

115TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 4671

To assist and incentivize organic agriculture by expanding its access to, and eligibility for, Federal rural development and agricultural loan programs.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

DECEMBER 18, 2017

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

A BILL

To assist and incentivize organic agriculture by expanding its access to, and eligibility for, Federal rural development and agricultural loan programs.

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 “Organic Farmers Ac-
5 cess Act”.

1 **SEC. 2. EXPANSION OF ACCESS OF ORGANIC AGRICULTURE**
2 **TO, AND ELIGIBILITY OF ORGANIC AGRI-**
3 **CULTURE FOR, FEDERAL RURAL DEVELOP-**
4 **MENT AND AGRICULTURAL LOAN PROGRAMS.**

5 (a) RURAL BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT GRANTS.—

6 Section 310B(c)(3) of the Consolidated Farm and Rural
7 Development Act (7 U.S.C. 1932(c)(3)) is amended—

8 (1) in subparagraph (A)—

9 (A) in clause (iv), by striking “and” at the
10 end; and

11 (B) by adding at the end the following:

12 “(vi) expand access to capital, infra-
13 structure and technical expertise for, and
14 expand market connections between cer-
15 tified organic farms (as defined in section
16 2103(4) of the Organic Foods Production
17 Act of 1990) and certified organic han-
18 dling operations (as defined in section
19 2103(5) of such Act); and”;

20 (2) in subparagraph (B)—

21 (A) in clause (iii), by striking “and” at the
22 end;

23 (B) in clause (iv), by striking the period
24 and inserting “; and”; and

25 (C) by adding at the end the following:

1 “(v) expanded access to capital, infra-
 2 structure and technical expertise for, and
 3 market connections between, certified or-
 4 ganic farms (as defined in section 2103(4)
 5 of the Organic Foods Production Act of
 6 1990) and certified organic handling oper-
 7 ations (as defined in section 2103(5) of
 8 such Act).”.

9 (b) LOCALLY AND REGIONALLY PRODUCED AGRI-
 10 CULTURAL FOOD PRODUCTS.—Section 310B(g)(9)(B)(iii)
 11 of the Consolidated Farm and Rural Development Act (7
 12 U.S.C. 1932(g)(9)(B)(iii)) is amended by inserting “, or
 13 certified organic farms (as defined in section 2103(4) of
 14 the Organic Foods Production Act of 1990) or certified
 15 organic handling operations (as defined in section 2103(5)
 16 of such Act)” before the period.

17 (c) VALUE-ADDED AGRICULTURAL PRODUCT MAR-
 18 KET DEVELOPMENT GRANTS.—Section 231(b)(6)(A) of
 19 the Agricultural Risk Protection Act of 2000 (7 U.S.C.
 20 1632a(b)(6)(A)) is amended—

- 21 (1) in clause (iii), by striking “and” at the end;
- 22 (2) in clause (iv), by striking the period and in-
 23 serting “; and”; and
- 24 (3) by adding at the end the following:

1 “(v) certified organic farms (as de-
2 fined in section 2103(4) of the Organic
3 Foods Production Act of 1990) or certified
4 organic handling operations (as defined in
5 section 2103(5) of such Act).”.

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