

118TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

H. R. 10363

To amend the Agricultural Act of 1961 with respect to the Emergency
Loan Program.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

DECEMBER 11, 2024

Mrs. HAYES introduced the following bill; which was referred to the
Committee on Agriculture

A BILL

To amend the Agricultural Act of 1961 with respect to
the Emergency Loan Program.

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

3 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

4 This Act may be cited as the “Helping America’s
5 Farmers Act”.

6 **SEC. 2. EMERGENCY LOAN PROGRAM.**

7 Subtitle C of title III of the Agricultural Act of 1961
8 (7 U.S.C. 1961 et seq.) is amended—

9 (1) in section 321(b), by adding at the end the
10 following:

1 “(4) HISTORICALLY UNDERSERVED
 2 STATES.—Notwithstanding any other provision
 3 of this subtitle, the Secretary may waive the re-
 4 quirement under paragraph (1) if, at the time
 5 an applicant submits an application for a loan
 6 under subsection (a), such applicant resides,
 7 and the property for which the applicant seeks
 8 to cover with such loan is located, in any—

9 “(A) State provided assistance under
 10 section 524(b) of the Federal Crop Insur-
 11 ance Act (7 U.S.C. 1524(b); commonly
 12 known as the ‘Agricultural Management
 13 Assistance program’); or

14 “(B) other State that the Secretary
 15 determines is historically underserved by
 16 crop insurance.”;

17 (2) by amending section 323 to read as follows:

18 **“SEC. 323. USE OF LOANS.**

19 “Subject to the limitations on the amounts of loans
 20 provided in section 324(a) of this title, loans under this
 21 subtitle may be used—

22 “(1) for any purpose authorized for loans under
 23 subtitle A or B of this title;

24 “(2) for crop or livestock changes that are ne-
 25 cessitated by a quarantine, natural disaster, major

1 disaster, or emergency and that are deemed desir-
2 able by the applicant;

3 “(3) to provide paid leave to employees unable
4 to work due to the direct effect of a natural disaster;

5 “(4) to maintain payroll to retain employees
6 during business disruptions or substantial slow-
7 downs;

8 “(5) to meet increased costs to obtain materials
9 unavailable from the original source of the applicant
10 due to interrupted supply chains; and

11 “(6) to make rent or mortgage payments.”;

12 (3) in section 324—

13 (A) in subsection (a)(2), by striking
14 “would cause” and all that follows through the
15 period at the end and inserting “is greater than
16 \$2,000,000.”;

17 (B) by amending subsection (b) to read as
18 follows:

19 “(b) INTEREST RATE.—A loan under this subtitle
20 shall be at an interest rate of zero percent.”; and

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

22 “(f) WAIVER OF CERTAIN REQUIREMENTS.—With
23 respect to a loan made under this subtitle in response to
24 a natural disaster, the Secretary shall waive—

1 “(1) any rules related to the personal guarantee
 2 on advances and loans of not more than \$200,000
 3 for all borrowers; and

4 “(2) any requirement that the borrower exhaust
 5 other loan options before applying for a loan under
 6 this subtitle.

7 “(g) PRIORITY.—In making a loan under this sub-
 8 title, the Secretary shall give priority to each—

9 “(1) applicant in a State determined by the
 10 Secretary to be most impacted by a natural disaster;

11 “(2) minority, veteran, and woman applicant;

12 “(3) applicant in a State provided assistance
 13 under section 524(b) of the Federal Crop Insurance
 14 Act (7 U.S.C. 1524(b); commonly known as the ‘Ag-
 15 ricultural Management Assistance program’);

16 “(4) applicant in a State that the Secretary de-
 17 termines is historically underserved by crop insur-
 18 ance; and

19 “(5) other applicant as the Secretary deter-
 20 mines appropriate.”; and

21 (4) by inserting after section 329 the following:

22 **“SEC. 330. FUNDING.**

23 “There is hereby appropriated, out of any amounts
 24 in the Treasury not otherwise appropriated

- 1 \$10,000,000,000, to remain available until September 30,
- 2 2029, to make loans to applicants under this subtitle.”.

