

119TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

S. 4453

To require the Secretary of Agriculture and the Secretary of the Interior to ensure that the information technology and cybersecurity and information security systems of the Department of Agriculture and the Department of the Interior are interoperable, and for other purposes.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

APRIL 30, 2026

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

A BILL

To require the Secretary of Agriculture and the Secretary of the Interior to ensure that the information technology and cybersecurity and information security systems of the Department of Agriculture and the Department of the Interior are interoperable, 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 “USDA–DOI Linking
5 Information Networks for Knowledge-sharing Act” or the
6 “LINK Act”.

1 **SEC. 2. INTEROPERABILITY OF INFORMATION TECH-**
2 **NOLOGY AND CYBERSECURITY AND INFOR-**
3 **MATION SECURITY SYSTEMS OF THE DE-**
4 **PARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE AND THE DE-**
5 **PARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR.**

6 (a) DEFINITION OF SECRETARY.—In this section, the
7 term “Secretary” means the Secretary of Agriculture.

8 (b) COORDINATION REQUIRED.—

9 (1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary and the Sec-
10 retary of the Interior shall coordinate with each
11 other to ensure that the information technology and
12 cybersecurity and information security systems of
13 the Department of Agriculture and the Department
14 of the Interior, respectively, are interoperable to
15 allow for the sharing between the Secretary and the
16 Secretary of the Interior of information with respect
17 to covered activities of the Department of Agri-
18 culture and the Department of the Interior, respec-
19 tively, described in paragraph (2), excluding any
20 Tribal proprietary data, sensitive cave location data,
21 or other sensitive or proprietary information, as des-
22 ignated by law (including regulations).

23 (2) DESCRIPTION OF COVERED ACTIVITIES.—
24 The covered activities referred to in paragraph (1)
25 are—

1 (A) Federal land management activities,
2 with an emphasis on activities that would lever-
3 age existing integration efforts and capabilities,
4 such as wildfire operations;

5 (B) disaster and emergency preparedness
6 and response activities; and

7 (C) procurement, aviation management,
8 personnel and workforce management, and
9 other business system activities relating to the
10 conduct of the activities described in subpara-
11 graphs (A) and (B).

12 (3) APPLICABLE LAW.—In carrying out para-
13 graph (1), the Secretary and the Secretary of the In-
14 terior shall comply with applicable Federal informa-
15 tion technology system laws, including subtitle III of
16 title 40 and chapter 35 of title 44, United States
17 Code.

18 (4) CONSULTATION; TRIBAL DATA SOV-
19 EREIGNTY.—In carrying out paragraph (1), the Sec-
20 retary and the Secretary of the Interior shall—

21 (A) consult with applicable Indian Tribes;
22 and

23 (B) provide appropriate protections for
24 Tribal data sovereignty.

1 (c) JOINT INTEROPERABILITY IMPLEMENTATION
2 PLAN.—

3 (1) DEVELOPMENT.—As soon as practicable
4 after the date of enactment of this Act and in con-
5 sultation with firefighters, the Secretary and the
6 Secretary of the Interior shall jointly develop an
7 interoperability implementation plan for the Depart-
8 ment of Agriculture and the Department of the Inte-
9 rior to enable the sharing between the Secretary and
10 the Secretary of the Interior of the information de-
11 scribed in subsection (b)(1).

12 (2) INCLUSION.—The interoperability imple-
13 mentation plan developed under paragraph (1) shall
14 include a plan for the phased retirement of siloed
15 legacy information technology and cybersecurity and
16 information security systems of the Department of
17 Agriculture and the Department of the Interior that
18 ensures that the retirement does not result in a deg-
19 radation of operational capacity or mission safety.

20 (3) IMPLEMENTATION.—Not later than 1 year
21 after the date of enactment of this Act, the Sec-
22 retary and the Secretary of the Interior shall imple-
23 ment the interoperability implementation plan devel-
24 oped under paragraph (1).

1 (d) UPDATES TO THE INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY
2 AND SECURITY SYSTEMS OF THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRI-
3 CULTURE.—As soon as practicable after the date of enact-
4 ment of this Act, the Secretary shall update the informa-
5 tion technology and cybersecurity and information security
6 systems of the Department of Agriculture as necessary to
7 enable the sharing between the Secretary and the Sec-
8 retary of the Interior of the information described in sub-
9 section (b)(1), in accordance with the interoperability im-
10 plementation plan developed under subsection (c).

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