

113TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 1272

To support State and tribal government efforts to promote research and education related to maple syrup production, natural resource sustainability in the maple syrup industry, market promotion of maple products, and greater access to lands containing maple trees for maple-sugaring activities, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

MARCH 19, 2013

Mr. WELCH (for himself, Mr. COURTNEY, and Mr. OWENS) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Agriculture

A BILL

To support State and tribal government efforts to promote research and education related to maple syrup production, natural resource sustainability in the maple syrup industry, market promotion of maple products, and greater access to lands containing maple trees for maple-sugaring activities, and for other purposes.

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

3 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

4 This Act may be cited as the “Maple Tapping Access
5 Program Act”.

1 **SEC. 2. ACER ACCESS AND DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM.**

2 (a) GRANTS AUTHORIZED.—The Secretary of Agri-
3 culture may make grants to States, tribal governments,
4 and research institutions to support the efforts of such
5 States, tribal governments, and research institutions to
6 promote the domestic maple syrup industry through the
7 following activities:

8 (1) Promotion of research and education related
9 to maple syrup production.

10 (2) Promotion of natural resource sustainability
11 in the maple syrup industry.

12 (3) Market promotion for maple syrup and
13 maple-sap products.

14 (4) Encouragement of owners and operators of
15 privately-held land containing species of trees in the
16 genus *Acer*—

17 (A) to initiate or expand maple-sugaring
18 activities on the land; or

19 (B) to voluntarily make the land available,
20 including by lease or other means, for access by
21 the public for maple-sugaring activities.

22 (b) APPLICATION.—In submitting an application for
23 a grant under this section, a State or tribal government
24 shall include—

25 (1) a description of the activities to be sup-
26 ported using the grant funds;

1 (2) a description of the benefits that the State
2 or tribal government intends to achieve as a result
3 of engaging in such activities; and

4 (3) an estimate of the increase in maple-sug-
5 aring activities or maple syrup production that the
6 State or tribal government anticipates will occur as
7 a result of engaging in such activities.

8 (c) RULE OF CONSTRUCTION.—Nothing in this sec-
9 tion shall be construed so as to preempt a State or tribal
10 government law, including a State or tribal government
11 liability law.

12 (d) DEFINITION OF MAPLE-SUGARING.—In this sec-
13 tion, the term “maple-sugaring” means the collection of
14 sap from any species of tree in the genus *Acer* for the
15 purpose of boiling to produce food.

16 (e) REGULATIONS.—The Secretary of Agriculture
17 shall promulgate such regulations as are necessary to
18 carry out this section.

19 (f) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There
20 are authorized to be appropriated to carry out this section
21 \$20,000,000 for each of fiscal years 2014 through 2018.

○