at the end the fol-
2 lowing:

3 “(vi) hydroponics, aquaponics,
4 aeroponics, and other production tech-
5 nologies used in controlled-environment ag-
6 riculture production.”; and

7 (D) in subparagraph (F)—

8 (i) in clause (i), by inserting “, includ-
9 ing supply chain coordination and capacity
10 building” after “overseas markets”;

11 (ii) in clause (vii), by striking “; and”
12 at the end and inserting a semicolon;

13 (iii) in clause (viii), by striking the
14 period at the end and inserting a semicolon;
15 and

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

17 “(ix) workforce training and develop-
18 ment, including meat and poultry proc-
19 essing (including rendering) and precision
20 agriculture; and

21 “(x) reducing food loss and food
22 waste.”;

23 (2) in paragraph (7)—

1 (A) by redesignating subparagraphs (D)
 2 through (I) as subparagraphs (E) through (J),
 3 respectively;

4 (B) by inserting after subparagraph (C) the
 5 following:

6 “(D) area career and technical education
 7 schools;”; and

8 (C) in subparagraph (J), as so redesignated,
 9 by striking “(H)” and inserting “(I)”; and

10 (3) in paragraph (11)(A), in the matter pre-
 11 ceding clause (i), by striking “2023” and inserting
 12 “2031”.

13 **SEC. 7504. EXTENSION DESIGN AND DEMONSTRATION INI-**
 14 **TIATIVE.**

15 Subsection (d)(6) of the Competitive, Special, and Fa-
 16 cilities Research Grant Act (7 U.S.C. 3157(d)(6)) is amend-
 17 ed by striking “2023” and inserting “2031”.

18 **SEC. 7505. BIOMASS RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT.**

19 Section 9008(h)(2) of the Farm Security and Rural
 20 Investment Act of 2002 (7 U.S.C. 8108(h)(2)) is amended
 21 by striking “2023” and inserting “2031”.

22 **SEC. 7506. RENEWABLE RESOURCES EXTENSION ACT OF**
 23 **1978.**

24 The Renewable Resources Extension Act of 1978 (16
 25 U.S.C. 1671 et seq.) is amended—

1 (1) in section 6 (16 U.S.C. 1675), in the first
2 sentence, by striking “2023” and inserting “2031”;
3 and

4 (2) in section 8 (16 U.S.C. 1671 note), by strik-
5 ing “2023” and inserting “2031”.

6 **SEC. 7507. NATIONAL AQUACULTURE ACT OF 1980.**

7 *The National Aquaculture Act of 1980 (16 U.S.C. 2801*
8 *et seq.) is amended—*

9 (1) in section 4 (16 U.S.C. 2803)—

10 (A) in subsection (a)(2), by striking
11 “acquaculture” and inserting “aquaculture”;

12 (B) in subsection (d), in the matter pre-
13 ceding paragraph (1), by inserting “, not less
14 than once every 3 years,” after “periodic re-
15 views”; and

16 (C) in subsection (e)—

17 (i) in the matter preceding paragraph
18 (1), by inserting “, not less than once every
19 3 years,” after “undertake a continuing as-
20 sessment of aquaculture in the United
21 States”;

22 (ii) in paragraph (5), by striking
23 “and” at the end;

1 (iii) in paragraph (6), by striking the
2 period at the end and inserting a semicolon;
3 and

4 (iv) by adding at the end the following:

5 “(7) a catalog of new and existing capital con-
6 straints, as described in the capital requirements plan
7 formulated under section 8(b), that affect the develop-
8 ment of the aquaculture industry in the United
9 States; and

10 “(8) a catalog of new and existing Federal or
11 State regulatory barriers, as described in the regu-
12 latory constraints plan formulated under section 9(b),
13 to the initiation and operation of commercial aqua-
14 culture ventures.”;

15 (2) in section 5 (16 U.S.C. 2804), by striking
16 subsection (d) and inserting the following:

17 “(d) AQUACULTURE ADVISORY COMMITTEE.—

18 “(1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 180 days
19 after the date of enactment of the Farm, Food, and
20 National Security Act of 2026, the Secretary shall es-
21 tablish an advisory committee, to be known as the
22 Aquaculture Advisory Committee (referred to in this
23 subsection as the ‘Committee’), to advise the Secretary
24 on—

1 “(A) oversight of programs of the Depart-
2 ment and other members of the coordinating
3 group to support development of, and to advance,
4 aquaculture best practices using the best avail-
5 able science, in consultation with farmers and
6 industry partners;

7 “(B) providing technical assistance to aqua-
8 culture farmers and businesses, including tech-
9 nical assistance that pertains to shellfish, algae,
10 and land-based aquaculture systems, using the
11 best available science; and

12 “(C) any other aspects of the implementa-
13 tion of this Act.

14 “(2) MEMBERSHIP.—

15 “(A) IN GENERAL.—The Committee shall be
16 composed of 14 members, who are not officers or
17 employees of the Federal Government.

18 “(B) INITIAL APPOINTMENTS.—The Sec-
19 retary shall appoint the members of the Com-
20 mittee not later than 180 days after the date of
21 enactment of this section.

22 “(C) PERIOD OF INITIAL APPOINTMENT; VA-
23 CANCIES.—

1 “(i) *IN GENERAL.*—*Except as provided*
2 *in clause (ii), a member of the Committee*
3 *shall be appointed for a term of 3 years.*

4 “(ii) *INITIAL APPOINTMENTS.*—*Of the*
5 *members first appointed to the Committee—*

6 “(I) *5 of the members, as deter-*
7 *mined by the Secretary, shall be ap-*
8 *pointed for a term of 3 years;*

9 “(II) *5 of the members, as deter-*
10 *mined by the Secretary, shall be ap-*
11 *pointed for a term of 2 years; and*

12 “(III) *4 of the members, as deter-*
13 *mined by the Secretary, shall be ap-*
14 *pointed for a term of 1 year.*

15 “(iii) *VACANCIES.*—*Any vacancy in*
16 *the Committee—*

17 “(I) *shall not affect the powers of*
18 *the Committee; and*

19 “(II) *shall be filled as soon as*
20 *practicable in the same manner as the*
21 *original appointment.*

22 “(D) *CONSECUTIVE TERMS.*—*An initial ap-*
23 *pointee of the Committee may serve an addi-*
24 *tional consecutive term if the member is re-*
25 *appointed by the Secretary.*

1 “(3) *MEETINGS.*—

2 “(A) *FREQUENCY.*—*The Committee shall*
3 *meet not fewer than 3 times per year.*

4 “(B) *INITIAL MEETING.*—*Not later than 180*
5 *days after the date on which the members are*
6 *appointed under paragraph (2)(B), the Com-*
7 *mittee shall hold the first meeting of the Com-*
8 *mittee.*

9 “(4) *DUTIES.*—*The Committee shall—*

10 “(A) *develop recommendations and advise*
11 *the Secretary on aquaculture policies, initiatives,*
12 *and outreach administered by the Department;*

13 “(B) *evaluate and review ongoing research*
14 *and extension activities relating to aquaculture*
15 *practices;*

16 “(C) *identify new and existing barriers to*
17 *successful aquaculture practices; and*

18 “(D) *provide additional assistance and ad-*
19 *vice to the Secretary as appropriate.*

20 “(5) *PERSONNEL MATTERS.*—

21 “(A) *COMPENSATION.*—*A member of the*
22 *Committee shall serve without compensation.*

23 “(B) *TRAVEL EXPENSES.*—*A member of the*
24 *Committee shall be allowed travel expenses, in-*
25 *cluding per diem in lieu of subsistence, in ac-*

1 *cordance with section 5703 of title 5, United*
2 *States Code.*

3 “(6) *TERMINATION.*—

4 “(A) *IN GENERAL.*—Subject to subpara-
5 *graph (B), the Committee shall terminate on the*
6 *date that is 5 years after the date on which the*
7 *members are appointed under paragraph (2)(B).*

8 “(B) *EXTENSIONS.*—Before the date on
9 *which the Committee terminates, the Secretary*
10 *may renew the Committee for 1 or more 2-year*
11 *periods.*

12 “(e) *ANNUAL REPORT.*—Not later than 1 year after
13 *the date of the enactment of the Farm, Food, and National*
14 *Security Act of 2026, and each year thereafter, the Sec-*
15 *retary, acting through the coordinating group and in con-*
16 *sultation with the Secretary of Commerce and the Secretary*
17 *of the Interior, shall prepare on an annual basis, and sub-*
18 *mit to Congress, a report on the status of aquaculture in*
19 *the United States. Such report shall contain—*

20 “(1) *a description and evaluation of the actions*
21 *undertaken with respect to the Plan during the re-*
22 *porting period;*

23 “(2) *an explanation of any revisions made to the*
24 *Plan during the reporting period;*

1 “(3) the results of the continuing assessment es-
2 tablished under section 4(e);

3 “(4) an evaluation of the role each Federal de-
4 partment or agency has in supporting the aqua-
5 culture industry;

6 “(5) the total amount and value of expenditures
7 of Federal departments or agencies on—

8 “(A) aquaculture purchases;

9 “(B) aquaculture promotion and outreach
10 supporting the aquaculture industry;

11 “(C) grants made to the aquaculture indus-
12 try; and

13 “(D) grants to facilitate aquaculture re-
14 search and the subject matter of such research;

15 “(6) a summary of the activities and rec-
16 ommendations of the Aquaculture Advisory Com-
17 mittee established under subsection (d);

18 “(7) a summary of the activities and rec-
19 ommendations of the coordinating group; and

20 “(8) such other comments and recommendations
21 as the Secretary determines appropriate.”; and

22 (3) in section 10 (16 U.S.C. 2809), by striking
23 “2023” each place it appears in paragraphs (1), (2),
24 and (3) and inserting “2031”.

1 **SEC. 7508. REPORTS ON DISBURSEMENT OF FUNDS FOR AG-**
 2 **RICULTURAL RESEARCH AND EXTENSION AT**
 3 **1862 AND 1890 LAND-GRANT COLLEGES, IN-**
 4 **CLUDING TUSKEGEE UNIVERSITY.**

5 *Section 7116 of the Agriculture Improvement Act of*
 6 *2018 (7 U.S.C. 2207d) is amended—*

7 *(1) in the matter preceding paragraph (1), by*
 8 *striking “Not later than” and inserting the following:*

9 *“(a) IN GENERAL.—Not later than”; and*

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

11 *“(b) OUTREACH.—Not later than February 1 of each*
 12 *fiscal year, the Secretary shall provide information relating*
 13 *to each matching requirement applicable to the State under*
 14 *the programs referred to in subsection (a) to the Governor*
 15 *and legislature of each State in which an 1862 Institution*
 16 *or 1890 Institution (as those terms are defined in section*
 17 *2 of the Agricultural Research, Extension, and Education*
 18 *Reform Act of 1998 (7 U.S.C. 7601)) is located.*

19 *“(c) ATTESTATIONS.—*

20 *“(1) IN GENERAL.—Not less frequently than once*
 21 *each calendar year, the Governor of each State de-*
 22 *scribed in subsection (b) shall submit to the Secretary*
 23 *an attestation that describes if the State is able to ful-*
 24 *fill each matching requirement with respect to which*
 25 *information is provided by the Secretary under such*
 26 *subsection for such State and calendar year.*

1 “(2) *REPORTS*.—Not later than December 31 of
 2 each calendar year, the Secretary shall submit to
 3 Congress, and make publicly available on the website
 4 of the Department of Agriculture, an annual report
 5 describing the attestations received under paragraph
 6 (1) during that calendar year.”.

7 **SEC. 7509. REPEAL.**

8 Section 1431 of the National Agricultural Research,
 9 Extension, and Teaching Policy Act Amendments of 1985
 10 (title XIV of Public Law 99–198; 99 Stat. 1556) is repealed.

11 **SEC. 7510. AMENDMENT TO SMITH-LEVER ACT.**

12 Section 3(b)(3) of the Smith-Lever Act (7 U.S.C.
 13 343(b)(3)) is amended by inserting after “for the purposes
 14 set forth in section 2” the following: “, and for 1994 Institu-
 15 tions to acquire, alter, repair, maintain, and operate rel-
 16 evant equipment necessary to strengthen the capacity of
 17 such 1994 Institutions to achieve the purposes set forth in
 18 section 2”.

19 **Subtitle F—Other Matters**

20 **SEC. 7601. FOUNDATION FOR FOOD AND AGRICULTURE RE-**
 21 **SEARCH.**

22 Section 7601 of the Agricultural Act of 2014 (7 U.S.C.
 23 5939) is amended—

24 (1) in subsection (d)(1)—

25 (A) in subparagraph (B)—

1 (i) in clause (ii), by striking “of Agri-
 2 culture; and” and inserting a semicolon;
 3 and

4 (ii) by striking clause (iii); and

5 (B) in subparagraph (C), by striking “the
 6 roadmap for agricultural research, education,
 7 and extension authorized by section 7504 of the
 8 Food, Conservation, and Energy Act of 2008 (7
 9 U.S.C. 7614a)” and inserting “the national re-
 10 search policies and priorities set forth in section
 11 1402 of the National Agricultural Research, Ex-
 12 tension, and Teaching Policy Act of 1977 (7
 13 U.S.C. 3101)”;

14 (2) in subsection (e)(2)(C)(i)—

15 (A) in subclause (I), by striking “National
 16 Academy of Sciences” and inserting “National
 17 Agricultural Research, Extension, Education,
 18 and Economics Advisory Board established
 19 under section 1408 of the National Agricultural
 20 Research, Extension, and Teaching Policy Act of
 21 1977 (7 U.S.C. 3123)”;

22 (B) in subclause (II), by striking “indus-
 23 try” and inserting “national farm, producer, or
 24 research organizations”; and

25 (3) in subsection (f)(3)(B)(i)—

1 (A) in subclause (I)—

2 (i) in the matter preceding item (aa),
3 by striking “and post online” and inserting
4 “online and submit to the Committee on
5 Agriculture of the House of Representatives
6 and the Committee on Agriculture, Nutri-
7 tion, and Forestry of the Senate”;

8 (ii) in item (bb), by striking “and” at
9 the end;

10 (iii) in item (cc), by striking the pe-
11 riod at the end and inserting a semicolon;
12 and

13 (iv) by adding at the end the following:

14 “(dd) the source and a de-
15 scription of all gifts to the Foun-
16 dation of real or personal prop-
17 erty;

18 “(ee) the source and amount
19 of each gift to the Foundation of
20 money, including a specification
21 of any restrictions on the purposes
22 for which a gift to the Foundation
23 may be used;

24 “(ff) the source and amount
25 of any Federal or State grant,

1 *contract, or cooperative agreement*
 2 *awarded to the Foundation;*

3 “*(gg) an accounting of the*
 4 *use of funds made available under*
 5 *subsection (g)(1);*

6 “*(hh) a description of the*
 7 *Foundation’s outreach activities*
 8 *to agricultural stakeholders and*
 9 *potential research partners; and*

10 “*(ii) a description of the*
 11 *Foundation’s consultation process*
 12 *with the Department under sub-*
 13 *section (d)(1)(B).’;*

14 *(B) by striking subclauses (II) and (III);*

15 *and*

16 *(C) by redesignating subclause (IV) as sub-*
 17 *clause (II).*

18 **SEC. 7602. AGRICULTURE INNOVATION CENTER DEM-**
 19 **ONSTRATION PROGRAM.**

20 *Section 6402 of the Farm Security and Rural Invest-*
 21 *ment Act of 2002 (7 U.S.C. 1632b) is amended—*

22 *(1) in subsection (d)—*

23 *(A) in paragraph (2)—*

24 *(i) by striking “Each Agriculture In-*
 25 *novation Center” and inserting “Subject to*

1 paragraph (3), each Agriculture Innovation
 2 Center”; and

3 (ii) by striking “following:” and in-
 4 serting “following:”; and

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

6 “(3) **WAIVER.**—The Secretary may waive the re-
 7 quirement described in paragraph (2) with respect to
 8 an eligible entity if the Secretary determines that the
 9 eligible entity has a board of directors adequate for
 10 the purpose of carrying out this section.”; and

11 (2) in subsection (g), by striking “2023” and in-
 12 serting “2031”.

13 **SEC. 7603. LIVESTOCK INSECTS LABORATORY.**

14 Public Law 100–208 (101 Stat. 1439) is amended by
 15 striking “Knipling-Bushland Research Laboratory” each
 16 place it appears and inserting “Knipling-Bushland Re-
 17 search Center”.

18 **SEC. 7604. U.S. ABIT MASSEY NATIONAL POULTRY RE-**
 19 **SEARCH CENTER.**

20 (a) **DESIGNATION.**—The U.S. National Poultry Re-
 21 search Center of the Department of Agriculture located in
 22 Athens, Georgia shall be known and designated as the “U.S.
 23 Abit Massey National Poultry Research Center”.

24 (b) **REFERENCES.**—Any reference in a law, map, regu-
 25 lation, document, paper, or other record of the United

1 *States to the facility referred to in subsection (a) shall be*
 2 *deemed to be a reference to the “U.S. Abit Massey National*
 3 *Poultry Research Center”.*

4 **SEC. 7605. HATCH ACT OF 1887.**

5 *Section 5 of the Hatch Act of 1887 (7 U.S.C. 361e)*
 6 *is amended—*

7 *(1) in the second sentence—*

8 *(A) by striking “known as a director” and*
 9 *inserting “known as an experiment station di-*
 10 *rector”; and*

11 *(B) by striking “or other officer appointed*
 12 *by the government board of the station”;*

13 *(2) in the third sentence, by striking “or other*
 14 *officer”; and*

15 *(3) in the fourth sentence, by striking “the au-*
 16 *thorized receiving officer” and inserting “the experi-*
 17 *ment station director”.*

18 **SEC. 7606. COMMISSION ON NATIONAL AGRICULTURAL STA-**
 19 **TISTICS SERVICE MODERNIZATION.**

20 *(a) ESTABLISHMENT.—There is established a commis-*
 21 *sion to be known as the Commission on National Agricul-*
 22 *tural Statistics Service Modernization (referred to in this*
 23 *section as the “Commission”).*

1 (b) *STUDY.*—*The Commission shall conduct a study of*
2 *the National Agricultural Statistics Service and provide*
3 *recommendations on—*

4 (1) *how data collection can be modernized and*
5 *streamlined to—*

6 (A) *improve the quality of statistics re-*
7 *ported;*

8 (B) *account for differences of national, re-*
9 *gional, and local production;*

10 (C) *accelerate adoption of new and innova-*
11 *tive technologies to reduce the number of surveys*
12 *needed;*

13 (D) *improve producer response rates in sta-*
14 *tistical surveys and identifying ways to reduce*
15 *survey fatigue;*

16 (E) *increase transparency and confidence*
17 *in statistical reports through improved collabora-*
18 *tion with agricultural stakeholders;*

19 (F) *use more real-time statistical and envi-*
20 *ronmental data to complement existing survey-*
21 *based data and reporting; and*

22 (G) *improve collection and generation of*
23 *timely data on the specialty crop industry; and*

24 (2) *how the recommendations under paragraph*
25 *(1) with respect to modernizing and streamlining*

1 *data collection can be implemented and the estimated*
2 *costs of such implementation.*

3 (c) *MEMBERSHIP.*—

4 (1) *COMPOSITION.*—*The Commission shall be*
5 *composed of 11 members, as follows:*

6 (A) *The Administrator of the National Ag-*
7 *ricultural Statistics Service.*

8 (B) *The Administrator of the Economic Re-*
9 *search Service.*

10 (C) *The Chief Economist of the Department.*

11 (D) *The Chair of the World Agricultural*
12 *Outlook Board of the Department.*

13 (E) *A representative from the Bureau of*
14 *Labor Statistics.*

15 (F) *3 members appointed by the Committee*
16 *on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry of the*
17 *Senate, of which—*

18 (i) *1 shall be appointed by the chair of*
19 *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 (G) 3 members appointed by the Committee
2 on Agriculture of the House of Representatives,
3 of which—

4 (i) 1 shall be appointed by the chair of
5 the Committee;

6 (ii) 1 shall be appointed by the rank-
7 ing member of the Committee; and

8 (iii) 1 shall be appointed jointly by the
9 chair and ranking member of the Com-
10 mittee.

11 (2) *DATE OF APPOINTMENTS.*—The appointment
12 of all members of the Commission shall be made not
13 later than 60 days after the date of enactment of this
14 Act.

15 (3) *TERM; VACANCIES.*—

16 (A) *TERM.*—A member shall be appointed
17 for the life of the Commission.

18 (B) *VACANCIES.*—A vacancy on the Com-
19 mission—

20 (i) shall not affect the powers of the
21 Commission; and

22 (ii) shall be filled in the same manner
23 as the original appointment was made.

24 (4) *INITIAL MEETING.*—Not later than 60 days
25 after the date on which all members of the Commis-

1 *sion have been appointed, the Commission shall hold*
2 *the initial meeting of the Commission.*

3 (d) *QUORUM.*—*A majority of the members of the Com-*
4 *mission shall constitute a quorum for the transaction of*
5 *business, but a lesser number of members may hold hear-*
6 *ings.*

7 (e) *CHAIR.*—*The Chair of the Commission shall be se-*
8 *lected by a majority of the members of the Commission.*

9 (f) *REPORT.*—*Not later than 3 years after the date of*
10 *enactment of this Act, the Commission shall submit to the*
11 *President, the Committee on Agriculture of the House of*
12 *Representatives, and the Committee on Agriculture, Nutri-*
13 *tion, and Forestry of the Senate a report containing the*
14 *results of the study required by subsection (b), including—*

15 (1) *an inventory of surveys conducted by the*
16 *Commission, and the frequency with which they are*
17 *conducted; and*

18 (2) *such recommendations for administrative,*
19 *regulatory, and legislative changes as the Commission*
20 *considers appropriate.*

21 (g) *HEARINGS.*—*The Commission shall hold such hear-*
22 *ings, meet and act at such times and places, take such testi-*
23 *mony, and receive such evidence as the Commission con-*
24 *siders advisable to carry out this section.*

1 (h) *STAKEHOLDER ENGAGEMENT.*—*The Commission*
2 *shall establish a process to collect feedback from agricultural*
3 *stakeholders to inform the results of the study required*
4 *under subsection (b) and the report required under sub-*
5 *section (f).*

6 (i) *INFORMATION FROM FEDERAL AGENCIES.*—*The*
7 *Commission may secure directly from a Federal agency*
8 *such information as the Commission considers necessary to*
9 *carry out this section. On request of the Chairperson of the*
10 *Commission, the head of the agency shall provide the infor-*
11 *mation to the Commission.*

12 (j) *POSTAL SERVICES.*—*The Commission may use the*
13 *United States mail in the same manner and under the same*
14 *conditions as other agencies of the Federal Government.*

15 (k) *ASSISTANCE FROM SECRETARY.*—*The Secretary*
16 *shall provide to the Commission appropriate office space*
17 *and such reasonable administrative and support services as*
18 *the Commission may request.*

19 (l) *COMPENSATION OF MEMBERS.*—

20 (1) *NON-FEDERAL EMPLOYEES.*—*A member of*
21 *the Commission who is not an officer or employee of*
22 *the Federal Government shall be compensated at a*
23 *rate equal to the daily equivalent of the annual rate*
24 *of basic pay prescribed for level IV of the Executive*
25 *Schedule under section 5315 of title 5, United States*

1 *Code, for each day (including travel time) during*
2 *which the member is engaged in the performance of*
3 *the duties of the Commission.*

4 (2) *FEDERAL EMPLOYEES.*—*A member of the*
5 *Commission who is an officer or employee of the Fed-*
6 *eral Government shall serve without compensation in*
7 *addition to the compensation received for the services*
8 *of the member as an officer or employee of the Federal*
9 *Government.*

10 (3) *TRAVEL EXPENSES.*—*A member of the Com-*
11 *mission shall be allowed travel expenses, including*
12 *per diem in lieu of subsistence, at rates authorized for*
13 *an employee of an agency under subchapter I of chap-*
14 *ter 57 of title 5, United States Code, while away from*
15 *the home or regular place of business of the member*
16 *in the performance of the duties of the Commission.*

17 (m) *FEDERAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE ACT.*—*Sections*
18 *1009 and 1013 of title 5, United States Code, shall not*
19 *apply to the Commission or any proceeding of the Commis-*
20 *sion.*

21 (n) *TERMINATION.*—*The Commission shall terminate*
22 *on September 30, 2031.*

23 (o) *FUNDING.*—*Of the funds of the Commodity Credit*
24 *Corporation, the Secretary shall use to carry out this sec-*

1 tion \$1,000,000 for fiscal year 2026, to remain available
 2 until expended.

3 **SEC. 7607. RESTORATION OF 4-H NAME AND EMBLEM AU-**
 4 **THORITY.**

5 (a) *DEFINITIONS.—In this section:*

6 (1) *4-H CLUB.—*

7 (A) *IN GENERAL.—The term “4-H club”*
 8 *means a 4-H club recognized under the 4-H*
 9 *Program.*

10 (B) *INCLUSION.—The term “4-H club” in-*
 11 *cludes an authorized agent of a 4-H club.*

12 (2) *4-H EMBLEM OR NAME.—The term “4-H*
 13 *emblem or name” means the 4-H sign or emblem,*
 14 *consisting of a green four-leaf clover with stem and*
 15 *the letter “H” in white or gold on each leaflet, and*
 16 *the words “4-H”, “4-H Club”, and “4-H Clubs”,*
 17 *used to identify and distinguish the 4-H Program*
 18 *and the activities, clubs, members, goods, and services*
 19 *of the 4-H Program.*

20 (3) *4-H PROGRAM.—The term “4-H Pro-*
 21 *gram”—*

22 (A) *IN GENERAL.—The term “4-H Pro-*
 23 *gram” means the youth development program of*
 24 *the land-grant colleges or universities, the Coop-*

1 *erative Extension System (as defined by the Sec-*
 2 *retary), and the Department.*

3 (B) *INCLUSION.—The term “4-H Program”*
 4 *includes an authorized agent of the 4-H Pro-*
 5 *gram.*

6 (4) *LAND-GRANT COLLEGE OR UNIVERSITY.—The*
 7 *term “land-grant college or university”—*

8 (A) *IN GENERAL.—The term “land-grant*
 9 *college or university” means an 1862 Institution,*
 10 *an 1890 Institution, or a 1994 Institution (as*
 11 *those terms are defined in section 2 of the Agri-*
 12 *cultural Research, Extension, and Education Re-*
 13 *form Act of 1998 (7 U.S.C. 7601)).*

14 (B) *INCLUSION.—The term “land-grant col-*
 15 *lege or university” includes an authorized agent*
 16 *of a land-grant college or university.*

17 (b) *EFFECT OF REPEAL; RATIFICATION.—*

18 (1) *CIVIL ACTS.—Any civil act or action of the*
 19 *4-H Program, a 4-H club, the Secretary, or a land-*
 20 *grant college or university taken with respect to the*
 21 *use of the 4-H emblem or name, or the recognition*
 22 *of any 4-H club, during the period beginning on May*
 23 *8, 1914, and ending on the date of enactment of this*
 24 *Act, is deemed to be of legal force and effect and rati-*
 25 *fied as if section 1002(3) of the Clean Up the Code*

1 *Act of 2019 (title X of division O of Public Law 116–*
 2 *260; 134 Stat. 2155) had not been enacted into law.*

3 (2) *EFFECT ON CRIMINAL LAW.*—*Nothing in this*
 4 *subsection affects the effect on criminal law of the re-*
 5 *peal made by section 1002(3) of the Clean Up the*
 6 *Code Act of 2019 (title X of division O of Public Law*
 7 *116–260; 134 Stat. 2155).*

8 (c) *AUTHORIZATIONS FOR USE OF 4–H EMBLEM OR*
 9 *NAME; FEES; DEPOSITS.*—

10 (1) *AUTHORIZATION.*—*The Secretary may—*

11 (A) *use the 4–H emblem or name; and*

12 (B) *grant authorizations to use the 4–H*
 13 *emblem or name, as provided by regulations*
 14 *issued by the Secretary.*

15 (2) *FEES.*—*An authorization under paragraph*
 16 *(1) may be granted—*

17 (A) *without a fee or other consideration; or*

18 (B) *for a fee or other consideration.*

19 (3) *USE OF FEES.*—*The Secretary shall deposit*
 20 *into a special account any fees collected under para-*
 21 *graph (2)(B), the amounts in which shall remain*
 22 *available to the Secretary until expended, without*
 23 *further appropriation, for furthering the 4–H Pro-*
 24 *gram.*

1 (d) *UNAUTHORIZED USE OF 4-H EMBLEM OR*
2 *NAME.*—

3 (1) *PROHIBITION.*—Whoever, other than the 4-H
4 *Program, a 4-H club, the Department, a land-grant*
5 *college or university, and those authorized by them,*
6 *uses in commerce the 4-H emblem or name or any*
7 *reproduction, counterfeit, copy, or colorable imitation*
8 *of the 4-H emblem or name to indicate membership*
9 *in an association, organization, or other collective*
10 *group, or in connection with the sale, offering for sale,*
11 *distribution, or advertising of goods or services, on or*
12 *in connection with which that use is likely to cause*
13 *confusion, to cause mistake, or to deceive as to mem-*
14 *bership or participation in, an affiliation, connection,*
15 *or association with, or authorization or approval by,*
16 *a 4-H club or the 4-H Program, shall be subject to*
17 *the civil action under paragraph (2).*

18 (2) *CIVIL ACTION.*—The Attorney General, on be-
19 *half of the Secretary, or contract counsel procured by*
20 *the Secretary, may bring a civil action in an appro-*
21 *priate district court of the United States against who-*
22 *ever engages in any of the prohibited acts described*
23 *in paragraph (1) for the remedies provided in the Act*
24 *of July 5, 1946 (commonly known as the “Trademark*

1 *Act of 1946” or the “Lanham Act”*) (15 U.S.C. 1051
2 *et seq.*).

3 *(e) SAVINGS CLAUSES.—*

4 *(1) PRIOR AUTHORIZED USES.—Nothing in this*
5 *section makes unlawful the use of any emblem, name,*
6 *sign, symbol, insignia, or words that was lawful on*
7 *December 26, 2020.*

8 *(2) DELEGATION.—Nothing in this section limits*
9 *the authority of the Secretary to delegate the author-*
10 *ity of the Secretary as otherwise authorized by law.*

11 **SEC. 7608. UNDER SECRETARY OF AGRICULTURE FOR RE-**
12 **SEARCH, EDUCATION, AND ECONOMICS.**

13 *Section 251 of the Department of Agriculture Reorga-*
14 *nization Act of 1994 (7 U.S.C. 6971) is amended—*

15 *(1) in subsection (c)—*

16 *(A) in paragraph (1), by striking “and” at*
17 *the end;*

18 *(B) in paragraph (2), by striking the period*
19 *at the end and inserting “; and”; and*

20 *(C) by adding at the end the following:*

21 *“(3) be responsible for the coordination of re-*
22 *search activities with other Federal agencies.”;*

23 *(2) in subsection (e)(3)(C), by striking “not less*
24 *than 3 years” and inserting “not less than 1 year”;*
25 *and*

1 (3) *by adding at the end the following:*

2 “(h) *INTERAGENCY COORDINATION.*—

3 “(1) *IN GENERAL.*—*The Secretary shall carry*
4 *out cross-cutting and collaborative research and devel-*
5 *opment activities focused on the joint advancement of*
6 *the mission requirements and priorities of the Depart-*
7 *ment of Agriculture and other Federal agencies.*

8 “(2) *MEMORANDA OF UNDERSTANDING.*—

9 “(A) *DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY.*—

10 “(i) *IN GENERAL.*—*Not later than 1*
11 *year after the date of enactment of the*
12 *Farm, Food, and National Security Act of*
13 *2026, the Secretary and the Secretary of*
14 *Energy(referred to in this subparagraph as*
15 *the ‘Secretaries’) shall coordinate the activi-*
16 *ties under paragraph (1) through the estab-*
17 *lishment of memoranda of understanding or*
18 *other appropriate interagency agreements.*
19 *Such a memorandum or such an agreement*
20 *shall require the use of a competitive, merit-*
21 *reviewed process as appropriate. Activities*
22 *may include components proposed by Fed-*
23 *eral agencies, National Laboratories, insti-*
24 *tutions of higher education, nonprofit orga-*
25 *nizations, and other entities deemed appro-*

1 *priate under the memorandum or agree-*
2 *ment.*

3 “(ii) *COORDINATION.*—*In carrying out*
4 *the activities under paragraph (1), the Sec-*
5 *retaries may—*

6 “(I) *conduct collaborative research*
7 *in a variety of focus areas;*

8 “(II) *develop methods to accom-*
9 *modate large voluntary standardized*
10 *and integrated data sets on agricul-*
11 *tural, environmental, supply chain,*
12 *and economic information with vari-*
13 *able accuracy and scale;*

14 “(III) *promote collaboration and*
15 *open community-based development be-*
16 *tween—*

17 “(aa) *Federal agencies;*

18 “(bb) *National Laboratories;*

19 “(cc) *institutions of higher*
20 *education (as defined in section*
21 *101 of the Higher Education Act*
22 *of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 1001));*

23 “(dd) *nonprofit institutions;*

24 “(ee) *industry partners; and*

1 “(ff) other entities deemed
2 appropriate under the memo-
3 randum or agreement involved;

4 “(IV) support research infrastruc-
5 ture, including new facilities and
6 equipment, and workforce development
7 as the Secretaries determine necessary;

8 “(V) conduct collaborative re-
9 search, development, and demonstra-
10 tion of methods and technologies; and

11 “(VI) facilitate relations between
12 public and private entities to carry on
13 the activities of this clause upon the
14 termination of any agreement estab-
15 lished under this subparagraph.

16 “(iii) AGREEMENTS.—In carrying out
17 the activities under this subparagraph, the
18 Secretaries are authorized to—

19 “(I) carry out reimbursable agree-
20 ments between the Department of Agri-
21 culture, the Department of Defense,
22 and other entities in order to maximize
23 the effectiveness of research and devel-
24 opment; and

1 “(II) collaborate with other Fed-
2 eral agencies, as appropriate.

3 “(B) NATIONAL SCIENCE FOUNDATION.—

4 “(i) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 1
5 year after the date of enactment of the
6 Farm, Food, and National Security Act of
7 2026, the Secretary and the Director of the
8 National Science Foundation (referred to in
9 this subparagraph as the “Director”) shall
10 coordinate the activities under paragraph
11 (1) through the establishment of memoranda
12 of understanding or other appropriate
13 interagency agreements. Such a memo-
14 randum or such an agreement shall require
15 the use of a competitive, merit-reviewed
16 process as appropriate. Activities may in-
17 clude components proposed by Federal agen-
18 cies, institutions of higher education, non-
19 profit organizations, and other entities
20 deemed appropriate under the memo-
21 randum or agreement.

22 “(ii) COORDINATION.—In carrying out
23 the activities under paragraph (1), the Sec-
24 retary and the Director may—

1 “(I) conduct collaborative research
2 in a variety of focus areas;

3 “(II) promote collaboration and
4 open, community-based development
5 between—

6 “(aa) Federal agencies;

7 “(bb) institutions of higher
8 education;

9 “(cc) community colleges (as
10 defined in section 3167B of the
11 Energy Science Education En-
12 hancement Act (42 U.S.C. 7381c-
13 3));

14 “(dd) area career and tech-
15 nical education schools (as defined
16 in section 3 of the Carl D. Perkins
17 Career and Technical Education
18 Act of 2006 (20 U.S.C. 2302));

19 “(ee) nonprofit institutions;

20 “(ff) industry partners; and

21 “(gg) other entities deemed
22 appropriate under the memo-
23 randum or agreement;

24 “(III) support research infrastruc-
25 ture, including new facilities, equip-

1 *ment and broadband deployment, as*
2 *the Secretary and Director determine*
3 *necessary;*

4 “(IV) *develop translational tech-*
5 *nologies for commercial utilization;*

6 “(V) *organize education, training,*
7 *and research initiatives relating to*
8 *STEM education and workforce devel-*
9 *opment, which may include—*

10 “(aa) *activities supported by*
11 *the Cooperative Extension System;*

12 “(bb) *industrial partnership*
13 *programs;*

14 “(cc) *workshops for educating*
15 *kindergarten through grade 12*
16 *teachers on how to increase agri-*
17 *cultural literacy;*

18 “(dd) *development of agricul-*
19 *tural-based science curricula for*
20 *kindergarten through grade 12*
21 *students; and*

22 “(ee) *distribution of resources*
23 *for educators to implement cur-*
24 *ricula; 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 agree-*
12 *ments between the Department of Agri-*
13 *culture, the National Science Founda-*
14 *tion, and other entities in order to*
15 *maximize the effectiveness of research*
16 *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 as*
25 *the ‘Secretaries’) shall coordinate the activi-*

1 *ties under paragraph (1) through the estab-*
2 *lishment of memoranda of understanding or*
3 *other appropriate interagency agreements.*
4 *Such a memorandum or such an agreement*
5 *shall require the use of a competitive, merit-*
6 *reviewed process as appropriate. Activities*
7 *may include components proposed by Fed-*
8 *eral agencies, National Laboratories, insti-*
9 *tutions of higher education, nonprofit orga-*
10 *nizations, industry, and other entities*
11 *deemed appropriate under the memo-*
12 *randum or agreement.*

13 “(ii) *COORDINATION.*—*In carrying out*
14 *the activities under paragraph (1), the Sec-*
15 *retaries may—*

16 *“(I) conduct collaborative research*
17 *in a variety of focus areas, including*
18 *the areas specified in clause (iv);*

19 *“(II) develop methods to accom-*
20 *modate large voluntary standardized*
21 *and integrated data sets on agricul-*
22 *tural, environmental, supply chain,*
23 *and economic information with vari-*
24 *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 be-
11 tween—

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

1 *equipment, and workforce development*
2 *as the Secretaries determine necessary;*

3 “(VI) *conduct collaborative re-*
4 *search, development, and demonstra-*
5 *tion of methods and technologies; and*

6 “(VII) *facilitate relations between*
7 *public and private entities to carry on*
8 *the activities of this clause upon the*
9 *termination of any agreement estab-*
10 *lished under this subparagraph.*

11 “(iii) *AGREEMENTS.—In carrying out*
12 *the activities under this subparagraph, the*
13 *Secretaries are authorized to—*

14 “(I) *carry out reimbursable agree-*
15 *ments between the Department of Agri-*
16 *culture, the Department of Defense,*
17 *and other entities in order to maximize*
18 *the effectiveness of research and devel-*
19 *opment; and*

20 “(II) *collaborate with other Fed-*
21 *eral agencies, as appropriate.*

22 “(iv) *FOCUS AREAS DESCRIBED.—The*
23 *focus areas described in this clause are the*
24 *following:*

1 “(I) *Management strategies for*
2 *water, energy, soil, forests, and food to*
3 *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 perfluoroalkyl*
17 *and polyfluoroalkyl substances (com-*
18 *monly referred to as PFAS), released*
19 *through activities carried out by the*
20 *Department of Defense, to farmland*
21 *contiguous to military bases.*

22 “(D) *OTHER FEDERAL AGENCIES.—In ad-*
23 *dition to the memoranda of understanding with*
24 *Federal agencies described in subparagraphs (A)*
25 *and (B), the Secretary shall, as appropriate,*

1 *enter into memoranda of understanding with the*
2 *heads of other Federal agencies to coordinate the*
3 *activities under paragraph (1).*

4 “(3) *REPORT.—Not later than two years after*
5 *the date of enactment of the Farm, Food, and Na-*
6 *tional Security Act of 2026, the Secretary shall sub-*
7 *mit to the appropriate congressional committees a re-*
8 *port detailing—*

9 “(A) *interagency coordination between each*
10 *Federal agency involved in the research and de-*
11 *velopment activities carried out under this sec-*
12 *tion;*

13 “(B) *potential opportunities to expand the*
14 *technical capabilities of each Federal agency in-*
15 *volved in the research and development activities*
16 *carried out under this section;*

17 “(C) *collaborative research achievements;*

18 “(D) *areas of future mutually beneficial*
19 *successes;*

20 “(E) *continuation of coordination activities*
21 *between each Federal agency involved in the re-*
22 *search and development activities carried out*
23 *under this section;*

1 “(F) potential opportunities for additional
2 memoranda of understanding with other Federal
3 agencies; and

4 “(G) any additional information as the
5 Secretary deems appropriate.

6 “(4) *RESEARCH SECURITY*.—The activities au-
7 thorized under this section shall be applied in a man-
8 ner consistent with subtitle D of title VI of the Re-
9 search and Development, Competition, and Innova-
10 tion Act (enacted as division B of the CHIPS Act of
11 2022 (Public Law 117–167; 42 U.S.C. 19231 et
12 seq.)).”.

13 **SEC. 7609. AGRICULTURAL INNOVATION CORPS.**

14 (a) *IN GENERAL*.—The Secretary shall establish an
15 Agricultural Innovation Corps (referred to in this section
16 as the “Ag I–Corps”) to promote technology transfer and
17 increase the economic impact of federally-funded research
18 through—

19 (1) supporting agricultural researchers, students,
20 and institutions of higher education (as defined in
21 section 101 of the Higher Education Act of 1965 (20
22 U.S.C. 1001)), in exploring the commercial potential
23 of technologies developed in laboratories through a
24 standardized entrepreneurial training program; and

1 (2) *bringing together Agriculture Research Serv-*
2 *ice researchers and institutions of higher education*
3 *within a distinct geographical region to collaborate*
4 *and deliver a standardized entrepreneurial training*
5 *curriculum.*

6 (b) *ELIGIBILITY.*—*Agricultural researchers, students,*
7 *and institutions of higher education receiving funds from*
8 *the Department shall be eligible to participate in Ag I–*
9 *Corps.*

10 (c) *FOLLOW-ON GRANTS.*—

11 (1) *IN GENERAL.*—*The Secretary may make*
12 *funds available from the Small Business Innovation*
13 *Research Program for competitive grants to Ag I–*
14 *Corps participants to help support—*

15 (A) *prototype or proof-of-concept develop-*
16 *ment; and*

17 (B) *such activities as the Secretary con-*
18 *siders necessary to build local, regional, and na-*
19 *tional infrastructure for agricultural entrepre-*
20 *neurship.*

21 (2) *LIMITATION.*—*Grants under paragraph (1)*
22 *shall be limited to participants in Ag I–Corps with*
23 *innovations that, because of the early stage of develop-*
24 *ment of such innovations, are not eligible to partici-*
25 *pate in a Small Business Innovation Research Pro-*

1 *gram or Small Business Technology Transfer Pro-*
 2 *gram (as defined in section 9 of the Small Business*
 3 *Act (15 U.S.C. 638)).*

4 *(d) PARTNERSHIPS.—The Secretary may engage in*
 5 *partnerships with other Federal agencies, State and local*
 6 *governments, economic development organizations, and*
 7 *nonprofit organizations to provide access to Ag I–Corps to*
 8 *support entrepreneurship education and training for agri-*
 9 *cultural researchers, students, and institutions of higher*
 10 *education under this section.*

11 *(e) REPORT.—Not later than September 30, 2027, and*
 12 *not less frequently than once every other year, the Secretary*
 13 *shall submit to the Committee on Agriculture of the House*
 14 *of Representatives and the Committee on Agriculture, Nu-*
 15 *trition, and Forestry of the Senate a report on the efficacy*
 16 *of Ag I–Corps, including metrics on the effectiveness of the*
 17 *program.*

18 **SEC. 7610. STUDY ON TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE WITH RE-**
 19 **SPECT TO TRANSFER OF AGRICULTURAL**
 20 **LAND AND ASSETS.**

21 *(a) IN GENERAL.—Not later than September 30, 2026,*
 22 *the Secretary of Agriculture shall conduct a study on, and*
 23 *submit to Congress a report on, ways to increase opportuni-*
 24 *ties for 1890 Institutions (as defined in section 2 of the*
 25 *Agricultural Research, Extension, and Education Reform*

1 *Act of 1998 (7 U.S.C. 7601)) to conduct educational pro-*
2 *grams and provide technical assistance with respect to*
3 *issues relating to the transfers of agricultural land and as-*
4 *sets, including heirs property, to the next generation of*
5 *farmers and ranchers.*

6 **(b) HEIRS PROPERTY DEFINED.**—*In this section, the*
7 *term “heirs property” means real property held in tenancy*
8 *in common which, as of the date on which a partition ac-*
9 *tion is filed, satisfies all of the following requirements:*

10 *(1) There is no recorded agreement binding all*
11 *the co-tenants which governs the partition of the*
12 *property.*

13 *(2) One or more of the co-tenants acquired title*
14 *from a relative, whether living or deceased.*

15 *(3) Any of the following applies:*

16 *(A) 20 percent or more of the interests are*
17 *held by co-tenants who are relatives.*

18 *(B) 20 percent or more of the interests are*
19 *held by an individual who acquired title from a*
20 *relative, whether living or deceased.*

21 *(C) 20 percent or more of the co-tenants are*
22 *relatives.*

1 **TITLE VIII—FORESTRY**
 2 **Subtitle A—Cooperative Forestry**
 3 **Assistance Act of 1978**

4 **SEC. 8101. SUPPORT FOR STATE ASSESSMENTS AND STRAT-**
 5 **EGIES FOR FOREST RESOURCES.**

6 *Section 2A(f) of the Cooperative Forestry Assistance*
 7 *Act of 1978 (16 U.S.C. 2101a(f)) is amended—*

8 *(1) in paragraph (1), by striking “2023” and in-*
 9 *serting “2031”; and*

10 *(2) in paragraph (2), by striking “to carry out*
 11 *this section,” and all that follows through the period*
 12 *at the end and inserting the following: “the Secretary*
 13 *may use any other funds made available under this*
 14 *Act to develop and implement the State-wide assess-*
 15 *ment and State-wide strategy required by subsection*
 16 *(a), except that the total amount of combined funding*
 17 *used to develop and implement such assessment and*
 18 *strategy may not exceed \$10,000,000 in any fiscal*
 19 *year.”.*

20 **SEC. 8102. FOREST LEGACY PROGRAM TECHNICAL CORREC-**
 21 **TION.**

22 *Section 7(l)(3) of the Cooperative Forestry Assistance*
 23 *Act of 1978 (16 U.S.C. 2103c(l)(3)) is amended—*

24 *(1) in subparagraph (A), by striking “the State*
 25 *of Vermont” and inserting “a State”; and*

1 (2) in subparagraph (B)(ii), in the matter pre-
 2 ceding subclause (I), by striking “of Vermont” and
 3 inserting “involved”.

4 **SEC. 8103. STATE AND PRIVATE FOREST LANDSCAPE-SCALE**
 5 **RESTORATION PROGRAM.**

6 Section 13A(l)(3) of the Cooperative Forestry Assist-
 7 ance Act of 1978 (16 U.S.C. 2109a(l)(3)) is amended by
 8 striking “2023” and inserting “2031”.

9 **SEC. 8104. RURAL FIRE PREVENTION AND CONTROL.**

10 Section 10 of the Cooperative Forestry Assistance Act
 11 of 1978 (16 U.S.C. 2106) is amended—

12 (1) in subsection (e)(2)(B), by striking “in kind
 13 contributions.” and inserting “in-kind contributions.
 14 The Secretary may waive the Federal share require-
 15 ments of this subparagraph with respect to any such
 16 funds made available to rural volunteer fire depart-
 17 ments.”; and

18 (2) in subsection (g)(1)—

19 (A) by striking “any organized, not for
 20 profit, fire protection organization” and insert-
 21 ing “any fire protection organization that is or-
 22 ganized as a not for profit organization or by
 23 the authority of a local government and”;

24 (B) by striking “10,000” and inserting
 25 “15,000”; and

1 *(C) by striking “80” and inserting “70”.*

2 ***Subtitle B—Healthy Forests***
 3 ***Restoration Act of 2003***

4 ***SEC. 8201. PROMOTING CROSS-BOUNDARY WILDFIRE MITI-***
 5 ***GATION.***

6 *Section 103(e)(5) of the Healthy Forests Restoration*
 7 *Act of 2003 (16 U.S.C. 6513(e)(5)) is amended by striking*
 8 *“2023” and inserting “2031”.*

9 ***SEC. 8202. AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS FOR HAZ-***
 10 ***ARDOUS FUEL REDUCTION ON FEDERAL***
 11 ***LAND.***

12 *Section 108 of the Healthy Forests Restoration Act of*
 13 *2003 (16 U.S.C. 6518) is amended by striking “2023” and*
 14 *inserting “2031”.*

15 ***SEC. 8203. WATER SOURCE PROTECTION PROGRAM.***

16 *Section 303 of the Healthy Forests Restoration Act of*
 17 *2003 (16 U.S.C. 6542) is amended—*

18 *(1) in subsection (a)—*

19 *(A) by redesignating paragraphs (1)*
 20 *through (7) as paragraphs (2) through (8), re-*
 21 *spectively;*

22 *(B) by inserting before paragraph (2), as so*
 23 *redesignated, the following:*

24 *“(1) ADJACENT LAND.—The term ‘adjacent land’*
 25 *means non-Federal land, including State, local, and*

1 *private land, that is adjacent to, and within the same*
 2 *watershed as, National Forest System land on which*
 3 *a watershed protection and restoration project is car-*
 4 *ried out under this section.”; and*

5 *(C) in paragraph (2), as so redesignated—*

6 *(i) by redesignating subparagraphs (G)*
 7 *and (H) as subparagraphs (K) and (L), re-*
 8 *spectively; and*

9 *(ii) by inserting after subparagraph*
 10 *(F) the following:*

11 *“(G) an acequia association;*

12 *“(H) a local, regional, or other public entity*
 13 *that manages stormwater or wastewater re-*
 14 *sources or other related water infrastructure;*

15 *“(I) a land-grant mercedes;*

16 *“(J) a local, regional, or other private enti-*
 17 *ty that has water delivery authority;”;*

18 *(2) in subsection (b)—*

19 *(A) by striking “The Secretary shall” and*
 20 *inserting the following:*

21 *“(1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall”; and*

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

23 *“(2) REQUIREMENTS.—A watershed protection*
 24 *and restoration project under the Program shall be*
 25 *designed to—*

1 “(A) protect and restore watershed health,
2 water supply and quality, a municipal or agri-
3 cultural water supply system, and water-related
4 infrastructure;

5 “(B) protect and restore forest health from
6 insect infestation and disease or wildfire; or

7 “(C) advance any combination of the pur-
8 poses described in subparagraphs (A) and (B).

