

118TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

S. _____

To provide for the reform and continuation of agricultural and other programs of the Department of Agriculture through fiscal year 2029, and for other purposes.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

Ms. STABENOW introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on _____

A BILL

To provide for the reform and continuation of agricultural and other programs of the Department of Agriculture through fiscal year 2029, 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; TABLE OF CONTENTS.**

4 (a) SHORT TITLE.—This Act may be cited as the
5 “Rural Prosperity and Food Security Act of 2024”.

6 (b) TABLE OF CONTENTS.—The table of contents for
7 this Act is as follows:

- Sec. 1. Short title; table of contents.
- Sec. 2. Definition of Secretary.

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Subtitle A—Commodity Policy

- Sec. 1101. Definitions.
- Sec. 1102. Base acres.
- Sec. 1103. Payment yields.
- Sec. 1104. Payment acres.
- Sec. 1105. Producer election.
- Sec. 1106. Price loss coverage.
- Sec. 1107. Agriculture risk coverage.

Subtitle B—Marketing Loans

- Sec. 1201. Loan rates.
- Sec. 1202. Textile mills.
- Sec. 1203. Extensions.

Subtitle C—Sugar

- Sec. 1301. Sugar policy.

Subtitle D—Dairy

- Sec. 1401. Dairy Margin Coverage.
- Sec. 1402. Dairy products donation program.
- Sec. 1403. Reauthorizations.
- Sec. 1404. Related provisions.

Subtitle E—Supplemental and Emergency Agricultural Disaster Assistance
Programs

- Sec. 1501. Definitions; conforming amendments.
- Sec. 1502. Supplemental agricultural disaster assistance.
- Sec. 1503. Emergency relief program.

Subtitle F—Noninsured Crop Assistance

- Sec. 1601. Noninsured crop assistance program.

Subtitle G—Administration

- Sec. 1701. Regulations.
- Sec. 1702. Suspension of permanent price support authority.
- Sec. 1703. Ineligibility of land owned by foreign persons for program benefits.
- Sec. 1704. Adjusted gross income limitation.
- Sec. 1705. Farm program implementation coordination.
- Sec. 1706. Legal entities.
- Sec. 1707. Geographically disadvantaged farmers and ranchers.
- Sec. 1708. Limitation on Commodity Credit Corporation authority.

Subtitle H—Emergency Assistance

- Sec. 1801. Emergency assistance.

TITLE II—CONSERVATION

- Sec. 2001. Definitions.

Subtitle A—Wetland Conservation

- Sec. 2101. Mitigation banking.

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Subtitle B—Conservation Reserve Program (including Farmable Wetland Program)

- Sec. 2201. Conservation reserve.
- Sec. 2202. Conservation reserve enhancement program.
- Sec. 2203. Farmable wetland program.
- Sec. 2204. Special programs.
- Sec. 2205. Conservation reserve easements.
- Sec. 2206. Duties of the Secretary.
- Sec. 2207. Payments.
- Sec. 2208. Contracts.

Subtitle C—Environmental Quality Incentives Program and Conservation Stewardship Program

PART I—ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY INCENTIVES PROGRAM

- Sec. 2301. Purposes.
- Sec. 2302. Definitions.
- Sec. 2303. Establishment and administration.
- Sec. 2304. Environmental quality incentives program plan.
- Sec. 2305. Limitation on payments.
- Sec. 2306. Conservation innovation grants and payments.

PART II—CONSERVATION STEWARDSHIP PROGRAM

- Sec. 2311. Definitions.
- Sec. 2312. Stewardship contracts.
- Sec. 2313. Duties of the Secretary.
- Sec. 2314. On-farm conservation stewardship innovation grants.

Subtitle D—Other Conservation Programs

- Sec. 2401. Watershed Protection and Flood Prevention Act.
- Sec. 2402. Soil and water resources conservation.
- Sec. 2403. Emergency conservation programs.
- Sec. 2404. Conservation of private grazing land.
- Sec. 2405. Grassroots source water protection program.
- Sec. 2406. Voluntary public access and habitat incentive program.
- Sec. 2407. Feral swine eradication and control program.
- Sec. 2408. Report on small wetlands.
- Sec. 2409. Terminal lakes assistance.
- Sec. 2410. Colorado salinity control units.
- Sec. 2411. Chesapeake Bay States' Partnership Initiative.
- Sec. 2412. Driftless area landscape conservation initiative.
- Sec. 2413. Expansion of NRCS snow survey and water supply forecasting.

Subtitle E—Funding and Administration

- Sec. 2501. Commodity Credit Corporation.
- Sec. 2502. Delivery of technical assistance.
- Sec. 2503. Administrative requirements for conservation programs.
- Sec. 2504. Best practices guidance for solar energy land management.

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- Sec. 2707. Critical conservation areas.

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- Sec. 3102. Provision of agricultural commodities.
- Sec. 3103. Levels of assistance.
- Sec. 3104. Food Aid Consultative Group.
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- Sec. 3106. Oversight, monitoring, and evaluation.
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- Sec. 3108. Definitions.
- Sec. 3109. Use of Commodity Credit Corporation.
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- Sec. 3111. Deadline for agreements to finance sales or to provide other assistance.
- Sec. 3112. Funds for emergency and nonemergency food assistance.
- Sec. 3113. Micronutrient fortification programs.
- Sec. 3114. John Ogonowski and Doug Bereuter Farmer-to-Farmer Program.
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- Sec. 3202. Technical assistance to improve infrastructure in foreign markets for United States agricultural commodities.
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- Sec. 3204. Agricultural trade promotion and facilitation.
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- Sec. 3301. Food for Progress Act of 1985.
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- Sec. 3303. Promotion of agricultural exports to emerging markets.
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Sec. 3309. International agricultural education fellowship program.

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- Sec. 4101. Ensuring transparency and accountability in thrifty food plan.
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- Sec. 4103. Income exclusion for military basic allowance for housing.
- Sec. 4104. SNAP materials for health care professionals.
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- Sec. 4116. Authorization of appropriations.
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- Sec. 4202. Kosher, Halal, and culturally relevant foods projects.
- Sec. 4203. Flexibilities for geographically isolated States and Indian tribes.
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- Sec. 4403. Gus Schumacher nutrition incentive program.
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- Sec. 5102. Conservation and Precision Agriculture Loan and Loan Guarantee Program.
- Sec. 5103. Limitations on amount of farm ownership loans.
- Sec. 5104. Refinancing of guaranteed loans into direct loans.
- Sec. 5105. Down payment loan program.
- Sec. 5106. Support for resolving ownership and succession issues relating to farmland.

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- Sec. 7113. Research and extension activities at 1890 Institutions.
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- Sec. 7122. Capacity building grants for NLGCA institutions.
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- Sec. 7504. Equity in Educational Land-Grant Status Act of 1994.
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- Sec. 12501. Maple Research and Market Promotion Program.
- Sec. 12502. Protecting animals with shelter.
- Sec. 12503. Beagle Brigade.
- Sec. 12504. Importation of dogs into the United States.
- Sec. 12505. Veterinary medicine loan repayment program and veterinary services grant program.
- Sec. 12506. Report on animal depopulation.
- Sec. 12507. Retirement of research animals.
- Sec. 12508. Strengthening enforcement of Animal Welfare Act.
- Sec. 12509. Dairy business innovation initiatives.
- Sec. 12510. Marketing orders.
- Sec. 12511. Farmer Seed Liaison.
- Sec. 12512. Procurement study and report.
- Sec. 12513. Promotion of food and agricultural workplace accountability.
- Sec. 12514. Relief for farmers.
- Sec. 12515. Improvements to the United States Drought Monitor.
- Sec. 12516. Program data protection and access.
- Sec. 12517. Measurement, monitoring, reporting, and verification of greenhouse gas emissions and carbon sequestration.
- Sec. 12518. Report on personnel.
- Sec. 12519. Conversion authority.
- Sec. 12520. Department of Agriculture recruitment and retention authorities.
- Sec. 12521. Authorization of protection operations for the Secretary of Agriculture and others.
- Sec. 12522. Commission on Farm Transitions.
- Sec. 12523. Notifications and reports from USDA.
- Sec. 12524. Standards for precision agriculture.

Sec. 12525. Pima Agriculture Cotton Trust Fund.
 Sec. 12526. Agriculture Wool Apparel Manufacturers Trust Fund.
 Sec. 12527. Wool research and promotion.
 Sec. 12528. Emergency citrus disease research and development trust fund.

1 **SEC. 2. DEFINITION OF SECRETARY.**

2 In this Act, the term “Secretary” means the Sec-
 3 retary of Agriculture.

4 **TITLE I—COMMODITIES**
 5 **Subtitle A—Commodity Policy**

6 **SEC. 1101. DEFINITIONS.**

7 Section 1111 of the Agricultural Act of 2014 (7
 8 U.S.C. 9011) is amended—

9 (1) in paragraph (8)—

10 (A) in subparagraph (B), by redesignating
 11 clauses (i) and (ii) as subclauses (I) and (II),
 12 respectively, and indenting appropriately;

13 (B) by redesignating subparagraphs (A)
 14 and (B) as clauses (i) and (ii), respectively, and
 15 indenting appropriately;

16 (C) in the matter preceding clause (i) (as
 17 so redesignated), by striking “The term ‘effec-
 18 tive reference price’, with respect to a covered
 19 commodity for a crop year,” and inserting the
 20 following:

21 “(A) 2019 THROUGH 2024 CROP YEARS.—
 22 The term ‘effective reference price’, with re-

1 spect to a covered commodity for any of the
2 2019 through 2024 crop years,”; and

3 (D) by adding at the end the following:

4 “(B) 2025 THROUGH 2029 CROP YEARS.—

5 The term ‘effective reference price’, with re-
6 spect to a covered commodity for any of the
7 2025 through 2029 crop years, means the less-
8 er of the following:

9 “(i) An amount equal to 115 percent
10 of the reference price for such covered
11 commodity.

12 “(ii) An amount equal to the greater
13 of—

14 “(I) the reference price for such
15 covered commodity; or

16 “(II) 85 percent of the average of
17 the marketing year average price of
18 the covered commodity for the most
19 recent 5 crop years.”; and

20 (2) in paragraph (19)—

21 (A) by redesignating subparagraphs (A)
22 through (O) as clauses (i) through (xv), respec-
23 tively, and indenting appropriately;

24 (B) in the matter preceding clause (i) (as
25 so redesignated), by striking “The term” and

1 all that follows through “the following:” and in-
2 serting the following:

3 “(A) 2019 THROUGH 2023 CROP YEARS.—
4 The term ‘reference price’, with respect to a
5 covered commodity for each of crop years 2019
6 through 2023, means the following:”; and

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

8 “(B) 2024 THROUGH 2029 CROP YEARS.—
9 The term ‘reference price’, with respect to a
10 covered commodity for each of crop years 2024
11 through 2029, means the following:

12 “(i) For wheat, \$5.78 per bushel.

13 “(ii) For corn, \$3.89 per bushel.

14 “(iii) For grain sorghum, \$4.15 per
15 bushel.

16 “(iv) For barley, \$5.20 per bushel.

17 “(v) For oats, \$2.52 per bushel.

18 “(vi) For long grain rice, \$14.70 per
19 hundredweight.

20 “(vii) For medium grain rice, \$14.70
21 per hundredweight.

22 “(viii) For soybeans, \$8.82 per bush-
23 el.

24 “(ix) For other oilseeds, \$21.16 per
25 hundredweight.

1 “(x) For peanuts, \$561.75 per ton.

2 “(xi) For dry peas, \$11.55 per hun-
3 dredweight.

4 “(xii) For lentils, \$20.97 per hundred-
5 weight.

6 “(xiii) For small chickpeas, \$19.99
7 per hundredweight.

8 “(xiv) For large chickpeas, \$22.62 per
9 hundredweight.

10 “(xv) For seed cotton, \$0.385 per
11 pound.”.

12 **SEC. 1102. BASE ACRES.**

13 Section 1112 of the Agricultural Act of 2014 (7
14 U.S.C. 9012) is amended—

15 (1) by redesignating subsections (b) through (d)
16 as subsections (c) through (e), respectively;

17 (2) by inserting after subsection (a) the fol-
18 lowing:

19 “(b) **BASE ACRE INCREASE FOR UNDERSERVED**
20 **FARMERS OF COVERED COMMODITIES.**—

21 “(1) **DEFINITION OF UNDERSERVED FARMER**
22 **OF COVERED COMMODITIES.**—In this subsection, the
23 term ‘underserved farmer of covered commodities’
24 means an underserved producer (as defined in sec-
25 tion 508(a)(7)(A) of the Federal Crop Insurance Act

1 (7 U.S.C. 1508(a)(7)(A)) or a limited resource or
2 economically distressed farmer (as determined by the
3 Secretary) of 1 or more covered commodities.

4 “(2) OPPORTUNITY TO INCREASE BASE
5 ACRES.—As soon as practicable after the date of en-
6 actment of the Rural Prosperity and Food Security
7 Act of 2024, the Secretary shall provide a 1-time op-
8 portunity for an underserved farmer of covered com-
9 modities to increase base acres on a farm if—

10 “(A) the underserved farmer of covered
11 commodities—

12 “(i) is an operator on the farm and
13 provides a significant contribution of active
14 personal labor on the farm, as determined
15 by the Secretary; or

16 “(ii) has a significant ownership share
17 of the farm or a business producing cov-
18 ered commodities on the farm, as deter-
19 mined by the Secretary; and

20 “(B) the average number of acres on the
21 farm planted or prevented from planting as de-
22 scribed in subclauses (I) and (II), respectively,
23 of paragraph (3)(A)(i) to covered commodities
24 during the 2018 through 2022 crop years is

1 greater than the number of base acres on the
2 farm.

