United States
of America

Congressional Record

PROCEEDINGS AND DEBATES OF THE 119th CONGRESS, SECOND SESSION

Vol. 172 WASHINGTON, WEDNESDAY, APRIL 29, 2026 *No. 75*

House of Representatives

The House met at 9 a.m. and was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. HARIDOPOLOS).

DESIGNATION OF THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following communication from the Speaker:

WASHINGTON, DC,
April 29, 2026.

I hereby appoint the Honorable MIKE HARIDOPOLOS to act as Speaker pro tempore on this day.

MIKE JOHNSON,
Speaker of the House of Representatives.

PRAYER

The Chaplain, the Reverend Margaret Grun Kibben, offered the following prayer:

God of light, the Psalmist reminds us that it is You who ignites the light within us. You, O Lord, our God, light up our darkness.

As refrains of King Charles III's speech still linger in this room, impress on our hearts this statement of profound faith: ''Light has triumphed over darkness.'' Let us then claim our own faith in Your promise that You will lead the unsighted in ways they have not known; along familiar paths, You will guide them. You turn darkness into light before us.

In view of Your promise, remind us of our duty to foster compassion, to promote peace, to deepen mutual understanding, and to value all people. As daunting as these tasks may seem, may we be intentional, focused, brave, and sacrificial in our efforts to punch holes in the darkness that dares to overwhelm us.

Make us bearers of Your light that all may know that when our lives are lived by our faith in You, there is no darkness at all.

In Your sovereign name we pray.

Amen.

THE JOURNAL

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair has examined the Journal of the last day's proceedings and announces to the House the approval thereof.

Pursuant to clause 1 of rule I, the Journal stands approved.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Will the gentleman from Tennessee (Mr. ROSE) come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mr. ROSE led the Pledge of Allegiance as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair will entertain up to 15 requests for 1-minute speeches on each side of the aisle.

RECOGNIZING POPE SAINT JOHN PAUL II PREPARATORY SCHOOL

(Mr. ROSE asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. ROSE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize a remarkable achievement in Tennessee's Sixth Congressional District. Pope Saint John Paul II Preparatory School—the Knights of Hendersonville—have earned the title of runner-up in the 2026 TSSAA Division II Class AA Boys Basketball State Championship.

These young men from Sumner County stepped onto the biggest stage in Tennessee high school basketball and competed with grit, discipline, and extraordinary skill.

They represented not only their school and coaches but their families and the entire Hendersonville community with tremendous pride and class.

Mr. Speaker, reaching the State championship game requires talent, sacrifice, and relentless determination. These Knights demonstrated all of it. Their achievement inspires every student and athlete in our State to pursue excellence, and we are immensely proud of them.

OUR GOVERNMENT IS SPYING ON US

(Ms. TLAIB asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Ms. TLAIB. Mr. Speaker, our government is spying on us. That is right. The Foreign Intelligence Accountability Act, called FISA section 702, is a dangerous mass surveillance tool that is already being used by our Federal Government to conduct thousands of warrantless searches on the private communications of U.S. citizens without any due process, probable cause, or review from a judge.

It is a clear and open violation of our Fourth Amendment and Americans' right to privacy. It makes us all less safe.

This unconstitutional tool has been used to spy on Black Lives Matter protesters, Members of Congress, journalists, and more.

No President—not any of them—should have the power to spy on our private communication or information, especially not the current occupant of the White House.

My colleagues want to give the Trump administration the power to keep violating our rights. It is dangerous, and it must stop.

Mr. Speaker, I will always defend our rights from illegal mass surveillance. I will be voting ''no'' on the FISA reauthorization.

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RECOGNIZING THE POYNTER FAMILY

(Mr. BAIRD asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. BAIRD. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the Poynter family from Putnam County for winning the Farm Family of the Year Award for 2025.

The Poynters farm about 5,000 acres of soybeans and corn. The family frequently organizes educational community events, including mental health programming for farmers, and the annual Putnam County Ag Day.

Ray Poynter was the longtime beef superintendent for the Putnam County 4-H program. He has been an impactful leader in youth agriculture development and livestock education.

The Poynters have brought innovation to their farm. Noah and Jonathan Poynter each received their FAA drone licenses, allowing the farm to do its own fungicide applications.

The Poynter family is an outstanding example of Indiana's family farmers, as well as how we can bring agriculture into the 21st century.

Mr. Speaker, I congratulate the Poynter family on this well-deserved award.

RECOGNIZING 30 YEARS OF DUPAGE RAILROAD SAFETY COUNCIL

(Mr. GARCÍA of Illinois asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. GARCÍA of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor 30 years of contributions from the DuPage Railroad Safety Council. Since 1996, they have provided important services and education on rail safety across Illinois.

Forged by tragedy, they established themselves as a proactive organization, translating a crisis into opportunity, awareness, and advocacy.

Their accomplishments speak for themselves: fewer incidents, better partnerships with authorities, and more knowledgeable communities.

They achieved this with engineers, first responders, and public health officials working together because safety is a collective responsibility.

However, their task remains incomplete. With the evolving trends and increasing threats, the mission becomes even more relevant, especially regarding pedestrian safety.

While we celebrate 30 years of accomplishments, we also renew our commitment toward safer rail crossings, better infrastructure, and lives saved.

Mr. Speaker, I thank the DuPage Railroad Safety Council for their leadership, perseverance, and dedication to Illinois rail safety.

RECOGNIZING NATIONAL FAIR HOUSING MONTH

(Mrs. RAMIREZ asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Mrs. RAMIREZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize Joy Aruguete, whose steadfast leadership has been a cornerstone of the nonprofit affordable housing and community development sectors in Chicago and, frankly, nationally.

Over her 30-year tenure as CEO of Bickerdike Redevelopment Corporation, Joy's organizing, coalition-building, and leadership have translated into the construction and management of stable, high-quality housing for countless families in Illinois' Third Congressional District.

Joy Aruguete herself could be described as a fixture or an icon in this work. Whether through her leadership on the Chicago Housing Trust, the Cook County Land Bank Authority, or the Chicago Rehab Network, she has advanced systems, resources, and partnerships necessary to ensure that affordable housing remains a priority in Chicago and across the country.

Mr. Speaker, on behalf of Illinois' Third Congressional District, it is my distinct honor to recognize Joy Aruguete for her lifelong commitment to creating, preserving, and advocating for affordable housing in Chicago to realize housing as a human right. I thank and congratulate Joy Aruguete.

RECOGNIZING THE WILSON FAMILY

(Mr. DAVIS of North Carolina asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. DAVIS of North Carolina. Mr. Speaker, the lives of Brent Wilson of Nash County and many others just like him were forever changed by exposure to toxins at Marine Corps Base Camp Lejeune.

Brent grew up on the base as the son of a career marine. At 39, he was diagnosed with advanced kidney cancer. He fought through surgery, radiation, and cutting-edge treatments that extended his life but left him with permanent brain damage.

Even with programs in place, families like Brent's are still forced to navigate a system that too often works against them.

Under the Camp Lejeune Justice Act, many are running out of time, confined to a narrow, 2-year filing window, even as the science makes clear these illnesses can take decades to surface.

As many families have served our great country, Congress must now deliver for them.

□ 0910

POWERFUL CORPORATIONS MUST PAY THEIR FAIR SHARE OF TAXES

(Mr. MAGAZINER asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. MAGAZINER. Mr. Speaker, last year, 88 of the most profitable companies in America paid zero in Federal income taxes. Citigroup made over $4 billion in its U.S. businesses last year, no Federal taxes paid; Halliburton nearly $1 billion and paid no taxes; Tesla more than $5 billion of profits and paid no taxes.

How is it that in the United States of America the biggest and most powerful corporations pay less in taxes than the teachers, doctors, firefighters, and nurses whom I represent?

How is that?

Mr. Speaker, that is what happens when you have a city in Washington that is for sale. The wealthy and well-connected get tax breaks, and average people get stuck with the bill. This is why we need to get dark money out of elections. This is why we need to end congressional stock trading.

This is why we need real ethics reform in Washington because until we have that, the wealthy and well-connected are going to continue to get tax breaks while working people get screwed.

RECOGNIZING GENERATIONS CHURCH

(Mr. LATIMER asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. LATIMER. Mr. Speaker, permit me to recognize the powerful presence of Generations Church located in downtown New Rochelle and in Mount Vernon, as well, which has fostered a dynamic and vibrant Christian community of worship, prayer, faith, and service led by the excellent Bishop Ray Mott, lead pastor. He is ably assisted by his wife, Pastor Sherrie Mott, and many others, including our friend, Elder Mark McLean.

Generations ministries includes networks for men, G-Men program; women, WIN, Women's Integrity Network; NextGen Kids; and NowGen Youth, touching all age groups. Sunday morning worship services, Saturday morning prayer, and GC Youth evening meetups all involve the congregation in an active faith commitment.

From the floor of the U.S. House of Representatives, we salute Generations Church and their positive impact in our hometown areas.

PROVIDING FOR CONSIDERATION OF H.R. 7567, FARM, FOOD, AND NATIONAL SECURITY ACT OF 2026; PROVIDING FOR CONSIDERATION OF H.R. 2616, PARENTAL RIGHTS OVER THE EDUCATION AND CARE OF THEIR KIDS ACT; PROVIDING FOR CONSIDERATION OF S. CON. RES. 33, CONCURRENT RESOLUTION ON THE BUDGET FOR FISCAL YEAR 2026; PROVIDING FOR CONSIDERATION OF S. 1318, FALLEN SERVICE MEMBERS RELIGIOUS HERITAGE RESTORATION ACT; PROVIDING FOR CONSIDERATION OF H.R. 1346, NATIONWIDE CONSUMER AND FUEL RETAILER CHOICE ACT OF 2025; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES

Mr. AUSTIN SCOTT of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, by direction of the Committee on Rules, I call up House Resolution 1224 and ask for its immediate consideration.

The Clerk read the resolution, as follows:

H. RES. 1224

Resolved, That at any time after adoption of this resolution the Speaker may, pursuant to clause 2(b) of rule XVIII, declare the House resolved into the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union for consideration of the bill (H.R. 7567) to provide for the reform and continuation of agricultural and other programs of the Department of Agriculture through fiscal year 2031, and for other purposes. The first reading of the bill shall be dispensed with. All points of order against consideration of the bill are waived. General debate shall be confined to the bill and shall not exceed one hour equally divided and controlled by the chair and ranking minority member of the Committee on Agriculture or their respective designees. After general debate the bill shall be considered for amendment under the five-minute rule. In lieu of the amendment in the nature of a substitute recommended by the Committee on Agriculture now printed in the bill, an amendment in the nature of a substitute consisting of the text of Rules Committee Print 119–22, modified by the amendment printed in part A of the report of the Committee on Rules accompanying this resolution, shall be considered as adopted in the House and in the Committee of the Whole. The bill, as amended, shall be considered as the original bill for the purpose of further amendment under the five-minute rule and shall be considered as read. All points of order against provisions in the bill, as amended, are waived.

SEC. 2. (a) No further amendment to H.R. 7567, as amended, shall be in order except those printed in part B of the report of the Committee on Rules accompanying this resolution and amendments en bloc described in section 3 of this resolution.

(b) Each further amendment printed in part B of the report of the Committee on Rules shall be considered only in the order printed in the report, may be offered only by a Member designated in the report, shall be considered as read, shall be debatable for the time specified in the report equally divided and controlled by the proponent and an opponent, shall not be subject to amendment, and shall not be subject to a demand for division of the question in the House or in the Committee of the Whole.

(c) All points of order against further amendments printed in part B of the report of the Committee on Rules or against amendments en bloc described in section 3 of this resolution are waived.

SEC. 3. It shall be in order at any time for the chair of the Committee on Agriculture or his designee to offer amendments en bloc consisting of further amendments printed in part B of the report of the Committee on Rules accompanying this resolution not earlier disposed of. Amendments en bloc offered pursuant to this section shall be considered as read, shall be debatable for 20 minutes equally divided and controlled by the chair and ranking minority member of the Committee on Agriculture or their respective designees, shall not be subject to amendment, and shall not be subject to a demand for division of the question in the House or in the Committee of the Whole.

SEC. 4. At the conclusion of consideration of H.R. 7567 for amendment the Committee shall rise and report the bill, as amended, to the House with such further amendments as may have been adopted. The previous question shall be considered as ordered on the bill, as amended, and on any further amendment thereto to final passage without intervening motion except one motion to recommit.

SEC. 5. Upon adoption of this resolution it shall be in order to consider in the House the bill (H.R. 2616) to require public elementary and middle schools that receive funds under the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965 to obtain parental consent before changing a minor's gender markers, pronouns, or preferred name on any school form or sex-based accommodations, including locker rooms or bathrooms. All points of order against consideration of the bill are waived. In lieu of the amendment in the nature of a substitute recommended by the Committee on Education and Workforce now printed in the bill, an amendment in the nature of a substitute consisting of the text of Rules Committee Print 119–26 shall be considered as adopted. The bill, as amended, shall be considered as read. All points of order against provisions in the bill, as amended, are waived. The previous question shall be considered as ordered on the bill, as amended, and on any further amendment thereto, to final passage without intervening motion except: (1) one hour of debate equally divided and controlled by the chair and ranking minority member of the Committee on Education and Workforce or their respective designees; and (2) one motion to recommit.

SEC. 6. Upon adoption of this resolution it shall be in order to consider in the House the concurrent resolution (S. Con. Res. 33) setting forth the congressional budget for the United States Government for fiscal year 2026 and setting forth the appropriate budgetary levels for fiscal years 2027 through 2035. All points of order against consideration of the concurrent resolution are waived. The concurrent resolution shall be considered as read. All points of order against provisions in the concurrent resolution are waived. The previous question shall be considered as ordered on the concurrent resolution to adoption without intervening motion or demand for division of the question except one hour of debate equally divided and controlled by the chair and ranking minority member of the Committee on the Budget or their respective designees.

SEC. 7. Upon adoption of this resolution it shall be in order to consider in the House the bill (S. 1318) to direct the American Battle Monuments Commission to establish a program to identify American-Jewish servicemembers buried in United States military cemeteries overseas under markers that incorrectly represent their religion and heritage, and for other purposes. All points of order against consideration of the bill are waived. An amendment in the nature of a substitute consisting of the text of Rules Committee Print 119–27, modified by the amendment printed in part C of the report of the Committee on Rules accompanying this resolution, shall be considered as adopted. The bill, as amended, shall be considered as read. All points of order against provisions in the bill, as amended, are waived. The previous question shall be considered as ordered on the bill, as amended, and on any further amendment thereto, to final passage without intervening motion except: (1) one hour of debate equally divided among and controlled by the chair and ranking minority member of the Committee on the Judiciary or their respective designees and the chair and ranking minority member of the Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence or their respective designees; and (2) one motion to commit.

SEC. 8. In the engrossment of the House amendment to S. 1318, the Clerk shall—

(a) add the text of H.R. 1919, as passed by the House, as new matter at the end of the text proposed to be inserted by the House amendment;

(b) assign appropriate designations to provisions within the engrossment of the text proposed to be inserted by the House;

(c) conform cross-references and provisions for short titles within the engrossment of the text proposed to be inserted by the House; and

(d) be authorized to make technical corrections, to include corrections in spelling, punctuation, page and line numbering, section numbering, and insertion of appropriate headings within the engrossment of the text proposed to be inserted by the House.

SEC. 9. It shall be in order at any time through the legislative day of May 1, 2026, for the Speaker to entertain motions that the House suspend the rules as though under clause 1 of rule XV. The Speaker or his designee shall consult with the Minority Leader or his designee on the designation of any matter for consideration pursuant to this section.

SEC. 10. Upon adoption of this resolution it shall be in order to consider in the House the bill (H.R. 1346) to amend the Clean Air Act with respect to the ethanol waiver for Reid Vapor Pressure under that Act, and for other purposes. All points of order against consideration of the bill are waived. An amendment in the nature of a substitute consisting of the text of Rules Committee Print 119–28 shall be considered as adopted. The bill, as amended, shall be considered as read. All points of order against provisions in the bill, as amended, are waived. The previous question shall be considered as ordered on the bill, as amended, and on any further amendment thereto, to final passage without intervening motion except: (1) one hour of debate equally divided and controlled by the chair and ranking minority member of the Committee on Energy and Commerce or their respective designees; and (2) one motion to recommit.

SEC. 11. In the engrossment of H.R. 7567, the Clerk shall—

(a) await the disposition of H.R. 1346;

(b) add the text of H.R. 1346, as passed by the House, as new matter at the end of H.R. 7567;

(c) assign appropriate designations to provisions within the engrossment;

(d) conform cross-references and provisions for short titles within the engrossment; and

(e) be authorized to make technical corrections, to include corrections in spelling, punctuation, page and line numbering, section numbering, and insertion of appropriate headings within the engrossment.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman from Georgia is recognized for 1 hour.

Mr. AUSTIN SCOTT of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, for the purpose of debate

only, I yield the customary 30 minutes to the gentleman from Massachusetts (Mr. MCGOVERN), pending which I yield myself such time as I may consume. During consideration of this resolution, all time yielded is for the purpose of debate only.

□ 0920

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. AUSTIN SCOTT of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members have 5 legislative days to revise and extend their remarks.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Georgia?

There was no objection.

Mr. AUSTIN SCOTT of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, last night the Rules Committee met and reported a rule, House Resolution 1224, providing for consideration of H.R. 7567, the Farm, Food, and National Security Act of 2026, to be considered under a structured rule.

The rule provides for 1 hour of debate, equally divided and controlled by the chair and ranking member of the Committee on Agriculture or their respective designees, provides for one motion to recommit, and makes 57 amendments in order.

The rule provides for consideration of S. 1318, the Foreign Intelligence Accountability Act, to be considered under a closed rule. The rule provides for 1 hour of debate, equally divided among and controlled by the chair and ranking member of the Committee on the Judiciary or their respective designees and the chair and ranking member of the Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence or their respective designees, and provides one motion to commit.

The rule provides for consideration of H.R. 2616, the Stopping Indoctrination and Protecting Kids Act, to be considered under a closed rule. The rule provides for 1 hour of debate equally divided and controlled by the chair and ranking member of the Committee on Education and Workforce or their respective designees and provides one motion to recommit.

The rule provides for consideration of S. Con. Res. 33, setting forth the congressional budget for the United States Government for fiscal year 2026 and setting forth the appropriate budgetary levels for fiscal years 2027 through 2035 to be considered under a closed rule. The rule provides for 1 hour of debate equally divided and controlled by the chair and ranking member of the Committee on the Budget or their respective designees.

Finally, the rule provides for consideration of H.R. 1346, the Nationwide Consumer and Fuel Retailer Choice Act of 2025, to be considered under a closed rule. The rule provides for 1 hour of debate equally divided and controlled by the chair and ranking member of the Committee on Energy and Commerce or their respective designees and provides one motion to recommit.

Additionally, the rule provides that in the engrossment of H.R. 7567, the clerk shall add the text of H.R. 1346, should it pass the House, as new matter at the end of H.R. 7567.

The rule also provides that in the engrossment of S. 1318, the clerk shall add the text of H.R. 1919, as passed by the House, as new matter at the end of the House amendment to S. 1318.

Finally, the rule allows the Speaker to entertain motions to suspend the rules at any time through the legislative day on May 1, 2026.

Mr. Speaker, we are here today to debate the rule on five pieces of legislation, beginning with H.R. 7567, the Farm, Food, and National Security Act of 2026.

Mr. Speaker, our country's farmers and ranchers are currently experiencing years of high input costs, shrinking margins, and uncertainty heading into the growing season. Misguided policy decisions from the previous administration have led to overregulation and consolidation, leaving the American producer to pay the price.

However, Mr. Speaker, through the body's work on H.R. 1, we achieved the first meaningful investments in the farm safety net since 2002, we brought integrity back to our nutrition programs, and we provided relief to our farming families through tax cuts.

H.R. 7567 builds on the accomplishments of H.R. 1 and completes the long-delayed farm bill process, addressing the remaining farm country needs. H.R. 7567 reinforces the farm safety net, allowing our producers the certainty they need to endure unpredictable markets, volatile weather, and rising input costs.

Strengthening ARC and PLC, expanding disaster assistance tools, and improving support for specialty crops gives producers the stability needed to keep producing the safest, most abundant food supply in the world.

The bill reaffirms our Nation's commitment to locally led, science-based conservation practices through improvements to programs like EQIP, CSP, and CRP. Promoting precision agriculture and science-based practices helps protect our natural resources while keeping working lands productive for generations to come.

Additionally, H.R. 7567 modernizes trade and global food assistance, codifying the move of the Food for Peace program to the USDA. Streamlining Food for Peace authorities and reinvesting in proven export promotion programs strengthens U.S. competitiveness abroad, while ensuring American commodities remain central to feeding vulnerable populations worldwide.

□ 0930

H.R. 7567 bolsters the future of American agriculture by improving access to farm credit, especially for those beginning, young, and small farmers. This farm bill ensures they have the capital they need to build and sustain their operations.

Mr. Speaker, this bill is centered on affordability and is a win for rural America. Investments in broadband, childcare, healthcare, workforce needs, and critical water and infrastructure projects strengthen our rural communities and give them the support to thrive in the years to come.

The Farm, Food, and National Security Act of 2026 delivers for our producers, strengthens our rural communities, and protects the security of America's food supply.

This is thoughtful legislation that has culminated from years of listening to farmers, ranchers, and families across our country in response to current realities with real solutions.

Mr. Speaker, I thank my colleagues and all the staff for the work that went into the Farm, Food, and National Security Act of 2026, and I urge my colleagues to join me in supporting this legislation.

Moving on to S. 1318, the Foreign Intelligence Accountability Act, Mr. Speaker, this would authorize section 702 for 3 years. I will be clear: We cannot allow section 702 to expire at a moment when our adversaries are expanding their capabilities, accelerating their operations, and exploiting every gap in our intelligence posture.

Allowing this authority to expire would leave the United States blind to threats that move at the speed of the modern conflict. Section 702 allows the United States Government to collect intelligence on foreign nationals located overseas—I repeat, foreign nationals located overseas—who are reasonably believed to possess foreign intelligence information.

The FBI can only access FISA 702 data if the foreign section 702 target is relevant to an existing, open, predicated, full national security investigation. Section 702 cannot be used to target any U.S. person at home or abroad. That prohibition is explicit and reinforced by multiple layers of oversight.

While section 702 was first authorized in 2008 and has been reauthorized since with bipartisan support, it certainly has not been perfect. To account for needed reforms, Congress passed the Reforming Intelligence and Securing America Act in 2024, the largest FBI and FISA reform in decades.

This law mandated 56 different reforms, including strict limitations on FBI queries involving U.S. persons and a severe reduction in the number of FBI personnel with access to 702 data.

Additionally, to address concerns about the FBI's compliance on U.S. person queries, RISAA required the Bureau to provide an annual report detailing any noncompliant queries and what accountability measures were imposed on each FBI person who was determined to have conducted a noncompliant query.

This has led to 100 percent of queries on U.S. persons being reviewed by the

National Security Division and the FBI's Office of Internal Auditing. These reforms were not symbolic. They were structural, enforceable, and designed to ensure that section 702 remains both effective and accountable.

A quick example of effectiveness can be seen when comparing 2021 FBI queries, which numbered 2.9 million, to 2025 queries, which numbered 7,413.

Furthermore, Mr. Speaker, this bill contains additional reforms that Congress has worked to include over the last few weeks. Failing to reauthorize this authority, which allows us to stop terrorist attacks on United States soil, would be a massive setback, one that our adversaries would exploit immediately.

The time is now to reauthorize section 702.

Next, Mr. Speaker, we have H.R. 2616, the Stopping Indoctrination and Protecting Kids Act. This legislation addressed an important issue facing our country today: protecting a parent's right to be informed and involved in conversations regarding their children's education and what is happening inside their classrooms.

The Stopping Indoctrination and Protecting Kids Act does that. It would prohibit any federally funded public elementary or middle school from changing a child's name, pronoun, or access to facilities such as bathrooms or locker rooms without parental consent.

Again, Mr. Speaker, we are talking about elementary and middle schools. This legislation emphasizes the fundamental role of parents in making sensitive decisions regarding their children's identity and accommodations in school. This legislation responds to recent developments across the country where parental rights are being trampled on in favor of a progressive agenda that is completely out of touch with the average American family.

This is an urgent moment for Congress to stand up for parents and children and to reinforce the critical need for parental engagement and awareness in their child's education. I urge my colleagues to support this legislation.

Additionally, Mr. Speaker, we have S. Con. Res. 33, setting forth the congressional budget for the United States Government for fiscal year 2026 and setting forth the appropriate budgetary levels for fiscal years 2027 through 2035.

This legislation would unlock the budget reconciliation process to fully fund both Immigration and Customs Enforcement and Customs and Border Protection through early 2029, continuing to deliver on the GOP-led Congress' promise to ensure our borders are secure and the brave men and women of ICE and CBP have the necessary resources to do so.

Over the last 18 months, President Trump has delivered on his promise to America to secure the southern border, deport violent illegal aliens, and support the law enforcement officers at Immigration and Customs Enforcement and Customs and Border Protection.

These officers work tirelessly to secure our borders and ensure Americans remain safe from foreign threats. It is time for Congress to do the same.

Finally, Mr. Speaker, we have H.R. 1346, the Nationwide Consumer and Fuel Retailer Choice Act of 2025. This legislation allows the option to sell gasoline that is blended with 10 percent to 15 percent ethanol year-round. Furthermore, it provides additional reforms to the renewable fuel standard.

Mr. Speaker, I look forward to the consideration of these important points of legislation, and I urge passage of this rule.

Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. MCGOVERN. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman from Georgia for yielding me the customary 30 minutes, and I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Another week, Mr. Speaker, another chance for this Republican majority to show the American people what they actually care about. Once again, sadly, it is not affordability. It is not lowering prices. It is not the issues that my constituents raise with me at townhalls back home.

For 16 long, long months, Republicans have controlled the House, the Senate, and the White House. Republicans have been running the show for over a year now, and what have they done?

Have they lowered prices? Not grocery prices; those are up. Not gas prices; those are up, too. Not healthcare costs; those are up, too. Not utilities or childcare; those are more expensive than ever.

That is the problem with winning power, Mr. Speaker. At some point, the problems you complain about become your problems, and if you fail to fix them, then that failure is yours. That is where this Republican majority finds itself.

You guys have failed to deliver big time.

Donald Trump promised he would end the war in Ukraine. Not only did he fail to do that, he started a new one in Iran.

Republicans promised they would lower prices on day one. We are now in year 2, and where are prices? They are not down. They are up, way up. Ground beef, vegetables, fruit, sugar, it is all up, according to Trump's own USDA.

Whose fault is it? Democrats did not start the war with Iran that is driving up food and gas prices. Republicans did that. It wasn't Biden who put in place tariffs that are hurting American farmers and jacking up costs. Republicans did that. The left did not give massive tax breaks to billionaires paid for by stealing from the program working families use to buy groceries. Republicans did that.

This administration and Republicans in Congress spent years claiming Democrats drove up prices and promising they would bring them down on day one. They failed. If you want to know why, look no further than the bills on the floor this week.

It is a greatest hits album of MAGA extremism, corporate giveaways, and political theater: a culture war bill targeting trans kids; a budget resolution that moves Heaven and Earth to give even more money to ICE and CBP while FEMA, TSA, and the Coast Guard remain shut down because Speaker JOHNSON refuses to advance a bipartisan Senate agreement that would pass overwhelmingly if brought to the floor; a FISA bill that lets the government spy on Americans without proper warrant safeguards; and a farm bill that locks in long-term cuts to SNAP, formerly known as food stamps, after Trump's big, ugly bill stole nearly $200 billion from the program in order to give tax breaks to billionaires.

□ 0940

We are talking about a food benefit that gives barely over $6 a day to some of the poorest people in this country, many working multiple jobs and still unable to make ends meet and many others who are seniors, who are veterans, who are children, and Americans with disabilities.

That is the meager benefit you guys cut to give tax breaks to rich people. Give me a break.

Let's not forget the provision in this farm bill that helps chemical companies dump toxic chemicals into our food system, poisoning farmworkers and polluting our air and water. Who the hell asked for that? Was it drafted in the Monsanto boardroom?

Thankfully, a popular bipartisan amendment was made in order by the Committee on Agriculture to fix the provision. While I am glad that we will be able to take a vote on it and see where Members lie on this issue—my hope is that it passes—it still doesn't fix the rest of this awful, terrible bill.

Costs are up. Corruption is up. Chaos is up, and you guys are screwing over poor people. This is beyond outrageous. It is immoral. It is sick. It is wrong.

After huddling in back rooms and arguing among themselves, Republicans are now sending to the floor a year-round E15 bill—get this, Mr. Speaker—that adds billions of dollars to the deficit. They are doing it in a very clever way. Once the E15 bill passes, it gets combined with the farm bill before it gets sent to the Senate.

Where are my Freedom Caucus friends? Do you even know that this provision is in the bill? Do you even know what is going on here? I mean, billions and billions of dollars are being added to the deficit. I thought you cared about the deficit, but apparently you don't. It is a reason to vote against this rule. If you don't know about it, then the leadership of this House pulled a fast one on you.

Since the day Trump took office last year, the national debt has gone up $2.8 trillion. Full Republican control—full Republican control has added nearly $3 trillion to the debt, and now we are

adding billions more with another Republican backroom deal.

I mean, during our Agriculture Committee markup, Chairman THOMPSON said over and over and over again that we had an obligation to remain budget neutral. He said that that is why we couldn't do anything to address the horrible nutrition cuts, why we couldn't do anything to provide any more support for our farmers, and why we couldn't modernize our conservation programs.

We can't do any of those things, but if it is for war or if it is for tax cuts for the rich or for this E15 bill, Republicans are more than happy to add to the debt.

Gut it. Gut it.

Mr. Speaker, people are struggling. They are working hard, and they are falling behind. If Republicans spent half as much time lowering costs as they spend passing nonbinding resolutions congratulating themselves, maybe we could actually get something done around here, but they can't help themselves.

The billionaires say, jump, and the Speaker asks: How high?

Monsanto says: Bail us out. Republicans ask: How much?

Big Tech, Big Ag, and Big Oil, they all run wild. It is pathetic, Mr. Speaker—pathetic.

The American people were promised lower costs. They were promised a Congress that would fight for them. They were lied to. Instead, they got extremism. They got a majority that wakes up every morning and asks how to make life easier for the rich and powerful. They got an administration and a Congress that covers up for Epstein-elite pedophiles instead of fighting for everyday people. Enough already.

This is an awful rule. It blocks 7 of 10 Republican amendments. It blocks 7 of 10 Republican amendments, 8 out of 10 bipartisan amendments, and 9 out of 10 Democratic amendments. No Member of this House has had an amendment debated on the floor in nearly 100 days. Now that we do, here is what we get.

In case it was not clear yet, Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to vote ''no'' on this rule, and I reserve the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Members are reminded to direct their comments to the Chair.

Mr. AUSTIN SCOTT of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I am glad that the gentleman brought up corruption. Certainly, we have seen what is going on in Minneapolis, Minnesota, and many of the other Democratic-run cities and States.

He brought up gas prices, as well. I am thankful that Donald Trump has believed in energy independence, and gas prices are lower than they were under the Biden administration, even when we weren't at war, simply because of the stupid rules and regulations passed by that administration.

Mr. Speaker, I now yield 3 minutes to the gentlewoman from North Carolina (Ms. FOXX), my friend and chairwoman of the Rules Committee.

Ms. FOXX. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman for yielding and doing such a great job in handling this rule and being on the Rules Committee.

Mr. Speaker, I also thank the staff of the Rules Committee for their great work under very difficult circumstances almost every day, but especially this week.

Mr. Speaker, I am going to share with you and with all of our Republican colleagues an observation about the behavior of Democrats in the Rules Committee yesterday evening. Please listen carefully.

Rules Committee Democrats put on a real master class in how to sell fake altruism. Really, it was quite the spectacle, maybe even worthy of an Academy Award. What a performance it was.

Mr. Speaker, our Democratic colleagues offered a handful of amendments authored by Republicans and proclaimed that they were standing up for these Republicans and their ideas. They could have fooled me.

What the Democrats were doing was weaponizing the ideas of our Republican colleagues for their own gain. Their goal the entire time was never altruistic. It was never about supporting Republican amendments or even fighting for them.

Their goal was to waste our time. Democrats treat time like they treat the tax dollars of Americans: with disregard and utter contempt. Their words and actions are always steeped in a vat of hypocrisy. Look at today, and they know it, too.

To those Members of our Conference who the Democrats used so callously last night and who are thinking about opposing the rule on the floor today, I simply say this: You are far better than falling for the fake altruism of those across the aisle who never supported you or the solutions you bring to the table—not once.

Mr. Speaker, I support the rule and its five underlying measures, and I encourage all of my colleagues to do the same.

Mr. MCGOVERN. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, first, let me say to my colleague from Georgia: Keep bragging about gas prices and see how that works for you in November.

Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent to include in the RECORD an article titled: ''U.S. Gas Prices Hit Highest Level Since Beginning of War in Iran.''

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Massachusetts?

There was no objection.

[From the New York Times, Apr. 28, 2026]

U.S. GAS PRICES HIT HIGHEST LEVEL SINCE BEGINNING OF WAR IN IRAN

(By Emmett Lindner)

Gasoline prices in the United States rose on Tuesday to their highest level in four years as peace talks between the United States and Iran appeared at an impasse.

The average cost for a gallon of regular gasoline is $4.18, according to the AAA motor club. The price at the pump has not been that high since April 2022, shortly after Russia invaded Ukraine. Tuesday's jump of 1.6 percent was the highest percentage increase in more than a month.

Oil prices continued to climb on Tuesday, with negotiators deadlocked over proposals to reopen the Strait of Hormuz to tanker traffic and restrict Iran's nuclear program.

The price of crude oil has risen steadily over the past week, as talks have stalled during an uneasy cease-fire. Brent crude, the international benchmark, has posted gains in six of the past seven trading sessions and remains more than 40 percent higher than it was before the first U.S.-Israeli strikes on Iran in late February.

Stock markets are trading near record highs, however, as corporate earnings have been largely resilient. A batch of financial reports expected this week from the largest technology companies, which are spending hundreds of billions of dollars on artificial intelligence systems, will be closely watched.

Oil continues to rise.

The price of Brent crude, the global benchmark for oil, jumped 4 percent, to above $105 a barrel for July delivery, but slipped to $104 a barrel after the United Arab Emirates said it would leave the OPEC oil cartel next month. Brent's price has risen about $10 per barrel over the past week. The price for oil deliverable in June rose above $110 per barrel for the first time this month.

West Texas Intermediate crude, the U.S. benchmark, rose 5 percent, to around $101 a barrel, for June delivery.

Investors and analysts are focused on the continued disruption to shipping in the Strait of Hormuz, the narrow waterway between Iran and Oman that is a vital trading route for oil and natural gas that normally carries as much as one-fifth of the world's oil supply.

Stocks dip ahead of Fed meeting and tech earnings.

The S&P 500 fell 0.6 percent on Tuesday after nudging higher on Monday. Investors await a number of tech company earnings and the Federal Reserve's decision on interest rates this week, which could move markets.

Stocks in Asia, where countries import vast quantities of oil and gas, were mixed. The Kospi index in Korea gained 0.4 percent, but Taiwan's Sensex index slipped 0.4 percent. The Nikkei 225 in Japan slid 1 percent after the Bank of Japan held interest rates steady, as expected, but some board members argued for a rate increase to deal with inflation risks spurred by the war in Iran.

In Europe, the Stoxx 600, a broad index that tracks the region's largest companies, fell 0.5 percent.

Gasoline prices tick higher.

U.S. gasoline prices rose on Tuesday, jumping to a national average of $4.18 a gallon, according to the AAA motor club. The increase has raised the cost for drivers 40 percent since the war began.

Gas prices don't move in lock step with crude, usually trailing increases or drops.

Diesel prices have increased even more quickly and stood at $5.46 on Tuesday, up 45 percent since the start of the war.

What they are saying: 'Exceptional' conditions for big oil companies.

BP, the British oil giant, reported its latest earnings on Tuesday, comfortably surpassing analysts' expectations by doubling its profit in the first quarter, to more than $3 billion. ''The oil trading contribution was exceptional,'' the company said in a filing.

Meg O'Neill, who recently took over as chief executive of BP, said in a statement that she joined the group ''at a time when our industry is operating in an environment of conflict and complexity, playing a vital role in keeping energy flowing.''

Mr. MCGOVERN. Mr. Speaker, I will say to my friend, the distinguished chairwoman of the Rules Committee: We offered amendments because we haven't had a vote on an amendment in nearly 100 days. No Democrat and no Republican has been able to vote on an amendment in nearly 100 days.

Mr. VAN ORDEN, who is sitting there, had two amendments that were blocked. Mr. NEGUSE offered one of them last night, and every Republican voted against it.

Some of the amendments that we offered, quite frankly, I support. The Biggs amendment on FISA, I support. That was really an interesting display of theater because we had the votes, but one of the Republicans, Mr. GRIFFITH, every time we brought it up, conveniently got up and walked out of the room so he didn't have to cast a vote. We called it up several times, and he kept on walking out of the room. If you want to talk about theater, that really does deserve an Academy Award.

There were a lot of other amendments, quite frankly, that we brought up that I support. By the way, we brought up amendments that I don't support, but just because I don't support them doesn't mean they don't deserve to be debated on the House floor.

That is one of the problems with the Republican leadership right now in Congress. You don't believe that this place is a deliberative body. You believe it is kind of your way or the highway, and it is not just Democrats who are getting locked out.

What is the percentage of Republicans? Republican amendments were blocked 70 percent of the time. Most of them were germane. Some of them weren't even particularly controversial in any way, shape, or form. They were blocked.

Bipartisan amendments were blocked 80 percent of the time. I know you don't care about Democrats, but 90 percent of our amendments were blocked. I mean, 70 percent of your own party were denied amendments in the Rules Committee. Again, it has been nearly 100 days since we have had a debate on any amendment, Republican or Democratic amendment.

Again, if that is how you all want this place to be run, have at it, but I would urge my Republican colleagues to take a stand now. Say ''no'' to this. Say ''no'' to this, and I guarantee you that it will change. Yet, going along to get along has resulted in even Republican Members being denied the right to offer their amendments.

Mr. Speaker, I yield 3 minutes to the gentlewoman from Minnesota (Ms. CRAIG), the distinguished ranking member of the Committee on Agriculture who has done an incredible job standing up for our farmers and for the most needy in this country.

□ 0950

Ms. CRAIG. Mr. Speaker, my Republican colleague mentioned Minneapolis. Let's talk about Minneapolis since this is a rules debate.

Mr. Speaker, in this rule is additional funding for ICE and CBP. Let's talk about Minneapolis. Let's talk about the fact that two U.S. citizens were murdered on the streets of Minneapolis.

There is no way in hell Democrats are going to give one more penny to ICE and CBP until reforms are in place. So if you want to bring up Minneapolis, we can bring up Minneapolis, but you better bring it up with the full context of what the Trump administration is doing in our country that we will not stand for.

Mr. Speaker, related to the farm bill, the Rules Committee had the opportunity to improve this legislation which falls way short of the 5-year, 12-title farm bill that we should be here discussing today.

We should have addressed the tariffs that are bankrupting America's family farmers. Farm bankruptcies are up 50 percent across this country over the last year in the Trump administration. Farm bankruptcies are up 70 percent in the Midwest.

Trump's trade wars are destroying American farmers. They are sending China to Brazil and Argentina for that business. When we think about what the Trump administration is doing—the Iran war has increased fertilizer costs. It has increased diesel prices. This is not putting America's farmers first. Anytime this President tells you that he loves you, ask him what his actions are doing to help you.

We should have included additional farm aid. The Farm Bureau says farmers have lost $54 billion over the last year—$54 billion over the last year. Believe it or not, this administration said they are giving our family farmers $12 billion. That is how much we are going to give our family farmers.

We should have bolstered SNAP. At the end of the day, it is unconscionable to me that we used reconciliation to plus-up crop insurance programs—Democrats would have supported that in a farm bill—and then cut SNAP by $187 billion. Don't say we didn't cut SNAP. That is absolute nonsense. What you did is you shifted the cost to States in our country, an unfunded mandate that is already increasing taxes in a State like Minnesota. Our counties are having to raise property taxes for constituents to pay for it, and, by the way, a lot of these constituents are Republican constituents.

We should have rallied around a bill that helped family farmers and working families in this country. Instead, this rule opens the door for a bill that rubberstamps tariffs. It does nothing to lower costs on farm inputs.

It opens the door for a bill that does not provide a single penny in additional farm aid. It locks in the $187 billion cut to SNAP that has already deprived 3.4 million Americans of food assistance.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The time of the gentlewoman has expired.

Mr. MCGOVERN. Mr. Speaker, I yield an additional 30 seconds to the gentlewoman from Minnesota.

Ms. CRAIG. Green-lighting this rule and the underlying bill is sending a message to every American that Congress does not have their back. It sends a signal to farm country that they are on their own.

This bill needs a do-over. My hope is the Senate will provide that do-over. It is not worthy of our support, and I urge my colleagues on both sides of the aisle to vote ''no'' on this rule.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Members are reminded to direct their remarks to the Chair.

Mr. AUSTIN SCOTT of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, before we go any further, I would just like to remind the American citizens that under the Biden administration, over 82 percent of farm bill spending was going to SNAP, and they virtually eliminated any of the support for the American farm families.

Again, Democrats demanded that over 80 percent of farm bill spending go to SNAP benefits. That is one of the reasons that the American farm family is suffering so hard today.

Mr. Speaker, I yield 3 minutes to the gentleman from Arkansas (Mr. CRAWFORD), my friend and the chairman of the House Intelligence Committee.

Mr. CRAWFORD. Mr. Speaker, I thank my friend from Georgia for yielding. I rise in support of House Resolution 1224, the rule to consider S. 1318, the Foreign Intelligence Accountability Act. This legislation makes further reforms to section 702 of the Foreign Intelligence Surveillance Act, or FISA, and reauthorizes the authority for 3 years.

FISA section 702 is one of our country's most important foreign intelligence authorities and is limited to collection on foreign nationals based overseas who are likely to provide foreign intelligence value.

These are terrorists, hackers, and spies living abroad. No U.S. citizen anywhere in the world can be a target under section 702.

While no U.S. person can be a target of FISA 702, some U.S. person information may incidentally be collected if a foreign target is talking to or about a U.S. person or entity.

In 2024, in response to significant FBI abuses of both section 702 and traditional FISA, Congress passed the Reforming Intelligence and Securing America Act, or RISAA, which imposed 56 new requirements and safeguards. Most of the reform measures were directly in response to past abuses by the FBI.

Reauthorizing FISA 702 is essential, but the reality is that despite the successful limits and reforms implemented through RISAA, there is still major distrust of the FBI.

Over the past weeks, alongside Speaker JOHNSON and Judiciary Committee Chairman JORDAN, we have met with members across the Republican Conference to identify core requirements and go line by line through the legislation to make changes and address concerns with the goal of reauthorizing section 702 and requiring additional layers of accountability.

The reality is that no reauthorization effort will likely address everyone's concerns, but this bill makes measurable reforms to strengthen accountability and safeguards while maintaining the criticality of the foreign intelligence tool.

Specifically, the new legislation adds the following six new provisions: clarifies that no U.S. person can be a target of 702 collection, and any targeting of U.S. person requires a title I or title III warrant; requires an outside review and authentication of FBI U.S. person queries by the Civil Liberty Protection Officer at the Office of the Director of National Intelligence; establishes criminal penalties for intentional abuse of FISA 702 queries and falsification of statements to the FISC; requires DOJ to update procedures to allow Members to attend FISC hearings; requires FBI attorney preapproval of all FBI U.S. person queries; and mandates an independent audit by the Government Accountability Office on 702 targeting procedures.

With these important reforms, the bill includes the reauthorization for FISA 702 authorities for 3 years.

In addition to section 702 reforms, the rule adds H.R. 1919, the Anti-CBDC Surveillance State Act to the underlying bill. This bill blocks the Federal Reserve from issuing a central bank digital currency to individuals, thereby preventing the Fed from collecting personal financial data on Americans.

The Anti-CBDC bill has passed the House two times already this Congress, and I was proud to support it both times. I want to thank Whip EMMER for introducing it and Financial Services Chairman FRENCH HILL for moving it through committee and working with us to attach it to the section 702 extension. When this bill is sent to the Senate, I urge them to pass the combined measure, and I urge all Members to support the rule and underlying bills.

Mr. MCGOVERN. Madam Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

I want to say to the gentleman who just spoke, the chairman of the Intelligence Committee, I have great respect for him, but that is a lot of words basically to say that Democrats and Republicans will be denied the right to be able to debate and vote on a warrant requirement.

Madam Speaker, I have already spoken about how terrible the bills in this rule are, but let me just take a minute to talk about how much of a dumpster fire the last 48 hours have been from a process standpoint.

The way this place is being run by your so-called leadership, Madam Speaker, is beyond incompetent. It is pathetic.

We spent all night waiting around while Republicans fought amongst themselves. We were told nearly at midnight on Monday to go home. We were then told Rules would meet at 8 a.m. on Tuesday. We showed up for that meeting only to be told there would be no meeting because Republicans were still busy fighting with each other.

Madam Speaker, you guys had all weekend. Didn't you think to do a Zoom call or something like that with your members to find out where they were? On FISA, this thing has been going on for weeks. Didn't you have a meeting or a phone call or a text thread or something to try to work that out?

Finally, at long last, we convened and reported out a rule, but based on public reporting, it is not clear whether the rule that we are debating right now can pass.

So what the hell are we doing here? I mean, can somebody please, please call the Republican whip and ask his office if they have the votes? Maybe they can ask them if they know how to count. We keep running around in circles here, Madam Speaker, and I will tell you why.

□ 1000

You guys have a tiny, slim majority. Rather than trying to work things out with Democrats, you cut us out of the process. The result is endless chaos, endless incompetence, and endless delay, and everyday Americans are the ones who pay the price.

Here is just one example. Democrats tried to make in order many Republican amendments in the Rules Committee last night. One of them, authored by Representative BIGGS, would require a warrant before the government spies on Americans. Last time the amendment came to the floor, it tied. Clearly, this is an important issue with members of both parties on both sides. It is exactly the kind of debate Congress should be having out in the open.

What did Republicans do? Well, there were two Republicans who voted with us to bring the amendment to the floor—again, an amendment to make sure the government can't spy on Americans without warrants. That was what the amendment was. Then, a third Republican, as I mentioned before, kept getting up and leaving the room every time we called the vote. It was really comical.

That is why we won't be having a floor debate, again, on a Republican amendment. That was a Republican amendment we tried to bring to the floor, and it was blocked by a Republican who literally had to get up and leave the room because if he didn't, it would pass. I just wonder who asked him to leave. What an embarrassment to this institution.

For the record, it isn't just one amendment Republicans have blocked here. It is hundreds. Seven out of 10 Republican amendments are blocked. Eight out of 10 bipartisan amendments are blocked. Nine out of 10 Democratic amendments are blocked. Let me repeat that: Nine out of 10 Democratic amendments are blocked in this rule.

Over 50 times in the Rules Committee last night, we asked to simply have an up-or-down vote on these important issues on the floor. Over 50 times, we were blocked.

I understand my ideas won't always prevail and win, but to not even be able to get a vote—I mean, what the hell are Republicans afraid of? Isn't it our job to debate and to vote?

This is an interesting statistic. For the record, we had more amendment votes in the Rules Committee last night than we have had on the House floor this entire year. That is not okay. We call ourselves one of the greatest deliberative bodies of the world, and we aren't deliberating on anything, for God's sake.

Republican leaders are blocking nearly every amendment, and that is what this rule does. It blocks idea after idea after idea from being debated and voted on.

We can't debate more aid for farmers. We can't debate more help for hungry families. We have Republican Members who are publicly threatening to take down this rule because their amendments were blocked, too. I disagree strongly with some of their ideas, and I would vote ''no,'' but they deserve a vote, don't they?

These bills are take it or leave it. The leadership dictates every single letter, every comma. This is no way to run this place. It is no way to run a banana stand. It is pathetic. It is a disgrace. The Speaker and the majority ought to be embarrassed by what is going on here. You are screwing over your own Members.

Madam Speaker, you write bad bills, and you block good ideas. You refuse to work with Democrats in a bipartisan way. You bend over backward to appease the people in your Conference who have no interest in governing.

Madam Speaker, I yield 3 minutes to the gentleman from Colorado (Mr. NEGUSE), a member of the Rules Committee who was there during the entire fiasco in the Rules Committee yesterday, to further expand on what I have been talking about.

Mr. NEGUSE. Madam Speaker, first, let me say thank you to the distinguished ranking member of the Rules Committee for his principled leadership.

I think it is well understood by most Americans that Congress is broken and that Congress is deeply dysfunctional. For anyone who is looking for another data point, we have one this morning: the Republican Rules Committee chairwoman criticizing and attacking Democratic members of the Rules Committee for trying to get a vote on Republican amendments.

Think about that. The amendments that we offered last night, that I offered last night, were not mine. They were amendments from members of the Republican Conference. For having the audacity to suggest that Republican ideas and Democratic ideas ought to be considered on the floor of the House, in this august Chamber, we have the Republican chairwoman attacking even the concept that a Democratic Member of Congress could dare introduce a Republican amendment.

For Ms. BOEBERT, for Mr. VAN ORDEN, for Mrs. MILLER-MEEKS, for Mr. STEUBE—go down the line—vote after vote after vote, two-thirds of Republican amendments were rejected by the Republican Rules Committee. Why? What are we afraid of?

This ought to be the Chamber where we can have a reasoned, objective debate and let the chips fall where they may.

I think it is deeply offensive to those Republican Members, to the Members in my conference, and, fundamentally, to the American people to suggest to them that we aren't capable of having that debate.

Just to be clear, on the substance, I have heard a lot of bluster today. It is shocking to me to hear my colleagues lecture us about fiscal responsibility as they preside over the highest debt in the history of the Republic, to hear them pontificate about fighting for working families as they enact the largest cut to SNAP, to food assistance for hungry families, in the history of the country.

Madam Speaker, they sermonize about fraud and corruption while the Trump administration engages in wholesale corruption daily, and they do nothing about it.

President Trump, right now, is suing the IRS for a $10 billion shakedown. Think about it. He is suing the Federal Government that he controls for a check for $10 billion that he hopes to secure that will go to Donald Trump, signed by Donald Trump. Who is paying the check? The American taxpayers. If you want to root out corruption, let's start there.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mrs. KIM). The time of the gentleman has expired.

Mr. MCGOVERN. Madam Speaker, I yield an additional 1 minute to the gentleman from Colorado.

Mr. NEGUSE. Madam Speaker, it is absurd. It is unconscionable. It is outrageous.

I just say to the gentleman from Georgia, whom I respect, I understand his arguments on the merits of some of these bills, but spare us the pious lectures, please, especially about corruption, not while President Trump is suing the Justice Department, suing the IRS, and trying to secure more money from hardworking taxpayers in our country, please.

For my Republican colleagues who are debating whether to vote on this procedural rule, just remember that when you had an important issue that you wanted debated on the House floor, your Conference rejected that debate. If you are interested in pesticide immunity or the regulation of field trip forms for middle schoolers, yes, they have you covered. This rule encompasses all of that. If you have a particular issue that is important to your constituents here, to your district, you are out of luck.

Mr. AUSTIN SCOTT of Georgia. Madam Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Wisconsin (Mr. VAN ORDEN).

Mr. VAN ORDEN. Madam Speaker, I will take a second to thank my Democratic colleagues for acknowledging my amendments. I will be sending them my entire list of legislative priorities for their cosponsorship.

I stand here today to strongly support the E15 year-round codification. For the past 5 years, the EPA has been using data that is older than some of the Members of this body. For 5 years in a row, the EPA has issued an emergency waiver for the use of E15 year-round because of the data sources that they have been using.

Under the leadership of President Trump and Lee Zeldin, we are now going to use data from this century. It is critically important.

This is what that data has shown. E15 is environmentally sound. It is readily available. It is reliable. Most importantly, it is affordable.

Madam Speaker, I strongly urge my colleagues on both sides of the aisle to vote for this rule and for the underlying legislation.

Mr. MCGOVERN. Madam Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

I would remind the gentleman from Wisconsin that he is in the majority party and that 100 percent of his amendments were blocked. I don't know what he did to tick off Mr. AUSTIN SCOTT of Georgia, but he voted against his amendments in the Rules Committee last night.

By the way, I am somebody who believes that we ought to debate amendments, even the ones that I don't always agree with, because I think this is a place where diversity of opinion and ideas ought to be brought to the floor and ought to be debated.

I am sorry the gentleman doesn't share that passion. I will tell you this: If you vote for this rule, as you just said you would, you can look forward to your future amendments being blocked by the majority in your own party, because that is what they have been doing.

□ 1010

We haven't had a debate on a single amendment on this floor in nearly 100 days. I am not okay with that, and I hope my Republican colleagues are not okay with that, either.

They ought to send a message to your leadership that this bs has to stop now. Individual Members have to be respected, and their ideas need to be brought to the floor.

I will say one final thing on the E15 matter. I think it is a legitimate issue. Our problem with it is that we are told that we can't address the issue of hunger and food insecurity because it adds to the deficit and the debt.

The Republican leadership in here knows that the Office of Management and Budget has said that the E15 provision will cost billions—billions with a b. Rather than offset it, they came up with a clever way to vote on it separately and then merge it with the farm bill at the end and send it to the Senate.

Again, none of this is paid for. What happened to fiscal responsibility? I guess when it comes to helping poor people, everybody on that side is: Oh, we can't do it because we have to be fiscally responsible. On other things, the sky is the limit.

Madam Speaker, I yield 1 minute to the gentlewoman from Oregon (Ms. DEXTER).

Ms. DEXTER. Madam Speaker, I thank the distinguished ranking member for yielding.

Madam Speaker, at a time when too many Americans are struggling to afford groceries, Congress should be working together to help feed working families.

We could be expanding access to food and vegetables, and investing in Food Is Medicine programs that keep people healthy and out of the hospital.

Instead, we are considering a betrayal of a farm bill that cuts food assistance for millions and fails our farmers. Let me be clear: Hunger is a health issue. Hunger is a policy choice.

I spent 20 years caring for the sickest patients in my community, and I know how food insecurity results in illness. I saw patients who delayed care to be able to put food on the table, only to end up in the hospital even sicker. I cared for people who couldn't afford the healthy food to manage their hypertension, diabetes, or heart disease.

This bill makes impossible choices harder. We need a farm bill that helps farmers feed Americans and helps families afford that food. This bill does neither.

Madam Speaker, I urge my colleagues to vote ''no'' on the rule and, instead, work to advance solutions that actually help families.

Mr. AUSTIN SCOTT of Georgia. Madam Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Madam Speaker, starving farmers the way Democrats did over the last several years, where they took and put 82 percent of farm bill spending into SNAP benefits, doesn't allow farmers the resources they need to grow the food that hungry people need.

We exempted anyone under 18 from the changes that we made. Anybody over 65 was exempted from the changes that we made. Anybody who is medically or psychologically disabled or unable to work is exempt from the

changes we made. Anybody who puts in the effort to work 20 hours a week is exempt from the changes we made.

Madam Speaker, I yield 1½ minutes to the gentleman from Kansas (Mr. MANN), my friend who has done tremendous work on the farm bill and E15.

Mr. MANN. Madam Speaker, I thank the gentleman, my friend from Georgia, for all of his efforts to get this passed.

Madam Speaker, I rise today in strong support of the Farm, Food, and National Security Act of 2026 and urge my colleagues to pass this critical legislation and the rule to bring it to the floor.

The last full farm bill was passed in 2018. Since then, input costs have risen, borrowing has become more expensive, and markets have grown more volatile. Our policies must reflect that reality.

Last year, we took an important step forward by strengthening the farm safety net and delivering meaningful support for producers through the Working Families Tax Cut Act.

This bill now builds on that foundation. It delivers a modern, fiscally responsible, 5-year farm bill that meets the needs of today's producers and prepares American agriculture for the future.

This bill is grounded in fiscal responsibility. It provides certainty without growing government for the sake of growing government. It cuts through unnecessary red tape and focuses on what actually works for producers on the ground.

Madam Speaker, I urge my colleagues to support the Farm, Food, and National Security Act of 2026.

I also rise in strong support of year-round E15 and, specifically, the Nationwide Consumer and Fuel Retailer Choice Act, which finally makes it a reality.

In the Big First District of Kansas, agriculture is the backbone of our economy and our way of life. Our farmers work hard every day to produce the feedstocks that power American ethanol. Expanding access to E15 means stronger markets and better prices for consumers and more certainty.

Madam Speaker, this is a win for farmers, a win for consumers, and a win for American energy. I urge my colleagues to vote ''yes'' for H.R. 1346 and support year-round E15.

Mr. MCGOVERN. Madam Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Madam Speaker, I am sorry that my colleague from Georgia does not believe that we can help both farmers and hungry families, but I do. That is what I am fighting for.

Madam Speaker, I yield 1 minute to the gentlewoman from California (Ms. KAMLAGER-DOVE).

Ms. KAMLAGER-DOVE. Madam Speaker, today, I rise in strong opposition to this rule and all the things. These bills are problematic and dangerous and will not make gas prices lower or feed families.

The FISA bill will allow the government to oversurveil Americans. The farm bill will keep the cuts to SNAP benefits and food pantries while protecting large corporations that put pesticides in your food.

The budget bill will fund the murderous ICE and Border Patrol to the tune of $140 billion without accountability.

The anti-trans bill will continue to demonize the trans community.

These bills are not just dangerous. They could kill people.

Madam Speaker, to load all of these sinister bills together and try to stuff them down the throats of Americans already choking on the incompetence of the majority is disingenuous and delusional.

No on the rule. No on the floor. Just no. Enough is enough.

Mr. AUSTIN SCOTT of Georgia. Madam Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Indiana (Mr. BAIRD).

Mr. BAIRD. Madam Speaker, I rise in strong support of the Farm, Food, and National Security Act of 2026.

In my district, agriculture isn't just a part of the economy; it is the economy. Our corn and soybean farmers feed our country, fuel our bioeconomy, and supply global markets, all while operating on tight margins and managing significant risks.

This bill provides the certainty they need to plan, invest, and sustain operations that often span generations.

It also strengthens the critical link between research and production. Institutions like Purdue University are driving advances in crop science, soil health, precision agriculture, and supply chain resilience, moving the innovation from the lab to the field and keeping American agriculture globally competitive.

I am especially pleased this legislation includes provisions I have worked on to expand access to the technical expertise for conservation, strengthen local and regional processing capacity, improve coordination between the leading research agencies, and provide clarity for emerging agricultural technologies.

These are the practical steps that help farmers adopt innovation and build more resilient supply chains.

Just as important, this bill reaffirms our strong commitment to science-based standards, particularly at the Environmental Protection Agency. The EPA's rigorous and data-driven review process ensures farmers have access to safe and effective crop protection tools while protecting consumers and the environment. We must maintain that gold standard while also ensuring that reviews are timely and predictable, so American producers remain competitive.

Madam Speaker, this bill strengthens farm programs, invests in conservation, and supports our rural communities. It is about stability, innovation, and national security.

Madam Speaker, I urge my colleagues on both sides to support this legislation.

Mr. MCGOVERN. Madam Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Madam Speaker, if we defeat the previous question, I will offer an amendment to the rule to adopt the Senate amendment to H.R. 7147, the bipartisan compromise bill that the Senate unanimously passed twice now to fund all the law-abiding agencies under the Department of Homeland Security.

Enough is enough. This is the deal to fund the Department of Homeland Security while we discuss changes in ICE and CBP. It is a bipartisan measure. It passed unanimously in the Senate twice.

The situation is so dire now that even the White House has sent a letter urging the House to pass the bill.

I am, once again, giving all Members of this body a chance to do the right thing and to provide a vote on this bipartisan DHS bill. Stop the games. Stop the games.

Madam Speaker, I ask unanimous consent to insert the text of my amendment into the RECORD along with any extraneous material immediately prior to the vote on the previous question.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Massachusetts?

There was no objection.

Mr. MCGOVERN. I urge all Members to reject this madness and the games my friends are playing on the other side of the aisle and vote ''no'' on the previous question so we can fund, finally, DHS.

Madam Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

□ 1020

Mr. AUSTIN SCOTT of Georgia. Madam Speaker, I am not aware of any recorded vote on the floor of the United States Senate. I am aware of a couple of actions being taken when nobody was on the floor of the United States Senate, but I am not aware of any recorded vote.

Madam Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Iowa (Mr. NUNN), who has done tremendous work on the farm bill and the E15 issue.

Mr. NUNN of Iowa. Madam Speaker, I thank AUSTIN SCOTT for his leadership on this farm bill.

I am from Iowa. We are home to 87,000 proud farmers. We are the home of American Gothic, and we are home to some of the best technology, particularly in ag, this country has ever seen and the world can benefit from. That is why it is so important that we move forward a farm bill this year that helps not just farmers but everyone in this country and leads with energy and biofuels the world over.

I am speaking specifically to year-round nationwide E15. Not only is it 30 cents cheaper at the pump, not only is it 50 percent more fuel efficient and

cleaner for us, and not only does it bleed off our need right now for foreign energy sources, it starts right here in America.

Here is the reality: For the last 4 years under the Biden administration gas hit its highest price of over $5 a gallon. We have the opportunity to rein it in with this. The reality is we have done more in the last 4 months than the last administration had done in the last 4 years. We have moved forward on summer waivers with EPA Administrator Lee Zeldin. We have worked for 45Z, and we have helped sustainable aviation fuel.

Iowa's producers should not have to win it back every single year. We should make this permanent, yearround, and nationwide, and help not only farmers grow, but my consumers, like my six kids, have a more affordable cost of living right here in Iowa and right here in America.

The 21 counties across Iowa that I pass through have all asked for certainty. This bill delivers it.

Madam Speaker, I urge my colleagues to support this in a bipartisan fashion, Republicans and Democrats, so that we can have energy independence right here in America with E15 yearround nationwide.

Mr. AUSTIN SCOTT of Georgia. Madam Speaker, I, again, want to give great credit to Mr. NUNN and the Iowa delegation as well as many others for their work on the E15 issue and the farm bill.

Madam Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. MCGOVERN. Madam Speaker, I just wish the E15 measure was paid for and wasn't going to explode the deficit.

Madam Speaker, I yield 1½ minutes to the gentlewoman from New Mexico (Ms. STANSBURY).

Ms. STANSBURY. Madam Speaker, I am appalled by what is coming before us on the floor today all wrapped up in one big, ugly rule. There are billions for ICE's warrantless searches on Americans and for funds that cut millions of Americans' children's access to food.

While working Americans are struggling to put food on the table and a roof over their head, farmers are wondering how they are going to weather drought, tariffs, and soaring fuel and fertilizer prices, what are Republicans bringing to the floor in this House?

They are handing ICE another blank check. They are forcing a farm bill that fails our farmers and ranchers and gives big corporations handouts, and on top of that, another FISA bill that gives a backdoor to spy on Americans.

This is not governing. It is a dereliction of duty.

Madam Speaker, stop gaslighting the American people. Our farmers need relief, our families need help, and the hardworking people of this country need you to show up for them and to stand up for the American people. We have had enough of this chaos, enough of this cruelty, and enough of this corruption. We must vote ''no''.

Mr. AUSTIN SCOTT of Georgia. Madam Speaker, I will just remind the gentlewoman that New Mexico has experienced a historic financial boom driven by what President Trump has done in unleashing America's domestic energy production. I think it was the Senate later that said they had more money than they could figure out how to spend in New Mexico.

Madam Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. MCGOVERN. Madam Speaker, I don't have any more speakers, and I am prepared to close.

Madam Speaker, may I ask how much time I have remaining.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman from Massachusetts has 30 seconds remaining.

Mr. MCGOVERN. Madam Speaker, I yield myself the balance of my time.

Madam Speaker, prices are up, debate in this House is down. We are debating culture war nonsense instead of adhering to an affordability agenda. We are giving more money to ICE and CBP that are lawless and that don't need any more money. We are giving more tax breaks to millionaires and billionaires. Farmers are getting screwed over, poor people are getting screwed over, hunger is going up in this country, and enough is enough. Enough is enough.

My friends on the other side do not care.

I will say to my Republican colleagues: If you are tired of getting rolled by your own leadership, then vote ''no'' on this rule. Vote ''no'' on this rule.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman's time is expired.

Mr. AUSTIN SCOTT of Georgia. Madam Speaker, Customs and Border Protection is an extremely important part of protecting the United States of America. While the Democrats might want to eliminate Customs and Border Protection so that they can make the borders wide open, the American citizens want those borders secure.

This week, the House has the ability to advance five pieces of legislation, including the Farm, Food, and National Security Act, representing years of committee efforts and stakeholder engagement, strengthening rural America, improving conservation tools, and supporting American producers.

The Foreign Intelligence Accountability Act reauthorizes section 702, with reforms, providing the continued ability to collect intelligence on foreign nationals overseas, who are reasonably believed to possess foreign intelligence information, in order to stop terrorist attacks on United States soil—again, stopping terrorist attacks on United States soil.

We have no idea who the Democrats let into this country over the last several years.

The Stopping Indoctrination and Protecting Kids Act supports parents, strengthens transparency, and protects our children in educational environments.

The budget resolution is an essential first step toward ending this Democrat-driven shutdown at DHS and strengthening our Nation's national security and keeping our borders secure, which is what Democrats' real opposition is to the Department of Homeland Security.

Finally, the Nationwide Consumer and Fuel Retailer Choice Act allows the option to sell gasoline that is blended with 10 percent to 15 percent ethanol year-round and provides additional reforms to the Renewable Energy Standard.

Together these measures advance our commitments to American families, American procedures, and responsible stewardship of taxpayer dollars.

Madam Speaker, in order to keep America's border secure, I urge my colleagues to join me in voting ''yes'' on the previous question and ''yes'' on the rule.

The material previously referred to by Mr. MCGOVERN is as follows:

AN AMENDMENT TO H. RES. 1224 OFFERED BY MR. MCGOVERN OF MASSACHUSETTS

At the end of the resolution, add the following:

SEC. 12. Immediately upon adoption of this resolution, the House shall take from the Speaker's table the bill (H.R. 7147) making further consolidated appropriations for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2026, and for other purposes, with the Senate amendment thereto, and consider in the House, without intervention of any point of order, a motion that the House recede from its amendment and concur in the Senate amendment. The Senate amendment and the motion shall be considered as read. The motion shall be debatable for one hour equally divided and controlled by the chair and ranking minority member of the Committee on Appropriations or their respective designees. The previous question shall be considered as ordered on the motion to its adoption without intervening motion.

SEC. 13. Clause 1(c) of rule XIX and clause 8 of rule XX shall not apply to the consideration of the motion.

SEC. 14. The Speaker is directed to sign the enrolled bill no later than one calendar day after adoption, and the Clerk is directed to present the bill to the President immediately upon signature by the Senate President.

Mr. AUSTIN SCOTT of Georgia. Madam Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time, and I move the previous question on the resolution.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on ordering the previous question.

The question was taken; and the Speaker pro tempore announced that the ayes appeared to have it.

Mr. MCGOVERN. Madam Speaker, on that I demand the yeas and nays.

The yeas and nays were ordered.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 9 of rule XX, the Chair will reduce to 5 minutes the minimum time for any electronic vote on the question of adoption of the resolution, if ordered.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—yeas 215, nays 210, not voting 5, as follows:

[Roll No. 140]

YEAS—215

Aderholt
Alford
Allen
Amodei (NV)
Arrington
Babin
Bacon
Baird
Balderson
Barr
Barrett
Baumgartner
Bean (FL)
Begich
Bentz
Bergman
Bice
Biggs (AZ)
Biggs (SC)
Bilirakis
Boebert
Bost
Brecheen
Bresnahan
Buchanan
Burchett
Burlison
Calvert
Cammack
Carey
Carter (GA)
Carter (TX)
Ciscomani
Cline
Cloud
Clyde
Cole
Collins
Comer
Crane
Crank
Crawford
Crenshaw
Davidson
De La Cruz
DesJarlais
Diaz-Balart
Donalds
Downing
Dunn (FL)
Edwards
Ellzey
Emmer
Estes
Evans (CO)
Ezell
Fallon
Fedorchak
Feenstra
Fine
Finstad
Fischbach
Fitzgerald
Fitzpatrick
Fleischmann
Flood
Fong
Foxx
Franklin, Scott
Fry
Fulcher
Fuller
Garbarino
Gill (TX)
Gimenez
Goldman (TX)
Gooden
Gosar
Graves
Griffith
Grothman
Guest
Guthrie
Hageman
Hamadeh (AZ)
Haridopolos
Harrigan
Harris (MD)
Harris (NC)
Harshbarger
Hern (OK)
Higgins (LA)
Hill (AR)
Hinson
Houchin
Hudson
Huizenga
Hunt
Hurd (CO)
Issa
Jack
Jackson (TX)
James
Johnson (LA)
Johnson (SD)
Jordan
Joyce (OH)
Joyce (PA)
Kelly (MS)
Kelly (PA)
Kennedy (UT)
Kiggans (VA)
Kiley (CA)
Kim
Knott
Kustoff
LaHood
LaLota
Langworthy
Latta
Lawler
Lee (FL)
Letlow
Lucas
Luna
Luttrell
Mace
Mackenzie
Malliotakis
Maloy
Mann
Massie
Mast
McCaul
McClain
McClintock
McCormick
McDowell
McGuire
Messmer
Meuser
Miller (IL)
Miller (OH)
Miller (WV)
Miller-Meeks
Mills
Moolenaar
Moore (AL)
Moore (NC)
Moore (UT)
Moore (WV)
Moran
Murphy
Nehls
Newhouse
Norman
Nunn (IA)
Obernolte
Ogles
Onder
Owens
Palmer
Patronis
Perry
Pfluger
Reschenthaler
Rogers (AL)
Rogers (KY)
Rose
Rouzer
Rulli
Rutherford
Salazar
Scalise
Schmidt
Schweikert
Scott, Austin
Self
Sessions
Shreve
Simpson
Smith (MO)
Smith (NE)
Smith (NJ)
Smucker
Spartz
Stauber
Stefanik
Steil
Steube
Strong
Stutzman
Taylor
Tenney
Thompson (PA)
Tiffany
Timmons
Turner (OH)
Valadao
Van Drew
Van Duyne
Van Epps
Van Orden
Wagner
Walberg
Weber (TX)
Webster (FL)
Westerman
Wied
Williams (TX)
Wilson (SC)
Wittman
Womack
Yakym
Zinke

NAYS—210

Adams
Aguilar
Amo
Ansari
Auchincloss
Balint
Barragán
Beatty
Bell
Bera
Beyer
Bishop
Bonamici
Boyle (PA)
Brown
Brownley
Budzinski
Bynum
Carbajal
Carson
Carter (LA)
Casar
Case
Casten
Castor (FL)
Castro (TX)
Chu
Cisneros
Clark (MA)
Clarke (NY)
Cleaver
Clyburn
Cohen
Conaway
Correa
Costa
Courtney
Craig
Crow
Cuellar
Davids (KS)
Davis (IL)
Davis (NC)
Dean (PA)
DeGette
DeLauro
DelBene
Deluzio
DeSaulnier
Dexter
Dingell
Doggett
Elfreth
Escobar
Espaillat
Evans (PA)
Fields
Figures
Fletcher
Foster
Foushee
Frankel, Lois
Friedman
Frost
Garamendi
Garcia (CA)
García (IL)
Garcia (TX)
Gillen
Golden (ME)
Goldman (NY)
Gomez
Gonzalez, V.
Goodlander
Gottheimer
Gray
Green, Al (TX)
Grijalva
Harder (CA)
Hayes
Himes
Horsford
Houlahan
Hoyer
Hoyle (OR)
Huffman
Ivey
Jackson (IL)
Jacobs
Jayapal
Jeffries
Johnson (GA)
Johnson (TX)
Kamlager-Dove
Kaptur
Keating
Kelly (IL)
Kennedy (NY)
Khanna
Krishnamoorthi
Landsman
Larsen (WA)
Larson (CT)
Latimer
Lee (NV)
Lee (PA)
Leger Fernandez
Levin
Liccardo
Lieu
Lofgren
Lynch
Magaziner
Mannion
Matsui
McBath
McBride
McClain Delaney
McClellan
McCollum
McDonald Rivet
McGarvey
McGovern
McIver
Meeks
Mejia
Menefee
Menendez
Meng
Mfume
Min
Moore (WI)
Morelle
Morrison
Moskowitz
Moulton
Mrvan
Mullin
Nadler
Neal
Neguse
Norcross
Ocasio-Cortez
Olszewski
Omar
Pallone
Panetta
Pappas
Pelosi
Perez
Peters
Pettersen
Pingree
Pocan
Pou
Pressley
Quigley
Ramirez
Randall
Raskin
Riley (NY)
Rivas
Ross
Ruiz
Ryan
Salinas
Sánchez
Scanlon
Schakowsky
Schneider
Scholten
Schrier
Scott (VA)
Sewell
Sherman
Simon
Smith (WA)
Sorensen
Soto
Stansbury
Stanton
Stevens
Strickland
Subramanyam
Suozzi
Sykes
Takano
Thanedar
Thompson (CA)
Thompson (MS)
Titus
Tlaib
Tokuda
Tonko
Torres (CA)
Torres (NY)
Trahan
Tran
Underwood
Vargas
Vasquez
Veasey
Velázquez
Vindman
Walkinshaw
Wasserman Schultz
Waters
Watson Coleman
Whitesides
Williams (GA)

NOT VOTING—5

Crockett
Kean
Loudermilk
Roy
Wilson (FL)

□ 1111

Ms. GARCIA of Texas and Mr. GOTTHEIMER changed their vote from ''yea'' to ''nay.''

Mr. SCHWEIKERT changed his vote from ''nay'' to ''yea.''

So the previous question was ordered.

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. MOORE of North Carolina). The question is on the resolution.

The question was taken; and the Speaker pro tempore announced that the ayes appeared to have it.

RECORDED VOTE

Mr. MCGOVERN. Mr. Speaker, I demand a recorded vote.

A recorded vote was ordered.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. This is a 5-minute vote.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—ayes 216, noes 210, not voting 4, as follows:

[Roll No. 141]

AYES—216

Aderholt
Alford
Allen
Amodei (NV)
Arrington
Babin
Bacon
Baird
Balderson
Barr
Barrett
Baumgartner
Bean (FL)
Begich
Bentz
Bergman
Bice
Biggs (AZ)
Biggs (SC)
Bilirakis
Boebert
Bost
Brecheen
Bresnahan
Buchanan
Burchett
Burlison
Calvert
Cammack
Carey
Carter (GA)
Carter (TX)
Ciscomani
Cline
Cloud
Clyde
Cole
Collins
Comer
Crane
Crank
Crawford
Crenshaw
Davidson
De La Cruz
DesJarlais
Diaz-Balart
Donalds
Downing
Dunn (FL)
Edwards
Ellzey
Emmer
Estes
Evans (CO)
Ezell
Fallon
Fedorchak
Feenstra
Fine
Finstad
Fischbach
Fitzgerald
Fitzpatrick
Fleischmann
Flood
Fong
Foxx
Franklin, Scott
Fry
Fulcher
Fuller
Garbarino
Gill (TX)
Gimenez
Goldman (TX)
Gooden
Gosar
Graves
Griffith
Grothman
Guest
Guthrie
Hageman
Hamadeh (AZ)
Haridopolos
Harrigan
Harris (MD)
Harris (NC)
Harshbarger
Hern (OK)
Higgins (LA)
Hill (AR)
Hinson
Houchin
Hudson
Huizenga
Hunt
Hurd (CO)
Issa
Jack
Jackson (TX)
James
Johnson (LA)
Johnson (SD)
Jordan
Joyce (OH)
Joyce (PA)
Kelly (MS)
Kelly (PA)
Kennedy (UT)
Kiggans (VA)
Kiley (CA)
Kim
Knott
Kustoff
LaHood
LaLota
Langworthy
Latta
Lawler
Lee (FL)
Letlow
Lucas
Luna
Luttrell
Mace
Mackenzie
Malliotakis
Maloy
Mann
Massie
Mast
McCaul
McClain
McClintock
McCormick
McDowell
McGuire
Messmer
Meuser
Miller (IL)
Miller (OH)
Miller (WV)
Miller-Meeks
Mills
Moolenaar
Moore (AL)
Moore (NC)
Moore (UT)
Moore (WV)
Moran
Murphy
Nehls
Newhouse
Norman
Nunn (IA)
Obernolte
Ogles
Onder
Owens
Palmer
Patronis
Perry
Pfluger
Reschenthaler
Rogers (AL)
Rogers (KY)
Rose
Rouzer
Roy
Rulli
Rutherford
Salazar
Scalise
Schmidt
Schweikert
Scott, Austin
Self
Sessions
Shreve
Simpson
Smith (MO)
Smith (NE)
Smith (NJ)
Smucker
Spartz
Stauber
Stefanik
Steil
Steube
Strong
Stutzman
Taylor
Tenney
Thompson (PA)
Tiffany
Timmons
Turner (OH)
Valadao
Van Drew
Van Duyne
Van Epps
Van Orden
Wagner
Walberg
Weber (TX)
Webster (FL)
Westerman
Wied
Williams (TX)
Wilson (SC)
Wittman
Womack
Yakym
Zinke

NOES—210

Adams
Aguilar
Amo
Ansari
Auchincloss
Balint
Barragán
Beatty
Bell
Bera
Beyer
Bishop
Bonamici
Boyle (PA)
Brown
Brownley
Budzinski
Bynum
Carbajal
Carson
Carter (LA)
Casar
Case
Casten
Castor (FL)
Castro (TX)
Chu
Cisneros
Clark (MA)
Clarke (NY)
Cleaver
Clyburn
Cohen
Conaway
Correa
Costa
Courtney
Craig
Crow
Cuellar
Davids (KS)
Davis (IL)
Davis (NC)
Dean (PA)
DeGette
DeLauro
DelBene
Deluzio
DeSaulnier
Dexter
Dingell
Doggett
Elfreth
Escobar
Espaillat
Evans (PA)
Fields
Figures
Fletcher
Foster
Foushee
Frankel, Lois
Friedman
Frost
Garamendi
Garcia (CA)
García (IL)
Garcia (TX)
Gillen
Golden (ME)
Goldman (NY)
Gomez
Gonzalez, V.
Goodlander
Gottheimer
Gray
Green, Al (TX)
Grijalva
Harder (CA)
Hayes
Himes
Horsford
Houlahan
Hoyer
Hoyle (OR)
Huffman
Ivey
Jackson (IL)
Jacobs
Jayapal
Jeffries
Johnson (GA)
Johnson (TX)
Kamlager-Dove
Kaptur
Keating
Kelly (IL)
Kennedy (NY)
Khanna
Krishnamoorthi
Landsman
Larsen (WA)
Larson (CT)
Latimer
Lee (NV)
Lee (PA)
Leger Fernandez
Levin

Liccardo
Lieu
Lofgren
Lynch
Magaziner
Mannion
Matsui
McBath
McBride
McClain Delaney
McClellan
McCollum
McDonald Rivet
McGarvey
McGovern
McIver
Meeks
Mejia
Menefee
Menendez
Meng
Mfume
Min
Moore (WI)
Morelle
Morrison
Moskowitz
Moulton
Mrvan
Mullin
Nadler
Neal
Neguse
Norcross
Ocasio-Cortez
Olszewski
Omar
Pallone
Panetta
Pappas
Pelosi
Perez
Peters
Pettersen
Pingree
Pocan
Pou
Pressley
Quigley
Ramirez
Randall
Raskin
Riley (NY)
Rivas
Ross
Ruiz
Ryan
Salinas
Sánchez
Scanlon
Schakowsky
Schneider
Scholten
Schrier
Scott (VA)
Sewell
Sherman
Simon
Smith (WA)
Sorensen
Soto
Stansbury
Stanton
Stevens
Strickland
Subramanyam
Suozzi
Sykes
Takano
Thanedar
Thompson (CA)
Thompson (MS)
Titus
Tlaib
Tokuda
Tonko
Torres (CA)
Torres (NY)
Trahan
Tran
Underwood
Vargas
Vasquez
Veasey
Velázquez
Vindman
Walkinshaw
Wasserman Schultz
Waters
Watson Coleman
Whitesides
Williams (GA)

NOT VOTING—4

Crockett
Kean
Loudermilk
Wilson (FL)

□ 1324

Messrs. CRANE, NEHLS, and SELF changed their vote from ''no'' to ''aye.''

So the resolution was agreed to.

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

RECESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. MCDOWELL). Pursuant to clause 12(a) of rule I, the Chair declares the House in recess subject to the call of the Chair.

Accordingly (at 1 o'clock and 25 minutes p.m.), the House stood in recess.

□ 1445

AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. VAN EPPS) at 2 o'clock and 45 minutes p.m.

CONCURRENT RESOLUTION ON THE BUDGET FOR FISCAL YEAR 2026

Mr. ARRINGTON. Mr. Speaker, pursuant to House Resolution 1224, I call up the concurrent resolution (S. Con. Res. 33) setting forth the congressional budget for the United States Government for fiscal year 2026 and setting forth the appropriate budgetary levels for fiscal years 2027 through 2035, and ask for its immediate consideration.

The Clerk read the title of the concurrent resolution.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to House Resolution 1224, the concurrent resolution is considered read.

The text of the concurrent resolution is as follows:

S. CON. RES. 33

Resolved by the Senate (the House of Representatives concurring),

SECTION 1. CONCURRENT RESOLUTION ON THE BUDGET FOR FISCAL YEAR 2026.

(a) DECLARATION.—Congress declares that this resolution is the concurrent resolution on the budget for fiscal year 2026 and that this resolution sets forth the appropriate budgetary levels for fiscal years 2027 through 2035.

(b) TABLE OF CONTENTS.—The table of contents for this concurrent resolution is as follows:

Section. 1. Concurrent resolution on the budget for fiscal year 2026.

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TITLE I—RECOMMENDED LEVELS AND AMOUNTS

Subtitle A—Budgetary Levels in Both Houses

SEC. 1101. RECOMMENDED LEVELS AND AMOUNTS.

The following budgetary levels are appropriate for each of fiscal years 2026 through 2035:

(1) FEDERAL REVENUES.—For purposes of the enforcement of this resolution:

(A) The recommended levels of Federal revenues are as follows:

Fiscal year 2026: $4,242,825,000,000.
Fiscal year 2027: $4,476,744,000,000.
Fiscal year 2028: $4,606,277,000,000.
Fiscal year 2029: $4,799,819,000,000.
Fiscal year 2030: $5,013,902,000,000.
Fiscal year 2031: $5,227,718,000,000.
Fiscal year 2032: $5,427,567,000,000.
Fiscal year 2033: $5,627,231,000,000.
Fiscal year 2034: $5,841,187,000,000.
Fiscal year 2035: $6,078,202,000,000.

(B) The amounts by which the aggregate levels of Federal revenues should be changed are as follows:

Fiscal year 2026: $0.
Fiscal year 2027: $0.
Fiscal year 2028: $0.
Fiscal year 2029: $0.
Fiscal year 2030: $0.
Fiscal year 2031: $0.
Fiscal year 2032: $0.
Fiscal year 2033: $0.
Fiscal year 2034: $0.
Fiscal year 2035: $0.

(2) NEW BUDGET AUTHORITY.—For purposes of the enforcement of this resolution, the appropriate levels of total new budget authority are as follows:

Fiscal year 2026: $5,401,583,000,000.
Fiscal year 2027: $5,507,288,000,000.
Fiscal year 2028: $5,511,423,000,000.
Fiscal year 2029: $5,379,533,000,000.
Fiscal year 2030: $5,708,120,000,000.
Fiscal year 2031: $5,945,773,000,000.
Fiscal year 2032: $6,171,467,000,000.
Fiscal year 2033: $6,524,285,000,000.
Fiscal year 2034: $6,647,584,000,000.
Fiscal year 2035: $6,770,543,000,000.

(3) BUDGET OUTLAYS.—For purposes of the enforcement of this resolution, the appropriate levels of total budget outlays are as follows:

Fiscal year 2026: $5,507,841,000,000.
Fiscal year 2027: $5,591,820,000,000.
Fiscal year 2028: $5,676,362,000,000.
Fiscal year 2029: $5,446,241,000,000.
Fiscal year 2030: $5,780,039,000,000.
Fiscal year 2031: $5,988,070,000,000.
Fiscal year 2032: $6,178,039,000,000.
Fiscal year 2033: $6,549,172,000,000.
Fiscal year 2034: $6,618,169,000,000.
Fiscal year 2035: $6,679,898,000,000.

(4) DEFICITS.—For purposes of the enforcement of this resolution, the amounts of the deficits are as follows:

Fiscal year 2026: $1,265,016,000,000.
Fiscal year 2027: $1,115,076,000,000.
Fiscal year 2028: $1,070,085,000,000.
Fiscal year 2029: $646,422,000,000.
Fiscal year 2030: $766,137,000,000.
Fiscal year 2031: $760,352,000,000.
Fiscal year 2032: $750,472,000,000.
Fiscal year 2033: $921,941,000,000.
Fiscal year 2034: $776,982,000,000.
Fiscal year 2035: $601,696,000,000.

(5) PUBLIC DEBT.—Pursuant to section 301(a)(5) of the Congressional Budget Act of 1974 (2 U.S.C. 632(a)(5)), the appropriate levels of the public debt are as follows:

Fiscal year 2026: $39,164,264,000,000.
Fiscal year 2027: $40,456,036,000,000.
Fiscal year 2028: $41,731,126,000,000.
Fiscal year 2029: $42,563,432,000,000.
Fiscal year 2030: $43,484,184,000,000.
Fiscal year 2031: $44,389,587,000,000.
Fiscal year 2032: $45,422,961,000,000.
Fiscal year 2033: $46,962,682,000,000.
Fiscal year 2034: $48,437,589,000,000.
Fiscal year 2035: $49,860,557,000,000.

(6) DEBT HELD BY THE PUBLIC.—The appropriate levels of debt held by the public are as follows:

Fiscal year 2026: $31,677,998,000,000.
Fiscal year 2027: $33,032,486,000,000.
Fiscal year 2028: $34,377,969,000,000.
Fiscal year 2029: $35,325,105,000,000.
Fiscal year 2030: $36,422,758,000,000.
Fiscal year 2031: $37,550,279,000,000.
Fiscal year 2032: $38,715,101,000,000.
Fiscal year 2033: $40,076,718,000,000.
Fiscal year 2034: $41,321,152,000,000.
Fiscal year 2035: $42,425,652,000,000.

SEC. 1102. MAJOR FUNCTIONAL CATEGORIES.

Congress determines and declares that the appropriate levels of new budget authority and outlays for fiscal years 2026 through 2035 for each major functional category are:

(1) National Defense (050):
Fiscal year 2026:
(A) New budget authority, $934,139,000,000.
(B) Outlays, $967,086,000,000.
Fiscal year 2027:
(A) New budget authority, $1,187,967,000,000.
(B) Outlays, $1,122,479,000,000.
Fiscal year 2028:
(A) New budget authority, $1,191,483,000,000.
(B) Outlays, $1,178,068,000,000.
Fiscal year 2029:
(A) New budget authority, $1,194,198,000,000.
(B) Outlays, $1,179,606,000,000.
Fiscal year 2030:
(A) New budget authority, $1,193,592,000,000.
(B) Outlays, $1,185,831,000,000.
Fiscal year 2031:
(A) New budget authority, $1,193,930,000,000.
(B) Outlays, $1,184,861,000,000.
Fiscal year 2032:
(A) New budget authority, $1,196,068,000,000.
(B) Outlays, $1,179,816,000,000.
Fiscal year 2033:
(A) New budget authority, $1,198,601,000,000.
(B) Outlays, $1,189,352,000,000.
Fiscal year 2034:
(A) New budget authority, $1,199,559,000,000.
(B) Outlays, $1,182,020,000,000.
Fiscal year 2035:
(A) New budget authority, $1,200,433,000,000.
(B) Outlays, $1,172,233,000,000.
(2) International Affairs (150):
Fiscal year 2026:
(A) New budget authority, $46,750,000,000.
(B) Outlays, $35,911,000,000.
Fiscal year 2027:
(A) New budget authority, $50,472,000,000.
(B) Outlays, $39,877,000,000.
Fiscal year 2028:
(A) New budget authority, $52,923,000,000.
(B) Outlays, $47,393,000,000.
Fiscal year 2029:
(A) New budget authority, $55,918,000,000.
(B) Outlays, $56,003,000,000.
Fiscal year 2030:
(A) New budget authority, $57,099,000,000.
(B) Outlays, $55,511,000,000.
Fiscal year 2031:
(A) New budget authority, $58,342,000,000.
(B) Outlays, $55,179,000,000.
Fiscal year 2032:
(A) New budget authority, $59,628,000,000.
(B) Outlays, $55,701,000,000.
Fiscal year 2033:
(A) New budget authority, $60,908,000,000.
(B) Outlays, $56,521,000,000.
Fiscal year 2034:
(A) New budget authority, $62,232,000,000.
(B) Outlays, $57,352,000,000.
Fiscal year 2035:
(A) New budget authority, $63,547,000,000.
(B) Outlays, $58,270,000,000.
(3) General Science, Space, and Technology (250):
Fiscal year 2026:
(A) New budget authority, $40,763,000,000.
(B) Outlays, $44,222,000,000.
Fiscal year 2027:
(A) New budget authority, $41,654,000,000.
(B) Outlays, $44,346,000,000.
Fiscal year 2028:
(A) New budget authority, $42,600,000,000.
(B) Outlays, $44,130,000,000.
Fiscal year 2029:
(A) New budget authority, $43,554,000,000.
(B) Outlays, $44,584,000,000.
Fiscal year 2030:
(A) New budget authority, $44,474,000,000.
(B) Outlays, $44,213,000,000.
Fiscal year 2031:
(A) New budget authority, $45,437,000,000.
(B) Outlays, $44,234,000,000.
Fiscal year 2032:
(A) New budget authority, $46,413,000,000.
(B) Outlays, $45,017,000,000.
Fiscal year 2033:
(A) New budget authority, $47,384,000,000.
(B) Outlays, $45,963,000,000.
Fiscal year 2034:
(A) New budget authority, $48,391,000,000.
(B) Outlays, $46,938,000,000.
Fiscal year 2035:
(A) New budget authority, $49,413,000,000.
(B) Outlays, $47,938,000,000.
(4) Energy (270):
Fiscal year 2026:
(A) New budget authority, $21,471,000,000.
(B) Outlays, $23,530,000,000.
Fiscal year 2027:
(A) New budget authority, $10,695,000,000.
(B) Outlays, $25,388,000,000.
Fiscal year 2028:
(A) New budget authority, $7,681,000,000.
(B) Outlays, $24,253,000,000.
Fiscal year 2029:
(A) New budget authority, $7,284,000,000.
(B) Outlays, $21,576,000,000.
Fiscal year 2030:
(A) New budget authority, $6,119,000,000.
(B) Outlays, $15,948,000,000.
Fiscal year 2031:
(A) New budget authority, $5,677,000,000.
(B) Outlays, $11,079,000,000.
Fiscal year 2032:
(A) New budget authority, $7,195,000,000.
(B) Outlays, $9,906,000,000.
Fiscal year 2033:
(A) New budget authority, $7,203,000,000.
(B) Outlays, $8,381,000,000.
Fiscal year 2034:
(A) New budget authority, $7,263,000,000.
(B) Outlays, $7,527,000,000.
Fiscal year 2035:
(A) New budget authority, $7,621,000,000.
(B) Outlays, $7,546,000,000.
(5) Natural Resources and Environment (300):
Fiscal year 2026:
(A) New budget authority, $66,459,000,000.
(B) Outlays, $72,714,000,000.
Fiscal year 2027:
(A) New budget authority, $44,840,000,000.
(B) Outlays, $72,452,000,000.
Fiscal year 2028:
(A) New budget authority, $45,522,000,000.
(B) Outlays, $68,651,000,000.
Fiscal year 2029:
(A) New budget authority, $45,858,000,000.
(B) Outlays, $65,318,000,000.
Fiscal year 2030:
(A) New budget authority, $45,638,000,000.
(B) Outlays, $60,554,000,000.
Fiscal year 2031:
(A) New budget authority, $46,321,000,000.
(B) Outlays, $57,333,000,000.
Fiscal year 2032:
(A) New budget authority, $46,978,000,000.
(B) Outlays, $54,547,000,000.
Fiscal year 2033:
(A) New budget authority, $48,365,000,000.
(B) Outlays, $53,281,000,000.
Fiscal year 2034:
(A) New budget authority, $49,686,000,000.
(B) Outlays, $51,491,000,000.
Fiscal year 2035:
(A) New budget authority, $50,009,000,000.
(B) Outlays, $51,553,000,000.
(6) Agriculture (350):
Fiscal year 2026:
(A) New budget authority, $38,206,000,000.
(B) Outlays, $43,583,000,000.
Fiscal year 2027:
(A) New budget authority, $41,842,000,000.
(B) Outlays, $51,184,000,000.
Fiscal year 2028:
(A) New budget authority, $41,595,000,000.
(B) Outlays, $47,870,000,000.
Fiscal year 2029:
(A) New budget authority, $41,493,000,000.
(B) Outlays, $42,822,000,000.
Fiscal year 2030:
(A) New budget authority, $39,249,000,000.
(B) Outlays, $38,748,000,000.
Fiscal year 2031:
(A) New budget authority, $39,261,000,000.
(B) Outlays, $38,057,000,000.
Fiscal year 2032:
(A) New budget authority, $39,988,000,000.
(B) Outlays, $38,470,000,000.
Fiscal year 2033:
(A) New budget authority, $40,600,000,000.
(B) Outlays, $39,511,000,000.
Fiscal year 2034:
(A) New budget authority, $40,864,000,000.
(B) Outlays, $40,243,000,000.
Fiscal year 2035:
(A) New budget authority, $41,262,000,000.
(B) Outlays, $41,035,000,000.
(7) Commerce and Housing Credit (370):
Fiscal year 2026:
(A) New budget authority, $18,198,000,000.
(B) Outlays, −$12,289,000,000.
Fiscal year 2027:
(A) New budget authority, $25,793,000,000.
(B) Outlays, $2,153,000,000.
Fiscal year 2028:
(A) New budget authority, −$56,941,000,000.
(B) Outlays, −$81,735,000,000.
Fiscal year 2029:
(A) New budget authority, $27,877,000,000.
(B) Outlays, $8,795,000,000.
Fiscal year 2030:
(A) New budget authority, $26,793,000,000.
(B) Outlays, $4,866,000,000.
Fiscal year 2031:
(A) New budget authority, $26,695,000,000.
(B) Outlays, $2,805,000,000.
Fiscal year 2032:
(A) New budget authority, $26,716,000,000.
(B) Outlays, $1,270,000,000.
Fiscal year 2033:
(A) New budget authority, $20,680,000,000.
(B) Outlays, −$6,286,000,000.
Fiscal year 2034:
(A) New budget authority, $29,516,000,000.
(B) Outlays, $610,000,000.
Fiscal year 2035:
(A) New budget authority, $29,923,000,000.
(B) Outlays, −$516,000,000.
(8) Transportation (400):
Fiscal year 2026:
(A) New budget authority, $161,239,000,000.
(B) Outlays, $150,430,000,000.
Fiscal year 2027:
(A) New budget authority, $129,719,000,000.
(B) Outlays, $164,258,000,000.
Fiscal year 2028:
(A) New budget authority, $132,266,000,000.
(B) Outlays, $171,502,000,000.
Fiscal year 2029:
(A) New budget authority, $133,335,000,000.
(B) Outlays, $169,349,000,000.
Fiscal year 2030:
(A) New budget authority, $131,790,000,000.
(B) Outlays, $161,642,000,000.
Fiscal year 2031:
(A) New budget authority, $133,105,000,000.
(B) Outlays, $157,322,000,000.
Fiscal year 2032:
(A) New budget authority, $137,586,000,000.
(B) Outlays, $156,456,000,000.
Fiscal year 2033:
(A) New budget authority, $139,101,000,000.
(B) Outlays, $154,688,000,000.
Fiscal year 2034:
(A) New budget authority, $140,639,000,000.
(B) Outlays, $153,279,000,000.
Fiscal year 2035:
(A) New budget authority, $142,119,000,000.
(B) Outlays, $152,990,000,000.
(9) Community and Regional Development (450):
Fiscal year 2026:
(A) New budget authority, $43,421,000,000.
(B) Outlays, $65,084,000,000.
Fiscal year 2027:
(A) New budget authority, $19,954,000,000.
(B) Outlays, $61,891,000,000.
Fiscal year 2028:
(A) New budget authority, $20,211,000,000.
(B) Outlays, $55,222,000,000.
Fiscal year 2029:
(A) New budget authority, $20,647,000,000.
(B) Outlays, $42,823,000,000.

Fiscal year 2030:
(A) New budget authority, $21,073,000,000.
(B) Outlays, $34,689,000,000.
Fiscal year 2031:
(A) New budget authority, $21,487,000,000.
(B) Outlays, $30,165,000,000.
Fiscal year 2032:
(A) New budget authority, $21,879,000,000.
(B) Outlays, $27,188,000,000.
Fiscal year 2033:
(A) New budget authority, $22,239,000,000.
(B) Outlays, $24,521,000,000.
Fiscal year 2034:
(A) New budget authority, $22,647,000,000.
(B) Outlays, $23,064,000,000.
Fiscal year 2035:
(A) New budget authority, $23,129,000,000.
(B) Outlays, $22,206,000,000.
(10) Education, Training, Employment, and Social Services (500):
Fiscal year 2026:
(A) New budget authority, $145,239,000,000.
(B) Outlays, $149,211,000,000.
Fiscal year 2027:
(A) New budget authority, $135,812,000,000.
(B) Outlays, $139,155,000,000.
Fiscal year 2028:
(A) New budget authority, $137,760,000,000.
(B) Outlays, $135,636,000,000.
Fiscal year 2029:
(A) New budget authority, $140,396,000,000.
(B) Outlays, $137,561,000,000.
Fiscal year 2030:
(A) New budget authority, $143,110,000,000.
(B) Outlays, $139,892,000,000.
Fiscal year 2031:
(A) New budget authority, $145,952,000,000.
(B) Outlays, $142,542,000,000.
Fiscal year 2032:
(A) New budget authority, $149,139,000,000.
(B) Outlays, $145,536,000,000.
Fiscal year 2033:
(A) New budget authority, $152,365,000,000.
(B) Outlays, $148,606,000,000.
Fiscal year 2034:
(A) New budget authority, $155,260,000,000.
(B) Outlays, $151,478,000,000.
Fiscal year 2035:
(A) New budget authority, $158,185,000,000.
(B) Outlays, $154,351,000,000.
(11) Health (550):
Fiscal year 2026:
(A) New budget authority, $990,989,000,000.
(B) Outlays, $991,249,000,000.
Fiscal year 2027:
(A) New budget authority, $1,021,896,000,000.
(B) Outlays, $994,047,000,000.
Fiscal year 2028:
(A) New budget authority, $1,018,828,000,000.
(B) Outlays, $1,011,439,000,000.
Fiscal year 2029:
(A) New budget authority, $1,044,155,000,000.
(B) Outlays, $1,026,701,000,000.
Fiscal year 2030:
(A) New budget authority, $1,068,648,000,000.
(B) Outlays, $1,056,499,000,000.
Fiscal year 2031:
(A) New budget authority, $1,091,193,000,000.
(B) Outlays, $1,087,840,000,000.
Fiscal year 2032:
(A) New budget authority, $1,134,506,000,000.
(B) Outlays, $1,125,944,000,000.
Fiscal year 2033:
(A) New budget authority, $1,181,006,000,000.
(B) Outlays, $1,169,396,000,000.
Fiscal year 2034:
(A) New budget authority, $1,226,722,000,000.
(B) Outlays, $1,213,258,000,000.
Fiscal year 2035:
(A) New budget authority, $1,276,294,000,000.
(B) Outlays, $1,261,576,000,000.
(12) Medicare (570):
Fiscal year 2026:
(A) New budget authority, $1,074,395,000,000.
(B) Outlays, $1,073,511,000,000.
Fiscal year 2027:
(A) New budget authority, $1,152,403,000,000.
(B) Outlays, $1,151,373,000,000.
Fiscal year 2028:
(A) New budget authority, $1,295,249,000,000.
(B) Outlays, $1,294,732,000,000.
Fiscal year 2029:
(A) New budget authority, $1,213,815,000,000.
(B) Outlays, $1,213,557,000,000.
Fiscal year 2030:
(A) New budget authority, $1,366,056,000,000.
(B) Outlays, $1,365,415,000,000.
Fiscal year 2031:
(A) New budget authority, $1,447,337,000,000.
(B) Outlays, $1,446,672,000,000.
Fiscal year 2032:
(A) New budget authority, $1,537,154,000,000.
(B) Outlays, $1,536,425,000,000.
Fiscal year 2033:
(A) New budget authority, $1,753,601,000,000.
(B) Outlays, $1,752,829,000,000.
Fiscal year 2034:
(A) New budget authority, $1,770,796,000,000.
(B) Outlays, $1,770,034,000,000.
Fiscal year 2035:
(A) New budget authority, $1,744,777,000,000.
(B) Outlays, $1,743,981,000,000.
(13) Income Security (600):
Fiscal year 2026:
(A) New budget authority, $714,131,000,000.
(B) Outlays, $713,457,000,000.
Fiscal year 2027:
(A) New budget authority, $722,109,000,000.
(B) Outlays, $715,873,000,000.
Fiscal year 2028:
(A) New budget authority, $735,386,000,000.
(B) Outlays, $735,003,000,000.
Fiscal year 2029:
(A) New budget authority, $735,892,000,000.
(B) Outlays, $720,691,000,000.
Fiscal year 2030:
(A) New budget authority, $755,373,000,000.
(B) Outlays, $745,807,000,000.
Fiscal year 2031:
(A) New budget authority, $770,541,000,000.
(B) Outlays, $759,531,000,000.
Fiscal year 2032:
(A) New budget authority, $789,028,000,000.
(B) Outlays, $777,179,000,000.
Fiscal year 2033:
(A) New budget authority, $811,004,000,000.
(B) Outlays, $806,212,000,000.
Fiscal year 2034:
(A) New budget authority, $822,005,000,000.
(B) Outlays, $810,217,000,000.
Fiscal year 2035:
(A) New budget authority, $830,340,000,000.
(B) Outlays, $808,740,000,000.
(14) Social Security (650):
Fiscal year 2026:
(A) New budget authority, $66,568,000,000.
(B) Outlays, $66,568,000,000.
Fiscal year 2027:
(A) New budget authority, $71,135,000,000.
(B) Outlays, $71,135,000,000.
Fiscal year 2028:
(A) New budget authority, $74,970,000,000.
(B) Outlays, $74,970,000,000.
Fiscal year 2029:
(A) New budget authority, $82,084,000,000.
(B) Outlays, $82,084,000,000.
Fiscal year 2030:
(A) New budget authority, $87,394,000,000.
(B) Outlays, $87,394,000,000.
Fiscal year 2031:
(A) New budget authority, $91,336,000,000.
(B) Outlays, $91,336,000,000.
Fiscal year 2032:
(A) New budget authority, $95,906,000,000.
(B) Outlays, $95,906,000,000.
Fiscal year 2033:
(A) New budget authority, $101,080,000,000.
(B) Outlays, $101,080,000,000.
Fiscal year 2034:
(A) New budget authority, $106,598,000,000.
(B) Outlays, $106,598,000,000.
Fiscal year 2035:
(A) New budget authority, $112,559,000,000.
(B) Outlays, $112,559,000,000.
(15) Veterans Benefits and Services (700):
Fiscal year 2026:
(A) New budget authority, $437,048,000,000.
(B) Outlays, $435,498,000,000.
Fiscal year 2027:
(A) New budget authority, $450,026,000,000.
(B) Outlays, $449,840,000,000.
Fiscal year 2028:
(A) New budget authority, $472,729,000,000.
(B) Outlays, $494,955,000,000.
Fiscal year 2029:
(A) New budget authority, $495,351,000,000.
(B) Outlays, $468,176,000,000.
Fiscal year 2030:
(A) New budget authority, $516,490,000,000.
(B) Outlays, $513,230,000,000.
Fiscal year 2031:
(A) New budget authority, $533,555,000,000.
(B) Outlays, $529,785,000,000.
Fiscal year 2032:
(A) New budget authority, $554,300,000,000.
(B) Outlays, $550,972,000,000.
Fiscal year 2033:
(A) New budget authority, $576,778,000,000.
(B) Outlays, $601,751,000,000.
Fiscal year 2034:
(A) New budget authority, $600,111,000,000.
(B) Outlays, $598,973,000,000.
Fiscal year 2035:
(A) New budget authority, $624,549,000,000.
(B) Outlays, $589,870,000,000.
(16) Administration of Justice (750):
Fiscal year 2026:
(A) New budget authority, $82,318,000,000.
(B) Outlays, $100,284,000,000.
Fiscal year 2027:
(A) New budget authority, $91,162,000,000.
(B) Outlays, $111,572,000,000.
Fiscal year 2028:
(A) New budget authority, $90,859,000,000.
(B) Outlays, $118,596,000,000.
Fiscal year 2029:
(A) New budget authority, $92,925,000,000.
(B) Outlays, $119,639,000,000.
Fiscal year 2030:
(A) New budget authority, $95,419,000,000.
(B) Outlays, $120,966,000,000.
Fiscal year 2031:
(A) New budget authority, $97,236,000,000.
(B) Outlays, $114,270,000,000.
Fiscal year 2032:
(A) New budget authority, $103,366,000,000.
(B) Outlays, $114,318,000,000.
Fiscal year 2033:
(A) New budget authority, $106,977,000,000.
(B) Outlays, $107,943,000,000.
Fiscal year 2034:
(A) New budget authority, $109,158,000,000.
(B) Outlays, $108,427,000,000.
Fiscal year 2035:
(A) New budget authority, $111,890,000,000.
(B) Outlays, $109,164,000,000.
(17) General Government (800):
Fiscal year 2026:
(A) New budget authority, $18,914,000,000.
(B) Outlays, $37,143,000,000.
Fiscal year 2027:
(A) New budget authority, $31,421,000,000.
(B) Outlays, $36,085,000,000.
Fiscal year 2028:
(A) New budget authority, $32,548,000,000.
(B) Outlays, $34,744,000,000.
Fiscal year 2029:
(A) New budget authority, $33,587,000,000.
(B) Outlays, $35,127,000,000.
Fiscal year 2030:
(A) New budget authority, $34,907,000,000.
(B) Outlays, $35,406,000,000.
Fiscal year 2031:
(A) New budget authority, $35,745,000,000.
(B) Outlays, $36,348,000,000.
Fiscal year 2032:
(A) New budget authority, $36,910,000,000.
(B) Outlays, $36,901,000,000.
Fiscal year 2033:
(A) New budget authority, $37,705,000,000.
(B) Outlays, $37,559,000,000.
Fiscal year 2034:
(A) New budget authority, $38,516,000,000.
(B) Outlays, $38,045,000,000.

Fiscal year 2035:
(A) New budget authority, $39,381,000,000.
(B) Outlays, $38,850,000,000.
(18) Net Interest (900):
Fiscal year 2026:
(A) New budget authority, $1,099,727,000,000.
(B) Outlays, $1,099,727,000,000.
Fiscal year 2027:
(A) New budget authority, $1,140,430,000,000.
(B) Outlays, $1,140,430,000,000.
Fiscal year 2028:
(A) New budget authority, $1,225,023,000,000.
(B) Outlays, $1,225,023,000,000.
Fiscal year 2029:
(A) New budget authority, $1,292,226,000,000.
(B) Outlays, $1,292,226,000,000.
Fiscal year 2030:
(A) New budget authority, $1,351,427,000,000.
(B) Outlays, $1,351,427,000,000.
Fiscal year 2031:
(A) New budget authority, $1,418,821,000,000.
(B) Outlays, $1,418,821,000,000.
Fiscal year 2032:
(A) New budget authority, $1,483,482,000,000.
(B) Outlays, $1,483,482,000,000.
Fiscal year 2033:
(A) New budget authority, $1,551,318,000,000.
(B) Outlays, $1,551,318,000,000.
Fiscal year 2034:
(A) New budget authority, $1,620,644,000,000.
(B) Outlays, $1,620,644,000,000.
Fiscal year 2035:
(A) New budget authority, $1,681,151,000,000.
(B) Outlays, $1,681,151,000,000.
(19) Allowances (920):
Fiscal year 2026:
(A) New budget authority, −$463,232,000,000.
(B) Outlays, −$413,640,000,000.
Fiscal year 2027:
(A) New budget authority, −$723,712,000,000.
(B) Outlays, −$663,610,000,000.
Fiscal year 2028:
(A) New budget authority, −$905,716,000,000.
(B) Outlays, −$860,593,000,000.
Fiscal year 2029:
(A) New budget authority, −$1,168,391,000,000.
(B) Outlays, −$1,127,726,000,000.
Fiscal year 2030:
(A) New budget authority, −$1,111,985,000,000.
(B) Outlays, −$1,073,453,000,000.
Fiscal year 2031:
(A) New budget authority, −$1,080,561,000,000.
(B) Outlays, −$1,044,473,000,000.
Fiscal year 2032:
(A) New budget authority, −$1,110,467,000,000.
(B) Outlays, −$1,072,687,000,000.
Fiscal year 2033:
(A) New budget authority, −$1,147,854,000,000.
(B) Outlays, −$1,108,678,000,000.
Fiscal year 2034:
(A) New budget authority, −$1,223,072,000,000.
(B) Outlays, −$1,182,078,000,000.
Fiscal year 2035:
(A) New budget authority, −$1,236,638,000,000.
(B) Outlays, −$1,194,198,000,000.
(20) Undistributed Offsetting Receipts (950):
Fiscal year 2026:
(A) New budget authority, −$135,160,000,000.
(B) Outlays, −$135,438,000,000.
Fiscal year 2027:
(A) New budget authority, −$138,330,000,000.
(B) Outlays, −$138,108,000,000.
Fiscal year 2028:
(A) New budget authority, −$143,553,000,000.
(B) Outlays, −$143,497,000,000.
Fiscal year 2029:
(A) New budget authority, −$152,671,000,000.
(B) Outlays, −$152,671,000,000.
Fiscal year 2030:
(A) New budget authority, −$164,546,000,000.
(B) Outlays, −$164,546,000,000.
Fiscal year 2031:
(A) New budget authority, −$175,637,000,000.
(B) Outlays, −$175,637,000,000.
Fiscal year 2032:
(A) New budget authority, −$184,308,000,000.
(B) Outlays, −$184,308,000,000.
Fiscal year 2033:
(A) New budget authority, −$184,776,000,000.
(B) Outlays, −$184,776,000,000.
Fiscal year 2034:
(A) New budget authority, −$179,951,000,000.
(B) Outlays, −$179,951,000,000.
Fiscal year 2035:
(A) New budget authority, −$179,401,000,000.
(B) Outlays, −$179,401,000,000.

Subtitle B—Levels and Amounts in the Senate

SEC. 1201. SOCIAL SECURITY IN THE SENATE.

(a) SOCIAL SECURITY REVENUES.—For purposes of Senate enforcement under sections 302 and 311 of the Congressional Budget Act of 1974 (2 U.S.C. 633 and 642), the amounts of revenues of the Federal Old-Age and Survivors Insurance Trust Fund and the Federal Disability Insurance Trust Fund are as follows:

Fiscal year 2026: $1,350,445,000,000.
Fiscal year 2027: $1,403,713,000,000.
Fiscal year 2028: $1,457,620,000,000.
Fiscal year 2029: $1,515,748,000,000.
Fiscal year 2030: $1,576,167,000,000.
Fiscal year 2031: $1,637,881,000,000.
Fiscal year 2032: $1,699,568,000,000.
Fiscal year 2033: $1,762,211,000,000.
Fiscal year 2034: $1,826,009,000,000.
Fiscal year 2035: $1,892,147,000,000.

(b) SOCIAL SECURITY OUTLAYS.—For purposes of Senate enforcement under sections 302 and 311 of the Congressional Budget Act of 1974 (2 U.S.C. 633 and 642), the amounts of outlays of the Federal Old-Age and Survivors Insurance Trust Fund and the Federal Disability Insurance Trust Fund are as follows:

Fiscal year 2026: $1,509,338,000,000.
Fiscal year 2027: $1,613,963,000,000.
Fiscal year 2028: $1,717,385,000,000.
Fiscal year 2029: $1,819,101,000,000.
Fiscal year 2030: $1,924,297,000,000.
Fiscal year 2031: $2,034,773,000,000.
Fiscal year 2032: $2,151,750,000,000.
Fiscal year 2033: $2,253,309,000,000.
Fiscal year 2034: $2,354,460,000,000.
Fiscal year 2035: $2,456,557,000,000.

(c) SOCIAL SECURITY ADMINISTRATIVE EXPENSES.—In the Senate, the amounts of new budget authority and budget outlays of the Federal Old-Age and Survivors Insurance Trust Fund and the Federal Disability Insurance Trust Fund for administrative expenses are as follows:

Fiscal year 2026:
(A) New budget authority, $6,377,000,000.
(B) Outlays, $6,303,000,000.
Fiscal year 2027:
(A) New budget authority, $6,249,000,000.
(B) Outlays, $6,225,000,000.
Fiscal year 2028:
(A) New budget authority, $6,443,000,000.
(B) Outlays, $6,372,000,000.
Fiscal year 2029:
(A) New budget authority, $6,630,000,000.
(B) Outlays, $6,511,000,000.
Fiscal year 2030:
(A) New budget authority, $6,817,000,000.
(B) Outlays, $6,683,000,000.
Fiscal year 2031:
(A) New budget authority, $7,014,000,000.
(B) Outlays, $6,877,000,000.
Fiscal year 2032:
(A) New budget authority, $7,213,000,000.
(B) Outlays, $7,071,000,000.
Fiscal year 2033:
(A) New budget authority, $7,416,000,000.
(B) Outlays, $7,271,000,000.
Fiscal year 2034:
(A) New budget authority, $7,626,000,000.
(B) Outlays, $7,477,000,000.
Fiscal year 2035:
(A) New budget authority, $7,841,000,000.
(B) Outlays, $7,689,000,000.

SEC. 1202. POSTAL SERVICE DISCRETIONARY ADMINISTRATIVE EXPENSES IN THE SENATE.

In the Senate, the amounts of new budget authority and budget outlays of the Postal Service for discretionary administrative expenses are as follows:

Fiscal year 2026:
(A) New budget authority, $274,000,000.
(B) Outlays, $274,000,000.
Fiscal year 2027:
(A) New budget authority, $285,000,000.
(B) Outlays, $285,000,000.
Fiscal year 2028:
(A) New budget authority, $295,000,000.
(B) Outlays, $295,000,000.
Fiscal year 2029:
(A) New budget authority, $305,000,000.
(B) Outlays, $305,000,000.
Fiscal year 2030:
(A) New budget authority, $315,000,000.
(B) Outlays, $315,000,000.
Fiscal year 2031:
(A) New budget authority, $326,000,000.
(B) Outlays, $326,000,000.
Fiscal year 2032:
(A) New budget authority, $337,000,000.
(B) Outlays, $337,000,000.
Fiscal year 2033:
(A) New budget authority, $348,000,000.
(B) Outlays, $348,000,000.
Fiscal year 2034:
(A) New budget authority, $359,000,000.
(B) Outlays, $359,000,000.
Fiscal year 2035:
(A) New budget authority, $371,000,000.
(B) Outlays, $371,000,000.

TITLE II—RECONCILIATION

SEC. 2001. RECONCILIATION IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES.

(a) SUBMISSIONS.—In the House of Representatives, not later than May 15, 2026, the committees named in subsection (b) shall submit their recommendations on changes in laws within their jurisdictions to the Committee on the Budget of the House of Representatives to carry out this section.

(b) INSTRUCTIONS.—

(1) COMMITTEE ON HOMELAND SECURITY.—The Committee on Homeland Security shall submit changes in laws within its jurisdiction that increase the deficit by not more than $70,000,000,000 for the period of fiscal years 2026 through 2035.

(2) COMMITTEE ON THE JUDICIARY.—The Committee on the Judiciary shall submit changes in laws within its jurisdiction that increase the deficit by not more than $70,000,000,000 for the period of fiscal years 2026 through 2035.

SEC. 2002. RECONCILIATION IN THE SENATE.

(a) SUBMISSIONS.—In the Senate, not later than May 15, 2026, the committees named in subsection (b) shall submit their recommendations to the Committee on the Budget of the Senate. Upon receiving all such recommendations, the Committee on the Budget of the Senate shall report to the Senate a reconciliation bill carrying out all such recommendations without any substantive revision.

(b) INSTRUCTIONS.—

(1) COMMITTEE ON HOMELAND SECURITY AND GOVERNMENTAL AFFAIRS.—The Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs of the Senate shall report changes in laws within its jurisdiction that increase the deficit by not more than $70,000,000,000 for the period of fiscal years 2026 through 2035.

(2) COMMITTEE ON THE JUDICIARY.—The Committee on the Judiciary of the Senate shall report changes in laws within its jurisdiction that increase the deficit by not more than $70,000,000,000 for the period of fiscal years 2026 through 2035.

TITLE III—RESERVE FUNDS

SEC. 3001. RESERVE FUND FOR RECONCILIATION LEGISLATION.

(a) HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—In the House of Representatives, the chair of the Committee on the Budget may revise the allocations of a committee or committees, aggregates, and other appropriate levels in this resolution for any bill or joint resolution considered pursuant to section 2001 containing the recommendations of one or more committees, or for one or more amendments to, a conference report on, or an amendment between the Houses in relation to such a bill or joint resolution, by the amounts necessary to accommodate the budgetary effects of the legislation, if the budgetary effects of the legislation comply with the reconciliation instructions under this concurrent resolution.

(2) DETERMINATION OF COMPLIANCE.—For purposes of this subsection, compliance with the reconciliation instructions under this concurrent resolution shall be determined by the chair of the Committee on the Budget of the House of Representatives.

(b) SENATE.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—In the Senate, the Chairman of the Committee on the Budget of the Senate may revise the allocations of a committee or committees, aggregates, and other appropriate levels in this resolution, and make adjustments to the pay-as-you-go ledger, for any bill or joint resolution considered pursuant to section 2002 containing the recommendations of one or more committees, or for one or more amendments to, a conference report on, or an amendment between the Houses in relation to such a bill or joint resolution, by the amounts necessary to accommodate the budgetary effects of the legislation, if the budgetary effects of the legislation comply with the reconciliation instructions under this concurrent resolution.

(2) DETERMINATION OF COMPLIANCE.—For purposes of this subsection, compliance with the reconciliation instructions under this concurrent resolution shall be determined by the Chairman of the Committee on the Budget of the Senate.

(3) EXCEPTIONS FOR LEGISLATION.—

(A) SHORT-TERM.—Section 404 of S. Con. Res. 13 (111th Congress), the concurrent resolution on the budget for fiscal year 2010, as amended by section 3201(b)(2) of S. Con. Res. 11 (114th Congress), the concurrent resolution on the budget for fiscal year 2016, shall not apply to legislation for which the Chairman of the Committee on the Budget of the Senate has exercised the authority under paragraph (1).

(B) LONG-TERM.—Section 3101 of S. Con. Res. 11 (114th Congress), the concurrent resolution on the budget for fiscal year 2016, shall not apply to legislation for which the Chairman of the Committee on the Budget of the Senate has exercised the authority under paragraph (1).

SEC. 3002. DEFICIT-NEUTRAL RESERVE FUND FOR REFORMS UNDERTAKEN BY THE PRESIDENT FOLLOWING OPERATION METRO SURGE.

The Chairman of the Committee on the Budget of the Senate may revise the allocations of a committee or committees, aggregates, and other appropriate levels in this resolution, and make adjustments to the pay-as-you-go ledger, for one or more bills or joint resolutions reported by the Committee on the Judiciary or the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs of the Senate, amendments or motions offered thereto, or conference reports submitted thereon relating to supporting any changes to immigration enforcement and border security policy undertaken by the President following Operation Metro Surge by the amounts provided in such legislation for those purposes, provided that such legislation would not increase the deficit over the period of the total of fiscal years 2026 through 2035.

SEC. 3003. DEFICIT-NEUTRAL RESERVE FUND RELATING TO THE APPREHENSION AND DEPORTATION OF ADULT ILLEGAL ALIENS CONVICTED OF RAPE, MURDER, OR SEXUAL ABUSE OF A MINOR AFTER ILLEGALLY ENTERING THE UNITED STATES.

The Chairman of the Committee on the Budget of the Senate may revise the allocations of a committee or committees, aggregates, and other appropriate levels in this resolution, and make adjustments to the pay-as-you-go ledger, for one or more bills or joint resolutions reported by the Committee on the Judiciary or the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs of the Senate, amendments or motions offered thereto, or conference reports submitted thereon relating to immigration enforcement, which may include legislation funding U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement personnel to conduct apprehension, mandatory detention, and expedited deportation of adult illegal aliens who have been convicted of rape, murder, or sexual abuse of a minor after illegally entering the United States, by the amounts provided in such legislation for those purposes, provided that such legislation would not increase the deficit over the period of the total of fiscal years 2026 through 2035.

TITLE IV—OTHER MATTERS

SEC. 4101. ENFORCEMENT FILING.

(a) IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES.—In the House of Representatives, if a concurrent resolution on the budget for fiscal year 2026 is adopted without the appointment of a committee of conference on the disagreeing votes of the two Houses with respect to this concurrent resolution on the budget, for the purpose of enforcing the Congressional Budget Act of 1974 (2 U.S.C. 621 et seq.) and applicable rules and requirements set forth in the concurrent resolution on the budget, the allocations provided for in this subsection shall apply in the House of Representatives in the same manner as if such allocations were in a joint explanatory statement accompanying a conference report on the budget for fiscal year 2026. The chair of the Committee on the Budget of the House of Representatives shall submit a statement for publication in the Congressional Record containing—

(1) for the Committee on Appropriations, committee allocations for fiscal year 2026 consistent with title I for the purpose of enforcing section 302 of the Congressional Budget Act of 1974 (2 U.S.C. 633); and

(2) for all committees other than the Committee on Appropriations, committee allocations consistent with title I for fiscal year 2026 and for the period of fiscal years 2026 through 2035 for the purpose of enforcing 302 of the Congressional Budget Act of 1974 (2 U.S.C. 633).

(b) IN THE SENATE.—If this concurrent resolution on the budget is agreed to by the Senate and House of Representatives without the appointment of a committee of conference on the disagreeing votes of the two Houses, the Chairman of the Committee on the Budget of the Senate may submit a statement for publication in the Congressional Record containing—

(1) for the Committee on Appropriations, committee allocations for fiscal year 2026 consistent with the levels in title I for the purpose of enforcing section 302 of the Congressional Budget Act of 1974 (2 U.S.C. 633); and

(2) for all committees other than the Committee on Appropriations, committee allocations for fiscal years 2026, 2026 through 2030, and 2026 through 2035 consistent with the levels in title I for the purpose of enforcing section 302 of the Congressional Budget Act of 1974 (2 U.S.C. 633).

SEC. 4102. BUDGETARY TREATMENT OF ADMINISTRATIVE EXPENSES.

(a) SENATE.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—In the Senate, notwithstanding section 302(a)(1) of the Congressional Budget Act of 1974 (2 U.S.C. 633(a)(1)), section 13301 of the Budget Enforcement Act of 1990 (2 U.S.C. 632 note), and section 2009a of title 39, United States Code, the report or the joint explanatory statement accompanying this concurrent resolution on the budget or the statement filed pursuant to section 4101(b), as applicable, shall include in an allocation under section 302(a) of the Congressional Budget Act of 1974 (2 U.S.C. 633(a)) to the Committee on Appropriations of the Senate of amounts for the discretionary administrative expenses of the Social Security Administration and the United States Postal Service.

(2) SPECIAL RULE.—In the Senate, for purposes of enforcing section 302(f) of the Congressional Budget Act of 1974 (2 U.S.C. 633(f)), estimates of the level of total new budget authority and total outlays provided by a measure shall include any discretionary amounts described in paragraph (1).

(b) HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—In the House of Representatives, notwithstanding section 302(a)(1) of the Congressional Budget Act of 1974 (2 U.S.C. 633(a)(1)), section 13301 of the Budget Enforcement Act of 1990 (2 U.S.C. 632 note), and section 2009a of title 39, United States Code, the report or the joint explanatory statement accompanying this concurrent resolution on the budget or the statement filed pursuant to section 4101(a), as applicable, shall include in an allocation under section 302(a) of the Congressional Budget Act of 1974 (2 U.S.C. 633(a)) to the Committee on Appropriations of the House of Representatives of amounts for the discretionary administrative expenses of the Social Security Administration and the United States Postal Service.

(2) SPECIAL RULE.—In the House of Representatives, for purposes of enforcing section 302(f) of the Congressional Budget Act of 1974 (2 U.S.C. 633(f)), estimates of the level of total new budget authority and total outlays provided by a measure shall include any discretionary amounts described in paragraph (1).

SEC. 4103. APPLICATION AND EFFECT OF CHANGES IN ALLOCATIONS, AGGREGATES, AND OTHER BUDGETARY LEVELS.

(a) APPLICATION.—Any adjustments of allocations, aggregates, and other budgetary levels made pursuant to this concurrent resolution shall—

(1) apply while that measure is under consideration;

(2) take effect upon the enactment of that measure; and

(3) be published in the Congressional Record as soon as practicable.

(b) EFFECT OF CHANGED ALLOCATIONS, AGGREGATES, AND OTHER BUDGETARY LEVELS.—

Revised allocations, aggregates, and other budgetary levels resulting from these adjustments shall be considered for the purposes of the Congressional Budget Act of 1974 (2 U.S.C. 621 et seq.) as the allocations, aggregates, and other budgetary levels contained in this concurrent resolution.

(c) BUDGET COMMITTEE DETERMINATIONS.—For purposes of this concurrent resolution, the levels of new budget authority, outlays, direct spending, new entitlement authority, revenues, deficits, and surpluses for a fiscal year or period of fiscal years shall be determined on the basis of estimates made by the chair of the Committee on the Budget of the applicable House of Congress.

(d) AGGREGATES, ALLOCATIONS AND APPLICATION.—In the House of Representatives, for purposes of this concurrent resolution and budget enforcement, the consideration of any bill or joint resolution, or amendment thereto or conference report thereon, for which the chair of the Committee on the Budget makes adjustments or revisions in the allocations, aggregates, and other budgetary levels of this concurrent resolution shall not be subject to the point of order set forth in clause 10 of rule XXI of the Rules of the House of Representatives.

SEC. 4104. ADJUSTMENTS TO REFLECT CHANGES IN CONCEPTS AND DEFINITIONS.

(a) HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES.—In the House of Representatives, the chair of the Committee on the Budget may adjust the appropriate aggregates, allocations, and other budgetary levels in this concurrent resolution for any change in budgetary concepts and definitions consistent with section 251(b)(1) of the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985 (2 U.S.C. 901(b)(1)).

(b) SENATE.—In the Senate, upon the enactment of a bill or joint resolution providing for a change in concepts or definitions, the Chairman of the Committee on the Budget of the Senate may make adjustments to the levels and allocations in this concurrent resolution in accordance with section 251(b) of the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985 (2 U.S.C. 901(b)).

SEC. 4105. ADJUSTMENT FOR CHANGES IN THE BASELINE.

The chair of the Committee on the Budget of the House of Representatives and the Chairman of the Committee on the Budget of the Senate may adjust the allocations, aggregates, and other appropriate budgetary levels in this concurrent resolution to reflect changes resulting from the Congressional Budget Office's updates to its baseline for fiscal years 2026 through 2035, including the effects of legislation enacted before the date on which this concurrent resolution is agreed to.

SEC. 4106. EXERCISE OF RULEMAKING POWERS.

Congress adopts the provisions of this title—

(1) as an exercise of the rulemaking power of the Senate and the House of Representatives, respectively, and as such they shall be considered as part of the rules of each House or of that House to which they specifically apply, and such rules shall supersede other rules only to the extent that they are inconsistent with such other rules; and

(2) with full recognition of the constitutional right of either the Senate or the House of Representatives to change those rules (insofar as they relate to that House) at any time, in the same manner, and to the same extent as is the case of any other rule of the Senate or House of Representatives.

SEC. 4107. EXTENSION OF ENFORCEMENT OF BUDGETARY POINTS OF ORDER IN THE SENATE.

Notwithstanding any provision of the Congressional Budget Act of 1974 (2 U.S.C. 621 et seq.), subsections (c)(2) and (d)(3) of section 904 of the Congressional Budget Act of 1974 (2 U.S.C. 621 note) shall remain permanently in effect for purposes of Senate enforcement.

SEC. 4108. EMERGENCY REQUIREMENTS IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES.

(a) IN GENERAL.—In the House of Representatives, if a bill, joint resolution, amendment, or conference report making appropriations for discretionary amounts contains a provision providing new budget authority and outlays, and a designation of such provision as an emergency requirement, the chair of the Committee on the Budget of the House of Representatives shall not count the budgetary effects of such provision for any purpose in the House of Representatives.

(b) APPLICATION.—

(1) EXCLUSION.—A proposal to strike a designation under subsection (a) shall be excluded from an evaluation of budgetary effects for any purpose in the House of Representatives.

(2) AMENDMENT.—An amendment offered under subsection (a) that also proposes to reduce each amount appropriated or otherwise made available by the pending measure that is not required to be appropriated or otherwise made available shall be in order at any point in the reading of the pending measure in the House of Representatives.

(c) DEFINITIONS.—For purposes of this section, the following definitions apply:

(1) EMERGENCY.—The term ''emergency'' means a situation that—

(A) requires new budget authority and outlays (or new budget authority and the outlays flowing therefrom) for the prevention or mitigation of, or response to, loss of life or property, or a threat to national security; and

(B) is unanticipated.

(2) UNANTICIPATED.—The term ''unanticipated'' means that the underlying situation is—

(A) sudden, which means quickly coming into being or not building up over time;

(B) urgent, which means a pressing and compelling need requiring immediate action;

(C) unforeseen, which means not predicted or anticipated as an emerging need; and

(D) temporary, which means not of a permanent duration.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The concurrent resolution shall be debatable for 1 hour equally divided and controlled by the chair and ranking minority member of the Committee on the Budget or their respective designees.

The gentleman from Texas (Mr. ARRINGTON) and the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. BOYLE) each will control 30 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Texas.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. ARRINGTON. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days within which to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on S. Con. Res 33 currently under consideration.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Texas?

There was no objection.

Mr. ARRINGTON. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, we are here because my Democrat colleagues have shut the United States Government down, the Department of Homeland Security, for now 74 days. They have held the American people hostage and have imperiled the safety of every citizen of this country for their ridiculous and even dangerous demands.

They are not serious. We had a four-corners agreement between Republicans and Democrats in the House and the Senate. They reneged. If it weren't for President Trump's intervention, we would have the hardworking public servants at the Department of Homeland Security going 100 days without pay.

Ask me, Mr. Speaker, how many days my Democrat colleagues have gone without pay or how long they would tolerate going without pay.

Mr. Speaker, this isn't just about the inconvenience of long lines at airports. This is an unprecedented national security and public safety crisis.

This is the moment we take the keys from the kids, we say no more of this nonsense, we open up the people's government, and we restore the safety and the security of the American people.

Now, you will hear my colleagues, no doubt, say: If we could just agree on some commonsense reforms, we would have opened up the Department of Homeland Security. We would have been glad to work with you.

But let's think about these commonsense reforms. To require this administration to get a judicial warrant to expel criminal aliens from our country, there is not a Democrat or Republican former Commander in Chief who would ever find that acceptable.

In fact, these criminal aliens have had their day in immigration court, and they have their orders to be expelled because they are not here with cause. They are here with threat to my family and to my community and to my great State of Texas and to this beloved country of ours. It is unacceptable.

They would effectively stop all deportations. But we had an election after 4 years of lawlessness and chaos at the southern border, crime, criminals, and all kinds of criminal elements and drugs that killed more people than the entire Vietnam war in 1 year.

□ 1450

This President was elected to restore law and order. Rule of law in this great civil society of ours has been an embarrassment for those 4 years. He has done it, and that is what the people sent us here to do. That is the mandate they gave us, along with unified Republican leadership.

There has been one wall of obstruction after another for this President and this administration. That is one example of their ridiculous, absurd, and unserious demands.

The other one is—I heard this at the Rules Committee, and I couldn't believe my ears. They called our law enforcement agents, who risk their lives to keep us safe—their families pray and

wait for their mom or dad to come home, wondering if something goes wrong and the bad guys win that day, and they never see their family member again. Yet, my Democrat colleague repeatedly referred to our honorable ICE and CBP agents as masked thugs.

When evil is called good, and good is called evil—do you remember that quote? Do you remember that admonition? These are the days.

Mr. Speaker, we have given 16 chances and all opportunities to vote to turn this government of the people back on and support our ICE and CBP agents, to protect our ports by funding our guardsmen, to protect the CISA agents to protect our critical infrastructure while cyberattacks are on the rise, and to resource our FEMA agency to be ready to respond to our citizens in a natural disaster. They said no 16 times. No. Here we are, demasking our agents and calling them masked thugs.

There is an 8,000-percent increase, Mr. Speaker, in death threats to these gentlemen and gentlewomen who wear the badge, who wear the uniform, and who protect the thin blue line, a 1,300-percent increase in assaults, and a 3,200-percent increase in vehicular assaults.

We know who they are. We have made great efforts to identify each agent so they would be held accountable if they did anything illegal or inappropriate.

We have cartel members who have bounties of tens of thousands of dollars on their heads. We have masked, leftist, radical, violent folks who are assaulting them in the streets while they are trying to do their dangerous jobs.

You want to know why we are here, Mr. Speaker? Do you want to know why we are here, American people? That is why we are here. We say enough is enough.

Today, we put forward this budget resolution with reconciliation instructions to fund the people's homeland security, to protect our citizens, and to do right by these hard-working, God-fearing public servants who go to work every day not knowing if they are going to come home.

Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. BOYLE of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, let me set the stage here for what has brought us to this point.

Last year, over the course of the first 6 months of the year, mind you, there was reconciliation 1.0. That was what the other side and the President used to call the big, beautiful bill. Do you remember that?

You don't hear that phrase too much anymore. Do you know why? It is one of the most unpopular pieces of legislation to pass Congress in modern American history, with a more than 2-to-1 disapproval over approval.

Why is that? Because the American people know what was in the bill. The American people know that it throws more than 15 million Americans off their healthcare—more than 17 million, according to one nonpartisan service. In addition to that, it raises healthcare costs for tens of millions more.

That is not all. It also cuts nutrition assistance, the biggest cuts to the SNAP program in American history—on and on. I could take up the next hour listing the cuts.

Why are those cuts in there? In order to fund the biggest tax breaks for billionaires in American history, but that is not all. It is also the biggest increase to our national debt in American history, and that is not all. It also includes $140 billion—record funding, mind you—for ICE and CBP.

That is what has set the stage for reconciliation 2.0, the bill that is now in front of us.

This bill is quite different in that it is narrowly pertaining to just two areas: ICE and CBP. That is interesting to me because one thing the vast majority of the American people agree on—whether they are Democrat, Republican, or Independent—is that costs keep going up. They haven't come down in the last year and a half. They have only gotten worse. They have only gotten higher.

That is no accident. It is not because of something like a terrorist attack or the business cycle. No. It is directly because of this President's reckless policies: trade policies that have spiked inflation and a war in Iran that has taken the average price for a gallon of gas from under $3 a gallon just 2 months ago to now over $4.20 a gallon and rising.

You don't see anything in this reconciliation 2.0 to address anything that I just discussed, any of the rising costs, any of the rising healthcare costs, any of the rising costs at the supermarket—nothing, nada, zilch, zero.

The only thing that is in this is another $70 billion for ICE and CBP, on top of the record funding that was in the bill last year.

The American people simply want costs to come down, period. Unfortunately, those priorities are not being met by this Republican majority.

Now, I want to be clear: I believe—and sometimes this is inconvenient on both sides of the aisle to say it. I strongly believe in a strong border, period. What I don't believe in is any agency of the government shooting and killing American citizens in the streets of our country. I think the vast majority of the American people agree with me that we need to have a secure border, but that we cannot have any agency of our government carrying out killings on our streets.

We know that there are reforms that need to happen with ICE and CBP in order to rein in the abuses that we have seen. Unfortunately, none of that is in the bill before us. Instead, it is just showering them with additional billions of dollars that they simply don't need.

Mr. Speaker, I really hope we can get back soon to a budget bill that addresses the needs and concerns of the American people. Unfortunately, that is not the one that is presently before us. The American people deserve far better.

Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. ARRINGTON. Mr. Speaker, unfortunately and conveniently, some of my Democrat friends have had a bad case of amnesia. I am going to remind the American people that when Joe Biden and the Democrats had control of this town, this Chamber, Congress, and the White House, they took inflation from 1.4 percent all the way past 9 percent.

□ 1500

We had a 22-percent increase cumulative of prices of everyday goods that Americans depend on.

It was Joe Biden and the Democrats who lit the fuse on the inflationary firestorm that the American people, especially working Americans, suffered. The average inflation rate during the Joe Biden-Kamala Harris era was 5 percent.

Inflation is down. The average inflation under this President, President Trump, is 2.7 percent. Wages are up. Business investment is up, growth and GDP are up, and there is money in people's pockets, because had we relied on the Democrats, then we would have seen a $1,700-a-month tax hike on the American people. However, we said no tax on tips, no more tax on working people with respect to overtime or seniors on a fixed income.

I am very proud of what we did as one strategy to provide much-needed relief after the cost-of-living crisis that was caused by the unbridled spending and failed economic policies of my Democratic colleagues.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to introduce the American people to a great man and patriot. LLOYD SMUCKER is a dear friend and the vice chairman of the Budget Committee.

Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. SMUCKER).

Mr. SMUCKER. Mr. Speaker, I thank the chairman for yielding.

Mr. Speaker, I would just like to respond to some of the comments of my friend, the ranking member of the Budget Committee, who is also from Pennsylvania, just to say that in regards to the tax bill, the One Big Beautiful Bill Act, I can tell you, Mr. Speaker, individuals, families, and wage earners in my district are feeling the impact of that bill when they are filing their taxes.

They like the no tax on tips that so many in my district have taken advantage of and the no tax on overtime that so many have taken advantage of. I have had many seniors come to me and say that they had a lot more in their pockets after they filed their taxes this year.

I will put up our economic record in the last year, the impact on people in

our districts, against that of the Biden administration anytime. We have an economy that is growing quickly. We have inflation at a manageable spot, and people are feeling it in their pocketbooks.

I was happy to hear the ranking member say that he supports a secure border, because, Mr. Speaker, you certainly wouldn't have known that during the past administration when Democrats were in control and we had thousands of people pouring across this border every single day, including individuals who were criminals, who were members of gangs, including drugs flowing across the border, and Democrats did nothing to stop that.

I will tell you, Mr. Speaker, in my district, when I talk to people of all political stripes, Democrats and Republicans alike, they support removing people from this country who are criminals and who are here illegally. They support the work of ICE in doing that. Democrats obviously do not. A shutdown should never be used.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. HARIDOPOLOS). The time of the gentleman has expired.

Mr. ARRINGTON. Mr. Speaker, I yield an additional 1 minute to the gentleman from Pennsylvania.

Mr. SMUCKER. Mr. Speaker, we should never use a government shutdown to achieve any policy benefits. We have seen Democrats do that time and time again. We certainly shouldn't be using it to not fund those who are keeping Americans safe and who are removing criminals from our country.

That is what this bill is about today. We shouldn't be funding this in this way. It should be done through a regular appropriations bill, but we were not able to do that because we did not have Democrat support.

I don't like necessarily the way we are doing this, but there have to be grownups in the room, and those are Republicans right now who are going to ensure that those people who are working hard to keep Americans safe every day are going to be able to count on a paycheck at the end of the week.

This is an important bill. It is very unfortunate that Democrats continue to shut down the government over this issue, but Republicans are going to stand for the safety and security of the American people.

It is the number one thing that every one of us as elected officials should be doing. We should be ensuring that American individuals, American citizens, are safe and secure.

Mr. BOYLE of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, I yield 1½ minutes to the gentleman from California (Mr. PANETTA), who is a distinguished member of the Budget Committee.

Mr. PANETTA. Mr. Speaker, the Republican budget resolution does nothing to end the shutdown. It does nothing to reform ICE; yet it does everything to give ICE and CBP $70 billion more.

Mr. Speaker, I support a strong and secure border, but the Trump deportation policy goes way beyond going after felons and gang members. The last Republican reconciliation bill injected $190 billion into DHS, leading to thousands of untrained ICE and CBP agents being injected into our communities.

They called themselves law enforcement, but they acted with lawlessness, trolling big box store parking lots, causing chaos in our communities, deaths to American citizens, and they were allowed to act with impunity.

I said: No more funding until they transform, reform, and retrain with commonsensical law enforcement protocols and procedures.

Now, I hate shutdowns, but, Mr. Speaker, if you allow a vote on the bipartisan Senate bill today, we can open and pay the TSA, Coast Guard, Cybersecurity, and FEMA.

However, Mr. Speaker, instead of working us across the aisle, the purely partisan resolution that just funds ICE without any reforms demonstrates, once again, you are going it alone. You are doing nothing to lower costs. You are adding to our debt and deficit. You are giving in to the President, and you are giving up on our constitutional responsibilities.

I am voting ''no'' not just because I am for reforming ICE, but I am standing up to this administration, and I am living up to my oath of office.

Mr. ARRINGTON. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, instead of the absurd demands of asking for judicial warrants after immigration judges have ruled that these criminal aliens are not with cause, for heaven's sakes, in our country, we included body cameras, millions of dollars. The President reviewed protocols included and strengthened training programs.

Here is the root cause of what people saw on their TV sets at night when they saw the mayhem and they saw the chaos: It was lawless sanctuary cities, rogue leaders who incited violence against our law enforcement officers while they were doing a dangerous job to rid our country of criminal aliens.

Mr. Speaker, how in the world do we expect them to do this job when we have State and local leaders who refuse to cooperate, who thumb their noses at the rule of law, and who make things not only more difficult but more dangerous for the men and women in uniform who courageously protect us every day?

Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from the great State of Utah (Mr. MOORE).

Mr. MOORE of Utah. Mr. Speaker, one trick that you see back here in Washington politics is when the opposing side is arguing in defense of the indefensible, they will say: I support border security but . . . there is always a but.

What we have seen for the last 5½ years since President Biden took over in 2021 to today is very simply laid out in the following three strategies: Leave the border wide open, then create a bunch of sanctuary cities, and then refuse to fund immigration and Border Patrol.

If you look at those three things, Mr. Speaker, that is exactly what they are doing. Now they are forcing us to go at it alone, when for decades, longer than that, Republicans and Democrats have always been able to come together and support a homeland security bill, but they refuse to support ICE and CBP.

S. Con. Res. 33 is a critical step in delivering on the key policy mandate that voters gave Congress: to secure the southern border and end the national crisis that is mass migration.

I would much rather fund and regulate the Department of Homeland Security and immigration enforcement through regular appropriations. My colleagues on the other side of the aisle have made that impossible. This is not a serious way to govern. It is irresponsible, and it is dangerous.

Congress should not play with the livelihoods of servicemembers at the Coast Guard, Transportation Security Agency, or the Secret Service to secure a political win. We cannot restrict resources at a time like this, especially amid recent threats to White House officials and national security concerns.

We are now forced to run a narrowly focused partisan reconciliation process to provide necessary funding to ICE and CBP and their operational and support components to last through the Trump administration.

The Trump administration has made great strides in securing the border and removing those who have entered our country illegally, which will alleviate strains on local law enforcement and hospital systems. It will help lower insurance premiums and put downward pressure on housing prices in the long term.

□ 1510

Supporting this resolution will ensure we can build on the success and continue to provide a safe environment for American families to thrive. This also does a very important thing by setting our projected deficit on a path toward 3 percent of GDP.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The time of the gentleman has expired.

Mr. ARRINGTON. Mr. Speaker, I yield an additional 20 seconds to the gentleman from Utah.

Mr. MOORE of Utah. Mr. Speaker, I will end there. I thank the chairman for the additional time.

Mr. Speaker, we need to take our finances seriously and put us on a path toward 3 percent debt to GDP.

I urge my colleagues to support this budget resolution.

Mr. BOYLE of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, I yield 1½ minutes to the gentleman from Texas (Mr. DOGGETT), a distinguished member of the Budget Committee.

Mr. DOGGETT. Mr. Speaker, ICE has become another three-letter word for

lie: lies about immigrants as an excuse for racist and un-American policies; lies about dead American citizens like Renee Good and Alex Pretti; lies about outrageous conditions at detention centers like Dilley, Texas, where measles spread and children are fed infested food with worms; lies really to all of us that the Trump regime is merely concerned about dangerous criminals when, in fact, their dragnet picks up anyone who happens to get in the way no matter how much that immigrant teacher, immigrant construction worker, immigrant small business owner or healthcare worker are contributing to their community.

While we have simply asked that ICE meet the standards that we expect of our local law enforcement, this bill is designed to let ICE continue its rampage across America totally unrestrained.

What we should be doing is using the $70 billion that this Republican bill showers on ICE and CBP to instead address the affordability crisis that our American families are facing because of Trump's continued mismanagement, his reckless, endless war in Iran, and his illegal tariffs.

That $70 billion, think of what it could accomplish. With it, we could restore affordable access to a family physician for millions of American families.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The time of the gentleman has expired.

Mr. BOYLE of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, I yield an additional 30 seconds to the gentleman from Texas.

Mr. DOGGETT. Mr. Speaker, we could restore access to a family physician for millions of American families who no longer have it thanks to the Republican action. Or, we could instead choose to provide for our future by ensuring that every single 3- and 4-year-old in America can access pre-K.

But instead of helping working families, Republicans insist that we shower more tax dollars on a rogue agency that already has entirely too much funding to continue its mission of ripping families apart and detaining babies.

Mr. ARRINGTON. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, let's play back the tape: 4 years, wide-open border flooding the zone, and by the zone I mean the entire country, crime, criminals, drugs, record number of people on the terrorist watch list, record number of people from countries of interest, record number of illegal immigrants dying in the desert, record number of humans trafficked to this country; record, record, record, open border, disaster.

Now, after this mess, when we have to get the brave men and women to go clean up the streets from the criminals that roam in the great cities of this country and threaten our citizens, they want to call them what I heard in Rules Committee, masked thugs. That is what they are calling our law enforcement officers.

I guess we shouldn't be too surprised because that is the party that wanted to defund the police. That is the party with the battle cry, ''Defund ICE.'' That is the party which, at the top of their ticket in the last Presidential election, had a Presidential nominee who compared ICE to the KKK, and her Vice President compared them to the gestapo.

No, no, sir, Mr. Speaker, I am not surprised, not surprised that now that they created this self-inflicted disaster and mess, and our brave ICE officers are trying to clean it up, that they would want to impede them and insult them, but they only insult law-abiding American citizens, I assure you that.

Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from North Carolina (Mr. MCDOWELL), my dear friend from the Tar Heel State and a member of the Budget Committee.

Mr. MCDOWELL. Mr. Speaker, I think it is important that we point out that as our Democratic colleagues across the aisle are pointing a finger at us, there are three fingers pointing back at them.

What we need to look at is exactly what they have done. For the last 4 years of Joe Biden, they let all of these people into our country. We are trying to get rid of them. There was a mandate by the American people for us to do that. That is what we are trying to do.

We are also trying to do one of our very basic functions as Congress, which is to pass appropriations bills. While they want to blame us, I will remind them that each time that has come up, it has passed out of this Chamber with bipartisan support, and then it has gone to the Senate where it has died.

The President, the Senate, our leadership, they have tried to come to an agreement. They will not let us. That is exactly what is happening.

Mr. Speaker, this is day 74, 74 days, that is exactly how long the Department of Homeland Security has been shut down, 74 days, Mr. Speaker.

Let's be clear about one thing: Democrats have forced this shutdown to defund law enforcement and gamble with the safety of our country. They are pushing an agenda that leads to lawlessness in our communities. They are willing to let dangerous, illegal aliens, murderers, rapists, and drug traffickers walk our streets and destroy our communities. They are even willing to force Americans to stand in long TSA lines simply as leverage to force their agenda.

Maybe they were fine with the millions of illegal aliens who were released into our communities under the Biden administration, and maybe they were fine with the massive flow of drugs that poured across our southern border, but my constituents were not, Mr. Speaker. The American people were not. House Republicans will keep the promises that we made. We will do what it takes to keep Americans safe and secure.

Despite the Democratic resistance, we will stand on principles and deliver for the American people. Mr. Speaker, I urge a ''yes'' vote to get us back on track to fully reopening the Department of Homeland Security.

Mr. BOYLE of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Boy, that sounds like a scary hellscape that the last couple speakers on the other side have described. I am just glad they are not talking about the United States because in the country where I live, actually specifically in my city of Philadelphia, the murder rate is lower today than at any point in the 1960s. There are a lot of American cities right now that have the lowest violent crime rate in my lifetime.

I can understand, though, why they want to talk about anything but costs because right now, according to one opinion poll, the American people are more pessimistic today about their own economic future than they were even in the depths of the Great Recession, and they rate this President the lowest job approval on the economy since George W. Bush in the middle of the Great Recession. You can understand why they want to talk about anything except for costs and the financial livelihoods of most American households.

Mr. Speaker, I yield 1½ minutes to the gentleman from Virginia (Mr. SCOTT), the distinguished ranking member of the Education and Workforce Committee and also a member of the Budget Committee.

Mr. SCOTT of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, we are talking about the budget. For years, my Republican colleagues have sanctimoniously spoken about the need to reduce the deficit but continuously vote for spending bills that add trillions of dollars to the Federal deficit.

The CBO estimates that last year's big, ugly bill will add $3.4 trillion to the deficit by 2034. This bill is not even serious. They didn't even bring it to committee. They just brought it to the floor. It continues the pattern of Presidential administrations, every Republican administration since Nixon has left for the Democrats a worse deficit than they inherited. By the way, every Democratic administration since Kennedy has left for the Republicans a better deficit than they inherited, all without exceptions.

Now they are back here with misguided budget priorities. This does nothing to lower costs and make life better for the American people. It does give $70 billion to ICE after they violated the Constitution, killed Americans, and refused to agree to Democratic demands that they conform to the same standards as other law enforcement officers, like get a warrant before you go into somebody's house, don't use unconstitutional excessive force, don't deport citizens. We should be investing in education, healthcare, childcare, and job creation. This bill doesn't do it, and that is why we ought to vote ''no.''

□ 1520

Mr. ARRINGTON. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, just a note on cost: When the Democrats controlled Congress and the White House, they spent a record $12 trillion. Now, $5 trillion of that is because of the record interest rate hikes that were associated with an almost half-century high inflation. Combined, we are talking about, again, almost $12 trillion.

Mr. Speaker, what did we get for that? What did the American people, the shareholders, get for that? What return did our citizens get for that ''investment''? They got green energy subsidies to corporations, which were a disaster for our energy economy. It made the prices of gas and electricity for our consumers skyrocket.

The American people got tens of thousands of IRS agents. They expanded the IRS by $80 billion because that is what they thought the American people needed after a 22-percent increase in prices. They bailed out student loan programs, schools that wouldn't open, and the union pension fund. It was one bailout after another. It is hard to keep up with it.

If you go back and look at the executive order from President Biden and Vice President Kamala Harris at the time, they actually provided healthcare at the cost of taxpayers to people in this country illegally, and we wonder why we had record numbers of illegal immigrants pouring into this country.

Mr. Speaker, I yield 3 minutes to the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. JORDAN), my friend from the Buckeye State and the House's chairman of the Judiciary Committee.

Mr. JORDAN. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman for yielding.

Mr. Speaker, why are the Democrats doing it? Why would they shut down the Department of Homeland Security for 74 days? Why would they do that when we have had a third assassination attempt on the President of the United States, while we are in the middle of a military operation in Iran, and when we have had terrorist attacks here on the homeland? Why would they do it?

The simple answer is: They don't want a border. They don't want a border. They have said it, but look at their plan. In 4 years of Joe Biden, they let in 10 million illegal migrants. Then, they create sanctuary jurisdictions all over the country, which makes it difficult to remove illegal migrants who commit another crime. Now, they say, don't pay the guys who do the removing. Let's don't pay ICE. They let in 10 million and create sanctuary jurisdictions.

By the way, 18 cities, 11 States, 3 counties, and the District of Columbia are sanctuary jurisdictions. Because they are big, blue cities in big, blue States, that represents almost a third of the country that lives in a jurisdiction where the politicians tell local law enforcement not to work with Federal law enforcement when it comes to enforcing Federal law.

Now, they say don't pay the guys who enforce Federal law. Don't pay ICE.

It is not enough that the leftwing agitators out there have doxed them, tracked them, spit on them, sworn at them, threatened them, and attacked them. That is not enough. Now, we are not going to pay them. We are not going to pay them. That is their plan, and it is all because they don't want a border in our country.

There was an election where the people said we want a border, and that is why this bill and the good work that Chairman ARRINGTON and the Budget Committee have done is so darn important.

We shouldn't have to pass this kind of bill. It should have been done in the appropriation bill, but nope. They are going to shut the government down for 74 days because they don't want a border.

They let in 10 million. They create sanctuary jurisdictions so it is difficult to remove them. Then, they don't want to pay the guys who do the removing.

That is their plan, and the country needs to know that, plain and simple. But here comes the Budget Committee and Republicans to say that we are going to do something to pay the guys. We will have to do it via reconciliation.

Mr. Speaker, I thank the Budget Committee and the chairman for doing the work. I urge a ''yes'' vote.

Mr. BOYLE of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, I yield 1½ minutes to the gentlewoman from Minnesota (Ms. OMAR), a distinguished member of the Budget Committee.

Ms. OMAR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in strong opposition to this Republican effort to funnel another $70 billion to ICE and CBP to continue their inhumane, illegal, and reprehensible actions.

This effort is even more incomprehensible considering it comes after Trump and congressional Republicans already created an $85 billion slush fund for ICE during the last budget reconciliation process.

In my district, ICE has used the money to terrorize Minnesotans, particularly our Black and Brown communities, through Operation Metro Surge. We watched in horror as ICE agents murdered our neighbors, Renee Good and Alex Pretti, in broad daylight. We witnessed our neighbors being snatched off the street and pulled from their homes and cars without a warrant. We saw dozens of children ripped away from their families, friends, and schools, shipped to detention centers out of State.

Our communities are still recovering from that devastation caused by the Federal occupation and the blatant trampling of the rights we as Americans hold dear. We cannot send this rogue and unaccountable agency another cent.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to vote ''no.''

Mr. ARRINGTON. Mr. Speaker, I yield 1½ minutes to the gentleman from Tennessee (Mr. VAN EPPS).

Mr. VAN EPPS. Mr. Speaker, congressional Democrats have kept the Department of Homeland Security shut down for more than 70 days. During this time, the critical services that DHS provides to the American people are, at best, disrupted and, at worst, paused entirely.

This comes as we prepare for the busiest travel season ever, celebrating our founding and welcoming visitors from around the world. It also comes during a threat environment unlike any other.

The previous administration welcomed unvetted migrants across our border for 4 years. There have been three assassination attempts against this sitting President, and cyber threats targeting our critical infrastructure are accelerating.

The threats are persistent, and they are here within our borders.

Mr. Speaker, it is high time we empower these agencies to accomplish their crucial mission, and I urge my colleagues to support this budget resolution.

Mr. BOYLE of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, I yield 1½ minutes to the gentlewoman from Washington (Ms. JAYAPAL), a distinguished member of the Budget Committee.

Ms. JAYAPAL. Mr. Speaker, this budget resolution is a total insult to the American people. Instead of addressing the rising prices of gas, groceries, housing, childcare, the things that actually allow people to survive in an economy that Republicans have rigged for the billionaires, this resolution puts another $70 billion into ICE and CBP. That is on top of the $170 billion slush fund that was given to these agencies in the Republican's big, bad betrayal bill last year that allowed ICE and CBP to carry out a violent, cruel, unconstitutional campaign of terror in communities across this country, killing Renee Good and Alex Pretti in Minnesota; conducting a campaign of mass detentions, detaining an unprecedented number of people, which has resulted in a record 47 deaths; locking up children and using them as bait for their parents; and terrorizing schools, churches, and hospitals with their activity.

Meanwhile, Republicans refuse to address the rising costs that Americans are dealing with because this administration refuses to put the people first.

Americans of every political stripe do not want more money to go to ICE's slush fund. What they want is real reforms to ICE and CBP to rein in the lawlessness. What they want is for the administration to get serious about cutting their costs instead of catering to Trump's cronies. Vote ''no'' on this resolution.

□ 1530

Mr. ARRINGTON. Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. BOYLE of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, I yield 1½ minutes to the gentlewoman from California (Ms. CHU), also a member of the Budget Committee.

Ms. CHU. Mr. Speaker, for yet another week, Republicans have brought us legislation that does absolutely nothing to lower the cost of groceries, housing, or healthcare. Instead, they want another $140 billion to expand their lawless deportation machine. Not one penny will make life more affordable for people. In fact, this bill fails to implement the most basic commonsense reforms to ICE and CBP.

Trump's immigration agents have ripped hundreds of thousands of people from their families, jobs, and communities. Nearly 60,000 people are trapped in ICE detention, almost half with no criminal record, and 48 people have died in ICE custody.

Their anti-immigrant agenda is killing people—people like my constituent, Carlos Montoya, a 52-year-old father and grandfather. When ICE agents raided a Home Depot just minutes from my district, Carlos was so frightened that he fled and was tragically struck and killed by a car on the freeway. This administration is instilling so much terror that people are willing to risk their lives to escape.

Republicans' big, ugly bill already handed ICE $170 billion, and now they want another $140 billion to keep kidnapping children, tackling grandmothers to the ground, raiding car washes, and shooting innocent people. Yet, somehow they keep insisting that there is no money for healthcare, food assistance, or housing.

Vote ''no'' on this bill.

Mr. ARRINGTON. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, just, again, setting the record straight for the American people, the only moneys we are spending are moneys that the Democrats in the House and Senate agreed with us to spend to operate the Department of Homeland Security, including ICE and CBP. Then, they reneged on it. They went back on their word, and they shut the Department of Homeland Security down for over 70 days.

All we are doing is using reconciliation, a budgetary tool, to fund ICE and CBP because they want to defund ICE and CBP.

I mean, you hear it in their rhetoric. I mentioned the masked thugs and the comparison to the KKK. They are talking about protecting the illegal immigrant, but you haven't heard a word about Laken Riley and her family. You haven't heard anything about Jocelyn Nungaray and her family or the thousands upon thousands of American citizens whose lives are forever changed because of the harm that was perpetrated upon them from an illegal, criminal alien who was allowed into this country with impunity because our President at the time was derelict in his duty to uphold the laws of the land because he refused to provide for the common defense. When Texas and other States tried to protect their citizens, they were harassed and obstructed at every turn.

What choice do we have: go back to the open border and a sanctuary Nation for criminal aliens? That is not acceptable to Republicans, and that is not acceptable to the people in the popular vote, in the electoral vote, or in every swing State. They sent us here to put America first and the American people first and to restore law and order.

Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. BOYLE of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, listen for the dog that didn't bark. Do you notice what the other side hasn't mentioned once during this debate—a debate, mind you, on a reconciliation budget bill—nothing about cost; nothing about their plan to bring down the cost of gas, which had the biggest monthly increase in my lifetime thanks to this administration's policies; nothing to make healthcare more affordable; nothing about childcare to make that more affordable; nothing to make housing more affordable; nothing at all about that.

They have nothing to say because they have no plan, and they don't have one dime for any of that in their bill.

Mr. Speaker, I yield 1½ minutes to the gentleman from the Commonwealth of Kentucky (Mr. MCGARVEY), a distinguished member of the Budget Committee.

Mr. MCGARVEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise in opposition to this Republican budget.

Last year, my Republican colleagues forced through a budget that gave ICE over $80 billion.

Let's put that in perspective: Last year, ICE got more than double the amount that they got during the entirety of Trump's first Presidency, but somehow that is not enough.

Now, they are trying to push through another $70 billion with no reforms, no accountability, no strings attached, nothing. That is $70 billion in taxpayer dollars for an agency responsible for kidnapping people off the street, murdering U.S. citizens, separating families, detaining children, and breaking down doors without warrants.

That is $70 billion in taxpayer dollars for masked, armed, and untrained agents who don't answer to anyone; $70 billion in taxpayer dollars for a campaign of terror directed at our own neighbors, while the rest of the country struggles to feed their families, pay rent, go to the doctor, and keep the lights on.

I am so tired of hearing that we don't have enough money for our schools and hospitals, no money to make sure that our veterans are taken care of, no money to make sure that everyone has a roof over their head, and no money for healthcare. I mean, just a couple of weeks ago, we were told that we don't even have the money to make sure that pregnant women can have fruits and vegetables.

Yet, the second that Trump needs more money to bankroll his own personal police force, Republicans in Congress can move mountains. For ICE, we have $70 billion. For everyone else, nothing.

This is intentional. It is a choice, and it is the wrong one.

Mr. ARRINGTON. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, again, I remind my colleagues and friend that the average gas price under Joe Biden and the Democratic leadership was over $5 per gallon. Under President Trump, it is just a little over $3 per gallon.

He talks about cost, but if you look at the CBO, which is a nonpartisan scorekeeper, they would tell you that in the first 6 months of this fiscal year, compared to the last 6 months of the last fiscal year, the deficit has actually gone down for the first time in almost a decade by $138 billion.

That is not me telling you that. That is not conjecture on the part of either party. It is the watchdog, scorekeeper, nonpartisan, telling you that when we held the line to control spending on the discretionary side for the last 4 years, we have saved almost $500 billion. The One Big Beautiful Bill Act is big and beautiful because we protected tax dollars, and we preserved the safety nets for American citizens who need them and depend on them.

Mr. Speaker, I include in the RECORD a letter from the CBO about the Medicaid coverage impacts of the One Big Beautiful Bill Act.

CONGRESSIONAL BUDGET OFFICE,
U.S. CONGRESS
Washington, DC, June 24, 2025.

Re Information Concerning Medicaid-Related Provisions in Title IV of H.R. 1.

Hon. JODEY ARRINGTON,
Chairman, Committee on the Budget, House of Representatives, Washington, DC.
Hon. BRETT GUTHRIE,
Chairman, Committee on Energy and Commerce, House of Representatives, Washington, DC

DEAR CHAIRMAN ARRINGTON AND CHAIRMAN GUTHRIE: You have asked the Congressional Budget Office for information concerning changes to insurance coverage that would occur under H.R. 1, the One Big Beautiful Bill Act, as passed by the House of Representatives on May 22, 2025. You asked specifically about changes related to Medicaid under title IV, Energy and Commerce.

CBO estimates that enacting the Medicaid provisions in title IV would increase the number of people without health insurance by 7.8 million in 2034 relative to baseline projections under current law. Of that number:

About 4.8 million would be able-bodied adults between the ages of 19 and 64 who have no dependents and who do not meet the community engagement requirement in section 44141 for participating in work-related activities at least 80 hours a month.

About 1.4 million would be people who do not meet citizenship and immigration status requirements for Medicaid enrollment but who would be covered under current law in programs funded by the states.

About 2.2 million would become uninsured because of other provisions in H.R. 1. including provisions increasing the frequency of verification of eligibility to enroll in Medicaid or those that would lead states to change their Medicaid enrollment requirements in response to federal policy changes.

CBO estimates that the interactions among the policies would, on net, reduce the number of people without health insurance by 600,000 in 2034 relative to the sum of the estimated effects of the individual policies because some people would become uninsured under more than one policy.

You asked several questions about the number of people who would be enrolled in Medicaid under the legislation and about the number of people who would not have health insurance under H.R. 1. You also asked about the effects on state Medicaid spending under H.R. 1.

For the number of individuals estimated to be without health insurance in 2034 as a result of the Medicaid policies in H.R. 1, what share would be eligible for other health insurance subsidies but would be estimated to not participate?

CBO estimates that of the projected increase of 7.8 million people without health insurance in 2034, 1.6 million would have access to, but would not take up, other forms of subsidized coverage, such as premium tax credits for insurance purchased through the marketplaces established by the Affordable Care Act or employment-based coverage; that number also includes people who would remain eligible for Medicaid but would not enroll.

For which provisions in H.R. 1 does CBO estimate that there would be an increase in the number of people without health insurance resulting from state discretion in the management of enrollment within their own Medicaid programs? What does CBO estimate would be the effect on the number of people without health insurance under those policies?

CBO estimates that enacting several sections would reduce resources available to states to fund their Medicaid programs or state-funded insurance programs:

Section 44107 would eliminate the authority of the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services to waive penalties for payment errors and would reduce federal funding to states for errors in eligibility determinations.

Section 44111 would reduce the federal matching rate for people enrolled in Medicaid under the expansion of the program provided in the Affordable Care Act from 90 percent to 80 percent for any state that uses its own funds to provide coverage to certain immigrants through state programs.

Section 44132 would prevent states from increasing current tax rates on providers and bar them from creating new tax arrangements for providers.

Section 44134 would make additional changes to what constitutes a permissible provider tax and would effectively limit collections of those taxes in certain states.

CBO expects that in response to those provisions, states would modify their Medicaid or state-funded insurance programs to curtail their spending by reducing provider payment rates, reducing the scope or amount of optional services, and reducing Medicaid enrollment.

CBO estimates that state responses to those provisions would increase the number of people without health insurance by a total of 2.0 million in 2034.

Does CBO estimate that the Medicaid provisions in H.R. 1 would result in a net decrease in state spending on the Medicaid program, before accounting for how states respond to the federal policy changes, and if so by how much?

CBO estimates that, if combined, enacting all of the Medicaid provisions in H.R. 1 would reduce the states' total share of spending on Medicaid by $13.1 billion, on net. over the 2025–2034 period. Some provisions would reduce state spending, and some would increase it. CBO estimates that over the 2025–2034 period, provisions that make changes to program eligibility and enrollment processes, as well as some payment changes, would cause states' spending to decline by $214.4 billion. Reductions in federal or other resources available to state programs would cause states' spending to rise by $201.3 billion.

What is the number of individuals whose citizenship, nationality, or satisfactory immigration status is not verifIed, but would be covered under current law in programs funded by states?

CBO estimates that enacting section 44111 would increase the number of people without health insurance by 1.4 million in 2034 because, in order to maintain the 90 percent federal matching rate, most states would stop using state-only funds to provide health insurance coverage to people who do not meet citizenship and immigration status requirements for Medicaid enrollment.

What are the changes in the number of uninsured people that would be associated with provisions aimed at verifying eligibility for the Medicaid program, specifically sections 44102 and 44108 of H.R. 1?

Section 44102 would prevent one part of what is termed the Eligibility and Enrollment final rule from being implemented, administered, or enforced through the end of 2034. That part of the rule changes the way that states process applications and renewals for coverage under Medicaid and the Children's Health Insurance Program. For example, the rule specifies that states can only conduct eligibility determinations for people who are aged, blind, and disabled once a year—less frequently than under some states' prior practices. The rule also specifies that states cannot require in-person interviews during eligibility redeterminations for that group of enrollees. CBO expects that enacting section 44102 of H.R. 1 would reduce enrollment as states returned to earlier administrative practices.

CBO estimates that enacting section 44102 would increase the number of people without health insurance by 600,000 in 2034.

Section 44108 would require states to redetermine Medicaid eligibility every six months, instead of once a year, for some enrollees. CBO expects that enacting the section would result in some people being removed from the program sooner than would occur under current law.

CBO estimates that enacting section 44108 would increase the number of people without health insurance by 700,000 in 2034.

In CBO's baseline, how many individuals are enrolled in Medicaid in 2025 and how many are enrolled in 2034? How many would be enrolled in 2034 under H.R. 1?

In CBO's January 2025 baseline projections, 85.0 million people will be enrolled in Medicaid this year, rising to 90.0 million in 2034. CBO estimates that under H.R. 1, 79.5 million people would be enrolled in Medicaid in 2034—10.5 million fewer than under current-law projections.

In CBO's baseline, what is total federal Medicaid spending in 2025 and in 2034? What would total federal Medicaid spending be in each of those years accounting for the effects of H.R. 1?

In CBO's January 2025 baseline, the agency estimates $655.9 billion in Medicaid spending in 2025, increasing to $985.7 billion by 2034. CBO estimates that enacting the Medicaid provisions of H.R. 1 would reduce Medicaid spending by $125.2 billion in 2034, to total $860.5 billion that year.

I hope this information is useful to you. Please contact me if you have further questions.

Sincerely,

PHILLIP L. SWAGEL,
Director.

Mr. ARRINGTON. Mr. Speaker, do you know what the letter says? Let me summarize. The millions of people who are no longer on Medicaid or SNAP are people who don't qualify to be on there. They are people who are in this country illegally, and they were people who refused to work even though they are able to work. Hardworking taxpayers are willing to support their fellow Americans, but it is a social compact, and there is a responsibility. That is what we did as Republicans.

Mr. Speaker, that is what the American people sent us here to do.

We can talk about the cost. Deficits are coming down. There is more money in people's pockets. Safety nets are being restored, protected, and preserved for the American citizens who depend on them. We are protecting tax dollars, and we are looking out for our kids and future vulnerable Americans who need these programs that are unsustainable because my Democratic colleagues haven't lifted a finger to help us root out waste and fraud.

Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

□ 1540

Mr. BOYLE of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, just to fact check here what we heard, the previous speaker said that the national average for a gallon of gas is $3 a gallon. No, that is what it was 2 months ago. Today, as of literally just a few moments ago when I checked, the national average is $4.22 a gallon. Again, last month was the largest monthly increase in the price of gas since 1967.

Mr. Speaker, I yield 1½ minutes to the gentleman from Rhode Island (Mr. AMO), a member of the Budget Committee.

Mr. AMO. Mr. Speaker, Rhode Islanders have had enough of Trump's reign of terror. Across my State, they know when so-called enforcement becomes intimidation, when profiling and abuse are rampant, and when accountability is absent.

Now, instead of restoring trust or lowering costs, Republicans are doing it again. Their first big, ugly bill ripped billions out of our healthcare system that will make millions sicker and poorer, all to spend $170 billion on ICE and CBP's rogue tactics.

Now this budget doubles down on that spending spree, dumping another $70 billion of taxpayer funding into the same cruel system without any reforms.

So here it is. They are using your money not to lower costs for gas, groceries, rent, or healthcare, not to help people, but to fund raids, roundups, and fear in American communities.

I will not stand by while costs rise, rights are trampled, and working families are left behind. So we have a

choice. Use your tax dollars to fund masked men and their masked raids or help families put food on the table, keep a roof over their head, and stay healthy.

I choose families. I urge a ''no'' vote on this latest Republican budget betrayal.

Mr. ARRINGTON. Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. BOYLE of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, I yield 1½ minutes to the gentleman from Maryland (Mr. RASKIN), the always eager gentleman and the distinguished ranking member of the Judiciary Committee.

Mr. RASKIN. Mr. Speaker, last year, devil-may-care, footloose, free-spending, Trump-enabling MAGA Republicans cut ICE and CBP a check from the American people for $170 billion with no oversight, no accountability, and no programmatic details.

And in the months since they passed their staggeringly irresponsible budget-busting, debt-enlarging big, beautiful bill, the American people have seen the consequences of handing billions of dollars to a rogue agency headed up by terrible leaders like Kristi Noem.

ICE now routinely tramples the constitutional rights of the people. It thumbs its nose at Federal court orders, and it brings fear and terror to communities across the country.

Look at what Federal courts have said about ICE, which didn't just lie about the killings of Renee Good and Alex Pretti. In dozens of cases, Federal judges have found that ICE officials are lying in court. A Reagan-appointed judge rejected the testimony of the acting ICE director as ''disingenuous, squalid, and dishonorable.'' Another judge called the affidavit of a top ICE official: The sorriest statement I have ever seen in court and said that if you were asking to get a warrant issued on this I would throw you out of my chambers.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The time of the gentleman has expired.

Mr. BOYLE of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, I yield an additional 30 seconds to the gentleman from Maryland.

Mr. RASKIN. Mr. Speaker, now our colleagues, rather than deal with the reality of what they have created, a monster year with American citizens being shot down in cold blood at point blank range, in Minneapolis Alex Pretti and Renee Good—rather than deal with that reality, they just want to double down on their world historical error by giving up another $140 billion with basically no strings attached to the people at ICE that have unleashed this chaos against us.

Mr. Speaker, I am voting ''no.''

Mr. ARRINGTON. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Unleash chaos. Think about that. Ask the American people what they believe about unleashed chaos, millions upon millions of people flooding our country. The Biden administration released 5-plus million people into our streets and into our neighborhoods, record number of criminals, record number of terrorists.

Mr. Speaker, I think the chaos that was unleashed was from the Biden administration and the Democrats opening up our border and throwing complete caution, rule of law, and the security of the American people to the wind, and we have suffered greatly as a country.

We are trying to fix it. We are trying to be the adults. We are trying to fund the government. We are trying to support our ICE agents and all those at the Department of Homeland Security that are protecting our ports and our critical infrastructure. They are doing their job for the country they love, and we are preventing them from getting a paycheck.

Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. BOYLE of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, I yield 1½ minutes to the gentleman from Texas (Mr. GREEN), a distinguished member of the Financial Services Committee.

Mr. GREEN of Texas. And still I rise, Mr. Speaker, in defense of the American people who are suffering as a result of more than a trillion dollars in healthcare cuts.

I rise to defend them because my colleagues across the aisle would reduce them to freeloaders, would reduce them to persons who don't deserve to be in the country and receive medical care.

I rise to call to your attention Mr. Bonner, an American citizen who worked for NASA. Mr. Bonner was in line for a double lung transplant. His premiums went up to the point that he could not afford the premium that would allow him to get the double lung transplant. We had to go out on the internet to secure funds for an American citizen who was in line for a double lung transplant who couldn't get it because of the premiums that went up in January.

You would reduce these persons, the Bonners of the world, to freeloaders. They are not freeloaders. These are American citizens who are suffering because of the way you are treating healthcare.

I rise in support of the American citizens who don't have money in the stock market and who are not playing the stock market. They have the supermarket as their means of determining how successful they are. When they go there, they cannot afford the necessities of life. They are having to choose gas over food.

I rise in defense of the American people that you reduce to freeloaders and persons who don't care enough about this country to want to support it and make sure that all persons have access to healthcare. I rise to defend the American people.

Mr. BOYLE of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, may I inquire as to the time remaining.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman from Pennsylvania has 7¾ minutes remaining, and the gentleman from Texas has 1 minute remaining.

I remind Members to direct their remarks to the Chair.

Mr. BOYLE of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. ARRINGTON. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

I heard from my Democratic friend about rising to support the vulnerable in this country who need healthcare. Well, let's just face the harsh facts. I know it is difficult for my Democratic colleagues because they created this monster, but ObamaCare since its inception has doubled premiums, doubled deductibles. It has made healthcare anything but affordable.

And then Joe Biden writes an executive order to allow illegal immigrants to avail themselves of social services, namely, healthcare, when American people are standing and waiting in line getting sicker at hospitals and other healthcare providers.

I think it is unacceptable.

This is the most generous country in the world when it comes to immigrants, Mr. Speaker. We are going to fund the Department of Homeland Security. We are going to protect the American people.

I urge my colleagues to support this bill, and I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. BOYLE of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself the balance of my time.

Let me first state for the record that it is always a pleasure debating with Chairman ARRINGTON. We have vigorous debates in the Budget Committee as well as here on the House floor, and it is always a pleasure to do so. I thank he and his staff who are always professional and courteous to us.

Mr. Speaker, we have heard a lot over the course of this debate. I would like to take a step back and put things in perspective. Mr. Speaker, the bottom line is this: Things are too expensive right now, and they are making it worse. Their policies are making it worse, which is remarkable because 2 years ago, being a resident of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, I saw more TV ads—I should say was subjected to seeing more TV ads, especially during the sports games I watch—than any other State in the country.

□ 1550

As different as the two Presidential nominees may have been from one another, one thing they actually agreed on is that the overwhelming majority of the ads from the Democratic nominee and the overwhelming majority of the ads from the Republican Presidential nominee were about the same thing: They were about costs. Everyone agreed that costs were too high, and they needed to come down.

This President ran around my State saying: ''I will lower costs on day one.'' Remember when he said that?

Here we are not on day one, not on day two, but on day 400, 500, whatever it is, of this Presidency, and costs aren't any lower today than 2024. In fact, they are higher. It is more for healthcare, more at the supermarkets, and more at the gas pumps.

Unlike previous downturns in our economy, it is not because of an act of terrorism like 9/11, and it is not because of a downturn in the business cycle. No, it is specifically because of the reckless policies of this administration and those who have supported those policies here in Congress.

His reckless trade war has only increased costs. He has doubled down on that policy by now launching a war in Iran that, in just 2 months, has brought gas prices from under $3 a gallon to now $4.22 just today and rising, perhaps approaching $5 a gallon this summer.

What has he done on taxes and healthcare and spending? Their first reconciliation bill last year showered tax breaks by the trillions to mostly the wealthy, and it paid for it on the backs of the healthcare of the American people.

Here we are now in reconciliation 2.0, and what do we find? There is nothing in here about the price of groceries, nothing to lower the price of gas, and nothing on housing, on childcare, or on healthcare. No, we have $70 billion more for ICE and CBP.

We can do far better. The American people deserve better. Say no to their reckless policies. Vote ''no'' on this bill.

Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. ARRINGTON. Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, let me summarize how we got here: Department of Homeland Security immigration agents killed two American citizens in Minneapolis. and Democrats demanded accountability from the Trump administration.

Instead of working with Democrats to enact meaningful reforms—to rein in the agencies that killed Renee Good and Alex Pretti—congressional Republicans shut down the department. Now, Republicans are proposing to end their disastrous DHS shutdown by creating a multi-billion-dollar slush fund without any oversight at all.

We have seen this story before. Last year, when congressional Republicans gave more than $160 billion to Trump's DHS in the Big, Ugly Bill, then-Secretary Kristi Noem decided she wanted luxury private jets. This time. S. Con. Res. 33 directs the House Homeland Security Committee to spend up to $70 billion on U.S. Border Patrol, which Republicans say is only supposed to last for the rest of the Trump administration. That would mean for the next three years, Border Patrol's budget would triple. That's in addition to the billions of dollars they receive last summer.

And it gets worse: This budget resolution also directs the Judiciary Committee to spend an additional $70 billion for ICE. That is double ICE's annual budget per year—on top on the $75 billion gifted to them by Republicans in the Big, Ugly Bill.

Mr. Speaker, we need to oppose this reckless spending and fight for justice for Renee Good and Alex Pretti and all the folks who have been terrorized by the Trump administration. Vote ''no'' on S. Con. Res. 333.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. All time for debate has expired.

Pursuant to House Resolution 1224, the previous question is ordered on the concurrent resolution.

The question is on the adoption of the concurrent resolution.

Pursuant to clause 10 of rule XX, the yeas and nays are ordered.

Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, further proceedings on this question are postponed.

FALLEN SERVICEMEMBERS RELIGIOUS HERITAGE RESTORATION ACT

Mr. JORDAN. Mr. Speaker, pursuant to House Resolution 1224, I call up the bill (S. 1318) to direct the American Battle Monuments Commission to establish a program to identify American-Jewish servicemembers buried in United States military cemeteries overseas under markers that incorrectly represent their religion and heritage, and for other purposes, and ask for its immediate consideration in the House.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to House Resolution 1224, an amendment in the nature of a substitute consisting of text of Rules Committee Print 119–27, modified by the amendment printed in Part C of House Report 119–628, is adopted, and the bill, as amended, is considered read.

The text of the bill, as amended, is as follows:

S. 1318

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the ''Foreign Intelligence Accountability Act''.

SEC. 2. CIVIL LIBERTIES REVIEW OF FBI QUERIES.

(a) REQUIREMENT.—Subsection (f)(3) of section 702 of the Foreign Intelligence Surveillance Act of 1978 (50 U.S.C. 1881a) is amended—

(1) in subparagraph (D)—

(A) by redesignating clauses (iv) through (vi) as clauses (v) through (vii), respectively;

(B) by inserting after clause (iii) the following new clause:

''(iv) MONTHLY CIVIL LIBERTIES REVIEW.—A requirement that the Federal Bureau of Investigation, on a monthly basis, provides to the Civil Liberties Protection Officer within the Office of the Director of National Intelligence the written statements regarding each United States person query submitted in the previous month under clause (iii).'';

(C) in clause (vi), as so redesignated, by striking ''(iv)'' and inserting ''(v)''; and

(D) by conforming the margin of clause (vii), as so redesignated, to the margin of the other clauses; and

(2) by adding at the end the following new subparagraph:

''(E) CIVIL LIBERTIES REVIEWS AND INVESTIGATIONS.—

''(i) CIVIL LIBERTIES PROTECTION OFFICER.—The Civil Liberties Protection Officer within the Office of the Director of National Intelligence shall review each written statement regarding a United States person query submitted under subparagraph (D)(iv) to determine whether the query meets the standards required by the procedures adopted under paragraph (1). If the Civil Liberties Protection Officer determines that the query did not meet such standards or there exists possible abuses of civil liberties and privacy, the Civil Liberties Protection Officer shall refer the query to the Inspector General of the Intelligence Community.

''(ii) INSPECTOR GENERAL OF THE INTELLIGENCE COMMUNITY.—The Inspector General of the Intelligence Community shall determine whether each query referred under clause (i) constitutes a violation of laws, rules, or regulations or an abuse of authority.''.

(b) CONFORMING AMENDMENTS.—The National Security Act of 1947 (50 U.S.C. 3001 et seq.) is amended—

(1) in section 103D (50 U.S.C. 3029)—

(A) in subsection (b)—

(i) in paragraph (6), by striking ''; and'' and inserting a semicolon;

(ii) by redesignating paragraph (7) as paragraph (8); and

(iii) by inserting after paragraph (6) the following new paragraph (7):

''(7) review each written statement submitted to the Civil Liberties Protection Officer under section 702(f)(3) of the Foreign Intelligence Surveillance Act of 1978 (50 U.S.C. 1881a(f)(3)); and''; and

(B) in subsection (c), by inserting before the period at the end the following: '', and, based on the reviews specified in paragraph (7) of such subsection, shall make referrals to the Inspector General of the Intelligence Community under section 702(f)(3) of the Foreign Intelligence Surveillance Act of 1978 (50 U.S.C. 1881a(f)(3))''; and

(2) in section 103H(g)(3)(A) (50 U.S.C. 3033(g)(3)(A)), by inserting after ''and safety'' the following: ''(including with respect to referrals from the Civil Liberties Protection Officer pursuant to section 702(f)(3) of the Foreign Intelligence Surveillance Act of 1978 (50 U.S.C. 1881a(f)(3))''.

SEC. 3. CRIMINAL PENALTIES FOR VIOLATION OF PROHIBITION ON QUERIES.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Section 709 of the Foreign Intelligence Surveillance Act of 1978 (50 U.S.C. 1881h) is amended—

(1) in the heading, by striking ''**UNAUTHORIZED DISCLOSURE**'' and inserting ''**UNAUTHORIZED DISCLOSURE AND OTHER ACTIONS**'';

(2) in subsection (a)—

(A) by striking ''if that person knowingly'' and inserting the following: ''if that person—''

''(1) knowingly'';

(B) by striking ''party.'' and inserting ''party;''; and

(C) by adding at the end the following new paragraphs:

''(2) while serving as an employee or officer of the Federal Bureau of Investigation, knowingly and willfully violates the querying procedures adopted under section 702(f)(1)(A) relating to United States person queries; or

''(3) knowingly and willfully falsifies or materially misrepresents complying with the procedures or requirements for querying information acquired under section 702(a).''; and

(3) in subsection (b)—

(A) by striking ''offense in this section'' and inserting the following: ''offense—

''(1) in paragraph (1) of subsection (a)'';

(B) by striking ''title 18'' and inserting ''title 18, United States Code'';

(C) by striking ''both.'' and inserting ''both; and''; and

(D) by adding at the end the following new paragraph:

''(2) in paragraph (2) or (3) of subsection (a), shall be fined under title 18, United States Code, imprisoned for not more than 5 years, or both.''.

(b) TABLE OF CONTENTS AMENDMENT.—The table of contents at the beginning of such Act is amended by striking the item relating to section 709 and inserting the following new item:

''Sec. 709. Penalties for unauthorized disclosure and other actions.''.

SEC. 4. REQUIREMENT FOR TARGETING UNITED STATES PERSONS UNDER THE FOREIGN INTELLIGENCE SURVEILLANCE ACT OF 1978.

Section 702 of the Foreign Intelligence Surveillance Act of 1978 (50 U.S.C. 1881a) is amended by adding at the end the following new subsection:

''(o) FOURTH AMENDMENT REQUIREMENT FOR TARGETING UNITED STATES PERSONS.—

''(1) PROHIBITION ON TARGETING UNITED STATES PERSONS.—In accordance with subsection (b), no officer or employee of the United States Government may intentionally target a United States person for an acquisition under section 702.

''(2) ORDER REQUIREMENTS FOR TARGETING UNITED STATES PERSONS.—In accordance with the other provisions of this Act and the Federal Rules of Criminal Procedure, with respect to a United States person, the United States Government may seek—

''(A) an order authorizing electronic surveillance in accordance with title I;

''(B) an order authorizing a physical search in accordance with title III;

''(C) an order authorizing an acquisition in accordance with section 703, 704, or 705; or

''(D) a warrant issued pursuant to the Federal Rules of Criminal Procedure by a court of competent jurisdiction.''.

SEC. 5. ATTENDANCE PROCEDURES FOR MEMBER ACCESS TO THE FOREIGN INTELLIGENCE SURVEILLANCE COURT AND FOREIGN INTELLIGENCE SURVEILLANCE COURT OF REVIEW.

Not later than 60 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Attorney General shall—

(1) revoke the procedures issued by the Attorney General on or before December 31, 2025, pursuant to section 5(d) of the Reforming Intelligence and Securing America Act (Public Law 118–49; 50 U.S.C. 1803 note); and

(2) issue new procedures that comply with such section and ensure the access of the Members of Congress and staff specified in such section to any proceeding of the Foreign Intelligence Surveillance Court or any proceeding of the Foreign Intelligence Surveillance Court of Review.

SEC. 6. REQUIREMENT FOR ATTORNEY APPROVAL OF FBI QUERIES USING UNITED STATES PERSON QUERY TERM.

Section 702(f)(3)(A)(i) of the Foreign Intelligence Surveillance Act of 1978 (50 U.S.C. 1881a(f)(3)(A)(i)) is amended by striking ''supervisor (or employee of equivalent or greater rank) or''.

SEC. 7. GOVERNMENT ACCOUNTABILITY OFFICE AUDIT OF TARGETING PROCEDURES UNDER SECTION 702 OF THE FOREIGN INTELLIGENCE SURVEILLANCE ACT OF 1978.

(a) AUDIT.—The Comptroller General of the United States shall conduct an audit of the targeting procedures used for acquisitions under section 702 of the Foreign Intelligence Surveillance Act of 1978 (50 U.S.C. 1881a), including the technical mechanisms, implementation, and operations used by the Federal Government for targeting capabilities.

(b) REPORT.—Not later than one year after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Comptroller General shall submit to the Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence and the Committee on the Judiciary of the House of Representatives and the Select Committee on Intelligence and the Committee on the Judiciary of the Senate a report containing the results of the audit required by subsection (a), including an analysis of whether the targeting procedures as implemented are appropriately limiting targeting under section 702 of the Foreign Intelligence Surveillance Act of 1978 (50 U.S.C. 1881a) to non-United States persons located outside of the United States.

SEC. 8. EXTENSION OF AUTHORITIES OF TITLE VII OF THE FOREIGN INTELLIGENCE SURVEILLANCE ACT OF 1978.

(a) EXTENSION OF REPEAL DATE OF TITLE VII.—Section 403(b) of the FISA Amendments Act of 2008 (Public Law 110–261), as most recently amended by Public Law 119–84, is further amended—

(1) in paragraph (1) (50 U.S.C. 1881 note) by striking ''April 30, 2026'' and inserting ''April 30, 2029''; and

(2) in paragraph (2) (18 U.S.C. 2511 note), in the matter preceding subparagraph (A), by striking ''April 30, 2026'' and inserting ''April 30, 2029''.

(b) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendments made by this section shall take effect on the earlier of the date of the enactment of this Act or April 29, 2026.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The bill, as amended, shall be debatable for 1 hour, equally divided among and controlled by the chair and the ranking minority member of the Committee on the Judiciary, or their respective designees, and the chair and the ranking minority member of the Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence, or their respective designees.

The gentleman from Ohio (Mr. JORDAN), the gentleman from Maryland (Mr. RASKIN), the gentleman from Arkansas (Mr. CRAWFORD), and the gentleman from Connecticut (Mr. HIMES) each will control 15 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Ohio.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. JORDAN. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks and to insert extraneous material on S. 1318.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Ohio?

There was no objection.

Mr. JORDAN. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, it ain't the same FISA. When we were in this Chamber 2 years ago debating a reauthorization of FISA 702, the program was significantly different than it is today.

In 2021, the FBI reported conducting nearly 3 million U.S. person queries. An audit of those queries found that 278,000 times, they did not comply with the rules, didn't follow the rules. FBI agents ran queries on protesters, donors to congressional campaigns, public officials, journalists, colleagues, and even ex-girlfriends.

In response to those abuses, Congress enacted the Reforming Intelligence and Securing America Act. The House Judiciary Committee, the House Intelligence Committee, all of Congress, put together that law that contained 56 different reforms, things like new training and approval requirements before a U.S. person query could even take place, audit requirements, accountability measures for those who misused the program, and enhanced reporting and transparency requirements such as allowing certain Members of Congress and staff to attend FISA court proceedings.

We are beginning to see the effect of those reforms. In the year after RISAA was passed, the FBI reported conducting 9,089 U.S. person queries. Of those roughly 9,000 queries, just 127 did not comply with the rules.

Think about it: from 278,000 to 127. That is real improvement. That is a different program. Most of those 127 were due to errors like typos, clerical errors.

Due to the improved reporting and transparency required by RISAA, Congress has more insight than ever into the program's operation.

Today, every single U.S. person query conducted by the FBI is audited to ensure compliance with applicable requirements and legal standards. The results of those audits and other information are provided to Congress on an annual, semiannual, and quarterly basis.

The Foreign Intelligence Accountability Act would add to those reforms. The legislation in front of us, for example, adds the Civil Liberties Protection Officer within the Office of the Director of National Intelligence who will conduct a monthly review of FBI U.S. person queries.

I think this is the best thing we put in the reauthorization bill, this 30-day look back on how the queries are going, are they following the rules, and what took place in those actual searches.

Queries that violate the rules would be referred to the inspector general of the intelligence community for further investigation. That is, again, a couple more layers of accountability.

This bill would also impose criminal penalties for those who knowingly conduct improper queries and those who lie about conducting improper queries.

Finally, the bill would require that an FBI attorney, rather than just some other agent or supervisor, approve any U.S. person search before they are conducted.

The 702 program is incredibly important for protecting our national security and advancing our interests abroad.

In light of the progress that has been made and the threats that we face, we think the bill before us today makes sense right now.

That does not mean our job is over. The Judiciary Committee will continue to conduct aggressive oversight of FISA, and we will continue to work on some things that we think can be helpful in the future.

Again, today is not 2024. I urge my colleagues to support the bill, and I reserve the balance of my time.

□ 1600

Mr. RASKIN. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I urge all of our colleagues, with constitutional patriotism still beating in their hearts after this tortured and demeaning and visibly transactional process we have seen today, to oppose the legislation.

This bill is a 3-year permission slip and blessing for the Trump administration and the next administration to keep abusing the sweeping FISA section 702 surveillance authority to spy on American citizens' private communications and to violate the privacy rights of the people.

I want every Member of this body to be clear on exactly what is in this bill. It has no warrant requirement for queries of U.S. citizens. It has no probable cause requirement. It provides for no judicial oversight of these government queries.

It subjects U.S. citizens to completely subconstitutional standards, avoiding the Fourth Amendment entirely. It is in a parallel universe from the Constitution—or perhaps I should say a perpendicular universe to the Constitution.

The Constitution interposes a judge—a neutral, independent magistrate—between the government and a search of persons and their things. This 3-year blank check to Trump, Patel, and company leaves the executive branch free to conduct these searches with self-reporting and self-policing as the sole protection against their abuse of the section 702 program.

Without any meaningful guardrails, this U.S. person information collected under foreign intelligence standards that have nothing to do with the Fourth Amendment is ripe for abuse. It has been systematically abused to spy on American citizens in the past, and it will be used in exactly the same way by Kash Patel and Todd Blanche in the future if we pass this bill.

Last week, it came to light that FBI Director Kash Patel was unhappy about a New York Times article, which focused on the fact that he had used FBI SWAT teams and jets to chauffeur his girlfriend around the country at taxpayer expense.

What did he do? He didn't decide to change his policy on how he uses the people's resources. Instead, he had his agents query FBI databases for dirt on the reporter.

Was the FISA section 702 program one of the databases he searched? The FBI says no. He just searched every other database at the FBI. We have no idea because they don't have to go to a judge before searching an American citizen's information.

We depend now, in this system, on Kash Patel to be the check and balance against Kash Patel. We only know about the fact that it even happened because a reporter got the information. Otherwise, we wouldn't even have known anything about it.

Let it be a warning to people vigilant about our civil rights and privacy, about what actually goes on.

Even Republicans on the Rules Committee last night were registering their displeasure with these reports.

Look, the FISA section 702 program has been misused and abused under every section. Section 702 authorizes the government to collect information from electronic communication companies in the U.S. about non-U.S. persons who are physically outside the U.S. When the government gets communications to and from these foreign targets, it also incidentally collects large amounts of information about American citizens.

In 2022, the FISC, the Foreign Intelligence Surveillance Court, detailed a historical pattern of noncompliant queries at the FBI. Improper searches swept in elected officials, political campaign donors, Black Lives Matter protesters, and many others.

At other agencies, analysts used section 702 to query their own names, the names of their relatives, and even the names of former romantic partners.

Just last month, Federal judges on the FISC issued an opinion to sound the alarm about how the FBI is currently abusing FISA, violating the law and flouting the safeguards Congress imposed 2 years ago to snoop on Americans' private communications. The administration is deliberately keeping this opinion totally classified in a basement SCIF here at the House.

Reforms that we made during the last FISA section 702 reauthorization, which I strongly supported and voted for—unlike my friend Chairman JORDAN—those reforms relied on internal watchdogs and required agencies to track and report the use of section 702 data to spy on Americans.

I strongly supported that reform, but, 1 year and change into the Trump administration, the watchdogs are all but gone. After returning to the White House, President Trump quickly removed the internal watchdogs charged with verifying FBI's representations that the reforms are working; he illegally fired a majority of the members of the independent Privacy and Civil Liberties Oversight Board; and his Department of Justice reassigned other key compliance personnel. The watchdogs have been removed from the scene of the crimes.

The administration repeatedly claims that FBI compliance exceeded 99 percent in 2024 and 2025. Even if those claims are true—and I seriously doubt it—that is an admission that the FBI has illegally accessed the data of thousands of American citizens.

More importantly, these numbers are based on the violations and abuses that Kash Patel and Todd Blanche are willing to identify themselves and self-report. How can we believe these numbers when the administration has returned all the watchdogs to the pound? They are no longer there.

The FISC judges warned us just last month that the FBI is abusing its authorities to spy on Americans, so what makes us think that a 3-year blank check renewal will lead to self-correction?

Proponents of the bill claim that it protects privacy, but asking Kash Patel's FBI to self-report abuses of our civil liberties to Tulsi Gabbard's DNI is like asking Donald Trump to self-report his collection of millions of dollars from foreign governments directly to the U.S. Congress. That is actually the law under Article I, Section 9 of the Constitution, the Foreign Emoluments Clause. Yet, he has never once come to ask for our permission for him to keep a foreign government emolument, whether pocketed through the Trump Hotels, the Trump golf courses, or the other Trump enterprises in crypto coins and scams, and so on.

If you think self-reporting is working well under the foreign government Emoluments Clause, go ahead and vote for self-reporting under the Foreign Intelligence Surveillance Act. For me, I am sticking with the Fourth Amendment and the Constitution. Under our Constitution, it is judges, not FBI agents or government lawyers, who must protect our privacy and our civil liberties.

Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentlewoman from California (Ms. LOFGREN).

Ms. LOFGREN. Mr. Speaker, I rise in opposition to reauthorizing FISA section 702 without meaningful reform.

At a time when the Trump administration is building a sweeping surveillance apparatus, trampling civil rights, and disregarding the rule of law, Congress should be strengthening oversight, not rubberstamping warrantless surveillance.

If the government wants to search an American's private communications, it must get a warrant. That is what the Constitution requires, and it is what the American people demand.

Once again, our Speaker is trying to block debate and deny a vote on a warrant requirement. Instead, we are trying to jam through another extension of warrantless surveillance without meaningful reforms.

I have opposed this abuse under both Republican and Democratic administrations, and I oppose it today.

Congress should reject this bill and take up meaningful reform, including my bipartisan Government Surveillance Reform Act, introduced with Representative DAVIDSON, along with Senator WYDEN and Senator LEE in the other body.

We do not have to choose between national security and constitutional rights. That is a false choice. We can protect the country and protect Americans' constitutional right to privacy. Congress should do both.

Mr. Speaker, oppose this bill so we can get meaningful reform.

Mr. JORDAN. Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

□ 1610

Mr. RASKIN. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the distinguished gentleman from New York (Mr. NADLER).

Mr. NADLER. Mr. Speaker, FISA section 702 can be a powerful tool against foreign threats, but without significant guardrails against abuse, it is also a massive threat to the privacy and civil liberties of all Americans. That is why I must oppose this legislation.

I have worked for many years, in a bipartisan fashion, to include major reforms to section 702, and I was looking forward to working with my colleagues again to strengthen these protections during this reauthorization.

However, the new provisions in this bill are simply a fig leaf and do not represent real reform. In particular, the supposed new warrant requirement is nothing more than a restatement of current law and completely misses the point of reform.

It is already unlawful to target the communications of Americans under section 702. That is not the problem. The problem is what to do with the massive amounts of U.S. person information that is swept up along with foreign communications.

The intelligence community is not supposed to search this data except under strict protocols. Yet we know that these protocols are violated all the time.

The only solution is to require a probable cause warrant if the government wants to search the 702 database for U.S. person information. That is what this debate is about, and that is the bare minimum demanded by the Fourth Amendment.

The Trump administration's argument appears to be: Trust us. However, that is not good enough for any administration, and especially not for this administration, which has already shown a shocking disregard for Americans' civil liberties.

Mr. Speaker, we should get this right. We should work together, as we have in the past, to strike the right balance between security and liberty. We should put in a probable cause warrant requirement. Until then, vote ''no'' on this legislation.

Mr. RASKIN. Mr. Speaker, I yield 1 minute to the gentlewoman from Washington (Ms. JAYAPAL).

Ms. JAYAPAL. Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong opposition to this bill to reauthorize FISA with no reforms. I have long worked on bipartisan reforms that protect the privacy of Americans, and, frankly, I am sad that some of my colleagues across the aisle who were part of that struggle have caved to Donald Trump.

However, the reality is that Americans across the political spectrum out there, outside of Congress, want us to reform FISA so that the government does not spy on them. That has never been more necessary than right now as Donald Trump and Stephen Miller openly use domestic surveillance to suppress our rights.

Trump blacklisted Anthropic for refusing to drop its condition that their AI technology never be used to facilitate domestic mass surveillance targeting Americans. Law enforcement has used Americans' sensitive data to punish women seeking reproductive care, and ICE has deliberately used data to suppress First Amendment activity.

Why is it so hard for the majority to just assure Americans that the FBI will get a damn warrant to access their sensitive data?

Americans don't want to be spied on, and I have been consistent on this, pushing Democratic Presidents and Republican Presidents.

Mr. Speaker, this bill continues to allow the FBI to spy on you and offers zero reforms. Vote ''no.''

Mr. RASKIN. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, the key point is this: Under this bill, FBI agents can still collect, search, and review Americans' communications without any review from a judge. It is the heart of the Fourth Amendment, Mr. Speaker, that search warrants have to be based upon probable cause, and you have to go to a judge to get a search warrant before you can invade the private expectations of the people in their places and in their things.

This bill leaves intelligence agencies in charge of policing their own compliance with the law. Asking Kash Patel to self-report his abuses to Tulsi Gabbard does nothing to protect the civil liberties of Americans.

That is not how our Constitution was designed. The whole reason we have the courts involved is to make sure that the executive branch doesn't get to be its own check and balance against itself.

Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time

Mr. JORDAN. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I would just point out that I think one of the reasons they attack Mr. Patel so darned much is because crime is down in the country. He is actually doing his job.

I think another reason they like to attack the Director of the FBI is because he is the guy who uncovered what they were doing 10 years ago when he was a staffer here on the House Intelligence Committee. It was Kash Patel who told us that the dossier, paid for by the Clinton campaign, was a bunch of garbage. Yet that is exactly what Mr. Comey used for the other part of FISA, title 1, to go get a warrant to spy on the other party's campaign.

Maybe that is why they like to attack Director Patel so much. But I think he is bringing down crime in our country, and I applaud him for that.

Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. RASKIN. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, Kash Patel has been using government resources to chauffeur his girlfriend all over the country. Then when it was learned by the press that he was doing that, there was an article about it.

When he got mad about it, rather than say: Well, yeah, maybe there is a problem using an FBI SWAT team to shepherd my girlfriend around the country. Instead of changing the policy, he decided to go after the reporter and search the databases on the FBI.

This is while we are debating FISA.

If you need any more vivid demonstration, Mr. Speaker, of the danger of allowing law enforcement officials to govern themselves and to regulate whether or not they are violating the Constitution, check that out. We may disagree a lot about this FBI director's record. That is not directly relevant to this point.

Say you trust him, we don't, but we know you haven't trusted other people in the office before, Mr. Speaker. Let's legislate in a way that is consistent with the Constitution of the United States.

In closing, Mr. Speaker, the reason why we have to hold fast to the Constitution is precisely because we are all imperfect beings. I stood strongly for FISA 702 last time without the necessity of a search warrant because of all the reforms that I believed that the Biden administration would engage in, and they basically engaged in them.

Now the Trump administration is in, and President Trump came in and dismantled all of the safeguards we put in and just chased the watchdogs out of the FBI. That is why we must stick very closely to the Constitution, as my good friend, the chairman of the committee, argued the last time we debated this. He has convinced a lot of people that we need to stick to the Constitution. I am sorry we are not on the same side today.

The key point is that we do not trust government officials to regulate themselves. That is why law enforcement officers across the country, FBI, have to go to a judge to get a Fourth Amendment search warrant before they invade somebody's privacy unless there is exigency, unless there is an emergency, and we have accounted for that. We can deal with that problem.

Let's stick with the Constitution.

Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. JORDAN. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, FISA, as we all know, is a critical program. It is important for our government to understand what bad guys are planning to do to our citizens and to our Nation and to have this program in place. That is why it is critical we reauthorize it.

We have made major changes over the last several years, not just 2 years ago, but over the last several years. The Judiciary Committee has been involved in the oversight in making sure this program is done the way it should be done and protecting Americans' liberties. There are 56 different reforms

we have put in the last reauthorization bill that, as I said in my opening statement, we know have made a difference.

Today's program is different. It is different. We should reauthorize it because FISA is critical. Today, there is training and checks on the front end before a search can be done of a U.S. person. There is transparency for the whole process in how it all works. There is accountability on the back end if you don't do it right. Mr. Speaker, this bill now says that accountability includes criminal penalties if you don't do it right.

So this is the kind of legislation we need to pass, and we need to pass it soon because they have been shutting down the government, the Department of Homeland Security, for what, 74 days now?

By the way, we do also happen to be in the middle of a military operation in Iran.

Let's get this done.

Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. MEUSER). The gentleman from Arkansas (Mr. CRAWFORD) and the gentleman from Connecticut (Mr. HIMES) each will control 15 minutes.

□ 1620

Mr. CRAWFORD. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of S. 1318, the Foreign Intelligence Accountability Act. This legislation makes further reforms to section 702, the Foreign Intelligence Surveillance Act, and reauthorizes the authority for 3 years.

Originally authorized in 2008, section 702 allows the intelligence community to gather foreign intelligence on foreign targets based overseas. Targets of 702 are terrorists, hackers, and spies living abroad. No U.S. citizen anywhere in the world can be targeted under section 702.

I want to be very clear on this point. Section 702 is not a backdoor surveillance tool that allows the government to collect and review an American's emails or other electronic communications. The only U.S. person data collected is if the terrorist, spy, or hacker targeted under 702 is talking to an American or about an American. In that case, only the communications held in the foreign target's accounts are collected.

For the government to collect that American's communications, current law already requires the government to get a warrant under different FISA authorities.

Section 702 is one of our country's most important foreign intelligence authorities.

In 2025, 100 percent of the President's intelligence priorities reported on by the NSA were supported by section 702, and more than one-quarter of all NSA reporting contains 702 information; 90 percent of synthetic drug disruptions enabled by the CIA were supported by section 702; and 63 percent of the intelligence products in the President's daily brief contained section 702 information.

Reauthorizing FISA 702 is essential. In 2024, Congress reauthorized section 702 through legislation known as RISAA. This legislation included 56 reform measures that restricted FBI U.S. person queries, implemented greater FBI accountability for any noncompliance, mandated greater transparency across the IC and FISC, and included key reforms to address abuses related to traditional FISA like we all witnessed in the FBI's Crossfire Hurricane investigation.

The RISAA reforms resulted in a 94 percent drop in the number of FBI U.S. person queries from 2022 to 2025, 119,300 down to 7,400. At the same time, the FBI's compliance rate increased to 99 percent, equivalent to other IC agencies.

Despite the efforts of FBI Director Patel to implement the reforms and accountability, rebuilding trust will not happen quickly. For that reason, working with Chairman JORDAN and House leadership, I have met with all unique groups across the Republican Conference over the past several months to identify additional key reforms and to develop a consensus product.

The reality is that no reauthorization effort would be likely to be perfect in everyone's eyes, but this bill makes measurable reforms to strengthen accountability and safeguards while maintaining the criticality of the foreign intelligence tool.

Specifically, the bill before us: clarifies that no U.S. person can be a target of 702 collection, and any targeting of a U.S. person requires a warrant; establishes criminal penalties for intentional abuse of FISA 702 queries and any false statements to the FISC; mandates new procedures to allow Members to observe FISC hearings; requires an FBI attorney review all FBI U.S. person queries; orders an independent audit by the Government Accountability Office on 702 targeting procedures; and establishes an outside review and authentication process of all FBI U.S. person queries by mandating the ODNI Civil Liberties Protection Officer review FBI query justifications.

With these important reforms, the bill includes a 3-year reauthorization for FISA 702. The bottom line is that the importance of this tool to U.S. national security cannot be overstated, and for that reason, it is essential for Congress to reauthorize this authority.

On a 24/7 basis, we face the threat of cyberattacks from our adversaries. We have U.S. military personnel and citizens being targeted overseas. We have foreign terrorist organizations recruiting Americans and plotting attacks on the homeland.

FISA 702 is a vital national security authority that enables the intelligence community and military to mitigate and defeat these threats. In fact, if the 702 tool had existed prior to 2001, we may have been able to prevent September 11 from happening.

I urge all my colleagues to vote ''yes'' on S. 1318. Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. HIMES. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

I rise in support of S. 1318, the Foreign Intelligence Accountability Act.

I do so with some reluctance because the process that brought us here has been indefensible. Two weeks ago, when we walked off the floor after legislation to reauthorize 702 failed, Democrats made clear there was an open door to negotiate a bipartisan package of real reforms, perhaps one that would even pass on suspension in this Chamber. I have been discussing this issue for months now with the ranking member of the Judiciary Committee, Mr. RASKIN, and it is clear to me that there is a path to a bill that could do more than squeak through and only by attaching unrelated legislation that may not pass the Senate.

However, we are where we are, and I am going to support this legislation because in my decade on the House Intelligence Committee, I have seen countless, countless instances where the intelligence obtained through section 702 quite literally saved lives. Section 702 is the single most important foreign intelligence collection authority we have, and every day it is used by apolitical professionals throughout the IC and apolitical professionals at the FBI to keep Americans safe here and abroad. There is no way to replace the value that section 702 provides, and the loss of this authority would be devastating.

Given the binary choice between reauthorization and expiration, the responsible choice is reauthorization. As President Biden's Intelligence Advisory Board put it: ''If Congress fails to reauthorize section 702, history may judge the lapse of section 702 authorities as one of the worst intelligence failures of our time.''

As I said at the outset, we should be considering a much broader array of reforms than those in this package. For example, 2 weeks ago, I proposed an amendment to the base bill in the Rules Committee that would have created a judicial process for U.S. person queries conducted by the FBI in the 702 database. I want to be clear that we have seen no evidence—let me say that again, we have seen no evidence that this administration is misusing section 702, but nonetheless, we must remain hypervigilant, given the other abuses that we have seen from this administration.

My amendment to Rules would have required a Federal court approval before the FBI could access the results of a query it conducted involving a U.S. person. I regret that my amendment as well as a range of other ideas from Members on both sides of the aisle were not considered as part of this process.

However, as I said, we now have a binary choice, and the reality is that 2

years ago, Congress, on a bipartisan basis, with the support of more than 70 percent of the Democratic Caucus, passed the Reforming Intelligence and Securing America Act. That bill 2 years ago contained over 50 major reforms, the bulk of which were intended to address the longstanding and unacceptable issues of compliance at the FBI. Since enactment, the evidence shows that those reforms have been highly successful, with far fewer U.S. person queries conducted and with a compliance rate at the FBI of 99 percent.

It is easy to dismiss those numbers, given the political leadership of the FBI and the DOJ. I don't trust Director Patel any more than my Democratic colleagues do.

On January 6, 5 years ago, I was in this Chamber when it was attacked by the shock troops sent here to stop the peaceful transfer of power. I sat there for half an hour as police officers with guns drawn tried to defend our democracy, so I take a back seat to no one in my concern about the abuses of this administration.

However, the data we have on FISA is based on oversight of the professional and apolitical staff, not Kash Patel, the professional and apolitical staff, who are there at the Department of Justice Office of Intelligence, largely the same group of public servants who performed this work under President Biden, and their findings are validated not just by the Attorney General or Tulsi Gabbard or Kash Patel, but by independent oversight, the DOJ's inspector general, the staff of the Privacy and Civil Liberties Oversight Board, the Foreign Intelligence Surveillance Court on an annual basis, and the Intelligence and Judiciary Committees of both Chambers.

We are not trusting this administration. We are verifying in all three branches of government. If we saw the slightest hint that these authorities were being abused, I wouldn't be standing here today to support this bill.

The legislation now before the House contains several reform proposals. These proposals are modest and well short of what I would like, but they are meaningful. Most importantly, the legislation requires that all U.S. person queries of the 702 database by FBI be reviewed by ODNI's Civil Liberties and Privacy Officer, and that any improper queries be referred from there to the IG of the intelligence community. This adds yet another layer of oversight of FBI on top of internal oversight, DOJ oversight, which I may not trust, court oversight, which I do trust, and congressional oversight which, yes, I do trust, since I am involved in that. The legislation also adds new criminal penalties for FBI employees who intentionally improperly use section 702.

Finally, the legislation requires that only an FBI attorney can approve a U.S. person query, building on a reform we made in 2024, which required preapproval from either an FBI lawyer or an FBI supervisor. Now, a lawyer is likely to be compliance focused rather than operations focused the way a supervisor would be, and will be especially careful and cautious before approving a proposed U.S. person query.

□ 1630

These are modest reforms, but they are not nothing. When viewed in combination with the 50-plus reforms of 2024, Congress will have built a substantial oversight structure around 702 to prevent abuse.

Section 702 is not a dragnet. It is not an authority that can be used to surveil Americans. It does not contain any commercially acquired information. It does not use artificial intelligence to analyze collected data. Despite the fact that we have heard this word a lot today, it is not unconstitutional. A Federal court certifies this program every single year.

If this were deemed by the judiciary, the branch of government which determines constitutionality, to be unconstitutional, we might have heard that from the courts at some point in the last 18 years in which they have been certifying this authority.

What it does have is an extremely robust set of oversight guardrails in all three branches of government, and this bill makes those guardrails marginally and modestly stronger. It is without question the most important foreign intelligence tool we have.

Mr. Speaker, for those reasons, despite my frustration with the process that has led us here, I will vote ''yes,'' and I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. CRAWFORD. Mr. Speaker, I yield 3 minutes to the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. LAHOOD).

Mr. LAHOOD. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in strong support of S. 1318, the Foreign Intelligence Accountability Act, and I thank Chairman CRAWFORD for his leadership and steadfast support for reauthorization of FISA 702.

During the last reauthorization in 2024, I and many other Members led the committee's task force on FISA reforms, and I think it is important to clarify what FISA 702 is and what it isn't.

FISA 702 cannot be used to target U.S. persons, period. Under current Federal law, it is illegal to target U.S. persons under this authority. Section 702 only allows for the collection on foreigners located overseas and who are reasonably believed to possess certain types of foreign intelligence information.

Throughout our reform process in 2024, we worked with our Judiciary Committee colleagues and spent over a year working to address unacceptable section 702 abuses by the FBI with the goal of preserving constitutional liberties afforded to all U.S. persons, ensuring events like Crossfire Hurricane never happen again, and holding the FBI accountable.

The last reauthorization, the Reforming Intelligence and Securing America Act, RISAA, targeted 56 reforms and meaningful changes to the FBI. It is the largest reform to the FBI in a generation. The Department of Justice Inspector General's Office has confirmed today that the FBI has implemented all 56 of these requirements.

These requirements over the last 2 years have worked, by everybody's account, holding the FBI accountable; increasing criminal penalties on agents and analysts, making the FBI more compliant with what they have to do; reforming the FISC, the Foreign Intelligence Surveillance Court; and a number of other reforms that are working.

I strongly believe the unintended consequences of letting FISA 702 expire would result in risking national security and making the United States less safe for American families.

If we just look over the last year here, the strategic strike in Venezuela, the Israeli hostages who were recovered from the tunnels in Hamas, taking out Iran's nuclear capabilities and the success we have had there, the taking out of drug cartel bosses in Mexico, going back to the first administration and what happened with Soleimani and al-Baghdadi, and many other instances that we can't talk about here, all of it derived from FISA 702.

Prior to coming to Congress, I spent time as a Federal prosecutor and the chief terrorism prosecutor in the U.S. Department of Justice. I know firsthand how FISA can be used for the proper prosecution of terrorists and non-U.S. citizens who want to harm America. Putting people in jail who want to hurt America would not happen but for FISA and section 702.

Today, FISA 702 delivers unique foreign intelligence that allows the U.S. Government to better protect U.S. military forces abroad, disrupt malicious hackers targeting U.S. infrastructure like emergency medical services and transportation services, and thwart potential efforts by terrorist groups that may be plotting attacks on our homeland.

Mr. Speaker, the bottom line is that FISA is an indispensable national security tool. We ought to support this bill to protect America and our citizens, and I urge its adoption.

Mr. HIMES. Mr. Speaker, may I inquire as to the time remaining.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman from Connecticut has 8 minutes remaining.

Mr. HIMES. Mr. Speaker, I yield 3 minutes to the gentleman from Maryland (Mr. HOYER), the former majority leader of the House of Representatives.

Mr. HOYER. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman for yielding.

Mr. Speaker, when I was majority leader in 2008, Mr. Blunt, who was then in the leadership of the Republican Party, Senator Kit Bond, and Senator Jay Rockefeller, who co-chaired the Intel Committee in the United States Senate, and I worked together in a very difficult context.

That context was that the Bush administration had asked for information

from the telecoms. The telecoms had given them information, and there were really no firewalls as to what that information was.

The four of us worked with the Intelligence Committee of the House to come up with legislation which would solve the problem of making sure that we were secure as a country and that the privacy of our citizens was secure. We think we accomplished that objective.

In fact, the leadership in the Senate voted for it. President Obama, then a Member of the Senate, voted for it. Ms. PELOSI, Mr. CLYBURN, and I voted for it, along with others. The Republicans were overwhelmingly for it.

In September 2012, we did it again. Ms. PELOSI, Mr. HOYER, and Mr. CLYBURN voted for it. We did it again in January 2018, and PELOSI, HOYER, CLYBURN, RYAN, MCCARTHY, and SCALISE all voted for it.

The point I will make is, this has been a bipartisan process with bipartisan Presidential buy-in to the necessity to have this legislation adopted to keep Americans safe while also adopting significant reforms in 2008 and some reforms thereafter to provide for the privacy protections to the American people.

It is a balance, but it is a balance that I think we have achieved. I think we ought to pass this legislation. I urge my colleagues to do so.

Our FISA reauthorization bills are how Congress ensures that our Nation is protected in the first instance against threats from terrorist groups and foreign adversaries. Our intelligence services have the difficult task of catching threats before they materialize and are providing critical information to national security leaders.

As many here will remember, the attacks of September 11, 2001, occurred after our national security agencies failed to identify, track, and coordinate known threats. Twenty-five years later, we have learned these lessons, and we continue to grapple with essential questions about how to balance the needs of our national security with protecting Americans' liberties.

That is an ongoing process, of course, and I know Democrats on the committee, led by Ranking Member HIMES, were diligent in pushing for reforms to section 702 that would make those protections stronger for Americans while still delivering the tools needed. This bill does not include all the reforms.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The time of the gentleman has expired.

Mr. HIMES. Mr. Speaker, I yield an additional 30 seconds to the gentleman from Maryland.

Mr. HOYER. None of the bills that we consider have all the things we would like to have in them, but in testimony from Avril Haines, who headed up the DNI under the Biden administration, she believes this is absolutely essential. Other members of the Obama administration and the Biden administration believe this legislation is essential.

I believe this legislation is essential, and I urge my colleagues, having worked on this since 2008, to adopt this legislation and make America as safe as we possibly can.

Mr. CRAWFORD. Mr. Speaker, may I inquire as to the time remaining.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman from Arkansas has 8 minutes remaining.

Mr. CRAWFORD. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Arkansas (Mr. HILL), the distinguished chairman of the Financial Services Committee and member of HPSCI.

Mr. HILL of Arkansas. Mr. Speaker, I thank the chairman and Mr. HIMES, too, for their joint leadership on this important task that we have before us today.