9 “(3) *PRIORITIES.*—In selecting watershed protec-
10 tion and restoration projects under the Program, the
11 Secretary shall give priority to projects that—

12 “(A) provide risk management benefits asso-
13 ciated with drought; wildfire; post-wildfire con-
14 ditions; extreme weather; flooding; resilience to
15 climate change; and watershed and fire resil-
16 ience, including minimizing risks to watershed
17 health, water supply and quality, and water-re-
18 lated infrastructure, including municipal and
19 agricultural water supply systems;

20 “(B) support aquatic restoration and con-
21 servation efforts that complement existing or
22 planned forest restoration or wildfire risk reduc-
23 tion efforts; or

24 “(C) provide quantifiable benefits to water
25 supply or quality and include the use of nature-

1 *based solutions, such as restoring wetland and*
2 *riparian ecosystems.*

3 “(4) *CONDITIONS FOR PROJECTS ON ADJACENT*
4 *LAND.—*

5 “(A) *IN GENERAL.—No project or activity*
6 *may be carried out under this section on adja-*
7 *cent land unless the owner of the adjacent land*
8 *agrees in writing that the owner is a willing and*
9 *engaged partner in carrying out that project or*
10 *activity.*

11 “(B) *EFFECT.—Nothing in this section*
12 *shall be construed to authorize any change in—*

13 “(i) *the ownership of adjacent land on*
14 *which a project or activity is carried out*
15 *under this section; or*

16 “(ii) *the management of adjacent land*
17 *on which a project or activity is carried out*
18 *under this section, except during the car-*
19 *rying out of that project or activity.”;*

20 (3) *in subsection (c)—*

21 (A) *in paragraph (1), by striking “water-*
22 *sheds that provide water to the end water users”*
23 *and inserting “watersheds, and lands adjacent to*
24 *any such watershed, that provide water—*

1 “(A) to the end water users subject to the
2 agreement; or

3 “(B) for the benefit of another end water
4 user.”;

5 (B) in paragraph (2)—

6 (i) in subparagraph (C), by striking
7 “or” at the end;

8 (ii) by redesignating subparagraph (D)
9 as subparagraph (E); and

10 (iii) by inserting after subparagraph
11 (C) the following:

12 “(D) a good neighbor agreement entered
13 into under section 8206 of the Agricultural Act
14 of 2014 (16 U.S.C. 2113a); or”; and

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

16 “(3) COOPERATION WITH NON-FEDERAL PART-
17 NERS.—The Secretary shall cooperate with non-Fed-
18 eral partners in carrying out assessments, planning,
19 project design, and project implementation under this
20 section.”;

21 (4) in subsection (d)—

22 (A) by amending paragraph (2) to read as
23 follows:

24 “(2) REQUIREMENTS.—A water source manage-
25 ment plan shall be—

1 “(A) designed to protect and restore ecologi-
 2 cal integrity (as defined in section 219.19 of title
 3 36, Code of Federal Regulations (as in effect on
 4 the date of enactment of this subparagraph));

5 “(B) based on the best available scientific
 6 information; and

7 “(C) conducted in a manner consistent with
 8 the forest plan applicable to the National Forest
 9 System land on which the watershed protection
 10 and restoration project is carried out.”; and

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

12 “(4) *REDUCING REDUNDANCY.*—An existing wa-
 13 tershed plan, such as a watershed protection and res-
 14 toration action plan developed under section
 15 304(a)(3), or other applicable watershed planning
 16 documents as approved by the Secretary may be used
 17 as the basis for a water source management plan
 18 under this subsection.”;

19 (5) in subsection (e)(1), by striking “primary
 20 purpose of” and all that follows through the period at
 21 the end and inserting “primary purpose of advancing
 22 any of the purposes described in subsection (b)(2).”;

23 (6) in subsection (g), by amending paragraph
 24 (2) to read as follows:

25 “(2) *MATCHING FUNDS REQUIRED.*—

1 “(A) *IN GENERAL.*—Subject to subpara-
2 graph (B), the Secretary shall require the con-
3 tribution of funds or in-kind support from non-
4 Federal partners to be in an amount that is not
5 less than 50 percent of the amount of Federal
6 funds.

7 “(B) *WAIVER.*—The requirement in sub-
8 paragraph (A) may be waived at the discretion
9 of the Secretary.”; and
10 (7) in subsection (g)(4)—

11 (A) in subparagraph (B), by striking “2019
12 through 2023” and inserting “2027 through
13 2031”; and

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

15 “(D) *SET-ASIDE FOR PARTNER PARTICIPA-*
16 *TION IN PLANNING AND TECHNICAL ASSIST-*
17 *ANCE.*—Of the amounts made available under
18 subparagraph (B) to carry out this section for
19 each fiscal year, the Secretary may not use more
20 than 10 percent for non-Federal partner plan-
21 ning and technical assistance efforts in devel-
22 oping or implementing a water source manage-
23 ment plan under subsection (d).”.

1 **SEC. 8204. WATERSHED CONDITION FRAMEWORK TECH-**
 2 **NICAL CORRECTIONS.**

3 *Section 304(a) of the Healthy Forests Restoration Act*
 4 *of 2003 (16 U.S.C. 6543(a)) is amended in paragraphs (3)*
 5 *and (5) by striking “protection and”.*

6 **SEC. 8205. AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS TO COM-**
 7 **BAT INSECT INFESTATIONS AND RELATED**
 8 **DISEASES.**

9 *Section 406 of the Healthy Forests Restoration Act of*
 10 *2003 (16 U.S.C. 6556) is amended by striking “October 1,*
 11 *2023” and inserting “October 1, 2031”.*

12 **SEC. 8206. INSECT AND DISEASE INFESTATION.**

13 *Section 602(d)(2) of the Healthy Forests Restoration*
 14 *Act of 2003 (16 U.S.C. 6591a(d)(2)) is amended by striking*
 15 *“2023” and inserting “2031”.*

16 **SEC. 8207. STEWARDSHIP END RESULT CONTRACTING**
 17 **PROJECTS.**

18 *Section 604 of the Healthy Forests Restoration Act of*
 19 *2003 (16 U.S.C. 6591c) is amended—*

20 *(1) in subsection (b), by inserting “, including*
 21 *retaining and expanding existing forest products in-*
 22 *frastructure necessary to carry out an agreement or*
 23 *contract under this subsection” before the period at*
 24 *the end;*

25 *(2) in subsection (d)(3)(B), by striking “10*
 26 *years” and inserting “20 years”; and*

1 (3) in subsection (h), by adding at the end the
2 *following:*

3 “(4) *SPECIAL RULE FOR LONG-TERM STEWARD-*
4 *SHIP CONTRACTS.—*

5 “(A) *DEFINITION OF MULTIYEAR CON-*
6 *TRACT.—In this paragraph, the term ‘multiyear*
7 *contract’ means a contract entered into under*
8 *subsection (b) that—*

9 “(i) *has a term of at least 5 years; and*

10 “(ii) *is entered into on or after the*
11 *date of enactment of this paragraph.*

12 “(B) *SPECIAL RULE.—A multiyear contract*
13 *entered into under subsection (b) by the Chief or*
14 *the Director with an entity shall provide that, in*
15 *the case of cancellation or termination of the*
16 *multiyear contract by the Chief or the Director,*
17 *the Chief or the Director, as applicable, shall*
18 *provide to the entity a cancellation or termi-*
19 *nation payment equal to the lesser of—*

20 “(i) *an amount equal to 10 percent of*
21 *the multiyear contract; or*

22 “(ii) *the amount of unrecovered costs*
23 *that would have been recouped through am-*
24 *ortization over the full term of the contract*
25 *(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;

“(3) silvopasture;

1 “(4) forest farming and multistory cropping;
2 *and*

3 “(5) windbreaks, shelterbelts, hedgerows, and,
4 *where applicable, field borders, and living snow*
5 *fences.”;*

6 (4) *in subsection (b) (as so redesignated)—*

7 (A) *in the subsection heading, by striking*
8 *“SEMIARID” and inserting “NATIONAL”;*

9 (B) *by inserting “(referred to in this section*
10 *as the ‘Secretary’)” after “Secretary of Agri-*
11 *culture”;*

12 (C) *by striking “Semiarid Agroforestry Re-*
13 *search, Development, and Demonstration Center*
14 *(hereafter referred to in this section as the ‘Cen-*
15 *ter’)” and inserting “National Agroforestry Re-*
16 *search, Development, and Demonstration Cen-*
17 *ter”;* *and*

18 (D) *by striking “at the Center under sub-*
19 *section (b)” and inserting “under subsection*
20 *(d)”;*

21 (5) *by inserting after subsection (b) (as so red-*
22 *ignated) the following:*

23 “(c) *REGIONAL AGROFORESTRY CENTERS.—*

24 “(1) *ESTABLISHMENT.—The Secretary, acting*
25 *through the Chief of the Forest Service and in co-*

1 *operation with the Natural Resources Conservation*
2 *Service, shall, subject to the availability of appropria-*
3 *tions, establish 1 or more regional agroforestry centers*
4 *to advance agroforestry research, outreach, technical*
5 *assistance, and adoption.*

6 *“(2) DIRECTOR.—The Secretary, acting through*
7 *the Chief of the Forest Service and in cooperation*
8 *with the Natural Resources Conservation Service,*
9 *shall appoint a Director to manage and coordinate*
10 *the 1 or more regional agroforestry centers established*
11 *under paragraph (1).*

12 *“(3) LOCATION.—In selecting the locations for*
13 *the 1 or more regional agroforestry centers under*
14 *paragraph (1), the Secretary shall prioritize locations*
15 *at which the Department of Agriculture has, on the*
16 *date of enactment of the Farm, Food, and National*
17 *Security Act of 2026, at least 1 employee providing*
18 *coordination among a diverse group of research insti-*
19 *tutions and other partners.*

20 *“(4) ADMINISTRATION.—Regional agroforestry*
21 *centers established under paragraph (1) shall by ad-*
22 *ministered by the National Agroforestry Center.”;*

23 *(6) in subsection (d) (as so redesignated)—*

24 *(A) in the matter preceding paragraph*

25 *(1)—*

1 (i) by striking “the Center” and insert-
2 ing “each of the centers established under
3 subsections (b) and (c) (referred to in this
4 section as the ‘Centers’)”;

5 (ii) by inserting “and organizations”
6 after “nonprofit foundations”; and

7 (iii) by inserting “demonstration
8 projects,” after “studies,”;

9 (B) in paragraph (1)—

10 (i) by striking “on semiarid lands
11 that” and inserting “that build soil health
12 and”; and

13 (ii) by inserting “, including agro-
14 forestry systems on semiarid land and other
15 fragile agroecosystems where permanent
16 woody perennial plant communities can en-
17 hance carbon sequestration and reduce
18 greenhouse gas emissions” before the semi-
19 colon;

20 (C) in paragraph (3), by striking “forestry
21 products for commercial sale from semiarid
22 land” and inserting “agroforestry products for
23 commercial sale”;

24 (D) in paragraph (4)—

1 (i) by striking “in semiarid regions”;

2 and

3 (ii) by striking “the Great Plains re-
4 gion” and inserting “particular regions”;

5 (E) in paragraph (5), by inserting “tech-
6 nical assistance, demonstration projects, and”
7 before “technology”;

8 (F) by redesignating paragraphs (7)
9 through (11) as paragraphs (8) through (12), re-
10 spectively;

11 (G) by striking paragraph (6) and inserting
12 the following:

13 “(6) develop improved silvopasture, alley crop-
14 ping, forest farming, multistory cropping, riparian
15 buffer, windbreak and shelterbelt, and other perennial
16 production and conservation systems and technologies
17 to improve soil health, carbon sequestration, drought
18 preparedness, soil and water conservation, environ-
19 mental quality, and biological diversity;

20 “(7) address barriers to the adoption of agro-
21 forestry practices, including—

22 “(A) insufficient access to plant material;

23 “(B) insufficient infrastructure to contain
24 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 alley*
7 *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 inserting

3 “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 redes-
12 igned) the following:

13 “(f) REGIONAL SUPPORT.—The Secretary shall pro-
14 vide targeted regional support for agroforestry projects, in-
15 cluding demonstration sites.

16 “(g) SURVEY.—Not later than 5 years after the date
17 of the enactment of the Farm, Food, and National Security
18 Act of 2026 and every 5 years thereafter, the Secretary shall
19 conduct a National Agroforestry Producers Survey.”; and

20 (9) in subsection (h) (as so redesignated)—

21 (A) by striking “There are” and inserting

22 “In addition to amounts otherwise available,
23 there is”; and

24 (B) by striking “\$5,000,000 for each of fis-
25 cal years 2019 through 2023” and inserting

1 “\$7,000,000 for each of fiscal years 2027 through
2 2031”.

3 **SEC. 8302. NATIONAL FOREST FOUNDATION ACT.**

4 (a) *MATCHING FUNDS*.—Section 405(b) of the Na-
5 tional Forest Foundation Act (16 U.S.C. 583j–3(b)) is
6 amended by striking “2023” and inserting “2031”.

7 (b) *WHITE OAK RESTORATION FUND*.—Section 409 of
8 the National Forest Foundation Act (16 U.S.C. 583j–7) is
9 amended—

10 (1) by striking “The activities” and inserting the
11 following:

12 “(a) *IN GENERAL*.—The activities”; and

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

14 “(b) *WHITE OAK RESTORATION FUND*.—

15 “(1) *IN GENERAL*.—Funds described in para-
16 graph (2) shall be made available for activities—

17 “(A) on national forests that are approved
18 by the Secretary, acting through the Chief of the
19 Forest Service; and

20 “(B) to—

21 “(i) re-establish white oak forests where
22 appropriate;

23 “(ii) improve management of existing
24 white oak forests to foster natural regenera-
25 tion of white oak;

1 “(iii) improve and expand white oak
2 nursery stock; and

3 “(iv) adapt and improve white oak
4 seedlings.

5 “(2) *FUND.*—*The National Forest Foundation*
6 *may accept gifts, devises, or bequests for the purposes*
7 *of carrying out the activities specified in paragraph*
8 *(1).*

9 “(3) *SUMMARY.*—*Beginning 1 year after the date*
10 *of the enactment of this section, the National Forest*
11 *Foundation shall include in the budget justification*
12 *materials submitted to Congress in support of the*
13 *budget of each such Foundation for each fiscal year*
14 *(as submitted with the budget of the President under*
15 *section 1105(a) of title 31, United States Code) a*
16 *summary of the activities carried out under para-*
17 *graph (1) and the funds accepted under paragraph*
18 *(2) that includes—*

19 “(A) *the amount—*

20 “(i) *accepted under paragraph (2) in*
21 *the preceding fiscal year; and*

22 “(ii) *described in clause (i) that is un-*
23 *obligated on the date of the report; and*

1 “(B) a description of the activities under
 2 paragraph (1) funded during the preceding fiscal
 3 year.”.

4 (c) *AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.*—Section
 5 410(b) of the National Forest Foundation Act (16 U.S.C.
 6 583j-8(b)) is amended by striking “2023” and inserting
 7 “2031”.

8 **SEC. 8303. CONVEYANCES AND LEASES OF FOREST SERVICE**
 9 **ADMINISTRATIVE SITES.**

10 (a) *CONVEYANCE OF FOREST SERVICE ADMINISTRA-*
 11 *TIVE SITES.*—Section 503(f) of the Forest Service Facility
 12 *Realignment and Enhancement Act of 2005* (16 U.S.C.
 13 580d note; Public Law 109–54) is amended by striking
 14 “September 30, 2019” and inserting “September 30, 2031”.

15 (b) *AUTHORIZATION FOR LEASE OF FOREST SERVICE*
 16 *SITES.*—Section 8623(i) of the Agriculture Improvement
 17 Act of 2018 (16 U.S.C. 580d note; Public Law 115–334)
 18 is amended by striking “2023” each place it appears and
 19 inserting “2031”.

20 **SEC. 8304. FOREST INVENTORY AND ANALYSIS.**

21 (a) *IN GENERAL.*—Section 3(e) of the Forest and
 22 Rangeland Renewable Resources Research Act of 1978 (16
 23 U.S.C. 1642(e)) is amended—

24 (1) in paragraph (1)—

1 (A) by striking “their resources” and insert-
 2 ing “the resources of those forests, including for-
 3 est carbon,”;

4 (B) by striking “In compliance” and insert-
 5 ing the following:

6 “(A) *IN GENERAL*.—In compliance”; and

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

8 “(B) *ADDITIONAL METHODS*.—Under the
 9 program under this subsection, the Secretary
 10 shall carry out, as a data collection method—

11 “(i) a national timber products output
 12 survey; and

13 “(ii) a national woodland owner sur-
 14 vey.”;

15 (2) in paragraph (3)(C), by inserting “including
 16 with respect to available forest carbon data,” after “2
 17 decades,”;

18 (3) in paragraph (4)—

19 (A) in the second sentence, by striking “The
 20 standards” and inserting the following:

21 “(B) *INCLUSIONS*.—The standards described
 22 in subparagraph (A)”;

23 (B) by striking “(4) *NATIONAL STANDARDS*
 24 AND DEFINITIONS.—To ensure” and inserting the
 25 following:

1 “(4) NATIONAL CONSISTENCY.—

2 “(A) STANDARDS AND DEFINITIONS.—*To*
3 *ensure*”; and

4 (C) *by adding at the end the following:*

5 “(C) TERMINOLOGY.—*The Secretary shall*
6 *include a clear description of the definition of*
7 *‘forest’ used for purposes of reporting data from*
8 *inventories and analyses of forests and the re-*
9 *sources of forests under this subsection with—*

10 “(i) *any data or report provided under*
11 *the program under this subsection;*

12 “(ii) *Renewable Resource Assessments*
13 *prepared under section 3(a) of the Forest*
14 *and Rangeland Renewable Resources Plan-*
15 *ning Act of 1974 (16 U.S.C. 1601(a)); and*

16 “(iii) *any data or report provided to*
17 *an entity outside the United States.”;*

18 (4) *in paragraph (6)—*

19 (A) *in the matter preceding subparagraph*
20 *(A), by striking “Not later than 180 days after*
21 *the date of enactment of this subsection,” and in-*
22 *serting “In accordance with paragraph (7),”;*
23 *and*

24 (B) *by striking subparagraphs (D) and (E)*
25 *and inserting the following:*

1 “(D) the organization and procedures nec-
2 essary to understand and report on changes in
3 land cover and use;

4 “(E) the organization and procedures nec-
5 essary to sample and evaluate carbon-related
6 data variables, including soil carbon, collected
7 from forest inventory and analysis plots, timber
8 products output surveys, and national woodland
9 owner surveys to ensure that carbon accounting
10 information needs can be met; and”;

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

12 “(7) UPDATES TO STRATEGIC PLAN.—

13 “(A) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 180
14 days after the date of enactment of this para-
15 graph, the Secretary shall prepare an update to
16 the strategic plan under paragraph (6) to in-
17 clude—

18 “(i) a plan to implement nationally
19 consistent data collection protocols and pro-
20 cedures to improve the statistical precision
21 of base program estimates;

22 “(ii) pathways to integrate and report
23 on status and trends in forest carbon pools,
24 including below-ground carbon;

1 “(iii) plans, including the identifica-
2 tion of challenges, to collaborate with other
3 Federal agencies, non-Federal partners, and
4 the private sector to integrate existing na-
5 tionally available data sets and best avail-
6 able commercial technologies, such as remote
7 sensing, spatial analysis techniques, and
8 other new technologies;

9 “(iv) a plan to increase transparency
10 and clarity in reporting in accordance with
11 paragraph (4)(C);

12 “(v) a plan to expand current data col-
13 lection, further integrate remote sensing
14 technology, or both, to include procedures to
15 improve the statistical precision of esti-
16 mates at the sub-State level;

17 “(vi) a plan to expand current data
18 collection, further integrate remote sensing
19 technology, or both, to include information
20 on renewable biomass supplies and carbon
21 stocks at the local, State, regional, and na-
22 tional levels, including by ownership type;
23 and

24 “(vii) such other matters as the Sec-
25 retary determines to be appropriate based

1 *on recommendations of the Forest Inventory*
2 *and Analysis National User Group.*

3 “(B) *SUBMISSION.*—*Not later than 180*
4 *days after the date of enactment of this para-*
5 *graph, the Secretary shall submit to the Com-*
6 *mittee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry of*
7 *the Senate and the Committee on Agriculture of*
8 *the House of Representatives the update to the*
9 *strategic plan prepared under subparagraph (A).*

10 “(C) *FURTHER UPDATES.*—*Not later than 5*
11 *years after the date on which the update is sub-*
12 *mitted under subparagraph (B), and every 5*
13 *years thereafter, the Secretary shall—*

14 “(i) *prepare an additional update to*
15 *the strategic plan; and*

16 “(ii) *submit the additional update to*
17 *the committees described in subparagraph*
18 *(B).*

19 “(8) *ACCESSIBILITY.*—*The Secretary shall ensure*
20 *that data collected under this subsection is—*

21 “(A) *easily accessible to all public- and pri-*
22 *vate-sector entities; and*

23 “(B) *collected and made accessible using*
24 *means that ensure the confidentiality, in accord-*

1 *ance with section 1770 of the Food Security Act*
2 *of 1985 (7 U.S.C. 2276), of—*

3 “(i) *plot locations;*

4 “(ii) *nonaggregated data of woodland*
5 *owners; and*

6 “(iii) *nonaggregated data from timber*
7 *product output survey.*

8 “(9) *BIENNIAL COMPILATIONS.—Biennially, the*
9 *Secretary shall prepare and make publicly available*
10 *a compilation of national forest inventory and anal-*
11 *ysis forest statistics, which shall be similar to the ta-*
12 *bles contained in the Renewable Resource Assessments*
13 *prepared under section 3(a) of the Forest and Range-*
14 *land Renewable Resources Planning Act of 1974 (16*
15 *U.S.C. 1601(a)), accompanied by relevant geospatial*
16 *products.*

17 “(10) *EXTERNAL COMPLEX DATA REQUESTS.—*

18 “(A) *IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall es-*
19 *tablish an office, a data platform, or team to*
20 *process and respond to complex data requests*
21 *submitted by external organizations relating to*
22 *the program under this subsection.*

23 “(B) *FEEES.—*

24 “(i) *IN GENERAL.—To cover the costs*
25 *of processing of and responding to complex*

1 *data requests described in subparagraph*
2 *(A), the Secretary may impose fees on exter-*
3 *nal organizations submitting the requests.*

4 “(ii) *FEES COLLECTED.—Fees collected*
5 *under clause (i) may only be used for the*
6 *purposes described in such clause.*

7 “(11) *REPORTS.—Each year, the Secretary shall*
8 *publish as part of the forest inventory and analysis*
9 *business report a detailed description of the progress*
10 *of the Secretary in implementing the programmatic*
11 *elements of the strategic plan described in paragraph*
12 *(6), including—*

13 “(A) *the costs and priorities of the strategic*
14 *plan; and*

15 “(B) *how the program under this subsection*
16 *leverages new technology, improves and stand-*
17 *ardizes collection protocols, and increases work-*
18 *force capacity.”.*

19 “(b) *REMOTE SENSING TECHNOLOGIES.—Section*
20 *8632(1) of the Agriculture Improvement Act of 2018 (16*
21 *U.S.C. 1642 note; Public Law 115–334) is amended by*
22 *striking “technologies” and inserting “technologies, such as*
23 *microwave, LiDAR, hyperspectral, and high-resolution re-*
24 *note sensing data, and advanced computing technologies*

1 *for improved modeling to provide tabular statistical esti-*
 2 *mates and geospatial products,”.*

3 **SEC. 8305. REFORESTATION, NURSERY, AND SEED OR-**
 4 **CHARD SUPPORT.**

5 *(a) PARTNERSHIPS, COLLABORATION, AND OTHER AS-*
 6 *SISTANCE IN SUPPORT OF NURSERIES AND SEED OR-*
 7 *CHARDS.—The Secretary, acting through the Chief of the*
 8 *Forest Service, shall—*

9 *(1) partner with Federal and State agencies, In-*
 10 *dian Tribes, private nurseries, and other relevant en-*
 11 *tities to provide training, technical assistance, and*
 12 *research to nursery and tree establishment programs*
 13 *that support natural regeneration, reforestation, agro-*
 14 *forestry, and afforestation;*

15 *(2) promote information sharing to improve the*
 16 *technical knowledge, practices, and understanding of*
 17 *the demands, climate change impacts, and other*
 18 *issues necessary to address all facets of the reforest-*
 19 *ation pipeline;*

20 *(3) provide technical and financial assistance to*
 21 *international nursery and tree establishment pro-*
 22 *grams through—*

23 *(A) international programs conducted by*
 24 *the Forest Service pursuant to the International*

1 *Forestry Cooperation Act of 1990 (16 U.S.C.*
2 *4501 et seq.)*;

3 *(B) the Institute of Pacific Islands Forestry*
4 *of the Forest Service; and*

5 *(C) the International Institute of Tropical*
6 *Forestry of the Forest Service;*

7 *(4) collaborate with other relevant Federal de-*
8 *partments and agencies, including the Foreign Agri-*
9 *cultural Service of the Department, the United States*
10 *Fish and Wildlife Service of the Department of the*
11 *Interior, and international organizations to provide*
12 *technical and financial assistance related to nurseries*
13 *and reforestation;*

14 *(5) coordinate the efforts of the Department to—*

15 *(A) address the challenges associated with*
16 *the reforestation pipeline; and*

17 *(B) leverage economic development assist-*
18 *ance for work with private nurseries; and*

19 *(6) expand science-based reforestation supply*
20 *chains through research, seed collection and storage,*
21 *and nursery infrastructure and operations in coordi-*
22 *nation with the Administrator of the Agricultural Re-*
23 *search Service.*

24 *(b) NURSERY AND SEED ORCHARD FINANCIAL ASSIST-*
25 *ANCE.—*

1 (1) *IN GENERAL.*—Not later than 2 years after
2 the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary shall
3 establish a program to provide grants to eligible re-
4 cipients to support nurseries and seed orchards.

5 (2) *ELIGIBLE PROJECTS.*—The Secretary may
6 make a grant under this subsection to an eligible re-
7 cipient for a project to carry out at least one of the
8 following:

9 (A) *Develop, expand, enhance, or improve*
10 *nursery production capacity or other infrastruc-*
11 *ture to—*

12 (i) *improve seed collection, processing,*
13 *and storage;*

14 (ii) *increase seedling production, stor-*
15 *age, and distribution; or*

16 (iii) *enhance seedling survival and*
17 *properly manage tree genetic resources.*

18 (B) *Establish, improve, or expand a nurs-*
19 *ery or seed orchard, including by acquiring*
20 *equipment for such nursery or seed orchard.*

21 (C) *Develop or implement quality control*
22 *measures at nurseries or seed orchards.*

23 (D) *Promote workforce development within*
24 *any facet of the reforestation pipeline.*

1 (E) Carry out such other activity as the
2 Secretary determines appropriate.

3 (c) *DEFINITIONS.*—In this section:

4 (1) *ELIGIBLE RECIPIENT.*—The term “eligible re-
5 cipient” means—

6 (A) a State forestry agency;

7 (B) an Indian Tribe;

8 (C) a private nursery that has experience
9 growing high-quality native trees of appropriate
10 genetic sources in bareroot or container stock
11 types specific for reforestation, restoration, or
12 conservation, including native plants and seeds
13 that are of cultural significance to Indian
14 Tribes;

15 (D) an institution of higher education (as
16 defined in section 101 of the Higher Education
17 Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 1001)); and

18 (E) a county or local government with a
19 nursery or seed orchard.

20 (2) *NURSERY.*—The term “nursery” means a
21 tree or native plant nursery.

22 (3) *SEED ORCHARD.*—The term “seed orchard”
23 means a tree or native plant seed orchard.

24 (4) *STATE.*—The term “State” means each of the
25 several States, the District of Columbia, the Common-

1 *wealth of Puerto Rico, and any territory or possession*
 2 *of the United States.*

3 *(d) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There is*
 4 *authorized to be appropriated to carry out this section*
 5 *\$5,000,000 for each of fiscal years 2027 through 2031.*

6 ***Subtitle D—Forest Management***

7 ***PART I—NATIONAL FOREST SYSTEM***

8 ***MANAGEMENT***

9 ***SEC. 8401. CATEGORICAL EXCLUSION FOR HIGH PRIORITY*** 10 ***HAZARD TREES.***

11 *(a) CATEGORICAL EXCLUSION.—*

12 *(1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 1 year after*
 13 *the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary shall*
 14 *develop a categorical exclusion (as defined in section*
 15 *111 of the National Environmental Policy Act of*
 16 *1969 (42 U.S.C. 4336e)) for high-priority hazard tree*
 17 *activities.*

18 *(2) ADMINISTRATION.—In developing and ad-*
 19 *ministering the categorical exclusion under para-*
 20 *graph (1), the Secretary shall—*

21 *(A) comply with the National Environ-*
 22 *mental Policy Act of 1969 (42 U.S.C. 4321 et*
 23 *seq.); and*

24 *(B) apply the extraordinary circumstances*
 25 *procedures under section 220.6 of title 36, Code*

1 *of Federal Regulations (or successor regulations),*
2 *in determining whether to use the categorical ex-*
3 *clusion.*

4 (3) *PROJECT SIZE LIMITATION.*—A project car-
5 *ried out using the categorical exclusion developed*
6 *under paragraph (1) may not exceed 6,000 acres.*

7 (b) *DEFINITIONS.*—In this section:

8 (1) *HIGH-PRIORITY HAZARD TREE.*—The term
9 “high-priority hazard tree” means a standing tree
10 that—

11 (A) *presents a visible hazard to people or*
12 *property due to conditions such as deterioration*
13 *of, or damage to, the root system, trunk, stem, or*
14 *limbs of the tree, or the direction or lean of the*
15 *tree, as determined by the Secretary;*

16 (B) *is determined by the Secretary to be*
17 *highly likely to fail and, on failure, would be*
18 *highly likely to cause injury to people or damage*
19 *to Federal property; and*

20 (C) *is located—*

21 (i) *within 300 feet of a National Forest*
22 *System road with a maintenance level of 3,*
23 *4, or 5;*

24 (ii) *along a National Forest System*
25 *trail; or*

1 (iii) *in a developed recreation site—*

2 (I) *that is operated and main-*
3 *tained by the Secretary; and*

4 (II) *on National Forest System*
5 *land.*

6 (2) *HIGH-PRIORITY HAZARD TREE ACTIVITY.—*

7 (A) *IN GENERAL.—The term “high-priority*
8 *hazard tree activity” means a forest manage-*
9 *ment activity that mitigates the risks associated*
10 *with high-priority hazard trees, including prun-*
11 *ing, felling, and disposal of a high-priority haz-*
12 *ard tree.*

13 (B) *EXCLUSIONS.—The term “high-priority*
14 *hazard tree activity” does not include any activ-*
15 *ity—*

16 (i) *conducted in a wilderness area or*
17 *wilderness study area;*

18 (ii) *for the construction of a perma-*
19 *nent road or permanent trail;*

20 (iii) *conducted on Federal land on*
21 *which, by Act of Congress or Presidential*
22 *proclamation, the removal of vegetation is*
23 *restricted or prohibited;*

24 (iv) *conducted in an area in which ac-*
25 *tivities described in subparagraph (A)*

1 *would be inconsistent with the applicable*
 2 *land and resource management plan; or*
 3 (v) *conducted in an inventoried*
 4 *roadless area.*

5 **SEC. 8402. COLLABORATIVE RESTORATION PROJECTS.**

6 *Section 603(c)(1) of the Healthy Forests Restoration*
 7 *Act of 2003 (16 U.S.C. 6591b(c)(1)) is amended by striking*
 8 *“3000 acres” and inserting “10,000 acres”.*

9 **SEC. 8403. WILDFIRE RESILIENCE PROJECT SIZE.**

10 *Section 605(c)(1) of the Healthy Forests Restoration*
 11 *Act of 2003 (16 U.S.C. 6591d(c)(1)) is amended by striking*
 12 *“3000 acres” and inserting “10,000 acres”.*

13 **SEC. 8404. FUEL BREAKS IN FORESTS AND OTHER**
 14 **WILDLAND VEGETATION.**

15 *Section 40806(d)(1) of the Infrastructure Investment*
 16 *and Jobs Act (16 U.S.C. 6592b(d)(1)) is amended by strik-*
 17 *ing “3,000 acres” and inserting “10,000 acres”.*

18 **SEC. 8405. GREATER SAGE-GROUSE AND MULE DEER HABI-**
 19 **TAT.**

20 *Section 606 of the Healthy Forests Restoration Act of*
 21 *2003 (16 U.S.C. 6591e) is amended—*
 22 *(1) in subsection (a)(1)(A)—*
 23 *(A) by striking clause (ii);*

1 (B) by redesignating clauses (iii) through
 2 (vii) as clauses (ii) through (vi), respectively;
 3 and

4 (C) in clause (iii), as so redesignated, by
 5 striking “in a sagebrush steppe ecosystem”;

6 (2) in subsection (c), by striking “concurrently
 7 for both greater sage-grouse and” and inserting “for
 8 greater sage-grouse or”; and

9 (3) by amending subsection (g) to read as fol-
 10 lows:

11 “(g) *LIMITATION.*—A covered vegetation management
 12 activity that is covered by the categorical exclusion under
 13 subsection (b) may not exceed 4,500 acres in a forested eco-
 14 system or 7,500 acres in a rangeland ecosystem.”.

15 **SEC. 8406. CATEGORICAL EXCLUSION FOR ELECTRIC UTIL-**
 16 **ITY LINES RIGHTS-OF-WAY.**

17 (a) *CATEGORICAL EXCLUSION ESTABLISHED.*—Forest
 18 management activities described in subsection (b) are a cat-
 19 egory of activities designated as being categorically excluded
 20 from the preparation of an environmental assessment or an
 21 environmental impact statement under section 102 of the
 22 National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (42 U.S.C.
 23 4332).

24 (b) *FOREST MANAGEMENT ACTIVITIES DESIGNATED*
 25 *FOR CATEGORICAL EXCLUSION.*—The forest management

1 *activities designated as being categorically excluded under*
2 *subsection (a) are—*

3 *(1) the development and approval of a vegetation*
4 *management, facility inspection, and operation and*
5 *maintenance plan submitted under section 512(c)(1)*
6 *of the Federal Land Policy and Management Act of*
7 *1976 (43 U.S.C. 1772(c)(1)) to the Secretary; and*

8 *(2) the implementation of routine activities con-*
9 *ducted under the plan referred to in paragraph (1).*

10 *(c) AVAILABILITY OF CATEGORICAL EXCLUSION.—On*
11 *and after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary*
12 *may use the categorical exclusion established under sub-*
13 *section (a) in accordance with this section.*

14 *(d) EXCLUSION OF CERTAIN AREAS.—The categorical*
15 *exclusion established under subsection (a) shall not apply*
16 *to any forest management activity conducted—*

17 *(1) in a component of the National Wilderness*
18 *Preservation System; or*

19 *(2) on National Forest System lands on which,*
20 *by Act of Congress, the removal of vegetation is re-*
21 *stricted or prohibited.*

22 *(e) PERMANENT ROADS.—*

23 *(1) PROHIBITION ON ESTABLISHMENT.—A forest*
24 *management activity designated under subsection (b)*

1 *shall not include the establishment of a permanent*
 2 *road.*

3 (2) *EXISTING ROADS.*—*The Secretary may carry*
 4 *out necessary maintenance and repair on an existing*
 5 *permanent road for the purposes of conducting a for-*
 6 *est management activity designated under subsection*
 7 *(b).*

8 (3) *TEMPORARY ROADS.*—*The Secretary shall de-*
 9 *commission any temporary road constructed for a for-*
 10 *est management activity designated under subsection*
 11 *(b) not later than 3 years after the date on which the*
 12 *action is completed.*

13 (f) *APPLICABLE LAW.*—*A forest management activity*
 14 *designated under subsection (b) shall not be subject to sec-*
 15 *tion 7 of the Endangered Species Act of 1973 (16 U.S.C.*
 16 *1536) or section 106 of the National Historic Preservation*
 17 *Act.*

18 **SEC. 8407. FOREST MANAGEMENT ACTIVITIES ON NA-**
 19 **TIONAL FOREST SYSTEM LANDS.**

20 (a) *IN GENERAL.*—*The Secretary may conduct forest*
 21 *management activities on National Forest System land.*

22 (b) *COORDINATION.*—*In carrying out forest manage-*
 23 *ment activities, the Secretary shall, as appropriate, coordi-*
 24 *nate with impacted parties to increase efficiency and maxi-*

1 mize the compatibility of management practices across Na-
2 tional Forest System lands.

3 (c) *OBJECTIVES.*—

4 (1) *IN GENERAL.*—*The Secretary shall conduct*
5 *forest management activities on National Forest Sys-*
6 *tem land in a manner that attains multiple eco-*
7 *system benefits, including.*—

8 (A) *reducing forest fuels;*

9 (B) *maintaining the diversity of plant and*
10 *animal communities;*

11 (C) *improving soil, streams, lakes, wetlands,*
12 *and water quality, including in riparian areas;*
13 *and*

14 (D) *increasing resilience to changing water*
15 *temperature and precipitation regimes.*

16 (d) *GROUND DISTURBANCE.*—*Consistent with applica-*
17 *ble Federal law and any applicable forest plan, the Sec-*
18 *retary shall—*

19 (1) *establish criteria for ground conditions fol-*
20 *lowing a forest management activity carried out*
21 *under a forest plan that results in ground disturb-*
22 *ances; and*

23 (2) *monitor such ground conditions to determine*
24 *whether desired outcomes or conditions are achieved.*

1 (e) *AVAILABILITY OF CATEGORICAL EXCLUSION FOR*
2 *CERTAIN FOREST MANAGEMENT ACTIVITIES.*—*A forest*
3 *management activity conducted on National Forest System*
4 *land for the purpose of reducing forest fuels is categorically*
5 *excluded from the requirements of the National Environ-*
6 *mental Policy Act of 1969 (42 U.S.C. 4321 et seq.) if the*
7 *forest management activity—*

8 (1) *does not exceed 10,000 acres, including not*
9 *more than 3,000 acres of mechanical thinning;*

10 (2) *is developed—*

11 (A) *in coordination with impacted parties,*
12 *specifically including representatives of local*
13 *governments, such as county supervisors or coun-*
14 *ty commissioners; and*

15 (B) *in consultation with other entities, as*
16 *determined by the Secretary/any other entity de-*
17 *termined relevant by the Secretary; and*

18 (3) *is consistent with any applicable forest plan.*

19 (f) *COOPERATIVE AUTHORITIES.*—*The Secretary may*
20 *enter into contracts and cooperative agreements with an*
21 *impacted party to provide for fuel reduction, soil restora-*
22 *tion, erosion control, reforestation, riparian restoration, re-*
23 *vegetation, and similar management activities on Federal*
24 *land and non-Federal land.*

25 (g) *DEFINITIONS.*—*In this section:*

1 (1) *FOREST MANAGEMENT ACTIVITY*.—The term
 2 “forest management activity” means a project or ac-
 3 tivity that is carried out by the Secretary on Na-
 4 tional Forest System land and is consistent with any
 5 applicable forest plan.

6 (2) *FOREST PLAN*.—The term “forest plan”
 7 means a land and resource management plan under
 8 section 6 of the Forest and Rangeland Renewable Re-
 9 sources Planning Act of 1974 (16 U.S.C. 1406).

10 (3) *IMPACTED PARTIES*.—The term “impacted
 11 parties” includes—

12 (A) State, local, and Tribal governments;

13 (B) local fire departments;

14 (C) other relevant volunteer groups.

15 (4) *NATIONAL FOREST SYSTEM*.—The term “Na-
 16 tional Forest System” has the meaning given that
 17 term in section 11(a) of the Forest and Rangeland
 18 Renewable Resources Planning Act of 1974 (16
 19 U.S.C. 1609(a)).

20 **SEC. 8408. SUPPRESSION OF WILDFIRES.**

21 (a) *IN GENERAL*.—With respect to National Forest
 22 System lands described in subsection (b), the Secretary, act-
 23 ing through the Chief of the Forest Service—

24 (1) shall—

1 (A) use available resources to carry out
2 wildfire suppression with the purpose of con-
3 taining wildfires detected on such lands not later
4 than 24 hours after such a wildfire is detected;
5 and

6 (B) carry out wildfire suppression under
7 subparagraph (A) in a manner that is consistent
8 with interagency agreements and applicable
9 standards of firefighter safety;

10 (2) shall not inhibit the suppression efforts of
11 State or local firefighting agencies that are authorized
12 to respond to wildfire on such lands;

13 (3) may only use fire as a resource management
14 tool if the fire is a prescribed fire that complies with
15 applicable law and regulations;

16 (4) may only initiate a backfire or burnout dur-
17 ing a wildfire—

18 (A) by order of the responsible incident
19 commander, in consultation with the appro-
20 priate Forest Service line officer; or

21 (B) in instances that are necessary to pro-
22 tect the health and safety of firefighting per-
23 sonnel;

24 (5) shall use available resources to control any
25 such initiated backfire or burnout until contained;

1 (6) *shall use available resources, including infra-*
2 *red technologies, to ensure prescribed fires are con-*
3 *tained; and*

4 (7) *shall update the prescribed fire policies of the*
5 *Forest Service to reflect the findings and rec-*
6 *ommendations included in the report entitled “Na-*
7 *tional Prescribed Fire Program Review” published in*
8 *September 2022 by the Forest Service.*

9 (b) *LIMITATIONS ON SCOPE.—For purposes of sub-*
10 *section (a), the National Forest System lands described in*
11 *this subsection are National Forest System lands that—*

12 (1) *the National Interagency Fire Center has es-*
13 *tablished as a National Wildland Fire Preparedness*
14 *Level of 5;*

15 (2) *contain areas that the U.S. Drought Monitor*
16 *has rated as having a D2 (severe drought) intensity,*
17 *D3 (extreme drought) intensity, or D4 (exceptional*
18 *drought) intensity; or*

19 (3) *the Secretary, acting through the Chief of the*
20 *Forest Service, has identified as being located in a*
21 *fireshed ranked in the top 10 percent of wildfire expo-*
22 *sure, as determined using the most recent published*
23 *models of fireshed risk exposure published by the For-*
24 *est Service.*

1 (c) *NATIONAL FOREST SYSTEM DEFINED.*—*In this sec-*
 2 *tion, the term “National Forest System” has the meaning*
 3 *given such term in section 11(a) of the Forest and Range-*
 4 *land Renewable Resources Planning Act of 1974 (16 U.S.C.*
 5 *1609(a)).*

6 ***PART II—FOREST MANAGEMENT ACTIVITIES***

7 ***SEC. 8411. NO ADDITIONAL CONSULTATION REQUIRED.***

8 (a) *FOREST SERVICE PLANS.*—*Section 6(d)(2) of the*
 9 *Forest and Rangeland Renewable Resources Planning Act*
 10 *of 1974 (16 U.S.C. 1604(d)(2)) is amended to read as fol-*
 11 *lows:*

12 “(2) *NO ADDITIONAL CONSULTATION REQUIRED*
 13 *UNDER CERTAIN CIRCUMSTANCES.*—*Notwithstanding*
 14 *any other provision of law, the Secretary shall not be*
 15 *required to reinitiate consultation under section*
 16 *7(a)(2) of the Endangered Species Act of 1973 (16*
 17 *U.S.C. 1536(a)(2)) or section 402.16 of title 50, Code*
 18 *of Federal Regulations (or a successor regulation), on*
 19 *a land management plan approved, amended, or re-*
 20 *vised under this section when—*

21 “(A) *a new species is listed or critical habi-*
 22 *tat is designated under the Endangered Species*
 23 *Act of 1973 (16 U.S.C. 1531 et seq.); or*

24 “(B) *new information reveals effects of the*
 25 *land management plan that may affect a species*

1 *listed or critical habitat designated under that*
2 *Act in a manner or to an extent not previously*
3 *considered.”.*

4 ***(b) BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT PLANS.—Section***
5 ***202 of the Federal Land Policy and Management Act of***
6 ***1976 (43 U.S.C. 1712) is amended by adding at the end***
7 ***the following:***

8 ***“(g) NO ADDITIONAL CONSULTATION REQUIRED***
9 ***UNDER CERTAIN CIRCUMSTANCES.—Notwithstanding any***
10 ***other provision of law, the Secretary shall not be required***
11 ***to reinitiate consultation under section 7(a)(2) of the En-***
12 ***dangered Species Act of 1973 (16 U.S.C. 1536(a)(2)) or sec-***
13 ***tion 402.16 of title 50, Code of Federal Regulations (or a***
14 ***successor regulation), on a land use plan approved, amend-***
15 ***ed, or revised under this section when—***

16 ***“(1) a new species is listed or critical habitat is***
17 ***designated under the Endangered Species Act of 1973***
18 ***(16 U.S.C. 1531 et seq.); or***

19 ***“(2) new information reveals effects of the land***
20 ***use plan that may affect a species listed or critical***
21 ***habitat designated under that Act in a manner or to***
22 ***an extent not previously considered.”.***

1 **SEC. 8412. GOOD NEIGHBOR AUTHORITY.**

2 (a) *GOOD NEIGHBOR AUTHORITY.*—Section 8206 of
3 *the Agricultural Act of 2014 (16 U.S.C. 2113a)* is amend-
4 *ed—*

5 (1) *in subsection (a)(6), by striking “or Indian*
6 *tribe”;*

7 (2) *in subsection (a), by adding at the end the*
8 *following:*

9 “(11) *SPECIAL DISTRICT.*—The term ‘special dis-
10 *trict’ means a political subdivision of a State that—*

11 “(A) *has significant budgetary autonomy or*
12 *control;*

13 “(B) *was created by or pursuant to the laws*
14 *of the State for the purpose of performing a lim-*
15 *ited and specific governmental or proprietary*
16 *function; and*

17 “(C) *is distinct from any other local govern-*
18 *ment unit within the State.”.*

19 (3) *in subsection (b)—*

20 (A) *in paragraph (1)(A), by inserting “, In-*
21 *dian Tribe, special district,” after “Governor”;*

22 (B) *in paragraph (2)(C)—*

23 (i) *in clause (i)—*

24 (I) *by inserting “special district,”*
25 *after “Indian Tribe,” each place it ap-*
26 *pears;*

1 (II) in subclause (I)—

2 (aa) by striking “on”; and

3 (bb) by striking “; and” and
4 inserting a semicolon;

5 (III) in subclause (II)(bb), by
6 striking the period at the end and in-
7 serting a semicolon; and

8 (IV) by adding at the end the fol-
9 lowing:

10 “(III) to construct new permanent
11 roads on Federal lands that are—

12 “(aa) necessary to implement
13 authorized restoration activities;
14 and

15 “(bb) approved by the Fed-
16 eral agency through environ-
17 mental analysis or categorical ex-
18 clusion decision;

19 “(IV) to complete new permanent
20 road construction to replace and de-
21 commission an existing permanent
22 road that is adversely impacting forest,
23 rangeland, or watershed health; and

24 “(V) if there are funds remaining
25 after carrying out subclauses (I)

1 *through (IV), to carry out authorized*
 2 *restoration services under other good*
 3 *neighbor agreements and for the ad-*
 4 *ministration of a good neighbor au-*
 5 *thority program by a Governor, Indian*
 6 *Tribe, special district, or county.”; and*
 7 *(ii) in clause (ii), by striking “2028”*
 8 *and inserting “2030”;*

9 *(C) in paragraph (3), by inserting “, In-*
 10 *dian Tribe, special district,” after “Governor”;*
 11 *and*

12 *(D) by striking paragraph (4).*

13 *(b) CONFORMING AMENDMENTS.—Section 8206(a) of*
 14 *the Agricultural Act of 2014 (16 U.S.C. 2113a(a)) is*
 15 *amended—*

16 *(1) in paragraph (1)(B), by inserting “, Indian*
 17 *Tribe, special district,” after “Governor”; and*

18 *(2) in paragraph (5), by inserting “, Indian*
 19 *Tribe, special district,” after “Governor”.*

20 *(c) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendments made by this*
 21 *section apply to any project initiated pursuant to a good*
 22 *neighbor agreement (as defined in section 8206(a) of the*
 23 *Agricultural Act of 2014 (16 U.S.C. 2113a(a)))—*

24 *(1) before the date of enactment of this Act, if the*
 25 *project was initiated after the date of enactment of*

1 *the Agriculture Improvement Act of 2018 (Public*
 2 *Law 115–334; 132 Stat. 4490); or*

3 *(2) on or after the date of enactment of this Act.*

4 **SEC. 8413. COLLABORATIVE FOREST LANDSCAPE RESTORA-**
 5 **TION PROGRAM.**

6 *Section 4003 of the Omnibus Public Land Manage-*
 7 *ment Act of 2009 (16 U.S.C. 7303) is amended—*

8 *(1) in subsection (b)(3)—*

9 *(A) in subparagraph (D), by inserting “or*
 10 *pathogens” after “species”;*

11 *(B) in subparagraph (G), by striking “and”*
 12 *at the end;*

13 *(C) in subparagraph (H), by adding “and”*
 14 *after the semicolon at the end; and*

15 *(D) by adding at the end the following:*

16 *“(I) address standardized monitoring ques-*
 17 *tions and indicators;”;*

18 *(2) in subsection (d)—*

19 *(A) in paragraph (2)—*

20 *(i) in subparagraph (E), by striking*
 21 *“and” at the end;*

22 *(ii) in subparagraph (F), by striking*
 23 *the period at the end and inserting “;”;* and

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

1 “(G) proposals that seek to use innovative
2 implementation mechanisms, including good
3 neighbor agreements entered into under section
4 8206 of the Agricultural Act of 2014 (16 U.S.C.
5 2113a), and similar implementation mecha-
6 nisms;

7 “(H) proposals that seek to reduce the risk
8 of uncharacteristic wildfire or increase ecological
9 restoration activities—

10 “(i) within areas across land owner-
11 ships, including State, Tribal, and private
12 land; and

13 “(ii) within the wildland-urban inter-
14 face; and

15 “(I) proposals that seek to enhance water-
16 shed health and drinking water sources.”; and

17 (B) in paragraph (3)—

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

20 “(A) 4 proposals in any 1 region of the Na-
21 tional Forest System to be funded during any
22 fiscal year; and”;

23 (ii) by striking subparagraph (B); and

24 (iii) by redesignating subparagraph
25 (C) as subparagraph (B); and

1 (3) in subsection (f)(6), by striking “2019
2 through 2023” and inserting “2027 through 2031”.