3 “(3) BASE ACRE INCREASE.—

4 “(A) IN GENERAL.—Subject to subpara-
5 graph (B), the number of base acres added to
6 a farm under paragraph (2) shall be equal to
7 the difference between—

8 “(i) the sum obtained by adding—

9 “(I) the 5-year average of the
10 acreage planted on the farm to all
11 covered commodities for harvest, graz-
12 ing, haying, silage, or other similar
13 purposes for the 2018 through 2022
14 crop years, according to records sub-
15 mitted to the Farm Service Agency or
16 the Risk Management Agency; and

17 “(II) the 5-year average of any
18 acreage on the farm that was pre-
19 vented from planting to 1 or more
20 covered commodities during the 2018
21 through 2022 crop years because of
22 drought, flood, or other natural dis-
23 aster, or other condition beyond the
24 control of the producers, as deter-
25 mined by the Secretary, according to

1 records submitted to the Farm Serv-
2 ice Agency or the Risk Management
3 Agency; and

4 “(ii) the number of base acres for cov-
5 ered commodities on the farm.

6 “(B) LIMITATIONS.—

7 “(i) MAXIMUM.—Not more than 160
8 base acres shall be added to any farm
9 under paragraph (2).

10 “(ii) PROHIBITION ON RECONSTITU-
11 TION OF FARM.—The Secretary shall en-
12 sure that producers on a farm do not re-
13 constitute the farm for the purpose of in-
14 creasing the number of base acres added to
15 the farm under paragraph (2).

16 “(C) DISTRIBUTION.—Base acres added to
17 a farm under paragraph (2) shall be added to
18 the base acreage of each covered commodity on
19 the farm in the proportion that—

20 “(i) the acreage planted or prevented
21 from planting to the covered commodity on
22 the farm; bears to

23 “(ii) the acreage planted or prevented
24 from planting to all covered commodities
25 on the farm.

1 “(4) REDUCTION OF BASE ACRES.—If an un-
2 derserved farmer of covered commodities on a farm
3 for which base acres have been increased under
4 paragraph (2) does not own or operate the farm for
5 any of the 2025 through 2029 crop years, the Sec-
6 retary shall reduce the number of base acres on the
7 farm eligible for payment for that crop year by the
8 number of base acres added to the farm under para-
9 graph (2), in the same proportion among covered
10 commodities on the farm described in paragraph
11 (3)(C).”;

12 (3) in subsection (c) (as so redesignated), in
13 paragraph (1), in the matter preceding subpara-
14 graph (A), by inserting “and any addition of base
15 acres under subsection (b)” after “subsection (a)”;

16 (4) in subsection (d) (as so redesignated)—

17 (A) in paragraph (1), by inserting “and
18 any addition of base acres under subsection
19 (b)” after “subsection (a)”;

20 (B) in paragraph (2)(C), by striking “sub-
21 section (b)(1)(C)” and inserting “subsection
22 (c)(1)(C)”;

23 (5) in subsection (e) (as so redesignated), in
24 paragraph (3)(A), by striking “2023” and inserting
25 “2029”.

1 **SEC. 1103. PAYMENT YIELDS.**

2 Section 1113 of the Agricultural Act of 2014 (7
3 U.S.C. 9013) is amended—

4 (1) in subsection (b), by striking the subsection
5 designation and heading and all that follows through
6 “In the case” in paragraph (4) and inserting the fol-
7 lowing:

8 “(b) OILSEEDS DESIGNATED AFTER CERTAIN
9 DATE.—In the case”; and

10 (2) by striking subsection (c) and inserting the
11 following:

12 “(c) EFFECT OF LACK OF PAYMENT YIELD.—In the
13 case of a covered commodity on a farm for which base
14 acres have been established, if no payment yield is other-
15 wise established for the covered commodity on the farm,
16 the payment yield shall be equal to the greater of—

17 “(1) 90 percent of the average of the yield per
18 planted acre for the crop of covered commodities on
19 the farm for the most recent 5 crop years, as deter-
20 mined by the Secretary, excluding any crop year in
21 which the acreage planted to the covered commodity
22 was zero; and

23 “(2) the payment yields applicable to that cov-
24 ered commodity for similarly situated farms, as de-
25 termined by the Secretary.”.

1 **SEC. 1104. PAYMENT ACRES.**

2 Section 1114 of the Agricultural Act of 2014 (7
3 U.S.C. 9014) is amended—

4 (1) in subsection (b)—

5 (A) in paragraph (1), by striking “In the
6 case” and inserting “Effective for the 2014
7 through 2018 crop years, in the case”;

8 (B) in paragraph (2), in the matter pre-
9 ceding subparagraph (A), by striking “With re-
10 spect to” and inserting “Effective for the 2014
11 through 2018 crop years, with respect to”; and

12 (C) in paragraph (3), by striking “When
13 generic base acres” and inserting “Effective for
14 the 2014 through 2018 crop years, when ge-
15 neric base acres”; and

16 (2) in subsection (e)—

17 (A) in paragraph (1), by inserting “, fava
18 beans,” after “mung beans”; and

19 (B) in paragraph (5), by inserting “, fava
20 beans,” after “mung beans”.

21 **SEC. 1105. PRODUCER ELECTION.**

22 Section 1115 of the Agricultural Act of 2014 (7
23 U.S.C. 9015) is amended by adding at the end the fol-
24 lowing:

25 “(i) **CONTINUITY OF ELECTED COVERAGE.**—For the
26 2025 crop year and each crop year thereafter, the elected

1 coverage in effect under this section for the previous crop
2 year shall apply to a farm until a crop year for which an
3 election change is made with respect to the farm under
4 subsection (h).

5 “(j) SPECIAL RULE FOR 2023 AND 2024 CROP
6 YEARS.—If the producers on the farm elected price loss
7 coverage under section 1116 or agriculture risk coverage
8 under section 1117(b)(1), or were deemed to have elected
9 such coverage, for the 2023 and 2024 crops years, not-
10 withstanding such election, the producers on the farm
11 shall be deemed to have elected the coverage with the high-
12 er payment rate for each of the 2023 and 2024 crop
13 years.”.

14 **SEC. 1106. PRICE LOSS COVERAGE.**

15 Section 1116 of the Agricultural Act of 2014 (7
16 U.S.C. 9016) is amended—

17 (1) in subsection (a)—

18 (A) in the matter preceding paragraph (1),
19 by striking “make the election” and all that fol-
20 lows through “subsection (c)(2) of such sec-
21 tion,” and inserting “have elected or have been
22 deemed to have elected price loss coverage
23 under section 1115,”; and

1 (B) in paragraph (2), in the matter pre-
2 ceding subparagraph (A), by striking “2023”
3 and inserting “2029”;

4 (2) in subsection (c)(1)—

5 (A) in subparagraph (B)—

6 (i) in the subparagraph heading, by
7 striking “2023” and inserting “2024”; and

8 (ii) by striking “2023” and inserting
9 “2024”; and

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

11 “(C) 2025 THROUGH 2029 CROP YEARS.—

12 For the 2025 through 2029 crop years, the
13 payment rate shall be equal to the lesser of—

14 “(i) the difference between—

15 “(I) the effective reference price
16 for the covered commodity; and

17 “(II) the effective price deter-
18 mined under subsection (b) for the
19 covered commodity; and

20 “(ii) 15 percent of the effective ref-
21 erence price.”;

22 (3) in subsection (d)—

23 (A) by redesignating paragraphs (1)
24 through (3) as subparagraphs (A) through (C),
25 respectively, and indenting appropriately;

1 (B) in the matter preceding subparagraph

2 (A) (as so redesignated)—

3 (i) by striking “2024” and inserting

4 “2029”; and

5 (ii) by striking “If price loss cov-
6 erage” and inserting the following:

7 “(1) IN GENERAL.—If price loss coverage”; and

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

9 “(2) ADJUSTMENT FOR 2024 THROUGH 2029
10 CROP YEARS.—For the 2024 through 2029 crop
11 years, the Secretary shall make an appropriate ad-
12 justment in the price loss coverage payment amount
13 determined under paragraph (1) by subtracting from
14 the payment amount any portion of the payment
15 amount that would have been included in subpara-
16 graph (A)(i)(II)(cc), (B)(i)(II)(cc),
17 (C)(i)(I)(bb)(BB), or (C)(ii)(I)(bb) of section
18 1503(e)(1) but for the timing of the price loss cov-
19 erage payment.”; and

20 (4) in subsection (e)—

21 (A) by striking “If the Secretary” and in-
22 serting the following:

23 “(1) IN GENERAL.—Subject to paragraph (2),
24 if the Secretary”; and

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

1 “(2) AVAILABILITY OF PARTIAL PAYMENTS.—

2 “(A) IN GENERAL.—If, before the end of
3 the 12-month marketing year for a covered
4 commodity for any of the 2024 through 2029
5 crop years, the Secretary projects that price
6 loss coverage payments will be required for the
7 crop of the covered commodity, the Secretary
8 shall give producers on a farm the option to re-
9 ceive partial payments of the price loss coverage
10 payments to be made for that crop of the cov-
11 ered commodity.

12 “(B) TIME FOR PARTIAL PAYMENTS.—

13 When the Secretary makes partial payments
14 available under subparagraph (A) for a covered
15 commodity, the partial payment shall be made
16 beginning February 1, or as soon as practicable
17 thereafter, after the beginning of the applicable
18 marketing year for the covered commodity.

19 “(C) AMOUNT OF PARTIAL PAYMENTS.—

20 The partial payments under subparagraph (A)
21 to the producers on a farm may not exceed 50
22 percent of the projected price loss coverage pay-
23 ment for the covered commodity for the crop
24 year, as determined by the Secretary.

1 “(D) REPAYMENT.—The producers on a
2 farm that receive a partial payment under sub-
3 paragraph (A) for a crop year shall repay to the
4 Secretary the amount, if any, by which the par-
5 tial payments received by the producers on a
6 farm exceed the actual price loss coverage pay-
7 ments to be made for the covered commodity
8 for that crop year.”.

9 **SEC. 1107. AGRICULTURE RISK COVERAGE.**

10 Section 1117 of the Agricultural Act of 2014 (7
11 U.S.C. 9017) is amended—

12 (1) in subsection (a), in the matter preceding
13 paragraph (1)—

14 (A) by striking “make the election under
15 section 1115(a) to obtain agriculture risk cov-
16 erage,” and inserting “have elected or have
17 been deemed to have elected agriculture risk
18 coverage under section 1115,”; and

19 (B) by striking “years or the 2019 through
20 2023 crop years,” and inserting “years, the
21 2019 through 2023 crop years, or the 2024
22 through 2029 crop years,”;

23 (2) in subsection (c)—

24 (A) in paragraph (1)—

1 (i) by striking “The agriculture” and
2 inserting the following:

3 “(A) 2014 THROUGH 2023 CROP YEARS.—
4 For the 2014 through 2023 crop years, the ag-
5 riculture”; and

6 (ii) by adding at the end the fol-
7 lowing:

8 “(B) 2024 THROUGH 2029 CROP YEARS.—
9 For the 2024 through 2029 crop years, the ag-
10 riculture risk coverage guarantee for a crop
11 year for a covered commodity shall equal 88
12 percent of the benchmark revenue.”;

13 (B) in paragraph (3)(C), by striking
14 “2023” and inserting “2029”;

15 (C) in paragraph (4)(B)—

16 (i) in the subparagraph heading, by
17 striking “2023” and inserting “2029”; and

18 (ii) by striking “2023” and inserting
19 “2029”; and

20 (D) in paragraph (6)(B), by striking
21 “2023” and inserting “2029”;

22 (3) in subsection (d)(1), by striking subpara-
23 graph (B) and inserting the following:

1 “(B)(i) for the 2014 through 2023 crop
2 years, 10 percent of the benchmark revenue for
3 the applicable crop year; or

4 “(ii) for the 2024 and subsequent crop
5 years, 12.5 percent of the benchmark revenue
6 for the applicable crop year.”;

7 (4) in subsection (e)—

8 (A) by redesignating paragraphs (1) and
9 (2) as subparagraphs (A) and (B), respectively,
10 and indenting appropriately;

11 (B) in the matter preceding subparagraph
12 (A) (as so redesignated)—

13 (i) by striking “2023” and inserting
14 “2029”; and

15 (ii) by striking “If agriculture risk
16 coverage” and inserting the following:

17 “(1) IN GENERAL.—If agriculture risk cov-
18 erage”; and

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

20 “(2) ADJUSTMENT FOR 2024 THROUGH 2029
21 CROP YEARS.—For the 2024 through 2029 crop
22 years, the Secretary shall make an appropriate ad-
23 justment in the agriculture risk coverage payment
24 amount determined under paragraph (1) by sub-
25 tracting from the payment amount any portion of

1 the payment amount that would have been included
2 in subparagraph (A)(i)(II)(cc), (B)(i)(II)(cc),
3 (C)(i)(I)(bb)(BB), or (C)(ii)(I)(bb) of section
4 1503(e)(1) but for the timing of the agriculture risk
5 coverage payment.”;

6 (5) in subsection (f)—

7 (A) by striking “If the Secretary” and in-
8 serting the following:

9 “(1) IN GENERAL.—Subject to paragraph (2),
10 if the Secretary”; and

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

12 “(2) AVAILABILITY OF PARTIAL PAYMENTS.—

13 “(A) IN GENERAL.—If, before the end of
14 the 12-month marketing year for a covered
15 commodity for any of the 2024 through 2029
16 crop years, the Secretary projects that agri-
17 culture risk coverage payments will be required
18 for the crop of the covered commodity, the Sec-
19 retary shall give producers on a farm the option
20 to receive partial payments of the agriculture
21 risk coverage payments to be made for that
22 crop of the covered commodity.

23 “(B) TIME FOR PARTIAL PAYMENTS.—

24 When the Secretary makes partial payments
25 available under subparagraph (A) for a covered

1 commodity, the partial payment shall be made
2 beginning February 1, or as soon as practicable
3 thereafter, after the beginning of the applicable
4 marketing year for the covered commodity.