Mr. Speaker, here on the eve of 25 years since September 11, we come to this House floor to, once again, ensure that we have the tools in place to protect the homeland from foreign attacks.

Section 702 sets out these very specific boundaries and process where the United States Government collects the electronic communications from foreign nationals outside the U.S. It allows the U.S. to collect that intelligence on bad actors to prevent the reoccurrence of 9/11, but there is a lot of misinformation about section 702, Mr. Speaker.

□ 1640

First, it is used to surveil foreign nationals abroad. It is not targeted at Americans.

Secondly, it is not warrantless surveillance. There is a fundamental misunderstanding of this program.

Warrant requirements are created under the Fourth Amendment. They apply inside the United States. This is not a program that operates within the boundaries of the United States. It targets foreign nationals outside of the United States.

This is so important, as demonstrated by Mr. HOYER, that we have clear, active protections on how this program is used to target foreign nationals with those protections to protect Americans' privacy under the Fourth Amendment. This bill is that balance, as described by the gentleman from Connecticut and my colleague from Arkansas.

Mr. Speaker, let's put America's safety first. Let's keep the homeland security paramount. It is critical. Let's support and pass S. 1318. I urge my colleagues to join me in that effort.

Mr. HIMES. Mr. Speaker, I yield 1 minute to the gentleman from Maryland (Mr. RASKIN), my good friend and the ranking member of the Committee on the Judiciary.

Mr. RASKIN. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman for yielding.

Mr. Speaker, yes, it is foreign intelligence, which is why when it comes to U.S. persons—U.S. citizens—the Fourth Amendment has to apply. The gentleman from Maryland (Mr. HOYER), my distinguished colleague, said that the legislation is bipartisan.

I tell you what else was bipartisan—in fact, unanimous: the Fourth Amendment to the Constitution. Everybody got behind that. We are assured that there is reporting, but it is self-reporting. The distinguished ranking member says that it is by nonpolitical staff.

Yes, the nonpolitical staff left over after Kash Patel fired everybody at the FBI who they considered insufficiently loyal to MAGA and to Donald Trump and for those who worked on the January 6 case.

Then, we are told that the courts still can get involved at some point. Well, the courts are telling us right now that the FBI has been secretly breaking the law. Last month, the FISC court found that many of the government's 702 searches violated Federal law. We should be paying close attention to that as we move forward.

Mr. CRAWFORD. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. FITZPATRICK), the distinguished chair of the CIA Subcommittee on the House Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence.

Mr. FITZPATRICK. Mr. Speaker, of all of the debates that we have had on this House floor, I have yet to be so perplexed as I am with this one. There is so much conflation going on between title I, traditional FISA, and title VII, section 702. There is so much conflation over the collection of evidence versus the querying of already lawfully collected data. Everybody in this Chamber has been talking past each other for years on this issue.

The Fourth Amendment applies to the collection of evidence. That has been the case from the very founding of our country. This so-called warrant requirement, Mr. Speaker, what they are asking for is a double warrant requirement. A warrant requirement is on the collection of evidence.

They are seeking to attach a warrant requirement to the querying of already lawfully collected data. That is a secondary warrant requirement, the first time in American history that we would ever be doing such a thing. That would shut down the law enforcement system. You would have to expand the Federal judiciary by a factor of 100 to keep up with that work, and it would put us on pre-9/11 footing. We cannot do that.

By the way, after we passed RISAA—56 reforms, by the way—the 2-year report card is in. There are zero abuses. Even though that is the case, we still went further in this bill before the House today and reaffirmed that the Fourth Amendment protections will always apply to 702 queries, in addition to all of the other reforms.

I cannot, for the life of me, understand what is left to object to on this tool because I can promise you that if we were having this debate a week after 9/11, there wouldn't be a single soul on this floor voting against this bill.

Let us not drop our guard just because we are several decades past 9/11 because we never ever want to see that happen again.

Mr. HIMES. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I want to take just a minute here to address the question of the Fourth Amendment. Every Member in this Chamber swears an oath to support the Constitution, and it is important in this debate to remember that all of us care profoundly about the Fourth Amendment. I think it is wrong to suggest that the opposite is the case.

I want to draw an analogy for people who may be watching. In the law enforcement context, which is more familiar to most Americans than 702 is, a probable cause Fourth Amendment warrant is required. You have to get from the judge a Fourth Amendment warrant to take, for example, a wiretap on somebody that you suspect of selling fentanyl.

Let's just imagine under my example that Bill Smith is suspected of selling fentanyl, and law enforcement goes in front of a judge and gets a warrant to wiretap Bill Smith.

Now, Bill Smith, as the police listen, is talking to his brother, Joe Smith, and Joe Smith says, I will help you sell that fentanyl.

The police don't need another warrant on Joe Smith. That has been incidentally collected, and no court has ever held that Joe Smith's admission and incidental collection requires the Fourth Amendment for that to be used as evidence in court, which is the argument that the opponents of U.S. person queries are making.

I am not here to say that this is uncontroversial. We have to be obsessed with the protection of Americans' data, but let's not suggest that this is unconstitutional because it has had annual reviews by a Federal court. You might have thought that in 18 years, if a Federal court had thought that this was unconstitutional, they might not have certified. Let us not say that this authority should be subject to a radically different standard than a typical law enforcement warrant would be.

Lastly, I want to make this point. One of the reasons that we are hesitant to rush into a warrant is because many U.S. person queries are not done because we believe that an individual is complicit in a crime. If we hear ISIS talking about JIM HIMES, it is unlikely that I am complicit in terrorism. It is quite likely that I may be a victim, and the FBI and JIM HIMES would like to know that if that is the case.

Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. CRAWFORD. Mr. Speaker, may I inquire as to how much time is remaining.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman from Arkansas has 5 minutes remaining.

Mr. CRAWFORD. Mr. Speaker, I yield 1 minute to the distinguished gentleman from Texas (Mr. JACKSON), the chair of the Oversight and Investigations Subcommittee on the House Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence.

Mr. JACKSON of Texas. Mr. Speaker, section 702 of the Foreign Intelligence Surveillance Act is a unique and critical tool that enables our intelligence community to gather vital intelligence, protect our national security, and safeguard Americans from terrorist attacks. No other foreign intelligence authority or any other means of collection can replace the speed and agility of section 702.

If this authority expires, we will substantially degrade U.S. national security and our intelligence officers' ability to identify foreign threats in real time.

Last Congress, House Republicans delivered critical reforms, as we referred to, in section 702—56, in fact—and this bill builds on that progress by strengthening privacy protections for Americans, while ensuring the tool precisely targets foreign persons and only foreign persons who pose a threat to the United States.

As President Trump, Chairman Dan Caine, Director Ratcliffe, and many other national security leaders, including Ranking Member HIMES, have stated, this 3-year extension is essential to protect our homeland, our warfighters, and U.S. personnel stationed abroad, especially in today's volatile global threat environment.

Mr. Speaker, we must pass this bill. If we do not, we will get something from our colleagues in the Senate that will be far, far inferior, and those who truly care about national security in this body on both sides of the aisle who may be contemplating a ''no'' vote will regret such a vote.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues on both sides to vote for this bill.

Mr. HIMES. Mr. Speaker, may I inquire as to how much time is remaining.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman from Connecticut has 1 minute remaining.

Mr. HIMES. Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. CRAWFORD. Mr. Speaker, I yield 1 minute to the distinguished gentlewoman from New York (Ms. TENNEY).

Ms. TENNEY. Mr. Speaker, I thank the chairman for yielding.

Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of S. 1318, the Foreign Intelligence Accountability Act. This legislation will extend FISA section 702 for another 3 years.

This law is an essential national security tool. You don't need any more evidence. Mr. Speaker, the President of the United States, our Commander in Chief, both of us who hail from New York, understand that FISA section 702 is a vital tool that allows the U.S. to gather intelligence on dangerous foreign adversaries.

After speaking with our military leaders, President Trump recently commented: Not one said, even tacitly, that they can do without FISA section 702.

President Trump also said that FISA section 702 is one of the reasons we have had such tremendous success on the battlefield as we pursue this war in the Middle East.

Mr. Speaker, I urge all my colleagues to support our military, protect our national security, and vote ''yes'' on this critically important section.

□ 1650

Mr. HIMES. Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. CRAWFORD. Mr. Speaker, I have no further speakers. I am prepared to close, and I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. HIMES. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself the balance of my time.

Mr. Speaker, I thank the chairman of the Intelligence Committee for his friendship and partnership, which I value.

This program is controversial for all the right reasons, and what we are doing here is what we have been doing for almost 20 years, which is finding the balance between an authority that keeps not just us but the world safe and protecting the civil liberties of Americans whose information is incidentally collected just as it is collected when there is a traditional police wiretap.

I wish we had had a more fulsome process. I wish I had been able to work with Ranking Member RASKIN to have a more robust package of safeguards, particularly in the context of an administration that has demonstrated day in and day out their lawlessness, but we are where we are, and it is a binary choice. Allowing this authority to expire, which I think we are close to, is not an option.

Let's acknowledge to each other that this is not an unconstitutional authority but that we have work to do to continue to protect the civil liberties of Americans and move forward passing this bill with an eye toward what we can do in the coming years to make sure this is a better balanced authority.

Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. CRAWFORD. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself the balance of my time. I thank the ranking member, my friend from Connecticut, for his comments.

FISA 702 is a critical foreign intelligence tool. There is no other authority that can replicate the value, speed, and agility of this authority.

Two years ago, Congress enacted 56 reform measures focused on section 702, U.S. person queries and other FISA transparency and accountability measures. These measures have forced meaningful change at the FBI. The bill before us continues the 2024 reforms and includes additional privacy and civil liberty protections and transparency measures.

Before closing, I want to express my appreciation to Chairman JORDAN for

working with me on this effort over the last several months. I thank the members of the House Intelligence Committee, many of whom have spoken today on behalf of this bill, for their oversight on section 702 and other foreign intelligence authorities.

I also thank the fantastic staff in the Office of House Legislative Counsel, especially Philip Bayer, Toby Dorsey, and Tony Sciascia.

I thank the HPSCI majority staff, including Griffin Decker, Ryan Breitenbach, Jonah Shumate, Laura Casulli, and Mandy Bowers.

I thank the Members who dedicated countless hours to the process of hammering this out who attended the meetings, whose input we heard and whose input we value. I thank them, and I urge a ''yes'' vote on S. 1318.

Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. All time for debate has expired.

Pursuant to House Resolution 1224, the previous question is ordered on the bill, as amended.

The question is on the third reading of the bill.

The bill was ordered to be read a third time, and was read the third time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the passage of the bill.

The question was taken; and the Speaker pro tempore announced that the ayes appeared to have it.

Mr. HIMES. Mr. Speaker, on that I demand the yeas and nays.

The yeas and nays were ordered.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 9 of rule XX, this 15-minute vote on passage of S. 1318 will be followed by a 5-minute vote on adoption of S. Con. Res. 33.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—yeas 235, nays 191, not voting 4, as follows:

[Roll No. 142]

YEAS—235

Aderholt
Aguilar
Alford
Allen
Amodei (NV)
Arrington
Babin
Bacon
Baird
Balderson
Barr
Baumgartner
Bean (FL)
Begich
Bentz
Bera
Bergman
Bice
Biggs (SC)
Bilirakis
Bishop
Bost
Bresnahan
Buchanan
Budzinski
Bynum
Calvert
Cammack
Carey
Carter (GA)
Carter (TX)
Case
Castor (FL)
Ciscomani
Cisneros
Cline
Cloud
Clyde
Cole
Collins
Comer
Conaway
Crank
Crawford
Crenshaw
Cuellar
Davidson
Davis (NC)
De La Cruz
DesJarlais
Diaz-Balart
Donalds
Dunn (FL)
Edwards
Ellzey
Emmer
Estes
Evans (CO)
Ezell
Fallon
Fedorchak
Feenstra
Fine
Finstad
Fischbach
Fitzgerald
Fitzpatrick
Fleischmann
Flood
Fong
Foxx
Frankel, Lois
Franklin, Scott
Fry
Fuller
Garbarino
Gill (TX)
Gillen
Gimenez
Golden (ME)
Goldman (TX)
Gonzalez, V.
Gooden
Gottheimer
Graves
Griffith
Grothman
Guest
Guthrie
Hageman
Hamadeh (AZ)
Harder (CA)
Haridopolos
Harris (NC)
Harshbarger
Hern (OK)
Higgins (LA)
Hill (AR)
Himes
Hinson
Houchin
Houlahan
Hoyer
Hudson
Huizenga
Hunt
Hurd (CO)
Issa
Jack
Jackson (TX)
James
Johnson (LA)
Johnson (SD)
Jordan
Joyce (OH)
Joyce (PA)
Kelly (MS)
Kelly (PA)
Kiggans (VA)
Kiley (CA)
Kim
Kustoff
LaHood
LaLota
Landsman
Latta
Lawler
Lee (FL)
Lee (NV)
Letlow
Lucas
Luttrell
Mackenzie
Malliotakis
Maloy
Mann
Mast
McCaul
McClain
McClintock
McCormick
McDonald Rivet
McDowell
McGuire
Messmer
Meuser
Miller (IL)
Miller (OH)
Miller (WV)
Miller-Meeks
Mills
Moolenaar
Moore (AL)
Moore (NC)
Moore (UT)
Moore (WV)
Moran
Moskowitz
Mrvan
Murphy
Nehls
Newhouse
Norcross
Norman
Nunn (IA)
Obernolte
Ogles
Owens
Palmer
Patronis
Perez
Peters
Pfluger
Quigley
Reschenthaler
Riley (NY)
Rogers (AL)
Rogers (KY)
Rouzer
Rutherford
Salazar
Scalise
Schmidt
Schneider
Schrier
Schweikert
Scott, Austin
Self
Sessions
Sewell
Shreve
Simpson
Smith (MO)
Smith (NE)
Smith (NJ)
Smucker
Sorensen
Soto
Spartz
Stauber
Stefanik
Steil
Steube
Strickland
Strong
Stutzman
Suozzi
Taylor
Tenney
Thompson (PA)
Tiffany
Timmons
Tran
Turner (OH)
Valadao
Van Drew
Van Duyne
Van Epps
Van Orden
Vasquez
Veasey
Wagner
Walberg
Wasserman Schultz
Weber (TX)
Webster (FL)
Westerman
Whitesides
Wied
Williams (TX)
Wilson (SC)
Wittman
Womack
Yakym
Zinke

NAYS—191

Adams
Amo
Ansari
Auchincloss
Balint
Barragán
Barrett
Beatty
Bell
Beyer
Biggs (AZ)
Boebert
Bonamici
Boyle (PA)
Brecheen
Brown
Brownley
Burchett
Burlison
Carbajal
Carson
Carter (LA)
Casar
Casten
Castro (TX)
Chu
Clark (MA)
Clarke (NY)
Cleaver
Clyburn
Cohen
Correa
Costa
Courtney
Craig
Crane
Crockett
Crow
Davids (KS)
Davis (IL)
Dean (PA)
DeGette
DeLauro
DelBene
Deluzio
DeSaulnier
Dexter
Dingell
Doggett
Downing
Elfreth
Escobar
Espaillat
Evans (PA)
Fields
Figures
Fletcher
Foster
Foushee
Friedman
Frost
Fulcher
Garamendi
Garcia (CA)
García (IL)
Garcia (TX)
Goldman (NY)
Gomez
Goodlander
Gosar
Gray
Green, Al (TX)
Grijalva
Harrigan
Harris (MD)
Hayes
Horsford
Hoyle (OR)
Huffman
Ivey
Jackson (IL)
Jacobs
Jayapal
Jeffries
Johnson (GA)
Johnson (TX)
Kamlager-Dove
Kaptur
Keating
Kelly (IL)
Kennedy (NY)
Kennedy (UT)
Khanna
Knott
Krishnamoorthi
Larsen (WA)
Larson (CT)
Latimer
Lee (PA)
Leger Fernandez
Levin
Liccardo
Lieu
Lofgren
Luna
Lynch
Mace
Magaziner
Mannion
Massie
Matsui
McBath
McBride
McClain Delaney
McClellan
McCollum
McGarvey
McGovern
McIver
Meeks
Mejia
Menefee
Menendez
Meng
Mfume
Min
Moore (WI)
Morelle
Morrison
Moulton
Mullin
Nadler
Neal
Neguse
Ocasio-Cortez
Olszewski
Omar
Onder
Pallone
Panetta
Pappas
Pelosi
Perry
Pettersen
Pingree
Pocan
Pou
Pressley
Ramirez
Randall
Raskin
Rivas
Rose
Ross
Roy
Ruiz
Rulli
Ryan
Salinas
Sánchez
Scanlon
Schakowsky
Scholten
Scott (VA)
Sherman
Simon
Smith (WA)
Stansbury
Stanton
Stevens
Subramanyam
Sykes
Takano
Thanedar
Thompson (CA)
Thompson (MS)
Titus
Tlaib
Tokuda
Tonko
Torres (CA)
Torres (NY)
Trahan
Underwood
Vargas
Velázquez
Vindman
Walkinshaw
Waters
Watson Coleman
Williams (GA)

NOT VOTING—4

Kean
Langworthy
Loudermilk
Wilson (FL)

□ 1725

Ms. WILLIAMS of Georgia and Mr. DOWNING changed their vote from ''yea'' to ''nay.''

Messrs. SOTO and VICENTE GONZALEZ of Texas, Ms. LOIS FRANKEL of Florida, and Mr. WHITESIDES changed their vote from ''nay'' to ''yea.''

So the bill was passed.

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

Stated for:

Mr. LANGWORTHY. Mr. Speaker, had I been present, I would have voted YEA on Roll Call No. 142.

CONCURRENT RESOLUTION ON THE BUDGET FOR FISCAL YEAR 2026

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. FONG). Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, the unfinished business is the vote on adoption of the concurrent resolution (S. Con. Res. 33) setting forth the congressional budget for the United States Government for fiscal year 2026 and setting forth the appropriate budgetary levels for fiscal years 2027 through 2035, on which the yeas and nays were ordered.

The Clerk read the title of the concurrent resolution.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on adoption of the concurrent resolution.

This is a 5-minute vote.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—yeas 215, nays 211, ''present'' 1, not voting 3, as follows:

[Roll No. 143]

YEAS—215

Aderholt
Alford
Allen
Amodei (NV)
Arrington
Babin
Bacon
Baird
Balderson
Barr
Barrett
Baumgartner
Bean (FL)
Begich
Bentz
Bergman
Bice
Biggs (AZ)
Biggs (SC)
Bilirakis
Boebert
Bost
Brecheen
Bresnahan
Buchanan
Burchett
Burlison
Calvert
Cammack
Carey
Carter (GA)
Carter (TX)
Ciscomani
Cline
Cloud
Clyde
Cole
Collins
Comer
Crane
Crank
Crawford
Crenshaw
Davidson
De La Cruz
DesJarlais
Diaz-Balart
Donalds
Downing
Dunn (FL)
Edwards
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NAYS—211

Adams
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Gonzalez, V.
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Gottheimer
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Green, Al (TX)
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Harder (CA)
Hayes
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McGovern
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Morrison
Moskowitz
Moulton
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Mullin
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Ocasio-Cortez
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Thompson (CA)
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Torres (CA)
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Trahan
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Underwood
Vargas
Vasquez
Veasey
Velázquez
Vindman
Walkinshaw
Wasserman Schultz
Waters
Watson Coleman
Whitesides
Williams (GA)

ANSWERED ''PRESENT''—1

Kiley (CA)

NOT VOTING—3

Kean
Loudermilk
Wilson (FL)

□ 2239

Messrs. MILLER of Ohio, HARRIS of Maryland, and Mrs. SPARTZ changed their vote from ''nay'' to ''yea.''

So the concurrent resolution was agreed to.

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

□ 2240

FARM, FOOD, AND NATIONAL SECURITY ACT OF 2026

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on H.R. 7567.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. LUCAS). Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Pennsylvania?

There was no objection.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to House Resolution 7567 and rule XVIII, the Chair declares the House in the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union for the consideration of the bill, H.R. 7567.

The Chair appoints the gentleman from Idaho (Mr. SIMPSON) to preside over the Committee of the Whole.

□ 2241

IN THE COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE

Accordingly, the House resolved itself into the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union for the consideration of the bill (H.R. 7567) to provide for the reform and continuation of agricultural and other programs of the Department of Agriculture through fiscal year 2031, and for other purposes, with Mr. SIMPSON in the chair.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The CHAIR. Pursuant to the rule, the bill is considered read for first time.

General debate shall be confined to the bill and amendments specified and shall not exceed 1 hour equally divided and controlled by the chair and ranking minority member of the Committee on Agriculture or their respective designees.

The gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. THOMPSON) and the gentlewoman from Minneapolis (Ms. CRAIG) each will control 30 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman Pennsylvania (Mr. THOMPSON).

Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania. Mr. Chairman, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Chair, I rise in strong support of the Farm, Food, and National Security Act of 2026. It is more evident than ever that rural America needs a new farm bill now, not next year or next Congress.

Producers are operating under the third consecutive farm bill extension, and the simple truth is the policies of 2018 are no match for the challenges of 2026. It is time to get this critical legislation done. I have said it before and I will say it again, because it is important: This bill was not written in Congress. It was written out in the fields and pastures of our great Nation while the Agriculture Committee held over 150 listening sessions. We went to farmers and ranchers in rural communities, and we asked them what they needed from Congress. Every provision in this bill is directly informed by what we learned in these listening sessions.

Today, you will hear some opposing comments made that this is a partisan bill, and even more, on what is not in the bill.

I would like to remind everyone of the facts. This bill is filled with good policy that is also overwhelmingly bipartisan. Upon introduction, the Farm, Food, and National Security Act included or drew upon 150 bipartisan marker bills.

During the committee's 22-hour markup, over 100 amendments were offered and debated with 46 adopted, split evenly between Republicans and Democrats. It passed the committee with strong bipartisan support. It also enjoys the endorsement of over 500 agriculture stakeholder groups.

I am asking Congress to join the hardworking men and women who feed, fuel, and clothe our country in supporting this farm bill. Now is not the time to turn our backs on rural America.

Mr. Chair, I reserve the balance of my time.

Ms. CRAIG. Mr. Chair, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

I rise in opposition to this bill. Mr. Chair, at kitchen tables across this country, millions of Americans—seniors, working parents, and farmers—are wondering how they are going to pay the bills or not lose money this planting season.

From tariffs that have cost our farmers' markets to a war that has increased the cost of fertilizer and diesel,

farmers are struggling to hold on to that third-or fourth-generation farm.

This so-called skinny farm bill in front of us today does nothing to stop these losses or to help offset the $54 billion in losses farmers have had to absorb. Worse yet, it doesn't fix any of the underlying policy choices by Republicans and this administration that caused the problems in the first place.

It turns a blind eye to the farmers calling for emergency economic assistance so they can afford to keep planting. It locks in the $187 billion cut to food assistance that Republicans made in the big, ugly bill—putting more pressure on struggling Americans at a time when the cost of groceries and healthcare continues to grow.

That is what the farm bill doesn't do. It doesn't lower costs. It doesn't help save one family farm from bankruptcy, which is up nearly 50 percent since this administration took office.

So what does this so-called bill attempt to do? It protects the world's largest pesticide companies from lawsuits, cuts farm conservation programs by $1 billion, and overturns the will of voters in States nationwide that set specific animal welfare and food standards for themselves.

Putting the harmful policies aside, the political calculus on this should be easy.

Do we want to lower costs for farmers and working people, or do we want to protect pesticide companies and lock in cuts to food assistance at a time when grocery prices are spiking?

Do we want to pass a farm bill that delivers for farmers on the verge of bankruptcy and families going hungry, or do we want to sit on our hands and make excuses?

I urge my colleagues to reject this version of the farm bill and force Republicans back to the table to negotiate a true bipartisan bill that prioritizes the cost of living crisis in this country.

Mr. Chair, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania. Mr. Chair, I just want to note that most of what the gentlewoman, a good friend of mine, says is not in this bill is not in our jurisdiction. It is not a part of the farm bill because it doesn't fit.

Mr. Chair, I yield 1½ minutes to the gentleman from Oklahoma (Mr. LUCAS), the chairman of the Conservation, Research, and Biotechnology Subcommittee and chair emeritus of the Committee on Agriculture.

Mr. LUCAS. Mr. Chair, I am pleased to stand here today to offer my enthusiastic support for the Farm, Food, and National Security Act of 2026.

As the former chairman of this committee, I have been down this road before, and while passing a comprehensive farm bill is never easy, the rewards can be seen in tangible ways in every facet of our communities.

They can be seen not just on the farms but in the grocery stores, the universities, the fire stations, the community facilities, and rural hospitals across this great Nation.

To my colleagues who will cast their vote tomorrow, whether you represent a top agricultural district, small town, or a booming metropolis, the policies in this bill will affect you.

This bill will ensure that American farmers can continue to raise the food and fiber that ultimately finds its way into your home, and it will ensure that the next generation can continue that legacy.

I urge my colleagues to vote ''yes'' with me on final passage, and I thank Chairman THOMPSON for bringing forth this bill today.

Ms. CRAIG. Mr. Chair, I yield 4 minutes to the gentlewoman from Connecticut (Mrs. HAYES), my distinguished colleague.

Mrs. HAYES. Mr. Chair, today we are considering a farm bill that fails to meet the needs of families and farmers across the country.

We heard several times in the opening reference that this farm bill meets the needs of rural America, but a farm bill should meet the needs of all Americans. I only wish that we were debating this at an hour where the American public could pay attention and listen.

Last year, the House of Representatives considered H.R. 1, the One Big Beautiful Bill Act, which cut the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program, or SNAP, by $187 billion to give tax breaks to the wealthiest Americans in our country.

□ 2250

Republicans have gutted the most effective anti-hunger program in the United States, which will have unforeseen consequences for generations. We are already seeing the impact.

Since H.R. 1 was enacted, more than 3 million Americans have been kicked off SNAP, with losses reported in every single State. In Connecticut, over 33,000 people have already lost their benefits, and we expect that number to rise.

Families are having to choose between keeping a roof over their heads and paying for healthcare as food becomes yet another impossible trade-off. It is not because their needs have changed, but because this Congress has changed the rules.

This farm bill is unacceptable in its current form and does not meet the moment. It does not repair the damage. It does not restore the benefits, and it does not respond to the warnings from States and counties that the Federal Government is shifting massive administrative costs onto, forcing local governments to consider raising taxes, tightening eligibility, or scaling back services just to keep these programs afloat.

This farm bill includes a blanket liability shield for large pesticide corporations. It rolls back critical environmental conservation programs. It offers no plans to address the tariffs and trade instability that are already squeezing producers around the country.

Once again, this farm bill does nothing to address the $187 billion in SNAP cuts already enacted. In fact, it cements those cuts. At a time when grocery prices are rising and tariffs are increasing costs for families and farmers, we should be restoring SNAP and expanding access; not cutting it.

This is not a farm bill that strengthens rural America and feeds the millions of food-insecure Americans already at risk. We need a farm bill that supports farmers and families, rural and urban communities.

I urge a ''no'' vote on this version of the bill so that we can get back to the negotiating table and produce something that is beneficial for our entire country.

Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania. Mr. Chair, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Minnesota (Mr. FINSTAD), chairman of the Nutrition, Foreign Agriculture, and Horticulture Subcommittee.

Mr. FINSTAD. Mr. Chair, I thank Chairman THOMPSON for yielding.

Mr. Chair, I rise today in strong support of H.R. 7567, the Farm, Food, and National Security Act of 2026.

As a fourth-generation farmer raising that fifth generation, I know firsthand that farm country has faced compounding challenges over the past several years.

I am committed to addressing these issues by passing a strong, bipartisan farm bill that is written by farmers and for farmers, by rural communities and for rural communities.

The ag title of working families tax cuts made the most significant investment in farm safety net spending since the 2002 farm bill. The 2026 farm bill builds upon those successes, and it reflects the bipartisan priorities of farmers in southern Minnesota and all across this country, delivering the strong farm policy that farmers, producers, and rural communities need and deserve.

Every American is affected by this farm bill, and this legislation responsibly addresses their needs across all 12 titles.

Mr. Chair, I encourage my colleagues to support this important piece of legislation.

Ms. CRAIG. Mr. Chair, I yield 4 minutes to the gentleman from Massachusetts (Mr. MCGOVERN), my distinguished colleague.

Mr. MCGOVERN. Mr. Chair, it is now nearly 11 o'clock at night. This is nuts. What the hell is wrong with you people? You guys are bringing this farm bill to the floor 3 years late in the middle of the night. It is prime time in Guam, for God's sake.

Republicans spent the whole day fighting with each other. You know what most Americans spent doing today? Working, going to school, taking care of their kids, living their lives, wondering, praying, if this institution might give a damn about their hopes and dreams, their concerns and fears.

What Republicans have shown time and time again is that they don't care. If they did, they would not be bringing this farm bill to the floor, because this bill makes hunger worse. It means more kids go to bed without food, more seniors end up in the ER after taking pills on an empty stomach, and more parents put groceries back on the shelf.

Hunger is a political condition. It is the result of decisions made in this Chamber. Republicans decided in their big, ugly bill to make hunger worse. With this farm bill, they are deciding to keep it worse by locking in massive cuts to food assistance.

Forty-eight million people in this country cannot afford food. As a Congressman and as an American, I am ashamed of that. I am ashamed that in a nation as rich and powerful as ours, the people in charge of this town don't seem to give a damn.

SNAP is food for seniors. It is food for families, food for veterans, and Americans with disabilities. That is the majority of who is on SNAP.

When it comes to the rest, most have a job. They work 40, 50, 60 hours a week, and they still can't keep food in the fridge.

People don't want to be on SNAP. We are talking about 6 bucks a day, for God's sake, and they need help because we have a broken economic system. They need help because the average price of a pound of ground beef is now higher than the hourly Federal minimum wage. They need help because our tax system rewards wealth instead of workers. They need help because grocery prices are too damn high, and Trump's war and his tariffs are making them worse.

Instead of helping everyday people, Republicans take away their food and use it to give billionaires another tax break. It is outrageous. It is immoral, and it is wrong.

This farm bill should address hunger. It does not. It should strengthen our food system from the farm field to the kitchen table. It fails that test miserably.

By the way, Republicans are running this place in a way that is an embarrassment, a disgrace to the institution and the people we represent.

It is hard to keep track of all of the shady side deals this Speaker is making and breaking on the floor today. Quite frankly, I wouldn't trust this Republican leadership to tell me the correct time. But based on what I have heard, we will be coming back to Rules Committee on this bill after the district work period.

I want to put you all on notice: I intend to offer, among other amendments, Representative LUNA's proposal to protect proposition 12, which was, unfortunately, left out of the rule that we are debating today.

The American people are watching. They are sick and tired of what this Republican majority is doing. How dare you bring a bill to the floor that makes hunger worse in this country. How dare you bring a bill to the floor that doesn't help regular farmers. How dare you bring a bill to the floor that is filled with all these giveaways to special interests. Vote ''no.''

The Acting CHAIR (Mr. ELLZEY). The gentleman will suspend.

Members are reminded to direct their remarks to the Chair.

Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania. Mr. Chairman, facts matter. There was no reduction in the amount of the monetary value of SNAP benefits. In fact, there is some really good enhancements to the SNAP program within this bill.

Mr. Chair, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Wisconsin (Mr. VAN ORDEN), the vice chair of the Livestock, Dairy, and Poultry Subcommittee,

Mr. VAN ORDEN. Mr. Chair, I remind my Democrat colleagues that I was raised in abject, rural poverty by a single mother on food stamps when you had a stamp that you stuck on a card. I had subsidized government lunches and government cheese.

We do have to know that there is a tremendous amount of fraud that takes place in SNAP, and we want to make sure that every single dollar that is allocated to go to a hungry child or a veteran or one of our senior citizens goes to them.

I would like to say this to my colleagues. It is a quote. ''It will not be doubted that with reference either to individual or national welfare, agriculture is of primary importance. In proportion as nations advance in population and other circumstances of maturity this truth becomes more apparent, and renders the cultivation of the soil more and more an object of public patronage.''

That was the original MAG President—make America great—because that was George Washington, and that quote comes from 1796. So when my colleagues say that we don't have enough money to spend to feed our people and grow our lands, they are simply wrong.

This is a very, very good bill, and there are things for every single American in the one industry that should touch every American at least two times a day.

I strongly support this bill, and I encourage my colleagues to do so.

□ 2300

Ms. CRAIG. Mr. Chair, I yield 3 minutes to the gentlewoman from Maine (Ms. PINGREE).

Ms. PINGREE. Mr. Chair, I thank the ranking member for yielding me the time.

Mr. Chair, I am sorry to say that this is a terrible farm bill. As a result of this bill, more people will go hungry, more farmers will lose assistance to the conservation programs that are already oversubscribed, and more farmers who are struggling to make ends meet will find it more and more difficult to hang on to their farms.

I have a lot of concerns about this bill, but I would like to use the limited time I have to show some strong support of Representative LUNA's pesticide amendment. I am proud to say that her amendment, which was made in order, mirrors the language of the bipartisan amendment I sponsored with Representative MASSIE. I thank Representative LUNA for also working on this important issue.

Our amendment to strike the pesticide liability shield sections from the farm bill has drawn broad bipartisan support, both within this Chamber and across America.

The harmful language that the Republicans on the House Agriculture Committee included in the farm bill is a handout to Big Agriculture and Big Chemical. It preempts States' rights to regulate pesticide usage or labeling. It provides a liability shield for pesticide manufacturers. Put simply, this language puts chemical company profits over the health of Americans.

More than 200,000 Roundup-related healthcare claims have been made against Bayer. Behind the numbers are real people—husbands, wives, farmers, even pets—with heartbreaking stories. People suffering from non-Hodgkin's lymphoma and other devastating cancers are racking up outrageous medical bills.

What is worse, chemical manufacturers spend time and money developing additional uses for these same chemicals, beyond killing weeds. We see glyphosate now used to kill weeds to dry crops before harvest, and it means it makes its way into more and more of our food system. That means the bread, the hummus, and the pasta we are eating are more likely to contain this toxic and dangerous chemical. More and more people are ingesting it without even realizing it.

If this language is not removed, we will have handed companies like Bayer exactly what they have spent millions of dollars and lobbying power on: legal immunity.

Earlier this year, I successfully sought to strip this similar language from the FY 2026 Appropriations Interior funding bill. Unfortunately, the work we did in that committee did not deter Bayer, which, armed with 53 lobbyists and millions of dollars, immediately got to work to get their get-out-of-jail-free card elsewhere: on this farm bill and at the Supreme Court.

Mr. Chair, Democrats and Republicans and citizens across this country agree: Keep this language out of the farm bill. I urge my colleagues to support this amendment.

Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania. Mr. Chair, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Chair, I am so proud of the Farm, Food, and National Security Act. It actually doesn't cut conservation. We add 24 percent to the baseline, a significant amount of money for conservation, more than we have ever had.

Quite frankly, this bill protects health, food affordability, and our Nation's sovereignty. Unfortunately, Ms. Luna's amendment that was made reference to will do harm to all three of those.

Mr. Chair, I yield 1½ minutes to the gentleman from Tennessee (Mr. ROSE), the vice chair of the Commodity Markets, Digital Assets, and Rural Development Subcommittee.

Mr. ROSE. Mr. Chair, as an eighth-generation Tennessee farmer, I rise in strong support of the Farm, Food, and National Security Act of 2026.

With input costs at record highs and commodity prices at painful lows, Congress must provide the legislative certainty of a long-overdue farm bill.

This bill keeps America fed, secure, and strong by standing with the men and women who feed and fuel this country. With support from over 500 stakeholder organizations, this bill builds upon the major victories secured in H.R. 1 by strengthening the farm safety net, conservation programs, and regulatory certainty; enhancing rural hospitals, businesses, water, and broadband; and improving agricultural research, trade programs, and access to capital. Additionally, it combats fraud, safeguards SNAP integrity, and remains budget-neutral, all while lowering costs for families.

Mr. Chair, I urge my colleagues to stand with America's farmers and rural communities and vote ''yes'' on the Farm, Food, and National Security Act of 2026.

Ms. CRAIG. Mr. Chair, I yield 3 minutes to the gentlewoman from Hawaii (Ms. TOKUDA).

Ms. TOKUDA. Mr. Chair, earlier today, we sat in the Armed Services Committee and heard a $1.5 trillion defense budget request. That is not including the $1 billion a day going to the Iran war. Just imagine what even a fraction of that could do if we invested it in our farmers and in feeding American families.

Right now, every part of American agriculture is under strain, and too many families are going hungry.

This is not a moment for a skinny farm bill. It is a moment for a serious, bipartisan one. Yet, once again, specialty crop farm producers, the backbone of agriculture in States like Hawaii, are being shortchanged. They got 7 percent of the USDA Farmer Bridge Assistance funding, even though we have specialty crop growers in every single State, every territory, and 95 percent of all counties with farms.

Democrats fought to fix that. We pushed for an additional $10 billion in support so these farmers could survive and compete. We were blocked.

At the same time, this administration ripped away $660 million that helped get fresh, local food into our schools—literally, taking food out of the mouths of hungry kids and income out of the hands of farmers who grew it. We fought to cancel those cuts, but we were blocked.

Let's be clear about the broader context. Tariffs, taxes on our own farmers, have cost them billions and made food more expensive for everyone. That is not support. That is harm.

Yes, this bill does harm for what it does and what it does not do.

It opens the door to privatizing SNAP administration, making it harder for families to access basic nutrition.

Conservation programs are lifelines when farmers are facing more severe natural disasters. This bill strips over a billion dollars from conservation programs and guts in-kind assistance for RCPP partnerships, the very projects that help farmers invest in their land and build long-term resilience.

It shields the most powerful corporations while leaving everyday Americans with fewer protections. It is an outright poison pill that denies Americans their day in court.

That is not a compromise. That is a step backward. A farm bill that ignores these realities doesn't just fall short. It deepens the crisis. It tells farmers we are not listening. It tells families they are on their own. We can and must do better.

Mr. Chair, I urge my colleagues to reject this bill. Come back to the table. Come back at a decent hour, not in the dark of night where we are trying to push through this bill and this amendment. Do the hard, bipartisan work to deliver a farm bill that actually meets this moment. Vote ''no.''

Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania. Mr. Chair, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Chair, just a reminder, farm bill 1.0, which was signed into law last July, is the single largest investment in our farm families in a generation.

There were $66 billion in benefits in so many ways, and quite frankly, specialty crop growers love this farm bill we are working on right now. This farm bill does restore the farm-to-school and farm-to-food bank provisions.

Mr. Chair, I yield 1½ minutes to the gentleman from Indiana (Mr. MESSMER), a member of the Agriculture Committee.

Mr. MESSMER. Mr. Chair, I stand today in strong support of the bipartisan Farm, Food, and National Security Act.

This bill expands access to nearly 2,000 new demand streams for corn, soy, and farm waste through the BioPreferred Program.

The 2026 farm bill also marks an end to consumer transparency issues and preserves value-added labeling for bioproducts that use American-grown farm products. In other words, this program serves as a demand driver for farmers in Indiana and across the country.

Nationally, the bio-based products industry contributes $489 billion to the U.S. economy and drives nearly 40 percent of the demand for U.S.-grown ag products.

The 2026 farm bill reaches farmers in a moment of great need and addresses concerns surrounding market access, input costs, farm succession, and economic viability in rural America.

Mr. Chair, I urge my colleagues to join me in supporting American farmers by voting in favor of this American farm bill.

Ms. CRAIG. Mr. Chair, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Chair, I remind my Republican colleagues that we didn't do a farm bill 1.0. What we did was a very partisan budget reconciliation process. Farm bills are intended to be 12-title, 5-year bills. Reconciliation does not qualify as that.

Mr. Chair, I yield 3 minutes to the gentlewoman from Ohio (Ms. BROWN).

Ms. BROWN. Mr. Chair, the farm bill is one of the most important pieces of legislation that Congress works on. It touches every corner of this country every day.

Let me be direct about what this bill does and does not do. It does not address the crisis actually happening in farm country right now.

□ 2310

Farm bankruptcies are up 50 percent nationally and nearly 75 percent in the Midwest. Input costs keep rising, driven by reckless tariffs and the reckless war in Iran.

Farmers are being squeezed from every direction, and this bill offers them next to nothing: no farm aid; no solution to rein in fertilizer or diesel prices; no protections against USDA reorganizations or funding freezes; no attempt to end the tariffs destroying export markets or restore the trade relationships farmers depend on; and false promises again and again on year-round E15.

Where is the relief?

Where is the urgency?

There is a five-alarm fire in farm country, and Republicans are pulling out a garden hose.

Working families aren't doing any better. Gas, goods, and grocery costs are rising, and this bill does nothing to bring them down. Instead, this farm bill ratifies the largest cuts to food assistance in American history.

Republicans used the big, ugly law to slash $187 billion from SNAP and handed that money straight to the wealthiest Americans. In doing so, they torched the bipartisan coalition that has kept the farm bill together for generations, and now they want Democrats to come in and lock in those very same cuts with a bipartisan farm bill, while they continue to threaten the SNAP program with more partisan cuts. Give me a break.

Mr. Chair, let me tell you what those SNAP cuts look like on the ground. In my district, 11,000 people have lost food assistance, and that is before the next round of cuts kick in. Nationally, 4 million Americans have already been kicked off SNAP entirely, 4 million people gone, and this farm bill will cement those cuts and that cruelty into law.

Republican and Democratic Governors alike are warning they cannot pick up the new cost share coming down the pike. That means more cuts, more hunger, and more harm.

We need a real farm bill, one negotiated in good faith, one that can actually pass the Senate, and one that confronts the real factors driving the crisis in farm country and the affordability crisis at the kitchen table.

Mr. Chair, this partisan bill is not it, and I urge my colleagues to oppose it.

Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania. Mr. Chair, I yield 1½ minutes to the gentleman from Kansas (Mr. MANN), who is the chairman of the Livestock, Dairy, and Poultry Subcommittee.

Mr. MANN. Mr. Chair, I thank the chairman for yielding me time.

Mr. Chair, I rise today in strong support of the Farm, Food and National Security Act of 2026, and I urge my colleagues to pass this critical legislation when it comes to the floor.

The last full farm bill was passed in 2018. Since then, input costs have risen, borrowing has become more expensive, and markets have grown more volatile. Our policies must reflect that reality.

Last year, we took an important step forward by strengthening the farm safety net and delivering meaningful support for producers through the working families tax cuts. However, that was never the finish line. That was the foundation.

This bill builds on that foundation. It delivers a modern, fiscally responsible, 5-year farm bill that meets the needs of today's producers and prepares American agriculture for the future.

This bill is grounded in fiscal responsibility. It provides certainty without growing government for the sake of growing government. It cuts through unnecessary red tape and focuses on what actually works for producers on the ground.

Mr. Chair, farmers and ranchers do not operate on Washington timelines. They plan in seasons and generations.

We have an opportunity to do our job and deliver the certainty American producers have been asking us for for years. This is about more than policy. It is about supporting the people who keep this country running, strengthening rural America, and ensuring that the United States remains the global leader in agriculture.

Mr. Chair, I urge my colleagues to support the Farm, Food and National Security Act of 2026.

Ms. CRAIG. Mr. Chair, I yield 3 minutes to my distinguished colleague from the State of Illinois (Mr. JACKSON).

Mr. JACKSON of Illinois. Mr. Chair, I rise today not merely to speak about a piece of legislation, but to speak about a moral covenant, one that binds this Nation to those who till its soil; who rise before dawn and labor until dusk; and who ask not for charity but for fairness; not for sympathy, but for justice.

The farm bill in its truest sense is not simply about crops and commodities. It is about the people. It is about the dignity of work, and it is about whether America will honor the hands that feed her.

I come today to lift my voice in support of my amendments number 98 and 206, but also to lift a greater truth: that public policy, if it is to be righteous, must be rooted in both economic wisdom and moral clarity.

My first amendment directs the Secretary of Agriculture to report to the Congress on the increased costs that American farmers are facing due to rising costs of diesel and fertilizer prices. These costs are a direct result of President Trump's unilateral action to embroil the United States in a protracted war with Iran.

We cannot, Mr. Chair, turn a blind eye to the burdens facing our farmers. When diesel prices rise, it is not an abstraction. If there is a tractor that sits still when fertilizer costs soar, it is not theory. It is a field left barren.

When global conflict disrupts the fragile balance between the supply and demand between our trade and our partners, it is not distance. It is deeply personal to the farmer whose livelihood hangs in the balance.

A nation that depends upon its farmers must not ignore its cries. We must not pass legislation in the darkness of night when the lights are turned off and when we can use the truth of the light to let the American people see what is being proposed. To demand a full accounting of these rising costs is not a partisan act. It is an act of responsibility. We must hear the cries of the farmers for their food, for their fuel, and for their fertilizer. It is the least that we can do for those who give us our daily bread.

There is a deeper issue before us. It is one that touches the very soul of this legislation. My second amendment increases civil rights accountability for employees and officials of the United States Department of Agriculture.

Before I proceed, I must pause and pay tribute to a man of great conscience and steadfast courage, my friend and our friend and colleague, Chairman DAVID SCOTT. Congressman SCOTT stood as a bridge between policy and principle. He understood that agriculture is not merely an economic enterprise, but that it is a human enterprise. He worked tirelessly in these Halls to ensure that the laws governing our land will reflect the highest ideals of justice and equality.

Today, we labor to strengthen civil rights protections within this farm bill because we know that the history of the United States Department of Agriculture has not always been a story of fairness.

The Acting CHAIR. The time of the gentleman has expired.

Ms. CRAIG. Mr. Chair, I yield an additional 30 seconds to the gentleman from Illinois.

Mr. JACKSON of Illinois. Mr. Chair, I thank Ranking Member CRAIG for the additional time.

For too long, there were farmers—Black farmers, Brown farmers, and women farmers—who knocked on the doors of opportunity and were turned away not because of the content of their character but because of the color of their skin.

We say today with clarity and conviction: No more. No more shall discrimination hide behind bureaucracy. No more shall injustice wear the mask of procedure. No more shall farmers be made to feel like a stranger on their own land.

Accountability is not about punishment. It is progress. It is the foundation upon which trust is built. If this government is to ask its citizens to believe it, then it must prove itself worthy of that belief.

My amendment is not radical. It is a righteous piece of legislation. It affirms that those entrusted with public service must also be held to public standards, Mr. Chair, and that justice delayed shall not become justice denied.

The Acting CHAIR. The time of the gentleman has again expired.

Ms. CRAIG. Mr. Chair, I yield an additional 30 seconds to the gentleman from Illinois.

Mr. JACKSON of Illinois. Mr. Chair, the farm bill is not just a legislative document. It is a moral document. It speaks to who we are as a nation. It declares what we value, and it reveals whether we are willing to match our words with our deeds.

We will stand with the farmers struggling under rising costs. We will stand with the farmers seeking justice at the hands of this government.

Mr. Chair, I thank the gentlewoman for gracing me with more time.

We will stand for fairness, for accountability, and for the dignity of work. We will not remain silent in the face of inequity and inequality.

I submit to you today, Mr. Chair, that the time for silence has passed. Let us build a farm bill that feeds not only the body, but feeds the soul of America.

Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania. Mr. Chair, I thank my good friend from Illinois for mentioning our former colleague whom we all miss dearly, DAVID SCOTT. I am proud this bill actually memorializes him by naming the 1890 program permanently in his honor. I am sure glad that we did that in the bill markup in committee when he was there versus waiting to do it here on the House floor.

Mr. Chair, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Iowa (Mr. NUNN), who is a member of the Agriculture Committee.

□ 2320

Mr. NUNN of Iowa. Mr. Chair, this has truly not only been a bipartisan effort, but this is an effort that leads for America. Mr. Chair, I would like to speak today on behalf of Iowa's farmers and the millions of Americans who depend on a strong farm economy.

Known for both food security—something Iowa does very well—as well as national security, something we have all participated in here, the hard-working men and women who drive Iowa forward, who feed and fuel our country and the world are the driving force behind this year's farm bill, a bill which I believe Congress has worked hard to deliver for them. Whether it be corn or soybeans, pork or cattle, poultry, as a sixth-generation sheep farm kid, all of our livestock, we are making a positive impact here.

During my time, I have spent a lot in the Third District of Iowa talking to all 21 counties, and I am proud to say in this farm bill with our leadership team, we have been able to pass 21 of my provisions. That includes everything from helping a beginning farmer, improving water quality, investing in rural broadband, and cracking down on illegal puppy mills.

Challengingly, at the start of today, we were set to start debate on passing this bill, but D.C. sometimes does what D.C. does, and Washington deals threatened to undo the hard work we have done across the aisle to deliver for our farmers. However, Mr. Chair, we stood up, and I apologize to our Speaker because I shout out on the floor that this farm bill has to move forward. After working through this, a long night indeed, we were able to move forward.

I thank both Speaker JOHNSON, the majority leader, and the whip for staying in the room and committing to both sides to have a vote on the farm bill and making sure also that we move forward on nationwide, year-round E15 when we come back from recess.

This is a bipartisan win for farmers. It is a win for rural Iowa. Most importantly, Mr. Chair, it is a win for all of America. I am proud to be part of this farm bill.

Ms. CRAIG. Mr. Chair, I yield 3 minutes to the distinguished gentlewoman from Maryland (Mrs. MCCLAIN DELANEY).

Mrs. MCCLAIN DELANEY. Mr. Chair, I thank the ranking member for yielding. As the only Marylander on the House Ag Committee, I rise to speak about what is at stake in this farm bill for our farmers and also for rural America.

The ag sector is personal to me, as I grew up in a farming family in Idaho, a potato farmer's daughter, and right now farms are being squeezed in every direction: higher costs due to tariffs, immigration-related labor shortages, and supply chain disruptions. There is a 46 percent increase in farm bankruptcies this year over last. It is a crisis.

USDA is also moving forward with a major reorganization without clear congressional approval. I strongly believe this reorganization will cost more in the long run than it saves and will undercut vital services farmers need. A real concern is the loss of decades of institutional knowledge and agency expertise, as USDA civil servants are not uprooting their lives to relocate across the country, which then translates into less technical assistance and ongoing support for our farmers.

Equally important, and the reason why I have waited for 6 hours to speak, is pivotal national research is being undermined. Maryland is home to Beltsville's Agricultural Research Center, BARC. BARC is one of the crown jewels of American ag science, and for nearly a century—yes, for nearly 100 years—it has helped farmers fight pests and disease, improve nutrition, housed our Nation's bee lab, and protected natural resources. Our Maryland dairy farmers applaud BARC for its work on the screw worm, a horrible parasite devouring livestock across our country.

If the administration decommissions places like BARC, we lose decades of expertise that simply cannot be quickly replaced and transferred. It is a travesty.

At this moment, our farmers need more certainty, more science, and more support. We must meet the moment. Sadly, for me, this farm bill does not. It does cut USDA services. It cuts real funding by 20 percent compared to 2018, and it does rescind over $1 billion from conservation programs, which provide less support for soil health and water quality.

Perhaps most heart-wrenching of all these points is this bill fails to restore SNAP, the bipartisan cornerstone of many years of farm bills. USDA revealed that 3 million Americans have already lost benefits since the passage of H.R. 1.

In my district, one in nine families rely on SNAP, half of them children. Many of these recipients do work. They just can't make ends meet on their current take-home wages. To me, this is a moral failure that none of us wants, and these cost allocations for the great State of Maryland are truly unsustainable.

While many of us wanted nothing more than to work toward a bipartisan farm bill, given the above reasons, I urge a ''no'' on this legislation. It is my deep hope that there will be future bipartisan work on increasing food assistance for those who need it, for helping USDA, and ensuring vital ag research, particularly that BARC is preserved.

Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania. Mr. Chair, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Chair, I thank the gentlewoman from Maryland. In the first part of her presentation, she clearly made the case of why we need the Farm, Food, and National Security Act when she very accurately talked about all the challenges and difficulties our farm families are facing. Just a reminder, SNAP benefits have not been cut.

Mr. Chair, I yield 2½ minutes to the gentlewoman from Florida (Mrs. CAMMACK), a member of the Agriculture Committee.

Mrs. CAMMACK. Mr. Chair, I rise today after years of fighting for this to say, yes, we are finally getting the farm bill done.

The Farm, Food, and National Security Act of 2026 is not just a farm bill. It is a lifeline. For the farmers and ranchers in Florida, the men and women who wake up before the Sun, who work through the hurricanes, the freezes, and the disease outbreaks, who have been delivering for this country while Washington didn't deliver for them, this moment is long overdue.

Now, let me be direct about something. Our farmers did not create the chaos of rising input costs. They did not ask for the hurricanes that wiped out their groves and flooded their fields. They did not cause the freezes that killed their crops or the citrus greening that has devastated an entire industry. They absorbed it all, quietly and stubbornly, because that is what our producers do. For too long, Washington's response has been paperwork delays and disaster programs that did not meet the moment, did not reflect reality.

Mr. Chair, we all know that food security is national security. Every acre that is abandoned, every grove that is not replanted, every farmer who walks away, that is a strategic loss. Our adversaries understand this, even when people in this very Chamber choose to forget it. A nation that cannot feed itself is a nation that is not secure and a nation that can be controlled from abroad. Americans should never have to rely on foreign food.

Let us not forget that the first line of defense in American health is not a hospital, but a farm. You cannot feed a healthy Nation on substances manufactured in a lab. You need farmers. You need growers. You need ranchers. You need the men and women of this country who are producing real food for real families. That is MAHA. That is MAHA. You cannot fix the health of this Nation if you don't pass the farm bill.

On behalf of the 44,000 family farms that call Florida home and the nearly 2 million family farms across this country, I strongly urge my colleagues to support this farm bill. They are all counting on you.

Ms. CRAIG. Mr. Chair, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania. Mr. Chair, I yield 1½ minutes to the gentlewoman from Texas (Ms. DE LA CRUZ), vice chair of the Nutrition and Foreign Agriculture Subcommittee.

Ms. DE LA CRUZ. Mr. Chair, I thank our chairman. When I say thank you, I mean thank you, thank you, thank you.

It has been 3 long years that we have not been able to pass the most bipartisan farm bill that this Chamber has seen, and what the other side of the aisle is saying is completely nonsense.

Our chairman has gone from east to west, from north to south, from Democratic to Republican counties and States to see what our farmers truly need. Guess what? This farm bill shows it.

□ 2330

The American people who are watching this right now at close to midnight is saying to themselves: What is the holdup? It has been 3 years.

This is a bipartisan farm bill. This is a farm bill that meets the needs of the farmers. And guess what. It meets the needs of our American people.

It will ultimately lead to lower prices for not only our farmers but for the everyday American who is buying groceries at the grocery store.

This nonsense needs to stop. This bipartisan showcase that is happening tonight must stop. It is time to pass the farm bill and not wait a moment longer.

Every trade association and every farm association are saying to pass the farm bill—not the activists, but the actual people who believe that farmers and American national security and farm security come first.

Ms. CRAIG. Mr. Chair, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Chair, I don't really know what I just listened to. There are 700 organizations that are opposing this farm bill. Maybe Texas, maybe lots of States around this country, have a lot of money just to spend. My Republican colleagues talk about unfunded mandates all the time. Shifting costs to the States for SNAP was an unfunded mandate.

Mr. Chair, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania. Mr. Chair, I reserve the balance of my time.

Ms. CRAIG. Mr. Chair, I yield myself the balance of my time.

Mr. Chair, my Republican colleagues here tonight want you to think that this is a farm bill, but it is a collection of Republican excuses.

In reconciliation, they cut $187 billion from title IV of the farm bill. That isn't a bipartisan process.

President Trump said he would lower costs on day one. Republicans would have us believe that their top priority here tonight is supporting family farmers.

What about the tariffs? What about China taking all of its business to Brazil and Argentina? Where are my colleagues in actually standing up for family farmers?

My challenge to my Republican colleagues is to prove it because this farm bill does nothing to lower fertilizer costs or diesel costs for farmers or restore food assistance for millions of Americans, children or seniors.

Mr. Chair, I have created a vision of Lucy with the football so many times on this topic of E15 that I don't even know how to describe it anymore. The fact that, tonight, my friends on the other side of the aisle somehow negotiated to have E15 taken off the table to me is just unbelievable.

You destroy all the export markets in our country, and now you refuse to move forward in pushing for those new domestic markets. I know there is probably some deal cut on the side or a gentleman's agreement or whatever, but we are going to be back here in 2 weeks. There is going to be a lot of procedural movement on this thing, and I am telling you, tonight, I do not believe that we will see a vote on E15 come to this House floor, that standing down on E15 was walking away from our family farmers.

We will never stand down from looking for these export markets across the world or expanding domestic markets in our country.

We offered an amendment that would add another $17 billion in assistance to family farmers, as well as make sure that working families across our country are taken care of by delaying this unfunded mandate to the States.

For the life of me, to come here tonight, whatever time it is—if it is still today; maybe it is tomorrow—and declare that this is a bipartisan product, our colleagues took about 10 percent of what we offered. Then, they came back and tried to pick off one of us at a time with some little sweetener.

Republicans can't even figure it out among themselves on the other side of the aisle. Democrats stand ready to support a truly bipartisan farm bill. My hope is that throughout this process, just like in 2014 and just like in 2018, we can come to a bipartisan farm bill, ensuring that the Senate is part of this process.

Mr. Chair, at the appropriate time, I will offer a motion to recommit this bill back to committee. I would have offered the motion with an amendment to the bill.

I include in the RECORD the text of my amendment.

Ms. Craig moves to recommit the bill H.R. 7567 to the Committee on Agriculture with instructions to report the same back to the House forthwith, with the following amendment:

Add at the end of title XII the following:

SEC. 124___. FARM AND FAMILY RELIEF.

(a) ECONOMIC ASSISTANCE FOR FAMILIES.—

(1) BENEFIT COST-SHIFT DELAY.—Section 4(a)(2)(B) of the Food and Nutrition Act of 2008 (7 U.S.C. 2013(a)(2)(B)) is amended—

(A) in clause (i) by striking ''2028'' and inserting ''2032''; and

(B) in clause (ii)—

(i) in subclause (I) —

(I) by striking ''2028'' each place it appears and inserting ''2032''; and

(II) by striking ''2025 or 2026'' and inserting ''2029 or 2030''; and

(ii) in subclause (II) by striking ''2029'' each place it appears and inserting ''2033''; and

(C) by striking clause (iii).

(2) ADMINISTRATIVE COST-SHIFT DELAY.—Section 16(a) of the Food and Nutrition Act of 2008 (7 U.S.C. 2025(a)) is amended by striking ''through fiscal year 2026, 50 percent, and for fiscal year 2027'' and inserting ''through fiscal year 2028, 50 percent, and for fiscal year 2029''.

(b) ECONOMIC ASSISTANCE FOR PRODUCERS OF ELIGIBLE COMMODITIES.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—

(A) ECONOMIC ASSISTANCE PAYMENTS.—With respect to the 2025 crop year, if the Secretary determines that the expected gross return per acre for an eligible commodity determined under subparagraph (B) is less than the expected cost of production per acre for that eligible commodity determined under subparagraph (C), the Secretary shall, not later than 90 days after the date of enactment of this Act, make a 1-time economic assistance payment to each producer of that eligible commodity during that crop year.

(B) EXPECTED GROSS RETURN PER ACRE.—The expected gross return per acre for an eligible commodity referred to in subparagraph (A) shall be equal to—

(i) in the case of wheat, corn, grain sorghum, barley, oats, cotton, rice, and soybeans, the product obtained by multiplying—

(I) the projected average farm price for the applicable eligible commodity for the 2025–2026 marketing year contained in the December 2025 World Agricultural Supply and Demand Estimates published by the World Agricultural Outlook Board on December 9, 2025; and

(II) the national average harvested yield per acre for the applicable eligible commodity for the most recent 10 crop years, as determined by the Secretary; and

(ii) in the case of each eligible commodity not specified in clause (i), a comparable estimate of gross returns, as determined by the Secretary.

(C) EXPECTED COST OF PRODUCTION.—The expected cost of production per acre for an eligible commodity referred to in subparagraph (A) shall be equal to—

(i) in the case of wheat, corn, grain sorghum, barley, oats, cotton, rice, and soybeans, the total costs listed for the 2025 crop year with respect to the applicable eligible commodity contained in the data product relating to such commodity and crop year entitled ''U.S. Commodity Costs and Returns by Region and by Commodity'' published by the Economic Research Service; and

(ii) in the case of each eligible commodity not specified in clause (i), a comparable total estimated cost-of-production, as determined by the Secretary.

(D) PAYMENT AMOUNTS.—

(i) IN GENERAL.—The amount of an economic assistance payment to a producer for an eligible commodity under subparagraph (A) shall be equal to the difference between—

(I) the amount equal to 65 percent of the product obtained by multiplying—

(aa) the economic loss for that eligible commodity determined under clause (ii); and

(bb) the eligible acres of that eligible commodity on the farm determined under clause (iii); and

(II) the amount of any payment issued by the Secretary to such producer with respect to crop year 2025 for such eligible commodity or such eligible acres on the farm under the Farmer Bridge Assistance Program of the Department of Agriculture as described in the press release of the Department of Agriculture on December 8, 2025 (Release No. 0239.25).

(ii) ECONOMIC LOSS.—For purposes of clause (i)(I), the economic loss for an eligible commodity shall be equal to the difference between—

(I) the expected cost of production per acre for that eligible commodity, as determined under subparagraph (C); and

(II) the expected gross return per acre for that eligible commodity, as determined under subparagraph (B).

(iii) ELIGIBLE ACRES.—For purposes of clause (i)(I)(bb), the eligible acres of an eligible commodity on a farm shall be equal to the sum obtained by adding—

(I) the acreage planted on the farm to that eligible commodity for harvest, grazing, haying, silage, or other similar purposes for the 2025 crop year; and

(II) an amount equal to 100 percent of the acreage on the farm that was prevented from being planted during the 2025 crop year to

that eligible commodity because of drought, flood, or other natural disaster, or other condition beyond the control of the producers on the farm, as determined by the Secretary.

(iv) ACREAGE PLANTED.—For purposes of clause (iii)(I), the Secretary shall consider acreage planted to include any land devoted to planted acres for accepted skip-row planting patterns, as determined by the Secretary.

(v) DATA.—If the Secretary determines there is insufficient data to determine the comparable estimate of gross returns with respect to an eligible commodity under subparagraph (B)(ii) or a comparable total estimated cost-of-production with respect to an eligible commodity under subparagraph (C)(ii), the Secretary shall use data related to a similarly situated commodity for purposes of determining the payment amount under this paragraph.

(2) PAYMENT LIMITATIONS.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—Except as provided in subparagraph (B), sections 1001, 1001A, 1001B, and 1001C of the Food Security Act of 1985 (7 U.S.C. 1308, 1308–1, 1308–2, 1308–3) shall apply with respect to assistance provided under this subsection.

(B) EXCEPTION.—The total amount of payments received, directly or indirectly, by a person or legal entity (except a joint venture or general partnership) under this subsection may not exceed—

(i) $125,000, if less than 75 percent of the average gross income of the person or legal entity for the 2021, 2022, and 2023 tax years is derived from farming, ranching, or silviculture activities; and

(ii) $250,000, if not less than 75 percent of the average gross income of the person or legal entity for the 2021, 2022, and 2023 tax years is derived from farming, ranching, or silviculture activities.

(C) SEPARATE LIMITATION.—The payment limitations under this paragraph shall be separate from annual payment limitations under any other program.

(3) DEFINITIONS.—In this subsection:

(A) EXTRA-LONG STAPLE COTTON; PRODUCER.—The terms ''extra-long staple cotton'' and ''producer'' have the meanings given those terms in section 1111 of the Agricultural Act of 2014 (7 U.S.C. 9011).

(B) COTTON.—The term ''cotton'' means extra-long staple cotton and upland cotton.

(C) ELIGIBLE COMMODITY.—

(i) IN GENERAL.—The term ''eligible commodity'' means a loan commodity (as defined in section 1201(a) of the Agricultural Act of 2014 (7 U.S.C. 9031(a)).

(ii) EXCLUSION.—The term ''eligible commodity'' does not include graded wool, nongraded wool, mohair, or honey.

(D) LEGAL ENTITY; PERSON.—The terms ''legal entity'' and ''person'' have the meanings given those terms in section 1001(a) of the Food Security Act of 1985 (7 U.S.C. 1308(a)).

(E) RICE.—The term ''rice'' means long grain rice and medium grain rice.

(c) ECONOMIC ASSISTANCE FOR SUGAR BEET PRODUCERS.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—

(A) BLOCK GRANTS.—From the amounts appropriated under paragraph (3), the Secretary shall make block grants to sugar beet cooperatives to carry out economic assistance payments in accordance with subparagraph (B).

(B) USE OF FUNDS.—A sugar beet cooperative that receives a block grant under subparagraph (A) may only use the grant funds to make payments to members of such cooperative that are sugar beet producers for the economic losses incurred by such producers during the 2025 crop year for sugar beets.

(2) PAYMENTS.—In carrying out the block grants under paragraph (1)(A), the Secretary shall—

(A) establish, in consultation with sugar beet cooperatives, a per-acre payment rate for purposes of determining the amount and allocation of such block grants; and

(B) reduce from the amount of a block grant to a sugar beet cooperative, as determined under subparagraph (A), the total amount of assistance each member of such cooperative that is a sugar beet producer received for the 2025 crop year under the Farmer Bridge Assistance Program of the Department of Agriculture as described in the press release of the Department of Agriculture on December 8, 2025 (Release No. 0239.25).

(3) APPROPRIATION.—There is appropriated to the Secretary to carry out this subsection $330,000,000.

(d) ECONOMIC ASSISTANCE FOR SPECIALTY CROPS.—

[For the full text of the Amendment, please see H.R. 7206, the Farm and Family Relief Act.]

Ms. CRAIG. Mr. Chair, I hope my colleagues will join me in voting for the motion to recommit.

Mr. Chair, I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania. Mr. Chair, I yield myself the balance of my time.

Mr. Chair, what can I say? I am not sure my good friend, the ranking member, would recognize a bipartisan bill because this one truly is. This was not written in Washington. This was written while traveling the country, Republicans and Democrats, 43 different States, 1 territory, over close to 160 different listening sessions. We did it in a tripartisan way, Republicans and Democrats. We invited Republicans and Democrats in those given States we were visiting who were not on the committee. Certainly, the tripartisanship was the farmers, the ranchers, the folks in rural America, the people from nutrition organizations, and the people involved in conservation and wildlife who all came out to help write this bill.

The base bill, when it was in committee, had 40 provisions in there that were led by Democrats. I didn't put them in there to gain votes, obviously. They were there because they were good provisions. It contributed to a great product—140 provisions that were completely bipartisan, at least one Republican and one Democrat, probably more of both on those provisions.

As you heard in the amendment process in committee, we had 100 amendments that were debated. Quite frankly, what was accepted was really 50/50. It was equal. There must be a definition of bipartisanship I am just not aware of.

Mr. Chair, I hear a lot of discussions here about things that are not in the bill, but they are not in our jurisdiction, things like financial assistance. I helped lead the first financial assistance over a year ago for our farmers, and we need more, but it is not within the scope of the farm bill.

I hear about E15. I don't think that is such a bad idea, year-round E15, but that is the Energy and Commerce committee. That is not the Agriculture Committee.

I hear about trade. Trade is the Ways and Means Committee. I will say we did double foreign market development and market access program, which are tools to help our farmers get access to trade, but we don't have trade itself in our jurisdiction.

There are no SNAP cuts. The amount of money that families get is the same as what they got under the Biden administration. Now, we increased accountability. If you are here illegally, you are not eligible because this is something that is really meant for citizens.

We have done enhancements to the SNAP program. We are going after criminals within this farm bill, looking to increase the technology with the EBT cards to prevent misuse of it, enhancements, dairy incentives, adding protein incentives with SNAP.

This is a great bill. This is a bill for today. This is a bill also for tomorrow, and I am proud of the bipartisan work that went into it.

I am a little disgusted, actually, by the politics that have come into this by folks who are running for higher office or are looking to November. I don't look to November. I look every day to how we can help our farm families, ranch families, forestry families, and everyday Americans who pick up the tools of agriculture, be it a knife, fork, or spoon.

I appreciate the opportunity to be able to bring this bill forward and encourage, in the end, a positive vote.

Mr. Chair, I yield back the balance of my time.

The Acting CHAIR. All time for general debate has expired.

Pursuant to the rule, the bill shall be considered for amendment under the 5-minute rule.

In lieu of the amendment in the nature of a substitute recommended by the Committee on Agriculture, printed in the bill, an amendment in the nature of a substitute consisting of the text of Rules Committee Print 119–22, modified by the amendment printed in part A of House Report 119–628, shall be considered as adopted. The bill, as amended, shall be considered as the original bill for purpose of further amendment under the 5-minute rule and shall be considered as read.

The text of the bill, as amended, is as follows:

H.R. 7567

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE; TABLE OF CONTENTS.

(a) SHORT TITLE.—This Act may be cited as the ''Farm, Food, and National Security Act of 2026''.

(b) TABLE OF CONTENTS.—The table of contents for this Act is as follows:

Sec. 1. Short title; table of contents.
Sec. 2. Definitions.

TITLE I—COMMODITIES

Sec. 1001. Suspension of permanent price support authority.

Sec. 1002. Tree assistance program.
Sec. 1003. Specialty crop emergency assistance framework.
Sec. 1004. Assistance in the form of block grants.
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SEC. 2. DEFINITIONS.

In this Act:

(1) DEPARTMENT.—The term ''Department'' means the Department of Agriculture.

(2) SECRETARY.—The term ''Secretary'' means the Secretary of Agriculture.

TITLE I—COMMODITIES

SEC. 1001. SUSPENSION OF PERMANENT PRICE SUPPORT AUTHORITY.

Section 1602 of the Agricultural Act of 2014 (7 U.S.C. 9092) is amended by striking ''2023'' each place it appears and inserting ''2031''.

SEC. 1002. TREE ASSISTANCE PROGRAM.

(a) DEFINITIONS.—Section 1501(e)(1) of the Agricultural Act of 2014 (7 U.S.C. 9081(e)(1)) is amended—

(1) in subparagraph (A), by inserting ''or biennial'' after ''annual''; and

(2) in subparagraph (B), by inserting ''or pest'' after ''insect''.

(b) ECONOMIC VIABILITY.—Section 1501(e)(2)(A) of the Agricultural Act of 2014 (7 U.S.C. 9081(e)(2)(A)) is amended—

(1) by striking clauses (i) and (ii); and

(2) by striking ''to provide assistance—'' and inserting ''to provide assistance under subparagraphs (A) and (B) of paragraph (3) to eligible orchardists and nursery tree growers that planted trees for commercial purposes but lost the trees or the trees no longer produce an economically viable crop as a result of a natural disaster, as determined by the Secretary.''.

(c) ASSISTANCE.—Section 1501(e)(3) of the Agricultural Act of 2014 (7 U.S.C. 9081(e)(3)) is amended in the matter before subparagraph (A) by striking ''and (5)'' and inserting '', (5), (6), and (7)''.

(d) REQUIREMENTS WITH RESPECT TO ASSISTANCE.—Section 1501(e) of the Agricultural Act of 2014 (7 U.S.C. 9081(e)) is amended by adding at the end the following:

''(6) TIMING REQUIREMENTS.—An eligible orchardist or nursery tree grower shall agree, as a condition on receipt of assistance under this subsection, to carry out any replacement and rehabilitation activities for which such assistance is provided not later than—

''(A) 2 years after the application for such assistance is approved; or

''(B) if the period specified in subparagraph (A) is not adequate for tree survival, at such time as is necessary to ensure tree survival.

''(7) ALTERNATIVES USED IN REPLANTING.—

''(A) IN GENERAL.—An eligible orchardist or nursery tree grower receiving assistance under this subsection with respect to tree loss may use such assistance to replant using—

''(i) an alternative variety from the variety used prior to the loss;

''(ii) an alternative stand density from the stand density used prior to the loss; and

''(iii) an alternative location than was used prior to the loss.

''(B) COST SHARE LIMITATIONS WITH RESPECT TO ALTERNATIVES.—The assistance provided by the Secretary to eligible orchardists and nursery tree growers—

''(i) for losses described in subparagraph (A)(i), shall be an amount that is not greater than the amount the eligible orchardist or nursery tree grower would receive if the eligible orchardist or nursery tree grower planted the variety lost;

''(ii) for losses described in subparagraph (A)(ii) shall be an amount that is not greater than the amount the eligible orchardist or nursery tree grower would receive if the eligible orchardist or nursery tree grower planted the stand density lost; and

''(iii) for losses described in subparagraph (A)(iii), shall be an amount that is not greater than the amount the eligible orchardist or nursery tree grower would receive if the eligible orchardist or nursery tree grower planted the location in which the loss occurred.''.

(e) DEADLINE FOR NOTICE REGARDING APPLICATION STATUS.—Section 1501(e) of the Agricultural Act of 2014 (7 U.S.C. 9801(e)) is further amended by adding at the end the following:

''(8) DEADLINE FOR NOTICE REGARDING APPLICATION STATUS.—Not later than 120 days after receiving an application for assistance under this subsection, the Secretary shall—

''(A) approve or deny such application; and

''(B) notify the applicant of such approval or denial.''.

(f) INITIAL PAYMENTS UNDER TREE ASSISTANCE PROGRAM.—Section 1501(e) of the Agricultural Act of 2014 (7 U.S.C. 9081(e)) is amended by adding at the end the following:

''(9) INITIAL PAYMENTS.—

''(A) IN GENERAL.—An eligible orchardist or nursery tree grower may opt to receive an initial assistance payment with respect to losses described in paragraph (2) before incurring the costs described in paragraph (3) relating to such losses.

''(B) AMOUNT.—An initial assistance payment under subparagraph (A) shall be in an amount that is equal to the fair market value of the estimated costs described in paragraph (3) that the eligible orchardist or nursery tree grower is likely to incur with respect to losses described in paragraph (2), as determined by the Secretary.

''(C) SUBSEQUENT PAYMENT.—

''(i) IN GENERAL.—In the case of an eligible orchardist or nursery tree grower that opts to receive an initial payment under subparagraph (A) with respect to losses described in paragraph (2), the Secretary shall, as soon as practicable after providing such initial payment, provide a subsequent payment to the eligible orchardist or nursery tree grower in an amount equal to—

''(I) the payment amount the eligible orchardist or nursery tree grower would have received with respect to such losses under paragraph (3) or pursuant to paragraph (5); minus

''(II) the initial payment amount provided to such eligible orchardist or nursery tree grower under subparagraph (B) with respect to such losses.

''(ii) OVERPAYMENT.—If an initial payment under subparagraph (B) with respect to losses described in paragraph (2) is greater than the amount an eligible orchardist or nursery tree grower would have received under paragraph (3) or pursuant to paragraph (5) for such losses, such eligible orchardist or nursery tree grower shall repay the Secretary the excess amount.

''(D) SUNSET.—The authority to make payments under this paragraph shall terminate on September 30, 2035.''.

SEC. 1003. SPECIALTY CROP EMERGENCY ASSISTANCE FRAMEWORK.

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

''SEC. 196A. SPECIALTY CROP EMERGENCY ASSISTANCE FRAMEWORK.

''(a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall establish a framework to provide direct assistance to producers of specialty crops the production of which was impacted by an adverse event (including an economic crisis or market disruption), as determined by the Secretary, in accordance with this section.

''(b) PAYMENT CALCULATION.—In determining a payment calculation for purposes of direct assistance to a producer of specialty crops under subsection (a), the Secretary shall calculate payments based on—

''(1) the producer's sales of specialty crops for a calendar year that precedes the year in which the adverse event described in such subsection occurred or the average of such sales over a set of consecutive calendar years that precedes the year in which such adverse event occurred, as determined by the Secretary; multiplied by

''(2) a payment factor the Secretary determines, subject to the availability of funds, to address losses of such specialty crops from such adverse event.

''(c) SPECIAL RULES.—Subject to subsection (d), in providing direct assistance pursuant to this section, the Secretary shall consider—

''(1) the higher value of specialty crops;

''(2) the greater input costs required to grow specialty crops; and

''(3) diverse types of legal entities and structures used by specialty crop producers.

''(d) LIMITATIONS.—

''(1) TOTAL AMOUNT.—

''(A) IN GENERAL.—Except as provided in subparagraph (B), the total amount of payments received, directly or indirectly, by a person or legal entity (except a qualified pass-through entity) (as such terms are defined in section 1001(a) of the Food Security Act of 1985 (7 U.S.C. 1308(a))) for any crop year under this section may not exceed the amount specified in subsection (b) of section 1001 of the Food Security Act of 1985 (7 U.S.C. 1308), as adjusted pursuant to subsection (i) of such section 1001.

''(B) EXCEPTION.—In the case of a person or legal entity with an average gross income (as calculated under section 1001D(b)(4)(B) of the Food Security Act of 1985 (7 U.S.C. 1308–3a(b)(4)(B))) for which greater than or equal to 75 percent of the average derives from farming, ranching, or silviculture activities—

''(i) subparagraph (A) shall not apply; and

''(ii) the total maximum amount of payments received, directly or indirectly, by such person or legal entity for any crop year under this section shall be set by the Secretary, except such amount may not be less than $900,000.

''(2) NOTIFICATION OF INTERESTS; ELIGIBILITY; DENIALS.—Sections 1001A(a), 1001B, and 1001C of the Food Security Act of 1985 (7 U.S.C. 1308–1(a); 1308–2; 1308–3) shall apply to a producer of a specialty crop under this section in the same manner as such sections apply to a person or legal entity with respect to a covered commodity, except to the extent such sections relate to the application of subsections (b) through (d) of section 1001A.''.

(b) PAYMENT LIMITATION CONFORMING AMENDMENT.—Section 1001D(b) of the Food Security Act of 1985 (7 U.S.C. 1308–3a(b)) is amended—

(1) in paragraph (2)(E), by inserting ''or 196A'' after ''section 196''; and

(2) in paragraph (4)(A)(i)(II), by inserting ''or 196A'' after ''section 196''.

SEC. 1004. ASSISTANCE IN THE FORM OF BLOCK GRANTS.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Subtitle E of title I of the Agricultural Act of 2014 (7 U.S.C. 9081 et seq.) is amended by adding at the end the following:

''SEC. 1502. ASSISTANCE IN THE FORM OF BLOCK GRANTS.

''(a) IN GENERAL.—In the case additional funds made available after the date of the enactment of this section for covered losses, the Secretary may make assistance for such losses available in the form of block grants.

''(b) COVERED LOSSES.—In this section, the term 'covered losses' means losses—

''(1) of revenue, quality, or production of crops, trees, bushes, vines, poultry or livestock as a consequence of a natural disaster (as determined by the Secretary); and

''(2) for which assistance is not available pursuant to any other Federal law.''.

(b) CLERICAL AMENDMENT.—The table of contents for the Agricultural Act of 2014 is amended by inserting after the item relating to section 1501 the following:

''1502. Assistance in the form of block grants.''.

SEC. 1005. DAIRY-RELATED EXTENSIONS.

(a) FORWARD PRICING.—Section 1502 of the Food, Conservation, and Energy Act of 2008 (7 U.S.C. 8772) is amended by striking subsection (e).

(b) INDEMNITY PROGRAM.—Section 3 of Public Law 90–484 (7 U.S.C. 4553) is amended by striking ''2023'' and inserting ''2031''.

(c) PROMOTION AND RESEARCH.—Section 113(e)(2) of the Dairy Production Stabilization Act of 1983 (7 U.S.C. 4504(e)(2)) is amended by striking ''2023'' and inserting ''2031''.

SEC. 1006. MANDATORY REPORTING OF DAIRY PRODUCT PROCESSING COSTS.

Section 273 of the Agricultural Marketing Act of 1946 (7 U.S.C. 1637b) is amended—

(1) in subsection (b)—

(A) in paragraph (1)—

(i) in subparagraph (A)(ii), by striking ''and'' at the end;

(ii) in subparagraph (B), by striking the period at the end and inserting ''; and''; and

(iii) by adding at the end the following:

''(C) for each manufacturer required to report under subparagraph (A) for any product, require that manufacturer to report production cost and product yield information, as determined by the Secretary, for all products processed in the same facility or facilities.'';

(B) in paragraph (2)(A), by inserting ''products and'' after ''those'';

(2) in subsection (c)(3)(B), by inserting '', subject to subsection (b)(1),'' after ''of information'';

(3) in subsection (d)—

(A) in the subsection heading, by striking ''ELECTRONIC REPORTING'' and inserting ''REPORTING'';

(B) in paragraph (1)—

(i) in the heading, by striking ''ELECTRONIC REPORTING'' and inserting ''REPORTING''; and

(ii) by striking ''this section'' and inserting ''subparagraphs (A) and (B) of subsection (b)(1)'';

(C) in paragraph (2), by striking ''this section'' and inserting ''subparagraphs (A) and (B) of subsection (b)(1)''; and

(D) by adding at the end the following:

''(3) DAIRY PRODUCT PROCESSING COSTS.—Not later than 2 years after the date of enactment of this paragraph, and every 2 years thereafter, the Secretary shall publish a report containing the information obtained under subparagraph (C) of subsection (b)(1), subject to the conditions described in subsection (b)(2).'';

(4) by redesignating subsection (e) as subsection (f); and

(5) by adding after subsection (d) the following:

''(e) REGULATION.—Any actions taken by the Secretary under this section shall not be subject to review under Executive Order 12866 (58 Fed. Reg. 51735) or any successor order.''.

SEC. 1007. DAIRY REPORTS.

Paragraph (4) of section 301 of the Dairy Production Stabilization Act of 1983 (7 U.S.C. 4514) is amended by striking ''Not later'' and all that follows through ''an annual report'' and inserting ''With respect to each calendar year beginning after the date of the enactment of the Farm, Food, and National Security Act of 2026, a report (which shall be submitted not later than 18 months after the last day of such calendar year)''.

SEC. 1008. PROCESSING OF CERTAIN LOANS.

(a) MARKETING ASSISTANCE LOANS.—Section 1204 of the Agricultural Act of 2014 (7 U.S.C. 9034) is amended by adding at the end the following:

''(j) EFFECT OF LAPSE IN APPROPRIATIONS.—The servicing of a marketing assistance loan under section 1201 by an officer or employee of the Department shall be deemed, for purposes of section 1342 of title 31, services for emergencies involving the safety of human life or the protection of property.''.

(b) LOANS UNDER SUGAR PROGRAM.—Section 156(d) of the Federal Agriculture Improvement and Reform Act of 1996 (7 U.S.C. 7272(d)) is amended by adding at the end the following:

''(4) EFFECT OF LAPSE IN APPROPRIATIONS.—The servicing of a loan under this section by an officer or employee of the Department shall be deemed, for purposes of section 1342 of title 31, services for emergencies involving the safety of human life or the protection of property.''.

SEC. 1009. STORAGE FACILITY LOANS.

Section 1614(a) of the Food, Conservation, and Energy Act of 2008 (7 U.S.C. 8789(a)) is amended—

(1) by striking ''funds for producers'' and inserting the following: ''funds for—

''(1) producers''; and

(2) by striking the period at the end and inserting ''; and''; and

(3) by adding at the end the following:

''(2) producers to construct or upgrade storage facilities for propane that is primarily used for agricultural production (as such term is defined in section 4279.2 of title 7, Code of Federal Regulations (as in effect on the date of the enactment of this paragraph)).''.

SEC. 1010. STRENGTHENING DOMESTIC FOOD PRODUCTION SUPPLY CHAINS.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Subtitle C of title I of the Agricultural Act of 2014 (Public Law 113–79) is amended by adding at the end the following:

''SEC. 1302. STRENGTHENING DOMESTIC FOOD PRODUCTION SUPPLY CHAINS.

''(a) IN GENERAL.—With respect to any Federal policy that would impact the administration of the programs described in this subtitle or any rule, policy, or guidance issued pursuant to such programs, the preservation and strengthening of the domestic production described in subsection (b) shall be a priority objective of the President.

''(b) DOMESTIC PRODUCTION DESCRIBED.—The domestic production described in this subsection is the production of an agricultural commodity—

''(1) described in this subtitle; and

''(2) from which a food ingredient that serves an important function throughout the domestic food production supply chain is derived.''.

(b) CLERICAL AMENDMENT.—The table of contents for the Agricultural Act of 2014 is amended by inserting after the item relating to section 1301 the following:

''1302. Strengthening domestic food production supply chains.''.

SEC. 1011. REGULATIONS.

(a) ADMINISTRATION.—Section 1601(c) of the Agricultural Act of 2014 (7 U.S.C. 9091(c)) is amended—

(1) in paragraph (2), by striking ''this title, sections 11003 and 11017, title I of the Agriculture Improvement Act of 2018 and the amendments made by that title, and section 10109 of that Act'' and inserting ''a covered provision of law''; and

(2) by adding at the end the following:

''(4) COVERED PROVISION OF LAW DEFINED.—In this subsection, the term 'covered provision of law' means—

''(A) this title and sections 11003 and 11017;

''(B) title I of the Agriculture Improvement Act of 2018 and the amendments made by that title, and section 10109 of that Act; and

''(C) title I of the Farm Food and National Security Act of 2026 and the amendments made by that title.''.

(b) LOAN IMPLEMENTATION.—Section 1614(d) of the Agricultural Act of 2014 (7 U.S.C. 9097(d)) is amended—

(1) in paragraph (1), by striking ''subtitle B'' the first place it appears and all that follows through the period at the end and inserting ''a covered provision of law.'';

(2) in paragraph (2)—

(A) by striking ''of subtitles B or C''; and

(B) by striking ''under subtitles B or C'' and inserting ''under the repayment provisions''; and

(3) by adding at the end the following:

''(3) DEFINITIONS.—In this subsection:

''(A) COVERED PROVISION OF LAW.—The term 'covered provision of law' means—

''(i) subtitle B or C or the amendments made by subtitle B or C;

''(ii) the amendments made by subtitle B or C of the Agriculture Improvement Act of 2018, except with respect to the assistance provided under sections 1207(c) and 1208; and

''(iii) section 156 of the Federal Agricultural Improvement and Reform Act of 1996 (7 U.S.C. 7272).

''(B) REPAYMENT PROVISIONS.—The term 'repayment provisions' means the repayment requirements under—

''(i) subtitle B or C; or

''(ii) section 156 of the Federal Agricultural Improvement and Reform Act of 1996 (7 U.S.C. 7272).''.

SEC. 1012. RESTORATION OF TOBACCO AS AGRICULTURAL COMMODITY IN COMMODITY CREDIT CORPORATION CHARTER ACT.

Section 5 of the Commodity Credit Corporation Charter Act (15 U.S.C. 714c) is amended by striking ''(other than tobacco)'' each place such term appears.

TITLE II—CONSERVATION

Subtitle A—Definitions

SEC. 2001. DEFINITIONS.

Section 1201(a) of the Food Security Act of 1985 (16 U.S.C. 3801(a)) is amended—

(1) in the matter preceding paragraph (1), by striking ''subtitles A through I:'' and inserting ''subtitles A through J:'';

(2) in paragraph (14), by striking ''term 'Indian tribe' has the meaning given the term'' and inserting ''terms 'Indian tribe' and 'Indian Tribe' have the meaning given those terms'';

(3) by redesignating paragraphs (20) through (27) as paragraphs (22) through (29), respectively;

(4) by inserting after paragraph (19) the following:

''(20) PRECISION AGRICULTURE.—The term 'precision agriculture' means managing, tracking, or reducing crop or livestock production inputs, including seed, feed, fertilizer, chemicals, water, and time, at a heightened level of spatial and temporal granularity and biological targeting to improve efficiencies, reduce waste, and maintain environmental quality.

''(21) PRECISION AGRICULTURE TECHNOLOGY.—The term 'precision agriculture technology' means any technology (including targeted inputs and the equipment that is necessary for the deployment of such technology) that directly contributes to a reduction in, or improved efficiency of, inputs used in crop or livestock production, including—

''(A) Global Positioning System-based or geospatial mapping technology;

''(B) satellite or aerial imagery technology;

''(C) yield monitors;

''(D) soil mapping technology;

''(E) sensors for gathering data on crop, soil, or livestock conditions;

''(F) Internet of Things and telematics technologies;

''(G) data management software and advanced analytics;

''(H) network connectivity products and solutions;

''(I) Global Positioning System guidance or auto-steer systems;

''(J) variable rate technology for applying inputs, such as section control; and

''(K) any other technology, as determined by the Secretary, that directly contributes to a reduction in, or improved efficiency of, the use of crop or livestock production inputs, which may include seed, feed, fertilizer, soil amendments, chemicals, water, and time.''; and

(5) by adding at the end the following:

''(30) WILDLIFE HABITAT CONNECTIVITY.—The term 'wildlife habitat connectivity' means the degree to which landscape or habitat elements facilitate native species movement among seasonal habitats.''.

SEC. 2002. MITIGATION BANKING.

Section 1222(k)(1)(B) of the Food Security Act of 1985 (16 U.S.C. 3822(k)(1)(B)) is amended to read as follows:

''(B) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There is authorized to be appropriated to the Secretary to carry out this paragraph $5,000,000 for each of fiscal years 2027 through 2031.''.

Subtitle B—Conservation Reserve Program

SEC. 2101. CONSERVATION RESERVE.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Section 1231(a) of the Food Security Act of 1985 (16 U.S.C. 3831(a)) is amended by striking ''2023'' and inserting ''2031''.

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

(1) in paragraph (1)(B), by striking ''the date of enactment of the Agriculture Improvement Act of 2018'' and inserting ''the date of enactment of the Farm, Food, and National Security Act of 2026''; and

(2) in paragraph (7)(A), by striking ''September 30, 2017, or September 30, 2018'' and inserting ''September 30, 2025, or September 30, 2026''.

(c) ENROLLMENT.—

(1) MAXIMUM ACREAGE ENROLLED.—Section 1231(d)(1)(E) of the Food Security Act of 1985 (16 U.S.C. 3831(d)(1)(E)) is amended by striking ''fiscal year 2023'' and inserting ''each of fiscal years 2023 through 2031''.

(2) GRASSLANDS.—Section 1231(d)(2)(A)(ii)(III) of the Food Security Act of 1985 (16 U.S.C. 3831(d)(2)(A)(ii)(III)) is amended by striking ''2023'' and inserting ''2031''.

(3) STATE ENROLLMENT RATES.—Section 1231(d)(4) of the Food Security Act of 1985 (16 U.S.C. 3831(d)(4)) is amended by striking ''2019 through 2023'' and inserting ''2026 through 2031'' each place it appears.

(4) CONTINUOUS ENROLLMENT PROCEDURE.—Section 1231(d)(6)(B) of the Food Security Act of 1985 (16 U.S.C. 3831(d)(6)(B)) is amended to read as follows:

''(B) LIMITATION.—For purposes of applying the limitations in paragraph (1), the Secretary shall, to the maximum extent practicable, enroll and maintain not fewer than 8,600,000 acres of land under subparagraph (A) by September 30, 2031.''.

SEC. 2102. FARMABLE WETLAND PROGRAM.

Section 1231B(a)(1) of the Food Security Act of 1985 (16 U.S.C. 3831b(a)(1)) is amended by striking ''2023'' and inserting ''2031''.

Subtitle C—Environmental Quality Incentives Program

SEC. 2201. DEFINITIONS.

Section 1240A(6)(B)(v) of the Food Security Act of 1985 (16 U.S.C. 3839aa–1(6)(B)(v)) is amended by inserting ''(including the adoption of precision agriculture practices and the acquisition of precision agriculture technology)'' after ''planning''.

SEC. 2202. ESTABLISHMENT AND ADMINISTRATION.

(a) PAYMENTS.—

(1) SPECIAL RULE INVOLVING PAYMENTS FOR FOREGONE INCOME.—Section 1240B(d)(3)(F) of the Food Security Act of 1985 (16 U.S.C. 3839aa–2(d)(3)(F)) is amended by inserting ''and wildlife habitat connectivity'' before ''; or''.

(2) OTHER PAYMENTS.—Section 1240B(d)(6) of the Food Security Act of 1985 (16 U.S.C. 3839aa–2(d)(6)) is amended—

(A) by striking ''A producer shall'' and inserting the following:

''(A) PAYMENTS UNDER THIS SUBTITLE.—Except as provided in paragraph (9), a producer shall''; and

(B) by adding at the end the following:

''(B) CONSERVATION LOAN AND LOAN GUARANTEE PROGRAM PAYMENTS.—

''(i) IN GENERAL.—A producer receiving payments for practices on eligible land under the program may also receive a loan or loan guarantee under section 304 of the Consolidated Farm and Rural Development Act to cover costs for the same practices on the same land.

''(ii) NOTICE TO PRODUCER.—The Secretary shall inform a producer participating in the program in writing that they may apply to receive a loan or loan guarantee under section 304 of the Consolidated Farm and Rural Development Act as it relates to costs of implementing practices under this program.''.

(3) INCREASED PAYMENTS FOR HIGH-PRIORITY PRACTICES.—Section 1240B(d)(7) of the Food Security Act of 1985 (16 U.S.C. 3839aa–2(d)(7)) is amended—

(A) in the paragraph heading, by inserting ''STATE-DETERMINED'' before ''HIGH-PRIORITY''; and

(B) in subparagraph (A)—

(i) in clause (iii), by striking ''or'' at the end;

(ii) in clause (iv), by striking the period at the end and inserting a semicolon; and

(iii) by adding at the end the following:

''(v) addresses the conservation and restoration of wildlife habitat, including wildlife habitat connectivity and wildlife migration corridors; or

''(vi) increases carbon sequestration or reduces greenhouse gas emissions, including emissions of methane and nitrous oxide.''.

(4) INCREASED PAYMENTS FOR PRECISION AGRICULTURE.—Section 1240B(d) of the Food Security Act of 1985 (16 U.S.C. 3839aa–2(d)) is amended by adding at the end the following:

''(8) INCREASED PAYMENTS FOR PRECISION AGRICULTURE PRACTICES.—Notwithstanding paragraph (2), the Secretary may increase the amount that would otherwise be provided for a practice under this subsection to not more than 90 percent of the costs associated with adopting precision agriculture practices and acquiring precision agriculture technology for the purpose of implementing conservation practices.''.

(5) COST-SHARE PAYMENTS FOR GRASSLAND.—Section 1240B(d) of the Food Security Act of 1985 (16 U.S.C. 3839aa–2(d)) is further amended by adding at the end the following:

''(9) COST-SHARE PAYMENTS FOR GRASSLAND ENROLLED IN THE CONSERVATION RESERVE PROGRAM.—

''(A) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary may provide payments under the program for costs associated with planning, design, materials, equipment, installation, labor, management, maintenance, or training, for the purpose of a wildlife corridor, with respect to eligible land that is—

''(i) enrolled in the conservation reserve program under section 1231(d)(2)(A); and

''(ii) of ecological significance, as described in section 1231(d)(2)(B)(iii).

''(B) LIMITATION.—A producer shall not be eligible for payments under subparagraph (A) for a practice if the producer receives payments or other benefits for the same practice on the same land under this title.''.

(b) ALLOCATION OF FUNDING.—Section 1240B(f)(1) of the Food Security Act of 1985 (16 U.S.C. 3839aa–2(f)(1)) is amended by striking ''2023'' and inserting ''2031''.

(c) WATER CONSERVATION OR IRRIGATION EFFICIENCY PRACTICE.—Section 1240B(h)(1) of the Food Security Act of 1985 (16 U.S.C. 3839aa–2(h)(1)) is amended—

(1) in subparagraph (B), by striking ''; or'' and inserting a semicolon;

(2) in subparagraph (C), by striking the period and inserting ''; or''; and

(3) by adding at the end the following:

''(D) the adoption of precision agriculture practices or the acquisition of precision agriculture technology to achieve water conservation and energy efficiency.''.

(d) PAYMENTS FOR CONSERVATION PRACTICE RELATED TO ORGANIC PRODUCTION.—Section 1240B(i)(3)(A)(ii) of the Food Security Act of 1985 (16 U.S.C. 3839aa–2(i)(3)(A)(ii)) is amended by striking ''2019 through 2023, $140,000'' and inserting ''2027 through 2031, $200,000''.

(e) CONSERVATION INCENTIVE CONTRACTS.—Section 1240B(j)(2)(A)(i) of the Food Security Act of 1985 (16 U.S.C. 3839aa–2(j)(2)(A)(i)) is amended by inserting ''(which may include the adoption of precision agriculture practices and the acquisition of precision agriculture technology)'' after ''incentive practices''.

(f) SOUTHERN BORDER INITIATIVE.—Section 1240B of the Food Security Act of 1985 (16 U.S.C. 3839aa–2) is amended by adding at the end the following:

''(k) SOUTHERN BORDER INITIATIVE.—

''(1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall provide payments under the program to producers to implement conservation practices on covered lands of such producers that address and repair covered damage that may contribute to a natural resource concern or problem.

''(2) CONTRACT TERM.—In the case of a contract under the program entered into for the implementation of practices described in paragraph (1), such contract shall have a term of 1 year.

''(3) DEFINITIONS.—In this subsection:

''(A) COVERED DAMAGE.—The term 'covered damage' means damage to agricultural land or farming infrastructure.

''(B) COVERED LAND.—The term 'covered land' means eligible land in a county at or near the southern border of the United States, as determined by the Secretary.''.

SEC. 2203. LIMITATION ON PAYMENTS.

Section 1240G of the Food Security Act of 1985 (16 U.S.C. 3839aa–7) is amended by striking ''2019 through 2023'' and inserting ''2027 through 2031''.

SEC. 2204. CONSERVATION INNOVATION GRANTS AND PAYMENTS.

(a) COMPETITIVE GRANTS FOR INNOVATIVE CONSERVATION APPROACHES.—Section 1240H(a) of the Food Security Act of 1985 (16 U.S.C. 3839aa–8(a)) is amended—

(1) by amending paragraph (1) to read as follows:

''(1) GRANTS.—Out of the funds made available to carry out this subchapter, the Secretary may award competitive grants that are intended to stimulate development and evaluation of new and innovative approaches to leveraging the Federal investment in environmental enhancement and protection, in conjunction with agricultural production or forest resource management, through the program, including grants for the development and evaluation of new and innovative technologies that may be incorporated into conservation practice standards.''; and

(2) in paragraph (2)(H), by inserting before the period ''(including precision agriculture practices and precision agriculture technologies)''.

(b) ON-FARM CONSERVATION INNOVATION TRIALS.—Section 1240H(c)(1)(B)(i) of the Food Security Act of 1985 (16 U.S.C. 3839aa–8(c)(1)(B)(i)) is amended—

(1) in subclause (VI), by striking ''and'' at the end; and

(2) by inserting after subclause (VII) the following:

''(VIII) perennial production systems, including agroforestry and perennial forages and grain crops; and''.

(c) REPORTING AND DATABASE.—Section 1240H(d)(2)(A) of the Food Security Act of 1985 (16 U.S.C. 3839aa–8(d)(2)(A)) is amended—

(1) in clause (i)—

(A) by inserting '', including both management and structural conservation practices,'' after ''conservation practices''; and

(B) by striking ''and'' at the end;

(2) by redesignating clause (ii) as clause (iii);

(3) by inserting after clause (i) the following:

''(ii) data that may be used to evaluate new and emerging technologies and recommendations for State and regional applications of such new and emerging technologies; and''; and

(4) in clause (iii), as so redesignated, by inserting ''for consideration under the streamlined process developed under section 1242(h)(3)'' before the period at the end.

Subtitle D—Conservation Stewardship Program

SEC. 2301. CONSERVATION STEWARDSHIP PROGRAM.

Section 1240J(b) of the Food Security Act of 1985 (16 U.S.C. 3839aa–22(b)) is amended—

(1) in paragraph (1), in the matter preceding subparagraph (A), by inserting ''and except as provided in paragraph (3),'' after ''paragraph (2),''; and

(2) by adding at the end the following:

''(3) COST-SHARE PAYMENTS FOR GRASSLAND ENROLLED IN THE CONSERVATION RESERVE PROGRAM.—

''(A) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary may provide payments under the program for costs associated with planning, design, materials, equipment, installation, labor, management, maintenance, or training, for the purpose of a wildlife corridor, with respect to eligible land that is—

''(i) enrolled in the conservation reserve program under section 1231(d)(2)(A); and

''(ii) of ecological significance, as described in section 1231(d)(2)(B)(iii).

''(B) LIMITATION.—A producer shall not be eligible for payments under subparagraph (A) for a conservation activity if the producer receives payments or other benefits for the same conservation activity on the same land under this title.

''(C) EMERGENCY GRAZING AND HAYING ACCESS PRESERVED.—No priority resource concern, practice, or incentive pertaining to restoration and enhancement of wildlife habitat connectivity and wildlife migration corridors on the acres described above will prevent or alter emergency grazing and haying access for grassland acres enrolled in the conservation reserve program.''.

SEC. 2302. DUTIES OF THE SECRETARY.

(a) CONSERVATION STEWARDSHIP PAYMENTS.—Section 1240L(c) of the Food Security Act of 1985 (16 U.S.C. 3839aa–24(c)) is amended—

(1) in paragraph (2)(A), by inserting before the period ''(including increased costs associated with planning and adopting precision agriculture conservation activities and acquiring precision agriculture technology)''; and

(2) by adding at the end the following:

''(6) MINIMUM PAYMENT.—The amount of an annual payment under the program shall be not less than $4,000.''.

(b) SUPPLEMENTAL PAYMENTS FOR RESOURCE-CONSERVING CROP ROTATIONS AND ADVANCED GRAZING MANAGEMENT.—Section 1240L(d) of the Food Security Act of 1985 (16 U.S.C. 3839aa–24(d)) is amended—

(1) in the subsection heading, by striking ''AND ADVANCED GRAZING MANAGEMENT'' and inserting '', ADVANCED GRAZING MANAGEMENT, AND PRECISION AGRICULTURE'';

(2) in paragraph (2)—

(A) in subparagraph (A), by striking ''; or'' and inserting a semicolon;

(B) in subparagraph (B), by striking the period at the end and inserting ''; or''; and

(C) by adding at the end the following:

''(C) precision agriculture conservation activities.''; and

(3) in paragraph (3), by striking ''or advanced grazing management'' and inserting '', advanced grazing management, or precision agriculture conservation activities''.

(c) PAYMENT LIMITATIONS.—Section 1240L(f) of the Food Security Act of 1985 (16 U.S.C. 3839aa–24(f)) is amended by striking ''2019 through 2023'' and inserting ''2027 through 2031''.

SEC. 2303. STATE ASSISTANCE FOR SOIL HEALTH.

Subchapter B of chapter 4 of subtitle D of title XII of the Food Security Act of 1985 (16 U.S.C. 3839aa–21 et seq.) is amended by adding at the end the following:

''SEC. 1240L–2. STATE ASSISTANCE FOR SOIL HEALTH.

''(a) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

''(1) ELIGIBLE INDIAN TRIBE.—The term 'eligible Indian Tribe' means an Indian Tribe that is—

''(A) implementing a soil health program for the area over which the Indian Tribe has jurisdiction; and

''(B) meeting or exceeding performance measures established by the Indian Tribe for the soil health program.

''(2) ELIGIBLE STATE.—The term 'eligible State' means a State that is—

''(A) implementing a soil health program for the State; and

''(B) meeting or exceeding performance measures established by the State for the soil health program.

''(3) SOIL HEALTH PROGRAM.—The term 'soil health program' means a program to improve soil health on agricultural land that—

''(A) is broadly consistent with the soil health principles of the Natural Resources Conservation Service, as determined by the Secretary; and

''(B) may include—

''(i) technical assistance;

''(ii) financial assistance;

''(iii) on-farm research and demonstration;

''(iv) education, outreach, and training;

''(v) monitoring and evaluation; or

''(vi) such other components as the Secretary determines appropriate.

''(b) AVAILABILITY AND PURPOSE OF GRANTS.—For fiscal years 2027 through 2031, the Secretary shall make grants to eligible States and eligible Indian Tribes for the purpose of improving soil health on agricultural lands through the implementation of State and Tribal soil health programs.

''(c) APPLICATIONS.—

''(1) IN GENERAL.—To receive a grant under this section, an eligible State or eligible Indian Tribe shall submit to the Secretary an application at such time, in such a manner, and containing such information as the Secretary shall require, which shall include—

''(A) a description of performance measures to be used to evaluate the State or Tribal soil health program and the results of any activities carried out using grant funds received under this section; and

''(B) an assurance that grant funds received under this section will supplement the expenditure of State or Tribal funds in support of soil health, rather than replace such funds.

''(2) TRIBAL OPTION.—An Indian Tribe shall have the option, at the sole discretion of the Indian Tribe, to be incorporated into the application of an eligible State.

''(d) GRANTS.—

''(1) AMOUNT.—The amount of a grant to an eligible State or eligible Indian Tribe under this section for a fiscal year may not exceed the lower of—

''(A) $5,000,000; or

''(B) as applicable—

''(i) 50 percent of the cost of implementing the State soil health program in the fiscal year; or

''(ii) 75 percent of the cost of implementing the Tribal soil health program in the fiscal year.

''(2) TERM.—A grant under this section shall be for 1 year, and may be renewed annually.

''(e) AUDITS AND REVIEWS.—An eligible State or eligible Indian Tribe receiving a grant under this section shall submit to the Secretary—

''(1) for each year for which the State or Indian Tribe receives such a grant, the results of an audit of the expenditures of the grant funds; and

''(2) at such intervals as the Secretary shall establish, a review and evaluation of the State or Tribal soil health program.

''(f) EFFECT OF NONCOMPLIANCE.—If the Secretary, after reasonable notice to an eligible State or eligible Indian Tribe receiving a grant under this section, finds that the State or Indian Tribe has failed to comply with the terms of the grant, the Secretary may disqualify, for 1 or more years, the State or Indian Tribe from receipt of future grants under this section.

''(g) FUNDING.—Of the funds made available to carry out this subchapter, $100,000,000 shall be available in each of fiscal years 2027 through 2031 to carry out this section.

''(h) ADMINISTRATION.—

''(1) DEPARTMENT.—The Secretary may not use more than 3 percent of the funds made available to carry out this section for a fiscal year for administrative expenses.

''(2) STATES OR INDIAN TRIBES.—An eligible State or eligible Indian Tribe receiving a grant under this section may not use more than 7 percent of the granted funds for a fiscal year for administrative expenses.''.

Subtitle E—Other Conservation Programs

SEC. 2401. CONSERVATION OF PRIVATE GRAZING LAND.

Section 1240M(e) of the Food Security Act of 1985 (16 U.S.C. 3839bb) is amended by striking ''2023'' and inserting ''2031''.

SEC. 2402. FERAL SWINE ERADICATION AND CONTROL PROGRAM.

(a) FERAL SWINE ERADICATION AND CONTROL PROGRAM.—Chapter 5 of subtitle D of title XII of the Food Security Act of 1985 (16 U.S.C. 3839bb et seq.) is amended by inserting after section 1240M the following:

''SEC. 1240N. FERAL SWINE ERADICATION AND CONTROL PROGRAM.

''(a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall establish a feral swine eradication and control program (in this section referred to as the 'program') to respond to the threat feral swine pose to agriculture, native ecosystems, and human and animal health.

''(b) DUTIES OF THE SECRETARY.—In carrying out the program, the Secretary shall—

''(1) study and assess the nature and extent of damage to the threatened areas caused by feral swine;

''(2) develop methods to eradicate or control feral swine in the threatened areas;

''(3) develop methods to restore damage caused by feral swine; and

''(4) provide financial assistance to agricultural producers in threatened areas.

''(c) ASSISTANCE.—The Secretary may provide financial assistance to agricultural producers under the program to implement methods to—

''(1) eradicate or control feral swine in the threatened areas; and

''(2) restore damage caused by feral swine.

''(d) COORDINATION.—The Secretary shall ensure that the Natural Resources Conservation Service and the Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service coordinate for purposes of this section through State technical committees established under section 1261(a).

''(e) COST SHARING.—

''(1) FEDERAL SHARE.—The Federal share of the costs of activities under the program may not exceed 75 percent of the total costs of such activities.

''(2) IN-KIND CONTRIBUTIONS.—The non-Federal share of the costs of activities under the program may be provided in the form of in-kind contributions of materials or services.

''(f) THREATENED AREA DEFINED.—In this section, the term 'threatened area' means an area of a State in which feral swine have been identified as a threat to agriculture, native ecosystems, or human and animal health, as determined by the Secretary.

''(g) FUNDING.—

''(1) MANDATORY FUNDING.—Of the funds of the Commodity Credit Corporation, the Secretary shall use to carry out this section $75,000,000 for the period of fiscal years 2019 through 2023, $15,000,000 for fiscal year 2024, and $150,000,000 for the period of fiscal years 2025 through 2031.

''(2) DISTRIBUTION OF FUNDS.—Of the funds made available under paragraph (1)—

''(A) 40 percent shall be allocated to the Natural Resources Conservation Service to carry out the program, including the provision of financial assistance to producers for on-farm trapping and technology related to capturing and confining feral swine; and

''(B) 60 percent shall be allocated to the Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service to carry out the program, including the use of established, and testing of innovative, population reduction methods.

''(3) LIMITATION ON ADMINISTRATIVE EXPENSES.—Not more than 10 percent of funds made available under this section may be used for administrative expenses of the program.

''(h) COORDINATION AND COOPERATION WITH A LAND-GRANT COLLEGE OR UNIVERSITY.—

''(1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall direct the Natural Resources Conservation Service and the Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service to enter into a contract with 1 or more land-grant colleges or universities to assist with the program in achieving its goals.

''(2) ELIGIBLE LAND-GRANT COLLEGES AND UNIVERSITIES.—A land-grant college or university is eligible to enter into a contract under paragraph (1) if such college or university—

''(A) has developed and implemented a system of evaluating damages from feral swine and effectiveness of control efforts in response to the Agriculture Improvement Act of 2018 (Public Law 115–334);

''(B) shows evidence of a strong working relationship with Wildlife Services in the Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service; and

''(C) has maintained a State-funded, non-Federal Wildlife Services program that has an active cooperative agreement with Wildlife Services in the Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service within the structure of the Land Grant University System.

''(3) ROLE OF THE LAND-GRANT COLLEGE OR UNIVERSITY.—A land-grant college or university that enters into a contract under paragraph (1) shall, as a condition on entering into such a contract, assist the program by acting as a strategic, neutral entity that is able to advance the program beyond the expertise of the Department to achieve the stated goals of the program by—

''(A) identifying and carrying out research on novel methods of feral swine control and land remediation;

''(B) assisting in establishing strategic areas for feral swine control based on data collected in response to the Agriculture Improvement Act of 2018;

''(C) coordinating and collaborating between field staff, programmatic staff, and research staff within the Natural Resources Conservation Service and the Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service; and

''(D) establishing and consulting with the Department on research goals and priorities in the program.

''(4) FUNDING.—Funding made available under (g)(2) shall be available to fund activities under this subsection, as determined by the Secretary.

''(5) LAND-GRANT COLLEGE OR UNIVERSITY DEFINED.—In this subsection, the term 'land-grant college or university' has the meaning given the term 'land-grant colleges and universities' in section 1404 of the National Agricultural Research, Extension, and Teaching Policy Act of 1977 (7 U.S.C. 3103).''.

(b) REPEAL.—Section 2408 of the Agriculture Improvement Act of 2018 (7 U.S.C. 8351 note) is repealed.

(c) CLERICAL AMENDMENT.—The table of contents in section 1(b) of the Agriculture Improvement Act of 2018 is amended by striking the item relating to section 2408.

SEC. 2403. WATERSHED PROTECTION AND FLOOD PREVENTION ACT.

(a) ASSISTANCE TO LOCAL ORGANIZATIONS.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Section 3(a) of the Watershed Protection and Flood Prevention Act (16 U.S.C. 1003(a)) is amended by redesignating paragraph (6) as paragraph (7) and inserting after paragraph (5) the following:

''(6) to provide technical and financial assistance for remedial actions in accordance with subsection (c); and''.

(2) ASSISTANCE FOR REMEDIAL ACTIONS; STREAMLINING.—Section 3 of the Watershed Protection and Flood Prevention Act (16 U.S.C. 1003) is amended by adding at the end the following:

''(c) ASSISTANCE FOR REMEDIAL ACTIONS.—

''(1) IN GENERAL.—In carrying out subsection (a)(6), the Secretary may provide technical and financial assistance to local organizations for remedial actions for a completed work of improvement installed under this Act with respect to which—

''(A) deterioration of a structural component of the work of improvement is occurring at an abnormal rate, including situations in which such deterioration is due to a design deficiency or to site conditions that were unknown at the time of installation of the work of improvement;

''(B) the planned service life of the work of improvement exceeds the service life of a structural component of such work of improvement; or

''(C) structural damage to such work of improvement, or to a structural component of such work of improvement, was caused by a storm event that exceeded the maximum storm event for which the work of improvement was designed.

''(2) COST SHARE.—Financial assistance provided under this subsection shall be provided in accordance with the cost-share rate established in the agreement with the local organization for the work of improvement.

''(d) STREAMLINING.—The Secretary shall, on an ongoing basis—

''(1) engage with relevant Federal agencies to reduce or eliminate regulatory, policy, or procedural barriers to timely provision of assistance under this Act;

''(2) provide for streamlined procedures relating to coordination with other Federal or State agencies for required reviews and permitting of projects pursuant to this Act, and ensure such procedures are commensurate with the size and scale of the projects;

''(3) conduct an assessment of internal Department of Agriculture planning, technical support, and approvals to determine best practices to be used for the purpose of maximizing the decisionmaking authority of State conservationists with respect to approvals required for projects under this Act; and

''(4) prioritize the use of agreements and contracting authorities under this Act to provide funding to local organizations for the planning, design, and construction of works of improvement.''.

(b) DATA.—Section 13 of the Watershed Protection and Flood Prevention Act (16 U.S.C. 1010) is amended to read as follows:

''SEC. 13. DATA.

''(a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall collect and maintain, and make publicly available—

''(1) data, on a national and State-by-State basis, concerning—

''(A) expenditures for the individual flood control and conservation measures for which assistance is provided under this Act; and

''(B) the expected flood control or environmental (including soil erosion) benefits that will result from the implementation of such measures; and

''(2) data, with respect to each project for which assistance is provided under this Act, concerning—

''(A) total allocated and expended funds for planning, design, construction, remedial actions, and rehabilitation; and

''(B) contracts and agreements entered into by the Secretary with a local organization to provide services, including—

''(i) the services provided through such contracts and agreements;

''(ii) the total funds allocated to such contracts and agreements; and

''(iii) any modifications or adjustments made to such contracts and agreements.

''(b) PROHIBITION.—The Secretary may not make publicly available under this section an agreement entered into with an individual landowner, operator, or occupier under this Act, or any disaggregated information that identifies such individual landowner, operator, or occupier.''.

(c) REHABILITATION OF STRUCTURAL MEASURES NEAR, AT, OR PAST THEIR EVALUATED LIFE EXPECTANCY.—

(1) COST SHARE ASSISTANCE FOR REHABILITATION.—Section 14(b) of the Watershed Protection and Flood Prevention Act (16 U.S.C. 1012(b)) is amended—

(A) in paragraph (2), by striking ''65 percent'' and inserting ''90 percent''; and

(B) by adding at the end the following:

''(4) RELATION TO REQUIREMENTS OF AUTHORIZED PROJECTS.—A rehabilitation project for which assistance is provided under this section shall not be subject to—

''(A) the requirement under section 2 that a project contain benefits directly related to agriculture, including rural communities, that account for at least 20 percent of the total benefits of the project; or

''(B) section 4(5).''.

(2) FUNDING.—Section 14(h)(2)(E) of the Watershed Protection and Flood Prevention Act (16 U.S.C. 1012(h)(2)(E)) is amended by striking ''2023'' and inserting ''2031''.

SEC. 2404. EMERGENCY CONSERVATION PROGRAM.

Section 401 of the Agricultural Credit Act of 1978 (16 U.S.C. 2201) is amended—

(1) in subsection (b)—

(A) in the subsection heading, by inserting ''AND OTHER EMERGENCY CONSERVATION MEASURES'' after ''FENCING'';

(B) by amending paragraph (1) to read as follows:

''(1) IN GENERAL.—With respect to a payment to an agricultural producer under subsection (a) for the repair or replacement of fencing, or for other emergency measures to rehabilitate farmland or to repair or replace a farmland or conservation structure, the Secretary shall give the agricultural producer the option of receiving—

''(A) before carrying out such replacement or rehabilitation, not more than 75 percent of the payment for such replacement or rehabilitation, which shall be based on the fair market value of the replacement or rehabilitation, as determined by the Secretary; and

''(B) before carrying out such repair, not more than 50 percent of the payment for such repair, which shall be based on the fair market value of the repair, as determined by the Secretary.''; and

(C) by adding at the end the following:

''(3) NEW OR EMERGING TECHNOLOGIES.—Repair or replacement of fencing under this section may include updating of fencing to new or emerging technology if such updating does not increase the cost of the repair or replacement.''; and

(2) by adding at the end the following:

''(c) WILDFIRES.—A wildfire that causes damage with respect to which a payment may be made under subsection (a) includes any wildfire that is not caused naturally, including a wildfire that is caused by the Federal Government, if the damage is caused by the spread of the fire due to natural causes.''.

SEC. 2405. EMERGENCY WATERSHED PROGRAM.

(a) FLOODPLAIN EASEMENTS.—Section 403(b) of the Agricultural Credit Act of 1978 (16 U.S.C. 2203(b)) is amended—

(1) by redesignating paragraphs (1) and (2) as paragraphs (5) and (6), respectively;

(2) by inserting before paragraph (5), as so redesignated, the following:

''(1) EASEMENT RESTORATION.—The Secretary is authorized to restore appropriate vegetative cover, hydrological functions, and other functions and values of the land subject to a floodplain easement acquired under subsection (a).

''(2) EASEMENT MAINTENANCE.—The Secretary is authorized to monitor, maintain, and enhance appropriate vegetative cover, hydrological restoration measures, and other restoration measures on land subject to a floodplain easement acquired under subsection (a).

''(3) CONTRACTS AND AGREEMENTS.—In carrying out paragraphs (1) and (2), the Secretary may—

''(A) enter into contracts with landowners; and

''(B) enter into agreements with States, nongovernmental organizations, and Indian Tribes.

''(4) COMPATIBLE USE AUTHORITY.—The Secretary may authorize a landowner to carry out activities on land subject to a floodplain easement acquired under subsection (a) that are—

''(A) compatible uses necessary to carry out paragraph (1) or (2); or

''(B) compatible economic uses (including such activities as hunting and fishing, managed timber harvest, water management, or periodic haying or grazing) if such uses are consistent with the long-term protection of the floodplain functions and values for which the easement was acquired.''; and

(3) in paragraph (6), as so redesignated, by striking ''paragraph (1)'' and inserting ''paragraph (5)'' each place it appears.

(b) LEVEL OF RESTORATION.—Section 403 of the Agricultural Credit Act of 1978 (16 U.S.C. 2203) is amended by adding at the end the following:

''(c) LEVEL OF RESTORATION.—In carrying out this section, the Secretary may undertake measures that increase the level of protection above that which would be necessary to address the immediate impairment of the watershed if the Secretary determines that such restoration is in the best interest of the long-term health of the watershed and the long-term protection of the watershed from repetitive impairments.''.

SEC. 2406. NATIONAL AGRICULTURE FLOOD VULNERABILITY STUDY.

Not later than 2 years after the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary shall submit to the Committee on Agriculture of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry of the Senate a national agriculture flood vulnerability report containing the results of a Conservation Effects Assessment Project assessment of flood risk on agricultural lands, including—

(1) an analysis of economic losses of crops and livestock resulting from flooding under different recurrence scenarios;

(2) an analysis of the downstream effects of mitigation activities carried out as part of a watershed management approach;

(3) an analysis of available Federal and State data relating to flood risk, as applicable to agricultural land, including data relating to riverine flooding, coastal flooding, storm surge, extreme precipitation, and flash flooding; and

(4) a description of ongoing producer-level conservation practices and broader government initiatives to manage the effects of flooding and flood risk within and across watersheds, and recommendations for additional practices and initiatives to further address such effects and risk.

SEC. 2407. STUDY ON ENVIRONMENTAL BENEFITS OF WINTER WHEAT AS A COVER CROP.

The Secretary, acting through the Chief of the Natural Resources Conservation Service, shall submit to the Committee on Agriculture of the House of Representatives the results of a study on the environmental benefits of using winter wheat as a cover crop, including use as a cover crop that is removed during harvest.

Subtitle F—Funding and Administration

SEC. 2501. COMMODITY CREDIT CORPORATION.

(a) ANNUAL FUNDING.—Section 1241(a) of the Food Security Act of 1985 (16 U.S.C. 3841(a)) is amended—

(1) in paragraph (1)—

(A) in subparagraph (A), by striking ''2019 through 2023'' and inserting ''2027 through 2031''; and

(B) in subparagraph (B), by striking ''2019 through 2023'' and inserting ''2027 through 2031'';

(2) in paragraph (3)(A), by striking clauses (i) through (vi) and inserting the following:

''(i) $2,530,000,000 for fiscal year 2027;

''(ii) $2,730,000,000 for fiscal year 2028;

''(iii) $3,130,000,000 for fiscal year 2029;

''(iv) $3,175,000,000 for fiscal year 2030; and

''(v) $3,255,000,000 for fiscal year 2031; and''; and

(3) by adding at the end the following:

''(5) The forest conservation easement program under subtitle I, using, to the maximum extent practicable—

''(A) $25,000,000 for fiscal year 2027;

''(B) $50,000,000 for fiscal year 2028;

''(C) $50,000,000 for fiscal year 2029;

''(D) $50,000,000 for fiscal year 2030; and

''(E) $65,000,000 for fiscal year 2031.

''(6) The regional conservation partnership program under subtitle J, to the maximum extent practicable—

''(A) $450,000,000 for fiscal year 2027;

''(B) $450,000,000 for fiscal year 2028;

''(C) $450,000,000 for fiscal year 2029;

''(D) $450,000,000 for fiscal year 2030; and

''(E) $450,000,000 for fiscal year 2031.''.

(b) REGIONAL EQUITY.—Section 1241(e)(1) of the Food Security Act of 1985 (16 U.S.C. 3841(e)(1)) is amended by striking ''subtitle I'' and inserting ''subtitle J''.

(c) ACCEPTANCE AND USE OF CONTRIBUTIONS FOR PUBLIC-PRIVATE PARTNERSHIPS.—Section 1241(f) of the Food Security Act of 1985 (16 U.S.C. 3841(f)) is amended—

(1) in paragraph (6)(A)(ii), by inserting ''of'' before ''any terms''; and

(2) in paragraph (9)—

(A) by amending subparagraph (A) to read as follows:

''(A) subtitle D (except for subchapter B of chapter 1 of such subtitle), subtitle H, subtitle I, or subtitle J;'';

(B) in subparagraph (B), by striking the semicolon and inserting ''; or'';

(C) by striking subparagraph (C); and

(D) by redesignating subparagraph (D) as subparagraph (C).

(d) REPORT ON PROGRAM ENROLLMENTS AND ASSISTANCE.—Section 1241(i) of the Food Security Act of 1985 (16 U.S.C. 3841(i)) is amended—

(1) in the matter preceding paragraph (1), by striking ''2019 through 2023'' and inserting ''2027 through 2031''; and

(2) in paragraph (2)(E), by striking ''section 1265B(b)(2)(B)(ii)'' and inserting ''section 1265B(b)(2)(A)(iii)''.

SEC. 2502. DELIVERY OF TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE.

(a) DEFINITIONS.—Section 1242(a) of the Food Security Act of 1985 (16 U.S.C. 3842(a)) is amended—

(1) by redesignating paragraph (2) as paragraph (3); and

(2) by inserting after paragraph (1) the following:

''(2) NON-FEDERAL CERTIFYING ENTITY.—The term 'non-Federal certifying entity' means a non-Federal entity, an Indian Tribe, or a State agency described in subparagraph (B), (C), or (D) of subsection (e)(4) that has entered into an agreement under subsection (e)(5)(D).''.

(b) PURPOSE OF TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE.—Section 1242(b) of the Food Security Act of 1985 (16 U.S.C. 3842(b)) is amended by inserting ''timely,'' after ''consistent,''.

(c) NON-FEDERAL ASSISTANCE.—Section 1242(d) of the Food Security Act of 1985 (16 U.S.C. 3842(d)) is amended by inserting ''(including private sector entities)'' after ''Department or non-Federal entities''.

(d) CERTIFICATION OF THIRD-PARTY PROVIDERS.—Section 1242(e) of the Food Security Act of 1985 (16 U.S.C. 3842(e)) is amended—

(1) in paragraph (2), by striking ''Food, Conservation, and Energy Act of 2008'' and inserting ''Farm, Food, and National Security Act of 2026'';

(2) by amending paragraph (3)(A) to read as follows:

''(A) ensure that persons (including commercial entities, nonprofit entities, State or local governments or agencies, and other Federal agencies) with expertise in the technical aspects of conservation planning, watershed planning, environmental engineering, conservation practice design, implementation, and evaluation, and any other technical skills determined appropriate by the Secretary, are eligible to become approved providers of the technical assistance;''; and

(3) by striking paragraphs (4) and (5) and inserting the following:

''(4) CERTIFICATION.—A third-party provider may be certified to provide technical assistance under this section only—

''(A) through a certification process administered by the Secretary, acting through the Chief of the Natural Resources Conservation Service;

''(B) by a non-Federal entity (other than a State agency or an Indian Tribe) approved by the Secretary under paragraph (5) to certify a third-party provider;

''(C) by an Indian Tribe approved by the Secretary under paragraph (5) to certify a third-party provider; or

''(D) by a State agency that—

''(i) has statutory authority to certify, administer, or license professionals in one or more fields of natural resources, agriculture, or engineering; and

''(ii) is approved by the Secretary under paragraph (5) to certify a third-party provider.

''(5) NON-FEDERAL CERTIFYING ENTITY.—

''(A) ESTABLISHMENT OF APPROVAL PROCESS.—Not later than 180 days after the date of enactment of the Farm, Food, and National Security Act of 2026, the Secretary shall establish a process to approve a non-Federal entity (including a State agency and an Indian Tribe), to become a non-Federal certifying entity.

''(B) APPROVAL.—Not later than 60 days after the date on which the Secretary receives an application by a non-Federal entity to certify third-party providers under this section, the Secretary shall make a decision on whether to approve such application.

''(C) ELIGIBILITY.—In carrying out subparagraph (B), the Secretary shall take into consideration—

''(i) the ability of the applicable non-Federal entity to assess the qualifications of a third-party provider and to certify third-party providers at scale;

''(ii) the experience of the applicable non-Federal entity in working with third-party providers and eligible participants;

''(iii) the expertise of the applicable non-Federal entity in the technical skills described in paragraph (3)(A); and

''(iv) such other qualifications as the Secretary determines to be appropriate.

''(D) AGREEMENT.—Upon approving an application under this paragraph, the Secretary shall enter into an agreement with the non-Federal entity to become a non-Federal certifying entity.

''(E) DUTIES OF NON-FEDERAL CERTIFYING ENTITIES.—In certifying third-party providers under this section, a non-Federal certifying entity shall—

''(i) assess the ability of a third-party provider to appropriately provide technical assistance to

eligible participants for specified practices and conservation activities;

''(ii) provide training to ensure that a third-party provider is qualified to provide technical assistance upon certification by the non-Federal certifying entity; and

''(iii) submit to the Secretary, in a timely manner, information on—

''(I) each third-party provider certified by the non-Federal certifying entity, for inclusion on the registry of certified third-party providers maintained by the Secretary; and

''(II) each third-party provider the certification of which is withdrawn by the non-Federal certifying entity.

''(6) TIMELY DECISIONS.—

''(A) CERTIFICATION BY SECRETARY.—Not later than 30 days after the date on which the Secretary receives an application from a third-party provider to be certified under the process described in paragraph (4)(A) for particular practices and conservation activities, the Secretary shall—

''(i) make a final decision with respect to such application; and

''(ii) if the final decision is to certify the third-party provider, include the name of the certified third-party provider on the registry of certified third-party providers maintained by the Secretary.

''(B) CERTIFICATION BY NON-FEDERAL CERTIFYING ENTITY.—Not later than 10 days after the date on which the Secretary receives a notification from a non-Federal certifying entity that a third-party provider was certified, pursuant to subparagraph (B), (C), or (D) of paragraph (4), for particular practices and conservation activities, the Secretary shall include the name of the certified third-party provider on the registry of certified third-party providers maintained by the Secretary.

''(7) STREAMLINED CERTIFICATION.—Not later than 180 days after the date of enactment of the Farm, Food, and National Security Act of 2026, the Secretary shall establish a streamlined process for the Secretary and non-Federal certifying entities to use to certify under this section a third-party provider that has a relevant professional certification for particular practices and conservation activities, as determined by the Secretary.''.

(e) ADMINISTRATION.—Section 1242(f) of the Food Security Act of 1985 (16 U.S.C. 3842(f)) is amended—

(1) in paragraph (1), by striking ''each of the programs specified in section 1241'' and inserting ''conservation programs administered by the Secretary'';

(2) in paragraph (2), in the matter preceding subparagraph (A), by inserting ''or a non-Federal certifying entity'' before ''under this section'';

(3) by amending paragraph (3) to read as follows:

''(3) UPDATE OF CERTIFICATION PROCESS BY THE SECRETARY.—Not later than 1 year after the date of enactment of the Farm, Food, and National Security Act of 2026, and periodically thereafter, the Secretary shall—

''(A) review the certification processes under paragraphs (4)(A) and (7) of subsection (e);

''(B) make any adjustments considered necessary by the Secretary to—

''(i) increase the number of third-party providers delivering technical assistance; and

''(ii) improve the quality of technical assistance delivered by third-party providers;

''(C) conduct outreach to, and receive input on the barriers for third-party providers to become certified under this section from—

''(i) third-party providers that are, or have been, certified under this section; and

''(ii) other interested parties associated with eligible participants; and

''(D) set a target rate of utilization of third-party providers to deliver technical assistance across all conservation programs administered by the Secretary.'';

(4) in paragraph (4)(A)(i), by inserting ''(including maintenance)'' after ''implementation'';

(5) by striking paragraph (5) and inserting the following:

''(5) PAYMENT AMOUNT.—

''(A) IN GENERAL.—For payments provided by the Secretary under paragraph (2) or (3) of subsection (c), the Secretary shall determine payment amounts for technical assistance provided by third-party providers, which shall be at rates equivalent to, but that do not exceed, the cost to the Secretary of providing technical assistance directly to an eligible participant.

''(B) CONSIDERATIONS.—In determining payment amounts under subparagraph (A), the Secretary shall consider specialized equipment, frequency of site visits, training, travel and transportation, and such other factors as the Secretary determines to be appropriate.

''(C) EXCLUSION.—A payment provided under subsection (c)(3) shall be excluded from calculations relating to any cost-sharing requirements of the applicable conservation program under which the payment was provided.

''(6) TRANSPARENCY.—Not later than 1 year after the date of enactment of the Farm, Food, and National Security Act of 2026, and periodically thereafter, the Secretary shall make publicly available information on—

''(A) funds obligated to third-party providers through—

''(i) contracts entered into between eligible participants and individual third-party providers; and

''(ii) agreements with public and private sector entities to secure third-party technical assistance;

''(B) the certification process under this section, including—

''(i) the number of third-party providers certified by the Secretary;

''(ii) the number of non-Federal certifying entities approved by the Secretary;

''(iii) the number of third-party providers certified by non-Federal certifying entities (other than State agencies and Indian Tribes);

''(iv) the number of third-party providers certified by Indian Tribes;

''(v) the number of third-party providers certified by State agencies; and

''(vi) the number of third-party providers certified through the streamlined certification process described in subsection (e)(7);

''(C) how third-party providers contribute to the quality and effectiveness of conservation practices implemented and adopted through conservation programs administered by the Secretary, and what improvements are needed; and

''(D) the target rate of utilization of third-party providers set under paragraph (3)(D) and how actual rate of utilization compares to the target rate.''; and

(6) by adding at the end the following:

''(7) SOIL HEALTH PLANNING.—The Secretary shall emphasize the use of third-party providers in providing technical assistance for soil health planning, including planning related to the use of cover crops, precision agriculture practices, comprehensive nutrient management planning, and other innovative plans.''.

(f) REVIEW OF CONSERVATION PRACTICE STANDARDS.—Section 1242(h) of the Food Security Act of 1985 (16 U.S.C. 3842(h)) is amended—

(1) in the subsection heading, by striking ''REVIEW'' and inserting ''ESTABLISHMENT AND REVIEW'';

(2) in paragraph (1)—

(A) by amending subparagraph (A) to read as follows:

''(A) not later than 1 year after the date of enactment of the Farm, Food, and National Security Act of 2026, and at least every 5 years thereafter, complete a review of each conservation practice standard, including engineering design specifications;'';

(B) in subparagraph (C), by striking ''and'' at the end;

(C) by amending subparagraph (D) to read as follows:

''(D) evaluate opportunities to increase flexibility in conservation practice standards in a manner that integrates new and innovative technologies that provide equivalent or improved natural resource benefits compared to the standards in effect at the time of the review;''; and

(D) by adding at the end the following:

''(E) provide a process for public input on each conservation practice standard under such review, including a process for consideration of State and local input;

''(F) publicly post a summary of any input received under subparagraph (E) and any decisions made relating to such input; and

''(G) revise any conservation practice standard based on the results of such review, as determined appropriate by the Secretary, and publish any such revised standard.'';

(3) by amending paragraph (3) to read as follows:

''(3) PROCESS FOR ESTABLISHMENT OF INTERIM AND NEW CONSERVATION PRACTICE STANDARDS.—

''(A) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 1 year after the date of enactment of the Farm, Food, and National Security Act of 2026, the Secretary shall develop a streamlined process under which the Secretary shall establish interim conservation practice standards and new conservation practice standards.

''(B) DEVELOPMENT.—In developing the streamlined process under subparagraph (A), the Secretary shall—

''(i) ensure that the public can engage with the Department of Agriculture, including by recommending interim conservation practice standards; and

''(ii) establish—

''(I) the types of data, metrics, and other relevant information that are necessary for the establishment of interim conservation practice standards and new conservation practice standards;

''(II) the process by which an interim conservation practice standard may become a new conservation practice standard; and

''(III) specific requirements for an expedited review of a new conservation practice for the purpose of establishing a new conservation practice standard for such practice.

''(C) CONSIDERATIONS.—In establishing an interim conservation practice standard or a new conservation practice standard under this subsection, the Secretary shall consider—

''(i) input from State technical committees on recommendations that identify innovations or advancements in conservation practices;

''(ii) technological advancements, including advancements from projects developed under section 1240H;

''(iii) State and local input in the form of—

''(I) recommendations for interim conservation practice standards; and

''(II) partnership-led proposals for new and innovative techniques to facilitate implementing agreements and grants under this title; and

''(iv) input from native entities in the form of information relating to native traditional ecological knowledge that can inform conservation practice standards.

''(D) INNOVATIVE TECHNOLOGY PRIORITY.—In reviewing conservation practice standards under this subsection, the Secretary shall prioritize the review of interim conservation practice standards and new conservation practice standards that integrate innovative technologies, including—

''(i) precision agriculture technologies;

''(ii) biological fertilizers, biostimulants, enhanced efficiency fertilizers, and other tools determined by the Secretary to reduce nutrient loss;

''(iii) animal feed additives;

''(iv) perennial production systems, including agroforestry and perennial forages and grain crops; and

''(v) any other innovative technology, as determined by the Secretary.

''(E) TRANSPARENCY.—The Secretary shall make available on a public website a detailed

description of the process for recommending, reviewing, and establishing interim conservation practice standards and new conservation practice standards under this paragraph.'';

(4) in paragraph (4)—

(A) in the matter preceding subparagraph (A)—

(i) by striking ''Agriculture Improvement Act of 2018'' and inserting ''Farm, Food, and National Security Act of 2026''; and

(ii) by striking ''a report on'' and inserting ''a report detailing'';

(B) in subparagraph (A), by striking ''administrative'' and inserting ''streamlined'';

(C) in subparagraph (B), by striking ''and'' at the end;

(D) in subparagraph (C), by striking the period at the end and inserting ''; and''; and

(E) by adding at the end the following:

''(D) any other information the Secretary determines useful to improve such streamlined process for reviewing and establishing conservation practice standards.''; and

(5) by adding at the end the following:

''(5) OFFICE OF CONSERVATION INNOVATION.—

''(A) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall establish within the Office of the Chief of the Natural Resources Conservation Service an Office of Conservation Innovation (referred to in this paragraph as the 'Office') which shall be under the direct supervision of the Chief.

''(B) DUTIES.—The Office shall—

''(i) provide support to the Chief in meeting the requirements of this subsection; and

''(ii) encourage innovation in conservation practices through—

''(I) revisions of existing conservation practice standards;

''(II) recommendations of interim conservation practice standards; and

''(III) recommendations of new conservation practice standards.

''(C) STAFF.—The Chief shall detail to the Office not more than 6 employees of the Department of Agriculture who are technical specialists that possess an understanding of conventional, organic, and other production techniques, representing—

''(i) agronomy and agroecology (including soil health, biological nutrient sources, and compatible cover cropping systems);

''(ii) grazing lands ecology (including rangeland, pastureland, and grazed forest land);

''(iii) animal husbandry (including animal nutrition and feed management);

''(iv) water conservation, drainage water management, and irrigation engineering technology;

''(v) agricultural engineering (including animal waste management, energy, and structural measures); and

''(vi) forest ecology and agroforestry.

''(6) FUNDING.—The Secretary shall use funding from the annual appropriations for conservation operations of the Natural Resources Conservation Service to carry out this subsection.''.

(g) DIRECT HIRE AUTHORITY.—Section 1242 of the Food Security Act of 1985 (16 U.S.C. 3842) is amended by adding at the end the following:

''(j) NRCS DIRECT HIRE AUTHORITY.—

''(1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary may appoint, without regard to the provisions of subchapter I of chapter 33 of title 5, United States Code (other than sections 3303 and 3328 of such title), qualified candidates, as described in paragraph (2), directly to positions within the Natural Resources Conservation Service that provide technical assistance under conservation programs administered by the Natural Resources Conservation Service.

''(2) QUALIFICATIONS.—Paragraph (1) applies to a candidate who—

''(A) is qualified to provide the technical assistance described in paragraph (1), as determined by the Secretary; and

''(B) meets qualification standards established by the Office of Personnel Management.''.

(h) ADDRESSING BARRIERS TO WILDLIFE HABITAT CONNECTIVITY.—Section 1242 of the Food Security Act of 1985 (16 U.S.C. 3842) is further amended by adding at the end the following:

''(k) ADDRESSING BARRIERS TO WILDLIFE HABITAT CONNECTIVITY.—

''(1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall—

''(A) to the maximum extent practicable, fully incorporate nonstructural methods to control livestock distribution, such as virtual fencing, into the conservation practice standards; and

''(B) provide for the appropriate range of conservation practices and resource mitigation measures available to landowners using nonstructural methods described in subparagraph (A).

''(2) AVAILABILITY OF ADEQUATE TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE.—The Secretary shall ensure that adequate technical assistance is available for the implementation of—

''(A) nonstructural methods described in paragraph (1)(A); and

''(B) other practices that support wildlife habitat connectivity through Federal conservation programs.''.

SEC. 2503. ADMINISTRATIVE REQUIREMENTS FOR CONSERVATION PROGRAMS.

(a) TENANT PROTECTIONS.—Section 1244(d) of the Food Security Act of 1985 (16 U.S.C. 3844(d)) is amended by striking ''I.'' and inserting ''J.''.

(b) ACREAGE LIMITATIONS.—Section 1244(f) of the Food Security Act of 1985 (16 U.S.C. 3844(f)) is amended—

(1) by amending paragraph (1) to read as follows:

''(1) LIMITATION.—The Secretary shall not enroll more than 25 percent of the cropland in any county in the conservation reserve program established under subchapter B of chapter 1 of subtitle D and wetland reserve easements under section 1265C.'';

(2) in paragraph (2)—

(A) in the matter preceding subparagraph (A), by striking ''paragraph (1)(A)'' and inserting ''paragraph (1)''; and

(B) in subparagraph (A), by striking ''and'' at the end and inserting ''or'';

(3) in paragraph (3), by striking ''paragraph (1)(A)'' and inserting ''paragraph (1)''; and

(4) in paragraph (4)(B), by striking ''classes IV'' and inserting ''classes III''.

(c) REVIEW AND GUIDANCE FOR PRACTICE COSTS AND PAYMENT RATES.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Section 1244(j)(1) of the Food Security Act of 1985 (16 U.S.C. 3844(j)(1)) is amended—

(A) in the matter preceding subparagraph (A), by striking ''Not later than 1 year after the date of enactment of the Agriculture Improvement Act of 2018, and not later than October 1 of each year thereafter, the Secretary shall'' and inserting ''The Secretary shall establish a process under which the Secretary shall annually'';

(B) by amending subparagraph (A) to read as follows:

''(A) review, with respect to each State, the actual practice costs and rates of payments (or, where actual practice costs and rates of payments are not available, estimates of such practice costs and rates) made to producers pursuant to programs under this title for practices on eligible land; and''; and

(C) in subparagraph (B)—

(i) in clause (ii), by striking ''and'' at the end;

(ii) by redesignating clause (iii) as clause (iv);

(iii) by inserting after clause (ii) the following:

''(iii) accounts for the variability in costs of implementing practices on eligible land under this title; and''; and

(iv) in clause (iv), as so redesignated, by striking ''regional, State, and'' and inserting ''State and''.

(2) GUIDANCE; REVIEW.—Section 1244(j)(2) of the Food Security Act of 1985 (16 U.S.C. 3844(j)(2)) is amended—

(A) in subparagraph (A), by striking ''estimates for''; and

(B) in subparagraph (B)—

(i) in clause (i), by striking ''and'' at the end;

(ii) by redesignating clause (ii) as clause (iii);

(iii) by inserting after clause (i) the following:

''(ii) monitoring for and identifying significant variability in practice costs in each year; and''; and

(iv) in clause (iii), as so redesignated, by inserting ''and, when appropriate, adopting any recommendations made by such State technical committee'' after ''that State''.

(3) EFFECT ON EXISTING CONTRACTS.—Section 1244(j) of the Food Security Act of 1985 (16 U.S.C. 3844(j)) is amended by adding at the end the following:

''(3) EFFECT ON EXISTING CONTRACTS.—In order to provide rates of payments that are commensurate with the costs of implementing practices pursuant to programs under this title, the Secretary shall establish processes and procedures for updating rates of payments under a contract or agreement in effect under this title to reflect the appropriate practice costs and rates of payments determined under paragraph (2)(B) for the year in which the practice is implemented.''.

(d) SOURCE WATER PROTECTION THROUGH TARGETING OF AGRICULTURAL PRACTICES.—Section 1244(n) of the Food Security Act of 1985 (16 U.S.C. 3844(n)) is amended—

(1) in paragraph (2)—

(A) in subparagraph (A)—

(i) by redesignating clause (ii) as clause (iii);

(ii) in clause (i), by striking the ''and'' at the end; and

(iii) by inserting after clause (i) the following:

''(ii) identify in each State a source water protection coordinator who shall be responsible for coordinating such collaboration with community water systems under this subsection; and''; and

(B) in subparagraph (B), by striking ''under subparagraph (A)(ii)'' and inserting ''under subparagraph (A)(iii)''; and

(2) by adding at the end the following:

''(4) PUBLICLY AVAILABLE INFORMATION.—Beginning on the date of enactment of the Farm, Food, and National Security Act of 2026, the Secretary, acting through the Chief of the Natural Resources Conservation Service, shall make publicly available—

''(A) an annual report that details—

''(i) for each local priority area identified under paragraph (2)(A)(i)—

''(I) the conservation programs under which assistance is provided pursuant to paragraph (1);

''(II) the practices implemented pursuant to paragraph (1); and

''(III) the number of contracts and acres devoted to such practices;

''(ii) for each conservation program administered by the Secretary—

''(I) the amount of funds obligated and expended for practices implemented pursuant to paragraph (1); and

''(II) information regarding the status of compliance with paragraph (3); and

''(iii) the practices, by State, that are receiving increased incentives and higher payment rates under paragraph (2)(A)(iii); and

''(B) through an interactive map, aggregated data detailed under subparagraph (A).''.

(e) ENCOURAGEMENT OF HABITAT CONNECTIVITY AND WILDLIFE CORRIDORS.—Section 1244 of the Food Security Act of 1985 (16 U.S.C. 3844) is amended by adding at the end the following:

''(q) ENCOURAGEMENT OF HABITAT CONNECTIVITY AND WILDLIFE CORRIDORS.—In carrying out any conservation program administered by the Secretary, the Secretary may, as appropriate, encourage the use of conservation practices that support the development, restoration, and maintenance of habitat connectivity and wildlife corridors.''.

Subtitle G—Agricultural Conservation Easement Program

SEC. 2601. DEFINITIONS.

Section 1265A of the Food Security Act of 1985 (16 U.S.C. 3865a) is amended—

(1) by striking paragraph (2);

(2) by redesignating paragraphs (3) through (7) as paragraphs (2) through (6), respectively; and

(3) in paragraph (3)(A), as so redesignated, by amending clause (i) to read as follows:

''(i) that is subject to a pending offer for purchase of an agricultural land easement from an eligible entity;''.

SEC. 2602. AGRICULTURAL LAND EASEMENTS.

(a) AVAILABILITY OF ASSISTANCE.—Section 1265B(a) of the Food Security Act of 1985 (16 U.S.C. 3865b) is amended—

(1) in paragraph (1), by striking ''in eligible land;'' and inserting ''on eligible land; and'';

(2) in paragraph (2), by striking ''(iv); and'' and inserting ''(iii).''; and

(3) by striking paragraph (3).

(b) COST-SHARE ASSISTANCE.—

(1) SCOPE OF ASSISTANCE AVAILABLE.—Section 1265B(b)(2) of the Food Security Act of 1985 (16 U.S.C. 3865b(b)(2)) is amended—

(A) by amending subparagraph (A) to read as follows:

''(A) FEDERAL SHARE.—

''(i) IN GENERAL.—An agreement described in paragraph (4) shall provide for a Federal share determined by the Secretary of an amount not to exceed 65 percent of the fair market value of the agricultural land easement, as determined by the Secretary using—

''(I) the Uniform Standards of Professional Appraisal Practice;

''(II) an areawide market analysis or survey; or

''(III) another industry-approved method.

''(ii) SOCIALLY DISADVANTAGED FARMERS AND RANCHERS EXCEPTION.—In the case of eligible land with respect to which a socially disadvantaged farmer or rancher holds an ownership interest of not less than 50 percent, the Secretary may provide an amount not to exceed 90 percent of the fair market value of the agricultural land easement.

''(iii) GRASSLANDS EXCEPTION.—In the case of grassland of special environmental significance, as determined by the Secretary, the Secretary may provide an amount not to exceed 75 percent of the fair market value of the agricultural land easement.'';

(B) in subparagraph (B)—

(i) by amending clause (i) to read as follows:

''(i) IN GENERAL.—Under the agreement, the eligible entity shall provide a non-Federal share that is equivalent to the remainder of the fair market value of the agricultural land easement not provided by the Secretary under subparagraph (A).'';

(ii) by striking clause (ii);

(iii) by redesignating clause (iii) as clause (ii); and

(iv) in clause (ii), as so redesignated, in the matter preceding subclause (I), by striking ''subparagraph'' and inserting ''paragraph''; and

(C) by inserting after subparagraph (B) the following:

''(C) LOWER COST-SHARE OPTION.—

''(i) IN GENERAL.—Notwithstanding paragraph (4)(C)(v), an eligible entity may elect to enter into an agreement under paragraph (4) in which the terms and conditions of an agricultural land easement funded under the agreement do not include a right of enforcement for the Secretary if the eligible entity agrees to a Federal share that does not exceed 25 percent of the fair market value of the agricultural land easement, as determined by the Secretary under subparagraph (A).

''(ii) MINIMUM TERMS AND CONDITIONS.—Under an agreement described in clause (i), an eligible entity shall be authorized to use its own terms and conditions for agricultural land easements so long as the Secretary determines such terms and conditions—

''(I) are consistent with the purposes of the program; and

''(II) permit effective enforcement of the conservation purposes of such easements.

''(iii) ENTITY ENFORCEMENT.—Under an agreement described in clause (i), the Secretary shall require the terms and conditions for the agricultural land easement to include a right of enforcement for the eligible entity.

''(iv) CASH CONTRIBUTION.—Under an agreement described in clause (i), the eligible entity shall provide cash resources in an amount that is not less than 50 percent of the fair market value of the agricultural land easement, as determined by the Secretary under subparagraph (A).''.

(2) EVALUATION AND RANKING OF APPLICATIONS.—Section 1265B(b)(3) of the Food Security Act of 1985 (16 U.S.C. 3865b(b)(3)) is amended by adding at the end the following:

''(F) POOLING OF APPLICATIONS.—The Secretary may evaluate and rank applications submitted by eligible entities for the purchase of agricultural land easements from landowners who are socially disadvantaged farmers or ranchers separately from applications submitted for the purchase of agricultural land easements from other landowners.''.

(3) AGREEMENTS WITH ELIGIBLE ENTITIES.—Section 1265B(b)(4) of the Food Security Act of 1985 (42 U.S.C. 3865b(b)(4)) is amended—

(A) in subparagraph (C)—

(i) by striking clause (iii);

(ii) by redesignating clauses (iv) and (v) as clauses (iii) and (iv), respectively;

(iii) in clause (iii), as so redesignated, by striking the ''and'' at the end;

(iv) in clause (iv), as so redesignated, by striking the period at the end and inserting ''; and''; and

(v) by adding at the end the following:

''(v) include a right of enforcement for the Secretary that—

''(I) may be used only if the terms and conditions of the easement are not enforced by the eligible entity; and

''(II) does not extend to a right of inspection unless—

''(aa)(AA) the holder of the easement fails to provide monitoring reports in a timely manner; or

''(BB) the Secretary has a reasonable and articulable belief that the terms and conditions of the easement have been violated; and

''(bb) prior to the inspection, the Secretary notifies the eligible entity and the landowner of the inspection and provides a reasonable opportunity for the eligible entity and the landowner to participate in the inspection; and

''(vi) include a right of the Secretary to require the transfer of the easement to a different eligible entity if the eligible entity that holds the easement ceases to exist or is no longer eligible to participate in the program, as determined by the Secretary.''; and

(B) in subparagraph (D)—

(i) in clause (ii)—

(I) in subclause (I)(ff), by striking ''(v)'' and inserting ''(iv)''; and

(II) in subclause (II), by striking the ''and'' at the end;

(ii) in subclause (iii), by striking the period at the end and inserting ''; and''; and

(iii) by inserting at the end the following:

''(iv) do not conflict with any minimum terms or conditions under subparagraph (C) that may be required.''.

(4) CERTIFICATION OF ELIGIBLE ENTITIES.—Section 1265B(b)(5) of the Food Security Act of 1985 (16 U.S.C. 3865b(b)(5)) is amended—

(A) in subparagraph (A)—

(i) in the matter preceding clause (i), by striking ''under which the Secretary may'' and inserting '', to minimize administrative burdens on the Secretary and recognize the ability of experienced eligible entities to administer easements with minimal oversight by the Secretary, under which the Secretary shall''; and

(ii) in clause (iv), by inserting '', and modify,'' after ''entity to use'';

(B) in subparagraph (B)—

(i) in clause (ii)—

(I) in subclause (II), by striking ''10'' and inserting ''5''; and

(II) in subclause (III), by striking the ''or'' at the end;

(ii) in clause (iii)—

(I) in subclause (I), by striking ''10'' and inserting ''5''; and

(II) in subclause (II), by striking the period at the end and inserting ''; or'';

(iii) by adding at the end the following:

''(iv) is an eligible entity not described in clause (ii) or (iii) that has—

''(I) acquired not fewer than 10 agricultural land easements under the program or any predecessor program; and

''(II) successfully met the responsibilities of the eligible entity under the applicable agreements with the Secretary, as determined by the Secretary, relating to agricultural land easements that the eligible entity has acquired under the program or any predecessor program.''; and

(C) in subparagraph (C)—

(i) in the header, by striking ''REVIEW AND REVISION'' and inserting ''REVIEW AND REVOCATION'';

(ii) in the header of clause (i) by striking ''REVIEW'' and inserting ''CERTIFIED ENTITY REVIEW''; and

(iii) by adding at the end the following:

''(iii) EASEMENT REVIEW.—The Secretary shall establish and conduct an annual quality review process to—

''(I) review a sample set of easements acquired by certified eligible entities;

''(II) ensure the integrity of the easement acquisition process under this section;

''(III) establish and enforce a process for corrective actions; and

''(IV) provide for a waiver of successive easement reviews based on demonstrated compliance.''.

SEC. 2603. WETLAND RESERVE EASEMENTS.

(a) EASEMENTS.—Section 1265C(b) of the Food Security Act of 1985 (16 U.S.C. 3865c(b)) is amended—

(1) in paragraph (1)(D), by striking ''tribes'' and inserting ''Tribes and landowners who are socially disadvantaged farmers or ranchers''; and

(2) by inserting after paragraph (3)(C) the following:

''(D) POOLING OF APPLICATIONS.—The Secretary may evaluate and rank offers from landowners who are socially disadvantaged farmers or ranchers separately from offers from other landowners.''.

(b) EASEMENT RESTORATION.—Section 1265C(c)(1) of the Food Security Act of 1985 (16 U.S.C. 3865c(c)(1)) is amended by striking ''subsection (f)'' and inserting ''subsection (g)''.

(c) EASEMENT STEWARDSHIP.—Section 1265C of the Food Security Act of 1985 (16 U.S.C. 3865c) is amended—

(1) by redesignating subsections (d) through (g) as subsections (e) through (h), respectively; and

(2) by inserting after subsection (c), the following:

''(d) EASEMENT STEWARDSHIP.—

''(1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall provide financial assistance to owners of eligible land enrolled under this section for the repair, necessary maintenance, and enhancement activities described in the wetland reserve easement plan developed for the eligible land under subsection (g)(1).

''(2) EVALUATION OF STEWARDSHIP NEED.—The Secretary shall—

''(A) regularly assess land enrolled under this section to identify maintenance and management needs, including any needed repair or enhancement of existing structural practices, in accordance with the applicable wetland reserve easement plan;

''(B) consistent with the purposes of the program, create, execute, and update as necessary based on the assessments carried out under subparagraph (A), a stewardship strategy for—

''(i) prioritizing and addressing the needs identified under subparagraph (A); and

''(ii) projecting the amount of annual funding needed for financial and technical assistance to address such needs; and

''(C) establish a 5-year schedule to address such needs.

''(3) PAYMENTS.—In carrying out paragraph (1), the Secretary shall make payments in an amount that is not more than 100 percent of the eligible costs, as determined by the Secretary.

''(4) REPORT.—Not later than 2 years after the date of enactment of the Farm, Food, and National Security Act of 2026, the Secretary shall submit to the Committee on Agriculture of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry of the Senate a report that includes—

''(A) an inventory of the existing stewardship needs of all wetland reserve easements, based on the assessments carried out under paragraph (2);

''(B) the stewardship strategy created under paragraph (2)(B);

''(C) the amounts the Secretary plans to allocate to address such stewardship needs, based on projections made pursuant to paragraph (2)(B)(ii); and

''(D) the planned use of compatible uses under subsection (b)(5)(C), contracts or agreements under subsection (e)(2), or wetland reserve easement plans under subsection (g)(1) to ensure that each such stewardship need is addressed.''.

(d) ASSISTANCE.—Subsection (e) of section 1265C of the Food Security Act of 1985 (16 U.S.C. 3865c), as so redesignated, is amended—

(1) in the header, by striking ''TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE'' and inserting ''ASSISTANCE''; and

(2) by amending paragraph (2) to read as follows:

''(2) CONTRACTS OR AGREEMENTS.—The Secretary may enter into 1 or more contracts or agreements with a Federal, State, or local agency, a nongovernmental organization, an Indian Tribe, or a private entity to carry out necessary restoration, enhancement, maintenance, repair, assessment, or monitoring of a wetland reserve easement if the Secretary determines that the contract or agreement will advance the purposes of the program.''.

(e) WETLAND RESERVE ENHANCEMENT OPTION.—Subsection (f) of section 1265C of the Food Security Act of 1985 (16 U.S.C. 3865c), as so redesignated, is amended—

(1) by striking ''The Secretary'' and inserting the following:

''(1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary''; and

(2) by adding at the end the following:

''(2) FUNDING.—Of the funds made available to carry out this section, the Secretary shall reserve not less than 15 percent to carry out this subsection.''.

SEC. 2604. ADMINISTRATION.

(a) SUBORDINATION, EXCHANGE, MODIFICATION, AND TERMINATION.—Section 1265D(c) of the Food Security Act of 1985 (16 U.S.C. 3865d(c)) is amended—

(1) by amending paragraph (2) to read as follows:

''(2) MODIFICATION AND EXCHANGE OF INTEREST IN LAND.—

''(A) MODIFICATION.—

''(i) AUTHORITY.—The Secretary may approve a modification of any interest in land, or portion of such interest, administered by the Secretary, either directly or on behalf of the Commodity Credit Corporation, under the program if the Secretary determines that the modification—

''(I) will support the long-term agricultural viability of the applicable farm or ranch operation and the conservation values of the applicable easement;

''(II) will result in equal or increased conservation values;

''(III) is consistent with the original intent of the easement;

''(IV) is consistent with the purposes of the program; and

''(V) is in the public interest or furthers the practical administration of the program, including correcting errors, exercising reserved rights, and increasing flexibility to recognize changes in water availability or administration.

''(ii) LIMITATION.—In modifying an interest in land, or portion of such interest, under this subparagraph, the Secretary may not, except in the case of a modification that includes a change to an easement to add acreage, increase any payment to an eligible entity.

''(iii) NEPA COMPLIANCE.—An action taken pursuant to this subparagraph may not be considered a major Federal action under section 102(2)(C) of the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (42 U.S.C. 4332(2)(C)).

''(B) EXCHANGE.—

''(i) AUTHORITY.—The Secretary may approve an exchange of any interest in land, or portion of such interest, administered by the Secretary, either directly or on behalf of the Commodity Credit Corporation, under the program if the Secretary determines that—

''(I) no reasonable alternative exists and the effect on the interest in land is avoided or minimized to the extent practicable; and

''(II) the exchange—

''(aa) results in equal or increased conservation values;

''(bb) results in equal or greater economic value to the United States;

''(cc) is consistent with the original intent of the easement;

''(dd) is consistent with the purposes of the program; and

''(ee) is in the public interest or furthers the practical administration of the program.

''(ii) LIMITATION.—In exchanging an interest in land, or portion of such interest, under this subparagraph, the Secretary may not increase any payment to an eligible entity.''; and

(2) by adding at the end the following:

''(6) DE MINIMIS ADJUSTMENTS.—

''(A) IN GENERAL.—An eligible entity may make de minimis adjustments to any interest in land, or a portion of such interest, administered by the Secretary, directly or on behalf of the Commodity Credit Corporation, under the program if the adjustment—

''(i) furthers the practical administration of the program; and

''(ii) is not a subordination, modification, exchange, or termination, as determined by the Secretary.

''(B) TYPES OF DE MINIMIS ADJUSTMENTS.—De minimis adjustments made under this paragraph may include title corrections and other minor adjustments, including—

''(i) typographical error corrections;

''(ii) minor changes in legal descriptions as a result of survey or mapping errors;

''(iii) the transfer of an interest of an eligible entity to another eligible entity;

''(iv) changes to a building envelope boundary;

''(v) relocation of easement access;

''(vi) authorization of temporary work areas not associated with other easement administration actions; and

''(vii) other adjustments determined appropriate by the Secretary.

''(7) MODIFICATION OF ELIGIBLE ENTITY TERMS AND CONDITIONS.—An eligible entity shall be authorized to modify a term or condition of an agricultural land easement that is the subject of an agreement entered into under section 1265B(b)(4)(A) if such modification does not conflict with any minimum term or condition required by the Secretary under such section.''.

(b) ADJUSTED GROSS INCOME.—

(1) EXEMPTION.—Section 1265D of the Food Security Act of 1985 (16 U.S.C. 3865D) is amended by adding at the end the following:

''(f) ADJUSTED GROSS INCOME EXEMPTION.—The adjusted gross income limitation described in section 1001D(b)(1) shall not apply to any payment or other assistance under this subtitle.''.

(2) CALCULATION.—Section 1001D(b) of the Food Security Act of 1985 (7 U.S.C. 1308–3a(b)) is amended by adding at the end the following:

''(5) EXCEPTION FOR COMPENSATION UNDER ACEP.—For purposes of this subsection, the adjusted gross income of a person or legal entity that is a landowner of eligible land (as defined in section 1265A) shall not include any income received as compensation for the acquisition of an agricultural land easement or a wetland reserve easement on that eligible land under subtitle H of title XII.''.

Subtitle H—Forest Conservation Easement Program

SEC. 2701. FOREST CONSERVATION EASEMENT PROGRAM.

Title XII of the Food Security Act of 1985 (16 U.S.C. 3801 et seq.) is amended—

(1) by redesignating subtitle I (16 U.S.C. 3871 et seq.) as subtitle J; and

(2) by inserting after subtitle H (16 U.S.C. 3865 et seq.) the following:

''Subtitle I—Forest Conservation Easement Program

''SEC. 1267. ESTABLISHMENT AND PURPOSES.

''(a) ESTABLISHMENT.—The Secretary shall establish a forest conservation easement program for the conservation and restoration of eligible land and natural resources through the acquisition of conservation easements or other interests in land.

''(b) PURPOSES.—The purposes of the program are—

''(1) to protect the viability and sustainability of working forest land, and related conservation values of eligible land, by limiting the negative effects of nonforest land uses of such land;

''(2) to protect and enhance forest ecosystem and landscape functions and values;

''(3) to promote the restoration, protection, and improvement of habitat of species that are threatened, endangered, or otherwise at risk; and

''(4) to carry out the purposes and functions of the healthy forests reserve program established under title V of the Healthy Forests Restoration Act of 2003 (16 U.S.C. 6571 et seq.), as in effect on the day before the date of enactment of this section.

''SEC. 1267A. DEFINITIONS.

''In this subtitle:

''(1) ACREAGE OWNED BY AN INDIAN TRIBE.—The term 'acreage owned by an Indian Tribe' means—

''(A) land that is held in trust by the United States for Indian Tribes or individual Indians;

''(B) land, the title to which is held by Indian Tribes or individual Indians subject to Federal restrictions against alienation or encumbrance;

''(C) land that is subject to rights of use, occupancy, and benefit of certain Indian Tribes;

''(D) land that is held in fee title by an Indian Tribe;

''(E) land that is owned by a native corporation formed under—

''(i) section 17 of the Act of June 18, 1934 (commonly known as the 'Indian Reorganization Act') (25 U.S.C. 5124); or

''(ii) section 8 of the Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act (43 U.S.C. 1607); and

''(F) a combination of 1 or more types of land described in subparagraphs (A) through (E).

''(2) ELIGIBLE ENTITY.—The term 'eligible entity' means—

''(A) an agency of State or local government or an Indian Tribe (including a land resource council established under State law); or

''(B) an organization that is—

''(i) organized for, and at all times since the formation of the organization has been operated principally for, 1 or more of the conservation purposes specified in clause (i), (ii), (iii), or (iv) of section 170(h)(4)(A) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986;

''(ii) an organization described in section 501(c)(3) of that Code that is exempt from taxation under section 501(a) of that Code; or

''(iii) described in—

''(I) paragraph (1) or (2) of section 509(a) of that Code; or

''(II) section 509(a)(3) of that Code and is controlled by an organization described in section 509(a)(2) of that Code.

''(3) ELIGIBLE LAND.—The term 'eligible land' means private land or acreage owned by an Indian Tribe—

''(A) that is—

''(i) forest land; or

''(ii) being restored to forest land;

''(B) in the case of a forest land easement—

''(i) the enrollment of which would protect working forests and related conservation values by conserving land; or

''(ii) the protection of which will further a State or local policy consistent with the purposes of the program; and

''(C) in the case of a forest reserve easement, the enrollment of which will maintain, restore, enhance, or otherwise measurably—

''(i) increase the likelihood of recovery of a species that is listed as endangered or threatened under section 4 of the Endangered Species Act of 1973 (16 U.S.C. 1533); or

''(ii) improve the well-being of a species that is—

''(I) not listed as endangered or threatened under that section; and

''(II)(aa) a candidate for that listing, a State-listed species, or a special concern species; or

''(bb) designated as a species of greatest conservation need by a State wildlife action plan.

''(4) FOREST LAND EASEMENT.—The term 'forest land easement' means an easement or other interest in eligible land that—

''(A) is conveyed to an eligible entity for the purpose of protecting natural resources and the forest nature of the eligible land; and

''(B) permits the landowner the right to continue working forest production and related uses, consistent with an applicable forest management plan.

''(5) FOREST MANAGEMENT PLAN.—The term 'forest management plan' means—

''(A) a forest stewardship plan described in section 5(f) of the Cooperative Forestry Assistance Act of 1978 (16 U.S.C. 2103a(f));

''(B) another plan approved by the applicable State forester or State forestry agency;

''(C) a plan developed under a third-party certification system determined appropriate by the Secretary; or

''(D) another plan determined appropriate by the Secretary.

''(6) FOREST RESERVE EASEMENT.—The term 'forest reserve easement' means an easement or other interest in eligible land that—

''(A) is conveyed to the Secretary for the purpose of protecting natural resources and the forest nature of the eligible land; and

''(B) permits the landowner the right to continue working forest production and related uses consistent with the applicable forest reserve easement plan developed under section 1267C(c)(1)(A).

''(7) PROGRAM.—The term 'program' means the forest conservation easement program established under this subtitle.

''(8) SOCIALLY DISADVANTAGED FOREST LANDOWNER.—The term 'socially disadvantaged forest landowner' means a forest landowner who is a member of a socially disadvantaged group (as defined in section 2501(a) of the Food, Agriculture, Conservation, and Trade Act of 1990 (7 U.S.C. 2279(a))).

''SEC. 1267B. FOREST LAND EASEMENTS.

''(a) AVAILABILITY OF ASSISTANCE.—The Secretary shall facilitate and provide funding for—

''(1) the purchase by eligible entities of forest land easements on eligible land;

''(2) the development of a forest management plan; and

''(3) technical assistance to implement this section.

''(b) COST-SHARE ASSISTANCE.—

''(1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall protect working forests, and related conservation values of eligible land, through cost-share assistance to eligible entities for purchasing forest land easements.

''(2) SCOPE OF ASSISTANCE AVAILABLE.—

''(A) FEDERAL SHARE.—

''(i) IN GENERAL.—Except as provided in clause (ii), an agreement described in paragraph (4) shall provide for a Federal share of 50 percent of the fair market value of the forest land easement, as determined by the Secretary.

''(ii) EXCEPTION.—An agreement described in paragraph (4) may provide for a Federal share of not more than 75 percent of the fair market value of a forest land easement in the case of eligible land that is—

''(I) a forest of special environmental significance, as determined by the Secretary; or

''(II) owned by a socially disadvantaged forest landowner.

''(B) NON-FEDERAL SHARE.—

''(i) IN GENERAL.—Under an agreement described in paragraph (4), the eligible entity shall provide a non-Federal share that is equivalent to the remainder of the fair market value of the forest land easement not provided by the Secretary under subparagraph (A).

''(ii) PERMISSIBLE FORMS.—The non-Federal share provided by an eligible entity under this paragraph may comprise—

''(I) cash resources;

''(II) a charitable donation or qualified conservation contribution (as defined in section 170(h) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986) from the private forest landowner from which the forest land easement will be purchased;

''(III) costs associated with securing a deed to the forest land easement, including the cost of appraisal, survey, inspection, and title; and

''(IV) other costs, as determined by the Secretary.

''(C) DETERMINATION OF FAIR MARKET VALUE.—For purposes of this paragraph, the Secretary shall determine the fair market value of a forest land easement using—

''(i) the Uniform Standards of Professional Appraisal Practice;

''(ii) an areawide market analysis or survey; or

''(iii) another industry-approved method.

''(3) EVALUATION AND RANKING OF APPLICATIONS.—

''(A) CRITERIA.—The Secretary shall establish evaluation and ranking criteria to maximize the benefit of Federal investment under the program.

''(B) PRIORITY.—In evaluating applications under the program, the Secretary shall give priority to an application for the purchase of a forest land easement—

''(i) that maintains the viability of a working forest, as determined by the Secretary; and

''(ii) on eligible land for which a forest management plan has been developed at the time of application.

''(C) CONSIDERATIONS.—In establishing the criteria under subparagraph (A), the Secretary shall emphasize support for—

''(i) protecting working forests and related conservation values of eligible land;

''(ii) reducing fragmentation of forest land; and

''(iii) maximizing the areas protected from conversion to nonforest uses.

''(4) AGREEMENTS WITH ELIGIBLE ENTITIES.—

''(A) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall enter into agreements with eligible entities to stipulate the terms and conditions under which the eligible entity is permitted to use cost-share assistance provided under this section.

''(B) LENGTH OF AGREEMENTS.—An agreement under subparagraph (A) shall be for a term that is not less than 3, but not more than 5, years, unless the Secretary determines that a longer term is justified.

''(C) MINIMUM TERMS AND CONDITIONS.—An eligible entity shall be authorized to use its own terms and conditions for forest land easements so long as the Secretary determines such terms and conditions—

''(i) are consistent with—

''(I) the purposes of the program; and

''(II) the forestry activities to be conducted on the eligible land;

''(ii) permit effective enforcement of the conservation purposes of the forest land easements;

''(iii) include a requirement to implement a forest management plan on eligible land subject to a forest land easement;

''(iv) include a limit on the impervious surfaces to be allowed that is consistent with the forestry activities to be conducted; and

''(v) include a right of enforcement for the Secretary that—

''(I) may be used only if the terms and conditions of the forest land easement are not enforced by the eligible entity; and

''(II) does not extend to a right of inspection unless—

''(aa)(AA) the holder of the forest land easement fails to provide monitoring reports in a timely manner; or

''(BB) the Secretary has a reasonable and articulable belief that the terms and conditions of the forest land easement have been violated; and

''(bb) prior to the inspection, the Secretary notifies the eligible entity and the landowner of the inspection and provides a reasonable opportunity for the eligible entity and the landowner to participate in the inspection.

''(D) ADDITIONAL PERMITTED TERMS AND CONDITIONS.—An eligible entity may include terms and conditions for a forest land easement that—

''(i) are intended to keep the eligible land subject to the forest land easement in active forest management, as determined by the Secretary;

''(ii) allow subsurface mineral development on the eligible land subject to the forest land easement and in accordance with applicable State law if, as determined by the Secretary—

''(I) the subsurface mineral development—

''(aa) has a limited and localized impact;

''(bb) does not harm the forest use and conservation values of the eligible land subject to the forest land easement;

''(cc) does not materially alter or affect the existing topography;

''(dd) complies with a subsurface mineral development plan that—

''(AA) includes a plan for the remediation of impacts to the forest use and conservation values of the eligible land subject to the forest land easement; and

''(BB) is approved by the Secretary prior to the initiation of mineral development activity;

''(ee) is not accomplished by any surface mining method;

''(ff) is within the impervious surface limits of the forest land easement under subparagraph (C)(iv); and

''(gg) uses practices and technologies that minimize the duration and intensity of impacts to the forest use and conservation values of the eligible land subject to the forest land easement; and

''(II) each area impacted by the subsurface mineral development is reclaimed and restored by the holder of the mineral rights at cessation of operation; and

''(iii) include other relevant activities relating to the forest land easement, as determined by the Secretary.

''(E) SUBSTITUTION OF QUALIFIED PROJECTS.—An agreement under subparagraph (A) shall allow, upon mutual agreement of the parties, substitution of qualified projects that are identified at the time of the proposed substitution.

''(F) EFFECT OF VIOLATION.—If a violation of a term or condition of an agreement under subparagraph (A) occurs—

''(i) the Secretary may terminate the agreement; and

''(ii) the Secretary may require the eligible entity to refund all or part of any payments received by the eligible entity under the program,

with interest on the payments as determined appropriate by the Secretary.

''(5) FOREST MANAGEMENT PLAN.—

''(A) IN GENERAL.—If the eligible land does not have a forest management plan at the time of application, prior to the acquisition of the forest land easement the landowner shall develop, in partnership with the eligible entity, a forest management plan for the land subject to the forest land easement.

''(B) REIMBURSEMENT.—The Secretary may reimburse the landowner for the cost of the development of a forest management plan for eligible land enrolled under this section.

''(c) METHOD OF ENROLLMENT.—The Secretary shall enroll eligible land under this section through the use of—

''(1) permanent easements; or

''(2) easements for the maximum duration allowed under applicable State laws.

''(d) TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE.—The Secretary may provide technical assistance, on request, to assist in compliance with the terms and conditions of forest land easements.

''SEC. 1267C. FOREST RESERVE EASEMENTS.

''(a) AVAILABILITY OF ASSISTANCE.—The Secretary shall provide assistance to owners of eligible land to restore, protect, and enhance eligible land through—

''(1) forest reserve easements and related forest reserve easement plans; and

''(2) technical assistance to implement this section.

''(b) EASEMENTS.—

''(1) METHOD OF ENROLLMENT.—

''(A) AUTHORIZED METHODS.—The Secretary shall enroll eligible land under this section—

''(i) through the use of—

''(I) permanent easements;

''(II) 30-year easements; and

''(III) easements for the maximum duration allowed under applicable State laws; and

''(ii) in the case of acreage owned by an Indian Tribe, through the use of—

''(I) 30-year contracts (the compensation for which shall be equivalent to the compensation for 30-year easements); or

''(II) permanent easements.

''(B) LIMITATION.—Not more than 10 percent of amounts made available to carry out this section in a fiscal year may be used for 30-year easements under this section.

''(2) EVALUATION AND RANKING OF OFFERS.—

''(A) CRITERIA.—The Secretary shall establish evaluation and ranking criteria for offers from landowners under this section.

''(B) PRIORITY.—The Secretary shall give priority to the enrollment of eligible land under this section that provides the greatest conservation benefit to—

''(i) primarily, species listed as endangered or threatened under section 4 of the Endangered Species Act of 1973 (16 U.S.C. 1533); and

''(ii) secondarily, species that are—

''(I) not listed as endangered or threatened under that section; and

''(II)(aa) candidates for that listing, State-listed species, or special concern species; or

''(bb) designated as species of greatest conservation need by a State wildlife action plan.

''(C) OTHER CONSIDERATIONS.—The Secretary may give additional consideration to eligible land the enrollment under this section of which will—

''(i) improve biological diversity;

''(ii) restore native forest ecosystems;

''(iii) conserve forest land that provides habitat for species described in subparagraph (B);

''(iv) reduce fragmentation of forest land; and

''(v) increase carbon sequestration.

''(3) TERMS AND CONDITIONS OF EASEMENTS.—

''(A) IN GENERAL.—A forest reserve easement shall include terms and conditions that—

''(i) are consistent with the purposes of the program and the forestry activities to be conducted on the eligible land;

''(ii) are consistent with the management objectives of the owner of the eligible land and the implementation of the forest reserve easement plan developed under subsection (c)(1)(A);

''(iii) permit effective enforcement of the conservation purposes of the forest reserve easements;

''(iv) provide for the efficient and effective establishment or enhancement of forest ecosystem functions and values; and

''(v) include such additional provisions as the Secretary determines are desirable to carry out the program or facilitate the practical administration of the program.

''(B) REQUESTED TERMS AND CONDITIONS.—An owner of eligible land may request that a term or condition be included in a forest reserve easement, and the Secretary may include such term or condition, if it—

''(i) is consistent with the management objectives of the owner of the eligible land and the implementation of the forest reserve easement plan developed under subsection (c)(1)(A); and

''(ii) does not conflict with any terms or conditions included under subparagraph (A).

''(4) COMPENSATION.—

''(A) PERMANENT EASEMENTS.—In the case of eligible land enrolled in a permanent easement under this section, the Secretary shall pay the owner of the eligible land an amount equal to the difference between, as determined by the Secretary—

''(i) the fair market value of the eligible land before the enrollment in the permanent easement; and

''(ii) the fair market value of the eligible land as encumbered by the permanent easement.

''(B) OTHER.—The Secretary shall pay the owner of eligible land enrolled under this section in a 30-year contract, a 30-year easement, or an easement for the maximum duration allowed under applicable State laws, not less than 50 percent, and not more than 75 percent, of the compensation that would be paid under subparagraph (A) if the land were being enrolled in a permanent easement.

''(C) DETERMINATION OF FAIR MARKET VALUE.—The Secretary shall determine the fair market value of eligible land for purposes of this paragraph using the Uniform Standards of Professional Appraisal Practice or another industry-approved method.

''(c) EASEMENT RESTORATION AND MANAGEMENT.—

''(1) FOREST RESERVE EASEMENT PLAN.—

''(A) IN GENERAL.—Land enrolled in a forest reserve easement shall be subject to a forest reserve easement plan, to be developed jointly by the landowner and the Secretary, that describes such activities to be carried out on the land as are necessary to restore, maintain, and enhance habitat for species described in subsection (b)(2)(B).

''(B) PRACTICES AND MEASURES.—A forest reserve easement plan developed under subparagraph (A) shall require implementation of such practices and measures as are necessary to accomplish the activities described in the plan under such subparagraph, which may include—

''(i) vegetative management and silviculture practices;

''(ii) structural practices and measures;

''(iii) practices to increase carbon sequestration;

''(iv) practices to improve biological diversity; and

''(v) other practices and measures, as determined by the Secretary.

''(2) FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE.—

''(A) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall provide financial assistance to owners of eligible land to carry out the activities, practices, and measures described in the forest reserve easement plan developed for the eligible land under paragraph (1).

''(B) PAYMENTS.—With respect to financial assistance provided under subparagraph (A), the Secretary shall pay—

''(i) in the case of a forest reserve easement plan for eligible land enrolled in a permanent easement, an amount that is not more than 100 percent of the eligible costs described in subparagraph (C), as determined by the Secretary; and

''(ii) in the case of a forest reserve easement plan for eligible land enrolled in a 30-year contract, a 30-year easement, or an easement for the maximum duration allowed under applicable State laws, an amount that is not less than 50 percent, and not more than 75 percent, of the eligible costs described in subparagraph (C), as determined by the Secretary.

''(C) ELIGIBLE COSTS.—Costs eligible for payments under this paragraph are the costs of activities, practices, and measures referred to in subparagraph (A) that are associated with the restoration or enhancement of the habitat conditions specified for the applicable species in the forest reserve easement plan.

''(D) TIMING OF PAYMENTS.—Payments under this paragraph shall be made—

''(i) only on a determination by the Secretary that an activity, practice, or measure described in subparagraph (C) has been established in compliance with appropriate standards and specifications, which determination shall be made as soon as practicable after establishment; and

''(ii) as soon as possible after such determination is made.

''(E) LIMITATIONS.—Financial assistance provided by the Secretary under this paragraph to an owner of eligible land may not exceed $500,000 per easement or contract.

''(d) TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE.—

''(1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall provide to owners of eligible land technical assistance to assist the owners in—

''(A) developing a forest reserve easement plan; and

''(B) complying with the terms and conditions of a forest reserve easement, including the implementation of a forest reserve easement plan.

''(2) CONTRACTS OR AGREEMENTS.—The Secretary may enter into 1 or more contracts with private entities or agreements with a State, nongovernmental organization, or Indian Tribe to provide technical assistance described in paragraph (1), if the Secretary determines that the contract or agreement will advance the purposes of the program.

''(e) PROTECTIONS AND MEASURES.—

''(1) PROTECTIONS.—In the case of a landowner who enrolls eligible land in a forest reserve easement, and whose conservation activities under the forest reserve easement plan developed for such land result in a net conservation benefit for a species described in subsection (b)(2)(B), the Secretary shall make available to the landowner safe harbor or similar assurances and protection under—

''(A) section 7(b)(4) of the Endangered Species Act of 1973 (16 U.S.C. 1536(b)(4)); or

''(B) section 10(a)(1) of that Act (16 U.S.C. 1539(a)(1)).

''(2) MEASURES.—If protection under paragraph (1) requires the taking of measures that are in addition to the measures covered by the forest reserve easement plan developed for the eligible land, the cost of the additional measures, and the cost of any permit, shall be considered costs eligible for payments under subsection (c)(2).

''(f) ADMINISTRATION.—

''(1) DELEGATION OF EASEMENT ADMINISTRATION.—

''(A) FEDERAL AND STATE AGENCIES.—The Secretary may delegate any of the management, monitoring, and enforcement responsibilities of the Secretary under this section to other Federal or State agencies that have the appropriate authority, expertise, and resources necessary to carry out those delegated responsibilities.

''(B) CONSERVATION ORGANIZATIONS.—The Secretary may delegate any of the management responsibilities of the Secretary under this section to a nonprofit conservation organization if the Secretary determines the organization has

the appropriate expertise and resources necessary to carry out those delegated responsibilities.

''(2) INVOLVEMENT BY OTHER AGENCIES AND ORGANIZATIONS.—In carrying out this section, the Secretary may consult with—

''(A) private forest landowners;

''(B) other Federal agencies;

''(C) State forestry agencies;

''(D) State fish and wildlife agencies;

''(E) State environmental quality agencies;

''(F) other State conservation agencies; and

''(G) nonprofit conservation organizations.

''SEC. 1267D. ADMINISTRATION.

''(a) INELIGIBLE LAND.—The Secretary shall not use amounts made available to carry out the program for the purposes of acquiring an easement on—

''(1) land owned by a Federal agency, other than such land that is acreage owned by an Indian Tribe;

''(2) land owned in fee title by a State, including an agency or a subdivision of a State, or a unit of local government;

''(3) land subject to an easement or deed restriction that, as determined by the Secretary, provides similar protection as would be provided by enrollment in the program; or

''(4) land the enrollment in the program of which would undermine the purposes of the program due to on-site or off-site conditions, such as risk of hazardous substances, permitted or existing rights of way, infrastructure development, or adjacent land uses.

''(b) SUBORDINATION, EXCHANGE, MODIFICATION, AND TERMINATION.—

''(1) SUBORDINATION.—The Secretary may subordinate any interest in eligible land, or portion of such an interest, administered by the Secretary (including for the purposes of utilities and energy transmission services) directly or on behalf of the Commodity Credit Corporation under the program if the Secretary determines that the subordination—

''(A) increases conservation values or has a limited negative effect on conservation values;

''(B) minimally affects the acreage subject to the interest in eligible land; and

''(C) is in the public interest or furthers the practical administration of the program.

''(2) MODIFICATION AND EXCHANGE OF INTEREST IN LAND.—

''(A) MODIFICATION.—

''(i) AUTHORITY.—The Secretary may approve a modification of any interest in land, or portion of such interest, administered by the Secretary, either directly or on behalf of the Commodity Credit Corporation, under the program if the Secretary determines that the modification—

''(I) will support the viability and sustainability of working forests and the conservation values of the applicable easement;

''(II) will result in equal or increased conservation values;

''(III) is consistent with the original intent of the easement;

''(IV) is consistent with the purposes of the program; and

''(V) is in the public interest or furthers the practical administration of the program, including correcting errors and exercising reserved rights.

''(ii) LIMITATION.—In modifying an interest in land, or portion of such interest, under this subparagraph, the Secretary may not, except in the case of a modification that includes a change to an easement to add acreage, increase any payment to an eligible entity.

''(B) EXCHANGE.—

''(i) AUTHORITY.—The Secretary may approve an exchange of any interest in land, or portion of such interest, administered by the Secretary, either directly or on behalf of the Commodity Credit Corporation, under the program if the Secretary determines that—

''(I) no reasonable alternative exists and the effect on the interest in land is avoided or minimized to the extent practicable; and

''(II) the exchange—

''(aa) results in equal or increased conservation values;

''(bb) results in equal or greater economic value to the United States;

''(cc) is consistent with the original intent of the easement;

''(dd) is consistent with the purposes of the program; and

''(ee) is in the public interest or furthers the practical administration of the program.

''(ii) LIMITATION.—In exchanging an interest in land, or portion of such interest, under this subparagraph, the Secretary may not increase any payment to an eligible entity.

''(3) TERMINATION.—The Secretary may approve a termination of any interest in eligible land, or portion of such an interest, administered by the Secretary, directly or on behalf of the Commodity Credit Corporation under the program if the Secretary determines that—

''(A) termination is in the interest of the Federal Government;

''(B) the United States will be fully compensated for—

''(i) the value of the interest in the land, as determined by the Secretary;

''(ii) any costs relating to the termination; and

''(iii) any damages determined appropriate by the Secretary; and

''(C) the termination will—

''(i) address a compelling public need for which there is no practicable alternative even with avoidance and minimization; and

''(ii) further the practical administration of the program.

''(4) CONSENT.—The Secretary shall obtain consent from the landowner and eligible entity, if applicable, for any subordination, exchange, modification, or termination of an interest in eligible land, or portion of such an interest, under this subsection.

''(5) NOTICE.—Not fewer than 90 days before taking any termination action described in paragraph (3), the Secretary shall provide written notice of that action to the Committee on Agriculture of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry of the Senate.

''(c) LAND ENROLLED IN OTHER PROGRAMS.—In accordance with the provisions of section 2702 of the Farm, Food, and National Security Act of 2026, land enrolled in the healthy forests reserve program established under title V of the Healthy Forests Restoration Act of 2003 (16 U.S.C. 6571 et seq.) on the day before the date of enactment of this section shall be considered enrolled in the program.''.

SEC. 2702. HEALTHY FORESTS RESERVE PROGRAM.

(a) REPEAL.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Title V of the Healthy Forests Restoration Act of 2003 (16 U.S.C. 6571 et seq.) is repealed.

(2) CONFORMING AMENDMENT.—The table of contents in section 1(b) of the Healthy Forests Restoration Act of 2003 (Public Law 108–148; 117 Stat. 1887) is amended by striking the items relating to title V.

(b) TRANSITIONAL PROVISIONS.—

(1) EFFECT ON EXISTING CONTRACTS, AGREEMENTS, AND EASEMENTS.—The repeal made by subsection (a) shall not affect the validity or terms of any contract, agreement, or easement entered into by the Secretary under title V of the Healthy Forests Restoration Act of 2003 (16 U.S.C. 6571 et seq.) before the date of enactment of this Act, or any payments or technical assistance required to be made in connection with the contract, agreement, or easement.

(2) FUNDING.—

(A) USE OF PRIOR YEAR FUNDS.—Notwithstanding the repeal made by subsection (a), any funds made available from the Commodity Credit Corporation to carry out the healthy forests reserve program established under title V of the Healthy Forests Restoration Act of 2003 (16 U.S.C. 6571 et seq.) (as in effect on the day before the date of enactment of this Act) for any of fiscal years 2019 through 2025 shall be made available to carry out contracts, agreements, or easements referred to in paragraph (1), subject to the condition that no such contract, agreement, or easement may be modified so as to increase the amount of any payment received.

(B) OTHER.—The Secretary may use funds made available to carry out the forest conservation easement program established under subtitle I of the Food Security Act of 1985 to continue to carry out contracts, agreements, or easements referred to in paragraph (1) using the provisions of law (including regulations) applicable to those contracts, agreements, and easements as in existence on the day before the date of enactment of this Act.

Subtitle I—Regional Conservation Partnership Program

SEC. 2801. ESTABLISHMENT AND PURPOSES.

Section 1271(b)(2) of the Food Security Act of 1985 (16 U.S.C. 3871(b)(2)) is amended to read as follows:

''(2) To address natural resource concerns on eligible land on a regional or watershed scale, including through—

''(A) the conservation, protection, restoration, and sustainable use of soil;

''(B) the conservation and protection of water, including sources of drinking water and groundwater;

''(C) the prevention and mitigation of the effects of flooding and drought, and the improvement or expansion of flood resiliency; and

''(D) the conservation of wildlife, agricultural land, and related natural resources.''.

SEC. 2802. DEFINITIONS.

Section 1271A(1) of the Food Security Act of 1985 (16 U.S.C. 3871a(1)) is amended by striking subparagraph (D) and inserting the following:

''(D) The forest conservation easement program established under subtitle I.''.

SEC. 2803. REGIONAL CONSERVATION PARTNERSHIPS.

(a) PARTNERSHIP AGREEMENTS AUTHORIZED.—Section 1271B(a) of the Food Security Act of 1985 (16 U.S.C. 3871b(a)) is amended to read as follows:

''(a) PARTNERSHIP AGREEMENTS AUTHORIZED.—

''(1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary may enter into a partnership agreement with an eligible partner to implement a project that will assist producers with installing and maintaining an eligible activity on eligible land.

''(2) STREAMLINING REQUIRED.—The Secretary shall ensure that a partnership agreement under paragraph (1)—

''(A) is entered into not later than 180 days after the date on which an application is selected under subsection (e); and

''(B) contains only—

''(i) the information, described under subsection (e)(3), necessary to fund and initiate the project to be implemented under the partnership agreement; and

''(ii) any adjustments to the requirements of a covered program determined necessary by the Secretary under paragraph (2) of section 1271E(f), and any waiver provided under paragraph (3) of such section.

''(3) PROCESS FOR REQUESTING WAIVERS AND ADJUSTMENTS.—The Secretary shall make available information on the process for requesting a waiver or an adjustment to the requirements of a covered program pursuant to section 1271E(f).''.

(b) DUTIES OF SECRETARY.—Section 1271B(d) of the Food Security Act of 1985 (16 U.S.C. 3871b(d)) is amended—

(1) in paragraph (4)(B), by striking ''how the Secretary used amounts reserved by the Secretary for that year for technical assistance under section 1271D(f); and'' and inserting ''the use of funds for technical assistance under section 1271D(c);'';

(2) in paragraph (5), by striking the period at the end and inserting ''; and''; and

(3) by adding at the end the following:

''(6) ensure payments to eligible partners under a partnership agreement are made not later than 30 days after the date on which the eligible partner submits to the Secretary a request for payment.''.

(c) APPLICATIONS.—Section 1271B(e)(3) of the Food Security Act of 1985 (16 U.S.C. 3871b(e)(3)) is amended—

(1) in subparagraph (D), by striking ''and'' at the end;

(2) by redesignating subparagraph (E) as subparagraph (F); and

(3) by inserting after subparagraph (D) the following:

''(E) any requests by an eligible partner for a waiver or an adjustment to the requirements of a covered program pursuant to section 1271E(f); and''.

SEC. 2804. ASSISTANCE TO PRODUCERS.

Section 1271C(d)(3) of the Food Security Act of 1985 (16 U.S.C. 3871c(d)(3)) is amended—

(1) by redesignating subparagraph (B) as subparagraph (C);

(2) in subparagraph (A)(iv), by striking the ''and'' at the end; and

(3) by inserting after subparagraph (A)(iv) the following:

''(B) provide, under section 1271B(c)(2), not less than 50 percent of the overall costs of the scope of the project that is the subject of a partnership agreement funded pursuant to paragraph (1) in direct funding; and''.

SEC. 2805. FUNDING.

(a) ALLOCATION OF FUNDING.—Section 1271D of the Food Security Act of 1985 (16 U.S.C. 3871d) is amended—

(1) by striking subsections (a) and (b);

(2) by redesignating subsections (c), (d), and (e) as subsections (a), (b), and (c), respectively; and

(3) in subsection (a), as so redesignated, by striking ''subsection (a)'' and inserting ''section 1241(a)(6)''.

(b) LIMITATION ON ADMINISTRATIVE EXPENSES.—Subsection (b) of section 1271D of the Food Security Act of 1985 (16 U.S.C. 3871d), as so redesignated, is amended to read as follows:

''(b) LIMITATION ON ADMINISTRATIVE EXPENSES.—

''(1) IN GENERAL.—Of the funds made available to implement a project under a partnership agreement, the Secretary may use not more than ten percent to reimburse the eligible partner for administrative expenses relating to the project.

''(2) CONSIDERATION.—Any amounts expended by an eligible partner for administrative expenses that are not reimbursed under paragraph (1) may be considered to be a part of the contribution of the eligible partner under section 1271B(c)(2).''.

(c) TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE.—Subsection (c) of section 1271D of the Food Security Act of 1985 (16 U.S.C. 3871d), as so redesignated, is amended to read as follows:

''(c) TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE.—

''(1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall, through a partnership agreement, identify—

''(A) the total amount of funds that will be used for technical assistance; and

''(B) the share of such funds that will be provided to eligible partners under paragraph (2).

''(2) PROVISION OF ASSISTANCE.—

''(A) REIMBURSEMENT.—Under a partnership agreement that is not funded through an alternative funding arrangement or grant agreement under section 1271C(d), the Secretary may reimburse eligible partners for the costs of technical assistance provided through such partnership agreement, including—

''(i) the costs of technical assistance needed to facilitate the maximum conservation benefit of the applicable project;

''(ii) the costs of providing outreach and education to producers for potential participation in the applicable project;

''(iii) the costs of establishing baseline metrics to support the development of the assessment required under section 1271B(c)(1)(E); and

''(iv) other costs necessary to support the implementation of eligible activities, as determined by the Secretary.

''(B) ADVANCEMENT OF FUNDS.—The Secretary may advance to eligible partners reasonable amounts of funds for costs that may be reimbursed under subparagraph (A), as determined by the Secretary.

''(3) LIMITATION.—The Secretary shall limit costs of the Secretary for technical assistance to costs necessary to carry out the objectives of the program.

''(4) REDUCTION OF ADMINISTRATIVE BARRIERS.—The Secretary shall provide a single, simplified process for reimbursements or advancements to eligible partners for the costs of technical assistance under this subsection.

''(5) THIRD-PARTY PROVIDERS.—The Secretary shall develop and implement strategies to encourage third-party technical service providers to provide technical assistance to eligible partners pursuant to a partnership agreement.''.

SEC. 2806. ADMINISTRATION.

(a) REPORTING.—Section 1271E(b) of the Food Security Act of 1985 (16 U.S.C. 3871e(b)) is amended in the matter preceding paragraph (1) by inserting ''make publicly available and'' after ''the Secretary shall''.

(b) CONSISTENCY WITH COVERED PROGRAM RULES.—Section 1271E of the Food Security Act of 1985 (16 U.S.C. 3871e) is amended by adding at the end the following:

''(f) CONSISTENCY WITH COVERED PROGRAM REQUIREMENTS.—

''(1) IN GENERAL.—Except as provided in this subsection, the Secretary shall ensure that the terms and conditions of a program contract are consistent with the requirements of the applicable covered program to be used as part of the applicable partnership agreement.

''(2) ADJUSTMENTS.—

''(A) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary may, if the Secretary determines necessary, adjust a regulatory requirement of a covered program to be used as a part of a partnership agreement, or related guidance, as it applies to an eligible activity carried out under a program contract entered into pursuant to the partnership agreement—

''(i) to provide a simplified process; or

''(ii) to better reflect unique local circumstances.

''(B) LIMITATION.—The Secretary shall not adjust the application of statutory requirements for a covered program to be used as a part of a partnership agreement, including requirements governing appeals, payment limits, and conservation compliance.

''(3) WAIVER.—With respect to a program contract for an eligible activity under the agricultural conservation easement program, the Secretary may, in the applicable partnership agreement, waive the application of clauses (ii) or (iii)(III) of section 1265A(4)(A) for purposes of determining the eligibility of land.

''(4) CERTIFICATION APPLICABILITY.—With respect to a partnership agreement entered into for acquisition of easements, the Secretary shall apply the authorities applicable to the eligible partner under section 1265B(b)(5)(A) if the eligible partner is an eligible entity certified under such section.

''(5) EXEMPTION.—With respect to a program contract that includes an eligible activity under the environmental quality incentives program to be installed and maintained in a State in which irrigation has not been used significantly for agricultural purposes, as determined by the Secretary, the Secretary may not consider prior irrigation history when determining the eligibility of land.

''(6) APPLICATION.—Paragraph (1) shall not apply to partnership agreements funded pursuant to section 1271C(d).''.

SEC. 2807. CRITICAL CONSERVATION AREAS.

(a) DEFINITIONS.—Section 1271F(a)(2)(C) of the Food Security Act of 1985 (16 U.S.C. 3871f(a)(2)(C)) is amended by inserting '', including restoration and enhancement of wildlife habitat connectivity and wildlife migration corridors'' before the semicolon at the end.

(b) APPLICATIONS.—Section 1271F(b) of the Food Security Act of 1985 (16 U.S.C. 3871f(b)) is amended by striking ''funds under section 1271D(d)(2)'' and inserting ''funds allocated under section 1271D(a)(2)''.

TITLE III—TRADE

Subtitle A—Food for Peace Act

SEC. 3101. TRANSFER OF AUTHORITIES TO THE SECRETARY OF AGRICULTURE.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Section 201 of the Food for Peace Act (7 U.S.C. 1721) is amended by striking ''(to be implemented by the Administrator)'' and inserting ''(to be implemented by the Secretary)''.

(b) CONFORMING AMENDMENTS.—

(1) EMERGENCY AND PRIVATE ASSISTANCE PROGRAMS.—Sections 202, 203, 205, 207, and 208 of the Food for Peace Act (7 U.S.C. 1722, 1723, 1725, 1726a, and 1726b) are each amended by striking ''Administrator'' each place it appears and inserting ''Secretary''.

(2) FOOD FOR DEVELOPMENT.—Title III of the Food for Peace Act (7 U.S.C. 1727 et seq.) is amended by striking ''Administrator'' each place it appears and inserting ''Secretary''.

(3) DEFINITIONS.—Section 402 of the Food for Peace Act (7 U.S.C. 1732) is amended—

(A) by striking paragraph (1); and

(B) by redesignating paragraphs (2) through (9) as paragraphs (1) through (8), respectively.

(4) GENERAL PROVISIONS.—Sections 403 and 404 of the Food for Peace Act (7 U.S.C. 1733 and 1734) are each amended—

(A) by striking ''or the Administrator, as appropriate,'' each place it appears;

(B) in section 403(h), by striking ''or Administrator''; and

(C) in section 404(d), by striking ''or the Administrator''.

(5) CONSULTATION.—Section 405 of the Food for Peace Act (7 U.S.C. 1735) is repealed.

(c) TRANSFER OF ASSETS AND LIABILITIES.—The Food for Peace Act (7 U.S.C. 1691 et seq.) is amended by adding at the end the following new title:

''TITLE VII—TRANSFER PROVISIONS

''SEC. 701. TRANSFER OF ASSETS AND LIABILITIES FROM USAID TO SECRETARY OF AGRICULTURE.

''On and after the date of the enactment of this title, the assets, liabilities, orders, determinations, permits, grants, loans, contracts, agreements, certificates, and licenses of the Administrator of the United States Agency for International Development, pursuant to any authority under this Act on or after January 1, 2026, shall be transferred to the Secretary of Agriculture.

''SEC. 702. TRANSFER OF OTHER AUTHORITIES.

''On and after the date of the enactment of this title, any authority or responsibility provided by any other provision of law that was or could have been used by the Administrator of the United States Agency for International Development, prior to such date of enactment to carry out any function, duty, or responsibility under this Act may be exercised by the Secretary of Agriculture. A reference to such Administrator or to such Agency in any provision of law or regulation relating to any authority or responsibility described in the preceding sentence shall be deemed to be a reference to the Secretary of Agriculture or the Department of Agriculture, respectively.

''SEC. 703. RULES AND REGULATIONS.

''Beginning on the date of the enactment of this title, the Secretary of Agriculture shall promulgate or amend such rules and regulations (including by issuing or re-issuing interim final

rules) as the Secretary may determine appropriate, including by amending such rules and regulations issued by the Administrator of the United States Agency for International Development with respect to the authorities and responsibilities provided by this Act and as in effect on the day before such date of enactment, in order to effectuate and complete the transfer of all functions and duties previously carried out by that Administrator to the Secretary.

''SEC. 704. CONSULTATION.

''The Secretary of Agriculture shall consult with the Secretary of State from time to time in carrying out the authorities under this Act.''.

SEC. 3102. FOOD AID QUALITY ASSURANCE.

Section 202 of the Food for Peace Act (7 U.S.C. 1722), as amended by section 3101(b)(1), is further amended—

(1) in subsection (a), by striking ''any other provision of law'' and inserting ''any other provision of this Act'';

(2) in subsection (b)(1), by inserting ''assistance, including in the form of'' before ''agricultural commodities'';

(3) in subsection (b)(2)—

(A) in subparagraph (A), by striking ''Agency for International Development'' and inserting ''Department of Agriculture''; and

(B) in subparagraph (B), by striking ''Agency'' and inserting ''Department'';

(4) in subsection (d)—

(A) in paragraph (1), by striking ''or'' at the end;

(B) in paragraph (2), by striking the period at the end and inserting ''; or''; and

(C) by adding at the end the following new paragraph:

''(3) a nongovernmental organization, as determined by the Secretary.'';

(5) in subsection (e), by adding at the end the following new paragraph:

''(5) LIMITATION ON DIVERSION OF FUNDS.—Of the funds made available in each fiscal year under this title to the Secretary, not more than 50 percent may be made available for expenses other than the procurement of United States-grown agricultural commodities and ocean transportation of such commodities.''; and

(6) in subsection (h)(3), by striking ''2023'' and inserting ''2031''.

SEC. 3103. REPEAL OF MINIMUM LEVELS OF ASSISTANCE.

Section 204 of the Food for Peace Act (7 U.S.C. 1724) is repealed.

SEC. 3104. FOOD AID CONSULTATIVE GROUP.

Section 205 of the Food for Peace Act (7 U.S.C. 1725), as amended by section 3101(b)(1), is further amended—

(1) in subsection (b)(2), by striking ''the Under Secretary'' and all that follows through the end of the paragraph and inserting ''the Secretary of State''.

(2) in subsection (b)(3), by striking ''the Agency for International Development'' and inserting ''the Department of Agriculture'';

(3) in subsection (b)(4), by striking ''Agency'' and inserting ''Secretary''; and

(4) in subsection (f), by striking ''December 31, 2023'' and inserting ''December 31, 2031''.

SEC. 3105. ISSUANCE OF REGULATIONS; OVERSIGHT, MONITORING, AND EVALUATION.

Section 207 of the Food for Peace Act (7 U.S.C. 1726a), as amended by section 3101(b)(1), is further amended—

(1) in subsection (c)(1), by striking ''the Agriculture Improvement Act of 2018'' and inserting ''the Farm, Food, and National Security Act of 2026'';

(2) in subsection (d), by striking '', in consultation with the Secretary,''; and

(3) in subsection (f)—

(A) in paragraph (1), by striking '', in consultation with the Secretary,''; and

(B) in paragraph (4), by striking ''2023'' each place it appears and inserting ''2031''.

SEC. 3106. INTERNATIONAL FOOD RELIEF PARTNERSHIP.

Section 208(f) of the Food for Peace Act (7 U.S.C. 1726b(f)) is amended to read as follows:

''(f) AVAILABILITY OF APPROPRIATIONS.—In addition to amounts otherwise made available to carry out this section, of the funds made available in each fiscal year under this title to the Secretary, not less than $15,000,000 shall be made available in each of fiscal years 2027 through 2031 to carry out this section, to remain available until expended.''.

SEC. 3107. USE OF COMMODITY CREDIT CORPORATION.

Subsection (b) of section 406 of the Food for Peace Act (7 U.S.C. 1736) is amended to read as follows:

''(b) INCLUDED EXPENSES.—With respect to commodities made available under titles II and III, the Commodity Credit Corporation may pay all associated and incidental costs of such commodities.''.

SEC. 3108. PRE-POSITIONING OF AGRICULTURAL COMMODITIES AND ANNUAL REPORT REGARDING FOOD AID PROGRAMS AND ACTIVITIES.

Section 407 of the Food for Peace Act (7 U.S.C. 1736a) is amended—

(1) by amending subsection (c)(1) to read as follows:

''(1) ACQUISITION.—The Secretary shall transfer, arrange for the transportation, and take other steps necessary to make available agricultural commodities to be provided under title II and title III.'';

(2) in subsection (c)(2), by striking ''Administrator'' and inserting ''Secretary'';

(3) in subsection (c)(3), by striking ''Agency for International Development'' and inserting ''Secretary'';

(4) in subsection (c)(4)(A), by striking ''2023'' each place it appears and inserting ''2031'';

(5) in subsection (c)(4), by striking ''Administrator'' each place it appears and inserting ''Secretary'';

(6) in subsection (d), in the matter preceding paragraph (1), by striking ''or the Administrator, as appropriate,'';

(7) by amending subsection (f)(1) to read as follows:

''(1) ANNUAL REPORT.—Not later than April 1 of each fiscal year, the Secretary shall submit to the appropriate committees of Congress a report regarding each program and activity carried out under this Act during the prior fiscal year.'';

(8) in subsection (f)(2)—

(A) by striking subparagraph (I);

(B) by amending subparagraph (H) to read as follows:

''(H) A statement of the amount of funds provided to each eligible organization that received assistance under this Act and the manner in which those funds were used, including whether such use was for commodity transportation or administrative costs.'';

(C) by redesignating subparagraphs (E) through (H) (as amended) as subparagraphs (F) through (I), respectively; and

(D) by inserting after subparagraph (D) the following new subparagraph:

''(E) An assessment of activities specifically targeting women and girls and the impact of those activities in addressing the unique needs of women and girls.''; and

(9) by striking subsection (f)(3).

SEC. 3109. DEADLINE FOR AGREEMENTS TO FINANCE SALES OR TO PROVIDE OTHER ASSISTANCE.

Section 408 of the Food for Peace Act (7 U.S.C. 1736b) is amended by striking ''2023'' and inserting ''2031''.

SEC. 3110. MINIMUM LEVEL OF NONEMERGENCY FOOD ASSISTANCE.

Section 412 of the Food for Peace Act (7 U.S.C. 1736f) is amended—

(1) in subsection (e)(1), by striking ''2023'' and inserting ''2031''; and

(2) by adding at the end the following new subsection:

''(f) MINIMUM LEVELS OF FUNDING TO ADDRESS CHILD WASTING.—

''(1) MINIMUM LEVEL.—For each of fiscal years 2027 through 2031, in addition to amounts otherwise made available, not less than $200,000,000 of the amounts made available to carry out emergency food assistance programs under title II shall be expended for the procurement and distribution of ready-to-use therapeutic foods.

''(2) APPLICABILITY.—The minimum expenditure requirement under paragraph (1) shall only apply with respect to a fiscal year if—

''(A) the most recent Joint Child Malnutrition Estimates, published annually by the World Health Organization, the World Bank, and the United Nations Children's Fund, report a rate of children under 5 years of age affected by child wasting above 5 percent for the year covered by such report; and

''(B) the total amount made available to carry out programs under title II in the fiscal year is greater than $1,200,000,000.

''(3) RULE OF CONSTRUCTION.—Nothing in this subsection may be construed to limit on the authority of the Secretary to purchase or distribute ready-to-use therapeutic foods in a fiscal year.''.

SEC. 3111. TERMINATION DATE FOR MICRONUTRIENT FORTIFICATION PROGRAMS.

Section 415 of the Food for Peace Act (7 U.S.C.1736g–2) is amended—

(1) in subsection (a)(1)—

(A) by striking ''Administrator, in consultation with the''; and

(B) by striking the comma after ''Secretary''; and

(2) in subsection (c), by striking ''2023'' and inserting ''2031''.

SEC. 3112. JOHN OGONOWSKI AND DOUG BEREUTER FARMER-TO-FARMER PROGRAM.

Section 501 of the Food for Peace Act (7 U.S.C. 1737) is amended—

(1) by striking ''2023'' each place it appears and inserting ''2031''; and

(2) in subsection (f)(1), by striking ''Administrator of the Agency for International Development'' and inserting ''Secretary''.

SEC. 3113. FOOD FOR PEACE ACT ADMINISTRATION.

(a) IN GENERAL.—During fiscal years 2026 through 2031, the Secretary may use funds made available for the salaries and expenses of the Foreign Agricultural Service under an appropriations Act or any other provision of law, including such funds otherwise obligated as of the date of the enactment of this Act, to pay the administrative expenses of the Department of Agriculture in the implementation of the Food for Peace Act (7 U.S.C. 1691 et seq.), as amended by this subtitle.

(b) CARRYOVER.—For fiscal years 2026 through 2031, the balance of any funds provided to carry out subsection (a) for a fiscal year that remains unexpended at the end of that fiscal year may be carried over for use during the following fiscal year.

Subtitle B—Agricultural Trade Act of 1978

SEC. 3201. AGRICULTURAL TRADE PROMOTION AND FACILITATION.

(a) MODIFICATION TO FOREIGN MARKET DEVELOPMENT COOPERATOR PROGRAM.—Section 203(c) of the Agricultural Trade Act of 1978 (7 U.S.C. 5623(c)) is amended by adding at the end the following new paragraph:

''(4) TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE TO IMPROVE INFRASTRUCTURE IN FOREIGN MARKETS FOR UNITED STATES AGRICULTURAL COMMODITIES.—

''(A) IN GENERAL.—As part of the program established under this subsection, the Secretary shall enter into contracts or other agreements, with eligible trade organizations or with nonprofit organizations with expertise in supply chain infrastructure, to provide needs assessments, training, and other technical assistance to enhance the capabilities of infrastructure in new and developing foreign markets, including infrastructure relating to cold chain capacity, port improvements, and other developments, to ensure that United States agricultural commodities are not damaged or lost due to deficiencies of such infrastructure.

''(B) LIMITATION.—Of the amounts made available to carry out the program established under this subsection, not more than $1,500,000 for fiscal year 2027 and not more than $5,000,000 for fiscal year 2028 and each fiscal year thereafter may be made available to carry out this paragraph.''.

(b) REPORT ON COMPETITIVENESS OF UNITED STATES SPECIALTY CROPS.—Section 203(e)(7) of the Agricultural Trade Act of 1978 (7 U.S.C. 5623(e)(7)) is amended to read as follows:

''(7) BIENNIAL REPORT.—

''(A) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary, in consultation with the United States Trade Representative, shall submit every two years to the appropriate congressional committees a report detailing the competitiveness of United States specialty crops.

''(B) ELEMENTS.—The report required by subparagraph (A) shall—

''(i) identify and analyze acts, policies, or practices of foreign countries that constitute significant barriers to, or distortions of, United States exports of specialty crops, including the imposition of—

''(I) tariffs (including retaliatory tariffs) or quotas (including tariff-rate quotas); and

''(II) nontariff barriers, including technical barriers to trade, sanitary and phytosanitary measures, import licensing procedures, and subsidies;

''(ii) identify acts, policies, or practices of foreign countries that enhance the competitiveness of imported specialty crops with domestic specialty crop producers;

''(iii) identify and analyze any differences in applicable food safety regulations of foreign countries that may result in imported specialty crops posing a risk to United States consumers;

''(iv) make an estimate of the impacts on the competitiveness of United States specialty crops of any act, policy, or practice identified under clauses (i) and (ii);

''(v) assess the extent to which each act, policy, or practice identified under clauses (i) and (ii) are subject to international agreements to which the United States is a party;

''(vi) include information with respect to any action taken by the executive or legislative branches during the two years preceding submission of the report, or expected to be taken after submission of the report, to eliminate any act, policy, or practice identified under clauses (i) and (ii), including—

''(I) any action under section 301;

''(II) negotiations or consultations with foreign governments, which may include engagement through the standing committee on sanitary and phytosanitary matters established under a free trade agreement to which the United States is a party; and

''(III) action at the World Trade Organization, including dispute settlement actions, consultations, or negotiations; and

''(vii) a description of—

''(I) any funds provided under subsection (f)(3)(A)(iv) that were not obligated in the fiscal year preceding submission of the report; and

''(II) the reason such funds were not obligated.

''(C) COMMENT PERIOD.—In preparing the report required by subparagraph (A), the Secretary, in coordination with the United States Trade Representative, shall seek and consider comments from the public and from the Agricultural Technical Advisory Committee for Trade in Fruits and Vegetables.

''(D) FORM OF REPORT.—The report required by subparagraph (A) shall be made available to the public in machine-readable format.

''(E) APPROPRIATE CONGRESSIONAL COMMITTEES DEFINED.—In this paragraph, the term 'appropriate congressional committees' means—

''(i) the Committee on Agriculture and the Committee on Ways and Means of the House of Representatives; and

''(ii) the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry and the Committee on Finance of the Senate.''.

(c) MODIFICATION AND EXTENSION OF FUNDING.—Section 203(f) of the Agricultural Trade Act of 1978 (7 U.S.C. 5623(f)) is amended—

(1) by amending paragraph (2) to read as follows:

''(2) FUNDING AMOUNT.—Of the funds of, or an equal value of commodities owned by, the Commodity Credit Corporation, the Secretary shall use to carry out this section the following amounts, to remain available until expended:

''(A) For fiscal year 2026, $255,000,000.

''(B) For fiscal year 2027, $500,000,000.

''(C) For each of fiscal years 2028 through 2031, $533,000,000.''; and

(2) in paragraph (3)—

(A) in the matter preceding subparagraph (A)(i), by striking ''For each of fiscal years 2019 through 2023, the Secretary'' and inserting ''The Secretary'';

(B) in subparagraph (A)—

(i) in clause (i), by striking ''not less than'' and all that follows through the end and inserting: ''not less than—

''(I) $200,000,000 for fiscal year 2026;

''(II) $400,000,000 for fiscal year 2027; and

''(III) $410,000,000 for each of fiscal years 2028 through 2031.'';

(ii) in clause (ii), by striking ''not less than'' and all that follows through the end and inserting: ''not less than—

''(I) $34,500,000 for fiscal year 2026;

''(II) $70,500,000 for fiscal year 2027; and

''(III) $82,000,000 for each of fiscal years 2028 through 2031.'';

(iii) in clause (iii), by striking ''not more than'' and all that follows through the end and inserting: ''not more than—

''(I) $8,000,000 for each of fiscal year 2026 and 2027; and

''(II) $16,000,000 for each of fiscal years 2028 through 2031.'';

(iv) in clause (iv), by striking ''Corporation'' and all that follows through the end and inserting: ''Corporation—

''(I) $9,000,000 for fiscal year 2026; and

''(II) $18,000,000 for each of fiscal years 2027 through 2031.''; and

(v) in clause (v)(I), by striking ''commodities,'' and all that follows through the end and inserting ''commodities, $3,500,000 for each of fiscal years 2026 and 2027 and $7,000,000 for each of fiscal years 2028 through 2031''.

(d) REPEALS.—The following provisions of law are repealed:

(1) Section 718 of title VII of the Agriculture, Rural Development, Food and Drug Administration, and Related Agencies Appropriations Act, 1999 (as enacted by section 101(a) of division A of Public Law 105–277; 7 U.S.C. 5623 note).

(2) Section 10602 of Public Law 119–21 (7 U.S.C. 5623a).

SEC. 3202. PRESERVING FOREIGN MARKETS FOR GOODS USING COMMON NAMES.

(a) DEFINITIONS.—Section 102 of the Agricultural Trade Act of 1978 (7 U.S.C. 5602) is amended—

(1) in the matter preceding paragraph (1), by striking ''As used in this Act—'' and inserting ''In this Act:'';

(2) by redesignating paragraphs (2) through (8) as paragraphs (3), (5), (6), (7), (8), (9), and (4), respectively, and reordering such paragraphs in numerical sequence;

(3) by inserting after paragraph (1) the following:

''(2) COMMON NAME.—

''(A) IN GENERAL.—The term 'common name' means a name that, as determined by the Secretary—

''(i) is ordinarily or customarily used for an agricultural commodity or food product;

''(ii) is typically placed on the packaging and product label of the agricultural commodity or food product;

''(iii) with respect to wine—

''(I) is—

''(aa) ordinarily or customarily used for a wine grape varietal name; or

''(bb) a traditional term or expression that is typically placed on the packaging and label of the wine; and

''(II) does not mean any appellation of origin for wine listed in subpart C of part 9 of title 27, Code of Federal Regulations (or successor regulations); and

''(iv) the use of which is consistent with standards of the Codex Alimentarius Commission.

''(B) EXAMPLES.—The following names, among others, shall be considered as common names as such term is defined for purposes of carrying out subparagraph (A):

''(i) With respect to food products: american, asiago, basmati, black forest ham, blue, blue vein, bologna, bologne, bratwurst, brie, burrata, camembert, capicola and capocollo, cheddar, chevre, chorizo, colby, cottage cheese, coulommiers, cream cheese, danbo, edam, emmental, feta, fontina, gorgonzola, gouda, grana, gruyere, havarti, kielbasa, limburger and limburgo, mascarpone, monterey jack, mortadella, munster and muenster, neufchatel, parmesan, pancetta, pecorino, pepper jack, prosciutto, provolone, ricotta, romano, saint-paulin, salame, salami, samso, and swiss, tilsiter, and tomme.

''(ii) With respect to wine:

''(I) The list of grape varietal terms in section 4.91 of title 27, Code of Federal Regulations (or a successor regulation).

''(II) The grape variety designations administratively approved by the Alcohol and Tobacco Tax and Trade Bureau.

''(III) The following nonvarietal descriptors: chateau, classic, clos, cream, crusted and crusting, noble, ruby, sur lie, tawny, vintage, and vintage character.

''(iii) With respect to beer: bitter, pale ale, india pale ale, mild, porter, stout, barleywine, dubbel, quadrupel, witbier, saison, biere de garde, oud red, altbier, weisse, gose, hefeweizen, dunkel, helles, rauchbier, pilsener, maerzen, schwarzbier, doppelbock, bock, kellerbier, munchener and munich style, oktoberfest, dortmunder, kolsch and koelsch, cream, grodziskie, lager.

''(C) CONSIDERATIONS.—In making a determination under subparagraph (A), the Secretary may take into account—

''(i) competent sources, such as dictionaries, newspapers, professional journals and literature, and information posted on websites that are determined by the Secretary to be reliable in reporting market information;

''(ii) the use of the common name in a domestic, regional, or international product standard, including a standard promulgated by the Codex Alimentarius Commission, for the agricultural commodity or food product; and

''(iii) the ordinary and customary use of the common name in the production or marketing of the agricultural commodity or food product in the United States or in other countries.

''(D) RULE OF CONSTRUCTION.—The enumeration of certain names under subparagraph (B) may not be construed to limit or restrict the ability of the Secretary to determine, consistent with subparagraph (A), that any other name is a common name for purposes of this section.''; and

(4) in subparagraph (A) of paragraph (7) (as so redesignated)—

(A) in clause (v), by striking ''; or'' at the end and inserting a semicolon;

(B) in clause (vi), by striking the period at the end and inserting ''; or''; and

(C) by adding at the end the following:

''(vii) prohibits or disallows the use of a name determined or considered to be a common name pursuant to paragraph (2).''.