3 **SEC. 8414. PUBLIC-PRIVATE WILDFIRE TECHNOLOGY DE-**
4 **PLOYMENT AND TESTBED PARTNERSHIP.**

5 (a) *DEFINITIONS.*—*In this section:*

6 (1) *APPROPRIATE COMMITTEES.*—*The term “ap-*
7 *propriate committees” means—*

8 (A) *the Committees on Agriculture, Natural*
9 *Resources, and Science, Space, and Technology*
10 *of the House of Representatives; and*

11 (B) *the Committees on Agriculture, Nutri-*
12 *tion, and Forestry, Energy and Natural Re-*
13 *sources, and Commerce, Science, and Transpor-*
14 *tation of the Senate.*

15 (2) *COVERED AGENCY.*—*The term “covered agen-*
16 *cy” means—*

17 (A) *the National Park Service;*

18 (B) *the United States Fish and Wildlife*
19 *Service;*

20 (C) *the Bureau of Land Management;*

21 (D) *the Bureau of Reclamation;*

22 (E) *the Forest Service;*

23 (F) *the Department of Defense;*

24 (G) *the National Oceanic and Atmospheric*
25 *Administration;*

1 (H) the United States Fire Administration;

2 (I) the Federal Emergency Management

3 Agency;

4 (J) the National Aeronautics and Space Ad-

5 ministration;

6 (K) the Bureau of Indian Affairs; and

7 (L) any other Federal agency involved in

8 wildfire response.

9 (3) COVERED ENTITY.—The term “covered enti-
10 ty” means—

11 (A) a private entity;

12 (B) a nonprofit organization; or

13 (C) an institution of higher education (as

14 defined in section 101 of the Higher Education

15 Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 1001)).

16 (4) PILOT PROGRAM.—The term “Pilot Pro-

17 gram” means the deployment and testbed pilot pro-

18 gram developed under subsection (b).

19 (5) SECRETARIES.—The term “Secretaries”

20 means the Secretary of Agriculture and the Secretary

21 of the Interior, acting jointly.

22 (b) DEPLOYMENT AND TESTBED PILOT PROGRAM ES-

23 TABLISHED.—Not later than 1 year after the date of the

24 enactment of this Act, the Secretaries, in coordination with

25 the heads of the covered agencies, shall establish a deploy-

1 *ment and testbed pilot program for new and innovative*
2 *wildfire prevention, detection, communication, and mitiga-*
3 *tion technologies.*

4 *(c) FUNCTIONS.—In carrying out the Pilot Program,*
5 *the Secretaries shall—*

6 *(1) incorporate the Pilot Program into an exist-*
7 *ing interagency coordinating group on wildfires;*

8 *(2) in consultation with the heads of covered*
9 *agencies, identify key technology priority areas with*
10 *respect to the deployment of wildfire prevention, de-*
11 *tection, communication, and mitigation technologies,*
12 *including—*

13 *(A) hazardous fuels reduction treatments or*
14 *activities;*

15 *(B) dispatch communications;*

16 *(C) remote sensing and tracking;*

17 *(D) safety equipment; and*

18 *(E) common operating pictures or oper-*
19 *ational dashboards; and*

20 *(3) partner with each covered entity selected to*
21 *participate in the Pilot Program with the appro-*
22 *priate covered agency to coordinate real-time and on-*
23 *the-ground testing of technology during wildland fire*
24 *mitigation activities and training.*

1 (d) *APPLICATIONS.*—*To participate in the Pilot Pro-*
2 *gram, a covered entity shall submit to the Secretaries an*
3 *application at such time, in such manner, and containing*
4 *such information as the Secretaries may require, which*
5 *shall include a proposal to test technologies specific to key*
6 *technology priority areas identified under subsection (c)(2).*

7 (e) *PRIORITIZATION OF EMERGING TECHNOLOGIES.*—
8 *In selecting covered entities to participate in the Pilot Pro-*
9 *gram, the Secretaries shall give priority to covered entities*
10 *developing and applying emerging technologies that address*
11 *issues identified by the Secretaries, including artificial in-*
12 *telligence, quantum sensing, computing and quantum-hy-*
13 *brid applications, augmented reality, and 5G private net-*
14 *works and device-to-device communications supporting no-*
15 *madic mesh networks, for wildfire mitigation.*

16 (f) *OUTREACH.*—*The Secretaries, in coordination with*
17 *the heads of the covered agencies, shall make publicly avail-*
18 *able the key technology priority areas identified under sub-*
19 *section (c)(2) and invite covered entities to apply to test*
20 *and demonstrate their technologies to address those priority*
21 *areas.*

22 (g) *REPORTS AND RECOMMENDATIONS.*—*Not later*
23 *than 1 year after the date of the enactment of this Act, and*
24 *each year thereafter for the duration of the Pilot Program,*
25 *the Secretaries shall submit to the appropriate committees*

1 a report that includes the following with respect to the Pilot
2 Program:

3 (1) A list of participating covered entities.

4 (2) A brief description of the technologies tested
5 by such covered entities.

6 (3) An estimate of the cost of acquiring the tech-
7 nology tested in the program and applying it at scale.

8 (4) Outreach efforts by Federal agencies to cov-
9 ered entities developing wildfire technologies.

10 (5) Assessments of, and recommendations relat-
11 ing to, new technologies with potential adoption and
12 application at-scale in Federal land management
13 agencies' wildfire prevention, detection, communica-
14 tion, and mitigation efforts.

15 (h) *TERMINATION.*—The Pilot Program shall expire on
16 September 30, 2031.

17 **SEC. 8415. FOREST SERVICE PARTICIPATION IN EXPERI-**
18 **ENCED SERVICES PROGRAM.**

19 Section 8302 of the Agricultural Act of 2014 (16
20 U.S.C. 3851a) is amended—

21 (1) in the section heading, by striking “**ACES**”
22 and inserting “**EXPERIENCED SERVICES**” (and by
23 conforming the item relating to such section in the
24 table of sections accordingly);

25 (2) in subsection (a)—

1 (A) by striking “(a) *IN GENERAL*.—”;

2 (B) by striking “*Agriculture Conservation*”;

3 *and*

4 (C) by inserting “, professional, or adminis-
5 trative” after “technical”; and

6 (3) by striking subsection (b).

7 **SEC. 8416. TIMBER SALES ON NATIONAL FOREST SYSTEM**

8 **LAND.**

9 *Section 14 of the National Forest Management Act of*
10 *1976 (16 U.S.C. 472a) is amended—*

11 (1) *in subsection (d), by striking “\$10,000” and*
12 *inserting “\$55,000”; and*

13 (2) *by adding at the end the following:*

14 “(j) *In the event of extreme risks to a unit of National*
15 *Forest System land, including catastrophic wildfire, insect*
16 *and disease outbreak, wind, hurricane, flood, drought, or*
17 *to avoid impacts from such extreme events, the Secretary*
18 *may, without an appraisal and under such rules and regu-*
19 *lations prescribed by the Secretary, dispose of by sale or*
20 *otherwise, portions of trees or forest products located on*
21 *such unit of National Forest System land.”.*

22 **SEC. 8417. PERMITS AND AGREEMENTS WITH ELECTRICAL**

23 **UTILITIES.**

24 (a) *IN GENERAL.—In any special use permit or ease-*
25 *ment on National Forest System lands provided to an elec-*

1 *tric utility company (as defined in section 1262 of the En-*
 2 *ergy Policy Act of 2005 (42 U.S.C. 16451)), the Secretary*
 3 *may provide permission to cut and remove trees or other*
 4 *vegetation from within the vicinity of distribution lines or*
 5 *transmission lines, including hazardous vegetation that in-*
 6 *creases fire risk, without requiring a separate timber sale*
 7 *if that cutting and removal is consistent with the applicable*
 8 *land management plan.*

9 (b) *USE OF PROCEEDS.*—*A special use permit or ease-*
 10 *ment that includes permission for the cutting and removal*
 11 *of trees or other vegetation described in subsection (a) shall*
 12 *include a requirement that, if the applicable electrical util-*
 13 *ity sells any portion of the material removed under the per-*
 14 *mit or easement, the electrical utility shall provide to the*
 15 *Secretary, acting through the Chief of the Forest Service,*
 16 *any proceeds received from the sale, less any transportation*
 17 *costs incurred in the sale.*

18 (c) *RULE OF CONSTRUCTION.*—*Nothing in this section*
 19 *shall be construed to require the sale of any material re-*
 20 *moved under a special use permit or easement that includes*
 21 *permission for the cutting and removal of trees or other*
 22 *vegetation described in subsection (a).*

23 **SEC. 8418. UTILIZING GRAZING FOR WILDFIRE RISK REDUC-**
 24 **TION.**

25 (a) *STRATEGY.*—

1 (1) *IN GENERAL.*—Not later than 18 months
2 after the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary
3 concerned shall develop and implement a strategy to
4 utilize livestock grazing as a wildfire risk reduction
5 tool on Federal land under the jurisdiction of the Sec-
6 retary concerned.

7 (2) *INCLUSIONS.*—The strategy under paragraph
8 (1) shall include—

9 (A) the completion of any reviews required
10 under the National Environmental Policy Act of
11 1969 (42 U.S.C. 4321 *et seq.*) to allow a per-
12 mittee with a grazing permit in effect to graze
13 on vacant grazing allotments during instances of
14 drought, wildfire, or other natural disaster that
15 disrupt grazing on the allotments covered by
16 such grazing permit;

17 (B) the use of targeted grazing to reduce
18 hazardous fuels;

19 (C) an increase in the use of temporary
20 grazing permits to promote targeted fuels reduc-
21 tion and reduction of invasive annual grasses;

22 (D) an increase in the use of livestock graz-
23 ing—

24 (i) to eradicate invasive annual
25 grasses; and

1 (ii) as a restoration strategy and for
2 post-fire recovery, as appropriate;

3 (E) the integrated use of advanced tech-
4 nologies to dynamically adjust livestock place-
5 ment on Federal land under the jurisdiction of
6 the Secretary concerned;

7 (F) an increase in the use of any authori-
8 ties applicable to livestock grazing, including
9 modifications to grazing permits or leases to
10 allow variances; and

11 (G) the use of grazing on Federal land
12 under the jurisdiction of the Secretary concerned
13 in a manner that—

14 (i) avoids conflicts with other uses of
15 such land; and

16 (ii) is consistent with any applicable
17 land management plan.

18 (b) *EFFECT ON EXISTING GRAZING PROGRAMS.*—

19 *Nothing in this section affects—*

20 (1) any livestock grazing program carried out by
21 the Secretary concerned as of the date of enactment
22 of this Act; or

23 (2) any statutory authority for any program de-
24 scribed in paragraph (1).

1 (c) *SECRETARY CONCERNED DEFINED.*—*In this sec-*
 2 *tion, the term “Secretary concerned” means—*

3 (1) *the Secretary of Agriculture, with respect to*
 4 *National Forest System lands; and*

5 (2) *the Secretary of the Interior, with respect to*
 6 *public lands.*

7 **SEC. 8419. JOINT CHIEFS LANDSCAPE RESTORATION PART-**
 8 **nership Program.**

9 *Section 40808 of the Infrastructure Investment and*
 10 *Jobs Act is amended—*

11 (1) *in subsection (g)(2), by inserting “and at*
 12 *least once every 2 fiscal years thereafter” after “and*
 13 *2023”; and*

14 (2) *in subsection (h)(1), by striking “and 2023”*
 15 *and inserting “through 2031”.*

16 **SEC. 8420. TRIBAL FOREST MANAGEMENT PROGRAM TECH-**
 17 **nical Correction.**

18 *Section 8703 of the Agriculture Improvement Act of*
 19 *2018 is amended—*

20 (1) *in the heading, by striking “**DEMONSTRA-***
 21 ***TION PROJECT**” and inserting “**PROGRAM**” (and*
 22 *by conforming the item relating to such section in the*
 23 *table of contents accordingly); and*

24 (2) *in subsection (a), by striking “demonstration*
 25 *projects by” and inserting “a program under”.*

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; and

5 (C) in paragraph (1), as so redesignated, by
6 inserting “or market competitiveness” after “cost
7 effectiveness”;

8 (6) in subsection (f)—

9 (A) by striking paragraph (2);

10 (B) by redesignating paragraphs (3) and
11 (4) as paragraphs (2) and (3), respectively; and

12 (C) in paragraph (2), as so redesignated, by
13 striking “use or retrofitting (or both) of existing
14 sawmill” and inserting “construction, use or ret-
15 rofitting of forest products manufacturing”;

16 (7) in subsection (g)—

17 (A) in paragraph (1), by striking “5
18 megawatts of thermal energy or combined ther-
19 mal and electric energy” and inserting “15
20 megawatts of thermal energy or combined ther-
21 mal and electric energy”; and

22 (B) in paragraph (2), by striking “25 per-
23 cent” and inserting “50 percent”; and

24 (8) in subsection (h), by striking “2023” and in-
25 serting “2031”.

1 **SEC. 8432. WOOD INNOVATION GRANT PROGRAM.**

2 (a) *APPLICATION TO TRANSPORTATION COSTS.*—Sec-
3 *tion 8643(b)(1) of the Agriculture Improvement Act of 2018*
4 *(7 U.S.C. 7655d(b)(1)) is amended by inserting “, includ-*
5 *ing the construction of new facilities that advance the pur-*
6 *poses of the program and for the hauling of material re-*
7 *moved to reduce hazardous fuels to locations where that ma-*
8 *terial can be utilized” before the period at the end.*

9 (b) *TARGETING TO SUPPORT ECONOMIC DEVELOP-*
10 *MENT, ENHANCED BUILDING DESIGN, AND IMPACT ASSESS-*
11 *MENT.*—Section 8643(c) of the Agriculture Improvement
12 Act of 2018 (7 U.S.C. 7655d(c)) is amended to read as fol-
13 lows:

14 “(c) *TARGETING TO SUPPORT ECONOMIC DEVELOP-*
15 *MENT, ENHANCED BUILDING DESIGN, AND IMPACT ASSESS-*
16 *MENT.*—In selecting among proposals of eligible entities
17 under subsection (b)(2), the Secretary may give priority to
18 proposals for projects that—

19 “(1) include the use or retrofitting (or both) of
20 existing sawmill facilities located in counties in
21 which the average annual unemployment rate exceed-
22 ed the national average unemployment rate by more
23 than 1 percent in the previous calendar year;

24 “(2) recognize or enhance carbon reduction strat-
25 egies in building design and interior wood products,

1 including forest impacts, which can be improved by
 2 North American manufacturing; or

3 “(3) include in the proposal of the entity an
 4 analysis of the benefits that forest management under
 5 the proposal will have on the resilience and economy
 6 of the community, including benefits associated
 7 with—

8 “(A) wood products from anticipated wood
 9 supply areas;

10 “(B) wildfire risk reduction;

11 “(C) increased fiber flow;

12 “(D) the increase of forest or mill jobs; and

13 “(E) support for forested communities.”.

14 (c) *MATCHING REQUIREMENT.*—Section 8643(d) of the
 15 Agriculture Improvement Act of 2018 (7 U.S.C. 7655d(d))
 16 is amended by inserting “50 percent of” before “the
 17 amount”.

18 **SEC. 8433. FOREST AND WOOD PRODUCTS DATA TRACKER.**

19 (a) *IN GENERAL.*—Not later than 2 years after the
 20 date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary, acting
 21 through the Chief of the Forest Service, in collaboration
 22 with the Chief of the Natural Resources Conservation Serv-
 23 ice and in consultation with federally recognized Indian
 24 Tribes, State foresters, and private sector partners, shall es-
 25 tablish a publicly available platform to provide measure-

1 *ment, monitoring, verification, and reporting data regard-*
2 *ing the carbon emissions, sequestration, storage, and related*
3 *atmospheric impacts of forest management and wood prod-*
4 *ucts.*

5 *(b) ACTIVITIES.—In carrying out subsection (a), the*
6 *Secretary shall source data, information, and data analysis*
7 *from Department programs and interagency programs, in-*
8 *cluding—*

9 *(1) the Forest Inventory and Analysis program,*
10 *including the Timber Products Output survey;*

11 *(2) Forest Service and Natural Resources Con-*
12 *servation Service soil carbon estimations;*

13 *(3) the Forest Products Laboratory;*

14 *(4) the Federal Life Cycle Assessment Commons;*

15 *(5) Department entity-level guidelines; and*

16 *(6) other relevant programmatic data and infor-*
17 *mation sources, as published and made available.*

18 *(c) PRIORITIES.—The platform established by sub-*
19 *section (a) shall provide tools that calculate—*

20 *(1) the above- and below-ground forest carbon*
21 *stocks and stock changes associated with species com-*
22 *position, forest management regime, and landowner*
23 *types (including small area estimations for regional*
24 *and localized geographies across the United States)*

1 *made available through Forest Inventory and Anal-*
 2 *ysis updates and annual reports;*

3 *(2) the embodied carbon involved in the manu-*
 4 *facture of products, using data from published envi-*
 5 *ronmental product declarations and life cycle assess-*
 6 *ments, updated as new and more refined data be-*
 7 *comes available;*

8 *(3) the long-term stored carbon in manufactured*
 9 *timber products; and*

10 *(4) the carbon displacement of wood products,*
 11 *compared to other materials, using substitution fac-*
 12 *tors.*

13 *(d) RULE OF CONSTRUCTION.—Nothing in this section*
 14 *may be construed to provide authority with respect to the*
 15 *generation, consumption, or trading of carbon or environ-*
 16 *mental credits from National Forest System lands in any*
 17 *voluntary or compliance environmental markets.*

18 **SEC. 8434. BIOCHAR APPLICATION DEMONSTRATION**
 19 **PROJECT.**

20 *(a) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:*

21 *(1) BIOCHAR.—The term “biochar” means car-*
 22 *bonized biomass produced by converting feedstock*
 23 *through reductive thermal processing for nonfuel uses.*

24 *(2) COVERED SECRETARIES.—The term “covered*
 25 *Secretaries” means—*

1 (A) *the Secretary, acting through the Chief*
2 *of the Forest Service;*

3 (B) *the Secretary of the Interior, acting*
4 *through the Director of the Bureau of Land*
5 *Management; and*

6 (C) *the Secretary of Energy, acting through*
7 *the Director of the Office of Science.*

8 (3) *ELIGIBLE ENTITY.*—*The term “eligible enti-*
9 *ty” means—*

10 (A) *a private, nonprivate, or cooperative*
11 *entity or organization;*

12 (B) *a State, local, special district, or Tribal*
13 *government;*

14 (C) *an eligible institution;*

15 (D) *a National Laboratory (as such term is*
16 *defined in section 2 of the Energy Policy Act of*
17 *2005 (42 U.S.C. 15801)); or*

18 (E) *a partnership or consortium of two or*
19 *more entities described in subparagraphs (A)*
20 *through (D).*

21 (4) *ELIGIBLE INSTITUTION.*—*The term “eligible*
22 *institution” means land-grant colleges and univer-*
23 *sities, including institutions eligible for funding*
24 *under—*

1 (A) *the Act of July 2, 1862 (12 Stat. 503,*
2 *chapter 130; 7 U.S.C. 301 et seq.);*

3 (B) *the Act of August 30, 1890 (26 Stat.*
4 *417, chapter 841; 7 U.S.C. 321 et seq.), includ-*
5 *ing Tuskegee University;*

6 (C) *Public Law 87-788 (commonly known*
7 *as the “McIntire-Stennis Act of 1962”); or*

8 (D) *the Equity in Educational Land-Grant*
9 *Status Act of 1994 (7 U.S.C. 301 note; Public*
10 *Law 103-382).*

11 (5) *FEEDSTOCK.*—*The term “feedstock” means*
12 *excess biomass in the form of plant matter or mate-*
13 *rials that serves as the raw material for the produc-*
14 *tion of biochar.*

15 (b) *DEMONSTRATION PROJECTS.*—

16 (1) *ESTABLISHMENT.*—

17 (A) *IN GENERAL.*—*Subject to the avail-*
18 *ability of appropriations made in advance for*
19 *such purpose, not later than 2 years after the*
20 *date of the enactment of this Act, the covered*
21 *Secretaries shall establish a program to enter*
22 *into partnerships with eligible entities to carry*
23 *out demonstration projects to support the devel-*
24 *opment and commercialization of biochar in ac-*
25 *cordance with this subsection.*

(B) LOCATION OF DEMONSTRATION

PROJECTS.—*In carrying out the program established under subparagraph (A), the covered Secretaries shall, to the maximum extent practicable, enter into partnerships with eligible entities such that not fewer than one demonstration project is carried out in each region of the Forest Service and each region of the Bureau of Land Management.*

(2) PROPOSALS.—*To be eligible to enter into a partnership to carry out a biochar demonstration project under paragraph (1)(A), an eligible entity shall submit to the covered Secretaries a proposal at such time, in such manner, and containing such information as the covered Secretaries may require.*

(3) USE OF FUNDS.—*In carrying out the program established under paragraph (1)(A), the covered Secretaries may enter into partnerships and provide funding to such partnerships to carry out demonstration projects to—*

(A) *acquire and test various feedstocks and their efficacy;*

(B) *develop and optimize commercially and technologically viable biochar production units, including mobile and permanent units;*

1 (C) demonstrate—

2 (i) the production of biochar from for-
3 est residue; and

4 (ii) the use of biochar to restore forest
5 health and resiliency;

6 (D) build, expand, or establish biochar fa-
7 cilities;

8 (E) conduct research on new and innovative
9 uses of biochar;

10 (F) demonstrate cost-effective market oppor-
11 tunities for biochar and biochar-based products;

12 (G) carry out any other activities the cov-
13 ered Secretaries determine appropriate; or

14 (H) do any combination of the activities
15 specified in subparagraphs (A) through (F).

16 (4) *PRIORITY.*—In selecting proposals under
17 paragraph (2), the covered Secretaries shall give pri-
18 ority to entering into partnerships with eligible enti-
19 ties that submit proposals to carry out biochar dem-
20 onstration projects that—

21 (A) have the most potential to create new
22 jobs and contribute to local economies, particu-
23 larly in rural areas;

24 (B) have the most potential to dem-
25 onstrate—

1 (i) new and innovative uses of biochar;

2 (ii) market viability for cost-effective

3 biochar-based products;

4 (iii) the restorative benefits of biochar

5 with respect to forest health and resiliency,

6 including forest soils and watersheds; or

7 (iv) any combination of the purposes

8 specified in clauses (i) through (iii);

9 (C) are located in areas that have a high

10 need for biochar production, as determined by

11 the covered Secretaries, due to—

12 (i) nearby lands identified as having

13 high or very high or extreme risk of wild-

14 fire;

15 (ii) availability of sufficient quantities

16 of feedstocks; or

17 (iii) a high level of demand for biochar

18 or other commercial byproducts of biochar;

19 or

20 (D) satisfy any combination of the purposes

21 specified in subparagraphs (A) through (C).

22 (5) *FEEDSTOCK REQUIREMENTS.*—To the max-

23 imum extent practicable, an eligible entity that car-

24 ries out a biochar demonstration project under this

25 subsection shall, with respect to the feedstock used

1 *under such project, derive at least 50 percent of such*
2 *feedstock from forest thinning and management ac-*
3 *tivities, including mill residues, conducted on Na-*
4 *tional Forest System lands or public lands.*

5 (6) *REVIEW OF BIOCHAR DEMONSTRATION.*—

6 (A) *IN GENERAL.*—*The covered Secretaries*
7 *shall conduct regionally specific research, includ-*
8 *ing economic analyses and life-cycle assessments,*
9 *on any biochar produced from a demonstration*
10 *project carried out under the program established*
11 *in paragraph (1)(A), including—*

12 (i) *the effects of such biochar on—*

13 (I) *forest health and resiliency;*

14 (II) *carbon capture and sequestra-*
15 *tion, including increasing soil carbon*
16 *in the short term and long term;*

17 (III) *productivity, reduced input*
18 *costs, and water retention in agricul-*
19 *tural practices;*

20 (IV) *the health of soil and grass-*
21 *lands used for grazing activities, in-*
22 *cluding grazing activities on National*
23 *Forest System land and public land;*
24 *and*

1 (V) *environmental remediation*
2 *activities, including abandoned mine*
3 *land remediation;*

4 (ii) *the effectiveness of biochar as a co-*
5 *product of biofuels or in biochemicals; and*

6 (iii) *the effectiveness of other potential*
7 *uses of biochar to determine if any such use*
8 *is technologically and commercially viable.*

9 (B) *COORDINATION.—The covered Secre-*
10 *taries shall, to the maximum extent practicable,*
11 *provide data, analyses, and other relevant infor-*
12 *mation collected under subparagraph (A) with*
13 *recipients of a grant under subsection (c).*

14 (7) *LIMITATION ON FUNDING FOR ESTABLISHING*
15 *BIOCHAR FACILITIES.—If the covered Secretaries pro-*
16 *vide to an eligible entity that enters into a partner-*
17 *ship with the covered Secretaries under paragraph*
18 *(1)(A) funding for establishing a biochar facility,*
19 *such funding may not exceed 35 percent of the capital*
20 *cost of establishing such biochar facility.*

21 (c) *BIOCHAR RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT GRANT*
22 *PROGRAM.—*

23 (1) *ESTABLISHMENT.—The Secretary of the Inte-*
24 *rior, in consultation with the Secretary of Energy,*
25 *shall establish or expand an existing applied biochar*

1 *research and development grant program to make*
2 *competitive grants to eligible institutions to carry out*
3 *the activities described in paragraph (3).*

4 (2) *APPLICATIONS.*—*To be eligible to receive a*
5 *grant under this subsection, an eligible institution*
6 *shall submit to the Secretary a proposal at such time,*
7 *in such manner, and containing such information as*
8 *the Secretary may require.*

9 (3) *USE OF FUNDS.*—*An eligible institution that*
10 *receives a grant under this subsection shall use the*
11 *grant funds to conduct applied research on—*

12 (A) *the effect of biochar on forest health and*
13 *resiliency, accounting for variations in biochar,*
14 *soil, climate, and other factors;*

15 (B) *the effect of biochar on soil health and*
16 *water retention, accounting for variations in*
17 *biochar, soil, climate, and other factors;*

18 (C) *the long-term carbon sequestration po-*
19 *tential of biochar;*

20 (D) *the best management practices with re-*
21 *spect to biochar and biochar-based product that*
22 *maximize—*

23 (i) *carbon sequestration benefits; and*

24 (ii) *the commercial viability and ap-*
25 *plication of such products in forestry, agri-*

1 *culture, environmental remediation, water*
2 *quality improvement, and any other similar*
3 *uses, as determined by the Secretary;*

4 *(E) the regional uses of biochar to increase*
5 *productivity and profitability, including—*

6 *(i) uses in agriculture and environ-*
7 *mental remediation; and*

8 *(ii) use as a coproduct in fuel produc-*
9 *tion;*

10 *(F) new and innovative uses for biochar by-*
11 *products; and*

12 *(G) opportunities to expand markets for*
13 *biochar and create related jobs, particularly in*
14 *rural areas.*

15 *(d) REPORTS.—*

16 *(1) REPORT TO CONGRESS.—Not later than 2*
17 *years after the date of enactment of this Act, the cov-*
18 *ered Secretaries shall submit to Congress a report*
19 *that—*

20 *(A) includes policy and program rec-*
21 *ommendations to improve the widespread use of*
22 *biochar;*

23 *(B) identifies any area of research needed to*
24 *advance biochar commercialization; and*

1 (C) identifies barriers to further biochar
 2 commercialization, including permitting and
 3 siting considerations.

4 (2) *MATERIALS SUBMITTED IN SUPPORT OF THE*
 5 *PRESIDENT’S BUDGET.*—Beginning with the second
 6 fiscal year that begins after the date of enactment of
 7 this Act and annually thereafter until the date de-
 8 scribed in subsection (e), the covered Secretaries shall
 9 include in the materials submitted to Congress in
 10 support of the President’s budget pursuant to section
 11 1105 of title 31, United States Code, a report describ-
 12 ing, for the fiscal year covered by the report, the sta-
 13 tus of each demonstration project carried out under
 14 subsection (b) and each research and development
 15 grant carried out under subsection (c).

16 (e) *SUNSET.*—The authority to carry out this section
 17 shall terminate on the date that is 7 years after the date
 18 of enactment of this Act.

19 ***Subtitle E—Other Matters***

20 ***SEC. 8501. RURAL REVITALIZATION TECHNOLOGIES.***

21 Section 2371(d)(2) of the Food, Agriculture, Conserva-
 22 tion, and Trade Act of 1990 (7 U.S.C. 6601(d)(2)) is
 23 amended by striking “2023” and inserting “2031”.

1 **SEC. 8502. RESOURCE ADVISORY COMMITTEES.**

2 *Section 205 of the Secure Rural Schools and Commu-*
 3 *nity Self-Determination Act of 2000 (16 U.S.C. 7125) is*
 4 *amended—*

5 *(1) in subsection (c), by adding at the end the*
 6 *following:*

7 *“(6) APPOINTMENTS BY APPLICABLE REGIONAL*
 8 *FORESTERS.—In making appointments under this*
 9 *subsection, the Secretary concerned may act through*
 10 *the applicable regional forester so long as before the*
 11 *applicable regional forester makes an appointment,*
 12 *the applicable regional forester conducts the review*
 13 *and analysis that would otherwise be conducted for*
 14 *an appointment to a resource advisory committee, in-*
 15 *cluding any review and analysis with respect to civil*
 16 *rights, budgetary requirements, vetting, and report-*
 17 *ing, as the Secretary concerned determines appro-*
 18 *priate.”;*

19 *(2) in subsection (d)(6), by striking “October 1,*
 20 *2026” and inserting “October 1, 2031”; and*

21 *(3) by striking subsection (g).*

22 **SEC. 8503. ACCURATE HAZARDOUS FUELS REDUCTION RE-**
 23 **PORTS.**

24 *(a) MATERIALS SUBMITTED IN SUPPORT OF PRESI-*
 25 *DENT’S BUDGET.—*

1 (1) *IN GENERAL.*—Beginning with the first fiscal
2 year that begins after the date of the enactment of this
3 Act, and annually thereafter, the Secretary concerned
4 shall include in the materials submitted to Congress
5 in support of the President’s budget pursuant to sec-
6 tion 1105 of title 31, United States Code, a report de-
7 scribing the number of acres of Federal land on which
8 the Secretary concerned carried out hazardous fuels
9 reduction activities during the preceding fiscal year,
10 as determined using—

11 (A) the methodology of the Secretary con-
12 cerned in effect on the day before the date of en-
13 actment of this Act; and

14 (B) the methodology described in paragraph

15 (2).

16 (2) *REQUIREMENTS.*—For purposes of a report
17 required under paragraph (1), the Secretary con-
18 cerned shall—

19 (A) in determining the number of acres of
20 Federal land on which the Secretary concerned
21 carried out hazardous fuels reduction activities
22 during the period covered by the report—

23 (i) record acres of Federal land on
24 which hazardous fuels reduction activities
25 were completed during that period; and

1 (ii) record each acre described in
2 clause (i) once in the report, regardless of
3 whether multiple hazardous fuels reduction
4 activities were carried out on that acre dur-
5 ing the applicable period; and

6 (B) with respect to the acres of Federal land
7 recorded in the report, include information relat-
8 ing to—

9 (i) which acres are located in the
10 wildland-urban interface;

11 (ii) the level of hazard potential of the
12 acres on the first and last day of the period
13 covered by the report;

14 (iii) the types of hazardous fuels reduc-
15 tion activities completed with respect to the
16 acres, including a description of whether
17 those hazardous fuels reduction activities
18 were conducted—

19 (I) in a wildfire managed for re-
20 source benefits; or

21 (II) through a planned hazardous
22 fuels reduction project;

23 (iv) the cost per acre of the hazardous
24 fuels reduction activities carried out during
25 the period covered by the report;

1 (v) the region or System unit in which
2 the acres are located; and

3 (vi) the effectiveness of the hazardous
4 fuels reduction activities with respect to re-
5 ducing the risk of wildfire.

6 (3) *TRANSPARENCY.*—The Secretary concerned
7 shall make each report submitted under paragraph
8 (1) publicly available on the website of the Depart-
9 ment of Agriculture or the Department of the Interior,
10 as applicable.

11 (b) *ACCURATE DATA COLLECTION.*—

12 (1) *IN GENERAL.*—Not later than 90 days after
13 the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary con-
14 cerned shall implement standardized procedures for
15 tracking data related to hazardous fuels reduction ac-
16 tivities carried out by the Secretary concerned.

17 (2) *ELEMENTS.*—The standardized procedures
18 required under paragraph (1) shall include—

19 (A) regular, standardized data reviews of
20 the accuracy and timely input of data used to
21 track hazardous fuels reduction activities;

22 (B) verification methods that validate
23 whether those data accurately correlate to the
24 hazardous fuels reduction activities carried out
25 by the Secretary concerned;

1 (C) an analysis of the short- and long-term
2 effectiveness of the hazardous fuels reduction ac-
3 tivities on reducing the risk of wildfire; and

4 (D) for hazardous fuels reduction activities
5 that occur partially within the wildland-urban
6 interface, methods to distinguish which acres are
7 located within the wildland-urban interface and
8 which acres are located outside the wildland-
9 urban interface.

10 (3) *REPORT.*—Not later than 45 days after im-
11 plementing the standardized procedures required
12 under paragraph (1), the Secretary concerned shall
13 submit to Congress a report that describes—

14 (A) the standardized procedures; and

15 (B) any programmatic or policy rec-
16 ommendations to Congress to address limitations
17 in tracking data relating to hazardous fuels re-
18 duction activities under this subsection.

19 (c) *GAO STUDY.*—Not later than 2 years after the date
20 of enactment of this Act, the Comptroller General of the
21 United States shall—

22 (1) conduct a study regarding the implementa-
23 tion of this section, including any limitations with
24 respect to—

1 (A) reporting hazardous fuels reduction ac-
2 tivities under subsection (a); or

3 (B) tracking data relating to hazardous
4 fuels reduction activities under subsection (b);
5 and

6 (2) submit to Congress a report that describes the
7 results of the study under paragraph (1).

8 (d) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

9 (1) FEDERAL LAND.—The term “Federal land”
10 means any land under the jurisdiction of—

11 (A) the Secretary; or

12 (B) the Secretary of the Interior.

13 (2) HAZARDOUS FUELS REDUCTION ACTIVITY.—

14 (A) IN GENERAL.—The term “hazardous
15 fuels reduction activity” means any vegetation
16 management activity to reduce the risk of wild-
17 fire, including mechanical treatments, grazing,
18 and prescribed burning.

19 (B) EXCLUSION.—The term “hazardous
20 fuels reduction activity” does not include the
21 awarding of a contract to conduct an activity
22 described in subparagraph (A).

23 (3) SECRETARY CONCERNED.—The term “Sec-
24 retary concerned” means—

1 (A) the Secretary of Agriculture, with re-
2 spect to National Forest System lands; and

3 (B) the Secretary of the Interior, with re-
4 spect to public lands.

5 (e) NO ADDITIONAL FUNDS AUTHORIZED.—

6 (1) IN GENERAL.—No additional funds are au-
7 thorized to carry out this section.

8 (2) SUBJECT TO APPROPRIATIONS.—The activi-
9 ties authorized by this section are subject to the avail-
10 ability of appropriations made in advance for those
11 purposes.

12 **SEC. 8504. SPECIAL USE AUTHORIZATION RENTAL FEE**
13 **WAIVER.**

14 All or part of the programmatic administrative fee,
15 and any fees related to the special use authorization, as ap-
16 propriate, may be waived by the Secretary, acting through
17 the Chief of the Forest Service, when equitable and in the
18 public interest as determined by the Chief of the Forest
19 Service, for the use and occupancy of National Forest Sys-
20 tem land in the following circumstances:

21 (1) The holder of the special use authorization is
22 a State or local government or any agency or instru-
23 mentality thereof, excluding municipal utilities and
24 cooperatives whose principal source of revenue is cus-
25 tomer charges.

1 (2) *The holder is—*

2 (A) *an organization described in section*
 3 *501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986*
 4 *and is exempt from taxation under section*
 5 *501(a) of such Code;*

6 (B) *not controlled or owned by a profit-*
 7 *making corporation or business enterprise; and*

8 (C) *is engaged in a public or semipublic ac-*
 9 *tivity to further public health, safety, or welfare.*

10 (3) *The holder is an amateur station, amateur*
 11 *operator, or provides amateur radio services, as those*
 12 *terms are defined in section 97.3 of title 47, Code of*
 13 *Federal Regulations (or successor regulations).*

14 (4) *Other circumstances the Secretary, acting*
 15 *through the Chief of the Forest Service, determines*
 16 *appropriate.*

17 **SEC. 8505. CHARGES AND FEES FOR HARVEST OF FOREST**
 18 **BOTANICAL PRODUCTS.**

19 (a) *RECOVERY OF FAIR MARKET VALUE FOR PROD-*
 20 *UCTS.—*

21 (1) *IN GENERAL.—The Secretary, acting through*
 22 *the Chief of the Forest Service, shall establish and*
 23 *carry out a program to charge and collect fees under*
 24 *subsection (b) for forest botanical products harvested*
 25 *on National Forest System lands.*

1 (2) *APPRAISAL METHODS; BIDDING PROCE-*
2 *DURES.*—*The Secretary, acting through the Chief of*
3 *the Forest Service, shall establish a fee system based*
4 *on fair market value for forest botanical products har-*
5 *vested on National Forest System lands.*

6 (b) *FEES.*—

7 (1) *IMPOSITION AND COLLECTION.*—*The Sec-*
8 *retary shall charge and collect fees from persons who*
9 *harvest forest botanical products on National Forest*
10 *System lands.*

11 (2) *AMOUNT OF FEE.*—*The fees collected under*
12 *paragraph (1) shall be based on the fair market value*
13 *of the harvested forest botanical products and the costs*
14 *incurred by the Secretary associated with granting,*
15 *modifying, or monitoring the authorization for har-*
16 *vest of the forest botanical products, including the*
17 *costs of any environmental or other analysis.*

18 (3) *SECURITY.*—*The Secretary, acting through*
19 *the Chief of the Forest Service, may require a person*
20 *assessed a fee under this subsection to provide security*
21 *to ensure that the Secretary receives the fees imposed*
22 *under this subsection from the person.*

23 (c) *SUSTAINABLE HARVEST LEVELS FOR FOREST BO-*
24 *TANICAL PRODUCTS.*—

1 (1) *IN GENERAL.*—*The Secretary, acting through*
2 *the Chief of the Forest Service, shall—*

3 (A) *conduct appropriate analyses to deter-*
4 *mine whether and how the harvest of forest bo-*
5 *tanical products on National Forest System*
6 *lands can be conducted on a sustainable basis;*
7 *and*

8 (B) *establish procedures and timeframes to*
9 *monitor and revise the harvest levels established*
10 *for forest botanical products.*

11 (2) *PROHIBITION ON HARVEST IN EXCESS OF*
12 *SUSTAINABLE LEVELS.*—*The Secretary, acting*
13 *through the Chief of the Forest Service, may not per-*
14 *mit under the program under this section the harvest*
15 *of forest botanical products on National Forest Sys-*
16 *tem lands at levels in excess of sustainable harvest*
17 *levels, as defined under section 4 of the Multiple-Use*
18 *Sustained-Yield Act of 1960 (16 U.S.C. 531).*

19 (d) *WAIVER AUTHORITY.*—

20 (1) *PERSONAL USE.*—*The Secretary, acting*
21 *through the Chief of the Forest Service, shall establish*
22 *a personal use harvest level for each forest botanical*
23 *product, and the harvest of a forest botanical product*
24 *below that level by a person for personal use shall not*

1 *be subject to charges and fees under subsections (a)*
2 *and (b).*

3 (2) *OTHER EXCEPTIONS.—The Secretary, acting*
4 *through the Chief of the Forest Service, may also*
5 *waive the application of subsection (a) or (b) pursu-*
6 *ant to such regulations as the Secretary may pre-*
7 *scribe.*

8 (e) *DEPOSIT AND USE OF FUNDS.—*

9 (1) *DEPOSIT.—Funds collected under the pro-*
10 *gram in accordance with subsections (a) and (b) shall*
11 *be deposited into a special account in the United*
12 *States Treasury.*

13 (2) *FUNDS AVAILABLE.—Funds deposited into*
14 *the special account in accordance with paragraph (1)*
15 *shall remain available until expended without further*
16 *appropriation.*

17 (3) *AUTHORIZED USES.—The funds made avail-*
18 *able under paragraph (2) shall be expended at units*
19 *of the National Forest System in proportion to the*
20 *charges and fees collected at that unit under the pro-*
21 *gram under this section to pay for—*

22 (A) *the costs of conducting inventories of*
23 *forest botanical products, determining sustain-*
24 *able levels of harvest, monitoring and assessing*
25 *the impacts of harvest levels and methods, and*

1 *for restoration activities, including any nec-*
2 *essary revegetation; and*

3 *(B) the costs described in subsection (b)(2).*

4 (4) *TREATMENT OF FEES.—Funds collected*
5 *under the program in accordance with subsections (a)*
6 *and (b) shall not be taken into account for the pur-*
7 *poses of the following laws:*

8 *(A) The sixth paragraph under the heading*
9 *“forest service” in the Act of May 23, 1908 (16*
10 *U.S.C. 500), and section 13 of the Act of March*
11 *1, 1911 (commonly known as the Weeks Act; 16*
12 *U.S.C. 500).*

13 *(B) The fourteenth paragraph under the*
14 *heading “forest service” in the Act of March 4,*
15 *1913 (16 U.S.C. 501).*

16 *(C) Section 33 of the Bankhead-Jones Farm*
17 *Tenant Act (7 U.S.C. 1012).*

18 *(D) The Act of August 28, 1937 (43 U.S.C.*
19 *2601 et seq.) and the Act of May 24, 1939 (43*
20 *U.S.C. 2621 et seq.).*

21 *(E) Section 6 of the Act of June 14, 1926*
22 *(commonly known as the Recreation and Public*
23 *Purposes Act; 43 U.S.C. 869–4).*

24 *(F) Chapter 69 of title 31, United States*
25 *Code.*

1 (G) *Section 401 of the Act of June 15, 1935*
 2 (16 U.S.C. 715s).

3 (H) *Section 100904 of title 54, United*
 4 *States Code.*

5 (I) *Any other provision of law relating to*
 6 *revenue allocation.*

7 (f) *REPORTING REQUIREMENTS.—As soon as prac-*
 8 *ticable after the end of each fiscal year in which the Sec-*
 9 *retary collects charges and fees under the program in ac-*
 10 *cordance with subsections (a) and (b) or expends funds from*
 11 *the special account under subsection (e), the Secretary, act-*
 12 *ing through the Chief of the Forest Service, shall submit*
 13 *to the Congress a report summarizing the activities of the*
 14 *Secretary under the program under this section, including*
 15 *the funds collected under the program in accordance with*
 16 *subsections (a) and (b), the expenses incurred to carry out*
 17 *the program under this section, and the expenditures made*
 18 *from the special account during that fiscal year.*

19 (g) *DEFINITIONS.—For purposes of this section:*

20 (1) *FOREST BOTANICAL PRODUCT.—The term*
 21 *“forest botanical product”—*

22 (A) *means any naturally occurring mush-*
 23 *room, fungus, flower, seed, root, bark, leaf, berry,*
 24 *bough, bryophyte, bulb, burl, cone, epiphyte, fern,*
 25 *forb, grass, moss, nut, pine straw, sedge, shrub,*

1 *transplant, tree sap, or other vegetation (or por-*
 2 *tion thereof) that grows on National Forest Sys-*
 3 *tem lands; and*

4 *(B) does not include trees, or portions of*
 5 *trees, except as provided in regulations issued*
 6 *under section 339 of the Department of the Inte-*
 7 *rior and Related Agencies Appropriations Act of*
 8 *2000 (16 U.S.C. 528 note) by the Secretary be-*
 9 *fore the date of enactment of this Act.*

10 *(2) NATIONAL FOREST SYSTEM.—The term “Na-*
 11 *tional Forest System” has the meaning given that*
 12 *term in section 11(a) of the Forest and Rangeland*
 13 *Renewable Resources Planning Act of 1974 (16*
 14 *U.S.C. 1609(a)).*

15 **SEC. 8506. FOREST SERVICE LEGACY ROAD AND TRAIL RE-**
 16 **MEDIATION PROGRAM TRANSPARENCY.**

17 *Section 8 of Public Law 88–657 (16 U.S.C. 538a) is*
 18 *amended—*

19 *(1) in subsection (c)(2)—*

20 *(A) by striking subparagraph (B) and in-*
 21 *serting the following:*

22 *“(B) solicit and consider public input re-*
 23 *gionally in selecting projects for funding under*
 24 *the Program by—*

1 “(i) publishing annually, for each re-
2 gion, a list of projects considered for fund-
3 ing under the Program;

4 “(ii) accepting public comment on the
5 projects described in clause (i); and

6 “(iii) considering public comments in
7 selecting projects for funding under the Pro-
8 gram;”; and

9 (B) in subparagraph (D)—

10 (i) in the matter preceding clause (i),
11 by inserting “annually, for each region,”
12 before “publish”; and

13 (ii) by striking clause (ii) and insert-
14 ing the following:

15 “(ii) a list that includes a description
16 of—

17 “(I) each project considered for
18 funding under the Program;

19 “(II) public comments received on
20 each project described in subclause (I);

21 “(III) the ranking within the ap-
22 plicable region of each project described
23 in subclause (I); and

1 “(IV) the proposed outcome of
 2 each project funded under the Program
 3 for the applicable fiscal year.”; and

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

5 “(f) *DEFINITION OF REGION.*—In this section, the term
 6 ‘region’ means one of the 9 regions of the Forest Service.”.

7 **SEC. 8507. DIRECT HIRE AUTHORITY.**

8 For fiscal year 2026 and each fiscal year thereafter,
 9 the Secretary may appoint, without regard to the provisions
 10 of subchapter I of chapter 33 of title 5, United States Code,
 11 other than sections 3303 and 3328 of that title, a Job Corps
 12 graduate (as defined in section 142(5) of the Workforce In-
 13 novation and Opportunity Act (29 U.S.C. 3192(5))) to a
 14 position in the competitive service in the Forest Service for
 15 which the graduate meets the qualification standards.

16 **SEC. 8508. IMPROVING THE EMERGENCY FOREST RESTORA-**
 17 **TION PROGRAM.**

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

20 (1) by redesignating subsection (e) as subsection
 21 (f); and

22 (2) by inserting after subsection (d) the fol-
 23 lowing:

24 “(e) *ADVANCE PAYMENTS.*—

1 “(1) *IN GENERAL.*—*The Secretary shall give an*
 2 *owner of nonindustrial private forest land the option*
 3 *of receiving, before the owner carries out emergency*
 4 *measures under this section, not more than 75 percent*
 5 *of the cost of the emergency measures, as determined*
 6 *by the Secretary based on the fair market value of the*
 7 *cost of the emergency measures using the estimated*
 8 *cost of the applicable practice published in the Field*
 9 *Office Technical Guide of each State by the Natural*
 10 *Resources Conservation Service.*

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

18 **SEC. 8509. EXEMPTION FOR PREVIOUSLY ANALYZED AREAS**
 19 **OF NATIONAL FOREST SYSTEM LANDS.**

20 “(a) *IN GENERAL.*—*The requirements under the Na-*
 21 *tional Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (42 U.S.C. 4321*
 22 *et seq.) or division A of subtitle 54, United States Code,*
 23 *shall not apply to an application for a communications use*
 24 *authorization on National Forest System lands, including*
 25 *National Forest System lands on which authorized utilities,*

1 *communications facilities, powerline facilities, or roads*
2 *have been installed, if—*

3 *(1) the communications equipment is located in*
4 *or on existing infrastructure; or*

5 *(2) the communications facility is located on*
6 *previously analyzed areas of National Forest System*
7 *lands.*

8 *(b) NO ADDITIONAL CONSULTATION REQUIRED*
9 *UNDER CERTAIN CIRCUMSTANCES.—Notwithstanding any*
10 *other provision of law, the Secretary shall not be required*
11 *to reinitiate consultation of the requirements under the Na-*
12 *tional Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (42 U.S.C. 4321*
13 *et seq.) or division A of subtitle 54, United States Code,*
14 *for an application for a communications use authorization*
15 *on previously analyzed areas of National Forest System*
16 *lands if new information concerning a previously analyzed*
17 *area of National Forest System lands becomes available.*

18 *(c) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:*

19 *(1) COMMUNICATIONS FACILITY; COMMUNICA-*
20 *TIONS USE AUTHORIZATION.—The terms “commu-*
21 *nications facility” and “communications use author-*
22 *ization” have the meanings given the terms, respec-*
23 *tively, in section 8705 of the Agriculture Improve-*
24 *ment Act of 2018 (43 U.S.C. 1761a).*

1 (2) *PREVIOUSLY ANALYZED AREAS OF NATIONAL*
 2 *FOREST SYSTEM LANDS.*—*The term “previously ana-*
 3 *lyzed areas of National Forest System lands” means*
 4 *any National Forest System lands with respect to*
 5 *which the Secretary has—*

6 (A) *granted, issued, and executed a commu-*
 7 *nications use authorization; and*

8 (B) *conducted sufficient environmental or*
 9 *historical reviews.*

10 (3) *SECRETARY.*—*The term “Secretary” means*
 11 *the Secretary of Agriculture, acting through the Chief*
 12 *of the Forest Service.*

13 **SEC. 8510. RELEASE OF REVERSIONARY INTEREST IN**
 14 **BLACK RIVER STATE FOREST.**

15 (a) *DEFINITIONS.*—*In this section:*

16 (1) *DELI, INC.*—*The term “Deli, Inc.” means*
 17 *Deli, Inc., a sphagnum moss production business lo-*
 18 *cated in Millston, Wisconsin.*

19 (2) *DELI LAND.*—*The term “Deli land” means*
 20 *the approximately 37.27 acres of land owned or*
 21 *optioned to acquire, subject to the approval of the*
 22 *land exchange by the Wisconsin Department of Nat-*
 23 *ural Resources, the Wisconsin Natural Resources*
 24 *Board, and the Governor of Wisconsin, in 2 separate*
 25 *parcels, by Deli, Inc., and located in Millston, Wis-*

1 *consin, as depicted on the map and as described as*
2 *follows:*

3 *(A) A parcel of real property containing*
4 *approximately 31.3 acres (which includes land*
5 *within the road right-of-way), together with any*
6 *improvements—*

7 *(i) comprising the NE¹/₄NE¹/₄ sec. 29,*
8 *T. 20 N., R. 2 W., Town of Millston, Jack-*
9 *son County, Wisconsin;*

10 *(ii) excluding—*

11 *(I) land lying north of the rail-*
12 *road right-of-way; and*

13 *(II) a parcel 150 feet wide, with*
14 *50 feet lying to the northeast, and 100*
15 *feet to the southwest, of a line com-*
16 *mencing at a point 5 feet east of the*
17 *northwest corner of the quarter-quarter*
18 *section described in clause (i), thence*
19 *south 56° east 39" a distance of 222*
20 *feet, thence south 57° east 31" a dis-*
21 *tance of 1359 feet; and*

22 *(iii) subject to—*

23 *(I) any public water use or ease-*
24 *ments on Lee Lake; and*

1 (II) any easements or restrictions
2 of record, public roadways, zoning and
3 use ordinances, and the railroad right-
4 of-way.

