

119TH CONGRESS  
2D SESSION

# S. 4860

To amend the Federal Agriculture Improvement and Reform Act of 1996 to establish a specialty crop emergency assistance framework, and for other purposes.

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## IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

JUNE 23, 2026

Mr. LUJÁN (for himself, Ms. SLOTKIN, Mr. WARNOCK, Mr. BENNET, Mr. BOOKER, Mr. FETTERMAN, Mr. WYDEN, and Mr. HICKENLOOPER) introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry

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## A BILL

To amend the Federal Agriculture Improvement and Reform Act of 1996 to establish a specialty crop emergency assistance framework, 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 “Cultivating Horti-  
5       cultural Innovation in Local Economies Act of 2026” or  
6       the “CHILE Act of 2026”.

1 **SEC. 2. SPECIALTY CROP EMERGENCY ASSISTANCE FRAME-**  
 2 **WORK.**

3 (a) IN GENERAL.—The Federal Agriculture Improve-  
 4 ment and Reform Act of 1996 is amended by inserting  
 5 after section 196 (7 U.S.C. 7333) the following:

6 **“SEC. 197. SPECIALTY CROP EMERGENCY ASSISTANCE**  
 7 **FRAMEWORK.**

8 “(a) DEFINITION OF SPECIALTY CROP.—In this sec-  
 9 tion, the term ‘specialty crop’ has the meaning given the  
 10 term in section 3 of the Specialty Crops Competitiveness  
 11 Act of 2004 (7 U.S.C. 1621 note; Public Law 108–465).

12 “(b) FRAMEWORK.—The Secretary shall establish a  
 13 framework to provide direct assistance to producers of  
 14 specialty crops the production of which is impacted by an  
 15 adverse event (including an economic crisis or market dis-  
 16 ruption), as determined by the Secretary, in accordance  
 17 with this section.

18 “(c) PAYMENT CALCULATION.—In determining a  
 19 payment calculation for purposes of direct assistance to  
 20 a producer of specialty crops under subsection (b), the  
 21 Secretary shall calculate payments based on the product  
 22 obtained by multiplying—

23 “(1) the producer’s sales of specialty crops for  
 24 a calendar year that precedes the year in which the  
 25 adverse event described in that subsection occurred  
 26 or the average of those sales over a set of consecu-

1       tive calendar years that precedes the year in which  
2       that adverse event occurred, as determined by the  
3       Secretary; by

4               “(2) a payment factor the Secretary deter-  
5       mines, subject to the availability of funds, to address  
6       losses of those specialty crops from that adverse  
7       event.

8       “(d) SPECIAL RULES.—Subject to subsection (e), in  
9       providing direct assistance pursuant to this section, the  
10      Secretary shall consider—

11              “(1) the higher value of specialty crops relative  
12      to other crops;

13              “(2) the greater input costs required to grow  
14      specialty crops relative to other crops; and

15              “(3) the diverse types of legal entities and busi-  
16      ness structures used by specialty crop producers.

17      “(e) LIMITATIONS.—

18              “(1) TOTAL AMOUNT.—

19                      “(A) IN GENERAL.—Except as provided in  
20                      subparagraph (B), the total amount of pay-  
21                      ments received, directly or indirectly, by a per-  
22                      son or legal entity (except a qualified pass  
23                      through entity) (as those terms are defined in  
24                      section 1001(a) of the Food Security Act of  
25                      1985 (7 U.S.C. 1308(a))) for any crop year

1 under this section may not exceed the amount  
 2 specified in subsection (b) of section 1001 of  
 3 the Food Security Act of 1985 (7 U.S.C. 1308),  
 4 as adjusted pursuant to subsection (i) of that  
 5 section.

6 “(B) EXCEPTION.—In the case of a person  
 7 or legal entity with an average gross income (as  
 8 calculated under subparagraph (B) of section  
 9 1001D(b)(4) of the Food Security Act of 1985  
 10 (7 U.S.C. 1308–3a(b)(4))) for which greater  
 11 than or equal to 75 percent of the average de-  
 12 rives from farming, ranching, or silviculture ac-  
 13 tivities (as defined in subparagraph (A) of that  
 14 section)—

15 “(i) subparagraph (A) of this para-  
 16 graph shall not apply; and

17 “(ii) the total maximum amount of  
 18 payments received, directly or indirectly,  
 19 by that person or legal entity for any crop  
 20 year under this section shall be set by the  
 21 Secretary, except that amount may not be  
 22 less than \$900,000.

23 “(2) NOTIFICATION OF INTERESTS; ELIGI-  
 24 BILITY; DENIALS.—Sections 1001A(a), 1001B, and  
 25 1001C of the Food Security Act of 1985 (7 U.S.C.

1       1308–1(a), 1308–2, 1308–3) shall apply to a pro-  
2       ducer of a specialty crop under this section in the  
3       same manner as those sections apply to a person or  
4       legal entity with respect to a covered commodity, ex-  
5       cept to the extent those sections relate to the appli-  
6       cation of subsections (b) through (d) of section  
7       1001A of that Act (7 U.S.C. 1308–1).

8       “(f) DEFAULT STRUCTURE.—The Secretary shall ad-  
9       minister any program to deliver direct assistance to pro-  
10      ducers of specialty crops described in subsection (b), in-  
11      cluding any direct assistance administered under the au-  
12      thority of section 5 of the Commodity Credit Corporation  
13      Charter Act (15 U.S.C. 714c), through the framework es-  
14      tablished under subsection (b).”.

15      (b) APPROPRIATION.—There is appropriated to the  
16      Secretary of Agriculture, out of any amounts in the Treas-  
17      ury not otherwise appropriated, \$5,000,000,000 for fiscal  
18      year 2027, to remain available until expended, to provide  
19      direct assistance to producers of specialty crops pursuant  
20      to section 197 of the Federal Agriculture Improvement  
21      and Reform Act of 1996 (as added by subsection (a)).

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