(b) NEGOTIATIONS TO DEFEND USE OF COMMON NAMES.—Title III of the Agricultural Trade Act of 1978 (7 U.S.C. 5652 et seq.) is amended by adding at the end the following:

''SEC. 303. NEGOTIATIONS TO DEFEND THE USE OF COMMON NAMES.

''(a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall coordinate efforts with the United States Trade Representative to secure the right of United States agricultural producers, processors, and exporters to use common names for agricultural commodities or food products in foreign markets through the negotiation of bilateral, plurilateral, or multilateral agreements, memoranda of understanding, or exchanges of letters that assure the current and future use of each common name identified by the Secretary in connection with United States agricultural commodities or food products.

''(b) BRIEFING.—The Secretary and the United States Trade Representative shall jointly provide to the Committee on Agriculture of the House of Representatives, the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry of the Senate, the Committee on Ways and Means of the House of Representatives, and the Committee on Finance of the Senate, a briefing, twice annually, on efforts and successes in carrying out subsection (a).''.

SEC. 3203. INTERAGENCY SEASONAL AND PERISHABLE FRUITS AND VEGETABLE WORKING GROUP.

Subtitle B of title IV of the Agricultural Trade Act of 1978 (7 U.S.C. 5671 et seq.) is amended by adding at the end the following:

''SEC. 418. INTERAGENCY SEASONAL AND PERISHABLE FRUITS AND VEGETABLES WORKING GROUP.

''(a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary (acting through the Under Secretary of Agriculture for Trade and Foreign Agricultural Affairs), the United States Trade Representative, the Secretary of Commerce, and the heads of other Federal agencies or entities as determined to be appropriate by the Secretary, shall jointly establish an interagency working group (referred to in this section as the 'working group') composed of representatives from each agency to monitor and assess, on an ongoing basis, seasonal and perishable fruits and vegetables trade data and related information.

''(b) CONSULTATION.—The working group shall consult with the Agricultural Trade Advisory Committee, relevant seasonal or perishable agricultural producers, and other relevant trade associations to identify threats that imports pose to domestic producers of seasonal and perishable fruits and vegetables.

''(c) TRADE ACTIONS AND INVESTIGATIONS.—The working group shall coordinate as appropriate regarding potential additional trade actions and investigations with respect to any seasonal or perishable fruits and vegetables, as determined to be advisable by the working group.

''(d) RECOMMENDATIONS TO THE SECRETARY.—The working group shall recommend programs or assistance that the Secretary could provide to producers of seasonal and perishable fruits and vegetables to address market impacts.''.

Subtitle C—Other Agricultural Trade Laws

SEC. 3301. GROWING AMERICAN FOOD EXPORTS.

Section 1543A of the Food, Agriculture, Conservation, and Trade Act of 1990 (7 U.S.C. 5679) is amended in subsection (d), by striking ''2023'' and inserting ''2031''.

SEC. 3302. FOOD FOR PROGRESS ACT OF 1985.

Section 1110 of the Food Security Act of 1985 (commonly referred to as the ''Food for Progress Act of 1985''; 7 U.S.C. 1736o) is amended—

(1) in subsection (c)—

(A) by striking ''enter into'' and inserting ''annually enter into two or more''; and

(B) by inserting ''two or more'' before ''eligible entities'';

(2) in subsection (f)(3), by striking ''2023'' and inserting ''2031'';

(3) in subsection (g), by striking ''2023'' and inserting ''2031'';

(4) in subsection (k), by striking ''2023'' and inserting ''2031'';

(5) in subsection (l)—

(A) in paragraph (1), by striking ''2023'' and inserting ''2031''; and

(B) in the heading of paragraph (4), by striking ''HUMANITARIAN OR DEVELOPMENT'' and inserting ''DEVELOPMENT'';

(6) in subsection (m)(2), by striking ''humanitarian and''; and

(7) in subsection (n)(2)(C), by striking ''Committee on International Relations'' and inserting ''Committee on Foreign Affairs''.

SEC. 3303. BILL EMERSON HUMANITARIAN TRUST ACT.

Section 302 of the Bill Emerson Humanitarian Trust Act (7 U.S.C. 1736f–1) is amended—

(1) in subsection (b)(2)(B)(i), by striking ''2023'' each place it appears and inserting ''2031'';

(2) in subsection (c)(1)(C), by striking ''the Administrator'' and inserting ''the Secretary'';

(3) by striking subsection (c)(1)(D);

(4) in subsection (f)(2)(A), by inserting ''by the Secretary'' after ''reimbursed''; and

(5) in subsection (h),

(A) in paragraph (1), by striking ''2023'' and inserting ''2031''; and

(B) in paragraph (2), by striking ''2026'' and inserting ''2031''.

SEC. 3304. PROMOTION OF AGRICULTURAL EXPORTS TO EMERGING MARKETS.

Section 1542(a) of the Food, Agriculture, Conservation, and Trade Act of 1990 (7 U.S.C. 5622 note; Public Law 101–624) is amended by striking ''2023'' and inserting ''2031''.

SEC. 3305. INTERNATIONAL AGRICULTURAL EDUCATION FELLOWSHIP PROGRAM.

Section 3307 of the Agriculture Improvement Act of 2018 (7 U.S.C. 3295) is amended—

(1) in subsection (g)(1), by striking ''2019 through 2023'' and inserting ''2027 through 2031'';

(2) by redesignating subsection (g) as subsection (h); and

(3) by inserting after subsection (f) the following:

''(g) PROGRAM CONTINUITY.—To assist eligible countries in the long-term development of enduring, school-based agricultural education and youth extension programs, the Secretary shall, to the maximum extent practicable—

''(1) implement the fellowship program in each participating host country for not fewer than 3 consecutive years; and

''(2) ensure that contracts awarded to outside organizations are multiyear.''.

SEC. 3306. INTERNATIONAL AGRICULTURE CULTURAL IMMERSION AND EXCHANGE PROGRAM.

Title III of the Agriculture Improvement Act of 2018 (Public Law 115–334) is amended by adding at the end the following new section (and by conforming the table of contents in section 1(b) accordingly):

''SEC. 3313. INTERNATIONAL AGRICULTURE CULTURAL IMMERSION AND EXCHANGE PROGRAM.

''(a) DEFINITION.—In this section:

''(1) ELIGIBLE CANDIDATE.—The term 'eligible candidate' means an individual that—

''(A) is between the ages of 19 and 30 years;

''(B) has demonstrated experience in agricultural sciences, food systems, and food and nutrition education;

''(C) is prepared to live in 1 or more host countries for at least 2 months or up to 6 months; and

''(D) is a resident of the United States.

''(2) ELIGIBLE COUNTRY.—The term 'eligible country' means a country that has agricultural trade relations with the United States, as recognized by the Foreign Agriculture Service.

''(3) PROGRAM.—The term 'Program' means the International Agriculture Cultural Immersion and Exchange Program established under subsection (b).

''(4) SECRETARY.—The term 'Secretary' means the Secretary of Agriculture.

''(b) ESTABLISHMENT.—The Secretary shall establish an international cultural immersion and exchange program, to be known as the 'International Agriculture Cultural Immersion and Exchange Program', under which the Secretary shall—

''(1) provide eligible candidates with international cultural exchange and immersion experiences focused on agricultural sciences, food systems, and food and nutrition education through placement with host families in eligible countries; and

''(2) place in the United States with host families individuals that meet the requirement of subsection (a)(1)(A) and are residents of eligible countries to experience United States agriculture, trade relations, and culture.

''(c) PURPOSES.—The purposes of the Program are—

''(1) to develop globally minded citizens of the United States; and

''(2) to strengthen and enhance trade between eligible countries and the United States in agricultural, food, nutrition, and environmental industries.

''(d) COOPERATIVE AGREEMENT.—

''(1) IN GENERAL.—To administer the Program, the Secretary shall enter into a cooperative agreement with a nonprofit organization that has experience in implementing international cultural exchange programs focused on agricultural sciences, food and nutrition education, and cultural understanding through placement with host families.

''(2) PRIORITY.—In carrying out paragraph (1), the Secretary shall give priority to a nonprofit organization with which the Secretary has a memorandum of understanding dated not earlier than January 1, 2019.

''(3) MATCHING FUNDS.—As a condition of entering into a cooperative agreement under this subsection, a nonprofit organization shall provide equal matching funds from non-Federal sources.

''(e) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There is authorized to be appropriated $10,000,000 for each of fiscal years 2027 through 2031 to carry out this section.''.

SEC. 3307. INTERNATIONAL FOOD SECURITY TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE.

Section 1543B(f) of the Food, Agriculture, Conservation, and Trade Act of 1990 is amended by striking ''2023'' and inserting ''2031''.

SEC. 3308. MCGOVERN-DOLE INTERNATIONAL FOOD FOR EDUCATION AND CHILD NUTRITION PROGRAM.

Section 3107 of the Farm Security and Rural Investment Act of 2002 (7 U.S.C. 1736o–1) is amended—

(1) in subsection (c)(2)(B)(ii), by inserting ''or lower middle'' before ''income'';

(2) in subsection (h)(2), by striking ''Committee on International Relations'' and inserting ''Committee on Foreign Affairs'';

(3) in subsection (l)(2), by striking ''2023'' and inserting ''2031''; and

(4) in subsection (l)(4), by striking ''not more than 10 percent'' and inserting ''not less than 8 percent, but not more than 15 percent''.

SEC. 3309. GLOBAL CROP DIVERSITY TRUST.

Section 3202 of the Food, Conservation, and Energy Act of 2008 (22 U.S.C. 2220a note; Public Law 110–246) is amended—

(1) by amending subsection (b)(1) to read as follows:

''(1) IN GENERAL.—For the period of fiscal years 2027 through 2031, the aggregate contributions of funds of the Federal Government provided to the Trust under this section shall not exceed 33 percent of the total amount of funds contributed to the Trust from all sources and for all purposes.'';

(2) in subsection (b)(2)—

(A) by inserting ''under this section'' after ''Trust''; and

(B) by striking ''2023'' and inserting ''2031''; and

(3) in subsection (c), by striking ''fiscal years 2014 through 2023'' and inserting ''fiscal years 2023 through 2031''.

SEC. 3310. LOCAL AND REGIONAL FOOD AID PROCUREMENT PROJECTS.

Section 3206(e)(1) of the Food, Conservation, and Energy Act of 2008 (7 U.S.C. 1726c(e)(1)) is amended by striking ''2023'' and inserting ''2031''.

SEC. 3311. AGRICULTURAL TRADE ENFORCEMENT TASK FORCE.

(a) ESTABLISHMENT.—Not later than 30 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the President shall establish a joint task force, to be known as the ''Agricultural Trade Enforcement Task Force'' (referred to in this section as the ''Task Force'').

(b) DUTIES.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—The Task Force shall—

(A) identify trade barriers to United States agricultural exports that are vulnerable to dispute settlement under the World Trade Organization (''WTO'') or other trade agreements;

(B) develop and implement a strategy for enforcing violations of trade agreements related to these trade barriers;

(C) identify like-minded trading partners for specific trade barriers that could act as co-complainants or primary complainants on disputes that are systemically or economically important to the United States; and

(D) report quarterly to Congress on progress toward resolving cases or filing disputes.

(2) CONSULTATION.—In carrying out its duties under this subsection, the Task Force shall regularly consult, to the extent necessary and appropriate, with the following:

(A) Relevant stakeholders in the private sector, including the agricultural trade advisory committees.

(B) Federal departments and agencies that are not represented on the Task Force.

(C) Like-minded trading partners that are similarly concerned with trade barriers and are potential participants in the dispute settlement process.

(c) MEMBERSHIP.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—The Task Force shall be comprised of the following members:

(A) One or more employees of the Foreign Agricultural Service, who shall be appointed by the Under Secretary for Trade and Foreign Agricultural Affairs.

(B) One of more employees of the Office of the United States Trade Representative, who shall be appointed jointly by the General Counsel for the Office of the United States Trade Representative and the Chief Agricultural Negotiator.

(C) One or more employees of other Federal agencies as needed, who shall be appointed jointly by the officials specified in subparagraphs (A) and (B).

(2) QUALIFICATION.—Employees of the Federal agencies specified in subparagraphs (A), (B), and (C) of paragraph (1) may be appointed as members of the Task Force only if such employees have appropriate expertise in agricultural trade policy and trade enforcement.

(d) REPORT.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 90 days after the date of enactment of this Act, and on a quarterly basis thereafter, the Task Force shall submit to Congress a report on its progress in identifying and addressing trade barriers to United States agricultural exports.

(2) MATTERS TO BE INCLUDED.—The report required by this subsection shall include the following:

(A) A description of the systemic and economically significant trade barriers that have been identified.

(B) A justification for including the identified trade barriers.

(C) A description of the progress that has been made in developing dispute settlement cases and further information that is required.

(D) The current status of ongoing disputes at the WTO and implementation of panel, arbitration, or appellate body decisions.

(3) ADDITIONAL MATTERS TO BE INCLUDED IN INITIAL REPORT.—The initial report required by this subsection shall, in addition to the matters described in subparagraphs (A), (B), (C), and (D) of paragraph (2), include a plan to file a request under the WTO dispute settlement process for consultations to address India's minimum price supports. The plan shall include—

(A) an identification of like-minded trading partners that could act as co-complainants or primary complainants with respect to the request;

(B) a description of specific claims the United States intends to make with respect to the request; and

(C) a timeline to—

(i) request consultations; and

(ii) request the establishment of a panel not later than 60 days after the date of the request for consultations if India does not provide assurances that it will address its minimum price supports.

(e) CONGRESSIONAL BRIEFINGS.—The United States Trade Representative and the Secretary of Agriculture shall provide briefings on the Task Force to appropriate Members of Congress and congressional staff.

SEC. 3312. REPORT ON INTERNATIONAL SHRIMP TRADE.

(a) REPORT REQUIRED.—Not later than 180 days after the date of enactment of this Act, the Comptroller General of the United States shall submit to the appropriate congressional committees a report that examines policy options available to the Secretary of Agriculture to boost the competitiveness of domestic shrimp in global and domestic markets.

(b) CONTENTS.—The report required by subsection (a) shall—

(1) include an analysis of—

(A) the Secretary's authority with regard to shrimp and other seafood products;

(B) domestic shrimp and other seafood producers' access to financial support programs; and

(C) ways to facilitate interagency coordination under existing authorities around common goals for shrimp and other seafood commodities with respect to tariffs, market access policies, and other nontariff barriers; and

(2) identify trade or other legal barriers to United States shrimp and seafood production that are vulnerable to dispute settlement through the World Trade Organization or otherwise under bilateral or multilateral trade agreements.

(c) APPROPRIATE CONGRESSIONAL COMMITTEES.—In this section, the term ''appropriate congressional committees'' means—

(1) the Committee on Agriculture and the Committee on Energy and Commerce of the House of Representatives; and

(2) the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry and the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions of the Senate.

Subtitle D—Other Trade Matters

SEC. 3401. REPORT ON MODIFICATIONS TO USMCA.

(a) REPORT REQUIRED.—The Secretary of Agriculture, in coordination with the United States Trade Representative, shall submit to the appropriate congressional committees and concurrently make publicly available, prior to July 1, 2026, a report on how any expected or implemented modification or revocation of any part of the USMCA (as such term is defined in section 3 of the United States-Mexico-Canada Agreement Implementation Act (19 U.S.C. 4502(9))) in any manner will affect the importation or exportation of any article that is a covered agricultural commodity, including—

(1) the anticipated effects on relevant product prices and projections as a result of such revocation or modification, including—

(A) the short- and long-term impacts on domestic pricing;

(B) changes in consumer food prices;

(C) expected or anticipated shifts in input costs for domestic producers; and

(D) regional or sector-specific variations in pricing impacts; and

(2) the forecasted shifts in farm revenue and profitability for domestic farmers, foresters, ranchers, and other producers as a result of such revocation or modification, including—

(A) impacts on net farm income and debt-to-asset ratios;

(B) sector-specific effects on crops, livestock, and specialty crops;

(C) effects on small, medium, and large farm operations;

(D) impacts on agricultural exports, market access, and global competitiveness; and

(E) estimated effects on rural employment and economies.

(b) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

(1) APPROPRIATE CONGRESSIONAL COMMITTEES.—The term ''appropriate congressional committees'' means—

(A) the Committee on Agriculture, the Committee on Ways and Means, and the Committee on Foreign Affairs of the House of Representatives; and

(B) the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry, the Committee on Finance, and the Committee on Foreign Relations of the Senate.

(2) COVERED AGRICULTURAL COMMODITY.—The term ''covered agricultural commodity'' has the meaning given the term ''agricultural commodity'' under section 102(1) of the Agricultural Trade Act of 1978 (7 U.S.C. 5602(1)).

SEC. 3402. SENSE OF CONGRESS AND REPORT ON ARGENTINE BEEF IMPORTS.

(a) SENSE OF CONGRESS.—It is the sense of Congress as follows:

(1) Congress finds that United States ranchers and cattle producers produce the healthiest and highest quality beef on the planet.

(2) Any official trade agreement between the United States and Argentina—including the United States of America—Argentine Republic Agreement on Reciprocal Trade and Investment—that allow Argentina to export ship fresh and frozen beef into the United States market under expanded quotas is detrimental to domestic ranchers, cattle producers, and cattle markets.

(3) Congress recognizes that many Americans enjoy eating beef and recognizes that many Americans want their beef raised domestically.

(4) Congress further concludes that any agreement to allow increased beef from Argentina into United States markets introduces unfair competition into an already volatile market as this imported beef could depress cattle prices at United States sale barns and have a ripple effect throughout the domestic economy affecting feed suppliers, equipment dealers, veterinarians, and other rural businesses.

(5) Congress additionally concludes that United States beef production is the safest in the world and that inconsistent enforcement abroad could put American consumers at risk and create an uneven regulatory playing field.

(b) REPORT.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 180 days after the date on which the United States signs any formal trade agreement with Argentina that includes a change to the tariff rate quotas or other duties on fresh and frozen beef imported from Argentina the Secretary of Agriculture and the United States Trade Representative shall jointly submit to the appropriate congressional committees a report on the effect of such imported beef on domestic beef and cattle markets, including—

(A) American consumer sentiment about the quality of beef in the United States;

(B) impacts on domestic cattle prices;

(C) effects on domestic beef prices;

(D) changes to the domestic cattle herd size; and

(E) rancher sentiments toward expanding their herds.

(2) APPROPRIATE CONGRESSIONAL COMMITTEES DEFINED.—In this section, the term ''appropriate congressional committees'' means—

(A) the Committee on Agriculture, the Committee on Ways and Means, and the Committee on Foreign Affairs of the House of Representatives; and

(B) the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry, the Committee on Finance, and the Committee on Foreign Relations of the Senate.

TITLE IV—NUTRITION

Subtitle A—Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program

SEC. 4101. DECLARATION OF POLICY.

Section 2 of the Food and Nutrition Act of 2008 (7 U.S.C. 2011) is amended—

(1) by inserting ''(a)'' before ''It'', and

(2) by adding at the end the following:

''(b) Congress recognizes the supplemental nutrition assistance program allows low-income households to obtain supplemental food for an active, healthy life that supports the prevention of—

''(1) diet-related chronic disease, including—

''(A) obesity;

''(B) diabetes;

''(C) hypertension;

''(D) heart disease; and

''(E) cancer;

''(2) disability;

''(3) premature death;

''(4) unsustainable health care costs; and

''(5) undermining of military readiness.

''(c) Accordingly, it is also the policy of the Congress that the Secretary should administer the supplemental nutrition assistance program in a manner that will provide participants, especially children, access to a variety of foods essential to optimal health and well-being.''.

SEC. 4102. PROHIBITED FEES.

Section 7(h)(13)(B) of the Food and Nutrition Act of 2008 (7 U.S.C. 2016(h)(13)(B)) is amended by striking ''Effective through fiscal year 2023, neither'' and inserting ''Neither''.

SEC. 4103. SNAP STAFFING FLEXIBILITY.

Section 11 of the Food and Nutrition Act of 2008 (7 U.S.C. 2020) is amended by adding at the end the following:

''(y) SNAP STAFFING FLEXIBILITY.—

''(1) IN GENERAL.—Notwithstanding section 11(e)(6)(B), a State agency (as defined in section 3 of the Food and Nutrition Act of 2008) may, by contract with the State agency at a reasonable cost in accordance with the State agency's standard contracting rules, hire a contractor to undertake supplemental nutrition assistance program certification or carry out any other function of the State agency under such program so long as—

''(A) the contract does not provide incentives for the agency or contractor to delay eligibility determinations or to deny eligibility for individuals otherwise eligible for supplemental nutrition assistance program benefits; and

''(B) the contractor has no direct or indirect financial interest in an approved retail store.

''(2) USE.—A State agency may use the authority provided in paragraph (1) when—

''(A) the State experiences an inability to timely process supplemental nutrition assistance program applications from causes that include but are not limited to—

''(i) pandemics and other health emergencies;

''(ii) seasonal workforce cycles;

''(iii) temporary staffing shortages; and

''(iv) weather or other natural disasters;

''(B) the State's payment error rate, as defined in section 16, is greater than or equal to 6 percent based on the most recent available Department of Agriculture data; or

''(C) the State experiences an increase in supplemental nutrition assistance program applications.

''(3) REQUIREMENTS.—A State agency that hires a contractor under paragraph (1) shall ensure such action—

''(A) is consistent with all principles under section 900.603 of title 5 of the Code of Federal Regulations; and

''(B) is part of a blended workforce and does not supplant existing merit-based personnel in the State.

''(4) NOTIFICATION.—A State agency shall notify the Secretary of its intent to use the authority provided in this section and shall provide any information or data supporting State agency increases in supplemental nutrition assistance program applications or any inability to timely process such applications.

''(5) PUBLIC AVAILABILITY.—Not later than 10 days after the date of the receipt of a notification submitted by a State agency under paragraph (4), the Secretary shall make publicly available on the website of the Department of Agriculture the notification submitted by such State agency and any accompanying information or data supporting such notification so submitted.

''(6) PROGRAM DESIGN.—Any action taken by a State agency under paragraph (1) shall not be—

''(A) considered to be a major change in the operations of such State agency for purposes of section 11(a)(4) of this Act, or

''(B) subject to any requirement specified in such section.

''(7) ANNUAL REPORT.—The Secretary shall submit to the Committee on Agriculture of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry of the Senate, an annual report that contains—

''(A) a description of measures taken to address increases in supplemental nutrition assistance program applications and any inability to timely process such applications;

''(B) information or data supporting State agency notifications provided pursuant to paragraph (4); and

''(C) recommendations for changes to the Secretary's authority under this Act to assist the Secretary, States, and local governments of States in preparing for any future increases in supplemental nutrition assistance program applications or inability to timely process such applications.

''(8) TEMPORARY STAFFING SHORTAGES.—In cases of temporary staffing shortages, the authority provided to State agencies under paragraph (1) shall—

''(A) expire when the backlog of supplemental nutrition assistance program applications has been eliminated;

''(B) not override any collective bargaining agreement or memorandum of understanding in effect between the State and employees of the State or of a local government of such State; and

''(C) expire when the error rate, as defined in section 16, is less than 6 percent.''.

SEC. 4104. UPDATES TO ADMINISTRATIVE PROCESSES FOR SNAP RETAILERS.

The 2d sentence of section 9(d) of the Food and Nutrition Act of 2008 is amended by inserting '', on two consecutive occasions within a 3-year-period,'' after ''does not meet''.

SEC. 4105. REPORT ON ALL IDENTIFIED PAYMENT ERRORS.

Section 16(c) of the Food and Nutrition Act of 2008 (7 U.S.C. 2025(c)) is amended—

(1) by redesignating paragraph (9) as paragraph (10); and

(2) by inserting after paragraph (8) the following:

''(9) REPORT ON ALL IDENTIFIED PAYMENT ERRORS.—

''(A) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall include all identified payment errors, including small errors under paragraph (1)(A)(ii), regardless of dollar amount, in a supplemental section of the annual payment error rate measurement report for the supplemental nutrition assistance program.

''(B) RULE OF CONSTRUCTION.—The information reported under subparagraph (A) shall not alter, modify, or affect the calculation of the tolerance level for excluding small errors under paragraph (1)(A)(ii).''.

SEC. 4106. AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.

The 1st sentence of section 18(a)(1) of the Food and Nutrition Act of 2008 (7 U.S.C. 2027(a)(1)) is amended by striking ''2023'' and inserting ''''2031''.

SEC. 4107. RETAIL FOOD STORE AND RECIPIENT TRAFFICKING.

Section 29(c)(1) of the Food and Nutrition Act of 2008 (7 U.S.C. 2036b) is amended by striking ''2023'' and inserting ''2031''.

SEC. 4108. EBT CARD SECURITY REGULATIONS.

Not later than 6 months after the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary of Agriculture shall promulgate, in the form of a proposed rule, regulations through notice and comment rulemaking to enhance EBT Card (as defined in section 3(i) of the Food and Nutrition Act; 7 U.S.C. 2012(i)) security measures.

SEC. 4109. REPORT ON SNAP ADMINISTRATIVE EXPENSES.

Not later than 12 months after the date of enactment of this Act, the Comptroller General of the United States shall submit to the Committee on Agriculture of the House of Representatives, and the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry of the Senate, a report that—

(1) examines the causes of State variation in supplemental nutrition assistance program administrative costs and identifies the factors most likely to contribute to an increase in these costs; and

(2) provides recommendations on how the Department of Agriculture and Congress can improve oversight of administrative costs in the program.

SEC. 4110. ANIMAL PROTEIN AN ELIGIBLE INCENTIVE FOOD.

Section 9(j)(1)(B) of the Food and Nutrition Act of 2008 (7 U.S.C. 2018(j)(1)(B)) is amended by inserting ''animal protein,'' after ''whole grain,''.

SEC. 4111. PERMANENT AUTHORITY FOR SUPPLEMENTAL NUTRITION ASSISTANCE PROGRAM ONLINE PURCHASING.

Section 7 of the Food and Nutrition Act of 2008 (7 U.S.C. 2016) is amended by adding at the end the following:

''(l) ONLINE PURCHASING PROGRAM.—

''(1) PERMANENT AUTHORITY.—Not later than 120 days after the effective date of this subsection, the Secretary shall begin transitioning the supplemental nutrition assistance program online purchasing initiative from pilot or demonstration status to permanent nationwide program operations, with the completion of the regulations marking the end of the transition.

''(2) REGULATIONS.—The Secretary shall issue such regulations and guidance as may be necessary to carry out paragraph (1), including provisions related to program integrity, consumer protections, and equitable access in rural areas. Such regulations shall be issued not later than 2 years after the effective date of this subsection.

''(3) STAKEHOLDER CONSULTATION.—The Secretary shall establish a formal process for consultation with State agencies, authorized retailers, electronic benefit transfer processors, consumer advocates, and other relevant stakeholders to incorporate lessons learned from online purchasing operations during the period of 2014 through 2025.

''(4) REPORT TO CONGRESS.—Not later than 120 days after the effective date of this subsection, the Secretary shall submit to the Committee on Agriculture of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry of the Senate a report describing the consultation process and recommendations received.''.

SEC. 4112. EMERGENCY FOOD ASSISTANCE PROGRAMS.

(a) EMERGENCY FOOD PROGRAM INFRASTRUCTURE GRANTS.—Section 209(d) of the Emergency Food Assistance Act of 1983 (7 U.S.C. 7511a(d)) is amended by striking ''2023'' and inserting ''2031''.

(b) AVAILABILITY OF COMMODITIES FOR THE EMERGENCY FOOD ASSISTANCE PROGRAM.—Section 27(a)(1) of the Food and Nutrition Act of 2008 (7 U.S.C. 2036(a)(1)) is amended by striking ''2023'' and inserting ''2031''.

(c) OPTION FOR PURCHASING THROUGH DOD FRESH.—Section 214(c) of the Emergency Food Assistance Act of 1983 (7 U.S.C. 7515(c)) is amended by adding at the end the following:

''(3) OPTION FOR PURCHASING THROUGH DOD FRESH.—At the request of a State agency, the Secretary may allow the State agency to use not more than 20 percent of the cost of the commodities allocated to that State agency under this section to order commodities through the Department of Defense Fresh Fruit and Vegetable Program.''.

SEC. 4113. FOOD DISTRIBUTION PROGRAM ON INDIAN RESERVATIONS.

Section 4(b)(6)(E) of the Food and Nutrition Act of 2008 (7 U.S.C. 2013(b)(6)(E)) is amended by striking ''2023'' and inserting ''2031''.

Subtitle B—Commodity Distribution Programs

SEC. 4201. COMMODITY DISTRIBUTION PROGRAM.

(a) EXPANSION OF THE SENIORS FARMERS' MARKET NUTRITION PROGRAM.—Section 4402 of the Farm Security and Rural Investment Act of 2002 (7 U.S.C. 3007) is amended—

(1) in subsection (a), by striking ''2008 through 2023'' and inserting ''2027 through 2031''; and

(2) in subsection (b)(1), by striking ''and herbs'' and inserting ''herbs, maple syrup, and tree nuts (including shelled tree nuts)''.

(b) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—The 1st sentence of section 4(a) of the Agriculture and Consumer Protection Act of 1973 (7 U.S.C. 612c note) is amended by striking ''2023'' and inserting ''2031''.

SEC. 4202. COMMODITY SUPPLEMENTAL FOOD PROGRAM.

Section 5 of the Agriculture and Consumer Protection Act of 1973 (7 U.S.C. 612c note; Public Law 93–86) is amended—

(1) in subsection (a)—

(A) in paragraph (1) by striking ''2023'' and inserting ''2031'', and

(B) in paragraph (2)(B), in the matter preceding clause (i), by striking ''2023'' and inserting ''2031'',

(2) in subsection (d)(2), in the 1st sentence, by striking ''2023'' and inserting ''2031''; and

(3) by adding at the end the following:

''(n) COMMODITY SUPPLEMENTAL FOOD PROGRAM DELIVERY PILOT PROGRAM.—

''(1) PURPOSE.—The purpose of this subsection is to award grants for the operation of projects that increase the access of low-income elderly persons to commodities through home delivery or other means and to evaluate such projects.

''(2) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall award, on a competitive basis, grants directly to State agencies, or to State agencies on behalf of eligible entities, to carry out the activities described in paragraph (5).

''(3) MAXIMUM GRANT AWARD.—A grant awarded to a State agency under this subsection shall not exceed—

''(A) the greater of—

''(i) the State's commodity supplemental food program caseload at time of application multiplied by 60; or

''(ii) $10,000; or

''(B) $4,000,000;

whichever is less.

''(4) APPLICATION.—A State agency seeking a grant under this subsection shall submit to the Secretary an application in such form, at such time, and containing such information as the Secretary may require.

''(5) GRANT USES.—A State agency awarded a grant under this subsection shall distribute grant funds to eligible entities to operate projects that facilitate delivery of commodities to participants in the commodity supplemental food program, including with respect to costs associated with—

''(A) transportation and distribution of commodities to participants in the commodity supplemental food program, including transportation and distribution services provided by a third party;

''(B) staffing required to operate delivery services; and

''(C) outreach to participants or potential participants in the commodity supplemental food program with respect to home delivery.

''(6) PRIORITY.—A State agency awarded a grant under this subsection must prioritize eligible entities that serve participants in the commodity supplemental food program who reside in a rural area.

''(7) REPORT TO THE SECRETARY.—Not later than 180 days after the end of the fiscal year in which a State agency is awarded a grant under this subsection and has distributed grant funds to eligible entities, and in each succeeding fiscal year until grant funds are expended, a State agency shall submit a report to the Secretary that includes—

''(A) a summary of the activities carried out under the project, including the quantity of commodities delivered, number of participants in the commodity supplemental food program served, and total number of deliveries;

''(B) an assessment of the effectiveness of the project, including a calculation of the average cost per delivery, and an evaluation of any services provided by a third party; and

''(C) best practices regarding use of home delivery to improve the effectiveness of the commodity supplemental food program.

''(8) DEFINITIONS.—In this subsection:

''(A) TERMS IN REGULATIONS.—The term 'State agency', 'local agency', and 'subdistributing agency' have the meanings given such terms in section 247.1 of title 7 of the Code of Federal Regulations (or any successor regulations).

''(B) ELIGIBLE ENTITY.—The term 'eligible entity' means—

''(i) a local agency; or

''(ii) a subdistributing agency.

''(C) RURAL AREA.—The term 'rural area' has the meaning given such term in section 343(a) of the Consolidated Farm and Rural Development Act (7 U.S.C. 1991(a)).

''(9) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There is authorized to be appropriated to carry out this subsection $10,000,000 for each of fiscal years 2027 through 2031 to remain available until expended.''.

SEC. 4203. DISTRIBUTION OF SURPLUS COMMODITIES TO SPECIAL NUTRITION PROJECTS.

Section 1114(a)(2)(A) of the Agriculture and Food Act of 1981 (7 U.S.C. 1431e(2)(A)) is amended by striking ''2023'' and inserting ''2031''.

SEC. 4204. COMMODITY SUPPLEMENTAL FOOD PROGRAM DEMONSTRATION PROJECT FOR TRIBAL ORGANIZATIONS.

(a) DEMONSTRATION PROJECT FOR TRIBAL ORGANIZATIONS.—

(1) DEFINITIONS.—In this subsection:

(A) DEMONSTRATION PROJECT.—The term ''demonstration project'' means the demonstration project established under paragraph (2).

(B) FOOD DISTRIBUTION PROGRAM.—The term ''food distribution program'' means the commodity supplemental food program identified in section 4 of the Agriculture and Consumer Protection Act of 1973 (7 U.S.C. 612c note; Public Law 93–86).

(C) INDIAN RESERVATION.—The term ''Indian reservation'' has the meaning given the term ''reservation'' in section 3 of the Food and Nutrition Act of 2008 (7 U.S.C. 2012).

(D) INDIAN TRIBE.—The term ''Indian Tribe'' has the meaning given the term in section 4 of the Indian Self-Determination and Education Assistance Act (25 U.S.C. 5304).

(E) SELF-DETERMINATION CONTRACT.—The term ''self-determination contract'' has the meaning given the term in section 4 of the Indian Self-Determination and Education Assistance Act (25 U.S.C. 5304) with modification as determined by the Secretary.

(F) TRIBAL ORGANIZATION.—The term ''Tribal organization'' has the meaning given the term in section 3 of the Food and Nutrition Act of 2008 (7 U.S.C. 2012).

(2) ESTABLISHMENT.—Subject to the availability of appropriations, the Secretary shall establish a demonstration project under which 1 or more Tribal organizations may enter into self-determination contracts to purchase agricultural commodities under the food distribution program for the Indian reservation of that Tribal organization.

(3) ELIGIBILITY.—

(A) CONSULTATION.—The Secretary shall consult with Indian Tribes to determine the process and criteria under which a Tribal organization may participate in the demonstration project.

(B) CRITERIA.—The Secretary shall select for participation in the demonstration project Tribal organizations that—

(i) are successfully administering the food distribution program of the Tribal organization under section 4(b)(2)(B) of the Food and Nutrition Act of 2008 (7 U.S.C. 2013(b)(2)(B));

(ii) have the capacity to purchase agricultural commodities in accordance with paragraph (4) for the food distribution program of the Tribal organization; and

(iii) meet any other criteria determined by the Secretary, in consultation with the Secretary of the Interior and Indian Tribes.

(4) PROCUREMENT OF AGRICULTURAL COMMODITIES.—Any agricultural commodities purchased by a Tribal organization under the demonstration project shall—

(A) be domestically produced;

(B) not result in a material increase in the amount of food in the food package of that Tribal organization compared to the amount of food that the Secretary authorized to be provided through the Commodity Supplemental Food Program Guide Rate;

(C) be of similar or higher nutritional value as the type of agricultural commodities that would be supplanted in the existing food package for that Tribal organization or be an agricultural commodity with Tribal significance to that Indian Tribe; and

(D) meet any other criteria determined by the Secretary.

(5) REPORT.—Not later than 1 year after the date on which funds are appropriated under paragraph (6) and annually thereafter, the Secretary shall submit to the Committee on Agriculture of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry of the Senate a report describing the activities carried out under the demonstration project during the preceding year.

(6) FUNDING.—

(A) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There is authorized to be appropriated to carry out this subsection $1,000,000, to remain available until expended.

(B) APPROPRIATIONS IN ADVANCE.—Only funds appropriated under subparagraph (A) in advance specifically to carry out this subsection shall be available to carry out this subsection.

(b) ADMINISTRATION OF TRIBAL SELF-DETERMINATION CONTRACTS.—

(1) ADMINISTRATION.—The Secretary shall appoint an existing office of the United States Department of Agriculture to administer Tribal self-determination contracts to include but not limited to:

(A) awarding of Food and Nutrition Service nutrition program self-determination contracts to selected Tribal organizations; and

(B) hiring contract officers and program staff in order to manage the selection of Tribal organizations and execution of self-determination contracts.

(2) STAFFING MINIMUM FUNDING.—Notwithstanding any other provision of law, there is authorized to be appropriated $1,200,000 for each of fiscal years 2027 through 2031 for the payment of Department contract officers and program staff salaries and benefits.

Subtitle C—Miscellaneous

SEC. 4301. PURCHASE OF FRESH FRUITS AND VEGETABLES FOR DISTRIBUTION TO SCHOOLS AND SERVICE INSTITUTIONS.

Section 10603(b) of the Farm Security and Rural Investment Act of 2002 (7 U.S.C. 612c–4(b)) is amended by striking ''2023'' and inserting ''2031''.

SEC. 4302. BUY AMERICAN REQUIREMENTS FOR CERTAIN SCHOOL MEALS.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Section 12(n)(2)(A) of the Richard B. Russell National School Lunch Act (42 U.S.C. 1760(n)(2)(A)) is amended to read as follows:

''(A) REQUIREMENTS.—

''(i) PURCHASE EXPENDITURES BY CATEGORY.—Subject to clause (ii) and subparagraph (B), the Secretary shall require that a school food authority purchase, with respect to each food purchase category designated by the Agricultural Marketing Service, at least 95 percent domestic products and commodities in each such category.

''(ii) DOMESTICALLY UNAVAILABLE PRODUCTS AND COMMODITIES.—Domestically unavailable products and commodities included on a list issued pursuant to clause (iii) with respect to a school year and purchased by a school food authority during such school year shall not be used to calculate whether such school food authority meets the requirements under clause (i).

''(iii) UPDATED LIST.—Not later than 6 months after the date of the enactment of this subparagraph, and every 2 years thereafter, the Secretary shall make available to school food authorities a list of domestically unavailable products and commodities.

''(iv) LIMITED WAIVER AUTHORITY.—Except with respect to a domestically unavailable product or commodity included on a list pursuant to clause (iii), the Secretary may not waive or make accommodations for any of the requirements of this subparagraph.

''(v) PROHIBITION ON CERTAIN PRODUCTS FROM CHINA OR RUSSIA.—The Secretary shall prohibit school food authorities from purchasing raw or processed poultry products or seafood imported into the United States from the People's Republic of China or the Russian Federation.''.

(b) APPLICATION.—The amendments made by subsection (a) shall apply to school food authorities beginning on the first day of the first school year that begins after the date of the enactment of this Act.

SEC. 4303. REAUTHORIZATION OF THE GUS SCHUMACHER NUTRITION INCENTIVE PROGRAM.

Section 4405 of the Food, Conservation, and Energy Act of 2008 (7 U.S.C. 7517) is amended—

(1) in subsection (b)—

(A) in paragraph (1), by amending subparagraph (C) to read as follows:

''(C) FEDERAL SHARE.—

''(i) IN GENERAL.—Except as provided in clause (ii) and subparagraph (D)(iii), the Federal share of the cost of carrying out an activity under this subsection shall not exceed 50 percent of the total cost of the activity.

''(ii) WAIVER FOR PERSISTENT POVERTY AREAS.—The Secretary may waive the application of clause (i) in the case of an activity carried out—

''(I) in a county that, during the preceding 30-year period has had a population of which greater than or equal to 20 percent of such population are living in poverty (as measured by the most recent decennial censuses and most recent Small Area Income and Poverty Estimates of the Bureau of the Census); or

''(II) in a census tract with a poverty rate of at least 20 percent during the preceding 30-year period, as measured by the most recent 5-year data series available from the American Community Survey of the Bureau of the Census.''; and

(B) in paragraph (2)(B)—

(i) by redesignating clauses (ix) and (x) as clauses (x) and (xi); and

(ii) by inserting after clause (viii) the following:

''(ix) increase year-round availability of incentives by offering all forms of fruits or vegetables;'';

(2) in subsection (c), by striking ''fresh fruits and vegetables'' and inserting ''all forms of fruits, vegetables, and legumes'' each place it appears; and

(3) in subsection (f)—

(A) in paragraph (1), by striking ''2023'' and inserting ''2031''; and

(B) in paragraph (3), by striking ''2023'' each place it appears and inserting ''2031''.

SEC. 4304. FOOD LOSS AND WASTE REDUCTION LIAISON ANNUAL REPORT.

Section 224(e)(2) of the Department of Agriculture Reorganization Act of 1994 (7 U.S.C. 6924(e)(2)) is amended—

(1) in the heading, by inserting ''ANNUAL'' before ''REPORT'';

(2) in the matter preceding subparagraph (A), by inserting ''and annually thereafter,'' before ''the Secretary shall'';

(3) in subparagraph (A), by striking ''and'' at the end;

(4) in subparagraph (B), by striking the period at the end and inserting a semicolon; and

(5) by adding at the end the following:

''(C) a general description of each project and activity implemented pursuant to this section;

''(D) a summary of the cooperative agreements entered into pursuant to subsection (c);

''(E) a detailed account of how the Secretary avoided, managed, or will manage market disruption; and

''(F) a summary of coordinated activities with the Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency and the Commissioner of the Food and Drug Administration, including interagency communication and coordination related to the promotion or exclusion of practices and technologies to limit food waste.''.

SEC. 4305. DAIRY NUTRITION INCENTIVES PROJECTS.

Section 4208 of the Agriculture Improvement Act of 2018 (7 U.S.C. 2026a) is amended—

(1) in the section heading, by striking ''**HEALTHY FLUID MILK**'' and inserting ''**DAIRY NUTRITION**'' (and by conforming the item of such section in the table of contents accordingly);

(2) by striking ''healthy fluid milk'' and inserting ''dairy nutrition'' each place it appears;

(3) by amending subsection (a) to read as follows:

''(a) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

''(1) COVERED DAIRY PRODUCTS.—The term 'covered dairy products' means—

''(A) cheese (including nonstandardized cheese) that is—

''(i) made from pasteurized cow's milk;

''(ii) a good source of protein, as determined by the Secretary; and

''(iii) sold as a block, chunk, shred, slice, stick, string or in snack-size form; and

''(B) yogurt (or other cultured dairy product) that—

''(i) is made from pasteurized cow's milk;

''(ii) is a good source of protein, as determined by the Secretary; and

''(iii) contains limited amounts of added sugars.

''(2) FLUID MILK.—The term 'fluid milk' means all varieties of pasteurized cow's milk that—

''(A) is packaged in liquid form; and

''(B) contains vitamins A and D at levels consistent with the Food and Drug Administration, State, and local standards for fluid milk.'';

(4) in subsection (b), by inserting ''and covered dairy products'' after ''of fluid milk'' each place it appears;

(5) in subsection (c)(3), by inserting ''and covered dairy products'' after ''purchase of fluid milk''; and

(6) in subsection (e)(1), by striking ''$20,000,000'' and inserting ''$50,000,000''.

SEC. 4306. LOCAL FARMERS FEEDING OUR COMMUNITIES PROGRAM.

(a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary of Agriculture shall establish a program under which the Secretary will enter into cooperative agreements (on a noncompetitive basis) with eligible entities—

(1) to help support covered local producers through building and expanding economic opportunities;

(2) to establish and broaden partnerships with such covered local producers and the food distribution community to ensure distribution of fresh (including fresh frozen) and nutritious foods; and

(3) to strengthen such entity's local and regional food security and systems.

(b) USE OF FUNDS.—An eligible entity selected to enter into a cooperative agreement under this section shall use funds received through such agreement—

(1) to purchase unprocessed or minimally processed local foods (including seafood, meat, milk and dairy products, eggs, produce, and poultry) from covered producers;

(2) to ensure that at least 25 percent of the total annual value of products purchased by the eligible entity comprises purchases from small-size producers, mid-size producers, beginning farmers or ranchers, or veteran farmers or ranchers;

(3) to provide technical assistance supporting—

(A) covered local producers, including in obtaining food safety training and certifications; and

(B) efforts to grow the local agricultural value chain;

(4) to distribute such local foods to organizations, including nonprofit organizations, that have experience in food distribution to improve access to healthy and nutritious food; and

(5) to build and expand economic opportunity for covered local producers.

(c) LIMITATION ON USE OF FUNDS.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Of the amount made available to an eligible entity through a cooperative agreement under this section, an eligible entity may use not more than 15 percent of such amount—

(A) to cover administrative expenses; and

(B) to provide technical assistance described in subsection (b)(3);

(2) ALLOCATION FOR TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE.—Of the amount described in paragraph (1), an eligible entity shall use not less than 50 percent to provide technical assistance described in subsection (b)(3).

(d) TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE TO ELIGIBLE ENTITIES.—The Secretary shall provide to eligible entities entering into a cooperative agreement under this section guidance, technical assistance, instruction, and monitoring throughout the life cycle of the cooperative agreement.

(e) AMOUNT OF ALLOCATION.—Of the amounts made available to carry out this section for each fiscal year, the Secretary shall—

(1) allocate 10 percent to Tribal Governments, to be allocated using a funding formula determined by the Secretary; and

(2) of the amounts remaining after making the allocation under paragraph (1), allocate 1 percent to each State (other than Tribal Governments); and

(3) after making the allocations under paragraphs (1) and (2), allocate the remaining amounts to each eligible entity (other than Tribal Governments) by applying the formula described in section 214 of the Emergency Food Assistance Act of 1983 (7 U.S.C. 7515).

(f) FUNDING.—There is authorized to be appropriated to carry out this section $200,000,000 for each of fiscal years 2027 through 2031.

(g) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

(1) BEGINNING FARMER OR RANCHER; VETERAN FARMER OR RANCHER.—The terms ''beginning farmer or rancher'' and ''veteran farmer or rancher'' have the meanings given such terms in section 2501 of the Food, Agriculture, Conservation, and Trade Act of 1990 (7 U.S.C. 2279).

(2) COVERED PRODUCER.—The term ''covered producer'' means a fisherman, farmer, producer, rancher, processor, or cooperative processor that is—

(A) within the geographic boundaries of the eligible entity in which the food will be delivered; or

(B) not more than 400 miles from the delivery destination of the food.

(3) ELIGIBLE ENTITY.—The term ''eligible entity'' means a State agency, commission, or department that is responsible for agriculture, procurement, food distribution, emergency response, or other similar activities within the State.

(4) MID-SIZE PRODUCER.—The term ''mid-sized producer'' means an individual whose annual gross cash farm income is equal to or exceeds $350,000 and is less than $999,999.

(5) SMALL-SIZE PRODUCER.—The term ''small-sized producer'' means one whose annual gross cash farm income is less than $350,000.

(6) STATE.—The term ''State'' means each of the several States, the District of Columbia, each territory or possession of the United States, and each federally recognized Indian Tribe.

(7) UNPROCESSED OR MINIMALLY PROCESSED LOCAL FOODS.—The term ''unprocessed or minimally processed local foods'' means food products means only those agricultural products that retain their inherent character. Such term includes—

(A) fruits and vegetables (including 100 percent juices);

(B) grain products, such as pastas and rice;

(C) meats (including whole carcasses, pieces thereof, or ground meat);

(D) protein sources that are meat alternatives (such as beans or legumes) and fluid milk and other dairy foods (such as cheese and yogurt); and

(E) foods in a wide variety of minimal processing states (such as whole, cut, or pureed) or forms (such as fresh, frozen, canned, or dried).

SEC. 4307. HEALTHY FOOD FINANCING INITIATIVE.

Section 243(d) of the Department of Agriculture Reorganization Act of 1994 (7 U.S.C. 6953(d)) is amended by striking ''$125,000,000'' and inserting ''$135,000,000''.

SEC. 4308. DIETARY GUIDELINES.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Section 301(a) of the National Nutrition Monitoring and Related Research Act of 1990 (7 U.S.C. 5341(a)) is amended—

(1) in paragraph (1)—

(A) by striking ''At least every five years'' and inserting ''Beginning with the 2030 report and at least every 10 years thereafter,''; and

(B) by adding at the end the following: ''Rulemaking requirements under section 553 of title 5, United States Code, shall apply to the development of each report under this paragraph.'';

(2) in paragraph (2), by striking ''shall be based on the preponderance of the scientific and medical knowledge which is current at the time the report is prepared.'' and inserting ''shall—

''(A) be based on significant scientific agreement that is determined by evidence-based review (as defined in paragraph (8)(A));

''(B) be current at the time the report is prepared;

''(C) be derived from questions generated under paragraph (5)(E);

''(D) address high-priority areas of concern to advance health outcomes;

''(E) be designed to achieve nutritional adequacy and promote health, as specified by the Food and Nutrition Board of the National Academies of Sciences, Engineering and Medicine, from the consumption of food, including nutrients and bioactive food components occurring naturally and in fortified foods;

''(F) include nutritional and dietary information relevant to individuals with nutrition-related common chronic diseases, as defined by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention; and

''(G) include recommendations that are affordable, available, and accessible for the general population.'';

(3) by redesignating paragraph (3) as paragraph (7);

(4) by inserting after paragraph (2) the following:

''(3) FREQUENCY.—The Secretaries may publish the report required under paragraph (1) more frequently than required under that paragraph if the Secretaries determine that more frequent publication is necessary to promote health, based on the updated dietary reference intake values specified by—

''(A) the Food and Nutrition Board of the National Academies of Sciences, Engineering and Medicine; and

''(B) other relevant scientific advancements based on continuous monitoring of the totality of publicly available scientific evidence.

''(4) NOTIFICATION OF UPDATE.—

''(A) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 90 days before the Secretaries plan to update a report under paragraph (1), the Secretaries shall submit notification of that plan, in writing, to the Committees on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry and Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions of the Senate and the Committees on Agriculture and Energy and Commerce of the House of Representatives.

''(B) JUSTIFICATION.—The notification under subparagraph (A) shall include a justification for updating the report.

''(5) INDEPENDENT ADVISORY BOARD.—

''(A) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 90 days after the Secretaries submit a notification under paragraph (4)(A), the Secretaries shall establish an Independent Advisory Board (referred to in this paragraph as the 'Board').

''(B) MEMBERS.—The Board shall be comprised of at least 4 members and not more than 8 members, of which—

''(i) 4 shall be appointed by the Secretaries, 2 of whom shall not be Federal employees; and

''(ii) 1 may be appointed by each of the highest ranking Member of Congress on each Committee described in paragraph (4)(A) of the opposite political party of the President of the United States at the time of the appointment.

''(C) EXPERTISE.—Each member appointed to the Board shall have expertise in nutrition science or food science, including academic and applied experience.

''(D) MEETINGS.—

''(i) IN GENERAL.—The first meeting of the Board—

''(I) may only take place on or after the date that 4 members are appointed to the Board under subparagraph (B); and

''(II) shall take place on or after the date that is 90 days after the Secretaries submit a notification under paragraph (4)(A).

''(ii) QUORUM.—A majority of the members shall constitute a quorum for the transaction of the business of the Board.

''(E) DUTIES.—Not later than 1 year after the establishment of the Board, the Board shall submit to the Secretaries and the Committees described in paragraph (4)(A) a list of scientific questions relating to the report for purposes of paragraph (2)(C).

''(F) TERMINATION.—The authority of the Board shall terminate, and the Board shall disband, immediately after carrying out subparagraph (E).

''(6) EXCLUSION.—The information and guidelines contained in each report required under paragraph (1) shall not be based on or include topics that are not relevant to dietary guidance, as determined by the Secretaries, in consultation with the Independent Advisory Board established under paragraph (5), including taxation, social welfare policies, purchases under Federal feeding programs, food and agricultural production practices, food labeling, socioeconomic status, race, religion, ethnicity, culture, or regulations relating to nutrition.''; and

(5) by adding at the end the following:

''(8) EVIDENCE-BASED REVIEW.—

''(A) DEFINITION.—In this paragraph, the term 'evidence-based review' means a process under which—

''(i) the totality of the scientific evidence relevant to a question of interest is collected, analyzed, and evaluated;

''(ii) scientific studies, conclusions, and recommendations are rated, adhering strictly to standardized, generally accepted evidence-based review methods; and

''(iii) external peer review is conducted by nongovernment experts with recognized expertise in quality of evidence evaluation.

''(B) STRENGTH OF EVIDENCE.—Each guideline contained in a report published under paragraph (1) shall be assigned a rating by the Secretaries for the strength of evidence used, including to the extent by which the guideline will improve the Healthy Eating Index.

''(9) TRANSPARENCY.—

''(A) DISCLOSURE.—Any individual appointed to the Dietary Guidelines Advisory Committee or an Independent Advisory Board established under paragraph (5) shall—

''(i) be appointed as a special government employee;

''(ii) comply with financial disclosure requirements applicable to such a special government employee under subpart I of part 2634 of title 5, Code of Federal Regulations (or successor regulations), including the requirement to file the Office of Government Ethics Form 450 (or successor Form); and

''(iii) prior to such an appointment, provide a report to the Secretaries regarding, for the 10-year period preceding such report, any research funding or professional affiliation relating to a report under paragraph (1).

''(B) PUBLICATION.—Notwithstanding any other provision of law, not later than 30 days after the date on which a Dietary Guidelines Advisory Committee or an Independent Advisory Board is established, the Secretaries shall make publicly available—

''(i) a summary of the financial disclosures reported by members of such Committee or Board;

''(ii) the research funding and professional affiliations reported by such members under subparagraph (A)(iii), categorized by the name of the individual; and

''(iii) a detailed plan for managing any disclosed conflicts of interest, including financial or ethical conflicts of interest, preferences, values, and beliefs.''.

(b) CONTROLLING REPORT.—The 2025 Dietary Guidelines for Americans published by the Secretaries under subsection (a)(1) of section 301 of the National Nutrition Monitoring and Related Research Act of 1990 (7 U.S.C. 5341(a)(1)) shall be controlling and considered to be the most recent Dietary Guidelines for Americans until the publication of the first report under such subsection in accordance with the amendments made to such section by this Act.

TITLE V—CREDIT

Subtitle A—Farm Ownership Loans

SEC. 5101. PERSONS ELIGIBLE FOR REAL ESTATE LOANS.

Section 302(a) of the Consolidated Farm and Rural Development Act (7 U.S.C. 1922(a)) is amended—

(1) in the 2nd sentence of paragraph (1), by striking ''a majority'' each place it appears and inserting ''at least a 50 percent'';

(2) in paragraph (2), by striking subparagraphs (A) and (B) and inserting the following:

''(A) ELIGIBILITY OF QUALIFIED OPERATORS.—Qualified operators, as defined by the Secretary, shall be considered to meet the operator requirement of paragraph (1).

''(B) ELIGIBILITY OF CERTAIN OPERATING-ONLY ENTITIES.—An applicant that is or will become only the operator of farm real estate acquired, improved, or supported with funds under this subtitle shall be considered to meet the owner-operator requirements of paragraph (1) if 1 or

more of the individuals who is an owner of the farm real estate owns at least 50 percent (or such other percentage as the Secretary determines is appropriate) of the applicant.

''(C) ELIGIBILITY OF CERTAIN EMBEDDED ENTITIES.—An entity that is an owner-operator described in paragraph (1), or an operator described in subparagraph (B) of this paragraph that is owned, in whole or in part, by 1 or more other entities, shall be considered to meet the direct ownership requirement imposed under paragraph (1) if at least 75 percent of the total ownership interests of the embedded entity, or of the other entities, is owned, directly or indirectly, by qualified operators of the farm acquired, improved, or supported with funds under this subtitle.''.

SEC. 5102. EXPERIENCE REQUIREMENTS.

Section 302(b) of the Consolidated Farm and Rural Development Act (7 U.S.C. 1922(b)) is amended—

(1) in paragraph (1), in the matter preceding subparagraph (A), by striking ''3 years'' and inserting ''2 years''; and

(2) in paragraph (4)—

(A) in subparagraph (A)—

(i) in the matter preceding clause (i)—

(I) by striking ''3-year'' and inserting ''2-year''; and

(II) by striking ''1 or 2 years'' and inserting ''1 year'';

(ii) in clause (iii), by inserting ''or operational'' before ''responsibilities'';

(iii) in clause (vii), by striking ''or''; and

(iv) by adding at the end the following:

''(ix) met any other criteria established by the Secretary; or''; and

(B) in subparagraph (B), by striking ''3-year'' and inserting ''2-year''.

SEC. 5103. REFINANCING OF INDEBTEDNESS INTO DIRECT LOANS.

Section 303 of the Consolidated Farm and Rural Development Act (7 U.S.C. 1923) is amended by adding at the end the following:

''(d) REFINANCING OF GUARANTEED LOANS INTO DIRECT LOANS.—Within 1 year after the date of the enactment of this subsection, the Secretary, acting through the Administrator of the Farm Service Agency (referred to in this section as the 'Secretary'), shall promulgate regulations allowing certain loans guaranteed by the Farm Service Agency to be refinanced into direct loans issued by the Farm Service Agency, in accordance with this subsection.

''(1) REQUIREMENTS.—

''(A) IN GENERAL.—A guaranteed loan may be refinanced into a direct loan pursuant to this subsection only if the Secretary determines that—

''(i) the guaranteed loan is distressed due to its status as a nonperforming loan that does not have a positive cash flow at rates and terms available from the lender;

''(ii) the borrower on the guaranteed loan is in monetary default and subject to liquidation or foreclosure action;

''(iii) a reasonable chance for the success of the operation financed by the guaranteed loan exists; and

''(iv) all other criteria established by the Secretary for purposes of this subsection to protect taxpayer funds and the loan programs of the Farm Service Agency have been satisfied.

''(B) REASONABLE CHANCE OF SUCCESS.—For purposes of subparagraph (A)(iii), the Secretary may determine that a reasonable chance for the success of an operation exists if the Secretary determines that—

''(i) all relevant problems with the operation financed by the guaranteed loan—

''(I) have been identified; and

''(II) can be corrected; and

''(ii) on correction of the problems, the operation can achieve, or be returned to, a sound financial basis.

''(2) LOAN PROGRAMS.—In making direct loans pursuant to the regulations promulgated under this subsection, the Secretary may refinance a loan guaranteed under 1 program of the Farm Service Agency into a direct loan issued under another program of the Farm Service Agency, as the Secretary determines to be appropriate and in accordance with the laws applicable to the program under which the direct loan is issued.

''(3) REFINANCED GUARANTEED LOANS.—A direct loan issued by the Farm Service Agency pursuant to the regulations promulgated under subsection (a) of this section shall be subject to any otherwise applicable limitation on the maximum amount of a direct loan issued by the Farm Service Agency, including, if applicable, the limitations described in sections 305 and 313.''.

SEC. 5104. CONSERVATION LOAN AND LOAN GUARANTEE PROGRAM.

Section 304 of the Consolidated Farm and Rural Development Act (7 U.S.C. 1924) is amended—

(1) in subsection (d)—

(A) in paragraph (2), by striking ''and'' at the end;

(B) in paragraph (3), by striking ''1985.'' and inserting ''1985 (16 U.S.C. 3812); and''; and

(C) by adding at the end the following:

''(4) producers who use the loans to adopt precision agriculture practices or acquire precision agriculture technologies, including adoption or acquisition for the purpose of participating in the environmental quality incentives program under subchapter A of chapter 4 of subtitle D of title XII of the Food Security Act of 1985 (16 U.S.C. 3839aa et seq.).''; and

(2) in subsection (h), by striking ''2023'' and inserting ''2031''.

SEC. 5105. LIMITATIONS ON AMOUNT OF FARM OWNERSHIP LOANS.

Section 305(a)(2) of the Consolidated Farm and Rural Development Act (7 U.S.C. 1925(a)(2)) is amended by striking ''$600,000, or, in the case of a loan guaranteed by the Secretary, $1,750,000 (increased, beginning with fiscal year 2019'' and inserting ''$850,000, or, in the case of a loan guaranteed by the Secretary, $3,500,000 (increased, beginning with fiscal year 2026''.

SEC. 5106. INFLATION PERCENTAGE.

Section 305(c) of the Consolidated Farm and Rural Development Act (7 U.S.C. 1925(c)) is amended—

(1) in paragraph (1), by striking ''of the Prices Paid By Farmers Index (as compiled by the National Agricultural Statistics Service of the Department of Agriculture) for the 12-month period ending on July 31 of the immediately preceding fiscal year'' and inserting ''of the per acre average United States farm real estate value, the per acre average United States cropland value, and the per acre average United States pasture value for the preceding year (as published in the applicable Agricultural Land Values report of the National Agricultural Statistics Service of the Department of Agriculture), weighted equally''; and

(2) in paragraph (2), by striking ''of such index (as so defined) for the 12-month period that immediately precedes the 12-month period described in paragraph (1)'' and inserting ''of the per acre average United States farm real estate value, the per acre average United States cropland value, and the per acre average United States pasture value for the year immediately preceding the year described in paragraph (1) (as so published), weighted equally''.

SEC. 5107. AUTHORITY OF FARM CREDIT SYSTEM INSTITUTIONS TO PROVIDE FINANCIAL SUPPORT FOR ESSENTIAL RURAL COMMUNITY FACILITIES PROJECTS.

(a) IN GENERAL.—The Farm Credit Act of 1971 is amended by inserting after section 4.18A (12 U.S.C. 2206a) the following:

''SEC. 4.18B. ESSENTIAL COMMUNITY FACILITIES.

''(a) IN GENERAL.—A Farm Credit Bank, direct lender association, or bank for cooperatives chartered under this Act may, for the purpose of making available capital to develop, build, maintain, improve, or provide related equipment or other support for essential community facilities in rural areas, make and participate in loans and commitments, and extend other technical and financial assistance for projects for essential community facilities eligible for financing under section 306(a) of the Consolidated Farm and Rural Development Act.

''(b) ELIGIBILITY.—Only an entity eligible for financing under section 306(a) of the Consolidated Farm and Rural Development Act may receive financing or any other assistance under subsection (a) of this section.

''(c) LIMITATIONS.—

''(1) FINANCING.—A Farm Credit System institution described in subsection (a) shall not provide financing or assistance under this section in an aggregate amount that exceeds 15 percent of the total of all outstanding loans of the institution.

''(2) OFFER REQUIREMENT.—

''(A) IN GENERAL.—A Farm Credit System institution shall not provide financing or assistance under this section unless the institution—

''(i) has offered, under reasonable terms and conditions acceptable to the borrower involved, an interest in the financing to at least 1 domestic lending institution not referred to in subsection (a) other than the Department of Agriculture; and

''(ii) has reported the offer to the Farm Credit Administration.

''(B) RURAL COMMUNITY BANK PRIORITY.—In offering an interest in a financing to a domestic lending institution described in subparagraph (A)(i), the Farm Credit System institution shall give priority to community banks located in the service area of the essential community facility being financed.

''(d) ANNUAL REPORT TO CONGRESS.—Within 1 year after the date of the enactment of this section and annually thereafter, the Farm Credit Administration shall provide a report to the Committee on Agriculture of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry of the Senate on the activities undertaken pursuant to this section by Farm Credit System institutions during the period covered by the report, including through partnerships between such an institution and other lending institutions, which shall also be posted on the website of the Farm Credit Administration.''.

(b) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendment made by subsection (a) shall take effect on October 1, 2026.

SEC. 5108. DOWN PAYMENT LOAN PROGRAM.

Section 310E(b)(1) of the Consolidated Farm and Rural Development Act (7 U.S.C. 1935(b)(1)) is amended—

(1) in the matter preceding subparagraph (A), by striking ''exceed 45 percent of the least'' and inserting ''exceed, subject to section 305(a), 45 percent of the lesser'';

(2) in subparagraph (A), by adding ''or'' after the semicolon;

(3) in subparagraph (B), by striking ''; or'' and inserting a period; and

(4) by striking subparagraph (C).

SEC. 5109. HEIRS PROPERTY.

(a) REAUTHORIZATION OF THE HEIRS PROPERTY INTERMEDIARY RELENDING PROGRAM.—Section 310I(g) of the Consolidated Farm and Rural Development Act (7 U.S.C. 1936c(g)) is amended by striking ''2023'' and inserting ''2031''.

(b) COOPERATIVE AGREEMENTS FOR HEIRS PROPERTY RESOLUTION THROUGH DIRECT PUBLIC INTEREST LEGAL SERVICES.—Title V of the Rural Development Act of 1972 (7 U.S.C. 2661–2669) is amended by adding at the end the following:

''SEC. 509. COOPERATIVE AGREEMENTS FOR HEIRS PROPERTY RESOLUTION THROUGH DIRECT PUBLIC INTEREST LEGAL SERVICES.

''(a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall enter into cooperative agreements with eligible entities

to provide legal or accounting services to underserved heirs, at no cost to the underserved heirs, to assist in resolving undivided ownership interests on farmland or forest land, or land transitioning to farmland or forest land, that has multiple owners. Such a cooperative agreement must be for any of the following purposes:

''(1) To assist with transitioning land to agricultural production.

''(2) To maintain land in agricultural production.

''(3) To increase access to programs administered by the Secretary through the resolution of real property claims in order to allow real property owners to meet land ownership eligibility requirements for participation in a program administered by the Secretary.

''(b) ADMINISTRATION OF COOPERATIVE AGREEMENTS.—

''(1) DURATION.—

''(A) IN GENERAL.—A cooperative agreement under subsection (a) shall be in effect for not more than 4 years, subject to subparagraph (B).

''(B) SPECIAL RULE.—The Secretary may extend a cooperative agreement or re-enter into a cooperative agreement with the same or a different eligible entity to provide continued services for heirs if—

''(i) property ownership is not resolved within the initial term of the original cooperative agreement; and

''(ii) the entity certifies that the entity understands that the cooperative agreement is not guaranteed to be funded for more than 4 years after the commencement of the original cooperative agreement.

''(2) MANAGEMENT OF PERFORMANCE.—

''(A) ANNUAL REPORTS.—An eligible entity must provide annual reports to the Secretary summarizing the progress made during each fiscal year towards achieving the goals of the cooperative agreement for the heirs for whom services are provided under the cooperative agreement.

''(B) INFORMATION AND DATA.—The Secretary may require an eligible entity to provide the Secretary with such information or data as the Secretary deems necessary to determine that the eligible entity is making acceptable progress. The data may not include personally identifiable information.

''(C) EFFECT OF FAILURE TO DEMONSTRATE SUCCESS.—If an eligible entity providing services under such a cooperative agreement does not demonstrate success, as determined by the Secretary, in resolving or reasonably attempting to resolve the property claims of an heir, the Secretary may terminate the agreement.

''(3) IMPLEMENTATION.—The Secretary may utilize requests for public input or the formal rulemaking process to effectuate this section. At a minimum, the Secretary shall make publicly available the criteria for selecting an eligible entity to enter into an agreement to provide services, the administrative and performance requirements for cooperative agreements under this section, as well as codify within its internal policy its implementation process.

''(4) HEIRS PROPERTY NOT IN FARMING.—On a limited basis, and when determined by the Secretary to meet the purposes of a program administered by the Secretary and to expand access to such a program, the Secretary may allow an eligible entity to provide services at no cost to an heir who is not an underserved heir if—

''(A) the land with respect to which the services are to be provided is not farmland or in agricultural production, but could be viably productive for agricultural, conservation, or forestry purposes;

''(B) the heir satisfies all other requirements of the definition of 'underserved heir';

''(C) the heir can provide proof to substantiate that the heir is in control of the real property; and

''(D) the heir certifies to the Secretary that the heir intends to apply for, and make a good faith effort to enroll the land in, a program administered by the Secretary once property claims to the land are resolved through services provided under a cooperative agreement entered into under this section.

''(c) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

''(1) ELIGIBLE ENTITY.—The term 'eligible entity' means a nonprofit organization that—

''(A) provides legal or accounting services to an underserved heir at no cost to the underserved heir to resolve property ownership issues; and

''(B) has demonstrated experience in resolving issues related to ownership and succession on farmland or forest land that has multiple owners.

''(2) LIMITED RESOURCE HEIR.—An heir shall be considered a limited resource heir for purposes of this section if—

''(A) the total household income of the heir is at or below the national poverty level for a family of 4, or less than 50 percent of the county median household income for the 2 immediately preceding calendar years, as determined annually using data of the Department of Commerce; or

''(B) the property of the heir for which legal services are provided pursuant to a cooperative agreement entered into under this section is in a persistent poverty community, as determined annually on the basis of data from the Department of Commerce, or a socially vulnerable area, as designated by the Centers on Disease Control and Prevention.

''(3) UNDERSERVED HEIR.—The term 'underserved heir' means an heir with an undivided ownership interest in farmland or forest land that has multiple owners, who is—

''(A) a limited resource heir;

''(B) a member of a socially disadvantaged group (as defined in section 2501(a) of the Food, Agriculture, Conservation, and Trade Act of 1990); or

''(C) a veteran (as defined in section 101(2) of title 38, United States Code).

''(d) ANNUAL REPORTS TO CONGRESS.—Within 1 year after the date of the enactment of this section, and annually thereafter, the Secretary shall prepare, make public, and submit to the Committee on Agriculture of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry of the Senate a written report on the activities carried out under this section in the year covered by the report.

''(e) LIMITATIONS ON AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—To carry out this section, there is authorized to be appropriated to the Secretary $60,000,000 for each of fiscal years 2027 through 2031.''.

(c) ANNUAL REPORT ON OPERATIONS AND OUTCOMES UNDER THE RELENDING PROGRAM TO RESOLVE OWNERSHIP AND SUCCESSION ON FARMLAND.—Section 310I(f) of the Consolidated Farm and Rural Development Act (7 U.S.C. 1936c(f)) is amended by striking ''Not later than 1 year after the date of enactment of this section, the Secretary shall'' and inserting ''The Secretary shall annually''.

SEC. 5110. PROMPT APPROVAL OF LOANS AND LOAN GUARANTEES.

Section 333A of the of the Consolidated Farm and Rural Development Act (7 U.S.C. 1983a) is amended—

(1) in subsection (g)—

(A) by striking paragraph (1) and inserting the following:

''(1) REAL ESTATE AND OPERATING GUARANTEED LOANS.—

''(A) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall provide to lenders a short, simplified application form for real estate and operating guaranteed loans under this title, for loans of not more than $1,000,000.

''(B) NOTICE.—Within 5 business days after receipt of a complete application to guarantee a farm ownership or operating loan that meets the requirements under subparagraph (A) originated by a Preferred Certified Lender or Certified Lender, the Secretary shall notify the lender as to whether the application is approved or disapproved.

''(C) MAXIMUM GUARANTEE.—Notwithstanding any other provision of this Act, the percentage of the principal amount of a loan which may be guaranteed pursuant to this paragraph shall not exceed—

''(i) 90 percent, in the case of a loan not exceeding $125,000;

''(ii) 75 percent, in the case of a loan of more than $125,000 and not more than $500,000; or

''(iii) 50 percent, in the case of a loan of more than $500,000 and not more than $1,000,000.''; and

(B) by redesignating paragraphs (2) and (3) as paragraphs (3) and (4), respectively, and inserting after paragraph (1) the following:

''(2) BUSINESS AND INDUSTRY GUARANTEED LOANS TO ASSIST RURAL ENTITIES.—

''(A) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall develop an application process that accelerates, to the maximum extent practicable, the processing of applications for business and industry guaranteed loans to assist rural entities, as described under section 310B(a)(2)(A), for loans not exceeding $400,000.

''(B) EXCEPTION.—The accelerated application process, as provided under subparagraph (A), shall apply to loans not exceeding $600,000 if there is not a significant increased risk of a default on the loan, as determined by the Secretary.''; and

(2) by striking subsection (h).

SEC. 5111. EXPEDITED APPROVAL PILOT PROGRAM.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Subtitle D of the Consolidated Farm and Rural Development Act is amended by inserting after section 333D (7 U.S.C. 1983d) the following:

''SEC. 333E. EXPEDITED APPROVAL PILOT PROGRAM.

''(a) IN GENERAL.—Beginning not later than 1 year after the date of the enactment of this section, the Secretary shall carry out a pilot program to establish an expedited qualification and approval process for borrowers seeking—

''(1) a direct farm ownership loan under this Act; or

''(2) a guaranteed farm ownership loan under this Act that is serviced by a Preferred Certified Lender under section 339(d) and provided to a creditworthy borrower, as determined by the Preferred Certified Lender.

''(b) LOAN ASSESSMENTS.—In carrying out this section, the Secretary shall consider streamlining the process for making—

''(1) determinations necessary to make the certifications and assessments referred to in section 339(c)(5); and

''(2) determinations under section 360(b).

''(c) RULE OF INTERPRETATION.—Except as otherwise provided in subsections (a) and (b), this section shall not be interpreted to authorize the waiver or modification of any requirement, other than an application process timing requirement, imposed by or under this Act.

''(d) REPORT.—Within 1 year after the date of the enactment of this section, and annually thereafter, the Secretary shall submit to the Committee on Agriculture of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry of the Senate a report examining the actions undertaken under, and the results of, the pilot program.

''(e) TERMINATION OF EFFECTIVENESS.—The authority provided by this section shall terminate effective September 30, 2031.''.

(b) CONFORMING AMENDMENTS.—Section 346(b)(2) of such Act (7 U.S.C. 1994(b)(2)) is amended—

(1) in subparagraph (A)(i)(II), by inserting '', to the extent practicable'' after ''April 1 of the fiscal year'';

(2) in subparagraph (A)(iii), by inserting '', to the extent practicable'' after ''September 1 of the fiscal year''; and

(3) in subparagraph (B)(iii), in the text, by inserting '', to the extent practicable'' after ''April 1 of the fiscal year''.

Subtitle B—Operating Loans

SEC. 5201. PERSONS ELIGIBLE FOR OPERATING LOANS.

Section 311(a) of the Consolidated Farm and Rural Development Act (7 U.S.C. 1941(a)) is amended—

(1) in the 2nd sentence of paragraph (1), by striking ''a majority'' each place it appears and inserting ''at least a 50 percent''; and

(2) in paragraph (2)—

(A) in the paragraph heading, by striking ''(2) SPECIAL RULE.—An entity'' and inserting the following:

''(2) SPECIAL RULES.—

''(A) ELIGIBILITY OF QUALIFIED OPERATORS.—Qualified operators, as defined by the Secretary, shall be considered to meet the operator requirement of paragraph (1).

''(B) ELIGIBILITY OF CERTAIN OPERATING-ONLY ENTITIES.—An entity''; and

(B) by striking ''ownership interests of each embedded entity of the entity is owned directly or indirectly by the individuals that own the family farm'' and inserting ''total ownership interests of the embedded entity, or of the other entities, is owned, directly or indirectly, by qualified operators of the farm improved or supported with funds under this subtitle''.

SEC. 5202. LIMITATIONS ON AMOUNT OF OPERATING LOANS.

Section 313(a)(1) of the Consolidated Farm and Rural Development Act (7 U.S.C. 1943(a)(1)) is amended by striking ''$400,000, or, in the case of a loan guaranteed by the Secretary, $1,750,000 (increased, beginning with fiscal year 2019'' and inserting ''$750,000, or, in the case of a loan guaranteed by the Secretary, $3,000,000 (increased, beginning with fiscal year 2026''.

SEC. 5203. LIMITATION ON MICROLOAN AMOUNTS.

Section 313(c)(2) of the Consolidated Farm and Rural Development Act (7 U.S.C. 1943(c)(2)) is amended by striking ''$50,000'' and inserting ''$100,000''.

SEC. 5204. COOPERATIVE LENDING PILOT PROJECTS.

Section 313(c)(4)(A) of the Consolidated Farm and Rural Development Act (7 U.S.C. 1943(c)(4)(A)) is amended by striking ''2023'' and inserting ''2031''.

Subtitle C—Emergency Loans

SEC. 5301. PERSONS ELIGIBLE FOR EMERGENCY LOANS.

Section 321 of the Consolidated Farm and Rural Development Act (7 U.S.C. 1961) is amended—

(1) in subsection (a)—

(A) in the 1st sentence—

(i) by striking ''(A)'' and inserting ''(i)'';

(ii) by striking ''(B)'' and inserting ''(ii)'';

(iii) by striking ''(1)'' and inserting ''(A)'';

(iv) by striking ''(2)'' and inserting ''(B)''; and

(v) by striking ''a majority'' each place it appears and inserting ''at least a 50 percent'';

(B) in the 2nd sentence, by striking ''this subsection'' and inserting ''this paragraph'';

(C) by striking the 5th sentence; and

(D) by adding after and below the end the following:

''(2) SPECIAL RULES.—

''(A) ELIGIBILITY OF QUALIFIED OPERATORS.—Qualified operators, as defined by the Secretary, shall be considered to meet the operator requirement of paragraph (1).

''(B) ELIGIBILITY OF CERTAIN OPERATING-ONLY ENTITIES.— An applicant that is or will become only the operator of farm real estate acquired, improved, or supported with funds under this subtitle shall be considered to meet the owner-operator requirements of paragraph (1) if 1 or more of the individuals who is an owner of the real estate owns at least 50 percent (or such other percentage as the Secretary determines is appropriate) of the applicant.

''(C) ELIGIBILITY OF CERTAIN EMBEDDED ENTITIES.—An entity that is an owner-operator described in paragraph (1), or an operator described in subparagraph (B) of this paragraph that is owned, in whole or in part, by 1 or more other entities, shall be considered to meet the direct ownership requirement imposed under paragraph (1) if at least 75 percent of the total ownership interests of the embedded entity, or of the other entities, is owned, directly or indirectly, by qualified operators of the farm acquired, improved, or supported with funds under this subtitle.''; and

(2) by striking all that precedes ''shall make and insure'' and inserting the following:

''SEC. 321. ELIGIBILITY FOR LOANS.

''(a) IN GENERAL.—

''(1) ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS.—The Secretary''.

Subtitle D—Administrative Provisions

SEC. 5401. BEGINNING FARMER AND RANCHER INDIVIDUAL DEVELOPMENT ACCOUNTS PILOT PROGRAM.

Section 333B(h) of the Consolidated Farm and Rural Development Act (7 U.S.C. 1983b(h)) is amended by striking ''2023'' and inserting ''2031''.

SEC. 5402. LOAN AUTHORIZATION LEVELS.

Section 346(b)(1) of the Consolidated Farm and Rural Development Act (7 U.S.C. 1994(b)(1)) is amended in the matter preceding subparagraph (A) by striking ''2023'' and inserting ''2031''.

SEC. 5403. LOAN FUND SET-ASIDES.

Section 346(b)(2)(A)(ii)(III) of the Consolidated Farm and Rural Development Act (7 U.S.C. 1994(b)(2)(A)(ii)(III)) is amended by striking ''2023'' and inserting ''2031''.

SEC. 5404. USE OF ADDITIONAL FUNDS FOR DIRECT OPERATING MICROLOANS UNDER CERTAIN CONDITIONS.

Section 346(b)(5)(C) of the Consolidated Farm and Rural Development Act (7 U.S.C. 1994(b)(5)(C)) is amended by striking ''2023'' and inserting ''2031''.

Subtitle E—Miscellaneous

SEC. 5501. EXTENSION OF CREDIT TO BUSINESSES PROVIDING SERVICES TO PRODUCERS OR HARVESTERS OF AQUATIC PRODUCTS.

(a) ELIGIBILITY FOR CREDIT AND FINANCIAL SERVICES.—Section 1.9 of the Farm Credit Act of 1971 (12 U.S.C. 2017) is amended—

(1) in paragraph (2), by striking ''or'' at the end;

(2) by redesignating paragraph (3) as paragraph (4); and

(3) by inserting after paragraph (2) the following:

''(3) persons furnishing to producers or harvesters of aquatic products services directly related to their operating needs; or''.

(b) PURPOSES FOR EXTENSIONS OF CREDIT.—Section 1.11(c)(1) of such Act (12 U.S.C. 2019(c)(1)) is amended by inserting ''and to persons furnishing services directly related to the operating needs of producers or harvesters of aquatic products'' after ''needs''.

(c) PRODUCTION CREDIT ASSOCIATIONS.—Section 2.4(a) of such Act (12 U.S.C. 2075(a)) is amended—

(1) in paragraph (2), by striking ''and'' at the end;

(2) in paragraph (3), by striking the period at the end and inserting ''; and''; and

(3) by adding at the end the following:

''(4) persons furnishing to producers or harvesters of aquatic products services directly related to their operating needs.''.

SEC. 5502. EXPORT FINANCE AUTHORITY.

Section 3.7(b)(2)(A)(i) of the Farm Credit Act of 1971 (12 U.S.C. 2128(b)(2)(A)(i)) is amended—

(1) by striking ''50 percent of the bank's capital'' and inserting ''15 percent of the total assets of the bank''; and

(2) by striking ''an amount equal to 50 percent of the bank's capital'' and inserting ''15 percent of the total assets of the bank''.

SEC. 5503. SUPPORT FOR RURAL WATER AND WASTE SYSTEMS.

Section 3.7(f) of the Farm Credit Act of 1971 (12 U.S.C. 2128(f)) is amended—

(1) by redesignating paragraphs (1) and (2) as subparagraphs (A) and (B);

(2) by striking ''The banks'' and inserting ''(1) The banks'';

(3) striking ''For purposes'' and inserting ''(3) For purposes'';

(4) in paragraph (3) (as so redesignated), by inserting '', or in the case of such loans, commitments, and assistance that are guaranteed, the term 'rural area' means an area described in section 343(a)(13)(A) of the Consolidated Farm and Rural Development Act (7 U.S.C. 1991(a)(13)(A))'' before the period at the end; and

(5) by inserting after paragraph (1) (as so redesignated) the following:

''(2) Notwithstanding paragraph (1), a bank for cooperatives may make and participate in loans and commitments and provide technical and other financial assistance to cooperatives and any other public or private entity (except for the Federal Government) for the purpose of installing, maintaining, expanding, improving, or operating facilities in a rural area for the processing or disposal of waste from any source, the provision of telecommunication services, and producing electricity from any source for use or sale by the borrower.''.

SEC. 5504. FARM CREDIT SYSTEM REGULATION.

(a) IN GENERAL.—The Farm Credit Act of 1971 (12 U.S.C. 2001 et seq.) is amended by inserting after section 4.20 the following:

''SEC. 4.21. FARM CREDIT SYSTEM REGULATION.

''(a) The Farm Credit Administration shall be the sole and independent regulator of the Farm Credit System with respect to activities subject to this Act.

''(b) Nothing in this section shall limit or affect any regulatory or other authority granted to the Farm Credit System Insurance Corporation under this Act.

''(c) A law enacted or rule promulgated after the date of the enactment of this section shall not be held to modify or supersede the exclusive authority provided by subsection (a), except to the extent that the enacted law does so expressly.''.

(b) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendment made by subsection (a) shall take effect on the date of the enactment of this Act.

SEC. 5505. LOAN GUARANTEES.

Section 8.0(7)(B) of the Farm Credit Act of 1971 (12 U.S.C. 2279aa(7)(B)) is amended by inserting '' or section 9007(c)(1) of the Farm Security and Rural Investment Act of 2002 (7 U.S.C. 8107(c)(1))'' before the 1st comma.

SEC. 5506. STANDARDS FOR QUALIFIED LOANS.

Section 8.8 of the Farm Credit Act of 1971 (12 U.S.C. 2279aa–8) is amended—

(1) in subsection (a)(3), by striking ''mortgage investors'' and inserting ''investors in those types of loans''; and

(2) by striking subsection (c) and inserting the following:

''(c) QUALIFIED LOAN LIMITATION FOR SINGLE BORROWERS.—

''(1) IN GENERAL.—The Corporation shall not treat a loan secured by agricultural real estate as a qualified loan when the cumulative principal amount of all loans to a single borrower or related borrowers exceeds 10 percent of the Corporation's tier 1 capital, as defined by the Farm Credit Administration.

''(2) REGULATOR DETERMINATION.—The Farm Credit Administration may issue regulations establishing a single borrower concentration limit lower than the percentage specified in paragraph (1) if the Farm Credit Administration determines that such a lower limit is necessary for the safe and sound operation of the Corporation.''.

SEC. 5507. STATE AGRICULTURAL MEDIATION PROGRAMS.

(a) MATCHING GRANTS TO STATES.—Section 502 of the Agricultural Credit Act of 1987 (7 U.S.C. 5102) is amended—

(1) in subsection (b)(2), by striking ''$500,000'' and inserting ''$700,000''; and

(2) by adding at the end the following:

''(e) CARRYOVER OF FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE.—The Secretary shall permit a State that receives financial assistance under subsection (a) for a fiscal year to carry over not more than 25 percent of the financial assistance that is not expended by the end of the fiscal year, for use during the next fiscal year without deducting the amount from any assistance provided under this Act in subsequent fiscal years.''.

(b) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—Section 506 of the Agricultural Credit Act of 1987 (7 U.S.C. 5106) is amended by striking ''2023'' and inserting ''2031''.

SEC. 5508. TECHNICAL CORRECTIONS.

(a) ELIMINATION OF OBSOLETE REFERENCES TO COUNTY COMMITTEES.—

(1) Section 333A(a)(2)(B)(vi) of the Consolidated Farm and Rural Development Act (7 U.S.C. 1983a(a)(2)(B)(vi)) is amended by striking ''by the county committee'' and inserting ''of the application''.

(2) Section 336 of such Act (7 U.S.C. 1986) is amended—

(A) by striking the last sentence of subsection (b); and

(B) by striking subsection (c) and redesignating subsection (d) as subsection (c).

(3) Section 339 of such Act (7 U.S.C. 1989) is amended—

(A) in subsection (c)(4)(A), by striking ''county committee certification that the borrower of the loan meets the eligibility requirements and'' and inserting ''the borrower meeting''; and

(B) in subsection (d)(4)(A), by striking ''county committee certification that the borrower meets the eligibility requirements or'' and inserting ''the borrower meeting''.

(4) Section 359(c)(1) of such Act (7 U.S.C. 2006a(c)(1)) is amended by striking ''(as determined by the appropriate county committee during the determination of eligibility for the loan)''.

(b) REVISION OF LOAN ASSESSMENT REQUIREMENTS.—Section 360(d)(1) of such Act (7 U.S.C. 2006b(d)(1)) is amended by striking ''annual review of direct loans, and periodic review (as determined necessary by the Secretary) of guaranteed loans'' and inserting ''periodic review (as determined by the Secretary) of direct and guaranteed loans''.

(c) UPDATING OF OUTDATED REFERENCES TO THE FARMERS HOME ADMINISTRATION AND THE RURAL DEVELOPMENT AGENCY.—

(1) Section 309(e) of such Act (7 U.S.C. 1928(e)) is amended by striking ''Farmers Home Administration and the Rural Development Administration'' and inserting ''Farm Service Agency and Rural Development''.

(2) Section 331(b)(4) of such Act (7 U.S.C. 1981(b)(4)) is amended by striking ''Consolidated''.

(3) Section 331(b) of such Act (7 U.S.C. 1981(b)) is amended in each of paragraphs (5) and (7) by striking ''Farmers Home Administration'' each place it appears and inserting ''Farm Service Agency and Rural Development''.

(4) Section 331(b)(8) of such Act (7 U.S.C. 1981(b)(8)) is amended by striking ''Rural Development Administration or by the Farmers Home Administration'' and inserting ''Farm Service Agency and Rural Development''.

(5) Section 331A(a) of such Act (7 U.S.C. 1981a(a)) is amended by striking ''Farmers Home Administration or by the Rural Development Administration'' and inserting ''Farm Service Agency or by Rural Development''.

(6) Section 335(a) of such Act (7 U.S.C. 1985(a)) is amended by striking ''Farmers Home Administration or the Rural Development Administration'' and inserting ''Farm Service Agency or Rural Development''.

(7) Section 335(f)(1) of such Act (7 U.S.C. 1985(f)(1)) is amended—

(A) by striking ''Agricultural Stabilization and Conservation Service payments'' and inserting ''Farm Service Agency farm program'';

(B) by striking ''Farmers Home Administration liens'' and inserting ''liens for a farmer program loan''; and

(C) by striking ''Farmers Home Administration farmer'' and inserting ''Farm Service Agency farmer''.

(8) Section 338(a) of such Act (7 U.S.C. 1988(a)) is amended by striking ''Farmers Home Administration or the Rural Development Administration'' and inserting ''Farm Service Agency and Rural Development''.

(9) Section 347 of such Act (7 U.S.C. 1995) is amended by striking ''Farmers Home Administration'' and inserting ''Farm Service Agency and Rural Development''.

(10) Section 356 of such Act (7 U.S.C. 2004) is amended—

(A) by striking ''Farmers Home Administration may'' and inserting ''Farm Service Agency and Rural Development may''; and

(B) by striking ''the inventory of the Farmers Home Administration'' and inserting ''inventory''.

(11) Section 370(a) of such Act (7 U.S.C. 2008e(a)) is amended by striking ''the Rural Development Administration, the Farmers Home Administration, the Rural Electrification Administration'' and inserting ''Rural Development, the Farm Service Agency, the Rural Utilities Service''.

(12) Each of the following provisions of such Act is amended by striking ''Farmers Home Administration'' each place it appears and inserting ''Farm Service Agency'':

(A) Section 309(g)(1) (7 U.S.C. 1929(g)(1)).

(B) Section 331A(a) (7 U.S.C. 1981a(a)).

(C) Section 333A(e)(1) (7 U.S.C. 1983a(e)(1)).

(D) Section 335(d) (7 U.S.C. 1985(d)).

(E) Section 353A (7 U.S.C. 2001a).

(F) Section 349(e)(1)(B) (7 U.S.C. 1997(e)(1)(B)).

(G) Section 361 (7 U.S.C. 2006c).

(d) Section 335(c)(1) of such Act (7 U.S.C. 1985(c)(1)) is amended—

(1) in subparagraph (A), by striking ''15'' and inserting ''60'';

(2) in subparagraph (B)(i)—

(A) by striking ''135'' and inserting ''180''; and

(B) by inserting ''suitable for farming and ranching, as determined by the Secretary'' before the comma; and

(3) in subparagraph (C), by striking ''not later than 135 days after acquiring the real property, the Secretary shall, not later than 30 days after the 135-day period,'' and inserting ''or if the property is not suitable for farming and ranching as determined by the Secretary, not later than 60 days after the 180-day period, the Secretary shall''.

(e) CORRECTION OF INFEASIBLE INVENTORY PROPERTY DISPOSITION FRAMEWORK.—

(1) Section 331(b)(1) of such Act (7 U.S.C. 1981(b)(1)) is amended by striking '', and until January'' and all that follows through ''fit)''.

(2) Section 335(f) of such Act (7 U.S.C. 1985(f)) is amended—

(A) by striking paragraphs (3) through (5) and redesignating paragraph (6) as paragraph (3); and

(B) by striking paragraph (7) and inserting the following:

''(4) The Secretary shall issue regulations consistent with this section that ensures the release of funds to each borrower.''.

(f) REPLACEMENT OF REFERENCES TO DISTRICT OFFICE WITH REFERENCES TO DISTRICT DIRECTOR.—Section 333A(a)(2)(B) of such Act (7 U.S.C. 1983a(a)(2)(B)) is amended by striking ''district office'' each place it appears and inserting ''District Director''.

(g) CORRECTION OF OBSOLETE REFERENCE TO FORMER TRUST TERRITORIES.—Section 343(a)(6) of such Act (7 U.S.C. 1991(a)(6)) is amended by striking ''the Trust Territory of the Pacific Islands'' and inserting ''the Federated States of Micronesia, the Republic of Palau, and the Republic of the Marshall Islands''.

(h) REVISION OF FARMER PROGRAM LOAN DEFINITION.—Section 343(a)(10) of such Act (7 U.S.C. 1991(a)(10)) is amended by inserting ''before June 18, 2008, conservation loan (CL) under section 304 on or after June 18, 2008,'' before ''emergency loan (EM)''.

(i) ELIMINATION OF INCONSISTENCY BETWEEN RULES APPLICABLE TO BEGINNING FARMERS.—Section 343(a)(11)(C) of such Act (7 U.S.C. 1991(a)(11)(C)) is amended by striking ''related to one another by blood or marriage'' and inserting ''qualified beginning farmers''.

(j) UPDATING OF PROVISIONS TO REFLECT REPURPOSING OF CONSERVATION LOAN PROVISIONS.—

(1) Section 303(a) of such Act (7 U.S.C. 1923(a)) is amended in each of paragraphs (1)(D) and (2)(D) by striking ''described in section 304''.

(2) Section 310D of such Act (7 U.S.C. 1934) is amended by striking '', or paragraphs (1) through (5) of section 304(a),'' and inserting ''section 304(a)''.

(k) UPDATING OF NOTICE PROVISION REQUIREMENT AND LIFETIME DEBT FORGIVENESS LIMIT.—Section 353(i)(1) of such Act (7 U.S.C. 2001(i)(1)) is amended by striking ''registered or certified mail'' and inserting ''any method that provides documentation of delivery''.

(l) UPDATING OF OBSOLETE REFERENCE TO THE SOIL CONSERVATION SERVICE.—Section 306(a)(13) of such Act (7 U.S.C. 1926(a)(13)) is amended by striking ''Soil Conservation Service'' and inserting ''Natural Resources Conservation Service''.

(m) CLARIFICATION OF INTEREST RATE REQUIREMENTS.—

(1) Section 307(a)(3)(B) of such Act (7 U.S.C. 1927(a)(3)(B)) is amended by striking ''not be—'' and all that follows and inserting ''be equal to the interest rate for direct farm ownership loans under this subtitle, not to exceed 5 percent per year.''.

(2) Section 316(a)(2) of such Act (7 U.S.C. 1946(a)(2)) is amended by striking ''not be—'' and all that follows and inserting ''be equal to the interest rate for direct farm ownership loans under this subtitle, not to exceed 5 percent per year.''.

(n) CORRECTION OF HEADING.—Section 309(h)(6) of such Act (7 U.S.C. 1929(h)(6)) is amended in the paragraph heading by striking ''BEGINNING FARMER LOANS'' and inserting ''DOWN PAYMENT LOAN PROGRAM PARTICIPANT''.

(o) ELIMINATION OF SUPERFLUOUS RESTRICTIONS.—Section 312 of such Act (7 U.S.C. 1942) is amended by striking subsection (d) and redesignating subsection (e) as subsection (d).

(p) ELIMINATION OF CONFUSING REFERENCES TO LOAN GUARANTEES.—Section 319 of such Act (7 U.S.C. 1949) is amended—

*(1) in the section heading, by striking ''**OR GUARANTEES**''; and*

(2) by striking ''or with respect to whom there is an outstanding guarantee under this subtitle''.

(q) ELIMINATION OF OBSOLETE REPORTING REQUIREMENTS.—Section 346 of such Act (7 U.S.C. 1994) is amended by striking subsections (c) and (d).

(r) CORRECTION OF OBSOLETE APPEALS PROVISIONS.—

(1) Section 352(c)(3) of such Act (7 U.S.C. 2000(c)(3)) is amended by striking ''section 333B'' and inserting ''subtitle H of title II of Federal Crop Insurance Reform and Department of Agriculture Reorganization Act of 1994''.

(2) Section 353 of such Act (7 U.S.C. 2001) is amended—

(A) in subsection (h), by striking ''under section 333B''; and

(B) in subsection (j)—

(i) by striking ''filed with the appeals division under section 333B'' and inserting ''to the National Appeals Division'';

(ii) by striking ''appeals division shall'' and inserting ''Secretary shall''; and

(iii) by striking ''county supervisor'' and inserting ''Secretary''.

(s) ELIMINATION OF UNNECESSARY CONSTRAINT ON PILOT PROJECTS.—Section 333D(a) of such

Act (7 U.S.C. 1983d(a)) is amended by striking ''that are consistent with subtitle A through this subtitle''.

(t) CORRECTION OF HEADING.—The paragraph heading in section 8.8(a)(3) of the Farm Credit Act of 1971 (12 U.S.C. 2279aa–8(a)(3)) is amended by striking ''MORTGAGE LOANS'' and inserting ''LOAN QUALITY''.

SEC. 5509. REPORT ON IMPROVING CREDITWORTHINESS OF DIRECT AND GUARANTEED LOAN BORROWERS.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 1 year after the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary shall submit to the Committee on Agriculture of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry of the Senate a report evaluating the feasibility of requiring the adoption of certain risk management practices as a condition for approving certain direct and guaranteed farm loans.

(b) REQUIREMENT.—In the report under subsection (a), the Secretary shall evaluate the feasibility of requiring, as a condition for approving certain direct and guaranteed farm loans, the adoption of 1 or more of the following risk management practices:

(1) Hedging and marketing price or revenue risk management strategies.

(2) Insurance coverage optimization or coordination.

(3) Periodic financial reporting or financial management practices.

(4) Cash management services to facilitate timely disbursement of funds and structured collection of operating revenues.

(5) The use of integrated monitoring and analytics tools to align risk management and financial decisions with observed environmental and production conditions.

(6) Other risk mitigation practices as determined by the Secretary.

(7) Voluntary lender incentives to promote integrated risk management support without increasing costs or burdens for applicants.

(c) CERTIFICATION.—In completing the report under subsection (a), the Secretary shall also evaluate the feasibility of establishing a certification program that identifies loans approved contingent on the adoption of enhanced risk management practices, including through voluntary lender incentives to promote integrated risk management support without increasing costs or burdens for applicants.

(d) APPLICABILITY.—The requirements and evaluations under this section shall apply only to operating, production, and working capital loans made for agricultural production purposes and shall not apply to real estate loans, rural development loans, housing loans, business and industry loans, or other non-operating credit programs administered by the Secretary.

SEC. 5510. FARM CREDIT ADMINISTRATION OPTION TO EXAMINE LOW-RISK FARM CREDIT SYSTEM INSTITUTIONS ON A 24-MONTH CYCLE.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Section 5.19(a) of the Farm Credit Act of 1971 (12 U.S.C. 2254(a)) is amended in the 1st sentence—

(1) by striking ''in no event'' and inserting ''not''; and

(2) by inserting '', except that the Farm Credit Administration, in its sole discretion, may extend the time period between mandatory examinations of institutions deemed by the Farm Credit Administration to be small, low-risk institutions to not more than 24 months'' before the period.

(b) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendments made by subsection (a) shall take effect on October 1, 2026.

TITLE VI—RURAL DEVELOPMENT

Subtitle A—Improving Health Outcomes in Rural America

SEC. 6101. PRIORITIZATIONS FOR DISTANCE LEARNING AND TELEMEDICINE AND COMMUNITY FACILITIES PROGRAM.

Section 6101(a) of the Agriculture Improvement Act of 2018 (132 Stat. 4726; Public Law 115–334) is amended—

(1) in paragraph (1)—

(A) in the matter preceding subparagraph (A), by striking ''2025'' and inserting ''2027'';

(B) in subparagraph (A)—

(i) in clause (i)—

(I) in the heading, by striking ''SUBSTANCE USE DISORDER SET-ASIDE'' and inserting ''SET-ASIDE'';

(II) by inserting ''at rural health facilities'' before ''that provide''; and

(III) by inserting '', mental health, behavioral health, or maternal health'' before ''treatment''; and

(ii) in clause (ii), by inserting ''mental health, behavioral health, maternal health, or'' before ''substance'';

(C) in subparagraph (B)—

(i) in clause (i)—

(I) in the heading, by striking ''SUBSTANCE USE DISORDER SELECTION'' and inserting ''SELECTION'';

(II) in subclause (I), by inserting ''mental health, behavioral health, maternal health, or'' before ''substance'' the first place it appears; and

(III) in subclause (II), by inserting ''mental health concerns, behavioral health concerns, maternal health concerns, or'' before ''substance''; and

(ii) in clause (ii), by inserting '', behavioral health treatment, mental health treatment, or maternal health, respectively'' before the period; and

(D) in subparagraph (C), by inserting ''behavioral health, mental health, maternal health, or'' before ''substance'' the first place it appears; and

(2) in paragraph (2), by striking ''2025'' and inserting ''2027''.

SEC. 6102. DISTANCE LEARNING AND TELEMEDICINE LOANS AND GRANTS.

Section 2335A of the Food, Agriculture, Conservation, and Trade Act of 1990 (7 U.S.C. 950aaa–5) is amended by striking ''$82,000,000 for each of fiscal years 2019 through 2023'' and inserting ''$82,000,000 for each of fiscal years 2027 through 2031, to remain available for 2 fiscal years after the fiscal year for which appropriated''.

Subtitle B—Connecting Rural Americans to High Speed Broadband

SEC. 6201. RURAL BROADBAND PROGRAM LOANS AND GRANTS.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Section 601 of the Rural Electrification Act of 1936 (7 U.S.C. 950bb) is amended—

(1) in the section heading, by striking ''**ACCESS TO BROADBAND TELECOMMUNICATIONS SERVICES IN RURAL AREAS**'' and inserting ''**RECONNECT RURAL BROADBAND PROGRAM**'';

(2) in subsection (a), by striking ''The purpose'' and all that follows through ''provide funds for'' and inserting ''The Secretary shall establish a program, which shall be known as the 'ReConnect Rural Broadband Program', to provide grants, loans, and loan guarantees to finance'';

(3) in subsection (c)—

(A) by striking paragraph (1) and inserting the following:

''(1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall make grants, loans, and loan guarantees to eligible entities described in subsection (d) for the purpose of financing the construction, improvement, or acquisition of facilities and equipment necessary for delivering broadband service in rural areas.'';

(B) in paragraph (2), by striking subparagraphs (A) and (B) and inserting the following:

''(A) IN GENERAL.—In making grants, making loans, and guaranteeing loans under paragraph (1), the Secretary shall give the highest priority to applications for projects to provide broadband service to unserved rural communities that do not have any residential broadband service of at least—

''(i) a 25–Mbps downstream transmission capacity; and

''(ii) a 3–Mbps upstream transmission capacity.

''(B) OTHER.—After giving priority to the applications described in subparagraph (A), the Secretary shall then give priority to applications—

''(i) for projects to provide broadband service to rural communities—

''(I) with a population of less than 10,000 inhabitants; or

''(II) in geographically underserved and distressed areas, including—

''(aa) a socially vulnerable community (as determined by the Secretary);

''(bb) a persistent poverty county (as determined by the Secretary); or

''(cc) in an economically distressed area (as determined by the Secretary);

''(ii) that were developed with the participation of, and will receive a substantial portion of the funding or in-kind assistance for the project from, 2 or more stakeholders, including—

''(I) State, local, and Tribal governments;

''(II) nonprofit institutions;

''(III) community anchor institutions, such as—

''(aa) public libraries;

''(bb) elementary schools and secondary schools (as defined in section 8101 of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 7801));

''(cc) institutions of higher education (including 1862 Land-Grant Institutions, 1890 Land-Grant Institutions, 1994 Land-Grant Institutions, Hispanic-Serving Institutions, and Historically Black Colleges and Universities);

''(dd) health care facilities; and

''(ee) facilities essential for local or regional commerce or for the movement of goods;

''(IV) private entities;

''(V) philanthropic organizations; and

''(VI) cooperatives; or

''(iii) that are submitted by an eligible entity or is owned by an entity that has provided broadband service or other utility service for at least 5 years in rural areas in the State in which the project would be carried out.

''(C) AFFORDABILITY.—In determining whether a household is unserved for purposes of this section, the Secretary shall consider the affordability of broadband service.'';

(C) in paragraph (3)—

(i) in subparagraph (B)—

(I) by striking ''and'' at the end of clause (i);

(II) by striking the period at the end of clause (ii) and inserting ''; and''; and

(III) by adding at the end the following:

''(iii) shall be subject to a grant agreement of not less than 10 years.'';

(ii) by striking subparagraphs (C) and (D) and inserting the following:

''(C) APPLICATIONS.—

''(i) GRANT-ONLY APPLICATIONS.—The Secretary shall establish an application process that permits an application for a grant-only award.

''(ii) COMBINED APPLICATIONS.—The Secretary shall establish an application process that—

''(I) permits a single application for a grant and a loan under title I or II, or this title, that is associated with the grant; and

''(II) provides a single decision to award the grant and the loan.'';

(iii) by redesignating subparagraph (E) as subparagraph (D); and

(iv) by striking subparagraph (F); and

(D) by striking paragraph (4) and inserting the following:

''(4) FEES.—

''(A) INITIAL GUARANTEE FEE.—The Secretary may assess an initial guarantee fee for any insured or guaranteed loan issued or modified under this section in an amount that does not exceed 3 percent of the guaranteed principal portion of the loan.

''(B) PERIODIC RETENTION FEE.—The Secretary may assess a periodic retention fee for any insured or guaranteed loan issued or modified

under this section in an amount that does not exceed 0.75 percent of the outstanding principal of the guarantee loan.

''(C) DISCLOSURE.—In altering any fee charged for any insured or guaranteed loan issued or modified under this section, the Secretary, not less than 30 days in advance of any fee change, shall provide a public disclosure, of the financial data, economic and behavioral assumptions, calculations, and other factors used to determine the new fee rates.'';

(4) in subsection (d)—

(A) in paragraph (1)—

(i) in subparagraph (A)—

(I) in clause (i), by adding ''and'' at the end; and

(II) by striking ''require; and'' and all that follows through ''agree'' and insert ''require, and agree'';

(ii) by redesignating subparagraph (B) as subparagraph (E) and inserting after subparagraph (A) the following:

''(B) INCLUSIONS.—An entity eligible to obtain assistance under subsection (c) may include—

''(i) a State or local government, including any agency, subdivision, instrumentality, or political subdivision of a State or local government;

''(ii) a territory or possession of the United States;

''(iii) an Indian Tribe (as defined in section 4 of the Indian Self-Determination and Education Assistance Act (25 U.S.C. 5304));

''(iv) a cooperative or mutual organization;

''(v) an organization of 2 or more incorporated areas that have established an intermunicipal legal agreement for the purposes of delivering communication services to residents;

''(vi) a corporation; or

''(vii) a limited liability company or limited liability partnership.

''(C) INELIGIBLE ENTITIES.—An individual or legal general partnership that is formed with individuals shall not be eligible to obtain a grant, loan, or grant and loan combination under subsection (c).

''(D) AFFILIATED OWNED AND OPERATED NETWORKS.—Under this subsection, the Secretary may fund the construction of networks owned and operated by an affiliate of an eligible entity receiving the grant, loan, or loan guarantee, if the eligible entity, the affiliate, or both, as determined necessary by the Secretary, furnishes adequate security for the grant, loan, or loan guarantee.''; and

(iii) in subparagraph (E) (as so redesignated by clause (ii) of this subparagraph), by inserting '', directly or in conjunction with any combination of affiliates,'' before ''may not'';

(B) in paragraph (2)—

(i) in subparagraph (A)—

(I) by striking ''subparagraphs (B) and (C)'' and inserting ''subparagraph (B)'';

(II) by striking ''is submitted—'' and all that follows through ''(i) not less than 50'' and inserting ''is submitted not less than 75''; and

(III) by striking ''(e); and'' and all that follows and inserting ''(e).'';

(ii) in subparagraph (B), by striking ''(A)(i)'' and inserting ''(A)''; and

(iii) by striking subparagraph (C) and inserting the following:

''(C) AFFORDABILITY.—In deciding whether a proposed service territory is unserved for purposes of subparagraph (A), the Secretary shall consider the affordability of broadband service in the service territory.''; and

(C) by striking paragraphs (4) and (5);

(5) in subsection (e)—

(A) in paragraph (1)—

(i) by striking ''Subject to paragraph (2), for'' and inserting ''For'';

(ii) in subparagraph (A), by striking ''25'' and inserting ''50''; and

(iii) in subparagraph (B), by striking ''3'' and inserting ''25'';

(B) by striking paragraph (2) and inserting the following:

''(2) ADJUSTMENTS.—The Secretary may adjust, through a 30-day public notice and comment period published in the Federal Register, an increase in the minimum level of broadband service under paragraph (1) of no more than 50 percent from the preceding year, if less than 95 percent of the funds of the program are obligated in the preceding 2 funding rounds.''; and

(C) in paragraph (4)—

(i) in the paragraph heading, by striking ''BUILDOUT'' and inserting ''PROJECT AGREEMENT''; and

(ii) by striking subparagraphs (B) through (D) and inserting the following:

''(B) BROADBAND BUILDOUT STANDARDS DEFINED.—A project must meet the following applicable broadband standard in order to be considered for assistance;

''(i) A project with an award term of less than 8 years must provide service at 2 times the minimum broadband speed established in subsection (e)(1).

''(ii) A project with an award term of at least 8 years and less than 14 years must provide service at 5 times the minimum broadband speed established in subsection (e)(1).

''(iii) A project with an award term of 14 or more years must provide service at 10 times the minimum broadband speed established in subsection (e)(1).

''(C) NETWORK UPGRADE PLANNING.—The Secretary may prioritize an applicant seeking to meet the broadband buildout standards under clause (i) or (ii) of subparagraph (B) if the applicant submits information regarding the potential for the physical infrastructure of the network to be upgraded to meet the broadband buildout standards under subparagraph (B)(iii) at the time of the application, assuming reasonable progress in relevant networking technologies.'';

(6) by striking subsection (j) and inserting the following:

''(j) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There is authorized to be appropriated to the Secretary to carry out this section $350,000,000 for each of fiscal years 2027 through 2031, to remain available until expended.''; and

(7) in subsection (k), by striking ''2023'' and inserting ''2031''.

(b) REGULATIONS.—Not later than 270 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary shall promulgate rules to carry out the amendments made by subsection (a) of this section, and complete the biennial review process required by section 601(e)(2) of the Rural Electrification Act of 1936.

(c) SUNSET.—The authorities provided by section 779 of the Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2018 (Public Law 115–141) shall have no force or effect beginning 270 days after the date of the enactment of this Act.

(d) TRANSITION RULES.—

(1) AVAILABILITY OF FUNDS FOR ADMINISTRATIVE COSTS.—Not more than 1 percent of the unobligated balances of amounts made available, as of the date that is 270 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, to carry out the pilot program described in section 779 of the Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2018 (Public Law 115–141) may be used for the costs of transitioning from the pilot program to the program under section 601 of the Rural Electrification Act of 1936, as amended by this Act.

(2) CONSOLIDATION OF FUNDS.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—The unobligated balances of all amounts made available on or before June 30, 2025, to carry out the pilot program described in section 779 of the Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2018 (Public Law 115–141) that are in excess of the amount described in subparagraph (B) of this paragraph are hereby transferred to and merged with amounts made available to carry out the program authorized under section 601 of the Rural Electrification Act of 1936.

(B) UNFUNDED APPROVALS.—The amount described in this subparagraph is the amount required to fully fund each project approved as of the date that is 270 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, under the pilot program described in such section 779 for which amounts were not obligated or partially obligated as of such date.

SEC. 6202. EXPANSION OF MIDDLE MILE INFRASTRUCTURE INTO RURAL AREAS.

Section 602(g) of the Rural Electrification Act of 1936 (7 U.S.C. 950bb–1(g)) is amended by striking ''2018 through 2023'' and inserting ''2027 through 2031''.

SEC. 6203. INNOVATIVE BROADBAND ADVANCEMENT PROGRAM.

Section 603 of the Rural Electrification Act of 1936 (7 U.S.C. 950bb–2) is amended to read as follows:

''SEC. 603. INNOVATIVE BROADBAND ADVANCEMENT PROGRAM.

''(a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall establish a program to be known as the 'Innovative Broadband Advancement Program', under which the Secretary may provide a grant, a loan, or both to an eligible entity for the purpose of demonstrating innovative broadband technologies or methods of broadband deployment that significantly decrease the cost of broadband deployment, and provide substantially faster broadband speeds than are available, in a rural area.

''(b) TERRESTRIAL BROADBAND DEMONSTRATION PROJECTS.—

''(1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall provide grants or loans to eligible entities for the purpose of deploying innovative broadband technologies to qualified consumers who subscribe to terrestrial broadband service in rural areas.

''(2) ELIGIBILITY.—To be eligible to obtain assistance under this subsection for a project, an entity shall—

''(A) submit to the Secretary an application—

''(i) that describes a terrestrial broadband demonstration project designed to decrease the cost of broadband deployment, and substantially increase broadband speed to not less than the maximum broadband project agreement requirements established under section 601(e)(4), to qualified consumers in a rural area to be served by the project; and

''(ii) at such time, in such manner, and containing such other information as the Secretary may require;

''(B) demonstrate that the entity is able to carry out the project; and

''(C) agree to complete the project build-out within 5 years after the date the assistance is first provided for the project.

''(3) PRIORITIZATION.—In awarding assistance under this subsection, the Secretary shall give priority to proposals for projects that—

''(A) involve partnerships between or among multiple entities;

''(B) would provide broadband service to the greatest number of rural entities at or above the broadband requirements referred to in paragraph (2)(A)(i);

''(C) the Secretary determines could be replicated in rural areas described in paragraph (2); and

''(D) are located in States and territories selected by the Secretary to be diverse on the basis of geography, topography, and demographics.

''(4) QUALIFIED CONSUMER.—In this subsection, the term 'qualified consumer' means—

''(A) an individual or member of a household who lives in a rural area;

''(B) a rural small business; or

''(C) an essential community facility, as defined pursuant to section 306(a) of the Consolidated Farm and Rural Development Act (7 U.S.C. 1926(a)).

''(5) RURAL AREA.—In this subsection, the term 'rural area' has the meaning provided in section 601(b)(3).

''(c) SATELLITE BROADBAND DEMONSTRATION PROJECTS.—

''(1) PURPOSE.—The purpose of this subsection is to reduce or eliminate the costs to access satellite broadband service for remote subscribers.

''(2) DEFINITIONS.—In this subsection:

''(A) ELIGIBLE ENTITY.—The term 'eligible entity' means a broadband service provider that provides Internet access directly to qualified consumers in remote areas via satellite technology.

''(B) QUALIFIED CONSUMER.—The term 'qualified consumer' means a consumer served by an eligible entity that receives a grant under paragraph (3), who is—

''(i) an individual or a member of a household at or below the poverty line (as defined in section 673(2) of the Omnibus Budget Reconciliation Act of 1981, including any revision required by such section, applicable to a family of the size involved); or

''(ii) an essential community facility, as defined pursuant to section 306(a) of the Consolidated Farm and Rural Development Act (7 U.S.C. 1926(a)).

''(C) SATELLITE BROADBAND EQUIPMENT.—The term 'satellite broadband equipment' means user terminals, Wi-Fi routers, power supplies, mounts, and any other equipment necessary to connect a qualified consumer to satellite broadband service.

''(D) SECRETARY.—The term 'Secretary' means the Secretary of Agriculture, acting through the Administrator of the Rural Utilities Service.

''(E) REMOTE.—The term 'remote' means a region classified within level 3 or level 4 of the frontier and remote ZIP Code areas published by the Economic Research Service of the Department of Agriculture.

''(3) GRANTS TO ELIGIBLE ENTITIES.—

''(A) IN GENERAL.—Subject to paragraph (B), the Secretary shall make grants to eligible entities for the purpose of reducing or eliminating the cost associated with the purchase or installation, or both, of satellite broadband equipment to qualified consumers to subscribe to satellite broadband service in remote areas.

''(B) REQUIREMENTS.—As a condition of receiving a grant under this subsection, an eligible entity shall—

''(i) provide retail broadband service delivered via satellite technology to qualified consumers, that—

''(I) enables a qualified consumer to the service to originate and receive high-quality voice, data, graphics, video; and

''(II) has a latency which does not exceed 250 milliseconds;

''(ii) submit to the Secretary an application at such time, in such manner, and containing such other information as the Secretary may require;

''(iii) agree to reduce or eliminate the cost associated with the purchase, installation, or both, of satellite broadband equipment for qualified consumers; and

''(iv) agree to provide qualified consumers with the reduction or elimination of that cost within 1 year of the assistance being obligated to the eligible entity.

''(C) ELIGIBILITY MAP OF QUALIFIED CONSUMERS.—Within 1 year after the date of the enactment of this Act, and annually thereafter, the Secretary shall publish a map of the remote areas of qualified consumers that do not have access to terrestrial broadband service of at least—

''(i) a 25–Mbps downstream transmission capacity; and

''(ii) a 3–Mbps upstream transmission capacity.

''(d) REPORT.—Within 1 year after the date of the enactment of this section, and annually thereafter, the Secretary shall submit a comprehensive report to the Committee on Agriculture of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry of the Senate that shall provide the outcomes, effectiveness, and impact of the Innovative Broadband Advancement Program, including—

''(1) an assessment of the broadband infrastructure funded, including the scope, scale, nature and geographic locations of each award;

''(2) the broadband access and speeds achieved, including the download and upload speeds, latency, and overall network reliability;

''(3) any technical or logistical challenges encountered by the eligible entities; and

''(4) any recommendations for future innovative broadband deployment initiatives in rural areas.

''(e) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There is authorized to be appropriated to carry out this section $10,000,000 for each of fiscal years 2027 through 2031.''.

SEC. 6204. COMMUNITY CONNECT GRANTS.

Section 604 of the Rural Electrification Act of 1936 (7 U.S.C. 950bb–3) is amended—

(1) in subsection (a)(2)—

(A) in subparagraph (A), by striking ''10'' and inserting ''25''; and

(B) in subparagraph (B), by striking ''1'' and inserting ''3'';

(2) in subsection (c)—

(A) in paragraph (1), by striking ''and'' at the end;

(B) in paragraph (2), by striking the period at the end and inserting ''; and''; and

(C) by adding at the end the following:

''(3) provides broadband speeds not less than the broadband project agreement requirements established under section 601(e)(4)(B)(ii) to the eligible entity within the proposed eligible service area.''; and

(3) in subsection (g), by striking ''2019 through 2023'' and inserting ''2027 through 2031''.

SEC. 6205. RATE REGULATION.

Title VI of the Rural Electrification Act of 1936 (7 U.S.C. 950bb–5) is amended by adding at the end the following:

''SEC. 607. RATE REGULATION.

''Nothing in this title authorizes the Secretary to regulate rates charged for broadband service.''.

SEC. 6206. PUBLIC NOTICE, ASSESSMENTS, TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE, AND REPORTING REQUIREMENTS.

Section 701 of the Rural Electrification Act of 1936 (7 U.S.C. 950cc) is amended—

(1) in the section heading, by inserting ''**TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE,**'' before ''**AND**'';

(2) in subsection (a)(1)(B)(i), by inserting '', including a complete shapefile map'' before the semicolon;

(3) in subsection (b)—

(A) in paragraph (1)—

(i) in subparagraph (A), by striking ''and'' at the end;

(ii) by redesignating subparagraph (B) as subparagraph (C) and inserting after subparagraph (A) the following:

''(B) validate the information submitted by service providers under subparagraph (A) through procedures established by the Secretary, which shall include an agency determination provided to the submitter, an opportunity of the submitter to respond, and a final non-appealable determination of the Secretary; and''; and

(iii) in subparagraph (C) (as so redesignated by clause (ii) of this subparagraph), by striking ''paragraph (1)'' and inserting ''subparagraph (A)''; and

(B) in paragraph (2), by striking all that precedes subparagraph (B) and inserting the following:

''(2) ASSESSMENT OF ELIGIBILITY.—In making any determination to award a loan, loan guarantee, or grant for any retail broadband project provided assistance or for which assistance is sought that is administered by the Secretary, the Secretary shall confirm that each unserved rural community identified in the application is eligible for funding by—

''(A) utilizing the map created by the Federal Communications Commission under section 802(c)(1)(A) of the Communications Act of 1934 and the Deployment Locations Map established under section 60104(b) of the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (47 U.S.C. 1704(b));''; and

(4) by striking subsection (e) and inserting the following:

''(e) BROADBAND TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE PROGRAM.—

''(1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall make grants to private, nonprofit, or public organizations to provide or receive eligible entities broadband technical assistance and training to expand access to broadband service in rural communities through the broadband programs of the Department of Agriculture including—

''(A) preparing applications for grants, loans and loan guarantees under this section;

''(B) identifying resources to finance broadband facilities from public and private sources, including other Federal agencies;

''(C) preparing feasibility studies, financial forecasts, market surveys, environmental studies, and technical design information to support broadband services;

''(D) preparing reports and surveys necessary to support the need for broadband services, the price range, and request financial assistance;

''(E) analyzing and improving operations related to the management, including financial management, of broadband facilities and to the efficiency of the entity;

''(F) collecting broadband infrastructure data; or

''(G) assisting with other areas of need identified by the Secretary.

''(2) ELIGIBLE ENTITIES.—To be eligible to obtain assistance under this subsection, an entity shall be—

''(A) a federally recognized Tribe or Tribal entity;

''(B) a State or local government, including any agency, subdivision, instrumentality, or political subdivision thereof;

''(C) a territory or possession of the United States;

''(D) an institution of higher education (including a 1862 Land-Grant Institution, 1890 Land-Grant Institution, 1994 Land-Grant Institution, Hispanic-Serving Institution, or Historically Black College or University);

''(E) a nonprofit organization described in section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986;

''(F) a cooperative or mutual organization;

''(G) a corporation; or

''(H) a limited liability company or limited liability partnership.

''(3) SELECTION PRIORITY.—In selecting recipients of grants under this paragraph, the Secretary shall give priority to organizations that have experience in providing technical assistance and training to rural entities.

''(4) NATIONAL APPLICATIONS.—The Secretary shall allow applications for grants under this paragraph from qualified organizations for the sole purpose of providing on-site community technical assistance and training on a national or multi-State regional basis.

''(f) ASSISTANCE FOR COMMUNITY BROADBAND MAPPING.—

''(1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary may make grants to eligible entities for the purpose of collecting broadband service data to assist the Secretary in—

''(A) establishing the availability of broadband service or middle mile infrastructure in a rural area;

''(B) determining the eligibility of a community for assistance under any broadband program administered by the Secretary;

''(C) undertaking a service area assessment under this section; or

''(D) collecting information to submit a challenge to the National Broadband Map created by the Federal Communications Commission pursuant to section 802(c)(1) of the Communications Act of 1934 (47 U.S.C. 642(c)(1)).

''(2) APPLICATION.—To apply for a grant under this section, an entity shall submit an application which identifies—

''(A) the data collection area;

''(B) the purpose of the data collection;

''(C) the types of broadband service data to be collected;

''(D) the survey and data collection methods utilized; and

''(E) any other information the Secretary determines necessary to promote the integrity of broadband service collected under this section.

''(3) LIMITATION OF GRANT AMOUNT.—The amount of a grant made available under this subsection shall not exceed $50,000.

''(4) BROADBAND SERVICE DATA USAGE.—The Secretary shall ensure that any broadband service data collected under this section is—

''(A) measured or assessed in accordance with such standards as are established by the Federal Communications Commission pursuant to section 802(a)(1)(A) of the Communications Act of 1934 (47 U.S.C. 642(a)(1)(A));

''(B) accurate and verifiable in accordance with such standards as are established by the Federal Communications Commission pursuant to section 802(a)(1)(A) of the Communications Act of 1934 (47 U.S.C. 642(a)(1)(A));

''(C) included in any broadband maps or data sets maintained by the Secretary; and

''(D) made available to the Chair of the Federal Communications Commission and the Administrator of the National Telecommunications and Information Administration for inclusion in any broadband maps or data sets either may maintain.

''(5) DEFINITIONS.—In this subsection:

''(A) BROADBAND SERVICE.—The term 'broadband service' has the same meaning given the term in section 601.

''(B) BROADBAND SERVICE DATA.—

''(i) IN GENERAL.—The term 'broadband service data' means information related to—

''(I) the location and type of broadband service;

''(II) the location and type of broadband infrastructure;

''(III) the advertised, maximum, and average speed of broadband service;

''(IV) the average price of the most subscribed tier of broadband service;

''(V) the speed tiers of broadband service available in the area; or

''(VI) any additional metric the Secretary deems appropriate.

''(ii) FURTHER DEFINITION.—The Secretary shall further define the term 'broadband service area' to ensure that data is measured and collected in a manner consistent with the reporting requirements under this section, and any broadband coordination or data-sharing obligations.

''(C) ELIGIBLE ENTITY.—The term 'eligible entity' means—

''(i) a unit of local government in a rural area;

''(ii) a Tribal Government or unit of Tribal Government;

''(iii) an economic development or other community organization;

''(iv) an eligible entity under title I or II that serves persons in rural areas;

''(v) an internet service provider that has not more than 100,000 subscribers; or

''(vi) any other entity eligible under a title VI program that is not an internet service provider.

''(D) MIDDLE MILE INFRASTRUCTURE.—The term 'middle mile infrastructure' has the meaning given the term in section 602.

''(E) RURAL AREA.—The term 'rural area' has the meaning given the term in section 601.

''(6) LIMITATION ON AMOUNT MADE AVAILABLE FOR GRANTS.—The Secretary may not expend more than 1 percent of the amounts made available under subsection (g) for each of fiscal years 2027 through 2031 to carry out this subsection.

''(g) LIMITATIONS ON RESERVATION OF FUNDS.—Not less than 3 but not more than 5 percent of the amounts appropriated to the program to carry out title VI shall be set aside to be used for—

''(1) conducting oversight under such title;

''(2) implementing accountability measures and related activities authorized under such title; or

''(3) carrying out this section.''.

SEC. 6207. LIMITATION ON OVERBUILDING.

Title VI of the Rural Electrification Act of 1936 (7 U.S.C. 950bb et seq.) is amended by adding at the end the following:

''SEC. 608. LIMITATION ON OVERBUILDING.

''Any area in a proposed service area under this title shall not be considered unserved if an applicant in another Federal or State broadband program has received an obligation of funding to offer retail broadband service in the area not more than 5 years from the date of the obligation of funds, at a speed of at least 100 Mbps download and 20 Mbps upload.''.

Subtitle C—Miscellaneous

SEC. 6301. RURAL ENERGY SAVINGS PROGRAM.

Section 6407 of the Farm Security and Rural Investment Act of 2002 (7 U.S.C. 8107a) is amended—

(1) in subsection (b)—

(A) in paragraph (1)—

(i) in subparagraph (A), by inserting '', if the entity continues to serve rural areas (as defined in section 343(a)(13)(A) of the Consolidated Farm and Rural Development Act (7 U.S.C. 1991(a)(13)(A))'' before the semicolon;

(ii) in subparagraph (B), by striking ''or'' at the end; and

(iii) by redesignating subparagraph (C) as subparagraph (E) and inserting after subparagraph (B) the following:

''(C) any Indian Tribe (as defined in section 4 of the Indian Self-Determination and Education Assistance Act (25 U.S.C. 5304));

''(D) any public, quasi-public, or nonprofit entity that uses innovative financing techniques and market development tools to accelerate the deployment of energy efficiency technology; or'';

(B) by striking paragraph (2) and inserting the following:

''(2) ENERGY EFFICIENCY MEASURES.—The term 'energy efficiency measures' means, with respect to any property service by an eligible entity—

''(A) a structural improvement or investment in a cost-effective, commercial technology to increase energy efficiency (including cost-effective on- or off-grid renewable energy or energy storage system); and

''(B) the replacement of a manufactured housing unit or large appliance with a substantially similar manufacturing housing unit or appliance, respectively, if that replacement is a cost-effective option with respect to energy savings.'';

(2) in subsection (c)—

(A) in the subsection heading, by inserting ''AND GRANTS'' before ''TO'';

(B) by striking paragraph (1) and inserting the following:

''(1) IN GENERAL.—Subject to this subsection, the Secretary shall provide—

''(A) loans to eligible entities that agree to use the loan funds to make loans under subsection (d) to qualified consumers for the purpose of implementing energy efficiency measures; and

''(B) at the election of any eligible entity that receives a loan under subparagraph (A) of this paragraph, a grant in accordance with paragraph (11).'';

(C) by redesignating paragraphs (2) through (9) as paragraphs (3) through (10), respectively, and inserting after paragraph (1) the following:

''(2) PRIORITIZATION.—The Secretary shall give priority to applications from eligible entities serving at least 80 percent of their ratepayers residing in rural areas, as defined in section 343(a)(13)(A) of the Consolidated Farm and Rural Development Act (7 U.S.C. 1991(a)(13)(A)).'';

(D) in paragraph (3) (as so redesignated by subparagraph (C) of this paragraph)—

(i) in the paragraph heading, by inserting ''FOR LOANS'' before the period; and

(ii) in subparagraph (A)(i), by striking ''that is'';

(E) by striking paragraph (6) (as so redesignated by subparagraph (C) of this paragraph) and inserting the following:

''(6) REPAYMENT.—

''(A) IN GENERAL.—Subject to subparagraph (B) of this paragraph, with respect to a loan under paragraph (1)(A)—

''(i) the term shall not exceed 20 years from the date on which the loan is closed; and

''(ii) except as provided in paragraph (8), the repayment of each advance shall be amortized for a period not to exceed 10 years.

''(B) EXTENSIONS.—The Secretary may extend the term of a loan under subparagraph (A)(i), or the deadline for repayment of an advance under subparagraph (A)(ii), as the Secretary determines appropriate.'';

(F) in paragraph (8) (as so redesignated by subparagraph (C) of this paragraph)—

(i) in subparagraph (B), by striking ''(1)'' and inserting ''(1)(A)''; and

(ii) in subparagraph (C), by striking ''Repayment'' and inserting ''Subject to an applicable extension under paragraph (6)(B), repayment'';

(G) by striking paragraph (9) (as so redesignated by subparagraph (C) of this paragraph) and inserting the following:

''(9) LIMITATIONS.—

''(A) SPECIAL ADVANCES.—All special advances shall be made under a loan described in paragraph (1) during the first 10 years of the term of the loan.

''(B) REPLACEMENT OF MANUFACTURED HOUSING UNITS OR LARGE APPLIANCES.—Not more than 10 percent of the total annual amount of budget authority for loans described in paragraph (1) may be used for the replacement of manufactured housing units or large appliances.''; and

(H) by adding at the end the following:

''(11) GRANTS.—

''(A) IN GENERAL.—At the election of an eligible entity that receives a loan under this subsection, the Secretary may provide to the eligible entity a grant to pay for a portion of the costs incurred in—

''(i) making repairs to the property of a qualified consumer that facilitates the energy efficiency measures for the property financed through a loan provided to the qualified consumer under subsection (d); or

''(ii) providing technical assistance, outreach, and training.

''(B) AMOUNT.—

''(i) IN GENERAL.—Except as provided in clause (ii), the amount of a grant provided to an eligible entity under this paragraph shall be equal to not more than 5 percent of the amount of the loan provided to the eligible entity under this subsection.

''(ii) PERSISTENT POVERTY COUNTIES.—The amount of a grant provided under this paragraph to an eligible entity that will use the grant to make loans under subsection (d) to qualified consumers located in a persistent poverty county (as determined by the Secretary) shall be equal to 10 percent of the amount of the loan provided to the eligible entity under this subsection.'';

(3) in subsection (d)—

(A) in paragraph (1)—

(i) in the matter preceding subparagraph (A), by inserting ''or grant'' before ''funds''; and

(ii) by striking subparagraphs (B) and (C) and inserting the following:

''(B)(i) may have a term and amortization schedule the length of which is the useful life of the energy efficiency measures implemented using the loan, if the loan term does not exceed 20 years; and

''(ii) shall finance energy efficiency measures for the purpose of decreasing energy usage or costs of the qualified consumer by an amount that ensures, to the maximum extent practicable, that the applicable loan term described in clause (i) will not pose an undue financial burden on the qualified consumer, as determined by the eligible entity;

''(C) shall not be used to fund purchases of, or modifications to, personal property unless the personal property—

''(i) is a manufactured housing unit or large appliance described in subsection (b)(2)(B); or

''(ii) is or becomes attached to real property as a fixture;''; and

(B) by adding at the end the following:

''(3) CLARIFICATION OF ELIGIBILITY.—Notwithstanding any other provision of law (including regulations), an eligible entity may make a loan under this subsection to any qualified consumer located within the service territory of the eligible entity, regardless of whether the qualified consumer is located in a rural area.'';

(4) in subsection (e)—

(A) in the subsection heading, by inserting ''OUTREACH,'' before ''AND TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE'';

(B) in paragraph (1)—

(i) in subparagraph (A), by striking ''and technical assistance of the program'' and inserting ''outreach, and technical assistance relating to the program under this section''; and

(ii) in subparagraph (B)(ii), by inserting '', outreach,'' before ''and training''; and

(C) by adding at the end the following:

''(3) FUNDING.—Not less than 3 but not more than 5 percent of amounts appropriated under subsection (i) may be used to provide outreach, training, and technical assistance under this subsection.''; and

(5) in subsection (i), by striking ''2014 through 2023'' and inserting ''2027 through 2031''.

SEC. 6302. PROMOTING PRECISION AGRICULTURE.

(a) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

(1) ADVANCED WIRELESS COMMUNICATIONS TECHNOLOGY.—The term ''advanced wireless communications technology'' means advanced technology that contributes to mobile (5G or beyond) networks, next-generation Wi-Fi networks, or other future networks using other technologies, regardless of whether the network is operating on an exclusive licensed, shared licensed, or unlicensed frequency band.

(2) ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE.—The term ''artificial intelligence'' has the meaning given the term in section 238(g) of the John S. McCain National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2019 (Public Law 115–232; 10 U.S.C. note prec. 4061).

(3) FOREIGN ADVERSARY.—The term ''foreign adversary'' means any foreign government or foreign nongovernment person engaged in a long-term pattern or serious instances of conduct significantly adverse to the national security of the United States, or security and safety of United States persons.

(4) PRECISION AGRICULTURE; PRECISION AGRICULTURE TECHNOLOGY.—The terms ''precision agriculture'' and ''precision agriculture technology'' have the meanings given the terms in section 1201 of the Food Security Act of 1985.

(5) TRUSTED.—The term ''trusted'' means, with respect to a provider of advanced communications service or a supplier of communications equipment or service, that the Secretary has determined that the provider or supplier is not owned by, controlled by, or subject to the influence of, a foreign adversary.

(6) VOLUNTARY CONSENSUS STANDARDS DEVELOPMENT ORGANIZATION.—The term ''voluntary consensus standards development organization'' means an organization that develops standards in a process that meets the principles for the development of voluntary consensus standards (as defined in the document of the Office of Management and Budget entitled ''Federal Participation in the Development and Use of Voluntary Consensus Standards and in Conformity Assessment Activities'' (OMB Circular A–119)).

(b) PURPOSES.—The purposes of this section are—

(1) to enhance the participation of precision agriculture in the United States; and

(2) to promote United States leadership in voluntary consensus standards development organizations that set standards for precision agriculture.

(c) INTERCONNECTIVITY STANDARDS FOR PRECISION AGRICULTURE.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 2 years after the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary, in consultation with the Director of the National Institute of Standards and Technology and the Federal Communications Commission, shall—

(A) develop voluntary, consensus-based, private sector-led interconnectivity standards, guidelines, and best practices for precision agriculture that will promote economies of scale and ease the burden of the adoption of precision agriculture; and

(B) in carrying out subparagraph (A)—

(i) coordinate with relevant public and trusted private sector stakeholders and other relevant industry organizations, including voluntary consensus standards development organizations; and

(ii) consult with sector-specific agencies, other appropriate agencies, and State and local governments.

(2) CONSIDERATIONS.—The Secretary, in carrying out paragraph (1), shall, in consultation with the Federal Communications Commission and the Director of the National Institute of Standards and Technology, consider—

(A) the evolving demands of precision agriculture;

(B) the connectivity needs of precision agriculture technology;

(C) the cybersecurity challenges facing precision agriculture, including cybersecurity threats for agriculture producers and agriculture supply chains;

(D) the impact of advanced wireless communications technology on precision agriculture; and

(E) the impact of artificial intelligence on precision agriculture.

(d) GAO ASSESSMENT OF PRECISION AGRICULTURE STANDARDS.—

(1) STUDY.—Not later than 1 year after the Secretary develops standards under subsection (c), and every 2 years thereafter for the following 8 years, the Comptroller General of the United States shall conduct a study that assesses those standards, including the extent to which those standards, as applicable—

(A) are voluntary;

(B) were developed in coordination with relevant industry organizations, including voluntary consensus standards development organizations; and

(C) have successfully encouraged the adoption of precision agriculture.

(2) REPORT.—The Comptroller General of the United States shall submit to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation of the Senate, the Committee on Science, Space, and Technology of the House of Representatives, the Committee on Agriculture of the House of Representatives, and the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry of the Senate a report that summarizes the findings of each study conducted under paragraph (1).

SEC. 6303. FOOD SUPPLY CHAIN GUARANTEED LOANS.

Section 310B of the Consolidated Farm and Rural Development Act (7 U.S.C. 1932) is amended by inserting after subsection (e) the following:

''(f) FOOD SUPPLY CHAIN CAPACITY AND RESILIENCE GUARANTEED LOANS.—

''(1) DEFINITION OF FOOD SUPPLY CHAIN GUARANTEED LOAN.—In this subsection, the term 'food supply chain guaranteed loan' means a business and industry guaranteed loan that is made or guaranteed by the Secretary under subsection (a)(2)(A), including a guarantee described in subsection (a)(3).

''(2) PURPOSE.—A food supply chain guaranteed loan may be made for the purpose of financing new investments in the start-up or expansion of projects in the United States that will increase the capacity of the food supply chain in the United States to aggregate, process, manufacture, store, transport, wholesale, or distribute food, agricultural products, or agricultural inputs.

''(3) LIMITATIONS.—The maximum amount of a food supply chain guaranteed loan shall not exceed $40,000,000.

''(4) LOAN GUARANTEES IN NONRURAL AREAS.—The Secretary may guarantee a food supply chain guaranteed loan to an eligible entity for a facility that is not located in a rural area if—

''(A) the primary purpose of the loan guarantee is for a facility to aggregate, process, manufacture, store, transport, wholesale, or distribute food agricultural products, or agricultural inputs for agricultural producers or processors that are located within 80 miles of the facility;

''(B) the applicant demonstrates to the Secretary that the primary benefit of the loan guarantee will be to provide employment for residents of a rural area; and

''(C) the total principal amount of food supply chain guaranteed loans guaranteed for a fiscal year under this paragraph does not exceed 10 percent of the total principal amount of food supply chain guaranteed loans made for the fiscal year under subsection (a)(2)(A).

''(5) QUARTERLY REPORTS TO CONGRESS.—Within 30 days after the end of each calendar quarter, the Secretary shall submit to the Committee on Agriculture of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry of the Senate a report that contains—

''(A) an evaluation of the outcomes achieved through use of the assistance, and the ability of the recipient of the assistance to meet performance goals;

''(B) a description of any debt recovery made with respect to a loan guaranteed under this subsection, and agency projections for activities for which the assistance is provided; and

''(C) any recommendations of the Secretary regarding the implementation of this subsection.

''(6) RESERVATION OF FUNDS.—

''(A) IN GENERAL.—For each of fiscal years 2025 through 2029, the Secretary shall reserve not more than 5 percent of the funds made available to carry out subsection (a) to carry out this subsection.

''(B) AVAILABILITY OF FUNDS.—Funds reserved under subparagraph (A) for a fiscal year shall be reserved until April 1 of the fiscal year.''.

SEC. 6304. NEW, MOBILE, AND EXPANDED MEAT PROCESSING AND RENDERING GRANTS.

(a) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

(1) ELIGIBLE ENTITY.—The term ''eligible entity'' means—

(A) a public, private, or cooperative organization organized on a for-profit or nonprofit basis, including a small establishment and very small establishment;

(B) an Indian Tribe (as defined in section 4 of the Indian Self-Determination and Education Assistance Act (25 U.S.C. 5304));

(C) a land-grant college or university (as defined in section 1404 of the National Agricultural Research, Extension, and Teaching Policy Act of 1977 (7 U.S.C. 3103));

(D) a non-land-grant college of agriculture (as defined in that section); and

(E) a State department of agriculture or other applicable State office with authority over meat and poultry processing and rendering.

(2) SMALL ESTABLISHMENT; VERY SMALL ESTABLISHMENT.—The terms ''small establishment'' and ''very small establishment'' have the meanings given the terms ''smaller establishment'' and ''very small establishment'', respectively, in the final rule entitled ''Pathogen Reduction; Hazard Analysis and Critical Control Point (HACCP) Systems'' (61 Fed. Reg. 38806 (July 25, 1996)) (or successor regulations).

(b) PURPOSES.—The purposes of this section are—

(1) to create more resilient local and regional food systems;

(2) to expand, diversify, and increase resilience in meat and poultry processing and rendering activities;

(3) to increase farmer and rancher access to animal slaughter options;

(4) to improve compliance of processors with livestock and poultry processing statutes (including regulations), including the Federal Meat Inspection Act (21 U.S.C. 601 et seq.) and the Poultry Products Inspection Act (21 U.S.C. 451 et seq.);

(5) to reduce barriers to entry for new meat and poultry processors and renderers;

(6) to establish new, or update, expand, or otherwise improve existing, meat and poultry processing and rendering facilities; and

(7) to support the processing and slaughtering of niche production methods such as halal, kosher, and other specific cultural methods.

(c) GRANTS.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall award grants to eligible entities to use in accordance with subsection (d).

(2) MAXIMUM AMOUNT.—The maximum amount of a grant awarded under paragraph (1) shall not exceed $500,000.

(3) DURATION.—The term of a grant awarded under paragraph (1) shall not exceed 3 years.

(4) PRIORITY.—In awarding grants under paragraph (1), the Secretary shall give priority to small establishments and very small establishments.

(d) USE OF FUNDS.—An eligible entity receiving a grant under this section shall use the grant to carry out activities in support of the purposes described in subsection (b), including activities—

(1) to identify and analyze business opportunities, including feasibility studies required for credit worthiness;

(2) to achieve compliance with applicable Federal, State, or local regulations;

(3) to conduct regional, community, and local economic development planning and coordination and leadership development;

(4) to incentivize new, innovative, or mobile enterprises for increasing or improving local and regional meat or poultry processing and rendering;

(5) to implement humane handling infrastructure, including holding space for livestock prior to slaughter, shade structures, and structures and equipment for humane slaughter;

(6) to develop a feasibility study or business plan for, or carry out any other activity associated with, establishing or expanding a small meat or poultry slaughter, processing, or rendering facility;

(7) to purchase equipment that enables the further use or value-added sale of coproducts or byproducts; and

(8) to purchase cold storage and related equipment.

(e) FEDERAL SHARE.—The Federal share of the activities carried out using a grant awarded under this section shall not exceed—

(1) 90 percent in the case of a grant in the amount of $100,000 or less; or

(2) 75 percent in the case of a grant in an amount greater than $100,000.

(f) QUARTERLY REPORTS TO CONGRESS.—Within 30 days after the end of each calendar quarter, the Secretary shall submit to the Committee on Agriculture of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry of the Senate a report that contains—

(1) an evaluation of the outcomes achieved through use of the grant, and the ability of the grantee to meet performance goals;

(2) an evaluation of the compliance of the grantee with the terms and conditions of the grant;

(3) a determination as to whether the grant recipient maintains adequate financial capacity to carry out the activities for which the grant is provided; and

(4) any recommendations of the Secretary regarding the implementation of this section.

(g) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There is authorized to be appropriated to the Secretary to carry out this section $3,000,000 for each of fiscal years 2027 through 2031.

SEC. 6305. EXPANDING CHILDCARE IN RURAL AMERICA INITIATIVE.

(a) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

(1) CHILDCARE.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—The term ''childcare'' means any program that—

(i) provides quality care and early education for children who have not yet entered first grade; and

(ii) is operated by—

(I) an eligible childcare provider described in section 658P(6)(A) of the Child Care and Development Block Grant Act of 1990 (42 U.S.C. 9858n(6)(A)); or

(II) a childcare provider that, on the date of enactment of this Act—

(aa) is licensed, regulated, or registered in the State, territory, or Indian Tribe in which the provider is located; and

(bb) meets applicable State, Tribal, territorial, and local health and safety requirements.

(B) INCLUSIONS.—The term ''childcare'' includes—

(i) a school-based program described in subparagraph (A);

(ii) a program described in subparagraph (A) that is a Head Start program, including a migrant and seasonal Head Start program, or an American Indian and Alaska Native Head Start program carried out under the Head Start Act (42 U.S.C. 9831 et seq.);

(iii) a facility used for a program described in subparagraph (A); and

(iv) a service provided under a program described in subparagraph (A).

(2) INITIATIVE.—The term ''Initiative'' means the Expanding Childcare in Rural America Initiative established under subsection (b).

(3) RURAL AREA.—The term ''rural area'' has the meaning given the term in section 343(a)(13)(A) of the Consolidated Farm and Rural Development Act.

(b) ESTABLISHMENT.—The Secretary shall establish an initiative, to be known as the ''Expanding Childcare in Rural America Initiative'', under which the Secretary shall provide, for each of fiscal years 2027 through 2029, priority in accordance with subsection (c) to address the availability, quality, and cost of childcare in rural areas.

(c) CHILDCARE PRIORITIES.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Notwithstanding any other provision of law, in selecting recipients of loans and grants under a program described in paragraph (2), the Secretary shall give priority to any qualified applicant that proposes to use the loan or grant to address the availability, quality, or cost of childcare.

(2) DESCRIPTION OF PROGRAMS.—The programs referred to in paragraph (1) are the following:

(A) The essential community facilities loan and grant programs authorized under section 306(a) of the Consolidated Farm and Rural Development Act (7 U.S.C. 1926(a)).

(B) The business and industry direct and guaranteed loan program authorized under section 310B(g) of that Act (7 U.S.C. 1932(g)).

(C) The rural microentrepreneur assistance program authorized under section 379E of that Act (7 U.S.C. 2008s).

(D) The intermediary relending program authorized under the Food Security Act of 1985 (7 U.S.C. 1936b).

(d) REQUIREMENTS.—In providing funding in accordance with the Initiative, the Secretary shall ensure a balanced geographical distribution of the benefits under the Initiative.

(e) EVALUATION; REPORT.—

(1) EVALUATION.—Not later than 3 years after the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary shall conduct a comprehensive quantitative and qualitative evaluation of the projects carried out using assistance provided under the Initiative, including—

(A) a description of—

(i) the types of projects carried out;

(ii) the communities in which the projects are carried out;

(iii) the organizations and entities participating in the projects; and

(iv) the types of partnerships developed to carry out the projects; and

(B) the economic and social impacts of the investments in the projects.

(2) REPORT.—Not later than 4 years after the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary shall submit to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry of the Senate and the Committee on Agriculture of the House of Representatives a report describing the evaluation conducted under paragraph (1), including a thorough analysis of the outcomes of the evaluation.

SEC. 6306. TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE FOR GEOGRAPHICALLY UNDERSERVED AND DISTRESSED AREAS.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Within 1 year after the date of the enactment of this section, the Secretary shall directly, or through cooperative agreements, provide technical assistance and strengthen local capacity to improve access to rural development programs administered by the Secretary for local partners (including local governments, cooperatives, businesses, and community anchor institutions) in geographically underserved and distressed areas.

(b) REPORTS.—Beginning 1 year after the date of the enactment of this section, the Secretary shall annually publish, make available to the public, and submit to the Committee on Agriculture of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry of the Senate a report on how the provision of technical assistance under subsection (a) has affected geographically underserved and distressed areas in the year covered by the report.

(c) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

(1) GEOGRAPHICALLY UNDERSERVED AND DISTRESSED AREA.—The term ''geographically underserved and distressed area'' means a rural area (as defined in section 343(a)(13)(A) of the Consolidated Farm and Rural Development Act (7 U.S.C. 1991(a)(13)(A)))—

(A) in a socially vulnerable community (as determined by the Secretary);

(B) in a persistent poverty county (as determined by the Secretary);

(C) in an economically distressed area (as determined by the Secretary); or

(D) in a colonia.

(2) COMMUNITY ANCHOR INSTITUTION.—The term ''community anchor institution'' means—

(A) a public library;

(B) an elementary or secondary school;

(C) an institution of higher education;

(D) a health care facility; or

(E) any other nonprofit or governmental community support organization.

SEC. 6307. ESTABLISHMENT OF THE RURAL DEVELOPMENT INNOVATION CENTER.

Subtitle D of the Consolidated Farm and Rural Development Act (7 U.S.C. 1981 et seq.) is amended by adding at the end the following:

''SEC. 379J. RURAL DEVELOPMENT INNOVATION CENTER.

''(a) DEFINITION OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT MISSION AREAS.—In this section, the term 'Rural Development Mission Areas' means the agencies under the Rural Development Agency at the Department of Agriculture, including the Rural Utilities Service, Rural Business-Cooperative Service, and the Rural Housing Service.

''(b) ESTABLISHMENT.—There is hereby established within the Rural Development Mission Areas a Rural Development Innovation Center (the 'Innovation Center') to promote and facilitate innovation in the administration and implementation of rural development programs and initiatives.

''(c) FUNCTIONS.—The Innovation Center shall—

''(1) review all processes for Rural Development Mission Area programs to identify inefficiencies, redundancies, and barriers to access, including—

''(A) unnecessary delays in loan and grant applications processing and approvals;

''(B) high application costs; and

''(C) deficiencies in technical assistance for programs;

''(2) establish and maintain an ongoing public process for public and private stakeholders to provide perspectives on the challenges faced when applying for, utilizing, or participating in Rural Development Mission Area programs;

''(3) identify and assess any innovative strategies and collaborative models to enhance the efficiency and effectiveness of rural development programs and initiatives;

''(4) foster and maintain partnerships with public and private stakeholders to leverage expertise and resources for the Rural Development Mission Areas;

''(5) promote cross-agency collaborations and identify best practices in rural economic development;

''(6) identify and implement technological solutions and software applications to improve the effectiveness and efficiency of Rural Development Mission Area programs, including enhancing data management systems;

''(7) conduct research, analysis, and evaluation to modernize, simplify, and improve Rural Development Mission Area programs, and ensure that the programs are accessible, transparent, and user-friendly; and

''(8) disseminate information, guidance, and training materials to Rural Development Mission Area personnel and stakeholders on innovative rural development practices and opportunities.

''(d) MODERNIZATION PLAN.—The Innovation Center shall develop, and periodically update, a modernization plan to facilitate innovation in administering and implementing rural development programs and initiatives that—

''(1) outlines strategies aimed at harnessing the potential of emerging technologies for program delivery and overall service;

''(2) enhances program efficiencies by identifying and implementing measures to streamline program and administrative processes, reduce redundancies, and optimize resource allocation;

''(3) expands the availability and accessibility of digital services, leveraging digital platforms and tools to broaden the reach of the programs and improve the overall user experience for rural stakeholders;

''(4) integrates data-driven solutions to optimize program delivery and maximize impact and effectiveness of the efforts in rural development; and

''(5) establishes periodic milestones and goals to track the progress of the modernization plan.

''(e) REPORT.—The Secretary shall submit an annual report to the Committee on Agriculture of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry of the Senate on—

''(1) the activities and accomplishments of the Innovation Center, including progress in advancing rural development innovation and the outcome achieved;

''(2) a comprehensive working plan designed to actively engage public and private stakeholders, as described in subsection (c)(2); and

''(3) the progress on the modernization plan described in subsection (d).''.

SEC. 6308. RURAL HEALTH LIAISON REPORT.

Section 236 of the Department of Agriculture Reorganization Act of 1994 (7 U.S.C. 6946) is amended—

(1) in subsection (b)—

(A) in paragraph (8), by striking ''and'' at the end;

(B) in paragraph (9), by striking the period and inserting ''; and''; and

(C) by adding at the end the following:

''(10) coordinate with the National Institute of Food and Agriculture in implementation of the Farm and Ranch Stress Assistance Network provided for in section 7522 of the Food, Conservation, and Energy Act of 2008 (7 U.S.C. 5936).''; and

(2) by adding at the end the following:

''(c) REPORT.—The Rural Health Liaison shall submit an annual report to the Committee on Agriculture of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry of the Senate outlining the activities conducted under subsection (b).''.

Subtitle D—Additional Amendments to the Consolidated Farm and Rural Development Act

SEC. 6401. WATER, WASTE DISPOSAL, AND WASTEWATER FACILITY GRANTS.

Section 306(a)(2)(B)(vii) of the Consolidated Farm and Rural Development Act (7 U.S.C. 1926(a)(2)(B)(vii)) is amended by striking ''2019 through 2023'' and inserting ''2027 through 2031''.

SEC. 6402. RURAL WATER AND WASTEWATER CIRCUIT RIDER PROGRAM.

Section 306(a)(22) of the Consolidated Farm and Rural Development Act (7 U.S.C. 1926(a)(22)) is amended to read as follows:

''(22) RURAL WATER AND WASTEWATER CIRCUIT RIDER PROGRAM.—

''(A) ESTABLISHMENT.—The Secretary, through the Rural Utilities Service, shall continue a national rural water and wastewater circuit rider program that is consistent with the activities and results of the program conducted before the date of enactment of this Act, and with this section, as determined by the Secretary.

''(B) PURPOSE.—The Rural Water and Wastewater Circuit Rider Program shall provide a network of expert rural water Circuit Riders located in all 50 States, including United States territories and Freely Associated States, which work one-on-one with eligible rural water and wastewater systems in major assistance categories described in subparagraph (D). The program is intended to help rural water systems operate effectively and efficiently and achieve long-term sustainability and compliance with certain Federal laws and requirements, including the Safe Water Drinking Act (42 U.S.C. 300f et seq.) and the Clean Water Act (33 U.S.C. 1251 et seq.).

''(C) ELIGIBLE ENTITIES.—In selecting recipients of grants, contracts, and cooperative agreements to be made available for activities listed under subparagraph (D), the Secretary shall select nonprofit organizations that have demonstrated experience providing technical assistance and disaster and recovery assistance for water and wastewater utilities nationwide. Awardees shall rely on personnel that possess active water and wastewater operators' licenses or overall knowledge of water utilities necessary to carry out eligible activities under subparagraph (D).

''(D) ELIGIBLE USES OF FUNDS.—An eligible entity shall use funds under the Rural Water and Wastewater Circuit Rider program for a rural water, wastewater, or wastewater disposal facility for—

''(i) technical assistance, including—

''(I) Board training;

''(II) managerial and financial operations with the effort to enhance the long-term sustainability of rural water and wastewater systems, including partnerships, consolidation, and regionalization;

''(III) physical operation and maintenance of rural water and wastewater infrastructure;

''(IV) water treatment;

''(V) regulatory compliance;

''(VI) facility security;

''(VII) loan application and reporting;

''(VIII) cybersecurity;

''(IX) implementation of cybersecurity plans, procedures, and technologies to protect against cyberthreats; or

''(X) other areas the Secretary deems appropriate;

''(ii) disaster and recovery assistance including—

''(I) direct on-site personnel and equipment to eligible utilities;

''(II) coordinating in statewide emergency response networks;

''(III) facilitating the development of action plans between utilities, local governments, the Federal Emergency Management Agency and the State emergency management agencies;

''(IV) resiliency and mitigation planning;

''(V) GIS mapping;

''(VI) updating vulnerability assessments, preparation of emergency response plans, communication protocols, hazard recognition and evaluation skills;

''(VII) conducting preliminary damage assessments of critical infrastructure;

''(VIII) addressing outstanding deficiencies focused on resolving health-based regulatory, operational, financial, and managerial deficiencies that impact the sustainability of the affected utilities;

''(IX) application and reporting assistance for Federal and State requirements including Federal Emergency Management Agency and insurance recovery claims;

''(X) providing for disaster readiness, support, and response activities targeted to disadvantaged communities that lack the financial resources and human capital necessary to adequately address significant health, safety, or sanitary concerns; and

''(XI) other areas the Secretary deems appropriate.

''(iii) ADDITIONAL USES.—In response to activities under subparagraph (B) related to natural disasters and emergencies, not more than 5 percent of each award may be used to purchase or reimburse the rental costs of appropriate emergency equipment, as determined by the Secretary.

''(E) ELIGIBLE PROJECT AREAS.—To receive assistance under the Rural Water and Wastewater Circuit Rider Program and carry out activities, an eligible entity must serve—

''(i) an area with a population of—

''(I) 10,000 or fewer inhabitants for technical assistance under subparagraph (D)(i); or

''(II) 50,000 or fewer inhabitants for disaster and recovery assistance under subparagraph (D)(ii); and

''(ii) a public body, nonprofit corporation, or Indian tribe with legal authority to own and operate the water facility.

''(F) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There is authorized to be appropriated to carry out this paragraph $25,000,000 for fiscal year 2027 through fiscal year 2031.''.

SEC. 6403. ZERO AND LOW INTEREST LOANS FOR DISTRESSED WATER SYSTEMS.

Section 306(a) of the Consolidated Farm and Rural Development Act (7 U.S.C. 1926(a)) is amended by inserting after paragraph (22) the following:

''(23) ASSISTANCE FOR DISTRESSED WATER SYSTEMS.—

''(A) To promote the long-term sustainability and financial viability of eligible rural community waste disposal and water facilities as described in subparagraph (B), for any entity described in subparagraph (C), the Secretary may—

''(i) make a zero percent interest loan or a 1 percent interest loan pursuant to paragraph (1);

''(ii) forgive the principal or interest, or modify any term or condition of a new or existing loan made pursuant to paragraph (1);

''(iii) refinance all or part of any other loan made for an eligible purpose under paragraph (1) of this subsection or section 306C; or

''(iv) waive any fee required to insure or guarantee a loan pursuant to paragraph (1) or (24).

''(B) To promote the long-term sustainability and financial viability of the services provided by eligible entities, the Secretary shall—

''(i) provide assistance to an eligible entity for the purpose of—

''(I) ensuring the entity has necessary resources to maintain public health, safety, or order;

''(II) addressing financial hardships of the eligible entity, its customers, and the community it serves;

''(III) improving the financial stability of the eligible entity, including changes to—

''(aa) operational practices;

''(bb) revenue enhancements;

''(cc) policy revisions; and

''(dd) contract services; and

''(IV) supporting a partnership, regionalization, or consolidation of the entity with another water system; and

''(ii) require an applicant to—

''(I) receive financial planning assistance and prepare a long-term financial plan; or

''(II) partner, regionalize, or consolidate with another water system.

''(C) An entity shall be eligible for assistance under this paragraph if the entity—

''(i) is a rural water, wastewater, or wastewater disposal system with respect to which assistance may be provided under a water or wastewater, or waste disposal program under this subsection or section 306A, 306C, or 306D, and

''(ii) is—

''(I) located in a socially disadvantaged community, a persistent poverty county, colonia, or distressed tribal area, as determined by the Secretary; or

''(II) facing an economic hardship as defined by the Secretary.

''(D) An entity eligible under paragraph (1) or (2) of subsection (a) may designate a water and wastewater utility provider to apply for a loan under this paragraph and carry out the loan application on behalf of the eligible entity.

''(E)(i) The Secretary shall evaluate such a loan application on the basis of the needs of the eligible entity and the beneficiaries of the eligible entity rather than the needs of the applicant water and wastewater utility provider.

''(ii) A water and wastewater utility provider to whom a loan is made under this paragraph on the basis of an application submitted on behalf of an eligible entity may use the loan only for the benefit of the residents of the eligible area for which the loan is provided.''.

SEC. 6404. TRIBAL COLLEGE AND UNIVERSITY ESSENTIAL COMMUNITY FACILITIES.

Section 306(a)(25)(C) of the Consolidated Farm and Rural Development Act (7 U.S.C. 1926(a)(25)(C)) is amended by striking ''2008 through 2023'' and inserting ''2027 through 2031''.

SEC. 6405. EMERGENCY AND IMMINENT COMMUNITY WATER ASSISTANCE GRANT PROGRAM.

Section 306A(i)(2) of the Consolidated Farm and Rural Development Act (7 U.S.C. 1926a(i)(2)) is amended by striking ''2019 through 2023'' and inserting ''2027 through 2031''.

SEC. 6406. WATER SYSTEMS FOR RURAL AND NATIVE VILLAGES IN ALASKA.

Section 306D(d)(1) of the Consolidated Farm and Rural Development Act (7 U.S.C. 1926d(d)(1)) is amended by striking ''2008 through 2023'' and inserting ''2027 through 2031''.

SEC. 6407. RURAL DECENTRALIZED WATER SYSTEMS.

Section 306E of the Consolidated Farm and Rural Development Act (7 U.S.C. 1926e) is amended to read as follows:

''SEC. 306E. RURAL DECENTRALIZED WATER SYSTEMS.

''(a) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

''(1) ELIGIBLE INDIVIDUAL.—The term 'eligible individual' means an individual who is a member of a household the members of which have a combined income (for the most recent 12-month period for which the information is available) that is not more than 80 percent of the median nonmetropolitan household income for the State or territory in which the individual resides, according to the most recent decennial census of the United States.

''(2) ELIGIBLE GRANT RECIPIENT.—The term 'eligible grant recipient' means a private nonprofit organization that uses a grant provided under this section for the purposes described in subsection (b)(1).

''(3) QUALIFIED WATER QUALITY TESTING.—The term 'qualified water quality testing' means a baseline analysis of the bacterial and chemical characteristics of concern from a drinking water sample collected at the point of consumption and tested by a laboratory certified to conduct water quality testing that is provided to—

''(A) the Secretary; and

''(B) the eligible grant recipient receiving a grant under this section and any eligible individual served by the eligible grant recipient.

''(b) GRANTS.—

''(1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary may make grants to an eligible grant recipient for the purpose of—

''(A) providing loans and subgrants to eligible individuals for—

''(i) the construction, refurbishing, and servicing of individual household water well systems and individually owned household decentralized wastewater systems in rural areas that are or will be owned by the eligible individuals; or

''(ii) in the event of ground well water contamination, the installation or replacement of water treatment, where needed as determined by a qualified water quality test or other third-party documentation to the satisfaction of the Secretary;

''(B) performing qualified water quality testing of individual household water well systems and individually utilized household decentralized wastewater systems in rural areas that are or will be utilized by the eligible individuals; or

''(C) providing technical assistance to eligible individuals for—

''(i) the installation or replacement of individual household water well systems and individually owned household decentralized wastewater systems in rural areas that are or will be owned by the eligible individuals;

''(ii) interpreting qualified water quality tests; or

''(iii) addressing ground well water contamination.

''(2) TERMS AND AMOUNTS FOR LOANS AND SUBGRANTS.—

''(A) TERMS OF LOANS.—A loan made with grant funds under this section—

''(i) shall have an interest rate of 1 percent; and

''(ii) shall have a term not to exceed 20 years.

''(B) AMOUNTS.—A loan or subgrant made with grant funds under this section shall not exceed $20,000 for each water well system or decentralized wastewater system described in paragraph (1).

''(3) ADMINISTRATIVE EXPENSES.—A recipient of a grant made under this section may use grant funds to pay administrative expenses associated with providing the assistance described in paragraph (1), as determined by the Secretary.

''(4) WATER TREATMENT STANDARDS.—Water treatment provided under this section shall—

''(A) incorporate components that are third-party certified as compliant with relevant consensus-based standards for drinking water treatment units or systems, as determined by the Secretary; and

''(B) be installed, according to the instructions of the manufacturer, by a qualified, certified, or licensed water treatment professional, including a professional credentialed through a manufacturer or third-party.

''(c) PRIORITY IN AWARDING GRANTS.—In awarding grants under this section, the Secretary shall give priority to an applicant that has substantial expertise and experience in promoting the safe and effective use of individually owned household water well systems, individually owned household decentralized wastewater systems, and ground water.

''(d) LIMITATION.—An eligible grant recipient cannot use more than 10 percent of a grant awarded under this section for the activities described under subparagraphs (B) and (C) of subsection (b)(1).

''(e) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There is authorized to be appropriated to carry out this section $20,000,000 for each of fiscal years 2027 through 2031.''.

SEC. 6408. ASSISTANCE TO RURAL ENTITIES.

Section 310B(a) of the Consolidated Farm and Rural Development Act (7 U.S.C. 1932(a)) is amended—

(1) in paragraph (1), by adding at the end the following:

''(C) PRECISION AGRICULTURE; PRECISION AGRICULTURE TECHNOLOGY.—The terms 'precision agriculture' and 'precision agriculture technology' have the meanings given those terms in section 1201 of the Food Security Act of 1985.''; and

(2) in paragraph (2)—

(A) by striking ''and'' at the end of subparagraph (C);

(B) by striking the period at the end of subparagraph (D) and inserting ''; and''; and

(C) by adding at the end the following:

''(E) expanding the adoption of precision agriculture practices, including by financing the acquisition of precision agriculture technology, in order to promote best practices, reduce costs, and improve the environment.''.

SEC. 6409. SOLID WASTE MANAGEMENT GRANTS.

Section 310B(b) of the Consolidated Farm and Rural Development Act (7 U.S.C. 1932(b)) is amended—

(1) in paragraph (1), by striking ''governments and related agencies'' and inserting ''governments, related agencies, and Indian tribes''; and

(2) in paragraph (2), by striking ''2014 through 2023'' and inserting ''2027 through 2031''.

SEC. 6410. RURAL BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT GRANTS.

Section 310B(c)(4)(A) of the Consolidated Farm and Rural Development Act (7 U.S.C. 1932(c)(4)(A)) is amended by striking ''2014 through 2023'' and inserting ''2027 through 2031''.

SEC. 6411. RURAL COOPERATIVE DEVELOPMENT GRANTS.

Section 310B(e) of the Consolidated Farm and Rural Development Act (7 U.S.C. 1932(e)) is amended—

(1) in paragraph (1), by adding at the end the following:

''(C) COOPERATIVE DEVELOPMENT.—The term 'cooperative development' means activities including education, training, and technical assistance, to support the start-up, expansion, or ongoing sustainability of new and existing cooperatives.'';

(2) in paragraph (5)—

(A) in subparagraph (D), by striking ''underserved and economically distressed areas in rural areas of the United States'' and inserting ''socially vulnerable, underserved, or distressed communities''; and

(B) in subparagraph (F)—

(i) by inserting ''at least'' before ''a 25 percent''; and

(ii) by inserting '', and all applications that satisfy this subparagraph shall be given the same priority for the scoring criterion based on satisfying this subparagraph'' before the period;

(3) in paragraph (6), by striking subparagraph (B) and inserting the following:

''(B) AWARD RENEWALS FOR QUALIFIED NONPROFIT INSTITUTIONS.—The Secretary shall award a grant under this subsection to a nonprofit institution on the same terms and for the establishment or operation of the same center or centers for cooperative development for which the nonprofit institution was awarded a grant in the current fiscal year, if the nonprofit institution—

''(i) is a recipient of an award under this subsection;

''(ii) requests a renewal under this subparagraph;

''(iii) has submitted a complete application under this subsection in the preceding 2 fiscal years; and

''(iv) has operated the center or centers for cooperative development in a manner which successfully meets the parameters described in paragraph (5), as determined by the Secretary.'';

(4) in paragraph (10), by adding at the end the following: ''The Secretary shall analyze the data resulting from the research, and include the data and the analysis in the annual report submitted by the interagency working group under paragraph (12).'';

(5) in paragraph (12), by adding at the end the following: ''Not later than 180 days after the date of the enactment of this sentence and annually thereafter, the interagency working group shall submit to the Congress a report describing the activities carried out by the working group.''; and

(6) in paragraph (13), by striking ''2014 through 2023'' and inserting ''2027 through 2031''.

SEC. 6412. LENDER FEES IN GUARANTEED LOAN PROGRAMS.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Section 333 of such Act (7 U.S.C. 1983) is amended—

(1) by inserting ''(A) IN GENERAL.—'' before ''In connection'';

(2) in paragraph (5), by adding ''and'' at the end;

(3) in paragraph (6)(E), by striking ''; and'' and inserting a period;

(4) by striking paragraph (7); and

(5) by adding at the end the following:

''(b) FEES.—

''(1) INITIAL GUARANTEE FEE.—The Secretary may assess an initial guarantee fee for any insured or guaranteed loan issued or modified under section 306(a) in an amount that does not exceed 3 percent of the guaranteed principal portion of the loan.

''(2) PERIODIC RETENTION FEE.—The Secretary may assess a periodic retention fee for any insured or guaranteed loan issued or modified under section 306(a) in an amount that does not exceed 0.75 percent of the outstanding principal of the guaranteed loan.

''(3) DISCLOSURE.—In altering any fee charged for any insured or guaranteed loan issued or modified under section 306(a), the Secretary, not less than 30 days in advance of any fee change, shall provide a public disclosure of the financial data, economic and behavioral assumptions, calculations, and other factors used to determine the new fee rates.''.

(b) CONFORMING AMENDMENT.—Section 310B(g)(5) of such Act (7 U.S.C. 1932(g)(5)) is amended to read as follows:

''(5) FEES.—

''(A) INITIAL GUARANTEE FEE.—The Secretary may assess an initial guarantee fee for any guaranteed business and industry loan in an amount that does not exceed 3 percent of the guaranteed principal portion of the loan.

''(B) PERIODIC RETENTION FEE.—The Secretary may assess a periodic retention fee for any guaranteed business and industry loan in an amount that does not exceed 0.75 percent of the outstanding principal of the guaranteed loan.

''(C) DISCLOSURE.—In altering any fee charged for any guaranteed business and industry loan, the Secretary, not less than 30 days in advance of any fee change, shall provide a public disclosure of the financial data, economic and behavioral assumptions, calculations, and other factors used to determine the new fee rates.''.

SEC. 6413. LOCALLY OR REGIONALLY PRODUCED AGRICULTURAL FOOD PRODUCTS.

Section 310B(g)(9)(B)(iv)(I) of the Consolidated Farm and Rural Development Act (7 U.S.C. 1932(g)(9)(B)(iv)(I)) is amended by striking ''2008 through 2023'' and inserting ''2027 through 2031''.

SEC. 6414. APPROPRIATE TECHNOLOGY TRANSFER FOR RURAL AREAS PROGRAM.

Section 310B(i) of the Consolidated Farm and Rural Development Act (7 U.S.C. 1932(i)) is amended—

(1) in paragraph (2)—

(A) by striking ''and'' at the end of subparagraph (C);

(B) by striking the period at the end of subparagraph (D) and inserting ''; and''; and

(C) by adding at the end the following:

''(E) provides training opportunities and resources for veterans (as defined in section 101(2) of title 38, United States Code) who actively are or are seeking to become agricultural producers, which shall be known as the 'Armed to Farm Initiative'.''; and

(2) in paragraph (4), by striking ''2008 through 2023.'' and inserting the following: ''2027 through 2031, of which—

''(A) $3,500,000 shall be made available for each fiscal year for activities described in subparagraphs (A) through (D) of paragraph (2); and

''(B) $1,500,000 shall be available for each fiscal year for activities described in paragraph (2)(E).''.

SEC. 6415. RURAL ECONOMIC AREA PARTNERSHIP ZONES.

Section 310B(j) of the Consolidated Farm and Rural Development Act (7 U.S.C. 1932(j)) is amended by striking ''2023'' and inserting ''2031''.

SEC. 6416. INTERMEDIARY RELENDING PROGRAM.

Section 310H(i) of the Consolidated Farm and Rural Development Act (7 U.S.C. 1936b(i)) is amended by striking ''2014 through 2023'' and inserting ''2027 through 2031''.

SEC. 6417. RURAL HEALTH CARE FACILITY ASSISTANCE.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Section 342 of the Consolidated Farm and Rural Development Act (7 U.S.C. 1990a) is amended—

(1) by striking ''Assistance'' and inserting the following:

''(a) REFINANCING OF CERTAIN RURAL HEALTH CARE FACILITY DEBT.—

''(1) IN GENERAL.—Assistance'';

(2) by striking ''rural hospital'' and inserting ''an eligible health care facility'';

(3) by striking ''a community'' and inserting ''an area'';

(4) by striking ''hospital,'' and inserting ''eligible health care facility,''; and

(5) by adding at the end the following:

''(2) REQUIREMENTS.—To promote the long-term sustainability and financial viability of an eligible health care facility, the Secretary shall—

''(A) provide assistance to an eligible health care facility for the purpose of—

''(i) ensuring the facility has necessary resources to maintain public health, safety, or order;

''(ii) addressing financial hardships of the facility, its patients, and the area it serves; and

''(iii) identifying the financial stability of the facility, including—

''(I) operational practices;

''(II) revenue enhancements;

''(III) policy revisions;

''(IV) partnerships, regionalization, or consolidation of rural health systems; and

''(V) contract services; and

''(B) require an applicant to—

''(i) receive financial planning assistance; and

''(ii) prepare a long-term financial plan.

''(3) WAIVER.—In the case of an application for refinancing pursuant to this section, the Secretary may waive the requirement of section 302(a)(1)(D) if the eligible health care facility is insolvent.

''(b) RURAL HEALTH CARE FACILITY TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE PROGRAM.—

''(1) IN GENERAL.—In lieu of any other authority under which the Secretary may provide technical assistance to any eligible health care facility, the Secretary shall establish, and maintain, directly or by grant, contract, or cooperative agreement, a Rural Health Care Facility Technical Assistance Program (in this section referred to as the 'Program') to provide technical assistance and training, tailored to the capacity and needs of each eligible health care facility, to help eligible health care facilities in rural areas—

''(A) identify development needs for maintaining essential health care services, and support action plans for operational and quality improvement projects to meet the development needs;

''(B) better manage their financial and business strategies, including providing financial planning assistance and preparing long-term financial plans; and

''(C) identify, and apply for assistance from, loan and grant programs of the Department of Agriculture for which the facilities are eligible.

''(2) GOALS.—The goals of the Program shall be to—

''(A) improve the long-term financial position and operational efficiency of the eligible health care facilities;

''(B) prevent the closure of eligible health care facilities;

''(C) strengthen the delivery of health care in rural areas;

''(D) help eligible health care facilities better access and compete for loans and grants from programs administered by the Department of Agriculture; and

''(E) continue the activities of the Rural Hospital Technical Assistance Program in effect as of the date of the enactment of this subsection.

''(3) PROGRAM PARTICIPATION.—

''(A) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall engage in outreach and engagement strategies to encourage eligible health care facilities to participate in the Program.

''(B) ELIGIBLE HEALTH CARE FACILITY SELECTION.—In selecting eligible health care facilities to participate in the Program, the Secretary shall give priority to borrowers and grantees of the Rural Housing Service, Rural Business-Cooperative Service, and Rural Utilities Service. The Secretary may also consider—

''(i) the age and physical state of the health care facility involved;

''(ii) the financial vulnerability of the eligible health care facility, and the ability of the eligible health care facility to meet debt obligations;

''(iii) the electronic health record implementation needs of the health care facility;

''(iv) whether the eligible health care facility is located in a health professional shortage area or a medically underserved area;

''(v) whether the eligible health care facility serves a medically underserved population; and

''(vi) such other criteria and priorities as are determined by the Secretary of Agriculture.

''(C) REPORTING REQUIREMENTS.—Not later than 1 year after the date of the enactment of this section, and annually thereafter, the Secretary shall submit to the Committee on Agriculture of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry of the Senate a written report describing the progress and results of the program conducted under this section, which should include—

''(i) a brief description of each project to provide technical assistance to an eligible health care facility under this section, including—

''(I) the name and location of the facility;

''(II) a description of the assistance provided;

''(III) a description of the outcomes for completed projects;

''(IV) the cost of the technical assistance; and

''(V) any other information the Secretary deems appropriate;

''(ii) a summary of the technical assistance projects completed;

''(iii) a summary of the outcomes of the technical assistance projects;

''(iv) an assessment of the effectiveness of the Program; and

''(v) recommendations for improving the Program.

''(D) LIMITATIONS ON AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—To carry out this section, there

are authorized to be appropriated to the Secretary not more than $2,000,000 for each of fiscal years 2027 through 2031.

''(c) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

''(1) RURAL AREA.—The term 'rural area' has the meaning given the term in section 343(a)(13)(A) of the Consolidated Farm and Rural Development Act (7 U.S.C. 1991(a)(13)(A)).

''(2) DEVELOPMENT NEEDS.—The term 'development needs' includes—

''(A) constructing, expanding, renovating or otherwise modernizing health care facilities;

''(B) increasing telehealth capabilities;

''(C) acquiring or upgrading health care information systems such as electronic health records;

''(D) providing financial planning assistance and preparing a long-term financial plan; and

''(E) such other needs as the Secretary deems critical to maintaining health care services in the community in which an eligible health care facility is located.

''(3) ELIGIBLE HEALTH CARE FACILITY.—The term 'eligible health care facility' means a facility that is located in a rural area and is—

''(A) a hospital (as defined in section 1861(e) of the Social Security Act;

''(B) a psychiatric hospital (as defined in section 1861(f) of such Act);

''(C) a long-term care hospital (as defined in section 1861(ccc) of such Act);

''(D) a critical access hospital (as defined in section 1861(mm)(1) of such Act);

''(E) a rural health clinic (as defined in section 1861(aa)(2) of such Act);

''(F) a religious nonmedical health care institution (as defined in section 1861(ss)(1) of such Act);

''(G) a sole community hospital (as defined in section 1886(d)(5)(C)(iii) of such Act);

''(H) a rural emergency hospital (as defined in section 1861(kkk)(2) of such Act);

''(I) a home health agency (as defined in section 1861(o) of such Act); or

''(J) a community health center (as defined in section 330 of the Public Health Service Act).

''(4) HEALTH PROFESSIONAL SHORTAGE AREA.—The term 'health professional shortage area' has the meaning given the term in section 332(a)(1)(A) of the Public Health Service Act.

''(5) MEDICALLY UNDERSERVED AREA.—The term 'medically underserved area' has the meaning given the term in section 330I(a)(5) of the Public Health Service Act.

''(6) MEDICALLY UNDERSERVED POPULATION.—The term 'medically underserved population' has the meaning given the term in section 330(b)(3) of the Public Health Service Act.''.

(b) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendments made by subsection (a) shall take effect on the completion of a rulemaking carrying out such amendments.

SEC. 6418. PROHIBITION ON USE OF LOAN OR GRANT FOR CERTAIN PURPOSES.

Section 363 of the Consolidated Farm and Rural Development Act (7 U.S.C. 2006e) is amended to read as follows:

''SEC. 363. PROHIBITION ON USE OF LOAN OR GRANT FOR CERTAIN PURPOSES.

''(a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall not approve any loan or grant under this title to drain, dredge, fill, or level, or otherwise manipulate a wetland (as defined in section 1201(a)(16) of the Food Security Act of 1985 (16 U.S.C. 3801(a)(16))), or to engage in any activity that results in impairing or reducing the flow, circulation, or reach of water, except in the case of activity related to the maintenance of previously converted wetlands, or in the case of such activity that commenced before November 29, 1990.

''(b) EXCLUSIONS.—

''(1) UTILITIES LINES.—This section shall not apply to a loan made or guaranteed under this title for a utility line.

''(2) PERMITTED ACTIVITIES AND PROJECTS.—This section shall not apply to a rural development loan made or guaranteed under section 306 or 306C of this Act for an activity or project for which the applicant or borrower has obtained or is required to obtain a permit from the Secretary of the Army, acting through the Chief of Engineers, under section 10 of the Act of March 3, 1899 (33 U.S.C. 403; 30 Stat. 1151, chapter 425), or section 404 of the Federal Water Pollution Control Act (33 U.S.C. 1344).''.

SEC. 6419. RURAL BUSINESS-COOPERATIVE SERVICE PROGRAMS TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE AND TRAINING.

Section 368(d)(1) of the Consolidated Farm and Rural Development Act (7 U.S.C. 2008c(d)(1)) is amended by striking ''2019 through 2023'' and inserting ''2027 through 2031''.

SEC. 6420. NATIONAL RURAL DEVELOPMENT PARTNERSHIP.

Section 378 of the Consolidated Farm and Rural Development Act (7 U.S.C. 2008m) is amended—

(1) in subsection (g)(1), by striking ''2008 through 2023'' and inserting ''2027 through 2031''; and

(2) in subsection (h), by striking ''2023'' and inserting ''2031''.

SEC. 6421. GRANTS FOR NOAA WEATHER RADIO TRANSMITTERS.

Section 379B(d) of the Consolidated Farm and Rural Development Act (7 U.S.C. 2008p(d)) is amended by striking ''2014 through 2023'' and inserting ''2027 through 2031''.

SEC. 6422. RURAL MICROENTREPRENEUR ASSISTANCE PROGRAM.

Section 379E of the Consolidated Farm and Rural Development Act (7 U.S.C. 2008s) is amended—

(1) in subsection (a)(4), by striking ''$50,000'' and inserting ''$75,000'';

(2) in subsection (c)(1)(A), by striking ''shall not exceed 75 percent'' and inserting ''may be up to 100 percent, and a loan under this section for a project may be used to cover not more than 50 percent of any renovation, construction, or related costs of real estate improvements under the project'';

(3) in subsection (c)(1)(B), by inserting ''(or 5 percent, in the case of a microenterprise development organization serving a persistent poverty county, as determined by the Secretary)'' before ''of the total amount''; and

(4) in subsection (d), by striking ''2019 through 2023'' and inserting ''2027 through 2031''.

SEC. 6423. HEALTH CARE SERVICES.

Section 379G(e) of the Consolidated Farm and Rural Development Act (7 U.S.C. 2008u(e)) is amended by striking ''2008 through 2023'' and inserting ''2027 through 2031''.

SEC. 6424. STRATEGIC ECONOMIC AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT.

Section 379H(d)(4) of the Consolidated Farm and Rural Development Act (7 U.S.C. 2008v(d)(4)) is amended by striking ''2019 through 2023'' and inserting ''2027 through 2031''.

SEC. 6425. RURAL INNOVATION STRONGER ECONOMY GRANT PROGRAM.

Section 379I of the Consolidated Farm and Rural Development Act (7 U.S.C. 2008w) is amended—

(1) in subsection (a)—

(A) in paragraph (1)(A)—

(i) in clause (iii)—

(I) by striking subclause (I) and inserting the following:

''(I) an institution of higher education (as defined in section 101, and subparagraphs (A) and (B) of section 102(a)(1), of the Higher Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 1001, 1002(a)(1)));'';

(II) by redesignating subclauses (II) and (III) as subclauses (III) and (IV), respectively, and inserting after subclause (I) the following:

''(II) an area career and technical education school (as defined in section 3 of the Carl D. Perkins Career and Technical Education Act of 2006 (20 U.S.C. 2302));''; and

(III) in subclause (IV) (as so redesignated by subclause (II) of this clause), by striking ''and'';

(ii) in clause (iv)—

(I) by striking subclause (IV) and inserting the following:

''(IV) an institution of higher education (as defined in section 101, and subparagraphs (A) and (B) of section 102(a)(1), of the Higher Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 1001, 1002(a)(1)));''; and

(II) by redesignating subclause (V) as subclause (VI) and inserting after subclause (IV) the following:

''(V) an area career and technical education school (as defined in section 3 of the Carl D. Perkins Career and Technical Education Act of 2006 (20 U.S.C. 2302)); or''; and

(iii) by adding at the end the following:

''(v) in the case of a career pathway program, includes 1 or more members of the local workforce development board established under section 107 of the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act and serving the region to ensure the program is integrated with the activities carried out by the local workforce development board; and''; and

(B) by adding at the end the following:

''(6) CAREER PATHWAY.—The term 'career pathway' has the meaning given the term in section 3(7) of the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (29 U.S.C. 3102(7)).

''(7) INDUSTRY OR SECTOR PARTNERSHIP.—The term 'industry or sector partnership' has the meaning given the term in section 3 of the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (29 U.S.C. 3102).'';

(2) in subsection (b)—

(A) in paragraph (1)—

(i) in the matter preceding subparagraph (A), by inserting ''or carry out career pathway training programs or industry or sector partnerships aligned with industry sectors in rural communities'' before '', including'';

(ii) in subparagraph (A), by striking ''and'' after the semicolon;

(iii) in subparagraph (B), by striking the period and inserting a semicolon; and

(iv) by adding at the end the following:

''(C) address workforce challenges, including worker displacement, faced by specific industry sectors in rural communities; and

''(D) promote targeted skills development and training initiatives to stimulate innovation and enhance economic development in rural regions.'';

(B) in paragraph (3)—

(i) in subparagraph (A)—

(I) in clause (i), by inserting '', career pathway programs, or industry or sector partnerships'' before the semicolon; and

(II) in clause (ii)—

(aa) by inserting '', career pathway programs, or industry or sector partnerships'' before ''to provide''; and

(bb) by inserting ''leadership development,'' before ''customized training'';

(ii) in subparagraph (F), by striking the period and inserting ''; and''; and

(iii) by adding at the end the following:

''(G) the ability of the eligible entity to carry out activities to address the issues of worker displacement, an aging workforce, and youth migration.''; and

(C) by striking paragraph (5) and inserting the following:

''(5) GEOGRAPHIC DISTRIBUTION.—The Secretary shall ensure regional diversity of recipients of grants or participants in providing grants under paragraph (1) for jobs accelerators, career pathway programs, and related programming.'';

(3) in subsection (d)(1)—

(A) in subparagraph (B)(xi), by striking the period and inserting ''; and''; and

(B) by adding at the end the following:

''(C) to support career pathway programs or industry or sector partnerships to be carried out within industries in rural communities, including—

''(i) telecommunications or broadband services;

''(ii) water, waste water, or disposal services;

''(iii) electric supply services;

''(iv) forestry and logging operations;

''(v) conservation practices and management;

''(vi) health care and child care;

''(vii) manufacturing;

''(viii) agribusiness related to production, processing, and distribution;

''(ix) veterinarian services; and

''(x) any other sectors identified by the local workforce development board serving the region to be an in-demand industry sector or occupation, as defined in section 3 of the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act.'';

(4) in subsection (e)—

(A) in paragraph (1), by striking ''and'';

(B) in paragraph (2)(B)—

(i) in clause (xvii), by striking ''or'';

(ii) by redesignating clause (xviii) as clause (xix) and inserting after clause (xvii) the following:

''(xviii) the number of individuals who have completed skills development, recognized postsecondary credentials, or gained specialized education through career pathways programs or industry or sector partnerships; or''; and

(iii) in clause (xix) (as so redesignated by subparagraph (B) of this paragraph), by striking the period and inserting ''; and''; and

(C) by adding at the end the following:

''(3) in the case of a career pathway program or industry or sector partnership, report to the Secretary the employment and earnings outcomes for individuals who participate in the program on the indicators described in subclauses (I) through (III) of section 116(b)(2)(A)(i) of the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act.''; and

(5) in subsection (f), by striking ''2019 through 2023'' and inserting ''2027 through 2031''.

SEC. 6426. LIMITATION ON RURAL BUSINESS INVESTMENT COMPANIES CONTROLLED BY FARM CREDIT SYSTEM INSTITUTIONS.

Section 384J(c) of the Consolidated Farm and Rural Development Act (7 U.S.C. 2009cc–9(c)) is amended by striking ''50'' and inserting ''75''.

SEC. 6427. RURAL BUSINESS INVESTMENT PROGRAM.

Section 384S of the Consolidated Farm and Rural Development Act (7 U.S.C. 2009cc–18) is amended by striking ''2014 through 2023'' and inserting ''2027 through 2031''.

SEC. 6428. TECHNICAL CORRECTIONS.

Each of the following provisions of the Consolidated Farm and Rural Development Act are amended by striking ''urbanized'' and inserting ''urban'':

(1) Section 343(a)(13)(A)(ii) (7 U.S.C. 1991(a)(13)(A)(ii)).

(2) Section 343(a)(13)(D)(i)(I) (7 U.S.C. 1991(a)(13)(D)(i)(I)), in the matter preceding item (aa).

(3) Section 343(a)(13)(D)(i)(I)(bb) (7 U.S.C. 1991(a)(13)(D)(i)(I)(bb)).

(4) Section 343(a)(13)(D)(i)(II) (7 U.S.C. 1991(a)(13)(D)(i)(II)).

(5) Section 343(a)(13)(E) (7 U.S.C. 1991(a)(13)(E)).

(6) Section 343(a)(13)(F)(i)(II) (7 U.S.C. 1991(a)(13)(F)(i)(II)).

(7) Section 384I(c)(4)(C) (7 U.S.C. 2009cc–8(c)(4)(C)).

SEC. 6429. RURAL WATER AND WASTEWATER TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE AND TRAINING PROGRAMS.

Section 306(a)(14) of the Consolidated Farm and Rural Development Act (7 U.S.C. 1926(a)(14)) is amended—

(1) in subparagraph (A)—

(A) by striking ''technical assistance and training to—'' and inserting ''for—'';

(B) in clause (v), by striking the period and inserting ''; or''; and

(C) by redesignating clauses (i) through (v) as subclauses (I) through (V), respectively, and moving each such provision 2 ems to the right; and

(D) by inserting before the matter so redesignated the following:

''(i) technical assistance and training to—''; and

(E) by adding after and below the end the following:

''(ii) disaster and recovery assistance.''; and

(2) in subparagraph (B), by inserting ''or disaster and recovery assistance'' before ''described''.

Subtitle E—Additional Amendments to the Rural Electrification Act of 1936

SEC. 6501. GUARANTEES FOR BONDS AND NOTES ISSUED FOR UTILITY INFRASTRUCTURE PURPOSES.

Section 313A(f) of the Rural Electrification Act of 1936 (7 U.S.C. 940c–1(f)) is amended by striking ''2023'' and inserting ''2031''.

SEC. 6502. EXTENSION OF THE RURAL ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT LOAN AND GRANT PROGRAM.

Section 313B of the Rural Electrification Act of 1936 (7 U.S.C. 940c–2) is amended—

(1) by striking subsection (b) and inserting the following:

''(b) REPAYMENTS.—

''(1) IN GENERAL.—In the case of zero interest loans, the Secretary shall establish such reasonable repayment terms as will encourage borrower participation.

''(2) LETTERS OF CREDIT.—The Secretary shall not require a letter of credit or other similar guarantee from a recipient of a zero-interest loan under this section if the borrower assigns the Secretary a security interest in any collateral provided to secure a loan made with funds loaned under this section, or makes other similar arrangements to the satisfaction of the Secretary.''; and

(2) in subsection (e)(1), by striking ''2019 through 2023'' and inserting ''2027 through 2031''.

SEC. 6503. EXPANSION OF 911 ACCESS.

Section 315(d) of the Rural Electrification Act of 1936 (7 U.S.C. 940e(d)) is amended by striking ''2008 through 2023'' and inserting ''2027 through 2031''.

TITLE VII—RESEARCH, EXTENSION, AND RELATED MATTERS

Subtitle A—National Agricultural Research, Extension, and Teaching Policy Act of 1977

SEC. 7101. NATIONAL AGRICULTURAL RESEARCH, EXTENSION, EDUCATION, AND ECONOMICS ADVISORY BOARD.

Section 1408 of the National Agricultural Research, Extension, and Teaching Policy Act of 1977 (7 U.S.C. 3123) is amended—

(1) in subsection (b)—

(A) in paragraph (1), by striking ''15'' and inserting ''16'';

(B) in paragraph (3), by adding at the end the following:

''(E) 1 member representing the industry, consumer, or rural interests of insular areas.''; and

(C) in paragraph (5), by striking ''7'' and inserting ''3''; and

(2) in subsection (h), by striking ''2023'' and inserting ''2031''.

SEC. 7102. SPECIALTY CROP COMMITTEE.

Section 1408A of the National Agricultural Research, Extension, and Teaching Policy Act of 1977 (7 U.S.C. 3123a) is amended—

(1) in subsection (a)—

(A) in paragraph (1), by striking ''Not later than'' and all that follows through ''initial members of'' and inserting ''The Secretary shall continue to implement, and appoint the members of''; and

(B) in paragraph (2)—

(i) in subparagraph (C), by adding a period at the end; and

(ii) in subparagraph (D), by striking ''2023'' and inserting ''2031''; and

(2) in subsection (b)(2), by striking ''executive committee'' and inserting ''Secretary''.

SEC. 7103. VETERINARY MEDICINE LOAN REPAYMENT.

Section 1415A of the National Agricultural Research, Extension, and Teaching Policy Act of 1977 (7 U.S.C. 3151a) is amended—

(1) by amending subsection (b) to read as follows:

''(b) DETERMINATION OF VETERINARIAN SHORTAGE SITUATIONS.—In determining 'veterinarian shortage situations', the Secretary—

''(1) may consider—

''(A) geographical areas that the Secretary determines have a shortage of veterinarians;

''(B) areas of veterinary practice that the Secretary determines have a shortage of veterinarians, such as food animal medicine, public health, epidemiology, and food safety; and

''(C) areas described in subparagraphs (A) and (B) identified by appropriate State agencies; and

''(2) shall—

''(A) develop quantitative mechanisms for predicting the emergence of new veterinarian shortage situations in the short-term and long-term; and

''(B) make available to State agencies described in paragraph (1)(C) the quantitative mechanisms developed under subparagraph (A).''; and

(2) in subsection (c), by adding at the end the following:

''(9) ELIGIBILITY.—The Secretary shall not make a veterinarian ineligible for the program under this section based on a veterinarian's participation in a comparable Federal, State, or local program.

''(10) APPLICATION PROCESS.—Not later than 1 year after the date of the enactment of the Farm, Food, and National Security Act of 2026, the Secretary shall establish streamlined application procedures and guidelines for entering into agreements with veterinarians under this section.''.

SEC. 7104. VETERINARY SERVICES GRANT PROGRAM.

Section 1415B of the National Agricultural Research, Extension, and Teaching Policy Act of 1977 (7 U.S.C. 3151b) is amended—

(1) in subsection (a)—

(A) in paragraph (1)(A)(i), by striking '', as defined in'' and all that follows through ''1991(a))''; and

(B) by adding at the end the following:

''(3) RURAL AREA.—The term ''rural area'' has the meaning given such term in section 343(a) of the Consolidated Farm and Rural Development Act (7 U.S.C. 1991(a)).'';

(2) in subsection (b)(2)—

(A) by redesignating subparagraphs (B) and (C) as subparagraphs (C) and (D), respectively; and

(B) by inserting after subparagraph (A) the following:

''(B) expand, retain, or attract additional veterinary practices in rural areas;'';

(3) in subsection (c), by adding at the end the following:

''(5) APPLICATION PROCESS.—Not later than 1 year after the date of enactment of the Farm, Food, and National Security Act of 2026 the Secretary shall establish a streamlined application process.''; and

(4) in subsection (d)—

(A) in the subsection heading, by striking ''TO RELIEVE VETERINARIAN SHORTAGE SITUATIONS AND SUPPORT VETERINARY SERVICES''; and

(B) in paragraph (1)—

(i) in the matter preceding subparagraph (A), by striking ''situations and support'' and inserting ''situations, to expand, retain, or attract additional veterinary practices in rural areas, and to support''; and

(ii) by adding at the end the following:

''(G) To cover expenses associated with starting a new veterinary practice or attracting new veterinarians to existing practices, including—

''(i) relocation expenses;

''(ii) the purchase of necessary startup equipment; and

''(iii) housing or living stipends for veterinary students, veterinary interns, externs, fellows, and residents, and veterinary technician students.''.

SEC. 7105. GRANTS AND FELLOWSHIPS FOR FOOD AND AGRICULTURE SCIENCES EDUCATION.

Section 1417(m)(2) of the National Agricultural Research, Extension, and Teaching Policy Act of 1977 (7 U.S.C. 3152(m)(2)) is amended by striking ''2023'' and inserting ''2031''.

SEC. 7106. AGRICULTURAL AND FOOD POLICY RESEARCH CENTERS.

Section 1419A(e) of the National Agricultural Research, Extension, and Teaching Policy Act of 1977 (7 U.S.C. 3155(e)) is amended by striking ''2023'' and inserting ''2031''.

SEC. 7107. EDUCATION GRANTS TO ALASKA NATIVE SERVING INSTITUTIONS AND NATIVE HAWAIIAN SERVING INSTITUTIONS.

Section 1419B of the National Agricultural Research, Extension, and Teaching Policy Act of 1977 (7 U.S.C. 3156) is amended—

(1) in subsection (a)—

(A) in paragraph (1), by adding at the end the following: ''The term of such grants may be for a period of more than 1 year, but not more than 5 years.''; and

(B) in paragraph (3), by striking ''2023'' and inserting ''2031''; and

(2) in subsection (b)—

(A) in paragraph (1), by adding at the end the following: ''The term of such grants may be for a period of more than 1 year, but not more than 5 years.''; and

(B) in paragraph (3), by striking ''2023'' and inserting ''2031''.

SEC. 7108. NUTRITION EDUCATION PROGRAM.

Section 1425(g) of the National Agricultural Research, Extension, and Teaching Policy Act of 1977 (7 U.S.C. 3175(g)) is amended by striking ''2023'' and inserting ''2031''.

SEC. 7109. CONTINUING ANIMAL HEALTH AND DISEASE RESEARCH PROGRAMS.

Section 1433 of the National Agricultural Research, Extension, and Teaching Policy Act of 1977 (7 U.S.C. 3195) is amended—

(1) in subsection (a), by adding at the end the following:

''(4) CARRYOVER.—The balance of any annual funds provided to an eligible institution for a fiscal year under this subsection that remains unexpended at the end of that fiscal year may be carried over for use during the following fiscal year.''; and

(2) in subsection (c)(1), by striking ''2023'' and inserting ''2031''.

SEC. 7110. EXTENSION AND AGRICULTURAL RESEARCH AT 1890 LAND-GRANT COLLEGES, INCLUDING TUSKEGEE UNIVERSITY.

(a) EXTENSION.—Section 1444(a)(2) of the National Agricultural Research, Extension, and Teaching Policy Act of 1977 (7 U.S.C. 3221(a)(2)) is amended by striking ''20 percent'' and inserting ''40 percent''.

(b) RESEARCH.—Section 1445 of the National Agricultural Research, Extension, and Teaching Policy Act of 1977 (7 U.S.C. 3222) is amended—

(1) in subsection (a)(2), by striking ''30 percent'' and inserting ''40 percent'';

(2) in subsection (c), by striking ''the research director'' each place it appears and inserting ''the agricultural research director''; and

(3) in subsection (d)—

(A) by striking ''a research director'' and inserting ''an agricultural research director''; and

(B) by striking ''or other officer''.

SEC. 7111. SCHOLARSHIPS FOR STUDENTS AT 1890 INSTITUTIONS.

Section 1446 of the National Agricultural Research, Extension, and Teaching Policy Act of 1977 (7 U.S.C. 3222a) is amended—

(1) in the section heading, by inserting ''**(COMMONLY KNOWN AS THE DAVID A. SCOTT SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM FOR STUDENTS AT 1890 INSTITUTIONS)**'' before the period at the end; and

(2) in subsection (b)(2), by striking ''2023'' and inserting ''2031''.

SEC. 7112. GRANTS TO UPGRADE AGRICULTURAL AND FOOD SCIENCES FACILITIES AT 1890 LAND-GRANT COLLEGES, INCLUDING TUSKEGEE UNIVERSITY.

Section 1447(b) of the National Agricultural Research, Extension, and Teaching Policy Act of 1977 (7 U.S.C. 3222b(b)) is amended by striking ''2023'' and inserting ''2031''.

SEC. 7113. GRANTS TO UPGRADE AGRICULTURE AND FOOD SCIENCES FACILITIES AND EQUIPMENT AND SUPPORT TROPICAL AND SUBTROPICAL AGRICULTURAL RESEARCH AT INSULAR AREA LAND-GRANT COLLEGES AND UNIVERSITIES.

Section 1447B(d) of the National Agricultural Research, Extension, and Teaching Policy Act of 1977 (7 U.S.C. 3222b–2(d)) is amended by striking ''2023'' and inserting ''2031''.

SEC. 7114. MATCHING FUNDS REQUIREMENT FOR RESEARCH AND EXTENSION ACTIVITIES AT ELIGIBLE INSTITUTIONS.

Section 1449 of the National Agricultural Research, Extension, and Teaching Policy Act of 1977 (7 U.S.C. 3222d) is amended—

(1) in subsection (b)—

(A) by striking ''Not later than September 30, 1999'' and inserting ''Beginning on September 30, 2026, and not later than September 30 of each fiscal year thereafter''; and

(B) by striking ''fiscal year 1999'' and inserting ''the fiscal year ending on that September 30''; and

(2) by amending subsection (c) to read as follows:

''(c) STATE MATCHING FUNDS REQUIREMENT.—Notwithstanding any other provision of this subtitle, for each fiscal year, a State shall provide to each eligible institution located in the State matching funds from non-Federal sources in an amount equal to the amounts provided to the eligible institution under sections 1444 and 1445 for the purposes described in subsection (b)(1).''.

SEC. 7115. NEW BEGINNING FOR TRIBAL STUDENTS.

Section 1450 of the National Agricultural Research, Extension, and Teaching Policy Act of 1977 (7 U.S.C. 3222e) is amended—

(1) in subsection (b)—

(A) in paragraph (4), by striking ''land-grant college or university'' and inserting ''land-grant college or university (except for a 1994 Institution (as defined in section 532 of the Equity in Educational Land-Grant Status Act of 1994 (Public Law 103–382; 7 U.S.C. 301 note)))''; and

(B) by striking paragraph (5); and

(2) in subsection (d), by striking ''2023'' and inserting ''2031''.

SEC. 7116. EDUCATION GRANTS PROGRAMS FOR HISPANIC-SERVING INSTITUTIONS.

Section 1455(c) of the National Agricultural Research, Extension, and Teaching Policy Act of 1977 (7 U.S.C. 3241(c)) is amended by striking ''2023'' and inserting ''2031''.

SEC. 7117. BINATIONAL AGRICULTURAL RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT.

Section 1458(e) of the National Agricultural Research, Extension, and Teaching Policy Act of 1977 (7 U.S.C. 3291(e)) is amended—

(1) in paragraph (1), by striking ''entered into'' and inserting '', as entered into in 1977,'';

(2) in paragraph (2), by striking ''United States and Israel'' and inserting ''United States, Israel, or other signatories of the Abraham Accords Declaration''; and

(3) by adding at the end the following:

''(3) BARD FUND ACCELERATOR.—The BARD Fund shall establish an accelerator program that supports mid-stage research, as determined by the technology readiness level, in priority areas established by the BARD Fund that—

''(A) fast-tracks cooperative research between scientists participating in activities described in paragraph (2);

''(B) accelerates the successful development of agricultural research through resources and services developed or orchestrated by the BARD Fund;

''(C) provides management guidance, technical assistance, and consulting to scientists participating in activities described in paragraph (2); or

''(D) advances cooperative agricultural research projects of mutual interest to the United States, Israel, or other signatories of the Abraham Accords Declaration.''.

SEC. 7118. GRANTS AND PARTNERSHIPS FOR INTERNATIONAL AGRICULTURAL RESEARCH, EXTENSION, AND EDUCATION.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Section 1458A of the National Agricultural Research, Extension, and Teaching Policy Act of 1977 (7 U.S.C. 3292) is amended—

(1) by amending the section heading to read as follows ''**GRANTS AND PARTNERSHIPS FOR INTERNATIONAL AGRICULTURAL RESEARCH, EXTENSION, AND EDUCATION**'';

(2) by striking subsections (a) and (b) and inserting the following:

''(a) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

''(1) DEVELOPING COUNTRY.—The term 'developing country' means a country that meets such criteria as determined by the Secretary, established using a gross national income per capita test selected by the Secretary.

''(2) ELIGIBLE INSTITUTION.—The term 'eligible institution' means—

''(A) a land-grant colleges or university;

''(B) a non-land-grant college of agriculture;

''(C) a Hispanic-serving agricultural college or university; and

''(D) a cooperating forestry school.

''(3) INTERNATIONAL PARTNER INSTITUTION.—The term 'international partner institution' means a higher education institution in a developing country that is performing, or desiring to perform, activities similar to agricultural research, extension, and education activities carried out through eligible institutions in the United States.

''(b) GRANTS AND PARTNERSHIPS.—

''(1) GRANTS.—The Secretary may make competitive grants to eligible institutions in order to strengthen United States economic competitiveness and to promote international market development through—

''(A) enhancing the international content of the curricula in colleges and universities so as to ensure that United States students acquire an understanding of the international dimensions and trade implications of their studies;

''(B) ensuring that United States scientists, extension agents, and educators involved in agricultural research and development activities outside of the United States have the opportunity to convey the implications of their activities and findings to their peers and students in the United States and to the users of agricultural research, extension, and teaching;

''(C) enhancing the capabilities of colleges and universities to do collaborative research with other countries, in cooperation with other Federal agencies, on issues relevant to United States agricultural competitiveness;

''(D) enhancing the capabilities of colleges and universities to provide cooperative extension education to promote the application of new technology developed in foreign countries to United States agriculture; and

''(E) enhancing the capability of United States colleges and universities, in cooperation with other Federal agencies, to provide leadership and educational programs that will assist United States natural resources and food production, processing, and distribution businesses and industries to compete internationally, including through the use of product market identification, international policies limiting or enhancing market production, the development of new or enhancement of existing markets, and production efficiencies.

''(2) PARTNERSHIPS.—The Secretary may promote cooperation and coordination between eligible institutions and international partner institutions through—

''(A) improving extension by—

''(i) encouraging the exchange of research materials and results between eligible institutions and international partner institutions;

''(ii) facilitating the broad dissemination of agricultural research through extension;

''(iii) assisting with efforts to plan and initiate extension services in developing countries; and

''(iv) developing self-sustaining regional agricultural markets and promoting the application of new agricultural technologies and techniques;

''(B) improving agricultural research by—

''(i) in partnership with international partner institutions, encouraging research that addresses problems affecting food production and security, human nutrition, agriculture, forestry, livestock, and fisheries, including local challenges; and

''(ii) supporting and strengthening national agricultural research systems in developing countries;

''(C) improving agricultural teaching and education by—

''(i) in partnership with international partner institutions, supporting education and teaching relating to food and agricultural sciences, including technical assistance, degree training, research collaborations, classroom instruction, workforce training, and education programs; and

''(ii) assisting with efforts to increase student capacity, including to encourage equitable access for women and other underserved populations, at international partner institutions by promoting partnerships with, and improving the capacity of, eligible institutions;

''(D) assisting eligible institutions in strengthening their capacity for food, agricultural, and related research, extension, and teaching programs relevant to agricultural development activities in developing countries to promote the application of new technology to improve education delivery;

''(E) providing support for the internationalization of resident instruction programs of eligible institutions;

''(F) establishing a program, to be coordinated by the Director of the National Institute of Food and Agriculture and the Administrator of the Foreign Agricultural Service, to place interns from eligible institutions in, or in service to benefit, developing countries; and

''(G) establishing a program to provide fellowships to students at eligible institutions to study at foreign agricultural colleges and universities.'';

(3) in subsection (c), in the matter preceding paragraph (1), by striking ''covered Institutions'' and inserting ''eligible institutions''; and

(4) in subsection (d), by striking ''2023'' and inserting ''2031''.

(b) CONFORMING AMENDMENT.—Section 1459A of the National Agricultural Research, Extension, and Teaching Policy Act of 1977 (7 U.S.C. 3292b) is repealed.

SEC. 7119. RESEARCH EQUIPMENT GRANTS.

Section 1462A(e) of the National Agricultural Research, Extension, and Teaching Policy Act of 1977 (7 U.S.C. 3310a(e)) is amended by striking ''2023'' and inserting ''2031''.

SEC. 7120. UNIVERSITY RESEARCH.

Section 1463 of the National Agricultural Research, Extension, and Teaching Policy Act of 1977 (7 U.S.C. 3311) is amended by striking ''2023'' each place it appears in subsections (a) and (b) and inserting ''2031''.

SEC. 7121. EXTENSION SERVICE.

Section 1464 of the National Agricultural Research, Extension, and Teaching Policy Act of 1977 (7 U.S.C. 3312) is amended by striking ''2023'' and inserting ''2031''.

SEC. 7122. SUPPLEMENTAL AND ALTERNATIVE CROPS.

Section 1473D of the National Agricultural Research, Extension, and Teaching Policy Act of 1977 (7 U.S.C. 3319d) is amended—

(1) in subsection (a), by striking ''2023'' and inserting ''2031'';

(2) in subsection (c)(3)—

(A) in subparagraph (E), by striking ''and'' at the end;

(B) by redesignating subparagraph (F) as subparagraph (G); and

(C) by inserting after subparagraph (E) the following:

''(F) to examine potential benefits and opportunities for supplemental and alternative crops (including winter-planted rapeseed and winter-planted canola crops); and''; and

(3) in subsection (e)(3), by striking ''2023'' and inserting ''2031''.

SEC. 7123. GRANTS FOR COMMUNITY COLLEGE AGRICULTURE AND NATURAL RESOURCES PROGRAMS.

Section 1473E of the National Agricultural Research, Extension, and Teaching Policy Act of 1977 (7 U.S.C. 3319e) is amended—

(1) by amending the section heading to read as follows: ''**GRANTS FOR COMMUNITY COLLEGE AGRICULTURE AND NATURAL RESOURCES PROGRAMS**'';

(2) by redesignating subsection (d) as subsection (e);

(3) by striking subsections (a) through (c) and inserting the following:

''(a) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

''(1) ELIGIBLE ENTITY.—The term 'eligible entity' means—

''(A) a junior or community college (as defined in section 312 of the Higher Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 1058)) supporting agriculture advancement;

''(B) a consortium or alliance of 2-year public colleges supporting agriculture advancement; or

''(C) an area career and technical education school (as defined in section 3 of the Carl D. Perkins Career and Technical Education Act of 2006 (20 U.S.C. 2302)) that offers a program of study in agriculture.

''(2) WORK-BASED LEARNING.—The term 'work-based learning' has the meaning given such term in section 3 of the Carl D. Perkins Career and Technical Education Act of 2006 (20 U.S.C. 2302).

''(b) COMPETITIVE GRANTS.—The Secretary shall make competitive grants to eligible entities to conduct workforce training, education, research, and outreach activities relating to food and agricultural sciences.

''(c) PRIORITY.—In making grants under subsection (b), the Secretary shall give priority to an eligible entity coordinating with a local agriculture industry operator or conservation district to provide work-based learning, experiential training, and other opportunities for students.

''(d) USE OF FUNDS.—An eligible entity that receives a grant under subsection (b) may use the funds made available through the grant—

''(1) to offer educational programming on agricultural industry jobs, including farm business management-related subjects, such as accounting, paralegal studies, finance, and soil, water, and related resource conservation;

''(2) to develop apprenticeships and other work-based learning opportunities; and

''(3) other services that would increase workforce training, education, research, and outreach activities relating to food and agricultural sciences, as determined by the Secretary.''; and

(4) in subsection (e), as so redesignated, by striking ''2023'' and inserting ''2031''.

SEC. 7124. CAPACITY BUILDING GRANTS FOR NLGCA INSTITUTIONS.

Section 1473F(b) of the National Agricultural Research, Extension, and Teaching Policy Act of 1977 (7 U.S.C. 3319i(b)) is amended by striking ''2023'' and inserting ''2031''.

SEC. 7125. AGRICULTURE ADVANCED RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY.

Section 1473H of the National Agricultural Research, Extension, and Teaching Policy Act of 1977 (7 U.S.C. 3319k) is amended—

(1) in subsection (a)—

(A) in paragraph (2)—

(i) by inserting '', including precision agriculture,'' after ''equipment''; and

(ii) by striking ''relating to the research and development of qualified products and projects'';

(B) in paragraph (5)—

(i) in the paragraph heading, by striking ''PERSON'' and inserting ''ELIGIBLE ENTITY'';

(ii) in the matter preceding subparagraph (A), by striking ''person'' and inserting ''eligible entity'';

(iii) by striking subparagraph (E); and

(iv) by redesignating subparagraphs (F) through (H) as subparagraphs (E) through (G), respectively;

(C) in paragraph (6)—

(i) in subparagraph (B)(iii), by striking ''and'' at the end;

(ii) in subparagraph (C)(ii), by striking the period at the end and inserting ''; or''; and

(iii) by adding at the end the following:

''(D) any other product or project, as determined by the Secretary.''; and

(D) in paragraph (7), by striking ''that is developed to assist in the discovery, development, or manufacture of a qualified product or project'';

(2) in subsection (b)—

(A) in paragraph (2), by amending subparagraph (B) to read as follows:

''(B) to overcome the long-term and high-risk technological barriers in the development of agricultural technologies, research tools, and qualified products and projects that enhance export competitiveness, environmental sustainability, water conservation, and resilience to extreme weather, drought, infectious diseases, plant and animal pathogens, and plant and animal pests;'';

(B) in paragraph (4)—

(i) in subparagraph (C), by striking ''persons'' and inserting ''eligible entities''; and

(ii) in subparagraph (G), by striking ''persons'' and inserting ''eligible entities''; and

(C) in paragraph (7)(A)—

(i) by striking ''a person'' and inserting ''an eligible entity''; and

(ii) by striking ''the person'' and inserting ''the eligible entity'';

(3) in subsection (c)—

(A) in paragraph (2), by striking ''persons'' and inserting ''eligible entities''; and

(B) by adding at the end the following:

''(4) USE OF STRATEGIC PLAN.—The Secretary shall use the strategic plan developed under paragraph (1) to inform the administration of AGARDA under this section.'';

(4) in subsection (d)(3), by striking ''2023'' and inserting ''2031''; and

(5) in subsection (e)—

(A) in paragraph (1), by striking ''5 years'' and inserting ''13 years''; and

(B) in paragraph (2)(B), by striking ''5-year'' and inserting ''13-year''.

SEC. 7126. AQUACULTURE ASSISTANCE PROGRAMS.

Section 1477(a)(2) of the National Agricultural Research, Extension, and Teaching Policy Act of 1977 (7 U.S.C. 3324(a)(2)) is amended by striking ''2023'' and insert ''2031''.

SEC. 7127. SPECIAL AUTHORIZATION FOR BIOSECURITY PLANNING AND RESPONSE.

Section 1484(a)(3) of the National Agricultural Research, Extension, and Teaching Policy Act of 1977 (7 U.S.C. 3351(a)(3)) is amended by striking ''2023'' and inserting ''2031''.

SEC. 7128. AGRICULTURE AND FOOD PROTECTION GRANT PROGRAM.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Section 1485 of the National Agricultural Research, Extension, and Teaching Policy Act of 1977 (7 U.S.C. 3352) is amended—

(1) by amending the section heading to read as follows: ''**AGRICULTURE AND FOOD PROTECTION GRANT PROGRAM**'';

(2) by striking subsections (a), (b), (c), (d), (e), and (f) and inserting the following:

''(a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall establish a competitive grant program under which the Secretary will award grants to eligible entities to support research, extension, and education activities that improve the capability of the United States to protect the food and agricultural system from any chemical, biological, cybersecurity, or bioterrorism attack.

''(b) USE OF FUNDS.—Grants made under this section shall be used to—

''(1) encourage basic and applied research and development of agricultural countermeasures;

''(2) promote the development and expansion of teaching programs in agriculture, veterinary medicine, and other disciplines closely allied to the food and agriculture system to increase the number of trained individuals with an expertise in agricultural biosecurity and cybersecurity;

''(3) expand or upgrade facilities to meet biosafety and biosecurity requirements necessary to protect facility staff, members of the public, and the food supply while carrying out agricultural biosecurity research;

''(4) costs associated with the acquisition of equipment and other capital costs related to expansion of food, agriculture, and veterinary medicine teaching programs in agricultural biosecurity and cybersecurity; or

''(5) otherwise improve the capacity of the United States to respond in a timely manner to emerging or existing threats.

''(c) ELIGIBLE ENTITIES.—Entities eligible to receive a grant under this section include—

''(1) State agricultural experiment stations;

''(2) State departments of agriculture;

''(3) colleges and universities;

''(4) university research foundations;

''(5) other research institutions and organizations;

''(6) Federal agencies;

''(7) national laboratories; or

''(8) any group consisting of 2 or more of the entities described in paragraphs (1) through (7).'';

(3) by redesignating subsection (g) as subsection (d); and

(4) in subsection (d), as so redesignated, by striking ''for each fiscal year.'' and inserting ''for each of fiscal years 2027 through 2031.''.

(b) CONFORMING AMENDMENTS.—Chapters 1 and 2 of subtitle B of title XIV of the Food, Conservation, and Energy Act of 2008 (7 U.S.C. 8912, 8913, 8921, and 8922) are repealed.

SEC. 7129. DISTANCE EDUCATION GRANTS FOR INSULAR AREAS.

Section 1490(f)(2) of the National Agricultural Research, Extension, and Teaching Policy Act of 1977 (7 U.S.C. 3362(f)(2)) is amended by striking ''2023'' and inserting ''2031''.

SEC. 7130. RESIDENT INSTRUCTION GRANTS FOR INSULAR AREAS.

Section 1491(c)(2) of the National Agricultural Research, Extension, and Teaching Policy Act of 1977 (7 U.S.C. 3363(c)(2)) is amended by striking ''2023'' and inserting ''2031''.

SEC. 7131. REPEALS.

(a) Section 1410 of the National Agricultural Research, Extension, and Teaching Policy Act of 1977 ((7 U.S.C. 3125) is repealed.

(b) Section 1419C of the National Agricultural Research, Extension, and Teaching Policy Act of 1977 (7 U.S.C. 3158) is repealed.

(c) Section 1447A of the National Agricultural Research, Extension, and Teaching Policy Act of 1977 (7 U.S.C. 3222b–1) is repealed.

(d) Subtitle M of the National Agricultural Research, Extension, and Teaching Policy Act of 1977 (7 U.S.C. 3331 et seq.) is repealed.

Subtitle B—Food, Agriculture, Conservation, and Trade Act of 1990

SEC. 7201. SUSTAINABLE AGRICULTURE RESEARCH AND EDUCATION.

Subtitle B of title XVI of the Food, Agriculture, Conservation, and Trade Act of 1990 (7 U.S.C. 5801 et seq.) is amended by striking ''2023'' each place it appears in sections 1624 (7 U.S.C. 5814), 1627(d) (7 U.S.C. 5821(d)), 1628(f)(2) (7 U.S.C. 5831(f)(2)), and 1629(i) (7 U.S.C. 5832(i)), and inserting ''2031''.

SEC. 7202. NATIONAL GENETICS RESOURCES PROGRAM.

Section 1635(b)(2) of the Food, Agriculture, Conservation, and Trade Act of 1990 (7 U.S.C. 5844(b)(2)) is amended by striking ''2023'' and inserting ''2031''.

SEC. 7203. AGRICULTURAL GENOME TO PHENOME INITIATIVE.