5 (B) A parcel of real property containing
6 approximately 5.97 acres located in the
7 SW¹/₄SW¹/₄ sec. 20, T. 20 N., R. 4 W., Town of
8 Millston, Jackson County, Wisconsin, comprising
9 lot 7 of Certified Survey Map No. 4483, as re-
10 corded in volume 19S of the certified survey
11 maps, page 334, as Document No. 413440 in the
12 Jackson County Register of Deeds.

13 (3) MAP.—The term “map” means the map enti-
14 tled “Black River State Forest—Deli, Inc.” and dated
15 June 26, 2023.

16 (4) STATE.—The term “State” means the State
17 of Wisconsin.

18 (5) STATE FOREST LAND.—The term “State for-
19 est land” means the approximately 31.83 acres of
20 land located in the Black River State Forest in
21 Millston, Wisconsin, as depicted on the map and as
22 described as follows:

23 (A) A parcel containing 23.13 acres—

24 (i) comprising the portion of the
25 E¹/₂SE¹/₄ sec. 20, T. 20 N., R. 2. W., Town

1 of Millston, Jackson County, Wisconsin,
2 lying south of the Interstate Highway 94
3 southern right-of-way; and

4 (ii) excluding a triangular parcel in
5 the southwest corner described as com-
6 mencing at the southwest corner, thence east
7 260 feet, thence northwesterly to a point on
8 the west boundary thereof 200 feet north of
9 the southwest corner, thence south to the
10 place of beginning.

11 (B) A parcel containing 8.70 acres com-
12 prising the portion of the NE¹/₄NE¹/₄ sec. 29, T.
13 20 N., R. 2. W., Town of Millston, Jackson
14 County, Wisconsin, lying north of the railroad
15 right-of-way, forming a triangular piece and de-
16 scribed as commencing at the northeast corner of
17 that quarter-quarter section, thence west 1010
18 feet to the north line of the railroad right-of-way,
19 thence southeasterly along the boundary of the
20 railroad to the east line of that quarter-quarter
21 section, thence north on the east line 750 feet to
22 the place of beginning.

23 (b) *CONDITIONAL RELEASE.*—

24 (1) *FINDINGS.*—Congress finds that—

1 (A) the State forest land is subject to a re-
2 versionary interest of the United States pursuant
3 to section 32(c) of The Bankhead-Jones Farm
4 Tenant Act (7 U.S.C. 1011(c)), requiring that
5 the State forest land be used for public purposes
6 in perpetuity; and

7 (B) the State and Deli, Inc., have agreed
8 that the State will convey the State forest land
9 in exchange for the Deli land, and the Deli land
10 will be added to Black River State Forest in the
11 State.

12 (2) *CONDITIONAL RELEASE.*—If the State offers
13 in a written agreement to convey the State forest land
14 to Deli, Inc., in exchange for the conveyance of the
15 Deli land to the State—

16 (A) the reversionary interest of the United
17 States in the State forest land shall be released;
18 and

19 (B) the Secretary shall provide, as expedi-
20 tiously as possible, recordable evidence of the re-
21 lease under subparagraph (A) in the form of a
22 quitclaim deed, which shall—

23 (i) convey any interest of the United
24 States in the State forest land without con-
25 sideration; and

1 (ii) be provided to the State for record-
2 ing before the exchange deeds are recorded.

3 (3) *CORRECTIONS.*—*The Secretary, in consulta-*
4 *tion with the State, may make any necessary correc-*
5 *tions to the legal description of the State forest land*
6 *for purposes of the quitclaim deed described in para-*
7 *graph (2)(B).*

8 **SEC. 8511. DOUG LAMALFA SECURE RURAL SCHOOLS ACT.**

9 *Section 1 of the Secure Rural Schools and Community*
10 *Self-Determination Act of 2000 (16 U.S.C. 7101 note) is*
11 *amended by inserting “or the ‘Doug LaMalfa Secure Rural*
12 *Schools Act’” before the period at the end.*

13 **SEC. 8512. MINOR RANGE IMPROVEMENTS UNDER FOREST**
14 **SERVICE GRAZING PERMITS.**

15 (a) *MINOR RANGE IMPROVEMENTS BY PERMITTEES.*—
16 *Not later than 1 year after the date of the enactment of*
17 *this Act, the Secretary shall issue regulations allowing a*
18 *permittee to carry out a minor range improvement on the*
19 *lands with respect to which the permittee holds a grazing*
20 *permit if—*

21 (1) *the permittee notifies the applicable Forest*
22 *Service district ranger at least 30 days prior to car-*
23 *rying out such minor range improvement; and*

24 (2) *such applicable district ranger—*

1 (A) approves the minor range improvement;

2 or

3 (B) does not respond to notification regard-
4 ing the minor range improvement.

5 (b) *RANGE IMPROVEMENTS BY THE SECRETARY.*—The
6 Secretary, acting through the applicable district ranger,
7 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 Secretary,
12 acting through the applicable district ranger, will
13 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 range
18 improvement using any available administrative
19 tools or authorities, including categorical exclu-
20 sions.

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 any
2 successor regulations).

3 (2) *COVERED REQUEST.*—The term “covered re-
4 quest” means a request submitted by a permittee to
5 the Secretary requesting that the Secretary carry out
6 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 ***Subtitle F—White Oak Resilience***

12 ***SEC. 8601. SHORT TITLE.***

13 This subtitle may be cited as the “White Oak Resil-
14 ience Act”.

15 ***SEC. 8602. WHITE OAK RESTORATION INITIATIVE COALI-*** 16 ***TION.***

17 (a) *IN GENERAL.*—The White Oak Restoration Initia-
18 tive Coalition shall be established—

19 (1) as a voluntary collaborative group of Fed-
20 eral, State, Tribal, and local governments and private
21 and nongovernmental organizations to carry out the
22 duties described in subsection (b); and

23 (2) in accordance with the charter titled “White
24 Oak Initiative Coalition Charter” adopted by the

1 *White Oak Initiative Board of Directors on March 21,*
2 *2023 (or any successor charter).*

3 *(b) DUTIES.—In addition to the duties specified in the*
4 *charter described in subsection (a)(2), the duties of the*
5 *White Oak Restoration Initiative Coalition are—*

6 *(1) to coordinate Federal, State, Tribal, local,*
7 *private, and nongovernmental restoration of white*
8 *oak in the United States; and*

9 *(2) to make program and policy recommenda-*
10 *tions, consistent with applicable forest management*
11 *plans, with respect to—*

12 *(A) changes necessary to address Federal*
13 *and State policies that impede activities to im-*
14 *prove the health, resiliency, and natural regen-*
15 *eration of white oak;*

16 *(B) adopting or modifying Federal and*
17 *State policies to increase the pace and scale of*
18 *white oak regeneration and resiliency of white*
19 *oak;*

20 *(C) options to enhance communication, co-*
21 *ordination, and collaboration between forest*
22 *landowners, particularly for cross-boundary*
23 *projects, to improve the health, resiliency, and*
24 *natural regeneration of white oak;*

1 (D) research gaps that should be addressed
2 to improve the best available science on white
3 oak;

4 (E) outreach to forest landowners with
5 white oak or white oak regeneration potential;
6 and

7 (F) options and policies necessary to im-
8 prove the quality and quantity of white oak in
9 tree nurseries.

10 (c) *ADMINISTRATIVE SUPPORT, TECHNICAL SERVICES,*
11 *AND STAFF SUPPORT.*—The Secretary of the Interior and
12 the Secretary shall make such personnel available to the
13 White Oak Restoration Initiative Coalition for administra-
14 tive support, technical services, and development and dis-
15 semination of educational materials as the Secretary of the
16 Interior or the Secretary, as applicable, determines nec-
17 essary to carry out this section.

18 **SEC. 8603. FOREST SERVICE PILOT PROGRAM.**

19 (a) *IN GENERAL.*—The Secretary, acting through the
20 Chief of the Forest Service, shall establish and carry out
21 5 pilot projects in national forests to restore white oak in
22 such forests through white oak restoration and natural re-
23 generation practices that are consistent with applicable for-
24 est management plans.

1 (b) *NATIONAL FORESTS RESERVED OR WITHDRAWN*
2 *FROM PUBLIC DOMAIN.*—*At least 3 pilot projects required*
3 *under subsection (a) shall be carried out on national forests*
4 *reserved or withdrawn from the public domain.*

5 (c) *AUTHORITY TO ENTER INTO COOPERATIVE*
6 *AGREEMENTS.*—*The Secretary may enter into cooperative*
7 *agreements to carry out the pilot projects required under*
8 *subsection (a).*

9 (d) *SUNSET.*—*The authority under this section shall*
10 *terminate on the date that is 7 years after the date of enact-*
11 *ment of this Act.*

12 **SEC. 8604. WHITE OAK REGENERATION AND UPLAND OAK**
13 **HABITAT.**

14 (a) *ESTABLISHMENT.*—*Not later than 180 days after*
15 *the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary shall*
16 *establish a nonregulatory program to be known as the*
17 *“White Oak and Upland Oak Habitat Regeneration Pro-*
18 *gram” (in this section referred to as the “Program”).*

19 (b) *DUTIES.*—*In carrying out the Program, the Sec-*
20 *retary shall—*

21 (1) *draw upon the best available science and*
22 *management plans for species of white oak to iden-*
23 *tify, prioritize, and implement restoration and con-*
24 *servation activities that will improve the growth of*
25 *white oak within the United States;*

1 (2) *collaborate and coordinate with the White*
2 *Oak Restoration Initiative Coalition to prioritize*
3 *white oak restoration initiatives;*

4 (3) *adopt a white oak restoration strategy that—*
5 (A) *supports the implementation of a*
6 *shared set of science-based restoration and con-*
7 *servation activities developed in accordance with*
8 *paragraph (1);*

9 (B) *targets cost-effective projects with meas-*
10 *urable results; and*

11 (C) *maximizes restoration outcomes with no*
12 *net gain of Federal full-time equivalent employ-*
13 *ees; and*

14 (4) *establish the voluntary grant and technical*
15 *assistance programs in accordance with subsection*
16 *(e).*

17 (c) *COORDINATION.—In establishing the Program, the*
18 *Secretary, acting through the Chief of the Forest Service,*
19 *shall consult with—*

20 (1) *the heads of Federal agencies, including—*

21 (A) *the Director of the United States Fish*
22 *and Wildlife Service; and*

23 (B) *the Chief of the Natural Resources Con-*
24 *servation Service; and*

1 (2) *the Governor of each State in which restora-*
2 *tion efforts will be carried out pursuant to the Pro-*
3 *gram.*

4 (d) *PURPOSES.—The purposes of the Program in-*
5 *clude—*

6 (1) *coordinating restoration and conservation ac-*
7 *tivities among Federal, State, Tribal, and local enti-*
8 *ties and conservation partners to address white oak*
9 *restoration priorities;*

10 (2) *improving and regenerating white oak and*
11 *upland oak forests and the wildlife habitat such for-*
12 *ests provide;*

13 (3) *carrying out coordinated restoration and*
14 *conservation activities that lead to the increased*
15 *growth of species of white oak in native white oak re-*
16 *gions on Federal, State, Tribal, and private land;*

17 (4) *facilitating strategic planning to maximize*
18 *the resilience of white oak systems and habitats under*
19 *changing climate conditions;*

20 (5) *engaging the public through outreach, edu-*
21 *cation, and citizen involvement to increase capacity*
22 *and support for coordinated restoration and conserva-*
23 *tion activities for species of white oak; and*

24 (6) *increasing scientific capacity to support the*
25 *planning, monitoring, and research activities nec-*

1 *essary to carry out such coordinated restoration and*
2 *conservation activities.*

3 *(e) GRANTS AND ASSISTANCE.—*

4 *(1) IN GENERAL.—To the extent that funds are*
5 *available to carry out this section, the Secretary shall*
6 *establish a voluntary grant and technical assistance*
7 *program (in this section referred to as the “grant pro-*
8 *gram”) to achieve the purposes of the Program, as de-*
9 *scribed in subsection (d).*

10 *(2) ADMINISTRATION.—*

11 *(A) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall enter*
12 *into a cooperative agreement with the National*
13 *Fish and Wildlife Foundation (in this subsection*
14 *referred to as the “Foundation”) to manage and*
15 *administer the grant program.*

16 *(B) FUNDING.—Subject to the availability*
17 *of appropriations made in advance for such pur-*
18 *pose, after the Secretary enters into a cooperative*
19 *agreement with the Foundation under subpara-*
20 *graph (A), the Foundation shall, for each fiscal*
21 *year, receive amounts to carry out this sub-*
22 *section in an advance payment of the entire*
23 *amount on October 1, or as soon as practicable*
24 *thereafter, of that fiscal year.*

1 (3) *APPLICATION OF NATIONAL FISH AND WILD-*
 2 *LIFE FOUNDATION ESTABLISHMENT ACT.*—Amounts
 3 *received by the Foundation to carry out the grant*
 4 *program shall be subject to the National Fish and*
 5 *Wildlife Foundation Establishment Act (16 U.S.C.*
 6 *3701 et seq.), excluding section 10(a) of that Act (16*
 7 *U.S.C. 3709(a)).*

8 (f) *SUNSET.*—The authority under this section shall
 9 *terminate on the date that is 7 years after the date of the*
 10 *enactment of this Act.*

11 **SEC. 8605. TREE NURSERY SHORTAGES.**

12 (a) *IN GENERAL.*—Not later than 1 year after the date
 13 *of the enactment of this section, the Secretary, acting*
 14 *through the Chief of the Forest Service, shall—*

15 (1) *develop and implement a national strategy to*
 16 *increase the capacity of Federal, State, Tribal, and*
 17 *private tree nurseries to address the nationwide short-*
 18 *age of tree seedlings; and*

19 (2) *coordinate such strategy with—*

20 (A) *the national reforestation strategy of the*
 21 *Forest Service; and*

22 (B) *each regional implementation plan for*
 23 *national forests.*

24 (b) *ELEMENTS.*—The strategy required under sub-
 25 *section (a) shall—*

1 (1) *be based on the best available science and*
 2 *data; and*

3 (2) *identify and address—*

4 (A) *regional seedling shortages of bareroot*
 5 *and container tree seedlings;*

6 (B) *regional reforestation opportunities and*
 7 *the seedling supply necessary to fulfill such op-*
 8 *portunities;*

9 (C) *opportunities to enhance seedling diver-*
 10 *sity and close gaps in seed inventories; and*

11 (D) *barriers to expanding, enhancing, or*
 12 *creating new infrastructure to increase nursery*
 13 *capacity.*

14 ***TITLE IX—ENERGY***

15 ***SEC. 9001. DEFINITION OF ADVANCED BIOFUEL.***

16 *Section 9001(3)(B)(iv) of the Farm Security and*
 17 *Rural Investment Act of 2002 (7 U.S.C. 8101(3)(B)(iv)) is*
 18 *amended by inserting “and sustainable aviation fuel” after*
 19 *“diesel-equivalent fuel”.*

20 ***SEC. 9002. BIOBASED MARKETS PROGRAM.***

21 *Section 9002 of the Farm Security and Rural Invest-*
 22 *ment Act of 2002 (7 U.S.C. 8102) is amended—*

23 (1) *in subsection (a)—*

24 (A) *in paragraph (2), by adding at the end*
 25 *the following:*

1 “(G) *PROCUREMENT RESOURCES*.—*The Of-*
 2 *fice of Federal Procurement Policy, in coordina-*
 3 *tion with the Secretary, shall provide edu-*
 4 *cational materials to procuring agencies to con-*
 5 *sider the longevity of a product, economic sav-*
 6 *ings, and the efficacy and performance of a*
 7 *product when making procurement decisions*
 8 *under this subsection.*”; and

9 *(B) in paragraph (4)—*

10 *(i) in subparagraph (A), by striking*
 11 *clause (ii) and redesignating clauses (iii)*
 12 *and (iv) as clauses (ii) and (iii), respec-*
 13 *tively;*

14 *(ii) in subparagraph (B)(i)—*

15 *(I) in the matter preceding sub-*
 16 *clause (I)—*

17 *(aa) by inserting “and the*
 18 *Secretary” after “Policy”; and*

19 *(bb) by striking “information*
 20 *concerning—” and inserting “a*
 21 *report that describes, for the year*
 22 *covered by the report—”;*

23 *(II) in subclause (I), by inserting*
 24 *“, including the actions taken by the*
 25 *procuring agency to establish and im-*

1 *plement the biobased procurement pro-*
2 *gram of the procuring agency under*
3 *that paragraph” before the semicolon;*

4 *(III) in subclause (IV), by strik-*
5 *ing “and” at the end;*

6 *(IV) in subclause (V), by striking*
7 *“and” at the end; and*

8 *(V) by adding at the end the fol-*
9 *lowing:*

10 *“(VI)(aa) the specific categories of*
11 *biobased products that are unavailable*
12 *to meet procurement needs of the pro-*
13 *curing agencies; and*

14 *“(bb) the desired performance*
15 *characteristics and other relevant spec-*
16 *ifications for those products; and*

17 *“(VII) if applicable, an expla-*
18 *nation of the procurement requirement*
19 *or updated procurement requirement*
20 *established under paragraph (2)(A)(i)*
21 *that procuring agencies failed to meet*
22 *and reasons for the failure; and”;* and
23 *(iii) by adding at the end the fol-*
24 *lowing:*

1 “(D) *ACCOUNTABILITY.*—*The Office of Fed-*
 2 *eral Procurement Policy, in consultation with*
 3 *the Secretary, shall annually—*

4 “(i) *collect the information required to*
 5 *be reported under subparagraph (B) and*
 6 *make the information publicly available;*

7 “(ii) *using the information collected*
 8 *under subparagraph (B) of this paragraph,*
 9 *document relevant procuring agencies under*
 10 *paragraph (2)(A)(i) that, as applicable,*
 11 *have established a procurement program in*
 12 *accordance with paragraph (2)(A)(i)(I);*
 13 *and*

14 “(iii) *make the information publicly*
 15 *available, subject to the exemptions from*
 16 *disclosure under section 552(b) of title 5,*
 17 *United States Code.”;*

18 (2) *in subsection (f)—*

19 (A) *in paragraph (1)—*

20 (i) *in the heading, by inserting “AND*
 21 *NAPCS” before “CODES”;*

22 (ii) *by inserting “and North American*
 23 *Product Classification System codes” before*
 24 *“for—”; and*

1 (iii) by striking subparagraphs (A)
2 and (B) and inserting the following:

3 “(A) renewable chemicals manufacturers
4 and biobased products manufacturers; and

5 “(B) renewable chemicals and biobased
6 products.”; and

7 (B) by redesignating paragraph (2) as
8 paragraph (3) and inserting after paragraph (1)
9 the following:

10 “(2) *REPORT.*—To inform the development of
11 codes under paragraph (1), the Secretary shall, with-
12 in 90 days after the date of the enactment of this
13 paragraph, submit to the Committee on Agriculture of
14 the House of Representatives and the Committee on
15 Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry of the Senate, a
16 report that provides—

17 “(A) the Federal statistical collections of in-
18 formation related to the North American Indus-
19 try Classification System codes and the North
20 American Product Classification System codes
21 that utilize bioeconomy-specific data;

22 “(B) recommendations to implement any
23 bioeconomy-related changes as part of the 2027
24 revisions of the North American Industry Classi-

1 *fication System codes and the North American*
 2 *Product Classification System codes; and*

3 *“(C) an assessment of the impacts that bio-*
 4 *economy-specific North American Industry Clas-*
 5 *sification System codes and North American*
 6 *Product Classification System codes would have*
 7 *on the measurement by the agency of the eco-*
 8 *nomie contributions of the bioeconomy.”; and*
 9 *(3) in subsection (k)—*

10 *(A) in paragraph (1), by striking “2024”*
 11 *and inserting “2031”; and*

12 *(B) in paragraph (2), by striking “2023”*
 13 *and inserting “2031”.*

14 **SEC. 9003. BIOREFINERY ASSISTANCE.**

15 *(a) IN GENERAL.—Section 9003 of the Farm Security*
 16 *and Rural Investment Act of 2002 (7 U.S.C. 8103) is*
 17 *amended—*

18 *(1) in subsection (b)(1)—*

19 *(A) by inserting “or innovative” before*
 20 *“commercial-scale”; and*

21 *(B) by inserting “, renewable chemicals, or*
 22 *biobased products” after “end-user products”;*

23 *(2) in subsection (d)(1)—*

24 *(A) in subparagraph (B)—*

1 *(i) by striking all that precedes “a*
2 *loan guarantee” and inserting the following:*

3 *“(B) FEASIBILITY.—*

4 *“(i) IN GENERAL.—In approving”; and*

5 *(ii) by adding after and below the end*
6 *the following:*

7 *“(ii) WAIVER.—The Secretary may*
8 *waive the requirement that the applicant*
9 *must demonstrate commercial viability for*
10 *projects adopting commercially available*
11 *technology.”;*

12 *(B) by redesignating subparagraphs (C)*
13 *and (D) as subparagraphs (D) and (E), respec-*
14 *tively; and*

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

17 *“(C) TECHNICAL REVIEW AGREEMENT.—*

18 *“(i) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall*
19 *enter into an agreement with each project*
20 *applicant that clearly outlines the specific*
21 *objectives, outcomes, and conditions by*
22 *which the Secretary determines successful*
23 *technical feasibility of the project under this*
24 *section.*

1 “(ii) *CONDITIONS OF AGREEMENT.*—

2 *The agreement provided under clause (i)*
3 *shall include clear guidelines and expecta-*
4 *tions for the methodologies, protocols, and*
5 *procedures, and what the eligible technology*
6 *must demonstrate, for the Department to*
7 *determine technical feasibility from an inte-*
8 *grated demonstration unit, including—*

9 “(I) *a set timeline for the inte-*
10 *grated demonstration unit campaign*
11 *and final technical report to show reli-*
12 *able evidence of continuous, steady-*
13 *state production;*

14 “(II) *criteria and methods for*
15 *evaluating the project’s success, includ-*
16 *ing any third-party assessments or*
17 *evaluations that may be conducted*
18 *during the demonstration period and*
19 *at the conclusion of the set timeline;*

20 “(III) *criteria and methods to*
21 *prove the ability of the integrated dem-*
22 *onstration unit to use project-specific*
23 *feedstock for the production of ad-*
24 *vanced biofuels, renewable chemicals,*
25 *or biobased products at a yield and*

1 *quality consistent with the design basis*
2 *of the project;*

3 “(IV) *required information and*
4 *conditions that demonstrate operation*
5 *duration, quality, and quantity speci-*
6 *fications; and*

7 “(V) *any other information that,*
8 *if supplied to the Secretary, would as-*
9 *sist the eligible entity in sufficiently*
10 *demonstrating a project’s technical fea-*
11 *sibility.*

12 “(iii) *FAILURE TO COMPLY WITH*
13 *AGREEMENT.—*

14 “(I) *NONCOMPLIANCE NOTIFICA-*
15 *TION.—If a project applicant fails to*
16 *comply with the technical feasibility*
17 *requirements as provided under clause*
18 *(ii), the Secretary shall issue a written*
19 *notice to the project applicant detail-*
20 *ing the specific deficiencies and pro-*
21 *viding a reasonable timeframe for the*
22 *project applicant to rectify the issues.*

23 “(II) *CORRECTIVE ACTION PE-*
24 *RIOD.—The project applicant shall*
25 *have a period of not more than 90*

1 *days from the date of issuance of the*
 2 *noncompliance notice to address the*
 3 *identified deficiencies and submit a re-*
 4 *vised technical feasibility assessment*
 5 *for reconsideration.*

6 “(iv) *TECHNICAL FEASIBILITY AP-*
 7 *PROVAL.*—Upon fulfillment of the conditions
 8 *of agreement established under clause (ii) or*
 9 *approval of the revised technical feasibility*
 10 *assessment under clause (iii)(II), the Sec-*
 11 *retary shall determine the project to be tech-*
 12 *nically feasible.”; and*

13 (3) *in subsection (g)—*

14 (A) *by striking all that precedes “is author-*
 15 *ized” and inserting the following:*

16 “(g) *FUNDING.*—*There*”; *and*

17 (B) *by striking “2023” and inserting*
 18 *“2031”.*

19 (b) *RESCISSION.*—*Of the unobligated balances of*
 20 *amounts made available under section 9003 of the Farm*
 21 *Security and Rural Investment Act of 2002, \$18,000,000*
 22 *are rescinded.*

1 **SEC. 9004. BIOPRODUCT LABELING TERMINOLOGY.**

2 *Title IX of the Farm Security and Rural Investment*
 3 *Act of 2002 (7 U.S.C. 8101–8115) is amended by inserting*
 4 *after section 9003 the following:*

5 **“SEC. 9004. BIOPRODUCT LABELING TERMINOLOGY.**

6 **“(a) UNIFORM STANDARDS.—**

7 **“(1) IN GENERAL.—***Within 1 year after the date*
 8 *of the enactment of this section, the Secretary shall*
 9 *issue rules implementing national uniform labeling*
 10 *standards for, and ensuring the proper use of, the fol-*
 11 *lowing terms in the labeling and marketing of bio-*
 12 *products:*

13 **“(A) Bio-attributed plastic.**

14 **“(B) Bio-attributed product.**

15 **“(C) Biobased plastic.**

16 **“(D) Plant-based product.**

17 **“(2) INCLUSION OF CERTAIN DEFINED TERMS.—**

18 *In implementing the national uniform labeling stand-*
 19 *ards under paragraph (1), the Secretary shall include*
 20 *the following terms, as defined in section 9001:*

21 **“(A) Biobased product.**

22 **“(B) Intermediate ingredient or feedstock.**

23 **“(C) Renewable biomass.**

24 **“(D) Renewable chemical.**

25 **“(b) CONSULTATION.—***In defining terms under sub-*
 26 *section (a), the Secretary shall consult with—*

- 1 “(1) biomanufacturers;
 2 “(2) entities engaged in research and develop-
 3 *ment of bioproducts;*
 4 “(3) feedstock growers; and
 5 “(4) other industry stakeholders.”.

6 **SEC. 9005. BIOENERGY PROGRAM FOR ADVANCED**
 7 **BIOFUELS.**

8 *Section 9005(g)(2) of the Farm Security and Rural*
 9 *Investment Act of 2002 (7 U.S.C. 8105(g)(2)) is amended*
 10 *by striking “2023” and inserting “2031”.*

11 **SEC. 9006. BIODIESEL FUEL EDUCATION PROGRAM.**

12 *Section 9006 of the Farm Security and Rural Invest-*
 13 *ment Act of 2002 (7 U.S.C. 8106) is repealed.*

14 **SEC. 9007. RURAL ENERGY FOR AMERICA PROGRAM.**

15 (a) *IN GENERAL.*—*Section 9007 of the Farm Security*
 16 *and Rural Investment Act of 2002 (7 U.S.C. 8107) is*
 17 *amended—*

18 (1) *in subsection (a), by inserting “(referred to*
 19 *in this section as the ‘Program’)” after “Program”;*

20 (2) *in subsection (b)(3)—*

21 (A) *in subparagraph (D), by inserting “,*
 22 *cost savings,” after “savings”;*

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

1 (C) in subparagraph (F), by striking the
2 period at the end and inserting “; and”; and

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

4 “(G) the potential of the proposed program
5 to meaningfully improve the financial conditions
6 of the agricultural producer or rural small busi-
7 ness.”;

8 (3) in subsection (c)—

9 (A) in paragraph (1)(A)(i), by inserting “,
10 agricultural cooperatives with less than 2,500
11 employees,” before “and rural”;

12 (B) in paragraph (2)—

13 (i) in subparagraph (F), by striking
14 “and” at the end;

15 (ii) by redesignating subparagraph (G)
16 as subparagraph (H); and

17 (iii) by inserting after subparagraph
18 (F) the following:

19 “(G) the potential improvements to the fi-
20 nancial conditions of the agricultural producer
21 or rural small business; and”; and

22 (C) in paragraph (3)(B), by striking
23 “\$25,000,000” and inserting “\$50,000,000”;

1 (4) by redesignating subsections (d), (e), and (f)
 2 as subsections (e), (f), and (g), respectively, and in-
 3 serting after subsection (c) the following:

4 “(d) *STREAMLINED APPLICATION PROCESS.*—The Sec-
 5 retary shall develop a streamlined application process, in-
 6 cluding within each tier described in subsection (c)(4),
 7 under which an entity may apply for a grant under sub-
 8 section (b), financial assistance under subsection (c), or a
 9 bundled application for a project with components eligible
 10 under clauses (i) and (ii) of subsection (c)(1)(A).”;

11 (5) in subsection (e) (as so redesignated)—

12 (A) in the subsection heading, by striking
 13 “OUTREACH” and inserting “OUTREACH, TECH-
 14 NICAL ASSISTANCE, AND EDUCATION”;

15 (B) by striking “that adequate” and insert-
 16 ing the following: “that—
 17 “(1) adequate”;

18 (C) in paragraph (1) (as inserted by sub-
 19 paragraph (B) of this paragraph), by striking
 20 the period at the end and inserting a semicolon;
 21 and

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

23 “(2) technical assistance is provided to entities
 24 seeking to apply for a grant or financial assistance
 25 under the Program; and

1 “(3) outreach, technical assistance, and edu-
 2 cation is provided to recipients of grants and other fi-
 3 nancial assistance under the Program relating to in-
 4 tegrating renewable energy projects on land shared
 5 with crops or livestock.”;

6 (6) in subsection (g), (as so redesignated by
 7 paragraph (4) of this section)—

8 (A) in paragraph (3), by striking “2023”
 9 and inserting “2031”; and

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

11 “(4) RESERVE FUND.—

12 “(A) IN GENERAL.—Of the funds obligated
 13 under paragraph (1) for each fiscal year , not
 14 less than 10 percent shall be deposited in a re-
 15 serve fund in the Treasury and reserved for use
 16 in accordance with this subparagraph.

17 “(B) USE OF FUNDS.—

18 “(i) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall
 19 use amounts reserved under subparagraph
 20 (A) to provide grants to support projects
 21 using underutilized renewable energy tech-
 22 nologies.

23 “(ii) COSTS.—The amount of the grant
 24 for such a project shall not exceed 25 per-
 25 cent of the installation or maintenance costs

1 of the project for the year in which the
2 grant is awarded.

3 “(C) *FREQUENCY OF SOLICITATIONS TO*
4 *FUND.*—The Secretary shall carry out at least 2
5 solicitations for applications for grants from the
6 reserve fund in each fiscal year.

7 “(D) *REALLOCATION.*—Any funds reserved
8 under subparagraph (A) that remain unobligated
9 1 year after the end of the fiscal year in which
10 made available under subparagraph (A) shall be
11 reallocated to carry out the program established
12 under this section.

13 “(E) *DEFINITION OF UNDERUTILIZED RE-*
14 *NEWABLE ENERGY TECHNOLOGIES.*—The term
15 ‘underutilized renewable energy technologies’
16 means renewable energy technologies for which
17 have been expended not more than 20 percent of
18 the average of the total amounts made available
19 under this section for the 5 fiscal years most re-
20 cently ending before the date of the enactment of
21 this paragraph.”; and

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

23 “(h) *PROJECT DIVERSITY.*—In approving grant or
24 loan guarantee applications under this section, the Sec-
25 retary shall ensure that, to the extent practicable, there is

1 *diversity in the types of projects approved for grants or loan*
 2 *guarantees to ensure that as wide a range as possible of*
 3 *technologies, products, and approaches are assisted.”.*

4 *(b) CONFORMING AMENDMENTS.—Section 9007 of such*
 5 *Act (7 U.S.C. 8107) is amended by striking “subsection (f)”*
 6 *each place it appears and inserting “subsection (g)”.*

7 **SEC. 9008. FEEDSTOCK FLEXIBILITY.**

8 *Section 9010(b) of the Farm Security and Rural In-*
 9 *vestment Act of 2002 (7 U.S.C. 8110(b)) is amended—*

10 *(1) in paragraph (1)(A), by striking “2026” and*
 11 *inserting “2031”; and*

12 *(2) in paragraph (2)(A), by striking “2026” and*
 13 *inserting “2031”.*

14 **SEC. 9009. BIOMASS CROP ASSISTANCE PROGRAM.**

15 *Section 9011(f)(1) of the Farm Security and Rural In-*
 16 *vestment Act of 2002 (7 U.S.C. 8111(f)(1)) is amended by*
 17 *striking “2023” and inserting “2031”.*

18 **SEC. 9010. CARBON UTILIZATION AND BIOGAS EDUCATION**
 19 **PROGRAM.**

20 *Section 9014 of the Farm Security and Rural Invest-*
 21 *ment Act of 2002 (7 U.S.C. 8115) is repealed.*

1 **SEC. 9011. STUDY ON EFFECTS OF SOLAR PANEL INSTALLA-**
2 **TIONS ON COVERED FARMLAND.**

3 *Title IX of the Farm Security and Rural Investment*
4 *Act of 2002 (7 U.S.C. 8101–8115) is amended by adding*
5 *at the end the following:*

6 **“SEC. 9014. STUDY ON EFFECTS OF SOLAR PANEL INSTAL-**
7 **LATIONS ON COVERED FARMLAND.**

8 *“(a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary, in consultation*
9 *with the Secretary of Energy, shall conduct a study on the*
10 *effects of solar panel installations on the conversion of cov-*
11 *ered farmland out of agricultural production in accordance*
12 *with this section.*

13 *“(b) CONTENT.—In conducting the study under this*
14 *section, the Secretary shall—*

15 *“(1) analyze the economic effects of solar panel*
16 *installations on covered farmland, including the ef-*
17 *fects on—*

18 *“(A) crop yields;*

19 *“(B) land values, including adjacent prop-*
20 *erties;*

21 *“(C) land access and tenure;*

22 *“(D) local economies; and*

23 *“(E) food security;*

24 *“(2) investigate impacts of solar panel installa-*
25 *tion, operation, and decommissioning on covered*
26 *farmland, and suggest best practices to protect—*

1 “(A) soil health;

2 “(B) water resources;

3 “(C) wildlife;

4 “(D) vegetation;

5 “(E) water drainage; and

6 “(F) air quality;

7 “(3) assess the impacts of shared solar energy
8 and agricultural production on covered farmland, in-
9 cluding best practices to—

10 “(A) maintain or increase agricultural pro-
11 duction;

12 “(B) increase agricultural resilience;

13 “(C) retain covered farmland;

14 “(D) increase economic opportunities in
15 farming and rural communities, including new
16 revenue streams and job creation;

17 “(E) reduce nonfarmer ownership of covered
18 farmland; and

19 “(F) enhance biodiversity;

20 “(4) assess the types of agricultural land best
21 suited and worst suited for shared solar energy and
22 agricultural production;

23 “(5) study the compatibility of different species
24 of livestock with different solar panel system designs,
25 including—

1 “(A) the optimal height of and distance be-
2 tween solar panels for livestock grazing and
3 shade for livestock;

4 “(B) manure management considerations;

5 “(C) fencing requirements; and

6 “(D) other animal-handling considerations;

7 “(6) study the compatibility of different crop
8 types with different solar panel system designs, in-
9 cluding—

10 “(A) the optimal height of and distance be-
11 tween solar panels for plant shading and farm
12 equipment use; and

13 “(B) the impact on crop yield;

14 “(7) evaluate the degree to which existing Fed-
15 eral, State, or local tax incentives result in the devel-
16 opment of covered farmland under study;

17 “(8) recommend effective incentives that could
18 shift solar panel installations toward the built envi-
19 ronment, brownfield sites, and other contaminated
20 sites;

21 “(9) evaluate the effectiveness of programs ad-
22 ministered by the Federal Government related to solar
23 energy development that—

1 “(A) result in the development of contami-
2 nated lands, the built environment, and other
3 preferred sites; and

4 “(B) discourage solar panel installations
5 that would convert covered farmland out of agri-
6 cultural production; and

7 “(10) estimate the loss of agricultural production
8 on covered farmland due to solar panel installations.

9 “(c) CONSULTATION WITH RELEVANT STAKE-
10 HOLDERS.—In addition to consultation with the Secretary
11 of Energy, while conducting the study under this section,
12 the Secretary shall consult with—

13 “(1) farmers;

14 “(2) ranchers;

15 “(3) landowners;

16 “(4) agricultural organizations;

17 “(5) State departments of agriculture and en-
18 ergy;

19 “(6) units of local government;

20 “(7) conservation organizations;

21 “(8) land-grant colleges and universities (as de-
22 fined in section 1404 of the National Agricultural Re-
23 search, Extension, and Teaching Policy Act of 1977
24 (7 U.S.C. 3103)); and

25 “(9) solar developers.

1 “(d) *REPORT*.—Within 2 years 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 En-
 4 ergy and Commerce of the House of Representatives and
 5 the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry and
 6 the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources of the Sen-
 7 ate a written report on the findings of the study and rec-
 8 ommendations under this section.

9 “(e) *DEFINITIONS*.—In this section:

10 “(1) *COVERED FARMLAND*.—The term ‘covered
 11 farmland’ includes—

12 “(A) farmland, as defined in section
 13 1540(c)(1) of the Farmland Protection Policy
 14 Act (7 U.S.C. 4201(c)(1)); and

15 “(B) nonindustrial private forest land, as
 16 defined in section 201(a)(18) of the Food Secu-
 17 rity Act of 1985 (16 U.S.C. 3801(a)(18)).

18 “(2) *BROWNFIELD SITE*.—The term ‘brownfield
 19 site’ has the meaning given that term in section
 20 101(39) of the Comprehensive Environmental Re-
 21 sponse, Compensation, and Liability Act of 1980 (42
 22 U.S.C. 9601(39)).

23 “(3) *SECRETARY*.—The term ‘Secretary’ means
 24 the Secretary of Agriculture.”.

1 **SEC. 9012. LIMITATION ON USDA FUNDING FOR GROUND-**
 2 **MOUNTED SOLAR ENERGY SYSTEMS.**

3 *Title IX of the Farm Security and Rural Investment*
 4 *Act of 2002 (7 U.S.C. 8101–8115) is further amended by*
 5 *adding at the end the following:*

6 **“SEC. 9015. LIMITATION ON USDA FUNDING FOR GROUND-**
 7 **MOUNTED SOLAR ENERGY SYSTEMS.**

8 *“(a) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:*

9 *“(1) COVERED FARMLAND.—The term ‘covered*
 10 *farmland’ includes—*

11 *“(A) farmland, as defined in section*
 12 *1540(c)(1) of the Farmland Protection Policy*
 13 *Act (7 U.S.C. 4201(c)(1)); and*

14 *“(B) nonindustrial private forest land, as*
 15 *defined in section 201(a)(18) of the Food Secu-*
 16 *rity Act of 1985 (16 U.S.C. 3801(a)(18)).*

17 *“(2) CONVERSION.—The term ‘conversion’*
 18 *means, with respect to covered farmland, any activity*
 19 *that results in the covered farmland failing to meet*
 20 *the requirements of a State (as defined in section 343*
 21 *of the Consolidated Farm and Rural Development Act*
 22 *(7 U.S.C. 1991)) for agricultural production, activity,*
 23 *or use or timber harvest.*

24 *“(3) SECRETARY.—The term ‘Secretary’ means*
 25 *the Secretary of Agriculture.*

1 “(b) *IN GENERAL.*—*The Secretary may not provide fi-*
 2 *nancial assistance for a project that would result in the con-*
 3 *version of covered farmland for solar energy production.*

4 “(c) *EXCEPTION.*—*Subsection (b) shall not apply to a*
 5 *project if the project—*

6 “(1) *results in the conversion of less than 5 acres*
 7 *of covered farmland; or*

8 “(2) *results in the conversion of less than 50*
 9 *acres of covered farmland with—*

10 “(A) *the majority of the energy produced*
 11 *being for on-farm use; and*

12 “(B) *receipt of a resolution of approval or*
 13 *support, or other similar instrument, from each*
 14 *county and municipality in which the project is*
 15 *sited.*

16 “(d) *COVERED FARMLAND PROTECTION.*—

17 “(1) *FARMLAND CONSERVATION PLAN RE-*
 18 *QUIRED.*—*A person who has applied to the Secretary*
 19 *for financial assistance for a project to which sub-*
 20 *section (c)(2) applies shall—*

21 “(A) *develop a farmland conservation plan*
 22 *for the project to—*

23 “(i) *implement best practices to protect*
 24 *future soil health and productivity, and*
 25 *mitigate soil erosion, compaction, and other*

1 *effects of solar energy production during*
 2 *construction, operation, and decommis-*
 3 *sioning; and*

4 “(ii) *remediate and restore the soil*
 5 *health of the farmland to that of the farm-*
 6 *land before the solar energy production*
 7 *project construction; and*

8 “(B) *ensure that sufficient funds, as deter-*
 9 *mined by the Secretary, are provided for the de-*
 10 *commissioning of the solar energy production*
 11 *system and the remediation and restoration of*
 12 *covered farmland to carry out the farmland con-*
 13 *servation plan described in subparagraph (A).*

14 “(2) *OBLIGATION AND DISBURSEMENT OF*
 15 *FUNDS.—The Secretary may obligate financial assist-*
 16 *ance for a project described in paragraph (1), but*
 17 *shall not disburse the financial assistance until the*
 18 *Secretary has determined that the applicant for the*
 19 *financial assistance has complied with paragraph (1).*

20 “(3) *FARMLAND CONSERVATION PLAN IMPLEMEN-*
 21 *TATION.—A person referred to in paragraph (1) shall*
 22 *carry out—*

23 “(A) *the provisions of the plan that are de-*
 24 *scribed in paragraph (1)(A)(i), on the receipt by*
 25 *the project of financial assistance from the Sec-*

1 retary and for the duration of solar energy pro-
2 duction under the project; and

3 “(B) the provisions of the plan that are de-
4 scribed in paragraph (1)(A)(ii), on the cessation
5 of solar energy production under the project.

6 “(4) COMPLIANCE.—A person who fails to com-
7 ply with paragraph (3) with respect to a project shall
8 repay to the Secretary the full amount of the finan-
9 cial assistance provided by the Secretary to the person
10 for the project.

11 “(e) ADDITIONAL LIMITATIONS.—The Secretary may
12 not provide financial assistance for a project that procures
13 a solar energy component (as defined in section 45x(c)(3)
14 of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986) produced, manufac-
15 tured, or assembled—

16 “(1) in a foreign country of concern (as defined
17 in section 10638(2) of the CHIPS Act of 2022 (42
18 U.S.C. 19237(2))); or

19 “(2) by—

20 “(A) an entity domiciled or controlled by
21 such a foreign country; or

22 “(B) a foreign entity of concern (as defined
23 in section 10638(3) of the CHIPS Act of 2022
24 (42 U.S.C. 19237(3))).”.

1 **SEC. 9013. SUSTAINABLE AVIATION FUELS STRATEGY.**

2 *The Secretary shall establish a Departmentwide strat-*
3 *egy to advance the production of sustainable aviation fuels*
4 *by—*

5 *(1) facilitating the collaboration between relevant*
6 *Department mission areas to encourage the advance-*
7 *ment of the sustainable aviation fuels supply chain,*
8 *including utilization of agricultural crops grown for*
9 *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 farm-*
14 *ers, ranchers, foresters, and producers to capture op-*
15 *portunities in the sustainable aviation fuels market;*

16 *(4) supporting rural economic development*
17 *through sustainable aviation fuels production; and*

18 *(5) promoting public-private partnerships for the*
19 *development, deployment, and commercialization of*
20 *sustainable aviation fuels.*

21 **SEC. 9014. LEVERAGING EFFICIENCY AWARENESS FOR**
22 **PUMPING SYSTEMS.**

23 *(a) FINDINGS.—Congress finds the following:*

24 *(1) There are over 600,000 pumping systems*
25 *used for irrigation on agricultural land in the United*
26 *States, many of which still rely on fossil fuels.*

1 (2) *Improving the efficiency of agricultural irri-*
2 *gation pumping systems can save up to*
3 *22,000,000,000 kilowatt hours of energy per year and*
4 *eliminate 8,300,000 metric tons of carbon emissions*
5 *annually.*

6 (3) *Energy savings from electrifying agricultural*
7 *irrigation pumping systems can save farmers and*
8 *ranchers more than \$1,800,000,000 annually in en-*
9 *ergy costs.*

10 (4) *Pumping systems play a central role in the*
11 *watering of livestock and the management of animal*
12 *waste in every State.*

13 (5) *Pumping systems are a critical component of*
14 *the Nation's \$2,300,000,000 aquaculture industry.*

15 (6) *Improving the efficiency of pumping systems*
16 *used in raising livestock and fish can significantly re-*
17 *duce energy use, save producers millions of dollars*
18 *annually, and provide meaningful reductions in car-*
19 *bon emissions.*

20 (7) *Agricultural irrigation pumping systems uti-*
21 *lizing plastic piping can provide significant drought*
22 *relief benefits, dramatically reducing water losses*
23 *from evaporation and seepage; agriculture uses 37*
24 *percent of the Nation's surface and ground water, 30*
25 *percent of which is lost to seepage and evaporation.*

1 (8) *Reducing the friction in piping used for ag-*
 2 *ricultural irrigation and livestock watering can pro-*
 3 *vide meaningful energy and cost savings; there are*
 4 *potentially 2,500 kWh of energy savings for every 10*
 5 *miles of plastic piping utilized in delivering water for*
 6 *crops and livestock.*

7 (9) *Solar pumping systems can play an impor-*
 8 *tant role in protecting riparian habitat and improv-*
 9 *ing water quality in streams, rivers, lakes, and estu-*
 10 *aries through providing alternative watering options*
 11 *for livestock.*

12 (b) *INFORMATION ON ENERGY-EFFICIENT PUMPING*
 13 *SYSTEMS.—*

14 (1) *IN GENERAL.—Not later than 180 days after*
 15 *the date of enactment of this section, the Secretary, in*
 16 *consultation with pumping system experts, in order*
 17 *to educate farmers on the benefits of energy-efficient*
 18 *pumping systems, shall develop and make publicly*
 19 *available on the website of the Department easily ac-*
 20 *cessible information on cost savings, energy savings,*
 21 *water conservation, and carbon emissions reductions*
 22 *that can be realized through the use of energy-efficient*
 23 *pumping systems.*

24 (2) *CONTENTS.—In carrying out paragraph (1),*
 25 *the Secretary shall include information on—*

1 (A) pumps, pipes, motors, drives, and con-
2 trols that can provide energy savings and cost
3 savings, conserve water, and reduce carbon emis-
4 sions; and

5 (B) Department programs that provide
6 farmers resources for acquiring energy-efficient
7 pumping systems and drought management in-
8 frastructure, including the environmental quality
9 incentives program, the Rural Energy for Amer-
10 ica Program, and the conservation stewardship
11 program.

12 (c) *ENERGY EFFICIENCY PREASSESSMENT TOOL.*—

13 (1) *IN GENERAL.*—Not later than 180 days after
14 the date of enactment of this section, the Secretary, in
15 consultation with pumping system experts, in order
16 to raise awareness of the benefits of energy-efficient
17 pumping systems and increase participation in De-
18 partment programs that promote energy efficiency,
19 shall develop and make publicly available on the
20 website of the Department a user-friendly tool to—

21 (A) assist farmers in making a preliminary
22 assessment of the energy efficiency of existing
23 pumping systems; and

24 (B) provide an estimate of potential energy
25 savings, cost savings, and carbon emissions re-

ductions that may be realized through pumping system improvements.

(2) *REQUIREMENTS.*—

(A) *EASE OF USE.*—The Secretary shall ensure that the tool made available under paragraph (1) provides a user with projected energy savings, projected cost savings, and projected carbon emissions reductions through the input by the user of the following data relating to an existing pumping system:

(i) *Pump type.*

(ii) *Flow rating and actual flow.*

(iii) *Pressure rating and actual pressure.*

(iv) *Speed rating and actual speed.*

(B) *CONSIDERATIONS.*—The Secretary shall ensure that the tool made available under paragraph (1)—

(i) *in assessing the energy efficiency of a pumping system, takes into consideration pumps, pipes, motors, drives, and controls associated with the pumping system; and*

(ii) *in projecting the energy savings, cost savings, and carbon emissions reductions that may be realized through pumping*

1 *system improvements, takes into consider-*
 2 *ation the cost of electricity and the profile*
 3 *of the existing pumping system.*

4 *(d) ENERGY AUDITOR EDUCATION.—*

5 *(1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 180 days after*
 6 *the date of enactment of this section, the Secretary, in*
 7 *consultation with pumping system experts, in order*
 8 *to increase the effectiveness of Department of Agri-*
 9 *culture energy efficiency programs, shall establish a*
 10 *process to educate persons performing energy effi-*
 11 *ciency audits for the Department of Agriculture on*
 12 *energy use and energy efficiency in pumping systems.*

13 *(2) IMPLEMENTATION.—In carrying out para-*
 14 *graph (1), the Secretary shall consider the use of ex-*
 15 *isting education and training programs focused on*
 16 *energy use and energy efficiency in pumping systems.*

17 *(e) CONSERVATION STEWARDSHIP PROGRAM ACTIVI-*
 18 *TIES.—Section 1240I(2)(B)(i) of the Food Security Act of*
 19 *1985 (16 U.S.C. 3839aa–21(2)(B)(i)) is amended by insert-*
 20 *ing “and energy-efficient pumping systems” before “, as de-*
 21 *termined”.*

22 *(f) DEFINITION OF PUMPING SYSTEM.—In this section,*
 23 *the term “pumping system” means any pumps, pipes, mo-*
 24 *tors, drives, and controls used to move water and other*
 25 *fluids on farms, ranches, and aquaculture operations.*

1 **SEC. 9015. ADDING WASTE ENERGY RECOVERY TO THE**
 2 **RURAL ENERGY FOR AMERICA PROGRAM.**

3 *Section 9001(15)(A) of the Farm Security and Rural*
 4 *Investment Act of 2002 (7 U.S.C. 8101(15)(A)) is amended*
 5 *by striking “or hydroelectric” and inserting “hydroelectric,*
 6 *or waste energy recovery”.*

7 **TITLE X—HORTICULTURE, MAR-**
 8 **KETING, AND REGULATORY**
 9 **REFORM**

10 **Subtitle A—Horticulture**

11 **SEC. 10001. SPECIALTY CROP BLOCK GRANTS.**

12 *Section 101 of the Specialty Crops Competitiveness Act*
 13 *of 2004 (7 U.S.C. 1621 note; Public Law 108–465) is*
 14 *amended—*

15 *(1) in subsection (a), in the matter preceding*
 16 *paragraph (1)—*

17 *(A) by striking “2023” and inserting*
 18 *“2031”; and*

19 *(B) by striking “specialty crops, includ-*
 20 *ing—” and inserting “specialty crops through*
 21 *priorities established annually by State program*
 22 *administrators in consultation with specialty*
 23 *crop producers and producer groups, includ-*
 24 *ing—”; and*

25 *(2) by striking subsection (e), and inserting the*
 26 *following:*

1 “(e) *PLAN REQUIREMENTS.*—*The State plan shall*
 2 *identify the lead agency charged with the responsibility of*
 3 *carrying out the plan and indicate—*

4 “(1) *how the grant funds will be utilized to en-*
 5 *hance the competitiveness of specialty crops; and*

6 “(2) *how outreach to, and consultation with, spe-*
 7 *cialty crop producers and producer groups will be*
 8 *achieved.*”.

