

119TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

S. 2872

To amend the Agricultural Credit Act of 1978 to authorize assistance for emergency measures in response to pine beetle outbreaks, and for other purposes.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

SEPTEMBER 18 (legislative day, SEPTEMBER 16), 2025

Mrs. HYDE-SMITH (for herself, Mr. OSSOFF, Mrs. BRITT, Mr. KENNEDY, Mr. TUBERVILLE, and Ms. LUMMIS) introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry

A BILL

To amend the Agricultural Credit Act of 1978 to authorize assistance for emergency measures in response to pine beetle outbreaks, and for other purposes.

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

3 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

4 This Act may be cited as the “Emergency Pine Beetle
5 Response Act of 2025”.

1 **SEC. 2. EMERGENCY MEASURES IN RESPONSE TO PINE**
 2 **BEETLE OUTBREAKS.**

3 Section 407 of the Agricultural Credit Act of 1978
 4 (16 U.S.C. 2206) is amended—

5 (1) by redesignating subsection (e) as sub-
 6 section (f); and

7 (2) by inserting after subsection (d) the fol-
 8 lowing:

9 “(e) **EMERGENCY MEASURES IN RESPONSE TO PINE**
 10 **BEETLE OUTBREAKS.—**

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

12 “(A) **ELIGIBLE ITEMIZED COSTS.—**The
 13 term ‘eligible itemized costs’ means any ex-
 14 penses incurred by a timber service business in
 15 carrying out a contractual service associated
 16 with an outbreak response measure, including—

17 “(i) labor or hours for truck drivers or
 18 equipment operators;

19 “(ii) mileage or hours for use of
 20 equipment, such as transports, bulldozers,
 21 and skidders; and

22 “(iii) materials, such as gravel, grass
 23 seed, culverts, mats, and insecticides.

24 “(B) **OUTBREAK RESPONSE MEASURE.—**

25 The term ‘outbreak response measure’ means
 26 any measure necessary to address a pine beetle

1 outbreak on nonindustrial private forest land,
 2 including—

3 “(i) timber harvesting or thinning;

4 “(ii) prescribed burning;

5 “(iii) debris removal;

6 “(iv) insecticide treatment;

7 “(v) establishment of buffer areas;

8 and

9 “(vi) such other measures as the Sec-
 10 retary determines to be appropriate.

11 “(C) TIMBER SERVICE BUSINESS.—The
 12 term ‘timber service business’ means a business
 13 that derives gross revenue from—

14 “(i) cutting or transporting timber
 15 from forest land; or

16 “(ii) inspecting, planting, pruning, or
 17 removing trees in a residential or commer-
 18 cial area.

19 “(2) ASSISTANCE FOR OWNERS OF NONINDUS-
 20 TRIAL PRIVATE FOREST LAND.—

21 “(A) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall
 22 make payments to an owner of nonindustrial
 23 private forest land that carries out an outbreak
 24 response measure to restore forest health and

1 forest-related resources after the land is dam-
 2 aged by a pine beetle outbreak.

3 “(B) COST-SHARE REQUIREMENT.—Pay-
 4 ments made under subparagraph (A) shall not
 5 exceed 85 percent of the total cost of the out-
 6 break response measures carried out by an
 7 owner of nonindustrial private forest land.

8 “(3) ASSISTANCE FOR TIMBER SERVICE BUSI-
 9 NESSES.—

10 “(A) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall
 11 make payments to a timber service business to
 12 cover the eligible itemized costs of the timber
 13 service business incurred in restoring forest
 14 health and forest-related resources on nonindus-
 15 trial private forest land after the land is dam-
 16 aged by a pine beetle outbreak.

17 “(B) COST-SHARE REQUIREMENT.—Pay-
 18 ments made under subparagraph (A) shall not
 19 exceed 50 percent of the total eligible itemized
 20 costs incurred by a timber service business.

21 “(4) ELIGIBILITY AND PROVISION OF PAY-
 22 MENTS.—

23 “(A) ELIGIBILITY.—To be eligible for a
 24 payment under paragraph (2) or (3), an owner
 25 of nonindustrial private forest land or a timber

1 service business, respectively, shall submit to
2 the applicable local office of the Farm Service
3 Agency an application demonstrating that—

4 “(i) to the satisfaction of the local of-
5 fice, the nonindustrial private forest land
6 on which the outbreak response measures
7 are carried out had tree cover immediately
8 before the pine beetle outbreak;

9 “(ii) the nonindustrial private forest
10 land is located in a county that the Sec-
11 retary has designated as a primary natural
12 disaster area due to drought, wildfire, hur-
13 ricane or excessive winds, an ice storm or
14 blizzard, a flood, or any other resource-im-
15 pacting event during the preceding 12-
16 month period; and

17 “(iii) forest pest surveys conducted by
18 the Forest Service or a State forestry
19 agency confirm pine beetle infestations on
20 or within a reasonable distance from the
21 nonindustrial private forest land on which
22 the outbreak response measures are car-
23 ried out.

24 “(B) IMPLEMENTATION BY LOCAL OF-
25 FICES.—The local offices of the Farm Service

1 Agency, in consultation with the applicable
 2 county committees of the Farm Service Agency,
 3 shall—

4 “(i) determine whether applicants for
 5 payments under paragraphs (2) and (3)
 6 are eligible for the payments; and

7 “(ii) provide payments to eligible ap-
 8 plicants.

9 “(5) EMERGENCY OUTBREAK PUBLIC ASSIST-
 10 ANCE GRANTS.—The Secretary may provide supple-
 11 mental grants to State, Tribal, and local govern-
 12 ments to aid in the response to, and the repair of
 13 damage caused by, pine beetle outbreaks.”.