Section 1671(g) of the Food, Agriculture, Conservation, and Trade Act of 1990 (7 U.S.C. 5924(g)) is amended by striking ''2023'' and inserting ''2031''.

SEC. 7204. HIGH-PRIORITY RESEARCH AND EXTENSION INITIATIVES.

Section 1672 of the Food, Agriculture, Conservation, and Trade Act of 1990 (7 U.S.C. 5925) is amended—

(1) in subsection (d)—

(A) by striking paragraphs (5), (6), (9), (10), (11), (13), and (18);

(B) by redesignating paragraphs (7), (8), (12), (14), (15), (16), (17), (19), and (20) as paragraphs (5), (6), (7), (8), (9), (10), (11), (12), and (13), respectively;

(C) in paragraph (11), as so redesignated, by inserting ''and harmful algal blooms'' after ''macro-algae systems''; and

(D) by adding at the end the following:

''(14) FERTILIZER AND NUTRIENT MANAGEMENT INITIATIVE.—Research and extension grants may be made under this section for the purposes of carrying out research to improve fertilizer use efficiency in crops and examining nutrient management based on the source, rate, timing, and placement of crop nutrients.

''(15) TROPICAL PLANT HEALTH INITIATIVE.—Research and extension grants may be made under this section for the purposes of—

''(A) developing and disseminating science-based tools and treatments to combat plant pests and noxious weeds (as those terms are defined in section 403 of the Plant Protection Act (7 U.S.C. 7702)) that impact tropical plants, including—

''(i) coffee plants;

''(ii) macadamia trees;

''(iii) cacao trees;

''(iv) plantains and bananas;

''(v) mangos;

''(vi) vanilla plants;

''(vii) tropical floriculture and nursery crops; and

''(viii) any other tropical plant as determined by the Secretary;

''(B) establishing an areawide integrated pest management program in areas affected by, or areas at risk of being affected by, plant pests or noxious weeds;

''(C) surveying and collecting data on tropical plant production and health;

''(D) investigating tropical plant biology, immunology, ecology, genomics, and bioinformatics; and

''(E) conducting research on various factors that may contribute to, or be associated with, tropical plant immune systems and other serious threats to tropical plants.

''(16) BIOCHAR RESEARCH.—Research and extension grants may be made under this section for the purpose of testing the full range of biochar types across soil types, soil health and soil management conditions, application methods, and climatic and agronomic regions, including through the establishment of a national biochar research network, to—

''(A) assess the soil carbon sequestration potential of various biochars and management systems integrating biochar use;

''(B) understand how to use biochar productively to contribute to climate mitigation, crop production, resilience to extreme weather events, ecosystem and soil health, natural resource conservation, and farm profitability; and

''(C) deliver science-based, region-specific, cost-effective, and practical information to farmers, ranchers, foresters, land reclamation managers, urban land managers, and other land and natural resource managers and businesses on sustainable biochar production and application.

''(17) WILDFIRE SMOKE EXPOSURE RESEARCH.—Research and extension grants may be made under this section for the purposes of studying the impact of wildfire smoke exposure on specialty crops, including wine grapes, hops, stone fruit, and apples, by—

''(A) conducting research—

''(i) to identify the compounds responsible for smoke exposure; and

''(ii) to establish standard methodologies for sampling and testing smoke-exposed specialty crops and smoke-affected products, including fast and inexpensive screening methods;

''(B) establishing a reliable database of background levels of smoke exposure compounds that occur naturally in specialty crops;

''(C) developing risk assessment tools or mitigation methods to reduce or eliminate smoke exposure; and

''(D) studying compounds that can act as a barrier between specialty crops and smoke compounds.

''(18) INVASIVE SPECIES RESEARCH.—Research and extension grants may be made under this section for the purposes of developing and disseminating science-based tools and treatments to manage or eradicate (including through methods of biocontrol and sterile insect techniques) invasive species of plants and animals, such as the spotted lanternfly (Lycorma delicatula), navel orangeworm (Amyelois transitella), and spotted wing drosophila (Drosophila suzukii).

''(19) MICROPLASTICS AND PER- AND POLYFLUOROALKYL SUBSTANCES ON FARMLAND.—Research and extension grants may be made under this section for the purposes of carrying out or enhancing research on the agricultural impacts of microplastics and per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances, including structural firefighting foam, in land-applied biosolids or compost on farmland, including by—

''(A) conducting surveys and collecting data on concentration, particle size, and chemical composition of such substances in land-applied biosolids on farmland;

''(B) the development or analysis of techniques, including wastewater treatment and composting, to filter out or biodegrade such substances from biosolids intended to be used for agricultural purposes;

''(C) conducting an analysis of the impact on agricultural crops and soil health of such substances in land-applied biosolids on farmland, including the uptake of such substances by various crops or livestock;

''(D) conducting research to better understand how wastewater processing impacts such substances;

''(E) conducting research to better understand the fate, residence time, and transport of such substances on farmland; and

''(F) conducting research on how to remediate soil and water systems contaminated with such substances.

''(20) AGRICULTURAL BYPRODUCTS RESEARCH.—Research and extension grants may be made under this section for the purposes of converting agricultural byproducts or forest residuals into valuable materials and products, including innovations in production processes for easily deployable refining facilities, developing alternatives to agricultural burning, and fostering energy production through recycling animal byproducts, wet waste, and plant-based waste.

''(21) SOIL HEALTH RESEARCH.—Research and extension grants may be made under this section for the purposes of—

''(A) developing management practices that improve soil health, including establishing tools that aid soil preservation or improve composition of soil organic compounds that are beneficial to soil quality and the environment; and

''(B) disseminating such practices through methods such as innovative coursework and work-based learning.

''(22) WHITE OAK RESEARCH.—Research and extension grants may be made under this section for the purposes of white oak research, including conducting research on—

''(A) white oak genes with resistance and stress tolerance;

''(B) white oak trees that exhibit vigor for the purpose of increasing survival and growth;

''(C) establishing a diverse white oak seed bank capable of responding to stressors;

''(D) providing a sustainable supply of white oak seedlings and genetic resources;

''(E) reforestation of white oak through natural and artificial regeneration; and

''(F) the best methods for reforesting abandoned mine land sites.

''(23) ALTERNATIVE GROWING MEDIA RESEARCH.—Research and extension grants may be made under this section for the purposes of developing and enhancing research on the characterization, utilization, and evaluation of alternative growing media, including science-based techniques that maximize functions in the growth of plants and harvest yields.

''(24) RANGELAND RESEARCH.—Research and extension grants may be made under this section for the purposes of carrying out or enhancing research on the development of forage production and improved grazing and range management, including the adoption of virtual fencing technology that simultaneously enhance wildlife habitat, protect watersheds, and reduce hazards of erosion and flooding.

''(25) SPECIALTY CROP MECHANIZATION AND AUTOMATION RESEARCH.—Research and extension grants may be made under this section for the purpose of developing and evaluating mechanization and automation technologies for specialty crops.'';

(2) in subsection (e)(5), by striking ''2023'' and inserting ''2031'';

(3) in subsection (f)(5), by striking ''2023'' and inserting ''2031'';

(4) in subsection (g)—

(A) in paragraph (1)(B), by striking ''2023'' and inserting ''2031'';

(B) in paragraph (2)(B), by striking ''2023'' and inserting ''2031''; and

(C) in paragraph (3), by striking ''2023'' and inserting ''2031'';

(5) by redesignating subsection (h) as subsection (i);

(6) by inserting after subsection (g) the following:

''(h) REPORT.—Not later than February 1, 2028, and not less frequently than once every other year thereafter, the Secretary shall submit to the Committee on Agriculture of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry of the Senate a report describing how the Department carried out research and extension activities specified in subsections (d) through (f) for the previous two fiscal years, including the amount of funding allocated to each high-priority research and extension initiative, through—

''(1) amounts made available under appropriations Acts to the Agricultural Research Service;

''(2) amounts made available to the National Institute of Food and Agriculture under capacity and infrastructure programs (as defined in section 251 of the Department of Agriculture Reorganization Act of 1994 (7 U.S.C. 6971));

''(3) amounts made available to the National Institute of Food and Agriculture under competitive programs (as defined in such section); and

''(4) amounts made available through other agencies within the Department.''; and

(7) in subsection (i) (as redesignated by paragraph (4)), by striking ''2023'' and inserting ''2031''.

SEC. 7205. ORGANIC AGRICULTURE RESEARCH AND EXTENSION INITIATIVE.

Section 1672B of the Food, Agriculture, Conservation, and Trade Act of 1990 (7 U.S.C. 5925b) is amended—

(1) in subsection (a), in the matter preceding paragraph (1), by striking ''2023'' and inserting ''2031'';

(2) by striking subsection (e);

(3) by redesignating subsection (f) as subsection (e); and

(4) in subsection (e), as so redesignated—

(A) in paragraph (2), by striking ''2023'' and inserting ''2031''; and

(B) by striking paragraph (3).

SEC. 7206. FARM BUSINESS MANAGEMENT.

Section 1672D(d)(2) of the Food, Agriculture, Conservation, and Trade Act of 1990 (7 U.S.C. 5925f(d)(2)) is amended by striking ''2023'' and inserting ''2031''.

SEC. 7207. URBAN, INDOOR, AND OTHER EMERGING AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTION RESEARCH, EDUCATION, AND EXTENSION INITIATIVE.

Section 1672E(a) of the Food, Agriculture, Conservation, and Trade Act of 1990 (7 U.S.C. 5925g(a))—

(1) in the matter preceding paragraph (1)—

(A) by striking ''the Urban Agriculture and Innovative Production Advisory Committee established under section 222(b) of the Department of Agriculture Reorganization Act of 1994'' and inserting ''the Urban Agriculture and Innovative Production Advisory Committee and the Office of Urban Agriculture and Innovative Production established under section 222 of the Department of Agriculture Reorganization Act of 1994 (7 U.S.C. 6923)''; and

(B) by striking ''emerging agricultural production'' and inserting ''emerging agricultural production practices (as described in subsection (a)(3) of such section)'';

(2) in paragraph (3), by striking ''emerging agricultural production'' and inserting ''emerging agricultural production practices'';

(3) in paragraph (7), by striking ''or'' at the end;

(4) in paragraph (8), by striking the period at the end and inserting a semicolon; and

(5) by adding at the end the following:

''(9) managing waste streams to improve the environmental footprint; or

''(10) advising land-grant colleges and universities (as defined in section 1404 of the National Agricultural Research, Extension, and Teaching Policy Act of 1977 (7 U.S.C. 3103)), minority-serving institutions (as described in section 371(a) of the Higher Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 1067q(a))), junior or community colleges (as defined in section 312(f) of such Act (20 U.S.C. 1058(f))), and vocational schools, with respect to career and technical education.''.

SEC. 7208. CENTERS OF EXCELLENCE.

Section 1673 of the Food, Agriculture, Conservation, and Trade Act of 1990 (7 U.S.C. 5926) is amended—

(1) by striking subsections (a), (b), and (c) and inserting the following:

''(a) CENTERS OF EXCELLENCE.—

''(1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary of Agriculture shall establish at least one center of excellence for the purpose of carrying out research, extension, or education activities for each of the areas of focus described in paragraph (3).

''(2) HOST INSTITUTIONS.—

''(A) IN GENERAL.—Institutions eligible to host or co-host a center of excellence established under this subsection include—

''(i) 1862 Institutions, as defined in section 2 of the Agricultural Research, Extension, and Education Reform Act of 1998 (7 U.S.C. 7601);

''(ii) 1890 Institutions, as defined in section 2 of the Agricultural Research, Extension, and Education Reform Act of 1998 (7 U.S.C. 7601);

''(iii) 1994 Institutions, as defined in section 532 of the Equity in Educational Land-Grant Status Act of 1994 (7 U.S.C. 301 note);

''(iv) non-land-grant colleges of agriculture, as defined in section 1404 of the National Agricultural Research, Extension, and Teaching Policy Act of 1977 (7 U.S.C. 3103);

''(v) Hispanic-serving agricultural colleges or universities, as defined in section 1404 of the National Agricultural Research, Extension, and Teaching Policy Act of 1977 (7 U.S.C. 3103); and

''(vi) accredited schools of veterinary medicine.

''(B) DISTRIBUTION.—To the maximum extent practicable, the Secretary shall ensure the geographic diversity of institutions selected to host or co-host a center of excellence established under this subsection.

''(C) LIMITATION.—An institution may host or co-host only one center of excellence under this subsection at a time.

''(D) DUTIES.—The institution or institutions selected to host or co-host a center of excellence established under this subsection shall partner with the Agricultural Research Service, other Federal agencies, State governments, other institutions of higher education (as defined in section 101 of the Higher Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 1001)), agricultural industry groups, or other relevant entities to—

''(i) reduce duplicative efforts and focus on filling gaps across research, extension, or education activities by enhancing coordination and improving cost-effectiveness;

''(ii) leverage available resources by using public-private partnerships;

''(iii) implement training and educational initiatives to increase awareness and effectively disseminate solutions to target audiences through extension activities;

''(iv) increase the economic returns to rural communities by identifying, attracting, and directing funds to high-priority agricultural issues;

''(v) rapidly respond to emerging issues that threaten any sector of the United States agricultural industry;

''(vi) focus on workforce development for employers to recruit and retain high-quality employees in rural areas; and

''(vii) engage in assistance for administrative management and education regarding potentially valuable intellectual property derived from federally-supported research, extension, or education activities.

''(3) AREAS OF FOCUS.—

''(A) AQUACULTURE.—A center of excellence established under this subsection may engage in research, extension, or education activities focused on developing and applying aquaculture methods, including through the propagation and rearing of economically and ecologically valuable aquatic and marine species.

''(B) BEGINNING FARMERS AND RANCHERS.—A center of excellence established under this subsection may engage in research, extension or education activities focused on training beginning farmers and ranchers, including farm and agribusiness management, mentoring and technical assistance, and access to capital.

''(C) BIOSECURITY AND CYBERSECURITY.—A center of excellence established under this subsection may engage in research, extension, or education activities focused on agricultural biosecurity and cybersecurity efforts to defend the United States food supply from any attacks.

''(D) BIOSYSTEMS AND AGRICULTURAL ENGINEERING.—A center of excellence established under this subsection may engage in research, extension, or education activities focused on biosystems and agricultural engineering, including precision agriculture technologies and mechanization and automation technologies for specialty crops.

''(E) BIOTECHNOLOGY.—A center of excellence established under this subsection may engage in research, extension, or education activities focused on development of animal and plant biotechnologies that will increase agricultural productivity.

''(F) CROP PRODUCTION, PROTECTION, AND RESILIENCE.—A center of excellence established under this subsection may engage in research, extension, or education activities focused on crop production and protection, including the development, manufacture, and use of fertilizer, crop protection tools, and adjuvants in increasing productivity and protecting crops from damaging pests and diseases.

''(G) DIGITAL AGRICULTURE.—A center of excellence established under this subsection may engage in research, extension, or education activities focused on developing, evaluating, and deploying digital agriculture, including artificial intelligence and remote sensing systems.

''(H) FARM BUSINESS AND FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT.—A center of excellence established under this subsection may engage in research, extension, or education activities focused on farm business and financial management activities, including marketing plans, production diversification, and cash forward contracting.

''(I) FOOD QUALITY.—A center of excellence established under this subsection may engage in research, extension, or education activities focused on improving food quality, including research on the uptake of per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances in food, the presence of microplastics in biosolids, and the efficacy and feasibility of reducing levels of inorganic arsenic, lead, cadmium, or mercury in food.

''(J) FOREIGN ANIMAL DISEASE.—A center of excellence established under this subsection may engage in research, extension, or education activities focused on foreign animal diseases, including the ecology and etiology of emerging diseases, control methods, and implementation strategies to enhance preparedness and response efforts to protect the livestock and poultry industry.

''(K) FORESTRY.—A center of excellence established under this subsection may engage in research, extension, or education activities focused on forest productivity and forest health, including invasive species control, biochar and pyrolysis development and commercialization, reforestation and restoration of damaged landscapes, and new wood-based materials.

''(L) INVASIVE SPECIES.—A center of excellence established under this subsection may engage in research, extension, or education activities focused on the control and eradication of invasive species that pose a persistent and growing threat to United States agricultural production, forest resources, global food security, and rural economies.

''(M) LIVESTOCK AND POULTRY.—A center of excellence established under this subsection may engage in research, extension, or education activities focused on issues impacting livestock (including equines) and poultry production in the United States, including economic research to understand policy implications for producers.

''(N) VETERINARY MEDICINE.—A center of excellence established under this subsection may engage in research, extension, or education activities focused on developing additional veterinarians, including large animal veterinarians, to address the veterinarian shortage in rural areas.

''(O) WATER QUALITY AND QUANTITY.—A center of excellence established under this subsection may engage in research, extension, or education activities focused on water quality and quantity efforts, including drought, water management, natural resource benefits, and the health and resilience of the water supply in the United States.

''(4) TERMS.—

''(A) DURATION.—The term of an award under this subsection shall be for a five-year period, and may be renewed for not more than one additional five-year period.

''(B) CONSTRUCTION PROHIBITED.—Funds made available under this subsection shall not be used for the construction of a new building or facility or the acquisition, expansion, remodeling, or alteration of an existing building or facility (including site grading and improvement, and architect fees).

''(5) ANNUAL REPORT.—Not later than one year after the date of enactment of this subsection, and every year thereafter, the Secretary shall submit to the Committee on Agriculture of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry of the Senate a report describing—

''(A) the projects initiated by each center of excellence established under this subsection in the preceding year;

''(B) the amount of funding for each such project and the funding source;

''(C) the institutions participating in each such project and their shares of the overall funding for each project;

''(D) the level of cost sharing for each such project;

''(E) any technology transfer and intellectual property management actions taken by each such center of excellence, such as the number of relevant invention disclosures, any provisional patents filed, any non-provisional patents filed and issued, the number of licenses executed, and any start-up companies registered; and

''(F) any additional information deemed necessary.'';

(2) by redesignating subsection (d) as subsection (b);

(3) in subsection (b), as so redesignated—

(A) in paragraph (1)—

(i) by striking ''The Secretary'' and inserting ''In addition to the centers of excellence established under subsection (a), the Secretary''; and

(ii) by striking ''not less than 3 centers of excellence'' and inserting ''not less than 8 centers of excellence'';

(B) in paragraph (2)—

(i) in subparagraph (A)—

(I) in the subparagraph heading, by striking ''AND WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT'' and inserting '', WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT, AND RURAL STUDIES''; and

(II) by inserting ''economics, psychology, rural sociology, data sciences,'' after ''mathematics,'';

(ii) in subparagraph (E), by inserting ''and nature-based solutions to improve the composition of soil organic compounds, including carbon, that are beneficial to soil quality and the environment'' before the period at the end; and

(iii) by adding at the end the following:

''(G) FOREST HEALTH AND CONSERVATION.—A center of excellence established under paragraph (1) may focus on forest health, sustainable forest management, agroforestry, enhancing forest resilience to catastrophic wildfire, supporting rural infrastructure, and urban and community forestry programs to promote healthy forest ecosystems and resilient communities.

''(H) FOOD SAFETY, BIOPROCESSING, AND VALUE-ADDED AGRICULTURE.—A center of excellence established under paragraph (1) may focus on food safety, bioprocessing, value-added agriculture enterprise development, and innovative food and agriculture product development.''; and

(C) in paragraph (3), by striking ''2023'' and inserting ''2031''.

SEC. 7209. ASSISTIVE TECHNOLOGY PROGRAM FOR FARMERS WITH DISABILITIES.

Section 1680 of the Food, Agriculture, Conservation, and Trade Act of 1990 (7 U.S.C. 5933) is amended—

(1) in subsection (a)(3)—

(A) in subparagraph (D), by striking ''and'' at the end;

(B) in subparagraph (E), by striking the period at the end and inserting ''; and''; and

(C) by adding at the end the following:

''(F) provide education and support to youth and young adults with disabilities interested in farming and farm-related occupations.''; and

(2) in subsection (c)(1)(B), by striking ''2023'' and inserting ''2031''.

SEC. 7210. FARMING OPPORTUNITIES TRAINING AND OUTREACH.

Section 2501 of the Food, Agriculture, Conservation, and Trade Act of 1990 (7 U.S.C. 2279) is amended—

(1) in subsection (c)—

(A) in paragraph (2), in the matter preceding subparagraph (A)—

(i) by striking ''Secretary of Agriculture'' and inserting ''Secretary of Agriculture, acting through the Director of the National Institute of Food and Agriculture,''; and

(ii) by striking ''2023'' and inserting ''2031''; and

(B) in paragraph (4)—

(i) in subparagraph (F), by inserting ''and organizations that provide training and technical assistance in budgeting, business planning, and similar financial and management skills that focus on the ongoing economic viability of beginning farm and ranch enterprises'' after ''veteran farmers and ranchers'';

(ii) in subparagraph (I)(ii), by striking ''shall include a broad representation of peers of the eligible entity'' and inserting ''shall include a broad representation of individuals with demonstrated expertise in farm business management''; and

(iii) in subparagraph (J), by striking ''to the eligible entities providing that technical assistance'' and inserting ''to the needs of farmers and ranchers' ongoing economic viability'';

(2) in subsection (d)—

(A) in paragraph (1), by striking ''2023'' and inserting ''2031'';

(B) in paragraph (2)—

(i) by striking subparagraph (J); and

(ii) by redesignating subparagraphs (K), (L), (M), (N), and (O) as subparagraphs (J), (K), (L), (M) and (N), respectively;

(C) in paragraph (8), by striking ''to partnerships and collaborations that are led by or include nongovernmental, community-based organizations and school-based educational organizations with expertise in new agricultural producer training and outreach'' and inserting ''to programs that provide training and technical assistance in budgeting, business planning, and similar financial and management skills that focus on the ongoing economic viability of beginning farm and ranch enterprises''; and

(D) in paragraph (12)(B), by striking ''a broad representation of peers of the applicant for the grant or cooperative agreement'' and inserting ''a broad representation of the United States agriculture industry and individuals with demonstrated expertise in farm business management''; and

(3) in subsection (l)(2), by striking ''2023'' and inserting ''2031''.

SEC. 7211. NATIONAL RURAL INFORMATION CENTER CLEARINGHOUSE.

Section 2381(e) of the Food, Agriculture, Conservation, and Trade Act of 1990 (7 U.S.C. 3125b(e)) is amended by striking ''2023'' and inserting ''2031''.

SEC. 7212. REPEAL.

Subtitle D of title XVI of the Food, Agriculture, Conservation, and Trade Act of 1990 (7 U.S.C. 5851 et seq.) is repealed.

SEC. 7213. RESEARCHING THE TRANSITION TO ORGANIC.

Title XVI of the Food, Agriculture, Conservation, and Trade Act of 1990 is amended by inserting after section 1673 (7 U.S.C. 5926) the following:

''SEC. 1674. RESEARCHING THE TRANSITION TO ORGANIC.

''(a) COMPETITIVE SPECIALIZED RESEARCH AND EXTENSION GRANTS AUTHORIZED.—The Secretary of Agriculture (referred to in this section as the 'Secretary'), in consultation with the National Agricultural Research, Extension, Education, and Economics Advisory Board, may make competitive grants to support research, education, and extension activities relating to the transition of nonorganic production systems into organic agricultural production systems for the purposes of—

''(1) overcoming barriers to transitioning to organic agricultural production;

''(2) documenting and understanding the effects of organic practices on ecosystem services, including soil health and fertility, greenhouse gas mitigation and sequestration, water management, biodiversity-related services, and pest management; and

''(3) developing improved technologies, methods, models, and metrics to document, describe, and optimize ecosystem services of transitioning agricultural production into organic management.

''(b) GRANT ADMINISTRATION.—Paragraphs (4), (7), (8), and (11)(B) of subsection (b) of the Competitive, Special, and Facilities Research Grant Act (7 U.S.C. 3157(b)) shall apply with respect to the making of grants under this section.

''(c) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There are authorized to be appropriated to carry out this section $7,500,000 for fiscal year 2027 and each fiscal year thereafter.''.

Subtitle C—Agricultural Research, Extension, and Education Reform Act of 1998

SEC. 7301. NATIONAL FOOD SAFETY TRAINING, EDUCATION, EXTENSION, OUTREACH, AND TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE PROGRAM.

Section 405 of the Agricultural Research, Extension, and Education Reform Act of 1998 (7 U.S.C. 7625) is amended—

(1) by striking subsection (d);

(2) by redesignating subsections (e) through (j) as subsections (d) through (i), respectively; and

(3) in subsection (i), as so redesignated, by striking ''2023'' and inserting ''2031''.

SEC. 7302. INTEGRATED RESEARCH, EDUCATION, AND EXTENSION COMPETITIVE GRANTS PROGRAM.

Section 406(f) of the Agricultural Research, Extension, and Education Reform Act of 1998 (7 U.S.C. 7626(f)) is amended by striking ''2023'' and inserting ''2031''.

SEC. 7303. SUPPORT FOR RESEARCH REGARDING DISEASES OF WHEAT, TRITICALE, AND BARLEY CAUSED BY FUSARIUM GRAMINEARUM OR BY TILLETIA INDICA.

Section 408(e)(3) of the Agricultural Research, Extension, and Education Reform Act of 1998 (7 U.S.C. 7628(e)(3)) is amended by striking ''2023'' and inserting ''2031''.

SEC. 7304. GRANTS FOR YOUTH ORGANIZATIONS.

Section 410(d)(2) of the Agricultural Research, Extension, and Education Reform Act of 1998 (7 U.S.C. 7630(d)(2)) is amended by striking ''2023'' and inserting ''2031''.

SEC. 7305. SPECIALTY CROP RESEARCH INITIATIVE.

Section 412 of the Agricultural Research, Extension, and Education Reform Act of 1998 (7 U.S.C. 7632) is amended—

(1) in subsection (f)(3), by striking ''subsection (d) and (j)'' and inserting ''subsections (d), (j), and (k)'';

(2) in subsection (g)(3), by adding at the end the following:

''(C) WAIVER.—The Secretary may waive the matching funds requirement under subparagraph (A) with respect to a grant if the Secretary determines that—

''(i) the results of the grant are of a particular benefit to a specific specialty crop, but such results are likely to be applicable to specialty crops or agricultural commodities, generally; or

''(ii)(I) the grant—

''(aa) involves a minor commodity; and

''(bb) deals with scientifically important research; and

''(II) the recipient is unable to satisfy the matching funds requirement.'';

(3) in subsection (j)(5), by striking ''subsection (k)(1)(C)'' and inserting ''subsection (l)(1)(C)'';

(4) by redesignating subsection (k) as subsection (l);

(5) by inserting after subsection (j) the following:

''(k) SPECIALTY CROP MECHANIZATION AND AUTOMATION RESEARCH AND EXTENSION PROGRAM.—The Secretary shall establish a competitive research and extension grant program to award grants to eligible entities to increase the competitiveness of specialty crops in the United States through the advancement and acceleration of mechanization and automation, including projects that—

''(1) create or improve cost-effective mechanization and automation technologies to—

''(A) reduce the manual labor requirements of a specialty crop grower; or

''(B) increase the efficiency of—

''(i) crop production;

''(ii) resource management;

''(iii) harvesting;

''(iv) processing;

''(v) post-harvest technologies; or

''(vi) packing;

''(2) increase adoption of mechanization and automation technologies by—

''(A) emphasizing adoption drivers, including—

''(i) connectivity;

''(ii) autonomy;

''(iii) reliability;

''(iv) durability;

''(v) in-field validation; or

''(vi) cost-effectiveness; or

''(B) investing in, and developing human capital to, increase the capacity to—

''(i) utilize new technologies; or

''(ii) manage a more tech-focused farm workforce; or

''(3) accelerate automation and mechanization through—

''(A) prototype development;

''(B) in-field trial testing;

''(C) ongoing industry engagement; or

''(D) rapid commercialization.''; and

(6) in subsection (l), as redesignated by paragraph (4)—

(A) in paragraph (1)—

(i) by amending subparagraph (C) to read as follows:

''(C) RESERVATION FOR SPECIALTY CROP MECHANIZATION AND AUTOMATION RESEARCH AND EXTENSION PROGRAM.—For each of fiscal years 2027 through 2031, the Secretary shall reserve not less than $30,000,000 of the funds made available under subparagraph (B) to carry out the program established under subsection (k).''; and

(ii) by amending subparagraph (D) to read as follows:

''(D) REALLOCATION.—Notwithstanding paragraph (4), any funds reserved under subparagraph (C) that remain unobligated at the end of the fiscal year following the fiscal year in which such funds are first made available shall be reallocated to carry out activities of the specialty crop research initiative established under subsection (b).'';

(B) in paragraph (2)—

(i) in the paragraph heading, by striking ''FOR FISCAL YEARS 2014 THROUGH 2023''; and

(ii) by striking ''2023'' and inserting ''2031'';

(C) by striking paragraph (3); and

(D) by redesignating paragraphs (4) and (5) as paragraphs (3) and (4), respectively.

SEC. 7306. AGRICULTURE GRANTS FOR VETERAN EDUCATION AND TRAINING SERVICES.

Title IV of the Agricultural Research, Extension, and Education Reform Act of 1998 (7 U.S.C. 7624 et seq.) is amended by adding at the end the following:

''SEC. 414. AGRICULTURE GRANTS FOR VETERAN EDUCATION AND TRAINING SERVICES.

''(a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall establish a program under which the Secretary will award competitive grants to eligible entities for the purpose of establishing and enhancing farming and ranching opportunities for veterans (as defined in section 101(2) of title 38, United States Code).

''(b) ELIGIBLE ENTITIES.—An entity is eligible for a grant under this section if such entity is—

''(1) a cooperative extension service;

''(2) a land-grant college or university (as defined in section 1404 of the National Agricultural Research, Extension, and Teaching Policy Act of 1977 (7 U.S.C. 3103));

''(3) a non-land-grant college of agriculture (as defined in such section);

''(4) a Hispanic-serving agricultural college and university (as defined in such section);

''(5) a State department of agriculture;

''(6) a nonprofit organization;

''(7) a community-based organization; or

''(8) a combination of 2 or more eligible entities described in paragraphs (1) through (7).

''(c) USE OF FUNDS.—An eligible entity that receives a grant under this section shall use the funds received through the grant—

''(1) to provide training and classroom education that leads to a comprehensive understanding of farm and ranch business operations and management practices;

''(2) to develop or identify curriculum that veteran farmers and ranchers can adopt to help manage their enterprise;

''(3) to offer education, workshops, tours, and instructor-supervised field experiences; or

''(4) to support any other activity, as identified by the Secretary, to increase the number of veterans pursuing knowledge and skills development in agriculture.

''(d) MATCHING FUNDS.—An entity that receives a grant under this section shall provide non-Federal matching funds for the purposes of carrying out this section in an amount equal to not less than the amount of the grant.

''(e) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There are authorized to be appropriated to carry out this section $3,000,000 for each of fiscal years 2025 through 2031.''.

SEC. 7307. FOOD ANIMAL RESIDUE AVOIDANCE DATABASE PROGRAM.

Section 604(e) of the Agricultural Research, Extension, and Education Reform Act of 1998 (7 U.S.C. 7642(e)) is amended by striking ''2023'' and inserting ''2031''.

SEC. 7308. OFFICE OF PEST MANAGEMENT POLICY.

Section 614(f)(2) of the Agricultural Research, Extension, and Education Reform Act of 1998 (7 U.S.C. 7653(f)(2)) is amended by striking ''2023'' and inserting ''2031''.

SEC. 7309. FORESTRY PRODUCTS ADVANCED UTILIZATION RESEARCH.

Section 617(f)(1) of the Agricultural Research, Extension, and Education Reform Act of 1998 (7 U.S.C. 7655b(f)(1)) is amended by striking ''2023'' and inserting ''2031''.

SEC. 7310. REPEALS.

The Agricultural Research, Extension, and Education Reform Act of 1998 (7 U.S.C. 7601 et seq.) is amended—

(1) by striking section 404 (7 U.S.C. 7624); and

(2) by striking section 411 (7 U.S.C. 7631).

Subtitle D—Food, Conservation, and Energy Act of 2008

SEC. 7401. GRAZINGLANDS RESEARCH LABORATORY.

Section 7502 of the Food, Conservation, and Energy Act of 2008 (Public Law 110–246; 122 Stat. 2019) is amended by striking '', or otherwise be conveyed or transferred in whole or in part, for the period beginning on the date of the enactment of this Act and ending on September 30, 2026'' and inserting '', beginning on the date of the enactment of this Act''.

SEC. 7402. FARM AND RANCH STRESS ASSISTANCE NETWORK.

Section 7522 of the Food, Conservation, and Energy Act of 2008 (7 U.S.C. 5936) is amended—

(1) in subsection (b)(1)(A), by inserting '', including crisis hotlines'' after ''websites'';

(2) in subsection (d), by striking ''2023'' and inserting ''2031'';

(3) by redesignating subsection (f) as subsection (g); and

(4) by inserting after subsection (e) the following:

''(f) REFERRALS TO PROVIDERS.—As part of the efforts of the recipient of a grant under subsection (a) to connect individuals to behavioral health counseling and wellness support and to ensure individuals have access to a comprehensive scope of mental health and substance use

treatments and supports, when applicable, the grant recipient may establish referral relationships with—

''(1) certified community behavioral health clinics described in section 223 of the Protecting Access to Medicare Act of 2014 (42 U.S.C. 1396a note; Public Law 113–93);

''(2) health centers (as defined in section 330(a) of the Public Health Service Act (42 U.S.C. 254b(a)));

''(3) rural health clinics (as defined in section 1861(aa) of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 1395x(aa)));

''(4) Federally qualified health centers (as defined in that section); and

''(5) critical access hospitals (as defined in section 1861(mm) of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 1395x(mm)))..''.

SEC. 7403. SUN GRANT PROGRAM.

Section 7526 of the Food, Conservation, and Energy Act of 2008 (7 U.S.C. 8114) is amended—

(1) in subsection (a)—

(A) in paragraph (1), by inserting ''and bioproduct'' before ''technologies'';

(B) in paragraph (2), by striking ''product'' and inserting ''bioproduct''; and

(C) in paragraph (3), by striking ''product'' and inserting ''bioproduct'';

(2) in subsection (c)(2), by striking ''4 percent'' and inserting ''30 percent''; and

(3) in subsection (g), by striking ''2023'' and inserting ''2031''.

SEC. 7404. REPEALS.

The Food, Conservation, and Energy Act of 2008 (7 U.S.C. 8701 et seq.) is amended—

(1) by striking section 7521 (7 U.S.C. 3202); and

(2) by striking section 7525 (7 U.S.C. 5937).

Subtitle E—Amendments to Other Laws

SEC. 7501. EQUITY IN EDUCATIONAL LAND-GRANT STATUS ACT OF 1994.

The Equity in Educational Land-Grant Status Act of 1994 (7 U.S.C. 301 note; Public Law 103–382) is amended—

(1) in section 533(b), by striking ''2023'' and inserting ''2031'';

(2) in section 534(a)(1), by striking ''equal to'' and inserting ''that is not less than'';

(3) in section 535, by striking ''2023'' each place it appears in subsections (b)(1) and (c) and inserting ''2031''; and

(4) in section 536—

(A) in subsection (a), by inserting before the period at the end the following: ''and to acquire, alter, repair, maintain, and operate relevant equipment necessary for strengthening the capacity of the Institution to conduct research in the food and agricultural sciences'';

(B) by striking subsection (b);

(C) by redesignating subsection (c) as subsection (b); and

(D) in subsection (b) (as so redesignated), by striking ''2023'' and inserting ''2031''.

SEC. 7502. RESEARCH FACILITIES ACT.

Section 6(a) of the Research Facilities Act (7 U.S.C. 390d(a)) is amended by striking ''2023'' and inserting ''2031''.

SEC. 7503. AGRICULTURE AND FOOD RESEARCH INITIATIVE.

Subsection (b) of the Competitive, Special, and Facilities Research Grant Act (7 U.S.C. 3157(b)) is amended—

(1) in paragraph (2)—

(A) in subparagraph (A)(iii)—

(i) by inserting ''regionally adapted'' before ''cultivar''; and

(ii) by inserting ''breeding for environmental resilience,'' before ''and participatory breeding'';

(B) in subparagraph (B)(i), by inserting '', including methods of increasing survival rate and adaptability of shellfish'' after ''aquaculture'';

(C) in subparagraph (E)—

(i) in clause (iv), by striking ''and'' at the end;

(ii) in clause (v), by striking the period at the end and inserting ''; and''; and

(iii) by adding at the end the following:

''(vi) hydroponics, aquaponics, aeroponics, and other production technologies used in controlled-environment agriculture production.''; and

(D) in subparagraph (F)—

(i) in clause (i), by inserting '', including supply chain coordination and capacity building'' after ''overseas markets'';

(ii) in clause (vii), by striking ''; and'' at the end and inserting a semicolon;

(iii) in clause (viii), by striking the period at the end and inserting a semicolon; and

(iv) by adding at the end the following:

''(ix) workforce training and development, including meat and poultry processing (including rendering) and precision agriculture; and

''(x) reducing food loss and food waste.'';

(2) in paragraph (7)—

(A) by redesignating subparagraphs (D) through (I) as subparagraphs (E) through (J), respectively;

(B) by inserting after subparagraph (C) the following:

''(D) area career and technical education schools;''; and

(C) in subparagraph (J), as so redesignated, by striking ''(H)'' and inserting ''(I)''; and

(3) in paragraph (11)(A), in the matter preceding clause (i), by striking ''2023'' and inserting ''2031''.

SEC. 7504. EXTENSION DESIGN AND DEMONSTRATION INITIATIVE.

Subsection (d)(6) of the Competitive, Special, and Facilities Research Grant Act (7 U.S.C. 3157(d)(6)) is amended by striking ''2023'' and inserting ''2031''.

SEC. 7505. BIOMASS RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT.

Section 9008(h)(2) of the Farm Security and Rural Investment Act of 2002 (7 U.S.C. 8108(h)(2)) is amended by striking ''2023'' and inserting ''2031''.

SEC. 7506. RENEWABLE RESOURCES EXTENSION ACT OF 1978.

The Renewable Resources Extension Act of 1978 (16 U.S.C. 1671 et seq.) is amended—

(1) in section 6 (16 U.S.C. 1675), in the first sentence, by striking ''2023'' and inserting ''2031''; and

(2) in section 8 (16 U.S.C. 1671 note), by striking ''2023'' and inserting ''2031''.

SEC. 7507. NATIONAL AQUACULTURE ACT OF 1980.

The National Aquaculture Act of 1980 (16 U.S.C. 2801 et seq.) is amended—

(1) in section 4 (16 U.S.C. 2803)—

(A) in subsection (a)(2), by striking ''acquaculture'' and inserting ''aquaculture'';

(B) in subsection (d), in the matter preceding paragraph (1), by inserting '', not less than once every 3 years,'' after ''periodic reviews''; and

(C) in subsection (e)—

(i) in the matter preceding paragraph (1), by inserting '', not less than once every 3 years,'' after ''undertake a continuing assessment of aquaculture in the United States'';

(ii) in paragraph (5), by striking ''and'' at the end;

(iii) in paragraph (6), by striking the period at the end and inserting a semicolon; and

(iv) by adding at the end the following:

''(7) a catalog of new and existing capital constraints, as described in the capital requirements plan formulated under section 8(b), that affect the development of the aquaculture industry in the United States; and

''(8) a catalog of new and existing Federal or State regulatory barriers, as described in the regulatory constraints plan formulated under section 9(b), to the initiation and operation of commercial aquaculture ventures.'';

(2) in section 5 (16 U.S.C. 2804), by striking subsection (d) and inserting the following:

''(d) AQUACULTURE ADVISORY COMMITTEE.—

''(1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 180 days after the date of enactment of the Farm, Food, and National Security Act of 2026, the Secretary shall establish an advisory committee, to be known as the Aquaculture Advisory Committee (referred to in this subsection as the 'Committee'), to advise the Secretary on—

''(A) oversight of programs of the Department and other members of the coordinating group to support development of, and to advance, aquaculture best practices using the best available science, in consultation with farmers and industry partners;

''(B) providing technical assistance to aquaculture farmers and businesses, including technical assistance that pertains to shellfish, algae, and land-based aquaculture systems, using the best available science; and

''(C) any other aspects of the implementation of this Act.

''(2) MEMBERSHIP.—

''(A) IN GENERAL.—The Committee shall be composed of 14 members, who are not officers or employees of the Federal Government.

''(B) INITIAL APPOINTMENTS.—The Secretary shall appoint the members of the Committee not later than 180 days after the date of enactment of this section.

''(C) PERIOD OF INITIAL APPOINTMENT; VACANCIES.—

''(i) IN GENERAL.—Except as provided in clause (ii), a member of the Committee shall be appointed for a term of 3 years.

''(ii) INITIAL APPOINTMENTS.—Of the members first appointed to the Committee—

''(I) 5 of the members, as determined by the Secretary, shall be appointed for a term of 3 years;

''(II) 5 of the members, as determined by the Secretary, shall be appointed for a term of 2 years; and

''(III) 4 of the members, as determined by the Secretary, shall be appointed for a term of 1 year.

''(iii) VACANCIES.—Any vacancy in the Committee—

''(I) shall not affect the powers of the Committee; and

''(II) shall be filled as soon as practicable in the same manner as the original appointment.

''(D) CONSECUTIVE TERMS.—An initial appointee of the Committee may serve an additional consecutive term if the member is reappointed by the Secretary.

''(3) MEETINGS.—

''(A) FREQUENCY.—The Committee shall meet not fewer than 3 times per year.

''(B) INITIAL MEETING.—Not later than 180 days after the date on which the members are appointed under paragraph (2)(B), the Committee shall hold the first meeting of the Committee.

''(4) DUTIES.—The Committee shall—

''(A) develop recommendations and advise the Secretary on aquaculture policies, initiatives, and outreach administered by the Department;

''(B) evaluate and review ongoing research and extension activities relating to aquaculture practices;

''(C) identify new and existing barriers to successful aquaculture practices; and

''(D) provide additional assistance and advice to the Secretary as appropriate.

''(5) PERSONNEL MATTERS.—

''(A) COMPENSATION.—A member of the Committee shall serve without compensation.

''(B) TRAVEL EXPENSES.—A member of the Committee shall be allowed travel expenses, including per diem in lieu of subsistence, in accordance with section 5703 of title 5, United States Code.

''(6) TERMINATION.—

''(A) IN GENERAL.—Subject to subparagraph (B), the Committee shall terminate on the date that is 5 years after the date on which the members are appointed under paragraph (2)(B).

''(B) EXTENSIONS.—Before the date on which the Committee terminates, the Secretary may renew the Committee for 1 or more 2-year periods.

''(e) ANNUAL REPORT.—Not later than 1 year after the date of the enactment of the Farm,

Food, and National Security Act of 2026, and each year thereafter, the Secretary, acting through the coordinating group and in consultation with the Secretary of Commerce and the Secretary of the Interior, shall prepare on an annual basis, and submit to Congress, a report on the status of aquaculture in the United States. Such report shall contain—

''(1) a description and evaluation of the actions undertaken with respect to the Plan during the reporting period;

''(2) an explanation of any revisions made to the Plan during the reporting period;

''(3) the results of the continuing assessment established under section 4(e);

''(4) an evaluation of the role each Federal department or agency has in supporting the aquaculture industry;

''(5) the total amount and value of expenditures of Federal departments or agencies on—

''(A) aquaculture purchases;

''(B) aquaculture promotion and outreach supporting the aquaculture industry;

''(C) grants made to the aquaculture industry; and

''(D) grants to facilitate aquaculture research and the subject matter of such research;

''(6) a summary of the activities and recommendations of the Aquaculture Advisory Committee established under subsection (d);

''(7) a summary of the activities and recommendations of the coordinating group; and

''(8) such other comments and recommendations as the Secretary determines appropriate.''; and

(3) in section 10 (16 U.S.C. 2809), by striking ''2023'' each place it appears in paragraphs (1), (2), and (3) and inserting ''2031''.

SEC. 7508. REPORTS ON DISBURSEMENT OF FUNDS FOR AGRICULTURAL RESEARCH AND EXTENSION AT 1862 AND 1890 LAND-GRANT COLLEGES, INCLUDING TUSKEGEE UNIVERSITY.

Section 7116 of the Agriculture Improvement Act of 2018 (7 U.S.C. 2207d) is amended—

(1) in the matter preceding paragraph (1), by striking ''Not later than'' and inserting the following:

''(a) IN GENERAL.—Not later than''; and

(2) by adding at the end the following:

''(b) OUTREACH.—Not later than February 1 of each fiscal year, the Secretary shall provide information relating to each matching requirement applicable to the State under the programs referred to in subsection (a) to the Governor and legislature of each State in which an 1862 Institution or 1890 Institution (as those terms are defined in section 2 of the Agricultural Research, Extension, and Education Reform Act of 1998 (7 U.S.C. 7601)) is located.

''(c) ATTESTATIONS.—

''(1) IN GENERAL.—Not less frequently than once each calendar year, the Governor of each State described in subsection (b) shall submit to the Secretary an attestation that describes if the State is able to fulfill each matching requirement with respect to which information is provided by the Secretary under such subsection for such State and calendar year.

''(2) REPORTS.—Not later than December 31 of each calendar year, the Secretary shall submit to Congress, and make publicly available on the website of the Department of Agriculture, an annual report describing the attestations received under paragraph (1) during that calendar year.''.

SEC. 7509. REPEAL.

Section 1431 of the National Agricultural Research, Extension, and Teaching Policy Act Amendments of 1985 (title XIV of Public Law 99–198; 99 Stat. 1556) is repealed.

SEC. 7510. AMENDMENT TO SMITH-LEVER ACT.

Section 3(b)(3) of the Smith-Lever Act (7 U.S.C. 343(b)(3)) is amended by inserting after ''for the purposes set forth in section 2'' the following: '', and for 1994 Institutions to acquire, alter, repair, maintain, and operate relevant equipment necessary to strengthen the capacity of such 1994 Institutions to achieve the purposes set forth in section 2''.

Subtitle F—Other Matters

SEC. 7601. FOUNDATION FOR FOOD AND AGRICULTURE RESEARCH.

Section 7601 of the Agricultural Act of 2014 (7 U.S.C. 5939) is amended—

(1) in subsection (d)(1)—

(A) in subparagraph (B)—

(i) in clause (ii), by striking ''of Agriculture; and'' and inserting a semicolon; and

(ii) by striking clause (iii); and

(B) in subparagraph (C), by striking ''the roadmap for agricultural research, education, and extension authorized by section 7504 of the Food, Conservation, and Energy Act of 2008 (7 U.S.C. 7614a)'' and inserting ''the national research policies and priorities set forth in section 1402 of the National Agricultural Research, Extension, and Teaching Policy Act of 1977 (7 U.S.C. 3101)'';

(2) in subsection (e)(2)(C)(i)—

(A) in subclause (I), by striking ''National Academy of Sciences'' and inserting ''National Agricultural Research, Extension, Education, and Economics Advisory Board established under section 1408 of the National Agricultural Research, Extension, and Teaching Policy Act of 1977 (7 U.S.C. 3123)''; and

(B) in subclause (II), by striking ''industry'' and inserting ''national farm, producer, or research organizations''; and

(3) in subsection (f)(3)(B)(i)—

(A) in subclause (I)—

(i) in the matter preceding item (aa), by striking ''and post online'' and inserting ''online and submit to the Committee on Agriculture of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry of the Senate'';

(ii) in item (bb), by striking ''and'' at the end;

(iii) in item (cc), by striking the period at the end and inserting a semicolon; and

(iv) by adding at the end the following:

''(dd) the source and a description of all gifts to the Foundation of real or personal property;

''(ee) the source and amount of each gift to the Foundation of money, including a specification of any restrictions on the purposes for which a gift to the Foundation may be used;

''(ff) the source and amount of any Federal or State grant, contract, or cooperative agreement awarded to the Foundation;

''(gg) an accounting of the use of funds made available under subsection (g)(1);

''(hh) a description of the Foundation's outreach activities to agricultural stakeholders and potential research partners; and

''(ii) a description of the Foundation's consultation process with the Department under subsection (d)(1)(B).'';

(B) by striking subclauses (II) and (III); and

(C) by redesignating subclause (IV) as subclause (II).

SEC. 7602. AGRICULTURE INNOVATION CENTER DEMONSTRATION PROGRAM.

Section 6402 of the Farm Security and Rural Investment Act of 2002 (7 U.S.C. 1632b) is amended—

(1) in subsection (d)—

(A) in paragraph (2)—

(i) by striking ''Each Agriculture Innovation Center'' and inserting ''Subject to paragraph (3), each Agriculture Innovation Center''; and

(ii) by striking ''following::'' and inserting ''following:''; and

(B) by adding at the end the following:

''(3) WAIVER.—The Secretary may waive the requirement described in paragraph (2) with respect to an eligible entity if the Secretary determines that the eligible entity has a board of directors adequate for the purpose of carrying out this section.''; and

(2) in subsection (g), by striking ''2023'' and inserting ''2031''.

SEC. 7603. LIVESTOCK INSECTS LABORATORY.

Public Law 100–208 (101 Stat. 1439) is amended by striking ''Knipling-Bushland Research Laboratory'' each place it appears and inserting ''Knipling-Bushland Research Center''.

SEC. 7604. U.S. ABIT MASSEY NATIONAL POULTRY RESEARCH CENTER.

(a) DESIGNATION.—The U.S. National Poultry Research Center of the Department of Agriculture located in Athens, Georgia shall be known and designated as the ''U.S. Abit Massey National Poultry Research Center''.

(b) REFERENCES.—Any reference in a law, map, regulation, document, paper, or other record of the United States to the facility referred to in subsection (a) shall be deemed to be a reference to the ''U.S. Abit Massey National Poultry Research Center''.

SEC. 7605. HATCH ACT OF 1887.

Section 5 of the Hatch Act of 1887 (7 U.S.C. 361e) is amended—

(1) in the second sentence—

(A) by striking ''known as a director'' and inserting ''known as an experiment station director''; and

(B) by striking ''or other officer appointed by the government board of the station'';

(2) in the third sentence, by striking ''or other officer''; and

(3) in the fourth sentence, by striking ''the authorized receiving officer'' and inserting ''the experiment station director''.

SEC. 7606. COMMISSION ON NATIONAL AGRICULTURAL STATISTICS SERVICE MODERNIZATION.

(a) ESTABLISHMENT.—There is established a commission to be known as the Commission on National Agricultural Statistics Service Modernization (referred to in this section as the ''Commission'').

(b) STUDY.—The Commission shall conduct a study of the National Agricultural Statistics Service and provide recommendations on—

(1) how data collection can be modernized and streamlined to—

(A) improve the quality of statistics reported;

(B) account for differences of national, regional, and local production;

(C) accelerate adoption of new and innovative technologies to reduce the number of surveys needed;

(D) improve producer response rates in statistical surveys and identifying ways to reduce survey fatigue;

(E) increase transparency and confidence in statistical reports through improved collaboration with agricultural stakeholders;

(F) use more real-time statistical and environmental data to complement existing survey-based data and reporting; and

(G) improve collection and generation of timely data on the specialty crop industry; and

(2) how the recommendations under paragraph (1) with respect to modernizing and streamlining data collection can be implemented and the estimated costs of such implementation.

(c) MEMBERSHIP.—

(1) COMPOSITION.—The Commission shall be composed of 11 members, as follows:

(A) The Administrator of the National Agricultural Statistics Service.

(B) The Administrator of the Economic Research Service.

(C) The Chief Economist of the Department.

(D) The Chair of the World Agricultural Outlook Board of the Department.

(E) A representative from the Bureau of Labor Statistics.

(F) 3 members appointed by the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry of the Senate, of which—

(i) 1 shall be appointed by the chair of the Committee;

(ii) 1 shall be appointed by the ranking member of the Committee; and

(iii) 1 shall be appointed jointly by the chair and ranking member of the Committee.

(G) 3 members appointed by the Committee on Agriculture of the House of Representatives, of which—

(i) 1 shall be appointed by the chair of the Committee;

(ii) 1 shall be appointed by the ranking member of the Committee; and

(iii) 1 shall be appointed jointly by the chair and ranking member of the Committee.

(2) DATE OF APPOINTMENTS.—The appointment of all members of the Commission shall be made not later than 60 days after the date of enactment of this Act.

(3) TERM; VACANCIES.—

(A) TERM.—A member shall be appointed for the life of the Commission.

(B) VACANCIES.—A vacancy on the Commission—

(i) shall not affect the powers of the Commission; and

(ii) shall be filled in the same manner as the original appointment was made.

(4) INITIAL MEETING.—Not later than 60 days after the date on which all members of the Commission have been appointed, the Commission shall hold the initial meeting of the Commission.

(d) QUORUM.—A majority of the members of the Commission shall constitute a quorum for the transaction of business, but a lesser number of members may hold hearings.

(e) CHAIR.—The Chair of the Commission shall be selected by a majority of the members of the Commission.

(f) REPORT.—Not later than 3 years after the date of enactment of this Act, the Commission shall submit to the President, the Committee on Agriculture of the House of Representatives, and the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry of the Senate a report containing the results of the study required by subsection (b), including—

(1) an inventory of surveys conducted by the Commission, and the frequency with which they are conducted; and

(2) such recommendations for administrative, regulatory, and legislative changes as the Commission considers appropriate.

(g) HEARINGS.—The Commission shall hold such hearings, meet and act at such times and places, take such testimony, and receive such evidence as the Commission considers advisable to carry out this section.

(h) STAKEHOLDER ENGAGEMENT.—The Commission shall establish a process to collect feedback from agricultural stakeholders to inform the results of the study required under subsection (b) and the report required under subsection (f).

(i) INFORMATION FROM FEDERAL AGENCIES.—The Commission may secure directly from a Federal agency such information as the Commission considers necessary to carry out this section. On request of the Chairperson of the Commission, the head of the agency shall provide the information to the Commission.

(j) POSTAL SERVICES.—The Commission may use the United States mail in the same manner and under the same conditions as other agencies of the Federal Government.

(k) ASSISTANCE FROM SECRETARY.—The Secretary shall provide to the Commission appropriate office space and such reasonable administrative and support services as the Commission may request.

(l) COMPENSATION OF MEMBERS.—

(1) NON-FEDERAL EMPLOYEES.—A member of the Commission who is not an officer or employee of the Federal Government shall be compensated at a rate equal to the daily equivalent of the annual rate of basic pay prescribed for level IV of the Executive Schedule under section 5315 of title 5, United States Code, for each day (including travel time) during which the member is engaged in the performance of the duties of the Commission.

(2) FEDERAL EMPLOYEES.—A member of the Commission who is an officer or employee of the Federal Government shall serve without compensation in addition to the compensation received for the services of the member as an officer or employee of the Federal Government.

(3) TRAVEL EXPENSES.—A member of the Commission shall be allowed travel expenses, including per diem in lieu of subsistence, at rates authorized for an employee of an agency under subchapter I of chapter 57 of title 5, United States Code, while away from the home or regular place of business of the member in the performance of the duties of the Commission.

(m) FEDERAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE ACT.—Sections 1009 and 1013 of title 5, United States Code, shall not apply to the Commission or any proceeding of the Commission.

(n) TERMINATION.—The Commission shall terminate on September 30, 2031.

(o) FUNDING.—Of the funds of the Commodity Credit Corporation, the Secretary shall use to carry out this section $1,000,000 for fiscal year 2026, to remain available until expended.

SEC. 7607. RESTORATION OF 4–H NAME AND EMBLEM AUTHORITY.

(a) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

(1) 4–H CLUB.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—The term ''4–H club'' means a 4–H club recognized under the 4–H Program.

(B) INCLUSION.—The term ''4–H club'' includes an authorized agent of a 4–H club.

(2) 4–H EMBLEM OR NAME.—The term ''4–H emblem or name'' means the 4–H sign or emblem, consisting of a green four-leaf clover with stem and the letter ''H'' in white or gold on each leaflet, and the words ''4–H'', ''4–H Club'', and ''4–H Clubs'', used to identify and distinguish the 4–H Program and the activities, clubs, members, goods, and services of the 4–H Program.

(3) 4–H PROGRAM.—The term ''4–H Program''—

(A) IN GENERAL.—The term ''4–H Program'' means the youth development program of the land-grant colleges or universities, the Cooperative Extension System (as defined by the Secretary), and the Department.

(B) INCLUSION.—The term ''4–H Program'' includes an authorized agent of the 4–H Program.

(4) LAND-GRANT COLLEGE OR UNIVERSITY.—The term ''land-grant college or university''—

(A) IN GENERAL.—The term ''land-grant college or university'' means an 1862 Institution, an 1890 Institution, or a 1994 Institution (as those terms are defined in section 2 of the Agricultural Research, Extension, and Education Reform Act of 1998 (7 U.S.C. 7601)).

(B) INCLUSION.—The term ''land-grant college or university'' includes an authorized agent of a land-grant college or university.

(b) EFFECT OF REPEAL; RATIFICATION.—

(1) CIVIL ACTS.—Any civil act or action of the 4–H Program, a 4–H club, the Secretary, or a land-grant college or university taken with respect to the use of the 4–H emblem or name, or the recognition of any 4–H club, during the period beginning on May 8, 1914, and ending on the date of enactment of this Act, is deemed to be of legal force and effect and ratified as if section 1002(3) of the Clean Up the Code Act of 2019 (title X of division O of Public Law 116–260; 134 Stat. 2155) had not been enacted into law.

(2) EFFECT ON CRIMINAL LAW.—Nothing in this subsection affects the effect on criminal law of the repeal made by section 1002(3) of the Clean Up the Code Act of 2019 (title X of division O of Public Law 116–260; 134 Stat. 2155).

(c) AUTHORIZATIONS FOR USE OF 4–H EMBLEM OR NAME; FEES; DEPOSITS.—

(1) AUTHORIZATION.—The Secretary may—

(A) use the 4–H emblem or name; and

(B) grant authorizations to use the 4–H emblem or name, as provided by regulations issued by the Secretary.

(2) FEES.—An authorization under paragraph (1) may be granted—

(A) without a fee or other consideration; or

(B) for a fee or other consideration.

(3) USE OF FEES.—The Secretary shall deposit into a special account any fees collected under paragraph (2)(B), the amounts in which shall remain available to the Secretary until expended, without further appropriation, for furthering the 4–H Program.

(d) UNAUTHORIZED USE OF 4–H EMBLEM OR NAME.—

(1) PROHIBITION.—Whoever, other than the 4–H Program, a 4–H club, the Department, a land-grant college or university, and those authorized by them, uses in commerce the 4–H emblem or name or any reproduction, counterfeit, copy, or colorable imitation of the 4–H emblem or name to indicate membership in an association, organization, or other collective group, or in connection with the sale, offering for sale, distribution, or advertising of goods or services, on or in connection with which that use is likely to cause confusion, to cause mistake, or to deceive as to membership or participation in, an affiliation, connection, or association with, or authorization or approval by, a 4–H club or the 4–H Program, shall be subject to the civil action under paragraph (2).

(2) CIVIL ACTION.—The Attorney General, on behalf of the Secretary, or contract counsel procured by the Secretary, may bring a civil action in an appropriate district court of the United States against whoever engages in any of the prohibited acts described in paragraph (1) for the remedies provided in the Act of July 5, 1946 (commonly known as the ''Trademark Act of 1946'' or the ''Lanham Act'') (15 U.S.C. 1051 et seq.).

(e) SAVINGS CLAUSES.—

(1) PRIOR AUTHORIZED USES.—Nothing in this section makes unlawful the use of any emblem, name, sign, symbol, insignia, or words that was lawful on December 26, 2020.

(2) DELEGATION.—Nothing in this section limits the authority of the Secretary to delegate the authority of the Secretary as otherwise authorized by law.

SEC. 7608. UNDER SECRETARY OF AGRICULTURE FOR RESEARCH, EDUCATION, AND ECONOMICS.

Section 251 of the Department of Agriculture Reorganization Act of 1994 (7 U.S.C. 6971) is amended—

(1) in subsection (c)—

(A) in paragraph (1), by striking ''and'' at the end;

(B) in paragraph (2), by striking the period at the end and inserting ''; and''; and

(C) by adding at the end the following:

''(3) be responsible for the coordination of research activities with other Federal agencies.'';

(2) in subsection (e)(3)(C), by striking ''not less than 3 years'' and inserting ''not less than 1 year''; and

(3) by adding at the end the following:

''(h) INTERAGENCY COORDINATION.—

''(1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall carry out cross-cutting and collaborative research and development activities focused on the joint advancement of the mission requirements and priorities of the Department of Agriculture and other Federal agencies.

''(2) MEMORANDA OF UNDERSTANDING.—

''(A) DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY.—

''(i) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 1 year after the date of enactment of the Farm, Food, and National Security Act of 2026, the Secretary and the Secretary of Energy(referred to in this subparagraph as the 'Secretaries') shall coordinate the activities under paragraph (1) through the establishment of memoranda of understanding or other appropriate interagency agreements. Such a memorandum or such an agreement shall require the use of a competitive, merit-reviewed process as appropriate. Activities may include components proposed by Federal agencies, National Laboratories, institutions of higher education, nonprofit organizations, and other entities deemed appropriate under the memorandum or agreement.

''(ii) COORDINATION.—In carrying out the activities under paragraph (1), the Secretaries may—

''(I) conduct collaborative research in a variety of focus areas;

''(II) develop methods to accommodate large voluntary standardized and integrated data sets

on agricultural, environmental, supply chain, and economic information with variable accuracy and scale;

''(III) promote collaboration and open community-based development between—

''(aa) Federal agencies;

''(bb) National Laboratories;

''(cc) institutions of higher education (as defined in section 101 of the Higher Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 1001));

''(dd) nonprofit institutions;

''(ee) industry partners; and

''(ff) other entities deemed appropriate under the memorandum or agreement involved;

''(IV) support research infrastructure, including new facilities and equipment, and workforce development as the Secretaries determine necessary;

''(V) conduct collaborative research, development, and demonstration of methods and technologies; and

''(VI) facilitate relations between public and private entities to carry on the activities of this clause upon the termination of any agreement established under this subparagraph.

''(iii) AGREEMENTS.—In carrying out the activities under this subparagraph, the Secretaries are authorized to—

''(I) carry out reimbursable agreements between the Department of Agriculture, the Department of Defense, and other entities in order to maximize the effectiveness of research and development; and

''(II) collaborate with other Federal agencies, as appropriate.

''(B) NATIONAL SCIENCE FOUNDATION.—

''(i) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 1 year after the date of enactment of the Farm, Food, and National Security Act of 2026, the Secretary and the Director of the National Science Foundation (referred to in this subparagraph as the ''Director'') shall coordinate the activities under paragraph (1) through the establishment of memoranda of understanding or other appropriate interagency agreements. Such a memorandum or such an agreement shall require the use of a competitive, merit-reviewed process as appropriate. Activities may include components proposed by Federal agencies, institutions of higher education, nonprofit organizations, and other entities deemed appropriate under the memorandum or agreement.

''(ii) COORDINATION.—In carrying out the activities under paragraph (1), the Secretary and the Director may—

''(I) conduct collaborative research in a variety of focus areas;

''(II) promote collaboration and open, community-based development between—

''(aa) Federal agencies;

''(bb) institutions of higher education;

''(cc) community colleges (as defined in section 3167B of the Energy Science Education Enhancement Act (42 U.S.C. 7381c–3));

''(dd) area career and technical education schools (as defined in section 3 of the Carl D. Perkins Career and Technical Education Act of 2006 (20 U.S.C. 2302));

''(ee) nonprofit institutions;

''(ff) industry partners; and

''(gg) other entities deemed appropriate under the memorandum or agreement;

''(III) support research infrastructure, including new facilities, equipment and broadband deployment, as the Secretary and Director determine necessary;

''(IV) develop translational technologies for commercial utilization;

''(V) organize education, training, and research initiatives relating to STEM education and workforce development, which may include—

''(aa) activities supported by the Cooperative Extension System;

''(bb) industrial partnership programs;

''(cc) workshops for educating kindergarten through grade 12 teachers on how to increase agricultural literacy;

''(dd) development of agricultural-based science curricula for kindergarten through grade 12 students; and

''(ee) distribution of resources for educators to implement curricula; and

''(VI) facilitate relationships between public and private entities to carry on the activities under this clause upon the termination of any agreement established under this subparagraph.

''(iii) AGREEMENTS.—In carrying out the activities under this subparagraph, the Secretary and the Director are authorized to—

''(I) carry out reimbursable agreements between the Department of Agriculture, the National Science Foundation, and other entities in order to maximize the effectiveness of research and development; and

''(II) collaborate with other Federal agencies as appropriate.

''(C) DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE.—

''(i) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 1 year after the date of enactment of the Farm, Food, and National Security Act of 2026, the Secretary and the Secretary of Defense (referred to in this subparagraph as the 'Secretaries') shall coordinate the activities under paragraph (1) through the establishment of memoranda of understanding or other appropriate interagency agreements. Such a memorandum or such an agreement shall require the use of a competitive, merit-reviewed process as appropriate. Activities may include components proposed by Federal agencies, National Laboratories, institutions of higher education, nonprofit organizations, industry, and other entities deemed appropriate under the memorandum or agreement.

''(ii) COORDINATION.—In carrying out the activities under paragraph (1), the Secretaries may—

''(I) conduct collaborative research in a variety of focus areas, including the areas specified in clause (iv);

''(II) develop methods to accommodate large voluntary standardized and integrated data sets on agricultural, environmental, supply chain, and economic information with variable accuracy and scale;

''(III) promote collaboration and secure information sharing with stakeholders that are capable of increasing market-based adoption of technologies developed pursuant to the memoranda of understanding or other appropriate interagency agreements entered into under this subparagraph;

''(IV) promote collaboration and open community-based development between—

''(aa) Federal agencies;

''(bb) National Laboratories;

''(cc) institutions of higher education (as defined in section 101 of the Higher Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 1001));

''(dd) nonprofit institutions;

''(ee) industry partners; and

''(ff) other entities deemed appropriate under the memorandum or agreement involved;

''(V) support research infrastructure, including new facilities and equipment, and workforce development as the Secretaries determine necessary;

''(VI) conduct collaborative research, development, and demonstration of methods and technologies; and

''(VII) facilitate relations between public and private entities to carry on the activities of this clause upon the termination of any agreement established under this subparagraph.

''(iii) AGREEMENTS.—In carrying out the activities under this subparagraph, the Secretaries are authorized to—

''(I) carry out reimbursable agreements between the Department of Agriculture, the Department of Defense, and other entities in order to maximize the effectiveness of research and development; and

''(II) collaborate with other Federal agencies, as appropriate.

''(iv) FOCUS AREAS DESCRIBED.—The focus areas described in this clause are the following:

''(I) Management strategies for water, energy, soil, forests, and food to reduce scarcity risks to civilian and military operations.

''(II) Innovations applicable to defense objectives and beneficial to rural agricultural economies, including—

''(aa) precision agriculture technologies;

''(bb) drones;

''(cc) remote sensing; and

''(dd) positioning, navigation, and timing capabilities.

''(III) Mitigation of the impacts of chemicals, specifically perfluoroalkyl and polyfluoroalkyl substances (commonly referred to as PFAS), released through activities carried out by the Department of Defense, to farmland contiguous to military bases.

''(D) OTHER FEDERAL AGENCIES.—In addition to the memoranda of understanding with Federal agencies described in subparagraphs (A) and (B), the Secretary shall, as appropriate, enter into memoranda of understanding with the heads of other Federal agencies to coordinate the activities under paragraph (1).

''(3) REPORT.—Not later than two years after the date of enactment of the Farm, Food, and National Security Act of 2026, the Secretary shall submit to the appropriate congressional committees a report detailing—

''(A) interagency coordination between each Federal agency involved in the research and development activities carried out under this section;

''(B) potential opportunities to expand the technical capabilities of each Federal agency involved in the research and development activities carried out under this section;

''(C) collaborative research achievements;

''(D) areas of future mutually beneficial successes;

''(E) continuation of coordination activities between each Federal agency involved in the research and development activities carried out under this section;

''(F) potential opportunities for additional memoranda of understanding with other Federal agencies; and

''(G) any additional information as the Secretary deems appropriate.

''(4) RESEARCH SECURITY.—The activities authorized under this section shall be applied in a manner consistent with subtitle D of title VI of the Research and Development, Competition, and Innovation Act (enacted as division B of the CHIPS Act of 2022 (Public Law 117–167; 42 U.S.C. 19231 et seq.)).''.

SEC. 7609. AGRICULTURAL INNOVATION CORPS.

(a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall establish an Agricultural Innovation Corps (referred to in this section as the ''Ag I–Corps'') to promote technology transfer and increase the economic impact of federally-funded research through—

(1) supporting agricultural researchers, students, and institutions of higher education (as defined in section 101 of the Higher Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 1001)), in exploring the commercial potential of technologies developed in laboratories through a standardized entrepreneurial training program; and

(2) bringing together Agriculture Research Service researchers and institutions of higher education within a distinct geographical region to collaborate and deliver a standardized entrepreneurial training curriculum.

(b) ELIGIBILITY.—Agricultural researchers, students, and institutions of higher education receiving funds from the Department shall be eligible to participate in Ag I–Corps.

(c) FOLLOW-ON GRANTS.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary may make funds available from the Small Business Innovation Research Program for competitive grants to Ag I–Corps participants to help support—

(A) prototype or proof-of-concept development; and

(B) such activities as the Secretary considers necessary to build local, regional, and national infrastructure for agricultural entrepreneurship.

(2) LIMITATION.—Grants under paragraph (1) shall be limited to participants in Ag I–Corps with innovations that, because of the early stage of development of such innovations, are not eligible to participate in a Small Business Innovation Research Program or Small Business Technology Transfer Program (as defined in section 9 of the Small Business Act (15 U.S.C. 638)).

(d) PARTNERSHIPS.—The Secretary may engage in partnerships with other Federal agencies, State and local governments, economic development organizations, and nonprofit organizations to provide access to Ag I–Corps to support entrepreneurship education and training for agricultural researchers, students, and institutions of higher education under this section.

(e) REPORT.—Not later than September 30, 2027, and not less frequently than once every other year, the Secretary shall submit to the Committee on Agriculture of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry of the Senate a report on the efficacy of Ag I–Corps, including metrics on the effectiveness of the program.

SEC. 7610. STUDY ON TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE WITH RESPECT TO TRANSFER OF AGRICULTURAL LAND AND ASSETS.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Not later than September 30, 2026, the Secretary of Agriculture shall conduct a study on, and submit to Congress a report on, ways to increase opportunities for 1890 Institutions (as defined in section 2 of the Agricultural Research, Extension, and Education Reform Act of 1998 (7 U.S.C. 7601)) to conduct educational programs and provide technical assistance with respect to issues relating to the transfers of agricultural land and assets, including heirs property, to the next generation of farmers and ranchers.

(b) HEIRS PROPERTY DEFINED.—In this section, the term ''heirs property'' means real property held in tenancy in common which, as of the date on which a partition action is filed, satisfies all of the following requirements:

(1) There is no recorded agreement binding all the co-tenants which governs the partition of the property.

(2) One or more of the co-tenants acquired title from a relative, whether living or deceased.

(3) Any of the following applies:

(A) 20 percent or more of the interests are held by co-tenants who are relatives.

(B) 20 percent or more of the interests are held by an individual who acquired title from a relative, whether living or deceased.

(C) 20 percent or more of the co-tenants are relatives.

TITLE VIII—FORESTRY

Subtitle A—Cooperative Forestry Assistance Act of 1978

SEC. 8101. SUPPORT FOR STATE ASSESSMENTS AND STRATEGIES FOR FOREST RESOURCES.

Section 2A(f) of the Cooperative Forestry Assistance Act of 1978 (16 U.S.C. 2101a(f)) is amended—

(1) in paragraph (1), by striking ''2023'' and inserting ''2031''; and

(2) in paragraph (2), by striking ''to carry out this section,'' and all that follows through the period at the end and inserting the following: ''the Secretary may use any other funds made available under this Act to develop and implement the State-wide assessment and State-wide strategy required by subsection (a), except that the total amount of combined funding used to develop and implement such assessment and strategy may not exceed $10,000,000 in any fiscal year.''.

SEC. 8102. FOREST LEGACY PROGRAM TECHNICAL CORRECTION.

Section 7(l)(3) of the Cooperative Forestry Assistance Act of 1978 (16 U.S.C. 2103c(l)(3)) is amended—

(1) in subparagraph (A), by striking ''the State of Vermont'' and inserting ''a State''; and

(2) in subparagraph (B)(ii), in the matter preceding subclause (I), by striking ''of Vermont'' and inserting ''involved''.

SEC. 8103. STATE AND PRIVATE FOREST LANDSCAPE-SCALE RESTORATION PROGRAM.

Section 13A(l)(3) of the Cooperative Forestry Assistance Act of 1978 (16 U.S.C. 2109a(l)(3)) is amended by striking ''2023'' and inserting ''2031''.

SEC. 8104. RURAL FIRE PREVENTION AND CONTROL.

Section 10 of the Cooperative Forestry Assistance Act of 1978 (16 U.S.C 2106) is amended—

(1) in subsection (e)(2)(B), by striking ''in kind contributions.'' and inserting ''in-kind contributions. The Secretary may waive the Federal share requirements of this subparagraph with respect to any such funds made available to rural volunteer fire departments.''; and

(2) in subsection (g)(1)—

(A) by striking ''any organized, not for profit, fire protection organization'' and inserting ''any fire protection organization that is organized as a not for profit organization or by the authority of a local government and'';

(B) by striking ''10,000'' and inserting ''15,000''; and

(C) by striking ''80'' and inserting ''70''.

Subtitle B—Healthy Forests Restoration Act of 2003

SEC. 8201. PROMOTING CROSS-BOUNDARY WILDFIRE MITIGATION.

Section 103(e)(5) of the Healthy Forests Restoration Act of 2003 (16 U.S.C. 6513(e)(5)) is amended by striking ''2023'' and inserting ''2031''.

SEC. 8202. AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS FOR HAZARDOUS FUEL REDUCTION ON FEDERAL LAND.

Section 108 of the Healthy Forests Restoration Act of 2003 (16 U.S.C. 6518) is amended by striking ''2023'' and inserting ''2031''.

SEC. 8203. WATER SOURCE PROTECTION PROGRAM.

Section 303 of the Healthy Forests Restoration Act of 2003 (16 U.S.C. 6542) is amended—

(1) in subsection (a)—

(A) by redesignating paragraphs (1) through (7) as paragraphs (2) through (8), respectively;

(B) by inserting before paragraph (2), as so redesignated, the following:

''(1) ADJACENT LAND.—The term 'adjacent land' means non-Federal land, including State, local, and private land, that is adjacent to, and within the same watershed as, National Forest System land on which a watershed protection and restoration project is carried out under this section.''; and

(C) in paragraph (2), as so redesignated—

(i) by redesignating subparagraphs (G) and (H) as subparagraphs (K) and (L), respectively; and

(ii) by inserting after subparagraph (F) the following:

''(G) an acequia association;

''(H) a local, regional, or other public entity that manages stormwater or wastewater resources or other related water infrastructure;

''(I) a land-grant mercedes;

''(J) a local, regional, or other private entity that has water delivery authority;'';

(2) in subsection (b)—

(A) by striking ''The Secretary shall'' and inserting the following:

''(1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall''; and

(B) by adding at the end the following:

''(2) REQUIREMENTS.—A watershed protection and restoration project under the Program shall be designed to—

''(A) protect and restore watershed health, water supply and quality, a municipal or agricultural water supply system, and water-related infrastructure;

''(B) protect and restore forest health from insect infestation and disease or wildfire; or

''(C) advance any combination of the purposes described in subparagraphs (A) and (B).

''(3) PRIORITIES.—In selecting watershed protection and restoration projects under the Program, the Secretary shall give priority to projects that—

''(A) provide risk management benefits associated with drought; wildfire; post-wildfire conditions; extreme weather; flooding; resilience to climate change; and watershed and fire resilience, including minimizing risks to watershed health, water supply and quality, and water-related infrastructure, including municipal and agricultural water supply systems;

''(B) support aquatic restoration and conservation efforts that complement existing or planned forest restoration or wildfire risk reduction efforts; or

''(C) provide quantifiable benefits to water supply or quality and include the use of nature-based solutions, such as restoring wetland and riparian ecosystems.

''(4) CONDITIONS FOR PROJECTS ON ADJACENT LAND.—

''(A) IN GENERAL.—No project or activity may be carried out under this section on adjacent land unless the owner of the adjacent land agrees in writing that the owner is a willing and engaged partner in carrying out that project or activity.

''(B) EFFECT.—Nothing in this section shall be construed to authorize any change in—

''(i) the ownership of adjacent land on which a project or activity is carried out under this section; or

''(ii) the management of adjacent land on which a project or activity is carried out under this section, except during the carrying out of that project or activity.'';

(3) in subsection (c)—

(A) in paragraph (1), by striking ''watersheds that provide water to the end water users'' and inserting ''watersheds, and lands adjacent to any such watershed, that provide water—

''(A) to the end water users subject to the agreement; or

''(B) for the benefit of another end water user.'';

(B) in paragraph (2)—

(i) in subparagraph (C), by striking ''or'' at the end;

(ii) by redesignating subparagraph (D) as subparagraph (E); and

(iii) by inserting after subparagraph (C) the following:

''(D) a good neighbor agreement entered into under section 8206 of the Agricultural Act of 2014 (16 U.S.C. 2113a); or''; and

(C) by adding at the end the following:

''(3) COOPERATION WITH NON-FEDERAL PARTNERS.—The Secretary shall cooperate with non-Federal partners in carrying out assessments, planning, project design, and project implementation under this section.'';

(4) in subsection (d)—

(A) by amending paragraph (2) to read as follows:

''(2) REQUIREMENTS.—A water source management plan shall be—

''(A) designed to protect and restore ecological integrity (as defined in section 219.19 of title 36, Code of Federal Regulations (as in effect on the date of enactment of this subparagraph));

''(B) based on the best available scientific information; and

''(C) conducted in a manner consistent with the forest plan applicable to the National Forest System land on which the watershed protection and restoration project is carried out.''; and

(B) by adding at the end the following:

''(4) REDUCING REDUNDANCY.—An existing watershed plan, such as a watershed protection and restoration action plan developed under section 304(a)(3), or other applicable watershed planning documents as approved by the Secretary may be used as the basis for a water source management plan under this subsection.'';

(5) in subsection (e)(1), by striking ''primary purpose of'' and all that follows through the period at the end and inserting ''primary purpose of advancing any of the purposes described in subsection (b)(2).'';

(6) in subsection (g), by amending paragraph (2) to read as follows:

''(2) MATCHING FUNDS REQUIRED.—

''(A) IN GENERAL.—Subject to subparagraph (B), the Secretary shall require the contribution of funds or in-kind support from non-Federal partners to be in an amount that is not less than 50 percent of the amount of Federal funds.

''(B) WAIVER.—The requirement in subparagraph (A) may be waived at the discretion of the Secretary.''; and

(7) in subsection (g)(4)—

(A) in subparagraph (B), by striking ''2019 through 2023'' and inserting ''2027 through 2031''; and

(B) by adding at the end the following:

''(D) SET-ASIDE FOR PARTNER PARTICIPATION IN PLANNING AND TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE.—Of the amounts made available under subparagraph (B) to carry out this section for each fiscal year, the Secretary may not use more than 10 percent for non-Federal partner planning and technical assistance efforts in developing or implementing a water source management plan under subsection (d).''.

SEC. 8204. WATERSHED CONDITION FRAMEWORK TECHNICAL CORRECTIONS.

Section 304(a) of the Healthy Forests Restoration Act of 2003 (16 U.S.C. 6543(a)) is amended in paragraphs (3) and (5) by striking ''protection and''.

SEC. 8205. AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS TO COMBAT INSECT INFESTATIONS AND RELATED DISEASES.

Section 406 of the Healthy Forests Restoration Act of 2003 (16 U.S.C. 6556) is amended by striking ''October 1, 2023'' and inserting ''October 1, 2031''.

SEC. 8206. INSECT AND DISEASE INFESTATION.

Section 602(d)(2) of the Healthy Forests Restoration Act of 2003 (16 U.S.C. 6591a(d)(2)) is amended by striking ''2023'' and inserting ''2031''.

SEC. 8207. STEWARDSHIP END RESULT CONTRACTING PROJECTS.

Section 604 of the Healthy Forests Restoration Act of 2003 (16 U.S.C. 6591c) is amended—

(1) in subsection (b), by inserting '', including retaining and expanding existing forest products infrastructure necessary to carry out an agreement or contract under this subsection'' before the period at the end;

(2) in subsection (d)(3)(B), by striking ''10 years'' and inserting ''20 years''; and

(3) in subsection (h), by adding at the end the following:

''(4) SPECIAL RULE FOR LONG-TERM STEWARDSHIP CONTRACTS.—

''(A) DEFINITION OF MULTIYEAR CONTRACT.—In this paragraph, the term 'multiyear contract' means a contract entered into under subsection (b) that—

''(i) has a term of at least 5 years; and

''(ii) is entered into on or after the date of enactment of this paragraph.

''(B) SPECIAL RULE.—A multiyear contract entered into under subsection (b) by the Chief or the Director with an entity shall provide that, in the case of cancellation or termination of the multiyear contract by the Chief or the Director, the Chief or the Director, as applicable, shall provide to the entity a cancellation or termination payment equal to the lesser of—

''(i) an amount equal to 10 percent of the multiyear contract; or

''(ii) the amount of unrecovered costs that would have been recouped through amortization over the full term of the contract (including the term canceled).''.

Subtitle C—Other Forestry Programs

SEC. 8301. NATIONAL AND REGIONAL AGROFORESTRY CENTERS.

Section 1243 of the Food, Agriculture, Conservation, and Trade Act of 1990 (16 U.S.C. 1642 note; Public Law 101–624) is amended—

*(1) by striking the section heading and inserting ''**NATIONAL AND REGIONAL AGROFORESTRY CENTERS**'';*

(2) by redesignating subsections (a), (b), (c), and (d) as subsections (b), (d), (e), and (h), respectively;

(3) by inserting before subsection (b) (as so redesignated) the following:

''(a) DEFINITION OF AGROFORESTRY.—In this section, the term 'agroforestry' means a management system that intentionally integrates trees and shrubs into crop and animal farming systems to build more profitable and weather-resilient farms, ranches, and communities, address natural resource concerns and conservation needs, and establish productive and sustainable land use practices, including—

''(1) riparian forest buffers;

''(2) alley cropping;

''(3) silvopasture;

''(4) forest farming and multistory cropping; and

''(5) windbreaks, shelterbelts, hedgerows, and, where applicable, field borders, and living snow fences.'';

(4) in subsection (b) (as so redesignated)—

(A) in the subsection heading, by striking ''SEMIARID'' and inserting ''NATIONAL'';

(B) by inserting ''(referred to in this section as the 'Secretary')'' after ''Secretary of Agriculture'';

(C) by striking ''Semiarid Agroforestry Research, Development, and Demonstration Center (hereafter referred to in this section as the 'Center')'' and inserting ''National Agroforestry Research, Development, and Demonstration Center''; and

(D) by striking ''at the Center under subsection (b)'' and inserting ''under subsection (d)'';

(5) by inserting after subsection (b) (as so redesignated) the following:

''(c) REGIONAL AGROFORESTRY CENTERS.—

''(1) ESTABLISHMENT.—The Secretary, acting through the Chief of the Forest Service and in cooperation with the Natural Resources Conservation Service, shall, subject to the availability of appropriations, establish 1 or more regional agroforestry centers to advance agroforestry research, outreach, technical assistance, and adoption.

''(2) DIRECTOR.—The Secretary, acting through the Chief of the Forest Service and in cooperation with the Natural Resources Conservation Service, shall appoint a Director to manage and coordinate the 1 or more regional agroforestry centers established under paragraph (1).

''(3) LOCATION.—In selecting the locations for the 1 or more regional agroforestry centers under paragraph (1), the Secretary shall prioritize locations at which the Department of Agriculture has, on the date of enactment of the Farm, Food, and National Security Act of 2026, at least 1 employee providing coordination among a diverse group of research institutions and other partners.

''(4) ADMINISTRATION.—Regional agroforestry centers established under paragraph (1) shall by administered by the National Agroforestry Center.'';

(6) in subsection (d) (as so redesignated)—

(A) in the matter preceding paragraph (1)—

(i) by striking ''the Center'' and inserting ''each of the centers established under subsections (b) and (c) (referred to in this section as the 'Centers')'';

(ii) by inserting ''and organizations'' after ''nonprofit foundations''; and

(iii) by inserting ''demonstration projects,'' after ''studies,'';

(B) in paragraph (1)—

(i) by striking ''on semiarid lands that'' and inserting ''that build soil health and''; and

(ii) by inserting '', including agroforestry systems on semiarid land and other fragile agroecosystems where permanent woody perennial plant communities can enhance carbon sequestration and reduce greenhouse gas emissions'' before the semicolon;

(C) in paragraph (3), by striking ''forestry products for commercial sale from semiarid land'' and inserting ''agroforestry products for commercial sale'';

(D) in paragraph (4)—

(i) by striking ''in semiarid regions''; and

(ii) by striking ''the Great Plains region'' and inserting ''particular regions'';

(E) in paragraph (5), by inserting ''technical assistance, demonstration projects, and'' before ''technology'';

(F) by redesignating paragraphs (7) through (11) as paragraphs (8) through (12), respectively;

(G) by striking paragraph (6) and inserting the following:

''(6) develop improved silvopasture, alley cropping, forest farming, multistory cropping, riparian buffer, windbreak and shelterbelt, and other perennial production and conservation systems and technologies to improve soil health, carbon sequestration, drought preparedness, soil and water conservation, environmental quality, and biological diversity;

''(7) address barriers to the adoption of agroforestry practices, including—

''(A) insufficient access to plant material;

''(B) insufficient infrastructure to contain equipment and plant material;

''(C) insufficient machinery to implement agroforestry practices;

''(D) insufficient technical service assistance; and

''(E) insufficient research related to agroforestry systems, including silvopasture and alley cropping;'';

(H) in paragraph (8) (as so redesignated), by striking ''on semiarid lands'';

(I) in paragraph (9) (as so redesignated), by striking ''on semiarid lands worldwide'' and inserting ''worldwide, including on semiarid land''; and

(J) in paragraph (10) (as so redesignated)—

(i) by striking ''on semiarid lands''; and

(ii) by inserting ''and extreme weather'' after ''pollution'';

(7) in subsection (e) (as so redesignated)—

(A) in the matter preceding paragraph (1) by striking ''the Center'' and inserting ''each of the Centers'';

(B) in paragraph (1), by striking ''and'' at the end;

(C) in paragraph (2)—

(i) by striking ''forestry'' and inserting ''forestry, agroforestry,''; and

(ii) by striking the period at the end and inserting ''; and''; and

(D) by adding at the end the following:

''(3) facilitate agroforestry adoption by disseminating comprehensive information on Federal, State, local, and Tribal programs that provide support for agroforestry.'';

(8) by inserting after subsection (e) (as so redesignated) the following:

''(f) REGIONAL SUPPORT.—The Secretary shall provide targeted regional support for agroforestry projects, including demonstration sites.

''(g) SURVEY.—Not later than 5 years after the date of the enactment of the Farm, Food, and National Security Act of 2026 and every 5 years thereafter, the Secretary shall conduct a National Agroforestry Producers Survey.''; and

(9) in subsection (h) (as so redesignated)—

(A) by striking ''There are'' and inserting ''In addition to amounts otherwise available, there is''; and

(B) by striking ''$5,000,000 for each of fiscal years 2019 through 2023'' and inserting ''$7,000,000 for each of fiscal years 2027 through 2031''.

SEC. 8302. NATIONAL FOREST FOUNDATION ACT.

(a) MATCHING FUNDS.—Section 405(b) of the National Forest Foundation Act (16 U.S.C. 583j–3(b)) is amended by striking ''2023'' and inserting ''2031''.

(b) WHITE OAK RESTORATION FUND.—Section 409 of the National Forest Foundation Act (16 U.S.C. 583j–7) is amended—

(1) by striking ''The activities'' and inserting the following:

''(a) IN GENERAL.—The activities''; and

(2) by adding at the end the following:

''(b) WHITE OAK RESTORATION FUND.—

''(1) IN GENERAL.—Funds described in paragraph (2) shall be made available for activities—

''(A) on national forests that are approved by the Secretary, acting through the Chief of the Forest Service; and

''(B) to—

''(i) re-establish white oak forests where appropriate;

''(ii) improve management of existing white oak forests to foster natural regeneration of white oak;

''(iii) improve and expand white oak nursery stock; and

''(iv) adapt and improve white oak seedlings.

''(2) FUND.—The National Forest Foundation may accept gifts, devises, or bequests for the purposes of carrying out the activities specified in paragraph (1).

''(3) SUMMARY.—Beginning 1 year after the date of the enactment of this section, the National Forest Foundation shall include in the budget justification materials submitted to Congress in support of the budget of each such Foundation for each fiscal year (as submitted with the budget of the President under section 1105(a) of title 31, United States Code) a summary of the activities carried out under paragraph (1) and the funds accepted under paragraph (2) that includes—

''(A) the amount—

''(i) accepted under paragraph (2) in the preceding fiscal year; and

''(ii) described in clause (i) that is unobligated on the date of the report; and

''(B) a description of the activities under paragraph (1) funded during the preceding fiscal year.''.

(c) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—Section 410(b) of the National Forest Foundation Act (16 U.S.C. 583j-8(b)) is amended by striking ''2023'' and inserting ''2031''.

SEC. 8303. CONVEYANCES AND LEASES OF FOREST SERVICE ADMINISTRATIVE SITES.

(a) CONVEYANCE OF FOREST SERVICE ADMINISTRATIVE SITES.—Section 503(f) of the Forest Service Facility Realignment and Enhancement Act of 2005 (16 U.S.C. 580d note; Public Law 109–54) is amended by striking ''September 30, 2019'' and inserting ''September 30, 2031''.

(b) AUTHORIZATION FOR LEASE OF FOREST SERVICE SITES.—Section 8623(i) of the Agriculture Improvement Act of 2018 (16 U.S.C. 580d note; Public Law 115–334) is amended by striking ''2023'' each place it appears and inserting ''2031''.

SEC. 8304. FOREST INVENTORY AND ANALYSIS.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Section 3(e) of the Forest and Rangeland Renewable Resources Research Act of 1978 (16 U.S.C. 1642(e)) is amended—

(1) in paragraph (1)—

(A) by striking ''their resources'' and inserting ''the resources of those forests, including forest carbon,'';

(B) by striking ''In compliance'' and inserting the following:

''(A) IN GENERAL.—In compliance''; and

(C) by adding at the end the following:

''(B) ADDITIONAL METHODS.—Under the program under this subsection, the Secretary shall carry out, as a data collection method—

''(i) a national timber products output survey; and

''(ii) a national woodland owner survey.'';

(2) in paragraph (3)(C), by inserting ''including with respect to available forest carbon data,'' after ''2 decades,'';

(3) in paragraph (4)—

(A) in the second sentence, by striking ''The standards'' and inserting the following:

''(B) INCLUSIONS.—The standards described in subparagraph (A)'';

(B) by striking ''(4) NATIONAL STANDARDS AND DEFINITIONS.—To ensure'' and inserting the following:

''(4) NATIONAL CONSISTENCY.—

''(A) STANDARDS AND DEFINITIONS.—To ensure''; and

(C) by adding at the end the following:

''(C) TERMINOLOGY.—The Secretary shall include a clear description of the definition of 'forest' used for purposes of reporting data from inventories and analyses of forests and the resources of forests under this subsection with—

''(i) any data or report provided under the program under this subsection;

''(ii) Renewable Resource Assessments prepared under section 3(a) of the Forest and Rangeland Renewable Resources Planning Act of 1974 (16 U.S.C. 1601(a)); and

''(iii) any data or report provided to an entity outside the United States.'';

(4) in paragraph (6)—

(A) in the matter preceding subparagraph (A), by striking ''Not later than 180 days after the date of enactment of this subsection,'' and inserting ''In accordance with paragraph (7),''; and

(B) by striking subparagraphs (D) and (E) and inserting the following:

''(D) the organization and procedures necessary to understand and report on changes in land cover and use;

''(E) the organization and procedures necessary to sample and evaluate carbon-related data variables, including soil carbon, collected from forest inventory and analysis plots, timber products output surveys, and national woodland owner surveys to ensure that carbon accounting information needs can be met; and''; and

(5) by adding at the end the following:

''(7) UPDATES TO STRATEGIC PLAN.—

''(A) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 180 days after the date of enactment of this paragraph, the Secretary shall prepare an update to the strategic plan under paragraph (6) to include—

''(i) a plan to implement nationally consistent data collection protocols and procedures to improve the statistical precision of base program estimates;

''(ii) pathways to integrate and report on status and trends in forest carbon pools, including below-ground carbon;

''(iii) plans, including the identification of challenges, to collaborate with other Federal agencies, non-Federal partners, and the private sector to integrate existing nationally available data sets and best available commercial technologies, such as remote sensing, spatial analysis techniques, and other new technologies;

''(iv) a plan to increase transparency and clarity in reporting in accordance with paragraph (4)(C);

''(v) a plan to expand current data collection, further integrate remote sensing technology, or both, to include procedures to improve the statistical precision of estimates at the sub-State level;

''(vi) a plan to expand current data collection, further integrate remote sensing technology, or both, to include information on renewable biomass supplies and carbon stocks at the local, State, regional, and national levels, including by ownership type; and

''(vii) such other matters as the Secretary determines to be appropriate based on recommendations of the Forest Inventory and Analysis National User Group.

''(B) SUBMISSION.—Not later than 180 days after the date of enactment of this paragraph, the Secretary shall submit to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry of the Senate and the Committee on Agriculture of the House of Representatives the update to the strategic plan prepared under subparagraph (A).

''(C) FURTHER UPDATES.—Not later than 5 years after the date on which the update is submitted under subparagraph (B), and every 5 years thereafter, the Secretary shall—

''(i) prepare an additional update to the strategic plan; and

''(ii) submit the additional update to the committees described in subparagraph (B).

''(8) ACCESSIBILITY.—The Secretary shall ensure that data collected under this subsection is—

''(A) easily accessible to all public- and private-sector entities; and

''(B) collected and made accessible using means that ensure the confidentiality, in accordance with section 1770 of the Food Security Act of 1985 (7 U.S.C. 2276), of—

''(i) plot locations;

''(ii) nonaggregated data of woodland owners; and

''(iii) nonaggregated data from timber product output survey.

''(9) BIENNIAL COMPILATIONS.—Biennially, the Secretary shall prepare and make publicly available a compilation of national forest inventory and analysis forest statistics, which shall be similar to the tables contained in the Renewable Resource Assessments prepared under section 3(a) of the Forest and Rangeland Renewable Resources Planning Act of 1974 (16 U.S.C. 1601(a)), accompanied by relevant geospatial products.

''(10) EXTERNAL COMPLEX DATA REQUESTS.—

''(A) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall establish an office, a data platform, or team to process and respond to complex data requests submitted by external organizations relating to the program under this subsection.

''(B) FEES.—

''(i) IN GENERAL.—To cover the costs of processing of and responding to complex data requests described in subparagraph (A), the Secretary may impose fees on external organizations submitting the requests.

''(ii) FEES COLLECTED.—Fees collected under clause (i) may only be used for the purposes described in such clause.

''(11) REPORTS.—Each year, the Secretary shall publish as part of the forest inventory and analysis business report a detailed description of the progress of the Secretary in implementing the programmatic elements of the strategic plan described in paragraph (6), including—

''(A) the costs and priorities of the strategic plan; and

''(B) how the program under this subsection leverages new technology, improves and standardizes collection protocols, and increases workforce capacity.''.

(b) REMOTE SENSING TECHNOLOGIES.—Section 8632(1) of the Agriculture Improvement Act of 2018 (16 U.S.C. 1642 note; Public Law 115–334) is amended by striking ''technologies'' and inserting ''technologies, such as microwave, LiDAR, hyperspectral, and high-resolution remote sensing data, and advanced computing technologies for improved modeling to provide tabular statistical estimates and geospatial products,''.

SEC. 8305. REFORESTATION, NURSERY, AND SEED ORCHARD SUPPORT.

(a) PARTNERSHIPS, COLLABORATION, AND OTHER ASSISTANCE IN SUPPORT OF NURSERIES AND SEED ORCHARDS.—The Secretary, acting through the Chief of the Forest Service, shall—

(1) partner with Federal and State agencies, Indian Tribes, private nurseries, and other relevant entities to provide training, technical assistance, and research to nursery and tree establishment programs that support natural regeneration, reforestation, agroforestry, and afforestation;

(2) promote information sharing to improve the technical knowledge, practices, and understanding of the demands, climate change impacts, and other issues necessary to address all facets of the reforestation pipeline;

(3) provide technical and financial assistance to international nursery and tree establishment programs through—

(A) international programs conducted by the Forest Service pursuant to the International Forestry Cooperation Act of 1990 (16 U.S.C. 4501 et seq.);

(B) the Institute of Pacific Islands Forestry of the Forest Service; and

(C) the International Institute of Tropical Forestry of the Forest Service;

(4) collaborate with other relevant Federal departments and agencies, including the Foreign Agricultural Service of the Department, the United States Fish and Wildlife Service of the Department of the Interior, and international organizations to provide technical and financial assistance related to nurseries and reforestation;

(5) coordinate the efforts of the Department to—

(A) address the challenges associated with the reforestation pipeline; and

(B) leverage economic development assistance for work with private nurseries; and

(6) expand science-based reforestation supply chains through research, seed collection and storage, and nursery infrastructure and operations in coordination with the Administrator of the Agricultural Research Service.

(b) NURSERY AND SEED ORCHARD FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 2 years after the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary shall establish a program to provide grants to eligible recipients to support nurseries and seed orchards.

(2) ELIGIBLE PROJECTS.—The Secretary may make a grant under this subsection to an eligible recipient for a project to carry out at least one of the following:

(A) Develop, expand, enhance, or improve nursery production capacity or other infrastructure to—

(i) improve seed collection, processing, and storage;

(ii) increase seedling production, storage, and distribution; or

(iii) enhance seedling survival and properly manage tree genetic resources.

(B) Establish, improve, or expand a nursery or seed orchard, including by acquiring equipment for such nursery or seed orchard.

(C) Develop or implement quality control measures at nurseries or seed orchards.

(D) Promote workforce development within any facet of the reforestation pipeline.

(E) Carry out such other activity as the Secretary determines appropriate.

(c) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

(1) ELIGIBLE RECIPIENT.—The term ''eligible recipient'' means—

(A) a State forestry agency;

(B) an Indian Tribe;

(C) a private nursery that has experience growing high-quality native trees of appropriate genetic sources in bareroot or container stock types specific for reforestation, restoration, or conservation, including native plants and seeds that are of cultural significance to Indian Tribes;

(D) an institution of higher education (as defined in section 101 of the Higher Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 1001)); and

(E) a county or local government with a nursery or seed orchard.

(2) NURSERY.—The term ''nursery'' means a tree or native plant nursery.

(3) SEED ORCHARD.—The term ''seed orchard'' means a tree or native plant seed orchard.

(4) STATE.—The term ''State'' means each of the several States, the District of Columbia, the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico, and any territory or possession of the United States.

(d) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There is authorized to be appropriated to carry out this section $5,000,000 for each of fiscal years 2027 through 2031.

Subtitle D—Forest Management

PART I—NATIONAL FOREST SYSTEM MANAGEMENT

SEC. 8401. CATEGORICAL EXCLUSION FOR HIGH PRIORITY HAZARD TREES.

(a) CATEGORICAL EXCLUSION.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 1 year after the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary shall develop a categorical exclusion (as defined in section 111 of the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (42 U.S.C. 4336e)) for high-priority hazard tree activities.

(2) ADMINISTRATION.—In developing and administering the categorical exclusion under paragraph (1), the Secretary shall—

(A) comply with the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (42 U.S.C. 4321 et seq.); and

(B) apply the extraordinary circumstances procedures under section 220.6 of title 36, Code of Federal Regulations (or successor regulations), in determining whether to use the categorical exclusion.

(3) PROJECT SIZE LIMITATION.—A project carried out using the categorical exclusion developed under paragraph (1) may not exceed 6,000 acres.

(b) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

(1) HIGH-PRIORITY HAZARD TREE.—The term ''high-priority hazard tree'' means a standing tree that—

(A) presents a visible hazard to people or property due to conditions such as deterioration of, or damage to, the root system, trunk, stem, or limbs of the tree, or the direction or lean of the tree, as determined by the Secretary;

(B) is determined by the Secretary to be highly likely to fail and, on failure, would be highly likely to cause injury to people or damage to Federal property; and

(C) is located—

(i) within 300 feet of a National Forest System road with a maintenance level of 3, 4, or 5;

(ii) along a National Forest System trail; or

(iii) in a developed recreation site—

(I) that is operated and maintained by the Secretary; and

(II) on National Forest System land.

(2) HIGH-PRIORITY HAZARD TREE ACTIVITY.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—The term ''high-priority hazard tree activity'' means a forest management activity that mitigates the risks associated with high-priority hazard trees, including pruning, felling, and disposal of a high-priority hazard tree.

(B) EXCLUSIONS.—The term ''high-priority hazard tree activity'' does not include any activity—

(i) conducted in a wilderness area or wilderness study area;

(ii) for the construction of a permanent road or permanent trail;

(iii) conducted on Federal land on which, by Act of Congress or Presidential proclamation, the removal of vegetation is restricted or prohibited;

(iv) conducted in an area in which activities described in subparagraph (A) would be inconsistent with the applicable land and resource management plan; or

(v) conducted in an inventoried roadless area.

SEC. 8402. COLLABORATIVE RESTORATION PROJECTS.

Section 603(c)(1) of the Healthy Forests Restoration Act of 2003 (16 U.S.C. 6591b(c)(1)) is amended by striking ''3000 acres'' and inserting ''10,000 acres''.

SEC. 8403. WILDFIRE RESILIENCE PROJECT SIZE.

Section 605(c)(1) of the Healthy Forests Restoration Act of 2003 (16 U.S.C. 6591d(c)(1)) is amended by striking ''3000 acres'' and inserting ''10,000 acres''.

SEC. 8404. FUEL BREAKS IN FORESTS AND OTHER WILDLAND VEGETATION.

Section 40806(d)(1) of the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (16 U.S.C. 6592b(d)(1)) is amended by striking ''3,000 acres'' and inserting ''10,000 acres''.

SEC. 8405. GREATER SAGE-GROUSE AND MULE DEER HABITAT.

Section 606 of the Healthy Forests Restoration Act of 2003 (16 U.S.C. 6591e) is amended—

(1) in subsection (a)(1)(A)—

(A) by striking clause (ii);

(B) by redesignating clauses (iii) through (vii) as clauses (ii) through (vi), respectively; and

(C) in clause (iii), as so redesignated, by striking ''in a sagebrush steppe ecosystem'';

(2) in subsection (c), by striking ''concurrently for both greater sage-grouse and'' and inserting ''for greater sage-grouse or''; and

(3) by amending subsection (g) to read as follows:

''(g) LIMITATION.—A covered vegetation management activity that is covered by the categorical exclusion under subsection (b) may not exceed 4,500 acres in a forested ecosystem or 7,500 acres in a rangeland ecosystem.''.

SEC. 8406. CATEGORICAL EXCLUSION FOR ELECTRIC UTILITY LINES RIGHTS-OF-WAY.

(a) CATEGORICAL EXCLUSION ESTABLISHED.—Forest management activities described in subsection (b) are a category of activities designated as being categorically excluded from the preparation of an environmental assessment or an environmental impact statement under section 102 of the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (42 U.S.C. 4332).

(b) FOREST MANAGEMENT ACTIVITIES DESIGNATED FOR CATEGORICAL EXCLUSION.—The forest management activities designated as being categorically excluded under subsection (a) are—

(1) the development and approval of a vegetation management, facility inspection, and operation and maintenance plan submitted under section 512(c)(1) of the Federal Land Policy and Management Act of 1976 (43 U.S.C. 1772(c)(1)) to the Secretary; and

(2) the implementation of routine activities conducted under the plan referred to in paragraph (1).

(c) AVAILABILITY OF CATEGORICAL EXCLUSION.—On and after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary may use the categorical exclusion established under subsection (a) in accordance with this section.

(d) EXCLUSION OF CERTAIN AREAS.—The categorical exclusion established under subsection (a) shall not apply to any forest management activity conducted—

(1) in a component of the National Wilderness Preservation System; or

(2) on National Forest System lands on which, by Act of Congress, the removal of vegetation is restricted or prohibited.

(e) PERMANENT ROADS.—

(1) PROHIBITION ON ESTABLISHMENT.—A forest management activity designated under subsection (b) shall not include the establishment of a permanent road.

(2) EXISTING ROADS.—The Secretary may carry out necessary maintenance and repair on an existing permanent road for the purposes of conducting a forest management activity designated under subsection (b).

(3) TEMPORARY ROADS.—The Secretary shall decommission any temporary road constructed for a forest management activity designated under subsection (b) not later than 3 years after the date on which the action is completed.

(f) APPLICABLE LAW.—A forest management activity designated under subsection (b) shall not be subject to section 7 of the Endangered Species Act of 1973 (16 U.S.C. 1536) or section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act.

SEC. 8407. FOREST MANAGEMENT ACTIVITIES ON NATIONAL FOREST SYSTEM LANDS.

(a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary may conduct forest management activities on National Forest System land.

(b) COORDINATION.—In carrying out forest management activities, the Secretary shall, as appropriate, coordinate with impacted parties to increase efficiency and maximize the compatibility of management practices across National Forest System lands.

(c) OBJECTIVES.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall conduct forest management activities on National Forest System land in a manner that attains multiple ecosystem benefits, including.—

(A) reducing forest fuels;

(B) maintaining the diversity of plant and animal communities;

(C) improving soil, streams, lakes, wetlands, and water quality, including in riparian areas; and

(D) increasing resilience to changing water temperature and precipitation regimes.

(d) GROUND DISTURBANCE.—Consistent with applicable Federal law and any applicable forest plan, the Secretary shall—

(1) establish criteria for ground conditions following a forest management activity carried out under a forest plan that results in ground disturbances; and

(2) monitor such ground conditions to determine whether desired outcomes or conditions are achieved.

(e) AVAILABILITY OF CATEGORICAL EXCLUSION FOR CERTAIN FOREST MANAGEMENT ACTIVITIES.—A forest management activity conducted on National Forest System land for the purpose of reducing forest fuels is categorically excluded from the requirements of the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (42 U.S.C. 4321 et seq.) if the forest management activity—

(1) does not exceed 10,000 acres, including not more than 3,000 acres of mechanical thinning;

(2) is developed—

(A) in coordination with impacted parties, specifically including representatives of local governments, such as county supervisors or county commissioners; and

(B) in consultation with other entities, as determined by the Secretary/any other entity determined relevant by the Secretary; and

(3) is consistent with any applicable forest plan.

(f) COOPERATIVE AUTHORITIES.—The Secretary may enter into contracts and cooperative agreements with an impacted party to provide for fuel reduction, soil restoration, erosion control, reforestation, riparian restoration, revegetation, and similar management activities on Federal land and non-Federal land.

(g) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

(1) FOREST MANAGEMENT ACTIVITY.—The term ''forest management activity'' means a project or activity that is carried out by the Secretary on National Forest System land and is consistent with any applicable forest plan.

(2) FOREST PLAN.—The term ''forest plan'' means a land and resource management plan under section 6 of the Forest and Rangeland Renewable Resources Planning Act of 1974 (16 U.S.C. 1406).

(3) IMPACTED PARTIES.—The term ''impacted parties'' includes—

(A) State, local, and Tribal governments;

(B) local fire departments;

(C) other relevant volunteer groups.

(4) NATIONAL FOREST SYSTEM.—The term ''National Forest System'' has the meaning given that term in section 11(a) of the Forest and Rangeland Renewable Resources Planning Act of 1974 (16 U.S.C. 1609(a)).

SEC. 8408. SUPPRESSION OF WILDFIRES.

(a) IN GENERAL.—With respect to National Forest System lands described in subsection (b), the Secretary, acting through the Chief of the Forest Service—

(1) shall—

(A) use available resources to carry out wildfire suppression with the purpose of containing wildfires detected on such lands not later than 24 hours after such a wildfire is detected; and

(B) carry out wildfire suppression under subparagraph (A) in a manner that is consistent with interagency agreements and applicable standards of firefighter safety;

(2) shall not inhibit the suppression efforts of State or local firefighting agencies that are authorized to respond to wildfire on such lands;

(3) may only use fire as a resource management tool if the fire is a prescribed fire that complies with applicable law and regulations;

(4) may only initiate a backfire or burnout during a wildfire—

(A) by order of the responsible incident commander, in consultation with the appropriate Forest Service line officer; or

(B) in instances that are necessary to protect the health and safety of firefighting personnel;

(5) shall use available resources to control any such initiated backfire or burnout until contained;

(6) shall use available resources, including infrared technologies, to ensure prescribed fires are contained; and

(7) shall update the prescribed fire policies of the Forest Service to reflect the findings and recommendations included in the report entitled ''National Prescribed Fire Program Review'' published in September 2022 by the Forest Service.

(b) LIMITATIONS ON SCOPE.—For purposes of subsection (a), the National Forest System lands described in this subsection are National Forest System lands that—

(1) the National Interagency Fire Center has established as a National Wildland Fire Preparedness Level of 5;

(2) contain areas that the U.S. Drought Monitor has rated as having a D2 (severe drought) intensity, D3 (extreme drought) intensity, or D4 (exceptional drought) intensity; or

(3) the Secretary, acting through the Chief of the Forest Service, has identified as being located in a fireshed ranked in the top 10 percent of wildfire exposure, as determined using the most recent published models of fireshed risk exposure published by the Forest Service.

(c) NATIONAL FOREST SYSTEM DEFINED.—In this section, the term ''National Forest System'' has the meaning given such term in section 11(a) of the Forest and Rangeland Renewable Resources Planning Act of 1974 (16 U.S.C. 1609(a)).

PART II—FOREST MANAGEMENT ACTIVITIES

SEC. 8411. NO ADDITIONAL CONSULTATION REQUIRED.

(a) FOREST SERVICE PLANS.—Section 6(d)(2) of the Forest and Rangeland Renewable Resources Planning Act of 1974 (16 U.S.C. 1604(d)(2)) is amended to read as follows:

''(2) NO ADDITIONAL CONSULTATION REQUIRED UNDER CERTAIN CIRCUMSTANCES.—Notwithstanding any other provision of law, the Secretary shall not be required to reinitiate consultation under section 7(a)(2) of the Endangered Species Act of 1973 (16 U.S.C. 1536(a)(2)) or section 402.16 of title 50, Code of Federal Regulations (or a successor regulation), on a land management plan approved, amended, or revised under this section when—

''(A) a new species is listed or critical habitat is designated under the Endangered Species Act of 1973 (16 U.S.C. 1531 et seq.); or

''(B) new information reveals effects of the land management plan that may affect a species listed or critical habitat designated under that Act in a manner or to an extent not previously considered.''.

(b) BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT PLANS.—Section 202 of the Federal Land Policy and Management Act of 1976 (43 U.S.C. 1712) is amended by adding at the end the following:

''(g) NO ADDITIONAL CONSULTATION REQUIRED UNDER CERTAIN CIRCUMSTANCES.—Notwithstanding any other provision of law, the Secretary shall not be required to reinitiate consultation under section 7(a)(2) of the Endangered Species Act of 1973 (16 U.S.C. 1536(a)(2)) or section 402.16 of title 50, Code of Federal Regulations (or a successor regulation), on a land use plan approved, amended, or revised under this section when—

''(1) a new species is listed or critical habitat is designated under the Endangered Species Act of 1973 (16 U.S.C. 1531 et seq.); or

''(2) new information reveals effects of the land use plan that may affect a species listed or critical habitat designated under that Act in a manner or to an extent not previously considered.''.

SEC. 8412. GOOD NEIGHBOR AUTHORITY.

(a) GOOD NEIGHBOR AUTHORITY.—Section 8206 of the Agricultural Act of 2014 (16 U.S.C. 2113a) is amended—

(1) in subsection (a)(6), by striking ''or Indian tribe'';

(2) in subsection (a), by adding at the end the following:

''(11) SPECIAL DISTRICT.—The term 'special district' means a political subdivision of a State that—

''(A) has significant budgetary autonomy or control;

''(B) was created by or pursuant to the laws of the State for the purpose of performing a limited and specific governmental or proprietary function; and

''(C) is distinct from any other local government unit within the State.'';

(3) in subsection (b)—

(A) in paragraph (1)(A), by inserting '', Indian Tribe, special district,'' after ''Governor'';

(B) in paragraph (2)(C)—

(i) in clause (i)—

(I) by inserting ''special district,'' after ''Indian Tribe,'' each place it appears;

(II) in subclause (I)—

(aa) by striking ''on''; and

(bb) by striking ''; and'' and inserting a semicolon;

(III) in subclause (II)(bb), by striking the period at the end and inserting a semicolon; and

(IV) by adding at the end the following:

''(III) to construct new permanent roads on Federal lands that are—

''(aa) necessary to implement authorized restoration activities; and

''(bb) approved by the Federal agency through environmental analysis or categorical exclusion decision;

''(IV) to complete new permanent road construction to replace and decommission an existing permanent road that is adversely impacting forest, rangeland, or watershed health; and

''(V) if there are funds remaining after carrying out subclauses (I) through (IV), to carry out authorized restoration services under other good neighbor agreements and for the administration of a good neighbor authority program by a Governor, Indian Tribe, special district, or county.''; and

(ii) in clause (ii), by striking ''2028'' and inserting ''2030'';

(C) in paragraph (3), by inserting '', Indian Tribe, special district,'' after ''Governor''; and

(D) by striking paragraph (4).

(b) CONFORMING AMENDMENTS.—Section 8206(a) of the Agricultural Act of 2014 (16 U.S.C. 2113a(a)) is amended—

(1) in paragraph (1)(B), by inserting '', Indian Tribe, special district,'' after ''Governor''; and

(2) in paragraph (5), by inserting '', Indian Tribe, special district,'' after ''Governor''.

(c) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendments made by this section apply to any project initiated pursuant to a good neighbor agreement (as defined in section 8206(a) of the Agricultural Act of 2014 (16 U.S.C. 2113a(a)))—

(1) before the date of enactment of this Act, if the project was initiated after the date of enactment of the Agriculture Improvement Act of 2018 (Public Law 115–334; 132 Stat. 4490); or

(2) on or after the date of enactment of this Act.

SEC. 8413. COLLABORATIVE FOREST LANDSCAPE RESTORATION PROGRAM.

Section 4003 of the Omnibus Public Land Management Act of 2009 (16 U.S.C. 7303) is amended—

(1) in subsection (b)(3)—

(A) in subparagraph (D), by inserting ''or pathogens'' after ''species'';

(B) in subparagraph (G), by striking ''and'' at the end;

(C) in subparagraph (H), by adding ''and'' after the semicolon at the end; and

(D) by adding at the end the following:

''(I) address standardized monitoring questions and indicators;'';

(2) in subsection (d)—

(A) in paragraph (2)—

(i) in subparagraph (E), by striking ''and'' at the end;

(ii) in subparagraph (F), by striking the period at the end and inserting '';''; and

(iii) by adding at the end the following:

''(G) proposals that seek to use innovative implementation mechanisms, including good neighbor agreements entered into under section 8206 of the Agricultural Act of 2014 (16 U.S.C. 2113a), and similar implementation mechanisms;

''(H) proposals that seek to reduce the risk of uncharacteristic wildfire or increase ecological restoration activities—

''(i) within areas across land ownerships, including State, Tribal, and private land; and

''(ii) within the wildland-urban interface; and

''(I) proposals that seek to enhance watershed health and drinking water sources.''; and

(B) in paragraph (3)—

(i) by amending subparagraph (A) to read as follows:

''(A) 4 proposals in any 1 region of the National Forest System to be funded during any fiscal year; and'';

(ii) by striking subparagraph (B); and

(iii) by redesignating subparagraph (C) as subparagraph (B); and

(3) in subsection (f)(6), by striking ''2019 through 2023'' and inserting ''2027 through 2031''.

SEC. 8414. PUBLIC-PRIVATE WILDFIRE TECHNOLOGY DEPLOYMENT AND TESTBED PARTNERSHIP.

(a) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

(1) APPROPRIATE COMMITTEES.—The term ''appropriate committees'' means—

(A) the Committees on Agriculture, Natural Resources, and Science, Space, and Technology of the House of Representatives; and

(B) the Committees on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry, Energy and Natural Resources, and Commerce, Science, and Transportation of the Senate.

(2) COVERED AGENCY.—The term ''covered agency'' means—

(A) the National Park Service;

(B) the United States Fish and Wildlife Service;

(C) the Bureau of Land Management;

(D) the Bureau of Reclamation;

(E) the Forest Service;

(F) the Department of Defense;

(G) the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration;

(H) the United States Fire Administration;

(I) the Federal Emergency Management Agency;

(J) the National Aeronautics and Space Administration;

(K) the Bureau of Indian Affairs; and

(L) any other Federal agency involved in wildfire response.

(3) COVERED ENTITY.—The term ''covered entity'' means—

(A) a private entity;

(B) a nonprofit organization; or

(C) an institution of higher education (as defined in section 101 of the Higher Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 1001)).

(4) PILOT PROGRAM.—The term ''Pilot Program'' means the deployment and testbed pilot program developed under subsection (b).

(5) SECRETARIES.—The term ''Secretaries'' means the Secretary of Agriculture and the Secretary of the Interior, acting jointly.

(b) DEPLOYMENT AND TESTBED PILOT PROGRAM ESTABLISHED.—Not later than 1 year after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretaries, in coordination with the heads of the covered agencies, shall establish a deployment and testbed pilot program for new and innovative wildfire prevention, detection, communication, and mitigation technologies.

(c) FUNCTIONS.—In carrying out the Pilot Program, the Secretaries shall—

(1) incorporate the Pilot Program into an existing interagency coordinating group on wildfires;

(2) in consultation with the heads of covered agencies, identify key technology priority areas with respect to the deployment of wildfire prevention, detection, communication, and mitigation technologies, including—

(A) hazardous fuels reduction treatments or activities;

(B) dispatch communications;

(C) remote sensing and tracking;

(D) safety equipment; and

(E) common operating pictures or operational dashboards; and

(3) partner with each covered entity selected to participate in the Pilot Program with the appropriate covered agency to coordinate real-time and on-the-ground testing of technology during wildland fire mitigation activities and training.

(d) APPLICATIONS.—To participate in the Pilot Program, a covered entity shall submit to the Secretaries an application at such time, in such manner, and containing such information as the Secretaries may require, which shall include a proposal to test technologies specific to key technology priority areas identified under subsection (c)(2).

(e) PRIORITIZATION OF EMERGING TECHNOLOGIES.—In selecting covered entities to participate in the Pilot Program, the Secretaries shall give priority to covered entities developing and applying emerging technologies that address issues identified by the Secretaries, including artificial intelligence, quantum sensing, computing and quantum-hybrid applications, augmented reality, and 5G private networks and device-to-device communications supporting nomadic mesh networks, for wildfire mitigation.

(f) OUTREACH.—The Secretaries, in coordination with the heads of the covered agencies, shall make publicly available the key technology priority areas identified under subsection (c)(2) and invite covered entities to apply to test and demonstrate their technologies to address those priority areas.

(g) REPORTS AND RECOMMENDATIONS.—Not later than 1 year after the date of the enactment of this Act, and each year thereafter for the duration of the Pilot Program, the Secretaries shall submit to the appropriate committees a report that includes the following with respect to the Pilot Program:

(1) A list of participating covered entities.

(2) A brief description of the technologies tested by such covered entities.

(3) An estimate of the cost of acquiring the technology tested in the program and applying it at scale.

(4) Outreach efforts by Federal agencies to covered entities developing wildfire technologies.

(5) Assessments of, and recommendations relating to, new technologies with potential adoption and application at-scale in Federal land management agencies' wildfire prevention, detection, communication, and mitigation efforts.

(h) TERMINATION.—The Pilot Program shall expire on September 30, 2031.

SEC. 8415. FOREST SERVICE PARTICIPATION IN EXPERIENCED SERVICES PROGRAM.

Section 8302 of the Agricultural Act of 2014 (16 U.S.C. 3851a) is amended—

*(1) in the section heading, by striking ''**ACES**'' and inserting ''**EXPERIENCED SERVICES**'' (and by conforming the item relating to such section in the table of sections accordingly);*

(2) in subsection (a)—

(A) by striking ''(a) IN GENERAL.—'';

(B) by striking ''Agriculture Conservation''; and

(C) by inserting '', professional, or administrative'' after ''technical''; and

(3) by striking subsection (b).

SEC. 8416. TIMBER SALES ON NATIONAL FOREST SYSTEM LAND.

Section 14 of the National Forest Management Act of 1976 (16 U.S.C. 472a) is amended—

(1) in subsection (d), by striking ''$10,000'' and inserting ''$55,000''; and

(2) by adding at the end the following:

''(j) In the event of extreme risks to a unit of National Forest System land, including catastrophic wildfire, insect and disease outbreak, wind, hurricane, flood, drought, or to avoid impacts from such extreme events, the Secretary may, without an appraisal and under such rules and regulations prescribed by the Secretary, dispose of by sale or otherwise, portions of trees or forest products located on such unit of National Forest System land.''.

SEC. 8417. PERMITS AND AGREEMENTS WITH ELECTRICAL UTILITIES.

(a) IN GENERAL.—In any special use permit or easement on National Forest System lands provided to an electric utility company (as defined in section 1262 of the Energy Policy Act of 2005 (42 U.S.C. 16451)), the Secretary may provide permission to cut and remove trees or other vegetation from within the vicinity of distribution lines or transmission lines, including hazardous vegetation that increases fire risk, without requiring a separate timber sale if that cutting and removal is consistent with the applicable land management plan.

(b) USE OF PROCEEDS.—A special use permit or easement that includes permission for the cutting and removal of trees or other vegetation described in subsection (a) shall include a requirement that, if the applicable electrical utility sells any portion of the material removed under the permit or easement, the electrical utility shall provide to the Secretary, acting through the Chief of the Forest Service, any proceeds received from the sale, less any transportation costs incurred in the sale.

(c) RULE OF CONSTRUCTION.—Nothing in this section shall be construed to require the sale of any material removed under a special use permit or easement that includes permission for the cutting and removal of trees or other vegetation described in subsection (a).

SEC. 8418. UTILIZING GRAZING FOR WILDFIRE RISK REDUCTION.

(a) STRATEGY.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 18 months after the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary concerned shall develop and implement a strategy to utilize livestock grazing as a wildfire risk reduction tool on Federal land under the jurisdiction of the Secretary concerned.

(2) INCLUSIONS.—The strategy under paragraph (1) shall include—

(A) the completion of any reviews required under the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (42 U.S.C. 4321 et seq.) to allow a permittee with a grazing permit in effect to graze on vacant grazing allotments during instances of drought, wildfire, or other natural disaster that disrupt grazing on the allotments covered by such grazing permit;

(B) the use of targeted grazing to reduce hazardous fuels;

(C) an increase in the use of temporary grazing permits to promote targeted fuels reduction and reduction of invasive annual grasses;

(D) an increase in the use of livestock grazing—

(i) to eradicate invasive annual grasses; and

(ii) as a restoration strategy and for post-fire recovery, as appropriate;

(E) the integrated use of advanced technologies to dynamically adjust livestock placement on Federal land under the jurisdiction of the Secretary concerned;

(F) an increase in the use of any authorities applicable to livestock grazing, including modifications to grazing permits or leases to allow variances; and

(G) the use of grazing on Federal land under the jurisdiction of the Secretary concerned in a manner that—

(i) avoids conflicts with other uses of such land; and

(ii) is consistent with any applicable land management plan.

(b) EFFECT ON EXISTING GRAZING PROGRAMS.—Nothing in this section affects—

(1) any livestock grazing program carried out by the Secretary concerned as of the date of enactment of this Act; or

(2) any statutory authority for any program described in paragraph (1).

(c) SECRETARY CONCERNED DEFINED.—In this section, the term ''Secretary concerned'' means—

(1) the Secretary of Agriculture, with respect to National Forest System lands; and

(2) the Secretary of the Interior, with respect to public lands.

SEC. 8419. JOINT CHIEFS LANDSCAPE RESTORATION PARTNERSHIP PROGRAM.

Section 40808 of the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act is amended—

(1) in subsection (g)(2), by inserting ''and at least once every 2 fiscal years thereafter'' after ''and 2023''; and

(2) in subsection (h)(1), by striking ''and 2023'' and inserting ''through 2031''.

SEC. 8420. TRIBAL FOREST MANAGEMENT PROGRAM TECHNICAL CORRECTION.

Section 8703 of the Agriculture Improvement Act of 2018 is amended—

*(1) in the heading, by striking ''**DEMONSTRATION PROJECT**'' and inserting ''**PROGRAM**'' (and by conforming the item relating to such section in the table of contents accordingly); and*

(2) in subsection (a), by striking ''demonstration projects by'' and inserting ''a program under''.

PART III—TIMBER INNOVATION

SEC. 8431. COMMUNITY WOOD FACILITIES PROGRAM.

Section 9013 of the Farm Security and Rural Investment Act of 2002 (7 U.S.C. 8113) is amended—

*(1) in the heading, by striking ''**COMMUNITY WOOD ENERGY AND WOOD INNOVATION PROGRAM**'' and inserting ''**COMMUNITY WOOD FACILITIES PROGRAM**'';*

(2) in subsection (a)—

(A) in paragraph (1)(A)(iii), in the matter preceding subclause (I), by striking ''woody biomass, including residuals'' and inserting ''primarily forest biomass, including processing or manufacturing residuals''; and

(B) in paragraph (4), by striking ''Community Wood Energy and Wood Innovation Program'' and inserting ''Community Wood Facilities Program'';

(3) in subsection (b), by striking ''to be known as'' and all that follows through the period at the end and inserting ''to be known as the 'Community Wood Facilities Program'.'';

(4) in subsection (d), by striking ''exceed—'' in the matter preceding paragraph (1) and all that follows through the period at the end of paragraph (2) and inserting ''exceed $5,000,000.'';

(5) in subsection (e)—

(A) by striking paragraph (1);

(B) by redesignating paragraphs (2) through (8) as (1) through (7), respectively; and

(C) in paragraph (1), as so redesignated, by inserting ''or market competitiveness'' after ''cost effectiveness'';

(6) in subsection (f)—

(A) by striking paragraph (2);

(B) by redesignating paragraphs (3) and (4) as paragraphs (2) and (3), respectively; and

(C) in paragraph (2), as so redesignated, by striking ''use or retrofitting (or both) of existing sawmill'' and inserting ''construction, use or retrofitting of forest products manufacturing'';

(7) in subsection (g)—

(A) in paragraph (1), by striking ''5 megawatts of thermal energy or combined thermal and electric energy'' and inserting ''15 megawatts of thermal energy or combined thermal and electric energy''; and

(B) in paragraph (2), by striking ''25 percent'' and inserting ''50 percent''; and

(8) in subsection (h), by striking ''2023'' and inserting ''2031''.

SEC. 8432. WOOD INNOVATION GRANT PROGRAM.

(a) APPLICATION TO TRANSPORTATION COSTS.—Section 8643(b)(1) of the Agriculture Improvement Act of 2018 (7 U.S.C. 7655d(b)(1)) is amended by inserting '', including the construction of new facilities that advance the purposes of the program and for the hauling of material removed to reduce hazardous fuels to locations where that material can be utilized'' before the period at the end.

(b) TARGETING TO SUPPORT ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT, ENHANCED BUILDING DESIGN, AND IMPACT ASSESSMENT.—Section 8643(c) of the Agriculture Improvement Act of 2018 (7 U.S.C. 7655d(c)) is amended to read as follows:

''(c) TARGETING TO SUPPORT ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT, ENHANCED BUILDING DESIGN, AND IMPACT ASSESSMENT.—In selecting among proposals of eligible entities under subsection (b)(2), the Secretary may give priority to proposals for projects that—

''(1) include the use or retrofitting (or both) of existing sawmill facilities located in counties in which the average annual unemployment rate exceeded the national average unemployment rate by more than 1 percent in the previous calendar year;

''(2) recognize or enhance carbon reduction strategies in building design and interior wood products, including forest impacts, which can be improved by North American manufacturing; or

''(3) include in the proposal of the entity an analysis of the benefits that forest management under the proposal will have on the resilience and economy of the community, including benefits associated with—

''(A) wood products from anticipated wood supply areas;

''(B) wildfire risk reduction;

''(C) increased fiber flow;

''(D) the increase of forest or mill jobs; and

''(E) support for forested communities.''.

(c) MATCHING REQUIREMENT.—Section 8643(d) of the Agriculture Improvement Act of 2018 (7 U.S.C. 7655d(d)) is amended by inserting ''50 percent of'' before ''the amount''.

SEC. 8433. FOREST AND WOOD PRODUCTS DATA TRACKER.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 2 years after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary, acting through the Chief of the Forest Service, in collaboration with the Chief of the Natural Resources Conservation Service and in consultation with federally recognized Indian Tribes, State foresters, and private sector partners, shall establish a publicly available platform to provide measurement, monitoring, verification, and reporting data regarding the carbon emissions, sequestration, storage, and related atmospheric impacts of forest management and wood products.

(b) ACTIVITIES.—In carrying out subsection (a), the Secretary shall source data, information, and data analysis from Department programs and interagency programs, including—

(1) the Forest Inventory and Analysis program, including the Timber Products Output survey;

(2) Forest Service and Natural Resources Conservation Service soil carbon estimations;

(3) the Forest Products Laboratory;

(4) the Federal Life Cycle Assessment Commons;

(5) Department entity-level guidelines; and

(6) other relevant programmatic data and information sources, as published and made available.

(c) PRIORITIES.—The platform established by subsection (a) shall provide tools that calculate—

(1) the above- and below-ground forest carbon stocks and stock changes associated with species composition, forest management regime, and landowner types (including small area estimations for regional and localized geographies across the United States) made available through Forest Inventory and Analysis updates and annual reports;

(2) the embodied carbon involved in the manufacture of products, using data from published environmental product declarations and life cycle assessments, updated as new and more refined data becomes available;

(3) the long-term stored carbon in manufactured timber products; and

(4) the carbon displacement of wood products, compared to other materials, using substitution factors.

(d) RULE OF CONSTRUCTION.—Nothing in this section may be construed to provide authority with respect to the generation, consumption, or trading of carbon or environmental credits from National Forest System lands in any voluntary or compliance environmental markets.

SEC. 8434. BIOCHAR APPLICATION DEMONSTRATION PROJECT.

(a) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

(1) BIOCHAR.—The term ''biochar'' means carbonized biomass produced by converting feedstock through reductive thermal processing for nonfuel uses.

(2) COVERED SECRETARIES.—The term ''covered Secretaries'' means—

(A) the Secretary, acting through the Chief of the Forest Service;

(B) the Secretary of the Interior, acting through the Director of the Bureau of Land Management; and

(C) the Secretary of Energy, acting through the Director of the Office of Science.

(3) ELIGIBLE ENTITY.—The term ''eligible entity'' means—

(A) a private, nonprivate, or cooperative entity or organization;

(B) a State, local, special district, or Tribal government;

(C) an eligible institution;

(D) a National Laboratory (as such term is defined in section 2 of the Energy Policy Act of 2005 (42 U.S.C. 15801)); or

(E) a partnership or consortium of two or more entities described in subparagraphs (A) through (D).

(4) ELIGIBLE INSTITUTION.—The term ''eligible institution'' means land-grant colleges and universities, including institutions eligible for funding under—

(A) the Act of July 2, 1862 (12 Stat. 503, chapter 130; 7 U.S.C. 301 et seq.);

(B) the Act of August 30, 1890 (26 Stat. 417, chapter 841; 7 U.S.C. 321 et seq.), including Tuskegee University;

(C) Public Law 87–788 (commonly known as the ''McIntire-Stennis Act of 1962''); or

(D) the Equity in Educational Land-Grant Status Act of 1994 (7 U.S.C. 301 note; Public Law 103–382).

(5) FEEDSTOCK.—The term ''feedstock'' means excess biomass in the form of plant matter or materials that serves as the raw material for the production of biochar.

(b) DEMONSTRATION PROJECTS.—

(1) ESTABLISHMENT.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—Subject to the availability of appropriations made in advance for such purpose, not later than 2 years after the date of the enactment of this Act, the covered Secretaries shall establish a program to enter into partnerships with eligible entities to carry out demonstration projects to support the development and commercialization of biochar in accordance with this subsection.

(B) LOCATION OF DEMONSTRATION PROJECTS.—In carrying out the program established under subparagraph (A), the covered Secretaries shall, to the maximum extent practicable, enter into partnerships with eligible entities such that not fewer than one demonstration project is carried out in each region of the Forest Service and each region of the Bureau of Land Management.

(2) PROPOSALS.—To be eligible to enter into a partnership to carry out a biochar demonstration project under paragraph (1)(A), an eligible entity shall submit to the covered Secretaries a proposal at such time, in such manner, and containing such information as the covered Secretaries may require.

(3) USE OF FUNDS.—In carrying out the program established under paragraph (1)(A), the covered Secretaries may enter into partnerships and provide funding to such partnerships to carry out demonstration projects to—

(A) acquire and test various feedstocks and their efficacy;

(B) develop and optimize commercially and technologically viable biochar production units, including mobile and permanent units;

(C) demonstrate—

(i) the production of biochar from forest residue; and

(ii) the use of biochar to restore forest health and resiliency;

(D) build, expand, or establish biochar facilities;

(E) conduct research on new and innovative uses of biochar;

(F) demonstrate cost-effective market opportunities for biochar and biochar-based products;

(G) carry out any other activities the covered Secretaries determine appropriate; or

(H) do any combination of the activities specified in subparagraphs (A) through (F).

(4) PRIORITY.—In selecting proposals under paragraph (2), the covered Secretaries shall give priority to entering into partnerships with eligible entities that submit proposals to carry out biochar demonstration projects that—

(A) have the most potential to create new jobs and contribute to local economies, particularly in rural areas;

(B) have the most potential to demonstrate—

(i) new and innovative uses of biochar;

(ii) market viability for cost-effective biochar-based products;

(iii) the restorative benefits of biochar with respect to forest health and resiliency, including forest soils and watersheds; or

(iv) any combination of the purposes specified in clauses (i) through (iii);

(C) are located in areas that have a high need for biochar production, as determined by the covered Secretaries, due to—

(i) nearby lands identified as having high or very high or extreme risk of wildfire;

(ii) availability of sufficient quantities of feedstocks; or

(iii) a high level of demand for biochar or other commercial byproducts of biochar; or

(D) satisfy any combination of the purposes specified in subparagraphs (A) through (C).

(5) FEEDSTOCK REQUIREMENTS.—To the maximum extent practicable, an eligible entity that carries out a biochar demonstration project under this subsection shall, with respect to the feedstock used under such project, derive at least 50 percent of such feedstock from forest thinning and management activities, including mill residues, conducted on National Forest System lands or public lands.

(6) REVIEW OF BIOCHAR DEMONSTRATION.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—The covered Secretaries shall conduct regionally specific research, including economic analyses and life-cycle assessments, on any biochar produced from a demonstration project carried out under the program established in paragraph (1)(A), including—

(i) the effects of such biochar on—

(I) forest health and resiliency;

(II) carbon capture and sequestration, including increasing soil carbon in the short term and long term;

(III) productivity, reduced input costs, and water retention in agricultural practices;

(IV) the health of soil and grasslands used for grazing activities, including grazing activities on National Forest System land and public land; and

(V) environmental remediation activities, including abandoned mine land remediation;

(ii) the effectiveness of biochar as a coproduct of biofuels or in biochemicals; and

(iii) the effectiveness of other potential uses of biochar to determine if any such use is technologically and commercially viable.

(B) COORDINATION.—The covered Secretaries shall, to the maximum extent practicable, provide data, analyses, and other relevant information collected under subparagraph (A) with recipients of a grant under subsection (c).

(7) LIMITATION ON FUNDING FOR ESTABLISHING BIOCHAR FACILITIES.—If the covered Secretaries provide to an eligible entity that enters into a partnership with the covered Secretaries under paragraph (1)(A) funding for establishing a biochar facility, such funding may not exceed 35 percent of the capital cost of establishing such biochar facility.

(c) BIOCHAR RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT GRANT PROGRAM.—

(1) ESTABLISHMENT.—The Secretary of the Interior, in consultation with the Secretary of Energy, shall establish or expand an existing applied biochar research and development grant program to make competitive grants to eligible institutions to carry out the activities described in paragraph (3).

(2) APPLICATIONS.—To be eligible to receive a grant under this subsection, an eligible institution shall submit to the Secretary a proposal at such time, in such manner, and containing such information as the Secretary may require.

(3) USE OF FUNDS.—An eligible institution that receives a grant under this subsection shall use the grant funds to conduct applied research on—

(A) the effect of biochar on forest health and resiliency, accounting for variations in biochar, soil, climate, and other factors;

(B) the effect of biochar on soil health and water retention, accounting for variations in biochar, soil, climate, and other factors;

(C) the long-term carbon sequestration potential of biochar;

(D) the best management practices with respect to biochar and biochar-based product that maximize—

(i) carbon sequestration benefits; and

(ii) the commercial viability and application of such products in forestry, agriculture, environmental remediation, water quality improvement, and any other similar uses, as determined by the Secretary;

(E) the regional uses of biochar to increase productivity and profitability, including—

(i) uses in agriculture and environmental remediation; and

(ii) use as a coproduct in fuel production;

(F) new and innovative uses for biochar byproducts; and

(G) opportunities to expand markets for biochar and create related jobs, particularly in rural areas.

(d) REPORTS.—

(1) REPORT TO CONGRESS.—Not later than 2 years after the date of enactment of this Act, the covered Secretaries shall submit to Congress a report that—

(A) includes policy and program recommendations to improve the widespread use of biochar;

(B) identifies any area of research needed to advance biochar commercialization; and

(C) identifies barriers to further biochar commercialization, including permitting and siting considerations.

(2) MATERIALS SUBMITTED IN SUPPORT OF THE PRESIDENT'S BUDGET.—Beginning with the second fiscal year that begins after the date of enactment of this Act and annually thereafter until the date described in subsection (e), the covered Secretaries shall include in the materials submitted to Congress in support of the President's budget pursuant to section 1105 of title 31, United States Code, a report describing, for the fiscal year covered by the report, the status of each demonstration project carried out under subsection (b) and each research and development grant carried out under subsection (c).

(e) SUNSET.—The authority to carry out this section shall terminate on the date that is 7 years after the date of enactment of this Act.

Subtitle E—Other Matters

SEC. 8501. RURAL REVITALIZATION TECHNOLOGIES.

Section 2371(d)(2) of the Food, Agriculture, Conservation, and Trade Act of 1990 (7 U.S.C. 6601(d)(2)) is amended by striking ''2023'' and inserting ''2031''.

SEC. 8502. RESOURCE ADVISORY COMMITTEES.

Section 205 of the Secure Rural Schools and Community Self-Determination Act of 2000 (16 U.S.C. 7125) is amended—

(1) in subsection (c), by adding at the end the following:

''(6) APPOINTMENTS BY APPLICABLE REGIONAL FORESTERS.—In making appointments under this subsection, the Secretary concerned may act through the applicable regional forester so long as before the applicable regional forester makes an appointment, the applicable regional forester conducts the review and analysis that would otherwise be conducted for an appointment to a resource advisory committee, including any review and analysis with respect to civil rights, budgetary requirements, vetting, and reporting, as the Secretary concerned determines appropriate.'';

(2) in subsection (d)(6), by striking ''October 1, 2026'' and inserting ''October 1, 2031''; and

(3) by striking subsection (g).

SEC. 8503. ACCURATE HAZARDOUS FUELS REDUCTION REPORTS.

(a) MATERIALS SUBMITTED IN SUPPORT OF PRESIDENT'S BUDGET.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Beginning with the first fiscal year that begins after the date of the enactment of this Act, and annually thereafter, the Secretary concerned shall include in the materials submitted to Congress in support of the President's budget pursuant to section 1105 of title 31, United States Code, a report describing the number of acres of Federal land on which the Secretary concerned carried out hazardous fuels reduction activities during the preceding fiscal year, as determined using—

(A) the methodology of the Secretary concerned in effect on the day before the date of enactment of this Act; and

(B) the methodology described in paragraph (2).

(2) REQUIREMENTS.—For purposes of a report required under paragraph (1), the Secretary concerned shall—

(A) in determining the number of acres of Federal land on which the Secretary concerned carried out hazardous fuels reduction activities during the period covered by the report—

(i) record acres of Federal land on which hazardous fuels reduction activities were completed during that period; and

(ii) record each acre described in clause (i) once in the report, regardless of whether multiple hazardous fuels reduction activities were carried out on that acre during the applicable period; and

(B) with respect to the acres of Federal land recorded in the report, include information relating to—

(i) which acres are located in the wildland-urban interface;

(ii) the level of hazard potential of the acres on the first and last day of the period covered by the report;

(iii) the types of hazardous fuels reduction activities completed with respect to the acres, including a description of whether those hazardous fuels reduction activities were conducted—

(I) in a wildfire managed for resource benefits; or

(II) through a planned hazardous fuels reduction project;

(iv) the cost per acre of the hazardous fuels reduction activities carried out during the period covered by the report;

(v) the region or System unit in which the acres are located; and

(vi) the effectiveness of the hazardous fuels reduction activities with respect to reducing the risk of wildfire.

(3) TRANSPARENCY.—The Secretary concerned shall make each report submitted under paragraph (1) publicly available on the website of the Department of Agriculture or the Department of the Interior, as applicable.

(b) ACCURATE DATA COLLECTION.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 90 days after the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary concerned shall implement standardized procedures for tracking data related to hazardous fuels reduction activities carried out by the Secretary concerned.

(2) ELEMENTS.—The standardized procedures required under paragraph (1) shall include—

(A) regular, standardized data reviews of the accuracy and timely input of data used to track hazardous fuels reduction activities;

(B) verification methods that validate whether those data accurately correlate to the hazardous fuels reduction activities carried out by the Secretary concerned;

(C) an analysis of the short- and long-term effectiveness of the hazardous fuels reduction activities on reducing the risk of wildfire; and

(D) for hazardous fuels reduction activities that occur partially within the wildland-urban interface, methods to distinguish which acres are located within the wildland-urban interface and which acres are located outside the wildland-urban interface.

(3) REPORT.—Not later than 45 days after implementing the standardized procedures required under paragraph (1), the Secretary concerned shall submit to Congress a report that describes—

(A) the standardized procedures; and

(B) any programmatic or policy recommendations to Congress to address limitations in tracking data relating to hazardous fuels reduction activities under this subsection.

(c) GAO STUDY.—Not later than 2 years after the date of enactment of this Act, the Comptroller General of the United States shall—

(1) conduct a study regarding the implementation of this section, including any limitations with respect to—

(A) reporting hazardous fuels reduction activities under subsection (a); or

(B) tracking data relating to hazardous fuels reduction activities under subsection (b); and

(2) submit to Congress a report that describes the results of the study under paragraph (1).

(d) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

(1) FEDERAL LAND.—The term ''Federal land'' means any land under the jurisdiction of—

(A) the Secretary; or

(B) the Secretary of the Interior.

(2) HAZARDOUS FUELS REDUCTION ACTIVITY.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—The term ''hazardous fuels reduction activity'' means any vegetation management activity to reduce the risk of wildfire, including mechanical treatments, grazing, and prescribed burning.

(B) EXCLUSION.—The term ''hazardous fuels reduction activity'' does not include the awarding of a contract to conduct an activity described in subparagraph (A).

(3) SECRETARY CONCERNED.—The term ''Secretary concerned'' means—

(A) the Secretary of Agriculture, with respect to National Forest System lands; and

(B) the Secretary of the Interior, with respect to public lands.

(e) NO ADDITIONAL FUNDS AUTHORIZED.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—No additional funds are authorized to carry out this section.

(2) SUBJECT TO APPROPRIATIONS.—The activities authorized by this section are subject to the availability of appropriations made in advance for those purposes.

SEC. 8504. SPECIAL USE AUTHORIZATION RENTAL FEE WAIVER.

All or part of the programmatic administrative fee, and any fees related to the special use authorization, as appropriate, may be waived by the Secretary, acting through the Chief of the Forest Service, when equitable and in the public interest as determined by the Chief of the Forest Service, for the use and occupancy of National Forest System land in the following circumstances:

(1) The holder of the special use authorization is a State or local government or any agency or instrumentality thereof, excluding municipal utilities and cooperatives whose principal source of revenue is customer charges.

(2) The holder is—

(A) an organization described in section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 and is exempt from taxation under section 501(a) of such Code;

(B) not controlled or owned by a profit-making corporation or business enterprise; and

(C) is engaged in a public or semipublic activity to further public health, safety, or welfare.

(3) The holder is an amateur station, amateur operator, or provides amateur radio services, as those terms are defined in section 97.3 of title 47, Code of Federal Regulations (or successor regulations).

(4) Other circumstances the Secretary, acting through the Chief of the Forest Service, determines appropriate.

SEC. 8505. CHARGES AND FEES FOR HARVEST OF FOREST BOTANICAL PRODUCTS.

(a) RECOVERY OF FAIR MARKET VALUE FOR PRODUCTS.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary, acting through the Chief of the Forest Service, shall establish and carry out a program to charge and collect fees under subsection (b) for forest botanical products harvested on National Forest System lands.

(2) APPRAISAL METHODS; BIDDING PROCEDURES.—The Secretary, acting through the Chief of the Forest Service, shall establish a fee system based on fair market value for forest botanical products harvested on National Forest System lands.

(b) FEES.—

(1) IMPOSITION AND COLLECTION.—The Secretary shall charge and collect fees from persons who harvest forest botanical products on National Forest System lands.

(2) AMOUNT OF FEE.—The fees collected under paragraph (1) shall be based on the fair market value of the harvested forest botanical products and the costs incurred by the Secretary associated with granting, modifying, or monitoring the authorization for harvest of the forest botanical products, including the costs of any environmental or other analysis.

(3) SECURITY.—The Secretary, acting through the Chief of the Forest Service, may require a person assessed a fee under this subsection to provide security to ensure that the Secretary receives the fees imposed under this subsection from the person.

(c) SUSTAINABLE HARVEST LEVELS FOR FOREST BOTANICAL PRODUCTS.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary, acting through the Chief of the Forest Service, shall—

(A) conduct appropriate analyses to determine whether and how the harvest of forest botanical products on National Forest System lands can be conducted on a sustainable basis; and

(B) establish procedures and timeframes to monitor and revise the harvest levels established for forest botanical products.

(2) PROHIBITION ON HARVEST IN EXCESS OF SUSTAINABLE LEVELS.—The Secretary, acting through the Chief of the Forest Service, may not permit under the program under this section the harvest of forest botanical products on National Forest System lands at levels in excess of sustainable harvest levels, as defined under section 4 of the Multiple-Use Sustained-Yield Act of 1960 (16 U.S.C. 531).

(d) WAIVER AUTHORITY.—

(1) PERSONAL USE.—The Secretary, acting through the Chief of the Forest Service, shall establish a personal use harvest level for each forest botanical product, and the harvest of a forest botanical product below that level by a person for personal use shall not be subject to charges and fees under subsections (a) and (b).

(2) OTHER EXCEPTIONS.—The Secretary, acting through the Chief of the Forest Service, may also waive the application of subsection (a) or (b) pursuant to such regulations as the Secretary may prescribe.

(e) DEPOSIT AND USE OF FUNDS.—

(1) DEPOSIT.—Funds collected under the program in accordance with subsections (a) and (b) shall be deposited into a special account in the United States Treasury.

(2) FUNDS AVAILABLE.—Funds deposited into the special account in accordance with paragraph (1) shall remain available until expended without further appropriation.

(3) AUTHORIZED USES.—The funds made available under paragraph (2) shall be expended at units of the National Forest System in proportion to the charges and fees collected at that unit under the program under this section to pay for—

(A) the costs of conducting inventories of forest botanical products, determining sustainable levels of harvest, monitoring and assessing the impacts of harvest levels and methods, and for restoration activities, including any necessary revegetation; and

(B) the costs described in subsection (b)(2).

(4) TREATMENT OF FEES.—Funds collected under the program in accordance with subsections (a) and (b) shall not be taken into account for the purposes of the following laws:

(A) The sixth paragraph under the heading ''forest service'' in the Act of May 23, 1908 (16 U.S.C. 500), and section 13 of the Act of March 1, 1911 (commonly known as the Weeks Act; 16 U.S.C. 500).

(B) The fourteenth paragraph under the heading ''forest service'' in the Act of March 4, 1913 (16 U.S.C. 501).

(C) Section 33 of the Bankhead-Jones Farm Tenant Act (7 U.S.C. 1012).

(D) The Act of August 28, 1937 (43 U.S.C. 2601 et seq.) and the Act of May 24, 1939 (43 U.S.C. 2621 et seq.).

(E) Section 6 of the Act of June 14, 1926 (commonly known as the Recreation and Public Purposes Act; 43 U.S.C. 869–4).

(F) Chapter 69 of title 31, United States Code.

(G) Section 401 of the Act of June 15, 1935 (16 U.S.C. 715s).

(H) Section 100904 of title 54, United States Code.

(I) Any other provision of law relating to revenue allocation.

(f) REPORTING REQUIREMENTS.—As soon as practicable after the end of each fiscal year in which the Secretary collects charges and fees under the program in accordance with subsections (a) and (b) or expends funds from the special account under subsection (e), the Secretary, acting through the Chief of the Forest Service, shall submit to the Congress a report summarizing the activities of the Secretary under the program under this section, including the funds collected under the program in accordance with subsections (a) and (b), the expenses incurred to carry out the program under this section, and the expenditures made from the special account during that fiscal year.

(g) DEFINITIONS.—For purposes of this section:

(1) FOREST BOTANICAL PRODUCT.—The term ''forest botanical product''—

(A) means any naturally occurring mushroom, fungus, flower, seed, root, bark, leaf, berry, bough, bryophyte, bulb, burl, cone, epiphyte, fern, forb, grass, moss, nut, pine straw, sedge, shrub, transplant, tree sap, or other vegetation (or portion thereof) that grows on National Forest System lands; and

(B) does not include trees, or portions of trees, except as provided in regulations issued under

section 339 of the Department of the Interior and Related Agencies Appropriations Act of 2000 (16 U.S.C. 528 note) by the Secretary before the date of enactment of this Act.

(2) NATIONAL FOREST SYSTEM.—The term ''National Forest System'' has the meaning given that term in section 11(a) of the Forest and Rangeland Renewable Resources Planning Act of 1974 (16 U.S.C. 1609(a)).

SEC. 8506. FOREST SERVICE LEGACY ROAD AND TRAIL REMEDIATION PROGRAM TRANSPARENCY.

Section 8 of Public Law 88–657 (16 U.S.C. 538a) is amended—

(1) in subsection (c)(2)—

(A) by striking subparagraph (B) and inserting the following:

''(B) solicit and consider public input regionally in selecting projects for funding under the Program by—

''(i) publishing annually, for each region, a list of projects considered for funding under the Program;

''(ii) accepting public comment on the projects described in clause (i); and

''(iii) considering public comments in selecting projects for funding under the Program;''; and

(B) in subparagraph (D)—

(i) in the matter preceding clause (i), by inserting ''annually, for each region,'' before ''publish''; and

(ii) by striking clause (ii) and inserting the following:

''(ii) a list that includes a description of—

''(I) each project considered for funding under the Program;

''(II) public comments received on each project described in subclause (I);

''(III) the ranking within the applicable region of each project described in subclause (I); and

''(IV) the proposed outcome of each project funded under the Program for the applicable fiscal year.''; and

(2) by adding at the end the following:

''(f) DEFINITION OF REGION.—In this section, the term 'region' means one of the 9 regions of the Forest Service.''.

SEC. 8507. DIRECT HIRE AUTHORITY.

For fiscal year 2026 and each fiscal year thereafter, the Secretary may appoint, without regard to the provisions of subchapter I of chapter 33 of title 5, United States Code, other than sections 3303 and 3328 of that title, a Job Corps graduate (as defined in section 142(5) of the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (29 U.S.C. 3192(5))) to a position in the competitive service in the Forest Service for which the graduate meets the qualification standards.

SEC. 8508. IMPROVING THE EMERGENCY FOREST RESTORATION PROGRAM.

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

(1) by redesignating subsection (e) as subsection (f); and

(2) by inserting after subsection (d) the following:

''(e) ADVANCE PAYMENTS.—

''(1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall give an owner of nonindustrial private forest land the option of receiving, before the owner carries out emergency measures under this section, not more than 75 percent of the cost of the emergency measures, as determined by the Secretary based on the fair market value of the cost of the emergency measures using the estimated cost of the applicable practice published in the Field Office Technical Guide of each State by the Natural Resources Conservation Service.

''(2) RETURN OF FUNDS.—If the funds provided under paragraph (1) are not expended by the end of the 180-day period beginning on the date on which the owner of nonindustrial private forest land receives those funds, the funds shall be returned to the Secretary within a reasonable timeframe, as determined by the Secretary.''.

SEC. 8509. EXEMPTION FOR PREVIOUSLY ANALYZED AREAS OF NATIONAL FOREST SYSTEM LANDS.

(a) IN GENERAL.—The requirements under the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (42 U.S.C. 4321 et seq.) or division A of subtitle 54, United States Code, shall not apply to an application for a communications use authorization on National Forest System lands, including National Forest System lands on which authorized utilities, communications facilities, powerline facilities, or roads have been installed, if—

(1) the communications equipment is located in or on existing infrastructure; or

(2) the communications facility is located on previously analyzed areas of National Forest System lands.

(b) NO ADDITIONAL CONSULTATION REQUIRED UNDER CERTAIN CIRCUMSTANCES.—Notwithstanding any other provision of law, the Secretary shall not be required to reinitiate consultation of the requirements under the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (42 U.S.C. 4321 et seq.) or division A of subtitle 54, United States Code, for an application for a communications use authorization on previously analyzed areas of National Forest System lands if new information concerning a previously analyzed area of National Forest System lands becomes available.

(c) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

(1) COMMUNICATIONS FACILITY; COMMUNICATIONS USE AUTHORIZATION.—The terms ''communications facility'' and ''communications use authorization'' have the meanings given the terms, respectively, in section 8705 of the Agriculture Improvement Act of 2018 (43 U.S.C. 1761a).

(2) PREVIOUSLY ANALYZED AREAS OF NATIONAL FOREST SYSTEM LANDS.—The term ''previously analyzed areas of National Forest System lands'' means any National Forest System lands with respect to which the Secretary has—

(A) granted, issued, and executed a communications use authorization; and

(B) conducted sufficient environmental or historical reviews.

(3) SECRETARY.—The term ''Secretary'' means the Secretary of Agriculture, acting through the Chief of the Forest Service.

SEC. 8510. RELEASE OF REVERSIONARY INTEREST IN BLACK RIVER STATE FOREST.

(a) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

(1) DELI, INC.—The term ''Deli, Inc.'' means Deli, Inc., a sphagnum moss production business located in Millston, Wisconsin.

(2) DELI LAND.—The term ''Deli land'' means the approximately 37.27 acres of land owned or optioned to acquire, subject to the approval of the land exchange by the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources, the Wisconsin Natural Resources Board, and the Governor of Wisconsin, in 2 separate parcels, by Deli, Inc., and located in Millston, Wisconsin, as depicted on the map and as described as follows:

(A) A parcel of real property containing approximately 31.3 acres (which includes land within the road right-of-way), together with any improvements—

(i) comprising the NE¼NE¼ sec. 29, T. 20 N., R. 2 W., Town of Millston, Jackson County, Wisconsin;

(ii) excluding—

(I) land lying north of the railroad right-of-way; and

(II) a parcel 150 feet wide, with 50 feet lying to the northeast, and 100 feet to the southwest, of a line commencing at a point 5 feet east of the northwest corner of the quarter-quarter section described in clause (i), thence south 56° east 39″ a distance of 222 feet, thence south 57° east 31″ a distance of 1359 feet; and

(iii) subject to—

(I) any public water use or easements on Lee Lake; and

(II) any easements or restrictions of record, public roadways, zoning and use ordinances, and the railroad right-of-way.

(B) A parcel of real property containing approximately 5.97 acres located in the SW¼SW¼ sec. 20, T. 20 N., R. 4 W., Town of Millston, Jackson County, Wisconsin, comprising lot 7 of Certified Survey Map No. 4483, as recorded in volume 19S of the certified survey maps, page 334, as Document No. 413440 in the Jackson County Register of Deeds.

(3) MAP.—The term ''map'' means the map entitled ''Black River State Forest–Deli, Inc.'' and dated June 26, 2023.

(4) STATE.—The term ''State'' means the State of Wisconsin.

(5) STATE FOREST LAND.—The term ''State forest land'' means the approximately 31.83 acres of land located in the Black River State Forest in Millston, Wisconsin, as depicted on the map and as described as follows:

(A) A parcel containing 23.13 acres—

(i) comprising the portion of the E½SE¼ sec. 20, T. 20 N., R. 2. W., Town of Millston, Jackson County, Wisconsin, lying south of the Interstate Highway 94 southern right-of-way; and

(ii) excluding a triangular parcel in the southwest corner described as commencing at the southwest corner, thence east 260 feet, thence northwesterly to a point on the west boundary thereof 200 feet north of the southwest corner, thence south to the place of beginning.

(B) A parcel containing 8.70 acres comprising the portion of the NE¼NE¼ sec. 29, T. 20 N., R. 2. W., Town of Millston, Jackson County, Wisconsin, lying north of the railroad right-of-way, forming a triangular piece and described as commencing at the northeast corner of that quarter-quarter section, thence west 1010 feet to the north line of the railroad right-of-way, thence southeasterly along the boundary of the railroad to the east line of that quarter-quarter section, thence north on the east line 750 feet to the place of beginning.

(b) CONDITIONAL RELEASE.—

(1) FINDINGS.—Congress finds that—

(A) the State forest land is subject to a reversionary interest of the United States pursuant to section 32(c) of The Bankhead-Jones Farm Tenant Act (7 U.S.C. 1011(c)), requiring that the State forest land be used for public purposes in perpetuity; and

(B) the State and Deli, Inc., have agreed that the State will convey the State forest land in exchange for the Deli land, and the Deli land will be added to Black River State Forest in the State.

(2) CONDITIONAL RELEASE.—If the State offers in a written agreement to convey the State forest land to Deli, Inc., in exchange for the conveyance of the Deli land to the State—

(A) the reversionary interest of the United States in the State forest land shall be released; and

(B) the Secretary shall provide, as expeditiously as possible, recordable evidence of the release under subparagraph (A) in the form of a quitclaim deed, which shall—

(i) convey any interest of the United States in the State forest land without consideration; and

(ii) be provided to the State for recording before the exchange deeds are recorded.

(3) CORRECTIONS.—The Secretary, in consultation with the State, may make any necessary corrections to the legal description of the State forest land for purposes of the quitclaim deed described in paragraph (2)(B).

SEC. 8511. DOUG LAMALFA SECURE RURAL SCHOOLS ACT.

Section 1 of the Secure Rural Schools and Community Self-Determination Act of 2000 (16 U.S.C. 7101 note) is amended by inserting ''or the 'Doug LaMalfa Secure Rural Schools Act' '' before the period at the end.

SEC. 8512. MINOR RANGE IMPROVEMENTS UNDER FOREST SERVICE GRAZING PERMITS.

(a) MINOR RANGE IMPROVEMENTS BY PERMITTEES.—Not later than 1 year after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary shall issue regulations allowing a permittee to carry out a minor range improvement on the lands with respect to which the permittee holds a grazing permit if—

(1) the permittee notifies the applicable Forest Service district ranger at least 30 days prior to carrying out such minor range improvement; and

(2) such applicable district ranger—

(A) approves the minor range improvement; or

(B) does not respond to notification regarding the minor range improvement.

(b) RANGE IMPROVEMENTS BY THE SECRETARY.—The Secretary, acting through the applicable district ranger, shall—

(1) respond to a covered request not later than 30 days after the date on which such request is submitted; and

(2) if such response confirms that the Secretary, acting through the applicable district ranger, will carry out the range improvement requested—

(A) notify the district office that serves the area in which such range improvement will occur; and

(B) expedite the carrying out of such range improvement using any available administrative tools or authorities, including categorical exclusions.

(c) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

(1) CFR TERMS.—The terms ''grazing permit'', ''permittee'', and ''range improvement'' have the meanings given those terms, respectively, in section 222.1 of title 36, Code of Federal Regulations (or any successor regulations).

(2) COVERED REQUEST.—The term ''covered request'' means a request submitted by a permittee to the Secretary requesting that the Secretary carry out a range improvement.

(3) MINOR RANGE IMPROVEMENT.—The term ''minor range improvement'' includes improvements to existing fences and fence lines, wells, water pipelines, and stock tanks.

Subtitle F—White Oak Resilience

SEC. 8601. SHORT TITLE.

This subtitle may be cited as the ''White Oak Resilience Act''.

SEC. 8602. WHITE OAK RESTORATION INITIATIVE COALITION.

(a) IN GENERAL.—The White Oak Restoration Initiative Coalition shall be established—

(1) as a voluntary collaborative group of Federal, State, Tribal, and local governments and private and nongovernmental organizations to carry out the duties described in subsection (b); and

(2) in accordance with the charter titled ''White Oak Initiative Coalition Charter'' adopted by the White Oak Initiative Board of Directors on March 21, 2023 (or any successor charter).

(b) DUTIES.—In addition to the duties specified in the charter described in subsection (a)(2), the duties of the White Oak Restoration Initiative Coalition are—

(1) to coordinate Federal, State, Tribal, local, private, and nongovernmental restoration of white oak in the United States; and

(2) to make program and policy recommendations, consistent with applicable forest management plans, with respect to—

(A) changes necessary to address Federal and State policies that impede activities to improve the health, resiliency, and natural regeneration of white oak;

(B) adopting or modifying Federal and State policies to increase the pace and scale of white oak regeneration and resiliency of white oak;

(C) options to enhance communication, coordination, and collaboration between forest landowners, particularly for cross-boundary projects, to improve the health, resiliency, and natural regeneration of white oak;

(D) research gaps that should be addressed to improve the best available science on white oak;

(E) outreach to forest landowners with white oak or white oak regeneration potential; and

(F) options and policies necessary to improve the quality and quantity of white oak in tree nurseries.

(c) ADMINISTRATIVE SUPPORT, TECHNICAL SERVICES, AND STAFF SUPPORT.—The Secretary of the Interior and the Secretary shall make such personnel available to the White Oak Restoration Initiative Coalition for administrative support, technical services, and development and dissemination of educational materials as the Secretary of the Interior or the Secretary, as applicable, determines necessary to carry out this section.

SEC. 8603. FOREST SERVICE PILOT PROGRAM.

(a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary, acting through the Chief of the Forest Service, shall establish and carry out 5 pilot projects in national forests to restore white oak in such forests through white oak restoration and natural regeneration practices that are consistent with applicable forest management plans.

(b) NATIONAL FORESTS RESERVED OR WITHDRAWN FROM PUBLIC DOMAIN.—At least 3 pilot projects required under subsection (a) shall be carried out on national forests reserved or withdrawn from the public domain.

(c) AUTHORITY TO ENTER INTO COOPERATIVE AGREEMENTS.—The Secretary may enter into cooperative agreements to carry out the pilot projects required under subsection (a).

(d) SUNSET.—The authority under this section shall terminate on the date that is 7 years after the date of enactment of this Act.

SEC. 8604. WHITE OAK REGENERATION AND UPLAND OAK HABITAT.

(a) ESTABLISHMENT.—Not later than 180 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary shall establish a nonregulatory program to be known as the ''White Oak and Upland Oak Habitat Regeneration Program'' (in this section referred to as the ''Program'').

(b) DUTIES.—In carrying out the Program, the Secretary shall—

(1) draw upon the best available science and management plans for species of white oak to identify, prioritize, and implement restoration and conservation activities that will improve the growth of white oak within the United States;

(2) collaborate and coordinate with the White Oak Restoration Initiative Coalition to prioritize white oak restoration initiatives;

(3) adopt a white oak restoration strategy that—

(A) supports the implementation of a shared set of science-based restoration and conservation activities developed in accordance with paragraph (1);

(B) targets cost-effective projects with measurable results; and

(C) maximizes restoration outcomes with no net gain of Federal full-time equivalent employees; and

(4) establish the voluntary grant and technical assistance programs in accordance with subsection (e).

(c) COORDINATION.—In establishing the Program, the Secretary, acting through the Chief of the Forest Service, shall consult with—

(1) the heads of Federal agencies, including—

(A) the Director of the United States Fish and Wildlife Service; and

(B) the Chief of the Natural Resources Conservation Service; and

(2) the Governor of each State in which restoration efforts will be carried out pursuant to the Program.

(d) PURPOSES.—The purposes of the Program include—

(1) coordinating restoration and conservation activities among Federal, State, Tribal, and local entities and conservation partners to address white oak restoration priorities;

(2) improving and regenerating white oak and upland oak forests and the wildlife habitat such forests provide;

(3) carrying out coordinated restoration and conservation activities that lead to the increased growth of species of white oak in native white oak regions on Federal, State, Tribal, and private land;

(4) facilitating strategic planning to maximize the resilience of white oak systems and habitats under changing climate conditions;

(5) engaging the public through outreach, education, and citizen involvement to increase capacity and support for coordinated restoration and conservation activities for species of white oak; and

(6) increasing scientific capacity to support the planning, monitoring, and research activities necessary to carry out such coordinated restoration and conservation activities.

(e) GRANTS AND ASSISTANCE.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—To the extent that funds are available to carry out this section, the Secretary shall establish a voluntary grant and technical assistance program (in this section referred to as the ''grant program'') to achieve the purposes of the Program, as described in subsection (d).

(2) ADMINISTRATION.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall enter into a cooperative agreement with the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation (in this subsection referred to as the ''Foundation'') to manage and administer the grant program.

(B) FUNDING.—Subject to the availability of appropriations made in advance for such purpose, after the Secretary enters into a cooperative agreement with the Foundation under subparagraph (A), the Foundation shall, for each fiscal year, receive amounts to carry out this subsection in an advance payment of the entire amount on October 1, or as soon as practicable thereafter, of that fiscal year.

(3) APPLICATION OF NATIONAL FISH AND WILDLIFE FOUNDATION ESTABLISHMENT ACT.—Amounts received by the Foundation to carry out the grant program shall be subject to the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation Establishment Act (16 U.S.C. 3701 et seq.), excluding section 10(a) of that Act (16 U.S.C. 3709(a)).

(f) SUNSET.—The authority under this section shall terminate on the date that is 7 years after the date of the enactment of this Act.

SEC. 8605. TREE NURSERY SHORTAGES.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 1 year after the date of the enactment of this section, the Secretary, acting through the Chief of the Forest Service, shall—

(1) develop and implement a national strategy to increase the capacity of Federal, State, Tribal, and private tree nurseries to address the nationwide shortage of tree seedlings; and

(2) coordinate such strategy with—

(A) the national reforestation strategy of the Forest Service; and

(B) each regional implementation plan for national forests.

(b) ELEMENTS.—The strategy required under subsection (a) shall—

(1) be based on the best available science and data; and

(2) identify and address—

(A) regional seedling shortages of bareroot and container tree seedlings;

(B) regional reforestation opportunities and the seedling supply necessary to fulfill such opportunities;

(C) opportunities to enhance seedling diversity and close gaps in seed inventories; and

(D) barriers to expanding, enhancing, or creating new infrastructure to increase nursery capacity.

TITLE IX—ENERGY

SEC. 9001. DEFINITION OF ADVANCED BIOFUEL.

Section 9001(3)(B)(iv) of the Farm Security and Rural Investment Act of 2002 (7 U.S.C. 8101(3)(B)(iv)) is amended by inserting ''and sustainable aviation fuel'' after ''diesel-equivalent fuel''.

SEC. 9002. BIOBASED MARKETS PROGRAM.

Section 9002 of the Farm Security and Rural Investment Act of 2002 (7 U.S.C. 8102) is amended—

(1) in subsection (a)—

(A) in paragraph (2), by adding at the end the following:

''(G) PROCUREMENT RESOURCES.—The Office of Federal Procurement Policy, in coordination with the Secretary, shall provide educational

materials to procuring agencies to consider the longevity of a product, economic savings, and the efficacy and performance of a product when making procurement decisions under this subsection.''; and

(B) in paragraph (4)—

(i) in subparagraph (A), by striking clause (ii) and redesignating clauses (iii) and (iv) as clauses (ii) and (iii), respectively;

(ii) in subparagraph (B)(i)—

(I) in the matter preceding subclause (I)—

(aa) by inserting ''and the Secretary'' after ''Policy''; and

(bb) by striking ''information concerning—'' and inserting ''a report that describes, for the year covered by the report—'';

(II) in subclause (I), by inserting '', including the actions taken by the procuring agency to establish and implement the biobased procurement program of the procuring agency under that paragraph'' before the semicolon;

(III) in subclause (IV), by striking ''and'' at the end;

(IV) in subclause (V), by striking ''and'' at the end; and

(V) by adding at the end the following:

''(VI)(aa) the specific categories of biobased products that are unavailable to meet procurement needs of the procuring agencies; and

''(bb) the desired performance characteristics and other relevant specifications for those products; and

''(VII) if applicable, an explanation of the procurement requirement or updated procurement requirement established under paragraph (2)(A)(i) that procuring agencies failed to meet and reasons for the failure; and''; and

(iii) by adding at the end the following:

''(D) ACCOUNTABILITY.—The Office of Federal Procurement Policy, in consultation with the Secretary, shall annually—

''(i) collect the information required to be reported under subparagraph (B) and make the information publicly available;

''(ii) using the information collected under subparagraph (B) of this paragraph, document relevant procuring agencies under paragraph (2)(A)(i) that, as applicable, have established a procurement program in accordance with paragraph (2)(A)(i)(I); and

''(iii) make the information publicly available, subject to the exemptions from disclosure under section 552(b) of title 5, United States Code.'';

(2) in subsection (f)—

(A) in paragraph (1)—

(i) in the heading, by inserting ''AND NAPCS'' before ''CODES'';

(ii) by inserting ''and North American Product Classification System codes'' before ''for—''; and

(iii) by striking subparagraphs (A) and (B) and inserting the following:

''(A) renewable chemicals manufacturers and biobased products manufacturers; and

''(B) renewable chemicals and biobased products.''; and

(B) by redesignating paragraph (2) as paragraph (3) and inserting after paragraph (1) the following:

''(2) REPORT.—To inform the development of codes under paragraph (1), the Secretary shall, within 90 days after the date of the enactment of this paragraph, submit to the Committee on Agriculture of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry of the Senate, a report that provides—

''(A) the Federal statistical collections of information related to the North American Industry Classification System codes and the North American Product Classification System codes that utilize bioeconomy-specific data;

''(B) recommendations to implement any bioeconomy-related changes as part of the 2027 revisions of the North American Industry Classification System codes and the North American Product Classification System codes; and

''(C) an assessment of the impacts that bioeconomy-specific North American Industry Classification System codes and North American Product Classification System codes would have on the measurement by the agency of the economic contributions of the bioeconomy.''; and

(3) in subsection (k)—

(A) in paragraph (1), by striking ''2024'' and inserting ''2031''; and

(B) in paragraph (2), by striking ''2023'' and inserting ''2031''.

SEC. 9003. BIOREFINERY ASSISTANCE.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Section 9003 of the Farm Security and Rural Investment Act of 2002 (7 U.S.C. 8103) is amended—

(1) in subsection (b)(1)—

(A) by inserting ''or innovative'' before ''commercial-scale''; and

(B) by inserting '', renewable chemicals, or biobased products'' after ''end-user products'';

(2) in subsection (d)(1)—

(A) in subparagraph (B)—

(i) by striking all that precedes ''a loan guarantee'' and inserting the following:

''(B) FEASIBILITY.—

''(i) IN GENERAL.—In approving''; and

(ii) by adding after and below the end the following:

''(ii) WAIVER.—The Secretary may waive the requirement that the applicant must demonstrate commercial viability for projects adopting commercially available technology.'';

(B) by redesignating subparagraphs (C) and (D) as subparagraphs (D) and (E), respectively; and

(C) by inserting after subparagraph (B) the following:

''(C) TECHNICAL REVIEW AGREEMENT.—

''(i) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall enter into an agreement with each project applicant that clearly outlines the specific objectives, outcomes, and conditions by which the Secretary determines successful technical feasibility of the project under this section.

''(ii) CONDITIONS OF AGREEMENT.—The agreement provided under clause (i) shall include clear guidelines and expectations for the methodologies, protocols, and procedures, and what the eligible technology must demonstrate, for the Department to determine technical feasibility from an integrated demonstration unit, including—

''(I) a set timeline for the integrated demonstration unit campaign and final technical report to show reliable evidence of continuous, steady-state production;

''(II) criteria and methods for evaluating the project's success, including any third-party assessments or evaluations that may be conducted during the demonstration period and at the conclusion of the set timeline;

''(III) criteria and methods to prove the ability of the integrated demonstration unit to use project-specific feedstock for the production of advanced biofuels, renewable chemicals, or biobased products at a yield and quality consistent with the design basis of the project;

''(IV) required information and conditions that demonstrate operation duration, quality, and quantity specifications; and

''(V) any other information that, if supplied to the Secretary, would assist the eligible entity in sufficiently demonstrating a project's technical feasibility.

''(iii) FAILURE TO COMPLY WITH AGREEMENT.—

''(I) NONCOMPLIANCE NOTIFICATION.—If a project applicant fails to comply with the technical feasibility requirements as provided under clause (ii), the Secretary shall issue a written notice to the project applicant detailing the specific deficiencies and providing a reasonable timeframe for the project applicant to rectify the issues.

''(II) CORRECTIVE ACTION PERIOD.—The project applicant shall have a period of not more than 90 days from the date of issuance of the noncompliance notice to address the identified deficiencies and submit a revised technical feasibility assessment for reconsideration.

''(iv) TECHNICAL FEASIBILITY APPROVAL.—Upon fulfillment of the conditions of agreement established under clause (ii) or approval of the revised technical feasibility assessment under clause (iii)(II), the Secretary shall determine the project to be technically feasible.''; and

(3) in subsection (g)—

(A) by striking all that precedes ''is authorized'' and inserting the following:

''(g) FUNDING.—There''; and

(B) by striking ''2023'' and inserting ''2031''.

(b) RESCISSION.—Of the unobligated balances of amounts made available under section 9003 of the Farm Security and Rural Investment Act of 2002, $18,000,000 are rescinded.

SEC. 9004. BIOPRODUCT LABELING TERMINOLOGY.

Title IX of the Farm Security and Rural Investment Act of 2002 (7 U.S.C. 8101–8115) is amended by inserting after section 9003 the following:

''SEC. 9004. BIOPRODUCT LABELING TERMINOLOGY.

''(a) UNIFORM STANDARDS.—

''(1) IN GENERAL.—Within 1 year after the date of the enactment of this section, the Secretary shall issue rules implementing national uniform labeling standards for, and ensuring the proper use of, the following terms in the labeling and marketing of bioproducts:

''(A) Bio-attributed plastic.

''(B) Bio-attributed product.

''(C) Biobased plastic.

''(D) Plant-based product.

''(2) INCLUSION OF CERTAIN DEFINED TERMS.—In implementing the national uniform labeling standards under paragraph (1), the Secretary shall include the following terms, as defined in section 9001:

''(A) Biobased product.

''(B) Intermediate ingredient or feedstock.

''(C) Renewable biomass.

''(D) Renewable chemical.

''(b) CONSULTATION.—In defining terms under subsection (a), the Secretary shall consult with—

''(1) biomanufacturers;

''(2) entities engaged in research and development of bioproducts;

''(3) feedstock growers; and

''(4) other industry stakeholders.''.

SEC. 9005. BIOENERGY PROGRAM FOR ADVANCED BIOFUELS.

Section 9005(g)(2) of the Farm Security and Rural Investment Act of 2002 (7 U.S.C. 8105(g)(2)) is amended by striking ''2023'' and inserting ''2031''.

SEC. 9006. BIODIESEL FUEL EDUCATION PROGRAM.

Section 9006 of the Farm Security and Rural Investment Act of 2002 (7 U.S.C. 8106) is repealed.

SEC. 9007. RURAL ENERGY FOR AMERICA PROGRAM.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Section 9007 of the Farm Security and Rural Investment Act of 2002 (7 U.S.C. 8107) is amended—

(1) in subsection (a), by inserting ''(referred to in this section as the 'Program')'' after ''Program'';

(2) in subsection (b)(3)—

(A) in subparagraph (D), by inserting '', cost savings,'' after ''savings'';

(B) in subparagraph (E), by striking ''and'' at the end;

(C) in subparagraph (F), by striking the period at the end and inserting ''; and''; and

(D) by adding at the end the following:

''(G) the potential of the proposed program to meaningfully improve the financial conditions of the agricultural producer or rural small business.'';

(3) in subsection (c)—

(A) in paragraph (1)(A)(i), by inserting '', agricultural cooperatives with less than 2,500 employees,'' before ''and rural'';

(B) in paragraph (2)—

(i) in subparagraph (F), by striking ''and'' at the end;

(ii) by redesignating subparagraph (G) as subparagraph (H); and

(iii) by inserting after subparagraph (F) the following:

''(G) the potential improvements to the financial conditions of the agricultural producer or rural small business; and''; and

(C) in paragraph (3)(B), by striking ''$25,000,000'' and inserting ''$50,000,000'';

(4) by redesignating subsections (d), (e), and (f) as subsections (e), (f), and (g), respectively, and inserting after subsection (c) the following:

''(d) STREAMLINED APPLICATION PROCESS.—The Secretary shall develop a streamlined application process, including within each tier described in subsection (c)(4), under which an entity may apply for a grant under subsection (b), financial assistance under subsection (c), or a bundled application for a project with components eligible under clauses (i) and (ii) of subsection (c)(1)(A).'';

(5) in subsection (e) (as so redesignated)—

(A) in the subsection heading, by striking ''OUTREACH'' and inserting ''OUTREACH, TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE, AND EDUCATION'';

(B) by striking ''that adequate'' and inserting the following: ''that—

''(1) adequate'';

(C) in paragraph (1) (as inserted by subparagraph (B) of this paragraph), by striking the period at the end and inserting a semicolon; and

(D) by adding at the end the following:

''(2) technical assistance is provided to entities seeking to apply for a grant or financial assistance under the Program; and

''(3) outreach, technical assistance, and education is provided to recipients of grants and other financial assistance under the Program relating to integrating renewable energy projects on land shared with crops or livestock.'';

(6) in subsection (g), (as so redesignated by paragraph (4) of this section)—

(A) in paragraph (3), by striking ''2023'' and inserting ''2031''; and

(B) by adding at the end the following:

''(4) RESERVE FUND.—

''(A) IN GENERAL.—Of the funds obligated under paragraph (1) for each fiscal year , not less than 10 percent shall be deposited in a reserve fund in the Treasury and reserved for use in accordance with this subparagraph.

''(B) USE OF FUNDS.—

''(i) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall use amounts reserved under subparagraph (A) to provide grants to support projects using underutilized renewable energy technologies.

''(ii) COSTS.—The amount of the grant for such a project shall not exceed 25 percent of the installation or maintenance costs of the project for the year in which the grant is awarded.

''(C) FREQUENCY OF SOLICITATIONS TO FUND.—The Secretary shall carry out at least 2 solicitations for applications for grants from the reserve fund in each fiscal year.

''(D) REALLOCATION.—Any funds reserved under subparagraph (A) that remain unobligated 1 year after the end of the fiscal year in which made available under subparagraph (A) shall be reallocated to carry out the program established under this section.

''(E) DEFINITION OF UNDERUTILIZED RENEWABLE ENERGY TECHNOLOGIES.—The term 'underutilized renewable energy technologies' means renewable energy technologies for which have been expended not more than 20 percent of the average of the total amounts made available under this section for the 5 fiscal years most recently ending before the date of the enactment of this paragraph.''; and

(7) by adding at the end the following:

''(h) PROJECT DIVERSITY.—In approving grant or loan guarantee applications under this section, the Secretary shall ensure that, to the extent practicable, there is diversity in the types of projects approved for grants or loan guarantees to ensure that as wide a range as possible of technologies, products, and approaches are assisted.''.

(b) CONFORMING AMENDMENTS.—Section 9007 of such Act (7 U.S.C. 8107) is amended by striking ''subsection (f)'' each place it appears and inserting ''subsection (g)''.

SEC. 9008. FEEDSTOCK FLEXIBILITY.

Section 9010(b) of the Farm Security and Rural Investment Act of 2002 (7 U.S.C. 8110(b)) is amended—

(1) in paragraph (1)(A), by striking ''2026'' and inserting ''2031''; and

(2) in paragraph (2)(A), by striking ''2026'' and inserting ''2031''.

SEC. 9009. BIOMASS CROP ASSISTANCE PROGRAM.

Section 9011(f)(1) of the Farm Security and Rural Investment Act of 2002 (7 U.S.C. 8111(f)(1)) is amended by striking ''2023'' and inserting ''2031''.

SEC. 9010. CARBON UTILIZATION AND BIOGAS EDUCATION PROGRAM.

Section 9014 of the Farm Security and Rural Investment Act of 2002 (7 U.S.C. 8115) is repealed.

SEC. 9011. STUDY ON EFFECTS OF SOLAR PANEL INSTALLATIONS ON COVERED FARMLAND.

Title IX of the Farm Security and Rural Investment Act of 2002 (7 U.S.C. 8101–8115) is amended by adding at the end the following:

''SEC. 9015. STUDY ON EFFECTS OF SOLAR PANEL INSTALLATIONS ON COVERED FARMLAND.

''(a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary, in consultation with the Secretary of Energy, shall conduct a study on the effects of solar panel installations on the conversion of covered farmland out of agricultural production in accordance with this section.

''(b) CONTENT.—In conducting the study under this section, the Secretary shall—

''(1) analyze the economic effects of solar panel installations on covered farmland, including the effects on—

''(A) crop yields;

''(B) land values, including adjacent properties;

''(C) land access and tenure;

''(D) local economies; and

''(E) food security;

''(2) investigate impacts of solar panel installation, operation, and decommissioning on covered farmland, and suggest best practices to protect—

''(A) soil health;

''(B) water resources;

''(C) wildlife;

''(D) vegetation;

''(E) water drainage; and

''(F) air quality;

''(3) assess the impacts of shared solar energy and agricultural production on covered farmland, including best practices to—

''(A) maintain or increase agricultural production;

''(B) increase agricultural resilience;

''(C) retain covered farmland;

''(D) increase economic opportunities in farming and rural communities, including new revenue streams and job creation;

''(E) reduce nonfarmer ownership of covered farmland; and

''(F) enhance biodiversity;

''(4) assess the types of agricultural land best suited and worst suited for shared solar energy and agricultural production;

''(5) study the compatibility of different species of livestock with different solar panel system designs, including—

''(A) the optimal height of and distance between solar panels for livestock grazing and shade for livestock;

''(B) manure management considerations;

''(C) fencing requirements; and

''(D) other animal-handling considerations;

''(6) study the compatibility of different crop types with different solar panel system designs, including—

''(A) the optimal height of and distance between solar panels for plant shading and farm equipment use; and

''(B) the impact on crop yield;

''(7) evaluate the degree to which existing Federal, State, or local tax incentives result in the development of covered farmland under study;

''(8) recommend effective incentives that could shift solar panel installations toward the built environment, brownfield sites, and other contaminated sites;

''(9) evaluate the effectiveness of programs administered by the Federal Government related to solar energy development that—

''(A) result in the development of contaminated lands, the built environment, and other preferred sites; and

''(B) discourage solar panel installations that would convert covered farmland out of agricultural production; and

''(10) estimate the loss of agricultural production on covered farmland due to solar panel installations.

''(c) CONSULTATION WITH RELEVANT STAKEHOLDERS.—In addition to consultation with the Secretary of Energy, while conducting the study under this section, the Secretary shall consult with—

''(1) farmers;

''(2) ranchers;

''(3) landowners;

''(4) agricultural organizations;

''(5) State departments of agriculture and energy;

''(6) units of local government;

''(7) conservation organizations;

''(8) land-grant colleges and universities (as defined in section 1404 of the National Agricultural Research, Extension, and Teaching Policy Act of 1977 (7 U.S.C. 3103)); and

''(9) solar developers.

''(d) REPORT.—Within 2 years after the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary of Agriculture shall submit to the Committee on Agriculture and the Committee on Energy and Commerce of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry and the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources of the Senate a written report on the findings of the study and recommendations under this section.

''(e) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

''(1) COVERED FARMLAND.—The term 'covered farmland' includes—

''(A) farmland, as defined in section 1540(c)(1) of the Farmland Protection Policy Act (7 U.S.C. 4201(c)(1)); and

''(B) nonindustrial private forest land, as defined in section 201(a)(18) of the Food Security Act of 1985 (16 U.S.C. 3801(a)(18)).

''(2) BROWNFIELD SITE.—The term 'brownfield site' has the meaning given that term in section 101(39) of the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act of 1980 (42 U.S.C. 9601(39)).

''(3) SECRETARY.—The term 'Secretary' means the Secretary of Agriculture.''.

SEC. 9012. LIMITATION ON USDA FUNDING FOR GROUND-MOUNTED SOLAR ENERGY SYSTEMS.

Title IX of the Farm Security and Rural Investment Act of 2002 (7 U.S.C. 8101–8115) is further amended by adding at the end the following:

''SEC. 9016. LIMITATION ON USDA FUNDING FOR GROUND-MOUNTED SOLAR ENERGY SYSTEMS.

''(a) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

''(1) COVERED FARMLAND.—The term 'covered farmland' includes—

''(A) farmland, as defined in section 1540(c)(1) of the Farmland Protection Policy Act (7 U.S.C. 4201(c)(1)); and

''(B) nonindustrial private forest land, as defined in section 201(a)(18) of the Food Security Act of 1985 (16 U.S.C. 3801(a)(18)).

''(2) CONVERSION.—The term 'conversion' means, with respect to covered farmland, any activity that results in the covered farmland failing to meet the requirements of a State (as

defined in section 343 of the Consolidated Farm and Rural Development Act (7 U.S.C. 1991)) for agricultural production, activity, or use or timber harvest.

''(3) SECRETARY.—The term 'Secretary' means the Secretary of Agriculture.

''(b) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary may not provide financial assistance for a project that would result in the conversion of covered farmland for solar energy production.

''(c) EXCEPTION.—Subsection (b) shall not apply to a project if the project—

''(1) results in the conversion of less than 5 acres of covered farmland; or

''(2) results in the conversion of less than 50 acres of covered farmland with—

''(A) the majority of the energy produced being for on-farm use; and

''(B) receipt of a resolution of approval or support, or other similar instrument, from each county and municipality in which the project is sited.

''(d) COVERED FARMLAND PROTECTION.—

''(1) FARMLAND CONSERVATION PLAN REQUIRED.—A person who has applied to the Secretary for financial assistance for a project to which subsection (c)(2) applies shall—

''(A) develop a farmland conservation plan for the project to—

''(i) implement best practices to protect future soil health and productivity, and mitigate soil erosion, compaction, and other effects of solar energy production during construction, operation, and decommissioning; and

''(ii) remediate and restore the soil health of the farmland to that of the farmland before the solar energy production project construction; and

''(B) ensure that sufficient funds, as determined by the Secretary, are provided for the decommissioning of the solar energy production system and the remediation and restoration of covered farmland to carry out the farmland conservation plan described in subparagraph (A).

''(2) OBLIGATION AND DISBURSEMENT OF FUNDS.—The Secretary may obligate financial assistance for a project described in paragraph (1), but shall not disburse the financial assistance until the Secretary has determined that the applicant for the financial assistance has complied with paragraph (1).

''(3) FARMLAND CONSERVATION PLAN IMPLEMENTATION.—A person referred to in paragraph (1) shall carry out—

''(A) the provisions of the plan that are described in paragraph (1)(A)(i), on the receipt by the project of financial assistance from the Secretary and for the duration of solar energy production under the project; and

''(B) the provisions of the plan that are described in paragraph (1)(A)(ii), on the cessation of solar energy production under the project.

''(4) COMPLIANCE.—A person who fails to comply with paragraph (3) with respect to a project shall repay to the Secretary the full amount of the financial assistance provided by the Secretary to the person for the project.

''(e) ADDITIONAL LIMITATIONS.—The Secretary may not provide financial assistance for a project that procures a solar energy component (as defined in section 45x(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986) produced, manufactured, or assembled—

''(1) in a foreign country of concern (as defined in section 10638(2) of the CHIPS Act of 2022 (42 U.S.C. 19237(2))); or

''(2) by—

''(A) an entity domiciled or controlled by such a foreign country; or

''(B) a foreign entity of concern (as defined in section 10638(3) of the CHIPS Act of 2022 (42 U.S.C. 19237(3))).''.

SEC. 9013. SUSTAINABLE AVIATION FUELS STRATEGY.

The Secretary shall establish a Department-wide strategy to advance the production of sustainable aviation fuels by—

(1) facilitating the collaboration between relevant Department mission areas to encourage the advancement of the sustainable aviation fuels supply chain, including utilization of agricultural crops grown for sustainable aviation fuels production;

(2) identifying opportunities to maximize sustainable aviation fuels development, deployment, and commercialization;

(3) leveraging the capabilities of America's farmers, ranchers, foresters, and producers to capture opportunities in the sustainable aviation fuels market;

(4) supporting rural economic development through sustainable aviation fuels production; and

(5) promoting public-private partnerships for the development, deployment, and commercialization of sustainable aviation fuels.

SEC. 9014. LEVERAGING EFFICIENCY AWARENESS FOR PUMPING SYSTEMS.

(a) FINDINGS.—Congress finds the following:

(1) There are over 600,000 pumping systems used for irrigation on agricultural land in the United States, many of which still rely on fossil fuels.

(2) Improving the efficiency of agricultural irrigation pumping systems can save up to 22,000,000,000 kilowatt hours of energy per year and eliminate 8,300,000 metric tons of carbon emissions annually.

(3) Energy savings from electrifying agricultural irrigation pumping systems can save farmers and ranchers more than $1,800,000,000 annually in energy costs.

(4) Pumping systems play a central role in the watering of livestock and the management of animal waste in every State.

(5) Pumping systems are a critical component of the Nation's $2,300,000,000 aquaculture industry.

(6) Improving the efficiency of pumping systems used in raising livestock and fish can significantly reduce energy use, save producers millions of dollars annually, and provide meaningful reductions in carbon emissions.

(7) Agricultural irrigation pumping systems utilizing plastic piping can provide significant drought relief benefits, dramatically reducing water losses from evaporation and seepage; agriculture uses 37 percent of the Nation's surface and ground water, 30 percent of which is lost to seepage and evaporation.

(8) Reducing the friction in piping used for agricultural irrigation and livestock watering can provide meaningful energy and cost savings; there are potentially 2,500 kWh of energy savings for every 10 miles of plastic piping utilized in delivering water for crops and livestock.

(9) Solar pumping systems can play an important role in protecting riparian habitat and improving water quality in streams, rivers, lakes, and estuaries through providing alternative watering options for livestock.

(b) INFORMATION ON ENERGY-EFFICIENT PUMPING SYSTEMS.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 180 days after the date of enactment of this section, the Secretary, in consultation with pumping system experts, in order to educate farmers on the benefits of energy-efficient pumping systems, shall develop and make publicly available on the website of the Department easily accessible information on cost savings, energy savings, water conservation, and carbon emissions reductions that can be realized through the use of energy-efficient pumping systems.

(2) CONTENTS.—In carrying out paragraph (1), the Secretary shall include information on—

(A) pumps, pipes, motors, drives, and controls that can provide energy savings and cost savings, conserve water, and reduce carbon emissions; and

(B) Department programs that provide farmers resources for acquiring energy-efficient pumping systems and drought management infrastructure, including the environmental quality incentives program, the Rural Energy for America Program, and the conservation stewardship program.

(c) ENERGY EFFICIENCY PREASSESSMENT TOOL.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 180 days after the date of enactment of this section, the Secretary, in consultation with pumping system experts, in order to raise awareness of the benefits of energy-efficient pumping systems and increase participation in Department programs that promote energy efficiency, shall develop and make publicly available on the website of the Department a user-friendly tool to—

(A) assist farmers in making a preliminary assessment of the energy efficiency of existing pumping systems; and

(B) provide an estimate of potential energy savings, cost savings, and carbon emissions reductions that may be realized through pumping system improvements.

(2) REQUIREMENTS.—

(A) EASE OF USE.—The Secretary shall ensure that the tool made available under paragraph (1) provides a user with projected energy savings, projected cost savings, and projected carbon emissions reductions through the input by the user of the following data relating to an existing pumping system:

(i) Pump type.

(ii) Flow rating and actual flow.

(iii) Pressure rating and actual pressure.

(iv) Speed rating and actual speed.

(B) CONSIDERATIONS.—The Secretary shall ensure that the tool made available under paragraph (1)—

(i) in assessing the energy efficiency of a pumping system, takes into consideration pumps, pipes, motors, drives, and controls associated with the pumping system; and

(ii) in projecting the energy savings, cost savings, and carbon emissions reductions that may be realized through pumping system improvements, takes into consideration the cost of electricity and the profile of the existing pumping system.

(d) ENERGY AUDITOR EDUCATION.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 180 days after the date of enactment of this section, the Secretary, in consultation with pumping system experts, in order to increase the effectiveness of Department of Agriculture energy efficiency programs, shall establish a process to educate persons performing energy efficiency audits for the Department of Agriculture on energy use and energy efficiency in pumping systems.

(2) IMPLEMENTATION.—In carrying out paragraph (1), the Secretary shall consider the use of existing education and training programs focused on energy use and energy efficiency in pumping systems.

(e) CONSERVATION STEWARDSHIP PROGRAM ACTIVITIES.—Section 1240I(2)(B)(i) of the Food Security Act of 1985 (16 U.S.C. 3839aa–21(2)(B)(i)) is amended by inserting ''and energy-efficient pumping systems'' before '', as determined''.

(f) DEFINITION OF PUMPING SYSTEM.—In this section, the term ''pumping system'' means any pumps, pipes, motors, drives, and controls used to move water and other fluids on farms, ranches, and aquaculture operations.

SEC. 9015. ADDING WASTE ENERGY RECOVERY TO THE RURAL ENERGY FOR AMERICA PROGRAM.

Section 9001(15)(A) of the Farm Security and Rural Investment Act of 2002 (7 U.S.C. 8101(15)(A)) is amended by striking ''or hydroelectric'' and inserting ''hydroelectric, or waste energy recovery''.

TITLE X—HORTICULTURE, MARKETING, AND REGULATORY REFORM

Subtitle A—Horticulture

SEC. 10001. SPECIALTY CROP BLOCK GRANTS.

Section 101 of the Specialty Crops Competitiveness Act of 2004 (7 U.S.C. 1621 note; Public Law 108–465) is amended—

(1) in subsection (a), in the matter preceding paragraph (1)—

(A) by striking ''2023'' and inserting ''2031''; and

(B) by striking ''specialty crops, including—'' and inserting ''specialty crops through priorities established annually by State program administrators in consultation with specialty crop producers and producer groups, including—''; and

(2) by striking subsection (e), and inserting the following:

''(e) PLAN REQUIREMENTS.—The State plan shall identify the lead agency charged with the responsibility of carrying out the plan and indicate—

''(1) how the grant funds will be utilized to enhance the competitiveness of specialty crops; and

''(2) how outreach to, and consultation with, specialty crop producers and producer groups will be achieved.''.

SEC. 10002. SPECIALTY CROPS MARKET NEWS ALLOCATION.

Section 10107(b) of the Food, Conservation, and Energy Act of 2008 (7 U.S.C. 1622b(b)) is amended by striking ''2023'' and inserting ''2031''.

SEC. 10003. OFFICE OF URBAN AGRICULTURE AND INNOVATIVE PRODUCTION.

Section 222 of the Department of Agriculture Reorganization Act of 1994 (7 U.S.C. 6923) is amended—

(1) in subsection (a)(3)—

(A) in the matter preceding subparagraph (A), by inserting ''production'' after ''emerging agricultural'';

(B) in subparagraph (D)—

(i) by inserting ''controlled-environment agriculture, including'' before ''hydroponic''; and

(ii) by striking ''and'' at the end;

(C) by redesignating subparagraph (E) as subparagraph (H); and

(D) by inserting after subparagraph (D) the following:

''(E) using the resources of the Department and of State, Tribal, and local agencies to provide technical assistance for business incorporation, navigating local zoning, and managing farm tract numbers for smaller, noncontiguous parcels to growers implementing activities described in this paragraph;

''(F) using the resources of the Department and of State, Tribal, and local agencies to promote conservation techniques unique to urban agriculture and innovative production, including techniques that address stormwater runoff and the impacted nature of urban land and the subsurface of the land;

''(G) assisting urban and innovative producers in navigating Federal, State, Tribal, and local policies and regulations that impact business or operations; and'';

(2) in subsection (b)—

(A) in paragraph (5)(B), by striking ''2023'' and inserting ''2031''; and

(B) in paragraph (7)(A), by striking ''the date that is 5 years after the date on which the members are appointed under paragraph (2)(B)'' and inserting ''September 30, 2031'';

(3) by amending subsection (c) to read as follows:

''(c) GRANTS AND COOPERATIVE AGREEMENTS.—

''(1) GRANTS.—

''(A) IN GENERAL.—The Director shall award competitive grants to support the development of urban and innovative agricultural production and technical or financial assistance to producers.

''(B) SUBGRANTS.—An eligible entity may use funds from a grant under subparagraph (A) to provide subgrants to urban and innovative producers to support the growth of the farm or farm business of the urban and innovative producers.

''(C) ELIGIBLE ENTITIES.—An entity eligible to receive a grant under subparagraph (A) is—

''(i) a nonprofit organization;

''(ii) a unit of local government;

''(iii) a Tribal organization;

''(iv) an agricultural cooperative or other agricultural business entity or a producer network or association; or

''(v) a school that serves any of grades kindergarten through grade 12.

''(2) COOPERATIVE AGREEMENTS.—

''(A) IN GENERAL.—The Director may enter into cooperative agreements with eligible entities to support the development of urban and innovative agricultural production.

''(B) ELIGIBLE ENTITIES.—An entity eligible to enter into cooperative agreements under subparagraph (A) is—

''(i) a nonprofit organization;

''(ii) a unit of local government;

''(iii) a Tribal organization; or

''(iv) an agricultural cooperative or other agricultural business entity or a producer network or association.'';

(4) in subsection (d)—

(A) in the subsection heading, by striking ''PILOT'';

(B) by striking ''pilot'' each place it appears in paragraphs (1) and (2);

(C) in paragraph (1)(A), by striking ''Not later than 1 year after the date of enactment of this section, the Secretary shall establish a pilot program for not fewer than 5 years that'' and inserting ''The Secretary shall continue to implement a program that'';

(D) in paragraph (1)(C), in the matter preceding clause (i), by striking ''2023'' and inserting ''2031''; and

(E) in paragraph (2)—

(i) in subparagraph (A), by inserting ''and construct at-scale composting, food-to-feed, or anaerobic digestion food waste-to-energy projects'' before the period at the end; and

(ii) in subparagraph (B)—

(I) in the subparagraph heading, by striking ''PILOT'';

(II) in the matter preceding clause (i), by inserting ''Tribal governments,'' after ''local governments,'';

(III) by redesignating clauses (vi) through (viii) as clauses (vii) through (ix), respectively; and

(IV) by inserting after clause (v) the following:

''(vi) develop food waste-to-energy operations;''; and

(5) in subsection (e), by striking ''2023'' and inserting ''2031''.

SEC. 10004. NATIONAL PLANT DIAGNOSTICS NETWORK.

Section 12203(c)(5) of the Agriculture Improvement Act of 2018 (7 U.S.C. 8914(c)(5)) is amended by striking ''2023'' and inserting ''2031''.

SEC. 10005. HEMP PRODUCTION.

(a) STATE AND TRIBAL PLANS.—Section 297B of the Agricultural Marketing Act of 1946 (7 U.S.C. 1639p) is amended—

(1) in subsection (a)—

(A) in paragraph (2)—

(i) in subparagraph (A)—

(I) by redesignating clauses (ii) through (vii) as clauses (iii) through (viii), respectively;

(II) by inserting after clause (i) the following:

''(ii) a procedure under which a hemp producer shall be required to designate the type of production of the hemp producer as—

''(I) only industrial hemp; or

''(II) hemp grown for any purpose other than industrial hemp;'';

(III) in clause (iii), as redesignated by clause (i) of this subparagraph—

(aa) by inserting ''except as provided in subparagraph (B)(i),'' before ''a procedure''; and

(bb) by striking ''delta-9 tetrahydrocannabinol concentration'' and inserting ''total tetrahydrocannabinol concentration (including tetrahydrocannabinolic acid)''; and

(IV) in clause (viii), as redesignated by clause (i) of this subparagraph, by striking ''clauses (i) through (vi)'' and inserting ''clauses (i) through (vii)''; and

(ii) in subparagraph (B), by striking ''include any other practice'' and inserting the following: ''include—

''(i) notwithstanding subparagraph (A)(iii), a procedure for the use of visual inspections, performance-based sampling methodologies, certified seed, or a similar procedure when developing sampling plans for any producer who elects to be designated as a producer of only industrial hemp under subparagraph (A)(ii)(I);

''(ii) notwithstanding subsection (e)(3)(B)(i), a procedure for eliminating the 10-year period of ineligibility following the date of conviction for a felony related to a controlled substance for producers who elect to be designated as producers of only industrial hemp under subparagraph (A)(ii); and

''(iii) any other practice''; and

(B) by adding at the end the following:

''(4) INSPECTION OF INDUSTRIAL HEMP PRODUCERS.—

''(A) IN GENERAL.—If a State or Tribal plan referred to in paragraph (1) includes procedures for reducing or eliminating sampling or testing requirements under paragraph (2)(B)(i) for a producer of industrial hemp, the State or Indian tribe shall require the producer to provide documentation that demonstrates a clear intent to produce, and use in-field practices consistent with production of, only industrial hemp, such as a seed tag, sales contract, Farm Service Agency report, harvest technique, or harvest inspection.

''(B) TESTING.—If a producer fails to provide the documentation required under subparagraph (A), the State or Indian tribe involved shall require the producer to conduct the testing described in paragraph (2)(A)(iii).'';

(2) in subsection (e)(2)(A)(iii), by striking ''delta-9'' and all that follows through ''percent'' and inserting the following: ''total tetrahydrocannabinol concentration (including tetrahydrocannabinolic acid) of not more than 0.3 percent in the plant''; and

(3) in subsection (e)(3)—

(A) by amending subparagraph (A) to read as follows:

''(A) REPORTING.—

''(i) IN GENERAL.—In the case of a State department of agriculture or a Tribal Government with respect to which a State or Tribal plan is approved under subsection (b), such State department of agriculture or Tribal Government (as applicable) shall immediately report a hemp producer to the Attorney General and, as applicable, the chief law enforcement officer of the State or Indian tribe, if the State department of agriculture or Tribal Government (as applicable) determines that the hemp producer has—

''(I) violated the State or Tribal plan with a culpable mental state greater than negligence; or

''(II) violated the State or Tribal plan by producing a crop that is inconsistent with the designation of only industrial hemp under subsection (a)(2)(A)(ii).

''(ii) EXCEPTION.—Paragraph (1) shall not apply with respect to—

''(I) a violation described in subclause (I) of clause (i); or

''(II) the production of a crop inconsistent with its designation, as described in subclause (II) of such clause.'';

(B) in subparagraph (B), by amending clause (ii) to read as follows:

''(ii) EXCEPTION.—Clause (i) shall not apply to any person growing hemp that designates the type of production as only industrial hemp under subsection (a)(2)(A)(ii) if—

''(I) the State or Tribal plan approved under subsection (b) includes a procedure described in subsection (a)(2)(B)(ii); or

''(II) the plan established by the Secretary under section 297C includes a procedure described in subsection (a)(2)(B)(ii) of such section.''; and

(C) by adding at the end the following:

''(D) PRODUCTION INCONSISTENT WITH INDUSTRIAL HEMP DESIGNATION.—Any person who knowingly produces a crop that is inconsistent with the designation of only industrial hemp

under subsection (a)(2)(A)(ii) shall be ineligible to participate in the program established under this section for a period of 5 years beginning on the date of the violation.''.

(b) DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE.—Section 297C of the Agricultural Marketing Act of 1946 (7 U.S.C. 1639q) is amended—

(1) in subsection (a)—

(A) in paragraph (2)—

(i) by striking ''paragraph (1) shall'' and all that follows through ''practice to maintain'' and inserting the following: ''paragraph (1)—

''(A) shall include—

''(i) a practice to maintain'';

(ii) in subparagraph (C), by redesignating clauses (i) and (ii) as subclauses (I) and (II), respectively, and moving the margins of such subclauses (as so redesignated) two ems to the right;

(iii) by redesignating subparagraphs (B) through (E) as clauses (iii) through (vi), respectively, and moving the margins of such clauses (as so redesignated) two ems to the right;

(iv) by inserting after clause (i) (as designated by clause (i) of this subparagraph) the following:

''(ii) a procedure under which the Secretary shall require a hemp producer to designate the type of production of the hemp producer as—

''(I) only industrial hemp; or

''(II) hemp grown for any purpose other than industrial hemp;'';

(v) in clause (iii) (as redesignated by clause (iii) of this subparagraph)—

(I) by inserting ''except as provided in subparagraph (B)(i),'' before ''a procedure''; and

(II) by striking ''delta-9 tetrahydrocannabinol concentration'' and inserting ''total tetrahydrocannabinol concentration (including tetrahydrocannabinolic acid)'';

(vi) in clause (v) (as redesignated by clause (iii) of this subparagraph), by inserting ''and'' after the semicolon at the end;

(vii) by striking subparagraph (F); and

(viii) by adding at the end the following:

''(B) may include—

''(i) notwithstanding subparagraph (A)(iii), a procedure for the use of visual inspections, performance-based sampling methodologies, certified seed, or a similar procedure when developing sampling plans for any producer who elects to be designated as a producer of only industrial hemp under subparagraph (A)(ii);

''(ii) notwithstanding section 297B(e)(3)(B)(i), a procedure for eliminating the 10-year period of ineligibility following the date of conviction for a felony related to a controlled substance for producers who elect to be designated as producers of only industrial hemp under subparagraph (A)(ii); and

''(iii) such other practices or procedures as the Secretary considers to be appropriate, to the extent that the practice or procedure is consistent with this subtitle.''; and

(B) by adding at the end the following:

''(3) INSPECTIONS OF INDUSTRIAL HEMP PRODUCERS.—

''(A) IN GENERAL.—If a plan referred to in paragraph (1) includes procedures for reducing or eliminating sampling or testing requirements under paragraph (2)(B)(i) for a producer of only industrial hemp, the Secretary shall require the producer to provide documentation that demonstrates a clear intent to produce, and use in-field practices consistent with production of, industrial hemp, such as a seed tag, sales contract, Farm Service Agency report, harvest technique, or harvest inspection.

''(B) TESTING.—If a producer fails to provide the appropriate documentation required under subparagraph (A), the Secretary shall require the producer to conduct the testing described in paragraph (2)(A)(iii).''; and

(2) in subsection (d)(2)—

(A) in subparagraph (B), by striking ''and'' at the end;

(B) in subparagraph (C)—

(i) by redesignating clauses (i) and (ii) as clauses (ii) and (iii), respectively;

(ii) by inserting before clause (ii) (as so redesignated), the following:

''(i) the designation of the type of production of the hemp producers under section 297B(a)(2)(A)(ii) or under subsection (a)(2)(A)(ii) of this section;''; and

(iii) in clause (iii), (as so redesignated), by striking the period at the end and inserting ''; and''; and

(C) by adding at the end the following:

''(D) the laboratory certificate of analysis for hemp disposed of under section 297B(a)(2)(A)(iv) or subsection (a)(2)(A)(iv) of this section.''.

(c) REGULATIONS AND GUIDELINES; EFFECT ON OTHER LAW.—Section 297D of the Agricultural Marketing Act of 1946 (7 U.S.C. 1639r) is amended—

*(1) in the section heading, by striking ''**REGULATIONS AND GUIDELINES**'' and inserting ''**ADMINISTRATION, REGULATIONS, AND GUIDELINES**''; and*

(2) in subsection (a)—

(A) in the subsection heading, by striking ''PROMULGATION OF REGULATIONS AND GUIDELINES'' and inserting ''ADMINISTRATION, REGULATIONS, AND GUIDELINES''; and

(B) by adding at the end the following:

''(3) LABORATORY ACCREDITATION.—The Secretary, in consultation with the Administrator of the Drug Enforcement Administration, shall establish a process by which the Department of Agriculture can issue certificates of accreditation to laboratories for the purposes of testing hemp in accordance with this subtitle.''.

SEC. 10006. PILOT PROGRAM FOR THE INTRA-ORGANIZATIONAL MOVEMENT OF GENETICALLY ENGINEERED MICROORGANISMS BY CERTAIN AUTHORIZED PARTIES.

Subtitle A of the Plant Protection Act (7 U.S.C. 7711 et seq.) is amended by adding at the end the following:

''SEC. 420A. PILOT PROGRAM FOR THE INTRA-ORGANIZATIONAL MOVEMENT OF GENETICALLY ENGINEERED MICROORGANISMS BY CERTAIN AUTHORIZED PARTIES.

''(a) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

''(1) COVERED MICROORGANISM.—The term 'covered microorganism'—

''(A) means a genetically engineered microorganism that is a plant pest or may pose a plant pest risk; and

''(B) does not include listed agents or toxins (as defined in section 212(l) of the Agricultural Bioterrorism Protection Act of 2002 (7 U.S.C. 8401(l))).

''(2) COVERED UNAUTHORIZED RELEASE.—The term 'covered unauthorized release' means an unauthorized release of a covered microorganism, including such a release that a responsible party suspects took place.

''(3) PILOT PROGRAM.—The term 'pilot program' means the pilot program established under subsection (b).

''(4) PLANT PEST RISK.—The term 'plant pest risk' has the meaning given such term in section 340.3 of title 7, Code of Federal Regulations (or successor regulations).

''(5) RESPONSIBLE PARTY.—The term 'responsible party' means a partnership, corporation, association, joint venture, or other legal entity that—

''(A) has a physical address in the United States;

''(B) is not owned by or otherwise affiliated with the government of a country of concern (as defined in section 10638 of the CHIPS Act of 2022 (42 U.S.C. 19237));

''(C) has more than 1 responsible party biocontainment facility;

''(D) employs quality control personnel that are capable of overseeing the movement and control of covered microorganisms;

''(E) has, in each of the 3 years preceding enrollment in the pilot program, moved plant pests pursuant to permits granted by the Secretary under this Act;

''(F) has the ability and resources to ensure compliance with the requirements under subsection (e) for the duration of the pilot program;

''(G) has implemented the precautions specified in subsection (e) to prevent the unauthorized release of covered microorganisms; and

''(H) has not, during the 5-year period preceding the date on which the relevant application is submitted under subsection (c)—

''(i) caused an unauthorized release of a plant pest;

''(ii) materially failed to comply with a permit granted by the Secretary for the interstate movement of plant pests; or

''(iii) violated any provision of this section (including regulations promulgated thereunder).

''(6) RESPONSIBLE PARTY BIOCONTAINMENT FACILITY.—The term 'responsible party biocontainment facility'—

''(A) means a physical structure or portion thereof, constructed and maintained in order to contain plant pests, that is under the control of, or operated by, a responsible party within the contiguous United States; and

''(B) includes sites under the control of, or operated by, any parent organization, subsidiary, or affiliate of the responsible party.

''(b) ESTABLISHMENT.—Not later than 100 days after the date of enactment of this section, the Secretary shall establish a pilot program under which the Secretary shall authorize not more than 75 responsible parties—

''(1) to move covered microorganisms in interstate commerce between responsible party biocontainment facilities without a permit; and

''(2) to maintain control over and dispose of such covered microorganisms.

''(c) APPLICATION.—

''(1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall accept applications from responsible parties for enrollment in the pilot program during a 45-day application period, beginning on the date on which the pilot program is established under subsection (b), using a web-based application process established by the Secretary.

''(2) CONTENTS.—An application submitted by a responsible party for enrollment in the pilot program shall include the following:

''(A) The name and contact information of the responsible party and any agent of the responsible party that will be involved in the movement of a covered microorganism.

''(B) The methods by which a covered microorganism will be moved and the measures taken to ensure that there is no unauthorized release of the covered microorganism.

''(C) The manner in which a shipping container, packaging material, or any other material accompanying the covered microorganism will be disposed of to prevent the unauthorized release of a covered microorganism.

''(D) A list of responsible party biocontainment facilities to which the responsible party intends to move covered microorganisms.

''(E) A list of the predominant covered microorganism chassis strains that, at the time of the application, the responsible party intends to move.

''(F) A sworn certification that the responsible party meets each criterion specified in subsection (a)(5).

''(3) SUPPLEMENTAL APPLICATIONS.—

''(A) IN GENERAL.—A responsible party may submit a supplemental application to the Secretary to update a list under subparagraph (D) or (E) of paragraph (2) at any time during such enrollment. The Secretary shall make a determination with respect to such supplemental application not later than 30 days after the date on which such supplemental application is submitted to the Secretary.

''(B) DENIALS.—The Secretary may only deny a supplemental application if the Secretary has made the determination set forth in subsection (d)(2)(B). A denial of a supplemental application shall be subject to appeal in accordance with the terms specified in subsection (d)(3).

''(d) SELECTION PROCESS.—

''(1) TIMING.—The Secretary shall—

''(A) evaluate applications received under subsection (c)(1) in the order in which the applications are received; and

''(B) approve or deny all applications received during the period described in that subsection not later than 45 days after the end of that period.

''(2) DENIAL.—The Secretary shall deny an application received under subsection (c)(1) if—

''(A) the Secretary has already selected 75 responsible parties for enrollment in the pilot program; or

''(B) the Secretary determines that the responsible party submitting the application does not meet each criterion specified in subsection (a)(5).

''(3) APPEAL.—

''(A) IN GENERAL.—A responsible party seeking to enroll in the pilot program whose application has been denied under paragraph (2) may submit to the Secretary a written appeal within—

''(i) the 10-day period beginning on the date on which the responsible party receives written notification of the denial; or

''(ii) a longer period, if the responsible party makes a request for additional time to submit such appeal and the Secretary grants such request.

''(B) DECISION.—The Secretary shall, within a reasonably prompt period, grant or deny an appeal under subparagraph (A) in writing, which shall include the reasons for the decision.

''(e) REQUIREMENTS.—A responsible party shall, as a condition of enrollment in the pilot program, agree to—

''(1) maintain, move, and dispose of covered microorganisms in a manner that prevents unauthorized release, spread, dispersal, or persistence of those covered microorganisms in the environment;

''(2) unless otherwise authorized under a permit under this Act, only move a covered microorganism between sites that are responsible party biocontainment facilities;

''(3) maintain, move, and dispose of each covered microorganism separately from other organisms;

''(4) ensure that each covered microorganism is maintained, moved, and disposed of in a manner commensurate with the plant pest risk posed by that covered microorganism;

''(5) use, at a minimum, a package for movement—

''(A) that consists of a securely sealed inner and outer container, each of which is an effective barrier to the escape or unauthorized dissemination of the covered microorganism;

''(B) the inner container of which—

''(i) contains all of the applicable covered microorganism; and

''(ii) is cushioned and sealed in such a manner as to remain sealed during any shock, impact, or change in pressure; and

''(C) the outer container of which is rigid and strong enough to withstand typical shipping conditions (such as dropping, stacking, and impact from other freight) without opening;

''(6) on request, grant the Secretary access—

''(A) to sample materials associated with the interstate movement of covered microorganisms under the pilot program;

''(B) to observe and inspect the interstate movement of those covered microorganisms; and

''(C) to audit records of the activities of the responsible party under the pilot program;

''(7) maintain detailed and accurate records of all activities carried out under the pilot program to demonstrate compliance with the applicable requirements;

''(8) on request, grant the Secretary access to each responsible party biocontainment facility for inspection in relation to a responsible party's enrollment in the pilot program; and

''(9) comply with any additional requirement for the containment of covered microorganisms in interstate commerce that the Secretary may require if—

''(A) the Secretary determines that such an additional requirement is reasonable; and

''(B) the sole purpose of such additional requirement is to avoid a covered unauthorized release.

''(f) PROHIBITION ON CERTAIN PREFERENCES.—In carrying out the pilot program, the Secretary shall take no action or promulgate any regulation that—

''(1) treats genetically engineered covered microorganisms less favorably than nongenetically engineered covered microorganisms; or

''(2) limits the quantity or type of covered microorganisms that may be moved under the pilot program between responsible party biocontainment facilities.

''(g) REPORTING BY RESPONSIBLE PARTIES.—A responsible party shall submit to the Secretary a quarterly report that describes the activities of the responsible party under the pilot program during the period covered by the report, including—

''(1) a description of each covered microorganism moved in interstate commerce, including—

''(A) the 1 or more countries or localities at which the covered microorganism was collected, developed, manufactured, reared, cultivated, or cultured, as applicable;

''(B) the genus, species, and any relevant subspecies and common name information of the covered microorganism; and

''(C) when applicable, a brief description of the genetic modifications made in the microorganism, including—

''(i) the intended phenotype that the 1 or more modifications are expected to confer;

''(ii) any targeted deletions, insertions, or base pair substitutions; and

''(iii) the genetic elements used in imparting the modification, including the name, donor organism, and a brief description of the function;

''(2) each method by which the covered microorganism was moved in interstate commerce;

''(3) the quantity of the covered microorganism moved in interstate commerce; and

''(4) the specific responsible party biocontainment facilities between which the covered microorganism was moved in interstate commerce.

''(h) UNAUTHORIZED RELEASE.—In the case of a covered unauthorized release, a responsible party shall—

''(1) contact the applicable office within the Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service within 48 hours of discovery of the covered unauthorized release; and

''(2) submit to the Secretary a statement of facts pertaining to such release, in writing, not later than 5 business days after the date of that discovery.