9 **SEC. 10002. SPECIALTY CROPS MARKET NEWS ALLOCATION.**

10 *Section 10107(b) of the Food, Conservation, and En-*
 11 *ergy Act of 2008 (7 U.S.C. 1622b(b)) is amended by striking*
 12 *“2023” and inserting “2031”.*

13 **SEC. 10003. OFFICE OF URBAN AGRICULTURE AND INNOVA-**
 14 **TIVE PRODUCTION.**

15 *Section 222 of the Department of Agriculture Reorga-*
 16 *nization Act of 1994 (7 U.S.C. 6923) is amended—*

17 *(1) in subsection (a)(3)—*

18 *(A) in the matter preceding subparagraph*
 19 *(A), by inserting “production” after “emerging*
 20 *agricultural”;*

21 *(B) in subparagraph (D)—*

22 *(i) by inserting “controlled-environ-*
 23 *ment agriculture, including” before “hydro-*
 24 *ponic”; and*

25 *(ii) by striking “and” at the end;*

1 (C) by redesignating subparagraph (E) as
2 subparagraph (H); and

3 (D) by inserting after subparagraph (D) the
4 following:

5 “(E) using the resources of the Department
6 and of State, Tribal, and local agencies to pro-
7 vide technical assistance for business incorpora-
8 tion, navigating local zoning, and managing
9 farm tract numbers for smaller, noncontiguous
10 parcels to growers implementing activities de-
11 scribed in this paragraph;

12 “(F) using the resources of the Department
13 and of State, Tribal, and local agencies to pro-
14 mote conservation techniques unique to urban
15 agriculture and innovative production, including
16 techniques that address stormwater runoff and
17 the impacted nature of urban land and the sub-
18 surface of the land;

19 “(G) assisting urban and innovative pro-
20 ducers in navigating Federal, State, Tribal, and
21 local policies and regulations that impact busi-
22 ness or operations; and”;

23 (2) in subsection (b)—

24 (A) in paragraph (5)(B), by striking
25 “2023” and inserting “2031”; and

1 (B) in paragraph (7)(A), by striking “the
 2 date that is 5 years after the date on which the
 3 members are appointed under paragraph (2)(B)”
 4 and inserting “September 30, 2031”;

5 (3) by amending subsection (c) to read as fol-
 6 lows:

7 “(c) *GRANTS AND COOPERATIVE AGREEMENTS.*—

8 “(1) *GRANTS.*—

9 “(A) *IN GENERAL.*—The Director shall
 10 award competitive grants to support the develop-
 11 ment of urban and innovative agricultural pro-
 12 duction and technical or financial assistance to
 13 producers.

14 “(B) *SUBGRANTS.*—An eligible entity may
 15 use funds from a grant under subparagraph (A)
 16 to provide subgrants to urban and innovative
 17 producers to support the growth of the farm or
 18 farm business of the urban and innovative pro-
 19 ducers.

20 “(C) *ELIGIBLE ENTITIES.*—An entity eligi-
 21 ble to receive a grant under subparagraph (A)
 22 is—

23 “(i) a nonprofit organization;

24 “(ii) a unit of local government;

25 “(iii) a Tribal organization;

1 “(iv) an agricultural cooperative or
2 other agricultural business entity or a pro-
3 ducer network or association; or

4 “(v) a school that serves any of grades
5 kindergarten through grade 12.

6 “(2) COOPERATIVE AGREEMENTS.—

7 “(A) IN GENERAL.—The Director may enter
8 into cooperative agreements with eligible entities
9 to support the development of urban and innova-
10 tive agricultural production.

11 “(B) ELIGIBLE ENTITIES.—An entity eligi-
12 ble to enter into cooperative agreements under
13 subparagraph (A) is—

14 “(i) a nonprofit organization;

15 “(ii) a unit of local government;

16 “(iii) a Tribal organization; or

17 “(iv) an agricultural cooperative or
18 other agricultural business entity or a pro-
19 ducer network or association.”;

20 (4) in subsection (d)—

21 (A) in the subsection heading, by striking

22 “PILOT”;

23 (B) by striking “pilot” each place it ap-
24 pears in paragraphs (1) and (2);

1 (C) in paragraph (1)(A), by striking “Not
2 later than 1 year after the date of enactment of
3 this section, the Secretary shall establish a pilot
4 program for not fewer than 5 years that” and
5 inserting “The Secretary shall continue to imple-
6 ment a program that”;

7 (D) in paragraph (1)(C), in the matter pre-
8 ceding clause (i), by striking “2023” and insert-
9 ing “2031”; and

10 (E) in paragraph (2)—

11 (i) in subparagraph (A), by inserting
12 “and construct at-scale composting, food-to-
13 feed, or anaerobic digestion food waste-to-
14 energy projects” before the period at the
15 end; and

16 (ii) in subparagraph (B)—

17 (I) in the subparagraph heading,
18 by striking “PILOT”;

19 (II) in the matter preceding
20 clause (i), by inserting “Tribal govern-
21 ments,” after “local governments,”;

22 (III) by redesignating clauses (vi)
23 through (viii) as clauses (vii) through
24 (ix), respectively; and

1 (IV) by inserting after clause (v)
 2 the following:

3 “(vi) develop food waste-to-energy oper-
 4 ations;”; and

5 (5) in subsection (e), by striking “2023” and in-
 6 serting “2031”.

7 **SEC. 10004. NATIONAL PLANT DIAGNOSTICS NETWORK.**

8 Section 12203(c)(5) of the Agriculture Improvement
 9 Act of 2018 (7 U.S.C. 8914(c)(5)) is amended by striking
 10 “2023” and inserting “2031”.

11 **SEC. 10005. HEMP PRODUCTION.**

12 (a) STATE AND TRIBAL PLANS.—Section 297B of the
 13 Agricultural Marketing Act of 1946 (7 U.S.C. 1639p) is
 14 amended—

15 (1) in subsection (a)—

16 (A) in paragraph (2)—

17 (i) in subparagraph (A)—

18 (I) by redesignating clauses (ii)
 19 through (vii) as clauses (iii) through
 20 (viii), respectively;

21 (II) by inserting after clause (i)
 22 the following:

23 “(ii) a procedure under which a hemp
 24 producer shall be required to designate the

1 *type of production of the hemp producer*
2 *as—*

3 *“(I) only industrial hemp; or*

4 *“(II) hemp grown for any purpose*
5 *other than industrial hemp;”;* and

6 *(III) in clause (iii), as redesign-*
7 *ated by clause (i) of this subpara-*
8 *graph—*

9 *(aa) by inserting “except as*
10 *provided in subparagraph (B)(i),”*
11 *before “a procedure”; and*

12 *(bb) by striking “delta-9*
13 *tetrahydrocannabinol concentra-*
14 *tion” and inserting “total*
15 *tetrahydrocannabinol concentra-*
16 *tion (including*
17 *tetrahydrocannabinolic acid)”;*
18 *and*

19 *(ii) in subparagraph (B), by striking*
20 *“include any other practice” and inserting*
21 *the following: “include—*

22 *“(i) notwithstanding subparagraph*
23 *(A)(iii), a procedure for the use of visual*
24 *inspections, performance-based sampling*
25 *methodologies, certified seed, or a similar*

1 *procedure when developing sampling plans*
 2 *for any producer who elects to be designated*
 3 *as a producer of only industrial hemp*
 4 *under subparagraph (A)(ii)(I);*

5 *“(ii) notwithstanding subsection*
 6 *(e)(3)(B)(i), a procedure for eliminating the*
 7 *10-year period of ineligibility following the*
 8 *date of conviction for a felony related to a*
 9 *controlled substance for producers who elect*
 10 *to be designated as producers of only indus-*
 11 *trial hemp under subparagraph (A)(ii); and*

12 *“(iii) any other practice”; and*
 13 *(B) by adding at the end the following:*

14 *“(4) INSPECTION OF INDUSTRIAL HEMP PRO-*
 15 *DUCERS.—*

16 *“(A) IN GENERAL.—If a State or Tribal*
 17 *plan referred to in paragraph (1) includes proce-*
 18 *dures for reducing or eliminating sampling or*
 19 *testing requirements under paragraph (2)(B)(i)*
 20 *for a producer of industrial hemp, the State or*
 21 *Indian tribe shall require the producer to pro-*
 22 *vide documentation that demonstrates a clear in-*
 23 *tent to produce, and use in-field practices con-*
 24 *sistent with production of, only industrial hemp,*
 25 *such as a seed tag, sales contract, Farm Service*

1 *Agency report, harvest technique, or harvest in-*
 2 *spection.*

3 “(B) *TESTING.*—*If a producer fails to pro-*
 4 *vide the documentation required under subpara-*
 5 *graph (A), the State or Indian tribe involved*
 6 *shall require the producer to conduct the testing*
 7 *described in paragraph (2)(A)(iii).”;*

8 (2) *in subsection (e)(2)(A)(iii), by striking*
 9 *“delta-9” and all that follows through “percent” and*
 10 *inserting the following: “total tetrahydrocannabinol*
 11 *concentration (including tetrahydrocannabinolic acid)*
 12 *of not more than 0.3 percent in the plant”; and*

13 (3) *in subsection (e)(3)—*

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

16 “(A) *REPORTING.*—

17 “(i) *IN GENERAL.*—*In the case of a*
 18 *State department of agriculture or a Tribal*
 19 *Government with respect to which a State*
 20 *or Tribal plan is approved under subsection*
 21 *(b), such State department of agriculture or*
 22 *Tribal Government (as applicable) shall im-*
 23 *mediately report a hemp producer to the At-*
 24 *torney General and, as applicable, the chief*
 25 *law enforcement officer of the State or In-*

1 *dian tribe, if the State department of agri-*
 2 *culture or Tribal Government (as applica-*
 3 *ble) determines that the hemp producer*
 4 *has—*

5 *“(I) violated the State or Tribal*
 6 *plan with a culpable mental state*
 7 *greater than negligence; or*

8 *“(II) violated the State or Tribal*
 9 *plan by producing a crop that is in-*
 10 *consistent with the designation of only*
 11 *industrial hemp under subsection*
 12 *(a)(2)(A)(ii).*

13 *“(ii) EXCEPTION.—Paragraph (1)*
 14 *shall not apply with respect to—*

15 *“(I) a violation described in sub-*
 16 *clause (I) of clause (i); or*

17 *“(II) the production of a crop in-*
 18 *consistent with its designation, as de-*
 19 *scribed in subclause (II) of such*
 20 *clause.”;*

21 *(B) in subparagraph (B), by amending*
 22 *clause (ii) to read as follows:*

23 *“(ii) EXCEPTION.—Clause (i) shall not*
 24 *apply to any person growing hemp that*
 25 *designates the type of production as only*

1 *industrial hemp under subsection*
 2 *(a)(2)(A)(ii) if—*

3 *“(I) the State or Tribal plan ap-*
 4 *proved under subsection (b) includes a*
 5 *procedure described in subsection*
 6 *(a)(2)(B)(ii); or*

7 *“(II) the plan established by the*
 8 *Secretary under section 297C includes*
 9 *a procedure described in subsection*
 10 *(a)(2)(B)(ii) of such section.”; and*

11 *(C) by adding at the end the following:*

12 *“(D) PRODUCTION INCONSISTENT WITH IN-*
 13 *DUSTRIAL HEMP DESIGNATION.—Any person*
 14 *who knowingly produces a crop that is incon-*
 15 *sistent with the designation of only industrial*
 16 *hemp under subsection (a)(2)(A)(ii) shall be in-*
 17 *eligible to participate in the program established*
 18 *under this section for a period of 5 years begin-*
 19 *ning on the date of the violation.”.*

20 *(b) DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE.—Section 297C of*
 21 *the Agricultural Marketing Act of 1946 (7 U.S.C. 1639q)*
 22 *is amended—*

23 *(1) in subsection (a)—*

24 *(A) in paragraph (2)—*

1 (i) by striking “paragraph (1) shall”
2 and all that follows through “practice to
3 maintain” and inserting the following:
4 “paragraph (1)—
5 “(A) shall include—
6 “(i) a practice to maintain”;
7 (ii) in subparagraph (C), by redesign-
8 nating clauses (i) and (ii) as subclauses (I)
9 and (II), respectively, and moving the mar-
10 gins of such subclauses (as so redesignated)
11 two ems to the right;
12 (iii) by redesignating subparagraphs
13 (B) through (E) as clauses (iii) through
14 (vi), respectively, and moving the margins
15 of such clauses (as so redesignated) two ems
16 to the right;
17 (iv) by inserting after clause (i) (as
18 designated by clause (i) of this subpara-
19 graph) the following:
20 “(ii) a procedure under which the Sec-
21 retary shall require a hemp producer to des-
22 ignate the type of production of the hemp
23 producer as—
24 “(I) only industrial hemp; or

1 “(II) hemp grown for any purpose
2 other than industrial hemp;”;

3 (v) in clause (iii) (as redesignated by
4 clause (iii) of this subparagraph)—

5 (I) by inserting “except as pro-
6 vided in subparagraph (B)(i),” before
7 “a procedure”; and

8 (II) by striking “delta-9
9 tetrahydrocannabinol concentration”
10 and inserting “total
11 tetrahydrocannabinol concentration
12 (including tetrahydrocannabinolic
13 acid)”;

14 (vi) in clause (v) (as redesignated by
15 clause (iii) of this subparagraph), by insert-
16 ing “and” after the semicolon at the end;

17 (vii) by striking subparagraph (F);
18 and

19 (viii) by adding at the end the fol-
20 lowing:

21 “(B) may include—

22 “(i) notwithstanding subparagraph
23 (A)(iii), a procedure for the use of visual
24 inspections, performance-based sampling
25 methodologies, certified seed, or a similar

1 *procedure when developing sampling plans*
 2 *for any producer who elects to be designated*
 3 *as a producer of only industrial hemp*
 4 *under subparagraph (A)(ii);*

5 “(ii) *notwithstanding section*
 6 *297B(e)(3)(B)(i), a procedure for elimi-*
 7 *nating the 10-year period of ineligibility*
 8 *following the date of conviction for a felony*
 9 *related to a controlled substance for pro-*
 10 *ducers who elect to be designated as pro-*
 11 *ducers of only industrial hemp under sub-*
 12 *paragraph (A)(ii); and*

13 “(iii) *such other practices or proce-*
 14 *dures as the Secretary considers to be ap-*
 15 *propriate, to the extent that the practice or*
 16 *procedure is consistent with this subtitle.”;*
 17 *and*

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

19 “(3) *INSPECTIONS OF INDUSTRIAL HEMP PRO-*
 20 *DUCERS.—*

21 “(A) *IN GENERAL.—If a plan referred to in*
 22 *paragraph (1) includes procedures for reducing*
 23 *or eliminating sampling or testing requirements*
 24 *under paragraph (2)(B)(i) for a producer of only*
 25 *industrial hemp, the Secretary shall require the*

1 producer to provide documentation that dem-
 2 onstrates a clear intent to produce, and use in-
 3 field practices consistent with production of, in-
 4 dustrial hemp, such as a seed tag, sales contract,
 5 Farm Service Agency report, harvest technique,
 6 or harvest inspection.

7 “(B) *TESTING*.—If a producer fails to pro-
 8 vide the appropriate documentation required
 9 under subparagraph (A), the Secretary shall re-
 10 quire the producer to conduct the testing de-
 11 scribed in paragraph (2)(A)(iii).”; and
 12 (2) in subsection (d)(2)—

13 (A) in subparagraph (B), by striking “and”
 14 at the end;

15 (B) in subparagraph (C)—

16 (i) by redesignating clauses (i) and (ii)
 17 as clauses (ii) and (iii), respectively;

18 (ii) by inserting before clause (ii) (as
 19 so redesignated), the following:

20 “(i) the designation of the type of pro-
 21 duction of the hemp producers under section
 22 297B(a)(2)(A)(ii) or under subsection
 23 (a)(2)(A)(ii) of this section;”; and

1 (iii) in clause (iii), (as so redesign-
 2 nated), by striking the period at the end
 3 and inserting “; and”; and

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 Marketing
 11 *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 AND**
 19 **GUIDELINES**” and inserting “**ADMINISTRA-**
 20 **TION, REGULATIONS, AND GUIDELINES**”;
 21 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. 7711*
 10 *et seq.) is amended by adding at the end the following:*

11 **“SEC. 420A. PILOT PROGRAM FOR THE INTRA-ORGANIZA-**
 12 **TIONAL MOVEMENT OF GENETICALLY ENGI-**
 13 **NEERED MICROORGANISMS BY CERTAIN AU-**
 14 **THORIZED PARTIES.**

15 *“(a) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:*

16 *“(1) COVERED MICROORGANISM.—The term ‘cov-*
 17 *ered microorganism’—*

18 *“(A) means a genetically engineered micro-*
 19 *organism that is a plant pest or may pose a*
 20 *plant pest risk; and*

21 *“(B) does not include listed agents or toxins*
 22 *(as defined in section 212(l) of the Agricultural*
 23 *Bioterrorism Protection Act of 2002 (7 U.S.C.*
 24 *8401(l))).*

1 “(2) *COVERED UNAUTHORIZED RELEASE.*—The
2 term ‘covered unauthorized release’ means an unau-
3 thorized release of a covered microorganism, including
4 such a release that a responsible party suspects took
5 place.

6 “(3) *PILOT PROGRAM.*—The term ‘pilot program’
7 means the pilot program established under subsection
8 (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 suc-
12 cessor 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 affiliated
19 with the government of a country of concern (as
20 defined in section 10638 of the CHIPS Act of
21 2022 (42 U.S.C. 19237));

22 “(C) has more than 1 responsible party bio-
23 containment facility;

1 “(D) employs quality control personnel that
2 are capable of overseeing the movement and con-
3 trol 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 ensure
9 compliance with the requirements under sub-
10 section (e) for the duration of the pilot program;

11 “(G) has implemented the precautions spec-
12 ified in subsection (e) to prevent the unauthor-
13 ized release of covered microorganisms; and

14 “(H) has not, during the 5-year period pre-
15 ceding the date on which the relevant application
16 is submitted under subsection (c)—

17 “(i) caused an unauthorized release of
18 a plant pest;

19 “(ii) materially failed to comply with
20 a permit granted by the Secretary for the
21 interstate movement of plant pests; or

22 “(iii) violated any provision of this
23 section (including regulations promulgated
24 thereunder).

1 “(6) *RESPONSIBLE PARTY BIOCONTAINMENT FA-*
2 *CILITY.—The term ‘responsible party biocontainment*
3 *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 *sidary, or affiliate of the responsible party.*

12 “(b) *ESTABLISHMENT.—Not later than 100 days after*
13 *the date of enactment of this section, the Secretary shall*
14 *establish a pilot program under which the Secretary shall*
15 *authorize not more than 75 responsible parties—*

16 “(1) *to move covered microorganisms in inter-*
17 *state commerce between responsible party biocontain-*
18 *ment 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 web-*
2 *based application process established by the Secretary.*

3 “(2) *CONTENTS.—An application submitted by a*
4 *responsible party for enrollment in the pilot program*
5 *shall include the following:*

6 “(A) *The name and contact information of*
7 *the responsible party and any agent of the re-*
8 *sponsible party that will be involved in the*
9 *movement of a covered microorganism.*

10 “(B) *The methods by which a covered*
11 *microorganism will be moved and the measures*
12 *taken to ensure that there is no unauthorized re-*
13 *lease of the covered microorganism.*

14 “(C) *The manner in which a shipping con-*
15 *tainer, packaging material, or any other mate-*
16 *rial accompanying the covered microorganism*
17 *will be disposed of to prevent the unauthorized*
18 *release of a covered microorganism.*

19 “(D) *A list of responsible party biocontain-*
20 *ment facilities to which the responsible party in-*
21 *tends to move covered microorganisms.*

22 “(E) *A list of the predominant covered*
23 *microorganism chassis strains that, at the time*
24 *of the application, the responsible party intends*
25 *to move.*

1 “(F) A sworn certification that the respon-
 2 sible party meets each criterion specified in sub-
 3 section (a)(5).

4 “(3) SUPPLEMENTAL APPLICATIONS.—

5 “(A) IN GENERAL.—A responsible party
 6 may submit a supplemental application to the
 7 Secretary to update a list under subparagraph
 8 (D) or (E) of paragraph (2) at any time during
 9 such enrollment. The Secretary shall make a de-
 10 termination with respect to such supplemental
 11 application not later than 30 days after the date
 12 on which such supplemental application is sub-
 13 mitted to the Secretary.

14 “(B) DENIALS.—The Secretary may only
 15 deny a supplemental application if the Secretary
 16 has made the determination set forth in sub-
 17 section (d)(2)(B). A denial of a supplemental ap-
 18 plication shall be subject to appeal in accordance
 19 with the terms specified in subsection (d)(3).

20 “(d) SELECTION PROCESS.—

21 “(1) TIMING.—The Secretary shall—

22 “(A) evaluate applications received under
 23 subsection (c)(1) in the order in which the appli-
 24 cations are received; and

1 “(B) approve or deny all applications re-
2 ceived during the period described in that sub-
3 section not later than 45 days after the end of
4 that period.

5 “(2) DENIAL.—The Secretary shall deny an ap-
6 plication received under subsection (c)(1) if—

7 “(A) the Secretary has already selected 75
8 responsible parties for enrollment in the pilot
9 program; or

10 “(B) the Secretary determines that the re-
11 sponsible party submitting the application does
12 not meet each criterion specified in subsection
13 (a)(5).

14 “(3) APPEAL.—

15 “(A) IN GENERAL.—A responsible party
16 seeking to enroll in the pilot program whose ap-
17 plication has been denied under paragraph (2)
18 may submit to the Secretary a written appeal
19 within—

20 “(i) the 10-day period beginning on
21 the date on which the responsible party re-
22 ceives written notification of the denial; or

23 “(ii) a longer period, if the responsible
24 party makes a request for additional time

1 to submit such appeal and the Secretary
2 grants such request.

3 “(B) *DECISION.*—The Secretary shall, with-
4 in a reasonably prompt period, grant or deny an
5 appeal under subparagraph (A) in writing,
6 which shall include the reasons for the decision.

7 “(e) *REQUIREMENTS.*—A responsible party shall, as a
8 condition of enrollment in the pilot program, agree to—

9 “(1) maintain, move, and dispose of covered
10 microorganisms in a manner that prevents unauthor-
11 ized release, spread, dispersal, or persistence of those
12 covered microorganisms in the environment;

13 “(2) unless otherwise authorized under a permit
14 under this Act, only move a covered microorganism
15 between sites that are responsible party biocontain-
16 ment facilities;

17 “(3) maintain, move, and dispose of each covered
18 microorganism separately from other organisms;

19 “(4) ensure that each covered microorganism is
20 maintained, moved, and disposed of in a manner
21 commensurate with the plant pest risk posed by that
22 covered microorganism;

23 “(5) use, at a minimum, a package for move-
24 ment—

1 “(A) that consists of a securely sealed inner
2 and outer container, each of which is an effective
3 barrier to the escape or unauthorized dissemina-
4 tion of the covered microorganism;

5 “(B) the inner container of which—

6 “(i) contains all of the applicable cov-
7 ered microorganism; and

8 “(ii) is cushioned and sealed in such a
9 manner as to remain sealed during any
10 shock, impact, or change in pressure; and

11 “(C) the outer container of which is rigid
12 and strong enough to withstand typical shipping
13 conditions (such as dropping, stacking, and im-
14 pact from other freight) without opening;

15 “(6) on request, grant the Secretary access—

16 “(A) to sample materials associated with
17 the interstate movement of covered microorga-
18 nisms under the pilot program;

19 “(B) to observe and inspect the interstate
20 movement of those covered microorganisms; and

21 “(C) to audit records of the activities of the
22 responsible party under the pilot program;

23 “(7) maintain detailed and accurate records of
24 all activities carried out under the pilot program to

1 *demonstrate compliance with the applicable require-*
2 *ments;*

3 “(8) *on request, grant the Secretary access to*
4 *each responsible party biocontainment facility for in-*
5 *spection in relation to a responsible party’s enroll-*
6 *ment in the pilot program; and*

7 “(9) *comply with any additional requirement for*
8 *the containment of covered microorganisms in inter-*
9 *state commerce that the Secretary may require if—*

10 “(A) *the Secretary determines that such an*
11 *additional requirement is reasonable; and*

12 “(B) *the sole purpose of such additional re-*
13 *quirement is to avoid a covered unauthorized re-*
14 *lease.*

15 “(f) *PROHIBITION ON CERTAIN PREFERENCES.—In*
16 *carrying out the pilot program, the Secretary shall take no*
17 *action or promulgate any regulation that—*

18 “(1) *treats genetically engineered covered micro-*
19 *organisms less favorably than nongenetically engi-*
20 *neered covered microorganisms; or*

21 “(2) *limits the quantity or type of covered micro-*
22 *organisms that may be moved under the pilot pro-*
23 *gram between responsible party biocontainment facili-*
24 *ties.*

1 “(g) *REPORTING BY RESPONSIBLE PARTIES.*—A re-
2 sponsible party shall submit to the Secretary a quarterly
3 report that describes the activities of the responsible party
4 under the pilot program during the period covered by the
5 report, including—

6 “(1) a description of each covered microorganism
7 moved in interstate commerce, including—

8 “(A) the 1 or more countries or localities at
9 which the covered microorganism was collected,
10 developed, manufactured, reared, cultivated, or
11 cultured, as applicable;

12 “(B) the genus, species, and any relevant
13 subspecies and common name information of the
14 covered microorganism; and

15 “(C) when applicable, a brief description of
16 the genetic modifications made in the microorga-
17 nism, including—

18 “(i) the intended phenotype that the 1
19 or more modifications are expected to con-
20 fer;

21 “(ii) any targeted deletions, insertions,
22 or base pair substitutions; and

23 “(iii) the genetic elements used in im-
24 parting the modification, including the

1 name, donor organism, and a brief descrip-
2 tion of the function;

3 “(2) each method by which the covered micro-
4 organism was moved in interstate commerce;

5 “(3) the quantity of the covered microorganism
6 moved in interstate commerce; and

7 “(4) the specific responsible party biocontain-
8 ment facilities between which the covered microorga-
9 nism was moved in interstate commerce.

10 “(h) *UNAUTHORIZED RELEASE.*—In the case of a cov-
11 ered unauthorized release, a responsible party shall—

12 “(1) contact the applicable office within the Ani-
13 mal and Plant Health Inspection Service within 48
14 hours of discovery of the covered unauthorized release;
15 and

16 “(2) submit to the Secretary a statement of facts
17 pertaining to such release, in writing, not later than
18 5 business days after the date of that discovery.

19 “(i) *DISENROLLMENT FROM PILOT PROGRAM.*—

20 “(1) *IN GENERAL.*—The Secretary shall termi-
21 nate the enrollment of a responsible party in the pilot
22 program if the Secretary has a sound factual basis to
23 determine that—

1 “(A) the responsible party no longer meets
2 the eligibility criteria of a responsible party de-
3 scribed in subsection (a)(5);

4 “(B) the responsible party has materially
5 failed to comply with the requirements under
6 subsection (e); or

7 “(C) as a result of a failure by a responsible
8 party under subparagraph (B), the responsible
9 party caused a covered unauthorized release dur-
10 ing the pilot program.

11 “(2) *DISENROLLMENT DECISION.*—If the Sec-
12 retary terminates the enrollment of a responsible
13 party under paragraph (1), the Secretary shall sub-
14 mit that decision in writing to the responsible party.

15 “(3) *APPEAL.*—The appeal process described in
16 subsection (d)(3) shall apply in the case of a respon-
17 sible party that seeks to appeal a termination of en-
18 rollment under paragraph (1).

19 “(j) *TERMINATION.*—The pilot program shall termi-
20 nate on the date that is 3 years after the date on which
21 the Secretary completes the application selection process
22 under subsection (d)(1)(B).

23 “(k) *REPORT.*—Not later than 6 months after the date
24 of termination of the pilot program described in subsection

1 *(j), the Secretary shall submit to Congress a report that de-*
 2 *scribes—*

3 *“(1) the activities carried out under the pilot*
 4 *program, including—*

5 *“(A) the quantities and identities of covered*
 6 *microorganisms that were moved; and*

7 *“(B) a description of any unauthorized re-*
 8 *lease of covered microorganisms that were moved,*
 9 *including a description of the cause and con-*
 10 *sequence of any unauthorized release; and*

11 *“(2) recommendations on—*

12 *“(A) whether the pilot program should be-*
 13 *come a permanent program; and*

14 *“(B) whether, as a permanent program,*
 15 *changes should be made to the criteria for a re-*
 16 *sponsible party under subsection (a)(5) or to the*
 17 *requirements under subsection (e).”.*

18 ***Subtitle B—Marketing***

19 ***SEC. 10101. MARKETING ORDERS.***

20 *Section 8e(a) of the Agricultural Adjustment Act (7*
 21 *U.S.C. 608e–1(a)), reenacted with amendments by the Agri-*
 22 *cultural Marketing Agreement Act of 1937, is amended—*

23 *(1) by inserting “mandarin oranges,” after “or-*
 24 *anges,”;*

25 *(2) by inserting “almonds,” after “onions,”; and*

1 (3) by striking “, other than dates for proc-
2 essing,” each place it appears.

3 **SEC. 10102. LOCAL AGRICULTURE MARKET PROGRAM.**

4 Section 210A of the Agricultural Marketing Act of
5 1946 (7 U.S.C. 1627c) is amended—

6 (1) in subsection (a)—

7 (A) by redesignating paragraphs (5)
8 through (13) as paragraphs (6) through (14), re-
9 spectively; and

10 (B) by inserting after paragraph (4) the fol-
11 lowing:

12 “(5) *FOOD HUB.*—The term ‘food hub’ means a
13 business or organization that actively manages the
14 aggregation, distribution, and marketing of source-
15 identified food products to multiple buyers from mul-
16 tiple producers, who are primarily local and regional
17 producers, to strengthen the ability of such producers
18 to satisfy local and regional wholesale, retail, and in-
19 stitutional demands.”;

20 (2) in subsection (b)(4), by inserting “, regional
21 food chain coordination,” after “collaboration”;

22 (3) in subsection (c)(4), by striking “stake-
23 holders” and inserting “stakeholders before and after
24 providing grants under the program”;

25 (4) in subsection (d)—

1 (A) in paragraph (1), by striking “2023”
2 and inserting “2031”;

3 (B) in paragraph (2)—

4 (i) in subparagraph (I), by striking
5 “or”;

6 (ii) in subparagraph (J)(ii), by strik-
7 ing the period at the end and inserting “;
8 or”; and

9 (iii) by inserting at the end the fol-
10 lowing:

11 “(K) to support the purchase of special pur-
12 pose equipment.”; and

13 (C) in paragraph (6)—

14 (i) in subparagraph (B)—

15 (I) by redesignating clauses (vii)
16 and (viii) as clauses (viii) and (ix), re-
17 spectively; and

18 (II) by inserting after clause (vi)
19 the following:

20 “(vii) a food hub;”;

21 (ii) in subparagraph (C)—

22 (I) in the matter preceding clause
23 (i), by striking “applications that”
24 and inserting “applications, outreach,
25 and technical assistance that would”;

1 (II) in clause (i), by striking “or”
2 at the end;

3 (III) by redesignating clause (ii)
4 as clause (iii);

5 (IV) by inserting after clause (i)
6 the following:

7 “(ii) provide greater geographic bal-
8 ance relative to the benefits of the Program;
9 or”; and

10 (V) in clause (iii) (as so redesign-
11 ated), by striking “are used” and in-
12 serting “be used”;

13 (iii) by redesignating subparagraphs
14 (D) and (E) as subparagraphs (E) and (F),
15 respectively; and

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

18 “(D) SIMPLIFIED APPLICATIONS.—

19 “(i) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall
20 establish a simplified application form for
21 eligible entities described in subparagraph
22 (B) that—

23 “(I) request less than \$100,000;
24 and

1 “(II) choose from the project cat-
2 egories described in clause (ii), which
3 shall include a specific, limited set of
4 key activities with predefined require-
5 ments established by the Secretary.

6 “(ii) *PROJECT CATEGORIES.*—The Sec-
7 retary shall establish a simplified applica-
8 tion form for the following project categories
9 but may include additional project cat-
10 egories as necessary:

11 “(I) *DIRECT-TO-CONSUMER*
12 *PROJECTS.*—In the case of a direct-to-
13 consumer project, an application form
14 described in clause (i) may be avail-
15 able for the following categories of
16 projects:

17 “(aa) An outreach and pro-
18 motion project.

19 “(bb) A project to provide
20 funding for farmers market man-
21 ager staff time.

22 “(cc) A project to provide
23 vendor training.

24 “(dd) A planning and design
25 project.

1 “(ee) A data collection and
2 evaluation project.

3 “(II) LOCAL AND REGIONAL FOOD
4 MARKETS AND ENTERPRISE
5 PROJECTS.—In the case of a local and
6 regional food market and enterprise
7 project, an application form described
8 in clause (i) may be available for the
9 following categories of projects:

10 “(aa) A food hub feasibility
11 study project.

12 “(bb) A project to provide
13 funding for regional food chain
14 coordination staff time.

15 “(cc) A project to provide
16 technical assistance.

17 “(dd) A data collection and
18 evaluation project.

19 “(ee) A project to support the
20 purchase of special purpose equip-
21 ment.”;

22 (5) in subsection (e)(2)(A), by striking “2019
23 through 2023” and all that follows through the period
24 at the end and inserting the following: “2026 through
25 2031 to support partnerships—

1 “(i) to plan a local or regional food
2 system;

3 “(ii) to implement a local or regional
4 food system plan;

5 “(iii) to develop and implement a re-
6 gional food chain coordination project; and

7 “(iv) to develop and implement a re-
8 gional outreach, technical assistance, and
9 evaluation project.”;

10 (6) in subsection (f)(1)—

11 (A) in subparagraph (A), by striking “sub-
12 section (d); or” and inserting “subsection
13 (d)(5);”;

14 (B) by redesignating subparagraph (B) as
15 subparagraph (C); and

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

18 “(B) are eligible to submit an application
19 in accordance with subsection (d)(6)(D); or”;
20 and

21 (7) in subsection (i)(3)(B)—

22 (A) by striking “Of the funds” and insert-
23 ing the following:

24 “(i) *IN GENERAL.*—Of the funds”; and

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

1 “(ii) *SIMPLIFIED APPLICATIONS.*—Of
 2 *the funds made available for grants under*
 3 *subsection (d)(6) for a fiscal year, not less*
 4 *than 10 percent, and not more than 50 per-*
 5 *cent, shall be used to provide grants to eligi-*
 6 *ble entities that submit an application in*
 7 *accordance with subsection (d)(6)(D).”.*

8 **SEC. 10103. ACER ACCESS AND DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM.**

9 *Section 12306 of the Agricultural Act of 2014 (7*
 10 *U.S.C. 1632c) is amended—*

11 *(1) by redesignating subsections (e) and (f) as*
 12 *subsections (f) and (g), respectively;*

13 *(2) by inserting after subsection (d) the fol-*
 14 *lowing:*

15 “(e) *CONSULTATIONS.*—

16 “(1) *IN GENERAL.*—*Beginning with the first re-*
 17 *quest for applications under this section that occurs*
 18 *at least 1 year after the date of enactment of this Act,*
 19 *not later than 6 months before such a request for ap-*
 20 *plications, the Secretary shall solicit input from*
 21 *maple syrup industry stakeholders with respect to the*
 22 *research and education priorities of the maple syrup*
 23 *industry.*

24 “(2) *CONSIDERATION.*—*The Secretary shall con-*
 25 *sider the information provided through the consulta-*

1 *tion required under paragraph (1) when making*
 2 *grants under this section.”; and*

3 *(3) in subsection (g), as so redesignated, by strik-*
 4 *ing “2023” and inserting “2031”.*

5 **SEC. 10104. ORGANIC PRODUCTION AND MARKET DATA INI-**
 6 **TIATIVE.**

7 *Section 7407 of the Farm Security and Rural Invest-*
 8 *ment Act of 2002 (7 U.S.C. 5925c) is amended—*

9 *(1) in subsection (b)—*

10 *(A) in paragraph (2), by striking “and” at*
 11 *the end;*

12 *(B) in paragraph (3), by striking the period*
 13 *at the end and inserting “; and”; and*

14 *(C) by adding at the end the following:*

15 *“(4) collect and publish cost-of-production data*
 16 *for organic milk, through support from regional and*
 17 *national programs, including regularly reported data*
 18 *related to—*

19 *“(A) the costs of major organic feedstuffs,*
 20 *including—*

21 *“(i) the prices for major organic*
 22 *feedstuffs produced domestically;*

23 *“(ii) the prices for imported major or-*
 24 *ganic feedstuffs; and*

1 “(iii) all other costs relating to the
2 production of organic milk;

3 “(B) the establishment of an Organic All
4 Milk Prices Survey, which shall be analogous to
5 the existing All Milk Prices Survey conducted by
6 the National Agricultural Statistics Service, to
7 gather and report monthly data about the
8 amounts organic dairy farmers are being paid
9 for organic milk and prices received for organic
10 dairy cows, including—

11 “(i) national data; and

12 “(ii) data relating to, at a minimum,
13 the 6 regions with the greatest quantity of
14 organic dairy production; and

15 “(C) periodic organic milk reporting under
16 which the Secretary, using data collected by the
17 National Agricultural Statistics Service, the
18 Economic Research Service, or the Agricultural
19 Marketing Service, publishes new periodic re-
20 ports that include, or add to existing periodic re-
21 ports relating to, data for organic milk, which
22 shall be equivalent to data reported for conven-
23 tionally produced milk.”; and

24 (2) in subsection (d)(2), by striking “2023” and
25 inserting “2031”.

1 **SEC. 10105. ORGANIC CERTIFICATION.**

2 (a) *REPORTS*.—Section 2122(d)(1) of the Organic
3 *Foods Production Act of 1990* (7 U.S.C. 6521(d)(1)) is
4 amended by striking “2023” and inserting “2031”.

5 (b) *ORGANIC TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE*.—The Organic
6 *Foods Production Act of 1990* is amended by inserting after
7 section 2122A (7 U.S.C. 6521a) the following:

8 **“SEC. 2122B. ORGANIC TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE.**

9 “(a) *IN GENERAL*.—In carrying out this title, the Sec-
10 retary may provide technical assistance, outreach, and edu-
11 cation to support organic production through existing pro-
12 grams implemented by a covered agency.

13 “(b) *COVERED AGENCY*.—For the purposes of this sec-
14 tion, the term ‘covered agency’ means—

15 “(1) the Agricultural Marketing Service;

16 “(2) the Agricultural Research Service;

17 “(3) the National Institute of Food and Agri-
18 culture;

19 “(4) the Farm Service Agency;

20 “(5) the Risk Management Agency;

21 “(6) the Natural Resources Conservation Service;

22 “(7) the Rural Business-Cooperative Service;

23 “(8) the Food and Nutrition Service; and

24 “(9) other agencies, as determined by the Sec-
25 retary.”.

1 (c) *FUNDING.*—Section 2123(b)(6) of the Organic
 2 *Foods Production Act of 1990 (7 U.S.C. 6522(b)(6)) is*
 3 *amended by striking “for fiscal year 2023” and inserting*
 4 *“for each of fiscal years 2023 through 2031”.*

5 **SEC. 10106. REPORT ON PROCUREMENT.**

6 *Not later than 1 year after the date of the enactment*
 7 *of the Farm, Food, and National Security Act of 2026, the*
 8 *Secretary shall submit to the Committee on Agriculture of*
 9 *the House of Representatives and the Committee on Agri-*
 10 *culture, Nutrition, and Forestry of the Senate a report that*
 11 *examines—*

12 (1) *the process by which domestic commodities or*
 13 *products (as defined in section 220.16 of title 7, Code*
 14 *of Federal Regulations (or any successor regulation))*
 15 *are procured by the Secretary, including the solicita-*
 16 *tion process used to procure such commodities or*
 17 *products;*

18 (2) *barriers to entry into such procurement proc-*
 19 *ess that are for nontraditional, culturally relevant, or*
 20 *local and regional commodities or products;*

21 (3) *the diet quality and accessibility of commod-*
 22 *ities or products that are so procured; and*

23 (4) *the Secretary’s recommendations for admin-*
 24 *istrative, regulatory, and legislative changes to im-*
 25 *prove such procurement process.*

1 **SEC. 10107. DEFINITIONS OF RISK TO ORGANIC INTEGRITY**
2 **AND OVERSIGHT PROTOCOLS.**

3 *Section 2103 of the Organic Foods Production Act of*
4 *1990 (7 U.S.C. 6502) is amended—*

5 *(1) by redesignating paragraphs (20) through*
6 *(22) as paragraphs (22) through (24), respectively;*

7 *(2) by redesignating paragraphs (16) through*
8 *(19) as paragraphs (17) through (20), respectively;*

9 *(3) by inserting after paragraph (15) the fol-*
10 *lowing:*

11 *“(16) OVERSIGHT PROTOCOLS.—The term ‘over-*
12 *sight protocols’ means the regulations, policies, and*
13 *procedures issued by the Secretary under the authori-*
14 *ties provided in sections 2104, 2107, 2114, 2115,*
15 *2116, and 2120.”; and*

16 *(4) by inserting after paragraph (20), as so re-*
17 *designated, the following:*

18 *“(21) RISK TO ORGANIC INTEGRITY.—The term*
19 *‘risk to organic integrity’ means the likelihood that a*
20 *product marketed as organically produced is, or con-*
21 *tains, an agricultural product that was not produced*
22 *using a system of organic farming in compliance*
23 *with this title, not processed in compliance with this*
24 *title, or both.”.*

1 **SEC. 10108. MODERNIZATION OF INSPECTION REQUIRE-**
2 **MENTS.**

3 *Paragraph (5) of section 2107(a) of the Organic Foods*
4 *Production Act of 1990 (7 U.S.C. 6506(a)) is amended to*
5 *read as follows:*

6 *“(5) provide for annual inspections by the certi-*
7 *fying agent of each farm and handling operation that*
8 *has been certified under this title, which inspections*
9 *shall be—*

10 *“(A) in the case of a farm or handling oper-*
11 *ation site located outside of the United States,*
12 *conducted on-site;*

13 *“(B) in the case of a farm or handling oper-*
14 *ation site located in the United States, conducted*
15 *on-site once every three years with intervening*
16 *annual inspections being conducted on-site or*
17 *virtually based on the farm’s or handling oper-*
18 *ation’s risk to organic integrity, as determined*
19 *by the Secretary; and*

20 *“(C) in the case of a handling operation*
21 *that acquires but does not physically receive,*
22 *process, package, or store organic products, con-*
23 *ducted through inspection methods, including*
24 *virtual methods, that provide sufficient assur-*
25 *ance of compliance, as determined by the Sec-*
26 *retary;”.*

1 **SEC. 10109. STUDY AND REFORM OF NATIONAL ORGANIC**
2 **PROGRAM OVERSIGHT PROTOCOLS.**

3 *The Organic Foods Production Act of 1990 (7 U.S.C.*
4 *6501 et seq.), as amended by section 10105, is further*
5 *amended by inserting after section 2122B (as added by such*
6 *section 10105) the following:*

7 **“SEC. 2122C. STUDY AND REFORM OF NATIONAL ORGANIC**
8 **PROGRAM OVERSIGHT PROTOCOLS.**

9 *“(a) STUDY.—Not later than 12 months after the date*
10 *of enactment of this section, the Secretary shall conduct a*
11 *comprehensive study for the purpose of determining whether*
12 *the establishment of oversight protocols based on risk to or-*
13 *ganic integrity and the implementation of related reforms*
14 *are necessary and appropriate.*

15 *“(b) ELEMENTS.—*

16 *“(1) IN GENERAL.—In conducting the study*
17 *under subsection (a), the Secretary shall examine the*
18 *feasibility, opportunities, and implications of imple-*
19 *menting oversight protocols that—*

20 *“(A) are based on risk to organic integrity;*

21 *“(B) include differential treatment of non-*
22 *compliance that increases the risk to organic in-*
23 *tegrity versus non-compliance that does not;*

24 *“(C) adopt standardized organic plans*
25 *under section 2114 aligned with the risk to or-*
26 *ganic integrity;*

1 “(D) include a multi-tiered approach to cer-
 2 tification aligned with the risk to organic integ-
 3 rity and the scale of the organic operation; and

4 “(E) provide increased guidance and inter-
 5 pretations of standards and criteria established
 6 under this title given by the National Organic
 7 Program to certifying agents and to certified or-
 8 ganic farms and handling operations.

9 “(2) CONSIDERATION OF RELEVANT FACTORS.—
 10 *In administering paragraph (1), the Secretary shall,*
 11 *with respect to certified organic farms, certified or-*
 12 *ganic handling operations, and certifying agents, take*
 13 *into account—*

14 “(A) the scope of certification or accredita-
 15 tion of each entity;

16 “(B) the scale and complexity of each enti-
 17 ty;

18 “(C) the domestic or international location
 19 of each entity;

20 “(D) the history of compliance of each enti-
 21 ty; and

22 “(E) other relevant factors.

23 “(c) REPORT.—Not later than 18 months after the date
 24 of enactment of this section, the Secretary shall submit to
 25 the appropriate congressional committees, and make pub-

1 *licly available on the websites of the Department of Agri-*
 2 *culture, a report describing the findings of the study con-*
 3 *ducted under subsection (a).*

4 “(d) *CONSULTATION.—In conducting the study under*
 5 *subsection (a), the Secretary shall consult with—*

6 “(1) *the National Organic Standards Board;*

7 “(2) *certifying agents;*

8 “(3) *certified organic farms and handling oper-*
 9 *ations;*

10 “(4) *organic consumers; and*

11 “(5) *other relevant organic stakeholders.*

12 “(e) *AUTHORITY TO ESTABLISH ADDITIONAL TERMS*
 13 *AND CONDITIONS.—*

14 “(1) *ISSUANCE OF REGULATIONS.—Based on the*
 15 *findings described in the report under subsection (c),*
 16 *and after consultation with the appropriate congres-*
 17 *sional committees, the Secretary may issue regula-*
 18 *tions to establish or modify oversight protocols under*
 19 *this title that the Secretary determines are necessary*
 20 *and appropriate, provided such regulations maintain*
 21 *strong organic integrity, support a resilient domestic*
 22 *organic sector, and are consistent with the require-*
 23 *ments of this title.*

1 “(2) *REDUCING OVERSIGHT COSTS;*
 2 *PRIORITIZATION.—In issuing the regulations under*
 3 *paragraph (1), the Secretary may seek to—*

4 “(A) *reduce oversight costs and administra-*
 5 *tive burdens for certified organic farms, certified*
 6 *organic handling operations, and certifying*
 7 *agents that present a lower risk to organic integ-*
 8 *egrity; or*

9 “(B) *prioritize oversight resources for ac-*
 10 *tivities that present a higher risk to organic in-*
 11 *tegrity.*

12 “(f) *APPROPRIATE CONGRESSIONAL COMMITTEES DE-*
 13 *FINED.—In this section, the term ‘appropriate congres-*
 14 *sional committees’ means—*

15 “(1) *the Committee on Agriculture of the House*
 16 *of Representatives; and*

17 “(2) *the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition,*
 18 *and Forestry of the Senate.*

19 “(g) *RULE OF CONSTRUCTION.—Nothing in this sec-*
 20 *tion shall be construed to limit the Secretary’s authority*
 21 *to enforce compliance with this title to protect organic in-*
 22 *tegrity.”.*

1 ***Subtitle C—Regulatory Reform***

2 ***PART I—FEDERAL INSECTICIDE, FUNGICIDE, AND***
 3 ***RODENTICIDE ACT***

4 ***SEC. 10201. EXCLUSION OF CERTAIN SUBSTANCES.***

5 (a) *DEFINITIONS.*—Section 2 of the Federal Insecti-
 6 *cide, Fungicide, and Rodenticide Act (7 U.S.C. 136) is*
 7 *amended—*

8 (1) *by amending subsection (v) to read as fol-*
 9 *lows:*

10 “(v) *PLANT REGULATOR.*—

11 “(1) *IN GENERAL.*—The term ‘plant regulator’
 12 *means any substance or mixture of substances in-*
 13 *tended, through physiological action, for accelerating*
 14 *or retarding the rate of growth or rate of maturation,*
 15 *or for otherwise altering the behavior of plants or the*
 16 *produce thereof.*

17 “(2) *EXCLUSIONS.*—Such term shall not in-
 18 *clude—*

19 “(A) *substances to the extent that they*
 20 *are—*

21 “(i) *intended to be produced and used*
 22 *within a plant; or*

23 “(ii) *intended as plant nutrients, trace*
 24 *elements, nutritional chemicals, plant in-*

1 *oculants, soil amendments, or vitamin hor-*
 2 *mone products; or*

3 *“(B) plant biostimulants that—*

4 *“(i) have a low-risk profile in relation*
 5 *to humans and other organisms, as deter-*
 6 *mined by the Agency; and*

7 *“(ii) are of biological origin or include*
 8 *chemical compounds that are synthetically*
 9 *derived, but structurally-similar and func-*
 10 *tionally identical to, substances of biological*
 11 *origin.”;*

12 *(2) in subsection (hh)—*

13 *(A) in paragraph (2), by striking “or”;*

14 *(B) in paragraph (3)—*

15 *(i) in the matter preceding subpara-*
 16 *graph (A), by striking “substances.” and in-*
 17 *serting “substances”; and*

18 *(ii) in subparagraph (B)—*

19 *(I) by striking “volatilization*
 20 *urease” and inserting “volatilization,*
 21 *or urease”;*

22 *(II) by striking the period at the*
 23 *end and inserting a semicolon; and*

24 *(C) by inserting after paragraph (3) the fol-*
 25 *lowing:*

1 “(4) a plant biostimulant; or

2 “(5) a nutritional chemical.”; and

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

4 “(pp) *PLANT BIOSTIMULANT*.—The term ‘plant bio-
5 stimulant’ means any substance or mixture of substances
6 that, when applied to seeds, plants, the rhizosphere, or soil
7 or other growth media, acts to support a plant’s natural
8 nutrition processes independently of the nutrient content of
9 that substance or mixture of substances, and that thereby
10 improves—

11 “(1) nutrient availability, uptake, or use effi-
12 ciency;

13 “(2) tolerance to abiotic stress; or

14 “(3) consequent growth, development, quality, or
15 yield.