5 “(C) AMOUNT OF PARTIAL PAYMENTS.—
6 The partial payments under subparagraph (A)
7 to the producers on a farm may not exceed 50
8 percent of the projected agriculture risk cov-
9 erage payment for the covered commodity for
10 the crop year, as determined by the Secretary.

11 “(D) REPAYMENT.—The producers on a
12 farm that receive a partial payment under sub-
13 paragraph (A) for a crop year shall repay to the
14 Secretary the amount, if any, by which the par-
15 tial payments received by the producers on a
16 farm exceed the actual agriculture risk coverage
17 payments to be made for the covered com-
18 modity for that crop year.”;

19 (6) in subsection (g)(5), in the matter pre-
20 ceding subparagraph (A), by striking “2023” and
21 inserting “2029”; and

22 (7) in subsection (i)(5), by striking “2023” and
23 inserting “2029”.

1 “(i) the loan rate for the loan com-
2 modity described in subsection (b); and

3 “(ii) the product obtained by multi-
4 plying—

5 “(I) the loan rate for the loan
6 commodity described in subsection
7 (b); and

8 “(II) using data calculated and
9 published by the Economic Research
10 Service in the annual Farm Sector In-
11 come Forecast as first released for the
12 applicable crop year, the quotient ob-
13 tained by dividing—

14 “(aa) the difference be-
15 tween—

16 “(AA) the forecasted
17 crop input expenses (includ-
18 ing interest, labor, property
19 taxes, seed, fertilizer and
20 lime, fuel, oil, electricity,
21 pesticides, and net rent to
22 landowners) for the applica-
23 ble crop year; and

24 “(BB) the average of
25 the crop input expenses for

1 the 5-year period imme-
2 diately preceding the appli-
3 cable crop year; by

4 “(bb) the average of the
5 crop input expenses described in
6 item (aa)(AA) for the 5-year pe-
7 riod immediately preceding the
8 applicable crop year.”.

9 (b) CONFORMING AMENDMENT.—Section 1204(h)(1)
10 of the Agricultural Act of 2014 (7 U.S.C. 9034(h)(1)) is
11 amended by striking “(a)(20) or (b)(20),” and inserting
12 “(a)(20), (b)(20), or (c),”.

13 **SEC. 1202. TEXTILE MILLS.**

14 Section 1207(c)(2) of the Agricultural Act of 2014
15 (7 U.S.C. 9037(c)(2)) is amended—

16 (1) by striking “Effective beginning on August
17 1, 2013,” and inserting the following:

18 “(A) AUGUST 2013 THROUGH JULY 2025.—
19 Effective during the period beginning on Au-
20 gust 1, 2013, and ending on July 31, 2025,”;
21 and

22 (2) by adding at the end the following:

23 “(B) BEGINNING AUGUST 2025.—Effective
24 beginning on August 1, 2025, the value of the

1 assistance provided under paragraph (1) shall
2 be 4 cents per pound.”.

3 **SEC. 1203. EXTENSIONS.**

4 (a) NONRECOURSE MARKETING ASSISTANCE
5 LOANS.—Section 1201(b)(1) of the Agricultural Act of
6 2014 (7 U.S.C. 9031(b)(1)) is amended by striking
7 “2023” and inserting “2029”.

8 (b) REPAYMENT.—Section 1204 of the Agricultural
9 Act of 2014 (7 U.S.C. 9034) is amended—

10 (1) in subsection (e)(2)(B), in the matter pre-
11 ceding clause (i), by striking “2024” and inserting
12 “2030”; and

13 (2) in subsection (g), by striking “2023” and
14 inserting “2029”.

15 (c) LOAN DEFICIENCY PAYMENTS.—

16 (1) EXTENSION.—Section 1205(a)(2)(B) of the
17 Agricultural Act of 2014 (7 U.S.C. 9035(a)(2)(B))
18 is amended by striking “2023” and inserting
19 “2029”.

20 (2) PAYMENTS IN LIEU OF LDPS.—Section
21 1206 of the Agricultural Act of 2014 (7 U.S.C.
22 9036) is amended by striking “2023” each place it
23 appears and inserting “2029”.

24 (d) SPECIAL COMPETITIVENESS PROVISIONS OF
25 EXTRA LONG STAPLE COTTON.—Section 1208(a) of the

1 Agricultural Act of 2014 (7 U.S.C. 9038(a)) is amended,
2 in the matter preceding paragraph (1), by striking “2024”
3 and inserting “2029”.

4 (e) AVAILABILITY OF RECOURSE LOANS.—Section
5 1209 of the Agricultural Act of 2014 (7 U.S.C. 9039) is
6 amended by striking “2023” each place it appears and
7 inserting “2029”.

8 **Subtitle C—Sugar**

9 **SEC. 1301. SUGAR POLICY.**

10 (a) SUGAR PROGRAM.—

11 (1) SUGARCANE.—Section 156(a) of the Fed-
12 eral Agriculture Improvement and Reform Act of
13 1996 (7 U.S.C. 7272(a)) is amended—

14 (A) in paragraph (4), by striking “and” at
15 the end;

16 (B) in paragraph (5), by striking “2023
17 crop years.” and inserting “2024 crop years;
18 and”; and

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

20 “(6) 24.0 cents per pound for raw cane sugar
21 for each of the 2025 through 2029 crop years.”.

22 (2) SUGAR BEETS.—Section 156(b) of the Fed-
23 eral Agriculture Improvement and Reform Act of
24 1996 (7 U.S.C. 7272(b)) is amended—

1 (A) in paragraph (1), by striking “and” at
2 the end;

3 (B) in paragraph (2), by striking “2023
4 crop years.” and inserting “2024 crop years;
5 and”; and

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

7 “(3) a rate that is equal to 136.5 percent of the
8 loan rate per pound of raw cane sugar for the appli-
9 cable crop year under subsection (a) for each of the
10 2025 through 2029 crop years.”.

11 (3) EFFECTIVE PERIOD.—Section 156(i) of the
12 Federal Agriculture Improvement and Reform Act of
13 1996 (7 U.S.C. 7272(i)) is amended by striking
14 “2023” and inserting “2029”.

15 (b) ADJUSTMENTS TO COMMODITY CREDIT COR-
16 PORATION STORAGE PAYMENT RATES.—Section 167 of
17 the Federal Agriculture Improvement and Reform Act of
18 1996 (7 U.S.C. 7287) is amended—

19 (1) by striking subsection (a) and inserting the
20 following:

21 “(a) IN GENERAL.—Notwithstanding any other pro-
22 vision of law, for the 2025 crop year and each crop year
23 thereafter, the Commodity Credit Corporation shall estab-
24 lish rates for the storage of forfeited sugar in an amount
25 that is not less than—

1 “(1) in the case of refined sugar, 34 cents per
2 hundredweight per month; and

3 “(2) in the case of raw cane sugar, 27 cents per
4 hundredweight per month.”; and

5 (2) in subsection (b)—

6 (A) in the subsection heading, by striking
7 “SUBSEQUENT” and inserting “PRIOR”; and

8 (B) by striking “and subsequent” and in-
9 serting “through 2024”.

10 (c) FLEXIBLE MARKETING ALLOTMENTS FOR
11 SUGAR.—

12 (1) SUGAR ESTIMATES.—Section 359b(a)(1) of
13 the Agricultural Adjustment Act of 1938 (7 U.S.C.
14 1359bb(a)(1)) is amended by striking “2023” and
15 inserting “2029”.

16 (2) ADJUSTMENT OF MARKETING ALLOT-
17 MENTS.—Section 359c(g)(2) of the Agricultural Ad-
18 justment Act of 1938 (7 U.S.C. 1359cc(g)(2)) is
19 amended—

20 (A) by striking “In the case” and inserting
21 the following:

22 “(A) IN GENERAL.—Except as provided in
23 subparagraph (B), in the case”; and

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

1 “(B) EXCEPTION.—If the Secretary makes
2 an upward adjustment under paragraph (1)(A),
3 in adjusting allocations among beet sugar proc-
4 essors, the Secretary shall give priority to beet
5 sugar processors with available sugar.”.

6 (3) REASSIGNMENT OF DEFICITS.—Section
7 359e(b)(2) of the Agricultural Adjustment Act of
8 1938 (7 U.S.C. 1359ee(b)(2)) is amended—

9 (A) by redesignating subparagraphs (A)
10 through (C) as clauses (i) through (iii), respec-
11 tively, and indenting appropriately;

12 (B) in the matter preceding clause (i) (as
13 so redesignated), by striking “If the Secretary”
14 and inserting the following:

15 “(A) IN GENERAL.—If the Secretary”; and

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

17 “(B) TIMING.—In carrying out subpara-
18 graph (A), the Secretary shall—

19 “(i) make an initial determination fol-
20 lowing publication of the World Agricul-
21 tural Supply and Demand Estimates ap-
22 proved by the World Agricultural Outlook
23 Board for January that shall be applicable
24 to the crop year for which allotments are
25 required; and

1 “(ii) provide for any reassignment
2 under subparagraph (A)(i) not later than
3 30 days after the date on which the World
4 Agricultural Supply and Demand Esti-
5 mates described in clause (i) is released.”.

6 (4) ADMINISTRATION OF TARIFF RATE
7 QUOTAS.—Section 359k of the Agricultural Adjust-
8 ment Act of 1938 (7 U.S.C. 1359kk) is amended—

9 (A) in subsection (b)(1)—

10 (i) by redesignating subparagraphs
11 (A) and (B) as clauses (i) and (ii), respec-
12 tively, and indenting appropriately; and

13 (ii) in the matter preceding clause (i)
14 (as so redesignated), by striking “Before
15 April 1” and inserting the following:

16 “(A) IN GENERAL.—Except as provided in
17 subparagraph (B), notwithstanding any other
18 provision of law, the Secretary shall not in-
19 crease the tariff-rate quota for raw cane sugar
20 before April 1 of each fiscal year.

21 “(B) EXCEPTION.—Before April 1”; and

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

23 “(c) REALLOCATION.—

24 “(1) IN GENERAL.—Subject to paragraph (2),
25 before March 1 of each fiscal year, the Secretary

1 shall reallocate any forecasted shortfall in the fulfill-
2 ment of the tariff-rate quotas for raw cane sugar es-
3 tablished under subsection (a)(1) for the fiscal year.

4 “(2) CESSATION OF EFFECTIVENESS.—Para-
5 graph (1) shall cease to be in effect if—

6 “(A) the Agreement Suspending the Coun-
7 tervailing Duty Investigation on Sugar from
8 Mexico, signed December 19, 2014, is termi-
9 nated; and

10 “(B) no countervailing duty order under
11 subtitle A of title VII of the Tariff Act of 1930
12 (19 U.S.C. 1671 et seq.) is in effect with re-
13 spect to sugar from Mexico.”.

14 (5) EFFECTIVE PERIOD.—Section 359l(a) of
15 the Agricultural Adjustment Act of 1938 (7 U.S.C.
16 1359ll(a)) is amended by striking “2023” and in-
17 serting “2029”.

18 **Subtitle D—Dairy**

19 **SEC. 1401. DAIRY MARGIN COVERAGE.**

20 (a) DEFINITIONS.—Section 1401 of the Agricultural
21 Act of 2014 (7 U.S.C. 9051) is amended—

22 (1) in paragraph (3)(C), by inserting “premium
23 and supreme” before “alfalfa”;

1 (2) by redesignating paragraphs (4) through
2 (10) as paragraphs (5) through (11), respectively;
3 and

4 (3) by inserting after paragraph (3) the fol-
5 lowing:

6 “(4) COVERED PRODUCTION.—The term ‘cov-
7 ered production’ means the covered production elect-
8 ed by a participating dairy operation under section
9 1406(a)(2).”.

10 (b) CALCULATION OF AVERAGE FEED COST AND AC-
11 TUAL DAIRY PRODUCTION MARGINS.—Section 1402(a)(3)
12 of the Agricultural Act of 2014 (7 U.S.C. 9052(a)(3)) is
13 amended by inserting “premium and supreme” before “al-
14 falfa” each place it appears.

15 (c) PARTICIPATION OF DAIRY OPERATIONS IN DAIRY
16 MARGIN COVERAGE.—Section 1404(b) of the Agricultural
17 Act of 2014 (7 U.S.C. 9054(b)) is amended—

18 (1) by striking paragraphs (2) and (3) and in-
19 serting the following:

20 “(2) ELECTION PERIOD FOR 2025 CALENDAR
21 YEAR.—For the 2025 calendar year, the Secretary
22 shall—

23 “(A) open the election period not later
24 than March 2, 2025; and

1 “(B) hold that election period open for not
2 less than 90 days.”; and

3 (2) by redesignating paragraphs (4) and (5) as
4 paragraphs (3) and (4), respectively.

5 (d) PRODUCTION HISTORY OF PARTICIPATING DAIRY
6 OPERATIONS.—Section 1405 of the Agricultural Act of
7 2014 (7 U.S.C. 9055) is amended—

8 (1) by striking subsection (a) and inserting the
9 following:

10 “(a) IN GENERAL.—Subject to subsections (c) and
11 (d), with respect to a dairy operation that was in operation
12 for at least 1 of the full 2021, 2022, and 2023 calendar
13 years, the production history of the dairy operation for
14 dairy margin coverage shall be equal to the highest annual
15 milk marketings of the participating dairy operation dur-
16 ing any 1 of the 2021, 2022, and 2023 calendar years.”;

17 (2) in subsection (b)—

18 (A) in paragraph (1), in the matter pre-
19 ceding subparagraph (A), by striking “In the
20 case” and inserting “Subject to subsections (c)
21 and (d), in the case”;

22 (B) in paragraph (2)—

23 (i) by striking “In the case” and in-
24 serting “Subject to subsections (c) and (d),
25 in the case”;

1 (ii) by striking “prior to January 1,
2 2014,” and inserting “for at least 1 of the
3 full 2021, 2022, and 2023 calendar
4 years,”; and

5 (iii) by inserting “beginning after De-
6 cember 31, 2023,” after “1 calendar
7 year”; and

8 (C) by striking paragraph (3);

9 (3) by redesignating subsections (c) and (d) as
10 subsections (e) and (f), respectively; and

11 (4) by inserting after subsection (b) the fol-
12 lowing:

13 “(c) ADJUSTMENT.—The Secretary shall adjust the
14 production history of a participating dairy operation deter-
15 mined under subsection (a) or (b) to reflect any increase
16 in the national average milk production relative to the cal-
17 endar year used to establish the production history of the
18 participating dairy operation.