''(i) DISENROLLMENT FROM PILOT PROGRAM.—

''(1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall terminate the enrollment of a responsible party in the pilot program if the Secretary has a sound factual basis to determine that—

''(A) the responsible party no longer meets the eligibility criteria of a responsible party described in subsection (a)(5);

''(B) the responsible party has materially failed to comply with the requirements under subsection (e); or

''(C) as a result of a failure by a responsible party under subparagraph (B), the responsible party caused a covered unauthorized release during the pilot program.

''(2) DISENROLLMENT DECISION.—If the Secretary terminates the enrollment of a responsible party under paragraph (1), the Secretary shall submit that decision in writing to the responsible party.

''(3) APPEAL.—The appeal process described in subsection (d)(3) shall apply in the case of a responsible party that seeks to appeal a termination of enrollment under paragraph (1).

''(j) TERMINATION.—The pilot program shall terminate on the date that is 3 years after the date on which the Secretary completes the application selection process under subsection (d)(1)(B).

''(k) REPORT.—Not later than 6 months after the date of termination of the pilot program described in subsection (j), the Secretary shall submit to Congress a report that describes—

''(1) the activities carried out under the pilot program, including—

''(A) the quantities and identities of covered microorganisms that were moved; and

''(B) a description of any unauthorized release of covered microorganisms that were moved, including a description of the cause and consequence of any unauthorized release; and

''(2) recommendations on—

''(A) whether the pilot program should become a permanent program; and

''(B) whether, as a permanent program, changes should be made to the criteria for a responsible party under subsection (a)(5) or to the requirements under subsection (e).''.

Subtitle B—Marketing

SEC. 10101. MARKETING ORDERS.

Section 8e(a) of the Agricultural Adjustment Act (7 U.S.C. 608e–1(a)), reenacted with amendments by the Agricultural Marketing Agreement Act of 1937, is amended—

(1) by inserting ''mandarin oranges,'' after ''oranges,'';

(2) by inserting ''almonds,'' after ''onions,''; and

(3) by striking '', other than dates for processing,'' each place it appears.

SEC. 10102. LOCAL AGRICULTURE MARKET PROGRAM.

Section 210A of the Agricultural Marketing Act of 1946 (7 U.S.C. 1627c) is amended—

(1) in subsection (a)—

(A) by redesignating paragraphs (5) through (13) as paragraphs (6) through (14), respectively; and

(B) by inserting after paragraph (4) the following:

''(5) FOOD HUB.—The term 'food hub' means a business or organization that actively manages the aggregation, distribution, and marketing of source-identified food products to multiple buyers from multiple producers, who are primarily local and regional producers, to strengthen the ability of such producers to satisfy local and regional wholesale, retail, and institutional demands.'';

(2) in subsection (b)(4), by inserting '', regional food chain coordination,'' after ''collaboration'';

(3) in subsection (c)(4), by striking ''stakeholders'' and inserting ''stakeholders before and after providing grants under the program'';

(4) in subsection (d)—

(A) in paragraph (1), by striking ''2023'' and inserting ''2031'';

(B) in paragraph (2)—

(i) in subparagraph (I), by striking ''or'';

(ii) in subparagraph (J)(ii), by striking the period at the end and inserting ''; or''; and

(iii) by inserting at the end the following:

''(K) to support the purchase of special purpose equipment.''; and

(C) in paragraph (6)—

(i) in subparagraph (B)—

(I) by redesignating clauses (vii) and (viii) as clauses (viii) and (ix), respectively; and

(II) by inserting after clause (vi) the following:

''(vii) a food hub;'';

(ii) in subparagraph (C)—

(I) in the matter preceding clause (i), by striking ''applications that'' and inserting ''applications, outreach, and technical assistance that would'';

(II) in clause (i), by striking ''or'' at the end;

(III) by redesignating clause (ii) as clause (iii);

(IV) by inserting after clause (i) the following:

''(ii) provide greater geographic balance relative to the benefits of the Program; or''; and

(V) in clause (iii) (as so redesignated), by striking ''are used'' and inserting ''be used'';

(iii) by redesignating subparagraphs (D) and (E) as subparagraphs (E) and (F), respectively; and

(iv) by inserting after subparagraph (C) the following:

''(D) SIMPLIFIED APPLICATIONS.—

''(i) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall establish a simplified application form for eligible entities described in subparagraph (B) that—

''(I) request less than $100,000; and

''(II) choose from the project categories described in clause (ii), which shall include a specific, limited set of key activities with predefined requirements established by the Secretary.

''(ii) PROJECT CATEGORIES.—The Secretary shall establish a simplified application form for the following project categories but may include additional project categories as necessary:

''(I) DIRECT-TO-CONSUMER PROJECTS.—In the case of a direct-to-consumer project, an application form described in clause (i) may be available for the following categories of projects:

''(aa) An outreach and promotion project.

''(bb) A project to provide funding for farmers market manager staff time.

''(cc) A project to provide vendor training.

''(dd) A planning and design project.

''(ee) A data collection and evaluation project.

''(II) LOCAL AND REGIONAL FOOD MARKETS AND ENTERPRISE PROJECTS.—In the case of a local and regional food market and enterprise project, an application form described in clause (i) may be available for the following categories of projects:

''(aa) A food hub feasibility study project.

''(bb) A project to provide funding for regional food chain coordination staff time.

''(cc) A project to provide technical assistance.

''(dd) A data collection and evaluation project.

''(ee) A project to support the purchase of special purpose equipment.'';

(5) in subsection (e)(2)(A), by striking ''2019 through 2023'' and all that follows through the period at the end and inserting the following: ''2026 through 2031 to support partnerships—

''(i) to plan a local or regional food system;

''(ii) to implement a local or regional food system plan;

''(iii) to develop and implement a regional food chain coordination project; and

''(iv) to develop and implement a regional outreach, technical assistance, and evaluation project.'';

(6) in subsection (f)(1)—

(A) in subparagraph (A), by striking ''subsection (d); or'' and inserting ''subsection (d)(5);'';

(B) by redesignating subparagraph (B) as subparagraph (C); and

(C) by inserting after subparagraph (A) the following:

''(B) are eligible to submit an application in accordance with subsection (d)(6)(D); or''; and

(7) in subsection (i)(3)(B)—

(A) by striking ''Of the funds'' and inserting the following:

''(i) IN GENERAL.—Of the funds''; and

(B) by adding at the end the following:

''(ii) SIMPLIFIED APPLICATIONS.—Of the funds made available for grants under subsection (d)(6) for a fiscal year, not less than 10 percent, and not more than 50 percent, shall be used to provide grants to eligible entities that submit an application in accordance with subsection (d)(6)(D).''.

SEC. 10103. ACER ACCESS AND DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM.

Section 12306 of the Agricultural Act of 2014 (7 U.S.C. 1632c) is amended—

(1) by redesignating subsections (e) and (f) as subsections (f) and (g), respectively;

(2) by inserting after subsection (d) the following:

''(e) CONSULTATIONS.—

''(1) IN GENERAL.—Beginning with the first request for applications under this section that occurs at least 1 year after the date of enactment of this Act, not later than 6 months before such a request for applications, the Secretary shall solicit input from maple syrup industry stakeholders with respect to the research and education priorities of the maple syrup industry.

''(2) CONSIDERATION.—The Secretary shall consider the information provided through the consultation required under paragraph (1) when making grants under this section.''; and

(3) in subsection (g), as so redesignated, by striking ''2023'' and inserting ''2031''.

SEC. 10104. ORGANIC PRODUCTION AND MARKET DATA INITIATIVE.

Section 7407 of the Farm Security and Rural Investment Act of 2002 (7 U.S.C. 5925c) is amended—

(1) in subsection (b)—

(A) in paragraph (2), by striking ''and'' at the end;

(B) in paragraph (3), by striking the period at the end and inserting ''; and''; and

(C) by adding at the end the following:

''(4) collect and publish cost-of-production data for organic milk, through support from regional and national programs, including regularly reported data related to—

''(A) the costs of major organic feedstuffs, including—

''(i) the prices for major organic feedstuffs produced domestically;

''(ii) the prices for imported major organic feedstuffs; and

''(iii) all other costs relating to the production of organic milk;

''(B) the establishment of an Organic All Milk Prices Survey, which shall be analogous to the existing All Milk Prices Survey conducted by the National Agricultural Statistics Service, to gather and report monthly data about the amounts organic dairy farmers are being paid for organic milk and prices received for organic dairy cows, including—

''(i) national data; and

''(ii) data relating to, at a minimum, the 6 regions with the greatest quantity of organic dairy production; and

''(C) periodic organic milk reporting under which the Secretary, using data collected by the National Agricultural Statistics Service, the Economic Research Service, or the Agricultural Marketing Service, publishes new periodic reports that include, or add to existing periodic reports relating to, data for organic milk, which shall be equivalent to data reported for conventionally produced milk.''; and

(2) in subsection (d)(2), by striking ''2023'' and inserting ''2031''.

SEC. 10105. ORGANIC CERTIFICATION.

(a) REPORTS.—Section 2122(d)(1) of the Organic Foods Production Act of 1990 (7 U.S.C. 6521(d)(1)) is amended by striking ''2023'' and inserting ''2031''.

(b) ORGANIC TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE.—The Organic Foods Production Act of 1990 is amended by inserting after section 2122A (7 U.S.C. 6521a) the following:

''SEC. 2122B. ORGANIC TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE.

''(a) IN GENERAL.—In carrying out this title, the Secretary may provide technical assistance, outreach, and education to support organic production through existing programs implemented by a covered agency.

''(b) COVERED AGENCY.—For the purposes of this section, the term 'covered agency' means—

''(1) the Agricultural Marketing Service;

''(2) the Agricultural Research Service;

''(3) the National Institute of Food and Agriculture;

''(4) the Farm Service Agency;

''(5) the Risk Management Agency;

''(6) the Natural Resources Conservation Service;

''(7) the Rural Business-Cooperative Service;

''(8) the Food and Nutrition Service; and

''(9) other agencies, as determined by the Secretary.''.

(c) FUNDING.—Section 2123(b)(6) of the Organic Foods Production Act of 1990 (7 U.S.C. 6522(b)(6)) is amended by striking ''for fiscal year 2023'' and inserting ''for each of fiscal years 2023 through 2031''.

SEC. 10106. REPORT ON PROCUREMENT.

Not later than 1 year after the date of the enactment of the Farm, Food, and National Security Act of 2026, the Secretary shall submit to the Committee on Agriculture of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry of the Senate a report that examines—

(1) the process by which domestic commodities or products (as defined in section 220.16 of title 7, Code of Federal Regulations (or any successor regulation)) are procured by the Secretary, including the solicitation process used to procure such commodities or products;

(2) barriers to entry into such procurement process that are for nontraditional, culturally relevant, or local and regional commodities or products;

(3) the diet quality and accessibility of commodities or products that are so procured; and

(4) the Secretary's recommendations for administrative, regulatory, and legislative changes to improve such procurement process.

SEC. 10107. DEFINITIONS OF RISK TO ORGANIC INTEGRITY AND OVERSIGHT PROTOCOLS.

Section 2103 of the Organic Foods Production Act of 1990 (7 U.S.C. 6502) is amended—

(1) by redesignating paragraphs (20) through (22) as paragraphs (22) through (24), respectively;

(2) by redesignating paragraphs (16) through (19) as paragraphs (17) through (20), respectively;

(3) by inserting after paragraph (15) the following:

''(16) OVERSIGHT PROTOCOLS.—The term 'oversight protocols' means the regulations, policies, and procedures issued by the Secretary under the authorities provided in sections 2104, 2107, 2114, 2115, 2116, and 2120.''; and

(4) by inserting after paragraph (20), as so redesignated, the following:

''(21) RISK TO ORGANIC INTEGRITY.—The term 'risk to organic integrity' means the likelihood that a product marketed as organically produced is, or contains, an agricultural product that was not produced using a system of organic farming in compliance with this title, not processed in compliance with this title, or both.''.

SEC. 10108. MODERNIZATION OF INSPECTION REQUIREMENTS.

Paragraph (5) of section 2107(a) of the Organic Foods Production Act of 1990 (7 U.S.C. 6506(a)) is amended to read as follows:

''(5) provide for annual inspections by the certifying agent of each farm and handling operation that has been certified under this title, which inspections shall be—

''(A) in the case of a farm or handling operation site located outside of the United States, conducted on-site;

''(B) in the case of a farm or handling operation site located in the United States, conducted on-site once every three years with intervening annual inspections being conducted on-site or virtually based on the farm's or handling operation's risk to organic integrity, as determined by the Secretary; and

''(C) in the case of a handling operation that acquires but does not physically receive, process, package, or store organic products, conducted through inspection methods, including virtual methods, that provide sufficient assurance of compliance, as determined by the Secretary;''.

SEC. 10109. STUDY AND REFORM OF NATIONAL ORGANIC PROGRAM OVERSIGHT PROTOCOLS.

The Organic Foods Production Act of 1990 (7 U.S.C. 6501 et seq.), as amended by section 10105, is further amended by inserting after section 2122B (as added by such section 10105) the following:

''SEC. 2122C. STUDY AND REFORM OF NATIONAL ORGANIC PROGRAM OVERSIGHT PROTOCOLS.

''(a) STUDY.—Not later than 12 months after the date of enactment of this section, the Secretary shall conduct a comprehensive study for

the purpose of determining whether the establishment of oversight protocols based on risk to organic integrity and the implementation of related reforms are necessary and appropriate.

''(b) ELEMENTS.—

''(1) IN GENERAL.—In conducting the study under subsection (a), the Secretary shall examine the feasibility, opportunities, and implications of implementing oversight protocols that—

''(A) are based on risk to organic integrity;

''(B) include differential treatment of non-compliance that increases the risk to organic integrity versus non-compliance that does not;

''(C) adopt standardized organic plans under section 2114 aligned with the risk to organic integrity;

''(D) include a multi-tiered approach to certification aligned with the risk to organic integrity and the scale of the organic operation; and

''(E) provide increased guidance and interpretations of standards and criteria established under this title given by the National Organic Program to certifying agents and to certified organic farms and handling operations.

''(2) CONSIDERATION OF RELEVANT FACTORS.—In administering paragraph (1), the Secretary shall, with respect to certified organic farms, certified organic handling operations, and certifying agents, take into account—

''(A) the scope of certification or accreditation of each entity;

''(B) the scale and complexity of each entity;

''(C) the domestic or international location of each entity;

''(D) the history of compliance of each entity; and

''(E) other relevant factors.

''(c) REPORT.—Not later than 18 months after the date of enactment of this section, the Secretary shall submit to the appropriate congressional committees, and make publicly available on the websites of the Department of Agriculture, a report describing the findings of the study conducted under subsection (a).

''(d) CONSULTATION.—In conducting the study under subsection (a), the Secretary shall consult with—

''(1) the National Organic Standards Board;

''(2) certifying agents;

''(3) certified organic farms and handling operations;

''(4) organic consumers; and

''(5) other relevant organic stakeholders.

''(e) AUTHORITY TO ESTABLISH ADDITIONAL TERMS AND CONDITIONS.—

''(1) ISSUANCE OF REGULATIONS.—Based on the findings described in the report under subsection (c), and after consultation with the appropriate congressional committees, the Secretary may issue regulations to establish or modify oversight protocols under this title that the Secretary determines are necessary and appropriate, provided such regulations maintain strong organic integrity, support a resilient domestic organic sector, and are consistent with the requirements of this title.

''(2) REDUCING OVERSIGHT COSTS; PRIORITIZATION.—In issuing the regulations under paragraph (1), the Secretary may seek to—

''(A) reduce oversight costs and administrative burdens for certified organic farms, certified organic handling operations, and certifying agents that present a lower risk to organic integrity; or

''(B) prioritize oversight resources for activities that present a higher risk to organic integrity.

''(f) APPROPRIATE CONGRESSIONAL COMMITTEES DEFINED.—In this section, the term 'appropriate congressional committees' means—

''(1) the Committee on Agriculture of the House of Representatives; and

''(2) the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry of the Senate.

''(g) RULE OF CONSTRUCTION.—Nothing in this section shall be construed to limit the Secretary's authority to enforce compliance with this title to protect organic integrity.''.

Subtitle C—Regulatory Reform

PART I—FEDERAL INSECTICIDE, FUNGICIDE, AND RODENTICIDE ACT

SEC. 10201. EXCLUSION OF CERTAIN SUBSTANCES.

(a) DEFINITIONS.—Section 2 of the Federal Insecticide, Fungicide, and Rodenticide Act (7 U.S.C. 136) is amended—

(1) by amending subsection (v) to read as follows:

''(v) PLANT REGULATOR.—

''(1) IN GENERAL.—The term 'plant regulator' means any substance or mixture of substances intended, through physiological action, for accelerating or retarding the rate of growth or rate of maturation, or for otherwise altering the behavior of plants or the produce thereof.

''(2) EXCLUSIONS.—Such term shall not include—

''(A) substances to the extent that they are—

''(i) intended to be produced and used within a plant; or

''(ii) intended as plant nutrients, trace elements, nutritional chemicals, plant inoculants, soil amendments, or vitamin hormone products; or

''(B) plant biostimulants that—

''(i) have a low-risk profile in relation to humans and other organisms, as determined by the Agency; and

''(ii) are of biological origin or include chemical compounds that are synthetically derived, but structurally-similar and functionally identical to, substances of biological origin.'';

(2) in subsection (hh)—

(A) in paragraph (2), by striking ''or'';

(B) in paragraph (3)—

(i) in the matter preceding subparagraph (A), by striking ''substances.'' and inserting ''substances''; and

(ii) in subparagraph (B)—

(I) by striking ''volatilization urease'' and inserting ''volatilization, or urease'';

(II) by striking the period at the end and inserting a semicolon; and

(C) by inserting after paragraph (3) the following:

''(4) a plant biostimulant; or

''(5) a nutritional chemical.''; and

(3) by adding at the end the following:

''(pp) PLANT BIOSTIMULANT.—The term 'plant biostimulant' means any substance or mixture of substances that, when applied to seeds, plants, the rhizosphere, or soil or other growth media, acts to support a plant's natural nutrition processes independently of the nutrient content of that substance or mixture of substances, and that thereby improves—

''(1) nutrient availability, uptake, or use efficiency;

''(2) tolerance to abiotic stress; or

''(3) consequent growth, development, quality, or yield.

''(qq) NUTRITIONAL CHEMICAL.—The term 'nutritional chemical' means any substance or mixture of substances that interacts with plant nutrients in a manner that improves nutrient availability or aids the plant in acquiring or utilizing plant nutrients.

''(rr) VITAMIN HORMONE PRODUCT.—The term 'vitamin hormone product' means a product that—

''(1) consists of a mixture of plant hormones, plant nutrients, plant inoculants, soil amendments, trace elements, nutritional chemicals, plant biostimulants, or vitamins that is intended for the improvement, maintenance, survival, health, and propagation of plants;

''(2) is nontoxic and nonpoisonous in the undiluted packaged concentrations of the product; and

''(3) is not intended for use on food crop sites and is labeled accordingly.

''(ss) PLANT-INCORPORATED PROTECTANT.—

''(1) IN GENERAL.—The term 'plant-incorporated protectant' means a pesticide that is—

''(A) intended for preventing, destroying, repelling, or mitigating a pest; and

''(B) a substance or mixture of substances intended to be produced and used within a living plant, or in the produce thereof, and the genetic material necessary for its production.

''(2) INCLUSIONS.—Such term includes any inert ingredient (as defined in section 174.3 of title 40, Code of Federal Regulations (or any successor regulation)).''.

(b) EXEMPTION FROM REGULATION.—Section 25(b) of the Federal Insecticide, Fungicide, and Rodenticide Act (7 U.S.C. 136w(b)) is amended to read as follows:

''(b) EXEMPTION OF PESTICIDES.—

''(1) EXEMPTION BY RULE.—The Administrator may exempt from the requirements of this Act by regulation any pesticide which the Administrator determines either—

''(A) to be adequately regulated by another Federal agency; or

''(B) to be of a character which is unnecessary to be subject to this Act in order to carry out the purposes of this Act.

''(2) EXEMPTION FOR CERTAIN PLANT-INCORPORATED PROTECTANTS.—

''(A) EXEMPTION.—

''(i) IN GENERAL.—Upon the issuance of guidance as described in subparagraph (B), plant-incorporated protectants resulting from endogenous genetic material found within or that could arise from the plant's gene pool are exempt from the requirements of this Act.

''(ii) EXCEPTION.—A specific plant-incorporated protectant arising from endogenous genetic material found within or that could arise from the plant's gene pool shall not be exempt from the requirements of this Act if the Administrator determines that such plant-incorporated protectant is of a character which is necessary to be subject to this Act in order to carry out the purposes of this Act.

''(B) GUIDANCE.—Not later than 1 year after the date of the enactment of the Farm, Food, and National Security Act of 2026, the Administrator shall issue guidance for the implementation of subparagraph (A). The Administrator may update such guidance, as the Administrator determines to be appropriate.

''(C) ORDER.—

''(i) IN GENERAL.—If the Administrator makes a determination described in subparagraph (A)(ii) with respect to a plant-incorporated protectant, the Administrator shall issue an order explaining the basis for such determination, which may be issued directly to any person who owns, controls, or has custody of such plant-incorporated protectant or published in the Federal Register.

''(ii) EFFECT OF ORDER.—After receipt or publication of an order described in clause (i), the plant-incorporated protectant described in the order will no longer be exempt from the requirements of this Act.

''(D) TOLERANCE EXEMPTION.—The residue of a plant-incorporated protectant that is exempt under subparagraph (A)(i) shall be exempt from the requirement for a tolerance under section 408 of the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act (21 U.S.C. 346a) unless, and until such time as, the Administrator issues or publishes an order under subparagraph (C)(i).''.

(c) CONFORMING AMENDMENTS.—Section 17(c) of the Federal Insecticide, Fungicide, and Rodenticide Act (7 U.S.C. 136o(c)) is amended—

(1) in paragraph (2)—

(A) in the matter preceding subparagraph (A), by striking ''(as defined in section 174.3 of title 40, Code of Federal Regulations (or any successor regulation))'';

(B) in subparagraph (B), by striking ''or'' at the end;

(C) in subparagraph (C), by striking the period at the end and inserting ''; or''; and

(D) by adding at the end the following:

''(D) that plant-incorporated protectant is exempt under section 25(b)(2) or part 174 of title 40, Code of Federal Regulations (or any successor regulation).''; and

(2) in paragraph (3)(A), by striking ''(as defined in section 174.3 of title 40, Code of Federal Regulations (or any successor regulation))''.

SEC. 10202. COORDINATION.

Section 3 of the Federal Insecticide, Fungicide, and Rodenticide Act (7 U.S.C. 136a) is amended by adding at the end the following:

''(i) COORDINATION.—

''(1) RISK MITIGATION MEASURES.—If any risk mitigation measures are required for any pesticide registered under this Act, the Administrator shall—

''(A) develop such measures in coordination with the Secretary of Agriculture; and

''(B) conduct, and publish in the docket, with the corresponding action, an economic analysis determining the cost of implementation of such measures.

''(2) DATA AND INFORMATION.—

''(A) COORDINATION OF DATA AND INFORMATION.—With regard to the registration or registration review of a pesticide under this Act and for making a determination under section 408 of the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act (21 U.S.C. 346a) with respect to any action that impacts the sale, distribution, or use of a pesticide, the Administrator shall coordinate with the Secretary of Agriculture, acting through the Director of the Office of Pest Management Policy, so that the Administrator has for the Administrator's use and consideration for such processes—

''(i) agronomic use data from—

''(I) the Department of Agriculture; and

''(II) industry; and

''(ii) any information relating to the availability and economic viability of alternatives to such pesticide.

''(B) DATA AND INFORMATION.—When issuing any decision resulting from the processes referred to in subparagraph (A), the Administrator shall publish—

''(i) a description of the use by the Administrator of any data or information provided by the Secretary of Agriculture under subparagraph (A); and

''(ii) the determination of the Administrator on whether to use such data or information, including, as applicable, the reasons that the data or information was not used.

''(3) REASONABLE AND PRUDENT ACTIONS AND MEASURES.—For implementation of reasonable and prudent actions and measures with respect to the use of a pesticide registered under this Act, the Administrator shall coordinate with the Secretary of Agriculture, the Secretary of the Interior, and the Secretary of Commerce—

''(A) to review the development of any such actions and measures that are a result of consultations relating to actions under this Act;

''(B) to fully consider the risks and benefits of any such actions and measures in a manner consistent with practices established to evaluate the risks and benefits of a pesticide registered under this Act; and

''(C) to provide feedback to the Secretary of the Interior and the Secretary of Commerce on decisions relating to any such actions and measures that may affect end users of a pesticide registered under this Act.

''(4) WAIVER.—The coordination requirements imposed by this subsection may be waived or modified for a specific action to the extent agreed upon by the Administrator, the Secretary of Agriculture, and the registrant so long as such agreement is published by the Administrator in the docket for the corresponding action.''.

SEC. 10203. INTERAGENCY WORKING GROUP.

Section 3(c)(11) of the Federal Insecticide, Fungicide, and Rodenticide Act (7 U.S.C. 136a(c)(11)) is amended—

(1) in subparagraph (B)—

(A) by striking ''The Administrator shall'' and inserting the following:

''(i) IN GENERAL.—The Administrator shall''; and

(B) by adding at the end the following:

''(ii) PARTICIPATION.—The Secretary of Agriculture shall include the Director of the Office of Pest Management Policy in all meetings of the interagency working group.'';

(2) in subparagraph (D)—

(A) in clause (iv)—

(i) by striking ''every 180 days thereafter'' and inserting ''each year thereafter''; and

(ii) by striking ''during the 5-year period beginning on that date''; and

(B) by adding at the end the following:

''(v) AVAILABILITY.—All reports required under this subparagraph shall be published on the website of the Environmental Protection Agency.''; and

(3) by amending subparagraph (E) to read as follows:

''(E) CONSULTATION.—

''(i) WORKING GROUP WITH PRIVATE SECTOR.—In carrying out the duties under this paragraph, the working group shall, as appropriate—

''(I) consult, including through public meetings, with representatives of interested industry stakeholders and nongovernmental organizations not less than once every year; and

''(II) take into consideration factors, such as actual and potential differences in interest between, and the views of, those stakeholders and organizations.

''(ii) ADMINISTRATOR WITH WORKING GROUP.—Before the Administrator implements any policy, strategy, workplan, or pilot program regarding the application of the Endangered Species Act of 1973 (16 U.S.C. 1531 et seq.) to the processes for the registration or registration review of a pesticide under this Act, the Administrator shall—

''(I) consult with the covered agencies on the policy, strategy, workplan, or pilot program and take into consideration input received; and

''(II) publish the input received from the covered agencies in the docket with the corresponding policy, strategy, workplan, or pilot program.''.

SEC. 10204. REGISTRATION REVIEW.

(a) EXTENSION OF DEADLINE.—Section 3(g)(1)(A)(iii) of the Federal Insecticide, Fungicide, and Rodenticide Act (7 U.S.C. 136a(g)(1)(A)(iii)) is amended—

(1) in the matter preceding subclause (I), by striking ''the registration review of'' and inserting ''the interim registration review decision of''; and

(2) in subclause (I), by striking ''2022'' and inserting ''2031''.

(b) INTERIM REGISTRATION REVIEW DECISION REQUIREMENTS.—Section 3(g)(1)(A) of the Federal Insecticide, Fungicide, and Rodenticide Act (7 U.S.C. 136a(g)(1)(A)) is amended by adding at the end the following:

''(vi) INTERIM REGISTRATION REVIEW DECISION REQUIREMENTS.—

''(I) REQUIREMENTS.—Any covered interim registration review decision shall include, where applicable, measures to reduce the effects of the applicable pesticide on—

''(aa) species listed under the Endangered Species Act of 1973 (16 U.S.C. 1531 et seq.); or

''(bb) any designated critical habitat.

''(II) CONSULTATION.—In developing measures described in subclause (I), the Administrator shall take into account the input received from the Secretary of Agriculture and other members of the interagency working group established under subsection (c)(11).

''(III) COVERED INTERIM REGISTRATION REVIEW DECISION.—In this subsection, the term 'covered interim registration review decision' means an interim registration review decision—

''(aa) that is associated with an initial registration review described in clause (iii);

''(bb) that is noticed in the Federal Register during the period beginning on the date of enactment of this clause and ending on October 1, 2031; and

''(cc) for which the Administrator has not, as of the date on which the decision is noticed in the Federal Register, made effects determinations or completed any necessary consultation under section 7(a)(2) of the Endangered Species Act of 1973 (16 U.S.C. 1536(a)(2)).''.

(c) CONFORMING REPEAL.—Section 711 of the Pesticide Registration Improvement Act of 2022 (title VI of division HH of Public Law 117–328) is repealed.

SEC. 10205. UNIFORMITY OF PESTICIDE LABELING REQUIREMENTS.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Section 24(b) of the Federal Insecticide, Fungicide, and Rodenticide Act (7 U.S.C. 136v(b)) shall be applied to require uniformity in pesticide labeling nationally, and to prohibit any State, instrumentality, or political subdivision thereof, or a court from directly or indirectly imposing or continuing in effect any requirements for, or penalize or hold liable, any entity for failing to comply with requirements that would require labeling or packaging that is in addition to or different from the labeling or packaging approved by the Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency (referred to in this section as the ''Administrator'') under such Act (7 U.S.C. 136 et seq.), including any requirements relating to warnings on such labeling or packaging, provided that the entity is not in material violation of subparagraph (M), (Q), or (R) of section 12(a)(2) of such Act (7 U.S.C. 136j(a)(2)), for which the entity has been penalized pursuant to section 14 of such Act (7 U.S.C. 136l).

(b) RULE OF CONSTRUCTION.—Nothing in this section shall be construed to alter or diminish the authority of States under subsections (a) and (c) of section 24 of the Federal Insecticide, Fungicide, and Rodenticide Act (7 U.S.C. 136v).

SEC. 10206. AUTHORITY OF STATES.

Section 24 of the Federal Insecticide, Fungicide, and Rodenticide Act (7 U.S.C. 136v) is amended—

*(1) in the section heading, by inserting ''**AND LOCALITIES**'' after ''**STATES**''; and*

(2) by adding at the end the following:

''(d) LOCAL REGULATION.—A political subdivision of a State shall not impose, or continue in effect, any requirement relating to the sale, distribution, labeling, application, or use of any pesticide or device that is subject to regulation—

''(1) by a State pursuant to this section; or

''(2) by the Administrator under this Act.''.

SEC. 10207. LAWFUL USE OF AUTHORIZED PESTICIDES.

Section 3(f) of the Federal Insecticide, Fungicide, and Rodenticide Act (7 U.S.C. 136a(f)) is amended by adding at the end the following:

''(6) LAWFUL USE OF REGISTERED PESTICIDES.—Notwithstanding any other provision of law, the use, application, or discharge of a registered pesticide consistent with its labeling approved under this Act shall be permitted and considered lawful, without further permitting or approval requirements.''.

PART II—OTHER REGULATORY REFORM PROVISIONS

SEC. 10211. MULTIPLE CROP AND PESTICIDE USE SURVEY.

Section 10109(b) of the Agriculture Improvement Act of 2018 (Public Law 115–334; 132 Stat. 4906) is amended to read as follows:

''(b) ADMINISTRATION.—

''(1) SUBMISSION.—The Secretary shall submit to the Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency, and make publicly available, the survey described in subsection (a).

''(2) COMMERCIAL DATA.—The Secretary, acting through the Director of the Office of Pest Management Policy, shall obtain commercial data on pesticide use to inform the conduct of, and enhance the results of, the survey described in subsection (a).

''(3) RULEMAKING PROCEDURE.—The administration of this section shall be made without regard to chapter 35 of title 44, United States Code (commonly known as the Paperwork Reduction Act).''.

SEC. 10212. SAFE HARBOR FOR CERTAIN DISCHARGES OF WILDLAND FIRE CHEMICALS.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Subject to subsection (b), no court may enjoin under the Federal Water Pollution Control Act (33 U.S.C. 1251 et seq.) a covered entity from conducting an aerial application of a covered fire retardant and water enhancer for wildfire suppression, control, or prevention activities that results in a discharge, if such aerial application is conducted in accordance with the requirements of the Federal Facility Compliance Agreement between the Environmental Protection Agency and the U.S. Forest Service, as agreed to on February 16, 2023.

(b) PERIOD OF APPLICATION.—Subsection (a) shall apply to any aerial application described in such subsection that is conducted before the effective date of a permit issued by the Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency or a State, as applicable, under section 402 of the Federal Water Pollution Control Act (33 U.S.C. 1342) that authorizes the discharge, from such aerial application, of a covered fire retardant and water enhancer for wildfire suppression, control, or prevention activities.

(c) EFFECT.—Nothing in this section affects the authority of any court under the Federal Water Pollution Control Act with respect to any discharge resulting from an aerial application not conducted in accordance with the requirements described in subsection (a).

(d) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

(1) COVERED ENTITY.—The term ''covered entity'' means—

(A) any Federal agency, agency of a State or political subdivision thereof, or Tribal agency authorized by law to conduct an aerial application of fire retardants and water enhancers for wildfire suppression, control, or prevention activities; and

(B) any contractor, subcontractor, or other agent of an agency described in subparagraph (A).

(2) COVERED FIRE RETARDANT AND WATER ENHANCER.—The term ''covered fire retardant and water enhancer'' means a fire retardant and water enhancer that—

(A) has been evaluated, qualified, and approved by the Secretary; and

(B) appears on the most current Forest Service Qualified Products List.

(3) DISCHARGE; STATE.—The terms ''discharge'' and ''State'' have the meanings given those terms in section 502 of the Federal Water Pollution Control Act (33 U.S.C. 1362).

(e) SUNSET.—This section shall cease to be effective on the date that is 5 years after the date of enactment of this section.

SEC. 10213. OFFICE OF BIOTECHNOLOGY POLICY.

Subtitle A of the Department of Agriculture Reorganization Act of 1994 (7 U.S.C. 6912 et seq.) is amended by inserting after section 220 (7 U.S.C. 6920) the following:

''SEC. 220A. OFFICE OF BIOTECHNOLOGY POLICY.

''(a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall establish in the Department an Office of Biotechnology Policy to provide for the effective coordination of policies and activities within the Department of Agriculture related to biotechnology, biomanufacturing, synthetic biology, and related emerging technologies, while taking into account the effects of regulatory actions of other government agencies.

''(b) DIRECTOR.—The Office of Biotechnology Policy shall be under the direction of a Director appointed by the Secretary, who shall report directly to the Secretary or a designee of the Secretary.

''(c) DUTIES.—The Director of the Office of Biotechnology Policy shall—

''(1) develop and coordinate Department policy on biotechnology and related topics;

''(2) coordinate activities and services of the Department on biotechnology and related topics, including—

''(A) research and development;

''(B) extension and education;

''(C) communication;

''(D) regulation and labeling; and

''(E) commercialization, use, and trade;

''(3) assist other offices and agencies of the Department in fulfilling their responsibilities related to biotechnology under applicable Federal law; and

''(4) perform such other functions as may be required under Federal law or prescribed by the Secretary.

''(d) INTERAGENCY COORDINATION.—In carrying out the duties under subsection (c), the Director of the Office of Biotechnology Policy shall provide leadership to ensure coordination of interagency activities with the Environmental Protection Agency, the Food and Drug Administration, and other Federal and State agencies.

''(e) OUTREACH.—The Director of the Office of Biotechnology Policy shall consult with biotechnology developers, academics, agricultural producers, and other entities that may be affected by biotechnology-related activities or actions of the Department or other Federal and State agencies as necessary in carrying out the Office's responsibilities under this section.

''(f) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There is authorized to be appropriated to carry out this section $1,000,000 for each of fiscal years 2027 through 2031.''.

TITLE XI—CROP INSURANCE

SEC. 11001. SPECIALTY CROP ADVISORY COMMITTEE.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Section 505 of the Federal Crop Insurance Act (7 U.S.C. 1505) is amended—

(1) in subsection (a)—

(A) in paragraph (2)—

(i) by redesignating subparagraphs (E), (F), and (G) as subparagraphs (F), (G), and (H), respectively;

(ii) by inserting after subparagraph (D) the following:

''(E) The Chairperson of the Specialty Crop Advisory Committee established by subsection (f).''; and

(iii) in subparagraph (H), as so redesignated, by striking ''specialty crop'' and inserting ''livestock'';

(B) in paragraph (3), by striking ''subparagraphs (E), (F), and (G) of paragraph (2)'' and inserting ''subparagraphs (F), (G), and (H) of paragraph (2) and the members of the Specialty Crop Advisory Committee described in subsection (f)(2)''; and

(2) by adding at the end the following:

''(f) SPECIALTY CROP ADVISORY COMMITTEE.—

''(1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 180 days after the date of the enactment of this subsection, the Secretary shall—

''(A) establish a Specialty Crop Advisory Committee (in this subsection referred to as 'the Committee'); and

''(B) appoint to the Committee in accordance with paragraph (2) the initial members that will assist the Corporation in the research, creation, and improvement of policies or plans of insurance for specialty crops.

''(2) COMPOSITION.—

''(A) CHAIRPERSON.—The Chairperson of the Committee shall be an individual with experience in crop insurance and the unique nature of the specialty crop industry.

''(B) MEMBERS.—The Committee shall consist of—

''(i) individuals with an understanding of the production methods, markets, and risks (including losses due to weather, trade damages, and supply chain disruptions) unique to specialty crop production;

''(ii) not less than 5 producers and not more than 10 total members; and

''(iii) not less than 1 producer from each of the West, Midwest, South, and Northeast regions of the United States (as identified by the Bureau of the Census).

''(3) DUTIES.—The Committee established by this subsection shall—

''(A) advise the Manager of the Corporation on issues relating to specialty crop insurance policies;

''(B) provide input, through the Chairperson of the Committee, to the Board on decisions relating to specialty crop insurance policies;

''(C) review available educational programs and make recommendations to the Manager of the Corporation on how to enhance the effectiveness of such programs for specialty crop producers;

''(D) provide recommendations to the Manager of the Corporation regarding the presentation of policies to the Board required by section 508(a)(6);

''(E) advise the Manager of the Corporation on entering into partnerships to carry out subsections (d) and (e)(2)(B) of section 522; and

''(F) meet not less than 2 times each year to carry out these duties.''.

(b) SPECIALTY CROPS COORDINATOR.—Section 507(g)(2) of the Federal Crop Insurance Act (7 U.S.C. 1507(g)(2)) is amended to read as follows:

''(2) RESPONSIBILITIES.—

''(A) IN GENERAL.—The Specialty Crops Coordinator shall have primary responsibility for addressing the needs of specialty crop producers, and for providing information and advice, in connection with the activities of the Corporation to improve and expand the insurance program for specialty crops.

''(B) OTHER DUTIES.—In carrying out this paragraph, the Specialty Crops Coordinator shall—

''(i) act as the liaison of the Corporation with representatives of specialty crop producers and the Specialty Crop Advisory Committee; and

''(ii) assist the Corporation with the knowledge, expertise, and familiarity of the producers with risk management and production issues pertaining to specialty crops.''.

(c) ANNUAL REVIEW OF NEW AND SPECIALTY CROPS.—Section 508(a)(6)(A) of the Federal Crop Insurance Act (7 U.S.C. 1508(a)(6)(A)) is amended by inserting ''(in consultation with the Specialty Crop Advisory Committee)'' after ''Corporation''.

SEC. 11002. IDENTIFICATION OF HOLDERS OF SUBSTANTIAL INTERESTS.

Section 506(m) of the Federal Crop Insurance Act (7 U.S.C. 1506(m)) is amended—

(1) by amending paragraph (3) to read as follows:

''(3) IDENTIFICATION OF HOLDERS OF SUBSTANTIAL INTERESTS.—

''(A) IN GENERAL.—The Manager of the Corporation may require each policyholder to provide to the Manager, at such times and in such manner as prescribed by the Manager, the name of each individual or other entity that acquires or holds a substantial beneficial interest in such policyholder.

''(B) EXTENSION AVAILABLE.—

''(i) IN GENERAL.—In the case of a policyholder that does not provide the information required pursuant to subparagraph (A) to the Manager at the time prescribed by the Manager, the Manager shall allow such policyholder to provide to the Manager such information at any time during the applicable crop year.

''(ii) EXCEPTION.—Clause (i) shall not apply to a policyholder that an approved insurance provider determines—

''(I) would receive disproportionate benefits under a crop insurance program as a result of failing to provide the information required pursuant to subparagraph (A) to the Manager at the time prescribed by the Manager; or

''(II) failed to provide such information to avoid an obligation or requirement under any State or Federal law.''; and

(2) in paragraph (4), by striking ''5 percent'' and inserting ''10 percent''.

SEC. 11003. ACTUARIAL SOUNDNESS OF CERTAIN NEW PRODUCTS.

Section 506(n) of the Federal Crop Insurance Act (7 U.S.C. 1506(n)) is amended by adding at the end the following:

''(4) ACTUARIAL SOUNDNESS OF CERTAIN NEW PRODUCTS.—The Corporation shall—

''(A) review each policy or product developed under section 508(h) periodically for actuarial soundness; and

''(B) take such actions, in consultation with persons described in paragraph (1)(A) of such section, as are necessary to improve the actuarial soundness of such policies and products.''.

SEC. 11004. COVERAGE OF REVENUE LOSSES.

Section 508(a)(1) of the Federal Crop Insurance Act (7 U.S.C. 1508(a)(1)) is amended, in the second sentence, by inserting ''or a decline in the market price of the insured commodity, so long as such decline was not directly caused by the producer (as determined by the Secretary)'' before the period at the end.

SEC. 11005. LIMITATION ON FARM PROGRAM PARTICIPATION.

(a) IN GENERAL.—The Federal Crop Insurance Act (7 U.S.C. 1501 et seq.) is amended—

(1) in section 508(c)(4)(C)(iv) in the heading, by striking ''CROPS AND''; and

(2) in section 508B(f), by striking ''Effective beginning with the 2019 crop year'' and inserting ''Effective for the 2019 through 2025 crop years''.

(b) CONFORMING AMENDMENT.—Section 1115 of the Agricultural Act of 2014 (7 U.S.C. 9015) is amended by adding at the end the following:

''(j) LIMITATION.—Beginning with the 2026 crop year, in the case of a farm for which a producer obtains coverage under the Stacked Income Protection Plan for upland cotton under section 508B of the Federal Crop Insurance Act (7 U.S.C. 1508b) for a crop year, such farm shall not be eligible to receive payments for seed cotton for such crop year under—

''(1) price loss coverage under section 1116; or

''(2) agriculture risk coverage under section 1117.''.

SEC. 11006. LIMITATION ON INTEREST ACCRUAL.

Section 508(d) of the Federal Crop Insurance Act (7 U.S.C. 1508(d)) is amended by inserting at the end the following new paragraph:

''(5) LIMITATION ON INTEREST ACCRUAL.—Effective beginning with the 2026 reinsurance year, in the case of a producer that is delinquent in paying a premium or administrative fee, an approved insurance provider may charge such producer with respect to such delinquency an amount less than or equal to 1 percent of the simple interest of the amount for which such producer is delinquent, for each month (not to exceed 60 consecutive months) the producer is so delinquent.''.

SEC. 11007. CROP INSURANCE SUPPORT FOR BEGINNING AND VETERAN FARMERS AND RANCHERS.

(a) DEFINITION OF VETERAN FARMER OR RANCHER.—Section 502(b)(14)(B) of the Federal Crop Insurance Act (7 U.S.C. 1502(b)(14)(B)) is amended—

(1) in clause (ii), by striking ''5 years'' and inserting ''10 years''; and

(2) in clause (iii), by striking ''5-year'' and inserting ''10-year''.

(b) INCREASE IN ASSISTANCE.—Section 508(e)(9) of the Federal Crop Insurance Act (7 U.S.C. 1508(e)) is amended by inserting ''or veteran farmer or rancher'' after ''beginning farmer or rancher'' each place it appears.

SEC. 11008. MARKETABILITY.

Section 508(h)(4) of the Federal Crop Insurance Act (7 U.S.C. 1508(h)(4)) is amended—

(1) in subparagraph (A), by amending clause (iii) to read as follows:

''(iii) APPLICATION.—

''(I) IN GENERAL.—Except as provided in subclause (II), this subparagraph shall apply with respect to a proposal only during the period preceding any approval of the proposal by the Board.

''(II) EXCEPTION.—An approved insurance provider that submits a letter of support for a concept proposal, a policy, or plan of insurance shall—

''(aa) not be considered the public for purposes of clause (ii);

''(bb) have access to data and other product development information submitted to the Board during its review under this subsection; and

''(cc) be subject to the confidentiality requirements as applicable to the Board pursuant to clauses (i) and (ii).'';

(2) in subparagraph (D), by adding at the end the following:

''(iv) MARKETABILITY DEADLINE.—Any new policy, plan of insurance, or other material approved by the Board under this subsection during a reinsurance year and after the Standard Reinsurance Agreement closing date of July 1 shall not be implemented for such reinsurance year unless at least 90 days prior to the sales closing date for such policy, plan of insurance, or other material, the Board makes available to the approved insurance providers all necessary, as determined by the Board, handbooks, training materials, and other resources associated with such policy, plan of insurance, or other material.''; and

(3) by adding at the end the following:

''(F) MARKETABILITY DETERMINATION.—

''(i) SUBMISSION TO THE BOARD.—Prior to the approval of a product, any approved insurance provider that submitted a letter of support for the product shall provide information and analysis to the Board on the marketability of such product.

''(ii) DEEMED MARKETABLE.—In reviewing a policy, plan of insurance, or other material submitted to the Board under this subsection, such product shall be deemed marketable in accordance with paragraph (3)(A)(ii)(I) if at least one approved insurance provider, in its submission pursuant to clause (i), expresses support for such policy, plan, or material.

''(iii) EVALUATION BY THE BOARD.—In evaluating whether a product is marketable in accordance with paragraph (3)(A)(ii)(I), the Board shall take into consideration any information and analysis submitted pursuant to clause (ii).

''(iv) AIP PARTICIPATION.—The Board shall not require the submission of a letter of support from an approved insurance provider in order to review and approve any policy, plan of insurance, or other material submitted pursuant to this subsection.''.

SEC. 11009. REIMBURSEMENT RATES FOR ADMINISTRATIVE AND OPERATING COSTS.

Section 508(k)(4) of the Federal Crop Insurance Act (7 U.S.C. 1508(k)(4)) is amended—

(1) in subparagraph (A)—

(A) in the matter preceding clause (i), by striking ''not exceed'';

(B) in clause (i)—

(i) by inserting ''not exceed'' before ''for the''; and

(ii) by striking ''and'' after the semicolon;

(C) in clause (ii)—

(i) by striking ''and subsequent'' and inserting ''through 2026'';

(ii) by inserting ''not exceed'' before ''for each''; and

(iii) by striking the period and inserting ''; and''; and

(D) by adding at the end the following:

''(iii) for each of the 2027 and subsequent reinsurance years, be determined in accordance with subparagraph (F).''; and

(2) by amending subparagraph (F) to read as follows:

''(F) REIMBURSEMENT RATES FOR REINSURANCE YEAR 2027 AND SUBSEQUENT REINSURANCE YEARS.—Notwithstanding subparagraphs (A), (B), (C), and (E), for each of the 2027 and subsequent reinsurance years, the rate established by the Board to reimburse approved insurance providers and agents for the administrative and operating costs of the providers and agents with respect to each policy made available under this Act shall be equal to the rate applicable to the policy in effect for the 2026 reinsurance year.''.

SEC. 11010. QUALITY LOSS ADJUSTMENT COVERAGE.

Section 508(m)(3) of the Federal Crop Insurance Act (7 U.S.C. 1508(m)(3)) is amended—

(1) by striking subparagraph (A) and inserting the following:

''(A) PERIODIC REVIEW.—Beginning in calendar year 2027 and once every 5 years thereafter, the Corporation shall contract with a qualified person to conduct a review, which shall be completed within 1 year of initiation, of the quality loss adjustment procedures of the Corporation.'';

(2) in subparagraph (B), by striking ''Effective beginning not later than the 2004 reinsurance year, based on the review, the Corporation'' and inserting ''Based on each review conducted under subparagraph (A), the Corporation'';

(3) by redesignating subparagraph (B) as subparagraph (C);

(4) by inserting after subparagraph (A) the following:

''(B) STAKEHOLDER ENGAGEMENT.—Each review under subparagraph (A) shall include engagement from regionally diverse industry stakeholders for each agricultural commodity for which a quality loss adjustment is offered.''; and

(5) by adding at the end the following:

''(D) REPORT.—On the completion of each review under subparagraph (A), the Corporation shall submit to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry of the Senate and the Committee on Agriculture of the House of Representatives a report that describes—

''(i) the findings from that review;

''(ii) the changes to the quality loss adjustment procedures;

''(iii) the stakeholder engagement for that review conducted pursuant to subparagraph (B); and

''(iv) plans for establishing specific quality loss adjustment procedures for unique regions, as determined by the Secretary.''.

SEC. 11011. PILOT PROGRAM TO REVIEW EFFECTIVENESS OF COVERAGE PENALTY.

The Federal Crop Insurance Act (7 U.S.C. 1501 et seq.) is further amended by inserting after section 508D the following:

''SEC. 508E. PILOT PROGRAM TO REVIEW EFFECTIVENESS OF COVERAGE PENALTY.

''(a) IN GENERAL.—Effective beginning with the 2027 crop year, the Risk Management Agency and the Corporation shall establish a pilot program to evaluate the effectiveness of the reduction in benefits applied to corn and other crops, as determined by the Corporation, planted during the late planting period (as defined in section 457.8 of title 7, Code of Federal Regulations (or successor regulation)).

''(b) LOCATION AND DURATION OF PILOT.—The pilot program established under subsection (a) shall—

''(1) be conducted in not less than 10 counties located within or adjacent to the North Plains Groundwater Conservation District or the Panhandle Groundwater Conservation District in the State of Texas; and

''(2) operate for a period of not less than 4 crop years.

''(c) EVALUATION.—In carrying out the pilot program established under subsection (a), the Risk Management Agency and the Corporation shall—

''(1) suspend any reduction to the insurance guarantee applied to an insurance policy for a crop that is planted during the late planting period;

''(2) gather and analyze data to determine if the number of days beyond the final plant date in which a crop was planted during the late planting period correlates with a decrease in crop yields; and

''(3) determine if planting a crop after the final plant date results in reduced usage of irrigation from the Ogallala Aquifer.

''(d) REPORT REQUIRED.—Not later than 90 days after the last day of crop year 2031, the Risk Management Agency and the Corporation shall submit to the Committee on Agriculture of

the House of Representatives and the Committee on Agriculture, Forestry, and Nutrition of the Senate a report that includes—

''(1) a summary of the results of the pilot program established under subsection (a);

''(2) an analysis of the correlation between planting date and final yields; and

''(3) any changes to existing policies that the Corporation intends to make as a result of the information obtained during the pilot program.

''(e) PARTNERSHIPS.—Of the amounts made available in section 522(e)(2)(A)(ii), the Corporation may use not more than $200,000 to enter into a partnership or cooperative agreement with a nonprofit organization, State agency, or public university that is familiar with agricultural production in the region described in subsection (b)(1) to conduct the research and evaluation required under paragraphs (2) and (3) of subsection (c).''.

SEC. 11012. WHOLE FARM IMPROVEMENTS.

Section 522(c)(7)(E) of the Federal Crop Insurance Act (7 U.S.C. 1522(c)(7)(E)) is amended by adding at the end the following:

''(iii) ADDITIONAL REVIEW.—Not later than 12 months after the date of enactment of this clause and annually thereafter, the Corporation shall—

''(I) review any limitations on insurable revenue (including the overall limitation and limitations specific to animals, animal products, greenhouse and nursery, and aquaculture) to ensure such limitations are adequate to cover the financial risks associated with the production of high-value agricultural products; and

''(II) submit to the Committee on Agriculture of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry of the Senate a report that includes a summary of the most recent review conducted and any expected changes to the policy for the following reinsurance year.''.

SEC. 11013. PROGRAM COMPLIANCE AND INTEGRITY.

(a) IN GENERAL.—

Section 515(b) of the Federal Crop Insurance Act (7 U.S.C. 1515(b)) is amended—

(1) in the subsection heading, by inserting '', RESPONSE, AND FINAL DETERMINATION'' after ''NOTIFICATION'';

(2) in paragraph (1), by striking ''shall notify in writing'' and inserting ''shall, through an initial finding in writing, notify (unless such notification is pursuant to the responsibilities to conduct reviews and make corrections)'';

(3) in paragraph (2)—

(A) in the heading, by striking ''TIME FOR NOTIFICATION'' and inserting ''REQUIRED TIMING'';

(B) by striking ''Notice'' and inserting the following:

''(A) INITIAL FINDING.—Notice''; and

(C) by adding at the end the following:

''(B) RESPONSE.—During the 90-day period beginning on the date the Corporation notifies an approved insurance provider through an initial finding under paragraph (1), such approved insurance provider may appeal such initial finding in writing.

''(C) FINAL FINDING.—Not later than 90 days after the date on which an approved insurance provider appeals pursuant to subparagraph (B), the Corporation shall issue a final finding in writing to such approved insurance provider.

''(D) REQUEST FOR FINAL ADMINISTRATIVE DETERMINATION.—An approved insurance provider shall have not more than 90 days after the receipt of the Corporation's final finding under subparagraph (C) to request, in writing, a final administrative determination, if such approved insurance provider has reason to believe that the Corporation's final finding under subparagraph (C) is not in accordance with—

''(i) the applicable laws, regulations, custom, or practice of the crop insurance industry; or

''(ii) the approved policy and procedure of the Corporation.

''(E) FINAL DETERMINATION.—The Corporation shall have not more than 90 days after the receipt of a request for a final administrative determination under subparagraph (D) to provide such final administrative determination, unless substantial new information, as determined by the Corporation, is provided by the approved insurance provider.

''(F) APPEAL TO CIVILIAN BOARD OF CONTRACT APPEALS.—An approved insurance provider shall have not more than 90 days after receipt of a final administrative determination provided pursuant to subparagraph (E) to appeal such determination to the Civilian Board of Contract Appeals.''; and

(4) by amending paragraph (3) to read as follows:

''(3) EFFECT OF FAILURE TO TIMELY NOTIFY.—

''(A) IN GENERAL.—Except as provided in subparagraph (B), failure of the Corporation to comply with the requirements under paragraph (2) shall relieve the approved insurance provider from the debt owed to the Corporation.

''(B) EXCEPTION.—Subparagraph (A) shall not apply to any matters referred to the Office of the Inspector General or the Department of Justice.''.

(b) PROCEDURES FOR RESPONDING TO CERTAIN INQUIRIES.—Section 506(r)(1) of the Federal Crop Insurance Act (7 U.S.C. 1506(r)(1)) is amended by inserting ''binding'' before ''final agency determination''.

SEC. 11014. RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT PRIORITIES.

(a) EXPANSION OF REVENUE POLICIES.—Section 522(c) of the Federal Crop Insurance Act (7 U.S.C. 1522(c)) is amended by adding at the end the following:

''(20) EXPANSION OF REVENUE POLICIES.—

''(A) IN GENERAL.—The Corporation shall carry out research and development, or offer to enter into 1 or more contracts with 1 or more qualified persons to carry out research and development, to expand the availability of policies that provide coverage against losses of revenue for—

''(i) oilseeds, including camelina, carinata, and pennycress;

''(ii) alfalfa;

''(iii) pulse crops (including dry edible beans);

''(iv) sugarbeets;

''(v) sugarcane;

''(vi) blueberries; and

''(vii) other crops for which only individual yield-based insurance policies are available.

''(B) AVAILABILITY OF POLICY.—Notwithstanding the last sentence of section 508(a)(1), and section 508(a)(2), the Corporation shall make a policy described in subparagraph (A) available if the requirements of section 508(h) are met.

''(C) DETERMINATION OF PROJECTED PRICE.—In developing a policy described in subparagraph (A), the Corporation may utilize alternative methods of determining a projected price for a crop, including the correlation of actual prices received for such crop to the futures markets prices of other commodities.

''(D) PRICING LIBRARY.—In developing a policy described in subparagraph (A), the Corporation shall determine the feasibility of creating a pricing library for agents and approved insurance providers using data from alternative sources, as determined by the Secretary.

''(E) DISCOUNT FACTOR.—For purposes of developing a policy described in subparagraph (A), the Corporation shall determine the feasibility of—

''(i) establishing a State or regional discount factor as an endorsement policy to provide coverage against losses of revenue due to quality discounts in soybeans; and

''(ii) an alternative to applying the term 'zero-market value' in the case of an available salvage market.

''(F) REPORT.—Not later than 18 months after the date of enactment of this paragraph, the Corporation shall submit to the Committee on Agriculture of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry of the Senate a report that describes—

''(i) the crops for which research and development has been carried out under subparagraph (A);

''(ii) the results of the research and development carried out under subparagraph (A);

''(iii) any recommendations with respect to those results; and

''(iv) additional crops for which research and development under this paragraph is planned to be carried out.''.

(b) WINE GRAPE LOSSES DUE TO SMOKE EXPOSURE.—Section 522(c) of the Federal Crop Insurance Act (7 U.S.C. 1522(c)) is further amended by adding at the end the following:

''(21) WINE GRAPE LOSSES DUE TO SMOKE EXPOSURE.—

''(A) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 1 year after the date of the enactment of this paragraph, the Corporation shall carry out research and development, or offer to enter into 1 or more contracts with 1 or more qualified persons to carry out research and development, regarding a policy to insure wine grapes (including wine grapes produced in the States of California, Oregon, and Washington) against losses due to wildfire smoke exposure.

''(B) AVAILABILITY OF POLICY.—Notwithstanding the last sentence of section 508(a)(1), and section 508(a)(2), not later than 18 months after the date of the enactment of this paragraph, the Corporation shall make available a policy described in subparagraph (A) if the requirements of section 508(h) are met.

''(C) REPORT.—Not later than 2 years after the date of enactment of this paragraph, the Corporation shall submit to the Committees on Appropriations and Agriculture of the House of Representatives and the Committees on Appropriations and Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry of the Senate a report that includes—

''(i) the results of the research carried out under subparagraph (A);

''(ii) a description of the policies made available under this paragraph; and

''(iii) the feasibility of a product that allows producers of wine grapes to claim an indemnity through post-harvest, post-vinification testing, if such testing demonstrates smoke damage that was not detectable prior to harvest.''.

(c) MUSHROOMS.—Section 522(c) of the Federal Crop Insurance Act (7 U.S.C. 1522(c)) is further amended by adding at the end the following:

''(22) MUSHROOMS.—

''(A) IN GENERAL.—The Corporation shall carry out research and development, or offer to enter into 1 or more contracts with 1 or more qualified persons to carry out research and development, regarding a policy to insure—

''(i) the production of mushroom growing media; and

''(ii) the production of mushrooms.

''(B) AVAILABILITY OF POLICY.—Notwithstanding the second sentence of section 508(a)(1), and section 508(a)(2), the Corporation shall make a policy described in subparagraph (A) available if the requirements of section 508(h) are met.

''(C) RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT.—Research and development described in subparagraph (A) shall evaluate the effectiveness of policies described in that subparagraph, including policies that—

''(i) are based on the risk of—

''(I) pests, including mushroom phorid flies and sciarid flies;

''(II) fungal pathogens; and

''(III) viral pathogens;

''(ii) consider other causes of loss applicable to mushroom compost and mushroom production, such as—

''(I) loss of electricity due to weather; and

''(II) loss of growing media due to excessive 5-year, 10-year, or 20-year rainfall events;

''(iii) consider appropriate best practices to minimize the risk of loss;

''(iv) consider whether to provide coverage for mushrooms under 1 policy or to provide coverage for various phases of production;

''(v) have streamlined reporting and paperwork requirements that take into account short propagation schedules, variable crop years, and the variety of mushrooms that may be produced in a single facility; and

''(vi) provide protection for revenue losses.

''(D) REPORT.—Not later than 2 years after the date of enactment of this paragraph, the Corporation shall submit to the Committee on Agriculture of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry of the Senate a report that describes—

''(i) the results of the research and development carried out under subparagraph (A); and

''(ii) any recommendations with respect to those results.''.

(d) STUDY ON HURRICANE INSURANCE.—Section 522(c) of the Federal Crop Insurance Act (7 U.S.C. 1522(c)) is further amended by adding at the end the following:

''(23) STANDALONE POLICY FOR HURRICANES AND TROPICAL STORMS.—

''(A) IN GENERAL.—The Corporation shall carry out research and development, or offer to enter into 1 or more contracts with 1 or more qualified persons to conduct a study to determine the feasibility of offering insurance against tropical storms and hurricanes made available regardless of an underlying crop insurance policy (or lack thereof).

''(B) REPORT.—Not later than 1 year after the date of enactment of this paragraph, the Corporation shall submit to the Committee on Agriculture of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry of the Senate a report that describes the results of the study conducted under subparagraph (A).''.

(e) FROST OR COLD WEATHER INSURANCE.—Section 522(c) of the Federal Crop Insurance Act (7 U.S.C. 1522(c)) is further amended by adding at the end the following:

''(24) FROST OR COLD WEATHER INSURANCE.—

''(A) IN GENERAL.—The Corporation shall carry out research and development, or offer to enter into 1 or more contracts with 1 or more qualified persons to carry out research and development, regarding an index-based policy to insure crops (including table grapes, wine grapes, juice grapes, tomatoes, peppers, sugarcane, strawberries, melons, citrus, peaches, blueberries, and any other crop) on a nationally available basis against losses due to a frost or cold weather event.

''(B) RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT.—Research and development under subparagraph (A) shall—

''(i) evaluate the effectiveness of risk management tools, such as the use of an index, with respect to low frequency and catastrophic loss weather events; and

''(ii) result in a policy that provides protection for at least 1 of the following:

''(I) Production loss.

''(II) Revenue loss.

''(C) REPORT.—Not later than 1 year after the date of enactment of this paragraph, the Corporation shall submit to the Committee on Agriculture of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry of the Senate a report that describes—

''(i) the results of the research and development carried out under subparagraph (A); and

''(ii) any recommendations with respect to those results.''.

(f) STUDY OF INCLUSION OF CERTAIN OILSEED CROPS UNDER DOUBLE AND ROTATIONAL CROPPING POLICIES.—Section 522(c) of the Federal Crop Insurance Act (7 U.S.C. 1522(c)) is further amended by adding at the end the following:

''(25) DOUBLE CROPPING AND ROTATIONAL CROPPING OF CERTAIN OILSEED CROPS.—

''(A) DEFINITION OF COVERED OILSEED CROPS.—In this paragraph, the term 'covered oilseed crops' means rapeseed, canola, camelina, and other oilseed crops, as determined by the Corporation.

''(B) RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT.—The Corporation shall carry out research and development, or offer to enter into 1 or more contracts with 1 or more qualified persons to carry out research and development, with respect to insurance policies for covered oilseed crops under double cropping and rotational cropping practices.

''(C) REQUIREMENTS.—The research and development carried out pursuant to subparagraph (B) shall be conducted in consultation with stakeholders to evaluate—

''(i) the factors impacting availability and cost of crop insurance when incorporating covered oilseed crops into double cropping and rotational cropping policies; and

''(ii) the potential risk management benefits associated with incorporating covered oilseed crops into double cropping and rotational cropping policies, specifically with respect to winter-planted covered oilseed crops, including risk management benefits to soil health, biodiversity, and the profitability of farming operations.

''(D) EMPHASIS.—In awarding contracts under subparagraph (B), the Corporation may give priority to awarding contracts to qualified persons that—

''(i) have previous research experience with covered oilseed crops; and

''(ii) have access to a facility with the capacity to carry out the applicable research.

''(E) REPORT.—Not later than 13 months after the date of enactment of this paragraph, the Corporation shall submit to the Committee on Agriculture of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry of the Senate a report that describes—

''(i) the results of the research and development carried out under subparagraph (B); and

''(ii) any recommendations with respect to those results.''.

(g) HARVEST INCENTIVES.—Section 522(c) of the Federal Crop Insurance Act (7 U.S.C. 1522(c)) is further amended by adding at the end the following:

''(26) HARVEST INCENTIVES.—

''(A) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 1 year after the date of the enactment of this paragraph, the Corporation shall carry out research and development, or offer to enter into 1 or more contracts with 1 or more qualified persons to carry out research and development, regarding harvest incentives for policies that provide coverage against losses of revenue.

''(B) AVAILABILITY OF POLICY.—Notwithstanding the last sentence of section 508(a)(1), and section 508(a)(2), not later than 24 months after the date of the enactment of this paragraph, the Corporation shall make available a policy described in subparagraph (A) if the requirements of section 508(h) are met.

''(C) REPORT.—Not later than 1 year after the date of enactment of this paragraph, the Corporation shall submit to the Committees on Appropriations and Agriculture of the House of Representatives and the Committees on Appropriations and Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry of the Senate a report that includes—

''(i) the results of the research carried out under subparagraph (A); and

''(ii) a description of the policies made available under this paragraph.''.

(h) PREVENTED PLANTING.—Section 522(c) of the Federal Crop Insurance Act (7 U.S.C. 1522(c)) is further amended by adding at the end the following:

''(27) PREVENTED PLANTING.—

''(A) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 1 year after the date of the enactment of this paragraph, the Corporation shall carry out research and development, or offer to enter into 1 or more contracts with 1 or more qualified persons to carry out research and development, regarding prevented planting coverage for insurance policies for specialty crops that are not planted on a perennial basis.

''(B) REPORT.—Not later than 18 months after the date of the enactment of this paragraph, the Corporation shall submit to the Committee on Agriculture of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry of the Senate a report that includes—

''(i) the results of the research carried out under subparagraph (A); and

''(ii) any recommendations with respect to those results.''.

(i) POLICY FOR SWINE PRODUCERS FOR CATASTROPHIC EVENTS.—Section 522(c) of the Federal Crop Insurance Act (7 U.S.C. 1522(c)) is further amended by adding at the end the following:

''(28) POLICY FOR SWINE PRODUCERS FOR CATASTROPHIC EVENTS.—

''(A) IN GENERAL.—For purposes of updating any conclusions contained in the final report for the study on swine catastrophic disease published by the Risk Management Agency in 2015, the Corporation shall carry out research and development, or offer to enter into 1 or more contracts with 1 or more qualified persons to carry out research and development, regarding a policy to insure swine producers with respect to financial losses due to a catastrophic event.

''(B) REPORT.—Not later than 1 year after the date of the enactment of this paragraph, the Corporation shall submit to the Committee on Agriculture of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry of the Senate a report that describes the results of the research and development carried out under subparagraph (A).''.

SEC. 11015. REPORT ON STANDARD REINSURANCE AGREEMENT.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 90 days after the date of the enactment of this section, the Federal Crop Insurance Corporation shall submit to the Committee on Agriculture of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry of the Senate a report on the Standard Reinsurance Agreement that includes an analysis of any modifications to such Agreement that are necessary to expand the availability of policies and plans of insurance that meet the risk management needs of agricultural producers, States, regions, and commodities.

(b) CONTENTS.—The analysis required under subsection (a) shall—

(1) take into account the requirements under section 508(k)(8)(F) of the Federal Crop Insurance Act (7 U.S.C. 1508(k)(8)(F)) related to budget neutrality of the Standard Reinsurance Agreement; and

(2) include an analysis of—

(A) any benefit related to establishing—

(i) at least one additional reinsurance fund for States that have experienced consistently high loss ratios; and

(ii) at least one additional reinsurance fund to provide alternative risk-sharing terms for approved insurance providers that sell insurance contracts offering area plan coverage;

(B) with respect to any funds reimbursed for administrative and operating costs under section 507(c) of the Federal Crop Insurance Act (7 U.S.C. 1507(c)), the best method for ensuring that approved insurance providers obligate such funds for—

(i) the delivery of risk management tools to producers; and

(ii) agent workforce assistance for producers, in an amount that is not less than the historical percentage of such reimbursement; and

(C) with respect to each policy and plan of insurance, compensation amounts for agents that—

(i) are consistent with historical norms; and

(ii) provide a reasonable return considering workload and the critical service across programs that the agents provide.

(c) CONSULTATION.—In carrying out the analysis required under subsection (a), the Federal Crop Insurance Corporation shall consult with—

(1) representatives of producers—

(A) from each State and region; and

(B) with respect to each commodity;

(2) representatives of agents and approved insurance providers;

(3) the Committee on Agriculture of the House of Representatives; and

(4) the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry of the Senate.

SEC. 11016. HURRICANE INSURANCE PROTECTION-WIND INDEX REPORT.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 1 year after the date of the enactment of this section, the Federal Crop Insurance Corporation shall submit to the Committee on Agriculture of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry of the Senate a report on the hurricane insurance protection-wind index that includes an analysis of any events in the 5-year period preceding the date of the enactment of this section that caused an outage of a weather radio station operated by the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration.

(b) CONTENTS.—The analysis required under subsection (a) shall include—

(1) data on events where a producer lost crop insurance coverage as a result of an outage of a weather radio station operated by the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration that occurred during the period described in subsection (a) and the cause of such outage; and

(2) a contingency plan that evaluates the feasibility of obtaining data from land-grant colleges and universities (as defined in section 1404 of the National Agricultural Research, Extension, and Teaching Policy Act of 1977 (7 U.S.C. 3103)) or other third-party sources, as determined by the Secretary.

(c) CONSULTATION.—In carrying out the analysis required under subsection (a), the Federal Crop Insurance Corporation shall consult with the Administrator of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration.

SEC. 11017. RISK MANAGEMENT STUDY FOR LAMB.

(a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall conduct a study that includes an analysis of any modifications to existing livestock protection and risk management programs that may enhance risk management protection to domestic lamb producers.

(b) CONTENT.—In conducting the study under this section, the Secretary shall take into account the various factors affecting risk management, including—

(1) market access;

(2) sources of feed;

(3) costs of, and fluctuation of costs of, feed;

(4) imports;

(5) consumer demand and trends;

(6) labor costs; and

(7) availability and accuracy of market data.

(c) REPORT.—Not later than 1 year after the date of enactment of this section, the Secretary shall submit to the Committee on Agriculture of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry of the Senate a report on the findings of the study under this section.

(d) DEFINITION.—In this section, the term ''existing livestock protection and risk management programs'' includes—

(1) dairy margin coverage;

(2) livestock risk protection; and

(3) any other program designed to protect producers from market volatility, as determined by the Secretary.

SEC. 11018. STUDY ON LIVESTOCK RISK PROTECTION POLICY WITH RESPECT TO PRODUCERS OF FEEDER CATTLE AFFECTED BY ADVERSE WEATHER EVENTS.

(a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall conduct a study on potential modifications to the livestock risk protection policy offered under section 523(b) of the Federal Crop Insurance Act (7 U.S.C. 1523(b)) to improve the flexibility of such policy with respect to producers of feeder cattle affected by adverse weather events, as determined by the Secretary, including drought and wildfires.

(b) CONTENTS.—In conducting the study under this section, the Secretary shall, with respect to producers of feeder cattle, evaluate—

(1) any impact drought, wildfire, and other adverse weather events have on decisions made by such producers related to the marketing of feeder cattle;

(2) in the case an adverse weather event occurs more than 60 days prior to the end date of a specific coverage endorsement under the livestock risk protection policy described in subsection (a), whether the requirements or endorsement structures of such policy (as in effect on the date of enactment of this section) cause such producers not to market feeder cattle so as to avoid a penalty under such policy;

(3) any option to provide additional flexibility or an exemption to such producers that market feeder cattle more than 60 days prior to such end date due to an adverse weather event; and

(4) any other recommendation to improve the effectiveness of such policy for such producers.

(c) REPORT.—Not later than 1 year after the date of enactment of this section, the Secretary shall submit to the Committee on Agriculture of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry of the Senate a report describing the findings of the study.

TITLE XII—MISCELLANEOUS PROVISIONS

Subtitle A—Livestock and Other Animals

PART I—ANIMAL HEALTH AND PRODUCTION

SEC. 12001. ANIMAL DISEASE PREVENTION AND MANAGEMENT.

(a) NADPRP PROGRAM ACTIVITIES.—Section 10409A(b)(2) of the Animal Health Protection Act (7 U.S.C. 8308A(b)(2)) is amended—

(1) in subparagraph (F)—

(A) by striking ''including training additional emergency response personnel.'' and inserting the following: ''including—

''(i) training additional emergency response personnel; and''; and

(B) by adding at the end the following:

''(ii) improving animal disease traceability.''; and

(2) in subparagraph (I), by inserting before the period at the end the following: '', including activities approved by the Secretary as of the date of the enactment of the Farm, Food, and National Security Act of 2026''.

(b) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—

(1) NATIONAL ANIMAL HEALTH LABORATORY.—Section 10409A(d)(2)(A) of the Animal Health Protection Act (7 U.S.C. 8308a(d)(2)(A)) is amended by striking ''2019 through 2023'' and inserting ''2027 through 2031''.

(2) NATIONAL ANIMAL DISEASE PREPAREDNESS AND RESPONSE PROGRAM; NATIONAL ANIMAL VACCINE AND VETERINARY COUNTERMEASURES BANK.—Section 10409A(d)(2)(B) of the Animal Health Protection Act (7 U.S.C. 8308a(d)(2)(B)) is amended by striking ''2019 through 2023'' and inserting ''2027 through 2031''.

(3) ADMINISTRATIVE COSTS.—Section 10409A(d)(3)(B) of the Animal Health Protection Act (7 U.S.C. 8308a(d)(3)(B)) is amended—

(A) by striking ''carry out the National Animal Disease Preparedness and Response Program under subsection (b)'' and inserting ''carry out the National Animal Health Laboratory Network under subsection (a) and the National Animal Disease Preparedness and Response Program under subsection (b)''; and

(B) by striking ''10 percent'' and inserting ''15 percent''.

(4) AVAILABILITY AND PURPOSE OF FUNDING.—Section 10409A(e)(1) of the Animal Health Protection Act (7 U.S.C. 8308a(e)(1)) is amended by striking ''2019 through 2023'' and inserting ''2027 through 2031''.

SEC. 12002. CATTLE FEVER TICK ERADICATION PROGRAM REVIEW AND REPORT.

(a) PROGRAM REVIEW.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 1 year after the date of the enactment of this section, the Secretary shall offer to enter into a contract with a covered institution under which the covered institution shall conduct a review of the Program.

(2) REVIEW ELEMENTS.—The review conducted pursuant to paragraph (1) shall include an evaluation of—

(A) the effectiveness of the Program with respect to preventing and reducing the spread of tick-borne illnesses in cattle, including a review of places from which the cattle fever tick has been eradicated and the resulting economic impact;

(B) with respect to cattle producers—

(i) the benefits of the Program; and

(ii) the burden of compliance with the Program;

(C) the treatment protocols developed and implemented under the Program; and

(D) the Federal and State funds allocated to support the Program for the most recent fiscal year, including the funds allocated to each research project associated with the Program.

(b) REPORT.—Not later than 1 year after the date on which the Secretary and a covered institution enter into a contract pursuant to subsection (a)(1), the Secretary shall submit to the Committee on Agriculture of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry of the Senate a report that includes—

(1) the results of the review conducted pursuant to subsection (a); and

(2) recommendations for improvements to the Program, including recommendations for reducing the burden of compliance with the Program with respect to cattle producers.

(c) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

(1) COVERED INSTITUTION.—The term ''covered institution'' means—

(A) a land-grant college or university (as defined in section 1404(13) of the National Agricultural Research, Extension, and Teaching Policy Act of 1977 (7 U.S.C. 3103(13))); or

(B) a non-land-grant college of agriculture (as defined in section 1404(14) of the National Agricultural Research, Extension, and Teaching Policy Act of 1977 (7 U.S.C. 3103(14))).

(2) PROGRAM.—The term ''Program'' means the Cattle Fever Tick Eradication Program carried out by the Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service of the Department in coordination with the Texas Animal Health Commission.

(d) FUNDING.—The Secretary shall use funds made available for the agricultural and food policy research centers under section 1419A of the National Agricultural Research, Extension, and Teaching Policy Act of 1977 (7 U.S.C. 3155) to carry out this section.

SEC. 12003. ADDITIONAL TRAINING FACILITIES FOR NATIONAL DETECTOR DOG TRAINING CENTER.

The Beagle Brigade Act of 2023 (Public Law 118–191) is amended by adding at the end the following:

''SEC. 4. ADDITIONAL TRAINING FACILITIES.

''(a) IN GENERAL.—In addition to the Center established under section 2(a), the Secretary may—

''(1) establish other dog training facilities, which shall have the same duties as are specified in section 2(b) for the Center; and

''(2) enter into a cooperative agreement with the department of agriculture of a State (or political subdivision thereof) to establish an offsite training program for the purpose of providing training and technical assistance in the training of dogs, as described in section 2(b).

''(b) CONSIDERATIONS.—When determining the need for additional training facilities under subsection (a), the Secretary shall consider—

''(1) the location of international ports of entry;

''(2) the volume of international passengers and cargo; and

''(3) regional agricultural production trends and associated pest and disease threats.''.

SEC. 12004. REGIONALIZATION, ZONING, AND COMPARTMENTALIZATION AGREEMENTS.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Section 10405 of the Animal Health Protection Act (7 U.S.C. 8304) is amended—

(1) by redesignating subsection (d) as subsection (e); and

(2) by inserting after subsection (c) the following:

''(d) ENGAGEMENT WITH KEY EXPORT MARKETS.—To reduce the impact of animal disease outbreaks on United States exports, the Secretary, acting through the Administrator of the Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service, the Under Secretary of Agriculture for Trade and Foreign Agricultural Affairs, and the Administrator of the Food Safety and Inspection Service, in consultation with the United States Trade Representative, is authorized to negotiate in advance, to the extent practicable, regionalization, zoning, compartmentalization, and other agreements regarding outbreaks of known animal disease threats of trade significance with the governments of countries with export markets for livestock animals or animal products from the United States.''.

(b) RULE OF CONSTRUCTION.—Nothing in this section may be construed—

(1) to limit the ability of the United States Trade Representative to negotiate trade agreements; or

(2) to require the United States Trade Representative to condition other trade agreements on the inclusion of language relating to reducing the impact of animal disease outbreaks on United States exports, as described in subsection (d) of section 10405 of the Animal Health Protection Act (7 U.S.C. 8304) (as inserted by subsection (a)(2)).

SEC. 12005. IMPORTATION OF LIVE DOGS.

(a) IN GENERAL.—The Animal Health Protection Act (7 U.S.C. 8301 et seq.) is amended by inserting after section 10404 (7 U.S.C. 8303) the following:

''SEC. 10404A. IMPORTATION OF LIVE DOGS.

''(a) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

''(1) COMPENSATION.—The term 'compensation' means any act, consideration, or thing of value received by a person directly, including cash or noncash benefits, cost-avoidance, obtaining positive or avoiding negative publicity, an exchange of services, or maintaining a license issued under any local, State, or Federal government authority.

''(2) IMPORTER.—The term 'importer' means any person who transports or causes the transportation of a dog into the United States from a foreign country.

''(3) IMPORT TRANSPORTER.—The term 'import transporter' means any person or entity that—

''(A) receives an imported dog from any importer, dealer, research facility, exhibitor, operator of an auction sale, or department, agency, or instrumentality of the United States or of any State or local government; and

''(B) receives compensation for moving such dog in commerce.

''(4) TRANSFER.—The term 'transfer' means a change of ownership or control of an imported dog to another person, including by sale, adoption, exchange, or donation.

''(b) REQUIREMENTS.—

''(1) IN GENERAL.—Except as provided in paragraph (2), no person shall import a dog into the United States unless prior to transport to the United States, the Secretary receives electronic documentation necessary, as determined by the Secretary, to demonstrate that the dog—

''(A) is in good health;

''(B) has received all necessary vaccinations and internal and external parasite treatment, and demonstrated negative test results, as required by the Secretary and evidenced by a certificate that—

''(i) is issued by a licensed veterinarian accredited by a competent veterinary authority recognized by the Secretary; and

''(ii) is endorsed by that authority in a manner representing that the veterinarian issuing the certificate was authorized to do so;

''(C) is officially identified by a permanent method approved by the Secretary; and

''(D) in the case that the dog is intended for transfer—

''(i) is at least 6 months old; and

''(ii) is accompanied by an import permit issued by the Secretary under this Act.

''(2) EXCEPTIONS.—The Secretary, by regulation, shall provide an exception to any requirement under this Act in any case in which a dog is imported for purposes of transfer—

''(A) as a personal pet of United States origin returning to the United States;

''(B) as a United States military working dog or contracted working dog supporting a military mission or tasking;

''(C) for research purposes;

''(D) for veterinary treatment which is paid for by the importer, subject to the condition that the dog—

''(i) is taken directly to a veterinary facility for treatment with appropriate quarantine until the dog meets the criteria described in paragraph (1); and

''(ii) is then exported to its country of origin; or

''(E) in the case of a dog that is less than 6 months old, for lawful importation into the State of Hawaii from the British Isles, Australia, Guam, or New Zealand in compliance with the regulations of the State of Hawaii and the other requirements of this section, if the dog is not transported out of the State of Hawaii for transfer at less than 6 months of age.

''(c) IMPLEMENTATION AND REGULATIONS.—Not later than 18 months after the date of enactment of the Farm, Food, and National Security Act of 2026, the Secretary, in consultation with the Secretary of Health and Human Services, the Secretary of Commerce, the Secretary of Homeland Security, and the Secretary of Transportation, shall promulgate such regulations as the Secretary determines necessary to implement and enforce this section, including regulations—

''(1) to facilitate electronic submission and interagency sharing of all documentation required prior to the importation of a dog into the United States under subsection (b)(1);

''(2) to establish any necessary post-arrival verification processes for imported dogs;

''(3) to ensure the denial of entry into the United States of any dog attempted to be imported into the United States in violation of subsection (b)(1);

''(4) to provide that each importer, import transporter, intermediate handler, or carrier receiving a certificate of veterinary inspection required under this section shall submit a copy of the certificate to the Secretary, who shall, upon receipt—

''(A) record and maintain the information in a centralized database; and

''(B) upon request by a State veterinarian, share the information with such State veterinarian not later than 3 days after such request is received by the Secretary;

''(5) to require the Secretary to annually aggregate and publicly report the data submitted under paragraph (4), including information on the countries of origin of the imported dogs and the purposes for the importation of such dogs; and

''(6) to determine and establish such fees for the verification of documentation and issuance of permits required under subsection (b)(1) as may be necessary to fund the implementation and enforcement of this section.

''(d) RULE OF CONSTRUCTION.—Nothing in subsection (c)(5) shall be construed as limiting the availability of funding made available under section 10417 to carry out this section.

''(e) ENFORCEMENT.—

''(1) AUTHORITY.—The Secretary shall have the authority granted under section 10414 to enforce this section.

''(2) PENALTIES.—An importer or import transporter that fails to comply with this section shall—

''(A) be subject to penalties under section 10414; and

''(B) provide, as the Secretary may determine, at the expense of the importer or import transporter, for—

''(i) the care (including appropriate veterinary care), forfeiture, quarantine, and removal from the United States of each applicable dog; and

''(ii) the return of each applicable dog to its place of export, with due care for the welfare of each applicable dog.''.

(b) TRANSITION PERIOD.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—During the transition period, regulations promulgated under section 18 of the Animal Welfare Act (7 U.S.C. 2148) (as in effect on the day before the date of enactment of this Act) shall continue to apply to the extent that such regulations do not conflict with section 10404A of the Animal Health Protection Act (as inserted by subsection (a)).

(2) TRANSITION PERIOD DEFINED.—In this subsection, the term ''transition period'' means the period beginning on the date of enactment of this Act and ending on the date on which final regulations are promulgated under such section 10404A.

(c) CONFORMING AMENDMENT.—Section 18 of the Animal Welfare Act (7 U.S.C. 2148) is repealed.

SEC. 12006. ENSURING THE FREE MOVEMENT OF LIVESTOCK-DERIVED PRODUCTS IN INTERSTATE COMMERCE.

(a) PURPOSE.—The purpose of this section is to—

(1) protect the free movement in interstate commerce of products derived from covered livestock;

(2) encourage a national market of such products;

(3) ensure that producers of covered livestock are not subject to a patchwork of State laws restricting access to a national market; and

(4) ensure that the United States continues to uphold its international trade obligations.

(b) IN GENERAL.—Producers of covered livestock have a Federal right to raise and market their covered livestock in interstate commerce and therefore no State or subdivision thereof may enact or enforce, directly or indirectly, a condition or standard on the production of covered livestock other than for covered livestock physically raised in such State or subdivision.

(c) PROTECTING INTERSTATE COMMERCE.—Producers of covered livestock have a Federal right to raise and market their covered livestock in interstate commerce and therefore no State or subdivision thereof may enact or enforce, directly or indirectly, as a condition for sale or consumption, any condition or standard of production on products derived from covered livestock not physically raised in such State or subdivision that is in addition to, or different from, the conditions or standards of production in the State in which the production occurs.

(d) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

(1) COVERED LIVESTOCK.—The term ''covered livestock''—

(A) means any domestic animal raised for the purpose of—

(i) slaughter for human consumption; or

(ii) producing products manufactured for human consumption which are derived from the processing of milk, including fluid milk products; and

(B) does not include domestic animals raised for the primary purpose of egg production.

(2) PRODUCTION.—The term ''production''—

(A) means the raising (including breeding) of covered livestock; and

(B) does not include the movement, harvesting, or further processing of covered livestock.

SEC. 12007. REPORT ON SUPPORT FOR LIVESTOCK AND POULTRY PRODUCERS DURING A FOREIGN ANIMAL DISEASE OUTBREAK.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 6 months after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary shall submit to the Committee on Agriculture of the House of Representatives and the

Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry of the Senate a report on the Department's preparedness to support livestock producers and poultry growers facing economic losses in the event of an outbreak of a foreign animal disease.

(b) CONTENTS.—The report submitted under subsection (a) shall include, with respect to the Department's ability to protect producers and growers from significant economic losses as a result of a foreign animal disease—

(1) an assessment of—

(A) existing Federal programs, including catastrophic risk management tools, indemnity, direct payments, biosecurity assistance, and herd buyouts; and

(B) the Department's capacity to utilize such programs to provide benefits to producers and growers experiencing economic losses as a result of having to sell livestock and poultry at a reduced price, having to quarantine, treat, destroy, or dispose of animals, having to implement additional biosecurity measures or as a result of catastrophic market conditions;

(2) a determination of gaps that exist in the Department's ability to provide economic support for producers and growers suffering such losses; and

(3) recommendations of the Secretary for modifications to Federal law (including regulations) relating to protecting producers and growers from significant economic losses related to a foreign animal disease outbreak.

(c) PROVISION OF INFORMATION.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 90 days after the date of enactment of this Act, for purposes of facilitating the preparation of the report submitted under subsection (a), the relevant Department officials described in paragraph (2) shall inform the Secretary of the information described in subsection (b).

(2) RELEVANT DEPARTMENT OFFICIALS DESCRIBED.—The relevant Department officials described in this paragraph are the following:

(A) The Under Secretary for Farm Production and Conservation.

(B) The Under Secretary for Food, Nutrition, and Consumer Services.

(C) The Under Secretary for Rural Development.

(D) The Under Secretary for Food Safety.

(E) The Under Secretary for Marketing and Regulatory Programs.

(F) The Under Secretary for Trade and Foreign Agricultural Affairs.

(G) Other officials, as specified by the Secretary.

SEC. 12008. PROTECTION OF GREYHOUNDS.

(a) IN GENERAL.—The Animal Welfare Act (7 U.S.C. 2131 et seq.) is amended by adding at the end the following:

"SEC. 30. PROTECTION OF GREYHOUNDS.

''(a) IN GENERAL.—It shall be unlawful—

''(1) for any person to knowingly engage in commercial greyhound racing in which any greyhound is moved in interstate or foreign commerce;

''(2) to conduct any commercial greyhound racing or racing meeting where any form of betting or wagering on the speed or ability of greyhounds occurs;

''(3) to engage in or facilitate simulcast betting or wagering on greyhound races in interstate or foreign commerce; and

''(4) for any person to knowingly sell, buy, possess, train, transport, deliver, or receive any greyhound for purposes of having the greyhound participate in commercial greyhound racing.

''(b) INVESTIGATIONS.—The Secretary, or any other person authorized by the Secretary, shall make such investigations as the Secretary determines necessary to determine whether any person has violated or is violating any provision of this section. The Secretary may obtain the assistance of the Federal Bureau of Investigation, the Department of the Treasury, or other law enforcement agencies of the United States, and State and local governmental agencies, in the conduct of such investigations, under cooperative agreements with such agencies.

''(c) PENALTIES.—Any person who violates any of paragraphs (1) through (5) of subsection (a) shall be fined under this Act, imprisoned for not more than 7 years, or both, for each such violation. Each instance of a violation of any such paragraph shall be considered a single violation.

''(d) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

''(1) COMMERCIAL GREYHOUND RACING.—The term 'commercial greyhound racing' means any event involving the participation of greyhounds in which betting or wagering on the speed or ability of such greyhounds occurs.

''(2) SIMULCAST.—The term 'simulcast' means the simultaneous audio or visual transmission from one location of foreign or domestic greyhound races taking place at a different location and gambling on the results of such races.''.

(b) APPLICABILITY.—The amendments made by this section shall apply with respect to conduct occurring on or after October 1, 2027.

(c) RULE OF CONSTRUCTION.—Nothing in this section, or the amendments made by this section, shall be construed—

(1) to preempt any State law prohibiting gambling or protecting the welfare of animals; or

(2) to alter, limit, or extend the relationship between the Interstate Horseracing Act of 1978 (15 U.S.C. 3001 et seq.) as it relates to horse racing and other Federal laws in effect on the date of enactment of this Act.

SEC. 12009. ANIMAL FIGHTING.

Section 26 of the Animal Welfare Act (7 U.S.C. 2156) is amended—

(1) by striking the section designation and all that follows through ''It shall be unlawful'' in subsection (a)(2) and inserting the following:

"SEC. 26. SPONSORING OR EXHIBITING AN ANIMAL IN, ATTENDING, CAUSING AN INDIVIDUAL WHO HAS NOT ATTAINED THE AGE OF 16 TO ATTEND, OR GAMBLING ON, AN ANIMAL FIGHTING VENTURE.

''(a) SPONSORING OR EXHIBITING.—

''(1) IN GENERAL.—It shall be unlawful for any person to knowingly sponsor or exhibit an animal in an animal fighting venture.

''(2) ATTENDING OR CAUSING AN INDIVIDUAL WHO HAS NOT ATTAINED THE AGE OF 16 TO ATTEND.—It shall be unlawful''; and

(2) in subsection (a), by adding at the end the following:

''(3) ANIMAL VENTURE GAMBLING.—It shall be unlawful for any person to gamble on an animal fighting venture, including an in-person or broadcast event.''.

PART II—MEAT AND POULTRY PROCESSING AND INSPECTION

SEC. 12111. AMPLIFYING PROCESSING OF LIVESTOCK IN THE UNITED STATES (A–PLUS).

(a) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 1 year after the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary shall revise section 201.67 of title 9, Code of Federal Regulations, as in effect on January 1, 2024, to specify that—

(1) market agencies may have an ownership interest in, finance, or participate in the management or operation of, a packer, so long as such packer—

(A) with respect to cattle and sheep, has a cumulative slaughter capacity of less than—

(i) 2,000 animals per day; or

(ii) 700,000 animals per year; and

(B) with respect to hogs, has a cumulative slaughter capacity of less than—

(i) 10,000 animals per day; or

(ii) 3,000,000 animals per year; and

(2) market agencies that have an ownership interest in, finance, or participate in the management or operation of, a packer shall disclose to sellers of livestock the existence of such ownership interest, financial relationship, or participation.

(b) SAVINGS CLAUSE.—Nothing in this section shall be interpreted as a limitation on the authority of the Secretary to adopt or enforce rules or regulations under the Packers and Stockyards Act, 1921 (7 U.S.C. 181 et seq.) related to the protection of producers, competition, market integrity, or the prevention of conflicts of interest.

SEC. 12112. HAZARD ANALYSIS AND CRITICAL CONTROL POINT GUIDANCE AND RESOURCES FOR SMALL AND VERY SMALL POULTRY AND MEAT ESTABLISHMENTS.

(a) MEAT ESTABLISHMENTS.—The Federal Meat Inspection Act is amended by inserting after section 25 (21 U.S.C. 625) the following:

"SEC. 26. SMALL AND VERY SMALL ESTABLISHMENT GUIDANCE AND RESOURCES.

''(a) STUDIES; MODEL PLANS.—Not later than 18 months after the date of the enactment of this section, the Secretary shall, to the maximum extent practicable, make publicly available—

''(1) a list of scientific studies (which the Secretary shall update as necessary) for use by small establishments and very small establishments in developing a Hazard Analysis and Critical Control Points plan;

''(2) guidelines relating to best practices and techniques by small establishments and very small establishments in the production of raw or further processed meat and meat food products; and

''(3) scale-appropriate model Hazard Analysis and Critical Control Points plans for small establishments and very small establishments, including model plans for—

''(A) slaughter-only establishments;

''(B) processing-only establishments; and

''(C) slaughter and processing establishments.

''(b) GUIDANCE.—Not later than 2 years after the date of enactment of this section, the Secretary shall publish a guidance document, after notice and an opportunity for public comment, providing information on the requirements that need to be met for small establishments and very small establishments to develop, pursuant to this Act, a Hazard Analysis and Critical Control Points plan.

''(c) DATA CONFIDENTIALITY.—In carrying out this section, the Secretary shall not publish confidential business information of any meat processing establishment, including a Hazard Analysis and Critical Control Points plan of a meat processing establishment.

''(d) SMALL ESTABLISHMENT AND VERY SMALL ESTABLISHMENT DEFINED.—In this section, the terms 'small establishment' and 'very small establishment' have the meanings given the terms 'smaller establishment' and 'very small establishment', respectively, in the final rule entitled 'Pathogen Reduction; Hazard Analysis and Critical Control Point (HACCP) Systems' (61 Fed. Reg. 38806 (July 25, 1996)) (or successor regulations).''.

(b) POULTRY ESTABLISHMENTS.—The Poultry Products Inspection Act is amended by inserting after section 14 (21 U.S.C. 463) the following:

"SEC. 14A. SMALL AND VERY SMALL ESTABLISHMENT GUIDANCE AND RESOURCES.

''(a) STUDIES; MODEL PLANS.—Not later than 18 months after the date of enactment of this section, the Secretary shall, to the maximum extent practicable, make publicly available—

''(1) a list of scientific studies (which the Secretary shall update as necessary) for use by small establishments and very small establishments in developing a Hazard Analysis and Critical Control Points plan;

''(2) guidelines relating to best practices and techniques used by small establishments and very small establishments in the production of raw or further processed poultry products; and

''(3) scale-appropriate model Hazard Analysis and Critical Control Points plans for small establishments and very small establishments, including model plans for—

''(A) slaughter-only establishments;

''(B) processing-only establishments; and

''(C) slaughter and processing establishments.

''(b) GUIDANCE.—Not later than 2 years after the date of enactment of this section, the Secretary shall publish a guidance document, after notice and an opportunity for public comment, providing information on the requirements that need to be met for small establishments and very small establishments to develop a Hazard Analysis and Critical Control Points plan pursuant to this Act.

''(c) DATA CONFIDENTIALITY.—In carrying out this section, the Secretary shall not publish confidential business information of any poultry processing establishment, including a Hazard Analysis and Critical Control Points plan of a poultry processing establishment.

''(d) SMALL ESTABLISHMENT AND VERY SMALL ESTABLISHMENT DEFINED.—In this section, the terms 'small establishment' and 'very small establishment' have the meanings given the terms 'smaller establishment' and 'very small establishment', respectively, in the final rule entitled 'Pathogen Reduction; Hazard Analysis and Critical Control Point (HACCP) Systems' (61 Fed. Reg. 38806 (July 25, 1996)) (or successor regulations).''.

SEC. 12113. OUTREACH ON COOPERATIVE INTERSTATE SHIPMENT.

(a) MEAT.—Section 501 of the Federal Meat Inspection Act (21 U.S.C. 683) is amended by adding at the end the following:

''(k) FEDERAL OUTREACH.—In each of fiscal years 2027 through 2031, the Secretary shall conduct outreach to States that—

''(1) have a State meat inspection program in effect pursuant to section 301; and

''(2) do not have a selected establishment.''.

(b) POULTRY.—Section 31 of the Poultry Products Inspection Act (21 U.S.C. 472) is amended by adding at the end the following:

''(j) FEDERAL OUTREACH.—In each of fiscal years 2027 through 2031, the Secretary shall conduct outreach to States that—

''(1) have a State poultry product inspection program in effect pursuant to section 5; and

''(2) do not have a selected establishment.''.

(c) REPORT.—At the conclusion of each of fiscal years 2027 through 2031, the Secretary shall submit a report detailing the activities and results of the outreach conducted during that fiscal year under subsection (k) of section 501 of the Federal Meat Inspection Act (21 U.S.C. 683) and subsection (j) of section 31 of the Poultry Products Inspection Act (21 U.S.C. 472), as added by subsections (a) and (b), to—

(1) the Committee on Agriculture of the House of Representatives;

(2) the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry of the Senate;

(3) the Committee on Appropriations of the House of Representatives; and

(4) the Committee on Appropriations of the Senate.

SEC. 12114. PILOT PROGRAM TO SUPPORT CUSTOM SLAUGHTER ESTABLISHMENTS.

(a) IN GENERAL.—

(1) STATE OPERATED PILOT PROGRAM.—Upon the receipt of an application from a custom exempt facility and subject to the requirements specified in subsection (c), a State department of agriculture may operate a pilot program to allow such custom facility to sell slaughtered meat and meat food products (referred to in this section as ''meat products'') directly to consumers within the State in which the facility is located in accordance with the pilot program.

(2) LACK OF A STATE PILOT PROGRAM.—If a State department of agriculture does not elect to operate a pilot program, the Secretary shall, upon request from a custom exempt facility in such a State, operate a pilot program administered by the Secretary for that State in accordance with this section.

(b) ALLOWABLE NUMBER OF FACILITIES.—

(1) INITIAL APPROVAL.—Except as provided in paragraph (2)—

(A) a State department of agriculture may approve not more than 5 facilities in such State for participation in a pilot program established under subsection (a)(1); and

(B) the Secretary may approve not more than 10 facilities to participate in all pilot programs established under subsection (a)(2).

(2) SUBSEQUENT APPROVAL OF FACILITIES.—Not less than 2 years after the establishment of a pilot program, a State department of agriculture or the Secretary may, if no product produced at a facility that was initially approved under paragraph (1) for participation in such pilot program has been subject to an emergency action under subsection (f) during the 2-year period following such establishment, approve—

(A) in the case of a State department of agriculture, not more than 5 additional facilities in the respective State; and

(B) in the case of the Secretary, not more than 10 additional facilities in all States.

(c) PILOT PROGRAM REQUIREMENTS.—A pilot program established under this section shall, at a minimum, require—

(1) that meat products sold under the pilot program are—

(A) sold directly to consumers within the State from—

(i) the owner of the animals from which such meat products are derived; or

(ii) the custom exempt facility at which the meat products were processed;

(B) not eligible for re-sale; and

(C) clearly labeled to indicate—

(i) the name and address of the facility at which the meat products were processed;

(ii) the name and address of the owner of the animals from which such meat products are derived;

(iii) the location where animals from which such meat products are derived were raised;

(iv) the date of slaughter of such animals and the period of time over which the owner raised such animals;

(v) that such meat products were not subject to Federal inspection; and

(vi) that such meat products shall not be resold;

(2) that custom exempt facilities participating in the pilot program comply with—

(A) Public Law 85–765 (7 U.S.C. 1901 et seq.; commonly known as the ''Humane Methods of Slaughter Act of 1958'');

(B) applicable State and local laws;

(C) section 23(d) of the Federal Meat Inspection Act (21 U.S.C. 623(d)); and

(D) Federal regulations pertaining to—

(i) sanitation standards and record-keeping requirements for custom exempt facilities; and

(ii) the handling and disposition of specified risk materials;

(3) that custom exempt facilities participating in the pilot program be subject to onsite inspection by the Secretary to ensure compliance with the requirements specified in paragraphs (1) and (2); and

(4) that custom exempt facilities participating in the pilot program be subject to onsite inspection at least annually by the local authority responsible for restaurant inspections or the State department of agriculture.

(d) IMPLEMENTATION.—Not later than 90 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary shall issue, and make publicly available, guidance for participation in a pilot program established pursuant to this section.

(e) INELIGIBILITY.—An establishment subject to inspection by the Secretary under the Federal Meat Inspection Act (21 U.S.C. 601 et seq.) or operating pursuant to a State meat inspection program authorized under section 301 of the Federal Meat Inspection Act (21 U.S.C. 661) shall not be eligible to participate in a pilot program established pursuant to this section.

(f) AUTHORITY FOR EMERGENCY ACTION.—If the Secretary has credible evidence that a meat product produced at a custom exempt facility participating in a pilot program established pursuant to this section is adulterated, the Secretary—

(1) shall, pursuant to the Federal Meat Inspection Act (21 U.S.C. 601 et seq.), take such actions as may be necessary to address the risk to public health posed by such products; and

(2) may terminate the participation of a custom exempt facility in a pilot program established pursuant to this section.

(g) REPORT REQUIRED.—

(1) REPORTS BY STATE DEPARTMENTS OF AGRICULTURE TO SECRETARY.—Beginning September 30, 2026, and each fiscal year thereafter until September 30, 2031, each State department of agriculture operating a pilot program pursuant to this section shall submit to the Secretary a report detailing, with respect to each such pilot program within the relevant State for the preceding fiscal year—

(A) the number and location of persons or custom exempt facilities selling meat products under each such pilot program;

(B) the outcomes of each such pilot program;

(C) any instances in which a meat product was subject to an emergency action under subsection (f); and

(D) aggregated data on the volume of meat being processed under such pilot program.

(2) REPORT BY SECRETARY TO CONGRESS.—Not later than 2 years after initiating a pilot program under this section, the Secretary shall submit to the Committee on Agriculture of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry of the Senate a report detailing—

(A) the information received from participating State departments of agriculture under paragraph (1); and

(B) for any custom exempt facilities participating in a pilot program established by the Secretary pursuant to subsection (a)(2)—

(i) the number and location of persons or custom exempt facilities selling products pursuant to such pilot program;

(ii) the outcomes of such pilot program; and

(iii) any instances in which a meat product was subject to an emergency action under subsection (f).

(h) CUSTOM EXEMPT FACILITY DEFINED.—In this section, the term ''custom exempt facility'' means an establishment engaged in the slaughter of animals and the preparation of the carcasses, parts thereof, meat, and meat food products for commerce that is not subject to the Federal inspection requirements under title I of the Federal Meat Inspection Act (21 U.S.C. 601 et seq.).

(i) SUNSET.—A State and the Secretary may not operate a pilot program under this section on or after September 30, 2031, and no facility that is exempt from inspection under the Federal Meat Inspection Act (21 U.S.C. 601 et seq.) pursuant to this section shall be exempt from that inspection on or after September 30, 2031.

Subtitle B—Department of Agriculture Reorganization Act of 1994

SEC. 12201. OFFICE OF HOMELAND SECURITY.

Section 221 of the Department of Agriculture Reorganization Act of 1994 (7 U.S.C. 6922) is amended—

(1) in subsection (d)—

(A) in paragraph (7), by striking ''and'' at the end;

(B) by redesignating paragraph (8) as paragraph (9); and

(C) by inserting after paragraph (7) the following:

''(8) conducting annual cross-sector crisis simulation exercises related to a food-related emergency or disruption; and''; and

(2) by adding at the end the following:

''(f) DETAILEES.—The Secretary may detail employees of the Department of Agriculture to, and accept employees detailed from, the intelligence community (as defined in section 3 of the National Security Act of 1947) to assist in carrying out the duties of the Office of Homeland Security.

''(g) RISK ASSESSMENTS AND REPORTS.—

''(1) RISK ASSESSMENTS.—Not later than 1 year after the date of enactment of the Farm, Food, and National Security Act of 2026, and not less than every 2 years thereafter, the Secretary shall conduct an assessment of risks and security vulnerabilities to the food and agriculture critical infrastructure sector, including—

''(A) naturally occurring, unintentional, or intentional threats, including chemical, biological, cybersecurity, or bioterrorism attacks;

''(B) influence of state-owned enterprise;

''(C) control of and access to agricultural data;

''(D) foreign acquisition of intellectual property, agricultural assets, and land;

''(E) agricultural input shortages and dependence on foreign-sourced inputs;

''(F) supply chain and trade disruptions;

''(G) science and technology cooperation;

''(H) unequal investments in research, development, and commercialization;

''(I) incongruent regulatory policies; and

''(J) any other vulnerabilities identified by the Secretary.

''(2) BRIEFING AND REPORT.—

''(A) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 180 days after the completion of a risk assessment under paragraph (1), the Secretary shall provide a briefing on the results of the risk assessment and submit to the Committee on Agriculture and the Committee on Homeland Security of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry and the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs of the Senate a report that includes—

''(i) an assessment of any gaps or limitations in national security efforts related to the food and agriculture critical infrastructure sector;

''(ii) any actions taken by the Secretary to address any gaps or limitations identified under clause (i), including through interagency coordination, threat information sharing, and stakeholder outreach;

''(iii) any recommendations for administrative, regulatory, or legislative actions that can be taken to reduce any gaps or limitations identified under clause (i), including—

''(I) recommendations to reduce the dependence on foreign-source inputs necessary for the food and agriculture critical infrastructure sector; and

''(II) recommendations to address the cybersecurity threats to, and security vulnerabilities in, the food and agriculture critical infrastructure sector; and

''(iv) resources the Secretary requires to address current and future national security vulnerabilities related to the food and agriculture critical infrastructure sector.

''(B) EXEMPTION FROM ACCESS TO CONGRESSIONALLY MANDATED REPORTS ACT.—A report required under subparagraph (A) shall be exempt from the requirements of the Access to Congressionally Mandated Reports Act (subtitle D of title VII of Public Law 117–263; 136 Stat. 3677).''.

SEC. 12202. OFFICE OF PARTNERSHIPS AND PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT.

Section 226B(f)(3)(B) of the Department of Agriculture Reorganization Act of 1994 (7 U.S.C. 6934(f)(3)(B)) is amended by striking ''2023'' and inserting ''2031''.

SEC. 12203. BURDEN OF PROOF FOR NATIONAL APPEALS DIVISION HEARINGS.

Section 277(c)(4) of the Department of Agriculture Reorganization Act of 1994 (7 U.S.C. 6997(c)(4)) is amended to read as follows:

''(4) BURDEN OF PROOF.—The agency shall bear the burden of proving by substantial evidence that the adverse decision of the agency was valid.''.

SEC. 12204. TERMINATION OF AUTHORITY.

Section 296(b) of the Department of Agriculture Reorganization Act of 1994 (7 U.S.C. 7014(b)) is amended by adding at the end the following:

''(11) The authority of the Secretary to carry out the amendments made to this title by the Farm, Food, and National Security Act of 2026.''.

SEC. 12205. FUNCTIONS OF THE OFFICE OF TRIBAL RELATIONS.

Section 309 of the Federal Crop Insurance Reform and Department of Agriculture Reorganization Act of 1994 (7 U.S.C. 6921) is amended—

(1) in subsection (a)—

(A) by striking ''shall advise'' and all that follows through the period at the end and inserting ''shall—''; and

(B) by adding at the end the following:

''(1) advise the Secretary on policies related to Indian tribes;

''(2) oversee—

''(A) each self-determination contract (as defined in section 4 of the Indian Self-Determination and Education Assistance Act (25 U.S.C. 5304)) entered into between the Secretary and a tribal organization; and

''(B) each self-governance compact (as defined in section 401 of such Act (25 U.S.C. 5361)) entered into between the Secretary and an Indian tribe; and

''(3) carry out such other functions as the Secretary considers appropriate.''; and

(2) in subsection (b)(1), by striking ''this subsection'' and inserting ''this section''.

Subtitle C—National Security

SEC. 12301. AGRICULTURAL FOREIGN INVESTMENT DISCLOSURE IMPROVEMENTS.

(a) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

(1) AFIDA.—The term ''AFIDA'' means the Agricultural Foreign Investment Disclosure Act of 1978 (7 U.S.C. 3501 et seq.).

(2) FPAC–BC.—The term ''FPAC–BC'' means the Farm Production and Conservation Business Center of the Department of Agriculture.

(b) MOU WITH CFIUS.—Not later than 1 year after the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary shall enter into 1 or more memoranda of understanding with the Committee on Foreign Investment in the United States under which the Secretary shall provide the Committee with all relevant information relating to reports on foreign ownership of United States agricultural land submitted to the Secretary under section 2 of AFIDA (7 U.S.C. 3501), including information on—

(1) each report submitted to the Secretary; and

(2) with respect to each such report, the identity of the foreign persons included in the report and the date of submission.

(c) AFIDA HANDBOOK UPDATES.—

(1) FIRST UPDATE.—Not later than 2 years after the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary shall—

(A) update the most recent version of the Farm Service Agency handbook titled ''Foreign Investment Disclosure'' as determined necessary by the Secretary for the effective implementation of AFIDA; and

(B) incorporate in such update the recommendations made by the report of the Government Accountability Office titled ''Foreign Investments in U.S. Agricultural Land: Enhancing Efforts to Collect, Track, and Share Key Information Could Better Identify National Security Risks'' and dated January 18, 2024.

(2) SUBSEQUENT UPDATES.—After updating the handbook described in subparagraph (A) of paragraph (1) under that paragraph, the Secretary shall carry out an update of that handbook every 10 years thereafter, including by incorporating any recommendations of the Government Accountability Office.

(d) CIVIL PENALTIES.—Section 3 of the Agricultural Foreign Investment Disclosure Act of 1978 (7 U.S.C. 3502) is amended—

(1) by redesignating subsection (b) as subsection (c);

(2) by striking the section designation and heading and all that follows through ''Any such civil penalty shall be recoverable'' and inserting the following:

''SEC. 3. CIVIL PENALTIES.

''(a) IN GENERAL.—A person shall be subject to a civil penalty imposed by the Secretary if the Secretary determines that the person—

''(1) has failed to submit a report in accordance with the provisions of section 2; or

''(2) has knowingly submitted a report under section 2 that—

''(A) does not contain all the information required to be in such report; or

''(B) contains information that is misleading or false.

''(b) CIVIL ACTION.—Any civil penalty imposed by the Secretary under subsection (a) shall be recoverable''; and

(3) in subsection (c) (as so redesignated)—

(A) by striking the subsection designation and all that follows through ''The amount'' and inserting the following:

''(c) AMOUNT OF PENALTY.—The amount'';

(B) by striking ''of this section''; and

(C) by striking ''shall not exceed 25 percent'' and inserting ''for violations under subsection (a)(1) shall not exceed 25 percent, and for violations under subsection (a)(2) shall be not less than 5 percent, but not more than 25 percent,''.

(e) PUBLIC DISCLOSURE OF ENFORCEMENT ACTIONS.—Section 3 of the Agricultural Foreign Investment Disclosure Act of 1978 (7 U.S.C. 3502) (as amended by subsection (b)) is amended by adding at the end the following:

''(d) PUBLIC DISCLOSURE OF ENFORCEMENT ACTIONS.—The Secretary shall publicly disclose the name of each person who paid to the Secretary a civil penalty imposed under subsection (a), including, if applicable, after the completion of an appeal of a civil penalty.''.

(f) PUBLICATION OF REPORTING REQUIREMENTS.—Section 3 of the Agricultural Foreign Investment Disclosure Act of 1978 (7 U.S.C. 3502) (as amended by subsection (c)) is amended by adding at the end the following:

''(e) OUTREACH.—Using existing resources and efforts to the maximum extent practicable, the Secretary shall carry out a nationwide outreach program directed primarily toward landlords, operators, owners, persons, producers, and tenants (as those terms are defined in section 718.2 of title 7, Code of Federal Regulations (as in effect on the date of enactment of the Farm, Food, and National Security Act of 2026)) of agricultural land and county property appraiser offices, land appraisal companies, and real estate auction companies to increase public awareness and provide education regarding the reporting requirements under this Act.''.

SEC. 12302. REPORT ON AGRICULTURAL LAND PURCHASING ACTIVITIES IN THE UNITED STATES BY COUNTRIES DESIGNATED AS STATE SPONSORS OF TERRORISM AND CERTAIN OTHER COUNTRIES.

(a) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

(1) AGRICULTURAL LAND.—The term ''agricultural land'' has the meaning given the term in section 9 of the Agricultural Foreign Investment Disclosure Act of 1978 (7 U.S.C. 3508).

(2) APPROPRIATE COMMITTEES OF CONGRESS.—The term ''appropriate committees of Congress'' means—

(A) the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry of the Senate;

(B) the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs of the Senate;

(C) the Committee on Intelligence of the Senate;

(D) the Committee on Homeland Security of the House of Representatives;

(E) the Committee on Agriculture of the House of Representatives; and

(F) the Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence of the House of Representatives.

(3) COVERED FOREIGN COUNTRY.—The term ''covered foreign country'' means a foreign country of concern (as defined in section 10638 of the CHIPS Act of 2022 (42 U.S.C. 19237)).

(4) COVERED FOREIGN PERSON.—The term ''covered foreign person'' means a foreign person (as defined in section 9 of the Agricultural Foreign Investment Disclosure Act of 1978 (7 U.S.C. 3508)) that is a citizen of, or headquartered in, as applicable, a covered foreign country.

(5) STATE.—The term ''State'' has the meaning given the term in section 9 of the Agricultural Foreign Investment Disclosure Act of 1978 (7 U.S.C. 3508).

(6) STATE SPONSOR OF TERRORISM.—The term ''state sponsor of terrorism'' means a country the government of which the Secretary of State has determined has repeatedly provided support for acts of international terrorism, for purposes of—

(A) section 1754(c)(1)(A)(i) of the Export Control Reform Act of 2018 (50 U.S.C. 4813(c)(1)(A)(i));

(B) section 620A of the Foreign Assistance Act of 1961 (22 U.S.C. 2371);

(C) section 40(d) of the Arms Export Control Act (22 U.S.C. 2780(d)); or

(D) any other provision of law.

(b) REPORT.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 180 days after the date of enactment of this Act, and annually thereafter, the Secretary of Agriculture, in coordination with the Secretary of Homeland Security and the head of any other appropriate Federal agency, shall submit to the appropriate committees of Congress a report describing the national security risks of the purchase and management of agricultural land by covered foreign persons.

(2) CONTENTS.—A report submitted under paragraph (1) shall include the following with respect to the year covered by the report:

(A) A description of—

(i) the number of acres of agricultural land owned, leased, or managed by covered foreign persons, organized by State; and

(ii) for each State, the percentage of land owned or managed by covered foreign persons compared to the total acreage of the State.

(B) An analysis of the possible threat to food security, food safety, biosecurity, or environmental protection due to the ownership of agricultural land by each covered foreign country through covered foreign persons.

(C) An analysis of the annual and total cost of support for agricultural land owned by covered foreign persons through farm programs administered by the Farm Service Agency.

(D) An analysis of the use of agricultural land for industrial espionage or intellectual property transfer by covered foreign persons.

(E) An analysis of the potential use by covered foreign persons of agricultural land in close proximity to manufacturing facilities, water sources, and other critical infrastructure to monitor, interrupt, or disrupt activities critical to the national and economic security of the United States.

(F) An analysis of other threats to the agricultural industry or national security of the United States due to the ownership of agricultural land by covered foreign persons.

(3) UNCLASSIFIED FORM.—A report submitted under this subsection shall—

(A) be submitted in unclassified form, but may include a classified annex; and

(B) be consistent with the protection of intelligence sources and methods.

SEC. 12303. INVESTIGATIVE ACTIONS.

(a) INVESTIGATIVE ACTIONS.—Section 4 of the Agricultural Foreign Investment Disclosure Act of 1978 (7 U.S.C. 3503) is amended to read as follows:

''SEC. 4. INVESTIGATIVE ACTIONS.

''(a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall appoint an employee in the Senior Executive Service (as described in section 3131 of title 5, United States Code) of the Department of Agriculture to serve as Chief of Operations of Investigative Actions (referred to in this section as the 'Chief of Operations'), who shall hire, appoint, and maintain additional employees to monitor compliance with the provisions of this Act.

''(b) CHIEF OF OPERATIONS.—The Chief of Operations may serve in such position simultaneously with a concurrent position within the Department of Agriculture.

''(c) SECURITY.—The Secretary shall—

''(1) provide classified storage, meeting, and other spaces, as necessary, for personnel of the Chief of Operations; and

''(2) assist such personnel in obtaining security clearances.

''(d) DUTIES.—The Chief of Operations shall—

''(1) monitor compliance with this Act;

''(2) refer noncompliance with this Act to the Secretary, the Farm Service Agency, and any other appropriate authority;

''(3) conduct investigations, in coordination with the Department of Justice, the Federal Bureau of Investigation, the Department of Homeland Security, the Department of the Treasury, the National Security Council, and State and local law enforcement agencies, on malign efforts—

''(A) to steal agricultural knowledge and technology; or

''(B) to disrupt the United States agricultural base;

''(4) conduct an annual audit of the database developed under section 12304(b) of the Farm, Food, and National Security Act of 2026;

''(5) seek to enter into memoranda of agreement and memoranda of understanding with the Federal agencies described in paragraph (3)—

''(A) to ensure compliance with this Act; and

''(B) to prevent the malign efforts described in that paragraph;

''(6) refer to the Committee on Foreign Investment in the United States transactions that—

''(A) raise potential national security concerns; and

''(B) result in agricultural land acquisition by a foreign person that is a citizen of, or headquartered in, as applicable, a foreign entity of concern; and

''(7) publish annual reports that summarize the information contained in every report received by the Secretary under section 2 during the period covered by the report.

''(e) ADMINISTRATION.—The Chief of Operations shall report to—

''(1) the Secretary; or

''(2) if delegated by the Secretary, to—

''(A) the Administrator of the Farm Service Agency; or

''(B) the Director of the Department of Agriculture Office of Homeland Security.''.

(b) DEFINITION OF FOREIGN ENTITY OF CONCERN.—Section 9 of the Agricultural Foreign Investment Disclosure Act of 1978 (7 U.S.C. 3508) is amended—

(1) in the matter preceding paragraph (1), by striking ''For purposes of this Act—'' and inserting ''In this Act:'';

(2) in each of paragraphs (1) through (6)—

(A) by striking ''the term'' and inserting ''The term''; and

(B) by inserting a paragraph heading, the text of which comprises the term defined in that paragraph;

(3) in each of paragraphs (1) through (4), by striking the semicolon and inserting a period;

(4) in paragraph (5), by striking ''; and'' and inserting a period;

(5) by redesignating paragraphs (2) through (6) as paragraphs (3), (4), (6), (7), and (8), respectively;

(6) by inserting after paragraph (1) the following:

''(2) FOREIGN ENTITY OF CONCERN.—The term 'foreign entity of concern' has the meaning given the term in section 9901 of the William M. (Mac) Thornberry National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2021 (15 U.S.C. 4651).''; and

(7) by inserting after paragraph (4) (as so redesignated) the following:

''(5) MALIGN EFFORT.—The term 'malign effort' means any hostile effort undertaken by, at the direction of, on behalf of, or with the substantial support of the government of a foreign entity of concern.''.

SEC. 12304. DIGITIZATION AND CONSOLIDATION OF FOREIGN LAND OWNERSHIP DATA COLLECTION AND PUBLICATION.

(a) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

(1) AGRICULTURAL LAND.—The term ''agricultural land'' has the meaning given the term in section 781.2 of title 7, Code of Federal Regulations (as in effect on the date of enactment of this Act).

(2) DATABASE.—The term ''database'' means the database developed under subsection (c).

(3) FOREIGN PERSON.—The term ''foreign person'' has the meaning given the term in section 9 of the Agricultural Foreign Investment Disclosure Act of 1978 (7 U.S.C. 3508).

(b) DATABASE.—Not later than 3 years after the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary shall develop a database of agricultural land owned by foreign persons, using data that are collected pursuant to the Agricultural Foreign Investment Disclosure Act of 1978 (7 U.S.C. 3501 et seq.).

(c) CONTENTS.—Each entry in the database for each registration or updated registration of agricultural land owned or leased by a foreign person shall include pertinent information, as determined by the Secretary, in the applicable filing, except it shall not publicly disclose the name of the filer and the purchase or lease price of such transaction for a period of at least 30 days following such filing.

(d) AUDIT.—Not later than 180 days after the database is operational, and annually thereafter, the Chief of Operations for Investigative Actions appointed under section 4 of the Agricultural Foreign Investment Disclosure Act of 1978 (as amended by section 12303(a)) shall—

(1) conduct an audit of the database; and

(2) submit to the appropriate committees of Congress a report—

(A) evaluating the accuracy of the database; and

(B) describing recommendations for improving compliance with the reporting required under the Agricultural Foreign Investment Disclosure Act of 1978 (7 U.S.C. 3501 et seq.).

(e) REPEAL.—Section 773 of division A of the Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2023 (Public Law 117–328) is repealed.

SEC. 12305. CFIUS CONSIDERATION OF CERTAIN AGRICULTURAL LAND TRANSACTIONS.

(a) INCLUSION OF THE SECRETARY OF AGRICULTURE ON THE COMMITTEE ON FOREIGN INVESTMENT IN THE UNITED STATES.—Section 721(k) of the Defense Production Act of 1950 (50 U.S.C. 4565(k)) is amended by adding at the end the following:

''(8) INCLUSION OF THE SECRETARY OF AGRICULTURE.—The Secretary of Agriculture shall be a member of the Committee with respect to a covered transaction that involves—

''(A) agricultural land;

''(B) agriculture biotechnology; or

''(C) the agriculture industry, including agricultural transportation, storage, and processing.''.

(b) CONSIDERATION OF CERTAIN AGRICULTURAL LAND TRANSACTIONS.—Section 721(b)(1) of the Defense Production Act of 1950 (50 U.S.C. 4565(b)(1)) is amended by adding at the end the following:

''(I) CONSIDERATION OF CERTAIN AGRICULTURAL LAND TRANSACTIONS.—

''(i) IN GENERAL.—After receiving notification from the Secretary of Agriculture of a reportable agricultural land transaction, the Committee shall determine—

''(I) whether the transaction is a covered transaction; and

''(II) if the Committee determines that the transaction is a covered transaction, whether the Committee should initiate a review pursuant to subparagraph (D), or take another action authorized under this section, with respect to the reportable agricultural land transaction.

''(ii) REPORTABLE AGRICULTURAL LAND TRANSACTION.—In this subparagraph, the term 'reportable agricultural land transaction' means a transaction—

''(I) that the Secretary of Agriculture has reason to believe is a covered transaction, based on

information from or in cooperation with the intelligence community;

''(II) that involves the acquisition of an interest in agricultural land by a foreign person of the People's Republic of China, the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, the Russian Federation, or the Islamic Republic of Iran; and

''(III) with respect to which a person is required to submit a report to the Secretary of Agriculture under section 2(a) of the Agricultural Foreign Investment Disclosure Act of 1978.

''(iii) SUNSET.—The requirements under this subparagraph shall terminate, with respect to a foreign person of the respective foreign country, on the date that the People's Republic of China, the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, the Russian Federation, or the Islamic Republic of Iran, as the case may be, is removed from the list of foreign adversaries in section 791.4 of title 15, Code of Federal Regulations.''.

Subtitle D—Other Miscellaneous Provisions

SEC. 12401. COMMISSION ON FARM TRANSITIONS—NEEDS FOR 2050.

Section 12609 of the Agriculture Improvement Act of 2018 (Public Law 115–334; 132 Stat. 5009) is amended—

(1) in subsection (a), by striking ''There is established'' and inserting ''Not later than 60 days after the date of the enactment of the Farm, Food, and National Security Act of 2026, the Secretary shall establish'';

(2) in subsection (b)—

(A) in the subsection heading, by inserting ''AND RECOMMENDATIONS'' after ''STUDY'';

(B) in the matter preceding paragraph (1), by inserting '', and make recommendations relating to,'' after ''study on'';

(C) in paragraph (1)—

(i) in subparagraph (B), by inserting ''and timely'' after ''affordable''; and

(ii) by striking subparagraph (D) and inserting the following:

''(D) apprenticeships, mentoring programs, business training, and technical assistance programs;'';

(D) in paragraph (3)—

(i) in the matter preceding subparagraph (A), by striking ''existing and new Federal tax policies'' and inserting ''existing and new State and Federal policies, including tax policies''; and

(ii) in subparagraph (A), by inserting ''or impede'' after ''facilitate'';

(E) in paragraph (4), by striking ''and'' at the end;

(F) in paragraph (5), by striking the period at the end and inserting a semicolon; and

(G) by adding at the end the following:

''(6) heirs' property and succession of agricultural land;

''(7) any unique barriers faced by historically underserved and women farmers and ranchers in the ability to transfer, inherit, or purchase agricultural assets, including land; and

''(8) leasing and ownership trends, including leasing and ownership trends by foreign persons or entities.'';

(3) in subsection (f), by striking ''1 year after the date of enactment of this Act'' and inserting ''2 years after the date of enactment of the Farm, Food, and National Security Act of 2026'';

(4) by amending subsection (l) to read as follows:

''(l) FEDERAL ADVISORY COMMITTEES.—Sections 1008 and 1013 of title 5, United States Code, shall not apply to the Commission or any proceeding of the Commission.''; and

(5) in subsection (m), by striking ''2023'' and inserting ''2031''.

SEC. 12402. REPORT ON PERSONNEL.

Section 12506 of the Agriculture Improvement Act of 2018 (Public Law 115–334) is amended by striking ''2023'' and inserting ''2031''.

SEC. 12403. IMPROVEMENTS TO UNITED STATES DROUGHT MONITOR.

Section 12512(d)(2) of the Agriculture Improvement Act of 2018 (7 U.S.C. 5856(d)(2)) is amended by striking ''2023'' and inserting ''2031''.

SEC. 12404. REPORTS ON LAND ACCESS AND FARMLAND OWNERSHIP DATA COLLECTION.

Section 12607 of the Agriculture Improvement Act of 2018 (7 U.S.C. 2204i) is amended—

(1) in subsection (a)—

(A) in the matter preceding paragraph (1), by inserting ''and not less frequently than once every 2 years thereafter,'' before ''the Secretary of Agriculture'';

(B) in paragraph (2), by striking ''and'' at the end;

(C) in paragraph (3), by striking the period at the end and inserting ''; and''; and

(D) by adding at the end the following:

''(4) a catalog of existing Federal, State, or private programs that facilitate access to land, capital, and markets, including programs providing assistance relating to—

''(A) acquiring of real property (including air rights, water rights, and other interests therein), including closing costs;

''(B) subsidizing interest rates and mortgage principal amounts for intended beneficiaries;

''(C) providing down payment assistance to decrease farm mortgages;

''(D) securing clear title on heirs' property farmland;

''(E) conducting surveys and assessments of agricultural land;

''(F) improving or remediating land, water, and soil;

''(G) constructing or repairing infrastructure;

''(H) supporting land use planning;

''(I) acquiring legal or financial planning assistance;

''(J) carrying out Tribal consultation;

''(K) supporting acquisition of a Department of Agriculture farm number; and

''(L) any other activities as determined by the Secretary.''; and

(2) in subsection (c), by striking ''2023'' and inserting ''2031''.

SEC. 12405. INCREASING TRANSPARENCY REGARDING DETENTION OF IMPORTED PLANTS.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 180 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary, in coordination with the Director of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and the Commissioner of U.S. Customs and Border Protection, shall issue guidance to clarify the process by which an importer of plants that have been denied entry into the United States and detained under the Lacey Act Amendments of 1981 (16 U.S.C. 3371 et seq.) may obtain additional information on such denial and detention.

(b) INFORMATION PROVIDED.—The process referred to in subsection (a) shall ensure that the Secretary shall provide to an importer described in such subsection, upon the detention of any plants of such importer, the following information:

(1) The specific reasons for which the detention of the plants was initiated, including the date on which the plants were presented to the Secretary for examination.

(2) The anticipated length of the detention of such plants.

(3) The nature of the tests or inquiries to be conducted on the plants, which the importer shall be able to replicate.

(4) The nature of any information that, if supplied to the Secretary, would accelerate the disposition of the detention.

SEC. 12406. ENHANCEMENT OF PET PROTECTIONS.

(a) REPORT.—Not later than 2 years after the date of the enactment of this Act (or later, if the Secretary determines appropriate after taking into consideration any ongoing programmatic review of the Animal Care program of the Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service), the Secretary shall submit to the Committee on Agriculture and the Committee on Appropriations of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry and the Committee on Appropriations of the Senate a report with respect to companion animals that—

(1) evaluates the enforcement of standards under, and requirements of, the Animal Welfare Act (7 U.S.C. 2131 et seq.) by the Secretary for both effectiveness and efficiency;

(2) evaluates the efforts by the Secretary to educate and advise dealers of all standards under, and requirements of, such Act;

(3) evaluates the capacity of the Secretary to enforce the standards established by such Act;

(4) makes recommendations for the improvement of—

(A) all standards (including animal welfare standards) under, and requirements of, such Act; and

(B) education efforts of the Secretary with respect to such standards and requirements; and

(5) considers the impact and associated costs of any recommended improvements or amendments to the standards under, and requirements of, such Act.

(b) VETERINARY CARE.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Section 13(a)(2)(A) of the Animal Welfare Act (7 U.S.C. 2143(a)(2)(A)) is amended by inserting ''(which shall include visual dental examinations, whenever practicable)'' after ''adequate veterinary care''.

(2) TECHNICAL AMENDMENT.—Section 13 of the Animal Welfare Act (7 U.S.C. 2143) is amended by redesignating the second subsection (f) (prohibiting delivery of certain animals without certificate of inspection), subsection (g), and subsection (h) as subsections (g) through (i), respectively.

SEC. 12407. PROTECTING ANIMALS WITH SHELTER.

Section 12502(b)(8) of the Agriculture Improvement Act of 2018 (Public Law 115–334) is amended by striking ''2023'' and inserting ''2031''.

SEC. 12408. REPORT ON AVAILABLE ASSISTANCE TO AGRICULTURAL PRODUCERS IN THE STATE OF TEXAS THAT HAVE SUFFERED ECONOMIC LOSSES DUE TO THE FAILURE OF MEXICO TO DELIVER WATER.

Not later than 180 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary shall submit to the Committee on Agriculture of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry of the Senate a report that lists all existing authorities of the Secretary and programs within the Department that are or could be made available to provide assistance to agricultural producers in the State of Texas that have suffered economic losses due to the failure of Mexico to deliver water to the United States in accordance with the Treaty Relating to the Utilization of Waters of the Colorado and Tijuana Rivers and of the Rio Grande signed at Washington on February 3, 1944, and the Supplementary Protocol signed at Washington November 14, 1944.

SEC. 12409. QUALIFIED RENEWABLE BIOMASS.

(a) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

(1) AGENCY ACTION.—The term ''agency action'' has the meaning given the term in section 551 of title 5, United States Code.

(2) QUALIFIED RENEWABLE BIOMASS.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—The term ''qualified renewable biomass'' means—

(i) forest products manufacturing bioenergy feedstocks, including from—

(I) forest products manufacturing residuals, including spent pulping liquors, pulping byproducts, bark, woody manufacturing residuals, paper recycling residuals, wastewater and process water treatment plant residuals, and anaerobic digester biogas;

(II) harvest residues, including portions of harvested trees that are too small or of too poor quality to be utilized for wood products or paper products;

(III) downed wood from extreme weather events and natural disasters, nonhazardous landscape or right-of-way trimmings and municipal trimmings, and plant material removed for purposes of invasive or noxious plant species control;

(IV) biowaste, including landfill gas; and

(V) non-chemically treated used wood products, such as crates or pallets; and

(ii) forest biomass derived from residues created as a by-product of timber harvesting, including treetops, tree limbs, and bark, but excluding stumps, roots, and round wood suitable for industrial purposes.

(B) EXCLUSION.—Such term does not include paper of a type that is commonly recycled.

(b) IN GENERAL.—

(1) CONSIDERATION AS RENEWABLE ENERGY SOURCE.—With respect to any agency action of the Department related to qualified renewable biomass, the Secretary shall consider qualified renewable biomass to be a renewable energy source and assign it (and a facility, to the extent it uses qualified renewable biomass as fuel) a greenhouse gas emission rate, and a carbon intensity, of not greater than zero, if the use of such qualified renewable biomass as fuel does not cause the conversion of forests to non-forest use.

(2) PETITIONS.—Not later than 1 year after receiving a petition requesting a change to a rule, policy, or program of the Department in order to comply with the requirements of paragraph (1), the Secretary shall take such action as may be necessary to comply with such requirements with respect to such rule, policy, or program.

(c) GUIDANCE.—

(1) ESTABLISHMENT.—Not later than 180 days after the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary shall establish guidance for purposes of carrying out subsection (b).

(2) MODIFICATION.—The Secretary may periodically update the guidance established under paragraph (1) as the Secretary may determine necessary.

(3) CONSULTATION.—In carrying out this subsection, the Secretary shall consult with—

(A) the Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency;

(B) the Secretary of Energy; and

(C) any other relevant entities, as determined by the Secretary.

SEC. 12410. WHOLE MILK UNDER THE SCHOOL BREAKFAST PROGRAM.

Section 9(a)(2) of the Richard B. Russell National School Lunch Act (42 U.S.C. 1758(a)(2)) is amended—

(1) in subparagraph (A), in the matter preceding clause (i), by striking ''Act—'' and inserting ''Act and breakfasts served by schools participating in the school breakfast program under section 4 of the Child Nutrition Act of 1966 (42 U.S.C. 1773)—'';

(2) in subparagraph (C), by inserting ''or the school breakfast program under section 4 of the Child Nutrition Act of 1966 (42 U.S.C. 1773)'' after ''Act''; and

(3) in subparagraph (D), by striking ''section 210.10'' and inserting ''sections 210.10 and 220.8''.

SEC. 12411. SPOTTED LANTERNFLY AWARENESS CAMPAIGN.

(a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary of Agriculture shall carry out a national campaign to increase the awareness and knowledge of the public with respect to spotted lanternflies.

(b) REQUIRED ACTIVITIES.—In carrying out the national campaign under this section, the Secretary shall—

(1) place public service announcements on television, radio, and billboards in areas of high incidence of spotted lanternflies that—

(A) inform individuals of the fact that spotted lanternflies are an invasive pest that threaten local agriculture; and

(B) encourage individuals to kill any spotted lanternflies that such individuals encounter; and

(2) use such other awareness tools as the Secretary determines appropriate to provide the information described in paragraph (1).

SEC. 12412. RIO GRANDE VALLEY AGRICULTURAL WATER INTERAGENCY WORKING GROUP.

(a) ESTABLISHMENT.—The Secretary, in coordination with the heads of the agencies described in subsection (c), shall establish an interagency working group to coordinate a whole-of-government strategy to protect the economic interests of United States agricultural producers impacted by water deliveries under the 1944 Water Treaty.

(b) DUTIES.—The Working Group shall—

(1) analyze the economic impact of water delivery deficits under the 1944 Water Treaty on the United States agricultural sector in the area affected by such water delivery deficits, including specific assessments of damages to perennial crops;

(2) develop and implement a multi-agency strategy to—

(A) secure annual and predictable water deliveries in accordance with the 1944 Water Treaty through the coordinated use of Federal diplomatic and operational authorities;

(B) enhance the resilience of the domestic agricultural water supply through improved conservation and infrastructure;

(C) assess trade-related mechanisms available to address agricultural supply chain disruptions caused by such water delivery deficits;

(D) ensure that water resources and infrastructure in South Texas are efficiently managed and operational for the beneficial use of agricultural producers and municipal users; and

(E) support Federal officials in securing annual and predictable water deliveries in accordance with the 1944 Water Treaty;

(3) facilitate coordination among Federal agencies and with the State of Texas to align diplomatic, trade, and infrastructure efforts with the critical needs of the agricultural community in South Texas; and

(4) provide a forum for public engagement and transparency regarding—

(A) the status of water deliveries from Mexico under the 1944 Water Treaty; and

(B) the findings of the Working Group and the strategy developed under paragraph (2).

(c) COMPOSITION.—The Working Group shall be composed of—

(1) the Secretary of Agriculture (who shall serve as Chair);

(2) the Secretary of State;

(3) the Secretary of the Interior;

(4) the Commissioner of the United States Section of the International Boundary and Water Commission, United States and Mexico;

(5) the Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency;

(6) the United States Trade Representative;

(7) the Chief of Engineers and Commanding General of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers; and

(8) the Assistant to the President of the United States for National Security Affairs.

(d) MEETINGS.—

(1) FREQUENCY.—The Working Group shall meet not less frequently than annually.

(2) PUBLIC ACCESS.—The Working Group shall—

(A) hold the meetings described in paragraph (1) in a manner open to the public; and

(B) provide an opportunity for interested stakeholders, including agricultural producers and irrigation districts, to provide oral and written comments to the Working Group.

(e) REPORT.—Not later than 1 year after the date of the enactment of this Act, and annually thereafter, the Working Group shall submit to the Committees on Agriculture, Appropriations, Foreign Affairs, and Ways and Means of the House of Representatives, and the Committees on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry, Appropriations, Energy and Natural Resources, Foreign Relations, and Finance of the Senate, a report describing—

(1) the findings resulting from the analysis under subsection (b)(1);

(2) the status of diplomatic and operational efforts to secure compliance with the annual water delivery requirements of the 1944 Water Treaty;

(3) an assessment of potential trade or administrative actions to secure long term water reliability under treaties with Mexico; and

(4) recommendations for projects, resources, and legislative authorities needed to fully implement the strategy developed under subsection (b)(2).

(f) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

(1) 1944 WATER TREATY.—The term ''1944 Water Treaty'' means the Treaty Relating to the Utilization of Waters of the Colorado and Tijuana Rivers and of the Rio Grande signed at Washington on February 3, 1944, and the Supplementary Protocol signed at Washington November 14, 1944.

(2) WORKING GROUP.—The term ''Working Group'' means the interagency working group established under subsection (a).

SEC. 12413. COST-SHARE GRANTS FOR ROLLOVER PROTECTION STRUCTURES.

(a) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

(1) APPROVED ROLLOVER PROTECTION STRUCTURE.—The term ''approved rollover protection structure'' means a rollover protection structure that the Program Administrator determines—

(A) may be installed on eligible equipment;

(B) includes a seatbelt; and

(C) meets or exceeds the rollover protection structure standards.

(2) ELIGIBLE ENTITY.—The term ''eligible entity'' means, as determined by the Secretary—

(A) an agricultural producer; and

(B) an eligible school.

(3) ELIGIBLE EQUIPMENT.—The term ''eligible equipment'' means an agricultural tractor that the Program Administrator determines to be eligible for installation of an approved rollover protection structure.

(4) ELIGIBLE SCHOOL.—The term ''eligible school'' means—

(A) a vocational school that provides agricultural instruction or training;

(B) an institution of higher education (as defined in section 102 of the Higher Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 1002)) that provides direct, practical agricultural instruction or training; and

(C) a public or private secondary school (as defined in section 8101 of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 8107)) the curriculum of which includes an agricultural instruction or training component.

(5) PROGRAM ADMINISTRATOR.—The term ''Program Administrator'' means the organization selected by the Secretary under subsection (c)(1)(B).

(6) ROLLOVER PROTECTION STRUCTURE STANDARDS.—The term ''rollover protection structure standards'' includes the following:

(A) The SAE J2194 and SAE J1194 standards issued by the Society of Automotive Engineers (and successor standards).

(B) Any other relevant national or international rollover protection structure manufacturing or testing standards.

(b) COST-SHARE GRANTS.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall award grants to eligible entities for the cost of purchasing, transporting, and installing on eligible equipment approved rollover protection structures.

(2) LIMITATIONS.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—Except as provided in subparagraph (B), the amount of a grant under this section shall equal 70 percent of the costs of the eligible entity to purchase, transport, and install the approved rollover protection structure.

(B) EXCEPTION.—If, for an eligible entity that is the recipient of a grant under this section, the costs to purchase, transport, and install an approved rollover structure (as documented by the eligible entity) exceed $500, the amount of the grant shall be increased to cover an increased percentage (as determined by the Secretary) of such costs.

(c) ADMINISTRATION.—

(1) PROGRAM ADMINISTRATOR.—The Secretary shall—

(A) seek competitive bids from nongovernmental organizations seeking to serve as the Program Administrator under this section;

(B) select 1 organization from among the organizations that submit bids under subparagraph (A); and

(C) enter into a cooperative agreement with that organization to carry out the activities described in paragraph (2).

(2) DUTIES.—The Program Administrator shall—

(A) identify—

(i) approved rollover protection structures; and

(ii) eligible equipment;

(B) administer the application process under subsection (d); and

(C) establish and administer a public website and phone hotline with information necessary—

(i) to inform eligible entities, as described in subsection (a)(2), of the grant opportunities made available by this Act, and

(ii) to administer the application process under subsection (d).

(d) APPLICATIONS.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—To apply for a grant under this section, an eligible entity shall submit to the Program Administrator an application, including documentation of the cost described in subsection (b)(2)(A).

(2) APPROVAL OR DENIAL.—On receipt of an application under paragraph (1), the Program Administrator shall—

(A) determine—

(i) whether the applicant is eligible for a grant under this section; and

(ii) the amount of a grant under this section for which the applicant is eligible; and

(B) submit to the Secretary a notification of the determinations under subparagraph (A).

(e) DISBURSEMENT.—On receipt of a notification under subsection (d)(2)(B), if an applicant is eligible for a grant under this section, the Secretary shall disburse to the eligible entity the amount of the grant described in subsection (d)(2)(A)(ii).

(f) FUNDING.—

(1) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There is authorized to be appropriated to carry out this section $725,000 for each of fiscal years 2027 through 2031.

(2) ALLOCATION.—Of the amounts made available to carry out this section for each fiscal year—

(A) the Secretary shall use 70 percent of such amounts for grants under this section; and

(B) the Secretary shall transfer to the Program Administrator—

(i) 15 percent of such amounts for the promotion of, and upgrades to the website referred to in subsection (c)(2)(C); and

(ii) 15 percent of such amounts for the telephone hotline referred to in such subsection.

The Acting CHAIR. No further amendment to the bill, as amended, shall be in order except those printed in part B of House Report 119–628 and amendments en bloc described in section 3 of House Resolution 1224.

Each further amendment printed in part B of House Report 119–628 may be offered only in the order printed in the report, by the Member designated in the report, shall be considered as read, shall be debatable for the time specified in the report equally divided and controlled by the proponent and an opponent, shall not be subject to an amendment, and shall not be subject to a demand for division of the question.

It shall be in order at any time for the chair of the Committee on Agriculture or his designee to offer amendments en bloc consisting of amendments printed in part B of House Report 119–628 not earlier disposed of. Amendments en bloc shall be considered as read, shall be debatable for 20 minutes equally divided and controlled by the chair and ranking minority member of the Committee on Agriculture or their designees, shall not be subject to amendment, and shall not be subject to a demand for division of the question.

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AMENDMENTS EN BLOC NO. 1 OFFERED BY MR. THOMPSON OF PENNSYLVANIA

Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania. Mr. Chair, pursuant to House Resolution 1224, I offer amendments en bloc.

The Acting CHAIR. The Clerk will designate the amendments en bloc.

Amendments en bloc No. 1 consisting of amendment Nos. 6, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13, 17, 19, 23, 25, 32, 34, 35, 37, 40, 43, 44, 48, 52, 53, 54, 55, 56, and 57, printed in part B of House Report 119–628, offered by Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania:

AMENDMENT NO. 6 OFFERED BY MR. CRANE OF ARIZONA

At the end of Part I of subtitle D of title VIII, add the following:

SEC. 8409. KAIBAB NATIONAL FOREST RESTORATION.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Notwithstanding any requirement for a Presidential emergency, disaster declaration, or any other prerequisite for the use of the authority described in this subsection, the Secretary is authorized to use emergency acquisition flexibilities under part 18 of title 48, Code of Federal Regulations (and any successor regulations), in contracting for the following services within the covered area:

(1) Forest management or restoration activities carried out in response to the White Sage Fire.

(2) Rebuilding, planning, development, and design of structures affected by the White Sage Fire.

(3) Improvements to the grounds and structures.

(4) Recovery efforts.

(b) PROCESS FOR OTHER SERVICES.—Unless otherwise provided by law or regulation, the authority granted under subsection (a) does not apply to contracts for services other than those described in paragraphs (1) through (4) of subsection (a).

(c) REPORT.—Not later than 180 days after the Secretary begins to use the authorization under subsection (a), and every 180 days thereafter until the date that is 180 days after the date described in subsection (e), the Secretary shall submit to the Committee on Agriculture of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry of the Senate a report on all expenditures related to the recovery efforts for the White Sage Fire, including the following:

(1) The expected cost of recovery efforts.

(2) Cost expenditures.

(3) Cost overruns.

(4) Identification of contractors preforming the work associated with the recovery from the White Sage Fire.

(5) Any affiliations or conflicts of interest between the contractor and the contracting office at the Kaibab National Forest or the Forest Service.

(6) Any waste fraud and abuse detected during the recovery efforts.

(7) Any contracts that came in under expected expenses.

(8) An estimated time of completion for all projects and full recovery efforts related to the White Sage Fire.

(9) If an extension is needed to this authority to complete projects associated with the White Sage Fire.

(d) EXTENSION.—If, after the date of the enactment of this section, a new wildfire ignites within the covered area and impacts recovery efforts related to the White Sage Fire, the Secretary may request a 12-month extension of the authority granted under subsection (a), subject to congressional approval.

(e) EXPIRATION.—The authority granted under subsection (a) shall expire on the date that is the earlier of the following:

(1) 5 years after the date of the enactment of this section.

(2) Recovery efforts within the covered area are complete.

(f) COVERED AREA DEFINED.—The term ''covered area'' means the areas within Kaibab National Forest impacted by the White Sage Fire.

AMENDMENT NO. 9 OFFERED BY MS. DAVIDS OF KANSAS

Page 282, after line 3, insert the following:

(a) DEFINITION OF STATE.—Section 501 of the Agricultural Credit Act of 1987 (7 U.S.C. 5101) is amended by adding at the end the following:

''(e) DEFINITION OF STATE.—In this title, the term 'State' has the meaning given the term in section 2 of the Animal Welfare Act, and includes any Indian tribe (as defined in section 4 of the Indian Self-Determination and Education Assistance Act).''.

Page 282, line 4, strike ''(a)'' and insert ''(b)''.

Page 282, line 18, strike ''(b)'' and insert ''(c)''.

AMENDMENT NO. 10 OFFERED BY MS. ELFRETH OF MARYLAND

At the end of subtitle F of title VII, add the following:

SEC. _____. SENSE OF CONGRESS RELATING TO THE IMPORTANCE OF COMMUNITY COLLEGES TO THE UNITED SATES AGRICULTURE INDUSTRY.

It is the Sense of Congress that—

(1) institutions of higher education that offer two-year degree programs, such as junior or community colleges (as defined in section 312 of the Higher Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 1058)), are at the forefront of agricultural workforce development and education opportunities, especially in the conservation space;

(2) such programs have a proven record of success in developing a skilled workforce for agriculture, providing landowners the resources and expertise necessary to reduce erosion and damage, improve long-term sustainability, and solve land management problems, which all ultimately improve agricultural productivity; and

(3) investing in agricultural programs at two-year degree programs at institutions of higher education is crucial to the success of the United States agriculture industry, economy, and environment.

AMENDMENT NO. 11 OFFERED BY MR. EZELL OF MISSISSIPPI

At the end of part II of subtitle D of title VIII, add the following:

SEC. 8421. TIMBER PRODUCTION EXPANSION GUARANTEED LOAN PROGRAM.

(a) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

(1) ELIGIBLE ENTITY.—The term ''eligible entity'' means an individual or entity that owns or operates a sawmill or other wood-processing facility located in a rural area (as defined in section 343(a) of the Consolidated Farm and Rural Development Act (7 U.S.C. 1991(a))) of the United States.

(2) ELIGIBLE FEDERAL LAND.—The term ''eligible Federal land'' means any unit of Federal land, including Indian forest land or rangeland, that has been identified by the Secretary, in coordination with the Secretary of the Interior, as high or very high

priority for ecological restoration involving vegetation removal under subsection (b).

(3) PROGRAM.—The term ''Program'' means the Timber Production Expansion Guaranteed Loan Program of the Department of Agriculture.

(4) SECRETARY.—The term ''Secretary'' means the Secretary of Agriculture.

(b) IDENTIFICATION OF ELIGIBLE FEDERAL LAND.—Not later than 1 year after the date of enactment of this Act, and not less frequently than once every 5 years thereafter, the Secretary, in coordination with the Secretary of the Interior, shall—

(1) review Federal land under the jurisdiction of the Secretary or the Secretary of the Interior; and

(2) identify units of Federal land that, as determined by the Secretaries, are high or very high priority for ecological restoration involving vegetation removal.

(c) LOAN GUARANTEES.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary, in coordination with the Secretary of the Interior, shall provide loan guarantees under the Program to eligible entities seeking to establish, reopen, retrofit, expand, or improve a sawmill or other wood-processing facility located within a 250-mile radius of, a unit of eligible Federal land, if the presence of a sawmill or other wood-processing facility would, or does, substantially decrease the cost of conducting ecological restoration projects involving vegetation removal on the eligible Federal land, as determined by the Secretary, in coordination with the Secretary of the Interior.

(2) CONDITIONS.—A loan guarantee under the Program shall be provided in accordance with such conditions as the Secretary determines to be necessary.

(3) MAXIMUM AMOUNT.—The Secretary may provide a total of not more than $220,000,000 in loan guarantees under the Program.

AMENDMENT NO. 12 OFFERED BY MRS. FEDORCHAK OF NORTH DAKOTA

Add at the end of title I the following:

SEC. 1___. STUDY ON STORAGE FACILITY LOANS FOR ON-FARM FERTILIZER STORAGE.

(a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall conduct a study on the feasibility to provide storage facility loans to producers to construct or maintain facilities for on-farm fertilizer storage.

(b) CONTENTS.—In conducting the study under this section, the Secretary shall include data, as of the date of enactment of this section, on—

(1) the market for on-farm fertilizer storage facilities, including—

(A) the number of farms in the United States equipped with on-farm fertilizer storage facilities; and

(B) the overall availability of, and producer demand for, on-farm fertilizer storage facilities;

(2) producer access to financing for the construction or maintenance of on-farm fertilizer storage facilities; and

(3) storage facility loan rates and terms provided by commercial lending institutions in comparison to storage facility loan rates and terms provided by the Secretary.

(c) REPORT.—Not later than 1 year after the date of enactment of this section, the Secretary shall submit to the Committee on Agriculture of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry of the Senate a report on the findings of the study under this section.

AMENDMENT NO. 13 OFFERED BY MR. FONG OF CALIFORNIA

Add at the end of title VIII the following:

Subtitle G—Save Our Sequoias

SEC. 8701. SHORT TITLE; DEFINITIONS.

(a) SHORT TITLE.—This subtitle may be cited as the ''Save Our Sequoias Act''.

(b) DEFINITIONS.—In this subtitle:

(1) ASSESSMENT.—The term ''Assessment'' means the Giant Sequoia Health and Resiliency Assessment required by section 8704.

(2) COALITION.—The term ''Coalition'' means the Giant Sequoia Lands Coalition codified under section 8703(a).

(3) COLLABORATIVE PROCESS.—The term ''collaborative process'' means a collaborative process as described in section 4003(b)(2) of the Omnibus Public Land Management Act of 2009 (16 U.S.C. 7303(b)(2)).

(4) COVERED NATIONAL FOREST SYSTEM LANDS.—The term ''covered National Forest System lands'' means the proclaimed National Forest System lands reserved or withdrawn from the public domain of the United States covering the Sequoia National Forest and Giant Sequoia National Monument, Sierra National Forest, and Tahoe National Forest.

(5) COVERED PUBLIC LANDS.—The term ''covered public lands'' means—

(A) the Case Mountain Extensive Recreation Management Area in California managed by the Bureau of Land Management; and

(B) Kings Canyon National Park, Sequoia National Park, and Yosemite National Park in California managed by the National Park Service.

(6) GIANT SEQUOIA.—The term ''giant sequoia'' means a tree of the species Sequoiadendron giganteum.

(7) PROTECTION PROJECT.—The term ''Protection Project'' means a Giant Sequoia Protection Project carried out under section 8705.

(8) REFORESTATION.—The term ''reforestation'' means the act of renewing tree cover, taking into consideration species composition and resilience, by establishing young trees through—

(A) natural regeneration;

(B) natural regeneration with site preparation and vegetation competition control; or

(C) planting or direct seeding.

(9) REHABILITATION.—The term ''rehabilitation'' means any action taken during the 5-year period beginning on the last day of a wildland fire to repair or improve fire-impacted lands which are unlikely to recover to management-approved conditions.

(10) RELEVANT CONGRESSIONAL COMMITTEES.—The term ''relevant Congressional Committees'' means—

(A) the Committees on Natural Resources, Agriculture, and Appropriations of the House of Representatives; and

(B) the Committees on Energy and Natural Resources, Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry, and Appropriations of the Senate.

(11) RESPONSIBLE OFFICIAL.—The term ''responsible official'' means an employee of the Department of the Interior or Forest Service who has the authority to make and implement a decision on a proposed action.

(12) SECRETARY.—The term ''Secretary'' means the Secretary of the Interior.

(13) SECRETARY CONCERNED.—The term ''Secretary concerned'' means—

(A) the Secretary of Agriculture, with respect to covered National Forest System lands, or their designee; and

(B) the Secretary of the Interior, with respect to covered public lands, or their designee.

(14) STRATEGY.—The term ''Strategy'' means the Giant Sequoia Reforestation and Rehabilitation Strategy established under section 8706.

(15) STRIKE TEAM.—The term ''Strike Team'' means a Giant Sequoia Strike Team established under section 8707.

(16) TRIBE.—The term ''Tribe'' means the Tule River Indian Tribe of the Tule River Reservation, California.

SEC. 8702. SHARED STEWARDSHIP AGREEMENT FOR GIANT SEQUOIAS.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 90 days after receiving a request from the Governor of the State of California or the Tribe, the Secretary shall enter into or expand an existing shared stewardship agreement or enter into a similar agreement with the Secretary of Agriculture, the Governor of the State of California, and the Tribe to jointly carry out the short-term and long-term management and conservation of giant sequoias.

(b) PARTICIPATION.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—If the Secretary has not received a request from the Governor of the State of California or the Tribe under subsection (a) before the date that is 90 days after the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary shall enter into the agreement under subsection (a) and jointly implement such agreement with the Secretary of Agriculture.

(2) FUTURE PARTICIPATION.—If the Secretary receives a request from the Governor of the State of California or the Tribe any time after entering into the agreement with the Secretary of Agriculture under paragraph (1), the Secretary shall accept the Governor of the State of California or the Tribe as a party to such agreement.

SEC. 8703. GIANT SEQUOIA LANDS COALITION.

(a) CODIFICATION.—The Coalition is the entity established under the charter titled ''Giant Sequoia Lands Coalition Charter'' (or successor charter) signed during the period beginning June 2, 2022 and ending August 2, 2022 by each of the following:

(1) The National Park Service, representing Sequoia and Kings Canyon National Parks.

(2) The National Park Service, representing Yosemite National Park.

(3) The Forest Service, representing Sequoia National Forest and Giant Sequoia National Monument.

(4) The Forest Service, representing Sierra National Forest.

(5) The Forest Service, representing Tahoe National Forest.

(6) The Bureau of Land Management, representing Case Mountain Extensive Recreation Management Area.

(7) The Tribe, representing the Tule River Indian Reservation.

(8) The State of California, representing Calaveras Big Trees State Park.

(9) The State of California, representing Mountain Home Demonstration State Forest.

(10) The University of California, Berkeley, representing Whitaker's Research Forest.

(11) The County of Tulare, California, representing Balch Park.

(b) DUTIES.—In addition to the duties specified in the charter referenced in subsection (a), the Coalition shall—

(1) produce the Assessment under section 8704;

(2) observe implementation, and provide policy recommendations to the Secretary concerned, with respect to—

(A) Protection Projects carried out under section 8705; and

(B) the Strategy established under section 8706;

(3) facilitate collaboration and coordination on Protection Projects, particularly projects that cross jurisdictional boundaries;

(4) facilitate information sharing, including best available science as described in section 8704(d) and mapping resources; and

(5) support the development and dissemination of educational materials and programs that inform the public about the threats to the health and resiliency of giant sequoia groves and actions being taken to reduce the risk to such groves from high-severity wildfire, insects, and drought.

(c) ADMINISTRATIVE SUPPORT, TECHNICAL SERVICES, AND STAFF SUPPORT.—The Secretary shall make personnel of the Department of the Interior available to the Coalition for administrative support, technical services, development and dissemination of educational materials, and staff support that the Secretary determines necessary to carry out this section.

(d) PUBLIC MEETING REQUIREMENT.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Except as provided in paragraph (2), the Coalition shall provide for public observation at no less than one meeting annually.

(2) CLOSED SESSIONS.—The Coalition may close portions of a meeting as provided in paragraph (1) to the public only when discussion will involve—

(A) sensitive law enforcement, security, or emergency response matters, the public disclosure of which would compromise public safety; or

(B) confidential commercial information, private property information, or landowner information.

SEC. 8704. GIANT SEQUOIA HEALTH AND RESILIENCY ASSESSMENT.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 6 months after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Coalition shall submit to the relevant Congressional Committees a Giant Sequoia Health and Resiliency Assessment that, based on the best available science—

(1) identifies—

(A) each giant sequoia grove that has experienced a—

(i) stand-replacing disturbance; or

(ii) disturbance but continues to have living giant sequoias within the grove, including identifying the tree mortality and regeneration of giant sequoias within such grove;

(B) each giant sequoia grove that is at high risk of experiencing a stand-replacing disturbance;

(C) lands—

(i) contiguous or adjacent to giant sequoia groves that are at risk of experiencing high-severity wildfires that could adversely impact such giant sequoia groves; or

(ii) in which the placement of fuel breaks could reduce the risk of high-severity wildfires that could adversely impact giant sequoia groves; and

(D) each giant sequoia grove that has experienced a disturbance and is unlikely to naturally regenerate and is in need of reforestation;

(2) analyzes the resiliency of each giant sequoia grove to threats, such as—

(A) high-severity wildfire;

(B) insects, including beetle kill; and

(C) drought;

(3) examines how historical, Tribal, or current approaches to wildland fire suppression and forest management activities across various jurisdictions have impacted the health and resiliency of giant sequoia groves with respect to—

(A) high-severity wildfires;

(B) insects, including beetle kill; and

(C) drought; and

(4) includes program and policy recommendations that address—

(A) options to enhance communication, coordination, and collaboration, particularly for cross-boundary projects, to improve the health and resiliency of giant sequoias; and

(B) research gaps that should be addressed to improve the best available science on the giant sequoias.

(b) ANNUAL UPDATES.—Not later than 1 year after the submission of the Assessment under subsection (a), and annually thereafter, the Coalition shall submit an updated Assessment to the relevant Congressional Committees that—

(1) includes any new data, information, or best available science that has changed or become available since the previous Assessment was submitted;

(2) with respect to Protection Projects—

(A) includes information on the number of Protection Projects initiated the previous year and the estimated timeline for completing those projects;

(B) includes information on the number of Protection Projects planned in the upcoming year and the estimated timeline for completing those projects;

(C) provides status updates and long-term monitoring reports on giant sequoia groves after the completion of Protection Projects; and

(D) if the Secretary concerned failed to reduce hazardous fuels in at least 3 giant sequoia groves in the previous year, a written explanation that includes—

(i) a detailed explanation of what impediments resulted in failing to reduce hazardous fuels in at least 3 giant sequoia groves; and

(ii) a detailed explanation of what actions the Secretary concerned is taking to ensure that hazardous fuels are reduced in at least 3 giant sequoia groves the following year; and

(3) with respect to reforestation and rehabilitation of giant sequoias—

(A) contains updates on the implementation of the Strategy under section 8706, including grove-level data on reforestation and rehabilitation activities; and

(B) provides status updates and monitoring reports on giant sequoia groves that have experienced reforestation or rehabilitation as part of the Strategy under section 8706.

(c) DASHBOARD.—

(1) REQUIREMENT TO MAINTAIN.—The Coalition shall create and maintain a website that—

(A) publishes the Assessment, annual updates to the Assessment, and other educational materials developed by the Coalition;

(B) contains searchable information about individual giant sequoia groves, including the—

(i) resiliency of such groves to threats described in paragraphs (1) and (2) of subsection (a);

(ii) Protection Projects that have been proposed, initiated, or completed in such groves; and

(iii) reforestation and rehabilitation activities that have been proposed, initiated, or completed in such groves; and

(C) maintains a searchable database to track—

(i) the status of Federal environmental reviews and authorizations for specific Protection Projects and reforestation and rehabilitation activities; and

(ii) the projected cost of Protection Projects and reforestation and rehabilitation activities.

(2) SEARCHABLE DATABASE.—The Coalition shall include information on the status of Protection Projects in the searchable database created under paragraph (1)(C), including—

(A) a comprehensive permitting timetable;

(B) the status of the compliance of each lead agency, cooperating agency, and participating agency with the permitting timetable;

(C) any modifications of the permitting timetable required under subparagraph (A), including an explanation as to why the permitting timetable was modified; and

(D) information about project-related public meetings, public hearings, and public comment periods, which shall be presented in English and the predominant language of the community or communities most affected by the project, as that information becomes available.

(d) BEST AVAILABLE SCIENCE.—In utilizing the best available science for the Assessment, the Coalition shall include—

(1) data and peer-reviewed research from academic institutions with a demonstrated history of studying giant sequoias and with experience analyzing distinct management strategies to improve giant sequoia resiliency;

(2) traditional ecological knowledge from the Tribe related to improving the health and resiliency of giant sequoia groves; and

(3) data from Federal, State, Tribal, and local governments or agencies, and other interested stakeholders with a demonstrated history of studying giant sequoias and with experience analyzing distinct management strategies to improve giant sequoia resiliency.

(e) TECHNOLOGY IMPROVEMENTS.—In carrying out this section, the Secretary may enter into memorandums of understanding or agreements with other Federal agencies or departments, State or local governments, Tribal governments, private entities, or academic institutions to improve, with respect to the Assessment, the use and integration of—

(1) advanced remote sensing and geospatial technologies;

(2) statistical modeling and analysis; or

(3) any other technology the Secretary determines will benefit the quality of information used in the Assessment.

(f) PLANNING.—The Coalition shall make information from this Assessment available to the Secretary concerned and State of California to integrate into the—

(1) State of California's Wildfire and Forest Resilience Action Plan;

(2) Forest Service's 10-year Wildfire Crisis Strategy (or successor plan); and

(3) Department of the Interior's Wildfire Risk Five-Year Monitoring, Maintenance, and Treatment Plan (or successor plan).

(g) RELATION TO THE NATIONAL ENVIRONMENTAL POLICY ACT OF 1969.—The development and submission of the Assessment under subsection (a) shall not be subject to the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (42 U.S.C. 4321 et seq.).

SEC. 8705. GIANT SEQUOIA EMERGENCY RESPONSE.

(a) EMERGENCY RESPONSE TO PROTECT GIANT SEQUOIAS.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—

(A) EMERGENCY DETERMINATION.—Congress determines that—

(i) an emergency exists on covered public lands and covered National Forest System lands that makes it necessary to carry out Protection Projects that take needed actions to respond to the threat of wildfires, insects, and drought to giant sequoias; and

(ii) Protection Projects are necessary to control the immediate impacts of the emergency described in clause (i) and are needed to mitigate harm to life, property, or important natural or cultural resources on covered public lands and covered National Forest System lands.

(B) APPLICATION.—The emergency determination established under subparagraph (A) shall apply to all covered public lands and covered National Forest System lands.

(C) EXPIRATION.—The emergency determination established under subparagraph (A) shall expire on the date that is 7 years after the date of the enactment of this Act.

(2) IMPLEMENTATION.—While the emergency determination established under paragraph (1) is in effect, the following shall apply:

(A) The Secretary concerned, acting through a responsible official, shall carry out Protection Projects on covered public lands and covered National Forest System lands in accordance with this section, all applicable land management plans, and the

laws (including regulations) applicable to the Secretary concerned.

(B) A responsible official shall carry out Protection Projects in accordance with the following, as applicable:

(i) Section 220.4(b) of title 36, Code of Federal Regulations (as in effect July 21, 2022), with respect to covered National Forest System lands.

(ii) Section 46.150 of title 43, Code of Federal Regulations (as in effect October 12, 2022), with respect to covered public lands.

(iii) Section 402.05 of title 50, Code of Federal Regulations (as in effect July 21, 2022), with respect to covered National Forest System lands and covered public lands.

(iv) Section 800.12 of title 36, Code of Federal Regulations (as in effect July 21, 2022), with respect to covered National Forest System lands and covered public lands.

(C) The rules established under subsections (d) and (e) of section 40807 of the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (16 U.S.C. 6592c(d), (e)) shall apply with respect to Protection Projects by substituting ''Protection Projects'' for ''authorized emergency action under this section'' each place it appears in such subsections.

(D) Protection Projects shall be subject to the requirements of section 106 of the Healthy Forests Restoration Act of 2003 (16 U.S.C. 6516).

(3) PROTECTION PROJECTS.—The responsible official shall carry out the following forest management activities as Protection Projects under the emergency determination under this section:

(A) Conducting hazardous fuels management, including mechanical thinning, mastication, and prescribed burning.

(B) Removing hazard trees, dead trees, or dying trees, as determined by the responsible official.

(C) Removing trees to address overstocking or crowding in a forest stand, consistent with the appropriate basal area of the forest stand and the best available science, as determined by the responsible official.

(D) Activities to address insects, disease, invasive species, and vegetative encroachment of a giant sequoia grove.

(E) Any combination of activities described in this paragraph.

(4) REQUIREMENTS.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—Protection Projects carried out under paragraph (3) and reforestation and rehabilitation activities carried out under this subtitle that are described by subparagraph (C) are categorically excluded from the preparation of an environmental assessment or an environmental impact statement under section 102 of the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (42 U.S.C. 4332).

(B) AVAILABILITY.—The Secretary concerned shall use the categorical exclusion established under subparagraph (A) in accordance with this section.

(C) REQUIREMENTS.—A Protection Project or reforestation or rehabilitation activity is described by this subparagraph if such Protection Project or reforestation or rehabilitation activity—

(i) covers an area of no more than—

(I) 2,000 acres within giant sequoia groves; and

(II) 3,000 acres on lands identified under section 8704(a)(1)(C); and

(ii) occurs on Federal land or non-Federal land with the consent of the non-Federal landowner.

(D) EXTRAORDINARY CIRCUMSTANCES.—The extraordinary circumstances procedures under provisions (e) through (g) of section 1b.3 of title 7, Code of Federal Regulations, shall apply to a Protection Project or reforestation or rehabilitation activity that is categorically excluded under subparagraph (A).

(E) USE OF OTHER AUTHORITIES.—To the maximum extent practicable, the Secretary concerned shall use the authorities provided under this section in combination with other authorities to carry out Protection Projects, including—

(i) good neighbor agreements entered into under section 8206 of the Agricultural Act of 2014 (16 U.S.C. 2113a) (as amended by this Act); and

(ii) stewardship contracting projects entered into under section 604 of the Healthy Forests Restoration Act of 2003 (16 U.S.C. 6591c) (as amended by this Act).

(F) SAVINGS CLAUSE.—With respect to joint Protection Projects and reforestation and rehabilitation activities involving the Tribe, nothing in this section shall be construed to add any additional regulatory requirements onto the Tribe.

(b) IMPLEMENTATION.—To the maximum extent practicable, the Secretary concerned shall reduce hazardous fuels in no fewer than 3 giant sequoia groves each year.

(c) PUBLIC NOTICE.—The Secretary concerned shall provide notice of each Protection Project on a publicly available website maintained by the Secretary concerned.

SEC. 8706. GIANT SEQUOIA REFORESTATION AND REHABILITATION STRATEGY.

(a) REFORESTATION AND REHABILITATION STRATEGY.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 6 months after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary, in consultation with the Coalition, shall develop and implement a strategy, to be known as the Giant Sequoia Reforestation and Rehabilitation Strategy, to enhance the reforestation and rehabilitation of giant sequoia groves that—

(A) identifies giant sequoia groves in need of reforestation or rehabilitation, giving highest priority to groves identified under section 8704(a)(1)(A)(i);

(B) creates a priority list of reforestation and rehabilitation activities;

(C) identifies and addresses—

(i) barriers to reforestation or rehabilitation, including—

(I) regulatory and funding barriers;

(II) seedling shortages or related nursery infrastructure capacity constraints;

(III) labor and workforce shortages;

(IV) technology and science gaps; and

(V) site preparation challenges;

(ii) potential public-private partnership opportunities to complete high-priority reforestation or rehabilitation projects;

(iii) a timeline for addressing the backlog of reforestation for giant sequoias in the 10-year period after the agreement is entered into under section 8702; and

(iv) strategies to ensure genetic diversity across giant sequoia groves; and

(D) includes program and policy recommendations needed to improve the efficiency or effectiveness of the Strategy.

(2) ASSESSMENT.—The Secretary may incorporate the Strategy into the Assessment under section 8704.

(b) PRIORITY REFORESTATION PROJECTS AMENDMENT.—Section 3(e)(4)(C)(ii)(I) of the Forest and Rangeland Renewable Resources Planning Act of 1974 (16 U.S.C. 1601(e)(4)(C)(ii)(I)) is amended—

(1) in item (bb), by striking ''and'';

(2) in item (cc), by striking the period and inserting ''; and''; and

(3) by adding at the end the following:

''(dd) shall include reforestation and rehabilitation activities conducted under section 8706 of the Save Our Sequoias Act.''.

SEC. 8707. GIANT SEQUOIA STRIKE TEAMS.

(a) GIANT SEQUOIA STRIKE TEAMS.—

(1) ESTABLISHMENT.—The Secretary concerned shall each establish a Giant Sequoia Strike Team to assist the Secretary concerned with the implementation of—

(A) primarily, section 8705; and

(B) secondarily, section 8706.

(2) DUTIES.—Each Strike Team shall—

(A) assist the Secretary concerned with any reviews, including analysis under the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (42 U.S.C. 4321 et seq.), consultations under division A of subtitle III of title 54, United States Code (commonly referred to as the National Historic Preservation Act), and consultations under the Endangered Species Act of 1973 (16 U.S.C. 1531 et seq.);

(B) implement any necessary site preparation work in advance of or as part of a Protection Project or reforestation or rehabilitation activity;

(C) implement Protection Projects under section 8705; and

(D) implement reforestation or rehabilitation activities under section 8706.

(3) MEMBERS.—The Secretary concerned may appoint no more than 10 individuals each to serve on a Strike Team comprised of—

(A) employees of the Department of the Interior;

(B) employees of the Forest Service;

(C) private contractors from any nonprofit organization, State government, Tribal Government, local government, academic institution, or private organization; and

(D) volunteers from any nonprofit organization, State government, Tribal Government, local government, academic institution, or private organization.

SEC. 8708. GIANT SEQUOIA COLLABORATIVE RESTORATION GRANTS.

(a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary, in consultation with the parties to the agreement under section 8702, shall establish a program or expand an existing program to award grants to eligible entities to advance, facilitate, or improve giant sequoia health and resiliency.

(b) ELIGIBLE ENTITY.—The Secretary may award grants under this section to any nonprofit organization, Tribal Government, local government, academic institution, or private organization to help advance, facilitate, or improve giant sequoia health and resiliency.

(c) PRIORITY.—In awarding grants under this section, the Secretary shall give priority to eligible entities that—

(1) primarily, are likely to have the greatest impact on giant sequoia health and resiliency; and

(2) secondarily—

(A) are small businesses or Tribal entities, particularly in rural areas; and

(B) create or support jobs, particularly in rural areas.

(d) USE OF GRANT FUNDS.—Funds from grants awarded under this section shall be used to—

(1) create, expand, or develop markets for hazardous fuels removed under section 8705, including markets for biomass and biochar;

(2) facilitate hazardous fuel removal under section 8705, including by reducing the cost of transporting hazardous fuels removed as part of a Protection Project;

(3) expand, enhance, develop, or create facilities or land that can store or process hazardous fuels removed under section 8705;

(4) establish, develop, expand, enhance, or improve nursery capacity or infrastructure necessary to facilitate the Strategy established under section 8706; or

(5) support Tribal management and conservation of giant sequoias, including funding for Tribal historic preservation officers.

SEC. 8709. GIANT SEQUOIA INSECT MONITORING AND TECHNOLOGY.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 1 year after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary concerned shall—

(1) develop and implement a strategy for monitoring insects in giant sequoia groves with a high-risk or previous history of insect infestations; and

(2) seek to enter into public-private partnerships to deploy technology to assist in the short-term and long-term monitoring of giant sequoia groves with current or potential insect infestations.

(b) REPORT.—Not later than 2 years after the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary concerned shall submit a report to the relevant Congressional Committees that contains—

(1) the strategy required under subsection (a)(1);

(2) an update on the effectiveness of the monitoring program in preventing or addressing insect infestations in giant sequoia groves; and

(3) program and policy recommendations to further address—

(A) research gaps regarding giant sequoia resiliency to insects; and

(B) opportunities to improve the resiliency of giant sequoias to insects.

SEC. 8710. STEWARDSHIP CONTRACTING FOR GIANT SEQUOIAS.

(a) NATIONAL PARK SERVICE.—Section 604 of the Healthy Forests Restoration Act of 2003 (16 U.S.C. 6591c) is amended—

(1) by amending subsection (a)(2) to read as follows:

''(2) DIRECTOR.—The term 'Director' means the Director of the Bureau of Land Management with respect to Bureau of Land Management lands and the Director of the National Park Service with respect to lands within Kings Canyon National Park, Sequoia National Park, and Yosemite National Park.''; and

(2) in subsection (b), by striking ''national forests and the public lands'' and inserting ''national forests, public lands, and lands within Kings Canyon National Park, Sequoia National Park, and Yosemite National Park''.

(b) GIANT SEQUOIA STEWARDSHIP CONTRACTS.—Section 604(c) of the Healthy Forests Restoration Act of 2003 (16 U.S.C. 6591c(c)) is amended by adding at the end the following:

''(8) Promoting the health and resiliency of giant sequoias.''.

(c) STEWARDSHIP CONTRACTING IN CERTAIN NATIONAL PARKS.—Stewardship contracting projects occurring in Kings Canyon National Park, Sequoia National Park, and Yosemite National Park shall be carried out in accordance with the laws (including regulations) applicable to the National Park Service, including section 100753 of title 54, United States Code.

SEC. 8711. GIANT SEQUOIA EMERGENCY PROTECTION PROGRAM AND FUND.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Chapter 1011 of title 54, United States Code, is amended by inserting at the end the following:

''§ 101123. Giant Sequoia Emergency Protection Program and Fund

''(a) GIANT SEQUOIA EMERGENCY PROTECTION PROGRAM.—The National Park Foundation, in coordination with the National Forest Foundation and the Foundation for America's Public Lands, shall design and implement a comprehensive program to assist and promote philanthropic programs of support that benefit—

''(1) primarily, the management and conservation of giant sequoias on covered public lands and covered National Forest System lands to promote resiliency to wildfires, insects, and drought; and

''(2) secondarily, the reforestation of giant sequoias on covered public lands and covered National Forest System lands impacted by wildfire.

''(b) GIANT SEQUOIA EMERGENCY PROTECTION FUND.—

''(1) IN GENERAL.—The National Park Foundation, in coordination with the National Forest Foundation and the Foundation for America's Public Lands, shall establish a joint special account to be known as the Giant Sequoia Emergency Protection Fund (referred to in this section as 'the Fund'), to be administered in support of the program established under subsection (a).

''(2) FUNDS FOR GIANT SEQUOIA EMERGENCY PROTECTION.—The Fund shall consist of any gifts, devises, or bequests that are provided to the National Park Foundation, National Forest Foundation, or Foundation for America's Public Lands for the purpose described in paragraph (1).

''(3) USE OF FUNDS.—Subject to the availability of appropriations made in advance for such purpose, funds shall be available to the National Park Foundation, National Forest Foundation, and Foundation for America's Public Lands, subject to paragraph (4), for projects and activities approved by the Director of the National Park Service, Chief of the Forest Service, or Director of the Bureau of Land Management as appropriate, or their designees, to—

''(A) primarily, support the management and conservation of giant sequoias on covered public lands and covered National Forest System lands to promote resiliency to wildfires, insects, and drought; and

''(B) secondarily, support the reforestation of giant sequoias on covered public lands and covered National Forest System lands impacted by wildfire.

''(4) TRIBAL SUPPORT.—Of the funds provided to the National Park Foundation, National Forest Foundation, and Foundation for America's Public Lands under paragraph (3), not less than 15 percent of such funds shall be used to support Tribal management and conservation of giant sequoias including funding for Tribal historic preservation officers.

''(c) SUMMARY.—Beginning 1 year after the date of the enactment of this Act, the National Park Foundation, National Forest Foundation, and Foundation for America's Public Lands shall include with their annual reports a summary of the status of the program and Fund created under this section that includes—

''(1) a statement of the amounts deposited in the Fund during the fiscal year;

''(2) the amount of the balance remaining in the Fund at the end of the fiscal year; and

''(3) a description of the program and projects funded during the fiscal year.

''(d) DEFINITIONS.—In this section, the terms 'covered public lands' and 'covered National Forest System lands' have the meaning given such terms in section 1(b) of the Save Our Sequoias Act.

''(e) TERMINATION OF EFFECTIVENESS.—The authority provided by this section shall terminate 7 years after the date of enactment of the Save Our Sequoias Act.''.

(b) CONFORMING AMENDMENT.—The table of sections for chapter 1011 of title 54, United States Code, is amended by inserting at the end the following:

''101123. Giant Sequoia Emergency Protection Program and Fund.''.

AMENDMENT NO. 17 OFFERED BY MR. GOSAR OF ARIZONA

Page 523, after line 5, insert the following:

SEC. 76___. LIMITATION ON CERTAIN RESEARCH INVOLVING DOGS AND CATS.

(a) LIMITATION ON REE RESEARCH PORTFOLIO.—The Secretary, acting through the Under Secretary for Research, Education, and Economics, shall ensure that none of the research, education, or extension activities carried out or funded under the jurisdiction of the Research, Education, and Economics mission area involve domestic dogs (*Canis familiaris*) or domestic cats (*Felis catus*) in which the animals are subjected to pain or distress that is not alleviated with appropriate sedation, analgesia, or anesthesia, consistent with pain categories established by the Secretary pursuant to the Animal Welfare Act (7 U.S.C. 2131 et seq.) and described in paragraphs (5) through (7) of section 2.36(b) of title 9, Code of Federal Regulations (as in effect on the date of enactment of this Act).

(b) EXCEPTION.—Subsection (a) shall not apply to research related to the training and use of dogs for the purpose of safeguarding domestic agricultural and natural resources from foreign and invasive pests and diseases, including activities authorized under the Beagle Brigade Act of 2023 (Public Law 118–191).

(c) WAIVER AUTHORITY.—The Under Secretary for Research, Education, and Economics, and the Under Secretary alone, may waive the prohibition under subsection (a) on a case-by-case basis if the Under Secretary determines that—

(1) the research is necessary to protect national security, animal and crop health, or public health, safety, or welfare; and

(2) no reasonable alternative methods exist that would achieve the same scientific objective without the use of procedures described in subsection (a).

(d) CONGRESSIONAL NOTIFICATION.—Not later than 30 days before granting a waiver under subsection (c), the Under Secretary shall submit to the Committee on Agriculture of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry of the Senate a written notification that includes—

(1) a detailed justification for the waiver, including the specific national security or public health need;

(2) a description of the research to be conducted, including the number and species of animals involved;

(3) the projected cost to taxpayers;

(4) an explanation of why alternatives are not feasible; and

(5) the expected duration of the waiver.

AMENDMENT NO. 19 OFFERED BY MR. GRAY OF CALIFORNIA

Page 669, line 20, strike ''and'' at the end.

Page 669, after line 20, insert the following:

(2) in subsection (c)—

(A) by redesignating paragraphs (1) and (2) as subparagraphs (A) and (B), respectively, and moving the margins of such subparagraphs (as so redesignated) two ems to the right;

(B) by striking ''Notwithstanding'' and inserting ''(1) IN GENERAL.—Notwithstanding''; and

(C) by adding at the end the following:

''(2) NO COST-SHARING OR MATCHING REQUIREMENTS.—The Secretary may not impose any cost-sharing or matching requirement on any award or sub-award made using funds made available to carry out this section.''.

Page 669, line 21, strike ''(2)'' and insert ''(3)''.

AMENDMENT NO. 23 OFFERED BY MR. HILL OF ARKANSAS

Page 475, line 13, strike ''Section 7522'' and insert the following:

(a) IN GENERAL.—Section 7522

Page 476, after line 19, add the following:

(b) FARMER ASSISTANCE, RESILIENCE, AND MENTAL HEALTH EVALUATION RESEARCH STUDY.—

(1) STUDY.—Not later than 2 years after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary shall, in coordination with the regional lead institutions of the Farm and

Ranch Stress Assistance Network established under section 7522 of the Food, Conservation, and Energy Act of 2008 (7 U.S.C. 5936), submit to Congress a report that contains—

(A) an assessment on the availability and usage of mental health care, including telemental health services, by agricultural professionals, including—

(i) the incidence and prevalence of common mental health conditions, such as depression, anxiety disorders, trauma- and stressor- related disorder (including adjustment disorders), or suicidal ideation, among agricultural professionals;

(ii) the incidence and prevalence of agricultural professionals seeking treatment for mental health conditions, including counseling, psychotherapy, or support groups in traditional mental health care settings;

(iii) the incidence and prevalence of agricultural professionals seeking treatment for mental health conditions including counseling, psychotherapy, or support groups via tele-mental health care;

(iv) the availability of traditional mental health care settings and treatment in rural areas, including counseling, psychotherapy, or support groups;

(v) the availability of tele-mental health care treatment in rural areas, including counseling, psychotherapy, or support groups; and

(B) the Secretary's recommendations to improve the uptake, effectiveness, and deployment of, and access to, traditional mental health services and tele-mental health services among agricultural professionals in rural areas.

(2) COORDINATION.—In preparing the report under paragraph (1), the Secretary may consult with the following:

(A) The Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services.

(B) The Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration.

(C) State departments of agriculture.

(D) Cooperative extension services (as defined in section 1404 of the National Agricultural Research, Extension, and Teaching Policy Act of 1977 (7 U.S.C. 3103)).

(E) Within the Department—

(i) the Economic Research Service; and

(ii) the Office of Rural Development, including the Rural Health Liaison.

(3) DEFINITIONS.—In this subsection:

(A) The term ''farmer'' means an individual whose primary occupation is the planting and cultivation of crops or other agricultural products.

(B) The term ''rancher'' means an individual whose primary occupation is the rearing and care of animals for agricultural purposes.

(C) The term ''agricultural professional'' means a farmer or a rancher.

(D) The term ''mental health condition'' means a condition commonly affecting individuals as prescribed by clinical guidance or consensus, including conditions listed in the most recent edition of the Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of Mental Disorders, or another source, as determined appropriate by the Secretary.

(E) The term ''tele-mental health care'' means mental health care that is furnished by a mental health care provider primarily through the use of a phone, the internet, or videoconferencing.

AMENDMENT NO. 25 OFFERED BY MR. LANGWORTHY OF NEW YORK

Page 707, line 22, strike ''and inserting '2031'' '' and insert ''and inserting '2031, to remain available until expended'' ''.

AMENDMENT NO. 32 OFFERED BY MR. MANNION OF NEW YORK

Page 32, line 23, strike ''and''.

Page 32, after line 23, insert the following (and redesignate the subsequent subparagraph accordingly):

(K) immersive technologies; and

AMENDMENT NO. 34 OFFERED BY MRS. MILLER-MEEKS

At the end of title XII, add the following:

Subtitle E—United States Grain Standards Reauthorization

SEC. 12501. DECLARATION OF POLICY.

Section 2(b) of the United States Grain Standards Act (7 U.S.C. 74(b)) is amended—

(1) in paragraph (2), by striking ''and'' at the end;

(2) in paragraph (3)(F), by striking the period at the end and inserting ''; and''; and

(3) by adding at the end the following:

''(4) that the Secretary shall prioritize the adoption of improved grain grading technology to provide for efficient, accurate, and consistent grading of grain.''.

SEC. 12502. OFFICIAL INSPECTION AUTHORITY AND FUNDING.

Section 7 of the United States Grain Standards Act (7 U.S.C. 79) is amended—

(1) in subsection (e), by adding at the end the following:

''(5) The Secretary may provide that domestic non-export grain loaded or unloaded into or out of a rail car, barge, truck, or other container, at an export port location, shall be inspected in the manner provided in this subsection or subsection (f), as the Secretary determines will best meet the objectives of this Act.'';

(2) in subsection (g)(2), by striking ''fund created'' and inserting ''trust fund created''; and

(3) in subsection (j)—

(A) in paragraph (1)(C), by striking ''fund which'' and inserting ''trust fund which'';

(B) in paragraph (3)—

(i) by striking ''fund created'' and inserting ''trust fund created''; and

(ii) by striking ''credited to the fund'' and inserting ''credited to the trust fund account''; and

(C) in paragraph (5), by striking ''2025'' and inserting ''2033''.

SEC. 12503. WEIGHING AUTHORITY.

Section 7A of the United States Grain Standards Act (7 U.S.C. 79a) is amended—

(1) in subsection (c)(2), by striking ''State agency'' and inserting ''State agency or official agency''; and

(2) in subsection (l)—

(A) in paragraph (1)(C), by striking ''fund created'' and inserting ''trust fund created'';

(B) in paragraph (2), by striking ''fund created'' and inserting ''trust fund created''; and

(C) in paragraph (4), by striking ''2025'' and inserting ''2033''.

SEC. 12504. TESTING OF EQUIPMENT.

Section 7B(a) of the United States Grain Standards Act (7 U.S.C. 79b(a)) is amended by striking ''fund created'' and inserting ''trust fund created''.

SEC. 12505. LIMITATION ON ADMINISTRATIVE AND SUPERVISORY COSTS.

Section 7D of the United States Grain Standards Act (7 U.S.C. 79d) is amended—

(1) by striking ''activities)'' and inserting ''activities, equipment, and development of technology)''; and

(2) by striking ''2025'' and inserting ''2033''.

SEC. 12506. GENERAL AUTHORITIES.

Section 16 of the United States Grain Standards Act (7 U.S.C. 87e) is amended—

(1) in subsection (e), by striking ''Department of Agriculture'' and inserting ''Department of Agriculture and official agencies''; and

(2) in subsection (j), by striking ''fund created'' and inserting ''trust fund created''.

SEC. 12507. REGISTRATION REQUIREMENTS.

Section 17A(e) of the United States Grain Standards Act (7 U.S.C. 87f–1(e)) is amended by striking ''fund described'' and inserting ''trust fund described''.

SEC. 12508. REPORTING REQUIREMENTS.

Section 17B(e) of the United States Grain Standards Act (7 U.S.C. 87f–2(e)) is amended—

(1) in the matter preceding paragraph (1), by striking ''The Secretary may, to the extent determined appropriate by the Secretary'' and inserting ''On December 1 of each year, the Secretary shall'';

(2) in paragraph (1), by striking ''and'' at the end;

(3) by redesignating paragraph (2) as paragraph (3); and

(4) by inserting after paragraph (1) the following:

''(2) an analysis of any and all existing deficiencies in the technology evaluation process and recommendations to advance the efficiency, accuracy, and consistency of grain grading and minimize costs imposed on the Federal Government and the grain export industry; and''.

SEC. 12509. FUNDING.

Section 19 of the United States Grain Standards Act (7 U.S.C. 87h) is amended—

(1) in subsection (a), by striking ''2021 through 2025'' and inserting ''2026 through 2033''; and

(2) in subsection (b)(1)(A), by striking ''other services'' and inserting ''other services (excluding grading services performed under the Agricultural Marketing Act of 1946)''.

SEC. 12510. ADVISORY COMMITTEE.

Section 21 of the United States Grain Standards Act (7 U.S.C. 87j) is amended—

(1) in subsection (a), by adding at the end the following: ''Notwithstanding the previous sentence, if the Secretary does not make a new appointment upon the completion of a term of an existing member (including such existing member's second successive term), then such existing member shall continue to serve until such appointment is made.''; and

(2) in subsection (e), by striking ''2025'' and inserting ''2033''.

AMENDMENT NO. 35 OFFERED BY MR. MIN OF CALIFORNIA

Add at the end of title VIII the following:

SEC. 8___. SHRUBLAND WILDFIRE MITIGATION STUDY.

(a) STUDY.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 1 year after the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary shall conduct a study to evaluate the effectiveness of wildfire mitigation methods available to the Forest Service as a means of reducing the risk of wildfire in covered ecosystems and the severity of damages from such wildfire in communities within or adjacent to covered ecosystems.

(2) ELEMENTS.—In carrying out the study under paragraph (1), the Secretary shall, with respect to covered ecosystems—

(A) evaluate the effectiveness and longevity of—

(i) hazardous fuels management activities, including fuel modification through the use of strategic fuel breaks; and

(ii) practices for maintaining the health of native ecosystems, including—

(I) mitigating the development and spread of invasive species, including invasive weeds, grasses, and other vegetation; or

(II) improving the establishment of native shrub and associated species on lands affected by wildfire;

(B) evaluate the effectiveness of policies and protocols of the Forest Service with respect to limiting unintentional ember ignitions attributable to the public or man-made

structures, including electrical infrastructure;

(C) study the conditions (including weather, seasonality, and topography) under which each wildfire mitigation method evaluated under the study is most and least effective in reducing the risk of wildland fire;

(D) identify administrative, operational, and budgetary factors that impede the ability of wildland fire managers and wildland firefighters to implement wildfire mitigation methods evaluated under the study; and

(E) evaluate the effectiveness of partnerships between the Forest Service and non-Federal entities in reducing the vulnerability of homes, roadways, and other high-risk structures to ember ignition.

(3) COORDINATION; CONSULTATION.—

(A) INTERAGENCY COORDINATION.—In carrying out the study under paragraph (1), the Secretary shall, to the extent practicable and to avoid the duplication of research activities of the Federal Government, act in coordination with—

(i) entities within the Forest Service with expertise in wildfire risk reduction and ecology in covered ecosystems, including the Shrub Sciences Laboratory and the Maintaining Resilient Dryland Ecosystems program; and

(ii) the heads of Federal agencies conducting wildfire mitigation methods or hazardous fuels management activities in covered ecosystems, including the Secretary of the Interior.

(B) CONSULTATION.—In carrying out the study under paragraph (1), the Secretary may, and is encouraged to, solicit consultation from non-Federal public and private entities with relevant expertise in wildfire mitigation methods in covered ecosystems, as determined by the Secretary.

(b) REPORT.—Not later than 90 days after the date on which the study under subsection (a)(1) is complete, the Secretary shall submit to the relevant Congressional committees, and make publicly available, a report that includes—

(1) a summary of the results of the study;

(2) based on the results of the study, identification by the Secretary of—

(A) best practices for land managers in reducing the risk of wildfire in covered ecosystems; and

(B) any areas implicated by the study that merit further research;

(3) a comparison of the polices and protocols of the Forest Service with respect to reducing the risk of wildfire in covered ecosystems and the best practices identified under paragraph (2)(A); and

(4) an evaluation by the Secretary of opportunities to improve coordination between the Forest Service and non-Federal entities on activities to improve wildfire resilience in covered ecosystems and reduce risks of harm from wildfire to the built environment, particularly in the wildland-urban interface.

(c) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

(1) COVERED ECOSYSTEMS.—The term ''covered ecosystems'' means shrubland ecosystems, including—

(A) chaparral;

(B) coastal sage scrub;

(C) sagebrush;

(D) shrub-steppe;

(E) xeric shrubland; and

(F) any other dryland shrub ecosystem in which wildfire management presents a significant challenge, as determined by the Secretary.

(2) HAZARDOUS FUELS MANAGEMENT ACTIVITY.—The term ''hazardous fuels management activity'' means an activity to manage vegetation to reduce the risk of wildfire.

(3) RELEVANT CONGRESSIONAL COMMITTEES.—The term ''relevant Congressional committees'' means—

(A) the committees on Appropriations, Natural Resources, and Agriculture of the House of Representatives; and

(B) the committees on Appropriations, Energy and Natural Resources, and Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry of the Senate.

(4) SECRETARY.—The term ''Secretary'' means the Secretary of Agriculture, acting through the Chief of the Forest Service.

(5) WILDFIRE MITIGATION METHOD.—The term ''wildfire mitigation method'' means an activity, including a hazardous fuels management activity, undertaken to prevent the ignition of a wildfire or reduce the severity and negative effects of a wildfire.

(6) WILDLAND-URBAN INTERFACE.—The term ''wildland-urban interface'' has the meaning given such term in section 101 of the Healthy Forests Restoration Act of 2003 (16 U.S.C. 6511).

AMENDMENT NO. 37 OFFERED BY MR. MULLIN OF CALIFORNIA

At the end of title IX, add the following:

SEC. _____. STUDY ON UTILIZATION OF SECOND-USE BATTERIES FOR AGRICULTURAL PURPOSES.

Title IX of the Farm Security and Rural Investment Act of 2002 (7 U.S.C. 8101–8115) is further amended by adding at the end the following:

''SEC. 9017. STUDY ON UTILIZATION OF SECOND-USE BATTERIES FOR AGRICULTURAL PURPOSES.

''(a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary of Agriculture, in consultation with the Secretary of Energy, shall conduct a study on the feasibility, costs, benefits, and barriers to the deployment of second-use electric drive vehicle batteries on farms and ranches.

''(b) CONTENT.—In conducting the study under this section, the Secretary shall—

''(1) assess the potential of second-use electric vehicle battery systems to support agricultural applications during power outages;

''(2) investigate the availability and projected supply of retired electric vehicle batteries suitable for stationary agricultural applications;

''(3) analyze the cost-effectiveness of second-use systems relative to new battery storage systems for agricultural producers;

''(4) review applicable safety standards and liability considerations;

''(5) review the adequacy of Federal programs to support the deployment; and

''(6) provide recommendations for Federal actions, including potential grant or cost-share programs, to accelerate deployment of such technologies in rural communities.

''(d) REPORT.—Within 1 year after the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary of Agriculture shall submit to the Committee on Agriculture and the Committee on Energy and Commerce of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry and the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources of the Senate a written report on the findings of the study and recommendations under this section.

''(e) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

''(1) ELECTRIC DRIVE VEHICLE.—The term 'electric drive vehicle' has the meaning given such term in section 641(b)(3) of the United States Energy Storage Competitiveness Act of 2007.

''(2) SECOND-USE BATTERY.—The term 'second-use battery' means a rechargeable electrochemical energy storage system that—

''(A) was originally manufactured for use in a different application and retired from the use;

''(B) retains adequate energy capacity at the time of installation in a new application.''.

AMENDMENT NO. 40 OFFERED BY MR. OGLES OF TENNESSEE

Add at the end of subtitle D of title XII the following:

SEC. 12_____. REPORT ON BARRIERS TO ACCESSING FEDERAL PROGRAMS.

(a) REPORT.—Not later than 180 days after the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary shall—

(1) submit to the appropriate congressional committees a report on—

(A) barriers to organic farms taking part in Federal programs made available under this Act;

(B) what steps the Department can take without congressional action to remove such barriers; and

(C) what congressional action is needed to remove barriers the Department is unable to remove; and

(2) make publicly available the report described in paragraph (1).

(b) APPROPRIATE CONGRESSIONAL COMMITTEE DEFINED.—In this section, the term ''appropriate congressional committee'' means—

(1) the Committee on Agriculture of the House of Representatives; and

(2) the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry of the Senate.

AMENDMENT NO. 43 OFFERED BY MR. SCHMIDT OF KANSAS

Page 518, strike lines 5 and 6 and insert the following:

''(D) DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES.—

''(i) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 1 year after the date of enactment of the Farm, Food, and National Security Act of 2026, the Secretary and the Secretary of Health and Human Services (referred to in this paragraph as the 'Secretaries') shall coordinate the activities under paragraph (1) through the establishment of memoranda of understanding or other appropriate interagency agreements. Such a memorandum or such an agreement shall require the use of a competitive, merit-reviewed process as appropriate. Activities may include components proposed by Federal agencies, institutions of higher education, nonprofit organizations, industry, and other entities deemed appropriate under the memorandum or agreement.

''(ii) COORDINATION.—In carrying out the activities under paragraph (1), the Secretaries may—

''(I) conduct collaborative research in a variety of focus areas related to enhancing the capacity of domestic producers to increase production of those crops which are appropriate for natural color additives, including—

''(aa) which crops are most effectively used in the reliable production of natural color additives;

''(bb) genetics of such crops;

''(cc) ways to address barriers to production at scale, including pest and disease pressure, harvesting technologies, and other such areas; and

''(dd) infrastructure needs relevant to such production and processing, such as juicing or extraction facilities;

''(II) promote collaboration and information sharing with stakeholders;

''(III) promote collaboration and open, community-based development between—

''(aa) Federal agencies;

''(bb) institutions of higher education;

''(cc) nonprofit institutions;

''(dd) industry partners; and

''(ee) other entities deemed appropriate under the memorandum or agreement involved;

''(IV) support research infrastructure, including new facilities and equipment, and workforce development as the Secretaries deem necessary;

''(V) conduct collaborative research, development, and demonstration of methods and technologies;

''(VI) conduct research on economic impact on the supply chain to transition to natural colors; and

''(VII) facilitate relations between public and private entities to carry on the activities of this clause upon the termination of any agreement established under this subparagraph.

''(iii) AGREEMENTS.—In carrying out the activities under this subparagraph, the Secretaries are authorized to—

''(I) carry out reimbursable agreements between the Department, the Department of Health and Human Services, and other entities in order to maximize the effectiveness of research and development; and

''(II) collaborate with other Federal agencies, as appropriate.

''(E) OTHER FEDERAL AGENCIES.—In addition to the memoranda of understanding with

AMENDMENT NO. 44 OFFERED BY MS. SCHOLTEN OF MICHIGAN

Page 445, line 21, strike the close quotation mark and the semicolon at the end.

Page 445, after line 21, insert the following:

''(26) BIOLOGICAL PEST CONTROL.—Research and extension grants may be made under this section for the purposes of supporting research, development, or education materials, information, and outreach programs regarding biological pest control to limit crop damage and food-borne illnesses.''.

AMENDMENT NO. 48 OFFERED BY MRS. SPARTZ OF INDIANA

At the end of title XII add the following:

SEC. 12____. TRANSPARENCY OF RECORDS OF COMMODITY BOARDS.

Section 501 of the Federal Agriculture Improvement and Reform Act of 1996 (7 U.S.C. 7401) is amended—

(1) by redesignating subsections (d) through (f) as subsections (e) through (g);

(2) by inserting after subsection (c) the following:

''(d) TRANSPARENCY OF RECORDS OF COMMODITY BOARDS.—

''(1) IN GENERAL.—For each order issued by the Secretary under a commodity promotion law, the Secretary shall publish on the website of the Department of Agriculture the following information:

''(A) The reports of audits submitted by each commodity board to the Secretary for each fiscal year pursuant to section 515(g)(2).

''(B) The activities and budgets of each commodity board approved by the Secretary for each fiscal year.

''(C) The results of each periodic independent evaluation described in subsection (c).

''(2) PUBLICATION TIMELINE.—In carrying out paragraph (1), the Secretary shall—

''(A) not later than 180 days after the date of enactment of this subsection, publish the information described in such paragraph with respect to the 5 full fiscal years preceding such date of enactment; and

''(B) not later than 365 days after the end of any subsequent fiscal year, publish the information described in such paragraph with respect to such fiscal year.''; and

(3) in subsection (f)(4) (as so redesignated), by striking ''subsection (f)'' and inserting ''subsection (g)''.

AMENDMENT NO. 52 OFFERED BY MR. STEUBE OF FLORIDA

Insert the following at the end of title XII:

SEC. XX. HONEY STANDARDS AND DEFINITIONS.

Section 203(h)(6) of the Agricultural Marketing Act of 1946 (7 U.S.C. 1622(h)(6)) is amended by adding at the end the following:

''(A) Not later than 180 days after the date of enactment of this subparagraph, the Secretary shall initiate consultation with the Commissioner of the Food and Drug Administration and the Commissioner of U.S. Customs and Border Protection to develop a detailed and harmonized Federal definition for honey that promotes honesty and fair dealing in the interest of consumers and the honey market, and ensures consistency in labeling and enforcement under the respective authorities of each agency.

''(B) The consultation required under subparagraph (A) shall be conducted in coordination with domestic honey producer associations and land-grant colleges and universities (as defined in section 1404 of the National Agricultural Research, Extension, and Teaching Policy Act of 1977 (7 U.S.C. 3103)) with demonstrated expertise in honey authenticity, quality, and related testing.

''(C) The harmonized definition developed under this paragraph shall be used, as appropriate, to support enforcement under applicable Federal law administered by the Secretary, the Commissioner of Food and Drugs, and the Commissioner of U.S. Customs and Border Protection, including laws relating to adulteration, misbranding, false or misleading labeling, import declarations, country-of-origin claims, and customs fraud.

''(D) The Secretary shall cease consultation under this paragraph if the Commissioner of the Food and Drug Administration otherwise publishes a standard of identity for honey under section 401 of the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act (21 U.S.C. 341).''.

AMENDMENT NO. 53 OFFERED BY MS. TENNEY OF NEW YORK

Page 523, after line 5, insert the following:

SEC. 76____. REPORT ON NATIONAL GRAPE PRODUCTION.

The Secretary, acting through the Administrator of the National Agricultural Statistics Service, shall—

(1) not later than 1 year after the date of enactment of this Act—

(A) conduct a survey on grape production in each State, including—

(i) total acreage; and

(ii) production, utilization, and acreage by type, variety, county, and year planted; and

(B) make publicly available on the website of the National Agricultural Statistics Service the results of such survey, including the data from such survey; and

(2) not later than 2 years after the date of enactment of this Act, and annually thereafter for 3 years, for each of the 5 States with the highest grape production, as determined based on the survey required under paragraph (1), conduct a survey in the State, and make the results available, in accordance with such paragraph.

AMENDMENT NO. 54 OFFERED BY MS. TOKUDA OF HAWAII

At the end of title I add the following:

SEC. ____. ELECTRONIC FORMS FOR COVERED DISASTER ASSISTANCE PROGRAMS.

(a) IN GENERAL.—As soon as practicable after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary shall, in addition to paper forms, make available on the website of the Department of Agriculture electronic forms that enable producers to enroll in a covered disaster assistance program online.

(b) COVERED DISASTER ASSISTANCE PROGRAM DEFINED.—In this section, the term ''covered disaster assistance program'' means—

(1) each program under section 1501 of the Agricultural Act of 2014 (7 U.S.C. 9081); and

(2) the emergency conservation program under title IV of the Agricultural Credit Act of 1978 (16 U.S.C. 2201 et seq.).

AMENDMENT NO. 55 OFFERED BY MR. VASQUEZ OF NEW MEXICO

Page 71, line 8, strike ''(3)'' and insert ''(4)''.

Page 71, line 16, strike the closing quotation mark and the final period at the end.

Page 71, after line 16, insert the following:

''(3) FARMER-TO-FARMER NETWORK.—The term 'farmer-to-farmer network' means any affiliation or association of farmers that share information, technical assistance, or any other type of mutually beneficial support.''.

Page 77, strike lines 16 through 19 and insert the following:

(1) in paragraph (1)—

(A) by striking ''each of the programs specified in section 1241'' and inserting ''conservation programs administered by the Secretary''; and

(B) by inserting ''and for the purpose of carrying out subsection (l)'' before the period at the end;

Page 91, after line 14, insert the following:

(i) PROVISION OF ASSISTANCE TO FARMER-TO-FARMER NETWORKS.—Section 1242 of the Food Security Act of 1985 (16 U.S.C. 3842) is further amended by adding at the end the following:

''(l) PROVISION OF ASSISTANCE TO FARMER-TO-FARMER NETWORKS.—

''(1) PURPOSES.—The purposes of this subsection are—

''(A) to build capacity for farmer-to-farmer networks, connect farmers with mentors or group learning opportunities, and support goal setting to increase long-term adoption of consistent, science-based, site-specific practices designed to achieve conservation objectives on land active in agricultural, forestry, or related uses;

''(B) to increase the provision of technical assistance that meets the specific needs of, and is accessible to, farmers, ranchers, and forest owners using different farming models, practices, and scales;

''(C) to establish and steward farmer-to-farmer networks; and

''(D) to establish reporting requirements for activities carried out under this subsection.

''(2) COOPERATIVE AGREEMENTS.—

''(A) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary may enter into cooperative agreements with eligible entities to carry out the purposes described in paragraph (1).

''(B) ELIGIBLE ENTITIES.—An entity eligible to enter into a cooperative agreement with the Secretary under subparagraph (A) is—

''(i) a nonprofit entity described in section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 and exempt from taxation under section 501(a) of that Code;

''(ii) a farmer-to-farmer network;

''(iii) an Indian Tribe or a Tribal organization (as such term is defined in section 4 of the Indian Self-Determination and Education Assistance Act);

''(iv) a unit of local government (including a conservation district and a conservation district association);

''(v) an institution of higher education;

''(vi) a State; and

''(vii) any other entity designated by the Secretary.

''(C) PRIORITIZATION.—In selecting eligible entities with which to enter into cooperative agreements under subparagraph (A), the Secretary shall give priority to eligible entities that seek to meet the specific needs of, and are accessible to—

''(i) historically underserved farmers, ranchers, and forest owners, including limited-resource farmers, ranchers, and forest owners (as determined by the Secretary); or

''(ii) farmers, ranchers, and forest owners operating in high-poverty areas (as determined by the Secretary).

''(3) RESPONSIBILITIES OF PROVIDERS OF ASSISTANCE TO FARMER-TO-FARMER NETWORKS.—

''(A) IN GENERAL.—If an eligible entity provides assistance to establish a farmer-to-farmer network using assistance provided through a cooperative agreement under paragraph (2), the eligible entity shall be responsible for not less than 2 of the following actions:

''(i) Facilitating and increasing farmer access to farmer-to-farmer networks.

''(ii) Facilitating mentor and mentee matchmaking among farmers.

''(iii) Coordinating training and resources to build the skills of farmer-to-farmer network leaders and participants for effective education, grassroots-based learning, and cross-training with respect to the facilitation of, information about, and other skills with respect to building effective farmer-to-farmer networks.

''(iv) Maintaining and promulgating a list of relevant entities, associations, and individuals that are supporting, or have an interest in supporting, farmer-to-farmer networks.

''(v) Administering subawards to increase farmer access to farmer-to-farmer assistance in accordance with paragraph (4).

''(vi) Other actions determined appropriate by the Secretary.

''(B) LANGUAGE ASSISTANCE.—If an eligible entity provides assistance described in subparagraph (A) to a non-English speaking farmer, rancher, or forest owner, the eligible entity shall, to the greatest extent practicable, provide that assistance in the native language of the farmer, rancher, or forest owner.

''(C) REPORTING.—An eligible entity that enters into a cooperative agreement under paragraph (2) shall annually submit to the Secretary a report describing—

''(i) the conservation activities carried out under the cooperative agreement; and

''(ii) any subawards administered pursuant to subparagraph (A)(v).

''(4) SUBAWARDS.—

''(A) IN GENERAL.—If an eligible entity awards a subaward pursuant to paragraph (3)(A)(v) to an eligible subawardee described in subparagraph (B), the eligible subawardee shall use that award—

''(i) to plan and conduct events, and identify and develop innovative activities, to support building capacity for farmer-to-farmer networks, connecting farmers with mentors or group learning opportunities, and supporting goal setting to increase long-term adoption of consistent, science-based, site-specific conservation objectives on land active in agricultural, forestry, or related uses; and

''(ii) to compensate participants in the events and activities described in clause (i) at market rates.

''(B) ELIGIBLE SUBAWARDEES.—An entity eligible for a subaward under paragraph (3)(A)(v) is—

''(i) a nonprofit entity described in section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 and exempt from taxation under section 501(a) of that Code;

''(ii) a farmer-to-farmer network;

''(iii) an Indian Tribe or a Tribal organization (as such term is defined in section 4 of the Indian Self-Determination and Education Assistance Act);

''(iv) a unit of local government (including a conservation district and a conservation district association);

''(v) an institution of higher education;

''(vi) an individual; and

''(vii) any other entity designated by the Secretary.

''(C) REQUIREMENTS.—The Secretary, in conjunction with the Chief of the Natural Resources Conservation Service, shall establish any necessary additional requirements for subawards under paragraph (3)(A)(v).

''(5) REPORTING.—Not later than 4 years after the date of enactment of this subsection, the Secretary shall submit to the Committee on Agriculture of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry of the Senate a report describing the status of activities funded under this subsection, including—

''(A) funding awarded;

''(B) the results of the activities, including, if feasible, conservation practice adoption outcomes; and

''(C) if applicable, outreach activities the Secretary has considered incorporating into other conservation technical assistance efforts as a result of the program established under this subsection.''.

AMENDMENT NO. 56 OFFERED BY MR. WESTERMAN OF ARKANSAS

Page 595, line 14, insert before the semicolon ''or biostimulant facilities using sawmill derived residuals''.

Page 601, line 2, strike ''biochar'' and insert ''biochar or biostimulants''.

AMENDMENT NO. 57 OFFERED BY MR. WHITESIDES OF CALIFORNIA

Page 568, line 7, strike ''(c)'' and insert ''(d)''.

Page 568, after line 6, insert the following:

(c) PRACTICES; TECHNOLOGY.—To the extent practicable, the Secretary shall employ fuels management practices and work to develop technologies in order to more effectively carry out the requirements under subsection (a)(1)(A).

The Acting CHAIR. Pursuant to House Resolution 1224, the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. THOMPSON) and the gentlewoman from Minnesota (Ms. CRAIG) each will control 10 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Pennsylvania.

Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania. Mr. Chairman, I yield 3 minutes to the gentleman from Arkansas (Mr. WESTERMAN), the chairman of the Natural Resources Committee.

Mr. WESTERMAN. Mr. Chairman, I thank Mr. THOMPSON for yielding and for his excellent work on this farm bill.

Mr. Chairman, I rise in support of my amendment that is included in the amendments en bloc and also in support of the underlying bill text. My amendment would add biostimulants to the farm bill's demonstration project.

Biostimulants are substances or microorganisms that stimulate natural plant processes to enhance nutrient uptake and efficiency for crops.

Trees are amazing organisms. They are made up of over 1,000 natural chemical compounds that include biostimulants. Like biochar, biostimulants have been used by farmers for decades but offer potentially new and exciting applications. Further research into these two areas can create a win-win for our fire-prone, overgrown national forests and for farmers across the country.

Managing our forests is going to require new markets, and biostimulants offer the promise of a market-based solution that would make removal of low-value materials from our national forests more economical, while making our farmland more productive.

In fact, during President Trump's first term, USDA estimated that biostimulants could become a $5 billion global market. By adding biostimulants to the biochar demonstration project, my amendment will provide more science and understanding that can support farmers, create jobs, and reduce the risks of catastrophic wildfire.

This amendment does this by allowing biostimulants to be tested in demonstration projects across the country and by incentivizing new research into biostimulants.

Mr. Chairman, I urge my colleagues to vote ''yes'' on this amendment.

Ms. CRAIG. Mr. Chairman, I appreciate that we were able to work on a bipartisan basis here tonight on these amendments en bloc. It keeps us from having to be here even further into the night. I wish that this process overall was as collaborative on the underlying bill.

For example, we supported the addition of the Fedorchak amendment No. 12. However, this amendment does nothing to address the very real problems that family farmers are facing.

Unfortunately, it is the Trump administration's actions which make this study even necessary and timely. Due to the President's trade war against the world and his actual war against Iran, farmers have experienced skyrocketing fertilizer prices in addition to other input costs.

Had farmers received any warning of these actions, they could have better prepared themselves for the price shocks that they are now feeling. They could have invested in fertilizer storage facilities on their farms so that they would have had someplace to store their prepurchased fertilizer needs ahead of these price spikes.

When the war with Iran started, the Secretary said that 80 percent of farmers had already locked in their fertilizer needs, but we know now that that was radically incorrect. According to the American Farm Bureau Federation, only 67 percent of farmers in the Midwest knew that their fertilizer needs had already been covered, and this was the high watermark for the country. In the South, less than 20 percent have their needs already covered.

This study is not going to solve the problems that farmers are facing now with these costs, but it could lay the groundwork to help farmers prepare for the next thing that perhaps this administration does.

Mr. Chairman, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Massachusetts (Mr. MCGOVERN).

Mr. MCGOVERN. Mr. Chairman, I have no problem with these amendments en bloc. What I have a problem with is all of the amendments that were blocked by this Republican majority.

Mr. Chairman, 362 amendments were offered to this farm bill by Republicans and Democrats, and 305 of those amendments were blocked. They were

blocked. Bipartisan amendments were blocked 80 percent of the time. Democratic amendments were blocked 92 percent of the time, and Republican amendments were blocked 70 percent of the time.

My Republican friends, I guess, are okay with having the majority leadership block their own amendments. I mean, it is ridiculous. This is an important bill. It is midnight, and we are on the floor debating the farm bill, a 5-year authorization. This is shameful.

To block hundreds of good, legitimate amendments by Democrats and Republicans because, what, you don't want to deal with them, you don't want to debate them, or it is inconvenient to debate more amendments at midnight? That is ridiculous.

The chairman of the committee may be proud of this bill. That is what he says. I am ashamed that we are bringing a bill like this to the floor—a bill of this significance and a bill that, quite frankly, is going to have an adverse impact on my constituents.

Please don't sugarcoat the SNAP cuts. Millions of people have already lost their SNAP benefits, and the worst hasn't even happened yet. We are going to increase hunger in America. That is not going to make America healthy again by making America hungry again.

We can do a hell of a lot better, but blocking hundreds of amendments—Democratic amendments, bipartisan amendments, and Republican amendments—this process stinks.

Again, I urge my colleagues to vote ''no'' on this flawed farm bill. Let's start all over again. Let's do this the right way. Let's debate it in the light of day so the American people know what the hell we are doing here.

Mr. Chairman, I thank the gentlewoman for yielding.

Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania. Mr. Chairman, the Farm, Food, and National Security Act of 2026 strengthens SNAP by cracking down on criminals who swipe benefits from EBT cards; increasing access to SNAP nutrition center programs, specifically adding protein to those opportunities; and making SNAP online purchasing a permanent option nationwide, which is a tremendous service for perhaps older adults and people living with disabilities who are not able to get to the grocery store. Many of these vendors are not charging for the shipping. That is something they will do for free.

So yes, I am rather proud of this. Would I sooner be doing this bill? I think my good friends on the Agriculture Committee have heard my golden rule. I would sooner not do anything after 11 o'clock or midnight, but that is the hand we were dealt here. Quite frankly, our farmers need it, and they need it now. This was the hand we were dealt for time, so this is when we are getting it done.

Mr. Chairman, in closing, let me just say a few words, and then I will yield back for the gentlewoman to do the same.

It is kind of interesting. I am hearing good things about bipartisanship in this en bloc. This en bloc is about half of the amendments that we have on the Farm, Food, and National Security Act. Just a few minutes ago, I heard there was completely no bipartisanship, and now I am hearing good things about bipartisanship.

Again, there must be a different definition for ''bipartisanship'' than the one that I normally follow.

Mr. Chairman, I yield back the balance of my time.

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Ms. CRAIG. Mr. Chairman, better late than never bipartisanship. We are happy to agree to these amendments en bloc, and I would be proud to support it.

I just want to say that some of the rhetoric though coming out and the lack of fact-based—it is not that Republicans cut the dollar amount of SNAP per day for eligible individuals, they have just cut people from the program entirely. Republicans have shoved costs on to several States across this country that are just not going to be able to absorb those costs, and we know and CBO expects, that those States are going to have to kick people off the program.

We worked together to make this a little more efficient. Mr. Chair, I yield back the balance of my time.

The Acting CHAIR. The question is on the amendments en bloc offered by the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. THOMPSON).

The en bloc amendments were agreed to.

AMENDMENT NO. 1 OFFERED BY MR. BAUMGARTNER

The Acting CHAIR. It is now in order to consider amendment No. 1 printed in part B of House Report 119–628.

Mr. BAUMGARTNER. Mr. Chair, I have an amendment at the desk.

The Acting CHAIR. The Clerk will designate the amendment.

The text of the amendment is as follows:

Page 163, after line 4, insert the following:

(c) INCLUSION OF COLUMBIA BASIN PROJECT AREA.—The Secretary shall include in the Wester Waters Region Critical Conservation Area designated under section 1271F of the Food Security Act of 1985 (16 U.S.C. 3871f) the project area of the Columbia Basin project authorized by the first section of the Act of May 27, 1937 (chapter 269, 50 Stat. 208; 57 Stat. 14).

The Acting CHAIR. Pursuant to House Resolution 1224, the gentleman from Washington (Mr. BAUMGARTNER) and a Member opposed each will control 5 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Washington.

Mr. BAUMGARTNER. Mr. Chair, I rise in support of my amendment, and I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Chair, my amendment would include the Columbia Basin project in the Western Waters Regional Conservation Area.

This area here would be included in this larger green area.

Let's start with the facts. The Columbia Basin Project spans nearly 1.1 million acres in central Washington, one of the most productive agriculture regions in the United States.

But here is the gap: Nearly 400,000 acres of land is in a conservation crisis. Farmers are basically out of water now. They are pumping from dry wells. Inclusion of this area as a critical conservation area will make this area eligible for Federal conservation efforts to make sure it is properly irrigated, and before our local family farms run out of time and water.

This is a crisis—unrealized production, unrealized efficiency, and unrealized water management in the West.

Of course, this underlying bill I hope is a bipartisan effort. I think it is. The original effort of the Columbia Basin Project was certainly a bipartisan effort, and it is good to give praise where praise is due. One of America's greatest Presidents, Democrat Franklin Delano Roosevelt, actually initiated the Columbia Basin Project, and it was wonderful at a time when America could get big things done to help make the desert bloom, and we need to do that again.

This amendment helps in part do that.