16 “(qq) *NUTRITIONAL CHEMICAL*.—The term ‘nutri-
17 tional chemical’ means any substance or mixture of sub-
18 stances that interacts with plant nutrients in a manner
19 that improves nutrient availability or aids the plant in ac-
20 quiring or utilizing plant nutrients.

21 “(rr) *VITAMIN HORMONE PRODUCT*.—The term ‘vita-
22 min hormone product’ means a product that—

23 “(1) consists of a mixture of plant hormones,
24 plant nutrients, plant inoculants, soil amendments,
25 trace elements, nutritional chemicals, plant biostimu-

1 *lants, or vitamins that is intended for the improve-*
 2 *ment, maintenance, survival, health, and propagation*
 3 *of plants;*

4 *“(2) is nontoxic and nonpoisonous in the undi-*
 5 *luted packaged concentrations of the product; and*

6 *“(3) is not intended for use on food crop sites*
 7 *and is labeled accordingly.*

8 *“(ss) PLANT-INCORPORATED PROTECTANT.—*

9 *“(1) IN GENERAL.—The term ‘plant-incorporated*
 10 *protectant’ means a pesticide that is—*

11 *“(A) intended for preventing, destroying, re-*
 12 *PELLING, or mitigating a pest; and*

13 *“(B) a substance or mixture of substances*
 14 *intended to be produced and used within a living*
 15 *plant, or in the produce thereof, and the genetic*
 16 *material necessary for its production.*

17 *“(2) INCLUSIONS.—Such term includes any inert*
 18 *ingredient (as defined in section 174.3 of title 40,*
 19 *Code of Federal Regulations (or any successor regula-*
 20 *tion)).”.*

21 *(b) EXEMPTION FROM REGULATION.—Section 25(b) of*
 22 *the Federal Insecticide, Fungicide, and Rodenticide Act (7*
 23 *U.S.C. 136w(b)) is amended to read as follows:*

24 *“(b) EXEMPTION OF PESTICIDES.—*

1 “(1) *EXEMPTION BY RULE.*—*The Administrator*
2 *may exempt from the requirements of this Act by reg-*
3 *ulation any pesticide which the Administrator deter-*
4 *mines either—*

5 “(A) *to be adequately regulated by another*
6 *Federal agency; or*

7 “(B) *to be of a character which is unneces-*
8 *sary to be subject to this Act in order to carry*
9 *out the purposes of this Act.*

10 “(2) *EXEMPTION FOR CERTAIN PLANT-INCOR-*
11 *PORATED PROTECTANTS.*—

12 “(A) *EXEMPTION.*—

13 “(i) *IN GENERAL.*—*Upon the issuance*
14 *of guidance as described in subparagraph*
15 *(B), plant-incorporated protectants result-*
16 *ing from endogenous genetic material found*
17 *within or that could arise from the plant’s*
18 *gene pool are exempt from the requirements*
19 *of this Act.*

20 “(ii) *EXCEPTION.*—*A specific plant-in-*
21 *corporated protectant arising from endoge-*
22 *nous genetic material found within or that*
23 *could arise from the plant’s gene pool shall*
24 *not be exempt from the requirements of this*
25 *Act if the Administrator determines that*

1 *such plant-incorporated protectant is of a*
2 *character which is necessary to be subject to*
3 *this Act in order to carry out the purposes*
4 *of this Act.*

5 “(B) *GUIDANCE.*—*Not later than 1 year*
6 *after the date of the enactment of the Farm,*
7 *Food, and National Security Act of 2026, the*
8 *Administrator shall issue guidance for the imple-*
9 *mentation of subparagraph (A). The Adminis-*
10 *trator may update such guidance, as the Adminis-*
11 *trator determines to be appropriate.*

12 “(C) *ORDER.*—

13 “(i) *IN GENERAL.*—*If the Adminis-*
14 *trator makes a determination described in*
15 *subparagraph (A)(ii) with respect to a*
16 *plant-incorporated protectant, the Adminis-*
17 *trator shall issue an order explaining the*
18 *basis for such determination, which may be*
19 *issued directly to any person who owns,*
20 *controls, or has custody of such plant-incor-*
21 *porated protectant or published in the Fed-*
22 *eral Register.*

23 “(ii) *EFFECT OF ORDER.*—*After re-*
24 *ceipt or publication of an order described in*
25 *clause (i), the plant-incorporated protectant*

1 *described in the order will no longer be ex-*
 2 *empt from the requirements of this Act.*

3 “(D) *TOLERANCE EXEMPTION.*—*The residue*
 4 *of a plant-incorporated protectant that is exempt*
 5 *under subparagraph (A)(i) shall be exempt from*
 6 *the requirement for a tolerance under section 408*
 7 *of the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act (21*
 8 *U.S.C. 346a) unless, and until such time as, the*
 9 *Administrator issues or publishes an order under*
 10 *subparagraph (C)(i).”.*

11 *(c) CONFORMING AMENDMENTS.*—*Section 17(c) of the*
 12 *Federal Insecticide, Fungicide, and Rodenticide Act (7*
 13 *U.S.C. 1360(c)) is amended—*

14 *(1) in paragraph (2)—*

15 *(A) in the matter preceding subparagraph*
 16 *(A), by striking “(as defined in section 174.3 of*
 17 *title 40, Code of Federal Regulations (or any*
 18 *successor regulation))”;*

19 *(B) in subparagraph (B), by striking “or”*
 20 *at the end;*

21 *(C) in subparagraph (C), by striking the*
 22 *period at the end and inserting “; or”; and*

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

24 *“(D) that plant-incorporated protectant is*
 25 *exempt under section 25(b)(2) or part 174 of*

1 *title 40, Code of Federal Regulations (or any*
 2 *successor regulation).”; and*

3 *(2) in paragraph (3)(A), by striking “(as defined*
 4 *in section 174.3 of title 40, Code of Federal Regula-*
 5 *tions (or any successor regulation))”.*

6 **SEC. 10202. COORDINATION.**

7 *Section 3 of the Federal Insecticide, Fungicide, and*
 8 *Rodenticide Act (7 U.S.C. 136a) is amended by adding at*
 9 *the end the following:*

10 “(i) *COORDINATION.*—

11 “(1) *RISK MITIGATION MEASURES.*—*If any risk*
 12 *mitigation measures are required for any pesticide*
 13 *registered under this Act, the Administrator shall—*

14 “(A) *develop such measures in coordination*
 15 *with the Secretary of Agriculture; and*

16 “(B) *conduct, and publish in the docket,*
 17 *with the corresponding action, an economic*
 18 *analysis determining the cost of implementation*
 19 *of such measures.*

20 “(2) *DATA AND INFORMATION.*—

21 “(A) *COORDINATION OF DATA AND INFOR-*
 22 *MATION.*—*With regard to the registration or reg-*
 23 *istration review of a pesticide under this Act and*
 24 *for making a determination under section 408 of*
 25 *the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act (21*

1 *U.S.C. 346a) with respect to any action that im-*
2 *pacts the sale, distribution, or use of a pesticide,*
3 *the Administrator shall coordinate with the Sec-*
4 *retary of Agriculture, acting through the Direc-*
5 *tor of the Office of Pest Management Policy, so*
6 *that the Administrator has for the Administra-*
7 *tor's use and consideration for such processes—*

8 *“(i) agronomic use data from—*

9 *“(I) the Department of Agri-*
10 *culture; and*

11 *“(II) industry; and*

12 *“(ii) any information relating to the*
13 *availability and economic viability of alter-*
14 *natives to such pesticide.*

15 *“(B) DATA AND INFORMATION.—When*
16 *issuing any decision resulting from the processes*
17 *referred to in subparagraph (A), the Adminis-*
18 *trator shall publish—*

19 *“(i) a description of the use by the Ad-*
20 *ministrator of any data or information pro-*
21 *vided by the Secretary of Agriculture under*
22 *subparagraph (A); and*

23 *“(ii) the determination of the Adminis-*
24 *trator on whether to use such data or infor-*
25 *mation, including, as applicable, the rea-*

1 sons that the data or information was not
2 used.

3 “(3) *REASONABLE AND PRUDENT ACTIONS AND*
4 *MEASURES.*—*For implementation of reasonable and*
5 *prudent actions and measures with respect to the use*
6 *of a pesticide registered under this Act, the Adminis-*
7 *trator shall coordinate with the Secretary of Agri-*
8 *culture, the Secretary of the Interior, and the Sec-*
9 *retary of Commerce—*

10 “(A) *to review the development of any such*
11 *actions and measures that are a result of con-*
12 *sultations relating to actions under this Act;*

13 “(B) *to fully consider the risks and benefits*
14 *of any such actions and measures in a manner*
15 *consistent with practices established to evaluate*
16 *the risks and benefits of a pesticide registered*
17 *under this Act; and*

18 “(C) *to provide feedback to the Secretary of*
19 *the Interior and the Secretary of Commerce on*
20 *decisions relating to any such actions and meas-*
21 *ures that may affect end users of a pesticide reg-*
22 *istered under this Act.*

23 “(4) *WAIVER.*—*The coordination requirements*
24 *imposed by this subsection may be waived or modified*
25 *for a specific action to the extent agreed upon by the*

1 *Administrator, the Secretary of Agriculture, and the*
 2 *registrant so long as such agreement is published by*
 3 *the Administrator in the docket for the corresponding*
 4 *action.”.*

5 **SEC. 10203. INTERAGENCY WORKING GROUP.**

6 *Section 3(c)(11) of the Federal Insecticide, Fungicide,*
 7 *and Rodenticide Act (7 U.S.C. 136a(c)(11)) is amended—*
 8 *(1) in subparagraph (B)—*
 9 *(A) by striking “The Administrator shall”*
 10 *and inserting the following:*

11 *“(i) IN GENERAL.—The Administrator*
 12 *shall”; and*

13 *(B) by adding at the end the following:*

14 *“(ii) PARTICIPATION.—The Secretary*
 15 *of Agriculture shall include the Director of*
 16 *the Office of Pest Management Policy in all*
 17 *meetings of the interagency working*
 18 *group.”;*

19 *(2) in subparagraph (D)—*

20 *(A) in clause (iv)—*

21 *(i) by striking “every 180 days there-*
 22 *after” and inserting “each year thereafter”;*
 23 *and*

24 *(ii) by striking “during the 5-year pe-*
 25 *riod beginning on that date”; and*

1 *(B) by adding at the end the following:*

2 “(v) *AVAILABILITY.*—*All reports re-*
3 *quired under this subparagraph shall be*
4 *published on the website of the Environ-*
5 *mental Protection Agency.”; and*

6 *(3) by amending subparagraph (E) to read as*
7 *follows:*

8 “(E) *CONSULTATION.*—

9 “(i) *WORKING GROUP WITH PRIVATE*
10 *SECTOR.*—*In carrying out the duties under*
11 *this paragraph, the working group shall, as*
12 *appropriate—*

13 “(I) *consult, including through*
14 *public meetings, with representatives of*
15 *interested industry stakeholders and*
16 *nongovernmental organizations not less*
17 *than once every year; and*

18 “(II) *take into consideration fac-*
19 *tors, such as actual and potential dif-*
20 *ferences in interest between, and the*
21 *views of, those stakeholders and organi-*
22 *zations.*

23 “(ii) *ADMINISTRATOR WITH WORKING*
24 *GROUP.*—*Before the Administrator imple-*
25 *ments any policy, strategy, workplan, or*

1 *pilot program regarding the application of*
 2 *the Endangered Species Act of 1973 (16*
 3 *U.S.C. 1531 et seq.) to the processes for the*
 4 *registration or registration review of a pes-*
 5 *ticide under this Act, the Administrator*
 6 *shall—*

7 *“(I) consult with the covered*
 8 *agencies on the policy, strategy,*
 9 *workplan, or pilot program and take*
 10 *into consideration input received; and*

11 *“(II) publish the input received*
 12 *from the covered agencies in the docket*
 13 *with the corresponding policy, strategy,*
 14 *workplan, or pilot program.”.*

15 **SEC. 10204. REGISTRATION REVIEW.**

16 *(a) EXTENSION OF DEADLINE.—Section*
 17 *3(g)(1)(A)(iii) of the Federal Insecticide, Fungicide, and*
 18 *Rodenticide Act (7 U.S.C. 136a(g)(1)(A)(iii)) is amended—*

19 *(1) in the matter preceding subclause (I), by*
 20 *striking “the registration review of” and inserting*
 21 *“the interim registration review decision of”; and*

22 *(2) in subclause (I), by striking “2022” and in-*
 23 *serting “2031”.*

24 *(b) INTERIM REGISTRATION REVIEW DECISION RE-*
 25 *QUIREMENTS.—Section 3(g)(1)(A) of the Federal Insecti-*

1 *cide, Fungicide, and Rodenticide Act* (7 U.S.C.
 2 *136a(g)(1)(A)) is amended by adding at the end the fol-*
 3 *lowing:*

4 “(vi) *INTERIM REGISTRATION REVIEW DECI-*
 5 *SION REQUIREMENTS.—*

6 “(I) *REQUIREMENTS.—Any covered in-*
 7 *terim registration review decision shall in-*
 8 *clude, where applicable, measures to reduce*
 9 *the effects of the applicable pesticide on—*

10 “(aa) *species listed under the En-*
 11 *dangered 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 Ad-*
 17 *ministrator 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 subsection,*
 24 *the term ‘covered interim registration re-*

1 *view decision’ means an interim registra-*
 2 *tion review decision—*

3 “(aa) *that is associated with an*
 4 *initial registration review described in*
 5 *clause (iii);*

6 “(bb) *that is noticed in the Fed-*
 7 *eral Register during the period begin-*
 8 *ning on the date of enactment of this*
 9 *clause and ending on October 1, 2031;*
 10 *and*

11 “(cc) *for which the Administrator*
 12 *has not, as of the date on which the de-*
 13 *cision is noticed in the Federal Reg-*
 14 *ister, made effects determinations or*
 15 *completed any necessary consultation*
 16 *under section 7(a)(2) of the Endan-*
 17 *gered Species Act of 1973 (16 U.S.C.*
 18 *1536(a)(2)).”.*

19 (c) *CONFORMING REPEAL.—Section 711 of the Pes-*
 20 *ticide Registration Improvement Act of 2022 (title VI of*
 21 *division HH of Public Law 117–328) is repealed.*

22 **SEC. 10205. UNIFORMITY OF PESTICIDE LABELING RE-**
 23 **QUIREMENTS.**

24 (a) *IN GENERAL.—Section 24(b) of the Federal Insec-*
 25 *ticide, Fungicide, and Rodenticide Act (7 U.S.C. 136v(b))*

1 *shall be applied to require uniformity in pesticide labeling*
2 *nationally, and to prohibit any State, instrumentality, or*
3 *political subdivision thereof, or a court from directly or in-*
4 *directly imposing or continuing in effect any requirements*
5 *for, or penalize or hold liable, any entity for failing to com-*
6 *ply with requirements that would require labeling or pack-*
7 *aging that is in addition to or different from the labeling*
8 *or packaging approved by the Administrator of the Envi-*
9 *ronmental Protection Agency (referred to in this section as*
10 *the “Administrator”) under such Act (7 U.S.C. 136 et seq.),*
11 *including any requirements relating to warnings on such*
12 *labeling or packaging, provided that the entity is not in*
13 *material violation of subparagraph (M), (Q), or (R) of sec-*
14 *tion 12(a)(2) of such Act (7 U.S.C. 136j(a)(2)), for which*
15 *the entity has been penalized pursuant to section 14 of such*
16 *Act (7 U.S.C. 136l).*

17 (b) *RULE OF CONSTRUCTION.—Nothing in this section*
18 *shall be construed to alter or diminish the authority of*
19 *States under subsections (a) and (c) of section 24 of the*
20 *Federal Insecticide, Fungicide, and Rodenticide Act (7*
21 *U.S.C. 136v).*

22 **SEC. 10206. AUTHORITY OF STATES.**

23 *Section 24 of the Federal Insecticide, Fungicide, and*
24 *Rodenticide Act (7 U.S.C. 136v) is amended—*

1 (1) in the section heading, by inserting “**AND**
2 **LOCALITIES**” after “**STATES**”; and

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

4 “(d) *LOCAL REGULATION.*—A political subdivision of
5 a State shall not impose, or continue in effect, any require-
6 ment relating to the sale, distribution, labeling, application,
7 or use of any pesticide or device that is subject to regula-
8 tion—

9 “(1) by a State pursuant to this section; or

10 “(2) by the Administrator under this Act.”.

11 **SEC. 10207. LAWFUL USE OF AUTHORIZED PESTICIDES.**

12 Section 3(f) of the Federal Insecticide, Fungicide, and
13 Rodenticide Act (7 U.S.C. 136a(f)) is amended by adding
14 at the end the following:

15 “(6) *LAWFUL USE OF REGISTERED PES-*
16 *TICIDES.*—Notwithstanding any other provision of
17 law, the use, application, or discharge of a registered
18 pesticide consistent with its labeling approved under
19 this Act shall be permitted and considered lawful,
20 without further permitting or approval require-
21 ments.”.

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 Act*
5 *of 2018 (Public Law 115–334; 132 Stat. 4906) is amended*
6 *to read as follows:*

7 “(b) *ADMINISTRATION.*—

8 “(1) *SUBMISSION.*—*The Secretary shall submit*
9 *to the Administrator of the Environmental Protection*
10 *Agency, and make publicly available, the survey de-*
11 *scribed in subsection (a).*

12 “(2) *COMMERCIAL DATA.*—*The Secretary, acting*
13 *through the Director of the Office of Pest Management*
14 *Policy, shall obtain commercial data on pesticide use*
15 *to inform the conduct of, and enhance the results of,*
16 *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 court*
24 *may enjoin under the Federal Water Pollution Control Act*
25 *(33 U.S.C. 1251 et seq.) a covered entity from conducting*
26 *an aerial application of a covered fire retardant and water*

1 *enhancer for wildfire suppression, control, or prevention ac-*
2 *tivities that results in a discharge, if such aerial applica-*
3 *tion is conducted in accordance with the requirements of*
4 *the Federal Facility Compliance Agreement between the En-*
5 *vironmental Protection Agency and the U.S. Forest Service,*
6 *as agreed to on February 16, 2023.*

7 (b) *PERIOD OF APPLICATION.*—Subsection (a) shall
8 *apply to any aerial application described in such subsection*
9 *that is conducted before the effective date of a permit issued*
10 *by the Administrator of the Environmental Protection*
11 *Agency or a State, as applicable, under section 402 of the*
12 *Federal Water Pollution Control Act (33 U.S.C. 1342) that*
13 *authorizes the discharge, from such aerial application, of*
14 *a covered fire retardant and water enhancer for wildfire*
15 *suppression, control, or prevention activities.*

16 (c) *EFFECT.*—Nothing in this section affects the au-
17 *thority of any court under the Federal Water Pollution*
18 *Control Act with respect to any discharge resulting from*
19 *an aerial application not conducted in accordance with the*
20 *requirements described in subsection (a).*

21 (d) *DEFINITIONS.*—In this section:

22 (1) *COVERED ENTITY.*—The term “covered enti-
23 *ty” means—*

24 (A) *any Federal agency, agency of a State*
25 *or political subdivision thereof, or Tribal agency*

1 *authorized by law to conduct an aerial applica-*
 2 *tion of fire retardants and water enhancers for*
 3 *wildfire suppression, control, or prevention ac-*
 4 *tivities; and*

5 *(B) any contractor, subcontractor, or other*
 6 *agent of an agency described in subparagraph*
 7 *(A).*

8 (2) *COVERED FIRE RETARDANT AND WATER*
 9 *ENHANCER.—The term “covered fire retardant and*
 10 *water enhancer” means a fire retardant and water*
 11 *enhancer that—*

12 *(A) has been evaluated, qualified, and ap-*
 13 *proved by the Secretary; and*

14 *(B) appears on the most current Forest*
 15 *Service Qualified Products List.*

16 (3) *DISCHARGE; STATE.—The terms “discharge”*
 17 *and “State” have the meanings given those terms in*
 18 *section 502 of the Federal Water Pollution Control*
 19 *Act (33 U.S.C. 1362).*

20 (e) *SUNSET.—This section shall cease to be effective on*
 21 *the date that is 5 years after the date of enactment of this*
 22 *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 following:*

5 **“SEC. 220A. OFFICE OF BIOTECHNOLOGY POLICY.**

6 “(a) *IN GENERAL.*—*The Secretary shall establish in*
7 *the Department an Office of Biotechnology Policy to provide*
8 *for the effective coordination of policies and activities with-*
9 *in the Department of Agriculture related to biotechnology,*
10 *biomanufacturing, synthetic biology, and related emerging*
11 *technologies, while taking into account the effects of regu-*
12 *latory actions of other government agencies.*

13 “(b) *DIRECTOR.*—*The Office of Biotechnology Policy*
14 *shall be under the direction of a Director appointed by the*
15 *Secretary, who shall report directly to the Secretary or a*
16 *designee of the Secretary.*

17 “(c) *DUTIES.*—*The Director of the Office of Bio-*
18 *technology Policy shall—*

19 “(1) *develop and coordinate Department policy*
20 *on biotechnology and related topics;*

21 “(2) *coordinate activities and services of the De-*
22 *partment on biotechnology and related topics, includ-*
23 *ing—*

24 “(A) *research and development;*

25 “(B) *extension and education;*

26 “(C) *communication;*

1 “(D) regulation and labeling; and

2 “(E) commercialization, use, and trade;

3 “(3) assist other offices and agencies of the De-
4 partment in fulfilling their responsibilities related to
5 biotechnology under applicable Federal law; and

6 “(4) perform such other functions as may be re-
7 quired under Federal law or prescribed by the Sec-
8 retary.

9 “(d) INTERAGENCY COORDINATION.—In carrying out
10 the duties under subsection (c), the Director of the Office
11 of Biotechnology Policy shall provide leadership to ensure
12 coordination of interagency activities with the Environ-
13 mental Protection Agency, the Food and Drug Administra-
14 tion, and other Federal and State agencies.

15 “(e) OUTREACH.—The Director of the Office of Bio-
16 technology Policy shall consult with biotechnology devel-
17 opers, academics, agricultural producers, and other entities
18 that may be affected by biotechnology-related activities or
19 actions of the Department or other Federal and State agen-
20 cies as necessary in carrying out the Office’s responsibilities
21 under this section.

22 “(f) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There is
23 authorized to be appropriated to carry out this section
24 \$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 In-*
 4 *surance 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 Crop*
 13 *Advisory Committee established by subsection*
 14 *(f).”; and*

15 *(iii) in subparagraph (H), as so redes-*
 16 *ignated, by striking “specialty crop” and*
 17 *inserting “livestock”;*

18 *(B) in paragraph (3), by striking “subpara-*
 19 *graphs (E), (F), and (G) of paragraph (2)” and*
 20 *inserting “subparagraphs (F), (G), and (H) of*
 21 *paragraph (2) and the members of the Specialty*
 22 *Crop Advisory Committee described in subsection*
 23 *(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, the*
3 *Secretary shall—*

4 “(A) *establish a Specialty Crop Advisory*
5 *Committee (in this subsection referred to as ‘the*
6 *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 of*
11 *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 con-*
18 *sist of—*

19 “(i) *individuals with an under-*
20 *standing of the production methods, mar-*
21 *kets, and risks (including losses due to*
22 *weather, trade damages, and supply chain*
23 *disruptions) unique to specialty crop pro-*
24 *duction;*

1 “(ii) not less than 5 producers and not
2 more than 10 total members; and

3 “(iii) not less than 1 producer from
4 each of the West, Midwest, South, and
5 Northeast regions of the United States (as
6 identified by the Bureau of the Census).

7 “(3) DUTIES.—The Committee established by
8 this subsection shall—

9 “(A) advise the Manager of the Corporation
10 on issues relating to specialty crop insurance
11 policies;

12 “(B) provide input, through the Chair-
13 person of the Committee, to the Board on deci-
14 sions relating to specialty crop insurance poli-
15 cies;

16 “(C) review available educational programs
17 and make recommendations to the Manager of
18 the Corporation on how to enhance the effective-
19 ness of such programs for specialty crop pro-
20 ducers;

21 “(D) provide recommendations to the Man-
22 ager of the Corporation regarding the presen-
23 tation of policies to the Board required by sec-
24 tion 508(a)(6);

1 “(E) advise the Manager of the Corporation
2 on entering into partnerships to carry out sub-
3 sections (d) and (e)(2)(B) of section 522; and

4 “(F) meet not less than 2 times each year
5 to carry out these duties.”.

6 (b) *SPECIALTY CROPS COORDINATOR.*—Section
7 507(g)(2) of the Federal Crop Insurance Act (7 U.S.C.
8 1507(g)(2)) is amended to read as follows:

9 “(2) *RESPONSIBILITIES.*—

10 “(A) *IN GENERAL.*—The Specialty Crops
11 Coordinator shall have primary responsibility
12 for addressing the needs of specialty crop pro-
13 ducers, and for providing information and ad-
14 vice, in connection with the activities of the Cor-
15 poration to improve and expand the insurance
16 program for specialty crops.

17 “(B) *OTHER DUTIES.*—In carrying out this
18 paragraph, the Specialty Crops Coordinator
19 shall—

20 “(i) act as the liaison of the Corpora-
21 tion with representatives of specialty crop
22 producers and the Specialty Crop Advisory
23 Committee; and

24 “(ii) assist the Corporation with the
25 knowledge, expertise, and familiarity of the

1 *producers with risk management and pro-*
 2 *duction issues pertaining to specialty*
 3 *crops.”.*

4 *(c) ANNUAL REVIEW OF NEW AND SPECIALTY*
 5 *CROPS.—Section 508(a)(6)(A) of the Federal Crop Insur-*
 6 *ance Act (7 U.S.C. 1508(a)(6)(A)) is amended by inserting*
 7 *“(in consultation with the Specialty Crop Advisory Com-*
 8 *mittee)” after “Corporation”.*

9 **SEC. 11002. IDENTIFICATION OF HOLDERS OF SUBSTANTIAL**
 10 **INTERESTS.**

11 *Section 506(m) of the Federal Crop Insurance Act (7*
 12 *U.S.C. 1506(m)) is amended—*

13 *(1) by amending paragraph (3) to read as fol-*
 14 *lows:*

15 *“(3) IDENTIFICATION OF HOLDERS OF SUBSTAN-*
 16 *TIAL INTERESTS.—*

17 *“(A) IN GENERAL.—The Manager of the*
 18 *Corporation may require each policyholder to*
 19 *provide to the Manager, at such times and in*
 20 *such manner as prescribed by the Manager, the*
 21 *name of each individual or other entity that ac-*
 22 *quires or holds a substantial beneficial interest*
 23 *in such policyholder.*

24 *“(B) EXTENSION AVAILABLE.—*

1 “(i) *IN GENERAL.*—*In the case of a*
 2 *policyholder that does not provide the infor-*
 3 *mation required pursuant to subparagraph*
 4 *(A) to the Manager at the time prescribed*
 5 *by the Manager, the Manager shall allow*
 6 *such policyholder to provide to the Manager*
 7 *such information at any time during the*
 8 *applicable crop year.*

9 “(ii) *EXCEPTION.*—*Clause (i) shall not*
 10 *apply to a policyholder that an approved*
 11 *insurance provider determines—*

12 *“(I) would receive dispropor-*
 13 *tionate benefits under a crop insurance*
 14 *program as a result of failing to pro-*
 15 *vide the information required pursuant*
 16 *to subparagraph (A) to the Manager at*
 17 *the time prescribed by the Manager; or*

18 *“(II) failed to provide such infor-*
 19 *mation to avoid an obligation or re-*
 20 *quirement under any State or Federal*
 21 *law.”; and*

22 *(2) in paragraph (4), by striking “5 percent”*
 23 *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 with*
 12 *persons described in paragraph (1)(A) of such*
 13 *section, as are necessary to improve the actuarial*
 14 *soundness of such policies and products.”.*

15 **SEC. 11004. COVERAGE OF REVENUE LOSSES.**

16 *Section 508(a)(1) of the Federal Crop Insurance Act*
 17 *(7 U.S.C. 1508(a)(1)) is amended, in the second sentence,*
 18 *by inserting “or a decline in the market price of the insured*
 19 *commodity, so long as such decline was not directly caused*
 20 *by the producer (as determined by the Secretary)” before*
 21 *the period at the end.*

22 **SEC. 11005. LIMITATION ON FARM PROGRAM PARTICIPA-**
 23 **TION.**

24 (a) **IN GENERAL.**—*The Federal Crop Insurance Act (7*
 25 *U.S.C. 1501 et seq.) is amended—*

1 (1) in section 508(c)(4)(C)(iv) in the heading, by
2 striking “CROPS AND”; and

3 (2) in section 508B(f), by striking “Effective be-
4 ginning with the 2019 crop year” and inserting “Ef-
5 fective 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 year,
10 in the case of a farm for which a producer obtains coverage
11 under the Stacked Income Protection Plan for upland cot-
12 ton under section 508B of the Federal Crop Insurance Act
13 (7 U.S.C. 1508b) for a crop year, such farm shall not be
14 eligible to receive payments for seed cotton for such crop
15 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 fol-
22 lowing new paragraph:

23 “(5) **LIMITATION ON INTEREST ACCRUAL.**—Effec-
24 tive beginning with the 2026 reinsurance year, in the
25 case of a producer that is delinquent in paying a pre-

1 mium or administrative fee, an approved insurance
2 provider may charge such producer with respect to
3 such delinquency an amount less than or equal to 1
4 percent of the simple interest of the amount for which
5 such producer is delinquent, for each month (not to
6 exceed 60 consecutive months) the producer is so de-
7 linquent.”.

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 Insurance*
12 *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 pro-*
 3 *vided in subclause (II), this subpara-*
 4 *graph shall apply with respect to a*
 5 *proposal only during the period pre-*
 6 *ceding any approval of the proposal by*
 7 *the Board.*

8 “(II) *EXCEPTION.*—*An approved*
 9 *insurance provider that submits a let-*
 10 *ter of support for a concept proposal, a*
 11 *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 and*
 15 *other product development infor-*
 16 *mation submitted to the Board*
 17 *during its review under this sub-*
 18 *section; and*

19 “(cc) *be subject to the con-*
 20 *fidentiality requirements as ap-*
 21 *plicable 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*

1 *other material submitted to the Board*
 2 *under this subsection, such product shall be*
 3 *deemed marketable in accordance with*
 4 *paragraph (3)(A)(ii)(I) if at least one ap-*
 5 *proved insurance provider, in its submis-*
 6 *sion pursuant to clause (i), expresses sup-*
 7 *port for such policy, plan, or material.*

8 “(iii) *EVALUATION BY THE BOARD.—*
 9 *In evaluating whether a product is market-*
 10 *able in accordance with paragraph*
 11 *(3)(A)(ii)(I), the Board shall take into con-*
 12 *sideration any information and analysis*
 13 *submitted pursuant to clause (ii).*

14 “(iv) *AIP PARTICIPATION.—The Board*
 15 *shall not require the submission of a letter*
 16 *of support from an approved insurance pro-*
 17 *vider in order to review and approve any*
 18 *policy, plan of insurance, or other material*
 19 *submitted pursuant to this subsection.”.*

20 **SEC. 11009. REIMBURSEMENT RATES FOR ADMINISTRATIVE**
 21 **AND OPERATING COSTS.**

22 *Section 508(k)(4) of the Federal Crop Insurance Act*
 23 *(7 U.S.C. 1508(k)(4)) is amended—*

24 *(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 REINSUR-
23 ANCE YEARS.—Notwithstanding subparagraphs
24 (A), (B), (C), and (E), for each of the 2027 and
25 subsequent reinsurance years, the rate established

1 *by the Board to reimburse approved insurance*
 2 *providers and agents for the administrative and*
 3 *operating costs of the providers and agents with*
 4 *respect to each policy made available under this*
 5 *Act shall be equal to the rate applicable to the*
 6 *policy in effect for the 2026 reinsurance year.”.*

7 **SEC. 11010. QUALITY LOSS ADJUSTMENT COVERAGE.**

8 *Section 508(m)(3) of the Federal Crop Insurance Act*
 9 *(7 U.S.C. 1508(m)(3)) is amended—*

10 *(1) by striking subparagraph (A) and inserting*
 11 *the following:*

12 “(A) *PERIODIC REVIEW.*—*Beginning in cal-*
 13 *endar year 2027 and once every 5 years there-*
 14 *after, the Corporation shall contract with a*
 15 *qualified person to conduct a review, which shall*
 16 *be completed within 1 year of initiation, of the*
 17 *quality loss adjustment procedures of the Cor-*
 18 *poration.”;*

19 *(2) in subparagraph (B), by striking “Effective*
 20 *beginning not later than the 2004 reinsurance year,*
 21 *based on the review, the Corporation” and inserting*
 22 *“Based on each review conducted under subparagraph*
 23 *(A), the Corporation”;*

24 *(3) by redesignating subparagraph (B) as sub-*
 25 *paragraph (C);*

1 (4) by inserting after subparagraph (A) the fol-
2 lowing:

3 “(B) *STAKEHOLDER ENGAGEMENT.*—Each
4 review under subparagraph (A) shall include en-
5 gagement from regionally diverse industry stake-
6 holders for each agricultural commodity for
7 which a quality loss adjustment is offered.”; and
8 (5) by adding at the end the following:

9 “(D) *REPORT.*—On the completion of each
10 review under subparagraph (A), the Corporation
11 shall submit to the Committee on Agriculture,
12 Nutrition, and Forestry of the Senate and the
13 Committee on Agriculture of the House of Rep-
14 resentatives a report that describes—

15 “(i) the findings from that review;

16 “(ii) the changes to the quality loss ad-
17 justment procedures;

18 “(iii) the stakeholder engagement for
19 that review conducted pursuant to subpara-
20 graph (B); and

21 “(iv) plans for establishing specific
22 quality loss adjustment procedures for
23 unique regions, as determined by the Sec-
24 retary.”.

1 **SEC. 11011. PILOT PROGRAM TO REVIEW EFFECTIVENESS**
2 **OF COVERAGE PENALTY.**

3 *The Federal Crop Insurance Act (7 U.S.C. 1501 et*
4 *seq.) is further amended by inserting after section 508D the*
5 *following:*

6 **“SEC. 508E. PILOT PROGRAM TO REVIEW EFFECTIVENESS**
7 **OF COVERAGE PENALTY.**

8 *“(a) IN GENERAL.—Effective beginning with the 2027*
9 *crop year, the Risk Management Agency and the Corpora-*
10 *tion shall establish a pilot program to evaluate the effective-*
11 *ness of the reduction in benefits applied to corn and other*
12 *crops, as determined by the Corporation, planted during*
13 *the late planting period (as defined in section 457.8 of title*
14 *7, Code of Federal Regulations (or successor regulation)).*

15 *“(b) LOCATION AND DURATION OF PILOT.—The pilot*
16 *program established under subsection (a) shall—*

17 *“(1) be conducted in not less than 10 counties lo-*
18 *cated within or adjacent to the North Plains Ground-*
19 *water Conservation District or the Panhandle*
20 *Groundwater Conservation District in the State of*
21 *Texas; and*

22 *“(2) operate for a period of not less than 4 crop*
23 *years.*

24 *“(c) EVALUATION.—In carrying out the pilot program*
25 *established under subsection (a), the Risk Management*
26 *Agency and the Corporation shall—*

1 “(1) suspend any reduction to the insurance
2 guarantee applied to an insurance policy for a crop
3 that is planted during the late planting period;

4 “(2) gather and analyze data to determine if the
5 number of days beyond the final plant date in which
6 a crop was planted during the late planting period
7 correlates with a decrease in crop yields; and

8 “(3) determine if planting a crop after the final
9 plant date results in reduced usage of irrigation from
10 the Ogallala Aquifer.

11 “(d) *REPORT REQUIRED*.—Not later than 90 days
12 after the last day of crop year 2031, the Risk Management
13 Agency and the Corporation shall submit to the Committee
14 on Agriculture of the House of Representatives and the
15 Committee on Agriculture, Forestry, and Nutrition of the
16 Senate a report that includes—

17 “(1) a summary of the results of the pilot pro-
18 gram established under subsection (a);

19 “(2) an analysis of the correlation between
20 planting date and final yields; and

21 “(3) any changes to existing policies that the
22 Corporation intends to make as a result of the infor-
23 mation obtained during the pilot program.

24 “(e) *PARTNERSHIPS*.—Of the amounts made available
25 in section 522(e)(2)(A)(ii), the Corporation may use not

1 more than \$200,000 to enter into a partnership or coopera-
 2 tive agreement with a nonprofit organization, State agency,
 3 or public university that is familiar with agricultural pro-
 4 duction in the region described in subsection (b)(1) to con-
 5 duct the research and evaluation required under para-
 6 graphs (2) and (3) of subsection (c).”.

7 **SEC. 11012. WHOLE FARM IMPROVEMENTS.**

8 Section 522(c)(7)(E) of the Federal Crop Insurance
 9 Act (7 U.S.C. 1522(c)(7)(E)) is amended by adding at the
 10 end the following:

11 “(iii) *ADDITIONAL REVIEW.*—Not later
 12 than 12 months after the date of enactment
 13 of this clause and annually thereafter, the
 14 Corporation shall—

15 “(I) review any limitations on in-
 16 surable revenue (including the overall
 17 limitation and limitations specific to
 18 animals, animal products, greenhouse
 19 and nursery, and aquaculture) to en-
 20 sure such limitations are adequate to
 21 cover the financial risks associated
 22 with the production of high-value agri-
 23 cultural products; and

24 “(II) submit to the Committee on
 25 Agriculture of the House of Representa-

1 *tives and the Committee on Agri-*
 2 *culture, Nutrition, and Forestry of the*
 3 *Senate a report that includes a sum-*
 4 *mary of the most recent review con-*
 5 *ducted and any expected changes to the*
 6 *policy for the following reinsurance*
 7 *year.”.*

8 **SEC. 11013. PROGRAM COMPLIANCE AND INTEGRITY.**

9 *Section 515(b) of the Federal Crop Insurance Act (7*
 10 *U.S.C. 1515(b)) is amended—*

11 *(1) in the subsection heading, by inserting “,*
 12 *RESPONSE, AND FINAL DETERMINATION” after “NO-*
 13 *TIFICATION”;*

14 *(2) in paragraph (1), by striking “shall notify*
 15 *in writing” and inserting “shall, through an initial*
 16 *finding in writing, notify (unless such notification is*
 17 *pursuant to the responsibilities to conduct reviews*
 18 *and make corrections)”;*

19 *(3) in paragraph (2)—*

20 *(A) in the heading, by striking “TIME FOR*
 21 *NOTIFICATION” and inserting “REQUIRED TIM-*
 22 *ING”;*

23 *(B) by striking “Notice” and inserting the*
 24 *following:*

25 *“(A) INITIAL FINDING.—Notice”; and*

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

2 “(B) *RESPONSE*.—During the 90-day pe-
3 riod beginning on the date the Corporation noti-
4 fies an approved insurance provider through an
5 initial finding under paragraph (1), such ap-
6 proved insurance provider may appeal such ini-
7 tial finding in writing.

8 “(C) *FINAL FINDING*.—Not later than 90
9 days after the date on which an approved insur-
10 ance provider appeals pursuant to subparagraph
11 (B), the Corporation shall issue a final finding
12 in writing to such approved insurance provider.

13 “(D) *REQUEST FOR FINAL ADMINISTRATIVE*
14 *DETERMINATION*.—An approved insurance pro-
15 vider shall have not more than 90 days after the
16 receipt of the Corporation’s final finding under
17 subparagraph (C) to request, in writing, a final
18 administrative determination, if such approved
19 insurance provider has reason to believe that the
20 Corporation’s final finding under subparagraph
21 (C) is not in accordance with—

22 “(i) the applicable laws, regulations,
23 custom, or practice of the crop insurance
24 industry; or

1 “(ii) the approved policy and proce-
2 dure of the Corporation.

3 “(E) *FINAL DETERMINATION.*—The Cor-
4 poration shall have not more than 90 days after
5 the receipt of a request for a final administrative
6 determination under subparagraph (D) to pro-
7 vide such final administrative determination,
8 unless substantial new information, as deter-
9 mined by the Corporation, is provided by the ap-
10 proved insurance provider.

11 “(F) *APPEAL TO CIVILIAN BOARD OF CON-*
12 *TRACT APPEALS.*—An approved insurance pro-
13 vider shall have not more than 90 days after re-
14 ceipt of a final administrative determination
15 provided pursuant to subparagraph (E) to ap-
16 peal such determination to the Civilian Board of
17 Contract Appeals.”; and

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

20 “(3) *EFFECT OF FAILURE TO TIMELY NOTIFY.*—

21 “(A) *IN GENERAL.*—Except as provided in
22 subparagraph (B), failure of the Corporation to
23 comply with the requirements under paragraph
24 (2) shall relieve the approved insurance provider
25 from the debt owed to the Corporation.

1 “(B) *EXCEPTION.*—Subparagraph (A) shall
 2 *not apply to any matters referred to the Office*
 3 *of the Inspector General or the Department of*
 4 *Justice.*”.

5 **SEC. 11014. RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT PRIORITIES.**

6 (a) *EXPANSION OF REVENUE POLICIES.*—Section
 7 522(c) of the Federal Crop Insurance Act (7 U.S.C. 1522(c))
 8 is amended by adding at the end the following:

9 “(20) *EXPANSION OF REVENUE POLICIES.*—

10 “(A) *IN GENERAL.*—The Corporation shall
 11 *carry out research and development, or offer to*
 12 *enter into 1 or more contracts with 1 or more*
 13 *qualified persons to carry out research and devel-*
 14 *opment, to expand the availability of policies*
 15 *that provide coverage against losses of revenue*
 16 *for—*

17 “(i) *oilseeds, including camelina,*
 18 *carinata, and pennycress;*

19 “(ii) *alfalfa;*

20 “(iii) *pulse crops (including dry edible*
 21 *beans);*

22 “(iv) *sugarbeets;*

23 “(v) *sugarcane;*

24 “(vi) *blueberries; and*

1 “(vii) other crops for which only indi-
2 vidual yield-based insurance policies are
3 available.

4 “(B) AVAILABILITY OF POLICY.—Notwith-
5 standing the last sentence of section 508(a)(1),
6 and section 508(a)(2), the Corporation shall
7 make a policy described in subparagraph (A)
8 available if the requirements of section 508(h)
9 are met.

10 “(C) DETERMINATION OF PROJECTED
11 PRICE.—In developing a policy described in sub-
12 paragraph (A), the Corporation may utilize al-
13 ternative methods of determining a projected
14 price for a crop, including the correlation of ac-
15 tual prices received for such crop to the futures
16 markets prices of other commodities.

17 “(D) PRICING LIBRARY.—In developing a
18 policy described in subparagraph (A), the Cor-
19 poration shall determine the feasibility of cre-
20 ating a pricing library for agents and approved
21 insurance providers using data from alternative
22 sources, as determined by the Secretary.

23 “(E) DISCOUNT FACTOR.—For purposes of
24 developing a policy described in subparagraph

1 (A), the Corporation shall determine the feasi-
2 bility of—

3 “(i) establishing a State or regional
4 discount factor as an endorsement policy to
5 provide coverage against losses of revenue
6 due to quality discounts in soybeans; and

7 “(ii) an alternative to applying the
8 term ‘zero-market value’ in the case of an
9 available salvage market.

10 “(F) REPORT.—Not later than 18 months
11 after the date of enactment of this paragraph, the
12 Corporation shall submit to the Committee on
13 Agriculture of the House of Representatives and
14 the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and
15 Forestry of the Senate a report that describes—

16 “(i) the crops for which research and
17 development has been carried out under sub-
18 paragraph (A);

19 “(ii) the results of the research and de-
20 velopment carried out under subparagraph
21 (A);

22 “(iii) any recommendations with re-
23 spect to those results; and

1 “(iv) additional crops for which re-
2 search and development under this para-
3 graph is planned to be carried out.”.

4 (b) WINE GRAPE LOSSES DUE TO SMOKE EXPO-
5 SURE.—Section 522(c) of the Federal Crop Insurance Act
6 (7 U.S.C. 1522(c)) is further amended by adding at the end
7 the following:

8 “(21) WINE GRAPE LOSSES DUE TO SMOKE EX-
9 POSURE.—

10 “(A) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 1 year
11 after the date of the enactment of this paragraph,
12 the Corporation shall carry out research and de-
13 velopment, or offer to enter into 1 or more con-
14 tracts with 1 or more qualified persons to carry
15 out research and development, regarding a policy
16 to insure wine grapes (including wine grapes
17 produced in the States of California, Oregon,
18 and Washington) against losses due to wildfire
19 smoke exposure.

20 “(B) AVAILABILITY OF POLICY.—Notwith-
21 standing the last sentence of section 508(a)(1),
22 and section 508(a)(2), not later than 18 months
23 after the date of the enactment of this paragraph,
24 the Corporation shall make available a policy de-

1 scribed in subparagraph (A) if the requirements
2 of section 508(h) are met.

3 “(C) *REPORT*.—Not later than 2 years after
4 the date of enactment of this paragraph, the Cor-
5 poration shall submit to the Committees on Ap-
6 propriations and Agriculture of the House of
7 Representatives and the Committees on Appro-
8 priations and Agriculture, Nutrition, and For-
9 estry of the Senate a report that includes—

10 “(i) the results of the research carried
11 out under subparagraph (A);

12 “(ii) a description of the policies made
13 available under this paragraph; and

14 “(iii) the feasibility of a product that
15 allows producers of wine grapes to claim an
16 indemnity through post-harvest, post-
17 vinification testing, if such testing dem-
18 onstrates smoke damage that was not detect-
19 able prior to harvest.”.

20 (c) *MUSHROOMS*.—Section 522(c) of the *Federal Crop*
21 *Insurance Act* (7 U.S.C. 1522(c)) is further amended by
22 adding at the end the following:

23 “(22) *MUSHROOMS*.—

24 “(A) *IN GENERAL*.—The Corporation shall
25 carry out research and development, or offer to

enter into 1 or more contracts with 1 or more
qualified persons to carry out research and devel-
opment, regarding a policy to insure—

“(i) the production of mushroom grow-
ing media; and

“(ii) the production of mushrooms.

“(B) *AVAILABILITY OF POLICY.*—Notwith-
standing the second sentence of section 508(a)(1),
and section 508(a)(2), the Corporation shall
make a policy described in subparagraph (A)
available if the requirements of section 508(h)
are met.

“(C) *RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT.*—Re-
search and development described in subpara-
graph (A) shall evaluate the effectiveness of poli-
cies described in that subparagraph, including
policies that—

“(i) are based on the risk of—

“(I) pests, including mushroom
phorid flies and sciarid flies;

“(II) fungal pathogens; and

“(III) viral pathogens;

“(ii) consider other causes of loss ap-
plicable to mushroom compost and mush-
room production, such as—

1 “(I) loss of electricity due to
2 weather; and

3 “(II) loss of growing media due to
4 excessive 5-year, 10-year, or 20-year
5 rainfall events;

6 “(iii) consider appropriate best prac-
7 tices to minimize the risk of loss;

8 “(iv) consider whether to provide cov-
9 erage for mushrooms under 1 policy or to
10 provide coverage for various phases of pro-
11 duction;

12 “(v) have streamlined reporting and
13 paperwork requirements that take into ac-
14 count short propagation schedules, variable
15 crop years, and the variety of mushrooms
16 that may be produced in a single facility;
17 and

18 “(vi) provide protection for revenue
19 losses.

20 “(D) REPORT.—Not later than 2 years after
21 the date of enactment of this paragraph, the Cor-
22 poration shall submit to the Committee on Agri-
23 culture of the House of Representatives and the
24 Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and For-
25 estry of the Senate a report that describes—

1 “(i) the results of the research and de-
2 velopment carried out under subparagraph
3 (A); and

4 “(ii) any recommendations with re-
5 spect to those results.”.

6 (d) *STUDY ON HURRICANE INSURANCE.*—Section
7 522(c) of the Federal Crop Insurance Act (7 U.S.C. 1522(c))
8 is further amended by adding at the end the following:

9 “(23) *STANDALONE POLICY FOR HURRICANES*
10 *AND TROPICAL STORMS.*—

11 “(A) *IN GENERAL.*—The Corporation shall
12 carry out research and development, or offer to
13 enter into 1 or more contracts with 1 or more
14 qualified persons to conduct a study to determine
15 the feasibility of offering insurance against trop-
16 ical storms and hurricanes made available re-
17 gardless of an underlying crop insurance policy
18 (or lack thereof).

19 “(B) *REPORT.*—Not later than 1 year after
20 the date of enactment of this paragraph, the Cor-
21 poration shall submit to the Committee on Agri-
22 culture of the House of Representatives and the
23 Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and For-
24 estry of the Senate a report that describes the re-

1 *sults of the study conducted under subparagraph*
 2 *(A).”.*

3 *(e) FROST OR COLD WEATHER INSURANCE.—Section*
 4 *522(c) of the Federal Crop Insurance Act (7 U.S.C. 1522(c))*
 5 *is further amended by adding at the end the following:*

6 “(24) *FROST OR COLD WEATHER INSURANCE.—*

7 “(A) *IN GENERAL.—The Corporation shall*
 8 *carry out research and development, or offer to*
 9 *enter into 1 or more contracts with 1 or more*
 10 *qualified persons to carry out research and devel-*
 11 *opment, regarding an index-based policy to in-*
 12 *sure crops (including table grapes, wine grapes,*
 13 *juice grapes, tomatoes, peppers, sugarcane,*
 14 *strawberries, melons, citrus, peaches, blueberries,*
 15 *and any other crop) on a nationally available*
 16 *basis against losses due to a frost or cold weather*
 17 *event.*

18 “(B) *RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT.—Re-*
 19 *search and development under subparagraph (A)*
 20 *shall—*

21 “(i) *evaluate the effectiveness of risk*
 22 *management tools, such as the use of an*
 23 *index, with respect to low frequency and*
 24 *catastrophic loss weather events; and*

1 “(ii) result in a policy that provides
2 protection for at least 1 of the following:

3 “(I) Production loss.

4 “(II) Revenue loss.

5 “(C) REPORT.—Not later than 1 year after
6 the date of enactment of this paragraph, the Cor-
7 poration shall submit to the Committee on Agri-
8 culture of the House of Representatives and the
9 Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and For-
10 estry of the Senate a report that describes—

11 “(i) the results of the research and de-
12 velopment carried out under subparagraph
13 (A); and

14 “(ii) any recommendations with re-
15 spect to those results.”.

