

119TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

S. 3861

To amend the Consolidated Farm and Rural Development Act to reauthorize and expand the Rural Innovation Stronger Economy grant program.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

FEBRUARY 12, 2026

Mr. WELCH (for himself and Mrs. GILLIBRAND) introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry

A BILL

To amend the Consolidated Farm and Rural Development Act to reauthorize and expand the Rural Innovation Stronger Economy grant program.

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 “Rural Innovation
5 Stronger Economy (RISE) Reauthorization Act of 2026”.

1 **SEC. 2. RURAL INNOVATION STRONGER ECONOMY GRANT**
 2 **PROGRAM REAUTHORIZATION AND EXPAN-**
 3 **SION.**

4 (a) IN GENERAL.—Section 379I of the Consolidated
 5 Farm and Rural Development Act (7 U.S.C. 2008w) is
 6 amended—

7 (1) in subsection (a)—

8 (A) in paragraph (1)—

9 (i) in subparagraph (A)(i)—

10 (I) by striking “the industry clus-

11 ters that are objectively identified as”;

12 and

13 (II) by inserting “industries in

14 the area served by the partnership”

15 after “declining”; and

16 (ii) in subparagraph (B)(ii)—

17 (I) by striking subclause (I); and

18 (II) by redesignating subclauses

19 (II) through (IV) as subclauses (I)

20 through (III), respectively;

21 (B) by striking paragraph (2); and

22 (C) by redesignating paragraphs (3)

23 through (5) as paragraphs (2) through (4), re-

24 spectively;

25 (2) in subsection (b)—

26 (A) in paragraph (1)—

1 (i) by redesignating subparagraphs
 2 (A) and (B) as clauses (i) and (ii), respec-
 3 tively, and indenting the clauses appro-
 4 priately;

5 (ii) in clause (ii) (as so redesignated),
 6 by striking “opportunities, networks, and
 7 industry clusters” and inserting “opportu-
 8 nities and networks”;

9 (iii) by striking the paragraph des-
 10 ignation and heading and all that follows
 11 through “The Secretary” in the matter
 12 preceding clause (i) (as so redesignated)
 13 and inserting the following:

14 “(1) GRANT PROGRAM.—

15 “(A) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary”; and

16 (iv) by adding at the end the fol-
 17 lowing:

18 “(B) TARGETED COMMUNITY TYPES.—In
 19 carrying out the grant program under this
 20 paragraph, the Secretary shall—

21 “(i) target a broad base of rural com-
 22 munity types that will benefit from the
 23 program, with an emphasis on commu-
 24 nities with a population of fewer than
 25 20,000 inhabitants; and

“(ii) of the total amount of grants awarded for each fiscal year, award not less than 10 percent to carry out activities that will benefit rural communities with a population of fewer than 10,000 inhabitants.”; and

(B) in paragraph (3)—

(i) in subparagraph (A)—

(I) by redesignating clauses (i) and (ii) as subclauses (I) and (II), respectively, and indenting the subclauses appropriately; and

(II) in subclause (II) (as so redesignated), by striking “industry cluster”;

(ii) by striking subparagraph (C);

(iii) in subparagraph (D), by striking “industry clusters,”;

(iv) by redesignating subparagraphs (A), (B), (D), (E), and (F) as clauses (i), (ii), (iii), (iv), and (v), respectively, and indenting the clauses appropriately; and

(v) in the matter preceding clause (i) (as so redesignated), by striking “shall

1 consider—” and inserting the following:

2 “shall—

3 “(A) ensure that a diverse set of industry
4 bases is represented;

5 “(B) only select an eligible entity to receive
6 a grant with the concurrence of the applicable
7 State office of the rural development mission
8 area; and

9 “(C) take into consideration—”;

10 (3) in subsection (d)(1)—

11 (A) in subparagraph (A), by adding “and”
12 after the semicolon at the end; and

13 (B) in subparagraph (B)—

14 (i) in clause (i), by striking “industry
15 clusters,”;

16 (ii) in clause (vii), by striking “small
17 businesses in regional industry clusters, in-
18 cluding”;

19 (iii) in clause (ix), by striking “in the
20 identified industry clusters”; and

21 (iv) in clause (x), by striking “indus-
22 try cluster”;

23 (4) in subsection (e)(2)(B)—

24 (A) in clause (viii)—

1 (i) in subclause (I), by striking “in-
 2 dustry cluster” and inserting “activities
 3 funded with the grant”; and

4 (ii) in subclause (II), by striking “held
 5 by the industry cluster” and inserting “re-
 6 lating to those activities convened by rel-
 7 evant organizations”;

8 (B) in clauses (xi) and (xii), by striking
 9 “industry cluster” each place it appears and in-
 10 sserting “participating regional”; and

11 (C) in clause (xiii), by striking “the project
 12 activities” and inserting “activities funded with
 13 the grant”; and

14 (5) by striking subsection (f) and inserting the
 15 following:

16 “(f) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There
 17 are authorized to be appropriated to carry out this section
 18 \$50,000,000 for each of fiscal years 2027 through 2031.”.

19 (b) CONFORMING AMENDMENT.—Section
 20 6306(h)(3)(B)(ii) of the Agriculture Improvement Act of
 21 2018 (7 U.S.C. 2204b–3(h)(3)(B)(ii)) is amended, in the
 22 matter preceding subclause (I), by striking “section
 23 379I(a)(4) of the Consolidated Farm and Rural Develop-
 24 ment Act” and inserting “section 379I(a) of the Consoli-

1 dated Farm and Rural Development Act (7 U.S.C.
2 2008w(a))”.