Under current law, the Food Security Act of 1985 gives the USDA discretion to prioritize conservation investments. This amendment simply ensures the Columbia Basin is given due consideration for programs like the Regional Conservation Partnership Program.

It is not a mandate. It is not a change in water rights. It is not a new bureaucracy.

If included in the Western Waters Critical Conservation Area, the Columbia Basin Project land-area will provide fertile ground to build irrigation and water conservation projects.

This will provide targeted access to Federal tools and support structures to help farmers to use it more efficiently, improve soil health, and bring more of this land into productive, stable use.

If we are serious about conservation in the West, which we certainly should be, and it is something Republicans and Democrats I think share together, we need to work with the lands and work on projects like this.

This is a practical amendment. It is a profarmer amendment, and it is a smart use of water policy for the future.

Mr. Chair, I urge adoption, and I reserve the balance of my time.

Ms. BROWN. Mr. Chair, I rise in opposition to this amendment.

The Acting CHAIR. The gentlewoman from Ohio is recognized for 5 minutes.

Ms. BROWN. Mr. Chair, the Columbia Basin Project is a federally authorized project managed by the Bureau of Reclamation, part of the Department of the Interior.

At its heart, is the Grand Coulee Dam, which has the primary purpose of

supplying water for irrigation and producing power. There are secondary benefits, such as aiding flood control and providing recreation opportunities.

The Western Waters Regional Conservation Area, by contrast, is designated by the Department of Agriculture as a critical conservation area whose primary purpose is to address insufficient water and habitat.

I am concerned, therefore, that this amendment may divert funds meant for drought relief toward areas that have a dam supplying them water.

If the gentleman sincerely believes that there are farmers in need of USDA assistance, then I would be happy to work with him when NRCS completes its review of CCAs every 5 years.

Mr. Chair, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. BAUMGARTNER. Mr. Chair, I yield to the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. THOMPSON).

Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania. Mr. Chair, I thank the gentleman for offering the amendment.

I have had the opportunity to travel to his area and to just see how critical this amendment is. Water is life giving. Water is about being able to, obviously, provide for food.

This amendment will ensure that areas of the Columbia Basin Project will be included in the Western Waters Regional Conservation Area. Including this area within that designation would allow for more opportunities for conservation activities in this region.

Mr. Chair, I support this amendment, and I urge a ''yes'' vote.

Mr. BAUMGARTNER. Mr. Chair, I yield myself the balance of my time.

I think the 119th Congress has done a lot of great work, and I think this underlying farm bill is certainly going to be a highlight of that great work.

I have enjoyed my first term in Congress immensely, and I enjoy being in this august Chamber with so many talented Republicans and Democratic colleagues.

There are two written things in this Chamber. One is the statement ''In God We Trust.'' The other is the quote by the good Representative from Massachusetts, Daniel Webster, which is above your head.

Mr. Chair, I will just close by reading a portion of that statement. I think about that frequently when we vote here. I don't think, frankly, all the time that everything we vote on rises to fulfill this statement that is listed in this Chamber but as the great Daniel Webster said: Let us develop the resources of our land and call upon their powers so that we in our time may do something that will be remembered.

I think when Franklin Delano Roosevelt worked with Republicans and Democrats to develop the Columbia Basin Project, they did something that called forth the powers of the land, something that was remembered and benefited many future generations.

I think with the adoption of this amendment to include this portion in our water conservation efforts we are doing something that will benefit future generations.

Mr. Chair, I yield back the balance of my time.

Ms. BROWN. Mr. Chair, as I expressed in my earlier remarks, I continue to oppose this amendment, and I urge all Members to oppose this amendment.

Mr. Chair, I yield back the balance of my time.

The Acting CHAIR. The question is on the amendment offered by the gentleman from Washington (Mr. BAUMGARTNER).

The amendment was agreed to.

AMENDMENT NO. 2 OFFERED BY MR. BENTZ

The Acting CHAIR. It is now in order to consider amendment No. 2 printed in part B of House Report 119–628.

Mr. BENTZ. Mr. Chair, I have an amendment at the desk.

The Acting CHAIR. The Clerk will designate the amendment.

The text of the amendment is as follows:

Add at the end of subtitle D of title XII the following new section:

SEC. 12___. RENEWABLE BIOMASS DEFINITION.

Section 211(o)(1)(I) of the Clean Air Act (42 U.S.C. 7545(o)(1)(I)) is amended—

(1) by amending clause (ii) to read as follows:

''(ii) Materials generated from forest products manufacturing and wood products manufacturing, including wood residuals, paper residuals, sawdust, wood, wood chips, shavings, bark, sanderdust, and trimmings.'';

(2) by amending clause (iv) to read as follows:

''(vi) Trees, shrubs, and parts of trees or shrubs, including slash and storm debris, from—

''(I) non-Federal land;

''(II) National Forest System land;

''(III) public lands (as defined in section 103 of the Federal Land Policy and Management Act of 1976 (43 U.S.C. 1702)); or

''(IV) land belonging to an Indian tribe or an Indian individual, that is held in trust by the United States or subject to a restriction against alienation imposed by the United States.''; and

(3) by amending clause (v) to read as follows:

''(v) Vegetation obtained from—

''(I) within 100 feet of a building, public infrastructure, or other area regularly occupied by people; or

''(II) within the wildland-urban interface (as defined in section 101 of the Healthy Forests Restoration Act of 2003 (16 U.S.C. 6512)).''.

The Acting CHAIR. Pursuant to House Resolution 1224, the gentleman from Oregon (Mr. BENTZ) and a Member opposed each will control 5 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Oregon.

Mr. BENTZ. Mr. Chair, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Chair, I rise to offer my amendment designated Bentz No. 2 which modestly expands the definition of ''renewable biomass'' under the Renewable Fuel Standard so that it includes materials generated in the manufacture of forest products, such as mill residuals, wood chips, bark sawdust, and shavings.

The amendment would also amend the current statutory other framework to include as renewal biomass, trees, shrubs, and slash from our Federal forests, Tribal forests, non-Federal land, and public lands, rather than being limited to a small part of these lands. This amendment would allow materials from these sources to be economically used for domestic biofuel production.

I thank Chairman WESTERMAN, Congressman FULCHER, and Congressman STAUBER for their support of this amendment.

The amendment falls within the farm bill under title VIII, forestry, and title IX, energy. Consistent with these titles, this amendment will incentivize removal of excess fuel from our forests, thus reducing fire risk and improving forest health, and it will make possible the productive use of what otherwise would be considered waste.

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For too long, Federal policy has treated wood fiber from Federal lands in only two ways: either as merchantable sawtimber with commercial value or as waste with no value whatsoever. This policy ignores an entire category of low-value woody material that could be removed from Federal forests, including slash, limbs, storm debris, thinning materials, small diameter trees, and other byproducts that do not fit neatly into traditional lumber markets but still carry real economic value. This amendment would help realize on that value.

Mr. Chairman, my amendment is a practical fix. It treats Federal forest material as an opportunity, not a liability. It creates value where Federal policy currently perpetuates waste, and it provides land managers, mills, and rural communities with another tool to make Federal forests healthier, more productive, and less dangerous.

Mr. Chair, I urge adoption of the amendment, and I reserve the balance of my time.

Ms. BROWN. Mr. Chair, I rise in opposition to this amendment.

The Acting CHAIR. The gentlewoman from Ohio is recognized for 5 minutes.

Ms. BROWN. Mr. Chair, wildfires are a significant threat to rural communities, and I support efforts to bring down the cost of forest treatments that would help protect these communities.

This amendment, though, just uses those rural communities as a prop in order to disguise the fact that it would expand the renewable food standards definition to every single tree across our public lands. It is not limited to the wildland-urban interface where thinning would have the most impact. There are no limits on this, not for protected wilderness, beloved recreation areas, or old growth. It does not matter if the tree is cut down as part of a responsible forest restoration project or a clear-cut.

This proposal is reckless and would endanger our public lands.

Mr. Chair, I urge my colleagues to oppose, and I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. BENTZ. Mr. Chair, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Arkansas (Mr. WESTERMAN).

Mr. WESTERMAN. Mr. Chair, I rise in support of my friend from Oregon, Mr. BENTZ', amendment. This may be the most simple, straight-to-the-point, easy-to-understand amendment. It does one thing: It corrects the definition of woody biomass.

Mr. Chairman, this amendment clarifies that woody biomass is biomass that comes from wood. Yes, Mr. Chair, you heard that right. Woody biomass is biomass that comes from wood, and this amendment would fix that definition.

Mr. Chairman, only in the Federal Government would this clarification be required. For the love of trees everywhere and for basic human understanding, I encourage everyone to support this amendment.

Ms. BROWN. Mr. Chair, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. BENTZ. Mr. Chair, I yield 1 minute to the gentleman from Georgia (Mr. AUSTIN SCOTT).

Mr. AUSTIN SCOTT of Georgia. Mr. Chair, I thank Mr. BENTZ and Mr. WESTERMAN for their work on this issue. It is a very simple proposal and I think the most important thing for the forestry industry. The forestry industry is not healthy right now. It doesn't matter if its the logger or the person who drives the truck or the person who actually owns the land with the trees on it. It creates value from what otherwise would be waste.

It is a good amendment. It is a simple amendment. I encourage the adoption of it.

Again, I thank Mr. BENTZ and Mr. WESTERMAN for their work on this issue.

Ms. BROWN. Mr. Chair, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. BENTZ. Mr. Chair, I am prepared to close.

Mr. Chairman, this is an excellent bill, and we need it in Oregon. We have 30 million acres of trees. We absolutely need what this bill would provide.

Mr. Chair, I yield back the balance of my time.

Ms. BROWN. Mr. Chair, I urge all Members to oppose this amendment, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The Acting CHAIR. The question is on the amendment offered by the gentleman from Oregon (Mr. BENTZ).

The question was taken; and the Acting Chair announced that the ayes appeared to have it.

Ms. BROWN. Mr. Chair, I demand a recorded vote.

The Acting CHAIR. Pursuant to clause 6 of rule XVIII, further proceedings on the amendment offered by the gentleman from Oregon will be postponed.

AMENDMENT NO. 3 OFFERED BY MS. BROWN

The Acting CHAIR. It is now in order to consider amendment No. 3 printed in part B of House Report 119–628.

Ms. BROWN. Mr. Chair, I rise as the designee of Ms. BROWNLEY, and I have an amendment at the desk.

The Acting CHAIR. The Clerk will designate the amendment.

The text of the amendment is as follows:

Strike section 2201 and insert the following:

SEC. 2201. DEFINITIONS.

Section 1240A(6) of the Food Security Act of 1985 (16 U.S.C. 3839aa–1(6)) is amended—

(1) in subparagraph (A)(ii), by inserting '', including composting practices'' before the semicolon at the end; and

(2) in subparagraph (B)(v), by inserting ''(including the adoption of precision agriculture practices and the acquisition of precision agriculture technology)'' after ''planning''.

Page 44, after line 6, insert the following:

SEC. 22____. CONSERVATION ACTIVITIES DEFINED.

Section 1240I(2)(B)(i) of the Food Security Act of 1985 (16 U.S.C. 3839aa–21(2)(B)(i)) is amended by inserting '', composting practices'' after ''agriculture drainage management systems''.

Page 71, after line 3, insert the following:

(e) CONSERVATION STANDARDS AND REQUIREMENTS.—Section 1241(j) of the Food Security Act of 1985 (16 U.S.C. 3841(j)) is amended—

(1) by redesignating paragraph (2) as paragraph (3); and

(2) by inserting after paragraph (1) the following new paragraph:

''(2) COMPOSTING AS CONSERVATION PRACTICE AND ACTIVITY.—

''(A) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall by regulation provide that composting is a conservation practice and a conservation activity for the purposes of this title.

''(B) COMPOSTING DEFINED.—

''(i) IN GENERAL.—For the purposes of this paragraph, the term 'composting' means—

''(I) an activity (including an activity that does not require the use of a composting facility) to produce compost from organic waste that is—

''(aa) generated on a farm; or

''(bb) brought to a farm from a nearby community and used to produce compost on that farm; and

''(II) the use and active management of compost on a farm, in accordance with any applicable Federal, State, or local law, to improve water retention and soil health.

''(ii) DETERMINATION OF NEARBY COMMUNITIES.—The Secretary, in consultation with the Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency, shall issue regulations for determining whether a community is nearby for purposes of clause (i)(I), which shall ensure that bringing organic waste from the community to the farm to produce compost results in a net reduction of greenhouse gas emissions.''.

Page 89, line 16, strike the closing quotation mark and the final period at the end.

Page 89, after line 16, insert the following:

''(7) DEVELOPMENT OF COMPOSTING PRACTICE STANDARD.—In addition to conducting a review under this subsection of any composting facility practice standard established before the date of enactment of this paragraph, the Secretary shall establish a composting practice standard under the process developed under paragraph (3).''.

The Acting CHAIR. Pursuant to House Resolution 1224, the gentlewoman from Ohio (Ms. BROWN) and a Member opposed each will control 5 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from Ohio.

Ms. BROWN. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

The NRCS currently includes composting facilities as a conservation practice standard, but assistance under this standard is limited to the construction of a structure to facilitate composting.

This amendment proposes specifically to designate composting as a practice standard that is not tied to a structure but simply on activities to produce composts from organic waste.

The amendment also requires review of a current composting facility practice standard and has provisions to address greenhouse gas emissions.

This proposal would allow farms that use composts to more fully participate in and benefit from conservation programs, regardless of whether they build a structure. This could also reduce food waste, and I support the amendment.

Mr. Chair, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania. Mr. Chair, I rise in opposition to the amendment, even though I am not opposed to it.

The Acting CHAIR. Without objection, the gentleman from Pennsylvania is recognized for 5 minutes.

There was no objection.

Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania. Mr. Chair, I thank the gentlewoman from California, who offered this amendment.

Improving conservation practice standards and further incorporating science, technology, and innovation throughout the programs has been a priority for me as this bill has been developed.

This farm bill contains language requiring USDA to more frequently update the practice standards on a recurring basis, along with a robust public process to gather input requests and suggestions.

While NRCS already does have an existing practice standard to cover the construction of a structure to facilitate the composting process, this amendment goes beyond that to create a new standard for the production and/or use of composts.

While I don't view these particular activities to be specified in the programs or in need of a separate standard, I am going to support this amendment today.

Mr. Chair, once again, I encourage the adoption of this amendment into the Farm, Food, and National Security Act of 2026, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Ms. BROWN. Mr. Chair, I am prepared to close.

I urge all Members to support, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The Acting CHAIR. The question is on the amendment offered by the gentlewoman from Ohio (Ms. BROWN).

The amendment was agreed to.

AMENDMENT NO. 4 OFFERED BY MR. CARBAJAL

The Acting CHAIR. It is now in order to consider amendment No. 4 printed in part B of House Report 119–628.

Mr. CARBAJAL. Mr. Chair, I have an amendment at the desk.

The Acting CHAIR. The Clerk will designate the amendment.

The text of the amendment is as follows:

AMENDMENT NO. 4 OFFERED BY MR. CARBAJAL

Add at the end of title I the following:

SEC. 1___. DAIRY BUSINESS INNOVATION INITIATIVES.

Section 12513 of the Agriculture Improvement Act of 2018 (7 U.S.C. 1632d) is amended—

(1) in subsection (b), by striking ''3'' and inserting ''4''; and

(2) in subsection (g)(1)(A), by striking ''3'' and inserting ''4''.

The Acting CHAIR. Pursuant to House Resolution 1224, the gentleman from California (Mr. CARBAJAL) and a Member opposed each will control 5 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from California.

Mr. CARBAJAL. Mr. Chairman, I rise today to encourage every Member of this Chamber to support my dairy business innovation initiative amendment.

The dairy business innovation initiatives support dairy businesses in the development, production, marketing, and distribution of dairy products. They provide technical assistance to dairy businesses directly or through industry experts and research institutions.

USDA initially awarded three equal grants through a competitive selection process to the University of Tennessee; the Vermont Agency of Agriculture, Food & Markets; and the University of Wisconsin.

□ 0010

A fourth initiative was later awarded by USDA in 2021 to the Pacific Coast Coalition-Dairy Business Innovation Initiative, DBII, at Fresno State University, which serves California, Oregon, Washington, Nevada, Arizona, New Mexico, and 135 grantees from 34 congressional districts.

Even with the addition of the fourth initiative, congressional appropriations have consistently directed the majority of funds to be equally distributed between the three original initiatives outside of the Pacific Coast Coalition's region.

That is even when accounting for California being ranked number one in milk production, number one in butter, number one in milk powder, number one in ice cream, and number two in cheese, with over 140 manufacturing facilities.

Despite the Pacific Coast Coalition's region of six States producing 29 percent of all milk in the U.S. and 45 percent of total exports, they still do not get an equal amount of funding.

My amendment simply would update the statute to recognize that there are four regionally located initiatives and ensure that each of these initiatives is accounted for when funding is administered—just achieving parity.

This could also allow for a more equitable distribution of funding between the four initiatives, which has historically not been the case since the inception of the Pacific Coast Coalition.

Mr. Chair, I ask this body to join me in passing my amendment to ensure more equitable distribution between the four dairy business innovation initiatives, and I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania. Mr. Chair, I claim the time in opposition, even though I am not opposed to the amendment.

The Acting CHAIR. Without objection, the gentleman from Pennsylvania is recognized for 5 minutes.

There was no objection.

Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania. Mr. Chairman, I appreciate my good friend from California, SALUD CARBAJAL, for bringing this amendment forward that aligns the underlying statute with current practice at the USDA. This is another great bipartisan improvement to this farm bill.

The Dairy Business Innovation Initiative supports dairy businesses and development, production, marketing, and distribution of the products.

The technical assistance and subawards provided under this program play an important role in supporting the profitability of our Nation's dairy producers.

USDA currently supports four centers, as we have heard, located in California, Tennessee, Vermont, and Wisconsin. This amendment allows the statute of DBII to bring certainty to all four centers.

I am in support of this amendment, and I urge all of my colleagues to do the same. I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. CARBAJAL. Mr. Chair, I thank the gentleman for speaking on the merits of this amendment, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The Acting CHAIR. The question is on the amendment offered by the gentleman from California (Mr. CARBAJAL).

The amendment was agreed to.

AMENDMENT NO. 5 OFFERED BY MRS. HAYES

The Acting CHAIR. It is now in order to consider amendment No. 5 printed in part B of House Report 119–628.

Mrs. HAYES. Mr. Chair, as the designee for Mr. CLEAVER, I have an amendment at the desk.

The Acting CHAIR. The Clerk will designate the amendment.

The text of the amendment is as follows:

Add at the end of title IX the following new section:

SEC. 9___. TREE PLANTING GRANT PROGRAM.

(a) ESTABLISHMENT.—Not later than 90 days after the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary shall establish a program under which the Secretary may award grants to eligible entities to facilitate covered projects in accordance with this section.

(b) CONSULTATION.—In carrying out the Program, the Secretary shall consult with the Secretary of Energy.

(c) APPLICATIONS.—To receive a grant under the Program, an eligible entity shall submit to the Secretary an application at such time, in such form, and containing such information as the Secretary may require, including the following:

(1) A description of how the proposed covered project will reduce residential energy consumption.

(2) An estimate of the expected reduction in residential energy consumption to be achieved by the covered project.

(3) A description of the total eligible costs of the project and other sources of funding for the covered project.

(4) A description of anticipated community engagement in the covered project.

(5) A description of the tree species to be planted under the covered project and the suitability of such species to the local environment.

(d) PRIORITY.—In awarding grants under the Program, the Secretary shall give priority to covered projects that—

(1) provide the largest potential reduction in residential energy consumption for households with a high energy burden;

(2) provide maximum amounts of—

(A) shade during periods when residences are exposed to the most sun intensity; and

(B) wind protection during periods when residences are exposed to the most wind intensity;

(3) are located in a neighborhood with a low percentage of tree canopy cover;

(4) are located in a neighborhood with a high percentage of senior citizens or children;

(5) are located in an area where the average annual income is below the regional median;

(6) will collaboratively engage community members to be affected by the tree planting; and

(7) will employ local residents as a substantial percentage of the workforce of the covered project, with a focus on local residents who are unemployed or underemployed.

(e) TREE PLANTING GOALS.—Subject to the availability of appropriations, the Secretary shall, to the maximum extent practicable, award grants under the Program in a manner that facilitates the planting of at least 300,000 trees each year.

(f) FEDERAL SHARE.—The Federal share of the cost of a covered project assisted by a grant awarded under the Program shall be 90 percent.

(g) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There is authorized to be appropriated to carry out the Program, $50,000,000 for each of fiscal years 2027 through 2030.

(h) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

(1) COVERED PROJECT.—The term ''covered project'' means a tree planting project carried out to reduce residential energy consumption.

(2) ELIGIBLE COST.—The term ''eligible cost'' means, with respect to a covered project—

(A) the cost of carrying out the project, including—

(i) planning and design activities;

(ii) establishing nurseries to supply trees;

(iii) purchasing trees; and

(iv) preparing sites and planting trees;

(B) the cost of maintaining and monitoring planted trees for a period of not more than 3 years;

(C) the cost of training activities; and

(D) any other cost determined appropriate by the Secretary.

(3) ELIGIBLE ENTITY.—The term ''eligible entity'' means each of the following:

(A) A State government entity.

(B) A local government entity.

(C) An Indian Tribe.

(D) A nonprofit organization.

(E) A retail power provider.

(4) ENERGY BURDEN.—The term ''energy burden'' means the percentage of household income spent on residential energy bills.

(5) INDIAN TRIBE.—The term ''Indian Tribe'' has the meaning given the term in section 4 of the Indian Self-Determination and Education Assistance Act (25 U.S.C. 5304).

(6) LOCAL GOVERNMENT ENTITY.—The term ''local government entity'' means any municipal government or county government entity with jurisdiction over local land use decisions.

(7) NONPROFIT ORGANIZATION.—The term ''nonprofit organization'' means an organization described in section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 and exempt from tax under section 501(a) of such Code.

(8) PROGRAM.—The term ''Program'' means the program established under subsection (a).

(9) RETAIL POWER PROVIDER.—The term ''retail power provider'' means any entity authorized under State or Federal law to generate, distribute, or provide retail electricity, natural gas, or fuel oil service.

(10) SECRETARY.—The term ''Secretary'' means the Secretary of Agriculture.

The Acting CHAIR. Pursuant to House Resolution 1224, the gentlewoman from Connecticut (Mrs. HAYES) and a Member opposed each will control 5 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from Connecticut.

Mrs. HAYES. Mr. Chairman, I rise in support of this amendment, which is based on the bipartisan TREES Act.

The Forest Service has long supported urban and community forestry, especially since a single tree can reduce energy costs of homes by 8 to 12 percent.

That is why Democrats provided $1.5 billion for the Urban and Community Forestry Program at the Forest Service in the Inflation Reduction Act.

Of course, Republicans were not satisfied to just let that program continue, so they rescinded the remaining money in H.R. 1, along with the $187 billion in SNAP funding.

The existing Urban and Community Forestry Program requires a 50-percent cost share, however, while the program established by Representative CLEAVER's amendment would provide up to 90 percent.

Mr. Chairman, I support this amendment, and I urge my colleagues to do the same. I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania. Mr. Chair, I claim the time in opposition to this amendment, although I am not opposed to the amendment.

The Acting CHAIR. Without objection, the gentleman is recognized for 5 minutes.

There was no objection.

Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania. Mr. Chairman, I thank the gentlewoman from Connecticut for representing the gentleman from Missouri on his amendment that he has offered.

This amendment would require the Secretary of Agriculture to establish a tree-planting grant program that results in a reduction of residential energy consumption. It is simple: More trees make for more livable and enjoyable communities.

I reserve the balance of my time.

Mrs. HAYES. Mr. Chairman, I urge all Members to support this amendment, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania. Mr. Chair, I thank the gentleman from Missouri and the gentlewoman from Connecticut serving as his proxy for bringing this amendment this evening, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The Acting CHAIR. The question is on the amendment offered by the gentlewoman from Connecticut (Mrs. HAYES).

The amendment was agreed to.

AMENDMENT NO. 7 OFFERED BY MR. CRAWFORD

The Acting CHAIR. It is now in order to consider amendment No. 7 printed in part B of House Report 119–628.

Mr. CRAWFORD. Mr. Chair, I have an amendment at the desk.

The Acting CHAIR. The Clerk will designate the amendment.

The text of the amendment is as follows:

Page 367, line 16, strike the close quotation marks and the following period.

Page 367, after line 16, insert the following: ''(G) CONTINUITY OF ESSENTIAL CIRCUIT RIDER ACTIVITIES.—Activities carried out under this subparagraph that are necessary to prevent imminent harm to life or property may continue during a lapse in appropriations, using unobligated balances previously appropriated under the heading 'Rural Water and Waste Disposal Program Account'.''.

The Acting CHAIR. Pursuant to House Resolution 1224, the gentleman from Arkansas (Mr. CRAWFORD) and a Member opposed each will control 5 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Arkansas.

Mr. CRAWFORD. Mr. Chairman, I rise today on behalf of rural communities in support of my amendment, which clarifies that USDA Circuit Rider program activities that are necessary to prevent imminent harm to life or property shall be treated as excepted activities during government shutdowns.

The USDA Circuit Rider program is a hugely successful initiative that provides necessary technical expertise and training to rural communities. The technical expertise is critical to communities to operate safe and clean drinking water systems and helps ensure compliance with clean water regulations.

Circuit riders, as these experts are referred to, are in the field every day, helping communities with water system compliance, operations, management, and training.

Additionally, this assistance protects the Federal Government's sizable investment in rural water infrastructure.

Under most government shutdowns, the Circuit Rider program has been deemed essential because of the critical role it plays to prevent imminent harm to life and property, until the most recent shutdown in October.

Circuit riders routinely serve as first responders for the rural water sector, providing immediate assistance during system failures, water quality violations, natural disasters, and other emergencies, often as the only available technical resource.

Therefore, it is essential, even during a government shutdown, that this program continues.

My amendment simply clarifies that during a lapse in appropriations, the Circuit Rider program will continue to be funded and operational. Even during a government shutdown, folks in rural communities continue to need safe and clean drinking water.

Mr. Chair, for that reason, I strongly urge my colleagues to support my amendment, and I reserve the balance of my time.

Mrs. HAYES. Mr. Chairman, I claim the time in opposition, even though I am not opposed to the amendment.

The Acting CHAIR. Without objection, the gentlewoman from Connecticut is recognized for 5 minutes.

There was no objection.

Mrs. HAYES. Mr. Chair, I rise in support of this amendment. USDA technical assistance for rural water systems is key to maintaining their safety and effectiveness.

This is a commonsense approach to governance that would ensure that the Circuit Rider program would be available to rural communities that rely on it during government shutdowns.

These professionals help small communities with management, regulatory compliance, water quality, and infrastructure maintenance to ensure sustainable service.

Mr. Chair, I support this amendment, and I urge all of my colleagues to support it, as well. I reserve the balance of my time.

□ 0020

Mr. CRAWFORD. Mr. Chair, I urge passage of this amendment, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Mrs. HAYES. Mr. Chair, I urge all Members to support Mr. CRAWFORD's amendment, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The Acting CHAIR. The question is on the amendment offered by the gentleman from Arkansas (Mr. CRAWFORD).

The amendment was agreed to.

AMENDMENT NO. 8 OFFERED BY MR. CRAWFORD

The Acting CHAIR. It is now in order to consider amendment No. 8 printed in part B of House Report 119–628.

Mr. CRAWFORD. Mr. Chair, I have an amendment at the desk.

The Acting CHAIR. The Clerk will designate the amendment.

The text of the amendment is as follows:

At the end of subtitle A of title IV, add the following:

SEC. 4114. SNAP ELIGIBLE HOT ROTISSERIE CHICKEN.

Section 3(k)(1) of the Food and Nutrition Act of 2008 (7 U.S.C. 2012(k)(1)) is amended—

(1) by inserting ''hot rotisserie chicken and'' before ''those authorized'';

(2) by striking ''clauses'' and inserting ''paragraphs''; and

(3) by striking ''of this subsection''.

The Acting CHAIR. Pursuant to House Resolution 1224, the gentleman from Arkansas (Mr. CRAWFORD) and a Member opposed each will control 5 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Arkansas.

Mr. CRAWFORD. Mr. Chair, I rise today to introduce my bipartisan hot rotisserie chicken amendment No. 8 to H.R. 7567, the Farm, Food, and National Security Act of 2026.

My amendment seeks to add hot rotisserie chicken to the list of foods eligible for SNAP recipients to purchase. By expanding access to hot rotisserie chicken, we are providing families with a high quality, nutrient-dense protein source.

This directly aligns with the new dietary guidelines for Americans established by the U.S. Department of Agriculture and is a step toward Making America Healthy Again.

Hot rotisserie chicken is available at most local grocery stores that accept SNAP and is often around $5 or $6. That is a great bargain, Mr. Chair, considering the multiple meals you can get from one chicken. Plus, there is no financial burden on the taxpayer associated with this amendment.

Currently, SNAP participants may only purchase cold rotisserie chicken, which is simply refrigerated hot chicken. This requirement not only degrades quality but also wastes energy and adds unnecessary cost. Additionally, some Americans lack easy access to reheating methods, making it difficult for them to warm and consume the cold rotisserie chicken.

By allowing the purchase of hot rotisserie chicken, we give families the opportunity to use it as a meal or as an ingredient in countless recipes such as chicken salad, enchiladas, soups, and casseroles, and the list goes on.

This meaningful change will allow families to enjoy a wider variety of wholesome meals.

Governors from States around the country and my great State of Arkansas have pending waiver requests at the USDA to allow their States to make hot rotisserie chicken SNAP eligible. Their leadership demonstrates the growing recognition that this amendment is not only practical and targeted, but essential to our constituents.

Together, we can make our nutrition assistance programs more effective and make a positive impact on the American family with this sensible, targeted addition.

Mr. Chair, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mrs. HAYES. Mr. Chair, I rise in opposition to this amendment, and I yield myself such time as I may consume.

The Acting CHAIR. The gentlewoman from Connecticut is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mrs. HAYES. Mr. Chair, while I agree with the premise of this amendment, I am not interested in picking winners and losers. The Hot Foods Act addresses this issue the right way by ensuring that all foods that are hot at the point of sale can be purchased with SNAP benefits, including not just precooked rotisserie chicken, but hot sandwiches, soups, and much more.

This amendment lacks the proper guardrails to avoid unintentionally opening up SNAP to restaurants. This fix should be allowed to all hot foods. I will be opposing this amendment, and I urge my colleagues to vote ''no'' as well.

Mr. Chair, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. CRAWFORD. Mr. Chair, I yield to the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. THOMPSON), who is the distinguished chairman of the House Agriculture Committee.

Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania. Mr. Chair, I thank my good friend from Arkansas for raising this issue.

We can all agree that rotisserie chicken is a healthy and convenient option for families. SNAP was designed by Congress to purchase food at eligible retailers to be cooked and prepared at home, meaning hot prepared foods are not eligible for purchase at this point. I have concerns about the unintended consequences that may arise should Congress begin to chip away piecemeal like that the ban on hot food in SNAP without considering the broader ramifications, particularly for program integrity.

A change of this kind, especially one that singles out a specific food item, presents a slippery slope and deserves careful consideration and debate about the purchase of SNAP.

Mrs. HAYES. Mr. Chair, I urge all Members to oppose this amendment, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. CRAWFORD. Mr. Chair, I urge adoption of the amendment, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The Acting CHAIR. The question is on the amendment offered by the gentleman from Arkansas (Mr. CRAWFORD).

The question was taken; and the Acting Chair announced that the ayes appeared to have it.

Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania. Mr. Chair, I demand a recorded vote.

The Acting CHAIR. Pursuant to clause 6 of rule XVIII, further proceedings on the amendment offered by the gentleman from Arkansas will be postponed.

AMENDMENT NO. 14 OFFERED BY MS. PEREZ

The Acting CHAIR. It is now in order to consider amendment No. 14 printed in part B of House Report 119–628.

Ms. PEREZ. Mr. Chair, I have an amendment at the desk.

The Acting CHAIR. The Clerk will designate the amendment.

The text of the amendment is as follows:

At the end of title IV add the following:

SEC. ___. FRESH FRUITS AND VEGETABLES CATEGORIZATION.

(a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary of Agriculture, in coordination with the Secretary of Health and Human Services, shall develop a low-risk classification for fresh fruits, vegetables, and other foods that are typically consumed raw or with minimal processing, and update relevant nutrition and food safety and preparation regulations and guidelines for child care providers in accordance with the classification under this section.

(b) CLASSIFICATION.—In developing the classification under this section, the Secretaries shall consider—

(1) the limited risks of food-born illness and negative health impacts associated with handling and preparing fresh fruits, vegetables, and other foods that are typically consumed raw or with minimal processing;

(2) best practices to minimize food safety risks without obstructing access to low-risk foods as defined under the classification under this section, including but not limited to access to a handwashing sink; and

(3) existing barriers that privilege packaged, processed foods over fresh fruits, vegetables, and other foods that are typically consumed raw or with minimal processing.

(c) IMPLEMENTATION.—The Secretaries shall ensure the effective coordination of policies and activities within the Department of Agriculture and the Department of Health and Human Services related to nutrition and food safety and preparation in child care facilities to ensure State regulations that impact such activities reflect the classification under this section and protect child care providers from any penalties as a result of providing children foods in compliance with this section.

(d) COMPLIANCE.—States that fail to comply with the policies and activities described in subsection (c) may have funds withheld.

The Acting CHAIR. Pursuant to House Resolution 1224, the gentlewoman from Washington (Ms. PEREZ) and a Member opposed each will control 5 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from Washington.

Ms. PEREZ. Mr. Chair, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Chair, today I rise in support of my amendment to direct the Secretary of Agriculture, in coordination with the Secretary of Health and Human Services, to develop a low-risk classification for healthy fresh fruits and vegetables and other fruits that are typically consumed raw.

I would like to tell the body a little bit about how this came to be. I have a 4-year-old. I was touring a daycare, like many in our State, and a daycare worker came up to me. She asked me: Hey, Congress lady, why can I legally open a bag of chips for the toddlers, but I can't peel a banana?

This was perplexing and annoying to me. I dug into this, and I kept asking questions. What I heard from regulators and licensers over and over and over was that this woman was stupid, that her boss had lied to her, and that she just didn't understand the rules.

When I dug and I dug and I dug, what I found was that, yes, buried deep in the bowels of the 1,200 pages of documents a licensed daycare provider has to follow in my State is the number of sinks they would need per exterior linear wall foot. I am not kidding.

This daycare would have needed six more sinks before they could legally peel a banana, because peeling a banana apparently is considered food

preparation, but opening a bag of chips is not.

I doubt anyone on God's green Earth would have chosen to advantage Cheetos over a banana. That is what has happened through a lack of respect and regard for people who actually work in childcare, through, candidly, an establishment that is so old that they don't have kids in daycare or so rich that they had nannies instead of ordinary daycare.

I am so proud of this body for listening to this issue, for hearing me, and for helping me to find a way to legitimize fresh fruits and vegetables in daycare centers again. What this does is it directs the Secretary of Ag to develop a list of food.

It says that handling a raw chicken cutlet is not the same thing as peeling a banana. Let's have a different classification. Let's post these on a website somewhere, and let's say that States who are taking money for childcare will not negatively impact the licenses of daycare centers based on their provision of these foods to children given a handwashing sink is available.

It is a very simple, commonsense rightsizing of legislation, and one that I have heard from people across the country. This is not an issue just in my State. This is across the country where legislation has not paid attention or genuflection to people actually doing the work of taking care of children who have mistaken following a checklist with care for children.

Those are not the same things. We need to empower the people who are actually doing the work. We need to bring down the cost of childcare, and that is what this legislation does.

I am so grateful to the body for working with me to find a way to do this.

Mr. Chair, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. SCOTT of Virginia. Mr. Chair, I claim the time in opposition.

The Acting CHAIR. The gentleman is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. SCOTT of Virginia. Mr. Chairman, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Chairman, while I appreciate my colleague's interest in ensuring children in childcare have access to healthy and fresh foods whenever possible, this amendment, unfortunately, as written, could wind up doing more harm than good.

Childcare has been underfunded for decades, leading to an inadequate supply of programs, high costs to families, and low wages for providers.

According to the Department of Health and Human Services Assistant Secretary for Planning and Evaluation, only 15 percent of federally eligible children currently receive subsidies under the childcare and development fund, and many more don't even qualify for the fund who actually need the assistance.

That is why I introduced, with the gentlewoman from Pennsylvania (Ms. LEE) the Childcare for Working Families Act which would make historic investments in childcare to raise the pay and improve access to families.

This amendment submitted by the gentlewoman from Washington requires the Secretaries of Health and Human Services and Agriculture to ''update relevant nutrition and food safety and preparation regulations and guidelines'' that are related to nutrition and food safety preparation in childcare facilities.

□ 0030

This amendment provides broad discretion for the Secretaries to usurp State and local food safety guidelines. If States don't conform their childcare regulations to whatever the Secretaries deem appropriate, they could lose funding which, as I indicated, is already inadequate.

There are no real guardrails to the scope of the changes that the Secretaries could propose under the amendment. States could be punished if they do not adopt the same standards as mandated by the Secretaries.

This amendment, therefore, is too broad, allows too much discretion to an administration which has already shown its willingness to cancel or freeze funding for social service programs in Democratic States.

For these reasons, Mr. Chairman, I oppose the amendment and urge my colleagues to do the same. I reserve the balance of my time.

Ms. PEREZ. Mr. Chairman, I think we all agree that childcare is underfunded. What we don't agree about here is the question of whether and how to appropriately fund it and who is the one who decides where those dollars should go.

I would say that in my case, in the case of the daycare worker I was speaking with, they would have had to install six more sinks to comply with the regulations as written.

How much money do you think that takes? Do you think that is going to make daycare stretch further and provide daycare to more families?

No, these rules were not written—they were not perfect. We should not treat legislation as if it is manifest from God in a perfect form on our notebooks.

The reality is that legislation is more similar to doing the dishes where you do the dishes to do the dishes, to do the dishes. It is never done, and you have to keep going back to the people who are actually doing the implementation of it to understand if it is being implemented and if it is the point of the legislation.

Nobody wanted us to spend these limited dollars installing a myriad of sinks. Maybe the plumbing industry did, but I doubt that.

Mr. Chair, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. SCOTT of Virginia. Mr. Chairman, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Other than to say that that assumes that the Federal regulations that they come up with will be better than what they have already come up with. This could be worse, could be better. The problem is, if you don't actually comply, you could lose your funding. I think that would be a step backward, so I would hope we would oppose the amendment as it is written.

I reserve the balance of my time.

Ms. PEREZ. Mr. Chair, I yield to the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. THOMPSON).

Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania. Mr. Chairman, I thank the gentlewoman for bringing forward this commonsense amendment. We are talking about archaic regulations. We are not talking about payments or anything like that. We are talking about peeling a banana, preparing an apple slice, or preparing a carrot. We want kids to eat healthy versus prepackaged, processed foods.

This amendment would ensure that USDA, the food safety experts, and HHS, the childcare regulators, work together to ensure that childcare regulations governing the preparation and handling of low-risk fruits and vegetables do not present unnecessary red tape for providers.

I appreciate the gentlewoman and encourage a ''yes'' vote.

Ms. PEREZ. Mr. Chairman, States that choose to negatively impact the licenses of daycare providers based on their provision of a peeled banana to a child, I think we ought to consider whether or not that is the best place for us to be spending our limited Federal resources. I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. SCOTT of Virginia. Mr. Chairman, the assumption is that regulations that these Secretaries will get together and provide will be better than what is already there. We don't know what they are going to come up with. We do know, however, that if the State, if the local people don't comply exactly with those regulations, they are going to lose funding. There is broad discretion on the Secretaries, and as I have said, these Secretaries have been known to cancel programs in Democratic States. I don't think that broad discretion is appropriate. I would hope we would defeat the amendment. I yield back the balance of my time.

The Acting CHAIR. The question is on the amendment offered by the gentlewoman from Washington (Ms. PEREZ).

The amendment was agreed to.

AMENDMENT NO. 15 OFFERED BY MR. GOSAR

The Acting CHAIR. It is now in order to consider amendment No. 15 printed in part B of House Report 119–628.

Mr. GOSAR. Mr. Chair, I have an amendment at the desk.

The Acting CHAIR. The Clerk will designate the amendment.

The text of the amendment is as follows:

Add at the end of subtitle D of title XII the following new section:

SEC. 12___. REPORT ON ASSISTANCE AVAILABLE TO AGRICULTURAL PRODUCERS IN ARIZONA FOR CERTAIN LOSSES.

Not later than 180 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary shall submit to the Committee on Agriculture of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry of the Senate a report that lists all existing authorities of the Secretary and programs within the Department that are or could be made available to provide assistance to agricultural producers in the State of Arizona that have suffered economic losses due to the delivery of Colorado River waters to Mexico while Mexico failed to deliver water to the United States in accordance with the Treaty Relating to the Utilization of Waters of the Colorado and Tijuana Rivers and of the Rio Grande signed at Washington on February 3, 1944, and the Supplementary Protocol signed at Washington November 14, 1944.

The Acting CHAIR. Pursuant to House Resolution 1224, the gentleman from Arizona (Mr. GOSAR) and a Member opposed each will control 5 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Arizona.

Mr. GOSAR. Mr. Chair, I rise today in strong support of H.R. 7567 the Farm, Food, and National Security Act of 2026, and in particular, my amendment No. 15, to ensure Arizona farmers are not left behind.

The Colorado River is the lifeblood of the desert southwest. In my State, it sustains families, small agricultural businesses, and entire rural communities. Yet, today, the lifeline is under growing strain, not just from drought, but from broken commitments.

Under the Mexican Water Treaty of 1944, Mexico is obligated to deliver 1.75 million acre-feet of water to the United States. The deadline passed in October of 2025, and once again, Mexico failed to meet its obligation. Meanwhile, Arizona continues to deliver water in good faith.

That imbalance has real consequences. It means lost crops, lost income, and increased uncertainty for hardworking producers already operating on razor-thin margins.

My amendment is straightforward. It directs the Secretary of Agriculture to provide Congress with a full accounting of the tools and programs available to assist Arizona producers impacted by those losses, just as this base bill already does for Texas.

If we are going to address the consequences of treating noncompliance, we must do it comprehensively and fairly. This is about accountability. It is about preparedness. It is about standing with American farmers when they are forced to shoulder burdens not of their own making.

I urge my colleagues to support this amendment No. 15 and pass the farm bill. I reserve the balance of my time.

Ms. CRAIG. Mr. Speaker, I rise in opposition to this amendment, and I yield myself such time as I may consume.

The Acting CHAIR. The gentlewoman from Minnesota is recognized for 5 minutes.

Ms. CRAIG. Mr. Chairman, the gentleman's amendment would require the Secretary of Agriculture to produce a report on ways to help Arizona, one of seven States in the Colorado River basin, due to a lack of water.

This amendment also seems to imply that because Texas did not receive its water allotment through the 1944 Water Treaty, it is Arizona producers who should receive extra financial assistance.

I have supported many amendments from my Texas colleagues, who have rightly complained that Mexico has not met its obligations under that treaty, but it is Texas producers who suffered as a result. If the gentleman believes that the Colorado River Basin States also experienced some loss, why restrict his amendment only to Arizona?

I oppose the gentleman's amendment, and I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. GOSAR. Mr. Chairman, I yield such time as he may consume to the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. THOMPSON), the chairman of the full committee.

Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania. Mr. Chairman, I thank the gentleman from Arizona, a good friend, Congressman GOSAR, for offering this amendment, and President Trump for a successful negotiation with Mexico regarding their water treaty obligations.

It is important that producers are as well informed as possible of the many programs out there to help the losses due to a lack of water, and this amendment is a great way to do so. I support this amendment, and I urge a ''yes'' vote.

Ms. CRAIG. Mr. Speaker, I urge all Members to oppose this amendment, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. GOSAR. Mr. Chairman, if the gentlewoman would have known, Arizona is the terminal ending out of Mexico of getting—they have to take the cuts. We have taken several cuts, and there are plenty members from the other basin States, but they can actually look at those as well.

This is about the State of Arizona taking terminal ending of that Colorado River, taking cuts. I would ask everybody to vote for my amendment and to vote for the farm bill. I yield back the balance of my time.

The Acting CHAIR. The question is on the amendment offered by the gentleman from Arizona (Mr. GOSAR).

The amendment was agreed to.

□ 0040

AMENDMENT NO. 16 OFFERED BY MR. GOSAR

The Acting CHAIR. It is now in order to consider amendment No. 16 printed in part B of House Report 119–628.

Mr. GOSAR. Mr. Chair, I have an amendment at the desk.

The Acting CHAIR. The Clerk will designate the amendment.

The text of the amendment is as follows:

At the end of title I add the following:

SEC. ___. REVISION OF EVIDENCE STANDARDS FOR LIVESTOCK INDEMNITY PAYMENTS FOR LOSSES BY MEXICAN WOLVES.

Not later than 180 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary shall accept proof of death that does not rely predominately on subcutaneous hemorrhaging when determining livestock depredation losses by Mexican wolves under paragraph (1)(A) of section 1501(b) of the Agricultural Act of 2014 (7 U.S.C. 9081(b)).

The Acting CHAIR. Pursuant to House Resolution 1224, the gentleman from Arizona (Mr. GOSAR) and a Member opposed each will control 5 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Arizona.

Mr. GOSAR. Mr. Chair, I rise today in support of H.R. 7567, the Farm, Food, and National Security Act of 2026, and in strong support of my amendment No. 16 to restore fairness for ranchers in Arizona and across the Southwest.

For years, ranchers have lived with the realities of predation from the Mexican wolf. They have understood the balance between conservation and livelihoods, but what they cannot accept is a Federal standard that makes it nearly impossible to receive compensation when their cattle are killed.

Under current guidance issued by the Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service, ranchers must prove depredation primarily through subcutaneous hemorrhaging, which is blood that forms under the skin. In the harsh desert climate, where heat and scavengers can quickly degrade a carcass, that standard is often unrealistic and unworkable.

Before 2023, Federal policy allowed multiple forms of evidence to confirm depredation. My amendment simply restores that commonsense approach. It ensures that ranchers are not denied reimbursement because of overly narrow and impractical rules.

This is about fairness. It is about recognizing real-world conditions on the ground. It is about standing with men and women who feed this country.

Mr. Chair, I urge my colleagues to support this amendment, No. 16, and pass the farm bill.

Mr. Chair, I reserve the balance of my time.

Ms. CRAIG. Mr. Chair, I rise in opposition to the amendment, and I yield myself such time as I may consume.

The Acting CHAIR. The gentlewoman from Minnesota is recognized for 5 minutes.

Ms. CRAIG. Mr. Chair, this amendment forces USDA to revise the existing APHIS Evidence Standards for livestock depredations by Mexican wolves.

It unwisely directs APHIS to update its standards to ignore traumatic bruising, which is, of course, clear physical evidence that the animal was attacked while alive rather than simply picked at by scavengers after it died for unrelated reasons.

The current standards already have provisions in place for making determinations in instances where there

may be little to no evidence of subcutaneous hemorrhaging.

USDA reimburses producers for 100 percent of the value of animals killed by Mexican gray wolves, but there are just a handful of those wolves left who still call the United States home.

This proposal would open the door for USDA to cover the cost of many more livestock per year than those few wolves could possibly kill.

Virtually any livestock death could be attributed to Mexican wolves because you wouldn't need to observe the primary indicator of a live attack.

I support the assistance we provide to producers who experience losses to wolves, but unfortunately, I cannot support this amendment.

Mr. Chair, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. GOSAR. Mr. Chair, I will address the gentlewoman first.

Obviously, the previous standards were used from 2004 to 2022 by George W. Bush and Obama and at the beginning of Biden's term. If the Democrats disagreed, did they disagree with Obama's agricultural policy, as well?

Mr. Chair, I yield to the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. THOMPSON), the full committee chairman.

Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania. Mr. Chair, I thank the gentleman from Arizona for offering this amendment.

This is an issue I heard about years ago when we started this process of preparing for this farm bill. Actually, it was the president of the Arizona Farm Bureau who brought it to my attention.

These are Mexican wolves that are coming across the border and doing tremendous damage. Ensuring that our livestock producers are able to more accurately receive an indemnification of livestock depredations by Mexican wolves is yet another step to continue to provide producers with the most adequate coverage possible.

Providing new evidence standards within the Livestock Indemnity Program will no doubt help more accurately determine depredations for unfortunate losses.

Mr. Chair, I support this amendment, and I urge a ''yes'' vote.

Ms. CRAIG. Mr. Chair, I urge all Members to oppose this amendment, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. GOSAR. Mr. Chair, once again, I am only asking for fairness because what we see on the ground is that there were other ways of looking at this. They are not asking for handouts. They are just wanting to be treated fairly.

Mr. Chair, I ask for my amendment to be adopted as well as the farm bill, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The Acting CHAIR. The question is on the amendment offered by the gentleman from Arizona (Mr. GOSAR).

The amendment was agreed to.

AMENDMENT NO. 18 OFFERED BY MR. GOSAR

The Acting CHAIR. It is now in order to consider amendment No. 18 printed in part B of House Report 119–628.

Mr. GOSAR. Mr. Chair, I have an amendment at the desk.

The Acting CHAIR. The Clerk will designate the amendment.

The text of the amendment is as follows:

At the end of subtitle F of title VII, add the following:

SEC. _____. LIMITATION ON CERTAIN RESEARCH IN COUNTRIES OF CONCERN.

(a) LIMITATION ON FOREIGN RESEARCH.—The Secretary, acting through the Under Secretary for Research, Education, and Economics, shall prohibit research, education, or extension activities involving vertebrate animals carried out or funded under the jurisdiction of the Research, Education, and Economics mission area from being conducted in, or performed in collaboration with, the People's Republic of China, the Russian Federation or other foreign countries of concern (as defined in section 10638(2) of the CHIPS Act of 2022 (42 3 U.S.C. 19237(2)).

(b) WAIVER AUTHORITY.—The Under Secretary for Research, Education, and Economics (and no other Federal official) may waive the prohibition under subsection (a) on a case-by-case basis if the Under Secretary determines that the research is necessary to protect national security, animal and crop health, or public health, safety, or welfare.

(c) CONGRESSIONAL NOTIFICATION.—Not later than 30 days before granting a waiver under subsection (b), the Under Secretary shall submit to the Committee on Agriculture of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry of the Senate a written notification that includes—

(1) a detailed justification for the waiver, including the specific national security or public health need;

(2) a description of the research to be conducted, including the location, collaborators, and number and species of animals involved;

(3) the projected cost to taxpayers; and

(4) the expected duration of the waiver.

The Acting CHAIR. Pursuant to House Resolution 1224, the gentleman from Arizona (Mr. GOSAR) and a Member opposed each will control 5 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Arizona.

Mr. GOSAR. Mr. Chair, I rise today in support of H.R. 7567, the Farm, Food, and National Security Act of 2026, and in support of my amendment No. 18.

This bipartisan, commonsense amendment puts guardrails on taxpayer dollars by restricting USDA funding for animal research conducted in adversarial nations like China and Russia, countries that pose clear risks to our national security.

In recent years, Americans have seen the consequences of risky, unaccountable research conducted overseas. Despite these lessons, Federal dollars are continuing to flow to foreign labs, including collaborations tied to entities associated with the Wuhan Institute of Virology.

My amendment ensures that does not happen without serious consequences or justification. It prohibits USDA funding for such research unless there is a compelling national security or public and animal health need and requires Congress to be notified in advance.

This is about accountability. It is about safeguarding taxpayer dollars. It is about ensuring American resources are not used in frivolous ways that could undermine our own safety.

Mr. Chairman, I urge my colleagues to support my amendment No. 18 and pass the farm bill.

Mr. Chair, I reserve the balance of my time.

□ 0050

Ms. TOKUDA. Mr. Chair, I rise in opposition to the amendment.

The Acting CHAIR. The gentlewoman from Hawaii is recognized for 5 minutes.

Ms. TOKUDA. Mr. Chairman, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Chairman, though I understand wholeheartedly my colleague's position on this topic, I must oppose this amendment. The United States benefits from broad animal disease monitoring networks that extend worldwide.

Through these scientific connections, our scientists here at home can prepare for and mitigate new and emerging pathogens that would affect livestock here in America.

Global health and safety also depend on shared data, and just because we remove ourselves from collaborative efforts doesn't mean the research stops. We simply remove ourselves from receiving any of the benefits that shared research could yield.

This amendment would also prohibit education activities on animal research in those countries, and I would ask my colleagues: Do we really want to limit education that could prevent the next outbreak of a zoonotic disease, even if the education is in a country of concern? I, for one, am not eager to see another pandemic threaten the United States and understand the devastating risks if we are isolated and alone against these threats.

Mr. Chairman, I humbly oppose this amendment and strongly encourage my colleagues to vote ''no.''

Mr. Chairman, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. GOSAR. Mr. Chair, obviously the gentlewoman is not understanding the amendment.

My amendment ensures that it does not happen without serious justification. Yes, you can share information, but you also have to have the parameters. I am a dentist, so I understand these things. You have to have the parameters and safety aspects, which were not followed in the Wuhan COVID–19 situation.

Mr. Chair, with that, you need the proper protocols and the proper aspects. It still allows for the public financing of doing that, but it has to be justified.

That is what we want: accountability and transparency.

Mr. Chairman, I yield to the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. THOMPSON), the chairman of the full committee.

Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania. Mr. Chairman, I thank the gentleman

from Arizona for bringing forward this amendment. I think it is really important to understand what is and what is not in this amendment.

Preventing USDA from entering into unnecessary research relationships with adversarial nations, such as China and Russia, really is a critical step in ensuring the security of our U.S. research infrastructure. It is even more important when doing so prevents unnecessary research on vertebrate species.

This amendment affirms actions that have already been taken by the administration to prevent this type of work, while still allowing for narrow waiver authority in the case of unavoidable research in the name of national security.

Mr. Chairman, I urge my colleagues to vote in favor of this amendment.

Mr. GOSAR. Mr. Chairman, I reserve the balance of my time.

Ms. TOKUDA. Mr. Chairman, I continue to urge all Members to oppose this amendment. Again, while I understand the perspectives and the points of view of the majority, again, eliminating ourselves from the opportunity to engage in shared research to the benefit of the health and wellness and the lives of all American people, we cannot support this amendment.

Mr. Chairman, I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. GOSAR. Mr. Chairman, once again, affording this type of legislation is about affording COVID or the Wuhan virus or anything else that may come about this, so we have to make sure that we are accountable to the scientific methodology, to the patients, to the public, and to the citizens of this country.

This is about fairness, and it is also about transparency and accountability. I urge all of my colleagues to vote for my amendment, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The Acting CHAIR. The question is on the amendment offered by the gentleman from Arizona (Mr. GOSAR).

The amendment was agreed to.

AMENDMENT NO. 20 OFFERED BY MR. GROTHMAN

The Acting CHAIR. It is now in order to consider amendment No. 20 printed in part B of House Report 119–628.

Mr. GROTHMAN. Mr. Chair, I have an amendment at the desk.

The Acting CHAIR. The Clerk will designate the amendment.

The text of the amendment is as follows:

At the end of subtitle A, of title IV, add the following:

SEC. 4114. FOODS ELIGIBLE FOR PURCHASE WITH SNAP BENEFITS.

Not later than 120 days after the conclusion of the all demonstration projects carried out by the Secretary of Agriculture regarding the statutory definition of food eligible for purchase by recipients of supplemental nutrition assistance program (SNAP) benefits, the Secretary shall submit to the Committee on Agriculture of the House of Representatives, and the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry of the Senate, a report on the feasibility, implementation, and effectiveness of such projects, including recommendations to the Congress for legislative changes to such definition.

The Acting CHAIR. Pursuant to House Resolution 1224, the gentleman from Wisconsin (Mr. GROTHMAN) and a Member opposed each will control 5 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Wisconsin.

Mr. GROTHMAN. Mr. Chairman, my amendment will help to continue to strengthen the recent SNAP reforms by requiring a report on the SNAP-eligible food pilot programs and directing the Department of Agriculture to provide Congress with recommendations on potential updates to the definition of ''eligible foods'' under the program.

SNAP is one of the largest nutrition programs in the country. It is intended to help low-income Americans put food on the table, and it plays an essential role in supporting families in need. At the same time, it is funded by taxpayers, and we have a responsibility to ensure that it is working as intended.

As part of the broader nutrition programs in this bill, Congress has taken steps to strengthen the connection between Federal nutrition programs and improved health outcomes. This is part of the MAHA movement.

This amendment supports that effort by ensuring that we evaluate the results of SNAP pilot programs and make informed, data-driven decisions about the program's future.

We know there is a growing concern about how taxpayer dollars are being used within SNAP, particularly regarding which types of foods are eligible for purchase. It is something I hear about every time I go to the grocery store. Through recent reforms, Congress authorized pilot programs allowing States to test ways to better align SNAP purchases with healthier food options.

This amendment ensures that work continues by requiring USDA to report back to Congress on the feasibility, implementation, and effectiveness of these pilot programs, along with recommendations for any necessary statutory changes. It takes a measured approach: gathering the facts first and allowing Congress to make thoughtful decisions based on real-world results.

Ultimately, this is about improving outcomes for families, providing better nutrition, and ensuring responsible stewardship of taxpayer dollars.

Mr. Chairman, I look forward to it leading to a thinner, healthier America. I urge my colleagues to support my amendment, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Ms. TOKUDA. Mr. Chair, I claim the time in opposition to the amendment, even though I am not opposed to it.

The Acting CHAIR. Without objection, the gentlewoman from Hawaii is recognized for 5 minutes.

There was no objection.

Ms. TOKUDA. Mr. Chair, I support promoting healthier diets and lifestyles for all Americans, but I have serious concerns with any policy that would make life more difficult for Americans who are already struggling to make ends meet. For many, like my constituents, who live in food deserts, we shouldn't make a program that is supposed to provide relief too confusing and too frustrating for anyone to want to participate in or be able to participate in.

It is not that SNAP recipients buy different foods than other Americans. USDA research has shown that SNAP participants purchase foods at rates similar to nonparticipants. Despite this, USDA has now approved 22 different State waivers, each of which have different restrictions on what can be purchased with SNAP through restriction pilot programs.

One restricts soda and candy. One restricts soda and energy drinks. One restricts soda, energy drinks, candy, and prepared desserts. Another one restricts candy, candy-coated items, gum, licorice, mints, fruit leathers, sweetened baking chocolate, fruit or nuts with any sugar or honey added, granola bars—unless they include flour—and some types of popcorn if it has sugar in it like kettle corn, are excluded.

That is just way too confusing for too many people. Better ways to address diet-related chronic disease include investing in fruit and vegetable incentives like GusNIP and nutrition education programs.

Unfortunately, as we know, funding for SNAP-Ed, which benefited many States, including mine, provides grants to State and local organizations in all States and territories to teach people how to stretch their SNAP dollars, cook healthy meals, and lead active lifestyles, was eliminated in the big, ugly bill.

The cherry on top is that these restriction pilots depend on the now-nonexistent SNAP-Ed program to evaluate their effectiveness. The study proposed in this amendment can provide valuable data about the lack of effectiveness of the waivers, though it is certainly not going to be making up for the loss of SNAP-Ed. I cannot emphasize enough that we must seek to restore the funding to this essential program.

Mr. Chairman, I reserve the balance of my time.

The Acting CHAIR. Does the gentleman from Wisconsin ask unanimous consent to reclaim his time?

Mr. GROTHMAN. Yes.

The Acting CHAIR. Without objection, the gentleman is recognized.

There was no objection.

Mr. GROTHMAN. Mr. Chairman, just one follow-up there on that. We talk about making life easier. Life is easier if you don't become diabetic. Life is easier if you are thinner. As a result, the overall effect of this amendment will make life easier for people. You have to remember that a lot of this food that is bought on food stamps is going to wind up on the table of young

children, so we particularly want to look out for them.

Mr. Chairman, I yield to the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. THOMPSON).

Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania. Mr. Chairman, I thank the gentleman for yielding.

I thank the gentleman for bringing forward this amendment. I think it is important for Congress to get more information from USDA and States on the pilot projects that restrict SNAP purchases, as it is this body who ultimately decides what changes, if any, are made permanently at the Federal level.

I have looked warily at USDA offering all of these waivers. Today, 22 States have been approved by USDA to test the ban. I appreciate my colleague from Hawaii really laying out just the confusion and chaos.

I guess we will look at it as the laboratories of innovation to test the ban on the purchase of certain food and beverages with SNAP benefits. I think they missed the mark because the average SNAP beneficiary uses at least three forms of payment and plenty of their own cash or a check or a debit card to satisfy that sweet tooth that I find most families have. That is sad.

So I support the gentleman's amendment because I think we need to have feedback. However, only 10 of those waivers are in effect, with the remainder to be in later this year in 2027, early 2028.

This amendment ensures that, upon completion of the waivers, Congress receives a robust evaluation of the pilots, along with recommendations from the USDA regarding changes to the Federal definition of ''eligible foods'' because, frankly, that is our job under Article I to determine that.

Mr. Chairman, I urge my colleagues to vote in favor of the gentleman's amendment.

Mr. GROTHMAN. Mr. Chairman, I yield back the balance of my time.

Ms. TOKUDA. Mr. Chairman, I have no objection to this amendment, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The Acting CHAIR. The question is on the amendment offered by the gentleman from Wisconsin (Mr. GROTHMAN).

The question was taken; and the Acting Chair announced that the ayes appeared to have it.

Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania. Mr. Chair, I demand a recorded vote.

The Acting CHAIR. Pursuant to clause 6 of rule XVIII, further proceedings on the amendment offered by the gentleman from Wisconsin will be postponed.

AMENDMENT NO. 21 OFFERED BY MS. HAGEMAN

The Acting CHAIR (Mr. SCHMIDT). It is now in order to consider amendment No. 21 printed in part B of House Report 119–628.

Mr. GROTHMAN. Mr. Chairman, as the designee of Ms. HAGEMAN, I rise to speak in support of the amendment.

The Acting CHAIR. The Clerk will designate the amendment.

The text of the amendment is as follows:

At the end of subtitle E of title VIII, add the following:

SEC. 8513. ELIGIBILITY OF NATIONAL GRASSLANDS FOR GRAZING LEASES AND PERMITS.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Section 402(a) of the Federal Land Policy and Management Act of 1976 (43 U.S.C. 1752(a)) is amended by striking ''lands within National Forests in the sixteen contiguous Western States'' and inserting ''National Forest System (as defined in section 11(a) of the Forest and Rangeland Renewable Resources Planning Act of 1974 (16 U.S.C. 1609(a))) land''.

(b) EFFECT.—Nothing in the amendment made by subsection (a) modifies or affects—

(1) the applicability to national grasslands of any provision of the Federal Land Policy and Management Act of 1976 (43 U.S.C. 1701 et seq.) other than section 402 of that Act (43 U.S.C. 1752);

(2) title III of the Bankhead-Jones Farm Tenant Act (7 U.S.C. 1010 et seq.); or

(3) section 11 of the Public Rangelands Improvement Act of 1978 (43 U.S.C. 1907).

The Acting CHAIR. Pursuant to House Resolution 1224, the gentleman from Wisconsin (Mr. GROTHMAN) and a Member opposed each will control 5 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Wisconsin.

□ 0100

Mr. GROTHMAN. Mr. Chair, I rise to offer amendment No. 21 to the farm bill, which would put ranchers with permits to graze on national grasslands in parity with those grazing on other Federal lands.

Section 402 of the Federal Land Policy and Management Act, or FLPMA, authorizes grazing permits for 10 years on national forests and Bureau of Land Management lands with renewal eligibility subject to continued compliance.

Grazing on national grasslands is designated by the Bankhead-Jones Farm Tenant Act and authorized for 10 years but is not protected and recognized as an official use similar to FLPMA.

Ranchers with permits to graze on national grasslands are not guaranteed permit renewals and have experienced unnecessary hurdles with the USDA in obtaining these renewals.

When this topic received a legislative hearing, Ty Checketts, the president of the National Association of National Grasslands, spoke to the challenges these ranchers face. He stated that the exclusion of national grasslands under FLPMA creates two classes of permits with the grasslands having fewer rights. He testified that the lack of assurance leads to real world harms, pointing to the loss of AUMs on multiple grasslands across several States.

U.S. Forest Service testimony also recognized the disparity of policy for livestock grazing permits and leases between national forests and national grasslands.

This amendment is a permanent fix to this issue providing much-needed certainty and security for ranchers, including the right to 10-year permits, first priority for receipt of new permits, and more.

I urge my colleagues to support this amendment, and I reserve the balance of my time.

Ms. TOKUDA. Mr. Chair, I rise in opposition to this amendment.

The Acting CHAIR. The gentlewoman from Hawaii is recognized for 5 minutes.

Ms. TOKUDA. Mr. Chair, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

I rise to oppose this amendment which would extend automatic grazing renewals to the national grasslands, eliminating environmental review, public participation, and Tribal consultation in the management of our public lands.

Our national grasslands are extraordinarily precious ecosystems. Sixty-two percent of similar landscapes have already been lost globally.

As stewards of these public lands, we, therefore, must ensure that they undergo fulsome analysis to prioritize their restoration and long-term conservation.

This amendment would allow grazing permits to be renewed indefinitely when agencies fail to complete the NEPA on time. In a time when the Forest Service has lost more than 15 percent of its staff due to forced retirements and DOGE-ing, this is the wrong approach.

Though I support responsible grazing of our public lands, this amendment would incentivize the Trump administration to keep cutting staff and degrade these landscapes, which are our national heritage. I must oppose this amendment.

Mr. Chair, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. GROTHMAN. Mr. Chair, I yield to the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. THOMPSON).

Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania. Mr. Chair, I thank the gentleman from Wisconsin for offering this amendment.

Access to Federal lands for grazing is extremely important for supporting producers, particularly in the West. While the framework for grazing permits on Federal lands is provided through the Federal Land Policy and Management Act, the law references lands within national forests, rather than the broader National Forest System.

This amendment is intended to ensure permit renewals for grazing on grasslands is similar to and more consistent with such renewals on other forest land. It is an efficiency measure, as well. I support this amendment, and I urge a ''yes'' vote.

Mr. GROTHMAN. Mr. Chairman, I urge all Members to support amendment No. 21 to support grazers on our national grasslands. Mr. Chairman, I yield back the balance of my time.

Ms. TOKUDA. Mr. Chairman, I urge all Members to oppose this amendment, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The Acting CHAIR. The question is on the amendment offered by the gentleman from Wisconsin (Mr. GROTHMAN).

The amendment was agreed to.

AMENDMENT NO. 22 OFFERED BY MR. GROTHMAN

The Acting CHAIR. It is now in order to consider amendment No. 22 printed in part B of House Report 119–628.

Mr. GROTHMAN. Mr. Chair, as the designee of Ms. HAGEMAN, I have an amendment at the desk.

The Acting CHAIR. The Clerk will designate the amendment.

The text of the amendment is as follows:

At the end of part I of subtitle A of title XII, add the following:

SEC. 12010 REPEAL OF FINAL RULE ON USE OF ELECTRONIC IDENTIFICATION EARTAGS AS OFFICIAL IDENTIFICATION IN CATTLE AND BISON.

(a) NULLIFICATION.—The final rule of the Department titled ''Use of Electronic Identification Eartags as Official Identification in Cattle and Bison'' and issued on May 9, 2024 (89 Fed. Reg. 39540) shall have no force or effect.

(b) PROHIBITION.—The Secretary may not take any action to propose, finalize, implement, administer, or enforce any rule substantially similar to the rule described in subsection (a).

The Acting CHAIR. Pursuant to House Resolution 1224, the gentleman from Wisconsin (Mr. GROTHMAN) and a Member opposed each will control 5 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Wisconsin.

Mr. GROTHMAN. Mr. Chair, I rise to offer amendment 22 to the farm bill, which repeals and prohibits future implementation of the electronic identification, or EID, ear tag rule.

In 2013, the Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service, or APHIS, issued the Animal Disease Traceability Rule, which allowed the use of ear tags, brands, and tattoos for livestock identification in interstate commerce.

In November 2024, APHIS amended the ADT rule to mandate EID ear tags for cattle and bison moving interstate, despite overwhelming opposition to such efforts.

Ranchers and producers are opposed for a multitude of reasons. The rule is the product of a flawed rulemaking. APHIS did not conduct a federalism analysis, even though States have identification regulations and laws. It did not conduct an adequate small business analysis, even though APHIS admitted the rule would burden small operators. APHIS intentionally undercounted the cost of the rule, basing it just on the cost of the EID tags and not an entire EID system.

EID is a government mandate on farmers and ranchers, and one which the Animal Health Protection Act does not authorize APHIS to create or enforce.

Because APHIS incorrectly calculated the cost of the rule, it is also an underfunded mandate. Since the demand for EID tags is driven not by actual market demand but by government mandate, ranchers are facing tag shortages, harming their ability to comply with the rule.

If the government cannot provide tags to the regulated community, then this mandate is cost prohibitive for producers, which jeopardizes their future operations and risks additional vertical integration in the increasingly consolidated food supply chain.

This government mandate also raises privacy concerns for ranchers and their herds based on information collected through the EID system, concerns which APHIS never adequately addressed in the rule.

The rule's application to bison also disadvantages Tribal bison ranchers who manage bison as wildlife, not as livestock.

Because of all of these issues, it is nearly 2 years later and ranchers are still facing EID tag shortages. The cost of EID tags on the private market increased because of its fallout—all this harm for a regulation that is not needed as the U.S. already had a well-functioning animal disease traceability system. APHIS even conceded in the rulemaking that foreign animal disease had largely been excluded from the country.

Ranchers and farmers should be allowed to adopt the best practices for their business and herds voluntarily when it makes sense for them, not at the behest of a Federal agency.

Mr. Chairman, I urge my colleagues to support this amendment, and I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania. Mr. Chairman, I rise in opposition to this amendment.

The Acting CHAIR. The gentleman is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania. Mr. Chairman, animal disease traceability is an extremely important aspect of protecting our domestic livestock herds and our foreign trade markets.

We have already seen the importance of animal disease traceability and EID tags with dairy cattle due to the ongoing outbreak of the highly pathogenic avian influenza.

USDA helps producers comply with this rule by providing the tags at no cost to producers, and the rule this amendment seeks to repeal has been in effect for more than 18 months already with no negative consequences.

Producers recognize that animal disease traceability is an essential component of protecting livestock during an animal disease outbreak.

We cannot allow ourselves to be in a position where efforts to improve animal disease traceability are hampered. For this reason I must respectfully oppose the gentlewoman from Wyoming's amendment offered by my good friend from Wisconsin, and I urge my colleagues to do the same.

Mr. Chair, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. GROTHMAN. Mr. Chair, I urge all my colleagues to support amendment No. 22 and finally end the EID ear tag mandate on America's ranchers.

Mr. Chair, I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania. Mr. Chair, I yield to the gentlewoman from Hawaii (Ms. TOKUDA), the ranking member of the Conservation, Research, and Biotechnology Subcommittee.

Ms. TOKUDA. Mr. Chair, I rise in opposition to this amendment, which would send us backwards when it comes to animal disease tracing and herd management.

Electronic ear tags for cattle and bison reduce human error and empower veterinarians and animal health experts from APHIS to traffic potential outbreaks.

The American Veterinary Medical Association has prioritized the implementation of unique identification of animals and premises, which is essential for tracing origin and destination of all livestock, and in particular, food-producing animals in order to protect the Nation's livestock industry and public health.

□ 0110

That is why the electronic ear tag proposal was supported by the National Milk Producers Federation, the National Cattlemen's Beef Association, and the American Veterinary Medicine Association.

The USDA has provided free tags to producers to combat any economic burden while enabling the fastest possible response to animal disease.

At a time when highly pathogenic avian influenza has been proven to affect additional species and the New World screwworm is again threatening American cattle herds, we should not take tools out of the USDA's toolbox to prevent the spread of disease.

I strongly urge my colleagues to oppose this measure, Mr. Chair, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania. Mr. Chair, I couldn't agree with the gentlewoman more. We have seen significant examples of how important these EID tags have been in tracking the highly pathogenic avian influenza as it has gotten into our dairy cows in different parts of the country.

She referenced the New World screwworm. That is a huge threat to the United States. Thankfully, so far we have successfully avoided that with the building of the different production facilities for sterile flies, which is really the proven solution or remedy to that.

Being able to track the cattle—once again, we cannot hamper our ability to improve animal disease traceability.

With the greatest respect to the gentlewoman who was the author of this amendment, I encourage all Members to oppose it, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The Acting CHAIR. The question is on the amendment offered by the gentleman from Wisconsin (Mr. GROTHMAN).

The question was taken; and the Acting Chair announced that the noes appeared to have it.

Mr. GROTHMAN. Mr. Chair, I demand a recorded vote.

The Acting CHAIR. Pursuant to clause 6 of rule XVIII, further proceedings on the amendment offered by the gentleman from Wisconsin will be postponed.

AMENDMENT NO. 24 OFFERED BY MS. CRAIG

The Acting CHAIR. It is now in order to consider amendment No. 24 printed in part B of House Report 119–628.

Ms. CRAIG. Mr. Chair, as the designee of Ms. HOULAHAN, I have an amendment at the desk.

The Acting CHAIR. The Clerk will designate the amendment.

The text of the amendment is as follows:

Page 645, line 18, strike ''and''.

Page 645, after line 18, insert the following:

(3) in subsection (d)(2)(A), by striking ''$250,000,000'' and inserting ''$400,000,000''; and

Page 645, line 19, strike ''(3)'' and insert ''(4)''.

The Acting CHAIR. Pursuant to House Resolution 1224, the gentlewoman from Minnesota (Ms. CRAIG) and a Member opposed each will control 5 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from Minnesota.

Ms. CRAIG. Mr. Chair, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Chair, rise in support of this amendment. The Biorefinery, Renewable Chemical, and Biobased Product Assistance Program is a popular and successful program at USDA to support new and emerging technologies for biobased products. This means innovation here at home, and it means opening up new markets to our farmers.

I thank my colleague for bringing this amendment forward to provide higher loan guarantees for this program to support a wider variety of projects.

Mr. Chair, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania. Mr. Chair, I claim the time in opposition to the amendment, even though I am not opposed to it.

The Acting CHAIR. Without objection, the gentleman from Pennsylvania is recognized for 5 minutes.

There was no objection.

Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania. Mr. Chair, I thank the gentlewoman from the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania for her amendment and for the ranking member representing her this evening.

This amendment would increase the loan guarantee cap for the Biorefinery, Renewable Chemical, and Biobased Product Manufacturing Assistance Program to $400 million. This mandatory funded program, last funded in 2020, has a large unobligated balance, and raising the loan caps will ensure needed projects get funded.

Bipartisan amendments like these continue to improve the bipartisan Farm, Food, and National Security Act of 2026.

Mr. Chair, I yield back the balance of my time.

Ms. CRAIG. Mr. Chair, I urge all Members to support the amendment, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The Acting CHAIR. The question is on the amendment offered by the gentlewoman from Minnesota (Ms. CRAIG).

The amendment was agreed to.

AMENDMENT NO. 26 OFFERED BY MR. LATTA

The Acting CHAIR. It is now in order to consider amendment No. 26 printed in part B of House Report 119–628.

Mr. LATTA. Mr. Chair, I have an amendment at the desk.

The Acting CHAIR. The Clerk will designate the amendment.

The text of the amendment is as follows:

At the end of subtitle D of title XII, add the following:

SEC. ___. PRECISION AGRICULTURE SATELLITE CONNECTIVITY.

(a) REVIEW.—The Commission shall—

(1) review the rules of the Commission relating to fixed satellite service, mobile satellite service, and earth exploration satellite service to determine if there are rule changes that the Commission could implement under existing authority to promote precision agriculture; and

(2) if the Commission determines under paragraph (1) that there are rule changes that the Commission could implement, develop recommendations for how to implement the changes.

(b) REPORT.—Not later than 15 months after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Commission shall submit to the Committee on Energy and Commerce of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation of the Senate a report on the results of the review conducted under subsection (a), including any recommendations developed under paragraph (2) of such subsection.

(c) COMMISSION DEFINED.—In this section, the term ''Commission'' means the Federal Communications Commission.

The Acting CHAIR. Pursuant to House Resolution 1224, the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. LATTA) and a Member opposed each will control 5 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Ohio.

Mr. LATTA. Mr. Chair, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Chair, I rise in support of my amendment, which I am pleased to lead with the gentlewoman from Illinois' Second Congressional District.

For years, large parts of my district and rural areas across America have lacked access to fast broadband connections. Reliable internet access is more than just being able to stream your favorite TV shows and movies. It is the crucial link that connects us all.

Our people, Nation, and economy run on reliable internet connections. Agriculture producers in Ohio and across America also know that reliable broadband connections are essential to their operations. After all, it helps deploy technologies that increase their productivity, produce higher yields, and minimize operating costs.

Today's smart agriculture technology, from autonomous tractors to distributed soil sensors, rely on internet connections to share data.

In fact, our ag producers use information in real time to make smarter decisions on how to optimize inputs and whether and when to plant or harvest. When terrestrial or cellular networks are not available, satellite broadband steps in to make these technologies work.

However, it is not just advanced satellite broadband capabilities that improve precision agriculture. Earth-imaging satellites also provide important information that helps farmers and ranchers identify visual trends that may require immediate attention.

In order to ensure our regulations maximize those opportunities, our amendment would require the FCC to review its current satellite rules to determine if rural changes can be made to promote precision agriculture.

I am committed to ensuring our agricultural producers have the tools at their disposal to help them to increase productivity while minimizing costs. This amendment is an excellent step forward in that mission.

Mr. Chair, I reserve the balance of my time.

Ms. PINGREE. Mr. Chair, I claim the time in opposition to the amendment, even though I am not opposed to it.

The Acting CHAIR. Without objection, the gentlewoman from Maine is recognized for 5 minutes.

There was no objection.

Ms. PINGREE. Mr. Chair, I thank my colleague for bringing up this amendment. The bill this amendment is based on has already passed the House by voice vote and now sits idly in the Senate.

I am glad my colleagues are paying attention to this issue and are supportive of promoting precision agriculture for our farmers.

Mr. Chair, I urge all Members to support this amendment, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. LATTA. Mr. Chair, I urge my colleagues to support this amendment and the overall bill, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The Acting CHAIR. The question is on the amendment offered by the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. LATTA).

The amendment was agreed to.

The Acting CHAIR. It is now in order to consider Amendment No. 27 printed in part B of House Report 119–628.

AMENDMENT NO. 28 OFFERED BY MRS. LUNA

The Acting CHAIR. It is now in order to consider amendment No. 28 printed in part B of House Report 119–628.

Mrs. LUNA. Mr. Chair, I have an amendment at the desk.

The Acting CHAIR. The Clerk will designate the amendment.

The text of the amendment is as follows:

Strike section 10205 (relating to uniformity of pesticide labeling).

Strike section 10206 (relating to authority of States).

Strike section 10207 (relating to lawful use of authorized pesticides).

The Acting CHAIR. Pursuant to House Resolution 1224, the gentlewoman from Florida (Mrs. LUNA) and a Member opposed each will control 5 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from Florida.

Mrs. LUNA. Mr. Chair, I rise to support this amendment. As you know, I never thought I would have to be debating liability protections for pesticide companies, yet here I am today.

I would like to share some statistics with you. A major study found that pesticide mixtures increased childhood leukemia by 23 percent, brain cancer by 36 percent, and overall childhood cancer by 30 percent.

□ 0120

We find that a majority of Americans, specifically that do rely on SNAP and EBT, are being fed massively processed foods that are increasing their cancer risk, not to mention, as a whole, I think this is something that we should all get behind. We do not want to ever provide or be on the side of cancer-causing anything.

Research shows that maternal exposures to pesticides at home and work are linked to a higher risk of leukemia in children. These chemicals are known to cross the placenta and impact fetal development.

In addition to that, a review of over 174 studies, from 2013 to 2023, found constant and consistent links between pesticide exposures and leukemia, brain cancers, and rare childhood cancers.

Off the record, I had a conversation in the Cloakroom with a young Member of Congress who was just elected in Georgia who said he suffered from thyroid cancer, and he thought it was due to an environmental factor.

The point is that this should not be partisan. It is about the American people and protecting them.

Now, I understand that this place can get pretty heated sometimes, but I was also called a damn liar for defending my position, which is far from the truth. The fact is that I am not getting paid special interest money. I am trying to fight for my district and, I think, for the well-being of a majority of Americans. The fact is that there is far too much special interest money going into policies like these. While people claim that they are not in opposition, if you pull FEC reporting, of which we have screenshots of all of that, it says quite otherwise.

I yield such time as she may consume to the gentlewoman from Maine (Ms. PINGREE).

Ms. PINGREE. Mr. Chairman, I thank the gentlewoman for both supporting this amendment, which I also supported, and speaking in favor of it.

Pesticide preemption has received an extraordinary amount of attention in the past year, as is appropriate when the Federal Government considers overriding States' rights.

Litigation on this topic was discussed at the Supreme Court on Monday. A dominant pesticide manufacturer just announced a possible settlement of $7.25 billion. President Trump has invoked national security powers to mandate the production of glyphosate.

There is opposition to Federal preemption of State liability laws on both sides of the aisle. Yet, the Republican majority insisted at every turn on including these provisions in what should be a bipartisan farm bill that delivers for farmers and families.

This amendment is not extreme. It would not ban pesticides or require any additional regulatory burden on the manufacturers. Quite literally, it would preserve the status quo and allow the Supreme Court to examine this issue separately and the complicated legal issues at its core.

The question of Federal preemption also sits next to a truly poisonous provision that would waive all other laws for registered pesticides, including the Clean Water Act and Clean Air Act.

Registration under EPA's pesticide process provides instructions for use but does not include any requirements to guard against contamination of our air and water supply.

Let's be clear: The Clean Water Act already includes a broad exemption for agricultural stormwater runoff because Congress knew that some amount of pesticide runoff was inevitable.

However, the EPA is obligated to separately permit intentional uses of pesticides that enter our waterways, as the Sixth Circuit decided in 2009.

It is astonishing to me that my Republican colleagues wrote this bill to abolish that protection for rural communities' water supplies.

I want to acknowledge the bipartisan effort by Members in Congress and invested citizens on the outside whose relentless efforts are why this amendment was even allowed to be debated today.

Mr. Chairman, I thank Representative LUNA for her tireless efforts on this front, and I hope my colleagues will heed her example and vote for this amendment. I urge all Members to support this.

Mr. AUSTIN SCOTT of Georgia. Mr. Chair, I claim the time in opposition to the amendment.

The Acting CHAIR. The gentleman is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. AUSTIN SCOTT of Georgia. Mr. Chair, as we listen to this debate, and no doubt as text messages and other things have been sent out about this piece of legislation, what I want the MAHA movement to know is that this has nothing to do with the actual pesticide in the jug—absolutely nothing. This is uniformity of pesticide labeling requirements.

There are people out there who want to raise the costs on farmers by requiring that Florida would have one set of labels and Georgia would have another. We are simply saying that when the EPA says this is the appropriate label and the proper label to put the warnings on the chemical, that is going to be uniform throughout the States.

Others want to go so far as to allow every individual city or municipality to come up with their own labeling requirement. This is simply not feasible from the standpoint of the companies in actually getting a product to the consumer, like I just bought to kill the fire ants in my yard.

By the way, the States, even with our amendment, maintain the ability to restrict the chemical from being used in their State.

Again, Mr. Chair, I just want the people to know—especially the MAHA people who have been texting and calling—about the misrepresentation of this amendment. It has absolutely nothing to do with the pesticide in the jug. It is uniformity of pesticide labeling that they are trying to take away with this amendment.

I represent Georgia. We are close to the Florida line. If the EPA says the label is good, I don't see why every State and municipality should have to have another label that would simply raise the price for the American consumer. Again, we are not talking about the pesticide in the jug, as has been misrepresented to American citizens and especially to the MAHA movement. We are talking about just the label on the jug. There is no liability shield for the pesticide in the jug.

Mr. Chairman, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mrs. LUNA. Mr. Chairman, may I inquire how much time is remaining.

The Acting CHAIR. The gentlewoman has 30 seconds.

Mrs. LUNA. Mr. Chairman, I would like to clarify that section 10205 blocks States and local governments from requiring any warnings beyond what the EPA provides. As far as I am concerned, if someone is trying to give something to my kid that causes cancer, I would hope to heck that Congress would block that.

Mr. Chairman, I will end by saying that I take zero money from pesticide liability and manufacturers, and my colleague takes $124,000 from them. I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. AUSTIN SCOTT of Georgia. Mr. Chairman, again, this is uniformity of pesticide labeling. It has nothing to do with the actual chemical or the pesticide in the jug.

Mr. Chairman, I yield the remainder of my time to the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. THOMPSON), the chairman of the committee.

Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania. Mr. Chairman, may I inquire how much time is remaining.

The Acting CHAIR. The gentleman has 2¼ minutes remaining.

Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania. Mr. Chairman, I find it sad that we enter into cheap shots regarding organizations that, when they see something that you are working hard on behalf of the American farmer, and they want to make a legal, ethical donation, they can do that. That tells me that

the arguments on the other side are pretty shallow, and they are emotional. They are not science-based.

The sections that this amendment seeks to strike deliver commonsense regulatory reforms that are critical for securing access to well-regulated pesticide tools for a variety of crop production and public health needs.

The language also reflects thoughtful changes to address stakeholder concerns, such as making sure it is crystal clear that the EPA can still respond quickly to new scientific findings and that existing State authorities are maintained.

The bill in front of us today reaffirms existing statutes that the EPA is the authoritative voice for making safety findings related to pesticides communicated through legal, binding labels while retaining States' authority for the sale, use, and distribution of crop protections.

I don't know if Maine and Florida have toxicologists on staff. I would tell you that I am absolutely confident that less than half of the States have the qualified individuals in order to put forward labeling.

The gentleman from Georgia is right. This is about a labeling bill and making sure that we are—and, by the way, the States can weigh in with the EPA. They just have to go through the EPA if they have special circumstances for labeling.

The bill in front of us today reaffirms existing statute that the EPA—this includes States' ability to not register a product at all within the jurisdiction. Regulatory certainty in making sure that there is a clear science-based regulatory system that is rooted in scientific review from the EPA, not courtroom science that overrides Federal findings, is what producers need.

Frankly, it is disappointing that this body has to revisit and clarify existing statutes to reaffirm the State labeling laws, such as California Proposition 65, which has already been found to be in violation of the Constitution when applied to products containing glyphosate, which are not allowed under the existing law because trial lawyers have scrambled to find every possible loophole in Federal law.

□ 0130

Additionally, this package also provides States who have a formal relationship with the EPA as co-regulators on pesticide products with clarity that they are able to submit.

Mr. Chair, I encourage the defeat of this amendment, and I thank the gentleman from Georgia for managing it.

The Acting CHAIR. The question is on the amendment offered by the gentlewoman from Florida (Mrs. LUNA).

The question was taken; and the Acting Chair announced that the noes appeared to have it.

Mrs. LUNA. Mr. Chair, I demand a recorded vote.

The Acting CHAIR. Pursuant to clause 6 of rule XVIII, further proceedings on the amendment offered by the gentlewoman from Florida will be postponed.

AMENDMENT NO. 29 OFFERED BY MS. MACE

The Acting CHAIR. It is now in order to consider amendment No. 29 printed in part B of House Report 119–628.

Ms. MACE. Mr. Chair, I have an amendment at the desk.

The Acting CHAIR. The Clerk will designate the amendment.

The text of the amendment is as follows:

Add at the end of subtitle D of title XII the following new section:

SEC. 12___. ESTABLISHMENT OF OFFICE OF SEAFOOD IN THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Subtitle A of the Department of Agriculture Reorganization Act of 1994 (7 U.S.C. 6912 et seq.) is amended by adding at the end the following:

''SEC. 224B. OFFICE OF SEAFOOD.

''(a) ESTABLISHMENT.—The Secretary shall establish for the Department an Office of Seafood to provide leadership, expertise, management, and advice to the Secretary of Agriculture on matters impacting the seafood industry.

''(b) DUTIES.—The Office of Seafood shall be additionally responsible for—

''(1) coordinating across the Department to ensure fishermen are integrated into Department programs; and

''(2) working alongside appropriate counterparts of the Department of Commerce and other Federal departments and agencies to revitalize the American seafood industry.''.

(b) TECHNICAL CORRECTION.—Subtitle A of the Department of Agriculture Reorganization Act of 1994 (7 U.S.C. 6912 et seq.), as amended by subsection (a), is further amended by redesignating section 225 (relating to the Food Access Liaison) as section 224A.

The Acting CHAIR. Pursuant to House Resolution 1224, the gentlewoman from South Carolina (Ms. MACE) and a Member opposed each will control 5 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from South Carolina.

Ms. MACE. Mr. Chair, if you visit South Carolina's Lowcountry, you will understand commercial shrimping and fishing are not just the backbone of our coastal communities but a part of our heritage and our way of life. You will find shrimp festivals, oyster roasts, and Lowcountry boils nearly every weekend during the season.

In communities across South Carolina's First Congressional District from McClellanville to Mount Pleasant to Beaufort to Bluffton to Hilton Head and Hilton Head Island, Mr. Chair, you will see thousands show up to bless the fleet of shrimp boats when they head out to begin their season.

Across the State of South Carolina, Mr. Chair, you will see communities, neighbors, and families come together around locally caught seafood and see people come from thousands of miles away just to taste it.

However, Mr. Chair, talk to any shrimper or fisherman in this country, and you will know that the commercial fishing and shrimping industries are struggling. For too long, the USDA has ignored our shrimpers and our fishermen, the farmers of the sea, who put nutritious, fresh seafood on our tables at dinner.

President Trump understands food security is national security, and he has recognized the importance of revitalizing our domestic seafood industry. Last April he issued an executive order titled Restoring American Seafood Competitiveness.

Last fall, we saw the USDA establish a new seafood liaison in the Secretary's office to ensure the voices of our seafood harvesters are heard.

Just a few weeks ago, Secretary Rollins announced the creation of the first-ever Office of Seafood within the Department of Agriculture. This gives our shrimpers and our fishermen a seat at the table.

Our amendment would codify the newly established Office of Seafood at the USDA, ensuring our commercial shrimpers and fishermen as well as our fish processors, are integrated into USDA programs.

The Office of Seafood would also be responsible for working alongside the Department of Commerce, the U.S. Trade Representative, NOAA, and other Federal agencies and departments to revitalize the American seafood industry.

The hardworking South Carolinians who work our waters and put fresh, local seafood on our plates deserve this. This amendment would deliver it.

I will always stand with South Carolina's shrimpers and fishermen, and I urge all Members to support our domestic seafood industry by voting in favor of this amendment.

Mr. Chair, I reserve the balance of my time.

Ms. PINGREE. Mr. Chair, I claim the time in opposition, even though I am not opposed to the amendment.

The Acting CHAIR. Without objection, the gentlewoman from Maine is recognized for 5 minutes.

There was no objection.

Ms. PINGREE. Mr. Chair, I thank the gentlewoman from South Carolina for introducing this amendment and wholeheartedly support it. An Office of Seafood will be an important resource for coordination across the aquaculture sector.

I am fortunate enough to represent the State of Maine, so fishermen are an important part of our economy, our culture, and the communities that we all live in. I am lucky enough to live in the heart of lobster harvesting territory, so I know firsthand how important the fisheries are to our State and to everybody who hopefully will come to visit our State and enjoy our delicious seafood.

I have been listening to Representative THOMPSON throughout the night talk about how he did a lot of listening tours and traveled around the country, and I was very privileged to have him come and visit in the State of Maine. While he was there we made sure, even though it was an agriculture listening tour—because the office of aquaculture

is an important part of the USDA—that he got to visit an oyster farmer, that he ate some of our delicious seafood, that included scallops, oysters, maybe a little bit of lobster, and I think even a bit of seaweed he managed to choke down, and we were appreciative of him trying all of the many seafood in our State.

I have always been surprised, as a member of the Agriculture Committee and getting to know the USDA, knowing that aquaculture resides there, there are fishery issues that come up there, and fishermen often don't get the same opportunity to utilize the resources as farmers do.

We all in this country understand the important role that farmers play in producing American food, and we appreciate them so much, but sometimes we forget that fishermen need to have access to many of the same resources. Fish is an important part of our diet. We should eat more of it, and we should certainly eat more domestically produced and harvested seafood.

I think this office will go a long way to provide our fishermen with a central source of outreach and information that focuses on the seafood industry.

This amendment codifying the office will give the security needed to create working relationships within the USDA and across the seafood sector. I have heard from many people in the seafood industry and the fishermen ever since this was originally announced by the USDA and Secretary Rollins, encouraging me to support this, to do anything I could to make sure that this was a stable entity within the USDA. So I appreciate the opportunity to speak on this amendment and talk about the importance of making sure it is permanent and our fishermen continue to have this access.

Mr. Chair, I support this amendment to create this additional office, and I reserve the balance of my time.

Ms. MACE. Mr. Chair, I yield such time as he may consume to the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. THOMPSON).

Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania. Mr. Chair, I thank the chairwoman for yielding. I thank my good friend from Maine who has the best tasting kelp I have ever had. It was delicious along with everything else.

I was happy to see USDA established a new Office of Seafood this month to better support and serve our seafood industry, helping to enable the administration's America first seafood strategy.

American seafood is a vital part of the U.S. food supply. I think it is a vital part of American agriculture. Codifying this office will ensure that this support continues for years to come by providing dedicated resources, time, and coordination for the industry.

Mr. Chair, I urge my colleagues to vote ''yes'' on the amendment.

Ms. MACE. Mr. Chair, I yield back the balance of my time.

Ms. PINGREE. Mr. Speaker, I urge all Members to support this amendment, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The Acting CHAIR. The question is on the amendment offered by the gentlewoman from South Carolina (Ms. MACE).

The amendment was agreed to.

AMENDMENT NO. 30 OFFERED BY MS. MACE

The Acting CHAIR. It is now in order to consider amendment No. 30 printed in part B of House Report 119–628.

Ms. MACE. Mr. Chair, I have an amendment at the desk.

The Acting CHAIR. The Clerk will designate the amendment.

The text of the amendment is as follows:

At the end of title XII, add the following:

SEC. _____. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE LOANS AND GRANTS FOR COMMERCIAL FISHING AND FISH PROCESSING BUSINESSES.

(a) DEFINITIONS OF FARMER AND FARMING.—Section 343(a) of the Consolidated Farm and Rural Development Act (7 U.S.C. 1991(a)) is amended—

(1) in paragraph (1), by striking ''farming.'' and inserting ''farming, commercial fishing, or fish processing.'';

(2) in paragraph (2), by striking ''farming.'' and inserting ''farming, commercial fishing, and fish processing.''; and

(3) by adding at the end the following:

''(14) COMMERCIAL FISHING.—The term 'commercial fishing' means fishing (as defined in section 3 of the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act (16 U.S.C. 1802)) in which the fish harvested, either in whole or in part, are intended to enter commerce or enter commerce through sale, barter, or trade.

''(15) COMMERCIAL FISHING VESSEL.—The term 'commercial fishing vessel' means a fishing vessel and a fish processing vessel (as those terms are defined in section 2101 of title 46, United States Code).

''(16) FISH.—The term 'fish' has the meaning given the term in section 2101 of title 46, United States Code.

''(17) FISH PROCESSING.—The term 'fish processing' means the processing of fish for commercial use or consumption.

''(18) FISH PROCESSING FACILITY.—The term 'fish processing facility' means a facility or vessel, boat, ship, or other craft used or equipped for fish processing.''.

(b) FARM OWNERSHIP LOANS.—

(1) ELIGIBILITY.—Section 302(a) of such Act (7 U.S.C. 1922(a)) is amended by adding at the end the following:

''(3) ELIGIBILITY OF WILD-CAUGHT FISH AND SHELLFISH.—Notwithstanding any other provision of this Act, for purposes of direct and guaranteed farm loans under this subtitle—

''(A) the terms 'farmer' and 'rancher' shall include an individual or entity engaged in commercial fishing or fish processing; and

''(B) the terms 'farm' and 'ranch' shall include—

''(i) a commercial fishing vessel; and

''(ii) a fish processing facility.''.

(2) PURPOSES.—Section 303(a) of such Act (7 U.S.C. 1923(a)) is amended by adding at the end the following:

''(3) COMMERCIAL FISHERY PARTICIPANTS; FISH PROCESSORS.—

''(A) COMMERCIAL FISHERY PARTICIPANTS.—An individual or entity engaged in commercial fishing may only use a direct or guaranteed loan under this subtitle for—

''(i) acquiring a commercial fishing permit;

''(ii) acquiring a commercial fishing vessel; and

''(iii) making capital improvements to a commercial fishing vessel.

''(B) FISH PROCESSORS.—An individual or entity engaged in fish processing may use a direct or guaranteed loan under this subtitle for acquiring or making capital improvements to a fish processing facility.''.

(c) FARM OPERATING LOANS.—

(1) ELIGIBILITY.—Section 311(a) of such Act (7 U.S.C. 1941(a)) is amended by adding at the end the following:

''(3) ELIGIBILITY OF WILD-CAUGHT FISH AND SHELLFISH.—Notwithstanding any other provision of this Act, for purposes of direct and guaranteed farm loans under this subtitle—

''(A) the terms 'farmer' and 'rancher' shall include an individual or entity engaged in commercial fishing or fish processing; and

''(B) the terms 'farm' and 'ranch' shall include—

''(i) a commercial fishing vessel; and

''(ii) a fish processing facility.''.

(2) PURPOSES.—Section 312 of such Act (7 U.S.C. 1942) is amended by adding at the end the following:

''(f) COMMERCIAL FISHERY PARTICIPANTS; FISH PROCESSORS.—

''(1) COMMERCIAL FISHERY PARTICIPANTS.—An individual or entity engaged in commercial fishing may only use a direct or guaranteed loan under this subtitle for the costs associated with operating and maintaining a commercial fishing vessel.

''(2) FISH PROCESSORS.—An individual or entity engaged in fish processing may use a direct or guaranteed loan under this subtitle for the costs associated with operating and maintaining a fish processing facility.''.

(d) IMPLEMENTATION AND COORDINATION.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 1 year after the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary shall take such actions as are necessary to ensure the successful and effective integration of individuals and entities in the commercial fishing industry, including those engaged in commercial fishing or fish processing (as those terms are defined in section 343(a) of the Consolidated Farm and Rural Development Act (7 U.S.C. 1991(a))), into each program of the Department of Agriculture for which those individuals and entities are made eligible under the amendments made by this section.

(2) TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE AND GUIDANCE.—In carrying out paragraph (1), the Secretary shall—

(A) provide outreach and technical assistance to participants in the commercial fishing industry, including through cooperative agreements and public-private and other partnerships, to promote awareness of and access to relevant programs;

(B) provide guidance and training to relevant agency personnel of the Department, including through cooperative agreements and public-private and other partnerships, to ensure program services are effectively delivered to the commercial fishing industry; and

(C) coordinate, as appropriate, with the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration and other relevant Federal and State agencies to implement the amendments made by this section.

The Acting CHAIR. Pursuant to House Resolution 1224, the gentlewoman from South Carolina (Ms. MACE) and a Member opposed each will control 5 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from South Carolina.

Ms. MACE. Mr. Chairman, an onslaught of substandard foreign seafood,

often subsidized by foreign governments or international financial institutions, is being dumped into our markets, devastating our domestic seafood industry.

For example, after hearing testimony of some of my constituents, the U.S. International Trade Commission has determined that Ecuador, India, Indonesia, and Vietnam were illegally subsidizing and dumping shrimp, imposing antidumping and countervailing duties.

This foreign seafood is often caught through illegal, unreported, and unregulated fishing and employs brutal working conditions, including the use of child or forced labor. These foreign actors also don't abide by the same stringent food safety standards we have in our country, using banned antibiotics and other chemicals in their seafood.

Just last year, there was a recall of foreign shrimp from Indonesia which was contaminated with cesium-137. The foreign shrimp was literally radioactive. Mr. Chair, imagine all the contaminated foreign seafood that slips into our food supply undetected.

This has all combined to push down dock prices for our domestic shrimpers and fishermen. In some parts of the country, dock prices for shrimp fell to around $1 per pound in recent years.

This coupled with the inflation we experienced under the previous administration and elevated fuel costs is causing the perfect storm.

Facing anticompetitive foreign practices, falling dock prices, and economic headwinds, fishermen and shrimpers are struggling not just to earn a living but to even make it to the next season.

To illustrate the scope and scale of this problem, total value of U.S. commercial seafood landings has fallen 25 percent from 2021 to 2024. Landings by weight have fallen to their lowest levels since 1988. At the same time, our food supply has become increasingly dependent on foreign seafood. Today, foreign imports account for approximately 94 percent of total seafood consumption in America.

This is exactly why I am offering this amendment today. Our shrimpers and fishermen put food on the table, they are the farmers of sea, and it is past time we started treating them like it.

□ 0140

The USDA has a variety of programs to provide assistance to farmers and ranchers, and it is time we allowed our commercial fishermen to take part in them.

This amendment would amend the Consolidated Farm and Rural Development Act to include commercial fishing and fish processing as eligible agricultural activities for USDA programs, unlocking access to many grant, loan, and assistance programs for shrimpers and fishermen.

This amendment would also ensure commercial fishermen and fish processors have access to USDA Farm Ownership Loans and Farm Operating Loans.

Best of all, according to the Congressional Budget Office, this amendment is budget neutral.

This is a commonsense way to support the shrimpers and fishermen who feed our families and make South Carolina's Lowcountry, and so many places across our Nation's coasts, very special.

I thank Representative CARBAJAL for partnering with me on this amendment. I urge all Members to support this amendment, and I reserve the balance of my time.

Ms. CRAIG. Mr. Speaker, I rise in opposition to this amendment.

The Acting CHAIR. The gentlewoman from Minnesota is recognized for 5 minutes.

Ms. CRAIG. Mr. Chairman, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Chair, USDA loan programs have helped thousands of farmers and ranchers access the capital they need to feed people throughout the Nation and beyond.

Opening up these critical loan programs to the vague and broadly defined ''fish processing businesses'' in this amendment could lead to unintended consequences.

By their definition, a food manufacturer that processes fish, fish sticks, and 100 other nonseafood products would qualify for a USDA direct Farm Operating Loan, even if they are thousands of miles from the nearest seafood source.

I encourage the sponsors of this amendment to seek technical assistance to close these giant loopholes, and I urge my colleagues to vote ''no'' on this flawed amendment. I reserve the balance of my time.

Ms. MACE. Mr. Chair, I yield such time as he may consume to the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. THOMPSON).

Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania. Mr. Chairman, for many of our Nation's coastal areas, fishermen represent not just a way to make a living, but they are the embodiment of the community's culture.

Although commercial fishermen catch 8.4 billion pounds of seafood each year, they do not qualify for the same access to credit as many of our Nation's other food producers due to their unique business structure.

Adopting this amendment is one of the many actions that we can take to expand access to credit for these vital businesses that serve as a lifeblood of their coastal communities, and our ag lenders are already uniquely suited to provide this capital.

That being said, I strongly encourage my colleagues to vote in favor of this amendment.

Ms. MACE. Mr. Chair, I yield back the balance of my time.

Ms. CRAIG. Mr. Chair, I urge all Members to oppose the amendment, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The Acting CHAIR. The question is on the amendment offered by the gentlewoman from South Carolina (Ms. MACE).

The amendment was agreed to.

AMENDMENT NO. 31 OFFERED BY MS. MACE

The Acting CHAIR. It is now in order to consider amendment No. 31 printed in part B of House Report 119–628.

Ms. MACE. Mr. Chair, I have an amendment at the desk.

The Acting CHAIR. The Clerk will designate the amendment.

The text of the amendment is as follows:

At the end of part 1 of subtitle A of title XII, add the following:

SEC. _____. PLACEMENT OF ANIMALS USED IN FEDERAL RESEARCH.

Section 14 of the Animal Welfare Act (7 U.S.C. 2144) is amended to read as follows:

''SEC. 14. STANDARDS FOR FEDERAL FACILITIES.

''(a) LABORATORY ANIMAL FACILITIES.—Any department, agency, or instrumentality of the United States having laboratory animal facilities shall comply with the standards and other requirements promulgated by the Secretary under sections 13(a), (f), (g), and (h).

''(b) ADOPTION AND NON-LABORATORY PLACEMENT.—Any department, agency, or instrumentality of the United States operating as a Federal research facility shall, not later than one year after the date of the enactment of this subsection, promulgate standards and other requirements that, in the determination of the department, agency, or instrumentality, facilitates the adoption or non-laboratory placement of any eligible animal of the facility no longer needed for research and determined to be suitable for release to an animal rescue organization, animal sanctuary, animal shelter, or individual.

''(c) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

''(1) ANIMAL RESCUE ORGANIZATION.—The term 'animal rescue organization' means an organization—

''(A) described in section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 and exempt from taxation under section 501(a) of such Code; and

''(B) with the purpose of rescuing animals that are unwanted, abandoned, or otherwise in need of placement and finding permanent adoptive homes for such animals.

''(2) ANIMAL SANCTUARY.—The term 'animal sanctuary' means an organization described in section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 and exempt from taxation under section 501(a) of such Code that—

''(A) is registered with the Secretary;

''(B) operates a place of refuge—

''(i) where an unwanted, displaced, or retired animal is provided care for the lifetime of such animal; and

''(ii) where an unescorted public visitation of such an animal is not permitted;

''(C) does not engage in commercial trade of such an animal;

''(D) does not breed such an animal;

''(E) does not permit direct contact between the public and such an animal;

''(F) does not allow the use of such an animal for performance or exhibition purposes; and

''(G) does not conduct research that pains or distresses such an animal.

''(3) ANIMAL SHELTER.—The term 'animal shelter' means a facility that accepts or seizes animals to care for such animals, place such animals in a permanent adoptive home, or carry out law enforcement purposes.

''(4) ELIGIBLE ANIMAL.—The term 'eligible animal' means any dog, cat, nonhuman primate, guinea pig, hamster, or rabbit.

''(5) SUITABLE FOR RELEASE.—The term 'suitable for release' means an eligible animal that has been evaluated and has received a certificate issued by a veterinarian licensed to practice veterinary medicine, certifying that they inspected the eligible animal on a specified date that is not more than ten days before such animal is released, and when so inspected, the eligible animal appeared free of any infectious disease or physical abnormality which would endanger the eligible animal, other animals, or public health.''.

The Acting CHAIR. Pursuant to House Resolution 1224, the gentlewoman from South Carolina (Ms. MACE) and a Member opposed each will control 5 minutes.

The gentlewoman from South Carolina is recognized for 5 minutes.

Ms. MACE. Mr. Chairman, since I came to Congress, I have been fighting to put an end to taxpayer-funded animal cruelty.

We have seen great successes, including successfully eliminating these painful and inhumane animal experiments across the VA, Department of War, and more. Today, we seek to build on the significant progress with this amendment.

Based on our bipartisan bill, Violet's Law, which we named after a hound dog which was rescued from a government lab, our amendment would ensure the humane treatment of lab animals once they are retired.

Each year, thousands of animals like Violet are used in Federal labs, many of them in noninvasive and nonterminal testing. Too often, when that research ends, these animals, despite being healthy, are killed simply because there is no policy in place to retire them.

Our amendment fixes that.

Rather than being euthanized, my amendment would ensure Federal research facilities establish procedures to facilitate the adoption or nonlaboratory placement of dogs, cats, nonhuman primates, guinea pigs, hamsters, and rabbits used in government labs.

It would allow agencies to place these precious animals with animal rescue organizations, animal sanctuaries, and animal shelters to facilitate finding their new home or with an individual looking to adopt the animal.

This is a commonsense idea which is already working. We have already seen some Federal agencies adopt policies allowing lab animals to be retired and rehomed. Many States have adopted similar laws.

This idea is supported not just by animal welfare advocates, but by leaders in the biomedical research community, as well.

We can judge a man and a country by its treatment of animals, and our country can do so much better than euthanizing healthy, innocent animals created by God.

I thank Representative TITUS for partnering with me on this amendment, and I urge all Members to support this amendment. Together, we can save the lives of countless innocent dogs, cats, guinea pigs, hamsters, and rabbits. I reserve the balance of my time.

Ms. CRAIG. Mr. Chair, I claim the time in opposition, but I am not opposed to the amendment itself.

The Acting CHAIR. Without objection, the gentlewoman from Minnesota is recognized for 5 minutes.

There was no objection.

Ms. CRAIG. Mr. Chair, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Chair, I rise in support of this amendment to add Violet's Law to the farm bill.

The amendment would allow for the adoption or placement in another home for animals once they are no longer needed for research in Federal labs.

Several other Federal Government departments, including NIH, DOD, and the FDA, allow for the retirement of lab animals, but the USDA has been slow to follow.

This amendment would make sure that these animals who have contributed so much of their lives to advancing the cause of science would be able to live out the rest of their lives in a loving home or sanctuary.

I thank Ms. MACE for her amendment, and I urge a ''yes'' vote. I reserve the balance of my time.

Ms. MACE. Mr. Chairman, I would encourage my colleagues to support the amendment and vote for its passage. I yield back the balance of my time.

Ms. CRAIG. Mr. Chair, ditto, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The Acting CHAIR. The question is on the amendment offered by the gentlewoman from South Carolina (Ms. MACE).

The amendment was agreed to.

The Acting CHAIR. The Chair understands that amendment No. 33 will not be offered.

AMENDMENT NO. 36 OFFERED BY MR. MOORE OF WEST VIRGINIA

The Acting CHAIR. It is now in order to consider amendment No. 36 printed in part B of House Report 119–628.

Mr. MOORE of West Virginia. Mr. Chair, I have an amendment at the desk.

The Acting CHAIR. The Clerk will designate the amendment.

The text of the amendment is as follows:

Page 802, line 15, strike '''Any person''' and insert the following:

''(1) IN GENERAL.—Except as specified in paragraph (2), any person''.

Page 802, after line 20, add the following:

''(2) EXCEPTION.—The penalties specified in paragraph (1) shall not apply with respect to a violation of any of paragraphs (1) through (5) of subsection (a) that involves conduct occurring—

''(A) in the State of West Virginia; and

''(B) at a commercial greyhound racing track that is active on the date of enactment of the Farm, Food, and National Security Act of 2026.''.

The Acting CHAIR. Pursuant to House Resolution 1224, the gentleman from West Virginia (Mr. MOORE) and a Member opposed each will control 5 minutes.

The gentleman is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. MOORE of West Virginia. Mr. Chairman, I have an amendment that in my view would correct what had taken place in the Agriculture Committee.

There was an amendment to eliminate dog racing, greyhound racing specifically, in the United States. The only problem with that, there is only one State that continues to do that, and that is the State of West Virginia.

One of the issues surrounding this is the revenue that is generated from that track. Forty percent of the revenue-sharing from the track supports the pension funds of police and firefighters, and we have had the Fraternal Order of Police and the International Association of Firefighters actually come out in support of this amendment because it will decimate those pensions of our retired police and firefighters, some of whom are disabled. Those union members, who are just trying to scratch by in the State of West Virginia, are no longer going to be able to do that.

This amendment leaves the full ban in place for the other 49 States and grandfathers in the two tracks that are in West Virginia. No new tracks can open in West Virginia or any State in the country after this.

Lastly, this really is a question of States' rights where we have voted on this in the State of West Virginia. They have affirmatively voted on it. This question will come up again before the State legislature. Perhaps they will vote at some point not to, but we are really worried about not only those pensions but the almost 2,000 employees who are also involved in this industry. I reserve the balance of my time.

□ 0150

Mr. CARBAJAL. Mr. Chair, I claim the time in opposition to amendment No. 36.

The Acting CHAIR. The gentleman from California is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. CARBAJAL. Mr. Chair, greyhound racing is cruel and inhumane, resulting in hundreds of injuries and deaths of otherwise healthy dogs. It is already prohibited in 44 States and exists in only one, West Virginia.

Despite existing only in West Virginia, Federal legislation to end greyhound racing is necessary because greyhound races are still transmitted to bettors across the United States. Bets placed on these simulcast races prop up this cruel but dying industry both in the United States and abroad.

The bipartisan Greyhound Protection Act—did I say bipartisan?—has been a legislative concept since 2020, building off of the work of former Representative Tony Cárdenas and now-United Nations Ambassador Mike Waltz.

I have been the lead sponsor of this bipartisan legislation for the past 4 years, alongside my colleagues RANDY FINE, ZACH NUNN, and DON DAVIS.

During these 6 years, the Greyhound Protection Act has earned dozens of Democratic and Republican cosponsors. It is endorsed by over 250 animal protection groups, local humane societies, and community leaders.

In March, the bipartisan Greyhound Protection Act passed the House Agriculture Committee by voice vote during the farm bill's committee markup.

Since that time, the final greyhound protection language in the bill has been modified to ensure it applies to greyhounds and nothing else. That change to protect sportsmen and hunting dogs was something Representative NUNN and I recognized and expressed our willingness to the Agriculture Committee on amending this language. It represents a diligently crafted compromise between animal protection groups and hunters, exactly the type of bipartisanship we come to expect from the farm bill.

If this amendment were to pass, it would effectively gut the Greyhound Protection Act and give a free pass for greyhound racing to continue to operate in one State in the United States.

My door has been opened for years to discuss this language, and I know the Agriculture Committee's doors were open all this time, as well. While I understand the concerns surrounding the impact on a very small group of individuals, no pension solvency should hinge on a single, volatile revenue stream, particularly one tied to an inhumane industry in long-term decline.

I have served in local government myself, and I know that States routinely adjust revenue frameworks when phasing out activities deemed inconsistent with public values or policy priorities. West Virginia already has an alternative gaming revenue, including lottery and casino operations that can be recalibrated, if needed.

This amendment runs counter to public sentiment and ensures more greyhounds will not continue to live lives of confinement in stacked metal cages and be subjected to predictable and preventable risk of injury and death on the track.

It has taken decades of work by greyhound rescuers to reach this point, as well as the work done by myself, my colleagues, and committee staff over the last number of years. I ask my colleagues to please oppose this amendment and end the cycle of government-mandated cruelty.

Mr. Chair, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. MOORE of West Virginia. Mr. Chair, may I inquire as to the time remaining.

The Acting CHAIR. The gentleman from West Virginia has 3 minutes remaining.

Mr. MOORE of West Virginia. Mr. Chair, it is really a sick obsession of this town to want to control and destroy jobs in one of the poorest States in America. It really is. I will just note that this is destroying guys who have union pensions. It is against the unions to vote against this amendment. You are hurting their membership.

Mr. Chair, I yield to the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. THOMPSON).

Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania. Mr. Chair, I thank the gentleman for yielding and for introducing this amendment.

I did not support the amendment that passed out of committee by voice vote banning greyhound racing nationwide. I think a ban is heavyhanded. It sets a dangerous precedent, and it doesn't take into consideration the tracks that are currently in operation, which are basically just two in West Virginia.

There are only two greyhound racetracks left in the country, both of which are located in West Virginia, one of the tracks being located in Mr. MOORE's district.

Mr. MOORE's amendment strikes a fair compromise by maintaining the ban on any future operations outside of West Virginia while preserving the tracks and associated jobs that already exist.

Mr. Chair, I urge my colleagues to join me in voting in favor of the amendment.

Mr. MOORE of West Virginia. Mr. Chair, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. CARBAJAL. Mr. Chair, I support unions, but this is about cruelty to animals, and we are trying to justify one good over a lot of evil. It is important that we not use this issue and call it just jobs for a very small amount of individuals, in one State in our Nation, when it comes to really protecting humane approaches to how we deal with greyhounds and animals.

Mr. Chair, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. MOORE of West Virginia. Mr. Chair, this amendment is in support of the unions, those union members. If you vote against this, you are against the unions. That is a fact. You are trying to take their pensions away from them. That is what you are doing. Ask the Fraternal Order of Police. Ask the firefighters union. Go ask them about that, and they will give you an answer.

That is exactly what is going on here. I am standing up for those members, standing up for the individuals who are supported by this track. Maybe someday the State of West Virginia will vote to get rid of it, but that is up to the State of West Virginia.

As we have just heard from the gentleman, over 40 States have voted to end dog racing, and that is their right to do that, but this obsession with the State of West Virginia, with less than 2 million people, and what we are doing inside of our borders, I don't really get.

Just to be clear, this amendment is in support of the police. It is in support of the firefighters. You are taking away their pensions if you don't support the amendment. I think it is a pretty fair compromise, as the chairman said.

Mr. Chair, I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. CARBAJAL. Mr. Chair, in this country, we have done a lot of inhumane things, whether it is to animals or people. We oftentimes try to justify it in one way or another, but it is hard to justify jobs over being humane. It is a matter of values, and that is really what it is about.

Mr. Chair, I yield back the balance of my time.

The Acting CHAIR. The question is on the amendment offered by the gentleman from West Virginia (Mr. MOORE).

The question was taken; and the Acting Chair announced that the ayes appeared to have it.

Mr. CARBAJAL. Mr. Chair, I demand a recorded vote.

The Acting CHAIR. Pursuant to clause 6 of rule XVIII, further proceedings on the amendment offered by the gentleman from West Virginia will be postponed.

□ 0200

AMENDMENT NO. 38 OFFERED BY MS. SCHOLTEN

The Acting CHAIR. It is now in order to consider amendment No. 38 printed in part B of House Report 119–628.

Ms. SCHOLTEN. Mr. Chair, as the designee of Mr. NEGUSE, I rise to speak in support of the amendment.

The Acting CHAIR. The Clerk will designate the amendment.

The text of the amendment is as follows:

Page 66, after line 16, insert the following:

(c) PREAGREEMENT COSTS.—Section 403 of the Agricultural Credit Act of 1978 (16 U.S.C. 2203) is further amended by adding at the end the following:

''(d) PREAGREEMENT COSTS.—

''(1) DEFINITION OF SPONSOR.—In this subsection, the term 'sponsor' means—

''(A) a State or local government; and

''(B) an Indian Tribe (as defined in section 4 of the Indian Self-Determination and Education Assistance Act (25 U.S.C. 5304)).

''(2) PREAGREEMENT PROJECT COSTS.—Not later than 180 days after the date of enactment of this subsection, the Secretary shall—

''(A) identify a list of emergency watershed protection measures the cost of which may be incurred by a sponsor prior to entering into an agreement with the Secretary under this section; and

''(B) develop a procedure, including appropriate deadlines, to be implemented at the State level, through which a sponsor may request, for a specified natural disaster, additional emergency watershed protection measure the cost of which may be incurred by a sponsor prior to entering into an agreement with the Secretary under this section.

''(3) AGREEMENT CONTRIBUTION.—If the Secretary and a sponsor enter into an agreement under this section, the Secretary shall consider any applicable preagreement costs incurred by the sponsor for undertaking emergency watershed protection measures identified under paragraph (2) as meeting part of the contribution of the sponsor toward the cost of the project.

''(4) ASSUMPTION OF RISK.—A sponsor that undertakes emergency watershed protection

measures prior to entering into an agreement with the Secretary under this section shall assume the risk of incurring any cost of undertaking those measures.

''(5) EFFECT.—Nothing in this subsection requires the Secretary to enter into an agreement with a sponsor.''.

The Acting CHAIR. Pursuant to House Resolution 1224, the gentlewoman from Michigan (Ms. SCHOLTEN) and a Member opposed each will control 5 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from Michigan.

Ms. SCHOLTEN. Mr. Chairman, I thank all for being here burning the midnight oil with us.

Mr. Chairman, this amendment would make it easier to carry out emergency watershed protection measures after a disaster.

The Western United States is experiencing record-setting drought and high temperatures, even in the winter months, exponentially increasing wildfire risk. Wildfires do not end when the fire does. They have significant impacts on our watersheds, and emergency measures are often needed to clear out debris and protect water supplies in the immediate aftermath of a disaster.

This amendment would add the text of Mr. NEGUSE's bipartisan, bicameral bill, the Making Access to Cleanup Happen, or MATCH IT Act, which would require the U.S. Department of Agriculture to develop a list of approved watershed protection measures that local governments and Tribes can undertake in an emergency and establish an approval process for additional post-fire actions that might be needed. This measure would remove burdensome red tape and allow for expedited emergency response after a wildfire.

In the face of what is likely to be a devastating wildfire year, it is important that we equip our communities with all the tools they need to respond as quickly and efficiently as possible.

Mr. Chairman, I urge my colleagues to support this amendment and join me in taking action to protect our communities after a disaster.

Mr. Chair, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania. Mr. Chair, I claim the time in opposition to the amendment, even though I am not opposed to it.

The Acting CHAIR. Without objection, the gentleman is recognized for 5 minutes.

There was no objection.

Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania. Mr. Chairman, I thank the gentlewoman for offering this amendment on behalf of the gentleman from Colorado.

The Emergency Watershed Protection Program offers financial and technical assistance to eligible participants for watershed impairments after flooding, fires, or other natural disasters.

This program is important for addressing such urgent threats, including the removal of debris from stream channels, road culverts, and bridges protecting stream banks, establishing vegetative cover on eroding lands, and repairing some conservation practices.

This amendment would help encourage quicker response by ensuring that partner costs can be considered as part of the match if incurred prior to entering into an agreement.

Mr. Chairman, I support the amendment and urge a ''yes'' vote, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Ms. SCHOLTEN. Mr. Chairman, I hope my colleagues on both sides of the aisle can support this amendment, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The Acting CHAIR. The question is on the amendment offered by the gentlewoman from Michigan (Ms. SCHOLTEN).

The amendment was agreed to.

AMENDMENT NO. 39 OFFERED BY MS. SCHOLTEN

The Acting CHAIR. It is now in order to consider amendment No. 39 printed in part B of House Report 119–628.

Ms. SCHOLTEN. Mr. Chair, as the designee of Mr. NEGUSE, I rise to speak in support of the amendment.

The Acting CHAIR. The Clerk will designate the amendment.

The text of the amendment is as follows:

Page 430, line 9, strike ''and'' at the end.

Page 430, line 13, add ''and'' at the end.

Page 430, after line 13, insert the following:

(E) by adding at the end the following:

''(8) PRECISION AGRICULTURE.—The term 'precision agriculture' means managing, tracking, or reducing crop or livestock production inputs (including seed, feed, fertilizer, chemicals, water, and time) at a heightened level of spatial and temporal granularity to improve efficiencies, reduce waste, and maintain environmental quality.'';

Page 431, strike lines 15 through 25 and insert the following:

(A) in paragraph (2)—

(i) by amending subparagraph (B) to read as follows:

''(B) to overcome the long-term and high-risk technological barriers in the development of agricultural technologies, research tools, and qualified products and projects that enhance export competitiveness, environmental sustainability, water conservation, and resilience to extreme weather, drought, infectious diseases, plant and animal pathogens, and plant and animal pests;'';

(ii) in subparagraph (C), by striking ''and'' at the end;

(iii) by redesignating subparagraph (D) as subparagraph (E); and

(iv) by inserting after subparagraph (C) the following:

''(D) to enhance the role of sustainable agriculture (as defined in section 1404) in innovative voluntary resilience solutions in the United States through the development of agricultural technologies that may address—

''(i) the impact of extreme weather on crop production;

''(ii) the effects of drought and the potential of building water holding capacity in soils on crop and rangelands;

''(iii) the expansion of the potential for long-term carbon storage through sustainable agriculture;

''(iv) increased economic and practical feasibility for sustainable energy, including conventional and advanced biofuels, on farms and in the agriculture industry;

''(v) increased voluntary adoption of conservation practices that sequester carbon and build on-farm climate resilience; and

''(vi) increased economic and practical feasibility for, and voluntary adoption of, precision agriculture technology; and''.

The Acting CHAIR. Pursuant to House Resolution 1224, the gentlewoman from Michigan (Ms. SCHOLTEN) and a Member opposed each will control 5 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from Michigan.

MODIFICATION TO AMENDMENT NO. 39 OFFERED BY MS. SCHOLTEN

Ms. SCHOLTEN. Mr. Chairman, I ask unanimous consent that the amendment be modified in the form I have placed at the desk.

The Acting CHAIR. The Clerk will report the modification.

The Clerk read as follows:

Strike ''Page 430'' each time it appears, and insert ''Page 431''.

The Acting CHAIR. Is there objection to the request of the gentlewoman from Michigan?

There was no objection.

The Acting CHAIR. The amendment is modified. The gentlewoman from Michigan is recognized for 5 minutes.

Ms. SCHOLTEN. Mr. Chairman, this amendment would expand Federal support for sustainable agriculture and innovative sustainability solutions through the AGARDA program.

AGARDA helps to find cutting-edge solutions to food, agriculture, and environmental challenges. This amendment will build upon the already proven success of this program by expanding its research to include innovative sustainability solutions.

This amendment will give our agricultural producers the tools they need to increase sustainable and efficient use of water, soil, and other natural resources, and it will help farms adapt to challenges, like extreme weather event and drought.

This effort is bipartisan, done in partnership with Representative FLOOD, and I urge my colleagues to support this amendment.

Mr. Chairman, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania. Mr. Chairman, I rise in opposition to the amendment.

The Acting CHAIR. The gentleman is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania. Mr. Chair, I thank my colleagues for their interest in a program with tremendous potential to deliver solutions for our Nation's producers, the Agriculture Advanced Research and Development Authority Program, also known as AGARDA.

Modeled off of similar programs in the defense and energy sectors, AGARDA is focused on filling high-risk areas where there is high payoff potential, but the private sector is unlikely to undertake research alone.

While I appreciate the interest in strengthening this program, promoting climate solutions does not fit into the underlying mission of AGARDA and takes away from its mission.

We see substantial investment from the private sector and miscellaneous

nongovernment organizations on this topic, and it would be inappropriate to add to this program when these activities are already well-funded.

For this reason, I will not be supporting this amendment's inclusion, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Ms. SCHOLTEN. Mr. Chairman, I hope my colleagues on both sides of the aisle, nonetheless, will support this amendment, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The Acting CHAIR. The question is on the amendment, as modified, offered by the gentlewoman from Michigan (Ms. SCHOLTEN).

The question was taken; and the Acting Chair announced that the noes appeared to have it.

Ms. SCHOLTEN. Mr. Chair, I demand a recorded vote.

The Acting CHAIR. Pursuant to clause 6 of rule XVIII, further proceedings on the amendment offered by the gentlewoman from Michigan will be postponed.

It is now in order to consider amendment No. 41 printed in part B of House Report 119–628.

AMENDMENT NO. 42 OFFERED BY MR. MOYLAN

The Acting CHAIR. It is now in order to consider amendment No. 42 printed in part B of House Report 119–628.

Mr. MOYLAN. Mr. Chair, as the designee of Ms. PLASKETT, I rise to speak in support of the amendment.

The Acting CHAIR. The Clerk will designate the amendment.

The text of the amendment is as follows:

Page 433, line 4, strike ''Section 1477(a)(2)'' and insert the following:

(a) IN GENERAL.—Section 1477(a)(2)

Page 433, after line 7, add the following:

(b) STUDY ON DEVELOPMENT OF AQUACULTURE BUSINESSES.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 180 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary shall conduct a study to identify locations in the United States Virgin Islands and Guam that are suitable for the development of aquaculture small businesses, including an assessment of water quality, coastal access, infrastructure needs, and applicable environmental and regulatory requirements.

(2) CONSULTATION.—In conducting the study under paragraph (1), the Secretary shall consult with the Virgin Islands Department of Planning and Natural Resources and the Guam Department of Agriculture.

The Acting CHAIR. Pursuant to House Resolution 1224, the gentleman from Guam (Mr. MOYLAN) and a Member opposed each will control 5 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Guam.

Mr. MOYLAN. Mr. Chairman, aquaculture has the potential to transform island economics and nutrition. By encouraging small-scale and commercial aquaculture, Guam and the U.S. Virgin Islands could lower the cost of fresh, nutritious food, increase food self-sustainability, and drive down reliance on foreign imports.

This amendment simply directs USDA to consult with Guam and U.S. Virgin Island agencies to identify locations in the islands, our islands, that are suitable for the development of aquaculture small businesses, including water quality assessments, coastal access, infrastructure needs, and applicable environmental and regulatory requirements.

This study is the foundation to developing sustainable aquaculture sectors, and I urge my colleagues to support the territorial aquaculture and vote ''yes'' on this bipartisan amendment.

Mr. Chair, I reserve the balance of my time.

Ms. CRAIG. Mr. Chair, I claim the time in opposition to the amendment, even though I am not opposed to it.

The Acting CHAIR. Without objection, the gentlewoman from Michigan is recognized for 5 minutes.

There was no objection.

Ms. CRAIG. Mr. Chair, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Chairman, I support this amendment. I urge my colleagues to support this amendment, and I yield the balance of my time.

Mr. MOYLAN. Mr. Chairman, I appreciate my colleague's support. I look forward to moving this measure forward, and I yield the balance of my time.

The Acting CHAIR. The question is on the amendment offered by the gentleman from Guam (Mr. MOYLAN).

The amendment was agreed to.

□ 0210

AMENDMENT NO. 45 OFFERED BY MS. SCHOLTEN

The Acting CHAIR. It is now in order to consider amendment No. 45 printed in part B of House Report 119–628.

Ms. SCHOLTEN. Mr. Chair, I have an amendment at the desk.

The Acting CHAIR. The Clerk will designate the amendment.

The text of the amendment is as follows:

Add at the end of title IV the following:

SEC. ___. PROMOTING ACCESS TO LOCAL AGRICULTURE.

(a) STREAMLINING APPLICATIONS FOR FARMERS.—

(1) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

(A) COVERED NUTRITION PROGRAM.—The term ''covered nutrition program'' means—

(i) the supplemental nutrition assistance program established under the Food and Nutrition Act of 2008 (7 U.S.C. 2011 et seq.);

(ii) the senior farmers' market nutrition program established under section 4402 of the Farm Security and Rural Investment Act of 2002 (7 U.S.C. 3007);

(iii) the special supplemental nutrition program for women, infants, and children established by section 17 of the Child Nutrition Act of 1966 (42 U.S.C. 1786), including the farmers' market nutrition program under that program; and

(iv) the Gus Schumacher Nutrition Incentive Program established under section 4405 of the Food, Conservation, and Energy Act of 2008 (7 U.S.C. 7517), as practicable with respect to the activities carried out by the Secretary under paragraphs (2) and (3).

(B) SECRETARY.—The term ''Secretary'' means the Secretary of Agriculture.

(2) STREAMLINED APPLICATION PROCESS.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall establish a streamlined application process—

(i) for direct marketing farmers and ranchers to apply to be vendors under each of the covered nutrition programs; and

(ii) by—

(I) developing a single application that a direct marketing farmer or rancher may use to apply to each of the covered nutrition programs; or

(II) developing an information sharing system that—

(aa) shares the information of a direct marketing farmer or rancher who is approved as an authorized vendor under a covered nutrition program with each of the other covered nutrition programs; and

(bb) deems that direct marketing farmer or rancher as a prequalified eligible vendor for those other covered nutrition programs.

(B) REPORT.—Not later than 1 year after the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary shall submit to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry of the Senate and the Committee on Agriculture of the House of Representatives a report describing progress made in carrying out subparagraph (A).

(3) STREAMLINED PROCESSING OF BENEFITS.—The Secretary shall establish a streamlined process for direct marketing farmers and ranchers that are vendors under any of the covered nutrition programs to process benefits under those programs through the use of standardized technology, such as a single piece of equipment or a mobile application.

(b) SUPPORT FOR WIRELESS AND MOBILE EQUIPMENT FOR CERTAIN ENTITIES.—Section 7(f)(2) of the Food and Nutrition Act of 2008 (7 U.S.C. 2016(f)(2)) is amended—

(1) by redesignating subparagraph (C) as subparagraph (D); and

(2) by inserting after subparagraph (B) the following:

''(C) REQUIREMENT.—The Secretary shall ensure that equipment or systems made available to entities described in clauses (i) and (ii) of subparagraph (B) by a State agency or an implementing partner of a State agency is appropriate for the entity, including, with respect to farmers markets and other direct-to-consumer markets, wireless or mobile processing equipment and technology systems.''.

The Acting CHAIR. Pursuant to House Resolution 1224, the gentlewoman from Michigan (Ms. SCHOLTEN) and a Member opposed each will control 5 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from Michigan.

Ms. SCHOLTEN. Mr. Chair, I rise today in support of this amendment, which would incorporate the text of my bill, the bipartisan, bicameral Promoting Access to Local Agriculture Act into the farm bill.

Too often, local farmers and ranchers struggle to accept benefits through critical Federal nutrition programs designed to feed communities, like SNAP and WIC. This is not because of a lack of need or demand, but rather because the system itself is too complicated to navigate.

Now, I fully believe in cutting this red tape to connect more communities to the healthy food that they need.

In a State like Michigan where we grow more than 300 commodities, that makes us one of the most agriculturally diverse States in the country, and these bureaucratic roadblocks mean less businesses for hardworking farmers and less fresh food on the table for families.

I deeply believe that food is medicine, and this is an agricultural issue. It is a food supply issue, but it is also a matter of health.

This provision would cut red tape to make it easier for farmers to participate in these essential programs while also ensuring that families have better access to fresh, healthy, and affordable food.

This bipartisan, bicameral effort is about making the government work the way that it should and advancing practical solutions that are responsive to the farmers and the families that we serve.

I urge my colleagues to support this amendment and join me in taking action to protect our communities in this time of need.

Mr. Chair, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania. Mr. Chair, I rise in opposition to the amendment, although I am not opposed to it.

The Acting CHAIR. Without objection, the gentleman from Pennsylvania is recognized for 5 minutes.

There was no objection.

Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania. Mr. Chair, I thank the gentlewoman for bringing forward this amendment. This is a win-win for agriculture and for our neighbors in need.

By streamlining applications for nutrition programs redeemed at farmers' markets and stands, this amendment will remove bureaucratic red tape and expand markets for our farmers and ranchers while increasing access to fresh, locally grown food for lower-income families.

Mr. Chair, I urge my colleagues to vote in favor of this amendment, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Ms. SCHOLTEN. Mr. Chair, I hope that my colleagues on both sides of the aisle can support this important amendment, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The Acting CHAIR. The question is on the amendment offered by the gentlewoman from Michigan (Ms. SCHOLTEN).

The amendment was agreed to.

AMENDMENT NO. 46 OFFERED BY MS. SCHRIER

The Acting CHAIR. It is now in order to consider amendment No. 46 printed in part B of House Report 119–628.

Ms. SCHRIER. Mr. Chair, I have an amendment at the desk.

The Acting CHAIR. The Clerk will designate the amendment.

The text of the amendment is as follows:

Page 35, after line 12, insert the following:

(5) STATE ACRES FOR WILDLIFE ENHANCEMENT CONTINUOUS ENROLLMENT.—Section 1231(d)(6)(A)(i) of the Food Security Act of 1985 (16 U.S.C. 3831(d)(6)(A)(i)) is amended—

(A) in subclause (II), by striking ''and'' at the end; and

(B) by inserting after subclause (III) the following:

''(IV) land that will be enrolled under the State acres for wildlife enhancement initiative established by the Secretary; and''.

The Acting CHAIR. Pursuant to House Resolution 1224, the gentlewoman from Washington (Ms. SCHRIER) and a Member opposed each will control 5 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from Washington.

Ms. SCHRIER. Mr. Chair, I rise today in support of my amendment to the Farm, Food, and National Security Act that would codify the State Acres for Wildlife Enhancement, or SAFE Initiative.

The SAFE Initiative was established in 2007 as part of a Conservation Reserve Program. It helps landowners restore land that would otherwise be unproductive for agricultural purposes.

The initiative is unique in that it specifically supports wildlife populations by restoring critical habitats and providing food sources. This is great for agricultural producers, a win for wildlife and the environment, and it allows States to work toward their high priority conservation goals.

For example, in parts of Washington State, land enrolled in the SAFE Initiative can provide habitat for two of our native birds, the sage-grouse, and the core sharp-tailed grouse. There are fewer than 1,000 of these birds remaining, and a lot of their habitat is on private farms across our State. This program protects those species.

In other areas of the country, the program can be used to protect habitats for species like the New England cottontail, grassland birds, deer, and even pollinators.

This program is entirely voluntary and gives farmers an opportunity to earn money through land that they no longer can use or they may not need.

I have heard from farmers who are thrilled to have this opportunity to restore their land, which of course, benefits them financially but also protects habitat, improves soil health, limits erosion, and sequesters carbon.

Instead of producing lower and lower yields or being forced to sell their land, farmers can receive annual rental payments and additional financial assistance to establish long-term, easy-to-implement conservation practices, like increasing vegetative cover.

This program is a commonsense solution that gives farmers an opportunity to diversify their income while ensuring their land can be used by future generations. It is great for the environment. It is phenomenal for our Nation's farmers, and it creates lasting State partnerships with producers.

It is past time for this initiative to be signed into law, and I urge my colleagues to support my amendment that would codify the SAFE Initiative and ensure land can be continuously enrolled in this program.

Mr. Chair, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania. Mr. Chair, I rise in opposition to the amendment, although I am not opposed to it.

The Acting CHAIR. Without objection, the gentleman from Pennsylvania is recognized for 5 minutes.

There was no objection.

Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania. Mr. Chair, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

I thank the gentlewoman for offering this amendment. Our system of voluntary, incentive-based, and locally led conservation is a proven model providing benefits to both producer and the environment.

Conservation programs also provide important benefits for wildlife habitat as we see in the case of the SAFE Initiative and other programs like the Voluntary Public Access and Habitat Incentive Program.

Since acres are typically enrolled in SAFE through the continuous enrollment option, this amendment would simply codify that. As such, I support the amendment and I urge a ''yes'' vote.

Mr. Chair, I yield back the balance of my time.

Ms. SCHRIER. Mr. Chair, again, I encourage my colleagues to vote to codify this SAFE Initiative program, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The Acting CHAIR. The question is on the amendment offered by the gentlewoman from Washington (Ms. SCHRIER).

The amendment was agreed to.

AMENDMENT NO. 47 OFFERED BY MR. SELF

The Acting CHAIR. It is now in order to consider amendment No. 47 printed in part B of House Report 119–628.

Mr. SELF. Mr. Chair, I have an amendment at the desk.

The Acting CHAIR. The Clerk will designate the amendment.

The text of the amendment is as follows:

At the end of subtitle A, of title IV, add the following:

SEC. 4114. FUNDING IS ZERO FOR ZERO NUTRITION OPTIONS.

(a) AMENDMENTS.—Section 3 of the Food and Nutrition Act of 2008 (7 U.S.C. 2012) is amended—

(1) in subsection (k) by inserting ''soda,'' after ''alcoholic beverages,'', and

(2) by inserting after subsection (r) the following:

''(r–1) 'Soda' means a carbonated beverage that contains more than 1 gram of added sugar, artificial sweetener, or flavoring per serving.''.

(b) EFFECTIVE DATE.—This section shall take effect 180 days after the date of the enactment of this Act.

The Acting CHAIR. Pursuant to House Resolution 1224, the gentleman from Texas (Mr. SELF) and a Member opposed each will control 5 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Texas.

Mr. SELF. Mr. Chair, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Chair, I rise today to offer an amendment to ensure that a program called nutrition assistance actually delivers nutrition.

Today, SNAP is funding billions of dollars in purchases of sugary soda, products with zero nutritional value and well-documented links to obesity, diabetes, and long-term health costs. That is not what this program was designed to do.

My amendment is straightforward. It adds soda to the list of ineligible SNAP items alongside alcohol and tobacco and defines soda clearly as any carbonated beverage containing more than 1 gram of added sugar, artificial sweetener, or flavoring per serving.

Now, let's address the obvious concern: choice. SNAP participants already use multiple forms of payment at checkout. This amendment does not take away anyone's ability to purchase soda. They remain fully free to do so with cash, credit, or debit. What this does is ensure that taxpayer-funded nutrition dollars are not used for products with zero nutritional value.

We already do this in WIC. We already do this with alcohol and tobacco. The authority exists. The precedent exists.

At a time when taxpayers are funding both the purchase of these products and the healthcare costs that follow, we should at least stop financing the problem on the front end.

This is a narrow, commonsense reform that restores integrity to SNAP and aligns it with its core mission. I urge adoption of the amendment, and I reserve the balance of my time.

Ms. CRAIG. Mr. Chair, I rise in opposition to this amendment.

The Acting CHAIR. The gentlewoman from Minnesota is recognized for 5 minutes.

Ms. CRAIG. Mr. Chair, I thank the gentleman for this amendment, and of course, all of us here support promoting healthier diets and lifestyles for all Americans, but I have serious concerns with any policy that would make life more difficult for Americans who are already struggling to make ends meet.

□ 0220

Across the country right now, chaotic waivers restricting different kinds of foods and drinks from being purchased with SNAP are already creating massive confusion for participants and for retailers.

We don't know the result of the effectiveness of these waivers at this point, although things aren't looking good. We certainly shouldn't be codifying any type of restrictions and picking winners and losers among foods without getting those results first.

If the intention is to address diet-related chronic disease, we would be better off investing in fruit and vegetable incentives, like GusNIP, and revive SNAP-Ed, a nutrition education program that was eliminated in H.R. 1.

Mr. Chair, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. SELF. Mr. Chair, I yield 1 minute to the gentleman from Wisconsin (Mr. GROTHMAN).

Mr. GROTHMAN. Mr. Chair, we could talk at length the degree to which our welfare system allows people to buy things or use services that the average person in our society, at least if they are appropriately frugal, do not use. The easiest one that we should put an end to is this idea of unhealthy, sugary drinks.

The gentlewoman talks about making life easier. If you want to make life tougher, you give people a lot of Mountain Dew and increase the amount of obesity and increase the amount of diabetes. That is not a good thing.

That is particularly not a good thing when you consider some of the money you are getting on your food stamps goes to your kids. I mean, I feel horrible if I am in a grocery store and I see somebody use food stamps for these soft drinks, and they have got little kids with them. We should just not do that.

Like I said, I think the average person in our society does not spend money on this stuff, and we shouldn't be giving it to people in the welfare program.

Mr. SELF. Mr. Chair, may I inquire as to the time remaining.

The Acting CHAIR. The gentleman from Texas has 2 minutes remaining.

Mr. SELF. Mr. Chair, I would like to address the assertion that this is too complicated to implement.

EBT systems already block thousands of ineligible items in real time. Retailers already categorize products at the UPC level. This is standard. WIC proves product-level restrictions are fully operational nationwide.

Technology has significantly advanced since earlier implementation concerns. The definition of ''soda'' is clear and administrable. Retail systems already distinguish between eligible and noneligible goods. This is not something the store has to do.

Implementation is a logistics issue, not a policy issue.

Mr. Chair, I reserve the balance of my time.

Ms. CRAIG. Mr. Chair, I will just end with this. I want you to imagine a single mom who is on the SNAP program—remember, this is $6.20 a day—who wants to put a four-pack—remember, no one can afford six-packs anymore because everything is too expensive—wants to purchase a four-pack of soda as a treat once a week for her children. The idea that we are going to force that family, that single mom, to say, no, I can't choose to do that—we are going to take that choice away from them.

Mr. Chair, there are lots of people who live in families that need just a little bit of help right now, and it is getting worse under this administration. You cannot deny it. At the end of the day, this is one more way that we are attacking poor people in our country.

Mr. Chair, we are all for healthy, but let's not be mean at the same time.

Mr. Chair, I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. SELF. Mr. Chair, I just want to ask one question. This amendment asks a basic question: Should a nutrition program pay for products with zero nutrition? If the answer is no, then the vote should be ''yes.''

Mr. Chair, I yield back the balance of my time.

The Acting CHAIR. The question is on the amendment offered by the gentleman from Texas (Mr. SELF).

The question was taken; and the Acting Chair announced that the ayes appeared to have it.

Mr. SELF. Mr. Chair, I demand a recorded vote.

The Acting CHAIR. Pursuant to clause 6 of rule XVIII, further proceedings on the amendment offered by the gentleman from Texas will be postponed.

Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania. Mr. Chair, I move that the Committee do now rise.

The motion was agreed to.

Accordingly, the Committee rose; and the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. GROTHMAN) having assumed the chair, Mr. SCHMIDT, Acting Chair of the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union, reported that that Committee, having had under consideration the bill (H.R. 7567) to provide for the reform and continuation of agricultural and other programs of the Department of Agriculture through fiscal year 2031, and for other purposes, had come to no resolution thereon.

HOUR OF MEETING ON TODAY

Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that when the House adjourns today, it adjourn to meet at 9 a.m. today.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Pennsylvania?

There was no objection.

HONORING THE EXTRAORDINARY LEADERSHIP OF DR. TRACEY MORANT ADAMS

(Ms. SEWELL asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. SEWELL. Mr. Speaker, as we begin the 94th Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority Southeastern Regional Conference in Birmingham, Alabama, I rise to honor the extraordinary leadership of Dr. Tracey Morant Adams, the 27th southeastern regional director.

From her initiation into the campus of University of Montevallo to her tenure as the 27th southeastern regional director, Tracey has embodied the values of sisterhood, scholarship, and service to all mankind.

During her 4-year tenure, she has led the work of over 13,000 members across Tennessee, Mississippi, and Alabama.

She has launched signature initiatives that have strengthened chapters, expanded voter engagement, and advanced economic empowerment.

Tracey's leadership is matched by her extraordinary professional achievements as well.

On a personal note, Tracey and I share more than just titles and service. We have a 30-year friendship and sisterhood.

As I reflect on Tracey's service, I cannot help but think of my mother, Nancy Gardner Sewell, the 18th southeastern regional director. Mom would be so proud to see how Tracey has followed in her footsteps, protecting the legacy of our beloved sorority while boldly imagining our future. I can almost hear my mother saying: Well-done, my daughter. Well-done.

On behalf of the women of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Incorporated, I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring Dr. Tracey Morant Adams, the 27th southeastern regional director on occasion of the 94th southeastern regional conference in Birmingham, Alabama.

We are so proud of Tracey.

Well-done. Well-done. Well-done.

Mr. Speaker, ahead of the 94th Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority South Eastern Regional Conference in Birmingham, I rise today to honor the extraordinary leadership of Dr. Tracey Morant Adams who currently serves as the 27th South Eastern Regional Director of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Incorporated.

From her initiation into the Mu Mu Chapter of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority in 1985 on the campus of the University of Montevalllo, Tracey has embodied the values that Alpha Kappa Sorority, Incorporated has carried for more than a century: sisterhood, scholarship, and service to all humankind.

Tracey has carried those values with grace throughout her tenure as the 27th South Eastern Regional Director. In this role, she guides nearly 13,000 members and more than 114 graduate and undergraduate chapters in Tennessee, Mississippi, and Alabama.

During her 2022 to 2026 administration, Tracey launched signature initiatives that strengthened chapters, expanded voter engagement, advanced economic empowerment, and deepened our commitment to health, equity, and educational excellence. Under her leadership, the Southern Region has not only grown in numbers but in impact—touching campuses, churches, rural communities, and city neighborhoods across our beloved South.

Tracey has led with grace, vision, and an unwavering commitment to service. Her leadership reflects the very best of the beloved Alpha Kappa Alpha sisterhood—uplifting communities, empowering women, and advancing a legacy grounded in sisterhood and service.

Her leadership within Alpha Kappa Alpha is matched by her extraordinary professional accomplishments, As Senior Executive Vice President and Chief Community Development and Corporate Social Responsibility Officer at Renasant Bank, Tracey has opened doors of opportunity for small business, invested in affordable housing, and ensured that corporate success is measured by how many lives are lifted. She proves every day that excellence in the boardroom can walk hand in hand with compassion in the community.

On a personal note, Tracey and I share more than titles and public service—we share more than thirty years of friendship and sisterhood. We have prayed together, worked together, and dreamed together about what our sorority and our communities could become. I have watched her lead with humility, listen with intention and act with courage. She is the kind sister who shows up before she is asked and stays long after the work is done.

As I reflect on Tracey's service, I cannot help but think of my mother, Nancy Gardner Sewell, the 18th Southeastern Regional Director. Mom believed that leadership in Alpha Kappa Alpha was sacred trust. She would be so proud to see how Tracey has followed in her footsteps—protecting our legacy while boldly imagining our future. I can almost hear Mama saying, ''Well done, my daughter—well done.''

Tracey stands in a long line of visionary women, yet she has carved a path uniquely her own. She has reminded us that pink and green are not just colors; they are a call to action. Because of her, more girls see themselves as scholars, more families have access to resources, and more communities know that Alpha Kappa Alpha walks beside them.

On behalf of the women of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Incorporated, I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring Dr. Tracey Morant Adams, the 27th South Eastern Regional Director.

She has made us all exceptionally proud.

ADJOURNMENT

Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, I move that the House do now adjourn.

The motion was agreed to; accordingly (at 2 o'clock and 26 minutes a.m.), under its previous order, the House adjourned until today, Thursday, April 30, 2026, at 9 a.m.

EXPENDITURE REPORTS CONCERNING OFFICIAL FOREIGN TRAVEL

Reports concerning the foreign currencies and U.S. dollars utilized for Official Foreign Travel during the second quarter of 2025 and the first quarter of 2026 pursuant to Public Law 95–384, are as follows:

REPORT OF EXPENDITURES FOR OFFICIAL FOREIGN TRAVEL, COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE, HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, EXPENDED BETWEEN JAN. 1 AND MAR. 31, 2026

Name of Member or employee	Date		Country	Per diem [1]		Transportation		Other purposes		Total	
	Arrival	Departure		Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency [2]	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency [2]	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency [2]	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency [2]
HOUSE COMMITTEES											
Please Note: If there were no expenditures during the calendar quarter noted above, please check the box at right to so indicate and return. ☒											

[1] Per diem constitutes lodging and meals.
[2] If foreign currency is used, enter U.S. dollar equivalent; if U.S. currency is used, enter amount expended.

FOR HOUSE STAFF SIGNERS
Please check the box at the right to indicate that you are authorized by the Member to submit these Foreign Travel documents and to use the Member's signature on file with the Clerk. ☒

JACKSON BLODGETT, Apr. 22, 2026,
On Behalf Of: Chairman Glenn ''GT'' Thompson.

REPORT OF EXPENDITURES FOR OFFICIAL FOREIGN TRAVEL, COMMITTEE ON THE BUDGET, HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, EXPENDED BETWEEN JAN. 1 AND MAR. 31, 2026

Name of Member or employee	Date		Country	Per diem [1]		Transportation		Other purposes		Total	
	Arrival	Departure		Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency [2]	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency [2]	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency [2]	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency [2]
HOUSE COMMITTEES											
Please Note: If there were no expenditures during the calendar quarter noted above, please check the box at right to so indicate and return. ☒											

[1] Per diem constitutes lodging and meals.
[2] If foreign currency is used, enter U.S. dollar equivalent; if U.S. currency is used, enter amount expended.

HON. JODEY C. ARRINGTON, Apr. 20, 2026.

REPORT OF EXPENDITURES FOR OFFICIAL FOREIGN TRAVEL, COMMITTEE ON NATURAL RESOURCES, HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, EXPENDED BETWEEN JAN. 1 AND MAR. 31, 2026

Name of Member or employee	Date		Country	Per diem [1]		Transportation		Other purposes		Total	
	Arrival	Departure		Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency [2]	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency [2]	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency [2]	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency [2]
Hon. Bruce Westerman	CODEL	cancelled	Argentina/Antartica		1,679.35				5,971.14		7,650.49
Vivian Moeglein	CODEL	cancelled	Argentina/Antartica		1,679.35				5,971.14		7,650.49
Christopher Marklund	CODEL	cancelled	Argentina/Antartica		1,679.35				5,971.14		7,650.49
Madeline Kelley	CODEL	cancelled	Argentina/Antartica		1,075.84				5,971.14		7,046.98
Aneila Butler	CODEL	cancelled	Argentina/Antartica		1,075.84				5,971.14		7,046.98
Robert MacGregor	CODEL	cancelled	Argentina/Antartica		1,708.35				5,971.14		7,679.49
Michelle Lane	CODEL	cancelled	Argentina/Antartica		1,679.35				5,971.14		7,650.49
Richard O'Connell	CODEL	cancelled	Argentina/Antartica		1,708.35				5,971.14		7,679.49
Matthew Muirraugi	CODEL	cancelled	Argentina/Antartica		1,679.35		712.48		5,971.14		8,362.97
Committee total					13,695.13		712.48		53,740.26		68,417.87

[1] Per diem constitutes lodging and meals.
[2] If foreign currency is used, enter U.S. dollar equivalent; if U.S. currency is used, enter amount expended.

HON. BRUCE WESTERMAN, Apr. 7, 2026.

REPORT OF EXPENDITURES FOR OFFICIAL FOREIGN TRAVEL, COMMITTEE ON SCIENCE, SPACE, AND TECHNOLOGY, HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, EXPENDED BETWEEN APR. 1 AND JUNE 3, 2025

Name of Member or employee	Date		Country	Per diem [1]		Transportation		Other purposes		Total	
	Arrival	Departure		Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency [2]	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency [2]	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency [2]	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency [2]
Hon. Brian Babin	6/13	6/16	France		1,258.00		3,472.00		4,135.41		8,865.41
Hon. Mike Haridopolos (did not plan to go to Italy)	6/13	6/16	France		996.00		3,472.00		4,175.41		8,643.41
Hon. Val Foushee	6/13	6/16	France		1,258.00		3,472.00		4,135.41		8,865.41
Hon. Jay Obernolte	6/13	6/16	France		1,258.00		3,472.00		4,135.41		8,865.41
Danny Smith	6/13	6/16	France		1,425.00		3,472.00		4,135.41		9,032.41
Avery Littrell	6/13	6/16	France		1,425.00		3,472.00		4,692.01		9,589.01
Lauren Ziegler	6/13	6/16	France		1,425.00		3,472.00		4,692.01		9,589.01
Tom Hammond	6/13	6/16	France		1,258.00		3,472.00		4,692.01		9,422.01
Brent Blevins	6/13	6/16	France		1,425.00		3,472.00		5,410.11		10,307.11
Pam Whitney	6/13	6/16	France		1,258.00		3,472.00		5,835.50		10,565.50
Kristin Kopshever	6/13	6/16	France		1,258.00		3,472.00		4,135.41		8,865.41
Hon. Sheri Biggs	6/13	6/16	France		1,258.00		3,472.00		4,135.41		8,865.41
Hon. Brian Babin	6/16	6/18	Switzerland				1,077.97				1,077.97
Hon. Mike Haridopolos	6/16	6/18	Switzerland				1,077.97				1,077.97
Hon. Val Foushee	6/16	6/18	Switzerland				1,077.97				1,077.97
Hon. Sheri Biggs	6/16	6/18	Switzerland				1,077.97				1,077.97
Hon. Jay Obernolte	6/16	6/18	Switzerland				1,077.97				1,077.97
Hon. Keith Self (joined CODEL in Geneva)	6/16	6/18	Switzerland		924.00		1,077.98		2,941.60		4,019.58
Danny Smith	6/16	6/18	Switzerland				1,077.98				1,077.98
Avery Littrell	6/16	6/18	Switzerland				1,077.98				1,077.98
Lauren Ziegler	6/16	6/18	Switzerland				1,077.98				1,077.98
Tom Hammond	6/16	6/18	Switzerland				1,077.97				1,077.97
Brent Blevins	6/16	6/18	Switzerland				1,077.98				1,077.98
Pam Whitney	6/16	6/18	Switzerland				1,077.98				1,077.98
Kristin Kopshever	6/16	6/18	Switzerland				1,077.98				1,077.98
Hon. Brian Babin	6/18	6/20	Germany				328.00				328.00
Hon. Val Foushee	6/18	6/20	Germany				328.00				328.00
Hon. Sheri Biggs	6/18	6/20	Germany				328.00				328.00
Hon. Jay Obernolte	6/18	6/20	Germany				328.00				328.00
Hon. Keith Self	6/18	6/20	Germany				328.00				328.00
Danny Smith	6/18	6/20	Germany				328.00				328.00
Avery Littrell	6/18	6/20	Germany				328.00				328.00
Lauren Ziegler	6/18	6/20	Germany				328.00				328.00
Tom Hammond	6/18	6/20	Germany				328.00				328.00
Brent Blevins	6/18	6/20	Germany				328.00				328.00
Pam Whitney	6/18	6/20	Germany				328.00				328.00
Kristin Kopshever	6/18	6/20	Germany				328.00				328.00
Hon. Brian Babin	6/20	6/22	Italy								
Hon. Val Foushee	6/20	6/22	Italy								
Hon. Sheri Biggs	6/20	6/22	Italy								
Hon. Jay Obernolte	6/20	6/22	Italy								
Hon. Keith Self	6/20	6/22	Italy								
Danny Smith	6/20	6/22	Italy								
Avery Littrell	6/20	6/22	Italy								
Lauren Ziegler	6/20	6/22	Italy								
Tom Hammond	6/20	6/22	Italy								
Brent Blevins	6/20	6/22	Italy								
Pam Whitney	6/20	6/22	Italy								
Kristin Kopshever	6/20	6/22	Italy								
Italian leg of trip canceled, cancelation for hotel fee shown here.										8,500.44	8,500.44
Committee total							59,941.68		57,251.11		141,195.23

[1] Per diem constitutes lodging and meals.
[2] If foreign currency is used, enter U.S. dollar equivalent; if U.S. currency is used, enter amount expended.

HON. BRIAN BABIN, Apr. 23, 2026.

REPORT OF EXPENDITURES FOR OFFICIAL FOREIGN TRAVEL, COMMITTEE ON SCIENCE, SPACE, AND TECHNOLOGY, HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, EXPENDED BETWEEN JAN. 1 AND MAR. 31, 2026

Name of Member or employee	Date		Country	Per diem [1]		Transportation		Other purposes		Total	
	Arrival	Departure		Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency [2]	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency [2]	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency [2]	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency [2]
Hon. Mike Kennedy	1/24	1/29	Argentina		618.00		1,137.15				1,755.15
Hon. Luz Rivas	1/24	1/29	Argentina		618.00		1,137.15				1,755.15
Committee total					1,236.00		2,274.30				3,510.30

[1] Per diem constitutes lodging and meals.
[2] If foreign currency is used, enter U.S. dollar equivalent; if U.S. currency is used, enter amount expended.

HON. BRIAN BABIN, Apr. 23, 2026.

REPORT OF EXPENDITURES FOR OFFICIAL FOREIGN TRAVEL, JOINT COMMITTEE ON TAXATION, EXPENDED BETWEEN JAN. 1 AND MAR. 31, 2026

Name of Member or employee	Date		Country	Per diem [1]		Transportation		Other purposes		Total	
	Arrival	Departure		Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency [2]	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency [2]	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency [2]	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency [2]
HOUSE COMMITTEES											
Please Note: If there were no expenditures during the calendar quarter noted above, please check the box at right to so indicate and return. ☒											

[1] Per diem constitutes lodging and meals.
[2] If foreign currency is used, enter U.S. dollar equivalent; if U.S. currency is used, enter amount expended.

FOR HOUSE STAFF SIGNERS
Please check the box at the right to indicate that you are authorized by the Member to submit these Foreign Travel documents and to use the Member's signature on file with the Clerk. ☒

TAYLOR ROSE, Apr. 16, 2026,
On Behalf Of: Chairman Mike Crapo.

EXECUTIVE COMMUNICATIONS, ETC.

Under clause 2 of rule XIV, executive communications were taken from the Speaker's table and referred as follows:

EC–3455. A letter from the Secretary, Department of War, transmitting notification that General Randy A. George, United States Army, was removed from his position as Chief of Staff of the Army and Member of the Joint Chiefs of Staff on April 2, 2026, pursuant to 10 U.S.C. 151(h); Added by Public Law 99-433, Sec. 201 (as amended by Public Law 119-60, div. A, title IX, Sec. 911(a)); (139 Stat. 1015); to the Committee on Armed Services.

EC–3456. A letter from the Assistant Secretary for Legislation, Department of Health and Human Services, transmitting the Department's 2025 Report to Congress on the Comprehensive Community Mental Health Services for Children with Serious Emotional Disturbances Program, pursuant to 42 U.S.C. 290ff-4(c)(2); July 1, 1944, ch. 373, title V, Sec. 565(c)(2) (as amended by Public Law 106-310, Sec. 3105(c)); (114 Stat. 1175); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

EC–3457. A letter from the Senior Bureau Official, Bureau of Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting notification that the request of the Drug Enforcement Administration was authorized for danger pay for employees of the DEA temporarily or permanently assigned to Embassy Belize and Embassy Dominican Republic at the rate of 10% in both countries, effective April 05, 2026; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

EC–3458. A letter from the Senior Bureau Official, Bureau of Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting notification of the Ratification of the Treaty Between the Government of the United States of America and the Government of Australia Concerning Defense Trade Cooperation (Treaty Doc. 110-10); to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

EC–3459. A letter from the Chairman of the Council, Council of the District of Columbia, transmitting D.C. Act 26-307, ''Mu Lambda Foundation, Inc. Real Property Tax Exemption Amendment Act of 2026'', pursuant to Public Law 93-198, Sec. 602(c)(1); (87 Stat. 813); to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

EC–3460. A letter from the Chairman of the Council, Council of the District of Columbia, transmitting D.C. Act 26-308, ''Increasing Support and Grandparent and Close Relative Caregivers Amendment Act of 2026'', pursuant to Public Law 93-198, Sec. 602(c)(1); (87 Stat. 813); to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

EC–3461. A letter from the Chairman of the Council, Council of the District of Columbia, transmitting D.C. Act 26-309, ''Statutory Neglect Amendment Act of 2026'', pursuant to Public Law 93-198, Sec. 602(c)(1); (87 Stat. 813); to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

EC–3462. A letter from the Chairman of the Council, Council of the District of Columbia, transmitting D.C. Act 26-310, ''Safe Pregnancy, Delivery, and Postpartum Care for Youth at DYRS Amendment Act of 2026'', pursuant to Public Law 93-198, Sec. 602(c)(1); (87 Stat. 813); to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

EC–3463. A letter from the Chairman of the Council, Council of the District of Columbia, transmitting D.C. Act 26-311, ''Strengthening Capacity and Transparency at DYRS Amendment Act of 2026'', pursuant to Public Law 93-198, Sec. 602(c)(1); (87 Stat. 813); to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

EC–3464. A letter from the Chairman of the Council, Council of the District of Columbia, transmitting D.C. Act 26-312, ''Empowering Parents in CFSA Investigations Amendment Act of 2026'', pursuant to Public Law 93-198, Sec. 602(c)(1); (87 Stat. 813); to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

EC–3465. A letter from the Chairman of the Council, Council of the District of Columbia, transmitting D.C. Act 26-315, ''First Responder Retention Efforts Amendment Act of 2026'', pursuant to Public Law 93-198, Sec. 602(c)(1); (87 Stat. 813); to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

EC–3466. A letter from the Chairman, Council of the District of Columbia, transmitting DC Act 26-302, ''Rental Housing Registration Data Integrity Temporary Amendment Act of 2026'', pursuant to Public Law 93-198, Sec. 602(c)(1); (87 Stat. 813); to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

EC–3467. A letter from the Chairman, Council of the District of Columbia, transmitting DC Act 26-303, ''Archdiocese of Washington Parish Real Property, Deed Recordation, and Transfer Tax Exemption Temporary Amendment Act of 2026'', pursuant to Public Law 93-198, Sec. 602(c)(1); (87 Stat. 813); to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

EC–3468. A letter from the Chairman, Council of the District of Columbia, transmitting DC Act 26-304, ''Full Accountability in Arrest Reporting Temporary Act of 2026'', pursuant to Public Law 93-198, Sec. 602(c)(1); (87 Stat. 813); to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

EC–3469. A letter from the Chairman, Council of the District of Columbia, transmitting DC Act 26-305, ''Body-Worn Camera Transparency for Use of Force Temporary Amendment Act of 2026'', pursuant to Public Law 93-198, Sec. 602(c)(1); (87 Stat. 813); to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

EC–3470. A letter from the Chairman, Council of the District of Columbia, transmitting DC Act 26-299, ''Promoting Parental Engagement at DYRS Amendment Act of 2026'', pursuant to Public Law 93-198, Sec. 602(c)(1); (87 Stat. 813); to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

EC–3471. A letter from the Chairman, Council of the District of Columbia, transmitting DC Act 26-300, ''Child Fatality Review Committee Amendment Act of 2026'', pursuant to Public Law 93-198, Sec. 602(c)(1); (87 Stat. 813); to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

EC–3472. A letter from the Chairman, Council of the District of Columbia, transmitting DC Act 26-301, ''Holding Company System Amendment Act of 2026'', pursuant to Public Law 93-198, Sec. 602(c)(1); (87 Stat. 813); to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

EC–3473. A letter from the President and Chairman, Export-Import Bank, transmitting the Bank's Fiscal Year 2027 Annual Performance Plan and Fiscal Year 2025 Annual Performance Report to Congress, pursuant to 31 U.S.C. 1115(b); Public Law 111-352, Sec. 3; (124 Stat. 3868); to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

EC–3474. A letter from the Director, Equal Employment Opportunity Office, Federal Trade Commission, transmitting the Commission's annual report prepared in accordance with section 203 of the Notification and Federal Employee Antidiscrimination and Retaliation Act of 2002 (No FEAR Act), pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 2301 note; Public Law 107-174, Sec. 203(a) (as amended by Public Law 109-435, Sec. 604(f)); (120 Stat. 3241); to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

EC–3475. A letter from the Senior Bureau Official, Bureau of Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting the Department's report titled ''Conservation of Sea Turtles Certification'', Department Report Number: 007157; ; jointly to the Committees on Appropriations and Natural Resources.

EC–3476. A letter from the United States Trade Representative, Executive Office of the President, transmitting a periodic report on the total expenditures incurred by the U.S. Government that are directly attributable to the national emergency declared in Executive Order 14257 of April 2, 2025, pursuant to 50 U.S.C. 1641(c); Public Law 94-412, Sec. 401(c); (90 Stat. 1257) and 50 U.S.C. 1703(c); Public Law 95-223, Sec 204(c); (91 Stat. 1627); jointly to the Committees on Foreign Affairs and Ways and Means.

REPORTS OF COMMITTEES ON PUBLIC BILLS AND RESOLUTIONS

Under clause 2 of rule XIII, reports of committees were delivered to the Clerk for printing and reference to the proper calendar, as follows:

Mr. AUSTIN SCOTT of Georgia: Committee on Rules. H. Res. 1224. A resolution providing for consideration of the bill (H.R. 7567) to provide for the reform and continuation of agricultural and other programs of the Department of Agriculture through fiscal year 2031, and for other purposes; providing for consideration of the bill (H.R. 2616)

to require public elementary and middle schools that receive funds under the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965 to obtain parental consent before changing a minor's gender markers, pronouns, or preferred name on any school form or sex-based accommodations, including locker rooms or bathrooms; providing for consideration of the concurrent resolution (S. Con. Res. 33) setting forth the congressional budget for the United States Government for fiscal year 2026 and setting forth the appropriate budgetary levels for fiscal years 2027 through 2035; providing for consideration of the bill (S. 1318) to direct the American Battle Monuments Commission to establish a program to identify American-Jewish servicemembers buried in United States military cemeteries overseas under markers that incorrectly represent their religion and heritage, and for other purposes; providing for consideration of the bill (H.R. 1346) to amend the Clean Air Act with respect to the ethanol waiver for Reid Vapor Pressure under that Act, and for other purposes; and for other purposes (Rept. 119–628). Referred to the House Calendar.

PUBLIC BILLS AND RESOLUTIONS

Under clause 2 of rule XII, public bills and resolutions of the following titles were introduced and severally referred, as follows:

By Mr. PAPPAS (for himself, Mr. HUFFMAN, and Mr. QUIGLEY):

H.R. 8565. A bill to reauthorize the active transportation infrastructure investment program, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

By Mr. BACON (for himself, Mr. NUNN of Iowa, and Ms. MOORE of Wisconsin):

H.R. 8566. A bill to encourage the development of specialized foster care programs designed specifically for large sibling groups, sibling groups with a wide age range, and sibling groups with complex needs; to the Committee on Education and Workforce.

By Mr. BEYER (for himself, Mr. OBERNOLTE, Mr. GARCIA of California, and Ms. PETTERSEN):

H.R. 8567. A bill to require the Administrator of the Federal Aviation Administration to establish an education program on unleaded aviation gasoline, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

By Mr. CASAR (for himself, Mr. RILEY of New York, Mr. RYAN, Ms. ANSARI, Mrs. FOUSHEE, Mr. GARCÍA of Illinois, Mr. GOLDMAN of New York, Ms. GOODLANDER, Mr. GREEN of Texas, Mrs. GRIJALVA, Ms. NORTON, Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia, Mr. MANNION, Mrs. MCCLAIN DELANEY, Mr. MENEFEE, Mr. MFUME, Mr. MRVAN, Ms. SIMON, Mr. SUBRAMANYAM, Mr. THANEDAR, Ms. TLAIB, and Mrs. WATSON COLEMAN):

H.R. 8568. A bill to amend the Federal Power Act and the Public Utility Regulatory Policies Act of 1978 to require investor owned electric utilities and gas utilities and transmission providers to, when establishing or calculating a return on equity, establish or calculate the return on equity at the lowest return on equity in an established range of reasonableness, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

By Mr. CLINE:

H.R. 8569. A bill to clarify that the baseline is based on current laws and the assumption of continuation of current levels of discretionary appropriations, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Budget.

By Mr. CLINE:

H.R. 8570. A bill to amend the Congressional Budget and Impoundment Control Act of 1974 to require the Congressional Budget Office to include the effects of using baseline assumptions when preparing estimates under such Act, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Rules, and in addition to the Committee on the Budget, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. GILL of Texas (for himself, Ms. JOHNSON of Texas, Mr. SELF, Ms. MACE, Mr. GOODEN, and Mr. HUNT):

H.R. 8571. A bill to prohibit the enforcement of certain contractual clauses that restrict disclosure of sexual abuse of minors, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. HARDER of California (for himself and Ms. SCHRIER):

H.R. 8572. A bill to provide a gasoline tax holiday; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mrs. HARSHBARGER (for herself, Mr. MCDOWELL, Mr. STUTZMAN, and Mrs. MILLER of Illinois):

H.R. 8573. A bill to prohibit gender transition procedures on minors, to authorize the Secretary of Health and Human Services to impose civil penalties on persons who perform gender transition procedures on minors, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce, and in addition to the Committee on the Judiciary, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Ms. JOHNSON of Texas:

H.R. 8574. A bill to authorize the Secretary of State to provide funds for a United States pavilion or other major exhibit at any international exposition or world's fair, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

By Ms. JOHNSON of Texas:

H.R. 8575. A bill to strengthen the public-private partnerships and policy efforts of the Department of State to advance women's economic security in South and Central Asia, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

By Ms. KELLY of Illinois:

H.R. 8576. A bill to direct the Federal Communications Commission to establish a program to make grants available to States to inform individuals of potential eligibility for the Lifeline program of the Commission, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

By Mr. KRISHNAMOORTHI (for himself, Mr. NEGUSE, and Ms. PETTERSEN):

H.R. 8577. A bill to provide for a procedure for Congress to carry out a reversal of a decision by the President not to declare a major disaster requested by the Governor of a State under the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure, and in addition to the Committee on Rules, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Ms. LETLOW:

H.R. 8578. A bill to amend the National Nutrition Monitoring and Related Research Act of 1990 to codify the Dietary Guidelines for Americans, 2025-2030, issued jointly by the Secretary of Agriculture and the Secretary of Health and Human Services, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Agriculture.

By Mr. MACKENZIE (for himself and Ms. PETTERSEN):

H.R. 8579. A bill to direct the Administrator of the Federal Aviation Administration to issue regulations to include strollers in the contract of carriage of air carriers and set a liability limit for damaged strollers, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

By Mr. MCCORMICK:

H.R. 8580. A bill to require certain duties and covered import restrictions with respect to forestry products to be reduced by 50 percent if an importer of such product can demonstrate that such product contains 100 percent raw wood material originating in the United States, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. MENEFEE (for himself, Mr. RASKIN, Ms. CLARKE of New York, Ms. NORTON, Mrs. BEATTY, and Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia):

H.R. 8581. A bill to require States to hold special elections to fill vacancies in the House of Representatives not later than 180 days after a vacancy occurs in the House of Representatives, and for other purposes; to the Committee on House Administration.

By Ms. MENG (for herself, Ms. LOIS FRANKEL of Florida, Ms. DEGETTE, Ms. JAYAPAL, Ms. JACOBS, and Mr. MEEKS):

H.R. 8582. A bill to nullify certain rules related to foreign assistance; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

By Mrs. MILLER-MEEKS (for herself and Mrs. HINSON):

H.R. 8583. A bill to prohibit the imposition of any duty on the importation of phosphate fertilizers under section 122 or 301 of the Trade Act of 1974, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. MIN (for himself and Mr. HILL of Arkansas):

H.R. 8584. A bill to require the Commander of the United States Space Command to submit a feasibility report on expanding the Multinational Force Operation Olympic Defender; to the Committee on Armed Services.

By Mr. MOOLENAAR (for himself and Mr. HUIZENGA):

H.R. 8585. A bill to require the Secretary of Health and Human Services to award grants to support community-based coverage entities to carry out a comprehensive coverage program that provides qualifying individuals and small businesses health coverage and integrated health related social need services to small business workers that promote improved health, long-term economic self-sufficiency, employment and retention, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce, and in addition to the Committee on Education and Workforce, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. MOORE of Alabama (for himself, Mr. GROTHMAN, Mr. HUNT, and Mr. NEHLS):

H.R. 8586. A bill to amend the Immigration and Nationality Act to protect American workers and values; to the Committee on the Judiciary, and in addition to the Committee on Education and Workforce, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. OGLES (for himself, Ms. BOEBERT, Mr. CLYDE, Mr. CRANE, Mr. GOSAR, and Mr. WEBER of Texas):

H.R. 8587. A bill to prohibit the use of funds to implement, administer, or enforce measures requiring certain employees to refer to an individual by the preferred pronouns of such individual or a name other than the legal name of such individual, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

By Ms. PRESSLEY (for herself, Ms. TLAIB, Mr. MCGOVERN, Ms. OCASIO-CORTEZ, Ms. SIMON, Mrs. RAMIREZ, Ms. SCHAKOWSKY, Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia, Mr. FROST, Ms. LEE of Pennsylvania, Ms. WILLIAMS of Georgia, Mrs. MCIVER, Ms. CLARKE of New York, Mr. CARTER of Louisiana, Ms. KELLY of Illinois, Ms. KAMLAGER-DOVE, Mrs. WATSON COLEMAN, Ms. OMAR, Mr. CASAR, and Mr. GOMEZ):

H.R. 8588. A bill to amend the Fair Credit Reporting Act to prohibit consumer reporting agencies that furnish consumer reports for tenant screening purposes from providing certain information, to establish duties of users of consumer reports for housing purposes, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Financial Services.

By Ms. ROSS (for herself, Ms. TENNEY, Mrs. SYKES, and Ms. DE LA CRUZ):

H.R. 8589. A bill to amend title 11 of the United States Code to address misuse of bankruptcy proceedings in cases of child sex abuse, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Ms. STRICKLAND:

H.R. 8590. A bill to clarify the eligibility of certain student populations for child care assistance under the Child Care and Development Block Grant Act of 1990; to the Committee on Education and Workforce.

By Mr. GARCIA of Illinois:

H. Con. Res. 94. Concurrent resolution directing the President, pursuant to section 5(c) of the War Powers Resolution, to remove United States Armed Forces from hostilities with Iran; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

By Mr. GREEN of Texas:

H. Res. 1225. A resolution commending the Islamic Republic of Pakistan for its efforts to facilitate peace between the United States and Israel with Iran; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

By Mr. GREEN of Texas:

H. Res. 1226. A resolution condemning President Donald J. Trump for his disgraceful, despicable, and disrespectful social media post depicting himself as Jesus Christ, diminishing the dignity of the Presidency and bringing disrepute to the office; to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

By Mr. CALVERT:

H. Res. 1227. A resolution condemning State-level energy policies that restrict domestic oil production, increase gasoline prices, and undermine American energy security and national defense; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce, and in addition to the Committee on Armed Services, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. GARCIA of California (for himself, Ms. ANSARI, Mr. LYNCH, Mr. MIN, Ms. NORTON, Mr. SUBRAMANYAM, Ms. SIMON, Ms. RANDALL, Mr. BELL, Ms. LEE of Pennsylvania, Mr. KHANNA, Mr. MFUME, Ms. TLAIB, Mr. KRISHNAMOORTHI, Mr. CASAR, Ms. CROCKETT, Ms. STANSBURY, Ms. BROWN, Ms. PRESSLEY, Mr. FROST, and Mr. WALKINSHAW):

H. Res. 1228. A resolution directing the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform of the House of Representatives to initiate or intervene in judicial proceedings; to the Committee on Rules.

By Ms. GOODLANDER (for herself, Mr. JOYCE of Ohio, Mr. CARTER of Louisiana, Mr. MOYLAN, and Mr. NEGUSE):

H. Res. 1229. A resolution supporting the designation of April 2026 as ''National Native Plant Month''; to the Committee on Natural Resources.

By Mr. HARRIGAN:

H. Res. 1230. A resolution addressing the politicization of war crimes allegations against allied Special Operations Forces; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

By Ms. MOORE of Wisconsin (for herself and Mrs. DINGELL):

H. Res. 1231. A resolution supporting the designation of April 29, 2026, as ''Denim Day'' and honoring survivors of sexual assault; to the Committee on the Judiciary, and in addition to the Committee on Rules, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Ms. MOORE of Wisconsin:

H. Res. 1232. A resolution amending the Rules of the House of Representatives to permit individuals to wear denim clothing on the floor of the House on the last Wednesday of April of each year; to the Committee on Rules.

By Mr. NUNN of Iowa (for himself, Ms. MOORE of Wisconsin, and Mr. BACON):

H. Res. 1233. A resolution expressing support for the recognition of April as National Foster Sibling Connections Month; to the Committee on Education and Workforce.

By Ms. PETTERSEN (for herself, Mr. FITZPATRICK, Mrs. TRAHAN, Mr. NEGUSE, and Mr. MCDOWELL):

H. Res. 1234. A resolution supporting the mission and goals of National Fentanyl Awareness Day in 2026, including increasing individual and public awareness of the impact of fake or counterfeit fentanyl pills on families and young people; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce, and in addition to the Committee on the Judiciary, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. TRAN (for himself, Mrs. KIM, Mr. CORREA, Ms. LOFGREN, Ms. CHU, Mrs. TORRES of California, Mr. MIN, Mr. DOGGETT, Ms. BYNUM, Mr. KHANNA, and Ms. DEXTER):

H. Res. 1235. A resolution recognizing the 51st anniversary of Black April and the Fall of Saigon on April 30, 1975; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs, and in addition to the Committee on Armed Services, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. WALBERG (for himself, Mr. BALDERSON, Mr. VAN ORDEN, and Mr. NORCROSS):

H. Res. 1236. A resolution expressing support for the designation of May 2026 as ''Motorcycle Safety Awareness Month''; to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

CONSTITUTIONAL AUTHORITY STATEMENT

Pursuant to clause 7 of rule XII of the Rules of the House of Representatives, the following statements are submitted regarding the specific powers granted to Congress in the Constitution to enact the accompanying bill or joint resolution.

By Mr. PAPPAS:

H.R. 8565.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1, Section 8, Clause 18

By Mr. BACON:

H.R. 8566.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1, Section 8

By Mr. BEYER:

H.R. 8567.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8 of the Constitution of the United States.

By Mr. CASAR:

H.R. 8568.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1 of the US Constitution

By Mr. CLINE:

H.R. 8569.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to Article I, Section 8 of the Constitution.

By Mr. CLINE:

H.R. 8570.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to Article I, Section 8 of the Constitution.

By Mr. GILL of Texas:

H.R. 8571.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1, Section 8

By Mr. HARDER of California:

H.R. 8572.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8

By Mrs. HARSHBARGER:

H.R. 8573.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8 of the United States Constitution

By Ms. JOHNSON of Texas:

H.R. 8574.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

The Necessary and Proper Clause—Article I, Section 8, Clause 18

By Ms. JOHNSON of Texas:

H.R. 8575.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

The Necessary and Proper Clause—Article I, Section 8, Clause 18

By Ms. KELLY of Illinois:

H.R. 8576.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1, Section 8 of the United States Constitution.

The single subject of this legislation is:

To direct the Federal Communications Commission to establish a program to make grants available to States to inform individuals of potential eligibility for the Lifeline program of the Commission, and for other purposes.

By Mr. KRISHNAMOORTHI:

H.R. 8577.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1, Section 8

By Ms. LETLOW:

H.R. 8578.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8, Clause 1

By Mr. MACKENZIE:

H.R. 8579.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I Section 8

By Mr. MCCORMICK:

H.R. 8580.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

clause 3 of section 8 of Article I of the Constitution

By Mr. MENEFEE:
H.R. 8581.
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
Article 1, Section 8
By Ms. MENG:
H.R. 8582.
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
Article I Section 8 of the Constitution
By Mrs. MILLER-MEEKS:
H.R. 8583.
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
Article 1, Section 8 of the United States Constitution
By Mr. MIN:
H.R. 8584.
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
Article I, Section 8, Clause 18.
By Mr. MOOLENAAR:
H.R. 8585.
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
Article 1, Section 8 of the United States Constitution
By Mr. MOORE of Alabama:
H.R. 8586.
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
Article 1, Section 8
By Mr. OGLES:
H.R. 8587.
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
Article I, Section VIII
By Ms. PRESSLEY:
H.R. 8588.
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
Art. 1 Sec. 8 Clause 18
By Ms. ROSS:
H.R. 8589.
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
Article I, Section 8
By Ms. STRICKLAND:
H.R. 8590.
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
Article 1, Section 8

ADDITIONAL SPONSORS

Under clause 7 of rule XII, sponsors were added to public bills and resolutions, as follows:

H.R. 138: Mrs. KIGGANS of Virginia.
H.R. 222: Mr. LALOTA.
H.R. 632: Mr. GRIFFITH.
H.R. 929: Mr. LALOTA.
H.R. 1065: Mr. GOODEN, Mr. HERNÁNDEZ, and Mr. KELLY of Pennsylvania.
H.R. 1083: Mr. CRANK.
H.R. 1109: Mr. DONALDS.
H.R. 1138: Mr. MEEKS.
H.R. 1175: Mr. MOORE of Utah and Mr. HARIDOPOLOS.
H.R. 1299: Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ and Mr. OWENS.
H.R. 1346: Mr. JACKSON of Illinois.
H.R. 1414: Mrs. KIGGANS of Virginia.
H.R. 1522: Mr. GOODEN, Ms. JOHNSON of Texas, Ms. LEE of Pennsylvania, and Mr. HERNÁNDEZ.
H.R. 1529: Mr. KEATING.
H.R. 1564: Ms. ESCOBAR, Mr. CLYBURN, Mr. MFUME, and Ms. ADAMS.
H.R. 1628: Mr. MCDOWELL.
H.R. 1684: Mr. LARSEN of Washington.
H.R. 1700: Ms. JOHNSON of Texas.
H.R. 1732: Ms. RANDALL.
H.R. 1787: Mr. PAPPAS and Mr. COHEN.
H.R. 1939: Ms. SCHAKOWSKY.
H.R. 1957: Mr. NEGUSE.
H.R. 1993: Mr. CLYBURN, Mrs. WAGNER, and Mr. MRVAN.
H.R. 2001: Mr. DOGGETT.
H.R. 2062: Mr. MORAN.
H.R. 2120: Mr. LALOTA.
H.R. 2199: Mrs. KIGGANS of Virginia.
H.R. 2253: Mr. LARSEN of Washington.
H.R. 2353: Ms. WATERS and Ms. JOHNSON of Texas.
H.R. 2467: Ms. SCANLON.
H.R. 2472: Mr. LAWLER.
H.R. 2487: Ms. DELBENE.
H.R. 2495: Mr. MRVAN.
H.R. 2512: Ms. STEVENS.
H.R. 2538: Ms. SALINAS.
H.R. 2547: Mr. CONAWAY.
H.R. 2555: Mr. FINE, Mr. SESSIONS, Mr. VAN ORDEN, and Ms. ADAMS.
H.R. 2589: Mr. VAN ORDEN.
H.R. 2618: Mrs. HAYES.
H.R. 2662: Mr. DONALDS.
H.R. 2756: Mr. LALOTA.
H.R. 2854: Ms. PLASKETT.
H.R. 2911: Mrs. KIGGANS of Virginia.
H.R. 2941: Mr. LATIMER.
H.R. 3104: Ms. ADAMS.
H.R. 3112: Mr. LARSEN of Washington.
H.R. 3178: Mr. LYNCH, Mr. SOTO, and Mr. BACON.
H.R. 3194: Mr. CARTER of Georgia.
H.R. 3235: Mr. GRIFFITH.
H.R. 3304: Mr. LALOTA and Mr. CASE.
H.R. 3501: Mrs. KIGGANS of Virginia.
H.R. 3514: Mr. HUDSON and Mr. BERGMAN.
H.R. 3585: Mr. PETERS.
H.R. 3593: Mr. ROGERS of Alabama.
H.R. 3696: Mr. MFUME.
H.R. 3808: Mrs. KIGGANS of Virginia.
H.R. 3988: Mr. MFUME.
H.R. 4097: Mr. MILLS.
H.R. 4122: Mrs. BIGGS of South Carolina.
H.R. 4153: Mr. FRY.
H.R. 4244: Mr. LATIMER and Mrs. WATSON COLEMAN.
H.R. 4282: Mr. SORENSEN.
H.R. 4299: Mr. HARRIGAN.
H.R. 4318: Mr. NUNN of Iowa.
H.R. 4620: Mr. SMITH of Missouri and Mr. FRY.
H.R. 4642: Mr. LALOTA and Mr. VINDMAN.
H.R. 4710: Mr. SOTO.
H.R. 4733: Ms. CRAIG and Mrs. MCCLAIN DELANEY.
H.R. 4840: Mr. CISNEROS.
H.R. 5068: Ms. BONAMICI.
H.R. 5123: Mr. NEGUSE.
H.R. 5168: Ms. POU.
H.R. 5199: Mrs. KIGGANS of Virginia.
H.R. 5267: Mr. GILL of Texas.
H.R. 5269: Ms. TITUS.
H.R. 5271: Ms. SALINAS.
H.R. 5408: Ms. WILLIAMS of Georgia, Mr. CORREA, and Mr. LEVIN.
H.R. 5469: Mrs. MCCLAIN DELANEY.
H.R. 5486: Mr. GOLDEN of Maine and Mr. RASKIN.
H.R. 5490: Mr. FONG.
H.R. 5509: Mr. HARRIGAN and Mr. KELLY of Pennsylvania.
H.R. 5511: Ms. MCCLELLAN.
H.R. 5545: Mr. CISNEROS.
H.R. 5560: Ms. LEGER FERNANDEZ.
H.R. 5586: Mr. LALOTA.
H.R. 5604: Mr. KHANNA.
H.R. 5621: Mr. FIELDS.
H.R. 5658: Ms. MEJIA.
H.R. 6002: Ms. BYNUM.
H.R. 6018: Mr. FITZGERALD.
H.R. 6130: Mr. KILEY of California and Ms. JAYAPAL.
H.R. 6138: Mr. LAWLER.
H.R. 6182: Ms. LEGER FERNANDEZ.
H.R. 6213: Mr. MOYLAN.
H.R. 6238: Mrs. MCCLAIN DELANEY.
H.R. 6304: Mr. LALOTA.
H.R. 6356: Ms. MCCLELLAN.
H.R. 6403: Ms. LEE of Nevada.
H.R. 6505: Mrs. KIGGANS of Virginia.
H.R. 6617: Mr. CISNEROS.
H.R. 6642: Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania.
H.R. 6799: Mrs. KIGGANS of Virginia.
H.R. 6856: Ms. GARCIA of Texas and Mr. KRISHNAMOORTHI.
H.R. 6875: Mr. MAGAZINER.
H.R. 6879: Mr. MAGAZINER.
H.R. 6893: Mrs. MCCLAIN DELANEY.
H.R. 6992: Mr. VEASEY.
H.R. 7026: Mr. LUCAS.
H.R. 7199: Mr. VAN DREW.
H.R. 7313: Mr. SUBRAMANYAM and Mr. PATRONIS.
H.R. 7343: Mr. SCHWEIKERT and Mr. DAVIS of Illinois.
H.R. 7390: Mr. HUDSON.
H.R. 7391: Mr. VAN ORDEN.
H.R. 7432: Mr. BUCHANAN, Mr. SCHWEIKERT, and Mr. DAVIS of Illinois.
H.R. 7450: Mr. KUSTOFF.
H.R. 7460: Mr. NEGUSE.
H.R. 7498: Mrs. KIGGANS of Virginia and Ms. LEE of Nevada.
H.R. 7518: Mr. MOYLAN.
H.R. 7529: Mr. SCHWEIKERT.
H.R. 7564: Mrs. HAYES.
H.R. 7655: Mr. SCHWEIKERT.
H.R. 7747: Mr. STRONG.
H.R. 7802: Mr. AUCHINCLOSS.
H.R. 7805: Ms. DELAURO.
H.R. 7830: Ms. LEGER FERNANDEZ and Mr. KHANNA.
H.R. 7915: Mrs. WATSON COLEMAN.
H.R. 7975: Mrs. MCCLAIN DELANEY.
H.R. 7977: Ms. BROWN and Mr. KHANNA.
H.R. 7995: Mr. DAVIS of Illinois and Mr. SCHWEIKERT.
H.R. 8032: Mrs. KIGGANS of Virginia.
H.R. 8041: Mrs. KIGGANS of Virginia.
H.R. 8104: Mrs. MCCLAIN DELANEY.
H.R. 8141: Mrs. WAGNER.
H.R. 8224: Mr. DAVIDSON.
H.R. 8267: Mr. BARRETT.
H.R. 8270: Mr. HARRIGAN.
H.R. 8283: Ms. KAMLAGER-DOVE, Mr. LAHOOD, Mr. CLINE, and Mr. HARRIGAN.
H.R. 8295: Mr. MORELLE.
H.R. 8330: Mr. WILLIAMS of Texas.
H.R. 8332: Mr. MCGUIRE.
H.R. 8336: Mrs. HINSON and Mr. PAPPAS.
H.R. 8341: Mr. PFLUGER.
H.R. 8382: Mrs. FOUSHEE.
H.R. 8424: Mr. LAWLER.
H.R. 8429: Ms. DELBENE.
H.R. 8436: Ms. TLAIB.
H.R. 8443: Mr. ROY and Mr. HARRIS of North Carolina.
H.R. 8464: Mr. CALVERT.
H.R. 8538: Mr. BABIN.
H.R. 8562: Mr. LATIMER and Mr. WILSON of South Carolina.
H.J. Res. 12: Mr. CLINE.
H.J. Res. 153: Ms. DEXTER and Mr. KHANNA.
H.J. Res. 154: Mr. OLSZEWSKI.
H. Con. Res. 86: Ms. GOODLANDER.
H. Con. Res. 93: Mr. LIEU and Mr. THOMPSON of California.
H. Res. 70: Mr. GOODEN.
H. Res. 562: Mrs. KIGGANS of Virginia.
H. Res. 925: Mr. STANTON.
H. Res. 1001: Mr. MFUME.
H. Res. 1087: Ms. JOHNSON of Texas.
H. Res. 1164: Mr. ADERHOLT.
H. Res. 1196: Ms. STANSBURY.
H. Res. 1209: Mr. BACON.
H. Res. 1212: Ms. TLAIB and Ms. ROSS.
H. Res. 1213: Mr. DAVIS of North Carolina.
H. Res. 1216: Mrs. MILLER-MEEKS.
H. Res. 1220: Mr. FITZGERALD, Mrs. BICE, Mr. FONG, Mr. LANGWORTHY, Mr. MILLS, Mr. ROGERS of Alabama, Mr. CALVERT, and Mr. WEBSTER of Florida.

United States
of America

Congressional Record

PROCEEDINGS AND DEBATES OF THE *119th* CONGRESS, SECOND SESSION

Vol. 172 WASHINGTON, WEDNESDAY, APRIL 29, 2026 *No. 75*

Senate

The Senate met at 12 noon and was called to order by the President pro tempore (Mr. GRASSLEY).

PRAYER

The Chaplain, Dr. Barry C. Black, offered the following prayer:

Let us pray.

Eternal God, thank You for reminders. We are grateful for Your reminding us of the greatness of our Nation's past, the strengths of our Nation's present, and the opportunities for our Nation's future. Lord, we appreciate Your reminder of the importance of continuing to unite in serving the causes of freedom in our Nation and world. We praise You for the reminder that what we do speaks as loudly as what we say.

May the memories of what we have been and the challenges of what we can be empower us to seize this day for Your glory. Continue to bless and keep our lawmakers as they seek to not only challenge the status quo but to remember the good things about the way we were.

We pray in Your loving Name. Amen.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The President pro tempore led the Pledge of Allegiance, as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

RESERVATION OF LEADER TIME

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. RICKETTS). Under the previous order, the leadership time is reserved.

MORNING BUSINESS

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the Senate will be in a period of morning business with Senators permitted to speak therein for up to 10 minutes each.

The Senator from Iowa.

NATIONAL FENTANYL AWARENESS DAY

Mr. GRASSLEY. Mr. President, the illegal drug fentanyl kills tens of thousands every year. Today marks National Fentanyl Awareness Day. I want to thank the senior Senator from New Hampshire for her collaboration with me in recognizing this day and the dangers that come from fentanyl.

In recent years, we have become too familiar with fentanyl's dangers. Hundreds of thousands of Americans have lost their lives, with the number totaling tens of thousands each year. That is why I worked with Senator CASSIDY of Louisiana in getting legislation that we entitled the HALT Fentanyl Act passed into law and signed by the President last year. So now fentanyl is permanently scheduled, and law enforcement has more tools to remove the dangerous drugs from Americans' streets.

I want to commend President Trump and the Department of Justice for using those tools. Under President Trump's leadership, fentanyl seizures continue to reach record highs, and countless Americans are safer as a result.

I also want to thank law enforcement for their tireless efforts to keep Americans safe and their daily choice to protect all of us from dangerous drugs like fentanyl.

Now, there is another recent problem that has come up with fentanyl being mixed with another dangerous drug, xylazine. As chairman of the Judiciary Committee, I am committing to continue to combat dangerous drugs mixed with fentanyl. Again, xylazine is an example.

Under my leadership, our committee recently reported an important, as well as bipartisan, bill that would do just that. I will continue to push for passage of that legislation to stop the xylazine and fentanyl mixture.

Today, though, I join many in raising awareness concerning fentanyl's impact and in expressing my solidarity with those affected by this poison.

I yield the floor.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The senior assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. THUNE. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

RECOGNITION OF THE MAJORITY LEADER

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The majority leader is recognized.

DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY

Mr. THUNE. Mr. President, we need law enforcement. Nowhere was that more evident than on Saturday night, when a gunman attempted to storm the White House Correspondents' Dinner in an attempt to kill the President, individuals in the line of succession to the Presidency, and civilians who got in the way.

We need law enforcement. We need the police officers who patrol our streets, the first to respond when someone is in danger or needs help. We need the FBI agents who investigate Federal crimes, from money laundering to kidnapping. We need the Secret Service agents who protect the President and Vice President and other dignitaries. We need sheriffs' offices and transit police and ATF agents, and, yes, we need the Federal law enforcement officers who patrol our borders and take dangerous illegal aliens off of our streets.

You could be forgiven for thinking that I am stating the obvious. Ask most Americans, and I think you would find they say: Of course—of course—we need law enforcement.

● This "bullet" symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.

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But that doesn't always seem to be obvious to my Democratic colleagues.

The ''defund the police'' movement and ''abolish ICE'' movements were both embraced by Members of the Democrat Party, and now Democrats are at it again.

The Department of Homeland Security has been shut down because Democrats decided they don't want to fund border security or immigration enforcement. They refuse to fund the Border Patrol. They refuse to fund Immigration and Customs Enforcement. They are refusing to fund any physical presence at our borders or any agents to take dangerous criminal illegal aliens off of our streets.

Not only that, the Democrat leader made it very clear that his party doesn't ever—he doesn't even, I should say, respect the work these law enforcement agents are doing.

''Nobody in this country respects ICE and Border Patrol,'' the Democrat leader said on the floor last week. And when asked to clarify his comments to say whether he really thinks nobody respects agents who put their lives on the line to, for example, stop dangerous individuals from crossing the border, the Democrat leader declined to answer. He declined to answer.

And I guess it is no surprise. Declining to fund these key law enforcement Agencies is a pretty good clue that Democrats don't respect the sacrifices these agents make to protect our country.

Why do we need law enforcement officers? Because there are dangerous individuals out there who choose to do harm. That is just a fact of living in a fallen world. And no government program or liberal fantasy is going to erase that reality.

And just as there are dangerous individuals already in our communities, there are dangerous individuals who would like to make their way illegally across our borders: drug traffickers, human traffickers, other criminals, terrorists.

Border Patrol agents stop them. And when dangerous individuals do make their way into our country, Immigration and Customs Enforcement agents work to take these dangerous individuals off of our streets.

Democrats may not like this reality. They may not like the fact that we need border security and immigration enforcement. But the fact remains that Border Patrol and Immigration and Customs Enforcement are two Agencies that play a key role in our safety.

And the enormity of what Democrats have opted for cannot be overstated: no agents—zero agents—at the border; no one—no one—to stop dangerous individuals from making their way into our country; and no one—no one—to catch and deport these dangerous individuals if they do make it in.

Republicans, of course, are not going to let that happen. As long as we are in charge, we are going to do everything we can to protect our borders and keep dangerous criminal illegal aliens off of our streets.

And that is why, after weeks and weeks of attempting to negotiate a funding agreement with Democrats before they ultimately walked away, we are now set to consider a reconciliation bill to fund border security and immigration enforcement for the next 3 years.

We have passed the budget resolution that will open the way for the final bill, and I hope my colleagues in the House will pass it in short order.

We need law enforcement. It is too bad the Democratic Party doesn't always agree.

I yield the floor.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The senior assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. KENNEDY. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

CARBON DIOXIDE

Mr. KENNEDY. Mr. President, I rise for two reasons: First, I talked last night about carbon capture—carbon dioxide capture—injection wells in Louisiana. I am not going to regive that speech.

Carbon dioxide, while a naturally occurring gas that God created—when you breathe, what you blow out is carbon dioxide. The world couldn't exist without carbon dioxide. Plants couldn't conduct photosynthesis. But carbon dioxide is also a gas that is heavier than air, and it rises. And it is also dispersed throughout our atmosphere.

And while there are many good things about CO_2, as we call it, one of the bad things is that carbon dioxide acts as a blanket over our world. And what happens when you are in bed, under a blanket? The blanket holds in heat. And carbon dioxide acts as this blanket, and it holds in the Earth's heat. And that can—that can affect your climate and your temperature. That is what all this discussion about carbon dioxide is all about.

A number of years ago, Congress decided to encourage companies that produce carbon dioxide. And one of the ways you also produce carbon dioxide, I should also add, is by burning fossil fuels. So a petrochemical plant, which uses natural gas when it produces the chemicals, it also produces CO_2, or carbon dioxide, just like I have been producing it as I have been breathing while we are talking.

In any event, Congress passed a statute and said: We want to try to minimize the production of carbon dioxide, which can affect our climate when we burn fossil fuels.

So Congress came up with this idea of paying companies money to capture that carbon dioxide so that it is not released into the atmosphere—and, boy, do we pay a bunch of money. It is about $30 billion in spending every year. We are paying it to private companies to capture this carbon dioxide. It will be about $30 billion that we are spending by 2030.

One of the things that companies do when they produce the carbon dioxide and they want to capture it—after they capture it, they have to do something with it. One of the things that many of you probably know is that they drill-well inject it underground. In my State, that is very controversial. Some people support it. Some people don't.

I am not here to debate the merits of carbon capture and what we call carbon capture sequestration. All I am saying is that under Louisiana law, if you own property and you don't want a company drilling a well and putting carbon dioxide under your property, you should have the right to say no.

My legislation—Louisiana passed a statute. I am not saying they were right or wrong to do it, just like I am not debating the merits—or lack thereof—of carbon capture and sequestration. All I am saying is that under my State law, if a company captures this carbon dioxide and wants to drill a well and inject it beneath the surface and if they want to put it on my property and I don't want them to put it on my property, then they come to me and say ''I want to drill a well and inject carbon dioxide,'' I am entitled to say ''Yep, you got it. Happy to help'' or I am entitled to say ''I don't want you to do it.'' They say ''Pretty please?'' and I say ''The short answer is no. The long answer is hell no.''

Under my State law, those private companies can force me to let them drill that well. We call it expropriation. Some States call it eminent domain. It is just like if a State wants to put a road through your property and it can't put it anywhere else, they can take your land, but they have to pay you for it. Well, in my State, the legislature says they can do the same thing with the drilling of these wells.

All I am saying is, in the great State of Louisiana, we go about this business of debating carbon capture and climate change and that sort of thing. If you own property, which, under my State constitution and the Federal Constitution, is an inalienable/unalienable right—you have the right to own property in America—and if a company wants to drill a well on your property and put carbon dioxide down there and you don't want them to, then you ought to have a right to say no, and the State can't make you, and the companies can't make you. And that is all I am saying. That is the only point I was trying to make last night.

If the powers that be in my State start bullying people—I am not saying they will, but if they start bullying people and taking their property when they don't want to give it up, in order to inject carbon dioxide beneath their

land without their permission or consent, then I am going to have something to say about it because this money that we are paying companies to do that is from a Federal statute. It is called, I think, a 45Q tax credit. And do you know what? That 45Q tax credit can be changed. I can't make the legislature pass or not pass a law, but I sure can offer a bill to change that amount of money that we are paying companies to do this if they are going to force people and take their land in order to put in these wells.

I wasn't very clear last night. I think I was tired, and it was late, and I was also in a hurry to get home to watch ''Wheel of Fortune.''

TRIBUTE TO PATRICK TAYLOR

Mr. KENNEDY. Now, Mr. President, the other reason I am here, which is just as important, is for this man sitting right here. His name is Patrick Taylor. He is a fine American, and he and I work together.

Much to my sorrow—well, it is sorrow, but it is also pride—Patrick is going to work for another Agency. And I mean that my feelings are mixed about it.

Here is my strategy. I am not saying people who don't follow my strategy are doing it wrong. This is just the way I have always done it. I have been in government and politics for a while, and I have known some politicians that don't want to hire anybody smarter than them, OK, because they don't want anybody around them who will make them look bad. That is cool. To each his own. I don't do it that way, OK? I figure, if I hire people smarter than me, they will make me look better. That is what I have always tried to do, and I fully concede that Patrick is smarter than me.

But one of the downsides of hiring people smarter than you is that they are ambitious, they learn all they can, and somebody comes in and hires them away. That happens, and it has happened to me a number of times. Every single time, even though I am disappointed, I also try to say to myself: You know, this is a compliment, and I am sad, but I am happy. And that is what has happened with Patrick.

Patrick, as I told you, is really smart. He is a graduate of Colgate. I wrote it all down here. He has a master's from Hillsdale College. He studied at the Claremont Institute. He is on my communications team. This guy is a master at digital media. I mean, he can make posts and stuff on digital media. He can make that social media stuff walk, talk, and whistle ''The Battle Hymn of the Republic,'' man, and he gets people to watch, and it is awesome.

Patrick is going to work for the U.S. International Development Finance Corporation. I asked him about it, and he said: It is top secret. If I told you, I would have to drown you in the ocean.

He didn't really say that.

It is a great job, and I am happy for him. He has been with me for 3 years, and it has been a great 3 years.

Patrick, Godspeed. Come back and see us. You are going to do great.

I just wanted to come by and acknowledge his service to the good people of America and to the good people of Louisiana and thank him for all of his help. It has been a lot of fun.

If you write a book, I reserve the right to edit it first, OK? You can't include everything in that book.

Patrick, thank you, man.

That is all I have, Mr. President. I can show my way out. My work here is done.

So I suggest the absence of a quorum.

Is that OK, Madam Parliamentarian?

Thank you, ma'am.

This is our Parliamentarian, Mr. President. She is pretty smart too.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The senior assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mrs. BLACKBURN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

WHITE HOUSE CORRESPONDENTS' DINNER SHOOTING

Mrs. BLACKBURN. Mr. President, every American should be grateful that President Trump, Vice President VANCE, the Cabinet, and thousands of other attendees were not harmed during Saturday's disturbing shooting that took place at the White House Correspondents' Association dinner.

We now know that the shooter was attempting to kill the President, and this was the third assassination attempt we have seen on his life in the past couple of years.

Now, some Democrats—and I would include former President Obama in this—some have claimed that we don't have details about the suspect's motives, but we do have plenty of details, and we know that the shooter actually laid a good bit of this out. He did a manifesto, and he sent that manifesto to his family shortly before the attack. The shooter said he was going to target administration officials ''prioritized from highest-ranking to lowest.'' It shows you he thought this through. Now, his reason for this, he said President Trump is—and I quote his wording here again—''pedophile, rapist, traitor.''

Now, this is unhinged rhetoric. It is completely in line with the lies that the Democrats have repeated on just about a daily basis every day regarding President Trump. We have heard it on TV, on podcasts, on social media, in their speeches, and it is something else that they continue with this rhetoric.

And Gov. Tim Walz who, of course, was the VP nominee in the last election once said:

> No one has ever been more dangerous to this country than Donald Trump, and he is a fascist to his core.

Again, that was Gov. Tim Walz.

Now, some of my colleagues on the other side of the aisle have called the President an ''existential threat to democracy,'' ''the most significant threat to American democracy since the Civil War,'' and an ''authoritarian.'' And some of them have chosen to compare him to historical figures, and that historical figure they usually use is Hitler. And, of course, Kamala Harris once compared him to a ''communist dictator.''

This is reckless rhetoric. This is the kind of rhetoric that needs to stop because this places a target on our President, and this is the type of rhetoric that has no place in civil public life.

Now, we are celebrating America 250, and we are looking at how this Nation has remained strong and free. Indeed, I think that as you look at our history, those tenets of faith, family, freedom, hope, and opportunity have served us well. And how do we achieve that American dream? Well, we have kept ourselves free and focused on achieving that dream for each and every person. They all look different. Everybody's dream is different of what they want, what their goals are, the type of community they want to live in. They are all different.

But we arrive at decisions of what kind of communities we will have, what kind of country we will have—those issues of importance—we arrive there through robust, respectful, bipartisan debate. We don't get there by exercising reckless rhetoric, some of which I have quoted. It is so disappointing to hear this from some of our colleagues and then to see the type of vitriol that this spurs.

Now, when we have robust, respectful, bipartisan debate—I share my opinion; someone else shares their opinion—what this does is to empower not only us, but the people that we represent, to enter into that debate, to be a part of the public square, to defend our freedoms, to build consensus, and to serve the American people and to preserve the freedoms that we enjoy.

Now, without it, without having that marketplace of ideas, without that robust, respectful debate that leads to exchange and asking: What if we did this? What if we did that? If we did not have that, then this Nation would head to a very dark place. And this latest assassination attempt on President Trump is another reminder of what can happen when Americans abandon the possibility of working together and instead of settling their differences by debate in the public square, they choose to settle these differences by violence, by reckless rhetoric.

So as we approach our Nation's 250th anniversary, we need to remember that it is this exchange of ideas and this robust, respectful debate that has helped to sustain the freedoms that we enjoy in this country.

DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY

Mrs. BLACKBURN. Mr. President, now, on a separate but related topic, we go to this issue of Department of Homeland Security funding. It is important that we remember that the Agency that is responsible for protecting our President, his family, our Vice President, his family, our Cabinet members—they all have a security detail—but the Agency is the Secret Service, and the Secret Service is in the Department of Homeland Security, as is Homeland Security Investigations, ICE, Border Patrol, TSA. See, it all comes out of that DHS budget.

And we now are on day 74 of the Democrats' latest shutdown of the Department of Homeland Security. It is the third time this Congress that they have chosen to shut down Homeland Security.

Now, to ensure that agents continue to receive their paychecks, President Trump has resorted to using funds from the Working Families Tax Cut—Big Beautiful Bill—that we passed last year, and thank goodness that we did. And I will remind the Chamber: Every single Democrat voted against that bill. Every single Democrat voted against your pocketbook. They voted to increase your taxes by voting no on the Big Beautiful Bill.

Well, thank goodness we got it passed because that is where the President has been able to go and move some money around and pay people that are working without a paycheck.

Now, you know, it makes you wonder how many people would choose to continue to work and not receive a paycheck? But that is what our Democrat colleagues continue to do.

Last night, I did a telephone townhall, and on this townhall was a grandmother who lives in Middle Tennessee. Her question to me was very pointed. She said: Senator BLACKBURN, my grandson is in the Coast Guard. Have you-all figured out how to pay the Coast Guard?

The Coast Guard. They are funded by DHS. So our colleagues across the aisle have chosen to say to the Coast Guard: Forget it. We are not for paying you.

So think about this. When you talk about going after human traffickers and drug runners, the Democrats don't want to fund that activity.

When you talk about Homeland Security Investigations that helps to find missing children, that locks up pedophiles and predators, that locks up groomers—they don't want to go after them. They are choosing to not fund that Agency.

Well, I had another caller on the townhall last night, and they said: I don't get this. Why don't they want to pay TSA? Why don't they want to pay ICE agents who were picking up people that broke the law to come into the country and have committed crimes and need to be deported? These are people that, by and large, most have orders of deportation already issued against them. They are ready to be deported.

And the answer is disappointing, but it is what the Democrats will tell you. Their goal is to abolish ICE, to open the border back up, and just say: You-all come. Anybody can come. We are going to vacate immigration law.

And their third goal is to defund the police. You know, during Joe Biden's era, they loved the fact—loved it—the border was wide open. And we had illegal aliens entering the country by the thousands and the millions. They liked it that way. They didn't know who was in the country, but they were glad they were here. They wanted more sanctuary cities.

And, again, what we see the Democrats doing, they are putting illegal aliens before citizens. They are not funding—will not fund Federal law enforcement, don't want to fund immigration, don't want to fund the Coast Guard, don't want to fund the TSA. I guess they just think that there should be no scanning and no review.

So we know that that is their goal, and we know also that they don't want a deal on this. They want to continue to have a fight. They want this issue. Their goal is to abolish ICE, to defund Federal law enforcement. That is where they are headed, so they like having a shutdown.

RECONCILIATION

Mrs. BLACKBURN. Well, they continue with this political charade, and we have now passed a budget resolution that is going to open the path for us for a targeted public safety reconciliation bill that is going to fund these issues through President Trump's term. We will take this issue off the table.

Now, we did this on the Big Beautiful Bill. We did it through reconciliation. We did it with 51 votes. And as I said earlier, not one single Democrat—not one—voted for the Big Beautiful Bill. And we will make certain that ICE and CBP and these other Agencies are funded, and we will do it without a single Democrat vote.

And also, doing it this way, the Democrats will have none of the reforms they pretended to want when it came to Homeland Security.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. ARMSTRONG). The Senator from Louisiana.

REMEMBERING MARTHA ODOM

Mr. CASSIDY. Mr. President, you and I are the elected representatives of our States, and sometimes we speak not on behalf of ourselves but on behalf of our entire State. Now is one of those times.

Everyone in Louisiana felt grief at the mass shooting in Shreveport that I spoke to on this floor last week. Now I speak for all in Louisiana who feel grief at the mass shooting in Baton Rouge last week, and our whole State feels this grief. We all grieve.

I have a friend Collis Temple—famous in Louisiana—the first African American who played basketball for LSU. He called to say that he, as a parent, felt the grief of this young lady's family, and it was Collis who compelled me to speak today because every family can imagine no longer having their child or their sibling.

We all grieve. Every classmate can picture walking to school and seeing an empty chair where their classmate once sat.

We all grieve. Every friend can imagine going on a carefree senior skip day. If you are older than 18, you can remember when you were once 18 and something awful happened—indeed, every friend grieves.

What do we say when words fail? We can say that all, in my State, in my country, are deeply and profoundly sorry and that all of Louisiana grieves with Martha's family.

So I ask that this body and all who are here join in a quiet moment for the life of Martha Odom, for everyone who loved her, loves her still, and will always love her.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Maine.

INSULIN ACT OF 2026

Ms. COLLINS. Mr. President, I rise today to speak about a bill that Senator SHAHEEN and I introduced recently. It is called the Improving Needed Safeguards for Users of Lifesaving Insulin Now Act, or the INSULIN Act. This bill would make insulin more affordable for Americans with diabetes.

I would like to also recognize the work of Senators WARNOCK and KENNEDY who joined us in introducing this important bill.

In 1997, I founded the Senate Diabetes Caucus after meeting with a family from Maine who had a 10-year-old son with type 1 diabetes.

I will never forget this young boy looking up at me and saying to me that he wished that he could just take 1 day off from having type 1 diabetes—his birthday or Christmas—just 1 day. But, of course, he could not.

It was then that I knew that I had to dedicate my efforts toward earlier diagnosis, better treatments and technology, and one day a cure.

Since 2009, Senator SHAHEEN and I have cochaired the Diabetes Caucus in the Senate and worked together to fund vital research and advance policies that will improve the lives of those who are living with diabetes. One of our top priorities has been to make insulin more affordable.

Now, insulin was first isolated more than 100 years ago in Canada, and the scientist who did discover it gave away, essentially, the patent rights because they wanted insulin to be available and affordable to everyone who needed it.

Tens of millions of Americans rely on insulin as part of their daily treatment

for their diabetes. For children, teens, and adults with type 1 diabetes, insulin is not optional; it is literally a matter of life or death. About 20 percent of those with type 2 diabetes are also insulin-dependent. While there are some exciting and extraordinary scientific breakthroughs in cell and gene therapy that may change this—and the sooner the better—the fact is that, today, people who are dependent on insulin still face great anxiety about its affordability.

I have heard from far too many people across Maine and across this country who, because of the escalating costs of insulin, feel they have to ration their insulin and do not take the full dose that their physician has prescribed and that they need to be healthy.

Let me tell you of one example.

Bek Hoskins, of Chelsea, ME, is a young adult. Bek was forced to skip her doses of insulin to try to make it last longer, to stretch it out, because she simply could not afford the cost. In one profoundly memorable instance, Bek pushed her body's limit too far, and she ended up in the emergency room. Her husband Barrett rushed her, through a snowstorm, to the hospital, and she nearly died because she tried to go without insulin for 2 days. Such a dangerous, preventable crisis should never occur. We must address this life-threatening problem.

Senator SHAHEEN and I have introduced legislation to reduce the price of insulin in the past two Congresses, and we have made some progress. For example, three of the biggest insulin manufacturers—Eli Lilly, Novo Nordisk, and Sanofi—voluntarily chose to cut their list prices. This is encouraging, but there is more work to be done. We also joined together for reforms in the pharmacy benefit manager system, which encouraged PBMs to choose the highest priced insulin for insurance formularies. That was because their compensation was frequently a percentage of the list price. Much of that we are fixing, and some of it was fixed last year. But we need more legislation to fix the fundamental problems in the insulin market, including limited biosimilar competition, as well as barriers to patients' access.

The INSULIN Act would do just that. Our bill would limit cost sharing for insulin to no more than $35 a month, or 25 percent of the list price per month, for at least one type of insulin for each type that is needed and dosage form, for patients who have commercial insurance.

Our bill would also prohibit insurers and pharmacy benefit managers from placing utilization obstacles such as prior authorization and step therapy on products that have capped costs. These important patient protections will deliver immediate out-of-pocket relief.

The INSULIN Act of 2026 will also promote generic and biosimilar competition in the insurance market to further drive down prices through more competition. The bill would create a new, expedited FDA pathway to promote biosimilar competition. It would take similar steps to enhance regulatory certainty for biosimilar drug companies, such as by requiring the FDA to prioritize actions such as inspections and communications with manufacturers.

We can't have a situation where a biosimilar, which is like a generic for insulin, is launched at a low price but faces obstacles to its approval even if it is absolutely identical to a brand-name insulin, and we can't allow—and we have seen this before—pharmacy benefit managers to refuse to choose that lower priced biosimilar product for the insurance company's formulary simply because they will make less on the deal.

Finally, this bill helps address the insulin needs of uninsured Americans by creating a pilot grant program for States to implement to identify people with diabetes who are uninsured and provide them with insulin at $35 a month. It will also create an insulin resource center and a hotline for people with diabetes who are uninsured to help connect them with programs so that they can secure the insulin that they need in order to be healthy.

The INSULIN Act will help make insulin more affordable for Americans, both those with and without insurance, by capping the cost and addressing fundamental flaws in the insulin market and the FDA approval process. I thank the American Diabetes Association, Breakthrough T1D, and the Endocrine Society for endorsing this much needed legislation.

Let me just add one final point. If individuals who are insulin-dependent are able to use their insulin, they not only are going to be healthier and avoid severe ramifications of not taking insulin; the healthcare system is going to save money. It is far less expensive to help people afford the insulin that they need for their diabetes than to have them hospitalized or at risk of losing a limb or becoming blind or having other severe consequences because they are not able to afford their insulin.

So I would encourage my colleagues to join us in supporting this bipartisan and much needed legislation.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. CORNYN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The Senator from Texas.

FOREIGN INTELLIGENCE SURVEILLANCE ACT

Mr. CORNYN. Mr. President, I have come to the floor to talk about a law that most people will have never heard of, but it is very, very important to our national security. That is the Foreign Intelligence Surveillance Act or FISA as we sometimes refer to it.

We are approaching the expiration of this section 702 of the Foreign Intelligence Surveillance Act later this week, and time's a-wastin' for us to get this actually done.

I know it is important for us to have debates and offer constructive suggestions about changes in these laws, but we cannot risk going dark on this essential intelligence-gathering law, which actually has empowered President Trump to help keep the country safe.

Without getting into the merits of one of these proposals or another, let me just take a step back and talk about the importance of the Foreign Intelligence Surveillance Act and national security.

One of the major misconceptions about this is it is a law enforcement tool, but it is not. It is not primarily a law enforcement tool. Now, it is illegal to commit espionage in this country, but the main reason this is used is to collect information from people overseas on national security threats to the United States. And it allows the intelligence community to connect the dots to understand what our adversaries are up to.

FISA was enacted in 1978 in order to provide more transparency and avoid overreach of surveillance of domestic actors. If you read the history of the FBI going back to the J. Edgar Hoover days, there was a lot of things that the FBI was doing under J. Edger Hoover that today we would blanch at and certainly consider illegal when it regards surveillance of U.S. persons.