16 (f) STUDY OF INCLUSION OF CERTAIN OILSEED CROPS
17 UNDER DOUBLE AND ROTATIONAL CROPPING POLICIES.—
18 Section 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 “(25) DOUBLE CROPPING AND ROTATIONAL
22 CROPPING OF CERTAIN OILSEED CROPS.—

23 “(A) DEFINITION OF COVERED OILSEED
24 CROPS.—In this paragraph, the term ‘covered
25 oilseed crops’ means rapeseed, canola, camelina,

1 *and other oilseed crops, as determined by the*
2 *Corporation.*

3 “(B) *RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT.*—*The*
4 *Corporation shall carry out research and devel-*
5 *opment, or offer to enter into 1 or more contracts*
6 *with 1 or more qualified persons to carry out re-*
7 *search and development, with respect to insur-*
8 *ance policies for covered oilseed crops under dou-*
9 *ble cropping and rotational cropping practices.*

10 “(C) *REQUIREMENTS.*—*The research and*
11 *development carried out pursuant to subpara-*
12 *graph (B) shall be conducted in consultation*
13 *with stakeholders to evaluate—*

14 “(i) *the factors impacting availability*
15 *and cost of crop insurance when incor-*
16 *porating covered oilseed crops into double*
17 *cropping and rotational cropping policies;*
18 *and*

19 “(ii) *the potential risk management*
20 *benefits associated with incorporating cov-*
21 *ered oilseed crops into double cropping and*
22 *rotational cropping policies, specifically*
23 *with respect to winter-planted covered oil-*
24 *seed crops, including risk management ben-*

1 *efits to soil health, biodiversity, and the*
 2 *profitability of farming operations.*

3 “(D) *EMPHASIS.*—*In awarding contracts*
 4 *under subparagraph (B), the Corporation may*
 5 *give priority to awarding contracts to qualified*
 6 *persons that—*

7 “(i) *have previous research experience*
 8 *with covered oilseed crops; and*

9 “(ii) *have access to a facility with the*
 10 *capacity to carry out the applicable re-*
 11 *search.*

12 “(E) *REPORT.*—*Not later than 13 months*
 13 *after the date of enactment of this paragraph, the*
 14 *Corporation shall submit to the Committee on*
 15 *Agriculture of the House of Representatives and*
 16 *the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and*
 17 *Forestry of the Senate a report that describes—*

18 “(i) *the results of the research and de-*
 19 *velopment carried out under subparagraph*
 20 *(B); and*

21 “(ii) *any recommendations with re-*
 22 *spect to those results.”.*

23 (g) *HARVEST INCENTIVES.*—*Section 522(c) of the Fed-*
 24 *eral Crop Insurance Act (7 U.S.C. 1522(c)) is further*
 25 *amended by adding at the end the following:*

1 “(26) *HARVEST INCENTIVES.*—

2 “(A) *IN GENERAL.*—Not later than 1 year
3 after the date of the enactment of this paragraph,
4 the Corporation shall carry out research and de-
5 velopment, or offer to enter into 1 or more con-
6 tracts with 1 or more qualified persons to carry
7 out research and development, regarding harvest
8 incentives for policies that provide coverage
9 against losses of revenue.

10 “(B) *AVAILABILITY OF POLICY.*—Notwith-
11 standing the last sentence of section 508(a)(1),
12 and section 508(a)(2), not later than 24 months
13 after the date of the enactment of this paragraph,
14 the Corporation shall make available a policy de-
15 scribed in subparagraph (A) if the requirements
16 of section 508(h) are met.

17 “(C) *REPORT.*—Not later than 1 year after
18 the date of enactment of this paragraph, the Cor-
19 poration shall submit to the Committees on Ap-
20 propriations and Agriculture of the House of
21 Representatives and the Committees on Appro-
22 priations and Agriculture, Nutrition, and For-
23 estry of the Senate a report that includes—

24 “(i) the results of the research carried
25 out under subparagraph (A); and

1 “(ii) a description of the policies made
2 available under this paragraph.”.

3 (h) *PREVENTED PLANTING*.—Section 522(c) of the
4 *Federal Crop Insurance Act* (7 U.S.C. 1522(c)) is further
5 amended by adding at the end the following:

6 “(27) *PREVENTED PLANTING*.—

7 “(A) *IN GENERAL*.—Not later than 1 year
8 after the date of the enactment of this paragraph,
9 the Corporation shall carry out research and de-
10 velopment, or offer to enter into 1 or more con-
11 tracts with 1 or more qualified persons to carry
12 out research and development, regarding pre-
13 vented planting coverage for insurance policies
14 for specialty crops that are not planted on a pe-
15 rennial basis.

16 “(B) *REPORT*.—Not later than 18 months
17 after the date of the enactment of this paragraph,
18 the Corporation shall submit to the Committee
19 on Agriculture of the House of Representatives
20 and the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition,
21 and Forestry of the Senate a report that in-
22 cludes—

23 “(i) the results of the research carried
24 out under subparagraph (A); and

1 “(ii) *any recommendations with re-*
 2 *spect to those results.*”.

3 (i) *POLICY FOR SWINE PRODUCERS FOR CATA-*
 4 *STROPHIC EVENTS.*—*Section 522(c) of the Federal Crop In-*
 5 *surance Act (7 U.S.C. 1522(c)) is further amended by add-*
 6 *ing at the end the following:*

7 “(28) *POLICY FOR SWINE PRODUCERS FOR CATA-*
 8 *STROPHIC EVENTS.*—

9 “(A) *IN GENERAL.*—*For purposes of updat-*
 10 *ing any conclusions contained in the final report*
 11 *for the study on swine catastrophic disease pub-*
 12 *lished by the Risk Management Agency in 2015,*
 13 *the Corporation shall carry out research and de-*
 14 *velopment, or offer to enter into 1 or more con-*
 15 *tracts with 1 or more qualified persons to carry*
 16 *out research and development, regarding a policy*
 17 *to insure swine producers with respect to finan-*
 18 *cial losses due to a catastrophic event.*

19 “(B) *REPORT.*—*Not later than 1 year after*
 20 *the date of the enactment of this paragraph, the*
 21 *Corporation shall submit to the Committee on*
 22 *Agriculture of the House of Representatives and*
 23 *the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and*
 24 *Forestry of the Senate a report that describes the*

1 *results of the research and development carried*
 2 *out under subparagraph (A).”.*

3 **SEC. 11015. REPORT ON STANDARD REINSURANCE AGREE-**
 4 **MENT.**

5 *(a) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 90 days after the*
 6 *date of the enactment of this section, the Federal Crop In-*
 7 *surance Corporation shall submit to the Committee on Agri-*
 8 *culture of the House of Representatives and the Committee*
 9 *on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry of the Senate a re-*
 10 *port on the Standard Reinsurance Agreement that includes*
 11 *an analysis of any modifications to such Agreement that*
 12 *are necessary to expand the availability of policies and*
 13 *plans of insurance that meet the risk management needs*
 14 *of agricultural producers, States, regions, and commodities.*

15 *(b) CONTENTS.—The analysis required under sub-*
 16 *section (a) shall—*

17 *(1) take into account the requirements under sec-*
 18 *tion 508(k)(8)(F) of the Federal Crop Insurance Act*
 19 *(7 U.S.C. 1508(k)(8)(F)) related to budget neutrality*
 20 *of the Standard Reinsurance Agreement; and*

21 *(2) include an analysis of—*

22 *(A) any benefit related to establishing—*

23 *(i) at least one additional reinsurance*
 24 *fund for States that have experienced con-*
 25 *sistently high loss ratios; and*

1 (ii) at least one additional reinsurance
2 fund to provide alternative risk-sharing
3 terms for approved insurance providers that
4 sell insurance contracts offering area plan
5 coverage;

6 (B) with respect to any funds reimbursed
7 for administrative and operating costs under sec-
8 tion 507(c) of the Federal Crop Insurance Act (7
9 U.S.C. 1507(c)), the best method for ensuring
10 that approved insurance providers obligate such
11 funds for—

12 (i) the delivery of risk management
13 tools to producers; and

14 (ii) agent workforce assistance for pro-
15 ducers, in an amount that is not less than
16 the historical percentage of such reimburse-
17 ment; and

18 (C) with respect to each policy and plan of
19 insurance, compensation amounts for agents
20 that—

21 (i) are consistent with historical
22 norms; and

23 (ii) provide a reasonable return consid-
24 ering workload and the critical service
25 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 insur-*
 8 *ance providers;*

9 (3) *the Committee on Agriculture of the House of*
 10 *Representatives; and*

11 (4) *the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and*
 12 *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 date*
 16 *of the enactment of this section, the Federal Crop Insurance*
 17 *Corporation shall submit to the Committee on Agriculture*
 18 *of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Agri-*
 19 *culture, Nutrition, and Forestry of the Senate a report on*
 20 *the hurricane insurance protection-wind index that in-*
 21 *cludes an analysis of any events in the 5-year period pre-*
 22 *ceding the date of the enactment of this section that caused*
 23 *an outage of a weather radio station operated by the Na-*
 24 *tional Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration.*

1 (b) *CONTENTS.*—*The analysis required under sub-*
 2 *section (a) shall include—*

3 (1) *data on events where a producer lost crop in-*
 4 *surance coverage as a result of an outage of a weather*
 5 *radio station operated by the National Oceanic and*
 6 *Atmospheric Administration that occurred during the*
 7 *period described in subsection (a) and the cause of*
 8 *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 Na-*
 18 *tional 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 sec-*
2 *tion, the Secretary shall take into account the various fac-*
3 *tors 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 of*
12 *enactment of this section, the Secretary shall submit to the*
13 *Committee on Agriculture of the House of Representatives*
14 *and the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry*
15 *of the Senate a report on the findings of the study under*
16 *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 WEATHER**
4 **EVENTS.**

5 (a) *IN GENERAL.*—The Secretary shall conduct a
6 study on potential modifications to the livestock risk protec-
7 tion policy offered under section 523(b) of the Federal Crop
8 Insurance Act (7 U.S.C. 1523(b)) to improve the flexibility
9 of such policy with respect to producers of feeder cattle af-
10 fected by adverse weather events, as determined by the Sec-
11 retary, 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 protec-
21 tion policy described in subsection (a), whether the re-
22 quirements or endorsement structures of such policy
23 (as in effect on the date of enactment of this section)
24 cause such producers not to market feeder cattle so as
25 to avoid a penalty under such policy;

1 (3) *any option to provide additional flexibility*
 2 *or an exemption to such producers that market feeder*
 3 *cattle more than 60 days prior to such end date due*
 4 *to an adverse weather event; and*

5 (4) *any other recommendation to improve the ef-*
 6 *fectiveness of such policy for such producers.*

7 (c) *REPORT.*—*Not later than 1 year after the date of*
 8 *enactment of this section, the Secretary shall submit to the*
 9 *Committee on Agriculture of the House of Representatives*
 10 *and the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry*
 11 *of the Senate a report describing the findings of the study.*

12 ***TITLE XII—MISCELLANEOUS***
 13 ***PROVISIONS***

14 ***Subtitle A—Livestock and Other***
 15 ***Animals***

16 ***PART I—ANIMAL HEALTH AND PRODUCTION***

17 ***SEC. 12001. ANIMAL DISEASE PREVENTION AND MANAGE-***
 18 ***MENT.***

19 (a) *NADPRP PROGRAM ACTIVITIES.*—*Section*
 20 *10409A(b)(2) of the Animal Health Protection Act (7*
 21 *U.S.C. 8308A(b)(2)) is amended—*

22 (1) *in subparagraph (F)—*

23 (A) *by striking “including training addi-*
 24 *tional emergency response personnel.” and in-*
 25 *serting the following: “including—*

1 “(i) training additional emergency re-
2 sponse personnel; and”; and

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

4 “(ii) improving animal disease
5 traceability.”; and

6 (2) in subparagraph (I), by inserting before the
7 period at the end the following: “, including activities
8 approved by the Secretary as of the date of the enact-
9 ment of the Farm, Food, and National Security Act
10 of 2026”.

11 (b) *AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.*—

12 (1) *NATIONAL ANIMAL HEALTH LABORATORY.*—
13 Section 10409A(d)(2)(A) of the Animal Health Pro-
14 tection Act (7 U.S.C. 8308a(d)(2)(A)) is amended by
15 striking “2019 through 2023” and inserting “2027
16 through 2031”.

17 (2) *NATIONAL ANIMAL DISEASE PREPAREDNESS*
18 *AND RESPONSE PROGRAM; NATIONAL ANIMAL VACCINE*
19 *AND VETERINARY COUNTERMEASURES BANK.*—Section
20 10409A(d)(2)(B) of the Animal Health Protection Act
21 (7 U.S.C. 8308a(d)(2)(B)) is amended by striking
22 “2019 through 2023” and inserting “2027 through
23 2031”.

(3) *ADMINISTRATIVE COSTS.*—Section 10409A(d)(3)(B) of the Animal Health Protection Act (7 U.S.C. 8308a(d)(3)(B)) is amended—

(A) by striking “carry out the National Animal Disease Preparedness and Response Program under subsection (b)” and inserting “carry out the National Animal Health Laboratory Network under subsection (a) and the National Animal Disease Preparedness and Response Program under subsection (b)”;

(B) by striking “10 percent” and inserting “15 percent”.

(4) *AVAILABILITY AND PURPOSE OF FUNDING.*—Section 10409A(e)(1) of the Animal Health Protection Act (7 U.S.C. 8308a(e)(1)) is amended by striking “2019 through 2023” and inserting “2027 through 2031”.

SEC. 12002. CATTLE FEVER TICK ERADICATION PROGRAM

REVIEW AND REPORT.

(a) *PROGRAM REVIEW.*—

(1) *IN GENERAL.*—Not later than 1 year after the date of the enactment of this section, the Secretary shall offer to enter into a contract with a covered institution under which the covered institution shall conduct a review of the Program.

1 (2) *REVIEW ELEMENTS.*—*The review conducted*
2 *pursuant to paragraph (1) shall include an evalua-*
3 *tion of—*

4 (A) *the effectiveness of the Program with re-*
5 *spect to preventing and reducing the spread of*
6 *tick-borne illnesses in cattle, including a review*
7 *of places from which the cattle fever tick has been*
8 *eradicated and the resulting economic impact;*

9 (B) *with respect to cattle producers—*

10 (i) *the benefits of the Program; and*

11 (ii) *the burden of compliance with the*
12 *Program;*

13 (C) *the treatment protocols developed and*
14 *implemented under the Program; and*

15 (D) *the Federal and State funds allocated to*
16 *support the Program for the most recent fiscal*
17 *year, including the funds allocated to each re-*
18 *search project associated with the Program.*

19 (b) *REPORT.*—*Not later than 1 year after the date on*
20 *which the Secretary and a covered institution enter into*
21 *a contract pursuant to subsection (a)(1), the Secretary shall*
22 *submit to the Committee on Agriculture of the House of*
23 *Representatives and the Committee on Agriculture, Nutri-*
24 *tion, and Forestry of the Senate a report that includes—*

1 (1) *the results of the review conducted pursuant*
2 *to subsection (a); and*

3 (2) *recommendations for improvements to the*
4 *Program, including recommendations for reducing the*
5 *burden of compliance with the Program with respect*
6 *to cattle producers.*

7 (c) *DEFINITIONS.—In this section:*

8 (1) *COVERED INSTITUTION.—The term “covered*
9 *institution” means—*

10 (A) *a land-grant college or university (as*
11 *defined in section 1404(13) of the National Agri-*
12 *cultural Research, Extension, and Teaching Pol-*
13 *icy Act of 1977 (7 U.S.C. 3103(13))); or*

14 (B) *a non-land-grant college of agriculture*
15 *(as defined in section 1404(14) of the National*
16 *Agricultural Research, Extension, and Teaching*
17 *Policy Act of 1977 (7 U.S.C. 3103(14))).*

18 (2) *PROGRAM.—The term “Program” means the*
19 *Cattle Fever Tick Eradication Program carried out*
20 *by the Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service*
21 *of the Department in coordination with the Texas*
22 *Animal Health Commission.*

23 (d) *FUNDING.—The Secretary shall use funds made*
24 *available for the agricultural and food policy research cen-*
25 *ters under section 1419A of the National Agricultural Re-*

1 *search, Extension, and Teaching Policy Act of 1977 (7*
 2 *U.S.C. 3155) to carry out this section.*

3 **SEC. 12003. ADDITIONAL TRAINING FACILITIES FOR NA-**
 4 **TIONAL DETECTOR DOG TRAINING CENTER.**

5 *The Beagle Brigade Act of 2023 (Public Law 118–191)*
 6 *is amended by adding at the end the following:*

7 **“SEC. 4. ADDITIONAL TRAINING FACILITIES.**

8 *“(a) IN GENERAL.—In addition to the Center estab-*
 9 *lished under section 2(a), the Secretary may—*

10 *“(1) establish other dog training facilities, which*
 11 *shall have the same duties as are specified in section*
 12 *2(b) for the Center; and*

13 *“(2) enter into a cooperative agreement with the*
 14 *department of agriculture of a State (or political sub-*
 15 *division thereof) to establish an off-site training pro-*
 16 *gram for the purpose of providing training and tech-*
 17 *nical assistance in the training of dogs, as described*
 18 *in section 2(b).*

19 *“(b) CONSIDERATIONS.—When determining the need*
 20 *for additional training facilities under subsection (a), the*
 21 *Secretary shall consider—*

22 *“(1) the location of international ports of entry;*

23 *“(2) the volume of international passengers and*
 24 *cargo; and*

1 “(3) regional agricultural production trends and
2 associated pest and disease threats.”.

3 **SEC. 12004. REGIONALIZATION, ZONING, AND**
4 **COMPARTMENTALIZATION AGREEMENTS.**

5 (a) *IN GENERAL.*—Section 10405 of the Animal
6 Health Protection Act (7 U.S.C. 8304) is amended—

7 (1) by redesignating subsection (d) as subsection
8 (e); and

9 (2) by inserting after subsection (c) the fol-
10 lowing:

11 “(d) *ENGAGEMENT WITH KEY EXPORT MARKETS.*—
12 *To reduce the impact of animal disease outbreaks on United*
13 *States exports, the Secretary, acting through the Adminis-*
14 *trator of the Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service,*
15 *the Under Secretary of Agriculture for Trade and Foreign*
16 *Agricultural Affairs, and the Administrator of the Food*
17 *Safety and Inspection Service, in consultation with the*
18 *United States Trade Representative, is authorized to nego-*
19 *tiate in advance, to the extent practicable, regionalization,*
20 *zoning, compartmentalization, and other agreements re-*
21 *garding outbreaks of known animal disease threats of trade*
22 *significance with the governments of countries with export*
23 *markets for livestock animals or animal products from the*
24 *United States.*”.

1 (b) *RULE OF CONSTRUCTION.*—*Nothing in this section*
 2 *may be construed—*

3 (1) *to limit the ability of the United States*
 4 *Trade Representative to negotiate trade agreements;*
 5 *or*

6 (2) *to require the United States Trade Rep-*
 7 *resentative to condition other trade agreements on the*
 8 *inclusion of language relating to reducing the impact*
 9 *of animal disease outbreaks on United States exports,*
 10 *as described in subsection (d) of section 10405 of the*
 11 *Animal Health Protection Act (7 U.S.C. 8304) (as in-*
 12 *serted by subsection (a)(2)).*

13 **SEC. 12005. IMPORTATION OF LIVE DOGS.**

14 (a) *IN GENERAL.*—*The Animal Health Protection Act*
 15 *(7 U.S.C. 8301 et seq.) is amended by inserting after section*
 16 *10404 (7 U.S.C. 8303) the following:*

17 **“SEC. 10404A. IMPORTATION OF LIVE DOGS.**

18 “(a) *DEFINITIONS.*—*In this section:*

19 “(1) *COMPENSATION.*—*The term ‘compensation’*
 20 *means any act, consideration, or thing of value re-*
 21 *ceived by a person directly, including cash or noncash*
 22 *benefits, cost-avoidance, obtaining positive or avoid-*
 23 *ing negative publicity, an exchange of services, or*
 24 *maintaining a license issued under any local, State,*
 25 *or Federal government authority.*

1 “(2) *IMPORTER.*—*The term ‘importer’ means*
2 *any person who transports or causes the transpor-*
3 *tation of a dog into the United States from a foreign*
4 *country.*

5 “(3) *IMPORT TRANSPORTER.*—*The term ‘import*
6 *transporter’ means any person or entity that—*

7 “(A) *receives an imported dog from any im-*
8 *porter, dealer, research facility, exhibitor, oper-*
9 *ator of an auction sale, or department, agency,*
10 *or instrumentality of the United States or of any*
11 *State or local government; and*

12 “(B) *receives compensation for moving such*
13 *dog in commerce.*

14 “(4) *TRANSFER.*—*The term ‘transfer’ means a*
15 *change of ownership or control of an imported dog to*
16 *another person, including by sale, adoption, exchange,*
17 *or donation.*

18 “(b) *REQUIREMENTS.*—

19 “(1) *IN GENERAL.*—*Except as provided in para-*
20 *graph (2), no person shall import a dog into the*
21 *United States unless prior to transport to the United*
22 *States, the Secretary receives electronic documentation*
23 *necessary, as determined by the Secretary, to dem-*
24 *onstrate that the dog—*

25 “(A) *is in good health;*

1 “(B) has received all necessary vaccinations
2 and internal and external parasite treatment,
3 and demonstrated negative test results, as re-
4 quired by the Secretary and evidenced by a cer-
5 tificate that—

6 “(i) is issued by a licensed veteri-
7 narian accredited by a competent veteri-
8 nary authority recognized by the Secretary;
9 and

10 “(ii) is endorsed by that authority in
11 a manner representing that the veterinarian
12 issuing the certificate was authorized to do
13 so;

14 “(C) is officially identified by a permanent
15 method approved by the Secretary; and

16 “(D) in the case that the dog is intended for
17 transfer—

18 “(i) is at least 6 months old; and

19 “(ii) is accompanied by an import per-
20 mit issued by the Secretary under this Act.

21 “(2) *EXCEPTIONS.*—The Secretary, by regula-
22 tion, shall provide an exception to any requirement
23 under this Act in any case in which a dog is im-
24 ported for purposes of transfer—

1 “(A) as a personal pet of United States ori-
2 gin returning to the United States;

3 “(B) as a United States military working
4 dog or contracted working dog supporting a
5 military mission or tasking;

6 “(C) for research purposes;

7 “(D) for veterinary treatment which is paid
8 for by the importer, subject to the condition that
9 the dog—

10 “(i) is taken directly to a veterinary
11 facility for treatment with appropriate
12 quarantine until the dog meets the criteria
13 described in paragraph (1); and

14 “(ii) is then exported to its country of
15 origin; or

16 “(E) in the case of a dog that is less than
17 6 months old, for lawful importation into the
18 State of Hawaii from the British Isles, Aus-
19 tralia, Guam, or New Zealand in compliance
20 with the regulations of the State of Hawaii and
21 the other requirements of this section, if the dog
22 is not transported out of the State of Hawaii for
23 transfer at less than 6 months of age.

24 “(c) IMPLEMENTATION AND REGULATIONS.—Not later
25 than 18 months after the date of enactment of the Farm,

1 *Food, and National Security Act of 2026, the Secretary,*
2 *in consultation with the Secretary of Health and Human*
3 *Services, the Secretary of Commerce, the Secretary of*
4 *Homeland Security, and the Secretary of Transportation,*
5 *shall promulgate such regulations as the Secretary deter-*
6 *mines necessary to implement and enforce this section, in-*
7 *cluding regulations—*

8 “(1) to facilitate electronic submission and inter-
9 agency sharing of all documentation required prior to
10 the importation of a dog into the United States under
11 subsection (b)(1);

12 “(2) to establish any necessary post-arrival
13 verification processes for imported dogs;

14 “(3) to ensure the denial of entry into the United
15 States of any dog attempted to be imported into the
16 United States in violation of subsection (b)(1);

17 “(4) to provide that each importer, import trans-
18 porter, intermediate handler, or carrier receiving a
19 certificate of veterinary inspection required under this
20 section shall submit a copy of the certificate to the
21 Secretary, who shall, upon receipt—

22 “(A) record and maintain the information
23 in a centralized database; and

24 “(B) upon request by a State veterinarian,
25 share the information with such State veteri-

1 narian not later than 3 days after such request
2 is received by the Secretary;

3 “(5) to require the Secretary to annually aggre-
4 gate and publicly report the data submitted under
5 paragraph (4), including information on the coun-
6 tries of origin of the imported dogs and the purposes
7 for the importation of such dogs; and

8 “(6) to determine and establish such fees for the
9 verification of documentation and issuance of permits
10 required under subsection (b)(1) as may be necessary
11 to fund the implementation and enforcement of this
12 section.

13 “(d) *RULE OF CONSTRUCTION.*—Nothing in subsection
14 (c)(5) shall be construed as limiting the availability of
15 funding made available under section 10417 to carry out
16 this section.

17 “(e) *ENFORCEMENT.*—

18 “(1) *AUTHORITY.*—The Secretary shall have the
19 authority granted under section 10414 to enforce this
20 section.

21 “(2) *PENALTIES.*—An importer or import trans-
22 porter that fails to comply with this section shall—

23 “(A) be subject to penalties under section
24 10414; and

“(B) provide, as the Secretary may determine, at the expense of the importer or importer, for—

“(i) the care (including appropriate veterinary care), forfeiture, quarantine, and removal from the United States of each applicable dog; and

“(ii) the return of each applicable dog to its place of export, with due care for the welfare of each applicable dog.”.

(b) *TRANSITION PERIOD.*—

(1) *IN GENERAL.*—During the transition period, regulations promulgated under section 18 of the Animal Welfare Act (7 U.S.C. 2148) (as in effect on the day before the date of enactment of this Act) shall continue to apply to the extent that such regulations do not conflict with section 10404A of the Animal Health Protection Act (as inserted by subsection (a)).

(2) *TRANSITION PERIOD DEFINED.*—In this subsection, the term “transition period” means the period beginning on the date of enactment of this Act and ending on the date on which final regulations are promulgated under such section 10404A.

(c) *CONFORMING AMENDMENT.*—Section 18 of the Animal Welfare Act (7 U.S.C. 2148) is repealed.

1 **SEC. 12006. ENSURING THE FREE MOVEMENT OF LIVE-**
2 **STOCK-DERIVED PRODUCTS IN INTERSTATE**
3 **COMMERCE.**

4 (a) *PURPOSE.*—*The purpose of this section is to—*

5 (1) *protect the free movement in interstate com-*
6 *merce of products derived from covered livestock;*

7 (2) *encourage a national market of such prod-*
8 *ucts;*

9 (3) *ensure that producers of covered livestock are*
10 *not subject to a patchwork of State laws restricting*
11 *access to a national market; and*

12 (4) *ensure that the United States continues to*
13 *uphold its international trade obligations.*

14 (b) *IN GENERAL.*—*Producers of covered livestock have*
15 *a Federal right to raise and market their covered livestock*
16 *in interstate commerce and therefore no State or subdivi-*
17 *sion thereof may enact or enforce, directly or indirectly, a*
18 *condition or standard on the production of covered livestock*
19 *other than for covered livestock physically raised in such*
20 *State or subdivision.*

21 (c) *PROTECTING INTERSTATE COMMERCE.*—*Producers*
22 *of covered livestock have a Federal right to raise and market*
23 *their covered livestock in interstate commerce and therefore*
24 *no State or subdivision thereof may enact or enforce, di-*
25 *rectly or indirectly, as a condition for sale or consumption,*
26 *any condition or standard of production on products de-*

1 *rived from covered livestock not physically raised in such*
2 *State or subdivision that is in addition to, or different*
3 *from, the conditions or standards of production in the State*
4 *in which the production occurs.*

5 (d) *DEFINITIONS.—In this section:*

6 (1) *COVERED LIVESTOCK.—The term “covered*
7 *livestock”—*

8 (A) *means any domestic animal raised for*
9 *the purpose of—*

10 (i) *slaughter for human consumption;*

11 *or*

12 (ii) *producing products manufactured*
13 *for human consumption which are derived*
14 *from the processing of milk, including fluid*
15 *milk products; and*

16 (B) *does not include domestic animals*
17 *raised for the primary purpose of egg produc-*
18 *tion.*

19 (2) *PRODUCTION.—The term “production”—*

20 (A) *means the raising (including breeding)*
21 *of covered livestock; and*

22 (B) *does not include the movement, har-*
23 *vesting, or further processing of covered livestock.*

1 **SEC. 12007. REPORT ON SUPPORT FOR LIVESTOCK AND**
2 **POULTRY PRODUCERS DURING A FOREIGN**
3 **ANIMAL DISEASE OUTBREAK.**

4 (a) *IN GENERAL.*—Not later than 6 months after the
5 date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary shall submit
6 to the Committee on Agriculture of the House of Representa-
7 tives and the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and
8 Forestry of the Senate a report on the Department’s pre-
9 paredness to support livestock producers and poultry grow-
10 ers facing economic losses in the event of an outbreak of
11 a foreign animal disease.

12 (b) *CONTENTS.*—The report submitted under sub-
13 section (a) shall include, with respect to the Department’s
14 ability to protect producers and growers from significant
15 economic losses as a result of a foreign animal disease—

16 (1) *an assessment of—*

17 (A) *existing Federal programs, including*
18 *catastrophic risk management tools, indemnity,*
19 *direct payments, biosecurity assistance, and herd*
20 *buyouts; and*

21 (B) *the Department’s capacity to utilize*
22 *such programs to provide benefits to producers*
23 *and growers experiencing economic losses as a*
24 *result of having to sell livestock and poultry at*
25 *a reduced price, having to quarantine, treat, de-*
26 *stroy, or dispose of animals, having to imple-*

1 *ment additional biosecurity measures or as a re-*
 2 *sult of catastrophic market conditions;*

3 *(2) a determination of gaps that exist in the De-*
 4 *partment's ability to provide economic support for*
 5 *producers and growers suffering such losses; and*

6 *(3) recommendations of the Secretary for modi-*
 7 *fications to Federal law (including regulations) relat-*
 8 *ing to protecting producers and growers from signifi-*
 9 *cant economic losses related to a foreign animal dis-*
 10 *ease outbreak.*

11 *(c) PROVISION OF INFORMATION.—*

12 *(1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 90 days after*
 13 *the date of enactment of this Act, for purposes of fa-*
 14 *cilitating the preparation of the report submitted*
 15 *under subsection (a), the relevant Department offi-*
 16 *cials described in paragraph (2) shall inform the Sec-*
 17 *retary of the information described in subsection (b).*

18 *(2) RELEVANT DEPARTMENT OFFICIALS DE-*
 19 *SCRIBED.—The relevant Department officials de-*
 20 *scribed in this paragraph are the following:*

21 *(A) The Under Secretary for Farm Produc-*
 22 *tion and Conservation.*

23 *(B) The Under Secretary for Food, Nutri-*
 24 *tion, and Consumer Services.*

1 (C) *The Under Secretary for Rural Develop-*
2 *ment.*

3 (D) *The Under Secretary for Food Safety.*

4 (E) *The Under Secretary for Marketing and*
5 *Regulatory Programs.*

6 (F) *The Under Secretary for Trade and*
7 *Foreign Agricultural Affairs.*

8 (G) *Other officials, as specified by the Sec-*
9 *retary.*

10 **SEC. 12008. PROTECTION OF GREYHOUNDS.**

11 (a) *IN GENERAL.*—*The Animal Welfare Act (7 U.S.C.*
12 *2131 et seq.) is amended by adding at the end the following:*

13 **“SEC. 30. PROTECTION OF GREYHOUNDS.**

14 “(a) *IN GENERAL.*—*It shall be unlawful—*

15 “(1) *for any person to knowingly engage in com-*
16 *mercial greyhound racing, live lure training, or open*
17 *field coursing events in which any greyhound is*
18 *moved in interstate or foreign commerce;*

19 “(2) *to conduct any commercial greyhound rac-*
20 *ing or racing meeting where any form of betting or*
21 *wagering on the speed or ability of greyhounds occurs;*

22 “(3) *to conduct open field coursing or live lure*
23 *training with the use of any bait that is not an inan-*
24 *imate object;*

1 “(4) to engage in or facilitate simulcast betting
2 or wagering on greyhound races in interstate or for-
3 eign commerce; and

4 “(5) for any person to knowingly sell, buy, pos-
5 sess, train, transport, deliver, or receive any grey-
6 hound for purposes of having the greyhound partici-
7 pate in commercial greyhound racing, live lure train-
8 ing, or open field coursing events.

9 “(b) *INVESTIGATIONS.*—The Secretary, or any other
10 person authorized by the Secretary, shall make such inves-
11 tigations as the Secretary determines necessary to deter-
12 mine whether any person has violated or is violating any
13 provision of this section. The Secretary may obtain the as-
14 sistance of the Federal Bureau of Investigation, the Depart-
15 ment of the Treasury, or other law enforcement agencies of
16 the United States, and State and local governmental agen-
17 cies, in the conduct of such investigations, under cooperative
18 agreements with such agencies.

19 “(c) *PENALTIES.*—Any person who violates any of
20 paragraphs (1) through (5) of subsection (a) shall be fined
21 under this Act, imprisoned for not more than 7 years, or
22 both, for each such violation. Each instance of a violation
23 of any such paragraph shall be considered a single viola-
24 tion.

25 “(d) *DEFINITIONS.*—In this section:

1 “(1) *COMMERCIAL GREYHOUND RACING.*—The
2 term ‘commercial greyhound racing’ means any event
3 involving the participation of greyhounds in which
4 betting or wagering on the speed or ability of such
5 greyhounds occurs.

6 “(2) *SIMULCAST.*—The term ‘simulcast’ means
7 the simultaneous audio or visual transmission from
8 one location of foreign or domestic greyhound races
9 taking place at a different location and gambling on
10 the results of such races.”.

11 (b) *DEFINITION OF ANIMAL.*—Section 2(g) of the Ani-
12 mal Welfare Act (7 U.S.C. 2132(g)) is amended by inserting
13 “hare,” after “rabbit,”.

14 (c) *APPLICABILITY.*—The amendments made by this
15 section shall apply with respect to conduct occurring on or
16 after October 1, 2027.

17 (d) *RULE OF CONSTRUCTION.*—Nothing in this sec-
18 tion, or the amendments made by this section, shall be con-
19 strued—

20 (1) to preempt any State law prohibiting gam-
21 bling or protecting the welfare of animals, including
22 greyhounds, jackrabbits, and hares; or

23 (2) to alter, limit, or extend the relationship be-
24 tween the Interstate Horseracing Act of 1978 (15
25 U.S.C. 3001 et seq.) as it relates to horse racing and

1 *other Federal laws in effect on the date of enactment*
2 *of this Act.*

3 **SEC. 12009. ANIMAL FIGHTING.**

4 *Section 26 of the Animal Welfare Act (7 U.S.C. 2156)*
5 *is amended—*

6 *(1) by striking the section designation and all*
7 *that follows through “It shall be unlawful” in sub-*
8 *section (a)(2) and inserting the following:*

9 **“SEC. 26. SPONSORING OR EXHIBITING AN ANIMAL IN, AT-**
10 **TENDING, CAUSING AN INDIVIDUAL WHO HAS**
11 **NOT ATTAINED THE AGE OF 16 TO ATTEND,**
12 **OR GAMBLING ON, AN ANIMAL FIGHTING**
13 **VENTURE.**

14 *“(a) SPONSORING OR EXHIBITING.—*

15 *“(1) IN GENERAL.—It shall be unlawful for any*
16 *person to knowingly sponsor or exhibit an animal in*
17 *an animal fighting venture.*

18 *“(2) ATTENDING OR CAUSING AN INDIVIDUAL*
19 *WHO HAS NOT ATTAINED THE AGE OF 16 TO AT-*
20 *TEND.—It shall be unlawful”; and*

21 *(2) in subsection (a), by adding at the end the*
22 *following:*

23 *“(3) ANIMAL VENTURE GAMBLING.—It shall be*
24 *unlawful for any person to gamble on an animal*

1 *fighting venture, including an in-person or broadcast*
 2 *event.”.*

3 ***PART II—MEAT AND POULTRY PROCESSING AND***
 4 ***INSPECTION***

5 ***SEC. 12111. AMPLIFYING PROCESSING OF LIVESTOCK IN***
 6 ***THE UNITED STATES (A-PLUS).***

7 *(a) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 1 year after the date*
 8 *of enactment of this Act, the Secretary shall revise section*
 9 *201.67 of title 9, Code of Federal Regulations, as in effect*
 10 *on January 1, 2024, to specify that—*

11 *(1) market agencies may have an ownership in-*
 12 *terest in, finance, or participate in the management*
 13 *or operation of, a packer, so long as such packer—*

14 *(A) with respect to cattle and sheep, has a*
 15 *cumulative slaughter capacity of less than—*

16 *(i) 2,000 animals per day; or*

17 *(ii) 700,000 animals per year; and*

18 *(B) with respect to hogs, has a cumulative*
 19 *slaughter capacity of less than—*

20 *(i) 10,000 animals per day; or*

21 *(ii) 3,000,000 animals per year; and*

22 *(2) market agencies that have an ownership in-*
 23 *terest in, finance, or participate in the management*
 24 *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 MEAT**
 12 **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, the*
 20 *Secretary shall, to the maximum extent practicable, make*
 21 *publicly available—*

22 “(1) *a list of scientific studies (which the Sec-*
 23 *retary shall update as necessary) for use by small es-*
 24 *tablishments and very small establishments in devel-*

1 *oping a Hazard Analysis and Critical Control Points*
2 *plan;*

3 “(2) *guidelines relating to best practices and*
4 *techniques by small establishments and very small es-*
5 *tablishments in the production of raw or further proc-*
6 *essed 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 model*
10 *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 date*
16 *of enactment of this section, the Secretary shall publish a*
17 *guidance document, after notice and an opportunity for*
18 *public comment, providing information on the requirements*
19 *that need to be met for small establishments and very small*
20 *establishments to develop, pursuant to this Act, a Hazard*
21 *Analysis and Critical Control Points plan.*

22 “(c) *DATA CONFIDENTIALITY.—In carrying out this*
23 *section, the Secretary shall not publish confidential business*
24 *information of any meat processing establishment, includ-*

1 *ing a Hazard Analysis and Critical Control Points plan*
 2 *of a meat processing establishment.*

3 “(d) *SMALL ESTABLISHMENT AND VERY SMALL ES-*
 4 *TABLISHMENT DEFINED.*—*In this section, the terms ‘small*
 5 *establishment’ and ‘very small establishment’ have the*
 6 *meanings given the terms ‘smaller establishment’ and ‘very*
 7 *small establishment’, respectively, in the final rule entitled*
 8 *‘Pathogen Reduction; Hazard Analysis and Critical Con-*
 9 *trol Point (HACCP) Systems’ (61 Fed. Reg. 38806 (July*
 10 *25, 1996)) (or successor regulations).”.*

11 (b) *POULTRY ESTABLISHMENTS.*—*The Poultry Prod-*
 12 *ucts Inspection Act is amended by inserting after section*
 13 *14 (21 U.S.C. 463) the following:*

14 “**SEC. 14A. SMALL AND VERY SMALL ESTABLISHMENT GUID-**
 15 **ANCE AND RESOURCES.**

16 “(a) *STUDIES; MODEL PLANS.*—*Not later than 18*
 17 *months after the date of enactment of this section, the Sec-*
 18 *retary shall, to the maximum extent practicable, make pub-*
 19 *licly available—*

20 “(1) *a list of scientific studies (which the Sec-*
 21 *retary shall update as necessary) for use by small es-*
 22 *tablishments and very small establishments in devel-*
 23 *oping a Hazard Analysis and Critical Control Points*
 24 *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 model*
8 *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 date*
14 *of enactment of this section, the Secretary shall publish a*
15 *guidance document, after notice and an opportunity for*
16 *public comment, providing information on the requirements*
17 *that need to be met for small establishments and very small*
18 *establishments to develop a Hazard Analysis and Critical*
19 *Control Points plan pursuant to this Act.*

20 “(c) *DATA CONFIDENTIALITY.—In carrying out this*
21 *section, the Secretary shall not publish confidential business*
22 *information of any poultry processing establishment, in-*
23 *cluding 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 ‘small*
 3 *establishment’ and ‘very small establishment’ have the*
 4 *meanings given the terms ‘smaller establishment’ and ‘very*
 5 *small establishment’, respectively, in the final rule entitled*
 6 *‘Pathogen Reduction; Hazard Analysis and Critical Con-*
 7 *trol Point (HACCP) Systems’ (61 Fed. Reg. 38806 (July*
 8 *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 end*
 13 *the following:*

14 “(k) *FEDERAL OUTREACH.*—*In each of fiscal years*
 15 *2027 through 2031, the Secretary shall conduct outreach to*
 16 *States that—*

17 “(1) *have a State meat inspection program in ef-*
 18 *fect pursuant to section 301; and*

19 “(2) *do not have a selected establishment.”.*

20 (b) *POULTRY.*—*Section 31 of the Poultry Products In-*
 21 *spection Act (21 U.S.C. 472) is amended by adding at the*
 22 *end the following:*

23 “(j) *FEDERAL OUTREACH.*—*In each of fiscal years*
 24 *2027 through 2031, the Secretary shall conduct outreach to*
 25 *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 years
5 2027 through 2031, the Secretary shall submit a report de-
6 tailing the activities and results of the outreach conducted
7 during that fiscal year under subsection (k) of section 501
8 of the Federal Meat Inspection Act (21 U.S.C. 683) and
9 subsection (j) of section 31 of the Poultry Products Inspec-
10 tion Act (21 U.S.C. 472), as added by subsections (a) and
11 (b), to—

12 (1) the Committee on Agriculture of the House of
13 Representatives;

14 (2) the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and
15 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 Sen-
19 ate.

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 may
 2 operate a pilot program to allow such custom facility
 3 to sell slaughtered meat and meat food products (re-
 4 ferred to in this section as “meat products”) directly
 5 to consumers within the State in which the facility is
 6 located in accordance with the pilot program.

7 (2) *LACK OF A STATE PILOT PROGRAM.*—If a
 8 State department of agriculture does not elect to oper-
 9 ate a pilot program, the Secretary shall, upon request
 10 from a custom exempt facility in such a State, oper-
 11 ate a pilot program administered by the Secretary for
 12 that State in accordance with this section.

13 (b) *ALLOWABLE NUMBER OF FACILITIES.*—

14 (1) *INITIAL APPROVAL.*—Except as provided in
 15 paragraph (2)—

16 (A) a State department of agriculture may
 17 approve not more than 5 facilities in such State
 18 for participation in a pilot program established
 19 under subsection (a)(1); and

20 (B) the Secretary may approve not more
 21 than 10 facilities to participate in all pilot pro-
 22 grams established under subsection (a)(2).

23 (2) *SUBSEQUENT APPROVAL OF FACILITIES.*—
 24 Not less than 2 years after the establishment of a pilot
 25 program, a State department of agriculture or the

1 *Secretary may, if no product produced at a facility*
2 *that was initially approved under paragraph (1) for*
3 *participation in such pilot program has been subject*
4 *to an emergency action under subsection (f) during*
5 *the 2-year period following such establishment, ap-*
6 *prove—*

7 *(A) in the case of a State department of ag-*
8 *riculture, not more than 5 additional facilities*
9 *in the respective State; and*

10 *(B) in the case of the Secretary, not more*
11 *than 10 additional facilities in all States.*

12 *(c) PILOT PROGRAM REQUIREMENTS.—A pilot pro-*
13 *gram established under this section shall, at a minimum,*
14 *require—*

15 *(1) that meat products sold under the pilot pro-*
16 *gram are—*

17 *(A) sold directly to consumers within the*
18 *State from—*

19 *(i) the owner of the animals from*
20 *which such meat products are derived; or*

21 *(ii) the custom exempt facility at*
22 *which the meat products were processed;*

23 *(B) not eligible for re-sale; and*

24 *(C) clearly labeled to indicate—*

1 (i) *the name and address of the facility*
2 *at which the meat products were processed;*

3 (ii) *the name and address of the owner*
4 *of the animals from which such meat prod-*
5 *ucts are derived;*

6 (iii) *the location where animals from*
7 *which such meat products are derived were*
8 *raised;*

9 (iv) *the date of slaughter of such ani-*
10 *mals and the period of time over which the*
11 *owner raised such animals;*

12 (v) *that such meat products were not*
13 *subject to Federal inspection; and*

14 (vi) *that such meat products shall not*
15 *be resold;*

16 (2) *that custom exempt facilities participating*
17 *in the pilot program comply with—*

18 (A) *Public Law 85–765 (7 U.S.C. 1901 et*
19 *seq.; commonly known as the “Humane Methods*
20 *of Slaughter Act of 1958”);*

21 (B) *applicable State and local laws;*

22 (C) *section 23(d) of the Federal Meat In-*
23 *spection Act (21 U.S.C. 623(d)); and*

24 (D) *Federal regulations pertaining to—*

1 (i) sanitation standards and record-
2 keeping requirements for custom exempt fa-
3 cilities; 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 by
8 the Secretary to ensure compliance with the require-
9 ments specified in paragraphs (1) and (2); and

10 (4) that custom exempt facilities participating
11 in the pilot program be subject to onsite inspection at
12 least annually by the local authority responsible for
13 restaurant inspections or the State department of ag-
14 riculture.

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 section.

19 (e) *INELIGIBILITY*.—An establishment subject to in-
20 spection by the Secretary under the Federal Meat Inspection
21 Act (21 U.S.C. 601 et seq.) or operating pursuant to a State
22 meat inspection program authorized under section 301 of
23 the Federal Meat Inspection Act (21 U.S.C. 661) shall not
24 be eligible to participate in a pilot program established pur-
25 suant to this section.

1 (f) *AUTHORITY FOR EMERGENCY ACTION.*—*If the Sec-*
2 *retary has credible evidence that a meat product produced*
3 *at a custom exempt facility participating in a pilot pro-*
4 *gram established pursuant to this section is adulterated, the*
5 *Secretary—*

6 (1) *shall, pursuant to the Federal Meat Inspec-*
7 *tion Act (21 U.S.C. 601 et seq.), take such actions as*
8 *may be necessary to address the risk to public health*
9 *posed by such products; and*

10 (2) *may terminate the participation of a custom*
11 *exempt facility in a pilot program established pursu-*
12 *ant to this section.*

13 (g) *REPORT REQUIRED.*—

14 (1) *REPORTS BY STATE DEPARTMENTS OF AGRI-*
15 *CULTURE TO SECRETARY.*—*Beginning September 30,*
16 *2026, and each fiscal year thereafter until September*
17 *30, 2031, each State department of agriculture oper-*
18 *ating a pilot program pursuant to this section shall*
19 *submit to the Secretary a report detailing, with re-*
20 *spect to each such pilot program within the relevant*
21 *State for the preceding fiscal year—*

22 (A) *the number and location of persons or*
23 *custom exempt facilities selling meat products*
24 *under each such pilot program;*

1 (B) the outcomes of each such pilot pro-
2 gram;

3 (C) any instances in which a meat product
4 was subject to an emergency action under sub-
5 section (f); and

6 (D) aggregated data on the volume of meat
7 being processed under such pilot program.

8 (2) *REPORT BY SECRETARY TO CONGRESS.*—Not
9 later than 2 years after initiating a pilot program
10 under this section, the Secretary shall submit to the
11 Committee on Agriculture of the House of Representa-
12 tives and the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition,
13 and Forestry of the Senate a report detailing—

14 (A) the information received from partici-
15 pating State departments of agriculture under
16 paragraph (1); and

17 (B) for any custom exempt facilities par-
18 ticipating in a pilot program established by the
19 Secretary pursuant to subsection (a)(2)—

20 (i) the number and location of persons
21 or custom exempt facilities selling products
22 pursuant to such pilot program;

23 (ii) the outcomes of such pilot pro-
24 gram; and

1 (iii) any instances in which a meat
2 product was subject to an emergency action
3 under subsection (f).

4 (h) *CUSTOM EXEMPT FACILITY DEFINED.*—In this sec-
5 tion, the term “custom exempt facility” means an establish-
6 ment engaged in the slaughter of animals and the prepara-
7 tion of the carcasses, parts thereof, meat, and meat food
8 products for commerce that is not subject to the Federal in-
9 spection requirements under title I of the Federal Meat In-
10 spection Act (21 U.S.C. 601 et seq.).

11 (i) *SUNSET.*—A State and the Secretary may not oper-
12 ate a pilot program under this section on or after September
13 30, 2031, and no facility that is exempt from inspection
14 under the Federal Meat Inspection Act (21 U.S.C. 601 et
15 seq.) pursuant to this section shall be exempt from that in-
16 spection on or after September 30, 2031.

17 **Subtitle B—Department of Agri-**
18 **culture Reorganization Act of**
19 **1994**

20 **SEC. 12201. OFFICE OF HOMELAND SECURITY.**

21 Section 221 of the Department of Agriculture Reorga-
22 nization Act of 1994 (7 U.S.C. 6922) is amended—

23 (1) in subsection (d)—

24 (A) in paragraph (7), by striking “and” at
25 the end;

1 (B) by redesignating paragraph (8) as
2 paragraph (9); and

3 (C) by inserting after paragraph (7) the fol-
4 lowing:

5 “(8) conducting annual cross-sector crisis sim-
6 ulation exercises related to a food-related emergency
7 or disruption; and”; and

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

9 “(f) *DETAILEES*.—The Secretary may detail employees
10 of the Department of Agriculture to, and accept employees
11 detailed from, the intelligence community (as defined in sec-
12 tion 3 of the National Security Act of 1947) to assist in
13 carrying out the duties of the Office of Homeland Security.

14 “(g) *RISK ASSESSMENTS AND REPORTS*.—

15 “(1) *RISK ASSESSMENTS*.—Not later than 1 year
16 after the date of enactment of the Farm, Food, and
17 National Security Act of 2026, and not less than
18 every 2 years thereafter, the Secretary shall conduct
19 an assessment of risks and security vulnerabilities to
20 the food and agriculture critical infrastructure sector,
21 including—

22 “(A) naturally occurring, unintentional, or
23 intentional threats, including chemical, biologi-
24 cal, cybersecurity, or bioterrorism attacks;

25 “(B) influence of state-owned enterprise;

1 “(C) control of and access to agricultural
2 data;

3 “(D) foreign acquisition of intellectual
4 property, agricultural assets, and land;

5 “(E) agricultural input shortages and de-
6 pendence on foreign-sourced inputs;

7 “(F) supply chain and trade disruptions;

8 “(G) science and technology cooperation;

9 “(H) unequal investments in research, de-
10 velopment, and commercialization;

11 “(I) incongruent regulatory policies; and

12 “(J) any other vulnerabilities identified by
13 the Secretary.