19 “(d) CONTINUED APPLICABILITY OF BASE PRODUC-
20 TION HISTORY.—A production history established for a
21 dairy operation under subsection (a) or (b) shall be the
22 base production history for the dairy operation in subse-
23 quent years (as adjusted under subsection (c)).”.

1 (e) DAIRY MARGIN COVERAGE PAYMENTS.—Section
2 1406(a) of the Agricultural Act of 2014 (7 U.S.C.
3 9056(a)) is amended—

4 (1) in paragraph (1)—

5 (A) in subparagraph (B), by striking
6 “under paragraph (2)”; and

7 (B) in subparagraph (C), by striking
8 “5,000,000” each place it appears and inserting
9 “6,000,000”; and

10 (2) in paragraph (2), by striking “annually
11 elect” and inserting “establish the covered produc-
12 tion by annually electing”.

13 (f) PREMIUMS FOR DAIRY MARGIN COVERAGE.—Sec-
14 tion 1407 of the Agricultural Act of 2014 (7 U.S.C. 9057)
15 is amended—

16 (1) in subsection (b)—

17 (A) in the subsection heading, by striking
18 “5,000,000 POUNDS OF PRODUCTION” and in-
19 serting “6,000,000 POUNDS OF COVERED PRO-
20 Duction”;

21 (B) in paragraph (1)—

22 (i) by striking “5,000,000” and in-
23 serting “6,000,000”; and

24 (ii) by striking “production history”
25 and inserting “covered production”; and

1 (C) in paragraph (2), by striking “sub-
2 section (g)” and inserting “subsection (f)”;

3 (2) in subsection (c)—

4 (A) in the subsection heading, by striking
5 “PRODUCTION IN EXCESS OF 5,000,000” and
6 inserting “COVERED PRODUCTION IN EXCESS
7 OF 6,000,000”;

8 (B) in paragraph (1)—

9 (i) by striking “5,000,000” and in-
10 sserting “6,000,000”; and

11 (ii) by striking “production history”
12 and inserting “covered production”; and

13 (C) in paragraph (2), by striking “sub-
14 section (g)” and inserting “subsection (f)”;

15 (3) by striking subsection (f);

16 (4) by redesignating subsection (g) as sub-
17 section (f); and

18 (5) in subsection (f) (as so redesignated)—

19 (A) in paragraph (1)—

20 (i) by striking “2019 through 2023”
21 and inserting “2025 through 2029”; and

22 (ii) by striking “2019.” and inserting
23 “2025.”; and

24 (B) in paragraph (2), by striking “2023”
25 each place it appears and inserting “2029”.

1 (g) DURATION.—Section 1409 of the Agricultural
2 Act of 2014 (7 U.S.C. 9059) is amended by striking
3 “2023” and inserting “2029”.

4 (h) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendments made by
5 this section shall take effect on January 1, 2025.

6 **SEC. 1402. DAIRY PRODUCTS DONATION PROGRAM.**

7 (a) IN GENERAL.—Section 1431 of the Agricultural
8 Act of 2014 (7 U.S.C. 9071) is amended—

9 (1) in the section heading by striking “**MILK**”
10 and inserting “**DAIRY PRODUCTS**”;

11 (2) in subsection (a)—

12 (A) in paragraph (1), by striking subpara-
13 graph (B) and inserting the following:

14 “(B) incurs expenses in donating eligible
15 dairy products.”;

16 (B) in paragraph (2), by striking “milk”
17 and inserting “dairy products to recipient indi-
18 viduals and families”;

19 (C) striking paragraph (3) and inserting
20 the following:

21 “(3) ELIGIBLE DAIRY PRODUCT.—The term ‘el-
22 igible dairy product’ means a product primarily
23 made from milk, including fluid milk, that is pro-
24 duced and processed in the United States.”;

1 (D) by redesignating paragraphs (2) and
2 (3) as paragraphs (3) and (2), respectively, and
3 moving the paragraphs so as to appear in nu-
4 merical order; and

5 (E) by striking paragraph (5);

6 (3) in subsection (b)—

7 (A) in the matter preceding paragraph
8 (1)—

9 (i) by striking “Agriculture Improve-
10 ment Act of 2018” and inserting “Rural
11 Prosperity and Food Security Act of
12 2024”; and

13 (ii) by striking “milk” and inserting
14 “dairy products”; and

15 (B) in paragraph (1), by striking “milk”
16 and inserting “dairy products”;

17 (4) in subsection (c)—

18 (A) in paragraph (1)—

19 (i) in subparagraph (A), by striking
20 “milk;” and inserting “dairy products;
21 and”; and

22 (ii) by striking subparagraphs (B) and
23 (C) and inserting the following:

1 “(B) describes whether an emergency or
2 disaster was a substantial factor in the submis-
3 sion, including—

4 “(i) a declared or renewed public
5 health emergency under section 319 of the
6 Public Health Service Act (42 U.S.C.
7 247d); and

8 “(ii) a disaster designated by the Sec-
9 retary.”; and

10 (B) by striking paragraph (2) and insert-
11 ing the following:

12 “(2) REVIEW AND APPROVAL.—

13 “(A) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 15
14 days after receiving a donation and distribution
15 plan under paragraph (1), the Secretary shall—

16 “(i) review the donation and distribu-
17 tion plan; and

18 “(ii) issue an approval or disapproval
19 of the donation and distribution plan.

20 “(B) PRIORITY.—In approving and dis-
21 approving donation and distribution plans
22 under subparagraph (A)(ii), the Secretary shall
23 give priority to plans for which an emergency or
24 disaster was a substantial factor in the submis-
25 sion, as described under paragraph (1)(B).”;

1 (5) in subsection (d)—

2 (A) in paragraph (1)—

3 (i) by striking “a participating part-
4 nership” and inserting “an eligible part-
5 nership for which the Secretary has ap-
6 proved a donation and distribution plan
7 under subsection (c)(2)(A)(ii)”; and

8 (ii) by striking “qualified expenses de-
9 scribed in subsection (e)” and inserting
10 “expenses incurred in donating eligible
11 dairy products”;

12 (B) in paragraph (2)(A), by striking “to
13 demonstrate” and all that follows through the
14 period at the end and inserting the following:
15 “to demonstrate—

16 “(i) the production of the eligible
17 dairy products; and

18 “(ii) the donation of the eligible dairy
19 products to an eligible distributor.”;

20 (C) by redesignating paragraph (3) as
21 paragraph (4);

22 (D) by inserting after paragraph (2) the
23 following:

24 “(3) REIMBURSEMENT PRICE.—The Sec-
25 retary—

1 “(A) shall set the price for a reimburse-
2 ment under paragraph (1) at a value that—

3 “(i) is representative of the cost of the
4 milk required to produce the eligible dairy
5 product;

6 “(ii) is between the lowest and highest
7 of the classes I, II, III, and IV milk prices
8 on the date of the production of the eligi-
9 ble dairy product;

10 “(iii) is sufficient to reduce food
11 waste; and

12 “(iv) will not interfere with the com-
13 mercial marketing of milk or dairy prod-
14 ucts; and

15 “(B) may set appropriate reimbursement
16 prices under subparagraph (A) for different eli-
17 gible dairy products by class and region for the
18 purpose of—

19 “(i) encouraging the donation of sur-
20 plus eligible dairy products;

21 “(ii) facilitating the orderly marketing
22 of milk;

23 “(iii) reducing volatility relating to
24 significant market disruptions;

1 “(iv) maintaining traditional price re-
2 lationships between classes of milk; or

3 “(v) stabilizing on-farm milk prices.”;

4 and

5 (E) in paragraph (4) (as so redesignated),
6 by striking “participating partnership” and in-
7 serting “eligible partnership described in para-
8 graph (1)”;

9 (6) by striking subsections (e) and (f);

10 (7) by redesignating subsections (g), (h), (i),
11 and (j) as subsections (e), (f), (g), and (i), respec-
12 tively;

13 (8) in subsection (e) (as so redesignated), in
14 paragraph (1), by striking “milk” and inserting
15 “dairy products”; and

16 (9) by inserting after subsection (g) (as so re-
17 designated) the following:

18 “(h) PUBLICATION OF DONATION ACTIVITY.—The
19 Secretary, acting through the Administrator of the Agri-
20 cultural Marketing Service, shall publish on the publicly
21 accessible website of the Agricultural Marketing Service
22 periodic reports describing donation activity under this
23 section.”.

24 (b) CONFORMING AMENDMENT.—The heading for
25 part III of subtitle D of title I of the Agricultural Act

1 of 2014 (Public Law 113–79; 128 Stat. 695; 132 Stat.
2 4519) is amended by striking “**MILK**” and inserting
3 “**DAIRY PRODUCTS**”.

4 **SEC. 1403. REAUTHORIZATIONS.**

5 (a) FORWARD PRICING.—Section 1502(e) of the
6 Food, Conservation, and Energy Act of 2008 (7 U.S.C.
7 8772(e)) is amended—

8 (1) in paragraph (1), by striking “September
9 30, 2023” and inserting “December 31, 2029”; and

10 (2) in paragraph (2), by striking “September
11 30, 2027” and inserting “December 31, 2034”.

12 (b) INDEMNITY PROGRAM.—Section 3 of Public Law
13 90–484 (7 U.S.C. 4553) is amended by striking “2023”
14 and inserting “2029”.

15 (c) PROMOTION AND RESEARCH.—Section 113(e)(2)
16 of the Dairy Production Stabilization Act of 1983 (7
17 U.S.C. 4504(e)(2)) is amended, in the second sentence,
18 by striking “2023” and inserting “2029”.

19 **SEC. 1404. RELATED PROVISIONS.**

20 (a) IMPROVED DATA COLLECTION FOR ORGANIC
21 DAIRY.—Section 7407(b) of the Farm Security and Rural
22 Investment Act of 2002 (7 U.S.C. 5925c(b)) is amended—

23 (1) in paragraph (2), by striking “and” at the
24 end;

1 (2) in paragraph (3), by striking the period at
2 the end and inserting “; and”; and

3 (3) by adding at the end the following:

4 “(4) with respect to the collection and reporting
5 of data on the production and marketing of organic
6 dairy products—

7 “(A) collect and publish cost-of-production
8 data for organic milk, through support from re-
9 gional and national programs, including regu-
10 larly reported data relating to—

11 “(i) the costs of major organic
12 feedstuffs, including—

13 “(I) the prices for major organic
14 feedstuffs produced domestically; and

15 “(II) the prices for imported
16 major organic feedstuffs; and

17 “(ii) all other costs relating to the
18 production of organic milk;

19 “(B) establish an Organic All Milk Prices
20 Survey conducted by the National Agricultural
21 Statistics Service for the purpose of gathering
22 and reporting monthly data relating to the
23 prices organic dairy farmers are paid for or-
24 ganic milk and prices received for organic dairy
25 cows, including—

1 “(i) national data; and

2 “(ii) data relating to, at a minimum,
3 the 6 regions with the greatest quantity of
4 organic dairy production; and

5 “(C) periodically report on organic milk,
6 under which the Secretary, using data collected
7 by the National Agricultural Statistics Service,
8 the Economic Research Service, or the Agricultural
9 Marketing Service, shall publish periodic
10 reports relating to data for organic milk, which
11 shall be equivalent to data reported for conven-
12 tionally produced milk.”.

13 (b) MANDATORY REPORTING FOR DAIRY PROD-
14 UCTS.—Section 273 of the Agricultural Marketing Act of
15 1946 (7 U.S.C. 1637b) is amended—

16 (1) in subsection (b)(1)—

17 (A) in subparagraph (A)(ii), by striking
18 “and” at the end;

19 (B) in subparagraph (B), by striking the
20 period at the end and inserting a semicolon;
21 and

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

23 “(C) for each manufacturer required to re-
24 port under subparagraph (A) for any product,
25 require that manufacturer to report production

1 cost and product yield information, as deter-
2 mined by the Secretary, for all products proc-
3 essed in the same facility or facilities; and

4 “(D) require any manufacturer of such
5 other dairy products as determined by the Sec-
6 retary to report production cost and product
7 yield information in the same manner as under
8 subparagraph (C), for the purpose of providing
9 information for the regulatory or administrative
10 establishment of pricing rules.”; and

11 (2) in subsection (d)—

12 (A) in the subsection heading, by striking
13 “ELECTRONIC REPORTING” and inserting “RE-
14 PORTING”;

15 (B) in paragraphs (1) and (2), by striking
16 “this section” each place it appears and insert-
17 ing “subparagraphs (A) and (B) of subsection
18 (b)(1)”; and

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

20 “(3) DAIRY PRODUCT PROCESSING COSTS.—Not
21 later than 2 years after the date of enactment of
22 this paragraph, and every 2 years thereafter, the
23 Secretary shall publish a report containing the infor-
24 mation obtained under subparagraphs (C) and (D)
25 of subsection (b)(1).”.