So FISA was enacted to make sure that we did not allow any unconstitutional surveillance of American citizens, but we did preserve the ability to gain information about foreign actors overseas on potential national security threats to the United States.

Section 702, which is the provision that expires in a very short time now, was first enacted in 2008, and as I said, authorizes the U.S. Government to target foreign—hence, the name—the word ''foreign'' in the FISA—foreign intelligence collection of non-U.S. persons.

Now, that is a bureaucratic way of just saying: American citizens are—you cannot surveil American citizens no matter where they are, even if they are overseas. It only authorizes surveillance of foreign intelligence collection for non-U.S. persons overseas outside of the United States.

Unlike traditional criminal investigations where warrants are issued based on probable cause—that is, showing a probable cause to a judge that a crime has been committed, thus justifying issuance of a warrant to then search or collect information here in America—unlike that, intelligence

gathering is significantly different because it involves the monitoring of foreign intelligence to detect and prevent threats before they happen.

So our criminal justice system is designed to investigate and prosecute crimes that occur after they happen. But the intelligence community needs these tools like FISA to be able to prevent bad things from happening. So it is forward-leaning rather than retrospective.

President Trump has asked Congress to reauthorize this essential authority, as the current law properly balances intelligence needs with privacy protections of U.S. citizens.

Let me just put a finer point on that. To allow this to expire would be an affront to the President; but also, it would essentially blind the President to this essential intelligence that he uses on a daily basis in his President's Daily Brief.

Many folks are familiar with the fact that the President gets intelligence briefings on a daily basis, and it is called the PDR, President's Daily—PDB, excuse me, the President's Daily Brief.

So the intelligence Agencies—notably the CIA or the Director of National Intelligence—will brief the President on national security threats.

Mr. President, 60 percent—60 percent—of the information contained in the President's Daily Brief is a product of section 702 of the Foreign Intelligence Surveillance Act. So to allow that to expire would basically handicap the President in terms of getting access to the information he needs in order to work within and U.S. Government to keep the public and our Nation safe. So 60 percent of the President's Daily Brief is a product of 702 of FISA.

In 2025, a quarter—25 percent—of the national security Agencies—that is our Signals Intelligence Agency—25 percent of their reports were comprised of information gathered under section 702.

This information, of course, has allowed the U.S. Government to thwart terrorist attacks and to make sure that we protect the public at large. It has also helped us find and rescue American hostages and much more.

In April of 2024, Congress responded to the concerns that some had raised about privacy of U.S. citizens by passing the Reforming Intelligence and Securing America Act, the RISAA. RISAA, I guess. I am not sure how to pronounce it, but that is the acronym; RISAA, Reforming Intelligence and Securing America Act.

So these concerns which led to these reforms included incidents such as unlawful targeting of Carter Page, a Trump campaign aide, during the run-up to the President's election in 2016. But that is a different section of the Foreign Intelligence Surveillance Act.

Obviously, Carter Page was an American citizen, and based on what I have said—you have heard me say—you can't surveil American citizens, whether they are at home or abroad without a warrant.

So this would not apply to the Carter Page case; although, I agree it was an abomination where an FBI lawyer basically misrepresented the facts to the Foreign Intelligence Surveillance Court who then issued a warrant on Carter Page.

And the Justice Department has since admitted that it did not have probable cause to surveil him.

So a different section—section 702 is different from the Carter Page example. So the R-I-S-A-A—RISAA—was crafted to address past abuses of the foreign intelligence surveillance authorities and privacy and civil liberty concerns while ensuring that the government had the capability in order to protect Americans from foreign threats.

The provisions enacted into law have gone a long way to curb the likelihood of abuses that were happening under FISA authorities during the Obama and the Biden administrations.

According to a recent report from the Privacy and Civil Liberties Oversight Board, the reforms that Congress passed under RISAA have had positive effects regarding the safeguarding of privacy and civil liberty. These included significant reforms to the way that the FBI can conduct U.S. person queries.

The Foreign Intelligence Surveillance Act section 702 is authorized overseas on a noncitizen, but if they communicate with an American citizen here in the United States, that information is maintained in a database by the intelligence Agencies. It is lawfully collected information, not for the purposes of a criminal investigation, but for purposes of collecting intelligence to be able to connect the dots and protect the Nation.

Targeting refers to the actual collection of data on non-U.S. persons abroad who may be potential threats. While querying—or looking into—the data that is collected in that process is different. It is worth repeating again. Only non-U.S. persons abroad may be targeted under 702.

But RISAA, the reforms, include stronger oversight measures and consequences for violations of these new requirements, which is entirely appropriate. Part of this is not only to address potential violations but also to build the public's confidence that their own government is not spying on them as I have heard some people suggest.

But perhaps the most significant reforms in RISAA were how these queries of lawfully collected information were conducted. Due to new requirements from RISAA, queries of U.S. persons already collected—lawfully collected—information are now even further restricted and subject to three reviews. That is sort of a belt-and-suspenders approach to making sure we protect American citizens.

Since 2023, the total number of queries of U.S. persons has dropped by 87 percent. According to the Privacy and Civil Liberties Oversight Board, within the first year after the enactment of these reforms, more than 98 percent of the FBI's queries of already lawfully collected information weren't compliant with these new requirements.

The report concludes that, while the implementation of these reforms are still being studied, it is clear they are having a positive effect on the privacy of American citizens.

Furthermore, FISA remains a very important tool that the U.S. Government uses in order to support our national security, which is why President Trump has been so adamant that we need to get this law reauthorized and not let it go dark.

Last March, CIA Director John Ratcliffe testified that 70 percent of his Agency's success in countering advanced weapons proliferation and 90 percent of their success in interdicting synthetic drugs like fentanyl were the result of information acquired by using section 702 of the Foreign Intelligence Surveillance Act.

Section 702 allows the U.S. Government to vet foreign persons seeking to enter the United States for connections to terrorism and international drug trafficking operations. It is also a critical tool for combatting cyber threats. Section 702 proved particularly useful for the U.S. Government's efforts to crack down on illicit drug trafficking into the country.

This intelligence has helped the United States, together with our friends, to identify the supply chain for precursor chemicals coming from China and used to make synthetic drugs like fentanyl in Mexico. And it also has allowed the intelligence Agencies to seize machinery in China that would have been able to produce millions of pills per hour—these pill pressers, these automated pill pressers. Section 702 also allows our Border Patrol to seize these pill pressers at the border.

Reports indicate that 90 percent of the CIA's successful interdiction of synthetic drugs like fentanyl is attributable to section 702.

So some people are suggesting it ought to go dark; we ought not to extend it. It makes no sense when you begin to look at how effective it has been in keeping the country safe.

Section 702 is also important in counterterrorism. Information acquired under that section has allowed the FBI to identify a potential terrorist threat, in October of 2023, related to the Israel-Gaza conflict. The FBI was able to warn the Department of Defense and the relevant host nations about this threat against American troops.

In another instance, section 702 allowed the United States to discover and thwart a planned terrorist attack against a high-profile concert in Europe.

These are just a couple of examples—of numerous examples—of ways section 702 has helped the United States protect our citizens against foreign threats.

And no one knows that better than President Trump, who is the daily consumer of this information. Again, 60 percent of his daily intelligence brief is composed of section 702 intelligence. And, of course, the President is responsible for the protection of all of our citizens and U.S. interests, and that is why he has asked us to reauthorize this critical authority.

President Trump recently wrote on Truth Social to say:

With the ongoing successful military activities against the Terrorist Iranian Regime, it is more important than ever that we remain vigilant, PROTECT our Homeland, Troops, and Diplomats stationed abroad, and maintain our ability to quickly stop bad actors seeking to cause harm to our People and our Country.

After 4 years of weakness under President Biden, President Trump is showing the world that the United States is, once again, a power to be dealt with. It is imperative we equip the President and the entire administration, working with Congress in an oversight capacity, like on the Senate Select Committee on Intelligence on which I serve. It is important that we equip the Trump administration with the tools and authorities they need to maintain deterrence and, hopefully, peace through strength.

We cannot allow this authority to expire. It would be foolhardy and reckless to do so.

So President Trump has asked us to reauthorize FISA section 702, and I hope all of our colleagues in both Chambers will not tie the President's hands behind his back while we have Americans in active combat overseas.

And we need this essential intelligence in order to protect our people and our homeland.

I yield the floor.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The bill clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. BANKS). Without objection, it is so ordered.

RECOGNITION OF THE MINORITY LEADER

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Democratic leader is recognized.

U.S. SUPREME COURT

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. President, earlier this morning, the conservative majority on the Supreme Court took another step toward resurrecting the Jim Crow South.

In a decision that for all practical purposes upends half a century of precedent, defies the spirit of the American Civil Rights Movement, and reverses generations of progress toward racial justice, the rightwing Court today essentially declared it valid and appropriate for States to discriminate against racial minorities in drawing districts.

The Voting Rights Act—a law written in the blood, sweat, tears, and sacrifice of Americans who marched, who fought, and died for the right to vote and to prevent racial discrimination—has been diminished once again.

The consequence of this decision is as clear as it is dangerous: fewer protections for voters, more power for politicians to draw maps that silence them—particularly historically disenfranchised voters.

The conservative Court has tried to make it seem like its decision today was narrow and tailored. But let's be very clear. In the words of Justice Kagan, this decision is a ''demolition''—a ''demolition''—of section 2 of the Voting Rights Act. It opens the floodgates for States across the South to redraw their congressional districts and make voters of color essentially invisible in our democracy. By some estimates, this decision could lead conservative State legislatures to draw as many as 19 additional seats that favor Republicans in the House.

So, far from being a narrow decision, this MAGA Court is trying to give Republicans a leg up—an illegitimate leg up—in future elections.

Let me say it again: This case is the MAGA Court trying to give Republicans a leg up in future elections.

It is a knife to the heart of some of the most important civil rights legislation that past generations marched for, organized for, and bled for. It will bring back the old, sinister practices long discarded to the dustbin of history: State legislatures diluting, erasing, and overpowering voters of color.

Shame on the High Court. Shame on the MAGA Justices for rigging our elections.

This did not happen all at once. For years, this Court—beginning with the Roberts decision in the awful Shelby County decision—has chipped away at the Voting Rights Act, decision by decision. Chief Justice Roberts bears a lot of the blame for this awful decision.

The commitment of equal representation has been broken before, but every time, Americans have forced it back into the law. Senate Democrats will fight it, once again, to reverse this awful, awful decision.

Even before this wretched decision, we knew the MAGA far right was hellbent in trying to undermine our democracy.

ELECTION TASK FORCE

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. President, we know that the MAGA right is trying to rig our democracy. We knew it long before this decision. Donald Trump knows and his party knows that they are going to lose this election in 2026, which is why they are working around the clock to tilt the scales unfairly in their favor.

Trump issued another Executive order, a month ago, to subvert our elections. Last week, they took aim at the Southern Poverty Law Center to chill speech and suppress actions from organizations that protect democracy. Trump continues to push for his SAVE Act to disenfranchise tens of millions of Americans, and he stacked his administration with election deniers.

So, today, I am launching the Democratic Party's most expansive effort, to date, to protect the 2026 midterm elections and to shield them from the direct threats posed by Trump and MAGA Republicans.

This afternoon, a group of Senators and I will meet with former Attorney General Eric Holder, Mark Elias, and some of the country's top election experts to talk about how we can be ready for any and all threats that might come against our elections this fall.

I want to thank my Senate Democratic colleagues for joining in today's meeting.

We know that some on the extreme right will try to rig the system. Donald Trump said it. He said he can't win the election except by rigging it. That is more or less what he said. Donald Trump's Justice Department sought to seize States' voter rolls. Rightwingers raided election offices in Georgia. They pressed election officials in Arizona to turn over documents. Online radicals are threatening poll workers and are spreading lies about voter fraud. And, here in Congress, hard-right Republicans are trying to pass Jim Crow 2.0 in the SAVE Act.

These threats are only going to intensify the closer we get to election day. So our election fraud task force represents the most aggressive and coordinated effort to date to make sure our elections this fall are protected. The goal of our task force is to ensure that every vote counts and every American can participate in our democracy without coercion, intimidation, or threats from Trump or anyone else.

DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY

Mr. SCHUMER. Now, Mr. President, on DHS—a lot is happening today—last night, Donald Trump confirmed what I have been saying for weeks: Speaker JOHNSON and House Republicans are holding up funding for the Department of Homeland Security. They are holding it up—the Republicans, not Democrats. The White House said it, in effect. The White House put out a memo urging House Republicans to stop dithering and pass the DHS bill that every Democrat and every Republican in the Senate passed unanimously not once but twice.

For weeks, Republicans have tried to pin the blame for their shutdown on Democrats. The Trump administration just exposed how preposterous that lie is.

Republican dysfunction is endangering our national security. House Republicans have been so busy fighting one another in the House that FISA may expire.

Republicans, get your act together. Our national security depends on it.

While Democrats have been trying to fund the Secret Service, the TSA, the Coast Guard, CISA, FEMA, and other crucial Agencies, Republicans have been trying to jam through as much as another $140 billion for Trump's rogue Agencies. And while Democrats have been working diligently and assiduously to try and lower Americans' costs, Republicans want to splurge on a $400 million gold-plated ballroom for the President. The last thing Americans want us spending their tax dollars on is a gilded palace for Donald Trump.

What will Trump ask Americans to pay for next—a moat?

What else could $400 million get Americans? A year of childcare for 30,000 families; skills for training 50,000 new electricians, plumbers, and welders; disaster loans for 10,000 households; and so much more.

Keep in mind that, just 1 month ago today, Donald Trump said:

There's not one dime of government money going into the ballroom.

Then put your money where your mouth is, President Trump. Stop trying to waste Americans' hard-earned tax dollars on this extravagance, and get your party to work with Democrats to keep the American people safe.

IRAN

Mr. SCHUMER. Finally, Mr. President, on Iran and gas prices—as I said, there is a lot going on—just hours ago, Pentagon officials told Congress that Trump's disastrous war has cost taxpayers $25 billion. Can you believe it? At least $25 billion and we are less than 2 months into this war. And $25 billion is just the sticker price.

Americans are also paying for this war at the pump. This morning, average gas prices in America hit $4.23 a gallon. That is a record high since the start of the war.

Let me repeat: U.S. gas prices are at their highest level since the beginning of the war in Iran. It is now $4.23—up 40 percent since Trump started his costly war with Iran.

The price of gas is the highest it has been in 4 years. There is only one person to blame—Donald J. Trump.

Trump says he is bleeding Iran economically. But he is draining the pockets of American families. And for what? The Strait of Hormuz is still closed. The Iranian regime is still radical. Our servicemembers are still in harm's way. Trump still has no idea how to end this blunder.

Instead, we hear reports that Trump is telling his aides to prepare for a protracted blockade. This morning, Trump warned that Iran better get smart soon.

Well, it is Donald Trump who had better get smart soon and end this war unless he wants Americans to continue paying $4.23 at the pump.

This week, Democrats will force a vote on our War Powers Resolution for the sixth time. We will continue to force votes every week as this war rages on.

I urge my Republican friends to help bail Donald Trump out of his mess. Vote with us to end this war, or you, Republican Senators, will continue to face the outrage of the American people.

This Friday marks 60 days since Trump officially notified Congress that he had launched this reckless war. Under the War Powers Act, Trump must seek authorization for his war to continue beyond 60 days. After that deadline, Republicans will have no place to hide and no more hollow excuses to let this fighting continue. Republicans know Trump's handling of this war has been a disaster. They see how much the American people are hurting right now.

How many War Powers Resolutions do Democrats need to put before Senate Republicans until they do what is right?

How many Americans will have to go bankrupt?

How many days do our service members have to spend apart from their families?

How many people will have to die before Trump realizes that this war must end?

I yield the floor.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the Senate will proceed to executive session and resume consideration of the following nomination, which the clerk will report.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read the nomination of Robert Cekada, of Florida, to be Director, Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms, and Explosives.

VOTE ON CEKADA NOMINATION

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The question is, Will the Senate advise and consent to the Cekada nomination?

Mr. BARRASSO. Mr. President, I ask for the yeas and nays.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there a sufficient second?

There appears to be a sufficient second.

The clerk will call the roll.

The senior assistant legislative clerk called the roll.

Mr. BARRASSO. The following Senator is necessarily absent: the Senator from Alabama (Mr. TUBERVILLE).

Mr. DURBIN. I announce that the Senator from Maryland (Ms. ALSOBROOKS) is necessarily absent.

The result was announced—yeas 59, nays 39, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 109 Ex.]

YEAS—59

Armstrong	Graham	Moody
Banks	Grassley	Moran
Barrasso	Hagerty	Moreno
Blackburn	Hassan	Murkowski
Boozman	Hawley	Paul
Britt	Hoeven	Ricketts
Budd	Husted	Risch
Capito	Hyde-Smith	Rounds
Cassidy	Johnson	Schmitt
Collins	Justice	Scott (FL)
Cornyn	Kaine	Scott (SC)
Cotton	Kennedy	Shaheen
Cramer	King	Sheehy
Crapo	Klobuchar	Sullivan
Cruz	Lankford	Thune
Curtis	Lee	Tillis
Daines	Lummis	Whitehouse
Ernst	Marshall	Wicker
Fetterman	McConnell	Young
Fischer	McCormick	

NAYS—39

Baldwin	Hickenlooper	Rosen
Bennet	Hirono	Sanders
Blumenthal	Kelly	Schatz
Blunt Rochester	Kim	Schiff
Booker	Luján	Schumer
Cantwell	Markey	Slotkin
Coons	Merkley	Smith
Cortez Masto	Murphy	Van Hollen
Duckworth	Murray	Warner
Durbin	Ossoff	Warnock
Gallego	Padilla	Warren
Gillibrand	Peters	Welch
Heinrich	Reed	Wyden

NOT VOTING—2

Alsobrooks	Tuberville

The nomination was confirmed.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mrs. MOODY). Under the previous order, the motion to reconsider is considered made and laid upon the table, and the President will be immediately notified of the Senate's action.

The Senator from Kentucky.

LEGISLATIVE SESSION

MORNING BUSINESS

Mr. PAUL. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate resume legislative session and be in a period of morning business, with Senators permitted to speak therein for up to 10 minutes each.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

UNANIMOUS CONSENT REQUESTS

Mr. PAUL. Madam President, Paducah, KY, is a town of 26,000 people on the banks of the Ohio River, known for its barbecue, character, and community. At the heart of that community, for more than 70 years, is the Oscar Cross Boys & Girls Club. What began in the 1950s as a small group of men under the leadership of local parole officer Oscar Cross has since grown into a Paducah institution, serving boys and girls from ages 6 to 18.

Through financial responsibility lessons, health education, literacy programs, and community service projects, the club offers kids much more than just a safe place to go after school. It provides stability, mentorship, and life skills that shape their future.

The future of the club, however, is limited by something as simple as paperwork. The building that houses the Oscar Cross Boys & Girls Club sits on a 3½-acre lot owned by the city, constrained by a Federal restriction that prevents the property from being transferred to the Boys & Girls Club. As a result, much needed renovations to improve and expand the space they are in is out of reach, kneecapping growth.

According to the club's executive director Andrew McGlenon, transferring the property would allow for renovations and new facilities like a gym and classrooms that would nearly double the daily attendance from 100 to 200 kids.

Congressman COMER and I have introduced legislation to lift the outdated restriction and allow the city of Paducah to transfer the mere 3½ acres to the club, as has been requested by the city, the club, and the community for several years now. There is no policy change here. It simply seeks to take care of a community back home.

In fact, this is how a unanimous consent request should be used. All parties want to see the land swap effectuated. The only thing the Senate needs to do to ensure that the Boys & Girls Club can better serve its community is to allow this bill to pass today. This isn't a sweeping policy change. This isn't a national regulation. This is something local for a local boys and girls club. I can't imagine why it would be objected to. Passing this bill today will ensure that a cornerstone of Paducah's youth continues to serve generations to come.

Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources be discharged from further consideration of H.R. 1276 and the Senate proceed to its immediate consideration; further, that the bill be considered read a third time and passed and the motion to reconsider be made and laid upon the table.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection?

The Senator from Texas.

Mr. CRUZ. Madam President, reserving the right to object, the House is currently holding a number of Senate-passed bills without action, including legislation I have introduced and passed through the Senate and measures led by many of my colleagues. Right now, there are six bills that I have passed out of the Senate that are sitting in the House awaiting action. Nearly every bill that the House is refusing to move is overwhelmingly bipartisan and noncontroversial.

Of the 87 bills that have been signed into law in this Congress, nearly twice as many originated in the House as in the Senate. This imbalance is both unreasonable and unacceptable.

I understand that my colleague from Kentucky is interested in getting yet another House bill, H.R. 1276, passed today, and I appreciate the diligence and effort he has devoted to this legislation affecting property in Paducah, KY. But I cannot let this bill become law until there is resolution on either House or Senate inaction.

For instance, Senator PAUL is, right now, singlehandedly blocking nearly 20 bipartisan bills that have passed the Senate Commerce Committee from getting through this Chamber. Among them are S. 28, Informing Consumers about Smart Devices Act, my bill with Senator CANTWELL; S. 196, the MAIN Event Ticketing Act, by Senator BLACKBURN; S. 244, the ROUTERS Act, by Senator BLACKBURN; S. 245, the Insure Cybersecurity Act of 2025, by Senator HICKENLOOPER; S. 246, the Interstate Transport Act of 2025, by Senator BUDD; S. 258, the TORNADO Act, by Senator WICKER; S. 278, the Kids Off Social Media Act, my bill with Senator SCHATZ; S. 281, the TICKET Act, by Senator SCHMITT; S. 289, the Youth Poisoning Protection Act, by Senator DUCKWORTH; S. 314, the Hotel Fees Transparency Act of 2025, by Senator KLOBUCHAR; S. 315, the AM Radio Act, by Senator MARKEY and myself; S. 434, the Space Commerce Advisory Committee Act, by Senator PETERS; S. 580, the Combating CCP Labor Abuses Act of 2025, by Senator PETERS; S. 841, the Romance Scam Prevention Act, by Senator BLACKBURN; and S. 2357, the Young Fishermen's Development Extension Act, by Senator SULLIVAN.

One of these bills, the Informing Consumers about Smart Devices Act, or ''Spy Fridge,'' as it is known, I have authored along with Commerce ranking member MARIA CANTWELL and Senators CURTIS and WARNOCK. It very simply requires the packaging or listing of an internet-connected appliance to disclose if the product has a camera or recording capability.

Many Americans do not realize that a growing number of these so-called smart household devices and appliances include cameras and/or microphones that can record them and have the ability to transmit their data without their knowledge. In other words, when Americans buy a new refrigerator, they shouldn't have to worry about their refrigerator recording the conversations with their spouse while they are standing in the kitchen or taking a video recording of them in their own home. Americans deserve to know, at a minimum, if their appliances are doing this.

By my count, Senator PAUL has blocked 16 pieces of bipartisan legislation that have been considered and approved by the Commerce Committee. I understand that he has a philosophical objection to all these bills, although I have to say that I am more than a little befuddled by his opposition to the ''Spy Fridge'' bill given his leadership, which I have stood with him on, fighting against unauthorized surveillance. He may be the only libertarian on planet Earth that is fighting to have more surveillance; fighting to have private, intimate conversations in your home recorded without your knowledge. That is certainly not consistent with any libertarianism I have ever heard.

But I will say, I am willing to forgo my objection. I am willing to step back and work with Senator PAUL to pass his legislation, despite this widespread blocking of bills, if he will agree, quite reasonably, to lift his hold on the ''Spy Fridge'' bill. That is a reasonable compromise. Ninety-nine Senators support the ''Spy Fridge'' bill. He is the only one who opposes it.

And I would also welcome working with the House to ensure that more Senate bills—good bills—receive timely consideration and are passed out of the House in exchange for lifting my own holds on other House-approved measures.

And so if you are home in Paducah, KY, I want to explain what is about to happen right now. In just a moment, I am going to ask for unanimous consent, and then I want you to listen to Senator PAUL because he has total and complete control over whether his legislation about the Boys & Girls Club in Paducah, KY, passes or not.

If Senator PAUL says the magic words ''I object,'' then understand that his bill and my bill both will fail to pass. If he decides we can be reasonable and work together, if he simply doesn't say the words ''I object,'' then his bill will pass and go to President Trump's desk for signature, and my bill protecting you and your home from being surveilled and spied upon will likewise pass and go to President Trump's desk for signature. So Senator PAUL has a choice: pass two bills or zero bills.

Therefore, Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the consent be modified; that the Senate also proceed to the immediate consideration of Calendar No. 64, H.R. 859; that the bill be considered read a third time and passed and the motion to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection to the modification?

The Senator from Kentucky.

Mr. PAUL. Madam President, reserving the right to object, I think the problem we have here is a misunderstanding, and it is sort of a false equivalency that somehow granting a boys and girls club a deed to 3½ acres they have been using for 50-some-odd years that was once held by the Federal Government and is held by the city—to let this boys and girls club have a deed, that that is somehow equivalent to a nationwide regulation with fines and fees.

There are some questions about these smart refrigerators: Are they so smart that they hook themselves up to the internet unbeknownst to the person? The refrigerator shows up in your house and somehow a cord surreptitiously comes out the back and plugs into the cable or it somehow hooks up to your router; it knows your password and has Bluetooth? How do you get a smart refrigerator that spies on you without your hooking it up to the internet? So that is a question.

But the other question and sort of the mistaken notion here is that somehow, when you voluntarily agree to give information, that that is something that libertarians object to. Libertarians object to the government spying on you. If you voluntarily agree to share your information, that has never been something the libertarians object to.

For example, the internet is predicated upon your anonymous information being shared on your purchases. Sharing of information is not something libertarians object to. They object to the government snooping on you and getting your information.

So having a national mandate that you are going to enforce on the refrigerator manufacturers—that you are going to fine them and if they don't pay, they will be held in contempt for—I just don't see that as a very Republican idea to be introducing national regulations.

To say that is equivalent to the Boys & Girls Club—you are going to hold the Boys & Girls Club unless I agree to a national regulation on the smart refrigerators that are surreptitiously somehow hooking themselves up to the internet and spying on us? It sounds like a solution in search of a problem. It also, to most people with common sense, would not seem to be equivalent. I would never in my right mind come to the floor to object to the Boys & Girls Club of Texas. I don't think they are equivalent.

But if you have 30 bills or 100 bills that want to have nationwide regulations—your a.m. radio bill. You want to mandate to the car manufacturers that they have a.m. radio. Why? Technology has gone beyond this in many ways. We have Teslas now, and nobody in their Tesla is going to tune in through an antenna. But, you know, to get an antenna into a Tesla and get it to work, you have to coat the battery with this special coating. It costs a couple hundred dollars. Your bill says that the manufacturers can't charge more for that. So if I sell Teslas and I have to spend $300 to get an a.m. antenna radio working in my Tesla that nobody is going to use, that you are going to mandate on behalf of people who really have a vested interest, a monetary interest, in a.m. radio—there are questions that should be asked, and that should be debated, and that is controversial enough not to be a unanimous consent. A Boys & Girls Club kind of sounds to me like a unanimous consent agreement.

The mistaken notion we have around here is that we want to pass hundreds and hundreds of pieces of legislation that affect policy. What I get every time is ''Well, this legislation only adds $50 million'' or ''It is only going to be $500 million'' because millions of dollars don't matter anymore; nationwide regulations don't matter anymore. Well, it does.

And these are policy differences, and these are honest. These aren't because I dislike you or I dislike your legislation. I don't want a national regulation on refrigerator people. I just don't want it, and I don't see a need for it, and I think it is a reasonable position to take, but it has nothing to do with the Boys Club.

I would promise you, if you have anything to do with Boys & Girls Clubs or any kind of small, parochial interest, you haven't seen me. I don't come to the floor to object to that. But something that is on policy, I do object to, and I have questions about how the refrigerators are surreptitiously hooking themselves up and spying on people.

The thing is, when you go to buy one of these refrigerators, they charge you more, I would assume, for a smart refrigerator, so my guess is they advertise they are smart so they can charge 200 bucks more. I don't know how you are getting a refrigerator with a microphone and the ability to connect to the internet without knowing it because they charge you and it is an incentive for them to advertise this.

So I don't understand where the problem is, nor do I understand how they hook themselves up, so therefore I do object.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The objection is heard.

Is there objection to the original request?

Mr. CRUZ. Madam President, reserving the right to object, I would note a couple of things.

No. 1, Senator PAUL said libertarians only object to the government surveilling them. That is not what I have ever heard from a libertarian. I am not a full-throated libertarian like Senator PAUL is, but I am easily one of the most libertarian Members of this body, and I have very strong libertarian leanings. I have spent 14 years in the Senate fighting to protect civil liberties.

The libertarians I have talked to, the Texans I have talked to are not particularly interested in giant corporations spying on them either. The government is not the only bad actor. By objecting, what Senator PAUL is saying is that giant corporations can come into your home—can come into your kitchen, can come into your bedroom—can tape-record the most intimate conversations you have, can videotape you, and they don't even have to tell you they are doing that.

Understand, my bill is not prohibiting them from surveilling; it is simply saying: Tell the consumers before you tape-record them or video them.

I thought it was interesting that Senator PAUL says: Gosh, this doesn't sound like a very Republican bill.

Well, there are 535 Members of the U.S. Congress, and 534 of them agree with this bill. The only one that does not is Senator PAUL. And the result of it is that giant corporations are empowered to spy on you without you ever knowing it.

He secondly mentioned the a.m. radio for every vehicle. Listen, a.m. radio—I have led the fight for 14 years against censorship, against silencing political speech. Censorship comes from government, but it also comes from giant corporations, whether Big Tech, which has been egregious in censoring free speech, or in this instance the giant auto companies that colluded together to remove a.m. radio because a.m. radio, among other things, has been a haven for free speech. Rush Limbaugh would never have been heard in America without a.m. radio; Mark Levin, Glenn Beck, Sean Hannity.

Why do the giant corporations want to take a.m. radio down? Because they want to silence conservative speech. Yet Senator PAUL has objected to that bill as well. He is perfectly happy or at least—I don't know if he is happy or not, but his objection suggests he is willing to do nothing to stop corporations from muzzling conservatives and making it impossible for conservatives to speak, for libertarians to speak.

I think putting everything in the control of giant corporations is the very opposite of being a libertarian.

I want to finally speak to the folks in Paducah, KY. Look, I think this bill is a reasonable bill. I would like to see it pass. I have told the author of it in the House, Representative COMER—he is a good friend. He and I have worked together on a number of matters. I am willing to work with him cooperatively to find a way forward for this bill to pass.

It could have passed today. All that Senator PAUL had to do was not say the words ''I object,'' and this bill on Paducah, KY, would have passed the Senate, gone to the White House, and President Trump would have signed it.

By the way, at the same time, you would be protected against being surveilled in your home without your knowing it.

But, unfortunately, Senator PAUL decided to object across the board, and so at least today, nothing has passed.

Accordingly, I object.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The objection is heard.

The Senator from Kentucky.

Mr. PAUL. Madam President, the interesting thing we hear—you know, because typically you don't hear it from Republicans—nationwide mandates on refrigerators, nationwide mandates on car manufactures, penalties and Federal punishment if we don't comply with the way of thinking that is prescribed by these bills. What we didn't hear, though, was any kind of objection to the idea or explanation of how your refrigerator is going to spy on you.

I think it sort of assumes the notion that people are not competent, not smart enough to make any decisions on their own, that Big Brother has to help them out with it.

You have to imagine that someone is buying a smart refrigerator that is going to cost you a couple hundred bucks more than a non-smart refrigerator, is going to cost you more—I can't imagine it isn't advertised. So

let's say you pay $200 more for your refrigerator than you would normally, you get a smart one, and you take it home. I still didn't hear any explanation of how it spies on you. How does it spy on you unless you hook it up to the internet? Short of that, your refrigerator is not spying on you. ''Big Refrigerator'' is not spying on you. They are offering you a service if you choose to use it, and you have to choose to use it. You could also choose not to buy it.

Regulation like this are the regulations of the left and of Big Brother, who thinks that Americans are incompetent and can't make their decisions. But regulations like this add up, and they add to the cost of refrigerators, they add to the cost of appliances.

Just go to California. In California, you will see a tag on everything that says ''doesn't cause cancer anywhere else in the United States but may cause cancer in California'' because they have over-labeled everything to death.

It really isn't the business of the Federal Government to be involved with this.

They need to be committed to the rules of fraud. They shouldn't be able to sell something to you that is hooking itself up to the internet. But if you have to hook it up—if you have ever Bluetoothed something, you have to do something. The internet just doesn't come and grab your picture on the refrigerator or listen to your microphone. It has to be hooked up to the internet. You have to do this.

So there ought to be some thought that goes into this.

I am disappointed that you choose to hurt the Boys & Girls Club, but what is the alternative? I have to just say: I won't use my brain. I won't think about the consequences of this bill. I won't think about how it goes against our philosophy of adding more Federal regulations. I won't think about the cost to corporations. I won't think about the nonsensical assertion that it is going to spy on you without you knowing it because it is going to hook itself up to the internet. I am supposed to ignore all that and take that in order to get a deed for a Boys & Girls Club. I find this a false equivalency and insincere.

Every objection I have to every one of your other bills is a debatable item based on philosophy. If you have a philosophical difference with this, come to the floor and tell us why you hate the Boys & Girls Club of Paducah, but don't come to us and say: Well, you have to accept a regulation on refrigerators in order to help the Boys & Girls Club—which doesn't cost anything. It is a bizarre, arcane thing. The Federal Government, I think, owned the land, gave it to the city, and said the city couldn't transfer it 50 years ago. The Boys & Girls Club has been on this land for 50 years, but they don't have the title, so we are trying to give them the title through legislation.

This is exactly the kind of stuff that, because it doesn't affect nationwide policy, shouldn't have to go to committee, shouldn't have to come to the floor, shouldn't have to tie up a lot of time. These are the things we can dispense with. But a nationwide regulation on cars shouldn't be adopted without debate and without the normal procedure of the Senate. This is a special procedure. We only do things unanimously that typically we agree on.

If we want to have sense of the Senate to recognize John Lewis or a sense of the Senate to recognize some individual, those are the kinds of things we do unanimously, but we don't typically do policy or regulations for the whole country unanimously.

So I hope there is a better way out where we can think about treating and figuring out what levels of legislation rise to the ability of having a serious debate over and what things are parochial and really could be passed unanimously.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Kentucky.

UNANIMOUS CONSENT REQUEST

Mr. PAUL. Madam President, the most recent assassination attempt makes approval of a secure White House addition more urgent. The National Planning Commission, of which I am a member, voted 8 to 1 to approve the White House addition. Lawfare, though, is currently delaying construction.

It is clear that the threats of violence against our President are not going away; they keep getting worse. So to prevent further delay, Congress should authorize the White House ballroom and get it on a path to completion. Let's get it built.

I am very glad that this latest assassination attempt was stopped, but it is concerning that the would-be assassin got so close and that these types of threats are growing more frequent.

The fact I even have to qualify my remarks to specifically say that I am talking about the latest assassination attempt rather than the one before it or the one before that should make us all think clearly on how seriously we need to be taking this.

We do need to improve security for the President, and one solution is already right in front of us. The most significant thing we can do—something that will make the biggest improvement in security—is have a secure event space in the White House ballroom project. Its designs are complete. The project has already broken ground. Funding has already been secured from private donors, not taxpayers. My proposal today doesn't involve any tax money.

Congress doesn't need to reinvent the wheel here. I have a straightforward bill, which I will move to pass in a moment, to give this project clear, legal authority to proceed. By passing my bill, we can help build the ballroom with no more legal delays, no more bureaucratic delays, improved reporting and progress updates to Congress, and no added cost to taxpayers.

I support the building of the ballroom, and the Senate can do something right now to make it happen. Let's do the right thing without delay. Let's formalize and authorize the White House ballroom.

Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the immediate consideration of my bill which is at the desk. I further ask that the bill be considered read a third time and passed and that the motion to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. MCCORMICK). Is there objection?

The Senator from Massachusetts.

Ms. WARREN. Mr. President, reserving the right to object, Donald Trump promised to lower costs on day one. Well, today is day 464 of Donald Trump's Presidency, and we are in a full-blown affordability crisis.

We are 2 months into Trump's illegal war with Iran, a war that, according to experts, is costing taxpayers over $1 billion a day. American families are getting flattened by rising costs on just about everything, from groceries, to rent, to gas. Just today, gas prices hit a new high since Trump started his war. People are stretching themselves to the brink just to pay their bills. But what is the biggest issue of the day, according to Republicans in Congress? Fast-tracking Donald Trump's gold-encrusted ballroom.

Another recent Republican plan would send $400 million to the White House—I guess to buy more gold leaf and onyx marble for the want-to-be King. But I want to be clear: It is common sense that we can, of course, protect the President without shoveling millions of dollars into Trump's ballroom in the middle of an affordability crisis.

This bill to rubberstamp Trump's latest vanity project is a giant slap in the face to American families, just plain and simple. Americans are selling their plasma to pay for groceries and gas. Think about that.

Americans right now today are selling their blood just to pay their bills. And what is the Republicans' solution? Dump more money into Donald Trump's golden-crusted vanity project, and let's do it on the fast track because it is that urgent.

Well, here are a few other ideas for things we could fast-track to actually help the American people: We could reverse Trump's and the Republicans' giant healthcare costs that kicked millions of Americans off their health insurance and jacked up insurance premiums for millions more; or we could deliver affordable childcare for every American family; or we could undo Republicans' cuts to food assistance for families; or we could put a stop to Trump's across-the-board tariffs; or we could end Donald Trump's war with Iran. And, look, the list goes on and on.

But nowhere on the list of ways to lower costs for American families is rubberstamping Donald Trump's lavish ballroom. Remember, Trump's ballroom has already become a tool for what looks like corruption in plain sight.

Since day one, giant corporations have lined up to dump millions of dollars into Trump's ballroom, and that includes Meta, Apple, Amazon, Google, Microsoft, Comcast, Coinbase, and Palantir.

And those are just the people and the entities that we know of. Others are being kept secret from the American people because Donald Trump has let them stay anonymous.

So what do they have to hide? And what are all these donors expecting in return? And by the way, if Congress bankrolls this ballroom for Trump's corporate donors like other Republicans are proposing, what happens to all those private donations?

So, by the way, I want to make that point again: If Congress bankrolls this ballroom for Trump's corporate donors like the other Republicans are proposing, what happens to all those private donations? If Trump is using his ballroom to facilitate a giant pay-to-play scheme, then the American people deserve to know.

Instead of dumping even more money into Trump's golden ballroom, we need to put an end to this corruption and focus on lowering costs for American families. That is what Democrats are laser-focused on. Republicans should join us and get it done.

I object.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The objection is heard.

The Senator from Kentucky.

TRANSFERRING ADMINISTRATIVE JURISDICTION OVER CERTAIN PARCELS OF FEDERAL LAND IN HARPERS FERRY, WEST VIRGINIA

Mr. PAUL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs be discharged from further consideration of S. 2280, and the Senate proceed to its immediate consideration.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the bill by title.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (S. 2280) to transfer administrative jurisdiction over certain parcels of Federal land in Harpers Ferry, West Virginia, and for other purposes.

There being no objection, the committee was discharged, and the Senate proceeded to consider the bill.

Mr. PAUL. I ask unanimous consent that the bill be considered read a third time and passed and the motion to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The bill (S. 2280) was ordered to be engrossed for a third reading, was read the third time, and passed as follows:

S. 2280

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. TRANSFERS OF ADMINISTRATIVE JURISDICTION OVER CERTAIN PARCELS OF FEDERAL LAND IN HARPERS FERRY, WEST VIRGINIA.

(a) TRANSFERS.—

(1) TRANSFER TO THE COMMISSIONER OF U.S. CUSTOMS AND BORDER PROTECTION.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—Administrative jurisdiction over approximately 25 acres of Federal land in Harpers Ferry, West Virginia, as generally depicted on the map entitled ''Harpers Ferry National Historical Park Proposed Land Transfers'', numbered 385/176,677, and dated May 2021 (referred to in this section as the ''Map'') is transferred from the Secretary of the Interior (referred to in this section as the ''Secretary'') to the Commissioner of U.S. Customs and Border Protection, to be administered as part of the U.S. Customs and Border Protection's Advanced Training Center in accordance with applicable law.

(B) EXCLUSION FROM BOUNDARY.—The Federal land transferred by subparagraph (A) is excluded from the boundary of Harpers Ferry National Historical Park.

(2) TRANSFER TO THE SECRETARY.—Administrative jurisdiction over 3 parcels of Federal land totaling approximately 71.51 acres in Harpers Ferry, West Virginia, as generally depicted on the Map, is transferred from the Commissioner of U.S. Customs and Border Protection to the Secretary, to be administered by the Secretary—

(A) as part of Harpers Ferry National Historical Park; and

(B) in accordance with applicable law.

(3) NO REIMBURSEMENT OR CONSIDERATION.—A transfer of administrative jurisdiction over Federal land under paragraph (1)(A) or (2) shall be without monetary reimbursement or additional consideration.

(b) LAND SURVEYS.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—The Commissioner of U.S. Customs and Border Protection—

(A) shall obtain a survey to finalize the exact acreage and legal description of the parcel of Federal land described in subsection (a)(1)(A); and

(B) may, in consultation with the Secretary, modify any clerical and typographical errors in the Map.

(2) COST OF SURVEY.—The cost of the survey under paragraph (1)(A) shall be charged to an appropriation of the U.S. Customs and Border Protection.

(3) INFORMATION SHARING.—On completion of the survey under paragraph (1)(A), the Commissioner of U.S. Customs and Border Protection shall provide to the Secretary a copy of the survey.

(4) REVERSION AND RESTORATION.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—If the Commissioner of U.S. Customs and Border Protection determines that the Federal land transferred by subparagraph (A) of subsection (a)(1) is no longer required for the U.S. Customs and Border Protection's Advanced Training Center, the Commissioner of U.S. Customs and Border Protection shall transfer administrative jurisdiction over the Federal land described in that subparagraph to the Secretary in a manner and condition acceptable to the Secretary, to be included within the boundary of, and to be administered as part of, Harpers Ferry National Historical Park.

(B) ACREAGE LIMITATION.—The acreage limitation under section 1(d) of the Act of June 30, 1944 (58 Stat. 645, chapter 328; 16 U.S.C. 450bb(d)) shall not apply to the inclusion within the boundary of Harpers Ferry National Historical Park of the Federal land under subparagraph (A).

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Michigan.

EXPANDING WHISTLEBLOWER PROTECTIONS FOR CONTRACTORS ACT OF 2025

Mr. PETERS. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the immediate consideration of Calendar No. 289, S. 874.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the bill by title.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (S. 874) to ensure that whistleblowers, including contractors, are protected from retaliation when a Federal employee orders a reprisal, and for other purposes.

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the bill, which had been reported from the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs with an amendment to strike all after the enacting clause and insert the part printed in italic, as follows:

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the ''Expanding Whistleblower Protections for Contractors Act of 2025''.

SEC. 2. DEFENSE CONTRACTOR EMPLOYEES: PROTECTION FROM REPRISAL FOR DISCLOSURE OF CERTAIN INFORMATION.

Section 4701 of title 10, United States Code, is amended—

(1) in subsection (a)—

(A) in paragraph (1)—

(i) in the matter preceding subparagraph (A)—

(I) by striking ''An employee'' and all that follows through ''services contractor'' and inserting ''A protected individual''; and

(II) by striking ''disclosing'' and all that follows through ''evidence of''; and

(ii) by striking subparagraphs (A), (B), and (C) and inserting the following subparagraphs:

''(A) Refusing to obey an order that would require the protected individual to violate a law, rule, or regulation related to any contract, subcontract, grant, or subgrant.

''(B) Disclosing to a person or body described in paragraph (2) information that the protected individual reasonably believes is evidence of the following:

''(i) Gross mismanagement of any Department of Defense contract or grant, any gross waste of Department funds, any abuse of authority relating to any Department contract, subcontract, grant, or subgrant, or any violation of law, rule, or regulation related to any Department contract or subcontract (including the competition for or negotiation of a contract or subcontract) or grant or subgrant.

''(ii) Gross mismanagement of any National Aeronautics and Space Administration contract or grant, any gross waste of Administration funds, any abuse of authority relating to an Administration contract, subcontract, grant, or subgrant, or any violation of law, rule, or regulation related to any Administration contract or subcontract (including the competition for or negotiation of a contract or subcontract) or grant or subgrant.

''(iii) A substantial and specific danger to public health or safety.''; and

(B) in paragraph (3)—

(i) in subparagraph (A), by striking ''an employee'' and inserting ''a protected individual''; and

(ii) by striking subparagraph (B) and inserting the following subparagraph:

''(B) it shall not be within the authority of an executive branch official to request that a contractor, subcontractor, grantee, or subgrantee engage in a reprisal prohibited by paragraph (1).'';

(2) in subsection (c)—

(A) in paragraph (1), by adding at the end the following subparagraph:

''(E) Propose appropriate disciplinary action against any executive branch official for any request made of a contractor, subcontractor, grantee, or subgrantee that subjected the complainant to a reprisal prohibited by subsection (a).''; and

(B) by striking paragraph (7) and inserting the following paragraph:

''(7) CLARIFICATION FOR SCOPE OF WAIVER RESTRICTIONS.—The rights, forum, and remedies provided for in this section may not be waived by any public or private agreement, policy, form, or condition of employment, including by any predispute arbitration agreement.'';

(3) by striking subsection (e) and redesignating subsections (f) and (g) as subsections (e) and (f), respectively;

(4) in subsection (e), as so redesignated—

(A) by striking ''an employee'' and inserting ''a protected individual''; and

(B) by striking ''the employee'' and inserting ''the protected individual''; and

(5) in subsection (f), as so redesignated, by adding at the end the following new paragraph:

''(8) The term 'protected individual' means—

''(A) a contractor, subcontractor, grantee, or subgrantee of the Department of Defense or the National Aeronautics and Space Administration, including—

''(i) the government of each of the several States, the District of Columbia, an Indian tribe or authorized tribal organization, the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico, Guam, American Samoa, the Virgin Islands, the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, or any other territory or possession of the United States;

''(ii) the government of any political subdivision of, agency of, or instrumentality of, a government listed in clause (i); and

''(iii) an element of the intelligence community (as defined in section 3 of the National Security Act of 1947 (50 U.S.C. 3003)) within the Department of Defense;

''(B) an employee of a contractor, subcontractor, grantee, or subgrantee of the Department of Defense or the National Aeronautics and Space Administration, or a former employee of such contractor, subcontractor, grantee, or subgrantee whose protected disclosure or engagement in any activity protected against reprisal under this section occurred prior to termination, including an employee of—

''(i) the government of each of the several States, the District of Columbia, an Indian tribe or authorized tribal organization, the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico, Guam, American Samoa, the Virgin Islands, the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, or any other territory or possession of the United States;

''(ii) the government of any political subdivision of, agency of, or instrumentality of, a government listed in clause (i); and

''(iii) an element of the intelligence community (as defined in section 3 of the National Security Act of 1947 (50 U.S.C. 3003)) within the Department of Defense; or

''(C) a person performing personal services for the Department of Defense or the National Aeronautics and Space Administration pursuant to a contractual agreement for the performance of personal services, including a personal services contract or personal services agreement, and who engages in an activity for which any reprisal is prohibited under subsection (a), including a person performing personal services pursuant such a contractual agreement for—

''(i) the government of each of the several States, the District of Columbia, an Indian tribe or authorized tribal organization, the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico, Guam, American Samoa, the Virgin Islands, the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, or any other territory or possession of the United States;

''(ii) the government of any political subdivision of, agency of, or instrumentality of, a government listed in clause (i); and

''(iii) an element of the intelligence community (as defined in section 3 of the National Security Act of 1947 (50 U.S.C. 3003)) within the Department of Defense.''.

SEC. 3. ENHANCEMENT OF NON-DEFENSE CONTRACTOR PROTECTION FROM REPRISAL FOR DISCLOSURE OF CERTAIN INFORMATION.

Section 4712 of title 41, United States Code, is amended—

(1) in subsection (a)—

(A) by striking paragraph (1) and inserting the following paragraph:

''(1) IN GENERAL.—A protected individual may not be discharged, demoted, or otherwise discriminated against as a reprisal for the following:

''(A) Refusing to obey an order that would require the protected individual to violate a law, rule, or regulation related to any contract, subcontract, grant, or subgrant.

''(B) Disclosing to a person or body described in paragraph (2) information that the protected individual reasonably believes is evidence of the following:

''(i) Gross mismanagement of any Federal contract or grant, any gross waste of Federal funds, any abuse of authority relating to any Federal contract, subcontract, grant, or subgrant, or any violation of law, rule, or regulation related to any Federal contract or subcontract (including the competition for or negotiation of a contract or subcontract) or grant or subgrant.

''(ii) A substantial and specific danger to public health or safety.''; and

(B) in paragraph (3)—

(i) in subparagraph (A), by striking ''an employee'' and inserting ''a protected individual''; and

(ii) by striking subparagraph (B) and inserting the following subparagraph:

''(B) it shall not be within the authority of an executive branch official to request that a contractor, subcontractor, grantee, or subgrantee engage in a reprisal prohibited by paragraph (1).'';

(2) in subsection (c)—

(A) in paragraph (1), by adding at the end the following new subparagraph:

''(E) Propose appropriate disciplinary action against any executive branch official for any request made of a contractor, subcontractor, grantee, or subgrantee that subjected the complainant to a reprisal prohibited by subsection (a).''; and

(B) by striking paragraph (7) and inserting the following paragraph:

''(7) RIGHTS, FORUM, AND REMEDIES NOT WAIVABLE.—The rights, forum, and remedies provided for in this section may not be waived by any public or private agreement, policy, form, or condition of employment, including by any predispute arbitration agreement.'';

(3) in subsection (e)—

(A) by striking ''an employee'' and inserting ''a protected individual''; and

(B) by striking ''the employee'' and inserting ''the protected individual'';

(4) by striking subsection (f) and redesignating subsections (g) and (h) as subsections (f) and (g), respectively; and

(5) in subsection (f), as so redesignated, by inserting after paragraph (2) the following new paragraph:

''(3) The term 'protected individual' means—

''(A) a contractor, subcontractor, grantee, or subgrantee of the Federal Government, including—

''(i) the government of each of the several States, the District of Columbia, an Indian tribe or authorized tribal organization, the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico, Guam, American Samoa, the Virgin Islands, the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, or any other territory or possession of the United States;

''(ii) the government of any political subdivision of, agency of, or instrumentality of, a government listed in clause (i); and

''(iii) an element of the intelligence community (as defined in section 3 of the National Security Act of 1947 (50 U.S.C. 3003));

''(B) an employee of a contractor, subcontractor, grantee, or subgrantee of the Federal Government or a former employee of such contractor, subcontractor, grantee, or subgrantee whose protected disclosure or engagement in any activity protected against reprisal under this section occurred prior to termination, including an employee of—

''(i) the government of each of the several States, the District of Columbia, an Indian tribe or authorized tribal organization, the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico, Guam, American Samoa, the Virgin Islands, the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, or any other territory or possession of the United States;

''(ii) the government of any political subdivision of, agency of, or instrumentality of, a government listed in clause (i); and

''(iii) an element of the intelligence community (as defined in section 3 of the National Security Act of 1947 (50 U.S.C. 3003)); or

''(C) a person performing personal services for the Federal Government pursuant to a contractual agreement for the performance of personal services, including a personal services contract or personal services agreement, including a person performing personal services pursuant to such a contractual agreement for—

''(i) the government of each of the several States, the District of Columbia, an Indian tribe or authorized tribal organization, the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico, Guam, American Samoa, the Virgin Islands, the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, or any other territory or possession of the United States;

''(ii) the government of any political subdivision of, agency of, or instrumentality of, a government listed in clause (i); and

''(iii) an element of the intelligence community (as defined in section 3 of the National Security Act of 1947 (50 U.S.C. 3003)).''.

Mr. PETERS. I ask unanimous consent that the committee-reported substitute amendment be agreed to; that the bill, as amended, be considered read a third time and passed; and that the motion to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The committee-reported amendment, in the nature of a substitute, was agreed to.

The bill (S. 874), as amended, was ordered to be engrossed for a third reading, was read the third time, and passed.

Mr. PETERS. Mr. President, my bipartisan Expanding Whistleblower Protections for Contractors Act, which just passed in the Senate, basically closes loopholes in the law to ensure that Federal contractors are protected when they disclose information about fraud, waste, and abuse of taxpayer money.

Each year, whistleblowers help the government save money and fight fraud when they make disclosures to Congress, inspectors general, and other oversight bodies.

Currently, the law that protects contractor whistleblowers is weaker than the laws that protect both Federal and private sector employees. In some instances, loopholes have allowed Federal officials to retaliate against whistleblowers with absolutely no accountability.

My bill would make it perfectly clear that Federal officials cannot direct retaliation against contractors any more than they can direct retaliation against Federal employees.

If they violate the law, the bill will allow Agencies to take disciplinary action. The bill would also clarify that employers cannot evade whistleblower laws through nondisclosure agreements and other employment contracts and ensure that contractor employees are not retaliated against for refusing to perform an action that they believe is illegal.

I would like to thank Senator GRASSLEY for joining me in introducing this legislation and Representatives GARCIA and COMER for introducing the House companion, which was unanimously approved by the House Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

I urge my colleagues to continue to join me in passing this bill through the House and certainly appreciate the support that I received on the floor here today.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Hawaii.

FLOODING IN HAWAII

Mr. SCHATZ. Mr. President, Hawaii experienced its worst flooding in more than 20 years last month. Two storms, less than 2 weeks apart, whipped up hurricane force winds of up to 135 miles per hour and dumped more than 62 inches of rain in parts of the State.

All told, nearly 2 trillion gallons of water fell from the sky statewide, enough to fill 3 million Olympic-sized swimming pools, and the resulting damage was widespread and it was severe.

It all started on March 10 when the first storm known as a Kona low brought close to 10 inches of rain over 4 days and broke daily rainfall records on Oahu, Maui, Hawaii Island, and Kauai. The powerful winds and heavy rain flooded homes, toppled power lines, and shuttered schools and businesses.

Over 100,000 people lost power, but before people could even begin to recover, a second storm quickly followed just days later delivering more than a foot of rain. But the ground was still saturated from the previous storm and drainage capacity was overwhelmed, and so flooding got worse across the State.

More than 5,000 residents were forced to evacuate and seek cover in shelters and schools. Homes were lifted off of their foundations, cars floated out of driveways, roads and highways became inaccessible, crops washed away on farms and fields.

But amid the devastation, rocked by relentless rain, Hawaii's aloha spirit prevailed. We saw it in the heroic emergency responders who rescued hundreds of people who were stuck in danger with no way to get out. We saw it in all the people rushing to check in on their neighbors, sharing information on social media in realtime, and helping to clean up the debris and the mud once the rain passed.

Farmers who lost their own fields instead went to help their neighbors to rebuild.

Businesses spring into action to hand out supplies and hot meals, despite losing sales and incurring damages of their own. That is Hawaii. No one is a stranger, especially in time of need. And everybody pitches in.

Recovering from a disaster of this magnitude will take months and years. Homes, roads, schools, and hospitals were flooded and badly damaged and will need to be rebuilt. And doing so requires resources, which is why the Trump administration's approval of Governor Josh Green's disaster declaration request was so important.

As with disasters in the past, these Federal dollars will support cleanup and repairs, as well as help residents to get back on their feet through individual assistance.

The State and county governments are doing everything that they can to help people recover fully and quickly, but they cannot do it alone. They need help.

The Federal Government has a responsibility to share the burden of rebuilding. And while the approval of a disaster declaration is a very important and good first step, it is just that. It is a first step.

In the months and the years ahead, we will need to be there to provide support and resources in any way we can, until the affected people and communities are made whole once again.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Rhode Island.

S.J. RES. 139

Mr. WHITEHOUSE. Mr. President, I am speaking in advance of my colleague from Colorado Senator BENNET's effort to seek redress in this body for a wave of pollution that is being unleashed in his State and neighboring States as well.

One of the things about our failed Environmental Protection Agency right now is that one State can't regulate pollution that comes to it from another State. And yet the good neighbor policy that somebody has to be able to say ''Hey, wait a minute; you can't pollute my State from another State'' is one that EPA has just walked away from.

In this case, the problem is a coal facility in Colorado. And just start with coal. It is really indisputable that coal is America's dirtiest, deadliest, and most expensive energy source. It is a dying industry for market reasons. It can't compete because it is dirty, deadly, and expensive.

And yet, since taking office, President Trump has worked desperately to keep coal on life support, perhaps because the coal industry paid $3.5 million in 2024 to help him get elected, and Trump is a man who understands a quid pro quo.

The Trump administration has taken every possible action to benefit the coal industry; never mind our health. Remember, it is the deadliest of energy sources. And never mind our bank accounts. Remember, it is the most expensive of energy sources.

He even rolled back health-protecting standards for mercury and toxic emissions from coal plants. Mercury is pretty seriously, deadly stuff; and he rolled back those standards.

He exempted one-third of all coal plants nationwide from toxic pollution standards. Who loses? Anybody exposed to the toxic pollution they emit. Who wins? Trump's big donors.

He even directed the Secretary of Energy to issue orders under the Federal Power Act to force coal plants to stay online, driving up consumer costs against the wishes of the utilities and even the plants' owners. But they still had to buy and burn coal. So there is somebody out there who is going to make money off that.

And now Trump has perverted the Clean Air Act to trample on States' rights to protect their own citizens.

Coal plants are the Nation's most significant source of haze. The same coal pollutants that drive health issues and deaths nationwide drive haze formations. Under the Clean Air Act's Regional Haze Program, States establish plans to reduce haze-causing pollution. States may choose to include coal plant retirements in their plans. Often, that is consistent with the utility and the plant owner's wishes, as an old plant ends its useful life. When the EPA approves these plans, the retirements then become enforceable.

In 2022, Colorado submitted a regional haze plan to the EPA that included coal plant retirements that Colorado utilities had independently and voluntarily planned for. ''They do better with cheaper, cleaner renewable energy'' is the simple answer.

In January of this year, the EPA turned around and disapproved Colorado's plan, making the argument that Colorado's plan, voluntarily entered into with these utilities, could represent a ''taking'' under the Constitution.

So we have here a really flagrant abuse of Federal authority: Make it more difficult for Colorado to protect its own citizens from toxic pollution and to provide affordable energy. And the resulting pollution won't just endanger Coloradans. This is a national issue because the haze blows, with prevailing winds, toward eastern States.

My State of Rhode Island, for instance, has occasions when we have bad air days. And if you are driving into work in the morning and you are listening to the talk radio, they will say: Today is a bad air day. Children should stay home. Elderly people and people with breathing difficulties should not go out.

It looks like a beautiful summer day. Kids will want to be in the yard, but it

is a bad air day. And so that health warning gets issued by the State of Rhode Island.

And there is nothing the State of Rhode Island can do about it. If every car in our State was an EV, if everything ran off of clean electricity, we would still be out of compliance because we are a downwind State.

And huge powerplants that push their pollution up into the sky, far enough that prevailing winds carries it out of their State and onto ours, they are the ones that are to blame, and there is nothing we can do about it.

So I am very sympathetic to concerns that the EPA has a particularly important job when neighboring States are polluting one another and can't reach a regulatory solution because it is out of State, and that is exactly the predicament that we are creating here today.

When Congress enacted the Congressional Review Act in 1996 to give Congress the opportunity to vote on regulations, well, that is why we are here today. We have a chance to undo this, and I hope we will because everybody here has a good chance of being a downwind State. Even California is often a downwind State from China. So you have got to be able to have protections from upwind pollution, and this would strip that.

So the Trump administration's effort here—at breakneck speed—to tear down protections of Americans' health, safety, and environment we have a chance to claw back. Congressional Review Act resolutions like this one can help hold the administration to account.

I will conclude by saying I just left the EPW hearing with EPA Administrator Zeldin. The point that I made in that hearing was that we are now headed into an election cycle in which the American people are desperately concerned about the cost of stuff. Stuff costs too much, and the Trump administration is ignoring the problem, if not making it worse. Those are basically the two buckets. They are either ignoring it completely or they are deliberately making it worse.

With respect to electricity costs, the Trump administration is deliberately making it worse. They are raising costs for consumers on purpose.

How are they doing it, and why are they doing it? Well, the ''how'' is that they are keeping inexpensive clean energy off the grid. We just went through this in Rhode Island. Our Revolution Wind offshore power facility was stalled by illegal orders of the Trump administration not once but twice, and the result was that power was delayed from coming ashore. Well, Revolution Wind has a contract to sell power onto the grid. That contract specifies a price. The price is 9 cents—9 cents. ISO New England—our grid operator—can do fairly easy math to show what the average grid price is for electricity. And guess what. It is 18 cents. So this 9-cent power was stalled going into an 18-cent grid.

Because it is 9-cent power, what would it have done? It would have been called up first by the grid because every grid calls up the least expensive power first. So that 9-cent power would have been flowing into the grid. It would have been filling up demand, and that would have meant that some dirty fossil fuel-polluting units would not have been called up. They were too expensive to run.

So, when they push all that clean energy off the grid and buy time for the dirty, polluting fossil fuel plants—that is money directly to the fossil fuel industry—two things happen: One, costs go up for all consumers because those new, more expensive plants called online raise the price for everybody. So electricity bills go up. They are driven up on purpose by the delay of clean energy getting onto the grid.

Where do those billions of dollars in extra costs that are extracted from American consumers go? Guess where—to the owners of those fossil fuel plants that are in the margin, the ones that get run because the clean energy has been kept off of the grid.

It is a ginormous money pump out of the pockets of ordinary American ratepayers and into the pockets of the fossil fuel billionaires who put so much money into getting Trump elected. That is being done on purpose. Electricity costs are being driven up on purpose.

Don't tell me that the Department of Energy or the Environmental Protection Agency or the Department of the Interior, for that matter, don't understand how the grid works. They have people who know exactly how the generation stack works. They know exactly that the least expensive units get run first and that the least expensive units displace the more expensive units, which is good for consumers, until the heavy hand of a fossil fuel-influenced government steps in and tries to prevent consumers from getting low-cost clean energy. Then the hole that that leaves that would have been filled by clean energy—you have got to go fill that hole by going up the stack to more and more expensive units, and virtually every time, that more expensive unit is a fossil fuel unit.

So, like I said, what the Trump administration has created on purpose is a ginormous money pump to extract billions of dollars from regular consumers who would otherwise be enjoying the benefit of low-cost clean power, and they have done it as a reward for Trump's big fossil fuel donors, the ones who threw hundreds of millions of dollars at his campaign and who are now reaping a multiple-times reward with that investment.

With that, I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. SCHMITT). The Senator from Colorado.

S.J. RES. 139

Mr. HICKENLOOPER. Mr. President, Colorado is one of the most beautiful places not just in America but in the world.

In Denver, we have got over 300 days of sunshine annually. We have access to incredible green spaces, and if you look west, you can lose yourself in the best view in America—the Rocky Mountains.

But it wasn't always this way.

In the 1950s, Colorado was and still is one of the fastest growing cities in America. Even stretching back to my days as mayor back in the 2000s, one of our main goals was to attract young people to not just come and ski in Colorado but to visit Denver, perhaps consider starting a business there, building a business, growing your family, building a life.

To put it in perspective, between 1950 and 1960, Denver's population grew by just about 20 percent. This brought more cars, more industry but also more pollution. By the 1970s and 1980s, the smog was so bad that, nationally, there was a nickname for Denver—the ''brown cloud.'' There were days you couldn't even see the mountains at all, which, as a geologist and a Coloradan, pained me.

But then something incredible happened. In 1970, a Democratic Congress passed the Clean Air Act. It was signed into law by a Republican President. It is a reminder that clean air has never been a partisan issue. It benefits literally everyone. The Clean Air Act helped to propel States like Colorado and others to turn things around, to look at that pollution in a different light. Emissions testing and fuel standards soon followed, and guess what happened. The air got cleaner. Visibility improved. People such as my son who has asthma would be healthier.

Then, in 1999, the EPA created the Regional Haze Program. The initiative was rooted around one single idea: If you go to a national park, you should be able to see it. So States were asked to develop plans to cut pollution that limits those gorgeous views.

Once again, Colorado stepped in and led the way. In my first year as Governor, Colorado submitted our Regional Haze State Implementation Plan, which was first approved in 2012. It put us on a path to improving the quality of air we breathe in the place that we are lucky to call home.

We also brought environmentalists and the energy industry together to create the first methane regulations in the world in 2014. This was the blending of environmental and industry discussions. I think those regulations—again, the first methane regulations in the world were in Colorado—helped in the years leading up to 2017 to reduce methane emissions from Colorado's oil and gas sector by 70 percent. That is right—70 percent.

Despite all that success, the Trump administration is now threatening to turn back the clock and reduce and diminish the success of Colorado's clean air efforts.

Earlier this year, EPA Administrator Lee Zeldin, whom I voted against, rejected Colorado's updated Regional Haze Plan. They didn't reject Colorado's plan because the science was wrong. They didn't dispute the goals, and they didn't dispute the modeling. They rejected it to prop up a handful of aging coal plants—coal-fired electrical generation plants—that were already planning to close. The utilities had created the models, had found the replacement sources of energy, and were ready to close those older, less-efficient, and significantly dirtier generation plants.

The Trump administration seems to think we must choose between clean air and affordable energy, which is nonsense. Colorado has shown that that is a false choice. Time and time again, we have brought communities and utilities and regulators together to protect our clean air supply without hurting our economy or our energy supply.

Last summer, the Front Range experienced the lowest number of ozone action alerts in a decade. Let me say that again. Last year was the lowest number of ozone action alerts in a decade. Thanks to bipartisan investments in renewable energy, Colorado ranked among the top 10 States in overall energy production.

The administration's decision doesn't lower costs for anybody. It just means more pollution and more haze in those very places we treasure the most.

Colorado is never going to move forward by returning to the 1970s. For decades, we have fought tooth and nail to ensure that our mountains are visible and our national parks are the most beautiful and the most enjoyable in America. We should support this measure and prevent Washington politics from clouding Colorado's hard-fought progress.

I yield the floor.

Mr. BENNET. Mr. President, I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The bill clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. McCORMICK. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

UNLOCK AMERICAN ENERGY AND JOBS ACT

Mr. McCORMICK. Mr. President, I rise today to introduce legislation on a critical subject for the American people. I rise because Congress—this Congress—has a historic opportunity over the next 6 months to deliver an energy and economic bonanza for the American people by overhauling our broken permitting process.

President Trump has shown bold leadership, cutting redtape and attracting transformational investment. Just last year—just last year—he helped catalyze $92 billion of new investment for the Keystone State at the Pennsylvania Energy and Innovation Summit in Pittsburgh. And since then, other enormous investments in advanced manufacturing and transformation energy infrastructure have been made in our Commonwealth.

But the President cannot carry this alone. A true overhaul requires Congress to reclaim its article I responsibilities and to ensure that the Federal Government is a partner to American energy dominance, not an obstacle to American energy dominance—and an obstacle is exactly what our permitting system is today. It is what it has become.

A McKinsey study found $1.5 trillion in critical infrastructure is frozen in permitting limbo, holding back 2.4 trillion in economic activity.

It takes 5 years—5 years—to get a permit for a powerplant. That is longer than it took us to win World War II. Transmission lines take nearly 8 years.

The supply-demand gap tells the same story. From 2013 to 2024, U.S. natural gas demand surged 49 percent, and pipeline capacity grew by 26 percent; storage capacity, 2 percent. Demand—demand for energy—is sprinting, and capacity is crawling.

And nowhere—nowhere in America—is that failure felt more acutely than in Pennsylvania. Our Commonwealth is an energy superpower. But because so much of our energy infrastructure crosses State lines, rivers, and wetlands, nearly every project in Pennsylvania needs Federal approvals, and the current system makes that almost impossible to obtain.

Take the PennEast Pipeline, a project that would have delivered Pennsylvania natural gas to New Jersey homes and businesses. Environmental activists weaponized this permitting system to kill it. Over 12,000 direct and indirect jobs—gone. And PennEast is just one example among many.

And here is the sad irony: Pennsylvania ranks third in the Nation in electricity production, second in the Nation in natural gas, and second in nuclear power. And yet, Pennsylvania families face a 20-percent hike in energy prices that are projected over the next 3 years; Pennsylvania businesses, up to 30 percent.

If we lacked the needed capital or the workers or the reserves, rising prices, they might make sense. But we have all three. The obstacle holding back Pennsylvania energy is Washington made. And it is time—it is time—for Congress to fix it. We must do better.

And done right, permitting reform will force Federal and State governments to move faster, to clear the backlog, and to unleash a wave of investment across our economy. It will lower prices. The projects stuck in limbo could power more than 50 million homes. That backlog drives up cost on everything, from farming to fighter jets. Cheaper energy means cheaper everything. It will create great—great—high-paying jobs. Every new nuclear plant, every new pad, every oil rig, every pipeline, every new power line unlocked by reforms, means thousands of jobs—thousands of jobs—for welders, electricians, pipefitters, and engineers in small, industrial towns across America—towns like Bloomsburg, PA, where I grew up.

And it will make us more secure. We are in a head-to-head race with communist China for AI leadership, and the stakes are existential. We cannot afford to lose, and we cannot win without more energy.

The recent fighting in the Strait of Hormuz is a stark reminder: We cannot rely on the rest of the world to power our future. We must build it ourselves, and we must be the supplier—the supplier of choice—to our allies around the world.

And that—for all those reasons—that is why I am introducing the Unlock American Energy and Jobs Act. This is gold standard—the gold standard—for what Pennsylvania and the country needs.

The bill addresses four chokepoints. First, it stops opponents from weaponizing the Clean Water Act as a general-purpose veto, setting hard deadlines and limiting reviews in actual water quality concerns; No. 2, it scraps the outdated rule forcing American LNG exporters to seek case-by-case Federal approval before selling our natural gas abroad; No. 3, it modernizes nuclear licensing to match today's technology and decades—decades—of proven safety in America and around the world; and No. 4, it brings common sense to environmental litigation which activists routinely use to kill projects that have already cleared every single regulatory hurdle.

Now let me be clear—let me be clear—this is not an argument—this is not an argument—for abolishing environmental standards. It is not an argument for shutting down public debate. It is an argument for decisions that are timely, decisions that are lawful, and decisions—and this is most important—that are final.

We can do both: We can protect our natural resources, and we can still build America's future.

And now—now, my friends—is the moment. We have a pro-energy President. A Republican Congress determined to unleash American energy. I have spoken with many, many of my Democratic colleagues who want projects, who want these same kinds of projects unlocked in their States too. The common ground on this topic is real, and the American people are demanding—they are insisting—that we seize the moment.

Now, I know with all the issues going around, I know that time is short and the priorities are many. Some are urgent, like ending the DHS shutdown. But we must be ruthless in our prioritization. If we let this moment slip, we lose a golden—golden—opportunity for lower costs, to create jobs, and to transform our economy.

President Trump laid the blueprint, and I am encouraged by the bipartisan conversations that are already underway, but it is up to us. It is up to us to make this momentum permanent. And it is up to us—us in this body—to unleash a new era of American security dominance.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Nevada.

S.J. RES. 99

Ms. ROSEN. Mr. President, I rise today in support of our workers, our businesses, and our economy. Specifically, I am here to talk about my resolution, which we will be voting on shortly, to protect the millions of workers who could lose their jobs because of an extreme Trump administration rule.

This is an issue that affects all of us because, well, let me tell you, when industries like agriculture and construction lose workers, it impacts their supply chains and prices go up.

In my State of Nevada and across every single State in this Nation, our economy, well, it is fueled by our workers. This includes thousands of individuals who live in this country legally. Thousands of individuals who live in this country legally, who have legal authorization to work, and who show up every single day to do the jobs that keep our communities running.

These workers, they are doing everything that is asked of them. They have been vetted. They are playing by the rules. They are paying their taxes. And yet today, because of a misguided rule change by the Trump administration, many of them are at risk of losing their jobs and their livelihoods through no fault of their own. That is because workers with employment authorization documents, also known as work permits, must renew them every few years, but they can only file that paperwork 6 months before their permit expires.

While 6 months seems like a long time, the processing delays at U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services, especially under this administration, are even longer. They can stretch well beyond 6 months.

And so for years, there had been a simple, commonsense solution. If a worker filed their renewal on time, their current work permit would be automatically extended while the government finished processing their application. It is the government that was slow, not the worker.

This way, people wouldn't have a gap in work authorization. This policy kept people working. It provided stability for businesses, and it prevented needless disruptions to our economy.

But last fall, that changed. The Trump administration issued a rule that fully eliminated these automatic extensions, pulling the rug out from under workers who did everything right.

Now, these individuals face an impossible choice: stop working and lose their income and their ability to provide for their family or risk working without authorization and risk deportation.

It also puts our business owners in a terrible position. Employers are going to be forced to go without workers or have to let go of workers whose work permits expired because the government took too long to issue their renewals. That is why many business groups, including the U.S. Chamber of Commerce, are opposed to this reckless Trump rule.

They know it will affect key industries like agriculture and food processing, construction and even childcare. And we know what happens when there are fewer workers able to meet demands: Prices go up.

So think about it. More than 3.5 million legally authorized workers nationwide could be impacted by this misguided rule. In construction alone, roughly 600,000 workers could be forced off the job, right as we face a critical shortage of labor needed to build much needed housing across America. In Nevada, we already have 11,000 fewer construction workers than we did just a year ago, and even more workers are sidelined because of paperwork delays.

What is this going to mean? Projects are going to stall, costs will rise, working families will feel it in the form of higher housing prices and fewer available homes. And it doesn't stop there.

In hospitality, an industry that is the backbone of Nevada's economy, more than half a million workers nationwide could be affected. So for a State like mine, where tourism drives growth and supports countless small businesses, losing thousands of workers in our hotels, restaurants, and entertainment venues would be devastating.

Fewer workers means reduced capacity. It means lower service levels. It means lost revenue, not just for our businesses but for entire communities that depend upon a strong tourism economy. And that is wrong. It is just wrong.

It is why I introduced a resolution under the Congressional Review Act to overturn this harmful Trump rule. My legislation would restore automatic extensions for workers who have already been vetted and who have their work permits while their paperwork is being processed.

This is about fairness. It is about stability, and it is about helping our workers and our businesses.

So today I am asking my colleagues on both sides of the aisle to join me in taking a simple step, a vote to support workers and the business community. So let's overturn this harmful rule change that will hurt families, small businesses, large businesses, and our entire economy. Let's put America's workers—again, our businesses, everything, our economy—first by reinstating automatic extensions for work permit renewals. If we don't, we risk losing 3.5 million workers from our workforce. And trust me; we will all pay the price.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Colorado.

S. RES. 139

Mr. BENNET. Mr. President, today, I am bringing the Congressional Review Act resolution to the floor to challenge EPA's disapproval of Colorado's regional haze plan. I want to thank my colleagues Senator HICKENLOOPER and Senator WHITEHOUSE for joining me in this effort.

For decades, we have relied on a simple principle in this country to keep our air clean: States and the Federal Government work together to reduce pollution and protect public health. That includes programs like Regional Haze, which is designed to improve visibility in national parks and wilderness areas, like Rocky Mountain National Park in Northern Colorado.

In 2022, Colorado submitted a good-faith plan to improve air quality. The State provided a range of solutions—including the voluntary, already-planned retirement of aging coal plants.

The decisions to close these plants were driven by basic economics. Colorado utilities recognized that it no longer made sense to keep them open, based on the high costs of maintaining and operating. And so in its regional haze plan, Colorado incorporated these previously made decisions into the State's strategy to reduce air pollution.

But EPA rejected Colorado's plan—not because it failed to meet Federal standards. EPA rejected it because President Trump is laser-focused on keeping even aging coal plants operational, regardless of the costs or the desires of the local communities.

EPA's disapproval of Colorado's plan was based on an unprecedented and flawed legal theory. EPA alleges that under section 110 of the Clean Air Act, Colorado must somehow prove these coal plant requirements would not violate the Constitution's takings clause, or, in other words, not constitute an illegal government seizure of private property. But that is an impossible case for the State to make. It is also not, in fact, what section 110 of the Clean Air Act requires or what Congress ever intended.

And to make matters worse, the EPA made this shift without any meaningful public input. And the consequences of President Trump and Lee Zeldin's actions are real. They are real for Colorado and for the West and for this country.

They are making it harder—harder—for Colorado to chart our own path on the energy transition and trying to force Coloradans to pay tens of millions of dollars to keep outdated coal plants running. And they are doing this at a moment when energy prices have already increased as a result of the administration's own reckless actions.

Since President Trump's unprovoked war, gasoline prices have risen over 30 percent in Colorado. They have cut investments in the cheapest types of electricity, while promoting the most expensive. Everything the administration has done has made it harder for parents in Colorado to pay their bills and heat their homes, and now to take their children to enjoy some of the incredible national parks and public lands our State has to offer.

If this ruling stands, it won't stop in Colorado. It could open the door to similar challenges across the country, weakening air quality protections and leaving States in an impossible position—responsible for results but stripping them of the tools and the authority to achieve them.

And so I urge my colleagues to support S.J. Res. 139 to overturn the EPA's decision.

I ask consent to yield back all time. I ask for the yeas and nays.

PROVIDING FOR CONGRESSIONAL DISAPPROVAL UNDER CHAPTER 8 OF TITLE 5, UNITED STATES CODE, OF THE RULE SUBMITTED BY THE ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY RELATING TO ''AIR PLAN DISAPPROVAL; COLORADO; REGIONAL HAZE PLAN FOR THE SECOND IMPLEMENTATION PERIOD''—Motion to Proceed

Mr. BENNET. I move to proceed to Calendar No. 364, S.J. Res. 139.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the resolution by title.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

Motion to proceed to Calendar No. 364, S.J. Res. 139, a joint resolution providing for congressional disapproval under chapter 8 of title 5, United States Code, of the rule submitted by the Environmental Protection Agency relating to ''Air Plan Disapproval; Colorado; Regional Haze Plan for the Second Implementation Period''.

VOTE ON MOTION

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The question is on agreeing to the motion.

Mr. DURBIN. I ask for the yeas and nays.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there a sufficient second?

There appears to be a sufficient second.

The clerk will call the roll.

The senior assistant legislative clerk called the roll.

Mr. BARRASSO. The following Senator is necessarily absent: the Senator from Alabama (Mr. TUBERVILLE).

Mr. DURBIN. I announce that the Senator from Maryland (Ms. ALSOBROOKS) is necessarily absent.

The result was announced—yeas 46, nays 52, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 110 Leg.]

YEAS—46

Baldwin	Booker	Duckworth
Bennet	Cantwell	Durbin
Blumenthal	Coons	Fetterman
Blunt Rochester	Cortez Masto	Gallego
Gillibrand	Merkley	Shaheen
Hassan	Murphy	Slotkin
Heinrich	Murray	Smith
Hickenlooper	Ossoff	Van Hollen
Hirono	Padilla	Warner
Kaine	Peters	Warnock
Kelly	Reed	Warren
Kim	Rosen	Welch
King	Sanders	Whitehouse
Klobuchar	Schatz	Wyden
Luján	Schiff	
Markey	Schumer	

NAYS—52

Armstrong	Fischer	Moran
Banks	Graham	Moreno
Barrasso	Grassley	Murkowski
Blackburn	Hagerty	Paul
Boozman	Hawley	Ricketts
Britt	Hoeven	Risch
Budd	Husted	Rounds
Capito	Hyde-Smith	Schmitt
Cassidy	Johnson	Scott (FL)
Collins	Justice	Scott (SC)
Cornyn	Kennedy	Sheehy
Cotton	Lankford	Sullivan
Cramer	Lee	Thune
Crapo	Lummis	Tillis
Cruz	Marshall	Wicker
Curtis	McConnell	Young
Daines	McCormick	
Ernst	Moody	

NOT VOTING—2

Alsobrooks	Tuberville

The motion was rejected.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. MORENO). The Senator from Nevada.

PROVIDING FOR CONGRESSIONAL DISAPPROVAL UNDER CHAPTER 8 OF TITLE 5, UNITED STATES CODE, OF THE RULE SUBMITTED BY U.S. CITIZENSHIP AND IMMIGRATION SERVICES RELATING TO ''REMOVAL OF THE AUTOMATIC EXTENSION OF EMPLOYMENT AUTHORIZATION DOCUMENTS''—Motion to Proceed

Ms. ROSEN. Mr. President, I move to proceed to Calendar No. 366, S.J. Res. 99.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the motion.

The senior assistant executive clerk read as follows:

Motion to proceed to Calendar No. 366, S.J. Res. 99, a joint resolution providing for congressional disapproval under chapter 8 of title 5, United States Code, of the rule submitted by U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services relating to ''Removal of the Automatic Extension of Employment Authorization Documents''.

VOTE ON MOTION

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The question is on agreeing to the motion to proceed.

Ms. ROSEN. Mr. President, I ask for the yeas and nays.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there a sufficient second?

There appears to be a sufficient second.

The clerk will call the roll.

The senior assistant executive clerk called the roll.

Mr. BARRASSO. The following Senators are necessarily absent: the Senator from Kentucky (Mr. PAUL) and the Senator from Alabama (Mr. TUBERVILLE).

Mr. DURBIN. I announce that the Senator from Maryland (Ms. ALSOBROOKS) is necessarily absent.

The result was announced—yeas 47, nays 50, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 111 Leg.]

YEAS—47

Baldwin	Hirono	Rosen
Bennet	Kaine	Sanders
Blumenthal	Kelly	Schatz
Blunt Rochester	Kim	Schiff
Booker	King	Schumer
Cantwell	Klobuchar	Shaheen
Coons	Luján	Slotkin
Cortez Masto	Markey	Smith
Duckworth	Merkley	Van Hollen
Durbin	Murkowski	Warner
Fetterman	Murphy	Warnock
Gallego	Murray	Warren
Gillibrand	Ossoff	Welch
Hassan	Padilla	Whitehouse
Heinrich	Peters	Wyden
Hickenlooper	Reed	

NAYS—50

Armstrong	Ernst	McCormick
Banks	Fischer	Moody
Barrasso	Graham	Moran
Blackburn	Grassley	Moreno
Boozman	Hagerty	Ricketts
Britt	Hawley	Risch
Budd	Hoeven	Rounds
Capito	Husted	Schmitt
Cassidy	Hyde-Smith	Scott (FL)
Collins	Johnson	Scott (SC)
Cornyn	Justice	Sheehy
Cotton	Kennedy	Sullivan
Cramer	Lankford	Thune
Crapo	Lee	Tillis
Cruz	Lummis	Wicker
Curtis	Marshall	Young
Daines	McConnell	

NOT VOTING—3

Alsobrooks	Paul	Tuberville

The motion was rejected.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. JUSTICE). The Senator from Iowa.

THE CALENDAR

Ms. ERNST. Mr. President, COVID–19 fraudsters stole at least $200 billion, but time is now running out to hold every single one accountable. Starting this week, crooks who defrauded pandemic relief programs are getting away.

Both Republicans and Democrats should be working around the clock to send a clear message to fraudsters past, present, and future: There are real consequences to stealing from taxpayers.

But Democrats have wanted to press ''snooze'' on passing my SBA Fraud Enforcement Extension Act. This is the third day fraudsters who stole millions in COVID relief funds have been able to escape justice.

You heard me right, folks. Swindlers who took advantage of SBA COVID relief programs are already escaping justice. Every day that passes, another gets away. The clock is ticking, and the countdown is on.

My bill simply gives investigators and prosecutors flexibility to do their jobs by extending the statutes of limitation for defrauding the Shuttered Venue Operators Grant Program and the Restaurant Revitalization Fund by 5 years.

Congress has already passed an extension of the statutes of limitation for SBA's other COVID relief programs with bipartisan support. This body came together against fraud, and we need to again.

Pandemic program fraud investigations have already uncovered $57 billion in fraud and issued 1,200 indictments. The SBA is currently conducting a manual review of over $3 billion in Restaurant Revitalization Fund awards, but in this program alone, more than $9.5 billion of awards still require review.

We can't allow swindlers, scammers, and con artists to run out the clock, because for fraudsters, time flies when you are having fun.

Look no further than rapper Chris Brown, who exploited the SVOG Program to pay for his lavish $80,000 birthday party and paid himself $5.1 million in the process, and multilocation franchise CoreLife Eatery, which ignored location limits to feast on $7.8 million in taxpayer funds.

Make no mistake, when it comes to fraud and abuse, this is just the tip of the iceberg. Thorough investigations take time, and investigators must be able to continue conducting this vital work on behalf of the American taxpayers. That is why I am urging my colleagues to support the SBA Fraud Enforcement Extension Act so fraudsters know the days of getting away with their scams are numbered. But if Congress continues to press ''snooze,'' taxpayers are the ones who lose billions.

With that, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the immediate consideration of the following bills en bloc: Calendar No. 134, S. 1199, and Calendar No. 135, S. 2232.

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the bills en bloc.

Ms. ERNST. I ask that the committee-reported substitute amendment to S. 1199 be withdrawn; that the Ernst substitute amendment at the desk be considered; that the Markey amendment to the Ernst substitute be considered and agreed to; that the Ernst substitute, as amended, be agreed to; further, that the committee-reported substitute to S. 2232 be agreed to; finally, that the bills, as amended, be considered read a third time and passed en bloc and that the motions to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table, all en bloc.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection?

Without objection, it is so ordered.

The bills considered and agreed to en bloc are as follows:

SBA FRAUD ENFORCEMENT EXTENSION ACT

The Senate proceeded to consider the bill (S. 1199) to extend the statute of limitations for fraud under certain pandemic programs, and for other purposes, which had been reported from the Committee on Small Business and Entrepreneurship with an amendment to strike all after the enacting clause and insert the part printed in italic, as follows:

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the ''SBA Fraud Enforcement Extension Act''.

SEC. 2. STATUTE OF LIMITATIONS FOR CERTAIN PROGRAMS.

(a) SHUTTERED VENUE OPERATORS.—Section 324 of division N of the Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2021 (15 U.S.C. 9009a) is amended by adding at the end the following:

''(g) STATUTE OF LIMITATIONS.—Notwithstanding any other provision of law, any criminal prosecution or civil enforcement action for a violation of, or conspiracy to violate, section 371, 641, 1001, 1028A, 1029, 1341, 1343, 1349, 1956, or 1957 of title 18, United States Code, or section 3729 or 3802 of title 31, United States Code, with respect to any grant received or applied for under this section shall be filed not later than 10 years after the date of the violation or conspiracy.''.

(b) RESTAURANT REVITALIZATION.—Section 5003 of the American Rescue Plan Act of 2021 (15 U.S.C. 9009c) is amended by adding at the end the following:

''(d) STATUTE OF LIMITATIONS.—Notwithstanding any other provision of law, any criminal prosecution or civil enforcement action for a violation of, or conspiracy to violate, section 371, 641, 1001, 1028A, 1029, 1341, 1343, 1349, 1956, or 1957 of title 18, United States Code, or section 3729 or 3802 of title 31, United States Code, with respect to any grant received or applied for under this section shall be filed not later than 10 years after the date of the violation or conspiracy.''.

(c) CERTAIN ECONOMIC INJURY DISASTER LOANS.—Section 7 of the Small Business Act (15 U.S.C. 636) is amended—

(1) by redesignating the matter appearing between paragraphs (12)(A) and (13) of subsection (a) and designated as subsection (b) (relating to deferred participation in loans) as subparagraph (B) and adjusting the margins 2 ems to the right; and

(2) in the second subsection (b), relating to disaster loans—

(A) by inserting after ''(b)'' the following: ''FEDERAL DISASTER LOANS.—''; and

(B) by striking the second paragraph (16), relating to the statute of limitations, and inserting the following:

''(17) STATUTE OF LIMITATIONS.—Notwithstanding any other provision of law, any criminal prosecution or civil enforcement action for a violation of, or conspiracy to violate, section 371, 641, 1001, 1028A, 1029, 1341, 1343, 1349, 1956, or 1957 of title 18, United States Code, or section 3729 or 3802 of title 31, United States Code, in which a borrower engaged in fraud with respect to a loan made under this subsection in response to COVID–19 during the covered period (as defined in section 1110(a) of the CARES Act (15 U.S.C. 9009(a))) shall be filed not later than 10 years after the date of the violation or conspiracy.''.

(d) PAYCHECK PROTECTION PROGRAM.—Section 7(a)(36) of the Small Business Act (15 U.S.C. 636(a)(36)) is amended by striking subparagraph (W) and inserting the following:

''(W) STATUTE OF LIMITATIONS.—Notwithstanding any other provision of law, any criminal prosecution or civil enforcement action for a violation of, or conspiracy to violate, section 371, 641, 1001, 1028A, 1029, 1341, 1343, 1349, 1956, or 1957 of title 18, United States Code, or section 3729 or 3802 of title 31, United States Code, in which a borrower engaged in fraud with respect to a covered loan guaranteed under this paragraph shall be filed not later than 10 years after the offense was committed.''.

(e) PAYCHECK PROTECTION PROGRAM SECOND DRAW LOANS.—Section 7(a)(37) of the Small Business Act (15 U.S.C. 636(a)(37)) is amended by striking subparagraph (P) and inserting the following:

''(P) STATUTE OF LIMITATIONS.—Notwithstanding any other provision of law, any criminal prosecution or civil enforcement action for a violation of, or conspiracy to violate, section 371, 641, 1001, 1028A, 1029, 1341, 1343, 1349, 1956, or 1957 of title 18, United States Code, or section 3729 or 3802 of title 31, United States Code, in which a borrower engaged in fraud with respect to a covered loan guaranteed under this paragraph shall be filed not later than 10 years after the offense was committed.''.

The committee-reported amendment, in the nature of a substitute, was withdrawn.

The amendment (No. 5440) in the nature of a substitute was considered as follows:

(Purpose: In the nature of a substitute)

Strike all after the enacting clause and insert the following:

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the ''SBA Fraud Enforcement Extension Act''.

SEC. 2. STATUTE OF LIMITATIONS FOR CERTAIN PROGRAMS.

(a) SHUTTERED VENUE OPERATORS.—Section 324 of division N of the Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2021 (15 U.S.C. 9009a) is amended by adding at the end the following:

''(g) STATUTE OF LIMITATIONS.—Notwithstanding any other provision of law, any criminal prosecution or civil enforcement action for a violation of, or conspiracy to violate, section 371, 641, 1001, 1028A, 1029, 1341, 1343, 1349, 1956, or 1957 of title 18, United States Code, or section 3729 or 3802 of title 31, United States Code, with respect to any grant for shuttered venue operators under this section shall be filed not later than 10 years after the date of the violation or conspiracy.''.

(b) RESTAURANT REVITALIZATION.—Section 5003 of the American Rescue Plan Act of 2021 (15 U.S.C. 9009c) is amended by adding at the end the following:

''(d) STATUTE OF LIMITATIONS.—Notwithstanding any other provision of law, any criminal prosecution or civil enforcement action for a violation of, or conspiracy to violate, section 371, 641, 1001, 1028A, 1029, 1341, 1343, 1349, 1956, or 1957 of title 18, United States Code, or section 3729 or 3802 of title 31, United States Code, with respect to any restaurant revitalization grant under this section shall be filed not later than 10 years after the date of the violation or conspiracy.''.

The amendment (No. 5441), to amendment No. 5440, was considered and agreed to as follows:

(Purpose: To require a report on Department of Justice activity relating to certain programs)

At the appropriate place, insert the following:

(c) REQUIREMENT.—Not later than 90 days after the date of enactment of this Act, and every 90 days thereafter until the date that is 5 years after the date of enactment of this Act, the Attorney General shall submit to Congress a report on activities of the Department of Justice relating to the shuttered venue operators program under section 324 of division N of the Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2021 (15 U.S.C. 9009a) and the restaurant revitalization program under section 5003 of the American Rescue Plan Act of 2021 (15 U.S.C. 9009c), which shall include—

(1) the total number of investigations initiated, the total number of prosecutions initiated, the total dollar amount recovered by prosecutions, and the total number of referrals and source of such referrals; and

(2) with respect to such programs—

(A) the number of investigations initiated, the number of prosecutions initiated, and the disposition of each prosecution;

(B) the number of prosecutions and the number of investigations of applicants of such programs in each State and territory based on the address listed on the application of the entity that is the subject of an investigation or prosecution;

(C) the number of referrals—

(i) from the Department of Justice; and

(ii) from sources other than the Department of Justice, such as the Inspector General of another agency; and

(D) the disposition of each referral described in subparagraph (C), specifically whether the referral resulted in prosecution or declination.

The amendment (No. 5440), in the nature of a substitute, as amended, was agreed to.

The bill (S. 1199), as amended, was ordered to be engrossed for a third reading, was read the third time, and passed, as follows:

S. 1199

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the ''SBA Fraud Enforcement Extension Act''.

SEC. 2. STATUTE OF LIMITATIONS FOR CERTAIN PROGRAMS.

(a) SHUTTERED VENUE OPERATORS.—Section 324 of division N of the Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2021 (15 U.S.C. 9009a) is amended by adding at the end the following:

''(g) STATUTE OF LIMITATIONS.—Notwithstanding any other provision of law, any criminal prosecution or civil enforcement action for a violation of, or conspiracy to violate, section 371, 641, 1001, 1028A, 1029, 1341, 1343, 1349, 1956, or 1957 of title 18, United States Code, or section 3729 or 3802 of title 31, United States Code, with respect to any grant for shuttered venue operators under this section shall be filed not later than 10 years after the date of the violation or conspiracy.''.

(b) RESTAURANT REVITALIZATION.—Section 5003 of the American Rescue Plan Act of 2021 (15 U.S.C. 9009c) is amended by adding at the end the following:

''(d) STATUTE OF LIMITATIONS.—Notwithstanding any other provision of law, any criminal prosecution or civil enforcement action for a violation of, or conspiracy to violate, section 371, 641, 1001, 1028A, 1029, 1341, 1343, 1349, 1956, or 1957 of title 18, United States Code, or section 3729 or 3802 of title 31, United States Code, with respect to any restaurant revitalization grant under this section shall be filed not later than 10 years after the date of the violation or conspiracy.''.

(c) REQUIREMENT.—Not later than 90 days after the date of enactment of this Act, and every 90 days thereafter until the date that is 5 years after the date of enactment of this Act, the Attorney General shall submit to Congress a report on activities of the Department of Justice relating to the shuttered venue operators program under section 324 of division N of the Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2021 (15 U.S.C. 9009a) and the restaurant revitalization program under section 5003 of the American Rescue Plan Act of 2021 (15 U.S.C. 9009c), which shall include—

(1) the total number of investigations initiated, the total number of prosecutions initiated, the total dollar amount recovered by prosecutions, and the total number of referrals and source of such referrals; and

(2) with respect to such programs—

(A) the number of investigations initiated, the number of prosecutions initiated, and the disposition of each prosecution;

(B) the number of prosecutions and the number of investigations of applicants of such programs in each State and territory based on the address listed on the application of the entity that is the subject of an investigation or prosecution;

(C) the number of referrals—

(i) from the Department of Justice; and

(ii) from sources other than the Department of Justice, such as the Inspector General of another agency; and

(D) the disposition of each referral described in subparagraph (C), specifically whether the referral resulted in prosecution or declination.

EXPANDING THE SURETY BOND PROGRAM ACT OF 2025

The Senate proceeded to consider the bill (S. 2232) to expand the surety bond program under the Small Business Investment Act of 1958, and for other purposes, which had been reported from the Committee on Small Business and Entrepreneurship with an amendment to strike all after the enacting clause and insert the part printed in italic, as follows:

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the ''Expanding the Surety Bond Program Act of 2025''.

SEC. 2. EXPANSION OF THE SURETY BOND PROGRAM.

Part B of title IV of the Small Business Investment Act of 1958 (15 U.S.C. 694a et seq.) is amended—

(1) in section 411 (15 U.S.C. 694b)—

(A) in subsection (a)(1)—

(i) in subparagraph (A)—

(I) by striking ''$6,500,000'' and inserting ''$18,000,000''; and

(II) by inserting '', subject to the exception in subparagraph (B)'' after ''United States Code''; and

(ii) by striking subparagraph (B) and inserting the following:

''(B) (i) In any fiscal year in which the Administrator submits a formal request, including budget justification documents submitted by the Administrator to Congress, for supplemental funds under section 412(d), the amount described in subparagraph (A) shall be reduced by 33 percent.

''(ii) The limit described in clause (i) shall apply until the first of either—

''(I) 12 months after the date on which the Administrator submits the formal request described in that clause; or

''(II) 150 days after the date on which—

''(aa) the requested funds are provided, and the Administrator attests that the fee collection activities of the Administration are sufficient to maintain a deficit-neutral revolving fund; or

''(bb) the Administrator notifies Congress that funds are no longer required and attests that the fee collection activities of the Administration are sufficient to maintain a deficit-neutral revolving fund.

''(iii) After the expiration of the period described in clause (ii), the limit described in clause (i) shall revert to the amount designated in subparagraph (A).''; and

(B) in subsection (e)—

(i) in paragraph (1), by striking the comma at the end and inserting a semicolon;

(ii) in paragraph (2), by striking ''$6,500,000,'' and inserting ''the amount described in subparagraph (A) or (B)(i) of subsection (a)(1), as applicable;''; and

(iii) in paragraph (3), by striking '', or'' and inserting ''; or'';

(2) in section 412 (15 U.S.C. 694c)—

(A) in subsection (a), in the third sentence, by striking '', excluding administrative expenses,'';

(B) by redesignating subsection (b) as subsection (c);

(C) by inserting after subsection (a) the following:

''(b) Not more than 2 percent of the amount in the fund described in subsection (a) on the first day of each fiscal year may be obligated during that fiscal year to cover costs incurred by the Administration in connection with the management and administration of this part, including costs related to information technology and systems, outreach activities, and relevant contracts.''; and

(D) by adding at the end the following:

''(d) If the Administrator notifies any committee of the Senate or the House of Representatives that supplemental funding is necessary to carry out the Surety Bond Program authorized under section 411(a)(3), the Administrator shall, on the same date, notify in writing the Committee on Small Business and Entrepreneurship of the Senate and the Committee on Small Business of the House of Representatives regarding the need for the supplemental funds.''; and

(3) by adding at the end the following:

''SEC. 413. REPORT.

''(a) SMALL BUSINESS ADMINISTRATION.—Not later than 90 days after the first day of each fiscal year, the Administrator shall submit to the Committee on Small Business and Entrepreneurship of the Senate and the Committee on Small Business of the House of Representatives a report covering the period of the previous fiscal year describing the status and activities carried out under this part and the financial health of the revolving fund created under section 412(a), which shall include—

''(1) with respect to guarantees under this part—

''(A) the total dollar value in the aggregate among all sureties;

''(B) the total dollar value issued by sureties participating in the Prior Approval Program;

''(C) the total dollar value issued by sureties participating in the Preferred Surety Bond Guarantee Program authorized under section 411(a)(3);

''(D) the average bond size; and

''(E) the number of issued bonds that exceed the limits established under subparagraphs (A) and (B) of section 411(a)(1);

''(2) with respect to claims paid—

''(A) the total dollar value of claims paid in the aggregate;

''(B) the total dollar value of claims originating from bonds issued by sureties participating in the Prior Approval Program and the number of such claims; and

''(C) the total dollar value of claims originating from bonds issued by sureties participating in the Preferred Surety Bond Guarantee Program authorized under section 411(a)(3) and the number of such claims.

''(3) information on the solvency of the revolving fund, including—

''(A) the revolving fund balance at the end of the reporting period;

''(B) net cash flow;

''(C) administrative expenses incurred; and

''(D) the revolving fund balance at the end of the reporting period, adjusted for administrative expenses under subparagraph (C);

''(4) the number of sureties participating in the Prior Approval Program;

''(5) the number of sureties participating in the Preferred Surety Bond Guarantee Program authorized under section 411(a)(3); and

''(6) information on administrative expenses, including—

''(A) a description of administrative expenses claimed from the revolving fund under section 412(b) as of the end of the reporting period; and

''(B) the total cost of administrative expenses claimed.

''(b) GOVERNMENT ACCOUNTABILITY OFFICE.—Not later than 270 days after the date of enactment of the Expanding the Surety Bond Program Act of 2025, the Comptroller General of the United States shall submit to the Committee on Small Business and Entrepreneurship of the Senate and the Committee on Small Business of the House of Representatives a report on the current processes of the Small Business Administration for approving applicants to the Surety

Bond Program, including recommendations for improving program efficiency and simplifying paperwork requirements.''.

The committee-reported amendment, in the nature of a substitute, was agreed to.

The bill (S. 2232), as amended, was ordered to be engrossed for a third reading, was read the third time, and passed.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Massachusetts.

Mr. MARKEY. Mr. President, I want to thank the Chair for working with me to pass these two bills that were reported favorably out of our committee: Chair ERNST's SBA Fraud Enforcement Act and my Expanding the Surety Bond Program Act.

Senator ERNST's bill extends the statute of limitations for two COVID-era programs and incorporates my amendment to ensure that enforcement by the Department of Justice is carried out in a nonpartisan manner.

My Expanding the Surety Bond Program Act will expand opportunities for small contracting businesses looking to access larger contracts.

Not everyone is aware of the important role that surety bonds play in the contracting process, but every builder, every supplier, every producer in Massachusetts and across the country understands that without them, significant contracts cannot move forward.

In the last 7 years, SBA's Surety Bond Program has supported more than $13 billion in revenues—including $165 million in Massachusetts. My bill actually expands this program by raising the limit on SBA-backed surety bonds to $18 million on all contracts, and it also includes provisions that Chair ERNST added to mitigate risks to the program.

Again, I want to thank Chair ERNST for her commitment to seeing these bills through to passage, and I thank the Chamber for unanimously accepting our recommendations.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Iowa.

Ms. ERNST. Mr. President, I also would like to thank Ranking Member MARKEY for his great collaboration on these bills. It is another example of truly bipartisan work and collaboration to get these bills done, to get them off the floor of the Senate and on their way.

So I really appreciate the consideration that you have given, Ranking Member.

This is a major win for taxpayers who had their hard-earned money stolen by fraudsters. Now the investigators have been given the time they need to track down the thieves who stole taxpayer dollars and to build strong, prosecutable cases.

Today's action also sends a clear message to fraudsters: You will be held accountable. You will not get away with your crimes.

This is critical to ensure that this blatant fraud is stopped in its tracks.

I look forward to working with the SBA, the IG, and the Department of Justice to track down every single crook who defrauded our taxpayers.

Again, I thank the ranking member for the collaboration.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Iowa.

RESOLUTIONS SUBMITTED TODAY

Ms. ERNST. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate now proceed to the en bloc consideration of the following resolutions, which are at the desk: S. Res. 701, S. Res. 702, S. Res. 703, S. Res. 704, and S. Res. 705.

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the resolutions en bloc.

Ms. ERNST. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the resolutions be agreed to, the preambles be agreed to, and that the motions to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table, all en bloc.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The resolutions were agreed to.

The preambles were agreed to.

(The resolutions, with their preambles, are printed in today's RECORD under ''Submitted Resolutions.'')

PIPELINE INTEGRITY, PROTECTION, AND ENHANCEMENT FOR LEVERAGING INVESTMENTS IN THE NATION'S ENERGY TO ASSURE SAFETY ACT OF 2025

Ms. ERNST. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the immediate consideration of Calendar No. 331, S. 2975.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the bill by title.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (S. 2975) to amend title 49, United States Code, to enhance the safety of pipeline transportation, and for other purposes.

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the bill, which had been reported from the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation with an amendment to strike all after the enacting clause and insert in lieu thereof the following:

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE; TABLE OF CONTENTS.

(a) SHORT TITLE.—This Act may be cited as the ''Pipeline Integrity, Protection, and Enhancement for Leveraging Investments in the Nation's Energy to assure Safety Act of 2025'' or the ''PIPELINE Safety Act of 2025''.

(b) TABLE OF CONTENTS.—The table of contents for this Act is as follows:

Sec. 1. Short title; table of contents.
Sec. 2. Definitions.
TITLE I—REAUTHORIZATIONS
Sec. 101. Gas and hazardous liquid.
Sec. 102. Operational expenses of the Pipeline and Hazardous Materials Safety Administration.
Sec. 103. Other programs.
TITLE II—MODERNIZING PIPELINE SAFETY
Sec. 201. Inspection of in-service breakout tanks.
Sec. 202. Risk assessment obligations.
Sec. 203. Timely incorporation by reference.
Sec. 204. Report on updates to the National Pipeline Mapping System.
Sec. 205. Pipeline safety enhancement programs.
Sec. 206. Technical safety standards committees.
Sec. 207. Enforcement procedures.
Sec. 208. Civil penalties.
Sec. 209. Improving whistleblower protections.
Sec. 210. Assessment of composite materials.
Sec. 211. Elements and evaluation of State damage prevention programs.
Sec. 212. Pipeline safety voluntary information-sharing system.
Sec. 213. Transporting gas.
Sec. 214. Inspection and management of rights-of-way.
Sec. 215. Geological hazards.
Sec. 216. Alternative technologies.
Sec. 217. Fire shutoff valves.
Sec. 218. Exemption from post-accident testing.
Sec. 219. Maximum allowable operating pressure records.
Sec. 220. Pipeline operating status.
Sec. 221. Potential impact radius.
Sec. 222. Effects of weather on natural gas pipelines.
Sec. 223. Aldyl–A pipelines.
Sec. 224. Improvements to pipeline safety integrity management programs.
Sec. 225. Nonemergency waivers by the Secretary.
TITLE III—STREAMLINING OVERSIGHT OF PIPELINES
Sec. 301. Regulatory updates.
Sec. 302. State use of integrated inspections.
Sec. 303. Optimizing pipeline safety inspections.
Sec. 304. Sense of Congress on PHMSA engagement prior to rulemaking activities.
TITLE IV—IMPROVING SAFETY OF EMERGING GASES
Sec. 401. Studies of hydrogen pipeline transportation.
Sec. 402. Safety of carbon dioxide pipelines.
Sec. 403. Reporting of blended products.
TITLE V—IMPROVING EMERGENCY RESPONSE AND TRANSPARENCY
Sec. 501. Bitumen oil response plan review.
Sec. 502. National Center of Excellence for Hazardous Liquid Pipeline Leak Detection.
Sec. 503. Operator financial disclosure.
Sec. 504. Data and transparency.
Sec. 505. Office of Public Engagement.
Sec. 506. Clarification of confirmed discovery.
Sec. 507. Public alert notification system for pipeline facilities.
TITLE VI—OTHER MATTERS
Sec. 601. Prohibition on PHMSA operation, procurement, or contracting action with respect to covered unmanned aircraft systems.
Sec. 602. Natural gas distribution pipeline infrastructure safety and modernization grants.
Sec. 603. Issues affecting federally recognized Indian Tribes.
Sec. 604. Identification of and justification for redactions.
Sec. 605. Fees for loan guarantees.
Sec. 606. Improving pipeline cybersecurity.
Sec. 607. Technical corrections.

SEC. 2. DEFINITIONS.

In this Act:

(1) ADMINISTRATION.—The term ''Administration'' means the Pipeline and Hazardous Materials Safety Administration.

(2) ADMINISTRATOR.—The term ''Administrator'' means the Administrator of the Administration.

(3) APPROPRIATE COMMITTEES OF CONGRESS.—The term ''appropriate committees of Congress'' means—

(A) the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation of the Senate;

(B) the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure of the House of Representatives; and

(C) the Committee on Energy and Commerce of the House of Representatives.

(4) DOCUMENT PRODUCED TO ANOTHER PERSON.—The term ''document produced to another person'' means a document produced in response to a request under section 552 of title 5, United States Code (commonly known as the Freedom of Information Act), a submission to a Federal, State, or Tribal court, information made available on a website, and a document transmitted to Congress.

(5) SECRETARY.—The term ''Secretary'' means the Secretary of Transportation.

TITLE I—REAUTHORIZATIONS

SEC. 101. GAS AND HAZARDOUS LIQUID.

Section 60125(a) of title 49, United States Code, is amended—

(1) in paragraph (1)—

(A) in subparagraph (A)—

(i) in the matter preceding clause (i), by striking ''$156,400,000 for fiscal year 2021'' and inserting ''$185,000,000 for fiscal year 2026''; and

(ii) in clause (ii), by striking ''$63,000,000'' and inserting ''$83,250,000'';

(B) in subparagraph (B)—

(i) in the matter preceding clause (i), by striking ''$158,500,000 for fiscal year 2022'' and inserting ''$190,365,000 for fiscal year 2027''; and

(ii) in clause (ii)—

(I) by striking ''$66,000,000'' and inserting ''$85,660,000''; and

(II) by striking ''and'' at the end;

(C) in subparagraph (C)—

(i) in the matter preceding clause (i), by striking ''$162,700,000 for fiscal year 2023'' and inserting ''$195,886,000 for fiscal year 2028''; and

(ii) in clause (ii)—

(I) by striking ''$69,000,000'' and inserting ''$88,150,000''; and

(II) by striking the period at the end and inserting a semicolon; and

(D) by adding at the end the following:

''(D) $201,556,000 for fiscal year 2029, of which—

''(i) $9,000,000 shall be used to carry out section 12 of the Pipeline Safety Improvement Act of 2002 (49 U.S.C. 60101 note; Public Law 107–355); and

''(ii) $90,700,000 shall be used for making grants; and

''(E) $207,412,000 for fiscal year 2030, of which—

''(i) $9,000,000 shall be used to carry out section 12 of the Pipeline Safety Improvement Act of 2002 (49 U.S.C. 60101 note; Public Law 107–355); and

''(ii) $93,340,000 shall be used for making grants.'';

(2) in paragraph (2)—

(A) in subparagraph (A)—

(i) in the matter preceding clause (i), by striking ''$27,000,000 for fiscal year 2021'' and inserting ''$30,000,000 for fiscal year 2026''; and

(ii) in clause (ii), by striking ''$11,000,000'' and inserting ''$13,500,000'';

(B) in subparagraph (B)—

(i) in the matter preceding clause (i), by striking ''$27,650,000 for fiscal year 2022'' and inserting ''$31,000,000 for fiscal year 2027''; and

(ii) in clause (ii)—

(I) by striking ''$12,000,000'' and inserting ''$13,950,000''; and

(II) by striking ''and'' at the end;

(C) in subparagraph (C)—

(i) in the matter preceding clause (i), by striking ''$28,700,000 for fiscal year 2023'' and inserting ''$32,000,000 for fiscal year 2028''; and

(ii) in clause (ii)—

(I) by striking ''$13,000,000'' and inserting ''$14,400,000''; and

(II) by striking the period at the end and inserting a semicolon; and

(D) by adding at the end the following:

''(D) $33,000,000 for fiscal year 2029, of which—

''(i) $3,000,000 shall be used to carry out section 12 of the Pipeline Safety Improvement Act of 2002 (49 U.S.C. 60101 note; Public Law 107–355); and

''(ii) $14,850,000 shall be used for making grants; and

''(E) 34,000,000 for fiscal year 2030, of which—

''(i) $3,000,000 shall be used to carry out section 12 of the Pipeline Safety Improvement Act of 2002 (49 U.S.C. 60101 note; Public Law 107–355); and

''(ii) $15,300,000 shall be used for making grants.''; and

(3) in paragraph (3), by striking ''$8,000,000 for each of fiscal years 2021 through 2023'' and inserting ''$7,000,000 for each of fiscal years 2026 through 2030''.

SEC. 102. OPERATIONAL EXPENSES OF THE PIPELINE AND HAZARDOUS MATERIALS SAFETY ADMINISTRATION.

There are authorized to be appropriated to the Secretary for the necessary operational expenses of the Administration—

(1) $33,000,000 for fiscal year 2026;

(2) $34,000,000 for fiscal year 2027;

(3) $35,000,000 for fiscal year 2028;

(4) $36,000,000 for fiscal year 2029; and

(5) $37,000,000 for fiscal year 2030.

SEC. 103. OTHER PROGRAMS.

(a) EMERGENCY RESPONSE GRANTS.—Section 60125(b)(2) of title 49, United States Code, is amended by striking ''$10,000,000 for each of fiscal years 2021 through 2023 to carry out this subsection'' and inserting ''to carry out this subsection $10,000,000 for each of fiscal years 2026 through 2030''.

(b) PIPELINE SAFETY INFORMATION GRANTS TO COMMUNITIES.—Section 60130 of title 49, United States Code, is amended—

(1) in subsection (c)—

(A) in paragraph (1), by striking ''section 2(b) of the PIPES Act of 2016 (Public Law 114–183; 130 Stat. 515), the Secretary shall use $2,000,000 for each of fiscal years 2021 through 2023 to carry out this section.'' and inserting the following: ''section 60125(a)(1), the Secretary shall use to carry out this section—

''(A) $2,000,000 for fiscal year 2026;

''(B) $2,750,000 for fiscal year 2027;

''(C) $3,000,000 for fiscal year 2028;

''(D) $3,250,000 for fiscal year 2029; and

''(E) $4,000,000 for fiscal year 2030.''; and

(B) in paragraph (2)—

(i) by striking ''$1,000,000''; and

(ii) by striking ''section.'' and inserting the following: ''section—

''(A) $1,000,000 for fiscal year 2026;

''(B) $1,250,000 for fiscal year 2027;

''(C) $1,500,000 for fiscal year 2028;

''(D) $1,750,000 for fiscal year 2029; and

''(E) $2,000,000 for fiscal year 2030.'';

(2) by redesignating subsection (d) as subsection (e); and

(3) by inserting after subsection (c) the following:

''(d) DEADLINES.—

''(1) NOTICE OF FUNDING OPPORTUNITY.—Not later than 60 days after the date on which funds are made available to carry out this section, the Secretary shall publish a notice of funding opportunity for the funds.

''(2) APPLICATIONS.—To be eligible to receive a grant under this section, an eligible applicant shall submit to the Secretary an application—

''(A) in such form and containing such information as the Secretary considers to be appropriate; and

''(B) by such date as the Secretary may establish, subject to the condition that the date shall be not later than 60 days after the date on which the Secretary publishes the notice of funding opportunity under paragraph (1).

''(3) SELECTION.—Not later than 120 days after the date on which the Secretary publishes the notice of funding opportunity under paragraph (1), the Secretary shall announce the selection by the Secretary of eligible applicants to receive grants in accordance with this section.''.

(c) DAMAGE PREVENTION PROGRAMS.—Section 60134(i) of title 49, United States Code, is amended by striking ''$1,500,000 for each of fiscal years 2021 through 2023. Such funds shall remain'' and inserting ''$3,000,000 for each of fiscal years 2026 through 2030, to remain''.

(d) PIPELINE INTEGRITY PROGRAM.—Section 12(f) of the Pipeline Safety Improvement Act of 2002 (49 U.S.C. 60101 note; Public Law 107–355) is amended—

(1) by striking ''$3,000,000'' and inserting ''$2,500,000''; and

(2) by striking ''the fiscal years 2021 through 2023'' and inserting ''fiscal years 2026 through 2030''.

TITLE II—MODERNIZING PIPELINE SAFETY

SEC. 201. INSPECTION OF IN-SERVICE BREAKOUT TANKS.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 1 year after the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary shall revise part 195 of title 49, Code of Federal Regulations, to allow for risk-based inspections of in-service breakout tanks if the Secretary finds such revisions maintain or enhance safety.

(b) CONSIDERATIONS.—In revising the regulations under subsection (a), the Secretary shall consider the American Petroleum Institute standard entitled ''Tank Inspection, Repair, Alteration, and Reconstruction'', dated November 2014, and numbered API Standard 653 (Fifth Edition) (or a successor standard).

(c) REQUIREMENTS.—In revising the regulations under subsection (a), for any in-service breakout tanks that would be internally inspected less frequently under the revised regulations than required under part 195 of title 49, Code of Federal Regulations (as in effect on January 1, 2025), the Secretary shall require operators—

(1) to visually monitor the external conditions of those tanks on a routine basis; and

(2) to use a secondary containment system designed to contain hazardous liquids in the event of a leak.

(d) NOTIFICATION.—If the regulations promulgated under subsection (a) differ from the American Petroleum Institute standard referred to in subsection (b), the Secretary shall submit to the appropriate committees of Congress a notification explaining the reasons for the differences not later than 60 days after the date on which the regulations are published in the Federal Register.

SEC. 202. RISK ASSESSMENT OBLIGATIONS.

Section 60102(b)(4)(A) of title 49, United States Code, is amended—

(1) in clause (i), by striking ''and'' at the end;

(2) in clause (ii), by striking the period at the end and inserting ''; and''; and

(3) by adding at the end the following:

''(iii) require that an officer or employee of the Department of Transportation with expertise in conducting risk assessments or cost-benefit analyses for pipeline facilities or other modes of transportation attend any meeting in which a committee described in clause (i) is serving as a peer review panel with respect to that risk assessment information.''.

SEC. 203. TIMELY INCORPORATION BY REFERENCE.

Section 60102 of title 49, United States Code, is amended by striking subsection (l) and inserting the following:

''(l) UPDATING STANDARDS.—

''(1) IN GENERAL.—Not less frequently than once every 5 years, the Secretary shall—

''(A) review each industry consensus standard—

''(i) that has been adopted or incorporated, partially or in full, as part of the Federal pipeline safety regulatory program under this chapter;

''(ii) that has been modified by a standards development organization (as defined in section 2(a) of the National Cooperative Research and Production Act of 1993 (15 U.S.C. 4301(a))) since being adopted or incorporated; and

''(iii) the modification of which has been published by a standards development organization (as defined in that section); and

''(B) update, as determined necessary by the Secretary, the adoption or incorporation of each industry consensus standard reviewed under subparagraph (A).

''(2) LIST OF INDUSTRY STANDARDS.—

''(A) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall maintain a publicly available list of all industry standards considered for adoption or incorporation under this chapter, including—

''(i) the determination of the Secretary with respect to each standard considered; and

''(ii) with respect to each standard not adopted or incorporated in full, the reasoning for not adopting or incorporating that standard in full.

''(B) AVAILABILITY.—Not later than 30 days after initial completion and each revision of the list under subparagraph (A), the Secretary shall publish the list on the public website of the Pipeline and Hazardous Materials Safety Administration.

''(3) CONSIDERATION OF INDUSTRY CONSENSUS STANDARDS.—In prescribing new safety standards under this chapter, the Secretary shall consider adopting or incorporating industry consensus standards.

''(4) PUBLIC ACCESS.—

''(A) IN GENERAL.—For all industry consensus standards incorporated or partially incorporated under this chapter on or after the date of enactment of the PIPELINE Safety Act of 2025, the Secretary shall publish on the public website of the Pipeline and Hazardous Materials Safety Administration the full text of the standard or a direct link to an external source where the full text is available to the public on a website to view at no cost for the duration of time that the Secretary has the incorporation by reference available for public comment.

''(B) EXCEPTION.—If the full text of an industry consensus standard is not published on the public website of the Pipeline and Hazardous Materials Safety Administration or available from that website via a direct link to an external source where the full text is available to the public on a website to view at no cost for the duration of time that the Secretary has the incorporation by reference available for public comment, then the Secretary shall not incorporate or partially incorporate under this chapter that industry consensus standard by reference.

''(C) PREVIOUSLY INCORPORATED STANDARDS.—For industry consensus standards incorporated or partially incorporated under this chapter before the date of enactment of the PIPELINE Safety Act of 2025 that are publicly available on a public-facing website at no charge to the public, the Secretary shall publish on the public website of the Pipeline and Hazardous Materials Safety Administration the full text of the standard or a direct link to an external source where the full text is available to the public on a website.''.

SEC. 204. REPORT ON UPDATES TO THE NATIONAL PIPELINE MAPPING SYSTEM.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 1 year after the date of enactment of this Act, the Comptroller General of the United States shall submit to the appropriate committees of Congress a report on the management of the National Pipeline Mapping System by the Administration.

(b) CONTENTS.—The report submitted under subsection (a) shall describe—

(1) how and when the Administration updates the high consequence area data contained in the National Pipeline Mapping System;

(2) what sources of scientific data are used for those updates; and

(3) how those data are validated for accuracy.

(c) RULEMAKING.—Not later than 2 years after the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary shall initiate a rulemaking to require that the information submitted under section 60132(a) of title 49, United States Code, has a spatial accuracy within a radius of 50 feet from the location of the facility (+/− 50 feet).

SEC. 205. PIPELINE SAFETY ENHANCEMENT PROGRAMS.

Section 60142 of title 49, United States Code, is amended—

(1) in subsection (c)(2), by striking ''3 years after the date of enactment of this section'' and inserting ''5 years after the date of enactment of the PIPELINE Safety Act of 2025'';

(2) in subsection (d)—

(A) in paragraph (1), by inserting ''or equal to'' after ''greater than''; and

(B) by striking paragraph (2) and inserting the following:

''(2) DETERMINATION.—

''(A) IN GENERAL.—To accomplish the purpose of a testing program, the Secretary may issue an order waiving compliance with any part of an applicable standard prescribed under this chapter if the condition described in paragraph (1) is met, as determined by the Secretary.

''(B) LIMITATION.—The Secretary shall not require testing program applicants to use the nonemergency waiver process, or to otherwise meet the requirements of the nonemergency waiver process, established under section 60118(c)(1).'';

(3) by striking subsection (h) and inserting the following:

''(h) AUTHORITY TO TERMINATE PROGRAM.—

''(1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall immediately terminate a testing program under subsection (a) if continuation of the testing program would not be consistent with the goals and objectives of this chapter.

''(2) NOTIFICATION.—Not later than 10 days after the termination of a testing program under paragraph (1), the Secretary shall notify the relevant pipeline operators of how they can address any deficiencies identified by the Secretary.

''(3) REINSTATEMENT.—If the Secretary determines that the deficiencies identified under paragraph (2) are addressed, the Secretary shall reinstate the testing program.''; and

(4) by adding at the end the following:

''(m) APPROVAL PROCESS.—Establishment of a testing program under subsection (a) shall not be considered a major Federal action (as defined in section 111 of the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (42 U.S.C. 4336e)) for purposes of that Act (42 U.S.C. 4321 et seq.).''.

SEC. 206. TECHNICAL SAFETY STANDARDS COMMITTEES.

(a) NOTIFICATION TO CONGRESS.—Section 60115(c)(2) of title 49, United States Code, is amended, in the fifth sentence, by inserting ''and notify the appropriate committees of Congress (as defined in section 2 of the PIPELINE Safety Act of 2025)'' after ''the Secretary shall publish the reasons''.

(b) FREQUENCY OF MEETINGS.—Section 60115(e) of title 49, United States Code, is amended by striking ''up to 4'' and inserting ''2''.

SEC. 207. ENFORCEMENT PROCEDURES.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Section 60117(b)(1) of title 49, United States Code, is amended—

(1) in subparagraph (B)—

(A) in clause (i), by striking ''or'' at the end;

(B) in clause (ii), by adding ''or'' after the semicolon at the end; and

(C) by adding at the end the following:

''(iii) to allow a recipient of a warning under section 190.205 of title 49, Code of Federal Regulations (or a successor regulation), to discuss claims made in the warning with relevant staff;'';

(2) in subparagraph (I), by striking ''and'' at the end;

(3) in subparagraph (J), by striking the period at the end and inserting a semicolon; and

(4) by adding at the end the following:

''(K) for civil penalties over $1,000,000, adjusted each year for inflation, allow the respondent to request a formal hearing in accordance with section 554 of title 5, conducted by an administrative law judge; and

''(L) provide a written response to a request for the withdrawal or modification of a written warning issued under this section.''.

(b) HEARINGS.—Section 60117(b) of title 49, United States Code, is amended by striking paragraph (2) and inserting the following:

''(2) HEARING REQUIREMENTS.—A hearing under this section shall—

''(A) be noticed to the public on the website of the Pipeline and Hazardous Materials Safety Administration on its own page titled 'Upcoming Enforcement Hearings';

''(B) provide an orderly and timely process, as determined by the Secretary;

''(C) in the case of a formal hearing, be open to the public.''.

(c) RULEMAKING.—Not later than 1 year after the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary shall update the regulations prescribing protocols for all hearings under section 60117 of title 49, United States Code.

(d) APPLICATION.—Section 60117(b)(1)(K) of title 49, United States Code (as added by subsection (a)(4)) shall apply only to civil penalties for violations that occur on or after the date of enactment of this Act.

SEC. 208. CIVIL PENALTIES.

Section 60122(a)(1) of title 49, United States Code, is amended—

(1) in the first sentence, by striking ''$200,000'' and inserting ''$400,000''; and

(2) in the third sentence, by striking ''$2,000,000'' and inserting ''$4,000,000''.

SEC. 209. IMPROVING WHISTLEBLOWER PROTECTIONS.

Section 60129 of title 49, United States Code, is amended—

(1) in subsection (a)(2)—

(A) in subparagraph (A), by striking ''or'' at the end;

(B) in subparagraph (B), by striking ''such a person.'' and inserting ''a person described in subparagraph (A); or''; and

(C) by adding at the end the following:

''(C) an officer, employee, or agent of a person described in subparagraph (A).''; and

(2) in subsection (b)(3)(B)—

(A) in clause (ii), by inserting ''with interest'' after ''back pay''; and

(B) in clause (iii), by inserting '', including compensation for any special damages sustained as a result of the discrimination'' after ''compensatory damages to the complainant''.

SEC. 210. ASSESSMENT OF COMPOSITE MATERIALS.

(a) IN GENERAL.—The Administrator shall gather and assess any studies, data, standards, and approved applications available as of the date of enactment of this Act that address the safety of composite materials to support the safe transportation of—

(1) natural gas;

(2) hazardous liquids;

(3) new fuels, such as hydrogen and hydrogen blended with natural gas; and

(4) new fluids, such as carbon dioxide.

(b) DEADLINE.—The assessment under subsection (a) shall be completed not later than 1 year after the date of enactment of this Act.

(c) REPORT.—Not later than 30 days after completing the assessment under subsection (a), the Administrator shall submit to the appropriate committees of Congress a report describing the conclusions of the assessment.

(d) RULEMAKING.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—If the Administrator concludes, based on the assessment under subsection (a), that composite materials provide, at a minimum, an equivalent level of safety as other pipelines under the jurisdiction of the Administration, the Administrator shall promulgate regulations, not later than 1 year after the date on which the report under subsection (c) is submitted, that allow for the use of composite materials for the transportation of new fuels.

(2) INCORPORATION OF EXISTING STANDARDS.—The regulations promulgated under paragraph (1) may include adoption or incorporation by reference of existing industry consensus standards.

SEC. 211. ELEMENTS AND EVALUATION OF STATE DAMAGE PREVENTION PROGRAMS.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Section 60134 of title 49, United States Code, is amended—

(1) in subsection (b)—

(A) in the subsection heading, by inserting ''STATE'' before ''DAMAGE'';

(B) by redesignating paragraphs (1) through (9) as subparagraphs (A) through (I), respectively;

(C) in the matter preceding subparagraph (A) (as so redesignated), by striking ''An'' and inserting the following:

''(1) IN GENERAL.—An'';

(D) in paragraph (1) (as so designated)—

(i) by indenting subparagraphs (A) through (I) appropriately; and

(ii) by adding at the end the following:

''(J) A State one-call program that includes, or is making substantial progress toward including, the one-call leading practices described in paragraph (2).''; and

(E) by adding at the end the following:

''(2) ONE-CALL LEADING PRACTICES.—The one-call leading practices referred to in paragraph (1)(J) are the following:

''(A) Restricting the size or scope of a one-call ticket for standard locate requests (which may include process exceptions for special large project tickets).

''(B) Restricting the longevity of a one-call ticket for standard locate requests (which may include process exceptions for special large project tickets).

''(C) Specifying tolerance (soft-dig only) zone horizontal dimensions.

''(D) Specifying tolerance zone requirements.

''(E) Specifying emergency excavation notification requirements.

''(F) Specifying the responsibilities of excavators, including the reporting of damages or suspected damages.

''(G) Defining who is an excavator and what is considered excavation.

''(H) Requiring the use of white-lining.

''(I) Requiring a positive response before excavation begins, such as a utility, municipality, or other entity that places the relevant marks positively responding to the notification center, and the excavator checking for that positive response before beginning excavation.

''(J) Requiring that newly installed underground facilities be locatable with commercially available technology.

''(K) Requiring the marking of sewer lines and laterals.

''(L) Specifying the qualifications of, and requirements for, those excavators performing trenchless excavation activities that are not subject to pipeline construction requirements under part 192 or 195 of title 49, Code of Federal Regulations (or successor regulations).''; and

(2) in subsection (c)—

(A) by striking ''In'' and inserting the following:

''(1) IN GENERAL.—In''; and

(B) by adding at the end the following:

''(2) EVALUATION CRITERIA.—The evaluation criteria used by the Secretary for determining the effectiveness of a State damage prevention program shall include consideration of whether the State, at a minimum—

''(A) engages in effective, active, and meaningful enforcement of State one-call laws, including the efficacy of fines and penalties;

''(B) requires reporting to the local one-call center of excavation damage events that affect pipelines and other underground facilities that are not privately owned, including (to the extent available at the time of the reporting)—

''(i) information about the nature of the incident, including its apparent cause;

''(ii) the organizations involved;

''(iii) the impact to public safety, utility operations, and customer service; and

''(iv) the impact to the environment; and

''(C) limits exemptions to State damage prevention laws.''.

(b) CONFORMING AMENDMENT.—Section 60114(f) of title 49, United States Code, is amended by striking ''section 60134(b)(7)'' and inserting ''section 60134(b)(1)(G)''.

SEC. 212. PIPELINE SAFETY VOLUNTARY INFORMATION-SHARING SYSTEM.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Chapter 601 of title 49, United States Code, is amended by adding at the end the following:

''§ 60144. Voluntary information-sharing system

''(a) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

''(1) ADMINISTRATOR.—The term 'Administrator' means the Administrator of the Pipeline and Hazardous Materials Safety Administration.

''(2) GOVERNING BOARD.—The term 'Governing Board' means the governing board established under subsection (d)(1).

''(3) ISSUE ANALYSIS TEAM.—The term 'Issue Analysis Team' means an Issue Analysis Team established under subsection (g)(1).

''(4) PROGRAM MANAGER.—The term 'Program Manager' means the Program Manager described in subsection (e).

''(5) THIRD-PARTY DATA MANAGER.—The term 'Third-Party Data Manager' means the Third-Party Data Manager appointed under subsection (f)(1).

''(6) VIS.—The term 'VIS' means the voluntary information-sharing system established under subsection (b)(1).

''(b) ESTABLISHMENT.—

''(1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 1 year after the date of enactment of this section, the Secretary shall establish a confidential and nonpunitive voluntary information-sharing system to encourage the sharing of pipeline safety data and information in order to improve the safety of gas transmission pipelines, gas distribution pipelines, liquefied natural gas facilities, underground natural gas storage facilities, and hazardous liquid pipelines.

''(2) REQUIREMENT.—The VIS shall be implemented and managed in accordance with the report entitled 'Pipeline Safety Voluntary Information-Sharing System Recommendation Report' prepared under section 10 of the PIPES Act of 2016 (49 U.S.C. 60108 note; Public Law 114–183) by the Voluntary Information Sharing System Working Group convened under that section.

''(3) PURPOSE.—The purpose of the VIS shall be to serve as a comprehensive and integrated system—

''(A) to gather, evaluate, and quantify critical pipeline safety data and information; and

''(B) to share recommended remediation measures and lessons learned across the pipeline industry in an efficient and confidential manner.

''(c) GOVERNANCE.—The VIS shall be governed, in accordance with this section, by the Governing Board, with support from—

''(1) the Program Manager;

''(2) the Third-Party Data Manager; and

''(3) 1 or more Issue Analysis Teams.

''(d) GOVERNING BOARD.—

''(1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 180 days after the date of enactment of this section, the Administrator, after consulting with public, government, and private pipeline safety stakeholders, shall establish a governing board for the VIS.

''(2) COMPOSITION.—

''(A) IN GENERAL.—The Governing Board shall be composed of 15 members who shall represent a balanced cross-section of pipeline safety stakeholders, in accordance with subparagraphs (B) and (C).

''(B) REPRESENTATION.—The Governing Board shall be composed of the following members:

''(i) 5 individuals selected from relevant pipeline safety departments, agencies, or instrumentalities of the Federal Government or State or territorial governments, 1 of whom shall be the Administrator (or a designee of the Administrator).

''(ii) 5 individuals selected from the gas or hazardous liquid industries, such as individuals representing or otherwise associated with—

''(I) operators;

''(II) trade associations;

''(III) inspection technology, coating, or cathodic protection vendors;

''(IV) standards development organizations;

''(V) research and development consortia; or

''(VI) pipeline inspection organizations.

''(iii) 5 individuals selected from general public safety advocacy organizations with relevant pipeline safety expertise, including—

''(I) pipeline safety and environmental public interest groups;

''(II) public institutions of higher education with pipeline safety expertise; and

''(III) nonprofit employee labor organizations.

''(C) REQUIREMENTS.—

''(i) PIPELINE INDUSTRY.—At least 1 member of the Governing Board appointed under subparagraph (B)(ii) shall be a representative of the pipeline industry.

''(ii) PIPELINE SAFETY PUBLIC INTEREST GROUPS.—At least 1 member of the Governing Board appointed under subparagraph (B)(iii) shall be a representative of a pipeline safety public interest group.

''(3) TERMS.—

''(A) IN GENERAL.—Except as provided in subparagraph (B), each member of the Governing Board shall be appointed for a term of 3 years.

''(B) INITIAL MEMBERS.—In appointing the initial members of the Governing Board, the Administrator shall appoint members to terms of 1, 2, or 3 years to ensure that each year thereafter—

''(i) the terms of 5 members will expire; and

''(ii) the term of not less than 1 and not more than 2 members described in each of clauses (i) through (iii) of paragraph (2)(B) will expire.

''(C) REAPPOINTMENT.—A member or former member of the Governing Board appointed under clause (i) or (ii) of paragraph (2)(B) may be reappointed, but may only serve for a total of 3 terms.

''(4) CO-CHAIRS.—

''(A) IN GENERAL.—The Governing Board shall be co-chaired by—

''(i) the Administrator (or a designee of the Administrator);

''(ii) a representative of the pipeline industry appointed under paragraph (2)(B)(ii), who shall be appointed co-chair by the Administrator, with the advice and consent of the Governing Board; and

''(iii) a representative of a pipeline safety public interest group, who shall be appointed co-chair by the Administrator, with the advice and consent of the Governing Board.

''(B) RESPONSIBILITIES OF CO-CHAIRS.—The co-chairs shall be jointly responsible for organizing and conducting meetings of the Governing Board.

''(5) AUTHORITY.—The Governing Board shall have authority—

''(A) to govern and provide strategic oversight of the VIS;

''(B) to develop governance documents, including a charter for the Governing Board that shall—

''(i) be made available to the public; and

''(ii) describe—

''(I) the scope of the authority of the Governing Board; and

''(II) the objectives of the Governing Board;

''(C) to select and appoint the Third-Party Data Manager in accordance with subsection (f);

''(D) to approve the criteria and procedures governing how the Third-Party Data Manager will receive and accept pipeline safety data and information;

''(E) to establish, and appoint members of, Issue Analysis Teams in accordance with subsection (g);

''(F) to collaborate with Issue Analysis Teams to identify issues and topics to be analyzed by the Issue Analysis Teams;

''(G) to collaborate with Issue Analysis Teams to specify the type of pipeline safety data and information necessary for the Issue Analysis Teams to analyze the issues and topics identified under subparagraph (F);

''(H) to determine the information to be disseminated by the VIS;

''(I) to determine the reports to be disseminated by the VIS;

''(J) to issue, not less frequently than annually, publicly available reports on—

''(i) VIS processes;

''(ii) the membership of the Governing Board;

''(iii) issues and topics being investigated and analyzed by Issue Analysis Teams or the Governing Board;

''(iv) pipeline safety data and information that the VIS has requested for submission to the VIS; and

''(v) safety trends identified by the Administrator, Issue Analysis Teams, or the Governing Board; and

''(K) to perform such other functions that the Governing Board determines are—

''(i) necessary or appropriate; and

''(ii) consistent with the purpose of the VIS described in subsection (b)(3).

''(6) DECISIONMAKING.—

''(A) IN GENERAL.—Decisions and approvals of the Governing Board shall be made by a supermajority of the members, as described in subparagraph (B).

''(B) SUPERMAJORITY DESCRIBED.—A supermajority referred to in subparagraph (A) shall consist of not fewer than—

''(i) ⅔ of the total members of the Governing Board; and

''(ii) 1 additional member of the Governing Board.

''(e) PROGRAM MANAGER.—

''(1) IN GENERAL.—The Administrator (or a designee of the Administrator) shall serve as the Program Manager for the VIS.

''(2) RESPONSIBILITIES.—The Program Manager shall provide the day-to-day program management and administrative support for the VIS, including oversight of the Third-Party Data Manager.

''(f) THIRD-PARTY DATA MANAGER.—

''(1) IN GENERAL.—The Governing Board shall appoint a Third-Party Data Manager to provide data management and data oversight services for the VIS.

''(2) QUALIFICATIONS.—The Third-Party Data Manager shall have expertise in data protection, aggregation, and analytics.

''(3) RESPONSIBILITIES.—In carrying out the services described in paragraph (1), the Third-Party Data Manager shall—

''(A) receive and secure pipeline safety data and information submitted to the VIS;

''(B) accept pipeline safety data and information submitted to the VIS that meets the criteria and procedures approved by the Governing Board under subsection (d)(5)(D);

''(C) de-identify, store, and manage pipeline safety data and information that is accepted by the VIS;

''(D) collaborate with Issue Analysis Teams to analyze and aggregate pipeline safety data and information that is accepted by the VIS;

''(E) prepare reports as requested by the Governing Board regarding the type of pipeline safety data and information that is managed by the VIS; and

''(F) make recommendations to the Governing Board regarding the management of pipeline safety data and information by the VIS, as appropriate.

''(g) ISSUE ANALYSIS TEAMS.—

''(1) IN GENERAL.—The Governing Board shall establish, and appoint the members of, 1 or more Issue Analysis Teams as the Governing Board determines to be appropriate and relevant to the pipeline safety work of the VIS.

''(2) QUALIFICATIONS.—An Issue Analysis Team established under paragraph (1) shall—

''(A) subject to subparagraph (B), consist of pipeline safety technical and subject matter experts; and

''(B) may include, as appropriate, representatives from public safety advocacy organizations described in subsection (d)(2)(B)(iii).

''(3) RESPONSIBILITIES.—An Issue Analysis Team shall—

''(A) work with the Third-Party Data Manager to aggregate and analyze pipeline safety data and information submitted to the VIS relating to the issues and topics analyzed by the Issue Analysis Team; and

''(B) submit internal reports and recommendations to the Governing Board on those issues and topics.

''(h) APPLICATION OF FACA.—Chapter 10 of title 5 (commonly referred to as the 'Federal Advisory Committee Act') shall not apply to—

''(1) the VIS;

''(2) the Governing Board; or

''(3) any Issue Analysis Team.

''(i) PARTICIPATION IN THE VIS.—

''(1) IN GENERAL.—The submission of data and information to the VIS by any person shall be voluntary, with no person compelled to participate in, or to submit data or information to any person for inclusion in, the VIS.

''(2) REQUIREMENT.—The VIS shall not accept data or information relating to an operator if the operator has not authorized the submission of that data or information for inclusion in the VIS.

''(3) ENCOURAGING INFORMATION SHARING.—The Governing Board shall encourage the voluntary sharing of pipeline safety data and information among—

''(A) operators of gas transmission pipelines, gas distribution pipelines, and hazardous liquid pipelines;

''(B) employees of those operators;

''(C) labor unions representing those employees;

''(D) contractors of the operators described in subparagraph (A);

''(E) in-line inspection service providers;

''(F) non-destructive evaluation experts;

''(G) the Pipeline and Hazardous Materials Safety Administration; and

''(H) representatives of—

''(i) State pipeline safety agencies;

''(ii) relevant Tribal agencies;

''(iii) pipeline safety public interest groups;

''(iv) manufacturers of gas transmission, gas distribution, and hazardous liquid pipeline infrastructure and equipment; and

''(v) relevant research and academic institutions.

''(4) LIMITATION ON INCLUSION OF DATA AND INFORMATION IN THE VIS.—Pipeline safety data and information accepted by the Third-Party Data Manager for inclusion in the VIS under subsection (f)(3)(B) shall be related to the issues and topics identified by the Governing Board for analysis by an Issue Analysis Team under subsection (d)(5)(F).

''(5) TYPES OF DATA AND INFORMATION INCLUDED IN THE VIS.—Pipeline safety data and information accepted by the Third-Party Data Manager for inclusion in the VIS under subsection (f)(3)(B) may include—

''(A) pipeline integrity risk analysis information;

''(B) lessons learned from accidents and near misses;

''(C) process improvements;

''(D) technology deployment practices;

''(E) information obtained through VIS pipeline safety surveys of pipeline operator employees, subject to the condition that such surveys are voluntarily agreed to by the pipeline operator;

''(F) pipeline safety data and information which may lead to the identification of pipeline safety risks, as specified by the Governing Board; and

''(G) any other relevant data or information, as determined by the Governing Board.

''(j) CONFIDENTIALITY.—

''(1) IN GENERAL.—To facilitate the sharing of otherwise nonpublic pipeline safety data and information with the VIS, the data and information accepted, stored, managed, analyzed, or produced by the VIS—

''(A) shall be kept confidential by the VIS; and

''(B) except as otherwise provided in this section, is not subject to disclosure by the VIS under any other law.

''(2) PROHIBITION.—Except as provided in paragraph (3), no person, including the Program Manager, the Third-Party Data Manager, any member of the Governing Board, and any member of an Issue Analysis Team, and no Federal, State, local, or Tribal agency having or obtaining access to nonpublic information accepted, analyzed, stored, managed, or produced by the VIS may release or communicate that nonpublic information from the VIS, either in an identified or de-identified form, to any person who does not have the authority to view VIS data.

''(3) EXCEPTION.—

''(A) IN GENERAL.—Notwithstanding paragraphs (1) and (2) and subsections (k) and (l), on approval by the Governing Board under subparagraph (B), the Governing Board or the Administrator may disclose de-identified nonpublic information obtained by the VIS.

''(B) APPROVAL.—Approval to disclose de-identified nonpublic information under subparagraph (A)—

''(i) shall be based on an analysis of the de-identified nonpublic information; and

''(ii) may, in the sole discretion of the Governing Board, consist of any safety findings or recommendations that the Governing Board determines to publish or authorizes the Administrator to publish to improve pipeline safety.

''(C) PUBLIC REPORTS.—In issuing public reports under subsection (d)(5)(J), the Governing Board shall approve the disclosure of de-identified nonpublic information obtained by the VIS that the Governing Board determines is necessary to adequately describe and illustrate the issues and topics being investigated and analyzed by Issue Analysis Teams or the Governing Board.

''(4) SAVINGS PROVISION.—This subsection does not apply to public information that may be submitted to the VIS.

''(k) APPLICABILITY OF FOIA.—

''(1) EXEMPTION.—Any nonpublic information that is accepted, stored, managed, analyzed, or produced by the VIS and subsequently obtained by the Secretary or the Administrator from the VIS is exempt from the requirements of section 552 of title 5.

''(2) APPLICABILITY.—For purposes of paragraph (1), this section shall be considered to be a statute described in section 552(b)(3)(B) of title 5.

''(l) EXCLUSION OF VIS INFORMATION IN LITIGATION AND OTHER PROCEEDINGS.—

''(1) EXCLUDED EVIDENCE.—Except as provided in paragraph (3), any nonpublic information that is accepted, stored, managed, analyzed, or produced by the VIS may not be obtained from the VIS—

''(A) for use as evidence for any purpose in any Federal, State, local, Tribal, or private litigation, including any action or proceeding; or

''(B) to initiate any enforcement action or civil litigation against a pipeline operator or the employees or contractors of a pipeline operator relating to a probable violation under this chapter (including any regulation promulgated or order issued under this chapter).

''(2) EXCLUSION FROM DISCOVERY.—Except as provided in paragraph (3), any nonpublic information that is accepted, stored, managed, analyzed, or produced by the VIS shall not be subject to discovery from the VIS in any Federal, State, local, Tribal, or private litigation or other proceeding.

''(3) LIMITATIONS ON EXCLUSIONS.—The exclusions described in paragraphs (1) and (2) shall not apply to data or information that—

''(A) is evidence of a criminal violation;

''(B) is not related to the purpose of the VIS described in subsection (b)(3);

''(C) is otherwise required to be reported to the Secretary under part 190, 191 (including information about an incident or accident), 192, 194, 195, or 199 of title 49, Code of Federal Regulations (or successor regulations);

''(D) is required to be reported to a State authority under State pipeline safety laws; or

''(E) is developed or obtained from a source other than the VIS, including through discovery from a person or an entity other than the VIS in an enforcement action or private litigation.

''(m) EFFECT ON DISCOVERY.—Except as provided in subsection (l)(2), nothing in this section or any rule or regulation promulgated under this section—

''(1) creates a defense to a discovery request; or

''(2) otherwise limits or affects the discovery of pipeline safety data and information arising from a cause of action authorized under any other Federal, State, or local law.

''(n) SAVINGS PROVISION.—Nothing in this section affects any Federal, State, or local pipeline safety law.

''(o) ANNUAL REPORTS.—Each fiscal year, the Secretary shall submit to Congress, by the end of that fiscal year, a report on the status of the VIS.

''(p) FUNDING.—

''(1) SUSTAINABLE FUNDING.—The Secretary shall—

''(A) explore sustainable funding sources for the VIS, including public-private partnerships; and

''(B) to the maximum extent practicable, sustainably fund the VIS through the use of those sustainable funding sources.

''(2) LIMITED ADDITIONAL FUNDING.—In addition to the fees collected under section 60301, the Secretary may collect an additional $5,000,000 under that section for each of fiscal years 2026 through 2030 to establish, implement, and manage the VIS.''.

(b) DEFINITIONS.—Section 60101(a) of title 49, United States Code, is amended—

(1) by redesignating paragraphs (17) through (26) as paragraphs (18), (19), (20), (25), (26), (27), (22), (23), (24), and (28), respectively, and moving the paragraphs so as to appear in numerical order;

(2) by inserting after paragraph (16) the following:

''(17) NONPUBLIC INFORMATION.—The term 'nonpublic information' means any pipeline safety data or information, regardless of form or format, that—

''(A) a company does not disclose, disseminate, or make available to the public; or

''(B) is not otherwise in the public domain.''; and

(3) by inserting after paragraph (20) (as so redesignated) the following:

''(21) PUBLIC INFORMATION.—The term 'public information' means any data or information, regardless of form or format, that—

''(A) a company discloses, disseminates, or makes available to the public; or

''(B) is otherwise in the public domain.''.

(c) CLERICAL AMENDMENT.—The analysis for chapter 601 of title 49, United States Code, is amended by adding at the end the following:

''60144. Voluntary information-sharing system.''.

(d) CONFORMING AMENDMENTS.—

(1) Section 70012(c) of title 46, United States Code, is amended by striking ''section 60101(a)(18)'' and inserting ''section 60101(a)''.

(2) Section 60102(q)(1) of title 49, United States Code, is amended, in the matter preceding subparagraph (A), by striking ''subsection (a)(21)'' and inserting ''subsection (a)(26)''.

SEC. 213. TRANSPORTING GAS.

Section 60101(a)(26) of title 49, United States Code (as redesignated by section 212(b)(1)), is amended—

(1) by striking the paragraph designation and all that follows through ''(A) means'' in subparagraph (A) and inserting the following:

''(26) TRANSPORTING GAS.—

''(A) IN GENERAL.—The term 'transporting gas' means'';

(2) in subparagraph (A)(ii), by striking ''; but'' and inserting a period; and

(3) by striking subparagraph (B) and inserting the following:

''(B) EXCLUSIONS.—The term 'transporting gas' does not include—

''(i) gathering gas (except through regulated gathering lines) in a rural area outside a populated area designated by the Secretary as a nonrural area; or

''(ii) the movement of gas by the owner or operator of a plant for use as a fuel, a feedstock, or for any other purpose that directly supports plant operations through—

''(I) in-plant piping systems that are located entirely on the grounds of the plant; or

''(II) transfer piping systems that extend less than 1 mile in length outside the grounds of the plant.''.

SEC. 214. INSPECTION AND MANAGEMENT OF RIGHTS-OF-WAY.

(a) INSPECTION OF RIGHTS-OF-WAY.—Section 60108 of title 49, United States Code, is amended by adding at the end the following:

''(f) INSPECTION OF RIGHTS-OF-WAY.—

''(1) IN GENERAL.—When requiring an operator to inspect the surface conditions on or adjacent to a pipeline right-of-way, the Secretary shall allow the use of unmanned aircraft systems and satellites.

''(2) SAVINGS PROVISION.—Nothing in this subsection affects any obligation to operate an unmanned aircraft system in accordance with all relevant Federal laws relating to the use of unmanned aircraft systems.''.

(b) MANAGEMENT OF RIGHTS-OF-WAY.—Section 60108(a) of title 49, United States Code, is amended—

(1) in paragraph (1), by striking ''(1) Each'' and inserting the following:

''(1) IN GENERAL.—Each'';

(2) in paragraph (2)—

(A) by striking ''(2) If'' and inserting the following:

''(2) REVISION.—If'';

(B) by indenting subparagraphs (A) through (E) appropriately; and

(C) in subparagraph (D), by indenting clauses (i) through (iii) appropriately;

(3) in paragraph (3), by indenting the paragraph, and each subparagraph within the paragraph, appropriately; and

(4) by adding at the end the following:

''(4) ALTERNATIVE METHODS OF MAINTAINING RIGHTS-OF-WAY.—

''(A) IN GENERAL.—As part of the review conducted under paragraph (3), the Secretary shall allow for an alternative method of maintaining rights-of-way for pipelines and other pipeline facilities under a voluntary program carried out by the operator if the Secretary determines that the alternative method—

''(i) achieves a level of safety at least equal to the level of safety required by the regulations promulgated under this chapter; and

''(ii) allows for timely emergency response.

''(B) PURPOSE.—An operator considering implementing an alternative method described in subparagraph (A) may consider incorporating into the plan for implementing that method 1 or more conservation practices, including—

''(i) integrated vegetation management practices, including reduced mowing;

''(ii) the development of habitat and forage for pollinators and other wildlife through seeding or planting of diverse native forbs and grasses;

''(iii) practices relating to maintenance strategies that promote early successional vegetation or limit disturbance during periods of highest use by target pollinator species and other wildlife on pipeline or facility rights-of-way, including—

''(I) increasing mowing height;

''(II) reducing mowing frequency; and

''(III) refraining from mowing monarch and other pollinator habitat during periods in which monarchs or other pollinators are present;

''(iv) an integrated vegetation management plan that may include approaches such as mechanical tree and brush removal and targeted and judicious use of herbicides and mowing to address incompatible or undesirable vegetation while promoting compatible and beneficial vegetation on pipeline and facility rights-of-way;

''(v) planting or seeding of deeply rooted, regionally appropriate perennial grasses and wildflowers, including milkweed, to enhance habitat;

''(vi) removing shallow-rooted grasses from planting and seeding mixes, except for use as nurse or cover crops; and

''(vii) obtaining expert training or assistance on wildlife- and pollinator-friendly practices, including—

''(I) native plant identification;

''(II) establishment and management of regionally appropriate native plants;

''(III) land management practices; and

''(IV) integrated vegetation management.

''(C) CONSULTATION.—

''(i) AVAILABLE GUIDANCE.—In developing alternative methods under this paragraph, an operator shall consult any available guidance issued by—

''(I) the Secretary; or

''(II) an applicable State agency carrying out compliance activities on behalf of the Secretary in accordance with section 60105.

''(ii) LEADING INDUSTRY PRACTICES.—In the absence of guidance described in clause (i), an operator may consult leading industry practices and guidance to develop and implement alternative methods under this paragraph.

''(D) REQUIREMENTS.—An operator using an alternative method under this paragraph shall ensure that the alternative inspection plans of the operator continue to ensure that the operator can identify risks to pipeline facilities.

''(E) SAVINGS PROVISION.—Nothing in this paragraph exempts an operator from compliance with any applicable requirements under this chapter (including any regulations promulgated under this chapter).''.

(c) INSPECTOR GENERAL REVIEW.—5 years after the date of enactment of this Act, the Inspector General of the Department of Transportation shall initiate a review of a representative sample of the inspection and maintenance plans of operators that have utilized alternative methods of maintaining rights-of-way under section 60108(a)(4) of title 49, United States Code, to determine—

(1) whether reduced mowing has limited the ability of pipeline operators to assess risks to pipeline facilities;

(2) with respect to any incidents that have occurred on the relevant pipeline facilities, whether reduced mowing hindered—

(A) the ability of operators to identify a risk that was related to the incident; or

(B) the ability for operators and emergency responders to respond to an incident; and

(3) whether the alternative methods of maintaining rights-of-way have impacted pipeline safety.

(d) TECHNICAL CORRECTION.—Section 60108(e) of title 49, United States Code, is amended, in the subsection heading, by striking ''IN GENERAL'' and inserting ''POST-INSPECTION BRIEFING AND PRELIMINARY FINDINGS''.

SEC. 215. GEOLOGICAL HAZARDS.

(a) INSPECTION AND MAINTENANCE PLANS.—Section 60108(a)(2)(D) of title 49, United States Code (as amended by section 214(b)(2)), is amended—

(1) in clause (ii), by striking ''and'' at the end; and

(2) by adding at the end the following:

''(iv) mitigation of threats posed by geological hazards; and''.

(b) GEOLOGICAL HAZARD MITIGATION REPORT.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 2 years after the date of enactment of this Act, the Administrator shall prepare a report that—

(A) identifies geological hazards that may cause a pipeline to move or be affected by abnormal external loads, including landslides, volcanic activity, earthquakes, and scouring;

(B) evaluates any industry consensus standards or best practices relating to hazards described in subparagraph (A);

(C) evaluates existing Federal requirements for pipeline facility design, construction, operations, maintenance, and integrity that relate to mitigation of geological hazards; and

(D) makes recommendations to improve geological hazard mitigation based on the findings of the report.

(2) SUBMISSION.—On completion of the report under paragraph (1), the Administrator shall submit the report to the Secretary and the appropriate committees of Congress.

(c) REGULATORY REVIEW.—Not later than 1 year after completion of the report under subsection (b)(1), the Secretary shall review, and may update, as appropriate, existing regulations and policy guidance that addresses the safety of gas, hazardous liquid, and carbon dioxide pipeline facilities to include consideration of threats posed by geological hazards.

SEC. 216. ALTERNATIVE TECHNOLOGIES.

(a) REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS.—Not later than 2 years after the date of enactment of this Act, and every 5 years thereafter, the Administrator shall—

(1) issue a request for proposals to identify potential alternative technologies that, if used by operators, will meet the intent of an existing pipeline safety regulation and provide an equal or greater level of pipeline safety; and

(2) allow the public the opportunity to comment on those proposals.

(b) REGULATIONS.—If the Secretary determines that a technology that is commercially available would meet the intent of an existing pipeline safety regulation and provide an equal or greater level of pipeline safety, the Administrator may issue a notice of proposed rulemaking to update the relevant regulations to allow operators to adopt the use of such technology.

SEC. 217. FIRE SHUTOFF VALVES.

Section 60110 of title 49, United States Code, is amended by adding at the end the following:

''(f) FIRE SHUTOFF VALVES OR EQUIVALENT TECHNOLOGY.—

''(1) DEFINITIONS.—In this subsection:

''(A) EQUIVALENT TECHNOLOGY.—The term 'equivalent technology' means any technology that—

''(i) is not an excess flow valve; and

''(ii) meets the performance standard of shutting off gas on a service line of a distribution system to a dwelling or other building in the event of a fire.

''(B) FIRE-FIRST IGNITION.—The term 'fire-first ignition' means an occurrence in which a fire originating from a foreign source causes a natural gas system to fail, release, or ignite.

''(C) FIRE SAFETY VALVE.—The term 'fire safety valve' means—

''(i) a fire shutoff valve; and

''(ii) any equivalent technology.

''(D) FIRE SHUTOFF VALVE.—The term 'fire shutoff valve' means a spring-loaded plug that is held in place by a fusible link that—

''(i) is made of a low-melting-point alloy;

''(ii) is attached to a gas source; and

''(iii) melts when exposed to fire, causing the spring-loaded plug to close, shutting off the gas to a dwelling or other building connected to a service line of a distribution system.

''(2) STUDY.—

''(A) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 2 years after the date of enactment of this subsection, the Secretary shall complete a study on the effectiveness of fire safety valves in order to determine the ability of fire safety valves to improve public safety through mitigation of secondary ignitions, such as fire-first ignitions.

''(B) REQUIREMENTS.—The study under subparagraph (A) shall evaluate—

''(i) various scenarios and applications for deploying fire safety valves;

''(ii) the current incidence of fire-first ignition of natural gas distribution pipelines;

''(iii) anticipated reduction of fire-first ignition risk under various fire safety valve deployment scenarios, including—

''(I) lowering the likelihood of gas ignition; and

''(II) lowering the impact and damage of fire-first ignition incidents;

''(iv) the long-term durability, construction, and effectiveness of fire safety valves; and

''(v) the commercial availability of fire safety valves for the pipeline industry.

''(3) RULEMAKING.—After completing the study described in paragraph (2), the Secretary may prescribe risk-based standards on the circumstances under which an operator of a natural gas distribution system shall be required to install fire shutoff valves or equivalent technologies in the system.''.

SEC. 218. EXEMPTION FROM POST-ACCIDENT TESTING.

Not later than 2 years after the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary, in consultation with the Secretary of Health and Human Services, shall update the regulations of the Administration to provide that a covered employee (as defined in section 199.3 of title 49, Code of Federal Regulations (or a successor regulation)) whose previous performance of a covered function (as defined in that section (or a successor regulation)) takes place outside of the time frame during which the use of prohibited drugs or alcohol can be detected by post-accident testing under section 199.105(b) or 199.225(a), as applicable, of that title (or successor regulations)) is exempt from such post-accident testing.

SEC. 219. MAXIMUM ALLOWABLE OPERATING PRESSURE RECORDS.

(a) PREVIOUSLY TESTED TRANSMISSION LINES.—Until the report required under subsection (b)(1) and the rulemaking required under subsection (c) (if determined necessary by the Secretary) are completed, the Secretary shall not require an owner or operator of a pipeline facility to reconfirm the maximum allowable operating pressure of a natural gas transmission pipeline pursuant to section 192.624 of title 49, Code of Federal Regulations (or a successor regulation), if the owner or operator confirms the material strength of the pipeline through prior testing conducted to a sufficient minimum pressure in accordance with prevailing safety standards and practices, including any applicable class location factors, and documented in contemporaneous records.

(b) WORKING GROUP REPORT.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall direct the existing maximum allowable operating pressure working group of the Administration (referred to in this subsection as the ''working group'') to continue producing a report containing recommendations on the contemporaneous records that are sufficient to confirm the material strength of a natural gas transmission pipeline through prior testing.

(2) COMPOSITION OF WORKING GROUP.—For purposes of carrying out paragraph (1), the working group shall be composed of the members representing the same stakeholders of the working group as of January 1, 2025.

(3) CONSIDERATIONS.—In preparing the report required under paragraph (1), the working group—

(A) shall consider historical practices and all available research conducted regarding minimum pressure and contemporaneous records on transmission pipelines;

(B) may consider the need for any additional research or analyses necessary to demonstrate the adequacy of any strength testing performed; and

(C) shall consider the investigation, report, and recommendations of the National Transportation Safety Board following the San Bruno pipeline explosion.

(4) SUBMISSION OF REPORT.—Not later than 180 days after the date of enactment of this Act, the working group shall submit to the Secretary and the appropriate committees of Congress the report produced under paragraph (1), including any minority views.

(c) RULEMAKING.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 1 year after receiving the report described in subsection (b)(1), if the Secretary determines necessary, the Secretary, after providing notice and opportunity for comment, shall promulgate standards revising the requirements addressing the records necessary to confirm the maximum allowable operating pressure of a natural gas transmission pipeline segment.

(2) LIMITATIONS.—The rulemaking under paragraph (1) shall not delay the date by which pipeline operators must comply with maximum allowable operating pressure reconfirmation regulations with respect to their natural gas transmission pipeline segments under section 192.624 of title 49, Code of Federal Regulations (as in effect on the date of enactment of this Act).

SEC. 220. PIPELINE OPERATING STATUS.

Section 60143(b) of title 49, United States Code, is amended by striking paragraph (1) and inserting the following:

''(1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 90 days after the date of enactment of the PIPELINE Safety Act of 2025, the Secretary shall promulgate regulations prescribing the applicability of the pipeline safety requirements to—

''(A) idled natural gas transmission pipelines;

''(B) idled other gas transmission pipelines; and

''(C) idled hazardous liquid pipelines.''.

SEC. 221. POTENTIAL IMPACT RADIUS.

(a) DEFINITION OF POTENTIAL IMPACT RADIUS.—In this section, the term ''potential impact radius'' means the area within which the potential failure of a pipeline could have significant impact on persons or property, including injury or death.

(b) REVIEW OF METHODOLOGY.—

(1) REVIEW.—Not later than 3 years after the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary shall review—

(A) the methodology, including any formulas, used by the Administration to determine a potential impact radius for onshore gas transmission pipelines; and

(B) any applicable recommendations, including any pipeline safety recommendations submitted to the Secretary or Congress by the National Transportation Safety Board or the Government Accountability Office.

(2) REPORT.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 180 days after completion of the review under paragraph (1), the Secretary shall submit to the appropriate committees of Congress a report detailing the findings of the review.

(B) REQUIREMENT.—The report under subparagraph (A) shall evaluate whether the methodology reviewed under paragraph (1)(A) accounts for—

(i) available human response data;

(ii) accident data relating to recent pipeline incidents since January 1, 2000;

(iii) the risk of serious injury or death, or property damage, from a pipeline incident; and

(iv) the unique characteristics of the types of gas being transported.

(c) INVESTIGATION REPORTS.—Beginning not later than 1 year after the date of enactment of this Act, any Pipeline Failure Investigation reports prepared by the Accident Investigation Division of the Administration for accidents involving onshore gas transmission pipelines shall

identify the location and distance from the pipeline of damage, including injuries and property damage, outside of the potential impact radius determined for the pipeline.

SEC. 222. EFFECTS OF WEATHER ON NATURAL GAS PIPELINES.

(a) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

(1) APPLICABLE WEATHER EVENT.—The term ''applicable weather event'' means—

(A) a relevant weather-related event described in the definition of the term ''major disaster'' in section 102 of the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act (42 U.S.C. 5122) that has the potential to impact the safety of a natural gas pipeline facility;

(B) the February 2021 winter storm known as ''Winter Storm Uri''; and

(C) the December 2022 winter storm known as ''Winter Storm Elliott''.

(2) NATURAL GAS PIPELINE FACILITY.—The term ''natural gas pipeline facility'' means—

(A) a natural gas pipeline; and

(B) any related pipeline facility, equipment, or infrastructure.

(b) REVIEW AND REPORT.—Not later than 1 year after the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary shall—

(1) complete a review of the effects of applicable weather events on natural gas pipeline facilities to determine whether applicable weather events pose a risk to safety during and after the applicable weather event; and

(2) submit to the appropriate committees of Congress a report on the results of that review.

(c) DISTRIBUTION INTEGRITY MANAGEMENT PLANS.—Not later than 90 days after the date on which the report under subsection (b)(2) is submitted, the Secretary shall review the distribution integrity management plans relating to pipelines that are at increased risk of applicable weather events to ensure that the owners and operators of those pipelines are mitigating the effects of applicable weather events to ensure public safety.

SEC. 223. ALDYL–A PIPELINES.

(a) ASSESSMENT OF ALDYL–A POLYETHYLENE PIPING.—Not later than 3 years after the date of enactment of this Act, each owner or operator of a gas distribution pipeline facility shall assess its system for the presence of Aldyl–A polyethylene.

(b) LIMITATION.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall not require owners and operators of gas distribution pipeline facilities to conduct excavation activities for the purpose of the assessment required under subsection (a).

(2) SAVINGS PROVISION.—Nothing in this subsection affects the authority of the Secretary under—

(A) section 60112 of title 49, United States Code; or

(B) subsection (m) or (p) of section 60117 of that title.

(c) REPORTING.—Not later than 3 years after the date of enactment of this Act, each owner or operator of a pipeline facility described in subsection (a) shall submit to the Secretary the estimated total pipeline mileage identified by the owner or operator as Aldyl–A polyethylene piping.

(d) STATE PIPELINE SAFETY PROGRAM CERTIFICATIONS.—Section 60105(b)(9)(A) of title 49, United States Code, is amended by striking ''of cast iron and bare steel pipelines'' and inserting the following: ''of—

''(i) cast iron and bare steel pipelines; and

''(ii) pipelines constructed of historic plastics with known safety issues''.

(e) EVALUATION OF RISK IN DISTRIBUTION INTEGRITY MANAGEMENT PROGRAMS.—Section 60109(e)(7)(A)(i) of title 49, United States Code, is amended by striking ''presence of cast iron pipes and mains in the distribution system; and'' and inserting the following: ''presence, in the distribution system, of pipes and mains made of—

''(I) cast iron;

''(II) unprotected steel;

''(III) wrought iron; or

''(IV) historic plastics with known safety issues; and''.

SEC. 224. IMPROVEMENTS TO PIPELINE SAFETY INTEGRITY MANAGEMENT PROGRAMS.

The Secretary shall conduct research into the use of quantitative data and modeling to assess whether the use of such data or modeling in the integrity management programs of operators would improve the estimation of costs and benefits of risk reduction measures.

SEC. 225. NONEMERGENCY WAIVERS BY THE SECRETARY.

Section 60118(c) of title 49, United States Code, is amended—

(1) in paragraph (1)—

(A) in subparagraph (A), by striking ''not inconsistent'' and inserting ''consistent'';

(B) in subparagraph (B), by inserting ''and comment'' after ''only after notice''; and

(C) by adding at the end the following:

''(C) ACTION ON APPLICATION.—Not later than 180 days after receiving an application for a waiver under this paragraph, the Secretary shall—

''(i) complete any applicable review relating to the application and act on the application by—

''(I) issuing an order granting the waiver; or

''(II) denying the application; or

''(ii) inform the applicant that additional time is needed to review the application, including by providing notifications of the need for additional time at least once every 180 days until the waiver is granted or the application is denied.''; and

(2) by striking paragraph (3) and inserting the following:

''(3) STATEMENT OF REASONS.—The Secretary shall state in an order issued under this subsection that is publicly posted on the website of the Pipeline and Hazardous Materials Safety Administration the reasons for granting or denying the waiver.''.

TITLE III—STREAMLINING OVERSIGHT OF PIPELINES

SEC. 301. REGULATORY UPDATES.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Section 106 of the PIPES Act of 2020 (Public Law 116–260; 134 Stat. 2220) is amended—

(1) in subsection (a)—

(A) in paragraph (1)—

(i) by striking ''a final'' and inserting ''A final''; and

(ii) by striking ''that has not been published in the Federal Register;'' and inserting a period;

(B) in paragraph (2)—

(i) by striking ''a final'' and inserting ''A final''; and

(ii) by striking ''that has not been published in the Federal Register; and'' and inserting a period;

(C) in paragraph (3)—

(i) by striking ''any other'' and inserting ''Any other''; and

(ii) by striking ''that has not been published in the Federal Register'';

(D) by redesignating paragraphs (1) through (3) as subparagraphs (A) through (C), respectively, and indenting appropriately;

(E) by adding at the end the following:

''(D) A final rule required to be issued under the PIPELINE Safety Act of 2025.''; and

(F) in the matter preceding subparagraph (A) (as so redesignated), by striking ''In this section, the term 'outstanding mandate' means—'' and inserting the following:

''(1) IN GENERAL.—In this section, the term 'outstanding mandate' means a final rule described in paragraph (2) that—

''(A) is required to be issued by the Secretary (including any subordinate of the Secretary); and

''(B) has not been published in the Federal Register.

''(2) FINAL RULE DESCRIBED.—A final rule referred to in paragraph (1) is any of the following:'';

(2) in subsection (b)(1), by striking ''referred to in paragraphs (1) through (3) of subsection (a) is published in the Federal Register'' and inserting ''described in subsection (a)(2) is published in the Federal Register with respect to the applicable outstanding mandate''; and

(3) by adding at the end the following:

''(d) REQUIRED BRIEFING.—If the Secretary fails to update the website as required under subsection (b)(1), an appropriate employee of the Administration shall provide an in-person briefing to the relevant committees of Congress every 30 days until the requirements of that subsection are met.

''(e) OPTIONAL BRIEFING.—Annually, the Administrator shall offer to provide a briefing, by the Administrator or a designee, to the relevant committees of Congress on the status of outstanding mandates.

''(f) RESTRICTION OF FUNDS.—If a requirement of subsection (b) is not met for over 90 days, no funds authorized or appropriated may be used to support travel for the Administrator or the Deputy Administrator of the Administration, unless necessary for the response to or investigation of a pipeline or hazardous materials incident.''.

(b) DEADLINE NONCOMPLIANCE.—

(1) BRIEFINGS.—If the Secretary does not complete a requirement described in paragraph (2) by the deadline established by statute for the completion of that requirement, the Administrator shall brief the appropriate committees of Congress in person on the status of the requirement—

(A) not later than 7 days after the applicable deadline; and

(B) every 90 days thereafter until the Secretary completes the requirement.

(2) REQUIREMENTS.—A requirement referred to in paragraph (1) is any of the following:

(A) The rulemaking required under section 60143(b)(1) of title 49, United States Code, relating to idled pipelines.

(B) The issuance of a final rule with respect to the regulations required under section 60102(q)(1) of title 49, United States Code, relating to gas pipeline leak detection and repair programs.

SEC. 302. STATE USE OF INTEGRATED INSPECTIONS.

Section 60105 of title 49, United States Code, is amended by adding at the end the following:

''(g) STATE USE OF INTEGRATED INSPECTIONS.—

''(1) DEFINITIONS.—In this subsection:

''(A) APPROPRIATE COMMITTEES OF CONGRESS.—The term 'appropriate committees of Congress' has the meaning given the term in section 2 of the PIPELINE Safety Act of 2025.

''(B) INSPECTOR GENERAL.—The term 'Inspector General' means the Inspector General of the Department of Transportation.

''(C) RISK-BASED INTEGRATED INSPECTION PROGRAM.—The term 'risk-based integrated inspection program' means an inspection program that uses risk information and data to focus inspection resources on pipeline facilities and regulatory requirements that have the highest priority during an inspection.

''(2) AUTHORIZATION.—Subject to all other applicable provisions of this section, with the written agreement of the Secretary and a State authority certified under this section, which may be in the form of a memorandum of understanding, the Secretary may authorize, and the State authority may carry out, a risk-based integrated inspection program.

''(3) PROCEDURAL AND SUBSTANTIVE REQUIREMENTS.—A State authority that is authorized to carry out a risk-based integrated inspection program—

''(A) shall be subject to the same procedural and substantive requirements that would apply if the Secretary were carrying out the program; and

''(B) shall ensure—

''(i) that no pipeline system goes without inspection for more than 5 years; and

''(ii) that unsatisfactory conditions found in inspections are addressed in a timely manner.

''(4) APPLICATION AND CRITERIA.—Not later than 1 year after the date of enactment of this subsection, the Secretary shall establish procedures and criteria for State authorities to apply to carry out a risk-based integrated inspection program pursuant to this subsection.

''(5) EVALUATION TIMELINE.—

''(A) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 1 year after receiving an application from a State authority to carry out a risk-based integrated inspection program under this subsection, the Secretary shall—

''(i) review the application; and

''(ii) approve or deny the application.

''(B) EXPLANATION OF DENIAL.—If the Secretary denies an application submitted by a State authority under this subsection, the Secretary shall provide an explanation to the State authority of—

''(i) why the Secretary denied the application; and

''(ii) changes that the State authority could make to the application that would result in the Secretary approving the application.

''(6) REVIEW OF PROGRAMS.—

''(A) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall establish a process to review the implementation of a risk-based integrated inspection program by a State authority.

''(B) REVIEW BY INSPECTOR GENERAL.—

''(i) IN GENERAL.—The Inspector General shall—

''(I) review each risk-based integrated inspection program authorized by the Secretary under this subsection not later than 3 years after the date on which the relevant application is approved to determine whether the program meets the needs of pipeline safety; and

''(II) submit to the Secretary and the appropriate committees of Congress a report on that review.

''(ii) REQUIREMENT.—If the Inspector General determines that a risk-based integrated inspection program is not adequate and should be terminated, the Inspector General shall notify the Secretary and the appropriate committees of Congress.

''(7) TERMINATION.—

''(A) TERMINATION BY THE SECRETARY.—The Secretary may terminate an authorization for a State authority to carry out a risk-based integrated inspection program if—

''(i) the Secretary determines that the State authority is not adequately carrying out the program;

''(ii) the Secretary provides to the State authority—

''(I) a notification of the intent of the Secretary to terminate the authorization for the State authority to carry out a risk-based integrated inspection program;

''(II) a period of not less than 120 days to take such corrective action as the Secretary determines to be necessary to comply with the requirements of this section; and

''(III) on request of the State authority, a detailed description of the aspects of the program that are inadequate; and

''(iii) the State authority, after the notification described in clause (ii)(I), fails to take satisfactory corrective action in accordance with clause (ii)(II) before the expiration of the period provided under that clause.

''(B) TERMINATION BY A STATE AUTHORITY.—A State authority may terminate its authority to carry out a risk-based integrated inspection program at any time by providing to the Secretary a notice not later than 90 days before the date of termination.''.

SEC. 303. OPTIMIZING PIPELINE SAFETY INSPECTIONS.

(a) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

(1) OFFICE.—The term ''office'' means a regional office, district office, and any other office of the Administration serving a particular region.

(2) REGION.—The term ''region'' means a region for which a regional office of the Administration has been established.

(3) STATE PARTNERS.—The term ''State partners'' means the State authorities described in subparagraphs (B) and (C) of subsection (b)(1).

(b) STUDY.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—The Comptroller General of the United States shall conduct a study to evaluate enforcement actions and the inspection scheduling and coordination practices and procedures used by—

(A) the Administration;

(B) State authorities certified under section 60105 of title 49, United States Code; and

(C) State authorities with which the Secretary has made an agreement under section 60106(a) of that title.

(2) REQUIREMENTS.—The study under paragraph (1) shall—

(A) identify ways in which the Administration and States may coordinate with each other for more effective inspections and enforcement;

(B) evaluate the extent of any—

(i) substantive overlap of inspections carried out by the Administration and the State partners, such that the Administration and the State partners are inspecting the same operator programs and procedures multiple times in the same annual or biennial period;

(ii) substantive overlap of inspections carried out by offices in different regions, such that offices in multiple regions are inspecting the same operator programs and procedures multiple times in the same annual or biennial period;

(iii) coordination among offices in different regions on inspection findings relating to an operator before the Administration decides to take any enforcement or other action against that operator;

(iv) coordination among offices in different regions and between the Administration and State partners on the scheduling and scoping of inspections of operators to avoid substantive overlaps;

(v) resolution processes for operators in cases in which offices in different regions, or the Administration and State partners, take different interpretive positions on the same compliance issue or operator program; and

(vi) opportunities—

(I) to reduce substantive unnecessary overlaps (in the process of which the Comptroller General of the United States shall identify and describe any overlaps that the Comptroller the believes are necessary);

(II) to avoid inconsistent interpretations—

(aa) by offices in different regions; and

(bb) between the Administration and State partners;

(III) to optimize inspection scheduling and coordination; and

(IV) to improve compliance with Federal pipeline safety laws; and

(C) review the Federal enforcement process for its ability to fairly ensure compliance with Federal pipeline safety laws.

(c) REPORT.—Not later than 1 year after the date of enactment of this Act, the Comptroller General of the United States shall submit to the appropriate committees of Congress a report that describes the results of the study conducted under subsection (b), which shall include recommendations that the Administrator could adopt to better coordinate inspection practices and procedures with State partners, and between State partners, to address deficiencies identified under subsection (b)(2)—

(1) without compromising pipeline safety; and

(2) while improving the enforcement process.

(d) SUMMARY OF PIPELINE INSPECTIONS.—Not later than June 1 of each year beginning after the date of enactment of this Act, the Administrator shall make available to the public in an electronically accessible format a summary of Federal and State pipeline inspections conducted under direct or delegated authority under title 49, United States Code, during the previous calendar year, including—

(1) the date of the inspection;

(2) the name of the pipeline owner or operator;

(3) the pipeline system or segment inspected;

(4) the 1 or more regions of the Administration in which the inspected system or segment operates;

(5) the 1 or more States in which the inspected system or segment operates;

(6) any violations or proposed violations alleged as a result of the inspection; and

(7) any enforcement actions taken.

SEC. 304. SENSE OF CONGRESS ON PHMSA ENGAGEMENT PRIOR TO RULEMAKING ACTIVITIES.

It is the sense of Congress that, if the Secretary determines it to be appropriate, the Secretary should engage with a broad range of pipeline stakeholder groups, including State pipeline safety programs with an approved certification under section 60105 of title 49, United States Code, during predrafting stages of rulemaking activities—

(1) to inform the work of the Secretary in carrying out the goals of chapter 601 of title 49, United States Code; and

(2) to reduce the timeline for issuance of proposed and final rules.

TITLE IV—IMPROVING SAFETY OF EMERGING GASES

SEC. 401. STUDIES OF HYDROGEN PIPELINE TRANSPORTATION.

(a) STUDY.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall enter into an agreement with a National Laboratory (as defined in section 2 of the Energy Policy Act of 2005 (42 U.S.C. 15801))—

(A) to conduct a study of the safety, technical, and practical considerations relating to the blending of hydrogen into existing natural gas systems;

(B) to issue a report on the results of that study, in accordance with paragraph (2); and

(C) to make recommendations to the Secretary for how to avoid or minimize any risks identified under paragraph (2)(C).

(2) CONSIDERATIONS.—In conducting the study under paragraph (1), the following factors shall be taken into consideration:

(A) Systems that utilize a hydrogen content above 5 percent to determine if there are additional restrictions or requirements for the processes, materials, and standards that the operators of those systems have implemented to operate those systems safely.

(B) Remaining knowledge gaps, if any, relating to safely moving hydrogen-methane blends through existing natural gas distribution systems.

(C) Safety risks, if any, of hydrogen-methane blends composed of over 5 percent hydrogen in existing natural gas distribution systems, including—

(i) leak rates of hydrogen-methane blends;

(ii) the performance of hydrogen-methane blends in existing residential, commercial, and industrial infrastructure; and

(iii) underground migration of leaked hydrogen-methane blends.

(D) Any relevant findings or recommendations of—

(i) the HyBlend research and development initiative commenced by the Department of Energy in 2021 for the purpose of addressing opportunities for hydrogen blending in natural gas pipelines; and

(ii) the study on hydrogen blending commissioned by the California Public Utilities Commission and carried out by the University of California, Riverside, entitled ''Hydrogen Blending Impacts Study''.

(3) REPORT.—The Secretary shall submit to the appropriate committees of Congress the report prepared under paragraph (1)(B).

(b) GAO REPORT.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 1 year after the date of enactment of this Act, the Comptroller General of the United States shall conduct a study on existing natural gas distribution systems that utilize hydrogen-natural gas blending applications, or utilize gas with a higher hydrogen content, to identify processes, materials, and standards that operators have implemented to operate those systems safely.

(2) REQUIREMENT.—The study conducted under paragraph (1) shall include an examination of natural gas distribution systems currently operating in—

(A) the United States;

(B) Canada;

(C) Europe;

(D) Australia;

(E) Hong Kong; and

(F) any other appropriate location, as determined by the Comptroller General of the United States.

(3) CONSIDERATIONS.—In conducting the study under paragraph (1), the Comptroller General of the United States shall consider systems that utilize a hydrogen content above 5 percent to determine if there are additional restrictions or requirements for the processes, materials, and standards that the operators of those systems have implemented to operate those systems safely.

(c) REGULATORY CONSIDERATIONS.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 1 year after completion of the studies under subsections (a) and (b), the Secretary shall determine whether any updates to regulations are necessary to ensure the safety of natural gas distribution systems intentionally blending hydrogen at levels exceeding 5 percent.

(2) REQUIREMENT.—If the Secretary determines that updates to regulations are not necessary, the Secretary shall submit to the appropriate committees of Congress a report that describes the reasons for that determination.

(d) SAVINGS PROVISION.—Nothing in this section—

(1) authorizes the removal of the exemption for certain hydrogen pipelines described in section 192.625(b)(4) of title 49, Code of Federal Regulations (as in effect on October 1, 2023); or

(2) affects—

(A) the authority of the Secretary under—

(i) section 60112 of title 49, United States Code; or

(ii) subsection (m) or (p) of section 60117 of that title; or

(B) the authority of the Secretary to prescribe standards otherwise affecting the transportation of hydrogen by pipelines.

SEC. 402. SAFETY OF CARBON DIOXIDE PIPELINES.

(a) MINIMUM SAFETY STANDARDS.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 2 years after the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary shall publish in the Federal Register a final rule pursuant to the rulemaking proceeding with Regulation Identifier Number 2137–AF60 after providing an opportunity for comment to ensure the safety of all phases of carbon dioxide transported in pipelines, including carbon dioxide in gaseous, liquid, and supercritical states.

(2) REQUIREMENTS.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—Any standard adopted by the final rule required under paragraph (1) shall—

(i) include appropriate requirements addressing updates to emergency response plans to address any risks unique to carbon dioxide pipeline accidents or incidents;

(ii) include minimum safety standards applicable to each operator of a pipeline facility by which carbon dioxide is transported, including performing vapor dispersion modeling to identify high consequence areas that could be affected by a release from such a pipeline facility;

(iii) clarify that carbon dioxide shall not be used as a testing medium for spike hydrostatic pressure testing; and

(iv) require carbon dioxide pipeline operators to provide information to State, local, and Tribal emergency response organizations (in each jurisdiction in which a carbon dioxide pipeline facility of the operator is located) on any risks unique to carbon dioxide pipeline accidents or incidents, including by making relevant portions of emergency response plans available to first responders on request.

(B) VAPOR DISPERSION MODELING.—Vapor dispersion modeling under subparagraph (A)(ii) shall consider—

(i) the topography surrounding the pipeline facility;

(ii) atmospheric conditions that could affect vapor dispersion; and

(iii) pipeline facility operating characteristics.

(C) CONSIDERATIONS.—Any standard adopted by the final rule required under paragraph (1) shall consider—

(i) conversion of service standards; and

(ii) safety-related condition reporting and leak reporting appropriate to any unique safety risks associated with carbon dioxide.

(b) EFFECT.—Completion of the rulemaking required under subsection (a) shall satisfy the rulemaking requirement under section 60102(i)(2) of title 49, United States Code.

(c) ODORANT.—

(1) STUDY.—The Secretary shall enter into an agreement with a National Laboratory (as defined in section 2 of the Energy Policy Act of 2005 (42 U.S.C. 15801)) to study the feasibility of adding odorant to carbon dioxide pipelines.

(2) REPORT.—Not later than 2 years after the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary shall submit to the appropriate committees of Congress a report describing the feasibility of adding odorant to carbon dioxide pipelines.

(d) ADDITIONAL RESOURCES.—The Secretary shall make available, on request, to relevant emergency responders information that is tailored specifically to carbon dioxide pipeline releases, including information on the potential impact area and any relevant odorants.

SEC. 403. REPORTING OF BLENDED PRODUCTS.

(a) IN GENERAL.—All operators of natural gas pipelines shall report to the Secretary non-predominant products intentionally blended and intended to exceed, at any point in time, 2 percent by volume of the product transported by the pipeline.

(b) FREQUENCY.—Reports under subsection (a) shall be required not more frequently than annually.

TITLE V—IMPROVING EMERGENCY RESPONSE AND TRANSPARENCY

SEC. 501. BITUMEN OIL RESPONSE PLAN REVIEW.

(a) INSPECTOR GENERAL REVIEW.—Not later than 1 year after the date of enactment of this Act, the Inspector General of the Department of Transportation shall review—

(1) the findings of the study required under section 16 of the Pipeline Safety, Regulatory Certainty, and Job Creation Act of 2011 (Public Law 112–90; 125 Stat. 1915); and

(2) the oil spill response plans required under part 194 of title 49, Code of Federal Regulations (or successor regulations), for operators transporting diluted bitumen oil.

(b) PURPOSE.—The review under subsection (a) shall determine the extent to which the response plans required under part 194 of title 49, Code of Federal Regulations (or successor regulations)—

(1) identify, using industry-standard names, all of the crude oils transported by the operator, including diluted bitumen;

(2) include safety data sheets for each of the crude oils identified in the response plan;

(3) describe the geographic areas most sensitive to the effects of a diluted bitumen spill, including the water bodies potentially at risk;

(4) describe the response activities planned and resources available to mitigate the impacts of spills of diluted bitumen, if applicable, including the capabilities of the operator for detection, containment, and recovery of submerged and sunken oil;

(5) specify the procedures by which the operator shall provide to the applicable On-Scene Coordinator (as defined in section 194.5 of title 49, Code of Federal Regulations (or successor regulations)) or an equivalent State official relevant response information; and

(6) include all spill-relevant properties and considerations with respect to each crude oil transported by the operator and identified in the response plan in accordance with paragraph (1).

(c) REPORT.—Not later than 180 days after completing the review under subsection (a), the Inspector General of the Department of Transportation shall submit to the appropriate committees of Congress a report that summarizes the findings of that review and contains any recommendations of the Inspector General.

SEC. 502. NATIONAL CENTER OF EXCELLENCE FOR HAZARDOUS LIQUID PIPELINE LEAK DETECTION.

(a) ESTABLISHMENT.—After submitting the report under subsection (c) to the committees of Congress described in that subsection, and subject to the availability of funds appropriated by Congress for the applicable purpose, the Secretary, in consultation with hazardous liquid pipeline sector stakeholders, may establish a center, to be known as the ''National Center of Excellence for Hazardous Liquid Pipeline Leak Detection'' (referred to in this section as the ''Center of Excellence'').

(b) LOCATION.—The Center of Excellence shall be located—

(1) within the Great Lakes Basin;

(2) in a State that hosts an international mixed-use pipeline that transports crude oil and natural gas liquids where the pipeline crosses through the Great Lakes; and

(3) in close proximity to an institution of higher education with adequate capabilities, experience, and expertise in researching and evaluating pipeline safety, including pipeline risk analyses.

(c) REPORT ON ESTABLISHMENT.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 18 months after the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary shall submit to the Committees on Commerce, Science, and Transportation and Appropriations of the Senate and the Committees on Transportation and Infrastructure, Energy and Commerce, and Appropriations of the House of Representatives a report that describes—

(A) the resources necessary to establish the Center of Excellence; and

(B) the manner in which the Center of Excellence will carry out the functions described in subsection (d).

(2) REQUIREMENT.—The report under paragraph (1) shall include an estimate of all potential costs and appropriations necessary to carry out the functions described in subsection (d).

(d) FUNCTIONS.—The Center of Excellence shall—

(1) review the availability of leak detection technology for hazardous liquid pipelines that can detect leaks at very low volumes;

(2) conduct research into the operational, economic, and technical feasibility of incorporating technologies reviewed under paragraph (1) into pipeline systems;

(3) be a repository of information on best practices relating to, and expertise on, hazardous liquid leak detection; and

(4) perform other duties, as determined by the Secretary, to improve leak detection for hazardous liquid pipelines.

(e) JOINT OPERATION WITH EDUCATIONAL INSTITUTION.—The Secretary shall enter into an agreement with an institution of higher education described in subsection (b)(3)—

(1) to provide for joint operation of the Center of Excellence; and

(2) to provide necessary administrative services for the Center of Excellence.

(f) REPORT.—Not later than 3 years after the date on which the Center of Excellence is established under subsection (a), the Center of Excellence shall submit to the appropriate committees of Congress a report on the findings of the Center of Excellence with respect to leak detection technologies that can detect leaks at very low volumes.

SEC. 503. OPERATOR FINANCIAL DISCLOSURE.

Not later than 7 calendar days after the date on which an operator of a pipeline facility (as defined in section 60101(a) of title 49, United States Code) files a petition for relief under chapter 7 or 11 of title 11, United States Code, the operator shall notify the Secretary of that filing.

SEC. 504. DATA AND TRANSPARENCY.

Not later than 1 year after the date of enactment of this Act, and not less frequently than annually thereafter, the Secretary shall publish, on a publicly accessible website, summary data pertaining to pipeline leaks required to be reported by operators in the annual reports submitted to the Administration by the operators.

SEC. 505. OFFICE OF PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT.

Section 108 of title 49, United States Code, is amended—

(1) in subsection (a), by inserting ''(referred to in this section as the 'Administration')'' after ''Safety Administration'';

(2) in subsection (c), in the first sentence, by inserting ''(referred to in this section as the 'Administrator'),'' after ''shall be the Administrator''; and

(3) by adding at the end the following:

''(h) OFFICE OF PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT.—

''(1) DEFINITIONS.—In this subsection:

''(A) APPROPRIATE COMMITTEES OF CONGRESS.—The term 'appropriate committees of Congress' has the meaning given the term in section 2 of the PIPELINE Safety Act of 2025.

''(B) DIRECTOR.—The term 'Director' means the Director of the Office.

''(C) OFFICE.—The term 'Office' means the Office of Public Engagement of the Administration established under paragraph (2).

''(2) ESTABLISHMENT.—Not later than 1 year after the date of enactment of this subsection, the Administrator shall establish within the Administration an office, to be known as the 'Office of Public Engagement'.

''(3) DIRECTOR.—The Office shall be headed by a Director, who shall—

''(A) report to the Associate Administrator for Pipeline Safety; and

''(B) be responsible for the discharge of the functions and duties of the Office.

''(4) EMPLOYEES.—The Director shall—

''(A) appoint and assign the duties of employees of the Office; and

''(B) prioritize the hiring of individuals who have experience in community engagement, including working with the public, State, local and Tribal governments, and pipeline safety public interest groups.

''(5) COMMUNITY LIAISONS.—The Director shall appoint agency community liaison personnel employed as of the date on which the Office is established as employees of the Office.

''(6) DUTIES AND FUNCTIONS OF THE OFFICE.—

''(A) COORDINATION OF ASSISTANCE.—The Director shall coordinate the provision of technical assistance and educational assistance to the public with respect to the authorities exercised by the Administration.

''(B) PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT.—The Director shall coordinate active and ongoing engagement with the public with respect to the authority and activities of the Administration, including by—

''(i) conducting—

''(I) outreach, which may include public postings, signage at relevant physical locations, newspaper publications, mailings, phone calls, canvassing, and door hangers, to communities using varied media; and

''(II) when appropriate, meetings;

''(ii) assisting individuals in resolving pipeline safety inquiries;

''(iii) making publicly available, and disseminating, information on the manner in which members of the public may file inquiries relating to pipeline safety;

''(iv) assisting individuals in contacting, as necessary, the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission, State agencies, and other agencies, in order to appropriately direct public inquiries that are not within the jurisdiction of the Administration to the relevant agency; and

''(v) preparing, and making publicly available in accessible formats, educational materials about the Administration, the responsibilities of the Administration, and how those responsibilities interact with entities under the jurisdiction of the Administration and other Federal, State, local, or Tribal government agencies.''.

SEC. 506. CLARIFICATION OF CONFIRMED DISCOVERY.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 2 years after the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary shall—

(1) review—

(A) the definition of confirmed discovery used by the Administration for purposes of the reporting of accidents and incidents to the National Response Center and the Secretary (including any regulations promulgated under section 9 of the Pipeline Safety, Regulatory Certainty, and Job Creation Act of 2011 (49 U.S.C. 60117 note; Public Law 112–90)), establishing communication with first responders and other relevant public officials, providing immediate notice to the National Response Center as described in section 191.5 and 195.52 of title 49, Code of Federal Regulations (or any successor regulations), and any other relevant purposes; and

(B) for each initial notice of an accident or incident submitted to the National Response Center telephonically or electronically under section 191.5 or 195.52 of title 49, Code of Federal Regulations, during the 5-year period ending on the date of enactment of this Act—

(i) the time between the first signs of an accident or incident and the time at which operators determined that the accident or incident met the definition of confirmed discovery;

(ii) the methods that operators used to confirm that an accident or incident met that definition; and

(iii) the time that it took for operators to report an accident or incident after confirming that the accident or incident met that definition; and

(2) submit to the appropriate committees of Congress a report that provides the findings of the review under paragraph (1), including the details described in subparagraph (B) of that paragraph for each accident or incident.

(b) CIVIL PENALTY CONSIDERATIONS.—Section 60122(b)(1) of title 49, United States Code, is amended—

(1) in subparagraph (C), by striking ''and'' at the end;

(2) in subparagraph (D), by striking ''and'' at the end; and

(3) by adding at the end the following:

''(E) the timeliness of emergency response notification, including by reducing penalties for cases in which incidents are reported within 10 minutes of a suspected release; and

''(F) advanced coordination with State, local, Tribal, and territorial governmental entities resulting in the relevant and timely use of existing public alert notification systems; and''.

SEC. 507. PUBLIC ALERT NOTIFICATION SYSTEM FOR PIPELINE FACILITIES.

(a) PUBLIC ALERT NOTIFICATION SYSTEM.—The Secretary, in consultation with the Administrator of the Federal Emergency Management Agency, shall develop voluntary guidance to assist owners and operators of pipeline facilities with coordinating with State, local, Tribal, and territorial governmental entities to make use of existing public alert notification systems, such as the Integrated Public Alert and Warning System of the Federal Emergency Management Agency described in section 526 of the Homeland Security Act of 2002 (6 U.S.C. 321o) to issue emergency alerts and appropriate guidance via mobile phones, radio, or television in a locally targeted area in the event of a pipeline emergency..

(b) EMERGENCY RESPONSE PLANS.—Any procedures established by an operator under subsection (a) shall be incorporated into the response plans maintained by the operator under sections 60102(d)(5) and 60138 of title 49, United States Code.

TITLE VI—OTHER MATTERS

SEC. 601. PROHIBITION ON PHMSA OPERATION, PROCUREMENT, OR CONTRACTING ACTION WITH RESPECT TO COVERED UNMANNED AIRCRAFT SYSTEMS.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Chapter 448 of title 49, United States Code, is amended by adding at the end the following:

''§ 44815. Prohibition on PHMSA operation, procurement, or contracting action with respect to covered unmanned aircraft systems

''(a) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

''(1) ADMINISTRATION.—The term 'Administration' means the Pipeline and Hazardous Materials Safety Administration.

''(2) ADMINISTRATOR.—The term 'Administrator' means the Administrator of the Administration.

''(3) COVERED FOREIGN COUNTRY.—The term 'covered foreign country' means any of the following:

''(A) The People's Republic of China.

''(B) The Russian Federation.

''(C) The Islamic Republic of Iran.

''(D) The Democratic People's Republic of Korea.

''(E) The Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela.

''(F) The Republic of Cuba.

''(4) COVERED UNMANNED AIRCRAFT SYSTEM.—The term 'covered unmanned aircraft system' means an unmanned aircraft system that is, or is owned by an entity that is—

''(A) included on the Consolidated Screening List or Entity List as designated by the Secretary of Commerce;

''(B) domiciled in a covered foreign country; or

''(C) subject to influence or control by the government of a covered foreign country.

''(b) RESTRICTIONS.—Subject to subsection (c), the Administrator shall not—

''(1) operate a covered unmanned aircraft system; or

''(2) enter into, extend, or renew a contract—

''(A) for the procurement of a covered unmanned aircraft system; or

''(B) with an entity that operates (as determined by the Secretary of Transportation) a covered unmanned aircraft system in the performance of any Administration contract.

''(c) EXEMPTION.—The restrictions under subsection (b) shall not apply if the operation, procurement, or contracting action is for the purpose of intelligence, electronic warfare, and information warfare operations, testing, analysis, and training.

''(d) WAIVER.—The Administrator may waive the restrictions under subsection (b) on a case by case basis by certifying, in writing, to the Secretary of Homeland Security and the appropriate committees of Congress that the operation, procurement, or contracting action is required in the public interest of the United States.

''(e) REPLACEMENT OF COVERED UNMANNED AIRCRAFT SYSTEMS.—Subject to available appropriations, not later than 1 year after the date of enactment of this section, the Administrator shall replace any covered unmanned aircraft system that is owned or operated by the Administration as of that date of enactment with an unmanned aircraft system manufactured in the United States or an allied country (as defined in section 2350f(d) of title 10).

''(f) REPORT TO CONGRESS.—Not later than 180 days after the date of enactment of this section, the Administrator shall submit to the appropriate committees of Congress a report that includes—

''(1) a description of the changes the Administration has made to its operation, procurement, and contracting processes to ensure that the Administration does not acquire any covered unmanned aircraft system;

''(2) the number of covered unmanned aircraft systems that needed to be replaced in accordance with subsection (e), including—

''(A) an explanation of the purposes for which such covered unmanned aircraft systems were used;

''(B) a description of the unmanned aircraft systems that the Administrator will purchase to replace such covered unmanned aircraft systems; and

''(C) the cost to purchase the unmanned aircraft systems described in subparagraph (B); and

''(3) any other information determined appropriate by the Administrator.''.

(b) CLERICAL AMENDMENT.—The analysis for chapter 448 of title 49, United States Code, is amended by inserting after the item relating to section 44814 the following:

''44815. Prohibition on PHMSA operation, procurement, or contracting action with respect to covered unmanned aircraft systems.''.

SEC. 602. NATURAL GAS DISTRIBUTION PIPELINE INFRASTRUCTURE SAFETY AND MODERNIZATION GRANTS.

(a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary may provide grants to assist publicly owned natural gas distribution pipeline systems in repairing, rehabilitating, or replacing pipeline systems to improve pipeline safety.

(b) ELIGIBLE ENTITIES.—An entity eligible to receive a grant under this section is a utility that—

(1) is owned by a community or municipality; and

(2) is not a for-profit entity.

(c) APPLICATIONS.—An eligible entity desiring a grant under this section shall submit to the Secretary an application at such time, in such manner, and containing such information as the Secretary may require, including a description of the projects or activities proposed to be funded by the grant.

(d) USES.—A grant provided under this section may be used—

(1) to repair, rehabilitate, or replace a natural gas distribution pipeline system or portions of a natural gas distribution pipeline system; or

(2) to acquire equipment for use in a repair, rehabilitation, or replacement project under paragraph (1).

(e) CONSIDERATIONS.—The Secretary shall establish procedures for awarding grants under this section that take into consideration—

(1) the risk profile of the existing pipeline system, including pipe material, operated by the applicant; and

(2) supporting communities that have limited ability to invest in the infrastructure of the community through increased utility rates due to economic conditions, including high poverty rates, high unemployment, or low median wages.

(f) LIMITATIONS.—

(1) AWARDS TO A SINGLE UTILITY.—The Secretary may not award more than 12.5 percent of the total amount made available to carry out this section in a single fiscal year to a single eligible entity described in subsection (b).

(2) ADMINISTRATIVE EXPENSES.—Not more than 2 percent of the amounts appropriated under subsection (h)(1) for a fiscal year may be used by the Secretary for the administrative costs of carrying out this section.

(3) COST SHARING.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—Except as provided in subparagraph (B), any grant provided by the Secretary under this section shall not represent more than 50 percent of the actual total cost of the repair, rehabilitation, or replacement project for which the grant is provided.

(B) EXCEPTION.—In the case of a grant under this section for a project in an area with a population of less than 50,000 residents, based on the most recent decennial census, the Secretary may increase the grant share of the cost of the project under subparagraph (A) to not more than 80 percent.

(g) CONGRESSIONAL NOTIFICATION.—Not later than 3 days before the date on which the Secretary publishes the selection of projects and activities for which a grant will be provided under this section, the Secretary shall submit to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation of the Senate and the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure of the House of Representatives a written notice that includes—

(1) a list of all applications reviewed by the Secretary as part of the selection process; and

(2) a report that describes each project or activity for which a grant will be provided under this section for that round of selection.

(h) FUNDING.—

(1) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There is authorized to be appropriated to the Secretary to carry out this section $75,000,000 for each of fiscal years 2027 through 2030, to remain available until expended.

(2) REQUIREMENT.—Any amounts used to carry out this section—

(A) shall be derived from general revenues; and

(B) shall not be derived from user fees collected under section 60301.

SEC. 603. ISSUES AFFECTING FEDERALLY RECOGNIZED INDIAN TRIBES.

(a) INDIAN AND TRIBAL DEFINITIONS.—Section 60101 of title 49, United States Code, is amended by adding at the end the following:

''(c) INDIAN AND TRIBAL DEFINITIONS.—In this chapter:

''(1) INDIAN LAND.—The term 'Indian land' has the meaning given the term 'Indian lands' in section 4 of the Indian Gaming Regulatory Act (25 U.S.C. 2703).

''(2) INDIAN TRIBE.—The term 'Indian Tribe' has the meaning given the term in section 4 of the Indian Self-Determination and Education Assistance Act (25 U.S.C. 5304).''.

(b) SAFETY STANDARDS AND REPORTS.—Section 60102 of title 49, United States Code, is amended—

(1) in subsection (c)(4)(A), by striking ''located,'' and inserting ''located and any affected Indian Tribe'';

(2) in subsection (d)—

(A) in the matter preceding paragraph (1), in the first sentence, by striking ''and an appropriate State official as determined by the Secretary'' and inserting '', an appropriate State official (as determined by the Secretary), and an appropriate Tribal official (as determined by the Secretary) from any affected Indian Tribe'';

(B) in paragraph (2), in the matter preceding subparagraph (A), by inserting ''or, with respect to an affected Indian Tribe, on affected Indian land,'' after ''location in the State'';

(C) in paragraph (5)—

(i) in subparagraph (B), by inserting ''and Tribal officials from any affected Indian Tribe'' after ''State and local authorities''; and

(ii) in subparagraph (C), by inserting ''and Tribal officials from any affected Indian Tribe'' after ''State and local officials''; and

(D) in paragraph (6)—

(i) by inserting ''or an affected Indian Tribe'' after ''inform a State''; and

(ii) by inserting ''or on affected Indian land'' before the period at the end;

(3) in subsection (h)—

(A) in paragraph (2)(C), by striking ''the appropriate Tribe'' and inserting ''any affected Indian Tribe with respect to the location''; and

(B) in paragraph (3)(B), by inserting ''or Tribal official if no such commission or committee exists'' before the semicolon at the end; and

(4) in subsection (r)(1), in the matter preceding subparagraph (A), by inserting '', including Tribal officials'' after ''public officials''.

(c) INSPECTION AND MAINTENANCE.—Section 60108(c)(6)(C) of title 49, United States Code, is amended, in the first sentence, by inserting ''and Tribal officials from any affected Indian Tribe'' after ''to the Secretary''.

(d) HIGH-DENSITY POPULATION AREAS AND ENVIRONMENTALLY SENSITIVE AREAS.—Section 60109(e)(7) of title 49, United States Code, is amended by striking subparagraph (C) and inserting the following:

''(C) DEADLINES.—

''(i) EMERGENCY RESPONSE PLAN.—Not later than 2 years after the date of enactment of the PIPELINE Safety Act of 2025, each operator of a distribution system shall make available to the Secretary or the relevant State authority with a certification in effect under section 60105, as applicable, and to any affected Indian Tribe, a copy of the emergency response plan under section 60102(d)(5).

''(ii) OTHER DOCUMENTS.—Not later than 2 years after the date of enactment of the PIPELINE Safety Act of 2025, each operator of a distribution system shall make available to the Secretary or the relevant State authority with a certification in effect under section 60105, as applicable, a copy of—

''(I) the distribution integrity management plan of the operator; and

''(II) the procedural manual for operations, maintenance, and emergencies under section 60102(d)(4).

''(iii) UPDATES.—Not later than 60 days after the date of a significant update, as determined by the Secretary, to a plan or manual described in clause (i) or (ii), the operator of the applicable distribution system shall—

''(I) in the case of an emergency response plan described in clause (i), make available to the Secretary or make available for inspection to the relevant State authority described in that clause (if applicable), and make available for inspection to any affected Indian Tribe, an updated copy of the emergency response plan; and

''(II) in the case of a plan or manual described in clause (ii), make available to the Secretary or make available for inspection to the relevant State authority described in that clause (if applicable) an updated copy of the applicable plan or manual.

''(iv) APPLICABILITY OF FOIA.—Nothing in this subsection shall be construed to authorize the disclosure of any information that is exempt from disclosure under section 552(b) of title 5.''.

(e) PIPELINE FACILITIES HAZARDOUS TO LIFE AND PROPERTY.—Section 60112(c) of title 49, United States Code, is amended, in the second sentence, by inserting ''and a Tribal official from any affected Indian Tribe'' after ''affected local officials''.

(f) TECHNICAL SAFETY STANDARDS COMMITTEES.—Section 60115(b)(3)(A) of title 49, United States Code, is amended by striking ''and of'' and inserting '', Indian Tribes, and''.

(g) PUBLIC EDUCATION PROGRAMS.—Section 60116(b) of title 49, United States Code, is amended—

(1) in the first sentence, by striking ''Not later than 12 months after the date of enactment of the Pipeline Safety Improvement Act of 2002'' and inserting ''Not later than 1 year after the date of enactment of the PIPELINE Safety Act of 2025''; and

(2) in the second sentence, by inserting ''affected Indian Tribes,'' after ''advise''.

(h) ADMINISTRATIVE.—Section 60117 of title 49, United States Code, is amended—

(1) in subsection (g)(1), by inserting ''and an appropriate Tribal official from any affected Indian Tribe'' after ''is located'';

(2) in subsection (i)—

(A) in paragraph (1), by inserting ''Indian Tribes,'' after ''States,''; and

(B) in paragraph (2), by inserting ''Indian Tribes,'' after ''local governments,'';

(3) in subsection (l), in the first sentence, by inserting ''Indian Tribes,'' after ''local government,'';

(4) in subsection (n)(1), by inserting ''Indian Tribes,'' after ''the States,''; and

(5) in subsection (p)(2)(B), by inserting ''Indian Tribes,'' after ''State agencies,''.

(i) JUDICIAL REVIEW.—Section 60119(a)(1) of title 49, United States Code, is amended, in the first sentence, by inserting '', including an Indian Tribe,'' before ''adversely affected''.

(j) EMERGENCY RESPONSE GRANTS.—Section 60125(b)(1) of title 49, United States Code, is amended, in the first sentence, by inserting '', and affected Indian Tribes,'' after ''local governments''.

(k) NATIONAL PIPELINE MAPPING SYSTEM.—Section 60132 of title 49, United States Code, is amended—

(1) in subsection (c), by striking ''State and local'' and inserting ''State, local, and Tribal''; and

(2) in subsection (e), in the first sentence, by striking ''State and local'' and inserting ''State, local, and Tribal''.

(l) COORDINATION OF ENVIRONMENTAL REVIEWS.—Section 60133 of title 49, United States Code, is amended—

(1) in subsection (a)(5), by striking ''and local'' and inserting '', local, and Tribal''; and

(2) in subsection (c)(2), by inserting ''Tribal,'' after ''State,''.

SEC. 604. IDENTIFICATION OF AND JUSTIFICATION FOR REDACTIONS.

If the Administration redacts any portion of a document produced to another person, the Administration shall cite a specific statute authorizing the withholding of the information redacted.

SEC. 605. FEES FOR LOAN GUARANTEES.

Section 116(d) of the Alaska Natural Gas Pipeline Act (15 U.S.C. 720n(d)) is amended—

(1) in paragraph (1)—

(A) by striking ''(1) The Secretary'' and inserting the following:

''(1) LOAN TERMS.—

''(A) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary''; and

(B) in subparagraph (A) (as so designated), in the second sentence, by striking ''The term'' and inserting the following:

''(B) DURATION.—The term''; and

(2) in paragraph (2), by striking ''(2) An eligible'' and inserting the following:

''(2) FEES.—

''(A) ADMINISTRATIVE EXPENSES.—

''(i) IN GENERAL.—Notwithstanding any other provision of law, the Secretary shall charge, and collect on or after the date of the financial close of an obligation, a fee for a guarantee in an amount that the Secretary determines is sufficient to cover applicable administrative expenses (including any costs associated with third-party consultants engaged by the Secretary).

''(ii) AVAILABILITY.—Fees collected under this paragraph shall—

''(I) be deposited by the Secretary into the Treasury; and

''(II) remain available to the Secretary, without further appropriation, until expended to cover applicable administrative expenses described in clause (i).

''(iii) REDUCTION IN FEE AMOUNT.—Notwithstanding clause (i), and subject to the availability of appropriations, the Secretary may reduce the amount of a fee for a guarantee under this subparagraph.

''(B) DEBT OBLIGATIONS.—An eligible''.

SEC. 606. IMPROVING PIPELINE CYBERSECURITY.

Not later than 180 days after the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary of Homeland Security shall publish in the Federal Register a final rule pursuant to the rulemaking proceeding entitled ''Enhancing Surface Cyber Risk Management'' (Docket Number TSA–2022–0001; Regulation Identifier Number 1652–AA74) relating to the cybersecurity of pipelines.

SEC. 607. TECHNICAL CORRECTIONS.

(a) DEFINITIONS.—Section 60101(a) of title 49, United States Code (as amended by section 212(b)), is amended—

(1) in the matter preceding paragraph (1), by striking ''chapter—'' and inserting ''chapter:'';

(2) in each of paragraphs (1) through (16), (18), (19), (20), (22) (23), (25), and (27), by striking the semicolon at the end of the paragraph and inserting a period;

(3) in paragraph (1)—

(A) by striking the paragraph designation and all that follows through ''(A) means'' in subparagraph (A) and inserting the following:

''(1) EXISTING LIQUEFIED NATURAL GAS FACILITY.—

''(A) IN GENERAL.—The term 'existing liquefied natural gas facility' means'';

(B) in subparagraph (A)(ii), by striking ''; but'' and inserting a period; and

(C) in subparagraph (B)—

(i) by striking ''(B) does not'' and inserting the following:

''(B) EXCLUSIONS.—The term 'existing liquefied natural gas facility' does not''; and

(ii) by inserting ''described in subparagraph (A)'' after ''approval'';

(4) in paragraph (14)—

(A) by striking the paragraph designation and all that follows through ''(A) means'' in subparagraph (A) and inserting the following:

''(14) LIQUEFIED NATURAL GAS PIPELINE FACILITY.—

''(A) IN GENERAL.—The term 'liquefied natural gas pipeline facility' means'';

(B) in subparagraph (A), by striking ''; but'' and inserting a period; and

(C) in subparagraph (B), by striking ''(B) does not'' and inserting the following:

''(B) EXCLUSIONS.—The term 'liquefied natural gas pipeline facility' does not'';

(5) in paragraph (24) (relating to the term ''Secretary''), by striking ''; and'' and inserting a period;

(6) in paragraph (27)—

(A) by striking the paragraph designation and all that follows through ''(A) means'' in subparagraph (A) and inserting the following:

''(27) TRANSPORTING HAZARDOUS LIQUID.—

''(A) IN GENERAL.—The term 'transporting hazardous liquid' means'';

(B) in subparagraph (A)(ii), by striking ''; but'' and inserting a period; and

(C) in subparagraph (B), by striking ''(B) does not'' and inserting the following:

''(B) EXCLUSIONS.—The term 'transporting hazardous liquid' does not''; and

(7) in each of paragraphs (2) through (13), (15), (16), (18), (19), (20), (22) through (25), and (28)—

(A) by inserting ''The term'' after the paragraph designation; and

(B) by inserting a paragraph heading, the text of which comprises the term defined in the paragraph.

(b) REPORT.—Section 60102(b) of title 49, United States Code, is amended by striking paragraph (7).

Ms. ERNST. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the committee-reported substitute amendment be considered and agreed to; that the bill, as amended, be considered read a third time and passed; and that the motion to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The committee-reported amendment in the nature of a substitute was agreed to.

The bill (S. 2975), as amended, was ordered to be engrossed for a third reading, was read the third time, and passed.

MORNING BUSINESS

VOTE EXPLANATION

Mr. WARNER. Mr. President, I was absent from the Senate on Wednesday, April 22, due to bereavement following the passing of a close family member.

Had I been present for rollcall vote No. 89, Motion to Waive All Applicable Budgetary Discipline Re: Schumer amendment No. 4799; To create a point of order against reconciliation legislation that does not lower out-of-pocket health care costs while Americans struggle to make ends meet, I would have voted yea.

Had I been present for rollcall vote No. 90, Motion to Waive All Applicable Budgetary Discipline Re: Luján amendment No. 4798; To establish a deficit-neutral reserve fund relating to grocery costs, I would have voted yea.

Had I been present for rollcall vote No. 91, Motion to Waive All Applicable Budgetary Discipline Re: Ossoff amendment No. 4897; To create a point of order against reconciliation legislation fails to address the practice of insurance companies stepping between patients and their doctors to delay or deny access to care, I would have voted yea.

Had I been present for rollcall vote No. 92, Graham amendment No. 5281; To establish a deficit-neutral reserve fund relating to the apprehension and deportation of adult illegal aliens convicted of rape, murder, or sexual abuse of a minor after illegally entering the United States, I would have voted yea.

Had I been present for rollcall vote No. 93, Motion to Waive All Applicable Budgetary Discipline Re: Hirono amendment No. 4884; To create a point of order against reconciliation legislation that would not increase Federal funding for or participation in school meal programs, I would have voted yea.

Had I been present for rollcall vote No. 94, Motion to Waive All Applicable Budgetary Discipline Re: Hickenlooper amendment No. 4956; To establish a deficit-neutral reserve fund relating to ensuring that consumers are protected from price increases associated with tariffs and the Iran war, I would have voted yea.

Had I been present for rollcall vote No. 95, Motion to Waive All Applicable Budgetary Discipline Re: Alsobrooks amendment No. 5294; To establish a deficit-neutral reserve fund relating to increasing funding for child care for families, I would have voted yea.

Had I been present for rollcall vote No. 96, Motion to Waive All Applicable Budgetary Discipline Re: Kennedy amendment No. 5414; To provide reconciliation instructions for the Committee on Rules and Administration and establish deficit-neutral reserve funds relating to establishing identification requirements for registration to vote in elections for Federal office, establishing photo identification requirements for voting in elections for Federal office, and election day and the

counting of ballots in Federal elections, I would have voted nay.

Had I been present for rollcall vote No. 97, Motion to Waive All Applicable Budgetary Discipline Re: Hawley amendment No. 4794; To establish a deficit-neutral reserve fund relating to extending the prohibition on Medicaid payments to abortion providers, I would have voted nay.

Had I been present for rollcall vote No. 98, Motion to Waive All Applicable Budgetary Discipline Re: Markey amendment No. 5001; To create a point of order against legislation that would not decrease home electricity bills, I would have voted yea.

Had I been present for rollcall vote No. 99, Paul amendment No. 5378; To reduce new budget authority for functions 150, 250, 500, and 600 in order to offset $70,000,000,000 of new spending by cutting $45,000,000,000 of foreign aid, eliminating $5,000,000,000 in refugee spending, cutting $16,000,000,000 from the Department of Education, and cutting $4,000,000,000 of National Science Foundation funding, I would have voted nay.

Had I been present for rollcall vote No. 100, Merkley amendment No. 5235; To establish a deficit-neutral reserve fund relating to the impacts of hedge fund ownership of single-family homes and rent prices, I would have voted yea.

Had I been present for rollcall vote No. 101, Motion to Waive All Applicable Budgetary Discipline Re: Sanders amendment No. 5159; To reduce the price of prescription drugs in the United States by more than 50 percent by adopting Most Favored Nation drug pricing so that the American people pay no more for prescription drugs than Europeans or Canadians, I would have voted yea.

Had I been present for rollcall vote No. 102, Motion to Waive All Applicable Budgetary Discipline Re: Padilla amendment No. 4855; To create a point of order against reconciliation legislation that would provide funding to Federal agencies that have unobligated funds from previous reconciliation bills, I would have yea.

Had I been present for rollcall vote No. 103, Wyden amendment No. 5336; To establish a deficit-neutral reserve fund relating to requiring the Comptroller General of the United States to conduct a study related to economic consequences of private or confidential drug pricing agreements struck by any Federal department, agency, or office with any pharmaceutical manufacturer, I would have voted yea.

Had I been present for rollcall vote No. 104, Schiff amendment No. 5333; To establish a deficit-neutral reserve fund relating to requiring the obligation of amounts appropriated to the Federal Emergency Management Agency to carry out the public assistance and hazard mitigation programs, I would have voted yea.

Had I been present for rollcall vote No. 105, S. Con. Res. 33, As Amended; A concurrent resolution setting forth the congressional budget for the United States Government for fiscal year 2026 and setting forth the appropriate budgetary levels for fiscal years 2027 through 2035, I would have voted nay.

REMEMBERING DIRK KEMPTHORNE

Mr. RISCH. Mr. President, I rise with my colleagues Senator MIKE CRAPO and Representatives MIKE SIMPSON and RUSS FULCHER to honor the life and legacy of our dear friend Dirk Kempthorne, who recently lost his hard-fought battle with cancer.

Few individuals have devoted more of their lives to serving their community than Dirk Kempthorne. From his first elected office, student body president at the University of Idaho, it was clear that Dirk was a true statesman who was born to serve. Over the decades that followed, Idahoans repeatedly put their trust in him, electing Dirk as mayor of Boise, U.S. Senator, and ultimately as Governor. In each role, Dirk carried that trust with humility and purpose, always putting the needs and hopes of Idahoans first.

As the 51st mayor of Boise, Dirk led Idaho's capital city through a transformation period. Following decades of uncertainty, demolition of historic buildings, and stalled development, Dirk brought people together to chart a new course. Under his steady, locally driven leadership, Boise experienced unprecedented job growth and the revitalization of infrastructure and commerce. Dirk's tenure led to many of the Boise landmarks residents and visitors know today, including the Grove Plaza, Boise Centre, and the Wells Fargo Building.

Dirk carried that same approach to the U.S. Senate after his election in 1992. Dirk quickly made his mark in Congress, recognized by then-Majority Leader Bob Dole as ''one of the Senate's rising young stars.'' While in DC, Dirk advocated for Idaho and the West on several key committees, including Armed Services, Small Business, and Environment and Public Works.

