

112TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

H. R. 4162

To amend the Food Security Act of 1985 to require the Secretary of Agriculture to establish a Great Lakes basin initiative for agricultural nonpoint source pollution prevention.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

MARCH 7, 2012

Mrs. MILLER of Michigan introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Agriculture

A BILL

To amend the Food Security Act of 1985 to require the Secretary of Agriculture to establish a Great Lakes basin initiative for agricultural nonpoint source pollution prevention.

1 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*
2 *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

3 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

4 This Act may be cited as the “Great Lakes Assurance
5 Program Verification Act of 2012”.

1 **SEC. 2. GREAT LAKES BASIN INITIATIVE FOR AGRICUL-**
2 **TURAL NONPOINT SOURCE POLLUTION PRE-**
3 **VENTION.**

4 (a) IN GENERAL.—The Food Security Act of 1985
5 is amended by inserting after section 1240I the following
6 new section:

7 **“SEC. 1240J. GREAT LAKES BASIN INITIATIVE FOR AGRI-**
8 **CULTURAL NONPOINT SOURCE POLLUTION**
9 **PREVENTION.**

10 “(a) ESTABLISHMENT.—The Secretary, in consulta-
11 tion with the Great Lakes States, shall establish a Great
12 Lakes basin initiative for agricultural nonpoint source pol-
13 lution prevention in accordance with this section.

14 “(b) INITIATIVE ELEMENTS.—

15 “(1) GRANTS TO STATES.—In implementing the
16 initiative, the Secretary shall provide grants to Great
17 Lakes States to fund the following:

18 “(A) Education and outreach, for pro-
19 ducers in the Great Lakes basin, regarding—

20 “(i) nonpoint pollution of ground and
21 surface water from agricultural activities;

22 “(ii) State verification programs; and

23 “(iii) the initiative.

24 “(B) Technical assistance, including train-
25 ing, to producers in the Great Lakes basin for
26 the implementation of activities that reduce or

1 prevent nonpoint pollution of ground and sur-
2 face water from agricultural activities.

3 “(C) Development and implementation of
4 voluntary State verification programs, with a
5 funding priority for voluntary State verification
6 programs that incorporate Department of Agri-
7 culture conservation planning and practice
8 standards.

9 “(2) FUNDING PRIORITY FOR CERTAIN PRO-
10 DUCERS.—In implementing the initiative, the Sec-
11 retary shall establish a funding priority within the
12 Great Lakes basin for payments to producers under
13 this chapter for producers that participate in the ini-
14 tiative with the purpose of achieving verification
15 through a State verification program.

16 “(c) USE OF EXISTING DATA.—In establishing the
17 initiative, the Secretary shall, where available, use existing
18 plans, models, and assessments.

19 “(d) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

20 “(1) GREAT LAKES STATE.—The term ‘Great
21 Lakes State’ means any one of the States of Illinois,
22 Indiana, Michigan, Minnesota, New York, Ohio,
23 Pennsylvania, or Wisconsin.

24 “(2) INITIATIVE.—The term ‘initiative’ means
25 the Great Lakes basin initiative for agricultural

1 nonpoint source pollution prevention established
2 under subsection (a).

3 “(3) NONPOINT SOURCE POLLUTION.—The
4 term ‘nonpoint source pollution’ is used within the
5 meaning of that term under the Federal Water Pol-
6 lution Control Act (33 U.S.C. 1251 et seq.).

7 “(4) STATE VERIFICATION PROGRAM.—The
8 term ‘State verification program’ means a program
9 established by a Great Lakes State to verify pro-
10 ducer implementation of practices approved by the
11 State to reduce nonpoint pollution of ground and
12 surface water from agricultural activities, which may
13 include verification by a third party approved by the
14 State or the Secretary.

15 “(e) FUNDING.—Of the funds of the Commodity
16 Credit Corporation, to carry out this section the Secretary
17 shall use, to the maximum extent practicable—

18 “(1) \$5,000,000 for fiscal year 2013;

19 “(2) \$8,000,000 for fiscal year 2014;

20 “(3) \$10,000,000 for fiscal year 2015; and

21 “(4) \$7,000,000 for fiscal year 2016.”.

22 (b) CONFORMING AMENDMENT.—Section 1240C of
23 the Food Security Act of 1985 (16 U.S.C. 3839aa–3) is
24 amended by adding at the end the following new sub-
25 section:

1 “(d) SPECIAL RULE FOR GREAT LAKES BASIN.—In
2 evaluating applications of producers in the Great Lakes
3 basin under this chapter, the Secretary shall prioritize ap-
4 plications in accordance with section 1240J(b)(2).”.

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