1 **Subtitle E—Supplemental and**
2 **Emergency Agricultural Dis-**
3 **aster Assistance Programs**

4 **SEC. 1501. DEFINITIONS; CONFORMING AMENDMENTS.**

5 (a) DEFINITIONS.—Section 1501 of the Agricultural
6 Act of 2014 (7 U.S.C. 9081) is amended—

7 (1) in subsection (a)—

8 (A) in paragraph (2)(B)—

9 (i) by redesignating clauses (iii)
10 through (v) as clauses (iv) through (vi), re-
11 spectively; and

12 (ii) by inserting after clause (ii) the
13 following:

14 “(iii) an alien who has applied for em-
15 ployment authorization and is authorized
16 to accept employment pursuant to section
17 274a.12(c)(33) of title 8, Code of Federal
18 Regulations (or a successor regulation);”;
19 and

20 (B) in paragraph (4)(G), by striking “live-
21 stock,” and inserting “livestock (including
22 unweaned livestock),”;

23 (2) by striking the section designation and
24 heading and all that follows through “section:” in

1 the matter preceding paragraph (1) of subsection (a)
2 and inserting the following:

3 **“SEC. 1501. DEFINITIONS.**

4 “In this subtitle:”; and

5 (3) in subsection (b), by striking the subsection
6 designation and heading and inserting the following:

7 **“SEC. 1502. SUPPLEMENTAL AGRICULTURAL DISASTER AS-**
8 **SISTANCE.**

9 “(a) LIVESTOCK INDEMNITY PAYMENTS.—”.

10 (b) CONFORMING AMENDMENTS.—

11 (1) Subtitle E of title I of the Agricultural Act
12 of 2014 (7 U.S.C. 9081 et seq.) is amended, in the
13 subtitle heading, by inserting “**and Emergency**”
14 after “**Supplemental**”.

15 (2) Section 1502 of the Agricultural Act of
16 2014 (as designated by subsection (a)(3)) is amend-
17 ed—

18 (A) by redesignating subsections (c)
19 through (f) as subsections (b) through (e), re-
20 spectively;

21 (B) in subsection (c) (as so redesignated),
22 in paragraph (1), by striking “subsection (b) or
23 (c)” and inserting “subsection (a) or (b)”; and

1 (C) in subsection (e) (as so redesignated),
2 in paragraph (2), by striking “subsection (c)”
3 and inserting “subsection (b)”.

4 (3) Section 12512(b) of the Agriculture Im-
5 provement Act of 2018 (7 U.S.C. 5856(b)) is
6 amended—

7 (A) by striking “1501(c)” and inserting
8 “1502(b)”;

9 (B) by striking “(7 U.S.C. 9081(c))”.

10 **SEC. 1502. SUPPLEMENTAL AGRICULTURAL DISASTER AS-**
11 **SISTANCE.**

12 (a) LIVESTOCK INDEMNITY PROGRAM.—Section
13 1502(a) of the Agricultural Act of 2014 (as designated
14 by section 1501(a)(3)) is amended—

15 (1) in paragraph (1), in the matter preceding
16 subparagraph (A), by inserting “during the time of
17 the year that the livestock death losses occurred”
18 after “normal mortality”;

19 (2) by striking paragraph (2) and inserting the
20 following:

21 “(2) PAYMENT RATES.—

22 “(A) IN GENERAL.—Indemnity payments
23 to an eligible producer on a farm under para-
24 graph (1) shall be made at a rate of the appli-
25 cable percentage described in subparagraph (B)

1 of the market value of the affected livestock, as
2 determined under subparagraph (C), on, as ap-
3 plicable—

4 “(i) the day before the date of death
5 of the livestock; or

6 “(ii) the day before the date of the
7 event that caused the harm to the livestock
8 that resulted in a reduced sale price.

9 “(B) PERCENTAGES.—The percentage re-
10 ferred to in subparagraph (A) is—

11 “(i) in the case of a payment under
12 paragraph (1)(A), 100 percent; or

13 “(ii) in the case of a payment under
14 subparagraph (B) or (C) of paragraph (1),
15 75 percent.

16 “(C) DETERMINATION OF MARKET VAL-
17 UES.—The Secretary shall determine the mar-
18 ket value of the affected livestock under sub-
19 paragraph (A)—

20 “(i) in consultation with the Agricul-
21 tural Marketing Service; and

22 “(ii) based on quarterly estimates of
23 market values.”; and

24 (3) by adding at the end the following:

1 “(5) WEIGHT CATEGORIES.—For the purposes
2 of establishing weight categories to carry out para-
3 graph (1), the Secretary shall establish categories
4 with weights not less than those described in section
5 1416.302 of title 7, Code of Federal Regulations (as
6 in effect on the date of enactment of this para-
7 graph), with respect to livestock described in section
8 1501(4)(A).

9 “(6) NORMAL MORTALITY FOR HONEY BEES.—
10 In determining honey bee normal mortality, the Sec-
11 retary shall not include losses caused by colony col-
12 lapse disorder.”.

13 (b) EMERGENCY ASSISTANCE FOR LIVESTOCK,
14 HONEY BEES, AND FARM-RAISED FISH.—Section
15 1502(c)(2) of the Agricultural Act of 2014 (as designated
16 by section 1501(b)(2)(A)) is amended by striking “reduce
17 losses” and all that follows through the period at the end
18 and inserting the following: “reduce—

19 “(A) losses caused by feed or water short-
20 ages (including, in the case of drought, trans-
21 portation costs for feed, water, livestock, and
22 honey bees), disease, or other factors, as deter-
23 mined by the Secretary, including inspections of
24 cattle tick fever; and

25 “(B) winter stockpile grazing losses.”.

1 (c) TREE ASSISTANCE PROGRAM.—Section 1502(d)
2 of the Agricultural Act of 2014 (as designated by section
3 1501(b)(2)(A)) is amended—

4 (1) in paragraph (1)—

5 (A) in subparagraph (A), by inserting “or
6 biennial” after “annual”;

7 (B) in subparagraph (B), by inserting “or
8 pest” after “insect”; and

9 (C) in subparagraph (D), by striking
10 “bush, and vine” and inserting “a bush, a vine,
11 and any other fruit-producing crop that is not
12 planted on an annual basis, as determined by
13 the Secretary”;

14 (2) in paragraph (2)—

15 (A) in subparagraph (A), in the matter
16 preceding clause (i), by inserting “carry out
17 this subsection and” before “provide”; and

18 (B) in subparagraph (B), by striking “15
19 percent (adjusted for normal mortality)” and
20 inserting “normal mortality”;

21 (3) in paragraph (3)—

22 (A) in the matter preceding subparagraph
23 (A), by striking “(4) and (5)” and inserting
24 “(4), (5), and (6)”;

1 (B) in subparagraph (A)(i), by striking
2 “15 percent mortality (adjusted for normal
3 mortality)” and inserting “normal mortality”;
4 and

5 (C) in subparagraph (B), by striking “15
6 percent damage or mortality (adjusted for nor-
7 mal tree damage and mortality)” and inserting
8 “normal tree damage or mortality”; and

9 (4) by striking paragraph (5) and inserting the
10 following:

11 “(5) PAYMENT RATE FOR COVERED PRO-
12 DUCERS.—Subject to paragraph (4), in the case of
13 a covered producer, the Secretary shall provide reim-
14 bursement of 75 percent of the costs under subpara-
15 graphs (A)(i) and (B) of paragraph (3).

16 “(6) TIMING REQUIREMENTS.—An eligible or-
17 chardist or nursery tree grower shall agree, as a
18 condition on receipt of assistance under this sub-
19 section, to carry out any replacement and rehabilita-
20 tion activities for which such assistance is provided
21 not later than—

22 “(A) 2 years after the receipt of such as-
23 sistance; or

1 “(B) if the period specified in subpara-
2 graph (A) is not adequate, such time as is de-
3 termined by the Secretary.

4 “(7) ALTERNATIVES USED IN REPLANTING.—

5 “(A) IN GENERAL.—An eligible orchardist
6 or nursery tree grower receiving assistance
7 under this subsection with respect to tree loss
8 may, with the approval of the Secretary, use
9 such assistance to replant using—

10 “(i) an alternative variety from the
11 variety used prior to the loss;

12 “(ii) an alternative crop from the crop
13 planted prior to the loss;

14 “(iii) an alternative stand density
15 from the stand density used prior to the
16 loss; and

17 “(iv) an alternative location from the
18 location used prior to the loss.

19 “(B) COST SHARE LIMITATIONS WITH RE-
20 SPECT TO ALTERNATIVES.—The assistance pro-
21 vided by the Secretary to eligible orchardists
22 and nursery tree growers—

23 “(i) for a use described in subpara-
24 graph (A)(i) shall be in an amount that is
25 not greater than the amount the eligible

1 orchardist or nursery tree grower would re-
2 ceive if the eligible orchardist or nursery
3 tree grower replanted using the variety
4 lost;

5 “(ii) for a use described in subpara-
6 graph (A)(ii) shall be in an amount that is
7 not greater than the amount the eligible
8 orchardist or nursery tree grower would re-
9 ceive if the eligible orchardist or nursery
10 tree grower replanted using the crop lost;

11 “(iii) for a use described in subpara-
12 graph (A)(iii) shall be in an amount that
13 is not greater than the amount the eligible
14 orchardist or nursery tree grower would re-
15 ceive if the eligible orchardist or nursery
16 tree grower replanted using the stand den-
17 sity lost; and

18 “(iv) for a use described in subpara-
19 graph (A)(iv) shall be in an amount that
20 is not greater than the amount the eligible
21 orchardist or nursery tree grower would re-
22 ceive if the eligible orchardist or nursery
23 tree grower replanted in the location in
24 which the loss occurred.”.

1 **SEC. 1503. EMERGENCY RELIEF PROGRAM.**

2 Subtitle E of the Agricultural Act of 2014 (7 U.S.C.
3 9081 et seq.) (as amended by section 1501(a)) is amended
4 by adding at the end the following:

5 **“SEC. 1503. EMERGENCY RELIEF PROGRAM.**

6 “(a) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

7 “(1) COVERED CROP.—The term ‘covered crop’
8 means crops, trees, bushes, and vines.

9 “(2) DISASTER.—The term ‘disaster’ means—

10 “(A) a natural disaster designated by the
11 Secretary under section 321(a) of the Consoli-
12 dated Farm and Rural Development Act (7
13 U.S.C. 1961(a));

14 “(B) a major disaster or emergency des-
15 ignated by the President under the Robert T.
16 Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assist-
17 ance Act (42 U.S.C. 5121 et seq.);

18 “(C) a quarantine imposed by the Sec-
19 retary under the Plant Protection Act (7 U.S.C.
20 7701 et seq.) or the animal quarantine laws (as
21 defined in section 2509(f) of the Food, Agri-
22 culture, Conservation, and Trade Act of 1990
23 (21 U.S.C. 136a(f)));

24 “(D) a physical loss notification by the Ad-
25 ministrator of the Farm Service Agency under

1 section 759.6(a)(2) of title 7, Code of Federal
2 Regulations (or a successor regulation); or

3 “(E) any other disruption outside of the
4 control of an eligible producer on a farm that
5 results in a significant loss of production or rev-
6 enue, as determined by the Secretary.

7 “(3) EXPECTED CROP REVENUE.—The term
8 ‘expected crop revenue’ means—

9 “(A) in the case of covered crops insured
10 under Federal Crop Insurance—

11 “(i) the revenue used to calculate the
12 liability for the Federal Crop Insurance; or

13 “(ii) a higher amount, as determined
14 by the Secretary, to reflect costs of produc-
15 tion that exceed the insured value of the
16 covered crop;

17 “(B) in the case of covered crops covered
18 under the Noninsured Crop Disaster Assistance
19 Program—

20 “(i) the revenue used to calculate the
21 liability for the coverage; or

22 “(ii) a higher amount, as determined
23 by the Secretary, to reflect costs of produc-
24 tion that exceed the coverage for the cov-
25 ered crop; and

1 “(C) in the case of covered crops that are
2 neither insured under Federal Crop Insurance
3 nor covered under the Noninsured Crop Dis-
4 aster Assistance Program, the expected revenue
5 for the covered crop, as determined by the Sec-
6 retary, which the Secretary may adjust to re-
7 flect costs of production that exceed the ex-
8 pected revenue for the covered crop.

9 “(4) FEDERAL CROP INSURANCE.—The term
10 ‘Federal Crop Insurance’ means any crop insurance
11 program, policy, or plan of insurance under the Fed-
12 eral Crop Insurance Act (7 U.S.C. 1501 et seq.).

13 “(5) NET CROP INSURANCE INDEMNITY.—The
14 term ‘net crop insurance indemnity’ means the dif-
15 ference between—

16 “(A) the indemnity paid to an eligible pro-
17 ducer on a farm under Federal Crop Insurance;
18 and

19 “(B) the cost to the eligible producer on a
20 farm for that Federal Crop Insurance.

21 “(6) NET NONINSURED CROP DISASTER ASSIST-
22 ANCE PROGRAM PAYMENT.—The term ‘net non-
23 insured crop disaster assistance program payment’
24 means the difference between—

1 “(A) the payment received by an eligible
2 producer on a farm for coverage under the
3 Noninsured Crop Disaster Assistance Program;
4 and

5 “(B) the cost to the eligible producer on a
6 farm for that coverage.

7 “(7) NONINSURED CROP DISASTER ASSISTANCE
8 PROGRAM.—The term ‘Noninsured Crop Disaster
9 Assistance Program’ means the program under sec-
10 tion 196 of the Federal Agriculture Improvement
11 and Reform Act of 1996 (7 U.S.C. 7333).

12 “(8) QUALIFIED LOSS.—

13 “(A) IN GENERAL.—The term ‘qualified
14 loss’ means a production or value loss in a cov-
15 ered crop incurred by an eligible producer on a
16 farm as a consequence of a disaster.