14 “(2) BRIEFING AND REPORT.—

15 “(A) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 180
16 days after the completion of a risk assessment
17 under paragraph (1), the Secretary shall provide
18 a briefing on the results of the risk assessment
19 and submit to the Committee on Agriculture and
20 the Committee on Homeland Security of the
21 House of Representatives and the Committee on
22 Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry and the
23 Committee on Homeland Security and Govern-
24 mental Affairs of the Senate a report that in-
25 cludes—

1 “(i) an assessment of any gaps or limi-
2 tations in national security efforts related
3 to the food and agriculture critical infra-
4 structure sector;

5 “(ii) any actions taken by the Sec-
6 retary to address any gaps or limitations
7 identified under clause (i), including
8 through interagency coordination, threat in-
9 formation sharing, and stakeholder out-
10 reach;

11 “(iii) any recommendations for admin-
12 istrative, regulatory, or legislative actions
13 that can be taken to reduce any gaps or
14 limitations identified under clause (i), in-
15 cluding—

16 “(I) recommendations to reduce
17 the dependence on foreign-source inputs
18 necessary for the food and agriculture
19 critical infrastructure sector; and

20 “(II) recommendations to address
21 the cybersecurity threats to, and secu-
22 rity vulnerabilities in, the food and ag-
23 riculture critical infrastructure sector;
24 and

1 “(iv) resources the Secretary requires
 2 to address current and future national secu-
 3 rity vulnerabilities related to the food and
 4 agriculture critical infrastructure sector.

5 “(B) *EXEMPTION FROM ACCESS TO CON-*
 6 *GRESSIONALLY MANDATED REPORTS ACT.*—A re-
 7 port required under subparagraph (A) shall be
 8 exempt from the requirements of the Access to
 9 Congressionally Mandated Reports Act (subtitle
 10 *D of title VII of Public Law 117–263; 136 Stat.*
 11 *3677).*”.

12 **SEC. 12202. OFFICE OF PARTNERSHIPS AND PUBLIC EN-**
 13 **GAGEMENT.**

14 Section 226B(f)(3)(B) of the Department of Agri-
 15 culture Reorganization Act of 1994 (7 U.S.C.
 16 6934(f)(3)(B)) is amended by striking “2023” and inserting
 17 “2031”.

18 **SEC. 12203. BURDEN OF PROOF FOR NATIONAL APPEALS DI-**
 19 **VISION HEARINGS.**

20 Section 277(c)(4) of the Department of Agriculture Re-
 21 organization Act of 1994 (7 U.S.C. 6997(c)(4)) is amended
 22 to read as follows:

23 “(4) *BURDEN OF PROOF.*—The agency shall bear
 24 the burden of proving by substantial evidence that the
 25 adverse decision of the agency was valid.”.

1 **SEC. 12204. TERMINATION OF AUTHORITY.**

2 Section 296(b) of the Department of Agriculture Reor-
3 ganization Act of 1994 (7 U.S.C. 7014(b)) is amended by
4 adding at the end the following:

5 “(11) The authority of the Secretary to carry out
6 the amendments made to this title by the Farm, Food,
7 and National Security Act of 2026.”.

8 **SEC. 12205. FUNCTIONS OF THE OFFICE OF TRIBAL RELA-**
9 **TIONS.**

10 Section 309 of the Federal Crop Insurance Reform and
11 Department of Agriculture Reorganization Act of 1994 (7
12 U.S.C. 6921) is amended—

13 (1) in subsection (a)—

14 (A) by striking “shall advise” and all that
15 follows through the period at the end and insert-
16 ing “shall—”; and

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

18 “(1) advise the Secretary on policies related to
19 Indian tribes;

20 “(2) oversee—

21 “(A) each self-determination contract (as
22 defined in section 4 of the Indian Self-Deter-
23 mination and Education Assistance Act (25
24 U.S.C. 5304)) entered into between the Secretary
25 and a tribal organization; and

1 “(B) each self-governance compact (as de-
 2 fined in section 401 of such Act (25 U.S.C.
 3 5361)) entered into between the Secretary and an
 4 Indian tribe; and

5 “(3) carry out such other functions as the Sec-
 6 retary considers appropriate.”; and

7 (2) in subsection (b)(1), by striking “this sub-
 8 section” and inserting “this section”.

9 ***Subtitle C—National Security***

10 ***SEC. 12301. AGRICULTURAL FOREIGN INVESTMENT DISCLO-*** 11 ***SURE IMPROVEMENTS.***

12 (a) *DEFINITIONS.*—In this section:

13 (1) *AFIDA.*—The term “AFIDA” means the Ag-
 14 ricultural Foreign Investment Disclosure Act of 1978
 15 (7 U.S.C. 3501 et seq.).

16 (2) *FPAC–BC.*—The term “FPAC–BC” means
 17 the Farm Production and Conservation Business Cen-
 18 ter of the Department of Agriculture.

19 (b) *MOU WITH CFIUS.*—Not later than 1 year after
 20 the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary shall enter
 21 into 1 or more memoranda of understanding with the Com-
 22 mittee on Foreign Investment in the United States under
 23 which the Secretary shall provide the Committee with all
 24 relevant information relating to reports on foreign owner-
 25 ship of United States agricultural land submitted to the

1 *Secretary under section 2 of AFIDA (7 U.S.C. 3501), in-*
 2 *cluding information on—*

3 (1) *each report submitted to the Secretary; and*
 4 (2) *with respect to each such report, the identity*
 5 *of the foreign persons included in the report and the*
 6 *date of submission.*

7 *(c) AFIDA HANDBOOK UPDATES.—*

8 (1) *FIRST UPDATE.—Not later than 2 years after*
 9 *the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary*
 10 *shall—*

11 (A) *update the most recent version of the*
 12 *Farm Service Agency handbook titled “Foreign*
 13 *Investment Disclosure” as determined necessary*
 14 *by the Secretary for the effective implementation*
 15 *of AFIDA; and*

16 (B) *incorporate in such update the rec-*
 17 *ommendations made by the report of the Govern-*
 18 *ment Accountability Office titled “Foreign In-*
 19 *vestments in U.S. Agricultural Land: Enhancing*
 20 *Efforts to Collect, Track, and Share Key Infor-*
 21 *mation Could Better Identify National Security*
 22 *Risks” and dated January 18, 2024.*

23 (2) *SUBSEQUENT UPDATES.—After updating the*
 24 *handbook described in subparagraph (A) of para-*
 25 *graph (1) under that paragraph, the Secretary shall*

1 *carry out an update of that handbook every 10 years*
 2 *thereafter, including by incorporating any rec-*
 3 *ommendations of the Government Accountability Of-*
 4 *fice.*

5 *(d) CIVIL PENALTIES.—Section 3 of the Agricultural*
 6 *Foreign Investment Disclosure Act of 1978 (7 U.S.C. 3502)*
 7 *is amended—*

8 *(1) by redesignating subsection (b) as subsection*
 9 *(c);*

10 *(2) by striking the section designation and head-*
 11 *ing and all that follows through “Any such civil pen-*
 12 *alty shall be recoverable” and inserting the following:*

13 **“SEC. 3. CIVIL PENALTIES.**

14 **“(a) IN GENERAL.—***A person shall be subject to a civil*
 15 *penalty imposed by the Secretary if the Secretary deter-*
 16 *mines that the person—*

17 **“(1) has failed to submit a report in accordance**
 18 **with the provisions of section 2; or**

19 **“(2) has knowingly submitted a report under sec-**
 20 **tion 2 that—**

21 **“(A) does not contain all the information**
 22 **required to be in such report; or**

23 **“(B) contains information that is mis-**
 24 **leading or false.**

1 “(b) *CIVIL ACTION*.—Any civil penalty imposed by the
 2 Secretary under subsection (a) shall be recoverable”; and
 3 (3) in subsection (c) (as so redesignated)—

4 (A) by striking the subsection designation
 5 and all that follows through “The amount” and
 6 inserting the following:

7 “(c) *AMOUNT OF PENALTY*.—The amount”;

8 (B) by striking “of this section”; and

9 (C) by striking “shall not exceed 25 per-
 10 cent” and inserting “for violations under sub-
 11 section (a)(1) shall not exceed 25 percent, and
 12 for violations under subsection (a)(2) shall be not
 13 less than 5 percent, but not more than 25 per-
 14 cent,”.

15 (e) *PUBLIC DISCLOSURE OF ENFORCEMENT AC-*
 16 *TIONS*.—Section 3 of the Agricultural Foreign Investment
 17 Disclosure Act of 1978 (7 U.S.C. 3502) (as amended by sub-
 18 section (b)) is amended by adding at the end the following:

19 “(d) *PUBLIC DISCLOSURE OF ENFORCEMENT AC-*
 20 *TIONS*.—The Secretary shall publicly disclose the name of
 21 each person who paid to the Secretary a civil penalty im-
 22 posed under subsection (a), including, if applicable, after
 23 the completion of an appeal of a civil penalty.”.

24 (f) *PUBLICATION OF REPORTING REQUIREMENTS*.—
 25 Section 3 of the Agricultural Foreign Investment Disclosure

1 *Act of 1978 (7 U.S.C. 3502) (as amended by subsection (c))*
 2 *is amended by adding at the end the following:*

3 “(e) *OUTREACH.*—*Using existing resources and efforts*
 4 *to the maximum extent practicable, the Secretary shall*
 5 *carry out a nationwide outreach program directed pri-*
 6 *marily toward landlords, operators, owners, persons, pro-*
 7 *ducers, and tenants (as those terms are defined in section*
 8 *718.2 of title 7, Code of Federal Regulations (as in effect*
 9 *on the date of enactment of the Farm, Food, and National*
 10 *Security Act of 2026)) of agricultural land and county*
 11 *property appraiser offices, land appraisal companies, and*
 12 *real estate auction companies to increase public awareness*
 13 *and provide education regarding the reporting requirements*
 14 *under this Act.”.*

15 **SEC. 12302. REPORT ON AGRICULTURAL LAND PURCHASING**
 16 **ACTIVITIES IN THE UNITED STATES BY COUN-**
 17 **TRIES DESIGNATED AS STATE SPONSORS OF**
 18 **TERRORISM AND CERTAIN OTHER COUN-**
 19 **TRIES.**

20 (a) *DEFINITIONS.*—*In this section:*

21 (1) *AGRICULTURAL LAND.*—*The term “agricul-*
 22 *tural land” has the meaning given the term in section*
 23 *9 of the Agricultural Foreign Investment Disclosure*
 24 *Act of 1978 (7 U.S.C. 3508).*

1 (2) *APPROPRIATE COMMITTEES OF CONGRESS.*—

2 *The term “appropriate committees of Congress”*
3 *means—*

4 (A) *the Committee on Agriculture, Nutri-*
5 *tion, and Forestry of the Senate;*

6 (B) *the Committee on Homeland Security*
7 *and Governmental Affairs of the Senate;*

8 (C) *the Committee on Intelligence of the*
9 *Senate;*

10 (D) *the Committee on Homeland Security*
11 *of the House of Representatives;*

12 (E) *the Committee on Agriculture of the*
13 *House of Representatives; and*

14 (F) *the Permanent Select Committee on In-*
15 *telligence of the House of Representatives.*

16 (3) *COVERED FOREIGN COUNTRY.*—*The term*
17 *“covered foreign country” means a foreign country of*
18 *concern (as defined in section 10638 of the CHIPS*
19 *Act of 2022 (42 U.S.C. 19237)).*

20 (4) *COVERED FOREIGN PERSON.*—*The term “cov-*
21 *ered foreign person” means a foreign person (as de-*
22 *finied in section 9 of the Agricultural Foreign Invest-*
23 *ment Disclosure Act of 1978 (7 U.S.C. 3508)) that is*
24 *a citizen of, or headquartered in, as applicable, a cov-*
25 *ered foreign country.*

1 (5) *STATE*.—*The term “State” has the meaning*
 2 *given the term in section 9 of the Agricultural For-*
 3 *oreign Investment Disclosure Act of 1978 (7 U.S.C.*
 4 *3508).*

5 (6) *STATE SPONSOR OF TERRORISM*.—*The term*
 6 *“state sponsor of terrorism” means a country the gov-*
 7 *ernment of which the Secretary of State has deter-*
 8 *mined has repeatedly provided support for acts of*
 9 *international terrorism, for purposes of—*

10 (A) *section 1754(c)(1)(A)(i) of the Export*
 11 *Control Reform Act of 2018 (50 U.S.C.*
 12 *4813(c)(1)(A)(i));*

13 (B) *section 620A of the Foreign Assistance*
 14 *Act of 1961 (22 U.S.C. 2371);*

15 (C) *section 40(d) of the Arms Export Con-*
 16 *trol Act (22 U.S.C. 2780(d)); or*

17 (D) *any other provision of law.*

18 (b) *REPORT*.—

19 (1) *IN GENERAL*.—*Not later than 180 days after*
 20 *the date of enactment of this Act, and annually there-*
 21 *after, the Secretary of Agriculture, in coordination*
 22 *with the Secretary of Homeland Security and the*
 23 *head of any other appropriate Federal agency, shall*
 24 *submit to the appropriate committees of Congress a*
 25 *report describing the national security risks of the*

1 *purchase and management of agricultural land by*
2 *covered foreign persons.*

3 (2) *CONTENTS.—A report submitted under para-*
4 *graph (1) shall include the following with respect to*
5 *the year covered by the report:*

6 (A) *A description of—*

7 (i) *the number of acres of agricultural*
8 *land owned, leased, or managed by covered*
9 *foreign persons, organized by State; and*

10 (ii) *for each State, the percentage of*
11 *land owned or managed by covered foreign*
12 *persons compared to the total acreage of the*
13 *State.*

14 (B) *An analysis of the possible threat to*
15 *food security, food safety, biosecurity, or environ-*
16 *mental protection due to the ownership of agri-*
17 *cultural land by each covered foreign country*
18 *through covered foreign persons.*

19 (C) *An analysis of the annual and total cost*
20 *of support for agricultural land owned by cov-*
21 *ered foreign persons through farm programs ad-*
22 *ministered by the Farm Service Agency.*

23 (D) *An analysis of the use of agricultural*
24 *land for industrial espionage or intellectual*
25 *property transfer by covered foreign persons.*

1 (E) *An analysis of the potential use by cov-*
 2 *ered foreign persons of agricultural land in close*
 3 *proximity to manufacturing facilities, water*
 4 *sources, and other critical infrastructure to mon-*
 5 *itor, interrupt, or disrupt activities critical to*
 6 *the national and economic security of the United*
 7 *States.*

8 (F) *An analysis of other threats to the agri-*
 9 *cultural industry or national security of the*
 10 *United States due to the ownership of agricul-*
 11 *tural land by covered foreign persons.*

12 (3) *UNCLASSIFIED FORM.—A report submitted*
 13 *under this subsection shall—*

14 (A) *be submitted in unclassified form, but*
 15 *may include a classified annex; and*

16 (B) *be consistent with the protection of in-*
 17 *telligence sources and methods.*

18 **SEC. 12303. INVESTIGATIVE ACTIONS.**

19 (a) *INVESTIGATIVE ACTIONS.—Section 4 of the Agri-*
 20 *cultural Foreign Investment Disclosure Act of 1978 (7*
 21 *U.S.C. 3503) is amended to read as follows:*

22 **“SEC. 4. INVESTIGATIVE ACTIONS.**

23 “(a) *IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall appoint an*
 24 *employee in the Senior Executive Service (as described in*
 25 *section 3131 of title 5, United States Code) of the Depart-*

1 *ment of Agriculture to serve as Chief of Operations of Inves-*
 2 *tigative Actions (referred to in this section as the ‘Chief of*
 3 *Operations’), who shall hire, appoint, and maintain addi-*
 4 *tional employees to monitor compliance with the provisions*
 5 *of this Act.*

6 “(b) *CHIEF OF OPERATIONS.*—*The Chief of Operations*
 7 *may serve in such position simultaneously with a concur-*
 8 *rent position within the Department of Agriculture.*

9 “(c) *SECURITY.*—*The Secretary shall—*

10 “(1) *provide classified storage, meeting, and*
 11 *other spaces, as necessary, for personnel of the Chief*
 12 *of Operations; and*

13 “(2) *assist such personnel in obtaining security*
 14 *clearances.*

15 “(d) *DUTIES.*—*The Chief of Operations shall—*

16 “(1) *monitor compliance with this Act;*

17 “(2) *refer noncompliance with this Act to the*
 18 *Secretary, the Farm Service Agency, and any other*
 19 *appropriate authority;*

20 “(3) *conduct investigations, in coordination with*
 21 *the Department of Justice, the Federal Bureau of In-*
 22 *vestigation, the Department of Homeland Security,*
 23 *the Department of the Treasury, the National Secu-*
 24 *rity Council, and State and local law enforcement*
 25 *agencies, on malign efforts—*

1 “(A) to steal agricultural knowledge and
2 technology; or

3 “(B) to disrupt the United States agricul-
4 tural base;

5 “(4) conduct an annual audit of the database de-
6 veloped under section 12304(b) of the Farm, Food,
7 and National Security Act of 2026;

8 “(5) seek to enter into memoranda of agreement
9 and memoranda of understanding with the Federal
10 agencies described in paragraph (3)—

11 “(A) to ensure compliance with this Act;
12 and

13 “(B) to prevent the malign efforts described
14 in that paragraph;

15 “(6) refer to the Committee on Foreign Invest-
16 ment in the United States transactions that—

17 “(A) raise potential national security con-
18 cerns; and

19 “(B) result in agricultural land acquisition
20 by a foreign person that is a citizen of, or
21 headquartered in, as applicable, a foreign entity
22 of concern; and

23 “(7) publish annual reports that summarize the
24 information contained in every report received by the

1 *Secretary under section 2 during the period covered*
 2 *by the report.*

3 “(e) *ADMINISTRATION.—The Chief of Operations shall*
 4 *report to—*

5 “(1) *the Secretary; or*

6 “(2) *if delegated by the Secretary, to—*

7 “(A) *the Administrator of the Farm Service*
 8 *Agency; or*

9 “(B) *the Director of the Department of Ag-*
 10 *riculture Office of Homeland Security.”.*

11 (b) *DEFINITION OF FOREIGN ENTITY OF CONCERN.—*
 12 *Section 9 of the Agricultural Foreign Investment Disclosure*
 13 *Act of 1978 (7 U.S.C. 3508) is amended—*

14 (1) *in the matter preceding paragraph (1), by*
 15 *striking “For purposes of this Act—” and inserting*
 16 *“In this Act:”;*

17 (2) *in each of paragraphs (1) through (6)—*

18 (A) *by striking “the term” and inserting*
 19 *“The term”; and*

20 (B) *by inserting a paragraph heading, the*
 21 *text of which comprises the term defined in that*
 22 *paragraph;*

23 (3) *in each of paragraphs (1) through (4), by*
 24 *striking the semicolon and inserting a period;*

1 (4) in paragraph (5), by striking “; and” and
2 inserting a period;

3 (5) by redesignating paragraphs (2) through (6)
4 as paragraphs (3), (4), (6), (7), and (8), respectively;

5 (6) by inserting after paragraph (1) the fol-
6 lowing:

7 “(2) *FOREIGN ENTITY OF CONCERN*.—The term
8 ‘foreign entity of concern’ has the meaning given the
9 term in section 9901 of the William M. (Mac) Thorn-
10 berry National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal
11 Year 2021 (15 U.S.C. 4651).”; and

12 (7) by inserting after paragraph (4) (as so redes-
13 ignated) the following:

14 “(5) *MALIGN EFFORT*.—The term ‘malign effort’
15 means any hostile effort undertaken by, at the direc-
16 tion of, on behalf of, or with the substantial support
17 of the government of a foreign entity of concern.”.

18 **SEC. 12304. DIGITIZATION AND CONSOLIDATION OF FOR-**
19 **EIGN LAND OWNERSHIP DATA COLLECTION**
20 **AND PUBLICATION.**

21 (a) *DEFINITIONS*.—In this section:

22 (1) *AGRICULTURAL LAND*.—The term “agricul-
23 tural land” has the meaning given the term in section
24 781.2 of title 7, Code of Federal Regulations (as in
25 effect on the date of enactment of this Act).

1 (2) *DATABASE.*—*The term “database” means the*
2 *database developed under subsection (c).*

3 (3) *FOREIGN PERSON.*—*The term “foreign per-*
4 *son” has the meaning given the term in section 9 of*
5 *the Agricultural Foreign Investment Disclosure Act of*
6 *1978 (7 U.S.C. 3508).*

7 (b) *DATABASE.*—*Not later than 3 years after the date*
8 *of enactment of this Act, the Secretary shall develop a data-*
9 *base of agricultural land owned by foreign persons, using*
10 *data that are collected pursuant to the Agricultural Foreign*
11 *Investment Disclosure Act of 1978 (7 U.S.C. 3501 et seq.).*

12 (c) *CONTENTS.*—*Each entry in the database for each*
13 *registration or updated registration of agricultural land*
14 *owned or leased by a foreign person shall include pertinent*
15 *information, as determined by the Secretary, in the appli-*
16 *cable filing, except it shall not publicly disclose the name*
17 *of the filer and the purchase or lease price of such trans-*
18 *action for a period of at least 30 days following such filing.*

19 (d) *AUDIT.*—*Not later than 180 days after the data-*
20 *base is operational, and annually thereafter, the Chief of*
21 *Operations for Investigative Actions appointed under sec-*
22 *tion 4 of the Agricultural Foreign Investment Disclosure*
23 *Act of 1978 (as amended by section 12303(a)) shall—*

24 (1) *conduct an audit of the database; and*

1 (2) *submit to the appropriate committees of Con-*
 2 *gress a report—*

3 (A) *evaluating the accuracy of the database;*

4 *and*

5 (B) *describing recommendations for improv-*
 6 *ing compliance with the reporting required*
 7 *under the Agricultural Foreign Investment Dis-*
 8 *closure Act of 1978 (7 U.S.C. 3501 et seq.).*

9 (e) *REPEAL.—Section 773 of division A of the Consoli-*
 10 *dated Appropriations Act, 2023 (Public Law 117–328) is*
 11 *repealed.*

12 **SEC. 12305. CFIUS CONSIDERATION OF CERTAIN AGRICUL-**
 13 **TURAL LAND TRANSACTIONS.**

14 (a) *INCLUSION OF THE SECRETARY OF AGRICULTURE*
 15 *ON THE COMMITTEE ON FOREIGN INVESTMENT IN THE*
 16 *UNITED STATES.—Section 721(k) of the Defense Production*
 17 *Act of 1950 (50 U.S.C. 4565(k)) is amended by adding at*
 18 *the end the following:*

19 “(8) *INCLUSION OF THE SECRETARY OF AGRI-*
 20 *CULTURE.—The Secretary of Agriculture shall be a*
 21 *member of the Committee with respect to a covered*
 22 *transaction that involves—*

23 “(A) *agricultural land;*

24 “(B) *agriculture biotechnology; or*

1 “(C) the agriculture industry, including ag-
 2 ricultural transportation, storage, and proc-
 3 essing.”.

4 (b) *CONSIDERATION OF CERTAIN AGRICULTURAL*
 5 *LAND TRANSACTIONS.*—Section 721(b)(1) of the Defense
 6 *Production Act of 1950 (50 U.S.C. 4565(b)(1)) is amended*
 7 *by adding at the end the following:*

8 “(I) *CONSIDERATION OF CERTAIN AGRICUL-*
 9 *TURAL LAND TRANSACTIONS.*—

10 “(i) *IN GENERAL.*—After receiving no-
 11 tification from the Secretary of Agriculture
 12 of a reportable agricultural land trans-
 13 action, the Committee shall determine—

14 “(I) *whether the transaction is a*
 15 *covered transaction; and*

16 “(II) *if the Committee determines*
 17 *that the transaction is a covered trans-*
 18 *action, whether the Committee should*
 19 *initiate a review pursuant to subpara-*
 20 *graph (D), or take another action au-*
 21 *thorized under this section, with re-*
 22 *spect to the reportable agricultural*
 23 *land transaction.*

24 “(ii) *REPORTABLE AGRICULTURAL*
 25 *LAND TRANSACTION.*—In this subparagraph,

1 the term ‘reportable agricultural land trans-
2 action’ means a transaction—

3 “(I) that the Secretary of Agri-
4 culture has reason to believe is a cov-
5 ered transaction, based on information
6 from or in cooperation with the intel-
7 ligence community;

8 “(II) that involves the acquisition
9 of an interest in agricultural land by
10 a foreign person of the People’s Repub-
11 lic of China, the Democratic People’s
12 Republic of Korea, the Russian Federa-
13 tion, or the Islamic Republic of Iran;
14 and

15 “(III) with respect to which a
16 person is required to submit a report
17 to the Secretary of Agriculture under
18 section 2(a) of the Agricultural Foreign
19 Investment Disclosure Act of 1978.

20 “(iii) SUNSET.—The requirements
21 under this subparagraph shall terminate,
22 with respect to a foreign person of the re-
23 spective foreign country, on the date that
24 the People’s Republic of China, the Demo-
25 cratic People’s Republic of Korea, the Rus-

sian Federation, or the Islamic Republic of Iran, as the case may be, is removed from the list of foreign adversaries in section 791.4 of title 15, Code of Federal Regulations.”.

Subtitle D—Other Miscellaneous Provisions

SEC. 12401. COMMISSION ON FARM TRANSITIONS—NEEDS FOR 2050.

Section 12609 of the Agriculture Improvement Act of 2018 (Public Law 115–334; 132 Stat. 5009) is amended—

(1) in subsection (a), by striking “There is established” and inserting “Not later than 60 days after the date of the enactment of the Farm, Food, and National Security Act of 2026, the Secretary shall establish”;

(2) in subsection (b)—

(A) in the subsection heading, by inserting “AND RECOMMENDATIONS” after “STUDY”;

(B) in the matter preceding paragraph (1), by inserting “, and make recommendations relating to,” after “study on”;

(C) in paragraph (1)—

(i) in subparagraph (B), by inserting “and timely” after “affordable”; and

1 (ii) by striking subparagraph (D) and
2 inserting the following:

3 “(D) apprenticeships, mentoring programs,
4 business training, and technical assistance pro-
5 grams;”;

6 (D) in paragraph (3)—

7 (i) in the matter preceding subpara-
8 graph (A), by striking “existing and new
9 Federal tax policies” and inserting “exist-
10 ing and new State and Federal policies, in-
11 cluding tax policies”; and

12 (ii) in subparagraph (A), by inserting
13 “or impede” after “facilitate”;

14 (E) in paragraph (4), by striking “and” at
15 the end;

16 (F) in paragraph (5), by striking the period
17 at the end and inserting a semicolon; and

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

19 “(6) heirs’ property and succession of agricul-
20 tural land;

21 “(7) any unique barriers faced by historically
22 underserved and women farmers and ranchers in the
23 ability to transfer, inherit, or purchase agricultural
24 assets, including land; and

1 “(8) *leasing and ownership trends, including*
 2 *leasing and ownership trends by foreign persons or*
 3 *entities.*”;

4 (3) *in subsection (f), by striking “1 year after*
 5 *the date of enactment of this Act” and inserting “2*
 6 *years after the date of enactment of the Farm, Food,*
 7 *and National Security Act of 2026”;*

8 (4) *by amending subsection (l) to read as follows:*

9 “(l) *FEDERAL ADVISORY COMMITTEES.—Sections*
 10 *1008 and 1013 of title 5, United States Code, shall not*
 11 *apply to the Commission or any proceeding of the Commis-*
 12 *sion.*”; *and*

13 (5) *in subsection (m), by striking “2023” and*
 14 *inserting “2031”.*

15 **SEC. 12402. REPORT ON PERSONNEL.**

16 *Section 12506 of the Agriculture Improvement Act of*
 17 *2018 (Public Law 115–334) is amended by striking “2023”*
 18 *and inserting “2031”.*

19 **SEC. 12403. IMPROVEMENTS TO UNITED STATES DROUGHT**
 20 **MONITOR.**

21 *Section 12512(d)(2) of the Agriculture Improvement*
 22 *Act of 2018 (7 U.S.C. 5856(d)(2)) is amended by striking*
 23 *“2023” and inserting “2031”.*

1 **SEC. 12404. REPORTS ON LAND ACCESS AND FARMLAND**
2 **OWNERSHIP DATA COLLECTION.**

3 *Section 12607 of the Agriculture Improvement Act of*
4 *2018 (7 U.S.C. 2204i) is amended—*

5 *(1) in subsection (a)—*

6 *(A) in the matter preceding paragraph (1),*
7 *by inserting “and not less frequently than once*
8 *every 2 years thereafter,” before “the Secretary of*
9 *Agriculture”;*

10 *(B) in paragraph (2), by striking “and” at*
11 *the end;*

12 *(C) in paragraph (3), by striking the period*
13 *at the end and inserting “; and”; and*

14 *(D) by adding at the end the following:*

15 *“(4) a catalog of existing Federal, State, or pri-*
16 *vate programs that facilitate access to land, capital,*
17 *and markets, including programs providing assist-*
18 *ance relating to—*

19 *“(A) acquiring of real property (including*
20 *air rights, water rights, and other interests there-*
21 *in), including closing costs;*

22 *“(B) subsidizing interest rates and mort-*
23 *gage principal amounts for intended bene-*
24 *ficiaries;*

25 *“(C) providing down payment assistance to*
26 *decrease farm mortgages;*

1 “(D) securing clear title on heirs’ property
2 farmland;

3 “(E) conducting surveys and assessments of
4 agricultural land;

5 “(F) improving or remediating land, water,
6 and soil;

7 “(G) constructing or repairing infrastruc-
8 ture;

9 “(H) supporting land use planning;

10 “(I) acquiring legal or financial planning
11 assistance;

12 “(J) carrying out Tribal consultation;

13 “(K) supporting acquisition of a Depart-
14 ment of Agriculture farm number; and

15 “(L) any other activities as determined by
16 the Secretary.”; and

17 (2) in subsection (c), by striking “2023” and in-
18 serting “2031”.

19 **SEC. 12405. INCREASING TRANSPARENCY REGARDING DE-**
20 **TENTION OF IMPORTED PLANTS.**

21 (a) *IN GENERAL.*—Not later than 180 days after the
22 date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary, in coordina-
23 tion with the Director of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
24 and the Commissioner of U.S. Customs and Border Protec-
25 tion, shall issue guidance to clarify the process by which

1 *an importer of plants that have been denied entry into the*
 2 *United States and detained under the Lacey Act Amend-*
 3 *ments of 1981 (16 U.S.C. 3371 et seq.) may obtain addi-*
 4 *tional information on such denial and detention.*

5 (b) *INFORMATION PROVIDED.*—*The process referred to*
 6 *in subsection (a) shall ensure that the Secretary shall pro-*
 7 *vide to an importer described in such subsection, upon the*
 8 *detention of any plants of such importer, the following in-*
 9 *formation:*

10 (1) *The specific reasons for which the detention*
 11 *of the plants was initiated, including the date on*
 12 *which the plants were presented to the Secretary for*
 13 *examination.*

14 (2) *The anticipated length of the detention of*
 15 *such plants.*

16 (3) *The nature of the tests or inquiries to be con-*
 17 *ducted on the plants, which the importer shall be able*
 18 *to replicate.*

19 (4) *The nature of any information that, if sup-*
 20 *plied to the Secretary, would accelerate the disposi-*
 21 *tion of the detention.*

22 **SEC. 12406. ENHANCEMENT OF PET PROTECTIONS.**

23 (a) *REPORT.*—*Not later than 2 years after the date*
 24 *of the enactment of this Act (or later, if the Secretary deter-*
 25 *mines appropriate after taking into consideration any on-*

1 *going programmatic review of the Animal Care program*
2 *of the Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service), the*
3 *Secretary shall submit to the Committee on Agriculture and*
4 *the Committee on Appropriations of the House of Rep-*
5 *resentatives and the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition,*
6 *and Forestry and the Committee on Appropriations of the*
7 *Senate a report with respect to companion animals that—*

8 *(1) evaluates the enforcement of standards under,*
9 *and requirements of, the Animal Welfare Act (7*
10 *U.S.C. 2131 et seq.) by the Secretary for both effec-*
11 *tiveness and efficiency;*

12 *(2) evaluates the efforts by the Secretary to edu-*
13 *cate and advise dealers of all standards under, and*
14 *requirements of, such Act;*

15 *(3) evaluates the capacity of the Secretary to en-*
16 *force the standards established by such Act;*

17 *(4) makes recommendations for the improvement*
18 *of—*

19 *(A) all standards (including animal welfare*
20 *standards) under, and requirements of, such Act;*
21 *and*

22 *(B) education efforts of the Secretary with*
23 *respect to such standards and requirements; and*

1 (5) *considers the impact and associated costs of*
 2 *any recommended improvements or amendments to*
 3 *the standards under, and requirements of, such Act.*

4 ***(b) VETERINARY CARE.—***

5 (1) ***IN GENERAL.—****Section 13(a)(2)(A) of the*
 6 *Animal Welfare Act (7 U.S.C. 2143(a)(2)(A)) is*
 7 *amended by inserting “(which shall include visual*
 8 *dental examinations, whenever practicable)” after*
 9 *“adequate veterinary care”.*

10 (2) ***TECHNICAL AMENDMENT.—****Section 13 of the*
 11 *Animal Welfare Act (7 U.S.C. 2143) is amended by*
 12 *redesignating the second subsection (f) (prohibiting*
 13 *delivery of certain animals without certificate of in-*
 14 *spection), subsection (g), and subsection (h) as sub-*
 15 *sections (g) through (i), respectively.*

16 ***SEC. 12407. PROTECTING ANIMALS WITH SHELTER.***

17 *Section 12502(b)(8) of the Agriculture Improvement*
 18 *Act of 2018 (Public Law 115–334) is amended by striking*
 19 *“2023” and inserting “2031”.*

1 **SEC. 12408. REPORT ON AVAILABLE ASSISTANCE TO AGRI-**
 2 **CULTURAL PRODUCERS IN THE STATE OF**
 3 **TEXAS THAT HAVE SUFFERED ECONOMIC**
 4 **LOSSES DUE TO THE FAILURE OF MEXICO TO**
 5 **DELIVER WATER.**

6 *Not later than 180 days after the date of the enactment*
 7 *of this Act, the Secretary shall submit to the Committee on*
 8 *Agriculture of the House of Representatives and the Com-*
 9 *mittee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry of the Senate*
 10 *a report that lists all existing authorities of the Secretary*
 11 *and programs within the Department that are or could be*
 12 *made available to provide assistance to agricultural pro-*
 13 *ducers in the State of Texas that have suffered economic*
 14 *losses due to the failure of Mexico to deliver water to the*
 15 *United States in accordance with the Treaty Relating to*
 16 *the Utilization of Waters of the Colorado and Tijuana Riv-*
 17 *ers and of the Rio Grande signed at Washington on Feb-*
 18 *ruary 3, 1944, and the Supplementary Protocol signed at*
 19 *Washington November 14, 1944.*

20 **SEC. 12409. QUALIFIED RENEWABLE BIOMASS.**

21 *(a) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:*

22 *(1) AGENCY ACTION.—The term “agency action”*
 23 *has the meaning given the term in section 551 of title*
 24 *5, United States Code.*

25 *(2) QUALIFIED RENEWABLE BIOMASS.—*

1 (A) *IN GENERAL.*—*The term “qualified re-*
2 *newable biomass” means—*

3 (i) *forest products manufacturing bio-*
4 *energy feedstocks, including from—*

5 (I) *forest products manufacturing*
6 *residuals, including spent pulping liq-*
7 *uors, pulping by-products, bark, woody*
8 *manufacturing residuals, paper recy-*
9 *cling residuals, wastewater and process*
10 *water treatment plant residuals, and*
11 *anaerobic digester biogas;*

12 (II) *harvest residues, including*
13 *portions of harvested trees that are too*
14 *small or of too poor quality to be uti-*
15 *lized for wood products or paper prod-*
16 *ucts;*

17 (III) *downed wood from extreme*
18 *weather events and natural disasters,*
19 *nonhazardous landscape or right-of-*
20 *way trimmings and municipal trim-*
21 *mings, and plant material removed for*
22 *purposes of invasive or noxious plant*
23 *species control;*

24 (IV) *biowaste, including landfill*
25 *gas; and*

1 (V) *non-chemically treated used*
2 *wood products, such as crates or pal-*
3 *lets; and*

4 (ii) *forest biomass derived from resi-*
5 *dues created as a by-product of timber har-*
6 *vesting, including treetops, tree limbs, and*
7 *bark, but excluding stumps, roots, and*
8 *round wood suitable for industrial purposes.*

9 (B) *EXCLUSION.*—*Such term does not in-*
10 *clude paper of a type that is commonly recycled.*

11 (b) *IN GENERAL.*—

12 (1) *CONSIDERATION AS RENEWABLE ENERGY*
13 *SOURCE.*—*With respect to any agency action of the*
14 *Department related to qualified renewable biomass,*
15 *the Secretary shall consider qualified renewable bio-*
16 *mass to be a renewable energy source and assign it*
17 *(and a facility, to the extent it uses qualified renew-*
18 *able biomass as fuel) a greenhouse gas emission rate,*
19 *and a carbon intensity, of not greater than zero, if the*
20 *use of such qualified renewable biomass as fuel does*
21 *not cause the conversion of forests to non-forest use.*

22 (2) *PETITIONS.*—*Not later than 1 year after re-*
23 *ceiving a petition requesting a change to a rule, pol-*
24 *icy, or program of the Department in order to comply*
25 *with the requirements of paragraph (1), the Secretary*

1 *shall take such action as may be necessary to comply*
 2 *with such requirements with respect to such rule, pol-*
 3 *icy, or program.*

4 *(c) GUIDANCE.—*

5 *(1) ESTABLISHMENT.—Not later than 180 days*
 6 *after the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary*
 7 *shall establish guidance for purposes of carrying out*
 8 *subsection (b).*

9 *(2) MODIFICATION.—The Secretary may periodi-*
 10 *cally update the guidance established under para-*
 11 *graph (1) as the Secretary may determine necessary.*

12 *(3) CONSULTATION.—In carrying out this sub-*
 13 *section, the Secretary shall consult with—*

14 *(A) the Administrator of the Environmental*
 15 *Protection Agency;*

16 *(B) the Secretary of Energy; and*

17 *(C) any other relevant entities, as deter-*
 18 *mined by the Secretary.*

19 **SEC. 12410. WHOLE MILK UNDER THE SCHOOL BREAKFAST**
 20 **PROGRAM.**

21 *Section 9(a)(2) of the Richard B. Russell National*
 22 *School Lunch Act (42 U.S.C. 1758(a)(2)) is amended—*

23 *(1) in subparagraph (A), in the matter preceding*
 24 *clause (i), by striking “Act—” and inserting “Act*
 25 *and breakfasts served by schools participating in the*

1 *school breakfast program under section 4 of the Child*
 2 *Nutrition Act of 1966 (42 U.S.C. 1773)—”;*

3 *(2) in subparagraph (C), by inserting “or the*
 4 *school breakfast program under section 4 of the Child*
 5 *Nutrition Act of 1966 (42 U.S.C. 1773)” after “Act”;*
 6 *and*

7 *(3) in subparagraph (D), by striking “section*
 8 *210.10” and inserting “sections 210.10 and 220.8”.*

9 **SEC. 12411. SPOTTED LANTERNFLY AWARENESS CAMPAIGN.**

10 *(a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary of Agriculture shall*
 11 *carry out a national campaign to increase the awareness*
 12 *and knowledge of the public with respect to spotted*
 13 *lanternflies.*

14 *(b) REQUIRED ACTIVITIES.—In carrying out the na-*
 15 *tional campaign under this section, the Secretary shall—*

16 *(1) place public service announcements on tele-*
 17 *vision, radio, and billboards in areas of high inci-*
 18 *dence of spotted lanternflies that—*

19 *(A) inform individuals of the fact that spot-*
 20 *ted lanternflies are an invasive pest that threat-*
 21 *en local agriculture; and*

22 *(B) encourage individuals to kill any spot-*
 23 *ted lanternflies that such individuals encounter;*
 24 *and*

1 (2) *use such other awareness tools as the Sec-*
2 *retary determines appropriate to provide the informa-*
3 *tion described in paragraph (1).*

4 **SEC. 12412. RIO GRANDE VALLEY AGRICULTURAL WATER**
5 **INTERAGENCY WORKING GROUP.**

6 (a) *ESTABLISHMENT.*—*The Secretary, in coordination*
7 *with the heads of the agencies described in subsection (c),*
8 *shall establish an interagency working group to coordinate*
9 *a whole-of-government strategy to protect the economic in-*
10 *terests of United States agricultural producers impacted by*
11 *water deliveries under the 1944 Water Treaty.*

12 (b) *DUTIES.*—*The Working Group shall—*

13 (1) *analyze the economic impact of water deliv-*
14 *ery deficits under the 1944 Water Treaty on the*
15 *United States agricultural sector in the area affected*
16 *by such water delivery deficits, including specific as-*
17 *sessments of damages to perennial crops;*

18 (2) *develop and implement a multi-agency strat-*
19 *egy to—*

20 (A) *secure annual and predictable water de-*
21 *liveries in accordance with the 1944 Water Trea-*
22 *ty through the coordinated use of Federal diplo-*
23 *matic and operational authorities;*

1 (B) enhance the resilience of the domestic
2 agricultural water supply through improved con-
3 servation and infrastructure;

4 (C) assess trade-related mechanisms avail-
5 able to address agricultural supply chain disrup-
6 tions caused by such water delivery deficits;

7 (D) ensure that water resources and infra-
8 structure in South Texas are efficiently managed
9 and operational for the beneficial use of agricul-
10 tural producers and municipal users; and

11 (E) support Federal officials in securing
12 annual and predictable water deliveries in ac-
13 cordance with the 1944 Water Treaty;

14 (3) facilitate coordination among Federal agen-
15 cies and with the State of Texas to align diplomatic,
16 trade, and infrastructure efforts with the critical
17 needs of the agricultural community in South Texas;
18 and

19 (4) provide a forum for public engagement and
20 transparency regarding—

21 (A) the status of water deliveries from Mex-
22 ico under the 1944 Water Treaty; and

23 (B) the findings of the Working Group and
24 the strategy developed under paragraph (2).

1 (c) *COMPOSITION.*—*The Working Group shall be com-*
2 *posed of—*

3 (1) *the Secretary of Agriculture (who shall serve*
4 *as Chair);*

5 (2) *the Secretary of State;*

6 (3) *the Secretary of the Interior;*

7 (4) *the Commissioner of the United States Sec-*
8 *tion of the International Boundary and Water Com-*
9 *mission, United States and Mexico;*

10 (5) *the Administrator of the Environmental Pro-*
11 *tection Agency;*

12 (6) *the United States Trade Representative;*

13 (7) *the Chief of Engineers and Commanding*
14 *General of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers; and*

15 (8) *the Assistant to the President of the United*
16 *States for National Security Affairs.*

17 (d) *MEETINGS.*—

18 (1) *FREQUENCY.*—*The Working Group shall*
19 *meet not less frequently than annually.*

20 (2) *PUBLIC ACCESS.*—*The Working Group*
21 *shall—*

22 (A) *hold the meetings described in para-*
23 *graph (1) in a manner open to the public; and*

24 (B) *provide an opportunity for interested*
25 *stakeholders, including agricultural producers*

1 *and irrigation districts, to provide oral and*
 2 *written comments to the Working Group.*

3 *(e) REPORT.—Not later than 1 year after the date of*
 4 *the enactment of this Act, and annually thereafter, the*
 5 *Working Group shall submit to the Committees on Agri-*
 6 *culture, Appropriations, Foreign Affairs, and Ways and*
 7 *Means of the House of Representatives, and the Committees*
 8 *on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry, Appropriations,*
 9 *Energy and Natural Resources, Foreign Relations, and Fi-*
 10 *nance of the Senate, a report describing—*

11 *(1) the findings resulting from the analysis*
 12 *under subsection (b)(1);*

13 *(2) the status of diplomatic and operational ef-*
 14 *forts to secure compliance with the annual water de-*
 15 *livery requirements of the 1944 Water Treaty;*

16 *(3) an assessment of potential trade or adminis-*
 17 *trative actions to secure long term water reliability*
 18 *under treaties with Mexico; and*

19 *(4) recommendations for projects, resources, and*
 20 *legislative authorities needed to fully implement the*
 21 *strategy developed under subsection (b)(2).*

22 *(f) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:*

23 *(1) 1944 WATER TREATY.—The term “1944*
 24 *Water Treaty” means the Treaty Relating to the Uti-*
 25 *lization of Waters of the Colorado and Tijuana Rivers*

1 *and of the Rio Grande signed at Washington on Feb-*
 2 *ruary 3, 1944, and the Supplementary Protocol*
 3 *signed at Washington November 14, 1944.*

4 (2) *WORKING GROUP.*—*The term “Working*
 5 *Group” means the interagency working group estab-*
 6 *lished under subsection (a).*

7 **SEC. 12413. COST-SHARE GRANTS FOR ROLLOVER PROTEC-**
 8 **TION STRUCTURES.**

9 (a) *DEFINITIONS.*—*In this section:*

10 (1) *APPROVED ROLLOVER PROTECTION STRUC-*
 11 *TURE.*—*The term “approved rollover protection struc-*
 12 *ture” means a rollover protection structure that the*
 13 *Program Administrator determines—*

14 (A) *may be installed on eligible equipment;*
 15 (B) *includes a seatbelt; and*
 16 (C) *meets or exceeds the rollover protection*
 17 *structure standards.*

18 (2) *ELIGIBLE ENTITY.*—*The term “eligible enti-*
 19 *ty” means, as determined by the Secretary—*

20 (A) *an agricultural producer; and*
 21 (B) *an eligible school.*

22 (3) *ELIGIBLE EQUIPMENT.*—*The term “eligible*
 23 *equipment” means an agricultural tractor that the*
 24 *Program Administrator determines to be eligible for*

1 *installation of an approved rollover protection struc-*
2 *ture.*

3 (4) *ELIGIBLE SCHOOL.*—*The term “eligible*
4 *school” means—*

5 (A) *a vocational school that provides agri-*
6 *cultural instruction or training;*

7 (B) *an institution of higher education (as*
8 *defined in section 101 of the Higher Education*
9 *Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 1001)) that provides di-*
10 *rect, practical agricultural instruction or train-*
11 *ing; and*

12 (C) *a public or private secondary school (as*
13 *defined in section 8101 of the Elementary and*
14 *Secondary Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C.*
15 *8107)) the curriculum of which includes an agri-*
16 *cultural instruction or training component.*

17 (5) *PROGRAM ADMINISTRATOR.*—*The term “Pro-*
18 *gram Administrator” means the organization selected*
19 *by the Secretary under subsection (c)(1)(B).*

20 (6) *ROLLOVER PROTECTION STRUCTURE STAND-*
21 *ARDS.*—*The term “rollover protection structure stand-*
22 *ards” includes the following:*

23 (A) *The SAE J2194 and SAE J1194 stand-*
24 *ards issued by the Society of Automotive Engi-*
25 *neers (and successor standards).*

1 (B) *Any other relevant national or inter-*
2 *national rollover protection structure manufac-*
3 *turing or testing standards.*

4 (b) *COST-SHARE GRANTS.—*

5 (1) *IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall award*
6 *grants to eligible entities for the cost of purchasing,*
7 *transporting, and installing on eligible equipment ap-*
8 *proved rollover protection structures.*

9 (2) *LIMITATIONS.—*

10 (A) *IN GENERAL.—Except as provided in*
11 *subparagraph (B), the amount of a grant under*
12 *this section shall equal 70 percent of the costs of*
13 *the eligible entity to purchase, transport, and in-*
14 *stall the approved rollover protection structure.*

15 (B) *EXCEPTION.—If, for an eligible entity*
16 *that is the recipient of a grant under this sec-*
17 *tion, the costs to purchase, transport, and install*
18 *an approved rollover structure (as documented*
19 *by the eligible entity) exceed \$500, the amount of*
20 *the grant shall be increased to cover an increased*
21 *percentage (as determined by the Secretary) of*
22 *such costs.*

23 (c) *ADMINISTRATION.—*

24 (1) *PROGRAM ADMINISTRATOR.—The Secretary*
25 *shall—*

1 (A) seek competitive bids from nongovern-
2 mental organizations seeking to serve as the Pro-
3 gram 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 with
8 that organization to carry out the activities de-
9 scribed 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 op-
23 portunities made available by this Act, and

24 (ii) to administer the application proc-
25 ess under subsection (d).

1 (d) *APPLICATIONS.*—

2 (1) *IN GENERAL.*—*To apply for a grant under*
 3 *this section, an eligible entity shall submit to the Pro-*
 4 *gram Administrator an application, including docu-*
 5 *mentation of the cost described in subsection*
 6 *(b)(2)(A).*

7 (2) *APPROVAL OR DENIAL.*—*On receipt of an ap-*
 8 *plication under paragraph (1), the Program Admin-*
 9 *istrator shall—*

10 (A) *determine—*

11 (i) *whether the applicant is eligible for*
 12 *a grant under this section; and*

13 (ii) *the amount of a grant under this*
 14 *section for which the applicant is eligible;*
 15 *and*

16 (B) *submit to the Secretary a notification of*
 17 *the determinations under subparagraph (A).*

18 (e) *DISBURSEMENT.*—*On receipt of a notification*
 19 *under subsection (d)(2)(B), if an applicant is eligible for*
 20 *a grant under this section, the Secretary shall disburse to*
 21 *the eligible entity the amount of the grant described in sub-*
 22 *section (d)(2)(A)(ii).*

23 (f) *FUNDING.*—

24 (1) *AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.*—

25 *There is authorized to be appropriated to carry out*

1 *this section \$725,000 for each of fiscal years 2027*
2 *through 2031.*

3 (2) *ALLOCATION.—Of the amounts made avail-*
4 *able to carry out this section for each fiscal year—*

5 (A) *the Secretary shall use 70 percent of*
6 *such amounts for grants under this section; and*

7 (B) *the Secretary shall transfer to the Pro-*
8 *gram Administrator—*

9 (i) *15 percent of such amounts for the*
10 *promotion of, and upgrades to the website*
11 *referred to in subsection (c)(2)(C); and*

12 (ii) *15 percent of such amounts for the*
13 *telephone hotline referred to in such sub-*
14 *section.*

Union Calendar No. 537

119TH CONGRESS
2^D Session

H. R. 7567

[Report No. 119-620]

A BILL

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.

APRIL 21, 2026

Reported with an amendment, committed to the Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union, and ordered to be printed