

119TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

S. 4483

To require the Secretary of Agriculture to streamline applications from farmers to be vendors under certain nutrition programs, and for other purposes.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

MAY 11, 2026

Ms. SMITH introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry

A BILL

To require the Secretary of Agriculture to streamline applications from farmers to be vendors under certain nutrition programs, 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 “Promoting Access to
5 Local Agriculture Act of 2026”.

6 **SEC. 2. STREAMLINING APPLICATIONS FOR FARMERS.**

7 (a) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

8 (1) COVERED NUTRITION PROGRAM.—The term
9 “covered nutrition program” means—

1 (A) the supplemental nutrition assistance
2 program established under the Food and Nutri-
3 tion Act of 2008 (7 U.S.C. 2011 et seq.);

4 (B) the senior farmers' market nutrition
5 program established under section 4402 of the
6 Farm Security and Rural Investment Act of
7 2002 (7 U.S.C. 3007);

8 (C) the special supplemental nutrition pro-
9 gram for women, infants, and children estab-
10 lished by section 17 of the Child Nutrition Act
11 of 1966 (42 U.S.C. 1786), including the farm-
12 ers' market nutrition program under that pro-
13 gram; and

14 (D) the Gus Schumacher Nutrition Incen-
15 tive Program established under section 4405 of
16 the Food, Conservation, and Energy Act of
17 2008 (7 U.S.C. 7517), as practicable with re-
18 spect to the activities carried out by the Sec-
19 retary under subsections (b) and (c).

20 (2) SECRETARY.—The term “Secretary” means
21 the Secretary of Agriculture.

22 (b) STREAMLINED APPLICATION PROCESS.—

23 (1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall establish
24 a streamlined application process—

1 (A) for direct marketing farmers and
2 ranchers to apply to be vendors under each of
3 the covered nutrition programs; and

4 (B) by—

5 (i) developing a single application that
6 a direct marketing farmer or rancher may
7 use to apply to each of the covered nutri-
8 tion programs; or

9 (ii) developing an information sharing
10 system that—

11 (I) shares the information of a
12 direct marketing farmer or rancher
13 who is approved as an authorized ven-
14 dor under a covered nutrition pro-
15 gram with each of the other covered
16 nutrition programs; and

17 (II) deems that direct marketing
18 farmer or rancher as a prequalified el-
19 igible vendor for those other covered
20 nutrition programs.

21 (2) REPORT.—Not later than 1 year after the
22 date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary shall
23 submit to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition,
24 and Forestry of the Senate and the Committee on
25 Agriculture of the House of Representatives a report

1 describing progress made in carrying out paragraph
 2 (1).

3 (c) STREAMLINED PROCESSING OF BENEFITS.—The
 4 Secretary shall establish a streamlined process for direct
 5 marketing farmers and ranchers that are vendors under
 6 any of the covered nutrition programs to process benefits
 7 under those programs through the use of standardized
 8 technology, such as a single piece of equipment or a mobile
 9 application.

10 **SEC. 3. SUPPORT FOR WIRELESS AND MOBILE EQUIPMENT**
 11 **FOR CERTAIN ENTITIES.**

12 Section 7(f)(2) of the Food and Nutrition Act of
 13 2008 (7 U.S.C. 2016(f)(2)) is amended—

14 (1) by redesignating subparagraph (C) as sub-
 15 paragraph (D); and

16 (2) by inserting after subparagraph (B) the fol-
 17 lowing:

18 “(C) REQUIREMENT.—The Secretary shall
 19 ensure that equipment or systems made avail-
 20 able to entities described in clauses (i) and (ii)
 21 of subparagraph (B) by a State agency or an
 22 implementing partner of a State agency is ap-
 23 propriate for the entity, including, with respect
 24 to farmers markets and other direct-to-con-

- 1 sumer markets, wireless or mobile processing
- 2 equipment and technology systems.”.