17 “(B) INCLUSIONS.—The term ‘qualified
18 loss’ includes—

19 “(i) a loss incurred by an eligible pro-
20 ducer on a farm as a result of being pre-
21 vented from planting a crop due to a dis-
22 aster;

23 “(ii) a loss in the quality of a crop,
24 trees, bushes, or vines due to a disaster;
25 and

1 “(iii) a loss in the quality of a crop
2 (including wine grapes), trees, bushes, or
3 vines due to smoke exposure from a wild-
4 fire.

5 “(b) ESTABLISHMENT.—The Secretary shall estab-
6 lish a program under which the Secretary shall provide
7 payments during each crop year to eligible producers on
8 farms that experienced a qualified loss during the crop
9 year.

10 “(c) APPLICATION.—

11 “(1) IN GENERAL.—To be eligible to receive a
12 payment under this section for a crop year, an eligi-
13 ble producer on a farm shall submit to the Secretary
14 an application at such time, in such manner, and
15 containing such information as the Secretary may
16 require, including a description of each qualified loss
17 incurred by the eligible producer on a farm during
18 the crop year.

19 “(2) APPROVAL.—The Secretary shall approve
20 an application submitted by an eligible producer on
21 a farm under paragraph (1) if the application dem-
22 onstrates to the satisfaction of the Secretary that
23 the eligible producer on a farm has incurred a quali-
24 fied loss during the applicable crop year.

25 “(d) PROVISION OF PAYMENTS.—

1 “(1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall provide
2 to each eligible producer on a farm the application
3 of whom is approved under subsection (c)(2) a pay-
4 ment for the applicable crop year, in accordance
5 with subsection (e).

6 “(2) REQUIREMENT TO PURCHASE INSUR-
7 ANCE.—As a condition of receiving a payment under
8 this section, an eligible producer on a farm shall
9 purchase, for each of the 2 succeeding crop years for
10 each crop for which the eligible producer on a farm
11 received a payment—

12 “(A) Federal Crop Insurance, if available;

13 or

14 “(B) if Federal Crop Insurance is not
15 available, coverage under the Noninsured Crop
16 Disaster Assistance Program.

17 “(e) CALCULATION OF PAYMENTS.—

18 “(1) IN GENERAL.—Subject to paragraph (2)
19 and subsection (f), the amount of a payment pro-
20 vided to an eligible producer on a farm under sub-
21 section (d)(1) shall be equal to—

22 “(A) in the case of a covered crop insured
23 under Federal Crop Insurance, the product ob-
24 tained by multiplying—

25 “(i) the difference between—

1 “(I) the share of the eligible pro-
2 ducer on a farm of 95 percent of the
3 expected crop revenue for the covered
4 crop for the crop year; and

5 “(II) the sum obtained by add-
6 ing—

7 “(aa) the share of the eligi-
8 ble producer on a farm of the ac-
9 tual revenue for the covered crop
10 for the crop year;

11 “(bb) the net crop insurance
12 indemnity;

13 “(cc) any payments made to
14 the eligible producer on a farm
15 under subtitle A with respect to
16 the base acres on which the cov-
17 ered crop was planted or pre-
18 vented from being planted;

19 “(dd) any payments made to
20 the eligible producer on a farm or
21 on behalf of the eligible producer
22 on a farm under subtitle B with
23 respect to the covered crop for
24 the crop year; and

75

1 “(ee) any payments made to
2 the eligible producer on a farm
3 under section 1502 for the crop
4 for the crop year; by

5 “(ii) in the case of a Federal Crop In-
6 surance coverage level purchased by the el-
7 igible producer on a farm that is—

8 “(I) catastrophic coverage, 75
9 percent;

10 “(II) more than catastrophic cov-
11 erage and less than 55 percent cov-
12 erage, 80 percent;

13 “(III) not less than 55 percent
14 coverage and less than 60 percent cov-
15 erage, 82.5 percent;

16 “(IV) not less than 60 percent
17 coverage and less than 65 percent cov-
18 erage, 85 percent;

19 “(V) not less than 65 percent
20 coverage and less than 70 percent cov-
21 erage, 87.5 percent;

22 “(VI) not less than 70 percent
23 coverage and less than 75 percent cov-
24 erage, 90 percent;

1 “(VII) not less than 75 percent
2 coverage and less than 80 percent cov-
3 erage, 92.5 percent; or

4 “(VIII) not less than 80 percent
5 coverage, 95 percent;

6 “(B) in the case of a covered crop covered
7 under the Noninsured Crop Disaster Assistance
8 Program, the product obtained by multi-
9 plying—

10 “(i) the difference between—

11 “(I) the share of the eligible pro-
12 ducer on a farm of 95 percent of the
13 expected crop revenue for the covered
14 crop for the crop year; and

15 “(II) the sum obtained by add-
16 ing—

17 “(aa) the share of the eligi-
18 ble producer on a farm of the ac-
19 tual revenue for the covered crop
20 for the crop year;

21 “(bb) the net noninsured
22 crop disaster assistance program
23 payment;

24 “(cc) any payments made to
25 the eligible producer on a farm

1 under subtitle A with respect to
2 the base acres on which the cov-
3 ered crop was planted or pre-
4 vented from being planted;

5 “(dd) any payments made to
6 the eligible producer on a farm or
7 on behalf of the eligible producer
8 on a farm under subtitle B with
9 respect to the covered crop for
10 the crop year; and

11 “(ee) any payments made to
12 the eligible producer on a farm
13 under section 1502 for the crop
14 for the crop year; by

15 “(ii) in the case of a Noninsured Crop
16 Disaster Assistance Program coverage level
17 purchased by the eligible producer on a
18 farm that is—

19 “(I) catastrophic coverage, 75
20 percent;

21 “(II) more than catastrophic cov-
22 erage and less than 60 percent cov-
23 erage, 80 percent;

1 “(III) not less than 60 percent
2 coverage and less than 70 percent cov-
3 erage, 85 percent;

4 “(IV) not less than 70 percent
5 coverage and less than 75 percent cov-
6 erage, 90 percent; or

7 “(V) not less than 75 percent
8 coverage, 95 percent; or

9 “(C) in the case of a covered crop that is
10 neither insured under Federal Crop Insurance
11 nor covered under the Noninsured Crop Dis-
12 aster Assistance Program—

13 “(i) subject to clause (ii), the product
14 obtained by multiplying—

15 “(I) the difference between—

16 “(aa) the share of the eligi-
17 ble producer on a farm of 95 per-
18 cent of the expected crop revenue
19 for the covered crop for the crop
20 year; and

21 “(bb) the sum obtained by
22 adding—

23 “(AA) the share of the
24 eligible producer on a farm
25 of the actual revenue for the

1 covered crop for the crop
2 year;

3 “(BB) any payments
4 made to the eligible pro-
5 ducer on a farm under sub-
6 title A with respect to the
7 base acres on which the cov-
8 ered commodity was planted
9 or prevented from being
10 planted;

11 “(CC) any payments
12 made to the eligible pro-
13 ducer on a farm or on behalf
14 of the eligible producer on a
15 farm under subtitle B with
16 respect to the covered crop
17 for the crop year; and

18 “(DD) any payments
19 made to the eligible pro-
20 ducer on a farm under sec-
21 tion 1502 for the crop for
22 the crop year; by

23 “(II) 70 percent; or

24 “(ii) if the eligible producer on a farm
25 is in an area that is not adequately served

1 (as defined in section 508(a)(7)(A) of the
2 Federal Crop Insurance Act (7 U.S.C.
3 1508(a)(7)(A))) or is an underserved pro-
4 ducer (as defined in that section), the
5 product obtained by multiplying—

6 “(I) the sum obtained by add-
7 ing—

8 “(aa) the share of the eligi-
9 ble producer on a farm of the ac-
10 tual revenue for the covered crop
11 for the crop year;

12 “(bb) any payments made to
13 the eligible producer on a farm
14 under subtitle A with respect to
15 the base acres on which the cov-
16 ered crop was planted or pre-
17 vented from being planted;

18 “(cc) any payments made to
19 the eligible producer on a farm or
20 on behalf of the eligible producer
21 on a farm under subtitle B with
22 respect to the covered crop for
23 the crop year; and

24 “(dd) any payments made to
25 the eligible producer on a farm

1 under section 1502 for the crop
2 for the crop year; by
3 “(II) 75 percent.

4 “(2) VERTICAL INTEGRATION FOR PRODUCERS
5 OF WINE GRAPES.—In the case of a producer of
6 wine grapes that uses not less than 75 percent of
7 the grapes to produce wine at a facility owned by the
8 producer, the amount of a payment provided to the
9 producer under subsection (d)(1) shall be calculated
10 under paragraph (1) based on the market rate for
11 wine grapes at the time of calculation, in lieu of the
12 revenue of the producer.

13 “(f) LIMITATIONS.—For each crop year—

14 “(1) IN GENERAL.—Subject to paragraph (2),
15 an eligible producer on a farm may receive payments
16 under subsection (d)(1) in an amount equal to not
17 more than—

18 “(A) \$500,000 for the specialty covered
19 crops and high-value covered crops of the eligi-
20 ble producer on a farm, as determined by the
21 Secretary; and

22 “(B) \$250,000 for the covered crops of the
23 eligible producer on a farm not described in
24 subparagraph (A).

1 “(2) REDUCED LIMITATIONS.—If the amount
2 made available to make payments under subsection
3 (d)(1) for a crop year is insufficient to pay all eligi-
4 ble producers on farms that are eligible for pay-
5 ments under that subsection the amount calculated
6 under subsection (e), as limited by paragraph (1),
7 the Secretary shall reduce the limitations described
8 in that paragraph in a manner such that the max-
9 imum number of those eligible producers on farms
10 receive 100 percent of the amount calculated under
11 subsection (e).

12 “(g) TIMING.—The Secretary shall—

13 “(1) estimate the percentage of qualified losses
14 that will be paid from the amount made available to
15 make payments under subsection (d)(1) for a crop
16 year;

17 “(2) using the estimate under paragraph (1),
18 provide partial payments as soon as practicable after
19 receipt and approval of an application under sub-
20 section (c); and

21 “(3) make final payments under subsection
22 (d)(1) for the crop year as soon as practicable after
23 all applications submitted under subsection (c) have
24 been approved, modified, or rejected.

25 “(h) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—

1 “(1) IN GENERAL.—There are authorized to be
2 appropriated to the Secretary such sums as are nec-
3 essary to carry out this section for each of fiscal
4 years 2025 through 2029.

5 “(2) ADMINISTRATIVE COSTS.—Of the amount
6 made available under paragraph (1) for each fiscal
7 year, the Secretary may use not more than 1 percent
8 to pay the administrative costs of the Secretary.”.

9 **Subtitle F—Noninsured Crop**
10 **Assistance**

11 **SEC. 1601. NONINSURED CROP ASSISTANCE PROGRAM.**

12 (a) IN GENERAL.—Section 196 of the Federal Agri-
13 culture Improvement and Reform Act of 1996 (7 U.S.C.
14 7333) is amended—

15 (1) in subsection (a)(1)—

16 (A) in subparagraph (A)—

17 (i) in the matter preceding clause (i),
18 by inserting “or whole farm revenue in ac-
19 cordance with clause (ii)” before “equiva-
20 lent to”;

21 (ii) in clause (ii), by striking “65”
22 and inserting “75”;

23 (iii) by redesignating clauses (i) and
24 (ii) as subclauses (I) and (II), respectively,
25 and indenting appropriately;

1 (iv) in the matter preceding subclause
2 (I) (as so redesignated), by striking “In
3 the case” and inserting the following:

4 “(i) IN GENERAL.—In the case”; and
5 (v) by adding at the end the following:

6 “(ii) OPTION FOR WHOLE FARM REV-
7 ENUE COVERAGE FOR BEGINNING FARM-
8 ERS AND RANCHERS.—

9 “(I) IN GENERAL.—Notwith-
10 standing any other provision of law,
11 the Secretary shall provide the option
12 for a beginning farmer or rancher (as
13 defined in section 502(b) of the Fed-
14 eral Crop Insurance Act (7 U.S.C.
15 1502(b))), during the first 5 years of
16 operation of a farm or ranch, to pur-
17 chase coverage under the program
18 under this section for the revenue of
19 the entire farming or ranching oper-
20 ation, similar to whole farm revenue
21 protection and micro farm.

22 “(II) SOURCES FOR REVENUE
23 GUARANTEE.—Under the coverage
24 provided under subclause (I), the Sec-
25 retary—

1 “(aa) shall prioritize the use
2 of farm or ranch revenue projec-
3 tions from a business plan ac-
4 ceptable to the lender of the be-
5 ginning farmer or rancher; and

6 “(bb) may use to establish a
7 revenue guarantee alternative
8 sources of information that the
9 Secretary determines to be suffi-
10 cient for establishing a revenue
11 guarantee under a whole farm
12 revenue or micro farm plan of in-
13 surance in accordance with sub-
14 section (b)(4)(C), such as—

15 “(AA) financial records
16 of the prior operator;

17 “(BB) production con-
18 tracts and records; and

19 “(CC) other sources, as
20 determined by the Secretary.

21 “(III) INELIGIBILITY FOR OTHER
22 POLICIES.—A producer that obtains
23 coverage provided under subclause (I)
24 shall be ineligible to purchase a whole
25 farm revenue protection or micro farm

1 policy through the Federal crop insur-
2 ance program to cover the same
3 risk.”; and

4 (B) in subparagraph (C)—

5 (i) by striking “program that—” in
6 the matter preceding clause (i) and all that
7 follows through “best facilitates” in clause
8 (i) and inserting the following: “program—

9 “(i) to best facilitate”;

10 (ii) in clause (i), by striking “and” at
11 the end;

12 (iii) by redesignating clause (ii) as
13 clause (iv);

14 (iv) by inserting after clause (i) the
15 following:

16 “(ii) to ensure that the data are
17 transferred by the Farm Service Agency
18 and processed by the Risk Management
19 Agency for the purpose of facilitating the
20 use of historical production records for
21 Federal crop insurance policies;

22 “(iii) to ensure that the data are
23 available in a non-personally-identifiable
24 format consistent with section 502(c) of
25 the Federal Crop Insurance Act (7 U.S.C.