14 **SEC. 3. EMERGENCY LOANS.**

15 (a) IN GENERAL.—Section 321 of the Consolidated
 16 Farm and Rural Development Act (7 U.S.C. 1961) is
 17 amended—

18 (1) by striking subsection (d);

19 (2) in subsection (c)—

20 (A) by inserting “(7 U.S.C. 2266(a))” be-
 21 fore the period at the end; and

22 (B) by striking “(c) The Secretary” and
 23 inserting the following:

24 “(d) FAMILY FARM SYSTEM.—The Secretary”;

1 (3) by redesignating subsection (b) as sub-
2 section (c);

3 (4) by striking the section designation and all
4 that follows through “(a) The Secretary” in sub-
5 section (a) and inserting the following:

6 **“SEC. 321. DEFINITIONS; ELIGIBILITY FOR LOANS.**

7 “(a) DEFINITIONS.—In this subtitle:

8 “(1) ABLE TO OBTAIN SUFFICIENT CREDIT
9 ELSEWHERE.—The term ‘able to obtain sufficient
10 credit elsewhere’, with respect to an applicant,
11 means that the applicant is able to obtain sufficient
12 credit elsewhere to finance the actual needs of the
13 applicant at a reasonable rate and terms, taking into
14 consideration prevailing private and cooperative
15 rates and terms in the community in or near which
16 the applicant resides for loans for similar purposes
17 and periods of time.

18 “(2) AQUACULTURE.—The term ‘aquaculture’
19 means the husbandry of aquatic organisms under a
20 controlled or selected environment.

21 “(b) ELIGIBLE PERSONS.—The Secretary”; and

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

23 “(e) LOANS TO OWNERS OF NONINDUSTRIAL PRI-
24 VATE FOREST LAND.—

25 “(1) DEFINITIONS.—In this subsection:

1 “(A) NONINDUSTRIAL PRIVATE FOREST
2 LAND.—The term ‘nonindustrial private forest
3 land’ has the meaning given the term in section
4 407(a) of the Agricultural Credit Act of 1978
5 (16 U.S.C. 2206(a)).

6 “(B) OUTBREAK RESPONSE MEASURE.—
7 The term ‘outbreak response measure’ has the
8 meaning given the term in subsection (e)(1) of
9 section 407 of the Agricultural Credit Act of
10 1978 (16 U.S.C. 2206).

11 “(2) LOANS.—Notwithstanding any other provi-
12 sion of this subtitle, the Secretary may make an
13 emergency loan to an owner of nonindustrial private
14 forest land to carry out an outbreak response meas-
15 ure.

16 “(3) AMOUNT.—The amount of an emergency
17 loan under this subsection shall be not less than 75
18 percent of the estimated total cost of the outbreak
19 response measures to be carried out to address a
20 pine beetle outbreak.

21 “(4) LOAN REPAYMENT OPTIONS.—In the case
22 of an owner of nonindustrial private forest land that
23 receives an emergency loan under this subsection
24 and subsequently receives a cost-share payment
25 under subsection (e)(2) of section 407 of the Agri-

1 cultural Credit Act of 1978 (16 U.S.C. 2206) with
 2 respect to the same pine beetle outbreak on the
 3 same nonindustrial private forest land, the owner
 4 may, at the option of the owner, apply the amount
 5 of the cost-share payment to the remaining principal
 6 on the emergency loan under this subsection.”.

7 (b) CONFORMING AMENDMENTS.—

8 (1) Section 531(a) of the Federal Crop Insur-
 9 ance Act (7 U.S.C. 1531(a)) is amended—

10 (A) in paragraph (16), by striking “section
 11 321(a) of the Consolidated Farm and Rural
 12 Development Act (7 U.S.C. 1961(a))” and in-
 13 serting “section 321(b) of the Consolidated
 14 Farm and Rural Development Act (7 U.S.C.
 15 1961(b))”; and

16 (B) in paragraph (18), by striking “section
 17 2501(e) of the Food, Agriculture, Conservation,
 18 and Trade Act of 1990 (7 U.S.C. 2279(e))”
 19 and inserting “section 2501(a) of the Food, Ag-
 20 riculture, Conservation, and Trade Act of 1990
 21 (7 U.S.C. 2279(a))”.

22 (2) Section 324(d)(1) of the Consolidated Farm
 23 and Rural Development Act (7 U.S.C. 1964(d)(1))
 24 is amended, in the first sentence, by striking “sec-

tion 321(b) of this title” and inserting “section 321(c)”.

(3) Section 901(a) of the Trade Act of 1974 (19 U.S.C. 2497(a)) is amended—

(A) in paragraph (5), by redesignating clauses (i) through (iii) as subparagraphs (A) through (C), respectively, and indenting the subparagraphs appropriately;

(B) in paragraph (16), by striking “section 321(a) of the Consolidated Farm and Rural Development Act (7 U.S.C. 1961(a))” and inserting “section 321(b) of the Consolidated Farm and Rural Development Act (7 U.S.C. 1961(b))”; and

(C) in paragraph (18), by striking “section 2501(e) of the Food, Agriculture, Conservation, and Trade Act of 1990 (7 U.S.C. 2279(e))” and inserting “section 2501(a) of the Food, Agriculture, Conservation, and Trade Act of 1990 (7 U.S.C. 2279(a))”.

(4) Section 582(d)(1) of the National Flood Insurance Reform Act of 1994 (42 U.S.C. 5154a(d)(1)) is amended by striking “section 321(a) of the Consolidated Farm and Rural Development Act (7 U.S.C. 1961(a))” and inserting “section

1 321(b) of the Consolidated Farm and Rural Devel-
2 opment Act (7 U.S.C. 1961(b))”.

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