

119TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

S. 4912

To amend the Food Security Act of 1985 to clarify land eligible for enrollment in the conservation reserve program.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

JUNE 24, 2026

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

A BILL

To amend the Food Security Act of 1985 to clarify land eligible for enrollment in the conservation reserve 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 “Building Up Farmland
5 Frontiers for Ecological Resilience Act” or the “BUFFER
6 Act”.

7 **SEC. 2. ELIGIBLE LAND UNDER THE CONSERVATION RE-**
8 **SERVE PROGRAM.**

9 Section 1231(b) of the Food Security Act of 1985
10 (16 U.S.C. 3831(b)) is amended—

1 (1) in paragraph (6)(B)(ii), by striking “or” at
2 the end;

3 (2) in paragraph (7)—

4 (A) in the matter preceding subparagraph
5 (A), by striking “as determined by the Sec-
6 retary,”; and

7 (B) in subparagraph (C), by striking the
8 period at the end and inserting “; or”; and

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

10 “(8) land that is otherwise eligible for enroll-
11 ment and for which a Tribal, State, or other local
12 law, ordinance, or other regulation requires any re-
13 source-conserving or environmental protection meas-
14 ure or practice, unless the requirement to implement
15 such a measure or practice has been imposed by an
16 administrative order or a court order, in which case
17 that land shall not be eligible for enrollment.”.

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