1 1502(c)) to private developers of Federal
2 crop insurance policies for the purpose of
3 creating new Federal crop insurance poli-
4 cies or endorsements or expanding the
5 availability of an existing Federal crop in-
6 surance policy or endorsement; and”;

7 (v) in clause (iv) (as so redesignated),
8 by striking “ensures” and inserting “to en-
9 sure”;

10 (2) in subsection (b)(4)—

11 (A) by striking “The Secretary” and in-
12 serting the following:

13 “(A) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary”; and

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

15 “(B) REQUIREMENT.—

16 “(i) DEFINITION OF UNDERSERVED
17 PRODUCER.—In this subparagraph, the
18 term ‘underserved producer’ means—

19 “(I) a limited resource farmer or
20 rancher, as defined by the Secretary;

21 “(II) a beginning farmer or
22 rancher, as defined by the Secretary;

23 “(III) a veteran farmer or ranch-
24 er, as defined by the Secretary; and

1 “(IV) a socially disadvantaged
2 farmer or rancher, as defined by the
3 Secretary.

4 “(ii) REQUIREMENT.—The Secretary
5 shall ensure that an underserved producer
6 is automatically offered an opportunity to
7 enroll in catastrophic coverage under sub-
8 section (a)(1)(A)(i)(I) by completing an
9 application unless the underserved pro-
10 ducer opts out—

11 “(I) at the time that the pro-
12 ducer is identified as an underserved
13 producer; or

14 “(II) as part of an application
15 for another program administered by
16 the Secretary.

17 “(C) WHOLE FARM REVENUE AND MICRO
18 FARM PLANS OF INSURANCE.—In the case of
19 diverse production systems that are eligible
20 under the plans described in paragraphs (7)
21 and (18) of section 522(c) of the Federal Crop
22 Insurance Act (7 U.S.C. 1522(c)), the Sec-
23 retary shall establish a streamlined process for
24 submission of records or acreage reports under
25 paragraphs (2) and (3) specifically designed to

1 assist producers to graduate on a voluntary
2 basis to the whole farm revenue or micro farm
3 plan of insurance by establishing the requisite
4 actual production history through participation
5 in the program under this section.”;

6 (3) in subsection (c)(2), by adding at the end
7 the following:

8 “(C) COMMUNITY DITCHES.—

9 “(i) DEFINITION OF COMMUNITY
10 DITCH.—In this subparagraph, the term
11 ‘community ditch’ means a private, unin-
12 corporated or cooperative irrigation ditch
13 system, including an acequia or an unin-
14 corporated mutual ditch company.

15 “(ii) CAUSES OF LOSS.—On making a
16 determination described in subsection
17 (a)(3) for producers that rely on a commu-
18 nity ditch, the Secretary shall provide as-
19 sistance under this section to those pro-
20 ducers from all losses suffered as a result
21 of the causes described in subsection
22 (a)(3).”;

23 (4) in subsection (i)(2)(B), by striking
24 “\$300,000” and inserting “\$1,000,000”; and

25 (5) in subsection (l)—

1 (A) in paragraph (1)(B)(i)(I), by striking
2 “65” and inserting “75”; and

3 (B) in paragraph (2), by striking subpara-
4 graph (B) and inserting the following:

5 “(B) in the case of additional coverage
6 that is—

7 “(i) not less than 50 percent and not
8 more than 65 percent, the lesser of—

9 “(I) the sum of the premiums for
10 each eligible crop, with the premium
11 for each eligible crop obtained by mul-
12 tipling—

13 “(aa) the number of acres
14 devoted to the eligible crop;

15 “(bb) the yield, as deter-
16 mined by the Secretary under
17 subsection (e);

18 “(cc) the coverage level
19 elected by the producer;

20 “(dd) the average market
21 price, as determined by the Sec-
22 retary;

23 “(ee) a 5.25-percent pre-
24 mium fee; and

1 “(ff) the producer’s share of
2 the crop; and

3 “(II) the product obtained by
4 multiplying—

5 “(aa) a 5.25-percent pre-
6 mium fee; and

7 “(bb) the applicable pay-
8 ment limit;

9 “(ii) not less than 65 percent but not
10 more than 70 percent, the lesser of—

11 “(I) the sum of the premiums for
12 each eligible crop, with the premium
13 for each eligible crop obtained by mul-
14 tiplying—

15 “(aa) the number of acres
16 devoted to the eligible crop;

17 “(bb) the yield, as deter-
18 mined by the Secretary under
19 subsection (e);

20 “(cc) the coverage level
21 elected by the producer;

22 “(dd) the average market
23 price, as determined by the Sec-
24 retary;

1 “(ee) a 6.43-percent pre-
2 mium fee; and

3 “(ff) the producer’s share of
4 the crop; and

5 “(II) the product obtained by
6 multiplying—

7 “(aa) a 6.43-percent pre-
8 mium fee; and

9 “(bb) the applicable pay-
10 ment limit; and

11 “(iii) not less than 70 percent but not
12 more than 75 percent, the lesser of—

13 “(I) the sum of the premiums for
14 each eligible crop, with the premium
15 for each eligible crop obtained by mul-
16 tiplying—

17 “(aa) the number of acres
18 devoted to the eligible crop;

19 “(bb) the yield, as deter-
20 mined by the secretary under
21 subsection (e);

22 “(cc) the coverage level
23 elected by the producer;

1 “(dd) the average market
2 price, as determined by the Sec-
3 retary;

4 “(ee) a 6.64-percent pre-
5 mium fee; and

6 “(ff) the producer’s share of
7 the crop; and

8 “(II) the product obtained by
9 multiplying—

10 “(aa) a 6.64-percent pre-
11 mium fee; and

12 “(bb) the applicable pay-
13 ment limit.”;

14 (C) by redesignating paragraph (3) as
15 paragraph (4); and

16 (D) by inserting after paragraph (2) the
17 following:

18 “(3) PREMIUM REDUCTION.—The premium
19 amount determined for a producer under paragraph
20 (2) shall be reduced by the same percentage as the
21 percentage reduction in payments for the crop year
22 under a sequestration order issued under the Bal-
23 anced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of
24 1985 (2 U.S.C. 901 et seq.) or the Statutory Pay-
25 As-You-Go Act of 2010 (2 U.S.C. 931 et seq.).”.

1 **Subtitle G—Administration**

2 **SEC. 1701. REGULATIONS.**

3 Section 1601(c)(2) of the Agricultural Act of 2014
4 (7 U.S.C. 9091(c)(2)) is amended, in the matter preceding
5 subparagraph (A), by striking “and section 10109 of that
6 Act” and inserting “section 10109 of that Act, and title
7 I of the Rural Prosperity and Food Security Act of 2024
8 and the amendments made by that title”.

9 **SEC. 1702. SUSPENSION OF PERMANENT PRICE SUPPORT**
10 **AUTHORITY.**

11 Section 1602 of the Agricultural Act of 2014 (7
12 U.S.C. 9092) is amended by striking “2023” each place
13 it appears and inserting “2029”.

14 **SEC. 1703. INELIGIBILITY OF LAND OWNED BY FOREIGN**
15 **PERSONS FOR PROGRAM BENEFITS.**

16 (a) IN GENERAL.—Section 1001C of the Food Secu-
17 rity Act of 1985 (7 U.S.C. 1308–3) is amended—

18 (1) in subsection (a)—

19 (A) by striking “United States or” and in-
20 sserting “United States,”;

21 (B) by inserting “, or an alien who has ap-
22 plied for employment authorization and is au-
23 thorized to accept employment pursuant to sec-
24 tion 274a.12(c)(33) of title 8, Code of Federal

1 Regulations (or a successor regulation),” after
2 “(8 U.S.C. 1101 et seq.)”; and

3 (C) by striking “, unless such person is an
4 individual who is providing land, capital, and a
5 substantial amount of personal labor in the pro-
6 duction of crops on such farm”; and

7 (2) by adding at the end the following:

8 “(d) LAND OWNED BY FOREIGN PERSONS.—

9 “(1) IN GENERAL.—A person or legal entity
10 shall not be eligible to receive any payment under
11 section 1116 or 1117 of the Agricultural Act of
12 2014 (7 U.S.C. 9016, 9017) with respect to land
13 that is owned by—

14 “(A) any person who is not—

15 “(i) a citizen of the United States;

16 “(ii) an alien lawfully admitted into
17 the United States for permanent residence
18 under the Immigration and Nationality Act
19 (8 U.S.C. 1101 et seq.); or

20 “(iii) an alien who has applied for em-
21 ployment authorization and is authorized
22 to accept employment pursuant to section
23 274a.12(c)(33) of title 8, Code of Federal
24 Regulations (or a successor regulation); or

1 “(B) a corporation or other entity more
2 than 10 percent of the beneficial ownership of
3 which is held by persons described in subpara-
4 graph (A).

5 “(2) PROPORTIONATE OWNERSHIP.—Notwith-
6 standing paragraph (1), with respect to land deter-
7 mined to be ineligible for payments under that para-
8 graph, the Secretary may make payments under sec-
9 tions 1116 and 1117 of the Agricultural Act of 2014
10 (7 U.S.C. 9016, 9017) in an amount determined by
11 the Secretary to be representative of the percentage
12 interests of the land that is owned by—

13 “(A) citizens of the United States;

14 “(B) aliens lawfully admitted into the
15 United States for permanent residence under
16 the Immigration and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C.
17 1101 et seq.); or

18 “(C) aliens who have applied for employ-
19 ment authorization and are authorized to accept
20 employment pursuant to section 274a.12(c)(33)
21 of title 8, Code of Federal Regulations (or a
22 successor regulation).”.

23 (b) APPLICABILITY.—The amendments made by this
24 section shall apply beginning with the 2025 crop, fiscal,
25 or marketing year, as appropriate.

1 **SEC. 1704. ADJUSTED GROSS INCOME LIMITATION.**

2 (a) IN GENERAL.—Section 1001D of the Food Secu-
3 rity Act of 1985 (7 U.S.C. 1308–3a) is amended—

4 (1) in subsection (a)—

5 (A) in paragraph (1), by striking “In this
6 section,” and inserting “Except as otherwise
7 provided in this subsection, in this section,”;
8 and

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

10 “(4) ADJUSTMENT.—Any income received by a
11 person or legal entity that is a landowner of eligible
12 land (as defined in section 1265A) as compensation
13 for the purchase of an agricultural land easement or
14 a wetland reserve easement on that eligible land
15 under subtitle H of title XII shall be excluded from
16 adjusted gross income for purposes of this section
17 for the taxable year for which the person or legal en-
18 tity receives such compensation.”;

19 (2) in subsection (b), by striking paragraphs
20 (1) through (3) and inserting the following:

21 “(1) COMMODITY POLICY.—

22 “(A) IN GENERAL.—Notwithstanding any
23 other provision of law, a person or legal entity
24 shall not be eligible to receive a payment or
25 benefit under subtitle A of title I of the Agricul-
26 tural Act of 2014 (7 U.S.C. 9011 et seq.) for

1 a crop year if the average adjusted gross in-
2 come of the person or legal entity exceeds
3 \$700,000.

4 “(B) LAND.—Notwithstanding any other
5 provision of law, a person or legal entity (except
6 an underserved farmer of covered commodities
7 (as defined in subsection (b)(1) of section 1112
8 of the Agricultural Act of 2014 (7 U.S.C.
9 9012))) shall not be eligible to receive a pay-
10 ment or benefit under subtitle A of title I of
11 that Act (7 U.S.C. 9011 et seq.) for a crop year
12 with respect to land that is owned by a person
13 or legal entity the average adjusted gross in-
14 come of which exceeds \$700,000.

15 “(2) MARKETING ASSISTANCE LOAN BENE-
16 FITS.—Notwithstanding any other provision of law,
17 a person or legal entity shall not be eligible to re-
18 ceive a marketing loan gain, a loan deficiency pay-
19 ment, or a certificate in lieu of a cash payment
20 under subtitle B of title I of the Agricultural Act of
21 2014 (7 U.S.C. 9031 et seq.) for a crop or mar-
22 keting year, as appropriate, if the average adjusted
23 gross income of the person or legal entity exceeds
24 \$700,000.

1 “(3) SUPPLEMENTAL AGRICULTURAL DISASTER
2 ASSISTANCE PROGRAMS.—

3 “(A) IN GENERAL.—Except as provided in
4 subparagraphs (B) and (C), notwithstanding
5 any other provision of law, a person or legal en-
6 tity shall not be eligible to receive a payment or
7 benefit under subtitle E of title I of the Agri-
8 cultural Act of 2014 (7 U.S.C. 9081) for a fis-
9 cal year if the average adjusted gross income of
10 the person or legal entity exceeds \$700,000.

11 “(B) SPECIALTY AND HIGH-VALUE
12 CROPS.—Notwithstanding any other provision
13 of law, a person or legal entity that produces
14 specialty or high-value crops, as determined by
15 the Secretary, shall not be eligible for a pay-
16 ment or benefit under subtitle E of title I of the
17 Agricultural Act of 2014 (7 U.S.C. 9081) for a
18 fiscal year if the average adjusted gross income
19 of the person or legal entity exceeds
20 \$1,500,000.

21 “(C) WAIVER.—The Secretary may waive
22 the limitation established by subparagraph (A)
23 or (B) with respect to a person or legal entity
24 that is an economically distressed producer, as
25 determined by the Secretary.