He also authored and passed several important pieces of legislation, including the Unfunded Mandates Reform Act, which provided much-needed relief for State and local governments burdened by Federal regulations. Equally significant was his leadership in writing the Safe Drinking Water Act of 1996, a bipartisan effort that passed the Senate unanimously and was signed into law by President Bill Clinton. The legislation, which gave local communities and water systems the flexibility to meet local needs while protecting public health, was drafted in collaboration with officials from all levels of government, water providers, public health experts, and environmental advocates. It was emblematic of Dirk's unique ability to build consensus and deliver real results.

Dirk returned home after one term and was elected Idaho's 30th Governor in a decisive victory. As Governor, he built upon the strong foundation set by his predecessor and mentor Phil Batt and guided Idaho into the era of prosperity and resilience we enjoy today. Dirk prioritized the responsible stewardship of Idaho's natural resources, establishing the department of environmental quality and office of species conservation. He also secured the then largest ever appropriation for our State parks and developed wolf and grizzly bear management plans, balancing States' rights and proven, community-based solutions.

Governor Kempthorne also championed the historic GARVEE bond program, delivering unprecedented funding toward long-overdue transportation improvements across the State. At the same time, Dirk implemented numerous economic development and education efforts, including an initiative focused on ensuring every Idaho child could read at grade level by the third grade.

In addition to his many legislative successes, Dirk was pivotal to leading Idaho and her people through the economic recession of the early 2000s and the aftermath of 9–11 with steadiness and compassion.

In 2006, Dirk was once again called to serve his country when President George W. Bush appointed him as the 49th U.S. Secretary of the Interior. There, Dirk brought Idaho's common sense and shared values to the executive branch. He spearheaded the Department's work to ensure America's public lands were preserved and managed wisely, balancing conservation with the needs of the communities that depended on them. As he had done throughout his life, Dirk prioritized collaboration and local input, particularly when it came to forest health, species management, and wildfire prevention. Dirk's dedication to the outdoors continued to his last day, through his support for the World Center for Birds of Prey in Boise and The Peregrine Fund.

Another core pillar of Dirk's leadership was his steadfast advocacy for the men and women of our armed services. Most recently, Dirk had devoted his talents to initiatives supporting the families of servicemembers, like Operation Military Blessings, and the commissioning of the USS *Idaho*. Dirk's leadership on the USS *Idaho* Commissioning Committee helped ensure not only the success of the ship but also raised enough to provide scholarships to every crew member and their family for the life of the ship.

It is only right that his incredible legacy will live on in the heart of the USS *Idaho*, its engine room, which is named in his honor and bears a plaque reading: ''The Honorable Dirk A. Kempthorne, A Driving Force for the Great State of Idaho, Whose Legacy Endures, Above and Below the Waves.''

Idahoans owe a debt of gratitude to Dirk Kempthorne for a lifetime spent shaping what he called the ''43rd star

in the galaxy of states that make up the greatest nation in the world.'' As we mourn this remarkable leader, we pray for Dirk's loved ones, including his children Heather and Jeff, and his bride of nearly 50 years, Patricia. We were all honored to know Dirk and to have served alongside him. Dirk was our friend, a dedicated public servant, and advocate for Idaho, our veterans, our great outdoors, and more. He will be dearly missed.

ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

RECOGNIZING BRIGHT MINDS ACADEMY OF HAYS, KANSAS

● Mr. MARSHALL. Mr. President, I rise today to recognize Bright Minds Academy of Hays, KS, in celebration of National Small Business Week and to commend its nomination as the 2026 Kansas Rural Small Business of the Year.

Since 1963, National Small Business Week has highlighted the essential role of small businesses in driving economic growth and creating jobs in communities across our Nation. Every year, the U.S. Small Business Administration honors businesses that exemplify innovation, resilience, and a commitment to service.

Founded by Nick and Andrea Felder, Bright Minds Academy has become a trusted provider of early childhood education for families in Hays. As parents themselves, they were inspired to open a childcare center to support children's learning and serve the needs of working families in their community.

From its beginnings as a single childcare center, Bright Minds Academy now spans multiple locations across Hays, a reflection of its steady leadership. Today, it employs approximately 100 staff and is licensed to care for over 300 children.

Bright Minds Academy is dedicated to providing a safe, fun, and nurturing environment for infants and young children. Their mission to provide high-quality care and education ensures that Kansas children have a strong foundation for success in the future.

I now ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing Bright Minds Academy for its service to Kansas families and communities and in congratulating Nick and Andrea Felder on this well-deserved honor.●

RECOGNIZING BROKEN BOWL CATERING

● Mr. RISCH. Mr. President, as a member and former chairman of the Senate Committee on Small Business and Entrepreneurship, each month I recognize and celebrate the American entrepreneurial spirit by highlighting the success of a small business in my home State of Idaho. Today, I am proud to honor Broken Bowl Catering in New Plymouth as the Idaho Small Business of the Month for April 2026.

Jacob Bybee began Broken Bowl Catering in the spring of 2018. At just 14 years old, Jacob fell in love with culinary arts and always dreamed his path would lead to traditional restaurant ownership. After graduating from high school, a job offer with a Utah-based catering group gave him the opportunity to follow his passion and create an elevated experience for customers.

Today, Broken Bowl Catering takes pride in playing a role in many of life's most important moments. Whether Idahoans are celebrating an anniversary or new beginning, Jacob and his team strive to provide high-quality and special experiences for all. Their commitment to exceptional food and service is shown through their control, clarity, and trust when working with clients behind the scenes.

The name Broken Bowl comes from a story of faith that inspired Jacob during a challenging period. In the story, a follower faces a setback when his bow breaks, seemingly a final straw, but the follower turns to prayer, relying on his faith. Jacob has found himself in a similar place, and while he has never broken a bow, he has certainly broken a few bowls—each broken bowl representing lessons learned through adversity, shaping both him and his business.

Congratulations to Jacob and the Broken Bowl Catering team on being recognized as the Idaho Small Business of the Month for April 2026. Your dedication to excellence makes Idaho proud, and I look forward to your continued growth and success.●

TRIBUTE TO GAIGE HOMER

● Mr. SHEEHY. Mr. President, I would like to take a moment to express my appreciation to Gaige Homer for his hard work as an intern in my Bozeman, MT, office this spring.

Gaige is a native of Truckee, CA. He currently attends Montana State University, where he is studying to obtain a degree in political science. Gaige has demonstrated a strong work ethic, and his efforts have been key to our mission to serve the people of Montana.

I want to thank Gaige for the dedication he has shown while working for me and my staff. It has been a pleasure having him as part of our team this spring, and I look forward to having him join us in our Washington, DC, office for an internship this summer.●

TRIBUTE TO JOE McDONNELL

● Mr. SHEEHY. Mr. President, I would like to take a moment to express my appreciation to Joe McDonnell for his hard work as an intern in my Washington, DC, office this spring.

Joe is a native of Ridgewood, NJ. He attends Wake Forest University, where he is studying to obtain degrees in anthropology and classical languages. Joe has demonstrated a strong work ethic, and his efforts have been key to our mission to serve the people of Montana here in our Nation's Capital.

I want to thank Joe for the dedication he has shown while working for me and my staff. It has been a pleasure having him as part of our team this spring, and I wish him all the best as he continues to build a bright future for himself.●

TRIBUTE TO AVA NORTHRUP

● Mr. SHEEHY. Mr. President, I would like to take a moment to express my appreciation to Ava Northrup for her hard work as an intern in my Bozeman, MT, office this spring.

Ava is a native of Leavenworth, WA. She currently works as a wildland firefighter for the U.S. Forest Service and obtained a degree in political science from Montana State University. Ava has demonstrated a strong work ethic, and her efforts have been key to our mission to serve the people of Montana.

I want to thank Ava for the dedication she has shown while working for me and my staff. It has been a pleasure having her as part of our team this spring, and I wish her all the best as she continues to build a bright future for herself.●

TRIBUTE TO MADISON SPEAR

● Mr. SHEEHY. Mr. President, I would like to take a moment to express my appreciation to Madison Spear for her hard work as an intern in my Missoula, MT, office this spring.

Madison is a native of Missoula, MT. She currently owns her own photography and bookkeeping businesses. She attended University of Montana where she obtained her associate of arts degree. Madison has demonstrated a strong work ethic, and her efforts have been key to our mission to serve the people of Montana.

I want to thank Madison for the dedication she has shown while working for me and my staff. It has been a pleasure having her as part of our team this spring, and I wish her all the best as she continues to build a bright future for herself.●

TRIBUTE TO RICHARD CHILDRESS

● Mr. TILLIS. Mr. President, I rise today to recognize Richard Childress, a North Carolina native, NASCAR Hall of Fame team owner, and a leader whose impact reaches far beyond the racetrack.

From humble beginnings, Mr. Childress built Richard Childress Racing into one of the most respected organizations in motorsports, creating jobs for hundreds of North Carolinians and competing at the highest levels of the sport. He has led his teams to more than 200 victories and 17 championships, including 6 with the legendary Dale Earnhardt, and helped shape NASCAR into what it is today.

What stands out most about Richard Childress is how he has used that success to support others, especially those

who have served our country. He has made it a priority to show up for servicemembers and veterans in meaningful ways. He has visited troops at home and overseas, hosted monthly ''Coffee with Veterans'' gatherings at his race shop in Welcome, NC, and regularly opened his facilities to Active-Duty units for team-building and fellowship. These are not one-time gestures. They reflect a personal commitment to honoring those who serve. His efforts have been recognized with the Helping a Hero Lee Greenwood Patriot Award.

Mr. Childress has also used his platform to support American workers and communities. Through his businesses, including engine development, manufacturing, and agriculture, he has invested in North Carolina and created opportunities across multiple industries. He has been a consistent advocate for American agriculture and homegrown energy, supporting policies that benefit rural communities and strengthen domestic production.

Alongside his wife Judy, Mr. Childress cofounded the Childress Institute for Pediatric Trauma, which has grown into a nationwide effort to improve how we prevent and treat serious injuries in children. It reflects his belief that success should be used to make a difference in the lives of others.

Mr. Childress' legacy is defined not only by his accomplishments in motorsports, but by his commitment to people, his support for veterans, and his investment in his home State of North Carolina. He has set an example that extends well beyond the track and into communities across our State and Nation.●

TRIBUTE TO LIEUTENANT GENERAL THOMAS L. JAMES

● Mr. WICKER. Mr. President, today I recognize the distinguished career and extraordinary service of LTG Thomas L. James, U.S. Army. A native of Petal, MS, Lieutenant General James served in uniform for more than four decades, leaving an indelible mark on the security of our Nation.

In 1982, Lieutenant General James took the first step in his military journey by enlisting in the Mississippi National Guard. He served first as a medic and operating room technician with the 114th Support Group. Later, he joined the 20th Special Forces Group (Airborne).

From the beginning, Lieutenant General James was committed to soldier care, unit readiness, and high standards of service—values that would define his entire career. In 1988, after completing his education at the University of Southern Mississippi and earning his commission through ROTC, he entered Active Duty as an Army aviator.

Lieutenant General James would go on to command at every level from platoon to brigade. In July 2014, he assumed leadership of the 1st Space Brigade. Under his charge, the Army's only brigade dedicated to space operations became more adept at missile warning, satellite communications, and space situational awareness. Combatant commanders across the globe benefit from these enhanced capabilities.

At the Joint Functional Component Command—Space and the Joint Force Space Component Command, Lieutenant General James held a number of senior roles. Among his responsibilities, he handled global operations, planning, and exercises in support of joint and allied forces.

When U.S. Space Command was reestablished in 2019, Lieutenant General James was selected to command Joint Task Force-Space Defense. He oversaw the defense of critical space assets and the integration of space capabilities into the joint force. He became the Deputy Commander of Combined Joint Task Force-Space Operations. Then, in December 2023, he was confirmed as Deputy Commander of U.S. Space Command. His promotion to lieutenant general took place at the armory in Hattiesburg, MS. It was the site where he took his oath of enlistment more than 40 years earlier, creating a fitting symbol of a life dedicated to service.

General James' career spanned work in the Gulf War, the Iraq War, and the war in Afghanistan. He is a decorated veteran. His most notable awards include the Defense Distinguished Service Medal, Defense Superior Service Medal, two awards of the Legion of Merit, and two Bronze Star Medals. Notably, he is the first Army space operations officer to advance beyond the rank of brigadier general, a testament to his pioneering role in elevating space as a warfighting domain.

While I recognize Lieutenant General James, it is important to honor the sacrifice and support of his family. His wife Nicole and his daughter Rachel have stood beside him these many years. They have shared in the hardships of military life and contributed immeasurably to his success. Their strength, patience, and devotion exemplify the resilience of military families who give so much in service to the Nation.

I speak on behalf of a thankful State when I express my gratitude to LTG Thomas L. James. We are grateful for his faithful service to the United States. His career reflects honor upon his character, his family, the people of Mississippi, the Army, U.S. Space Command, and the Nation he has so ably defended.●

MESSAGE FROM THE HOUSE

At 6:10 p.m., a message from the House of Representatives, delivered by Mrs. Cole, one of its reading clerks, announced that the House has passed the following bill, with an amendment, in which it requests the concurrence of the Senate:

S. 1318. An act to direct the American Battle Monuments Commission to establish a program to identify American-Jewish servicemembers buried in United States military cemeteries overseas under markers that incorrectly represent their religion and heritage, and for other purposes.

EXECUTIVE AND OTHER COMMUNICATIONS

The following communications were laid before the Senate, together with accompanying papers, reports, and documents, and were referred as indicated:

EC–3235. A communication from the Acting Branch Chief of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''National Emission Standards for Hazardous Air Pollutants: Chemical Manufacturing Area Source Technology Review'' (FRL No. 7623–02–OAR) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on April 2, 2026; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC–3236. A communication from the Acting Branch Chief of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Renewable Fuel Standard (RFS) Program: Standards for 2026 and 2027, Partial Waiver of 2025 Cellulosic Biofuel Volume Requirement, and Other Changes'' (FRL No. 11947–02–OAR) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on April 2, 2026; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC–3237. A communication from the Acting Branch Chief of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Air Quality Plan; California; Mojave Desert Air Quality Management District; Replacing Outdated Requirements; Correction'' (FRL No. 11949–03–R9) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on April 2, 2026; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC–3238. A communication from the Acting Branch Chief of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Ohio: Authorization of State Hazardous Waste Management Program Revisions'' (FRL No. 12244–02–R5) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on April 2, 2026; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC–3239. A communication from the Acting Branch Chief of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Air Plan Approval; Michigan; Detroit 2010 Sulfur Dioxide Redesignation and Maintenance Plan'' (FRL No. 12841–02–R5) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on April 2, 2026; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC–3240. A communication from the Acting Branch Chief of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Air Plan Approval; Oregon; 2024 Vehicle Inspection Program Updates'' (FRL No. 12873–02–R10) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on April 2, 2026; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC–3241. A communication from the Acting Branch Chief of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency,

transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Air Plan Approval; Ohio; Muskingum River 2010 Sulfur Dioxide Redesignation and Maintenance Plan'' (FRL No. 12974–02–R5) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on April 2, 2026; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC–3242. A communication from the Acting Branch Chief of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Air Plan Approval; Ohio; Ohio Permit Rules Revisions'' (FRL No. 13000–02–R5) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on April 2, 2026; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC–3243. A communication from the Acting Branch Chief of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Air Plan Approval; Connecticut; New Source Review Permit Program State Plan Revision'' (FRL No. 13092–02–R1) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on April 2, 2026; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC–3244. A communication from the General Counsel, Administrative Conference of the United States, transmitting, pursuant to law, the Conference's fiscal year 2025 annual report relative to the Notification and Federal Employee Antidiscrimination and Retaliation Act of 2002 (No FEAR Act) received in the Office of the President pro tempore; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC–3245. A communication from the General Counsel Performing the Duties of Director, Federal Mediation and Conciliation Service, transmitting, pursuant to law, the Service's fiscal year 2025 annual report relative to the Notification and Federal Employee Antidiscrimination and Retaliation (No FEAR) Act of 2002 received in the Office of the President pro tempore; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC–3246. A communication from the Secretary and Chief Administrative Officer, Postal Regulatory Commission, transmitting, pursuant to law, the Commission's fiscal year 2025 annual report relative to the Notification and Federal Employee Antidiscrimination and Retaliation Act of 2002 (No FEAR Act) received in the Office of the President pro tempore; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC–3247. A communication from the Commissioner, Social Security Administration, transmitting, pursuant to law, the Administration's fiscal year 2025 annual report relative to the Notification and Federal Employee Antidiscrimination and Retaliation Act of 2002 (No FEAR Act) received in the Office of the President pro tempore; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC–3248. A communication from the Director of the Pension Benefit Guaranty Corporation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the Corporation's fiscal year 2025 annual report relative to the Notification and Federal Employee Antidiscrimination and Retaliation Act of 2002 (No FEAR Act) received in the Office of the President pro tempore; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC–3249. A communication from the Executive Director, Office of Equal Employment Opportunity, Central Intelligence Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the Agency's fiscal year 2025 annual report relative to the Notification and Federal Employee Antidiscrimination and Retaliation Act of 2002 (No FEAR Act); to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC–3250. A communication from the Acting Branch Chief of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Citrus tristeza virus (CTV) strain T36 expressing Spinach Defensin Proteins SoD2 , SoD2–1, and SoD2*; Exemption from the Requirement of a Tolerance'' (FRL No. 13258–01–OCSPP) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on April 8, 2026; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

EC–3251. A communication from the Acting Branch Chief of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Hexanedioic acid, polymer with sodium 2-[(2-aminoethyl)amino]ethanesulfonate (1:1), 1,6-diisocyanatohexane, 2,2-dimethyl-1,3-propanediol, 1,2-ethanediamine and 1,6-hexanediol in Pesticide Formulations; Exemption from the Requirement for a Tolerance'' (FRL No. 13303–01–OCSPP) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on April 13, 2026; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

EC–3252. A communication from the Acting Branch Chief of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Polyethylhexyl Glycidyl Ether Polyethylene Oxide Copolymer in Pesticide Formulations; Exemption from the Requirement for a Tolerance'' (FRL No. 13295–01–OCSPP) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on April 13, 2026; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

EC–3253. A communication from the Administrator, Agricultural Marketing Service, Department of Agriculture, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Grapes Grown in a Designated Area of Southeastern California; Decreased Assessment Rate'' (Docket No. AMS–SC–24–0075) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on April 13, 2026; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

EC–3254. A communication from the Administrator, Farm Service Agency, Department of Agriculture, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Emergency Livestock Relief Programs'' (RIN0560–AI72) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on April 13, 2026; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

EC–3255. A communication from the Executive Vice President, Commodity Credit Assistance, Department of Agriculture, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Farmer Bridge Assistance (FBA) Program'' (RIN0560–AI87) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on April 13, 2026; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

EC–3256. A communication from the Administrator, Farm Service Agency, Department of Agriculture, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Agricultural Disaster Indemnity Programs'' (RIN0560–AI81) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on April 13, 2026; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

EC–3257. A communication from the Administrator, Farm Service Agency, Department of Agriculture, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Changes to Agriculture Risk Coverage, Price Loss Coverage, and Diary Margin Coverage Programs'' (RIN0560–AI83) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on April 13, 2026; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

EC–3258. A communication from the Administrator, Farm Service Agency, Department of Agriculture, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Supplemental Disaster Relief Program (SDRP) Stage 1'' (RIN0560–AI71) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on April 13, 2026; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

EC–3259. A communication from the Director, Office of Equal Employment Opportunity, National Labor Relations Board, transmitting, pursuant to law, the Department's fiscal year 2025 annual report relative to the Notification and Federal Employee Antidiscrimination and Retaliation Act of 2002 (No FEAR Act); to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC–3260. A communication from the Acting Branch Chief of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Reconsideration of Standards of Performance for New, Reconstructed, and Modified Sources and Emissions Guidelines for Existing Sources: Oil and Natural Gas Sector Climate Review'' (FRL No. 12031–02–OAR) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on April 13, 2026; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC–3261. A communication from the Acting Branch Chief of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Air Plan Approval; Colorado; Serious Attainment Plan Contingency Measures and RACT Requirements for the 2008 8-Hour Ozone National Ambient Air Quality Standards for the Denver Metro/North Front Range Nonattainment Area'' (FRL No. 12746–05–R8) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on April 13, 2026; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC–3262. A communication from the Acting Branch Chief of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Air Plan Approval; Rhode Island; Regional Haze State Implementation Plan for the Second Implementation Period; Prong 4 (Visibility) for the 2015 8-Hour Ozone National Ambient Air Quality Standard'' (FRL No. 13065–02–R1) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on April 13, 2026; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC–3263. A communication from the Acting Branch Chief of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Air Plan Approval; Missouri; Revisions to existing rule 10 CSR 10–5.570; Control of Sulfur Emissions From Stationary Boilers'' (FRL No. 13279–02–R7) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on April 13, 2026; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC–3264. A communication from the Chair of the United States Nuclear Regulatory Commission, transmitting, pursuant to law, the Commission's Congressional Budget Justification for fiscal year 2027; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC–3265. A communication from the Chairman, Federal Maritime Commission, transmitting, pursuant to law, the 64th Annual Report of the activities of the Federal Maritime Commission for fiscal year 2025; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC–3266. A communication from the Senior Bureau Official, Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report entitled ''Conservation of Sea

Turtles Certification'' received in the Office of the President pro tempore; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC–3267. A communication from the Chairwoman, National Transportation Safety Board, transmitting, pursuant to law, the Board's Fiscal Year 2027 Budget Request; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC–3268. A communication from the Budget Analyst, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, Department of Commerce, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Schedule of Fees for Access to NOAA Environmental Data, Information, and Related Products and Services'' (RIN0648–BN98) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on April 2, 2026; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC–3269. A communication from the Manager of Legal Litigation and Support, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Airworthiness Directives; The Boeing Company Airplanes; Amendment 39–23288'' ((RIN2120–AA64) (Docket No. FAA–2025–0348)) received during the adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on April 8, 2026; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC–3270. A communication from the Branch Chief, Office of Sustainable Fisheries, Department of Commerce, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Coastal Migratory Pelagic Resources of the Gulf and Atlantic Region; Re-Opening of Commercial Harvest for Atlantic Spanish Mackerel in the Northern Zone'' (RIN0648–XF240) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on April 8, 2026; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC–3271. A communication from the Federal Register Liaison, Alcohol and Tobacco Tax and Trade Bureau, Department of the Treasury, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Establishment of the Tryon Foothills Viticultural Area'' (RIN1513–AD04) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on March 31, 2026; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC–3272. A communication from the Acting Branch Manager, Branch of Coastal and Marine Resources, Fish and Wildlife Service, Department of the Interior, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Marine Mammals; Incidental Take of Northern Sea Otters During Specified Activities; Seward, Sitka, and Kodiak, Alaska'' (RIN1018–BI08) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on April 06, 2026; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC–3273. A communication from the Assistant Division Chief, Competition Policy Division, Federal Communications Commission, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Reducing Barriers to Network Improvements and Service Changes; Accelerating Network Modernization'' ((RIN3060–AK32) (WC Docket Nos. 25–208, 25–209)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on April 6, 2026; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC–3274. A communication from the Manager of Legal Litigation and Support, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Airworthiness Directives; Leonardo S.p.a. Helicopters; Amendment 39–23289'' ((RIN2120–AA64) (Docket No. FAA–2026–2711)) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on April 8, 2026; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC–3275. A communication from the Manager of Legal Litigation and Support, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Airworthiness Directives; Airbus Helicopters; Amendment 39–23286'' ((RIN2120–AA64) (Docket No. FAA–2025–5033)) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on April 8, 2026; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC–3276. A communication from the Manager of Legal Litigation and Support, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Standard Instrument Approach Procedures, and Takeoff Minimums and Obstacle Departure Procedures; Miscellaneous Amendments; Amendment No. 4209'' ((RIN2120–AA65) (Docket No. 31654)) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on April 8, 2026; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC–3277. A communication from the Manager of Legal Litigation and Support, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Airworthiness Directives; Extra Aerobatic Aircraft GmbH Airplanes; Amendment 39–23272'' ((RIN2120–AA64) (Docket No. FAA–2025–5386)) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on April 8, 2026; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC–3278. A communication from the Manager of Legal Litigation and Support, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Amendment of Class E Airspace; Paxton, Illinois'' ((RIN2120–AA66) (Docket No. FAA–2024–1122)) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on April 8, 2026; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC–3279. A communication from the Manager of Legal Litigation and Support, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Establishment of Class E Airspace; Birch Creek Airport, Alaska'' ((RIN2120–AA66) (Docket No. FAA–2025–5140)) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on April 8, 2026; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC–3280. A communication from the Manager of Legal Litigation and Support, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Renaming of Restricted Areas R–2103A, R–2103B, and R–2103C; Fort Novosel, Alaska'' ((RIN2120–AA66) (Docket No. FAA–2026–2473)) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on April 8, 2026; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC–3281. A communication from the Manager of Legal Litigation and Support, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Renaming of Restricted Areas R–3002A, R–3002B, R–3002C, R–3002D, R–3002E, R–3002F, and R–3002G; Fort Moore, Georgia'' ((RIN2120–AA66) (Docket No. FAA–2026–2470)) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on April 8, 2026; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC–3282. A communication from the Manager of Legal Litigation and Support, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Amendment of Restricted Area R–5201; Fort Drum, New York'' ((RIN2120–AA66) (Docket No. FAA–2025–2645)) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on April 8, 2026; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC–3283. A communication from the Manager of Legal Litigation and Support, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Airworthiness Directives; Diamond Aircraft Industries Inc. Airplanes; Amendment 39–23291'' ((RIN2120–AA64) (Docket No. FAA–2025–5397)) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on April 8, 2026; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC–3284. A communication from the Manager of Legal Litigation and Support, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Revocation of the Domestic Low Altitude Reporting Point, Farmington Very High Frequency Omnidirectional Range/Tactical Air Navigation (VORTAC) and the Establishment of the Domestic Low Altitude Reporting Point, Rattlesnake VORTAC in New Mexico'' ((RIN2120–AA66) (Docket No. FAA–2026–2738)) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on April 8, 2026; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC–3285. A communication from the Manager of Legal Litigation and Support, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Airworthiness Directives; Bell Textron Canada Limited Helicopters; Amendment 39–23306'' ((RIN2120–AA64) (Docket No. FAA–2026–3472)) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on April 8, 2026; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC–3286. A communication from the Manager of Legal Litigation and Support, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Revocation of Class E Airspace; Zuni, New Mexico'' ((RIN2120–AA66) (Docket No. FAA–2026–0628)) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on April 8, 2026; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC–3287. A communication from the Manager of Legal Litigation and Support, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Airworthiness Directives; Airbus Canada Limited Partnership (Type Certificate Previously Held by C Series Aircraft Limited (CSALP); Bombardier, Inc.); Amendment 39–23302'' ((RIN2120–AA64) (Docket No. FAA–2026–3470)) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on April 8, 2026; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC–3288. A communication from the Manager of Legal Litigation and Support, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Amendment of Class D Airspace and Establishment of Class E Airspace; Fort Worth, Texas'' ((RIN2120–AA66) (Docket No. FAA–2025–3718))

received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on April 8, 2026; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC–3289. A communication from the Manager of Legal Litigation and Support, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Airworthiness Directives; Bell Textron Canada Limited Helicopters; Amendment 39–23290'' ((RIN2120–AA64) (Docket No. FAA–2025–5030)) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on April 8, 2026; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC–3290. A communication from the Manager of Legal Litigation and Support, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Airworthiness Directives; Baykar Piaggio Aerospace S.p.A. (Type Certificate Previously Held by Piaggio Aviation S.p.A.) Airplanes; Amendment 39–23283'' ((RIN2120–AA64) (Docket No. FAA–2025–5027)) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on April 8, 2026; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC–3291. A communication from the Manager of Legal Litigation and Support, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Modification of Class E Airspace; Denver International Airport, Denver, Colorado'' ((RIN2120–AA66) (Docket No. FAA–2025–5384)) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on April 8, 2026; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC–3292. A communication from the Manager of Legal Litigation and Support, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Airworthiness Directives; Airbus Helicopters; Amendment 39–23279'' ((RIN2120–AA64) (Docket No. FAA–2025–5043)) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on April 8, 2026; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC–3293. A communication from the Manager of Legal Litigation and Support, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Airworthiness Directives; Airbus Helicopters Deutschland GmbH; Amendment 39–23292'' ((RIN2120–AA64) (Docket No. FAA–2025–5040)) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on April 8, 2026; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC–3294. A communication from the Manager of Legal Litigation and Support, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Amendment of Class D Airspace; Morristown, New Jersey'' ((RIN2120–AA66) (Docket No. FAA–2026–3020)) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on April 8, 2026; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC–3295. A communication from the Manager of Legal Litigation and Support, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Amendment of Class D and Class E4 Airspace; Caldwell, New Jersey'' ((RIN2120–AA66) (Docket No. FAA–2026–2808)) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on April 8, 2026; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC–3296. A communication from the Manager of Legal Litigation and Support, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Airworthiness Directives; Airbus Canada Limited Partnership (Type Certificate Previously Held by C Series Aircraft Limited Partnership (CSALP); Bombardier, Inc.) Airplanes'' ((RIN2120–AA64) (Docket No. FAA–2025–2559)) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on April 8, 2026; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC–3297. A communication from the Manager of Legal Litigation and Support, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Amendment of Class D Airspace; Teterboro, New Jersey'' ((RIN2120–AA66) (Docket No. FAA–2026–3207)) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on April 8, 2026; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC–3298. A communication from the Manager of Legal Litigation and Support, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Airworthiness Directives; Airbus Helicopters Deutschland GmbH (AHD) Helicopters; Amendment 39–23277'' ((RIN2120–AA64) (Docket No. FAA–2025–5393)) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on April 8, 2026; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC–3299. A communication from the Manager of Legal Litigation and Support, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Airworthiness Directives; Airbus Helicopters; Amendment 39–23284'' ((RIN2120–AA64) (Docket No. FAA–2025–5389)) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on April 8, 2026; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC–3300. A communication from the Associate Bureau Chief, Wireline Competition Bureau, Federal Communications Commission, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Protecting Our Communications Networks by Promoting Transparency Regarding Foreign Adversary Control'' ((RIN3060–AM37) (FCC 26–2)) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on April 8, 2026; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC–3301. A communication from the Assistant General Counsel, Office of General Counsel, Federal Communications Commission, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Modernizing Suspension and Debarment Rules'' ((RIN3060–AM09) (FCC 26–18)) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on April 8, 2026; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC–3302. A communication from the Fishery Management Specialist, Office of Sustainable Fisheries, Department of Commerce, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Fisheries of the Exclusive Economic Zone Off Alaska; Pacific Ocean Perch in the West Yakutat District of the Gulf of Alaska'' (RTID 0648–XF003) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on April 8, 2026; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC–3303. A communication from the Fishery Management Specialist, Office of Sustainable Fisheries, Department of Commerce, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Fisheries of the Exclusive Economic Zone Off Alaska; Inseason Adjustment to the 2026 Gulf of Alaska Pacific Cod Total Allowable Catch Amounts'' (RTID0648–XF395) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on April 8, 2026; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC–3304. A communication from the Fishery Management Specialist, Office of Sustainable Fisheries, Department of Commerce, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Atlantic Highly Migratory Species; Atlantic Bluefin Tuna Fisheries; Closure of the Angling Category Southern Area Trophy Fishery for 2026'' (RTID0648–XF429) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on April 8, 2026; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC–3305. A communication from the Fishery Management Specialist, Office of Sustainable Fisheries, Department of Commerce, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Fisheries of the Northeast United States; Summer Flounder Fishery; Quota Transfer from North Carolina to Virginia'' (RTID0648–XE975) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on April 8, 2026; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC–3306. A communication from the Fishery Management Specialist, Office of Sustainable Fisheries, Department of Commerce, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Fisheries of the Exclusive Economic Zone Off Alaska; Pacific Cod by Vessels Using Pot Gear in the Central Regulatory Area of the Gulf of Alaska'' (RTID0648–XF433) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on April 8, 2026; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC–3307. A communication from the Fishery Management Specialist, Office of Sustainable Fisheries, Department of Commerce, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Atlantic Highly Migratory Species; Adjustments to the 2025 North Atlantic Albacore Tuna, North and South Atlantic Swordfish, and Atlantic Bluefin Tuna Category Quotas'' (RTID0648–XF352) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on April 8, 2026; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC–3308. A communication from the Fishery Management Specialist, Office of Sustainable Fisheries, Department of Commerce, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Fisheries Off West Coast States; Modification of the West Coast Salmon Fisheries; Inseason Actions #1–#5'' (RTID0648–XE941) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on April 8, 2026; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC–3309. A communication from the Fishery Management Specialist, Office of Sustainable Fisheries, Department of Commerce, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Atlantic Highly Migratory Species; Atlantic Bluefin Tuna Fisheries; Closure of the General Category December Fishery for 2025'' (RTID0648–XF331) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on April 8, 2026; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC–3310. A communication from the Fishery Management Specialist, Office of Sustainable Fisheries, Department of Commerce, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Fisheries of the

Northeastern United States; Atlantic Herring Fishery; Adjustment to the 2025 Specifications'' (RTID0648–XF232) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on April 8, 2026; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC–3311. A communication from the Fishery Management Specialist, Office of Sustainable Fisheries, Department of Commerce, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Fisheries of the Northeastern United States; Atlantic Herring Fishery; Second 2025 Management Area 1A Possession Limit Adjustment'' (RTID0648–XF343) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on April 8, 2026; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC–3312. A communication from the Fishery Management Specialist, Office of Sustainable Fisheries, Department of Commerce, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Snapper-Grouper Fishery of the South Atlantic; Amendment 59'' (RIN0648–BN31) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on April 8, 2026; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC–3313. A communication from the Fishery Management Specialist, Office of Sustainable Fisheries, Department of Commerce, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Fisheries of the Caribbean, Gulf of America, and South Atlantic; Fishery Management Plans of Puerto Rico, St. Croix, and St. Thomas and St. John; Amendment 2'' (RIN0648–BM94) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on April 8, 2026; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC–3314. A communication from the Fishery Management Specialist, Office of Sustainable Fisheries, Department of Commerce, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Fisheries of the Exclusive Economic Zone Off Alaska; Pacific Ocean Perch in the Western Regulatory Area of the Gulf of Alaska'' (RTID0648–XF004) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on April 8, 2026; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC–3315. A communication from the Fishery Management Specialist, Office of Sustainable Fisheries, Department of Commerce, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Fisheries of the Northeastern United States; Summer Flounder Fishery; Quota Transfer From North Carolina to New York'' (RTID0648–XF177) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on April 8, 2026; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC–3316. A communication from the Fishery Management Specialist, Office of Sustainable Fisheries, Department of Commerce, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Atlantic Highly Migratory Species; Atlantic Bluefin Tuna Fisheries; Closure of the Angling Category Gulf of Maine Area Trophy Fishery for 2025'' (RTID0648–XF046) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on April 8, 2026; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC–3317. A communication from the Fishery Management Specialist, Office of Sustainable Fisheries, Department of Commerce, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Pacific Halibut Fisheries of the West Coast; 2025 Catch Sharing Plan; Inseason Action'' (RTID0648–XF034) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on April 8, 2026; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EXECUTIVE REPORTS OF COMMITTEE

The following executive reports of nominations were submitted:

By Mr. SCOTT, of South Carolina, for the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

*Kevin Warsh, of Florida, to be Chairman of the Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System for a term of four years.

*Kevin Warsh, of Florida, to be a Member of the Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System for a term of fourteen years from February 1, 2026.

*Nomination was reported with recommendation that it be confirmed subject to the nominee's commitment to respond to requests to appear and testify before any duly constituted committee of the Senate.

INTRODUCTION OF BILLS AND JOINT RESOLUTIONS

The following bills and joint resolutions were introduced, read the first and second times by unanimous consent, and referred as indicated:

By Mr. MARSHALL (for himself and Mr. LEE):

S. 4426. A bill to prohibit gender transition procedures on minors, to authorize the Secretary of Health and Human Services to impose civil penalties on persons who perform gender transition procedures on minors, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Mr. CASSIDY (for himself, Mr. RISCH, Mr. TUBERVILLE, Mr. CRAPO, Mr. BUDD, Mr. DAINES, Mr. SHEEHY, Mr. CORNYN, and Mr. TILLIS):

S. 4427. A bill to prohibit the Secretary of Labor from finalizing, implementing, or enforcing a proposed standard with respect to heat injury and illness prevention, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Mrs. MOODY (for herself, Ms. HASSAN, and Mr. TUBERVILLE):

S. 4428. A bill to amend the Higher Education Act of 1965 to require the use of an identity fraud detection system in reviewing Free Applications for Federal Student Aid; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Mr. MORENO (for himself and Ms. SLOTKIN):

S. 4429. A bill to prohibit the importation, manufacture, sale, resale, or introduction into interstate commerce in the United States of connected vehicles and related software and hardware associated with foreign adversaries; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

By Mr. GRAHAM (for himself, Mrs. BRITT, and Mr. SCHMITT):

S. 4430. A bill to authorize the East Wing Modernization Project, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. BARRASSO (for himself, Mr. BUDD, Ms. LUMMIS, and Mr. CURTIS):

S. 4431. A bill to amend the Higher Education Act of 1965 to provide for comprehensive student achievement information; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Mr. SCOTT of Florida (for himself and Mr. MERKLEY):

S. 4432. A bill to require a determination regarding atrocities in Tibet, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

By Mr. BENNET (for himself and Mr. HICKENLOOPER):

S. 4433. A bill to provide for a procedure for Congress to carry out a reversal of a decision by the President not to declare a major disaster requested by the Governor of a State under the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

By Mr. BOOKER (for himself, Ms. WARREN, Mr. HEINRICH, Mr. MURPHY, and Ms. HIRONO):

S. 4434. A bill to amend the Clayton Act to provide for the divestiture of certain transactions, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. CASSIDY (for himself and Mr. GRASSLEY):

S. 4435. A bill to establish requirements for financial aid offers made by institutions of higher education, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Mrs. SHAHEEN (for herself, Ms. ROSEN, Mr. SCHUMER, Mrs. MURRAY, Mr. VAN HOLLEN, Mr. COONS, Mr. KAINE, Ms. BALDWIN, Mr. HICKENLOOPER, Ms. DUCKWORTH, Mr. BOOKER, Mrs. GILLIBRAND, Mr. MERKLEY, Mr. KIM, Ms. ALSOBROOKS, Mr. KING, Mr. BENNET, Mr. SCHATZ, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, Mr. KELLY, Ms. CORTEZ MASTO, Mr. LUJÁN, and Mr. WYDEN):

S. 4436. A bill to nullify certain rules related to foreign assistance; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

By Mr. DURBIN (for himself, Mr. SCHIFF, Mrs. GILLIBRAND, Ms. ALSOBROOKS, Mr. MERKLEY, Mr. BOOKER, Ms. SMITH, Mr. VAN HOLLEN, Ms. DUCKWORTH, Mr. HICKENLOOPER, Mr. SANDERS, Mr. WARNER, Mr. COONS, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, Mr. WYDEN, and Ms. ROSEN):

S. 4437. A bill to amend the Animal Welfare Act to establish additional requirements for dealers, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

By Mr. DURBIN (for himself, Mr. PADILLA, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, Mr. MARKEY, Ms. KLOBUCHAR, and Ms. DUCKWORTH):

S. 4438. A bill to direct the Federal Communications Commission to establish a program to make grants available to States to inform individuals of potential eligibility for the Lifeline program of the Commission, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

By Ms. BALDWIN:

S. 4439. A bill to require the Under Secretary of Commerce for Oceans and Atmosphere to identify a consistent, Federal set of best available forward-looking meteorological information and to require the Director of the National Institute of Standards and Technology to convene an effort to make such set available, with advice and technical assistance, to standards-developing organizations, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

By Mr. SCOTT of South Carolina (for himself and Mr. WARNER):

S. 4440. A bill to modernize clinical trials and remove barriers for participation in clinical trials, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. YOUNG (for himself, Mr. HEINRICH, Mr. ROUNDS, and Mr. BOOKER):

S. 4441. A bill to establish the National Artificial Intelligence Research Resource, and

for other purposes; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

By Mr. CASSIDY (for himself and Mr. WARNOCK):

S. 4442. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to allow for limited full expensing of certain reforestation expenditures; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. BOOKER (for himself and Mr. MCCORMICK):

S. 4443. A bill to increase cooperation with countries in the Eastern Mediterranean region in order to strengthen energy security and defense capabilities, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

By Mr. PAUL:

S.J. Res. 189. A joint resolution proposing an amendment to the Constitution of the United States to protect United States citizenship; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

SUBMISSION OF CONCURRENT AND SENATE RESOLUTIONS

The following concurrent resolutions and Senate resolutions were read, and referred (or acted upon), as indicated:

By Ms. BALDWIN:

S. Res. 698. A resolution recognizing April 29, 2026, as ''Denim Day'' and honoring survivors of sexual assault; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. PADILLA:

S. Res. 699. A resolution expressing support for the recognition of April as ''National Language Access Month''; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

By Mr. MARKEY (for himself, Ms. KLOBUCHAR, Mr. DURBIN, Ms. DUCKWORTH, Mr. PADILLA, Ms. SMITH, Mr. BOOKER, Ms. HIRONO, Ms. WARREN, and Mr. WELCH):

S. Res. 700. A resolution expressing support for the designation of April 1, 2026, through April 30, 2026, as ''Fair Chance Jobs Month''; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Ms. CORTEZ MASTO (for herself, Mr. CURTIS, Ms. ROSEN, and Mr. KELLY):

S. Res. 701. A resolution designating the week of April 20 through 26, 2026, as ''National Dark Sky Week''; considered and agreed to.

By Mr. COONS (for himself, Mrs. CAPITO, Mr. DAINES, and Mr. PETERS):

S. Res. 702. A resolution commending the American Chemical Society on the occasion of its 150th anniversary and recognizing its many years of service to the United States; considered and agreed to.

By Ms. ERNST (for herself, Mr. MARKEY, Mr. TUBERVILLE, Ms. ALSOBROOKS, Mr. JUSTICE, Mr. LUJÁN, Mr. COTTON, Mr. FETTERMAN, Mr. GRASSLEY, Ms. HIRONO, Mr. LANKFORD, Mr. WHITEHOUSE, Mr. MARSHALL, Mr. REED, Ms. LUMMIS, Ms. WARREN, Ms. COLLINS, Mr. PADILLA, Mr. DAINES, Ms. DUCKWORTH, Mrs. BLACKBURN, Ms. SMITH, Mrs. BRITT, Mr. SCHUMER, Mr. BUDD, Mr. KING, Mrs. FISCHER, Mr. COONS, Mr. KENNEDY, Mr. WARNER, Mrs. CAPITO, Ms. ROSEN, Mrs. HYDE-SMITH, Mr. HICKENLOOPER, Mr. YOUNG, Mr. BOOKER, Mr. SHEEHY, Mr. WARNOCK, Mr. BARRASSO, Ms. KLOBUCHAR, Mr. CRUZ, Ms. BLUNT ROCHESTER, Mr. ROUNDS, Mr. MURPHY, Mr. CRAPO, Ms. SLOTKIN, Mr. CRAMER, Mr. GALLEGO, Mr. SCOTT of South Carolina, Mr. DURBIN, Mr. RISCH, Mr. VAN HOLLEN, Mr. CASSIDY, Ms. BALDWIN, Mr. WICKER, Mrs. GILLIBRAND, Mr. HOEVEN, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, Mr. GRAHAM, Mr. BENNET, Mr. MCCONNELL, Mr. SCHATZ, Mr. ARMSTRONG, Ms. HASSAN, Mr. BANKS, Mr. KAINE, Mr. HUSTED, Ms. CANTWELL, Mr. CURTIS, Mr. HEINRICH, Mr. SCOTT of Florida, Mr. KELLY, Mr. TILLIS, Mr. PETERS, Mrs. SHAHEEN, Mr. WELCH, Ms. CORTEZ MASTO, Mr. SCHIFF, Mr. KIM, Mr. BOOZMAN, Mr. RICKETTS, Mrs. MOODY, Mr. HAWLEY, Mr. WYDEN, Mr. MCCORMICK, Mrs. MURRAY, Mr. OSSOFF, Mr. SANDERS, and Mr. MERKLEY):

S. Res. 703. A resolution expressing support for the designation of the week of May 3, 2026, through May 9, 2026, as ''National Small Business Week'' to celebrate the contributions of small businesses and entrepreneurs in every community in the United States; considered and agreed to.

By Mr. GRASSLEY (for himself and Mrs. SHAHEEN):

S. Res. 704. A resolution supporting the mission and goals of National Fentanyl Awareness Day in 2026, including increasing individual and public awareness of the impact of fake or counterfeit fentanyl pills on families and young people; considered and agreed to.

By Mr. TILLIS (for himself, Mrs. GILLIBRAND, Mr. BOOZMAN, and Mr. COONS):

S. Res. 705. A resolution commending the ''Donut Dollies'' for their patriotic service and steadfast support of United States servicemembers in combat and honoring their extraordinary contributions to the morale and well-being of United States servicemembers during wartime; considered and agreed to.

By Mr. CORNYN (for himself, Ms. BLUNT ROCHESTER, Mrs. BLACKBURN, Mr. HICKENLOOPER, Mrs. CAPITO, Mr. LUJÁN, and Ms. HASSAN):

S. Res. 706. A resolution expressing support for the designation of April 2026 as ''National Child Abuse Prevention Month'', and the goals and ideals of National Child Abuse Prevention Month; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

ADDITIONAL COSPONSORS

S. 463

At the request of Mrs. GILLIBRAND, the name of the Senator from California (Mr. PADILLA) was added as a cosponsor of S. 463, a bill to facilitate the implementation of security measures undertaken by the United States Postal Service, and for other purposes.

S. 743

At the request of Mr. CASSIDY, the name of the Senator from Pennsylvania (Mr. MCCORMICK) was added as a cosponsor of S. 743, a bill to require the establishment of a joint task force to identify and eliminate barriers to agriculture exports of the United States.

S. 906

At the request of Mr. HICKENLOOPER, the name of the Senator from New Hampshire (Mrs. SHAHEEN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 906, a bill to require the Secretary of Health and Human Services to carry out a pilot program to support evidence-based mental health peer support activities for students.

S. 1384

At the request of Mr. BANKS, the name of the Senator from Pennsylvania (Mr. MCCORMICK) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1384, a bill to require States to report information on Medicaid payments to abortion providers.

S. 1485

At the request of Mr. HOEVEN, the name of the Senator from Pennsylvania (Mr. MCCORMICK) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1485, a bill to establish a more uniform, transparent, and modern process to authorize the construction, connection, operation, and maintenance of international border-crossing facilities for the import and export of oil and natural gas and the transmission of electricity.

S. 1500

At the request of Mrs. SHAHEEN, the name of the Senator from Pennsylvania (Mr. FETTERMAN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1500, a bill to amend title XXVII of the Public Health Service Act to prohibit group health plans and health insurance issuers offering group or individual health insurance coverage from imposing cost-sharing requirements with respect to diagnostic and supplemental breast examinations.

S. 1547

At the request of Mr. DAINES, the names of the Senator from Texas (Mr. CORNYN) and the Senator from Pennsylvania (Mr. FETTERMAN) were added as cosponsors of S. 1547, a bill to amend title 54, United States Code, to reauthorize the National Parks and Public Land Legacy Restoration Fund, and for other purposes.

S. 1763

At the request of Mr. YOUNG, the names of the Senator from Alabama (Mrs. BRITT) and the Senator from Alabama (Mr. TUBERVILLE) were added as cosponsors of S. 1763, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to make permanent the 7-year recovery period for motorsports entertainment complexes.

S. 2012

At the request of Ms. COLLINS, the name of the Senator from New Hampshire (Mrs. SHAHEEN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2012, a bill to reauthorize the Runaway and Homeless Youth Act, and for other purposes.

S. 2040

At the request of Ms. SLOTKIN, the name of the Senator from Ohio (Mr. MORENO) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2040, a bill to establish the Office of Information and Communications Technology and Services within the Bureau of Industry and Security of the Department of Commerce, and for other purposes.

S. 2221

At the request of Mr. MERKLEY, the names of the Senator from Maine (Mr. KING) and the Senator from Mississippi (Mr. WICKER) were added as cosponsors of S. 2221, a bill to establish requirements under which the Secretary of Agriculture and the Secretary of the Interior shall carry out the Timber Production Expansion Guaranteed Loan Program.

S. 2745

At the request of Ms. SLOTKIN, the name of the Senator from New Hampshire (Mrs. SHAHEEN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2745, a bill to require the Secretary of Defense to provide to firefighters of the Department of Defense medical testing and related services to detect and prevent certain cancers.

S. 2808

At the request of Mr. GRASSLEY, the names of the Senator from North Carolina (Mr. BUDD) and the Senator from Minnesota (Ms. KLOBUCHAR) were added as cosponsors of S. 2808, a bill to require the Secretary of Agriculture to publish a report on the fertilizer industry, and for other purposes.

S. 2857

At the request of Mr. WYDEN, the name of the Senator from Oregon (Mr. MERKLEY) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2857, a bill to require coverage of certain immunizations recommended by the Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices under the Medicare program, the Medicaid program, the Children's Health Insurance Program, group health plans, and health insurance coverage.

S. 3145

At the request of Ms. COLLINS, the names of the Senator from Delaware (Mr. COONS) and the Senator from Mississippi (Mrs. HYDE-SMITH) were added as cosponsors of S. 3145, a bill to amend title XI of the Social Security Act to require the Center for Medicare and Medicaid Innovation to test a comprehensive alternative response for emergencies model under the Medicare program.

S. 3168

At the request of Mr. JOHNSON, the name of the Senator from Wyoming (Ms. LUMMIS) was added as a cosponsor of S. 3168, a bill to appropriate funds for pay and allowances of Federal employees, contract employees, and members of the Armed Forces during a lapse in appropriations, and for other purposes.

S. 3238

At the request of Mr. LANKFORD, the name of the Senator from Pennsylvania (Mr. MCCORMICK) was added as a cosponsor of S. 3238, a bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to prohibit approved medical residency training programs under the Medicare program from requiring opt-out abortion training.

S. 3395

At the request of Mr. BLUMENTHAL, the name of the Senator from New Mexico (Mr. HEINRICH) was added as a cosponsor of S. 3395, a bill to expand the telescreening mammography pilot program of the Department of Veterans Affairs, and for other purposes.

S. 3892

At the request of Mr. LUJÁN, the names of the Senator from Massachusetts (Ms. WARREN), the Senator from Georgia (Mr. OSSOFF) and the Senator from Colorado (Mr. BENNET) were added as cosponsors of S. 3892, a bill to prohibit retail food stores from price gouging and engaging in surveillance-based price setting practices, and for other purposes.

S. 3990

At the request of Ms. SMITH, the name of the Senator from Colorado (Mr. BENNET) was added as a cosponsor of S. 3990, a bill to increase access to pre-exposure prophylaxis to reduce the transmission of HIV.

S. 3999

At the request of Mrs. BLACKBURN, the name of the Senator from New Mexico (Mr. HEINRICH) was added as a cosponsor of S. 3999, a bill to require the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to ensure that women veterans may schedule appointments for women's specialty care under the laws administered by the Secretary without requiring a referral, and for other purposes.

S. 4269

At the request of Mr. BLUMENTHAL, the name of the Senator from Maine (Mr. KING) was added as a cosponsor of S. 4269, a bill to repeal certain student loan provisions, and for other purposes.

S. 4421

At the request of Mr. GALLEGO, the name of the Senator from Texas (Mr. CRUZ) was added as a cosponsor of S. 4421, a bill to amend the Countering America's Adversaries Through Sanctions Act to expand review by Congress of actions relating to sanctions imposed with respect to the Russian Federation.

S.J. RES. 182

At the request of Mr. KAINE, the names of the Senator from Connecticut (Mr. MURPHY) and the Senator from Hawaii (Ms. HIRONO) were added as cosponsors of S.J. Res. 182, a joint resolution providing for congressional disapproval under chapter 8 of title 5, United States Code, of the rule submitted by the Department of Education relating to ''William D. Ford Federal Direct Loan (Direct Loan) Program'' .

S. RES. 599

At the request of Mrs. SHAHEEN, the names of the Senator from New York (Mrs. GILLIBRAND) and the Senator from Delaware (Ms. BLUNT ROCHESTER) were added as cosponsors of S. Res. 599, a resolution expressing the sense of the Senate that protecting and advancing the rights of women and girls in the Republic of Haiti is critical to the success of Haiti's transition from crisis and its future stability, condemning the failure to center women's leadership and distinct needs to date, and calling for urgent measures to secure all human rights of women and girls in Haiti.

STATEMENTS ON INTRODUCED BILLS AND JOINT RESOLUTIONS

By Mr. BARRASSO (for himself, Mr. BUDD, Ms. LUMMIS, and Mr. CURTIS):

S. 4431. A bill to amend the Higher Education Act of 1965 to provide for comprehensive student achievement information; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

Mr. BARRASSO. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the text of the bill be printed in the RECORD.

There being no objection, the text of the bill was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

S. 4431

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the ''Time for Completion Act''.

SEC. 2. CONSUMER INFORMATION ABOUT COMPLETION OR GRADUATION TIMES.

(a) TRANSPARENCY IN COLLEGE TUITION FOR CONSUMERS.—Subparagraph (J) of section 132(i)(1) of the Higher Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 1015a(i)(1)(J)) is amended to read as follows:

''(J)(i) For programs of study 4 years of length or longer—

''(I) the percentages of first-time, full-time, degree- or certificate-seeking undergraduate students enrolled at the institution who obtain a degree or certificate within each of the times for completion or graduation described in subclauses (I) through (III) of clause (iii);

''(II) the percentages of first-time, part-time, degree- or certificate-seeking undergraduate students enrolled at the institution who obtain a degree or certificate within each of the times for completion or graduation described in subclauses (I) through (III) of clause (iii);

''(III) the percentages of non-first time, full-time, degree- or certificate-seeking undergraduate students enrolled at the institution who obtain a degree or certificate within each of the times for completion or graduation described in subclauses (I) through (III) of clause (iii); and

''(IV) the percentages of non-first-time, part-time, degree- or certificate-seeking undergraduate students enrolled at the institution who obtain a degree or certificate within each of the times for completion or graduation described in subclauses (I) through (III) of clause (iii).

''(ii) For programs of study less than 4 years—

''(I) the percentages of first-time, full-time, degree- or certificate-seeking undergraduate students enrolled at the institution who obtain a degree or certificate within each of the times for completion or graduation described in subclauses (I) through (IV) of clause (iii);

''(II) the percentages of first-time, part-time, degree- or certificate-seeking undergraduate students enrolled at the institution who obtain a degree or certificate within each of the times for completion or graduation described in subclauses (I) through (IV) of clause (iii);

''(III) the percentages of non-first-time, full-time, degree- or certificate-seeking undergraduate students enrolled at the institution who obtain a degree or certificate within each of the times for completion or graduation described in subclauses (I) through (IV) of clause (iii); and

''(IV) the percentages of non-first-time, part-time, degree- or certificate-seeking undergraduate students enrolled at the institution who obtain a degree or certificate within each of the times for completion or graduation described in subclauses (I) through (IV) of clause (iii).

''(iii) For purposes of this subparagraph, the times for completion or graduation are as follows:

''(I) The normal time for completion of, or graduation from, the student's program.

''(II) 150 percent of the normal time for completion of, or graduation from, the student's program.

''(III) 200 percent of the normal time for completion of, or graduation from, the student's program.

''(IV) 300 percent of the normal time for completion of, or graduation from, the student's program.

''(iv) In making publicly available the percentages described in this subparagraph, the Secretary shall display each percentage in a consistent manner and with equal visibility.''.

(b) INSTITUTIONAL AND FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE INFORMATION FOR STUDENTS.—Section 485(a) of the Higher Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 1092(a)) is amended—

(1) in paragraph (1), by striking subparagraph (L) and inserting the following:

''(L) each completion or graduation rate for each type of student and program described in clauses (i) and (ii) of section 132(i)(1)(J);''; and

(2) in the matter preceding subparagraph (A) of paragraph (3), by striking ''within 150 percent of the normal time for completion of or graduation from the program'' and inserting ''within the time for completion or graduation described in section 132(i)(1)(J) applicable to such student and such program''.

By Mr. DURBIN (for himself, Mr. SCHIFF, Mrs. GILLIBRAND, Ms. ALSOBROOKS, Mr. MERKLEY, Mr. BOOKER, Ms. SMITH, Mr. VAN HOLLEN, Ms. DUCKWORTH, Mr. HICKENLOOPER, Mr. SANDERS, Mr. WARNER, Mr. COONS, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, Mr. WYDEN, and Ms. ROSEN):

S. 4437. A bill to amend the Animal Welfare Act to establish additional requirements for dealers, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

Mr. DURBIN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the text of the bill be printed in the RECORD.

There being no objection, the text of the bill was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

S. 4437

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the ''Puppy Protection Act of 2026''.

SEC. 2. ADDITIONAL REQUIREMENTS FOR DEALERS.

(a) HUMANE TREATMENT OF DOGS BY DEALERS.—Section 13(a) of the Animal Welfare Act (7 U.S.C. 2143(a)) is amended by adding at the end the following:

''(9) In addition to the requirements under paragraph (2), the standards described in paragraph (1) shall, with respect to dealers, include requirements—

''(A) that the dealer provide adequate housing for dogs that includes—

''(i) completely solid flooring;

''(ii) indoor space sufficient to allow the tallest dog in an enclosure to stand on his or her hind legs without touching the roof of the enclosure;

''(iii) with respect to dogs over 8 weeks in age, primary enclosures that, with the length of the dog measured from the tip of the nose to the base of the tail, provide at least—

''(I) 12 square feet of indoor floor space per each dog measuring not more than 25 inches long;

''(II) 20 square feet of indoor floor space per each dog measuring more than 25 but less than 35 inches long; and

''(III) 30 square feet of indoor floor space per each dog measuring not less than 35 inches long;

''(iv) enclosures that are not stacked or otherwise placed on top of or below another enclosure; and

''(v) temperature control that—

''(I) is appropriate for the age, breed, and condition of each dog in the enclosure; and

''(II) is between 45 and 85 degrees Fahrenheit, when dogs are present in the enclosure;

''(B) that appropriate and nutritious food be provided to each dog at least twice per day, in an amount sufficient to maintain the good health and physical condition of each dog;

''(C) that each dog has continuous access to potable water that is not frozen and is free of feces, algae, and other contaminants;

''(D) that each dog has adequate exercise, including, for each dog over the age of 12 weeks—

''(i) except as provided in clause (ii), unrestricted access from the primary enclosure of the dog during daylight hours to an outdoor exercise area that—

''(I) is at ground-level;

''(II) is a solid surface;

''(III) is enclosed by a fence or other structure;

''(IV) is properly controlled for the safety of the dog; and

''(V) allows the dog to extend to full stride, play, and engage in other types of mentally stimulating and social behaviors; or

''(ii) if the dealer obtains a certification from the attending veterinarian stating that a dog should not have unrestricted access to an outdoor exercise area for a specific medical reason, an alternative exercise plan prescribed by the veterinarian for the dog that meets the applicable requirements under section 3.8 of title 9, Code of Federal Regulations (or successor regulations);

''(E) that each dog has meaningful socialization with humans and compatible dogs for at least 30 minutes each day that—

''(i) includes positive interaction with a human such as petting, stroking, grooming, feeding, playing with, exercising, or other touching of the dog that is beneficial to the well-being of the dog; and

''(ii) does not include time spent in veterinary care;

''(F) that each dog receives adequate veterinary care, including—

''(i) prompt treatment of any disease, illness, or injury by a licensed veterinarian;

''(ii) a thorough, hands-on examination by a licensed veterinarian at least once each year, which shall include a dental exam;

''(iii) core vaccinations recommended by the latest version of the American Animal Hospital Association Canine Vaccination Guidelines; and

''(iv) medications to prevent intestinal parasites, heartworm disease, fleas, and ticks that are approved by a licensed veterinarian for canine use;

''(G) with respect to safe breeding practices for dogs, including—

''(i) a screening program for known prevalent inheritable diseases that may be disabling or likely to significantly affect the lifespan or quality of life of the mother or the offspring;

''(ii) prohibiting breeding, unless each dog bred—

''(I) has been screened by a licensed veterinarian prior to each attempt to breed; and

''(II) is found in the screening under subclause (I) to be free from health conditions that may be disabling to, or likely to significantly affect the lifespan or quality of life of, the mother or the offspring;

''(iii) prohibiting the breeding of a female dog to produce—

''(I) more than 2 litters in any 18-month period; or

''(II) more than 6 litters during the lifetime of the dog;

''(iv) that a female dog of any small breed (having a maximum weight range at maturity that is less than 40 pounds) not be bred—

''(I) before reaching the age of 18 months; or

''(II) after reaching the age of 9 years;

''(v) that a female dog of any large breed (having an expected weight range at maturity that includes 40 or more pounds) not be bred—

''(I) before reaching the age of 2 years; or

''(II) after reaching the age of 7 years; and

''(vi) that any canine caesarian section be performed by a licensed veterinarian;

''(H) that dogs be housed with other dogs, unless health or behavioral issues make group housing unsafe; and

''(I) to make all reasonable efforts to find humane placement for retired breeding dogs—

''(i) such as with an adoptive family, rescue organization, or other appropriate owner for that dog; and

''(ii) not including selling at auction or otherwise placing a retired breeding dog with another breeder for breeding purposes.''.

(b) CONFORMING AMENDMENT.—Section 13(a)(2)(B) of the Animal Welfare Act (7 U.S.C. 2143(a)(2)(B)) is amended by inserting ''subject to paragraph (9),'' before ''for exercise of dogs''.

(c) REGULATIONS.—Not later than 18 months after the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary shall issue final regulations establishing the standards for the care of dogs by dealers, as required by this section and the amendments made by this section.

By Mr. DURBIN (for himself, Mr. PADILLA, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, Mr. MARKEY, Ms. KLOBUCHAR, and Ms. DUCKWORTH):

S. 4438. A bill to direct the Federal Communications Commission to establish a program to make grants available to States to inform individuals of potential eligibility for the Lifeline program of the Commission, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

Mr. DURBIN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the text of the bill be printed in the RECORD.

There being no objection, the text of the bill was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

S. 4438

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the ''Promoting Access to Broadband Act of 2026''.

SEC. 2. LIFELINE ENROLLMENT OUTREACH GRANTS.

(a) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

(1) COMMISSION.—The term ''Commission'' means the Federal Communications Commission.

(2) COVERED INDIVIDUAL.—The term ''covered individual'' means an individual who—

(A) is an eligible-but-not-enrolled individual; or

(B) has the potential to be a qualifying low-income consumer under 54.409 of title 47, Code of Federal Regulations, or any successor regulation, due to the eligibility of the individual, a dependent of the individual, or the household of the individual to receive benefits from or participate in, as applicable, a program described in such section 54.409.

(3) ELIGIBLE-BUT-NOT-ENROLLED INDIVIDUAL.—The term ''eligible-but-not-enrolled individual'' means an individual who is a qualifying low-income consumer under section 54.409 of title 47, Code of Federal Regulations, or any successor regulation, but is not enrolled in the Lifeline program.

(4) INDIAN TRIBE.—The term ''Indian Tribe'' has the meaning given the term ''Indian tribe'' in section 4 of the Native American Housing Assistance and Self-Determination Act of 1996 (25 U.S.C. 4103).

(5) LIFELINE PROGRAM.—The term ''Lifeline program'' means the program set forth in subpart E of part 54 of title 47, Code of Federal Regulations, or any successor regulation.

(6) REACH.—The term ''reach'' means, with respect to an individual, to inform the individual of potential eligibility for the Lifeline program and to provide the individual with information about the Lifeline program, as described in subsection (e).

(7) STATE.—The term ''State'' means each State of the United States, the District of Columbia, each commonwealth, territory, or possession of the United States, and each Indian Tribe.

(b) ESTABLISHMENT.—The Commission shall establish a competitive program to make grants available to States to inform covered individuals of potential eligibility for the Lifeline program.

(c) APPLICATION.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—The Commission may only award a grant under this section to a State that submits an application at such time, in such form, and with such information and assurances as the Commission may require.

(2) MATTERS REQUIRED TO BE INCLUDED.—An application submitted by a State under paragraph (1) shall include—

(A) the number of covered individuals in the State;

(B) a plan for the activities that the State will conduct using grant funds, including a list of each agency within the State that will assist in carrying out those activities; and

(C) an estimate of the percentage of eligible-but-not-enrolled individuals in the State who will be reached by those activities.

(d) SELECTION.—

(1) MINIMUM NUMBER OF STATES.—The Commission shall award grants under this section to not fewer than 25 percent of the States that submit an application under subsection (c).

(2) FACTORS FOR CONSIDERATION.—In awarding grants under this section, the Commission shall give favorable consideration to—

(A) States that have higher numbers of covered individuals; and

(B) States proposing, in the plans submitted under subsection (c)(2)(B), to conduct activities that have the potential to reach higher percentages of eligible-but-not-enrolled individuals in those States, as determined by the Commission, taking into consideration the estimates submitted under subsection (c)(2)(C).

(3) GEOGRAPHIC DIVERSITY.—In awarding grants under this section, the Commission shall, to the maximum extent practicable, select States from different geographic regions of the United States.

(e) USE OF FUNDS.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—A State that receives a grant under this section shall use grant funds, in accordance with the plan included in the application of the State under subsection (c)(2)(B), to—

(A) inform covered individuals and organizations or agencies that serve covered individuals, as the case may be under the terms of the grant awarded to the State, of potential eligibility for the Lifeline program;

(B) provide covered individuals with information about the Lifeline program, including—

(i) how to apply for the Lifeline program; and

(ii) a description of the prohibition on more than 1 subscriber in each household receiving a service provided under the Lifeline program; and

(C) partner with nonprofit and community-based organizations that have a proven track record of working with covered individuals in implementing digital inclusion initiatives to provide covered individuals with—

(i) assistance applying for the Lifeline program; and

(ii) information about product and technology choices.

(2) MULTIPLE STATE AGENCIES.—A State that receives a grant under this section may provide grant funds to 1 or more agencies located within the State, as identified under subsection (c)(2)(B), to carry out the activities under the grant.

(f) OUTREACH TO STATES REGARDING GRANT PROGRAM.—Before accepting applications for the grant program established under this section, the Commission shall conduct outreach to States to ensure that States are aware of the grant program and how to apply for a grant under the grant program.

(g) REGULATIONS REQUIRED.—Not later than 30 days after the date of enactment of this Act, the Commission shall promulgate regulations to implement this section.

(h) ENFORCEMENT.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—A violation of this section or a regulation promulgated under this section shall be treated as a violation of the Communications Act of 1934 (47 U.S.C. 151 et seq.) or a regulation promulgated under that Act.

(2) MANNER OF ENFORCEMENT.—The Commission shall enforce this section and the regulations promulgated under this section in the same manner, by the same means, and with the same jurisdiction, powers, and duties as though all applicable terms and provisions of the Communications Act of 1934 (47 U.S.C. 151 et seq.) were incorporated into and made a part of this section.

(i) EXEMPTIONS.—

(1) CERTAIN RULEMAKING REQUIREMENTS.—Section 553 of title 5, United States Code, shall not apply to a regulation promulgated under this section or a rulemaking proceeding to promulgate such a regulation.

(2) PAPERWORK REDUCTION ACT REQUIREMENTS.—A collection of information conducted or sponsored under the regulations required under this section shall not constitute a collection of information for the purposes of subchapter I of chapter 35 of title 44, United States Code (commonly known as the ''Paperwork Reduction Act'').

(j) REPORT TO CONGRESS.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 3 years after establishing the grant program under this section, the Commission shall submit to Congress a report evaluating the effectiveness of the grant program.

(2) CONTENTS.—The report submitted under paragraph (1) shall include—

(A) the number of individuals notified of Lifeline program eligibility by States receiving grants under this section;

(B) the number of new applicants to the Lifeline program from States receiving grants under this section, including the number of those applicants who enrolled in the Lifeline program; and

(C) the cost-effectiveness of the grant program established under this section.

(k) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There is authorized to be appropriated to the Commission such sums as may be necessary to carry out this section for the first 5 full fiscal years beginning after the establishment of the grant program under this section.

SEC. 3. GRANTS TO STATES TO STRENGTHEN NATIONAL LIFELINE ELIGIBILITY VERIFIER.

(a) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

(1) COMMISSION.—The term ''Commission'' means the Federal Communications Commission.

(2) ELIGIBLE ENTITY.—The term ''eligible entity'' means a State that, not later than 30 days after the date of enactment of this Act, submits to the Commission an application for a grant under this section containing such information as the Commission may require.

(3) STATE.—The term ''State'' means each State of the United States, the District of Columbia, each commonwealth, territory, or possession of the United States, and each federally recognized Indian Tribe.

(b) ESTABLISHMENT.—Not later than 90 days after the date of enactment of this Act, the Commission shall establish a program to provide a grant, from amounts appropriated under subsection (e), to each eligible entity for the purpose described in subsection (c).

(c) PURPOSE.—The Commission shall make a grant to each eligible entity for the purpose of establishing, renewing, reestablishing, or maintaining or amending a connection between the databases of the eligible entity that contain information concerning the receipt by a household, or a member of a household, of benefits under a program administered by the eligible entity (including any benefit provided under the supplemental nutrition assistance program under the Food and Nutrition Act of 2008 (7 U.S.C. 2011 et seq.)) and the National Lifeline Eligibility Verifier so that the receipt by a household, or a member of a household, of benefits under the benefits program—

(1) is reflected in the National Lifeline Eligibility Verifier; and

(2) can be used to verify eligibility for the Lifeline program set forth in subpart E, part 54, of title 47, Code of Federal Regulations, or any successor regulation.

(d) DISBURSEMENT OF GRANT FUNDS.—Not later than 120 days after the date on which the Commission establishes the program under subsection (b), funds provided under each grant made under that subsection shall be disbursed to the eligible entity receiving the grant.

(e) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATION.—There is authorized to be appropriated such sums as may be necessary to carry out this section.

SUBMITTED RESOLUTIONS

SENATE RESOLUTION 698—RECOGNIZING APRIL 29, 2026, AS ''DENIM DAY'' AND HONORING SURVIVORS OF SEXUAL ASSAULT

Ms. BALDWIN submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on the Judiciary:

S. RES. 698

Whereas sexual assault affects individuals of every age, race, gender, socioeconomic

background, and community across the United States;

Whereas Denim Day began following a 1998 decision by the Italian Supreme Court that overturned a rape conviction based on the victim's clothing, prompting widespread outrage and a call to action;

Whereas, in response, members of the California Senate wore denim on the steps of the capital in solidarity with the survivor and to protest misconceptions surrounding sexual violence;

Whereas Executive Director/CEO of Peace Over Violence Patti Giggans founded Denim Day in 1999;

Whereas Peace Over Violence, a Los Angeles-based sexual and domestic violence, intimate partner stalking, child abuse, and youth violence prevention center has continuously advocated for survivors of such violence since its inception in 1971, providing emergency, intervention, prevention, education, and advocacy services in Los Angeles and the West San Gabriel Valley;

Whereas Denim Day has since grown into a national and international movement led by Peace Over Violence, encouraging communities to make a social statement with their fashion statement and wear denim as a visible means of protest against victim-blaming and harmful myths and lies about sexual assault, occurring annually the last Wednesday of April during Sexual Assault Awareness Month;

Whereas wearing denim on Denim Day is a symbol of solidarity with survivors of sexual assault and serves as a statement that clothing, behavior, or appearance never constitutes consent;

Whereas wearing denim on Denim Day spreads the signature Denim Day message that states there is no excuse and someone's clothing, behavior, or appearance is never an invitation to harass, abuse, assault, or rape;

Whereas Denim Day is a call to action for survivors to be heard, respected, and have access to trauma-informed services, healing, and justice;

Whereas, in the United States, over half of women and almost 1 in 3 men have experienced sexual violence involving physical contact during their lifetime;

Whereas more than 4 in 5 female rape survivors reported that they were first raped before age 25, and almost half were first raped as a minor;

Whereas recent estimates put the lifetime cost of rape at $122,461 per survivor, including medical costs, lost productivity, criminal justice activities, and other costs;

Whereas, every 68 seconds somewhere in the United States, someone is sexually assaulted, and every 9 minutes that victim is a child;

Whereas nearly 1 in 10 women has been raped by an intimate partner;

Whereas 6 out of 10 rapes are committed by someone who knew the victim;

Whereas 82 percent of sexual assaults committed by a friend or acquaintance are not reported to the police;

Whereas only 25 out of every 1,000 perpetrators will end up in prison;

Whereas 1 in 5 women are sexually assaulted while in college;

Whereas 15,000 to 19,000 people with developmental disabilities are raped each year in the United States;

Whereas 1 out of 10 rape victims are men;

Whereas 44 percent of sexual assault and rape victims are under the age of 18;

Whereas victims of sexual assault are 3 times more likely to suffer from depression, 6 times more likely to suffer from post-traumatic stress disorder, 13 times more likely to abuse alcohol, 26 times more likely to abuse drugs, and 4 times more likely to contemplate suicide;

Whereas 47 percent of transgender people are sexually assaulted at some point in their life;

Whereas sexual violence affects Black women at disproportionately high rates;

Whereas more than 20 percent of Black women are raped during their lifetimes, a higher share than among women overall, which is 18 percent;

Whereas 56.1 percent and over 1,500,000 American Indian and Alaska Native women have experienced sexual violence;

Whereas it is essential to raise awareness about sexual violence in all its forms, promote prevention efforts, support survivor-centered policies, and foster a culture of respect, dignity, and accountability; and

Whereas recognizing Denim Day provides an opportunity to reaffirm Congress's commitment to supporting survivors, holding offenders accountable, and advancing education and resources to prevent sexual violence: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) recognizes April 29, 2026, as ''Denim Day'' and supports the goals and ideals of Denim Day to raise awareness of sexual assault and combat victim-blaming;

(2) honors the strength, resilience, and courage of survivors of sexual assault and affirms the right of all individuals to live free from violence, harassment, and abuse;

(3) expresses solidarity with survivors and their families, and supports their access to comprehensive, trauma-informed, culturally competent services, including medical care, mental health support, legal assistance, and advocacy;

(4) reaffirms that clothing, appearance, or behavior never constitute consent and condemns all forms of victim-blaming;

(5) supports efforts to improve the reporting, investigation, and prosecution of sexual assault cases while ensuring survivor-centered and trauma-informed approaches throughout the justice process;

(6) recognizes the importance of addressing disparities in sexual violence affecting marginalized and vulnerable populations, including teenagers, children, women of color, Indigenous communities, individuals with disabilities, and LGBTQIA2+ individuals;

(7) calls on Federal, State, local, Tribal, and territorial governments to strengthen policies, funding, and programs that prevent sexual violence and support survivors; and

(8) urges continued collaboration among policymakers, advocacy organizations, law enforcement, and communities to end sexual violence and ensure accountability for perpetrators.

SENATE RESOLUTION 699—EXPRESSING SUPPORT FOR THE RECOGNITION OF APRIL AS ''NATIONAL LANGUAGE ACCESS MONTH''

Mr. PADILLA submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs:

S. RES. 699

Whereas over 71,000,000 individuals ages 5 and older in the United States speak a language other than English at home;

Whereas over 25,700,000 individuals in the United States have limited English proficiency (LEP) and rely on translation and interpretation services to access vital public services and institutions;

Whereas studies show that 47 percent of all immigrant adults in the United States have LEP;

Whereas, according to a 2017–2021 Census Bureau estimate, there are at least 500 individual languages and language groups spoken in the United States;

Whereas about 30 percent of Asian-American adults, 12 percent of Native Hawaiian and Pacific Islander adults, 32 percent of Hispanic adults, 3 percent of Black adults, and 1 percent of White adults reported having LEP;

Whereas nearly 9 percent of the United States population are individuals with LEP, with some States and territories having even higher rates, including—

(1) 54 percent of residents in American Samoa;

(2) 20 percent of residents in California;

(3) 14 percent of residents in Texas;

(4) 12 percent of residents in New York;

(5) 12 percent of residents in Florida; and

(6) 9 percent of residents in Puerto Rico;

Whereas the term ''language access'' means the provision of culturally competent and effective language services to an individual with LEP designed to enhance that individual's access to, understanding of, or benefit from services, activities, and programs;

Whereas uneven coverage and implementation of language access contribute to significant disparities for individuals seeking—

(1) employment services;

(2) transportation services;

(3) financial services;

(4) health services;

(5) housing services;

(6) legal services; and

(7) other services;

Whereas 31 percent of immigrants with LEP report that language barriers interfere with their ability to access health care services;

Whereas 29 percent of immigrants with LEP report that language barriers affect their ability to find or maintain employment;

Whereas 25 percent of immigrants with LEP report difficulty applying for government financial assistance for food, housing, or health coverage;

Whereas 22 percent of immigrants with LEP report that language barriers have made it difficult to report a crime or seek assistance from law enforcement;

Whereas existing legislation protecting language access is integral to ensuring that all Americans can access federally funded programs and policies;

Whereas title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 (42 U.S.C. 2000d et seq.) prohibits recipients of Federal funding from discriminating based on national origin;

Whereas the Food and Nutrition Act of 2008 (7 U.S.C. 2011 et seq.), originally the Food Stamp Act of 1964, requires that State agencies utilize bilingual personnel and appropriate printed materials when there are a large number of low-income households that speak a language other than English;

Whereas the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act (42 U.S.C. 5121 et seq.) requires the Federal Emergency Management Agency to account for the needs of people with LEP in disaster planning and prohibits discrimination on the basis of English proficiency when providing assistance;

Whereas section 1557 of the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act (42 U.S.C. 18116) prohibits discrimination based on nationality and requires language assistance in the 15 most common languages for health-related programs;

Whereas section 203 of the Voting Rights Act of 1965 (52 U.S.C. 10503) requires certain counties and jurisdictions to provide bilingual voting assistance in communities with large numbers of language minorities and LEP citizens;

Whereas, for nearly 25 years, both Republican and Democratic Presidents have affirmed the importance of language access through the implementation of Executive Order 13166, ''Improving Access to English Services for Persons with Limited English Proficiency'', which required Federal agencies and grantees to examine the services they provide and provide individuals with LEP ''meaningful access'' to agency services;

Whereas the California Department of Education recognizes April as National Bilingual/Multilingual Learner Advocacy Month;

Whereas many States and local governments, including the States of New York and Hawaii, recognize April as Language Access Month; and

Whereas the purpose of Language Access Month is to increase awareness and celebrate the importance of language access to ensure equitable access to public services and programs for all Americans, including individuals with LEP: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) supports the recognition of ''National Language Access Month'';

(2) affirms the importance of meaningful language access in ensuring equitable participation in Federal programs and services;

(3) encourages Federal agencies, States, local governments, and community organizations to promote awareness of language access rights and resources; and

(4) encourages the people of the United States to observe National Language Access Month with appropriate ceremonies, programs, and activities.

SENATE RESOLUTION 700—EXPRESSING SUPPORT FOR THE DESIGNATION OF APRIL 1, 2026, THROUGH APRIL 30, 2026, AS ''FAIR CHANCE JOBS MONTH''

Mr. MARKEY (for himself, Ms. KLOBUCHAR, Mr. DURBIN, Ms. DUCKWORTH, Mr. PADILLA, Ms. SMITH, Mr. BOOKER, Ms. HIRONO, Ms. WARREN, and Mr. WELCH) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions:

S. RES. 700

Whereas, in the United States—

(1) nearly 80,000,000 people have a record of arrest or conviction;

(2) an estimated 19,000,000 people have felony convictions;

(3) nearly 13,000,000 people are charged each year with misdemeanor offenses;

(4) more than 600,000 people are released each year from Federal and State prisons;

(5) Black, Indigenous, and Latino people are 5, 4.2, and 2.4 times more likely than White people to be incarcerated, respectively, and also face higher rates of arrest; and

(6) LGBTQ+ individuals are 3 times more likely to be incarcerated and also face higher rates of arrest;

Whereas people who have been convicted of a crime and served their sentence continue to face consequences after release due to systemic biases and stigmas against formerly incarcerated individuals;

Whereas recidivism rates in the United States are among the highest in the world, with almost 44 percent of people who are released returning to incarceration within 1 year;

Whereas, in the United States, nearly ⅔ of the formerly incarcerated population is jobless at any given time;

Whereas, in the United States, nearly 14,000 laws and regulations and 48,000 collateral consequences restrict formerly incarcerated individuals from getting professional licenses needed to work in some jobs;

Whereas 20 States and the District of Columbia allow occupational licensing boards to categorically reject applicants with prior convictions;

Whereas obstacles to employment, such as difficulty obtaining identification needed for employment, add undue burdens on returning citizens and formerly incarcerated individuals;

Whereas formerly incarcerated individuals earn nearly $100 less per week than the average worker;

Whereas fair-chance employers can leverage financial incentives, such as the work opportunity tax credit, to benefit from hiring formerly incarcerated individuals;

Whereas employing returning citizens and formerly incarcerated individuals will result in a robust, vibrant, diverse, and resilient workforce;

Whereas having jobs that pay living wages, are conducive to health, provide opportunities for skillset development, provide opportunities for promotion, and provide benefits will facilitate stable employment and reduce recidivism;

Whereas returning citizens who have received vocational training while incarcerated are 28 percent more likely to obtain employment within 1 year of reentry into society than those lacking such training; and

Whereas, in addition to employment insecurity, returning citizens and formerly incarcerated people face numerous other obstacles to reentry and societal reintegration, including—

(1) housing insecurity and homelessness rates that are 10 times higher than the general public;

(2) near total restrictions in 12 States on access to temporary assistance for needy families established under part A of title IV of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 601 et seq.) or the supplemental nutrition assistance program established under the Food and Nutrition Act of 2008 (7 U.S.C. 2011 et seq.); and

(3) greater prevalence of chronic health conditions, lower quality and coverage of health insurance, and mortality rates that are 13 times higher than the general public: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) expresses support for the designation of April 1, 2026, through April 30, 2026, as ''Fair Chance Jobs Month''; and

(2) supports efforts to—

(A) ensure that people directly impacted by incarceration obtain stable and high-quality employment, housing, healthcare, and nutrition;

(B) dismantle structural barriers to fair-chance hiring and employment, such as licensing restrictions, employer liability, and insurance restrictions;

(C) expand workforce development programs for returning citizens, formerly incarcerated individuals, and others directly impacted by incarceration, including—

(i) pre-apprenticeship programs;

(ii) registered apprenticeship programs;

(iii) career coaching, résumé-building, technology literacy, and other skillset development programs; and

(iv) programs that educate employers on best practices for, and the benefits of, fair-chance hiring;

(D) match jobs providers with returning citizens and formerly incarcerated individuals seeking jobs;

(E) support efforts from labor unions and worker organizations to engage returning citizens and formerly incarcerated individuals who are seeking jobs;

(F) publicize work opportunities that are open to applicants with prior arrest or conviction records; and

(G) foster greater collaboration and dialogue between Federal, State, and local government agencies, community-based organizations, advocacy groups, employers, labor unions, currently and formerly incarcerated individuals, and others directly impacted by incarceration to enhance fair-chance hiring and employment and help to heal communities impacted by mass incarceration.

SENATE RESOLUTION 701—DESIGNATING THE WEEK OF APRIL 20 THROUGH 26, 2026, AS ''NATIONAL DARK SKY WEEK''

Ms. CORTEZ MASTO (for herself, Mr. CURTIS, Ms. ROSEN, and Mr. KELLY) submitted the following resolution; which was considered and agreed to:

S. RES. 701

Whereas the people of the United States are increasingly seeking opportunities for outdoor recreation, stargazing, and unique nighttime experiences;

Whereas national parks, rural communities, and protected landscapes with dark skies attract visitors interested in stargazing, recreation, and nature tourism;

Whereas the night sky has significantly impacted cultural traditions and human history;

Whereas the ability to observe the stars, planets, and other celestial bodies is an important part of the shared natural heritage of all people and should be preserved for future generations;

Whereas dark sky tourism provides economic opportunities for communities located near parks, observatories, and open landscapes;

Whereas preserving dark skies supports scientific discovery, astronomic research, and educational opportunities for students and communities;

Whereas astronomy education and public stargazing programs inspire interest in science, technology, engineering, and mathematics;

Whereas artificial lighting can obscure visibility of the night sky and may limit opportunities for the people of the United States to observe stars, planets, and other celestial phenomena;

Whereas excessive artificial light can disrupt wildlife behavior and ecosystems;

Whereas many species rely on natural cycles of light and darkness to regulate biological process and ecosystem balance;

Whereas reducing brightness at night can save energy, reduce consumption, and lower costs;

Whereas artificial lighting has increased significantly in recent decades, contributing to light pollution across the United States; and

Whereas efforts to reduce light pollution can be achieved through simple measures such as shielding lights, directing lighting downward, and limiting unnecessary illumination: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) designates the week of April 20 through 26, 2026, as ''National Dark Sky Week'';

(2) encourages Federal agencies to coordinate among themselves to expand safe and informative dark skies opportunities to support local communities and all people of the United States;

(3) encourages communities, educators, scientists, and local governments to raise awareness of the value of preserving dark skies; and

(4) encourages individuals and organizations to adopt responsible outdoor lighting practices that protect the natural night sky.

SENATE RESOLUTION 702—COMMENDING THE AMERICAN CHEMICAL SOCIETY ON THE OCCASION OF ITS 150TH ANNIVERSARY AND RECOGNIZING ITS MANY YEARS OF SERVICE TO THE UNITED STATES

Mr. COONS (for himself, Mrs. CAPITO, Mr. DAINES, and Mr. PETERS) submitted the following resolution; which was considered and agreed to:

S. RES. 702

Whereas, on April 6, 1876, 35 chemists convened at the College of Pharmacy of the City of New York to found the American Chemical Society (ACS), establishing what would become one of the world's foremost scientific organizations;

Whereas, for 150 years, the ACS has advanced the chemical enterprise by supporting American innovation, fostering research, and disseminating scientific knowledge through its internationally respected publications and programs;

Whereas the American Chemical Society was incorporated by an Act of Congress on January 1, 1938, thereby affirming its national importance and mission of promoting the broader chemistry community;

Whereas chemistry, as the central science, connects and informs countless disciplines and plays an essential role in addressing challenges that affect every aspect of daily life;

Whereas global challenges in public health, national security, and emerging technologies increasingly demand collaborative, science-based solutions, with chemistry providing a critical foundation for such advancements to ensure continued American leadership in science and innovation;

Whereas the science of chemistry has the power to improve lives, strengthen communities, and make meaningful contributions that address critical societal and global issues;

Whereas innovations in chemical research and development continue to generate economic growth and employment across numerous industries and sectors;

Whereas chemists and chemistry professionals serve as catalysts for positive change—advancing discovery, expanding educational opportunity, and inspiring the next generation of scientific leaders; and

Whereas the American Chemical Society has demonstrated long standing leadership in promoting innovation, environmental stewardship, and scientific advancement for the benefit of the United States and the world: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) commends the American Chemical Society on the momentous occasion of its 150th anniversary;

(2) recognizes the American Chemical Society for its enduring contributions to the scientific, educational, and economic strength of the United States;

(3) affirms the importance of promoting science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM) education, expanding opportunities for students to pursue chemistry and related fields, and encouraging youth from all communities to pursue careers in these disciplines; and

(4) requests that the Secretary of the Senate transmit an enrolled copy of this resolution to—

(A) the President of the American Chemical Society, Rigoberto Hernandez;

(B) the Chief Executive Officer of the American Chemical Society, Albert Horvath; and

(C) the Chair of the Board of the American Chemical Society, Wayne Jones.

SENATE RESOLUTION 703—EXPRESSING SUPPORT FOR THE DESIGNATION OF THE WEEK OF MAY 3, 2026, THROUGH MAY 9, 2026, AS ''NATIONAL SMALL BUSINESS WEEK'' TO CELEBRATE THE CONTRIBUTIONS OF SMALL BUSINESSES AND ENTREPRENEURS IN EVERY COMMUNITY IN THE UNITED STATES

Ms. ERNST (for herself, Mr. MARKEY, Mr. TUBERVILLE, Ms. ALSOBROOKS, Mr. JUSTICE, Mr. LUJÁN, Mr. COTTON, Mr. FETTERMAN, Mr. GRASSLEY, Ms. HIRONO, Mr. LANKFORD, Mr. WHITEHOUSE, Mr. MARSHALL, Mr. REED, Ms. LUMMIS, Ms. WARREN, Ms. COLLINS, Mr. PADILLA, Mr. DAINES, Ms. DUCKWORTH, Mrs. BLACKBURN, Ms. SMITH, Mrs. BRITT, Mr. SCHUMER, Mr. BUDD, Mr. KING, Mrs. FISCHER, Mr. COONS, Mr. KENNEDY, Mr. WARNER, Mrs. CAPITO, Ms. ROSEN, Mrs. HYDE-SMITH, Mr. HICKENLOOPER, Mr. YOUNG, Mr. BOOKER, Mr. SHEEHY, Mr. WARNOCK, Mr. BARRASSO, Ms. KLOBUCHAR, Mr. CRUZ, Ms. BLUNT ROCHESTER, Mr. ROUNDS, Mr. MURPHY, Mr. CRAPO, Ms. SLOTKIN, Mr. CRAMER, Mr. GALLEGO, Mr. SCOTT of South Carolina, Mr. DURBIN, Mr. RISCH, Mr. VAN HOLLEN, Mr. CASSIDY, Ms. BALDWIN, Mr. WICKER, Mrs. GILLIBRAND, Mr. HOEVEN, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, Mr. GRAHAM, Mr. BENNET, Mr. MCCONNELL, Mr. SCHATZ, Mr. ARMSTRONG, Ms. HASSAN, Mr. BANKS, Mr. KAINE, Mr. HUSTED, Ms. CANTWELL, Mr. CURTIS, Mr. HEINRICH, Mr. SCOTT of Florida, Mr. KELLY, Mr. TILLIS, Mr. PETERS, Mrs. SHAHEEN, Mr. WELCH, Ms. CORTEZ MASTO, Mr. SCHIFF, Mr. KIM, Mr. BOOZMAN, Mr. RICKETTS, Mrs. MOODY, Mr. HAWLEY, Mr. WYDEN, Mr. MCCORMICK, Mrs. MURRAY, Mr. OSSOFF, Mr. SANDERS, and Mr. MERKLEY) submitted the following resolution; which was considered and agreed to:

S. RES. 703

Whereas a National Small Business Week has been declared by every President since 1963;

Whereas there are more than 36,200,000 small businesses in the United States that support more than 62,300,000 jobs;

Whereas small businesses play an integral role in building the economy of the United States; and

Whereas May 3, 2026, through May 9, 2026, would be an appropriate week to celebrate National Small Business Week: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) honors and celebrates the entrepreneurial spirit of small businesses and the contributions they make to every community in the United States;

(2) applauds the efforts and achievements of the owners of small businesses and their employees in every community of the United States;

(3) recognizes that, in the face of significant challenges, the owners of small businesses have demonstrated incredible resilience; and

(4) supports the designation of the week of May 3, 2026, through May 9, 2026, as ''National Small Business Week''.

SENATE RESOLUTION 704—SUPPORTING THE MISSION AND GOALS OF NATIONAL FENTANYL AWARENESS DAY IN 2026, INCLUDING INCREASING INDIVIDUAL AND PUBLIC AWARENESS OF THE IMPACT OF FAKE OR COUNTERFEIT FENTANYL PILLS ON FAMILIES AND YOUNG PEOPLE

Mr. GRASSLEY (for himself and Mrs. SHAHEEN) submitted the following resolution; which was considered and agreed to:

S. RES. 704

Whereas drug traffickers are mass-producing fake or counterfeit pills and falsely marketing them as legitimate prescription pills to deceive the people of the United States;

Whereas many fake or counterfeit pills are made to look like prescription name-brand opioids, stimulants, or anxiety medications;

Whereas drug traffickers are using fake or counterfeit pills to exploit prescription drug misuse and the opioid crisis;

Whereas the Drug Enforcement Administration (referred to in this preamble as the ''DEA'') has observed a dramatic rise in the number of counterfeit pills containing not less than 2 milligrams of fentanyl, which is considered a deadly dose;

Whereas 5 out of every 10 pills with fentanyl tested by the DEA contain a potentially lethal dose;

Whereas counterfeit pills may also contain fentanyl-related substances and methamphetamine;

Whereas the number of counterfeit pills with fentanyl seized by law enforcement agencies in 2025 was more than 47,000,000;

Whereas, including the nearly 10,000 pounds of fentanyl powder seized in 2025, total fentanyl seizures are equivalent to more than 369,000,000 lethal doses of fentanyl;

Whereas fake or counterfeit pills have been identified in all 50 States and the District of Columbia;

Whereas illicit fentanyl has also been detected in illicit drugs such as heroin, cocaine, MDMA (ecstasy and molly), and methamphetamine;

Whereas, for the 12-month period ending in October 2025, nearly 70,000 individuals in the United States died of drug-induced deaths, and more than 37,000 of those deaths involved illicit fentanyl and other synthetic opioids;

Whereas, in 2023, illicit fentanyl was involved in more deaths of individuals 55 years of age and under than any single other cause;

Whereas fake counterfeit pills are easily accessible and often sold on social media and e-commerce platforms, making them accessible to teens and youth;

Whereas illicit fentanyl is involved in more deaths of youths than all other drug types combined;

Whereas, between 2019 and 2021, drug overdose and poisoning deaths for individuals 14 to 18 years of age increased by 128 percent, a rate of increase which was 77 percentage points higher than the national rate and higher than the rate for any other 5-year age group;

Whereas, between 2019 and 2021, the number of deaths involving illicit fentanyl in drug overdose and poisoning deaths for individuals 14 to 18 years of age increased by 236 percent, a rate of increase which was 141 percentage points higher than the national rate

and higher than the rate for any other 5-year age group over the age of 15;

Whereas, in 2024, only 65 percent of youth and 55 percent of teens in the United States were aware that fentanyl is being used to create counterfeit pills;

Whereas, in 2024, only 55 percent of young adults and 50 percent of teens considered themselves knowledgeable about fentanyl; and

Whereas, in 2025, there were tens of thousands of reported overdose deaths involving illicit fentanyl and other synthetic opioids: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) supports the recognition and goals of National Fentanyl Awareness Day, which include increasing individual and public awareness of the impact of fake or counterfeit fentanyl pills on families and young people;

(2) applauds the work of Federal, State, and local law enforcement agencies that work to combat the proliferation of counterfeit pills;

(3) encourages the use of existing authorities to proactively stop and prevent the spread of illicit counterfeit pills; and

(4) designates April 29, 2026, as ''National Fentanyl Awareness Day''.

SENATE RESOLUTION 705—COMMENDING THE ''DONUT DOLLIES'' FOR THEIR PATRIOTIC SERVICE AND STEADFAST SUPPORT OF UNITED STATES SERVICEMEMBERS IN COMBAT AND HONORING THEIR EXTRAORDINARY CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE MORALE AND WELL-BEING OF UNITED STATES SERVICEMEMBERS DURING WARTIME

Mr. TILLIS (for himself, Mrs. GILLIBRAND, Mr. BOOZMAN, and Mr. COONS) submitted the following resolution; which was considered and agreed to:

S. RES. 705

Whereas, in 1917, during World War I, young women of the Salvation Army known as the ''Doughnut Lassies'' served near the front lines, providing hot coffee, doughnuts, and comfort to United States servicemembers, inspiring the later creation of National Doughnut Day in their honor;

Whereas, during World War II, the American Red Cross organized the Clubmobile program, staffed by courageous women affectionately called ''Donut Dollies'', who traveled across war zones in Europe, North Africa, and the Pacific serving coffee and doughnuts, offering conversation, and boosting the morale of servicemembers;

Whereas, during the Korean War, the American Red Cross continued to deploy Donut Dollies to recreation centers, service clubs, and forward operating bases, organizing activities and providing personal support to servicemembers enduring the harsh conditions of war;

Whereas, from 1965 to 1972, the American Red Cross operated the Supplemental Recreation Activities Overseas (referred to in this preamble as ''SRAO'') program in the Republic of Vietnam, deploying more than 600 young women, most recent college graduates, to remote bases, fire support locations, and hospitals to provide refreshments, morale, and recreation activities to United States servicemembers;

Whereas the Donut Dollies often traveled by helicopter or convoy into active combat zones, facing mortar fire, sniper threats, and the dangers of war in order to deliver games, conversation, and a sense of home;

Whereas, based on Red Cross estimates—

(1) at the height of the war, over 300,000 servicemembers per month benefitted from SRAO services; and

(2) the Donut Dollies traveled 27,000 miles by jeep, truck, airplane, and helicopter every month;

Whereas, at the height of the war, over 100 Red Cross workers were operating 17 SRAO units throughout Vietnam;

Whereas military commanders expressed high praise for the Red Cross volunteers, calling the services of the organization ''indispensable'' and ''prime factors'' in their efforts to maintain the high morale of their men and to look after their welfare;

Whereas, writing to Red Cross national headquarters in 1968, General William Westmoreland, then commander of the United States forces in Southeast Asia, stated, ''Serving our men on the battlefields here in Vietnam, the American Red Cross is a hotline to the folks back home, an oasis in the heat of battle, and a comfort during hospitalization.'';

Whereas the Donut Dollies not only uplifted the spirits of tens of thousands of soldiers, sailors, airmen, and Marines, but also bore emotional burdens from hearing the fears and losses of those they served, many of whom did not return;

Whereas the Red Cross volunteers shared with military personnel the hardship and privation of life in a war zone and were subject to the dangers of war;

Whereas many staff were injured, and 5 American Red Cross workers died in-country, including 3 women, Hannah E. Crews, Virginia E. Kirsch, and Lucinda J. Richter, all of whom were members of the SRAO program;

Whereas the Donut Dollies, who volunteered to be sent to the frontlines to support servicemembers, were themselves exposed to enemy attack, thereby displaying courage and resilience; and

Whereas the legacy of the Donut Dollies continues to be honored by veterans who remember their visits as a light in the darkest days of war, and the extraordinary efforts of these volunteers throughout the extent of involvement of the United States in the Vietnam conflict is deserving of official recognition: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) commends the Donut Dollies for their patriotic service to the United States and steadfast dedication to the morale and welfare of United States servicemembers in combat;

(2) recognizes the service of the Salvation Army Doughnut Lassies in World War I, who inspired future generations of Donut Dollies;

(3) honors the Donut Dollies of World War II, the Korean War, and especially those of the Supplemental Recreation Activities Overseas program in the Vietnam War for their courage, resilience, and lasting impact on the lives of those they served; and

(4) urges that the story of the Donut Dollies be preserved and shared as an enduring testament to the spirit of the United States during wartime service.

SENATE RESOLUTION 706—EXPRESSING SUPPORT FOR THE DESIGNATION OF APRIL 2026 AS ''NATIONAL CHILD ABUSE PREVENTION MONTH'', AND THE GOALS AND IDEALS OF NATIONAL CHILD ABUSE PREVENTION MONTH

Mr. CORNYN (for himself, Ms. BLUNT ROCHESTER, Mrs. BLACKBURN, Mr. HICKENLOOPER, Mrs. CAPITO, Mr. LUJÁN, and Ms. HASSAN) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions:

S. RES. 706

Whereas children are fundamental to the success of the United States and will shape the future of the United States;

Whereas elected representatives and leaders in the communities of the United States must be ever vigilant and proactive in support of evidence-based means to prevent child abuse and neglect and to support families;

Whereas adverse childhood experiences (referred to in this preamble as ''ACEs'') are traumatic experiences that occur during childhood with lasting effects and include experiences of violence, abuse, or neglect;

Whereas at least 5 of the top 10 leading causes of death are associated with ACEs;

Whereas preventing ACEs could reduce many health conditions and long-term negative effects on life, opportunity, and well-being, including—

(1) up to 21,000,000 cases of depression;

(2) up to 1,900,000 cases of heart disease; and

(3) up to 2,500,000 cases of overweight or obesity;

Whereas every child is filled with tremendous promise, and we all have a collective responsibility to prevent ACEs, foster the potential of every child, and promote positive childhood experiences;

Whereas preventing child abuse and neglect can reduce the costly lifetime economic burden associated with child maltreatment;

Whereas, in 2024, an estimated 7,693,000 children were referred to child protective services agencies, alleging maltreatment;

Whereas, each year, approximately 1 in 7 children in the United States experiences child abuse, neglect, or both;

Whereas reports indicate that 1 in 4 girls and 1 in 13 boys will become victims of child sexual abuse before their 18th birthday;

Whereas 93 percent of child sexual abuse victims are abused by a person they know and trust;

Whereas children who are sexually abused, especially when not provided appropriate treatment and support, often suffer lifelong consequences, such as physical and mental health challenges and higher risk of drug and alcohol misuse and suicide;

Whereas, in 2024, the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children's CyberTipline received nearly 20,500,000 reports of suspected online child sexual exploitation;

Whereas education and awareness of possible signs of child abuse and neglect should be prioritized for purposes of prevention; and

Whereas, by intervening to prevent adversity and build resilience during the most critical years of development of a child, voluntary, evidence-based, home-visiting programs have shown positive impact on—

(1) reducing the recurrence of child abuse and neglect;

(2) decreasing the incidence of low-birthweight babies;

(3) improved school readiness for children; and

(4) increased high school graduation rates: Now, therefore, be it:

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) supports the designation of April 2026 as ''National Child Abuse Prevention Month'';

(2) expresses support for the goals and ideals of National Child Abuse Prevention Month;

(3) recognizes that child abuse and neglect and child sexual abuse are preventable and that a healthy and prosperous society depends on strong families and communities;

(4) supports efforts to increase the awareness of, and provide education for, the general public of the United States, with respect to preventing child abuse and neglect and building protective factors for families;

(5) supports the efforts to help survivors of childhood sexual abuse heal;

(6) supports justice for victims of childhood sexual abuse; and

(7) recognizes the need for prevention, healing, and justice efforts related to childhood abuse, neglect, and sexual abuse.

AMENDMENTS SUBMITTED AND PROPOSED

SA 5438. Mr. THUNE submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the executive resolution S. Res. 690, authorizing the en bloc consideration in Executive Session of certain nominations on the Executive Calendar; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 5439. Mr. THUNE submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the executive resolution S. Res. 690, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 5440. Ms. ERNST proposed an amendment to the bill S. 1199, to extend the statute of limitations for fraud under certain pandemic programs, and for other purposes.

SA 5441. Ms. ERNST (for Mr. MARKEY) proposed an amendment to amendment SA 5440 proposed by Ms. ERNST to the bill S. 1199, supra.

TEXT OF AMENDMENTS

SA 5438. Mr. THUNE submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the executive resolution S. Res. 690, authorizing the en bloc consideration in Executive Session of certain nominations on the Executive Calendar; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

On page 5, beginning on line 4 strike the following:

''(25) Calendar Number 678: Brian Birdwell, of Texas, to be an Assistant Secretary of Defense.

(26) Calendar Number 679: Mark Ditlevson, of Minnesota, to be an Assistant Secretary of Defense.''

SA 5439. Mr. THUNE submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the executive resolution S. Res. 690, authorizing the en bloc consideration in Executive Session of certain nominations on the Executive Calendar; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

In the matter proposed to be stricken, strike lines 2 through 3.

SA 5440. Ms. ERNST proposed an amendment to the bill S. 1199, to extend the statute of limitations for fraud under certain pandemic programs, and for other purposes; as follows:

Strike all after the enacting clause and insert the following:

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the ''SBA Fraud Enforcement Extension Act''.

SEC. 2. STATUTE OF LIMITATIONS FOR CERTAIN PROGRAMS.

(a) SHUTTERED VENUE OPERATORS.—Section 324 of division N of the Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2021 (15 U.S.C. 9009a) is amended by adding at the end the following:

''(g) STATUTE OF LIMITATIONS.—Notwithstanding any other provision of law, any criminal prosecution or civil enforcement action for a violation of, or conspiracy to violate, section 371, 641, 1001, 1028A, 1029, 1341, 1343, 1349, 1956, or 1957 of title 18, United States Code, or section 3729 or 3802 of title 31, United States Code, with respect to any grant for shuttered venue operators under this section shall be filed not later than 10 years after the date of the violation or conspiracy.''.

(b) RESTAURANT REVITALIZATION.—Section 5003 of the American Rescue Plan Act of 2021 (15 U.S.C. 9009c) is amended by adding at the end the following:

''(d) STATUTE OF LIMITATIONS.—Notwithstanding any other provision of law, any criminal prosecution or civil enforcement action for a violation of, or conspiracy to violate, section 371, 641, 1001, 1028A, 1029, 1341, 1343, 1349, 1956, or 1957 of title 18, United States Code, or section 3729 or 3802 of title 31, United States Code, with respect to any restaurant revitalization grant under this section shall be filed not later than 10 years after the date of the violation or conspiracy.''.

SA 5441. Ms. ERNST (for Mr. MARKEY) proposed an amendment to amendment SA 5440 proposed by Ms. ERNST to the bill S. 1199, to extend the statute of limitations for fraud under certain pandemic programs, and for other purposes; as follows:

At the appropriate place, insert the following:

(c) REQUIREMENT.—Not later than 90 days after the date of enactment of this Act, and every 90 days thereafter until the date that is 5 years after the date of enactment of this Act, the Attorney General shall submit to Congress a report on activities of the Department of Justice relating to the shuttered venue operators program under section 324 of division N of the Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2021 (15 U.S.C. 9009a) and the restaurant revitalization program under section 5003 of the American Rescue Plan Act of 2021 (15 U.S.C. 9009c), which shall include—

(1) the total number of investigations initiated, the total number of prosecutions initiated, the total dollar amount recovered by prosecutions, and the total number of referrals and source of such referrals; and

(2) with respect to such programs—

(A) the number of investigations initiated, the number of prosecutions initiated, and the disposition of each prosecution;

(B) the number of prosecutions and the number of investigations of applicants of such programs in each State and territory based on the address listed on the application of the entity that is the subject of an investigation or prosecution;

(C) the number of referrals—

(i) from the Department of Justice; and

(ii) from sources other than the Department of Justice, such as the Inspector General of another agency; and

(D) the disposition of each referral described in subparagraph (C), specifically whether the referral resulted in prosecution or declination.

AUTHORITY FOR COMMITTEES TO MEET

Mr. SCHMITT. Mr. President, I have nine requests for committees to meet during today's session of the Senate. They have the approval of the Majority and Minority Leaders.

Pursuant to rule XXVI, paragraph 5(a), of the Standing Rules of the Senate, the following committees are authorized to meet during today's session of the Senate:

COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE, NUTRITION, AND FORESTRY

The Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Wednesday, April 29, 2026, at 5 p.m., to conduct a business meeting.

COMMITTEE ON BANKING, HOUSING, AND URBAN AFFAIRS

The Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs is authorized to meet in executive session during the session of the Senate on Wednesday, April 29, 2026, at 10 a.m.

COMMITTEE ON ENERGY AND NATURAL RESOURCES

The Committee on Energy and Natural Resources is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Wednesday, April 29, 2026, at 9:30 a.m., to conduct a hearing.

COMMITTEE ON ENVIRONMENT AND PUBLIC WORKS

The Committee on Environment and Public Works is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Wednesday, April 29, 2026, at 2:30 p.m., to conduct a hearing.

COMMITTEE ON THE JUDICIARY

The Committee on the Judiciary is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Wednesday, April 29, 2026, at 2 p.m., to conduct a hearing on nominations.

COMMITTEE ON SMALL BUSINESS AND ENTREPRENEURSHIP

The Committee on Small Business and Entrepreneurship is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Wednesday, April 29, 2026, at 2:45 p.m., to conduct a hearing.

COMMITTEE ON VETERANS' AFFAIRS

The Committee on Veterans' Affairs is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Wednesday, April 29, 2026, at 4 p.m., to conduct a hearing.

SELECT COMMITTEE ON INTELLIGENCE

The Select Committee on Intelligence is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Wednesday, April 29, 2026, at 3 p.m., to conduct a closed hearing.

PERMANENT SUBCOMMITTEE ON INVESTIGATIONS

The Permanent Subcommittee on Investigations of the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Wednesday, April 29, 2026, at 2:30 p.m., to conduct a hearing.

ORDERS FOR THURSDAY, APRIL 30, 2026

Ms. ERNST. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that when the Senate completes its business today, it stand adjourned until 10 a.m. on Thursday, April 30; that following the prayer and pledge, the Journal of proceedings be approved to date, the morning hour be deemed expired, the time for the two leaders be reserved for their use later

in the day, and the Senate be in a period of morning business, with Senators permitted to speak therein for up to 10 minutes each; further, that notwithstanding rule XXII, the cloture motion with respect to S. Res. 690 ripen at 11:30 a.m. tomorrow; finally, that if cloture is invoked on S. Res. 690, all postcloture time be expired and the Senate vote on adoption of the resolution at a time to be determined by the majority leader in consultation with the Democratic leader, no earlier than Friday, May 1.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Ms. ERNST. Mr. President, for the information of all Senators, expect a vote on the motion to discharge S.J. Res. 184 at 1:45 tomorrow.

ORDER FOR ADJOURNMENT

Ms. ERNST. Mr. President, if there is no further business to come before the Senate, I ask that it stand adjourned under the previous order, following the remarks of my colleagues.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Rhode Island.

UNANIMOUS CONSENT REQUEST—S. RES. 551

Mr. WHITEHOUSE. Mr. President, I am here with regard to a unanimous consent resolution.

I have tried one before to pursue a simple truth that climate change is real. Earlier this year, I came to the floor and asked my colleagues if they could all agree on that simple scientific fact. Sadly, given the nature of this body, they could not.

So we are going to break it down into smaller bits because the reality of climate change is made up of many, many simple truths; and I hope that by breaking it down piece by piece, I can find areas where my colleagues will agree.

Today's simple truth: Sea levels are rising. Can we agree on that? The resolution specifically says: ''recognizing that sea levels are rising at accelerated rates due to human-caused climate change.''

As global air temperatures rise, obviously, so do the temperatures of the oceans. Here is a graph showing the increase in ocean heat content. It is measured in zettajoules. ''Zettajoules'' is a very big number. ''Zetta'' means it has 18 zeroes. It is a billion trillions or a trillion billions, depending on which way you want to go about it.

To put it at a more practical scale, the entire production of energy by the human species on all of planet Earth adds up to one half of a zettajoule. The price we pay for the fossil fuel component of that half zettajoule of energy is an ocean whose temperature is increasing by around 15 zettajoules a year. It is a 30-times magnifier because of the effect of fossil fuel emissions.

And as ocean heat content grows, seawater expands. The physical nature of seawater is to expand as it warms. And it also melts nearby glaciers, and both result in higher sea levels.

Combined, glacier melt and thermal expansion of water cause global sea levels to rise, and the rates are accelerating over time.

Here is the curve of global sea level rise. It is one of the most unambiguous indicators of what emissions are doing on our Earth to our natural systems.

Sea level rise has been going at accelerated rates since about 1863, which lines up right with the dawn of the Industrial Revolution when greenhouse gas emissions began to rise as we burned coal, natural gas, and oil.

Depending on the trajectory of greenhouse gas emissions, sea level rise in the United States could range between 2 and over 7 feet by the end of this century. That is a particularly dangerous proposition when you consider that 3.7 million Americans in the contiguous United States live on land less than 3.3 feet above high tide.

And it doesn't come up like the bathtub; it comes up and is still subject to tide and storm, so it can be driven ashore at far higher levels than 2 feet or over 7 feet.

Most of the impact will be in Florida, Louisiana, California, New York, and New Jersey. My home State of Rhode Island and my colleague Senator MARKEY's home State of Massachusetts will share that unfortunate experience.

Sea level rise isn't just evidence of a change in climate; it has real consequences. Thirty percent of people living in the United States live in coastal areas which puts them at risk from rising seas, increased flooding, shoreline erosion, and storm hazards.

And it is not just people at risk. Mr. President, $10 trillion in goods and services are produced in coastal areas of the United States.

Rising sea level will not only cause what we call increased sunny day flooding, like when there is no rain to cause flooding; it is just tide and sea level rise, but it will also increase the amount of flooding from storms and from storm surges, and that will cost lives and money.

Indeed, it is already disrupting insurance, mortgage, and real estate markets. I have spoken elsewhere about the meltdown in Florida in those markets. Florida was recently described as the biggest loser for real estate values of all the 50 States, and it relates back to this cascade from climate risk to insurance being unavailable or too expensive to afford, to mortgages being compromised, to property values taking a hit.

There is some lessons we should learn from what has already happened. Mr. President, $8.1 billion of the $62 billion ascribed to Hurricane Sandy connects back to the rise in sea levels. Could have saved $8 billion were the sea level rise not happening.

Everywhere, high water levels that were once rare—1-in-100-year events are becoming 1-in-10- or 1-in-5-year events. Up to 13 million Americans will face displacement from sea level rise by 2100.

That is assuming that all goes smoothly, but all doesn't always go smoothly. There are tipping points in life. My favorite example is a rowboat.

If you put more and more weight in the rowboat, the water goes up and up the side of the boat. And there is not much change as the water goes up and up the side of the boat. But then you hit a tipping point where the water flows over the gunwale and into the boat. That is a big tipping point difference because suddenly it is not just more and more of the hull down in the water; it is the whole boat catastrophically falling, flooding, sinking to the bottom of the lake or the sea. So tipping points are to watch for.

Most ice is found in polar regions with as little as 1.5-degrees celsius of warming. The Greenland and West Antarctic ice sheets could be destabilized. That would be a major tipping point. Our Earth has already warmed 1.2 degrees celsius. So getting to 1.5 is not far away. And Greenland, for instance, is warming four times faster than the global average. So that puts us at the risk of the polar ice tipping point very soon.

Sea levels are expected to rise by 20 to 25 feet. Not 2 feet to 7.2 feet; 20 to 25 feet if the Greenland ice sheet melts and an additional 10 to 17 feet if the West Antarctic ice sheet melts.

The disintegration of either ice sheet would render major cities uninhabitable and completely destroy America's coastal communities.

So here is the simple truth: sea level rise is real. It is happening. Fossil fuel-caused climate change is accelerating its effects. Indeed, it is already disrupting American lives, pocketbooks, and families.

Mr. President, I will yield to Senator MARKEY from Massachusetts and return to make the actual unanimous consent request.

Mr. MARKEY. Mr. President, I thank the great Senator from Rhode Island, from the Ocean State. I represent the Bay State. We kind of have a relationship with the ocean in Rhode Island and in Massachusetts. That is why we are here.

I rise today in support of Senator WHITEHOUSE's resolution recognizing the grave threat of sea level rise due to human-caused climate change.

After decades of fossil fuel companies polluting our planet, ocean and atmospheric temperatures are rising. Our glaciers and ice sheets are melting.

Greenland's ice sheet is three times the size of Texas. And in some areas, the ice is 2 miles high. So just think of Greenland this way: 1,000 miles long, 300 miles wide, and a block of ice on it—the world's biggest ice cube—2 miles high is on top of Greenland, and it is melting.

So just think of a full glass of water: the Atlantic Ocean. Now, just drop the

biggest ice cube into an already full—an already full—glass of water. It just creates a flood no matter where you have done that.

So in 2007, when Speaker NANCY PELOSI named me as the chair of the Climate Committee in the House of Representatives, she asked me: Where should we go?

And I said: Well, our first visit should be to Greenland because it is the scene of the crime.

So we went up there end of May and out about 50 miles deep into Greenland on top of the 2-mile high icecap, and there is already lakes that are forming because the Sun starts to melt it in May and June and July and August.

What that water does on top of that 2-mile high ice cube is it starts to eddy out groove marks all the way down to the bottom of that 2-mile high ice cube. And then that water—that now warm water—starts to liquefy the bottom of that body of ice. And they measure on the Richter scale ice quakes inside of that big ice cube.

And that is what is happening on the planet. Greenland is a perfect example. I am so glad that Senator WHITEHOUSE raised it because it is the scene of the crime; and all along the East Coast, we are going to see absolutely catastrophic consequences if we don't stop it.

I mean 2 miles—I am thinking 30 football fields high of just ice going straight up in the air—30 football fields. That is what this is. That ice and ice all around the world is running into the ocean faster and faster and causing seas to rise.

The result has been sea level rise on a global scale. In the 20th century, sea levels rose nearly 9 inches over the 20th century. Now, as climate change speeds up, we are expected to see that amount of sea level rise from 2000 to 2030 as much as a foot—1 foot additionally—in just 30 years.

The rate of rise is accelerating, and if we continue to emit greenhouse gases that warm up that ice, sea level just won't quit. It is going to get worse and worse and worse. And for coastal communities across the country like those in Massachusetts and Rhode Island, this rate of rise is very, very real. It means more frequent and severe flooding events, eroding beaches, worsening storm surge, catastrophic consequences.

I mean, in the year 2000, there were three climate-related events that cost $1 billion worth of damage—three in 2000.

Two years ago, 27 events occurred in our country that cost $1 billion worth of damage, and the total amount was $180 billion just out of those 27 events, much less all of the other climate-related damage that was being caused.

It is getting worse and worse and worse, and it means billions of dollars in infrastructure damage, insurers raising premiums or exiting the insurance market for that part of the coastline altogether, and home values just keep dropping.

Senator WHITEHOUSE has talked about this over and over again, warning like a latter-day Cassandra of the coming danger of the impact it is going have upon the valuations of homes, and it means serious risk to human health, to livelihoods, and to lives.

And in Massachusetts, from Winthrop to Chatham to Rockport, our communities are adapting. They are building seawalls, investing in flood modeling, raising homes, and restoring natural ecosystem barriers.

But sea level rise is a particularly challenging crisis. Even if we stabilize emissions, scientists believe that our seas could continue rising for centuries. What we can control is the future rate of sea level rise through our actions right now.

So the task is very clear for the Senate, for our country. We must immediately lower our emissions, invest in ocean science, and build resilient infrastructure to protect against the threat that is already built into the system.

So knowing all of this, what are President Trump and his administration up to? Instead of lowering emissions, they are blocking and killing and delaying 28,000 megawatts of clean energy projects that would cut greenhouse gas emissions instead of tethering the country further to pollution and costly fossil fuels.

Instead of investing in ocean science, President Trump is proposing to cut the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration by more than a quarter, and that would slash the budget for the National Ocean Service, which coastal communities rely on for water level models, flood risk assessments, and weather forecasting. And it would eliminate the Office of Oceanic and Atmospheric Research and laboratories like the Atlantic Oceanographic and Meteorological Laboratory that have been the backbone of coastal scientific research for decades.

We need to understand our rising seas, not undermine science. Instead of investing in resilient infrastructure, Trump tried to eliminate FEMA's Building Resilient Infrastructure and Communities Program last year which would have delivered $90 million just to Massachusetts alone.

So let's be clear. These cuts will not save the government money. We are going to pay more on our energy bills. Not double, not triple, not 10 times more because we are not building in the safeguards, but an infinity size more. It is penny-wise but pound-foolish.

Prevention is preferable to cure. That is where we should be. We need to make sure that we send a message. The President and his administration do not care about coastal communities. They do not understand the seriousness of climate change. We have to reject these cuts to science. We have to protect clean energy investments. We have to have the backs of our climate and ocean scientists, and we must support our local governments and first responders on the frontlines of the climate crisis.

This resolution—the Whitehouse resolution—affirms the facts on sea level rise. These facts are forecast and felt on our coasts, and I urge my colleagues to support Senator WHITEHOUSE's resolution and pass this commonsense resolution.

I yield back to my friend from Rhode Island.

Mr. WHITEHOUSE. Mr. President, to accommodate the distinguished Senator from Wisconsin, I will move the unanimous consent now and then the Ranking Member of the Commerce Committee will speak.

I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation be discharged from further consideration and the Senate now proceed to S. Res. 551; further, that the resolution be agreed to, the preamble be agreed to, and that the motions to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection?

The Senator from Wisconsin.

Mr. JOHNSON. Reserving the right to object, I have got a smile on my face here. First of all, let me state that I am not a climate denier. I am just not a climate alarmist, like the Senators from Rhode Island and Massachusetts. So I am thinking of Chicken Little: ''The sky is falling.'' I am not sure how I am going to be able to sleep tonight.

I always found it very interesting when the Senator from Rhode Island was the chairman of the Budget Committee and we held numerous hearings on climate change with some tenuous connection to the budget. Again, very similar, ''the sky is falling,'' whether it is on insurance or housing costs or whatever.

During those hearings, I spoke about, probably a couple of times, and entered into the record the ''World Climate Declaration: There Is No Climate Emergency,'' signed by two Nobel Prize-winning physicists Dr. Ivan Yaeger and Dr. John Clauser, joined by about 25 other businesses, researchers, and scientists, and signed by a bunch of other people as well. It was a commonsense document.

The Senator from Rhode Island was talking about simple truths. Well, again, the simple truth is there is no climate emergency. The climate has always changed. It always will. CO_2 is plant food.

More people die of extreme cold than of extreme heat. I mean, these are things that are brought out in these hearings, generally by the minority witnesses.

Mr. WHITEHOUSE. Would the Senator yield for a procedural question?

Mr. JOHNSON. I suppose if it is procedural.

Mr. WHITEHOUSE. I yielded Senator CANTWELL's time in order to convenience you, and I am interested in how long you are going to speak because—

Mr. JOHNSON. I am almost done. Do you want me to just object?

Mr. WHITEHOUSE.—you are now inconveniencing our other colleague Senator CANTWELL.

Mr. JOHNSON. Great. Listen, listen, I have barely spent any time here, OK.

The bottom line is, in those hearings, I asked witnesses: How much have we spent combating climate change?

Five to six trillion dollars.

Our Energy Secretary puts the number at $10 trillion and calls it, correctly, the largest malinvestment in human history.

This isn't some simple resolution. This is setting up trillions of dollars of malinvestment, up to $50 trillion in testimony.

So, again, we can't afford this climate alarmism. We can't cave to the Chicken Littles of the Senate.

So I object.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The objection is heard.

The Senator from Washington.

Ms. CANTWELL. Mr. President, I come to the floor to speak in support of the Senator from Rhode Island's resolution, S. Res. 551, and applaud him for recognizing that sea level risings are accelerating the rates that we are seeing and driving measurable impact.

So my colleague from the Midwest objecting to this is very disturbing because even our colleague from Maine and I—the Senator from Maine, Senator COLLINS—had gotten CBO to do two different reports over the last 8 or 9 years to say: How much is climate change costing the Federal Government and Federal taxpayers?

The first study came back and said it is costing us billions of dollars, and the most recent one said it is costing us trillions of dollars.

So, literally, you are costing taxpayers trillions of dollars because you don't want to adapt or mitigate those impacts. I can tell you that these are real-world impacts, and, certainly, when 45 percent of the U.S. economy is happening in coastal areas, that means those coastal economies can be impacted by rising sea levels, and that means that our economic output can be impacted. So we were trying to do something about that.

So I want to thank Senator WHITEHOUSE for his leadership on this important issue. He is out here, time and time again, talking about this, articulating the issues, actually traveling his State, traveling the country, being an articulate voice on why rising levels of our oceans are important, why ocean acidification is important, why protecting fisheries is important, why helping shellfish growers is.

You know, we did some research, Senator WHITEHOUSE, at the University of Washington. It was only a few hundred thousand dollars. But we had five generations of shellfish growers about to go out of business because of the fact that ocean acidification had changed the temperature in the water, and we could not figure out how to seed for those shellfish. And the science that was done at the University of Washington helped us come up with a new process and saved the day.

But what is the next challenge going to be? So we need to strengthen our coastal resiliency in the face of this climate change.

So I really also applaud our colleague Senator MARKEY, who is a member of the Commerce Committee, also from an ocean State, very dependent on an ocean economy for lots of different issues. He wants to make sure that we are applying the best science to protecting these economies.

As I mentioned, a nonpartisan Government Accountability Office cost report found that climate change will cost taxpayers more than $1 trillion by 2039.

So I know the Presiding Officer knows all about what happens when FEMA and disasters happen and we need to help States. But just imagine that that bill is now going to be $1 trillion by 2039, and rising sea levels are going to be part of that cost.

Washington, my State, is already seeing real-world impacts from this, particularly in sea level rise. Puget Sound levels are projected to rise 1.6 feet by 2050 and as much as 10 feet by 2100. And statewide, we are expecting to see 1 to 3 feet by the end of the century.

So that does have an impact. And the kind of changes that we are talking about can have impacts specifically on infrastructure. Sea level rise will worsen coastal flooding. It will impact storm surge. It will likely—just for example, what does that mean? We have a highway system that runs right up and down our Puget Sound area that can be impacted at times.

We have had a lot of erosion lately, now twice, right outside of Bellingham, and I–5 has been closed. OK, why is I–5 closing? Because we have had so much rain, we have had so much impact-changing environment that we basically have had to have I–5 shut twice just to clean up from the mudslides.

Our Amtrak service, which runs all the way from California up to British Columbia, also has been impacted by huge slides after rain and after these swollen rivers.

And the increased likelihood of ground instability during earthquakes also magnifies devastating events and threatens critical areas like roads, bridges, and fiberoptic cables in greater Seattle, which could all be underwater as early as 2030.

So we just had a massive flood out in the Northwest, in December, and that impact was just unbelievable—one of the biggest. You know, thank God we had the information from NOAA. And thank God, what did we do?

In King, Pierce, and Snohomish Counties, we basically, over the last decade, planned for mitigation and adaptation. We built a canal system. We built a system that allowed us to take some of that water and create a flow of the massive amount of water that happened during that flood. And we were able to, literally—we lost one individual. That was it.

We were so proud that we had made it through most of that, until one individual drove into a flooded area and, unfortunately, lost their life. We are very, very sorry for them and their family.

But when we planned and did adaptation and mitigation, when we looked at culverts, when we looked at diking systems, when we looked at relieving the pressure, we were able to lessen the impact.

So it is not unlikely that any of these floods or any of these rising water issues impact a major transportation system in our State, whether it is I–5, I–90, or Highway 2, or some of these other facilities.

So we pay a lot of attention to this because we have got a lot of product going to the Pacific right through our State. And so if any of these infrastructure resources are closed, it is literally millions and millions and millions of dollars a day.

So rising wastewater is also an issue. So treatment facilities around Puget Sound and Elliott Bay are increasingly vulnerable to flooding and overflow, threatening the release of bacteria, toxic chemicals, and other pollutants into our waterways and our drinking water. Those risks and costs only grow as the water rises.

In the State of Washington alone, 2 million people live in areas susceptible to flooding, with $86 billion of infrastructure at risk. And that number continues to grow as sea levels rise.

Nationally, 34 million Americans live in low-elevation areas at risk to sea level rise. That is literally 1 in 10 Americans. So why ignore it?

All my colleague was trying to do is to say we should recognize this threat and start to work toward solutions.

Sea level rise endangers one of the cornerstones of our State's heritage and economy, and that is salmon. We all in the Northwest want to make sure that rising sea levels do not impact our estuaries and our wetlands, but that is exactly what these rising sea levels are supposed to do, significantly reduce estuaries and wetlands by 2100. These areas are critical for juvenile salmon as they migrate to the ocean, as well as birds and important wildlife.

Just this week, Isabella Breda at the Seattle Times wrote a piece about how the Chinook salmon—I think I have got to get this for the Senator from Rhode Island because it is a great story. It is on the front page of the Seattle Times. But it is literally about monitors in the river because we are trying to monitor these storms, because when we have—this is the area where, several years ago, we had a massive mudslide in Oso, which killed dozens and dozens of people, unfortunately.

And so we know we can have major events, and we need to do better.

So, basically, it is about how Chinook salmon in the Stillaguamish River are vulnerable to the flooding

that disrupts the riverbed sediments that are needed for spawning. So we are trying to understand this because it is kind of like a massive amount of flooding can just wash away the salmon beds. And in this river alone, Chinook populations are down to roughly 10 percent of their historic levels.

So this is really important to us. As a State, we want salmon. We want to understand rising sea levels. We want to understand what flooding is going to do to create damage. When are those spawning grounds going to be lost, and when are Chinook survival rates going to continue to drop? We want to know.

Many of the 29 federally recognized Tribes in my State have already been seeing the impacts of climate change and are already preparing for the worst. And I know some people may not know the geography of our country, but we are talking—OK, let's just say that we are talking way out on the Pacific coast. Tribes like the Hoh Indian Tribe, the Quinault Indian Tribe, the Quileute Tribe, and the Shoalwater Bay Tribe are all located along the Pacific coast, and the threat of sea level rise has forced them to take aggressive, unprecedented actions to move parts of their reservations to higher land. Some have had to plan for full-scale relocation of coastal villages to mitigate the increasing dire threat of floods due to sea level.

Trust me, the Army Corps of Engineers is out there, practically on a monthly basis, trying to come up with a plan to mitigate the impacts of the Pacific on the Shoalwater Tribe.

Others are working tirelessly to mitigate the cumulative effects of coastal erosion, including inland flooding and extreme weather events.

For some of our coastal Tribes, the situation is incredibly dire. Not long ago, when I was visiting the Shoalwater in Tokeland, WA, many of the homes and government buildings that were there on the beach and the shoreline you could just tell were quickly eroding.

And so this is about whether we give them a resolution. This resolution that we were talking about makes clear that we cannot bury our heads in the sand while climate change and sea level rise put billions of dollars of infrastructure and millions of Americans at risk.

If we want to protect our economy and these communities, we need the data and the science to understand the problem. We need to take the necessary steps to protect our communities and our infrastructure and our economy.

So I urge my colleagues to reconsider. I hope that we will have S. Res. 551 before us again. I hope that some of our colleagues on the other side of the aisle that represent coastal States will talk to our colleague from Wisconsin and encourage him to, instead, support this legislation.

We have to do better planning. We have to do better adaptation and mitigation. We have to use better science. And we have to recognize that the impacts of rising sea levels in our oceans really, really do affect our economy.

I am so proud of our fishing economy in the Northwest. I think we sometimes—the Senator from Massachusetts and I, you know, basically debate back and forth about best seafood and best aquaculture. And I know the Senator from Rhode Island also has a lot to brag about.

But that number—45 percent of the economy being in coastal regions of the United States of America and us doing nothing to think about what is the adaptation and mitigation that we need to do is just wrongheaded. We need these. I don't even know if the Senator has got any data on this, but I would assume he has thought about this from a military perspective.

I have got a lot of military bases in our State, and they are very close to water. What are they going to do when sea level rises? What do we have to do to mitigate and adapt so that those bases continue to be successful, particularly at a moment when the Pacific is becoming even more interesting?

So, again, I thank the Senator from Rhode Island for helping lead this charge every night but particularly tonight.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Rhode Island.

Mr. WHITEHOUSE. Mr. President, I would wrap things up this evening by simply pointing out that the views expressed by the Senator from Wisconsin related to climate change are not shared by the University of Wisconsin, which actually teaches climate science. It has programs in the Atmospheric and Ocean Sciences Department. It has programs in the Environmental Sciences Department.

Courses include Climate and Climate Change; Climate Change, Human and Planetary Health; Climatic Environments of the Past; Climate Change Ecology; Ice and Climate Dynamics; Soils and Climate Change; Climate Change and Health Disparities; Climate Change Medicine; Agricultural Weather and Climate; Climate Change Economics and Policy; Climate Change Action Planning; Case Studies Exploring Infrastructure Sustainability and Climate Change; Climate Change Governance; Climate Change, Sustainability, and Education; and for the lawyers in the room, even a law class: Climate Change, Human Rights, and the Environment.

I yield the floor.

ADJOURNMENT UNTIL 10 A.M. TOMORROW

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the Senate stands adjourned until 10 a.m. tomorrow.

Thereupon, the Senate, at 7:07 p.m., adjourned until Thursday, April 30, 2026, at 10 a.m.

CONFIRMATION

Executive nomination confirmed by the Senate April 29, 2026:

DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

ROBERT CEKADA, OF FLORIDA, TO BE DIRECTOR, BUREAU OF ALCOHOL, TOBACCO, FIREARMS, AND EXPLOSIVES.

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

RECOGNIZING ABEL VASEY

HON. BRITTANY PETTERSEN
OF COLORADO
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 29, 2026

Ms. PETTERSEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Abel Vasey for earning the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth Award.

Abel has overcome many challenges along his journey to success, demonstrating perseverance at every step. Students who strive to make the most of their education, like Abel, develop crucial skills and a work ethic that will guide them for the rest of their lives. This award is a testament to Abel's hard work, determination, and perseverance at Jefferson Jr./Sr. High School and is clearly just the beginning of a bright and promising future.

It is my honor to congratulate Abel Vasey on achieving the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth Award.

HONORING THE LIFE OF PENELOPE ''PENNY'' ANN BRIGGS BROWN

HON. JOHN R. CARTER
OF TEXAS
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 29, 2026

Mr. CARTER of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life of Penelope "Penny" Ann Briggs Brown of Conroe, Texas, who passed away on February 14, 2026. Penny was born on August 13, 1941, in Washington, D.C. A woman of deep faith, kindness, and creativity, she touched countless lives through her generosity, warmth, and unwavering devotion to her family.

Penny graduated from Northwood High School in Silver Spring, Maryland, and earned a Bachelor of Fine Arts from the University of Maryland. During a summer internship as a Technical Illustrator at Vitro Corporation, she met Richard "Dick" Brown, who later became her husband. Together they raised their children, Derek Michael Brown, Barrington Lee Brown, and Teri Lynn, and welcomed cherished grandchildren Leighton, Gipson, Ashley, and Austin.

Although Penny was talented in many areas, her greatest gifts were evident in the way she mothered her children. She poured her heart into supporting their school activities, sewing costumes, volunteering at events, and cheering them on in marching band, drill team, and football. She created a family life grounded in love and faith, and she carried that same devotion into her relationships with her grandchildren.

Professionally, Penny worked as a CAD CAM operator for E Systems. She also shared her gifts through quilting, jewelry making, and crochet. A faithful servant of her community, she was an active member of The Woodlands Methodist Church, where she contributed to the Crafts Circle and the Prayer Shawl Ministry.

Penny Brown's life was defined by love, creativity, service, and a deep commitment to those around her. She offered encouragement with sincerity and left a lasting impact on all who knew her. Her legacy of compassion and faith will continue to guide and inspire her family and community for generations to come.

RECOGNIZING JACK BUELL ON HIS OFFER OF APPOINTMENT TO ATTEND THE UNITED STATES MILITARY ACADEMY

HON. ROBERT E. LATTA
OF OHIO
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 29, 2026

Mr. LATTA. Mr. Speaker, I rise to pay special tribute to an outstanding student from Ohio's 5th Congressional District. I am pleased to announce that Jack Buell of Pandora, Ohio, has been offered an appointment to the United States Military Academy in West Point, New York.

Jack's offer of appointment permits him to attend the United States Military Academy this fall with the incoming Class of 2030. Attending one of our Nation's military academies not only offers the opportunity to serve our country but also guarantees a world-class education while undertaking one of the most challenging and rewarding experiences of his life. Jack brings a tremendous amount of leadership, service, and dedication to the incoming Class of 2030. While attending Pandora-Gilboa High School, he participated in student government, National Honor Society, Quiz Bowl, and Big Brothers Big Sisters, and was on the honor roll. Throughout high school, Jack was involved in cross country, basketball, and track and field, earning his varsity letter in all three. I am confident that he will carry the lessons of his student and athletic leadership to the Military Academy.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating Jack Buell on his offer of appointment to the United States Military Academy. Our service academies offer the finest military training and education available, and I am positive that Jack will excel during his career at the Military Academy. I ask my colleagues to join me in extending their best wishes to him as he begins his service to our Nation.

HONORING THE LATE MRS. KAREN SOCK

HON. BENNIE G. THOMPSON
OF MISSISSIPPI
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 29, 2026

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, I was saddened to learn of the passing of the phenomenal community leader, Mrs. Karen Sock, who spent decades advocating for cancer patients, students, and for a better South Mississippi.

Mrs. Karen Sock, born in Cleveland, Ohio, dedicated much of her life to public service and community uplift. She was a leader in a male-dominated field and led the way for women to reach the top at Coast Casino. In 1996, she became the Nation's first Black woman to lead a major casino company as a general manager at the original Harrah's Casino in Tunica. This paved the path for Mrs. Sock to open six casinos at various locations while she held leadership positions at other casinos, and effectively managed hundreds of millions of dollars in revenues for casino companies.

Later in life, Mrs. Sock co-founded Pathways2Possibilities (P2P), an interactive, hands-on, career exploration experience for 8th graders. Engaging, educating, and empowering students to seek out a variety of career opportunities with access to professionals and equipment. Since 2013, P2P has impacted over 124,000 8th graders and expanded their program to South Carolina and Tennessee.

Mrs. Sock was also a dedicated breast cancer survivor whose personal journey led her to become a passionate advocate for cancer awareness and support. She led local efforts in the fight against cancer through prevention, education, early detection, and survivorship as the appointed Coalition Chair of Mississippi Gulf Coast Region for the Mississippi Partnership for Comprehensive Cancer Control in 2025.

Mrs. Sock will be remembered for her unwavering commitment to service, her compassion for others, and the lasting impact she made on the lives of countless South Mississippi residents. In 2024 was awarded the annual John R. Blossman Humanitarian Award in recognition for P2P and her leadership during recovery efforts in the aftermath of Hurricane Katrina. She also received the Pat Santucci Spirit of the Coast Award in February 2026. Her legacy is reflected in the community she helped shape and the many individuals she inspired along the way.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing the late Mrs. Karen Sock for her phenomenal leadership in the community and education.

RECOGNIZING ALFONZE ROMERO

HON. BRITTANY PETTERSEN
OF COLORADO
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 29, 2026

Ms. PETTERSEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Alfonze Romero for earning the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth Award.

Alfonze has overcome many challenges along his journey to success, demonstrating

perseverance at every step. Students who strive to make the most of their education, like Alfonze, develop crucial skills and a work ethic that will guide them for the rest of their lives. This award is a testament to Alfonze's hard work, determination, and perseverance at Jefferson Jr./Sr. High School and is clearly just the beginning of a bright and promising future.

It is my honor to congratulate Alfonze Romero on achieving the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth Award.

HONORING THE LIVES OF CHRIS AND JACQUE SHEAFE

HON. JUAN CISCOMANI

OF ARIZONA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 29, 2026

Mr. CISCOMANI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the lives of a dear friend, Chris Sheafe, and his beloved wife, Jacque, who tragically and unexpectedly passed earlier this month.

My wife, Laura, and I are deeply saddened by this loss—a loss to us personally and a loss to our entire community. Chris was a special person—a wise and thoughtful man who generously shared his time with the people and the causes he believed in.

Chris devoted decades of his life to making the American Dream a reality as a successful homebuilder. The safety, shelter, and financial security that comes from owning your home—Chris helped make that possible for so many. He was also a driving force in shaping Tucson's hospitality industry as a partner in the company that constructed one of the signature resorts that our desert community is famous for—Loews Ventana Canyon Resort.

His work with organizations like Rio Nuevo, the Southern Arizona Homebuilders Association, and the Tucson International Airport Authority was a true expression of just how intentionally he cared about the Tucson community, which he called home for the past 50 years.

Chris devoted his career to work that shaped Southern Arizona, improving our community for those who live there today and for the next generation. He was a man of integrity, a man true to his word, a man you wanted close to you.

Chris and Jacque's love for the Lord was truly evident. They both always took time to greet each one of my kids and make them feel special. They brought joy into every room they entered, and together they led a life marked by service and passion.

Laura and I are keeping the Sheafe family in our thoughts and prayers as we all grieve this heartbreaking loss. We are grateful for all he gave to our community. He will be deeply missed and his legacy will live on in the lives he touched.

May my dear friend Chris, and his wife Jacque, rest in peace.

HONORING THE LIFE OF MARY ANNE MULLANY

HON. JOHN JOYCE

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 29, 2026

Mr. JOYCE of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life of Mary Anne Mullany of Ridley Park, Pennsylvania, who passed away recently at the age of 94.

A graduate of the Hospital of the University of Pennsylvania School of Nursing, she went on to receive her Bachelor of Science in Nursing from Neumann University before beginning her more than 40-year career as a Registered Nurse, including 20 years in the Neonatal Intensive Care Nursery at the Hospital of the University of Pennsylvania.

Throughout her time at the Hospital of the University of Pennsylvania, Mary worked to care for the most vulnerable. She spent long nights on her feet monitoring vital signs, carrying out life-saving procedures, holding children during their first and most fragile days, and comforting families as they navigated the challenges of caring for a child born prematurely.

Mary cherished her six children, eight grandchildren, and two great-grandchildren, and dedicated her life to caring for others.

She was a lifelong learner. Her passion for history and travel took her from Israel and Spain to the National Parks of the American West, always by the side of those she loved. She enjoyed attending the Opera, going to Phillies games, and solving New York Times crossword puzzles while sitting in her garden alongside her daughter, Mary.

Today, please join me in remembering Mary Anne Mullany—a nurse, a mother, and a friend to all she knew.

RECOGNIZING THE 100TH ANNIVERSARY OF IMMANUEL LUTHERAN CHURCH

HON. JOHN R. CARTER

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 29, 2026

Mr. CARTER of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the 100th Anniversary of Immanuel Lutheran Church in Temple, Texas, an institution whose century-long service has strengthened not only the spiritual lives of its congregation, but also the character and community of Central Texas.

Founded in 1926, Immanuel Lutheran Church has been a steadfast presence in Temple for generations by providing worship, fellowship, education, and charitable outreach that reflects the very best of our faith communities. Over the past century, this church has grown from a small gathering of devoted families into a vibrant congregation that continues to serve as a source of stability, compassion, and hope.

From its earliest years, Immanuel Lutheran Church has been a place where faith is lived out through service. Supporting local schools, offering outreach to families in need, and standing as a pillar of fellowship and unity. The congregation's dedication reflects the enduring values that have shaped Central Texas for generations.

As the church looks toward the next century of ministry, its members remain committed to their mission of serving God, uplifting their neighbors, and strengthening the bonds of community. Their legacy is a testament to what can be achieved when faith, family, and service are at the heart of daily life.

I am honored to congratulate Immanuel Lutheran Church of Temple, Texas, on its 100th Anniversary, and I extend my deepest appreciation for its century of service to the people of the 31st District of Texas. May God continue to bless this congregation and guide its ministry for the next hundred years.

RECOGNIZING ARTURO ARO CALVILLO

HON. BRITTANY PETTERSEN

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 29, 2026

Ms. PETTERSEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Arturo Aro Calvillo for earning the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth Award.

Arturo has overcome many challenges along his journey to success, demonstrating perseverance at every step. Students who strive to make the most of their education, like Arturo, develop crucial skills and a work ethic that will guide them for the rest of their lives. This award is a testament to Arturo's hard work, determination, and perseverance at Jefferson Jr./Sr. High School and is clearly just the beginning of a bright and promising future.

It is my honor to congratulate Arturo Aro Calvillo on achieving the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth Award.

COMMEMORATING NATIONAL PEO WEEK

HON. ERIN HOUCHIN

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 29, 2026

Mrs. HOUCHIN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commemorate National PEO Week, which starts May 17 and ends May 23, 2026.

National PEO Week will celebrate the important contributions of the Professional Employer Organization (PEO) industry, which provides payroll, employee benefits, compliance assistance, and HR services to hundreds of thousands of small and mid-sized businesses that employ more than 4.5 million people.

PEOs help small businesses improve productivity and profitability, focus on their core mission, and grow. Through a PEO, employees of small businesses gain access to important employment benefits such as 401(k) plans; health, dental, life, and other insurance; dependent care; and other benefits they might not typically receive as employees of a small company.

PEOs also take over back-office tasks that consume time, energy, and resources, enabling small businesses working with a PEO to grow twice as fast, have a 12 percent lower employee turnover, and a higher business survival rate.

I know the value that PEOs provide. Before coming to Congress, I worked for a PEO, and I saw firsthand the positive impact they had on small businesses in my home state of Indiana.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to congratulate the PEO industry for all they do to help our Nation's small businesses and their employees prosper.

RECOGNIZING MICHELE SMITH ON HER OFFER OF APPOINTMENT TO ATTEND THE UNITED STATES AIR FORCE ACADEMY

HON. ROBERT E. LATTA

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 29, 2026

Mr. LATTA. Mr. Speaker, I rise to pay special tribute to an outstanding student from Ohio's 5th Congressional District. I am pleased to announce that Michele Smith of Avon, Ohio, has been offered an appointment to the United States Air Force Academy in Colorado Springs, Colorado.

Michele's offer of appointment permits her to attend the United States Air Force Academy this fall with the incoming Class of 2030. Attending one of our Nation's military academies not only offers the opportunity to serve our country but also guarantees a world-class education while undertaking one of the most challenging and rewarding experiences of her life. Michele brings a tremendous amount of leadership, service, and dedication to the incoming Class of 2030. While attending Avon High School, she participated in National Honor Society, Orchestra, Leo Club, CLIMB Club, and was on the honor roll. Throughout high school, Michele was involved in cross country, high school swim team, and club swim team, earning her varsity letter in swimming. I am confident that she will carry the lessons of her student and athletic leadership to the Air Force Academy.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating Michele Smith on her offer of appointment to the United States Air Force Academy. Our service academies offer the finest military training and education available, and I am positive that Michele will excel during her career at the Air Force Academy. I ask my colleagues to join me in extending their best wishes to her as she begins her service to our Nation.

CELEBRATING DR. FRANK J. CALZONETTI'S RETIREMENT

HON. MARCY KAPTUR

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 29, 2026

Ms. KAPTUR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to celebrate the retirement of a truly extraordinary human being, public servant, and scholar, Dr. Frank J. Calzonetti.

For decades, Frank has embodied the very best of what a university scholar and leader for our community and region can be. A patient, ingenious, and creative force for regional strength and national progress, he has built our community's resilience forward every step of the way—educationally and economically.

For 25 years at The University of Toledo, a quarter century, his leadership has transformed scientific research into real-world impact. He has advanced energy and engineering innovation, strengthened workforce development, created new age jobs in energy, advanced manufacturing, fresh water systems, and guided Northwest Ohio toward a more secure and prosperous future.

Even in his last months on the job, he helped deliver a $19.2 million federal award from the Department of Energy for nuclear workforce development, workplace safety, and advanced nuclear energy education. He told me this was the largest award in University of Toledo's history. His collaboration allowed a true team effort with over 20 organizations involved to bring home this major federal award. It would not have been possible with Frank's leadership and perseverance. Bravo.

Dr. Calzonetti has always understood that great educational institutions do not stand apart from their communities—they stand within them. His efforts to advance us all and lift our communities up to new horizons, including establishing relationships with our Nation's most advanced federal research facility.

Whether it was working together to advance clean energy initiatives, responding to crises like the Toledo water emergency, or helping position the University as a national research leader, Frank's historic work has left an enduring imprint that will never be forgotten, and exists to build forward.

What a privilege it has been to work alongside Frank, including on recent historic federal investments to shape the next generation of American energy and power leadership, to seize cutting-edge research to secure our region, to save, and change lives for the better. Whether is it photovoltaics or clean, nuclear advancements, Frank stands tall. His steady vision never lost edge.

Frank's life and career has been one of purpose, integrity, and lasting contribution. He has served our University, our State, and our Nation with distinction.

On behalf of a grateful Northwest Ohio region, and Americans from coast to coast, I want to thank him and congratulate him on a remarkable journey. His personable demeanor and acute intellect translates into progress at every threshold. I thank Dr. Frank J. Calzonetti for his immeasurable contributions to The University of Toledo and Beyond.

All of us are honored by his friendship and partnership in all these path-breaking efforts.

Bravo. Onward.

RECOGNIZING ASHLEY BECK

HON. BRITTANY PETTERSEN

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 29, 2026

Ms. PETTERSEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Ashley Beck for earning the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth Award.

Ashley has overcome many challenges along her journey to success, demonstrating perseverance at every step. Students who strive to make the most of their education, like Ashley, develop crucial skills and a work ethic that will guide them for the rest of their lives. This award is a testament to Ashley's hard work, determination, and perseverance at Drake Middle School and is clearly just the beginning of a bright and promising future.

It is my honor to congratulate Ashley Beck on achieving the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth Award.

HONORING LARRY MAYER AS APRIL'S ''MONTANA INNOVATOR''

HON. TROY DOWNING

OF MONTANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 29, 2026

Mr. DOWNING. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Larry Mayer as the ''Montana Innovator'' for the month of April. In honor of America's 250th birthday, Montana's congressional delegation is recognizing exceptional individuals who embody the spirit of our great state and Nation. This month, I am proud to highlight Montana's rich communities and the power of visual storytelling by celebrating a dedicated photojournalist who has spent decades documenting the people, places, and events that define the Treasure State: Larry Mayer.

Larry Mayer, a photographer with The Billings Gazette, has worked in photojournalism for nearly 50 years, capturing and preserving the stories of communities across Montana. Having worked with Larry during my time in Congress and previously as Montana State Auditor, I have come to admire his calm demeanor, kindness, and ability to connect with everyone.

Larry's commitment to photojournalism drew international attention when he identified the Chinese spy balloon as it crossed over Montana. Capturing both everyday moments and historic events is part of the very fabric of our state. With Larry Mayer behind the lens, those stories will continue to be told for generations to come.

It is my honor to recognize him this April, alongside eleven other individuals who represent what it means to be a Montanan.

HONORING ART GUERRERO

HON. GREG CASAR

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 29, 2026

Mr. CASAR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Art Guerrero, a dedicated public servant whose integrity, courage, and commitment to justice helped free an innocent woman after more than two decades of wrongful imprisonment.

A native Austinite, Mr. Guerrero is an alum of Metz Elementary School, Allan Junior High School, and Johnston High School, Class of 1966. He went on to attend Southwest Texas State in San Marcos and left after his first year to enlist in the U.S. Air Force.

He continued his public service by working for a Justice of the Peace in Travis County and then as a deputy under Sheriff Raymond Frank. Then, after seven years with the Mueller Airport Police, Art was an investigator for the city until he retired in the 1980s. After retirement, Art decided to return to the Travis County Courthouse as a bailiff.

In 2005, Mr. Guerrero served during the trial of Carmen Mejia, who was wrongfully convicted and sentenced to life in prison. While bailiffs are neutral observers at trial, Art recalled that this case deeply troubled him. Having witnessed many trials before, he worried that Mejia had not received adequate legal representation during her trial.

In 2022, Art connected with the Innocence Project and officials in the Travis County District Attorney José Garza's Office to share his

concerns and encourage a review of the case. His tireless advocacy helped initiate a reexamination of the conviction. In 2025 and 2026, District Judge David Wahlberg formally found Carmen Mejia innocent, and she was exonerated and freed after 23 years behind bars.

Throughout this process, Mr. Guerrero has remained humble about his role, emphasizing that he simply followed his conscience and his belief that justice must always be pursued with honesty and fairness. His willingness to come forward demonstrates the importance of integrity in public service and reminds us that safeguarding our liberties requires vigilance from everyone. When the powers that be are wrong, our Nation relies on the moral integrity of everyday citizens like Art Guerrero to set things right.

As the United States Representative for the 35th District of Texas, it is my great privilege to recognize Art Guerrero for his years of service to the people of Texas and for his principled commitment to fairness and accountability. His example reminds us that the strength of our democracy depends not only on laws and institutions, but also on the courage of those willing to challenge those institutions for the sake of justice.

I am grateful for his decency, his tenacity, and his commitment to the pursuit of fairness for all Texans.

HONORING THE LIFE AND LEGACY OF DELL INGRAM-WALKER

HON. JOHN R. CARTER

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 29, 2026

Mr. CARTER of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor and recognize the life and legacy of Dell Ingram-Walker, an extraordinary healthcare leader and dedicated public servant, whose impact on pediatric healthcare and her community will not be forgotten.

Dell Ingram-Walker served with distinction as the Vice President, Chief Operating Officer, and President of McLane Children's Medical Center in Temple, Texas. A pioneering leader, she made history as the first Black Vice President and Chief Operating Officer of the institution, breaking barriers and setting a powerful example for future generations. Throughout her career, Dell led with both excellence and compassion. Her organizational style was defined not only by operational success, but by her deep commitment to people. She actively engaged with staff at every level, fostering a culture where every voice was valued and every team member felt empowered. Through initiatives focused on connection and mentorship, she worked tirelessly to uplift those around her and ensure the highest standard of care for patients and families.

A proud alumna of the University of Alabama, Dell carried her passion for leadership and grace into every role she held. She was known for encouraging professional growth, inspiring others to pursue their goals, and creating opportunities for advancement within the healthcare field. Her influence extended far beyond the hospital walls, touching the lives of colleagues, patients, and the broader community.

Beyond her professional accomplishments, Dell will be remembered for her kindness, warmth, and the genuine care she showed to everyone she encountered. She built meaningful relationships and left a lasting impression on all who had the privilege of knowing her.

Dell Ingram-Walker represents the very best of guidance in healthcare. She was truly compassionate for others and deeply committed to service. On behalf of a grateful community, I extend my deepest condolences to her family, friends, and colleagues, and I honor her remarkable life and enduring legacy.

RECOGNIZING DELYLAH HAWK

HON. BRITTANY PETTERSEN

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 29, 2026

Ms. PETTERSEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Delylah Hawk for earning the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth Award.

Delylah has overcome many challenges along her journey to success, demonstrating perseverance at every step. Students who strive to make the most of their education, like Delylah, develop crucial skills and a work ethic that will guide them for the rest of their lives. This award is a testament to Delylah's hard work, determination, and perseverance at Jefferson Jr./Sr. High School and is clearly just the beginning of a bright and promising future.

It is my honor to congratulate Delylah Hawk on achieving the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth Award.

CELEBRATING BELLARMINE COLLEGE PREPARATORY'S 175TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. SAM T. LICCARDO

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 29, 2026

Mr. LICCARDO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today along with my colleagues, Representative RO KHANNA and Representative ZOE LOFGREN, to celebrate Bellarmine College Preparatory on the extraordinary occasion of its 175th anniversary. As the oldest Jesuit secondary school in California, Bellarmine embodies a tradition that uniquely combines academic excellence, moral formation, and enduring contributions to the broader community and the world. Founded in 1851 as Santa Clara Preparatory, part of what was then Santa Clara College, Bellarmine grew alongside the City of San José. For nearly two centuries, the school has rooted its mission in the Jesuit tradition of educating the whole person—mind, body, and spirit—with a deep commitment to service. Through extensive service-learning programs, the school encourages students to engage meaningfully with the world around them. Bellarmine students contribute thousands of hours each year to community service—supporting local shelters, tutoring underserved youth, assisting food banks, and partnering with nonprofit organizations throughout the region. These efforts cultivate in students a lifelong dedication to justice, compassion, and civic responsibility.

The school's emphasis on forming ''men for and with others''—core to the Jesuit mission—guides its daily work. Bellarmine cultivates generations of leaders who go on to serve in public office, education, business, and the nonprofit sector. I am one of three Bellarmine alumni to have served as mayor to San José's one million residents. Numerous others have demonstrated their leadership as founders and C-suite executives of major Silicon Valley companies, as executive directors of impactful non-profit organizations, as educators at top universities, as California legislators, as Rhodes Scholars, as gold-medal-winning Olympians, and as NFL and MLB all-stars. More than their achievement, however, Bellarmine alumni have stood out for their service to the world. This legacy reflects Bellarmine's ability to inspire young people to pursue lives of purpose and service.

Bellarmine also demonstrates an impressive commitment to access and opportunity. Through financial aid programs and institutional support, no student who meets Bellarmine's rigorous academic standards for admission is turned away for his family's inability to pay tuition. The school's extensive scholarship program opens its doors to talented students from socioeconomic backgrounds, building a student body that increasingly reflects the extraordinary diversity of San José. This commitment strengthens both the school community and the broader region, as graduates embrace values of inclusion and equity in their professional and civic lives.

At Bellarmine, Jesuits actively teach, mentor, and guide students, creating an environment where young people feel known, receive support, and embrace challenges that faster growth. Through classroom instruction, campus ministry, retreats, and weekly Mass, the school fosters reflection, ethical leadership, and spiritual development that continue to shape students long after graduation. Bellarmine's academic, athletic, and extracurricular programs further enrich the cultural and civic fabric of the community. Bellarmine students routinely excel in statewide and national competitions across a wide variety of pursuits: athletics, speech and debate, robotics, chess, National Merit Scholarships, and every other means by which students can learn to overcome life's barriers to excel, and to inspire others to do so.

Mr. Speaker, for 175 years, Bellarmine College Preparatory has upheld the highest ideals of Jesuit education—academic rigor, moral integrity, and a steadfast commitment to service. I ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating the entire Bellarmine community—students, faculty, staff, alumni, and families—on this remarkable milestone. May Bellarmine continue to inspire and form future generations of leaders dedicated to building a more just and compassionate world.

RECOGNIZING THE GENESEE VOLUNTEER FIRE DEPARTMENT

HON. GLENN THOMPSON

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 29, 2026

Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to highlight the Genesee Township Volunteer Fire Department and the numerous officials who have served for many years.

The Fire Department serves the Genesee township and the surrounding areas of Potter County, providing critical assistance to thousands of Pennsylvanians.

As a former volunteer firefighter with more than three decades of service, I know the dedication and commitment volunteers make to serve their respective fire departments and the surrounding areas. They truly are the backbone of many small rural communities.

Mr. Speaker, it is a privilege to recognize the following individuals: Bill Baker for his half-centuryof service; Patty Ransom and Susie Calcote for each serving 30 years; and Monica Porcuri, for her five years of service in the department.

Our communities are safer because of these brave men and women. Mr. Speaker, I thank them for their service and selflessness.

RECOGNIZING EDEN RAYNE NEHLS

HON. BRITTANY PETTERSEN

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 29, 2026

Ms. PETTERSEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Eden Rayne Nehls for earning the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth Award.

Eden Rayne has overcome many challenges along her journey to success, demonstrating perseverance at every step. Students who strive to make the most of their education, like Eden Rayne, develop crucial skills and a work ethic that will guide them for the rest of their lives. This award is a testament to Eden Rayne's hard work, determination, and perseverance at Jefferson Jr./Sr. High School and is clearly just the beginning of a bright and promising future.

It is my honor to congratulate Eden Rayne Nehls on achieving the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth Award.

HONORING ROBERT A. ''ROB'' KRET ON THE OCCASION OF HIS RETIREMENT

HON. JOHN B. LARSON

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 29, 2026

Mr. LARSON of Connecticut. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Robert A. Kret on the occasion of his retirement after an extraordinary 35-year career in museum leadership, historic preservation, and public service. It is especially fitting that Rob retires at this pivotal moment in our Nation's history, as the United States prepares to commemorate the 250th anniversary of American independence. At a time when our country is reflecting on its past and looking toward its future, Rob's lifelong work preserving history, elevating community stories, and strengthening civic institutions has never been more important. His imprint on the museum field, and particularly on the role of state and local history organizations at this crucial national juncture, will endure for generations.

Throughout his distinguished career, Rob Kret has demonstrated a steadfast commitment to preserving our shared history, expanding access to culture, and ensuring that museums remain vibrant institutions that educate and inspire future generations. Most recently, Rob has served with distinction as the Executive Director and Chief Executive Officer of the Connecticut Museum of Culture and History, a role he assumed in 2019. During his tenure, he guided the institution through a period of remarkable growth and transformation. Under his leadership, the Museum successfully navigated the unprecedented challenges of the COVID–19 pandemic, completed a strategic rebranding and name change, broadened statewide and national awareness, and launched significant expansion planning efforts.

Thanks to Rob's vision and dedication, annual visitation grew to more than 100,000 visitors, contributed revenue increased substantially, and both the Board of Trustees and professional staff expanded and diversified. He also helped secure two Community Project Funding awards totaling $2 million, strengthening the Museum's ability to preserve and share Connecticut's rich and diverse stories. Through his efforts, the Connecticut Museum has become an even more dynamic and relevant institution as it celebrated its historic 200th anniversary as the Nation's 7th oldest history organization.

Importantly, Rob has been a leading voice in highlighting the indispensable role that state and local history organizations will play in the upcoming America's 250th anniversary as the institutions best positioned to connect Americans to our Nation's story and preserve it for generations to come. He has helped remind the Nation that the story of America is not told only through national landmarks or famous figures, but through the towns, neighborhoods, cultural institutions, and communities whose histories collectively define our democracy. His leadership has elevated the importance of investing in historical societies, museums, and archives so that every community can see itself reflected in this once-in-a-generation commemoration.

Before coming to Connecticut, Rob brought decades of leadership experience to some of the Nation's most respected cultural institutions. He served as Executive Director of the Georgia O'Keeffe Museum in Santa Fe, New Mexico, where he oversaw major capital projects, strengthened collections stewardship, and expanded public engagement. Earlier in his career, he led the Hunter Museum of American Art in Chattanooga, Tennessee, the Miami University Art Museum in Ohio, the Leigh Yawkey Woodson Art Museum in Wisconsin, and the Ella Sharp Museum in Michigan. In each role, he left institutions stronger, more sustainable, and better positioned to serve their communities.

Rob's career has been marked not only by administrative excellence, but by a deep belief that museums are essential civic spaces—places where communities can see themselves reflected, where history is preserved with honesty and care, and where curiosity can flourish. His leadership has helped countless people connect more deeply with art, culture, and history.

As Rob steps into retirement, we recognize not only his many accomplishments, but also the integrity, wisdom, and generosity with which he has led. We thank him for his decades of service and for the lasting legacy he leaves in Connecticut and across the museum field.

On behalf of the United States Congress, I extend my sincere congratulations to Robert A. Kret on his retirement and offer my best wishes for health, happiness, and continued success in the years ahead.

RECOGNIZING ELI CHEVALIER ON HIS OFFER OF APPOINTMENT TO ATTEND THE UNITED STATES NAVAL ACADEMY

HON. ROBERT E. LATTA

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 29, 2026

Mr. LATTA. Mr. Speaker, I rise to pay special tribute to an outstanding student from Ohio's 5th Congressional District. I am pleased to announce that Eli Chevalier of Sycamore, Ohio, has been offered an appointment to the United States Naval Academy in Annapolis, Maryland.

Eli's offer of appointment permits him to attend the United States Naval Academy this fall with the incoming Class of 2030. Attending one of our Nation's military academies not only offers the opportunity to serve our country but also guarantees a world-class education while undertaking one of the most challenging and rewarding experiences of his life. Eli brings a tremendous amount of leadership, service, and dedication to the incoming Class of 2030. While attending Mohawk High School, he participated in academic team, Spanish Club, Mentor Club, and was President of National Honor Society. Throughout high school, Eli was involved in football, basketball, and track and field, earning his varsity letter. I am confident that he will carry the lessons of his student and athletic leadership to the Naval Academy.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating Eli Chevalier on his offer of appointment to the United States Naval Academy. Our service academies offer the finest military training and education available, and I am positive that Eli will excel during his career at the Naval Academy. I ask my colleagues to join me in extending their best wishes to him as he begins his service to our Nation.

HONORING THE LIFE AND LEGACY OF ASAL SAYAS

HON. ANDRÉ CARSON

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 29, 2026

Mr. CARSON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today with a heavy heart to honor the life and legacy of Asal Sayas. Asal was a remarkable public servant, advocate, and friend, whose passing leaves an immeasurable void in the lives of all who knew her.

Asal was an extraordinary leader and a dedicated public servant in Congress and the Executive Branch. She served as the Director of Operations for my office, and in the Senate for Senator KLOBUCHAR. Asal was an invaluable member of my team who brought a deep sense of purpose to her work. She was someone you could always count on, driven by a genuine desire to serve others and a ready smile that she shared with us often. She also

shared her pride in Persian culture and traditions, helping us all learn more about this special part of the world. Like so many who had the privilege of working with Asal, I appreciated her presence and her commitment to public service. Because of her hard work and dedication, Indiana's 7th Congressional District is a better and stronger community.

Asal was a fighter. She faced her unexpected cancer diagnosis with courage, strength, and creativity. Some people might have been afraid to try experimental treatments, but not Asal. She researched them, pursued them, and kept her village of friends and supporters updated on how things were going, and how we could help her with her battle. Even in her most difficult moments, she embraced resilience, which inspired everyone around her. But her legacy extends far beyond her personal battle. She dedicated her life to fighting for others, especially those navigating some of life's most difficult journeys.

As President Biden's Senior Advisor on Health Outcomes and Cancer for the Cancer Moonshot Initiative, Asal helped lead a national effort to reduce cancer deaths and improve the lives of patients and their families. She was deeply committed to uplifting the work of scientists and doctors to advance early detection, address health disparities in cancer research, screening, and treatment, and push forward research to one day end cancer as we know it.

Asal was a passionate and powerful voice within the cancer community, raising awareness about early-stage colon cancer, advocating for younger and underserved populations, and ensuring that no one facing this disease felt alone. Through her work with national colorectal cancer organizations and as co-founder of Colorectal Cancer Change (CRCC), she empowered patients, educated families, and built a legacy of advocacy that will continue to shape lives for years to come.

Her service also spanned nearly a decade as Director of Government Affairs at amfAR, The Foundation for AIDS Research, where she championed expansion and improvements in HIV/AIDS research.

In honoring Asal's legacy, we must also carry forward the mission she championed. Today, colorectal cancer is the leading cause of cancer-related deaths among men under 50 and the second leading cause among women under 50, a deeply concerning reality that demands urgent action. Early detection saves lives, yet far too many are diagnosed at later stages, especially younger Americans.

That is why I urge my colleagues to continue investing in lifesaving medical research, to fully fund cancer initiatives like the Cancer Moonshot, and to expand access to early screening and preventive care. This is how we honor Asal—not only in words, but through our actions, our policies, and by our votes to fully fund lifesaving research and health services.

To know Asal was to know compassion, brilliance, and purpose. She touched countless lives, including my own, not only through her extraordinary professional accomplishments, but through her warmth and kindness. Today, we mourn her loss, but we also celebrate her amazing life defined by service and love.

My thoughts and prayers are with her family, her friends, and all who are grieving this loss. May they find comfort in the legacy she leaves behind, and in knowing that her work and voice will continue to inspire generations to come.

May her memory be a blessing.

RECOGNIZING EVELYN LUNA AVALOS

HON. BRITTANY PETTERSEN

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 29, 2026

Ms. PETTERSEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Evelyn Luna Avalos for earning the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth Award.

Evelyn has overcome many challenges along her journey to success, demonstrating perseverance at every step. Students who strive to make the most of their education, like Evelyn, develop crucial skills and a work ethic that will guide them for the rest of their lives. This award is a testament to Evelyn's hard work, determination, and perseverance at Jefferson Jr./Sr. High School and is clearly just the beginning of a bright and promising future.

It is my honor to congratulate Evelyn Luna Avalos on achieving the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth Award.

HONORING THE 25 YEARS OF SERVICE BY ANNUNCIATION MATERNITY HOME

HON. JOHN R. CARTER

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 29, 2026

Mr. CARTER of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor and recognize the 25 years of service by Annunciation Maternity Home, an extraordinary ministry dedicated to affirming the dignity of every human life by caring for both mother and child during and after pregnancies.

Since opening in Georgetown in 2001, Annunciation Maternity Home has become a vital pillar of support in the community, providing stability, compassion, and opportunities to mothers and babies in need. Through its comprehensive services, the organization offers safe housing and basic needs assistance for up to two years following the birth of a child, tailoring care to each mother's unique circumstances. Rooted in a deep commitment to the sanctity of life, the organization provides not only a safe home, but also the spiritual, emotional, and material support necessary for mothers to choose life and flourish alongside their children.

Through a faith-driven, holistic approach, Annunciation walks with mothers every step of the way, offering housing, access to prenatal and postnatal care, counseling, life skills training, and opportunities for education and employment. Their work reflects a profound belief that caring for a child begins with caring for the mother, equipping women with the stability and confidence needed to build strong, loving families. As it marks this remarkable milestone, Annunciation Maternity Home continues to broaden its reach through the addition of new residential homes, a community center, and expanded childcare services, extending hope and opportunity to even more families in Central Texas.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing their extraordinary contributions and steadfast commitment to uplifting mothers and children, strengthening families, and enriching the entire community with compassion and dignity.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. DANNY K. DAVIS

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 29, 2026

Mr. DAVIS of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, I was unable to cast votes on April 27, 2026. Had I been present for Roll Call votes, I would have voted aye on: Roll Call No. 138, On Motion to Suspend the Rules and Pass, as Amended, H.R. 7959, IRS Whistleblower Program Improvement Act, and Roll Call No. 139, On Motion to Suspend the Rules and Pass, as Amended, H.R. 227, Clergy Act.

RECOGNIZING IRA ARORA

HON. BRITTANY PETTERSEN

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 29, 2026

Ms. PETTERSEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Ira Arora for earning the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth Award.

Ira has overcome many challenges along her journey to success, demonstrating perseverance at every step. Students who strive to make the most of their education, like Ira, develop crucial skills and a work ethic that will guide them for the rest of their lives. This award is a testament to Ira's hard work, determination, and perseverance at Drake Middle School and is clearly just the beginning of a bright and promising future.

It is my honor to congratulate Ira Arora on achieving the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth Award.

RECOGNIZING JOHN LAUGHTER ON HIS RETIREMENT

HON. NIKEMA WILLIAMS

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 29, 2026

Ms. WILLIAMS of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and honor Mr. John Laughter on his retirement from Delta Air Lines after more than three decades of distinguished service.

Over the course of 32 years, John has built a remarkable record of leadership and service that has left a lasting mark on one of our Nation's leading airlines and on the thousands of employees he has guided and inspired.

John began his career at Delta TechOps as an aircraft liaison engineer. From those early days, he steadily rose through the ranks, leading teams through some of the most challenging and exciting periods in the company's history. He helped rebuild the airline following Delta's emergence from Chapter 11, playing a critical role in restoring the strength and reliability of the airline's operations. He also steered the integration of Delta and Northwest

Airlines that enabled a successful merger, significantly expanding Delta's domestic and international footprint. This strategic unification not only broadened Delta's route network across the United States but also strengthened its global reach—connecting more communities and offering enhanced travel options to customers worldwide.

During the COVID–19 pandemic, John led Delta's operational response at a moment of unprecedented uncertainty. Under enormous pressure, he helped maintain safe, secure, and reliable service, preserving an essential part of our national transportation infrastructure and supporting countless workers and communities that depend on air travel.

Under John's leadership, Delta's TechOps Maintenance, Repair, and Overhaul business has bolstered the airline's resilience and competitiveness. Today, the MRO business stands as a significant source of revenue for Delta, providing maintenance services to other airlines around the world and setting Delta apart from its peers through its scale, technical expertise, and industry-leading reliability. By leveraging its world-class MRO capabilities, Delta has not only strengthened its own operations but also established itself as a trusted partner in the global aviation community.

John has also been a tireless champion of safety, helping establish Delta's safety management system and insisting on the accountability and culture necessary to keep employees and customers safe. Navigating an increasing changing threat environment and global events, he ensured Delta remains focused on the security of our people, our customers, and our operations.

At the same time, he has leaned into innovation and the passenger experience, guaranteeing our customers the latest in security technology, as well as providing a seamless' and secure travel experience from curb to gate.

In every role he has held, John championed operational excellence. He inspired Delta's people to take pride in delivering a safe, clean, and on-time operation that customers could trust to connect them to the people and places that matter most. But colleagues will tell you that his greatest legacy is not only the systems he built, but the people he supported. John has been known throughout his career as a servant leader and a steadfast advocate for Delta's people-focused culture. He has always understood that operational excellence flows from great people who are cared for, respected, and inspired to be at their best. His deep, personal connection with frontline teams has been central to his leadership and to the success of Delta Air Lines.

Mr. Speaker, John Laughter's last day at Delta will be April 30. As he begins his next chapter, he looks forward to spending more time with his family, especially his first grandson. On behalf of my constituents and this body, I offer him our sincere gratitude for his decades of service, and our best wishes for a long, healthy, and fulfilling retirement.

I ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating Mr. John Laughter on his well-earned retirement and in recognizing his vast contributions to the people and customers of Delta Air Lines and to the broader aviation community.

RECOGNIZING THE HIGH PLAINS HONOR FLIGHT

HON. GABE EVANS

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 29, 2026

Mr. EVANS of Colorado. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commemorate our Nation's brave men and women and to recognize the High Plains Honor Flight Network, which conducts trips for veterans to Washington, D.C., to tour the monuments built to honor their bravery and service. The High Plains Honor Flight gave some of our fellow brave men and women the chance to visit our Nation's capital. As a fellow veteran myself, I am pleased to honor the High Plains Honor Flight and to recognize the Korean War, Vietnam War, Cold War, and Operation Iraqi Freedom veterans of Colorado who took part in it.

Mr. Speaker, I include in the RECORD the veterans who participated in this flight:

Veterans of the Korean War: Alan Latta, and Richard Miller.

Veterans of the Vietnam War: Lloyd Adams, William Alexander, Ronald Alper, David Appel, Duane Baggs, Raymond Begin, Randall Black, Neil Borchert, Clarence Bowen. David Boyle, Robert Boyle, Jack Branson, William Brewster, Sr., Samuel Brito, Gary Camp, Donald Carroll, Robert Casey, Stephen Conway, Steven Cornelius, Robert Derick, Dennis Dicampli, Jerold Douthit, Earl Draayer, Lane Edstrom, Paul Erickson, James Farmer, Harold Felderman, Robert Forsythe, David Furusho, James Futterer, Terry Gaber, Gilbert Garcia, James Garcia, Gary Gillett, Roger Goodman, Gregory Hall, Donald Hamilton, Jack Hampton, Sherrie Hansen, Gordon Harden, Howard Hawk, Dan Helmboldt, Douglas Henning, Lu Herin, Michael Herin, Charles Hlebain, Donald Hockhalter, Albert Hromada, Jr., Reese Hull, Kevin Hunt, Max Johnson, Jerry Keenan, Ferdinand Krawczuk, Dennis Kugler, Gregory Kuhn, Roger Lair, Lonnie Leininger, Larry LeSueur, Charles Mack, Richard Madsen, William Maurice, Kenneth McNaught, Rives Meerscheidt, Joseph Miceli, Robert Miller, Jack Miller, II, Edwin Miner, Donald Moore, Harley Morgan, Rodney Murrish, Richard Nelson, Ronald Nereson, Frederick Nickel, Roy Nitschke, David Ocker, Bruce Ohmstede, Larry Paul, Alex Peralta, Danny Pickett, Richard Pingel, Frederick Pollmann, Samuel Potts, Donald Purcell, Richard Quimby, Robert Reichardt, Charles Reid, Randall Richardson, Donald Ritterbusch, Jr, Samuel Rodriguez, Joseph Rogers, III, Joe Sandoval, Eugene Schiferl, Alton Sheek, Larry Simons, Howard Smith, Roy Smith, Gary Soderquist, Dennis Spencer, Roger Spencer, Lyle Stempke, Jimmy Sudduth, Richard Thiem, Gerald Toczek, Robert Torson, Kirt Trujillo, Jeffery Uscier, Lee Walz, David Wangler, Mark Wangler, and David Wilson.

Veterans of the Cold War: Donald Cope, Donnie Kennedy, Irvin Nelson, Richard Rector, John Scarlett, Wayne Scott, and Paul Thomas.

Veteran of Operation Iraqi Freedom: Hugo Sanchezolmos.

It is my honor and privilege as a veteran and the United States Representative of the 8th District of Colorado to recognize the sacrifice and service of these men and women and all other members of our Nation's military. I thank them for their bravery and service to our Nation.

RECOGNIZING IVAN RANGEL

HON. BRITTANY PETTERSEN

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 29, 2026

Ms. PETTERSEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Ivan Rangel for earning the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth Award.

Ivan has overcome many challenges along his journey to success, demonstrating perseverance at every step. Students who strive to make the most of their education, like Ivan, develop crucial skills and a work ethic that will guide them for the rest of their lives. This award is a testament to Ivan's hard work, determination, and perseverance at Jefferson Jr./Sr. High School and is clearly just the beginning of a bright and promising future.

It is my honor to congratulate Ivan Rangel on achieving the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth Award.

RECOGNIZING ADAM BUELL ON HIS OFFER OF APPOINTMENT TO ATTEND THE UNITED STATES MILITARY ACADEMY

HON. ROBERT E. LATTA

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 29, 2026

Mr. LATTA. Mr. Speaker, I rise to pay special tribute to an outstanding student from Ohio's 5th Congressional District. I am pleased to announce that Adam Buell of Pandora, Ohio, has been offered an appointment to the United States Military Academy in West Point, New York.

Adam's offer of appointment permits him to attend the United States Military Academy this fall with the incoming Class of 2030. Attending one of our Nation's military academies not only offers the opportunity to serve our country but also guarantees a world-class education while undertaking one of the most challenging and rewarding experiences of his life. Adam brings a tremendous amount of leadership, service, and dedication to the incoming Class of 2030. While attending Pandora-Gilboa High School, he participated in National Honor Society, Quiz Bowl, and Big Brothers Big Sisters, and was on the honor roll. Throughout high school, Adam was involved in cross country, basketball, and track and field, earning his varsity letter in all three. I am confident that he will carry the lessons of his student and athletic leadership to the Military Academy.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating Adam Buell on his offer of appointment to the United States Military Academy. Our service academies offer the finest military training and education available, and I am positive that Adam will excel during his career at the Military Academy. I ask my colleagues to join me in extending their best wishes to him as he begins his service to our Nation.

HONORING THE LIFE AND LEGACY OF RICHARD A. ''DICK'' BROWN

HON. JOHN R. CARTER

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 29, 2026

Mr. CARTER of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor and recognize the life and legacy of Richard A. "Dick" Brown of Conroe, Texas, a devoted husband, father, grandfather, and journalist whose dedication to family, service, and community will be long remembered.

Born on December 21, 1937, in Spencer, North Carolina, Dick was the son of Carney Ray and Elizabeth Williams Brown. He grew up in a close family and was preceded in death by his parents and his brothers, Billy Ray Brown and Robert Carol Brown.

Dick met his wife, Penelope "Penny" Briggs, while working at Vitro Corporation in Silver Spring, Maryland, where she served as a summer intern. They married and soon welcomed their children Derek Michael, Barrington Lee, and Teri Lynn. Dick proudly served in the United States Coast Guard Reserve and later built a long career at E Systems, earning his bachelor's degree in journalism from East Texas A&M University in Commerce before retiring from Raytheon. His leadership extended into the community through his involvement in the Raytheon Management Club and the Hunt County Republican Men's Club.

Following retirement, Dick returned to his love of writing, working as a reporter for the Commerce Journal and the Greenville Herald Banner. His weekly column, The Bottom Line, and later his contributions to the Bay City Tribune, reflected his deep interest in people, public service, and the stories that shape communities. Above all. Dick treasured his family and took enormous pride in his children and grandchildren, remaining an active and loving presence in their lives.

Richard A. "Dick" Brown embodied integrity, dedication, and a spirit of service to others. His life leaves a lasting imprint on his family, his community, and all who had the privilege of knowing him.

RECOGNIZING ALDIN MEDNOLUCANIN

HON. BRITTANY PETTERSEN

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 29, 2026

Ms. PETTERSEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Aldin Mednolucanin for earning the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth Award.

Aldin has overcome many challenges along his journey to success, demonstrating perseverance at every step. Students who strive to make the most of their education, like Aldin, develop crucial skills and a work ethic that will guide them for the rest of their lives. This award is a testament to Aldin's hard work, determination, and perseverance at Arvada West High School and is clearly just the beginning of a bright and promising future.

It is my honor to congratulate Aldin Mednolucanin on achieving the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth Award.

SENATE COMMITTEE MEETINGS

Title IV of Senate Resolution 4, agreed to by the Senate of February 4, 1977, calls for establishment of a system for a computerized schedule of all meetings and hearings of Senate committees, subcommittees, joint committees, and committees of conference. This title requires all such committees to notify the Office of the Senate Daily Digest—designated by the Rules Committee—of the time, place and purpose of the meetings, when scheduled and any cancellations or changes in the meetings as they occur.

As an additional procedure along with the computerization of this information, the Office of the Senate Daily Digest will prepare this information for printing in the Extensions of Remarks section of the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD on Monday and Wednesday of each week.

Meetings scheduled for Thursday, April 30, 2026 may be found in the Daily Digest of today's RECORD.

MEETINGS SCHEDULED

MAY 13

2:30 p.m.
Committee on Armed Services
Subcommittee on Cybersecurity
To receive a closed briefing on cyber operations and readiness for the fourth quarter of fiscal year 2025 and the first quarter of fiscal year 2026.
SVC–217

MAY 14

8 a.m.
Committee on Armed Services
To hold closed hearings to examine the posture of the United States Central Command and United States Africa Command in review of the Defense Authorization Request for Fiscal Year 2027 and the Future Years Defense Program; to be immediately followed by an open session in SD–G50.
SVC–217

MAY 20

2:30 p.m.
Committee on Armed Services
Subcommittee on Personnel
To hold hearings to examine the Department of Defense personnel policies and programs in review of the Defense Authorization Request for Fiscal Year 2027 and the Future Years Defense Program.
SR–222

Daily Digest

Senate

Chamber Action

Routine Proceedings, pages S2089–S2141

Measures Introduced: Eighteen bills and ten resolutions were introduced, as follows: S. 4426–4443, S.J. Res. 189, and S. Res. 698–706. **Pages S2128–29**

Measures Passed:

Transfer Administrative Jurisdiction: Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs was discharged from further consideration of S. 2280, to transfer administrative jurisdiction over certain parcels of Federal land in Harpers Ferry, West Virginia, and the bill was then passed. **Page S2100**

Expanding Whistleblower Protections for Contractors Act: Senate passed S. 874, to ensure that whistleblowers, including contractors, are protected from retaliation when a Federal employee orders a reprisal, after agreeing to the committee amendment in the nature of a substitute. **Pages S2100–02**

SBA Fraud Enforcement Extension Act: Senate passed S. 1199, to extend the statute of limitations for fraud under certain pandemic programs, after withdrawing the committee amendment in the nature of a substitute, and after agreeing to the following amendments proposed thereto: **Pages S2107–08**

Adopted:

Ernst Amendment No. 5440, in the nature of a substitute. **Page S2107**

Ernst (for Markey) Amendment No. 5441 (to Amendment No. 5440), to require a report on Department of Justice activity related to certain programs. **Pages S2107–08**

Expanding the Surety Bond Program Act: Senate passed S. 2232, to expand the surety bond program under the Small Business Investment Act of 1958, after agreeing to the committee amendment in the nature of a substitute. **Pages S2108–09**

National Dark Sky Week: Senate agreed to S. Res. 701, designating the week of April 20 through 26, 2026, as ''National Dark Sky Week''. **Page S2109**

American Chemical Society 150th anniversary: Senate agreed to S. Res. 702, commending the American Chemical Society on the occasion of its 150th anniversary and recognizing its many years of service to the United States. **Page S2109**

National Small Business Week: Senate agreed to S. Res. 703, expressing support for the designation of the week of May 3, 2026, through May 9, 2026, as ''National Small Business Week'' to celebrate the contributions of small businesses and entrepreneurs in every community in the United States. **Page S2109**

National Fentanyl Awareness Day: Senate agreed to S. Res. 704, supporting the mission and goals of National Fentanyl Awareness Day in 2026, including increasing individual and public awareness of the impact of fake or counterfeit fentanyl pills on families and young people. **Page S2109**

Commending the Donut Dollies: Senate agreed to S. Res. 705, commending the ''Donut Dollies'' for their patriotic service and steadfast support of United States servicemembers in combat and honoring their extraordinary contributions to the morale and well-being of United States servicemembers during wartime. **Page S2109**

PIPELINE Safety Act: Senate passed S. 2975, to amend title 49, United States Code, to enhance the safety of pipeline transportation, after agreeing to the committee amendment in the nature of a substitute. **Pages S2109–21**

Measures Considered:

Air Plan Disapproval: By 46 yeas to 52 nays (Vote No. 110), Senate did not agree to the motion to proceed to consideration of S.J. Res. 139, providing for congressional disapproval under chapter 8 of title 5, United States Code, of the rule submitted by the Environmental Protection Agency relating to ''Air Plan Disapproval; Colorado; Regional Haze Plan for the Second Implementation Period''. **Page S2106**

Removal of the Automatic Extension of Employment Authorization Documents: By 47 yeas to 50 nays (Vote No. 111), Senate did not agree to the motion to proceed to consideration of S.J. Res. 99, providing for congressional disapproval under chapter 8 of title 5, United States Code, of the rule submitted by U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services

relating to ''Removal of the Automatic Extension of Employment Authorization Documents''. **Page S2106**

En Bloc Nominations—Agreement: A unanimous-consent agreement was reached providing that notwithstanding Rule XXII, the motion to invoke cloture with respect to S. Res. 690, authorizing the en bloc consideration on Executive Session of certain nominations on the Executive Calendar, ripen at 11:30 a.m., on Thursday, April 30, 2026; and that if cloture is invoked on the resolution, all post-cloture time be expired and Senate vote on adoption of the resolution at a time to be determined by the Majority Leader in consultation with the Democratic Leader no earlier than Friday, May 1, 2026.

Pages S2137–38

Nomination Confirmed: Senate confirmed the following nomination:

By 59 yeas to 39 nays (Vote No. EX. 109), Robert Cekada, of Florida, to be Director, Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms, and Explosives.

Pages S2096, S2141

Messages from the House: **Page S2124**

Executive Communications: **Pages S2124–28**

Executive Reports of Committees: **Page S2128**

Additional Cosponsors: **Pages S2129–30**

Statements on Introduced Bills/Resolutions: **Pages S2130–37**

Additional Statements: **Pages S2123–24**

Amendments Submitted: **Page S2137**

Authorities for Committees to Meet: **Page S2137**

Record Votes: Three record votes were taken today. (Total—111) **Pages S2096, S2106**

Adjournment: Senate convened at 12 noon and adjourned at 7:07 p.m., until 10 a.m. on Thursday, April 30, 2026. (For Senate's program, see the remarks of the Acting Majority Leader in today's Record on pages S2137–38.)

Committee Meetings

(Committees not listed did not meet)

APPROPRIATIONS: NATIONAL NUCLEAR SECURITY ADMINISTRATION

Committee on Appropriations: Subcommittee on Energy and Water Development concluded a hearing to examine proposed budget estimates and justification for fiscal year 2027 for the National Nuclear Security Administration, after receiving testimony from Matthew Napoli, Deputy Administrator for Defense Nuclear Nonproliferation, David Beck, Deputy Administrator for Defense Programs, and Brandon M. Williams, Administrator, all of the National Nuclear Security Administration, Department of Energy.

BUSINESS MEETING

Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs: Committee ordered favorably reported the nomination of Kevin Warsh, of Florida, to be a Member and Chairman of the Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System.

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR BUDGET

Committee on Energy and Natural Resources: Committee concluded a hearing to examine the President's proposed budget request for fiscal year 2027 for the Department of the Interior, after receiving testimony from Doug Burgum, Secretary of the Interior.

ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY BUDGET

Committee on Environment and Public Works: Committee concluded a hearing to examine the President's proposed budget request for fiscal year 2027 for the Environmental Protection Agency, after receiving testimony from Lee M. Zeldin, Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency.

COVID–19 VACCINE SAFETY

Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs: Permanent Subcommittee on Investigations concluded a hearing to examine Biden health officials and COVID–19 vaccine safety signals, after receiving testimony from David Wiseman, Synechion, Inc., Dallas, Texas; Karl Jablonowski, Children's Health Defense, Mountlake Terrace, Washington; and Maria Young, North Bethesda, Maryland.

NOMINATIONS

Committee on the Judiciary: Committee concluded a hearing to examine the nominations of Michael J. Hendershot, to be United States District Judge for the Northern District of Ohio, who was introduced by Senator Husted, Jeffrey T. Kuntz, to be United States District Judge for the Southern District of Florida, and Arthur Roberts Jones and John George Edward Marck, each to be a United States District Judge for the Southern District of Texas, after the nominees testified and answered questions in their own behalf.

AMERICAN ENTREPRENEURSHIP

Committee on Small Business and Entrepreneurship: Committee concluded a hearing to examine the American entrepreneurship for 250 years, focusing on driving innovation, growth, and opportunity, after receiving testimony from Rosie Rios, U.S. Semiquincentennial

Commission, Washington, D.C.; Liz G. Sweet, Massachusetts Immigration and Refugee Advocacy Coalition, Boston; Catherine S. Dority, Explore Charleston, Charleston, South Carolina; and Amanda Grappone Osmer, Grappone Automotive, Concord, New Hampshire.

VETERANS AFFAIRS LEGISLATION

Committee on Veterans' Affairs: Committee concluded a hearing to examine S. 749, to amend title 38, United States Code, to extend increased dependency and indemnity compensation paid to surviving spouses of veterans who die from amyotrophic lateral sclerosis, regardless of how long the veterans had such disease prior to death, S. 1127, to amend title 38, United States Code, to expand eligibility for memorial headstones and markers furnished by the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to certain individuals who died before November 11, 1998, S. 3000, to require the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to identify and report instances of disability benefit questionnaire fraud, S. 3098, to amend title 38, United States Code, to require the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to publish information about conditions and cohorts the Department of Veterans Affairs is considering for purposes of establishing or removing presumptions of service connection regarding toxic exposure, S. 3170, to direct the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to implement an automated system with callback functionality for each customer service telephone line of the Department of Veterans Affairs, S. 3286, to amend title 38, United States Code, to improve processes relating to appeals of decisions regarding claims for benefits under the laws administered by the Secretary of Veterans Affairs, S. 3311, to amend title 38, United States Code, to eliminate conflicts of interest in peer review for quality management of care conducted by the Veterans Health Administration, S. 3395, to expand the telescreening mammography pilot program of the Department of Veterans Affairs, S. 3591, to require the Secretary of Labor, in coordination with the Secretary of Veterans Affairs, to develop a notice detailing benefits available to veterans, and to require employers to display such notice, S. 3647, to require the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to establish a program to address bowel and bladder care needs for veterans with spinal cord injuries and disorders, S. 3653, to require the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to carry out efforts to inform veterans of their rights with regards to the receipt of health care, benefits, and services furnished under provisions of law administered by the Secretary, S. 3706, to amend title 38, United States Code, to authorize the provision of produce prescriptions to veterans, S. 3726, to amend title 38, United States Code, to require the President to define veteran success and to develop and implement a National Veterans Strategy, S. 3988, to amend title 38, United States Code, to direct the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to offer annual preventative health evaluations to veterans with a spinal cord injury or disorder and increase access to assistive technologies, S. 3992, to amend title 10, United States Code, to codify authority for the Joint Medical Facility Fund of the Department of Defense and the Department of Veterans Affairs, S. 3993, to amend title 38, United States Code, and title 10, United States Code, to eliminate those provisions relating to veterans educational assistance that disadvantage eligible individuals who choose to pursue programs of apprenticeship or other on-job training instead of a four-year college degree, S. 3999, to require the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to ensure that women veterans may schedule appointments for women's specialty care under the laws administered by the Secretary without requiring a referral, S. 4043, to amend title 38, United States Code, to make permanent the authority of the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to provide treatment and rehabilitation for seriously mentally ill and homeless veterans, S. 4108, to amend title 38, United States Code, to increase burial and funeral expenses paid by the Secretary of Veterans Affairs in the case of death from a service-connected disability, S. 4140, to amend title 38, United States Code, to improve the Department of Veterans Affairs schedule for rating disabilities, S. 4197, to require the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to establish a program under which the Secretary shall award grants to certain State entities to expand access to structured outdoor recreation programs for veterans that enhance veteran wellness, S. 4220, to amend title 38, United States Code, to establish within the Veterans Health Administration an Office of Novel Therapeutics, S. 4400, to amend title 38, United States Code, to require the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to develop a five-year human capital plan to support the mission and responsibilities of the Department of Veterans Affairs and to require the Secretary provide notice before carrying out a reduction in force, an original bill entitled "Veteran Acquired Brain Injury Caregiving Act", and an original bill entitled "Maternal Health for Veterans Act", after receiving testimony from Margarita Devlin, Principal Deputy Under Secretary for Benefits, performing the duties of the Under Secretary of Benefits, Veterans Benefits Administration, and Mark A. Koeniger, Acting Assistant Under Secretary for Health for Patient Care Services, Veterans Health Administration, and David J. Barrans, Deputy Vice Chairman and the Clerk of the Board, Board of Veterans' Appeals, all of the Department of Veterans Affairs; and Brian Dempsey, Wounded Warrior Project, Joe Chenelly, AMVETS,

and Jennifer Goodale, Military Officers Association of America, all of Washington, D.C.

INTELLIGENCE

Select Committee on Intelligence: Committee held closed hearings on intelligence matters, receiving testimony from officials of the intelligence community.

Committee recessed subject to the call.

House of Representatives

Chamber Action

Public Bills and Resolutions Introduced: 25 public bills, H.R. 8566–8590; and 13 resolutions, H. Con. Res. 94; and H. Res. 1225–1236, were introduced. **Pages H3294–95**

Additional Cosponsors: **Page H3296**

Report Filed: A report was filed today as follows:

H. Res. 1224, providing for consideration of the bill (H.R. 7567) to provide for the reform and continuation of agricultural and other programs of the Department of Agriculture through fiscal year 2031, and for other purposes; providing for consideration of the bill (H.R. 2616) to require public elementary and middle schools that receive funds under the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965 to obtain parental consent before changing a minor's gender markers, pronouns, or preferred name on any school form or sex-based accommodations, including locker rooms or bathrooms; providing for consideration of the concurrent resolution (S. Con. Res. 33) setting forth the congressional budget for the United States Government for fiscal year 2026 and setting forth the appropriate budgetary levels for fiscal years 2027 through 2035; providing for consideration of the bill (S. 1318) to direct the American Battle Monuments Commission to establish a program to identify American-Jewish servicemembers buried in United States military cemeteries overseas under markers that incorrectly represent their religion and heritage, and for other purposes; providing for consideration of the bill (H.R. 1346) to amend the Clean Air Act with respect to the ethanol waiver for Reid Vapor Pressure under that Act, and for other purposes; and for other purposes (H. Rept. 119–628). **Pages H3293–94**

Speaker: Read a letter from the Speaker wherein he appointed Representative Haridopolos to act as Speaker pro tempore for today. **Page H3135**

Recess: The House recessed at 1:25 p.m. and reconvened at 2:45 p.m. **Page H3147**

Fallen Servicemembers Religious Heritage Restoration Act: The House passed S. 1318, to direct the American Battle Monuments Commission to establish a program to identify American-Jewish servicemembers buried in United States military cemeteries overseas under markers that incorrectly represent their religion and heritage, by a yea-and-nay vote of 235 yeas to 191 nays, Roll No. 142. **Pages H3160–68**

Pursuant to the Rule, an amendment in the nature of a substitute consisting of the text of Rules Committee Print 119–27, modified by the amendment printed in part C of H. Rept. 119–628, shall be considered as adopted. **Pages H3160–61**

H. Res. 1224, the rule providing for consideration was agreed to by a recorded vote of 216 ayes to 210 noes, Roll No. 141, after the previous question was ordered by a yea-and-nay vote of 215 yeas to 210 nays, Roll No. 140. **Pages H3146–47**

Setting forth the congressional budget for the United States Government for fiscal year 2026 and setting forth the appropriate budgetary levels for fiscal years 2027 through 2035: The House agreed to S. Con. Res. 33, setting forth the congressional budget for the United States Government for fiscal year 2026 and setting forth the appropriate budgetary levels for fiscal years 2027 through 2035, by a yea-and-nay vote of 215 yeas to 211 nays with answering "present", Roll No. 143. **Pages H3147–60, H3168–69**

H. Res. 1224, the rule providing for consideration was agreed to by a recorded vote of 216 ayes to 210 noes, Roll No. 141, after the previous question was ordered by a yea-and-nay vote of 215 yeas to 210 nays, Roll No. 140. **Pages H3146–47**

Farm, Food, and National Security Act of 2026: The House considered H.R. 7567, to provide for the reform and continuation of agricultural and other programs of the Department of Agriculture through fiscal year 2031. **Pages H3169–H3290**

Pursuant to the Rule, an amendment in the nature of a substitute consisting of the text of Rules Committee Print 119–22, modified by the amendment printed in part A of H. Rept. 119–628, shall

be considered as adopted in the House and in the Committee of the Whole, in lieu of the amendment in the nature of a substitute recommended by the Committee on Agriculture now printed in the bill.

Pages H3176–H3259

Agreed to:

Thompson (PA) amendment en bloc No. 1 consisting of the following amendments printed in part B of H. Rept. 119–628: Crane (No. 6) that grants the Secretary of Agriculture emergency contracting authority to support recovery efforts following the White Sage Fire in the Kaibab National Forest, enabling the Department of Agriculture to expedite contracts, streamline procurement processes, and rapidly deploy resources necessary for rehabilitation, restoration, and hazard-mitigation activities; Davids (KS) (No. 9) that revises Section 5507 to expand eligibility to Indian Tribes; Ellfreth (No. 10) that it is the sense of Congress that investing in agricultural programs at two-year institutions is crucial to the success of the industry, economy, and environment; Ezell (No. 11) that directs the Secretary of Agriculture, in coordination with the Secretary of the Interior, to identify priority Federal lands for ecological restoration involving vegetation removal on a recurring basis; Fedorchak (No. 12) that directs the Secretary of Agriculture to conduct a study on the feasibility to provide storage facility loans to producers to construct or maintain facilities for on-farm fertilizer storage; Fong (No. 13) that enhances forest management practices in an effort to protect the last remaining Giant Sequoia groves from catastrophic wildfires (identical to the Save Our Sequoias Act; Gosar (No. 17) that prohibits painful dog and cat testing; Gray (No. 19) that prohibits USDA from imposing additional requirements on the Specialty Crop Block Grant Program; Hill (AR) (No. 23) that directs the Department of Agriculture to study the status of mental health among agricultural professionals and recommend ways to improve access to, and the effectiveness of, mental and tele-mental health care for agricultural professionals; Langworthy (No. 25) that revises the ACER program to specify that appropriated funds shall remain available until expended; Mannion (No. 32) that adds immersive technologies (such as virtual or augmented reality) to the definition of precision agriculture technology, for use in conservation efforts; Miller-Meeks (No. 34) that reauthorizes the United States Grain Standards Act; Min (No. 35) that requires an assessment of wildfire mitigation methods in shrubland ecosystems; Mullin (No. 37) that directs the USDA to study whether retired batteries can be used as power for farms and ranches; Ogles (No. 40) that requires a report from the Secretary of Agriculture on barriers to organic farms taking part in programs authorized under this act; Schmidt (No. 43) that directs the secretaries of USDA and HHS to conduct collaborative research related to enhancing domestic production of crops that produce natural color additives; Scholten (No. 44) that strengthens biological pest control practices on farms by encouraging the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) to engage in further research and development around its best uses; Spartz (No. 48) that provides for the transparency of federally mandated commodity checkoff boards; Steube (No. 52) that requires consultation that would establish a federal definition for honey that promotes honesty and fair dealing in the interest of consumers and the honey market, and ensures consistency in labeling and enforcement; Tenney (No. 53) that requires a report on national grape production, including total acreage, production, utilization, acreage by type, variety, county, and year planted; Tokuda (No. 54) that requires the Secretary of Agriculture to provide online enrollment options for USDA disaster assistance programs; Vasquez (No. 55) that authorizes the National Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) to enter into cooperative agreements with community-based organizations in each state that are able to identify and build on established and burgeoning peer-to-peer networks and create new ones; Westerman (No. 56) that adds biostimulants to Sec. 8434 (Biochar Application Demonstration Project); and Whitesides (No. 57) that provides the US Forest Service the flexibility to direct wildfire resources toward suppression, fuels management, and technology development;

Pages H3259–68

Baumgartner amendment (No. 1 printed in part B of H. Rept. 119–628) that requires the area encompassing the Columbia Basin Project be included in the Western Waters Regional Conservation Area;

Pages H3268–69

Brown amendment (No. 3 printed in part B of H. Rept. 119–628) that requires the designation of composting as a conservation practice and activity under various conservation program; **Page H3270**

Carbajal amendment (No. 4 printed in part B of H. Rept. 119–628) that revises requirements for the Dairy Business Innovation Initiatives program to ensure equitable distribution of funding between the four regionally located Initiatives; **Pages H3270–71**

Hayes amendment (No. 5 printed in part B of H. Rept. 119–628) that directs the Secretary of Agriculture to establish a grant program to facilitate tree planting that reduces residential energy consumption; **Pages H3271–72**

Crawford amendment (No. 7 printed in part B of H. Rept. 119–628) that allows essential Circuit Rider program activities to continue during a lapse in appropriations; **Page H3272**

Perez amendment (No. 14 printed in part B of H. Rept. 119–628) that directs the Secretary of Agriculture, in coordination with the Secretary of Health and Human Services, to develop a low-risk classification for fresh fruits, vegetables, and other foods that are typically consumed raw or with minimal processing, and update relevant nutrition and food safety and preparation regulations and guidelines for child care providers; **Pages H3273–74**

Gosar amendment (No. 15 printed in part B of H. Rept. 119–628) that reports on assistance available to agricultural producers in Arizona for certain losses of Colorado River water; **Pages H3274–75**

Gosar amendment (No. 16 printed in part B of H. Rept. 119–628) that revises the USDA standards to confirm livestock depredations by Mexican wolves; **Pages H3275–76**

Gosar amendment (No. 18 printed in part B of H. Rept. 119–628) that prohibits animal research in China, Russia, and other countries of concern; **Pages H3276–77**

Grothman amendment (No. 21 printed in part B of H. Rept. 119–628) that adds the text of H.R. 6300 the Grasslands Grazing Act to put ranchers with permits to graze on National Grasslands in parity with those grazing on other federal lands; **Pages H3278–79**

Craig amendment (No. 24 printed in part B of H. Rept. 119–628) that increases the loan guarantee cap of the USDA Biorefinery, Renewable Chemical, and Biobased Product Manufacturing Assistance Program from $250 million to $400 million to support rising project costs and enabling larger and more capital-intensive biorefinery projects to qualify; **Page H3280**

Latta amendment (No. 26 printed in part B of H. Rept. 119–628) that requires the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) to review and recommend changes to its satellite rules to promote precision agriculture; **Page H3280**

Mace amendment (No. 29 printed in part B of H. Rept. 119–628) that codifies the newly established Office of Seafood within the U.S. Department of Agriculture; **Pages H3282–83**

Mace amendment (No. 30 printed in part B of H. Rept. 119–628) that revises definitions and eligibility criteria in the Consolidated Farm and Rural Development Act to clarify the eligibility of commercial fishing and fish processing businesses in certain U.S. Department of Agriculture programs; **Pages H3283–84**

Mace amendment (No. 31 printed in part B of H. Rept. 119–628) that requires federal animal research facilities to establish procedures to facilitate the adoption or non-laboratory placement of animals once they're no longer needed for research and determined to be suitable for release to an animal rescue organization, animal sanctuary, animal shelter, or individual; **Pages H3284–85**

Scholten amendment (No. 38 printed in part B of H. Rept. 119–628) that removes barriers to emergency watershed protection measures after a disaster; **Pages H3286–87**

Moylan amendment (No. 42 printed in part B of H. Rept. 119–628) that directs the Secretary of Agriculture to conduct studies in the U.S. Virgin Islands and Guam with, respectively, the Virgin Islands Department of Planning and Natural Resources and the Guam Department of Agriculture, on the development of aquaculture; **Page H3288**

Scholten amendment (No. 45 printed in part B of H. Rept. 119–628) that removes administrative hurdles for small farmers and ranchers to participate in federal nutrition programs which would expand their economic opportunities and improve access to healthy, affordable food for families; and **Pages H3288–89**

Schrier amendment (No. 46 printed in part B of H. Rept. 119–628) that allows for the continuous enrollment of land under the Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) State Acres for Wildlife Enhancement (SAFE) Initiative. **Page H3289**

Proceedings Postponed:

Bentz amendment (No. 2 printed in part B of H. Rept. 119–628) that seeks to broaden the Renewable Fuel Standard's definition of ''renewable biomass'' to include low-value forest materials and mill residuals, making them eligible for renewable fuel credits, while also permitting biomass sourcing from federal and tribal lands and supporting vegetation removal in wildfire-risk areas; **Pages H3269–70**

Crawford amendment (No. 8 printed in part B of H. Rept. 119–628) that seeks to add hot rotisserie chicken as an eligible item to be purchased by SNAP benefits; **Pages H3272–73**

Grothman amendment (No. 20 printed in part B of H. Rept. 119–628) that seeks to mandate a USDA report to Congress (after the SNAP restrictions pilots are completed) on implementation of the restrictions, outcomes, recommendations to Congress; **Pages H3277–78**

Grothman amendment (No. 22 printed in part B of H. Rept. 119–628) that seeks to repeal and prohibits future implementation of the Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) rule mandating electronic identification (EID) eartags for bison and cattle moving interstate; **Pages H3279–80**

Luna amendment (No. 28 printed in part B of H. Rept. 119–628) that seeks to strike section 10205 (relating to uniformity of pesticide labeling), strike section 10206 (relating to authority of States), and strike section 10207 (relating to lawful use of authorized pesticides); **Pages H3280–82**

Moore (WV) amendment (No. 36 printed in part B of H. Rept. 119–628) that seeks to preserve greyhound racing operations in West Virginia;

Pages H3285–86

Scholten amendment (No. 39 printed in part B of H. Rept. 119–628) that seeks to revise the Agriculture Advanced Research and Development Authority program to provide federal support for sustainable agriculture and innovative sustainability solutions through enhancing the role of innovative voluntary resilience solutions and help farms adapt to challenges like extreme weather, drought, and soil water-holding capacity; and **Pages H3287–88**

Self amendment (No. 47 printed in part B of H. Rept. 119–628) that seeks to add ''soda'' to the definition of ineligible items and defines soda as a carbonated beverage containing more than 1 gram of added sugar, artificial sweetener, or flavoring per serving. **Pages H3289–90**

H. Res. 1224, the rule providing for consideration was agreed to by a recorded vote of 216 ayes to 210 noes, Roll No. 141, after the previous question was ordered by a yea-and-nay vote of 215 yeas to 210 nays, Roll No. 140. **Pages H3146–47**

Meeting Hour: Agreed by unanimous consent that when the House adjourns today, it adjourn to meet at 9 a.m. Thursday, April 30th. **Page H3290**

Discharge Petition: Representative Steube presented to the clerk a motion to discharge the Committee on Rules from the consideration of the resolution (H. Res. 1055) entitled, a resolution providing for consideration of the bill (H.R. 7378) to amend the Calder Act to permanently adjust American time (Discharge Petition No. 20).

Quorum Calls—Votes: Three yea-and-nay votes and one recorded vote developed during the proceedings of today and appear on pages H3146, H3146–47, H3168, and H3168–69.

Adjournment: The House met at 9 a.m. and adjourned at 2:26 a.m.

Committee Meetings

MISCELLANEOUS MEASURE

Committee on Appropriations: Full Committee held a markup on the Agriculture, Rural Development, Food and Drug Administration, Related Agencies Appropriations Bill, FY 2027. The Agriculture, Rural Development, Food and Drug Administration, Related Agencies Appropriations Bill, FY 2027, was ordered reported, as amended.

DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE FISCAL YEAR 2027 BUDGET REQUEST

Committee on Armed Services: Full Committee held a hearing entitled ''Department of Defense Fiscal Year 2027 Budget Request''. Testimony was heard from General Dan Caine, Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, Department of Defense; and Pete Hegseth, Secretary of Defense, Department of Defense.

SPEECH OR SILENCE? THE FUTURE OF THE FIRST AMENDMENT IN HIGHER EDUCATION

Committee on Education and Workforce: Subcommittee on Higher Education and Workforce Development held a hearing entitled ''Speech or Silence? The Future of the First Amendment in Higher Education''. Testimony was heard from public witnesses.

AI AND THE GRID: MEETING GROWING POWER DEMAND WHILE PROTECTING RATEPAYERS

Committee on Energy and Commerce: Subcommittee on Energy held a hearing entitled ''AI and the Grid: Meeting Growing Power Demand While Protecting Ratepayers''. Testimony was heard from public witnesses.

HEALTHIER AMERICA: LEGISLATIVE PROPOSALS ON THE REGULATION AND OVERSIGHT OF FOOD

Committee on Energy and Commerce: Subcommittee on Health held a hearing entitled ''Healthier America: Legislative Proposals on the Regulation and Oversight of Food''. Testimony was heard from public witnesses.

EXAMINING DERIVATIVES' ROLE IN THE TREASURY MARKET

Committee on Financial Services: Task Force on Monetary Policy, Treasury Market Resilience, and Economic Prosperity held a hearing entitled ''Examining Derivatives' Role in the Treasury Market''. Testimony was heard from public witnesses.

ORBITS OF INFLUENCE: EMERGING THREATS TO U.S. SPACE SECURITY AND FOREIGN POLICY IMPLICATIONS

Committee on Foreign Affairs: Europe Subcommittee held a hearing entitled ''Orbits of Influence: Emerging Threats to U.S. Space Security and Foreign Policy Implications''. Testimony was heard from public witnesses.

U.S. ACCOUNTABILITY AT THE UNITED NATIONS: CHALLENGES AND OPPORTUNITIES FOR REFORM

Committee on Foreign Affairs: Oversight and Intelligence Subcommittee held a hearing entitled "U.S. Accountability at the United Nations: Challenges and Opportunities for Reform". Testimony was heard from public witnesses.

DATA CENTERS, TELECOMMUNICATIONS NETWORKS, AND SPACE-BASED SYSTEMS: MODERNIZING THE DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY'S SECTOR RISK MANAGEMENT AGENCY ROLE FOR THE COMMUNICATIONS AND IT SECTORS

Committee on Homeland Security: Subcommittee on Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Protection held a hearing entitled "Data Centers, Telecommunications Networks, and Space-Based Systems: Modernizing DHS's SRMA Role for the Communications and IT Sectors". Testimony was heard from public witnesses.

PEACE OF MIND: STRENGTHENING VICTIM PROTECTIONS UNDER KAYLEIGH'S LAW

Committee on the Judiciary: Subcommittee on Crime and Federal Government Surveillance held a hearing entitled "Peace of Mind: Strengthening Victim Protections Under Kayleigh's Law". Testimony was heard from Suzette Martinez Valladares, State Senator, California; and public witnesses.

POWERING THE 21ST CENTURY WITH AMERICAN COPPER

Committee on Natural Resources: Subcommittee on Energy and Mineral Resources held a hearing entitled "Powering the 21st Century with American Copper". Testimony was heard from public witnesses.

LEGISLATIVE MEASURES

Committee on Natural Resources: Subcommittee on Water, Wildlife and Fisheries held a hearing on H.R. 7287, the "Lewis and Clark Regional Water System Expansion Feasibility Study Act"; H.R. 7331, the "Dakota Mainstem Water Supply Project Feasibility Study Act"; H.R. 7515, to direct the Secretary of the Interior to convey to the Nisqually Indian Tribe the Clear Creek Hatchery infrastructure; H.R. 8259, the "Reclamation Project Consultation Improvement Act of 2026". Testimony was heard from Representatives Johnson of South Dakota, Strickland, and Bentz; and public witnesses.

MISCELLANEOUS MEASURES

Committee on Oversight and Government Reform: Full Committee held a markup on H.R. 8463, the "Pre-Payment Fraud Prevention and Treasury Data Access Act"; H.R. 8464, the "Stopping Fraudulent Payments Act"; H.R. 8312, the "Fraud Prevention and Accountability Act"; H.R. 8428, the "Federal Fraud Prevention Workforce Training Act"; H.R. 8467, the "Zeroing Out Monetary Benefits Improperly Expended Act"; H.R. 8466, the "Taxpayer Resources Used in Emergencies Accountability Act"; H.R. 8340, the "Taxpayer Funds Oversight and Accountability Act"; H.R. 1755, the "Timely and Accurate Benefits Act"; H.R. 8107, the "Government Audit and Accountability of Federally Funded State-Administered Programs Act"; H.R. 8193, to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 189 East Main Street in Xenia, Ohio, as the "Gilman 'Gil' Whitney Post Office Building"; H.R. 2488, to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 3817 Marysville Boulevard in Sacramento, California, as the "Grantland Johnson Post Office"; H.R. 6099, to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 2200 South Salina Street in Syracuse, New York, as the "Wallie Howard Jr. Post Office Building"; H.R. 7809, to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 201 East Grant Avenue in Georgetown, Ohio, as the "Ulysses S. Grant Post Office Building"; and H.R. 8225, to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 111 South Tremont Street in Tremonton, Utah, as the "Sorensen-Estrada Post Office". H.R. 8463, H.R. 8464, H.R. 8312, H.R. 8428, H.R. 8467, H.R. 8466, H.R. 8340, H.R. 1755, H.R. 8107, and H.R. 8193 were ordered reported, as amended. H.R. 2488, H.R. 6099, H.R. 7809, and H.R. 8225 were ordered reported, without amendment.

MISCELLANEOUS MEASURE

Committee on Science, Space, and Technology: Full Committee held a markup on H.R. 8462, the "National Quantum Initiative Reauthorization Act". H.R. 8462 was ordered reported, as amended.

MISCELLANEOUS MEASURES

Committee on Ways and Means: Full Committee held a markup on H.R. 7432, the "Foster Youth Housing Opportunity Act"; H.R. 7463, the "Foster Youth Postsecondary Education Access and Success Act"; H.R. 7343, the "Foster Youth Workforce Opportunity Act"; H.R. 7529, the "Fresh Starts for Foster Youth Act"; H.R. 7655, the "Support for Expectant and Parenting Foster Youth Act"; and H.R. 7995, the "Chafee Opportunities for New Networks and Existing Connection Trust Act". H.R. 7432, H.R. 7463, H.R. 7343, H.R. 7529, H.R. 7655, and H.R. 7995 were ordered reported, as amended.

Joint Meetings

No joint committee meetings were held.

NEW PUBLIC LAWS

(For last listing of Public Laws, see DAILY DIGEST, *p. D413)*

H.J. Res. 140, providing for congressional disapproval under chapter 8 of title 5, United States Code, of the rule submitted by the Bureau of Land Management relating to Public Land Order No. 7917 for Withdrawal of Federal Lands; Cook, Lake, and Saint Louis Counties, MN. Signed on April 27, 2026. (Public Law 119–85)

COMMITTEE MEETINGS FOR THURSDAY, APRIL 30, 2026

(Committee meetings are open unless otherwise indicated)

Senate

Committee on Appropriations: Subcommittee on Military Construction, Veterans Affairs, and Related Agencies, to hold hearings to examine proposed budget estimates and justification for fiscal year 2027 for the Department of Veterans Affairs, 10 a.m., SD–124.

Subcommittee on Department of Interior, Environment, and Related Agencies, to hold hearings to examine proposed budget estimates and justification for fiscal year 2027 for the U.S. Forest Service, 10:30 a.m., SD–138.

Committee on Armed Services: to hold closed hearings to examine the Department of Defense budget request for Fiscal Year 2027 and the Future Years Defense Program; to be immediately followed by an open session at approximately 11:00 a.m. in SD–G50, 9:30 a.m., SVC–217.

Committee on Foreign Relations: business meeting to consider the nominations of John Breslow, of Arizona, to be Ambassador to the Republic of Cyprus, Fleet White, of Virginia, to be an Assistant Secretary of State (Political-Military Affairs), Todd Steggerda, of Virginia, to be Representative to the Office of the United Nations and Other International Organizations in Geneva, with the rank of Ambassador, Preston Wells Griffith III, of Virginia, to be Representative to the International Atomic Energy Agency, with the rank of Ambassador, and Adam Cassady, of Virginia, to be Ambassador at Large for Cyberspace and Digital Policy; to be immediately followed by a hearing to examine the Baltic Sea, focusing on implications for European Security and lessons from the Indo-Pacific, 10 a.m., SD–419.

Committee on the Judiciary: business meeting to consider S. 1572, to amend title 18, United States Code, to improve the Federal carjacking statute, S. 3062, to require artificial intelligence chatbots to implement age verification measures and make certain disclosures, S. 3966, to prohibit the enforcement of certain contractual clauses that restrict disclosure of sexual abuse of minors, S. 736, to increase the penalty for prohibited provision of a phone in a correctional facility, S. 825, to require the Attorney General to propose a program for making treatment for post-traumatic stress disorder and acute stress disorder available to public safety officers, S. 4394, to amend the Omnibus Crime Control and Safe Streets Act of 1968 to improve the COPS program with respect to training command-level personnel, and the nominations of Justin D. Smith, of Missouri, to be United States Circuit Judge for the Eighth Circuit, Sheria Akins Clarke, to be United States District Judge for the District of South Carolina, Jeffrey M. Kuhlman, Anthony W. Mattivi, and Anthony J. Powell, each to be a United States District Judge for the District of Kansas, Kathleen S. Lane, to be United States District Judge for the District of Montana, Evan Rikhye, to be Judge for the District Court of the Virgin Islands, Kara Marie Westercamp, of Virginia, to be a Judge of the United States Court of International Trade, and Kenneth Sorenson, to be United States Attorney for the District of Hawaii, Timothy VerHey, to be United States Attorney for the Western District of Michigan, James Arnott, to be United States Marshal for the Western District of Missouri, Jack Chambers, to be United States Marshal for the Southern District of West Virginia, Jason Holt, to be United States Marshal for the Northern District of Oklahoma, and Johnson TeeHee II, to be United States Marshal for the Eastern District of Oklahoma, all of the Department of Justice, 10:15 a.m., SH–216.

House

Committee on Appropriations, Subcommittee on Legislative Branch, markup on the Subcommittee on Legislative Branch Appropriations Bill, FY 2027, 8 a.m., H–140 Capitol.

Subcommittee on Commerce, Justice, Science, and Related Agencies, markup on the Subcommittee on Commerce, Justice, Science, and Related Agencies Appropriations Bill, FY 2027, 8 a.m., H–140 Capitol.

Subcommittee on Defense, budget hearing on the U.S. Air Force and U.S. Space Force, 9:30 a.m., 2358–C Rayburn.

Subcommittee on Interior, Environment, and Related Agencies, budget hearing on the Indian Health Service, 10:30 a.m., 2008 Rayburn.

Next Meeting of the **SENATE**

10 a.m., Thursday, April 30

Senate Chamber

Program for Thursday: Senate will be in a period of morning business. At 11:30 a.m., Senate will vote on the motion to invoke cloture on S. Res. 690, En Bloc Nominations.

Senators should expect a vote on the motion to discharge S.J. Res. 184, Hostilities Within or against Iran, at approximately 1:45 p.m.

Next Meeting of the **HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES**

9 a.m., Thursday, April 30

House Chamber

Program for Thursday: Complete consideration of H.R. 7567—Farm, Food, and National Security Act of 2026.

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