1 “(4) CONSERVATION BENEFITS.—

2 “(A) IN GENERAL.—Except as provided in
3 subparagraphs (B) and (C), notwithstanding
4 any other provision of law, if the average ad-
5 justed gross income of a person or legal entity
6 exceeds \$700,000, the person or legal entity
7 shall not be eligible to receive a payment or
8 benefit for a fiscal year under—

9 “(i) title II of the Agriculture Im-
10 provement Act of 2018 (Public Law 115-
11 334; 132 Stat. 4530);

12 “(ii) title II of the Agricultural Act of
13 2014 (Public Law 113-79; 128 Stat. 713);

14 “(iii) title II of the Food, Conserva-
15 tion, and Energy Act of 2008 (Public Law
16 110-246; 122 Stat. 1753);

17 “(iv) title II of the Farm Security and
18 Rural Investment Act of 2002 (Public Law
19 107-171; 116 Stat. 223); or

20 “(v) title XII of this Act.

21 “(B) SPECIALTY AND HIGH-VALUE
22 CROPS.—Notwithstanding any other provision
23 of law, a person or legal entity that produces
24 specialty or high-value crops, as determined by
25 the Secretary, shall not be eligible to receive a

1 payment or benefit under any provision of law
2 described in clauses (i) through (v) of subpara-
3 graph (A) for a fiscal year if the average ad-
4 justed gross income of the person or legal entity
5 exceeds \$1,500,000.

6 “(C) WAIVER.—The Secretary may waive
7 the limitation established by subparagraph (A)
8 or (B), on a case-by-case basis, if the Secretary
9 determines that environmentally sensitive land
10 of special significance would be protected as a
11 result of such waiver.

12 “(5) AGRICULTURAL MANAGEMENT ASSIST-
13 ANCE.—Notwithstanding any other provision of law,
14 a person or legal entity shall not be eligible to re-
15 ceive a payment or benefit under section 524(b) of
16 the Federal Crop Insurance Act (7 U.S.C. 1524(b))
17 for a fiscal year if the average adjusted gross income
18 of the person or legal entity exceeds \$700,000.”;

19 (3) in subsection (c)—

20 (A) in paragraph (1)—

21 (i) in subparagraph (A)—

22 (I) by striking “Secretary that
23 the average” and inserting the fol-
24 lowing: “Secretary that—

25 “(i) the average”; and

1 (II) by striking “subsection; or”
2 in clause (i) (as so designated) and in-
3 serting the following: “subsection; and
4 “(ii) in the case of payments received
5 by the person or legal entity under subtitle
6 A of title I of the Agricultural Act of 2014
7 (7 U.S.C. 9011 et seq.), the average ad-
8 justed gross income of the person or legal
9 entity that owns the land with respect to
10 which the payments are provided does not
11 exceed the limitation specified in sub-
12 section (b)(1)(B); or”; and
13 (ii) in subparagraph (B), by inserting
14 “described in clause (i) or (ii), as applica-
15 ble, of subparagraph (A)” after “person or
16 legal entity”; and
17 (B) in paragraph (2), by striking “sub-
18 section (b)(2)” and inserting “subsection (b)”;
19 and
20 (4) in subsection (d)—
21 (A) by striking “In the case” and inserting
22 the following:
23 “(1) IN GENERAL.—In the case”;

1 (B) in paragraph (1) (as so designated), by
2 striking “subsection (b)(2) made in” and insert-
3 ing “subsection (b) made for”; and

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

5 “(2) APPLICABILITY TO LAND LIMITATION.—In
6 the case of a payment or benefit described in sub-
7 section (b)(1)(B) made for a crop year to a person
8 or legal entity, in addition to any reduction under
9 paragraph (1), the amount of the payment shall be
10 reduced by an amount that is commensurate with
11 the direct and indirect ownership interest in the ap-
12 plicable land of each person or legal entity that has
13 an average adjusted gross income in excess of the
14 limitation specified in that subsection.”.

15 (b) CONFORMING AMENDMENTS.—

16 (1) Section 1001(e)(1) of the Food Security Act
17 of 1985 (7 U.S.C. 1308(e)(1)) is amended by strik-
18 ing “paragraphs (1)(C) and (2)(B) of section
19 1001D(b)” and inserting “section 1001D(b)”.

20 (2) Section 1240H(c)(3)(B)(i) of the Food Se-
21 curity Act of 1985 (16 U.S.C. 3839aa–8(c)(3)(B)(i))
22 is amended, in the matter preceding subclause (I),
23 by striking “1001D(b)(1)” and inserting
24 “1001D(b)(4)”.

1 (3) Section 1241(i)(2)(C) of the Food Security
2 Act of 1985 (16 U.S.C. 3841(i)(2)(C)) is amended
3 by striking “1001D(b)(3)” and inserting
4 “1001D(b)(4)(B)”.

5 (4) Section 1271B(f) of the Food Security Act
6 of 1985 (16 U.S.C. 3871b(f)) is amended by strik-
7 ing “1001D(b)(1)” and inserting “1001D(b)(4)”.

8 (5) Section 1271C(c)(3) of the Food Security
9 Act of 1985 (16 U.S.C. 3871c(c)(3)) is amended by
10 striking “1001D(b)(2)” and inserting
11 “1001D(b)(4)”.

12 (6) Section 196(i) of the Federal Agriculture
13 Improvement and Reform Act of 1996 (7 U.S.C.
14 7333(i)) is amended—

15 (A) by striking paragraph (4);

16 (B) by redesignating paragraph (5) as
17 paragraph (4); and

18 (C) in paragraph (4) (as so redesignated),
19 in subparagraph (B)—

20 (i) by striking “through 1001D” and
21 inserting “through 1001C”; and

22 (ii) by striking “1308 et seq.” and in-
23 serting “1308 through 1308–3”.

1 (7) Section 2507(c)(2)(E) of the Farm Security
2 and Rural Investment Act of 2002 (16 U.S.C.
3 3839bb–6(c)(2)(E)) is amended—

4 (A) in clause (ii), by striking “and” at the
5 end;

6 (B) in clause (iii), by striking the period at
7 the end and inserting “; and”; and

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

9 “(iv) benefits under section 196 of the
10 Federal Agriculture Improvement and Re-
11 form Act of 1996 (7 U.S.C. 7333).”.

12 (c) APPLICABILITY.—The amendments made by this
13 section shall apply beginning with the 2025 crop, fiscal,
14 or marketing year, as appropriate.

15 **SEC. 1705. FARM PROGRAM IMPLEMENTATION COORDINA-**
16 **TION.**

17 Section 1614 of the Agricultural Act of 2014 (7
18 U.S.C. 9097) is amended—

19 (1) in subsection (a), by striking “as adjusted
20 pursuant to sections 1112 and 1113” and inserting
21 “as adjusted, increased, or reduced pursuant to sec-
22 tions 1112 and 1113”;

23 (2) in subsection (b)—

24 (A) in paragraph (3), by striking “and” at
25 the end;

1 (B) in paragraph (4)(B), by striking pe-
2 riod at the end and inserting “; and”; and

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

4 “(5) direct the Farm Service Agency to engage
5 with the Office of Customer Service and the Office
6 of Digital Services to facilitate efforts under this
7 subsection.”;

8 (3) in subsection (d)—

9 (A) in paragraph (1)—

10 (i) by striking “pursuant 2 U.S.C.
11 901(a)” and inserting “pursuant to section
12 251(a) of the Balanced Budget and Emer-
13 gency Deficit Control Act of 1985 (2
14 U.S.C. 901(a))”; and

15 (ii) by striking “such sums as” and
16 inserting “such sums as are”; and

17 (B) in paragraph (2)—

18 (i) by striking “repayment provisions
19 of subtitles B or C” and inserting “provi-
20 sions of subtitles B and C relating to re-
21 payment”; and

22 (ii) by striking “under subtitles B or
23 C” and inserting “under subtitle B or C”;
24 and

1 (4) in subsection (f), in the matter preceding
2 paragraph (1), by striking “2023” and inserting
3 “2029”.

4 **SEC. 1706. LEGAL ENTITIES.**

5 Section 1001(a)(3) of the Food Security Act of 1985
6 (7 U.S.C. 1308(a)(3)) is amended, in the matter preceding
7 subparagraph (A), by striking “Federal or State law” and
8 inserting “Federal, State, or Tribal law”.

9 **SEC. 1707. GEOGRAPHICALLY DISADVANTAGED FARMERS**
10 **AND RANCHERS.**

11 Section 1621(c)(3)(B) of the Food, Conservation,
12 and Energy Act of 2008 (7 U.S.C. 8792(c)(3)(B)) is
13 amended by striking “\$15,000,000” and inserting
14 “\$20,000,000”.

15 **SEC. 1708. LIMITATION ON COMMODITY CREDIT CORPORA-**
16 **TION AUTHORITY.**

17 (a) IN GENERAL.—Notwithstanding section 5 of the
18 Commodity Credit Corporation Charter Act (15 U.S.C.
19 714c), during fiscal years 2025 through 2030, the Com-
20 modity Credit Corporation is authorized to use its general
21 powers only to carry out operations as Congress may spe-
22 cifically authorize or provide for.

23 (b) RULE OF CONSTRUCTION.—Nothing in sub-
24 section (a) shall be construed to impact funds obligated

1 or transferred to the Secretary before the date of enact-
2 ment of this Act.

3 (c) SCORING.—For purposes of preparing a cost esti-
4 mate of this section, the Director of the Congressional
5 Budget Office shall assume that the discretionary spend-
6 ing under section 5 of the Commodity Credit Corporation
7 Charter Act (15 U.S.C. 714c) for each of fiscal years 2024
8 through 2033 shall be equal to \$6,700,000,000.

9 **Subtitle H—Emergency Assistance**

10 **SEC. 1801. EMERGENCY ASSISTANCE.**

11 (a) FUNDING.—Of the funds of the Commodity Cred-
12 it Corporation, the Secretary shall use to carry out this
13 section \$2,000,000,000 for fiscal year 2025 to reimburse
14 producers for not more than \$20,000 of—

15 (1) premiums paid by a producer under a policy
16 or plan of insurance under the Federal Crop Insur-
17 ance Act (7 U.S.C. 1501 et seq.) for the 2024 rein-
18 surance year;

19 (2) fees paid by a producer under the non-
20 insured crop disaster assistance program established
21 by section 196 of the Federal Agriculture Improve-
22 ment and Reform Act of 1996 (7 U.S.C. 7333) for
23 the 2024 crop year; or

24 (3) a combination thereof.

1 (b) SPECIAL RULE FOR PROGRAM INTERACTION.—
2 The Secretary shall include any amounts received by a
3 producer under subsection (a) in determining the net crop
4 insurance indemnity or the net noninsured crop disaster
5 assistance program payment for emergency relief program
6 payments under section 1503 of the Agricultural Act of
7 2014 for the 2024 crop year.

8 **TITLE II—CONSERVATION**

9 **SEC. 2001. DEFINITIONS.**

10 Section 1201(a) of the Food Security Act of 1985
11 (16 U.S.C. 3801(a)) is amended—

12 (1) by redesignating paragraphs (15), (16),
13 (17), (18), (19), (20), (21), (22), (23), (24), (25),
14 (26), and (27) as paragraphs (16), (17), (18), (20),
15 (21), (24), (25), (26), (27), (28), (29), (31), and
16 (32), respectively;

17 (2) by striking paragraph (14) and inserting
18 the following:

19 “(14) INDIAN LAND; TRIBAL LAND.—The terms
20 ‘Indian land’ and ‘Tribal land’ mean land that is—

21 “(A) held in trust by the United States for
22 the benefit of an Indian Tribe or one or more
23 individual members of an Indian Tribe;

24 “(B) held by an Indian Tribe or one or
25 more individual members of an Indian Tribe,

1 subject to a restriction against alienation or en-
2 cumbrance by operation of Federal law;

3 “(C) held in fee by an Indian Tribe or one
4 or more individual members of an Indian Tribe;

5 “(D) Hawaiian Home Lands (as defined in
6 section 801 of the Native American Housing
7 Assistance and Self-Determination Act of 1996
8 (25 U.S.C. 4221));

9 “(E) held by a majority-owned Tribal enti-
10 ty or corporation that provides services con-
11 sistent with the purposes of a program estab-
12 lished under this title; or

13 “(F) any combination of the types of land
14 described in subparagraphs (A) through (E).

15 “(15) INDIAN TRIBE.—The terms ‘Indian tribe’
16 and ‘Indian Tribe’ mean any Indian or Alaska Na-
17 tive tribe, band, nation, pueblo, village, community,
18 component band, or component reservation, individ-
19 ually identified (including parenthetically) in the list
20 published pursuant to section 104 of the Federally
21 Recognized Indian Tribe List Act of 1994 (25
22 U.S.C. 5131).”;

23 (3) by inserting after paragraph (18) (as so re-
24 designated) the following:

1 “(19) NATIVE HAWAIIAN ORGANIZATION.—The
2 term ‘Native Hawaiian organization’ has the mean-
3 ing given the term in section 6207 of the Elemen-
4 tary and Secondary Education Act of 1965 (20
5 U.S.C. 7517).”;

6 (4) by inserting after paragraph (21) (as so re-
7 designated) the following:

8 “(22) PRECISION AGRICULTURE.—The term
9 ‘precision agriculture’ means managing, tracking, or
10 reducing crop or livestock production inputs, includ-
11 ing seed, feed, fertilizer, chemicals, water, and time,
12 at a heightened level of spatial and temporal granu-
13 larity to improve efficiencies, reduce waste, and
14 maintain environmental quality.

15 “(23) PRECISION AGRICULTURE TECH-
16 NOLOGY.—The term ‘precision agriculture tech-
17 nology’ means any technology (including equipment
18 that is necessary for the deployment of such tech-
19 nology) that directly contributes to a reduction in, or
20 improved efficiency of, inputs used in crop or live-
21 stock production, which may include seed, feed, fer-
22 tilizer, chemicals, water, and time.”; and

23 (5) by inserting after paragraph (29) (as so re-
24 designated) the following:

1 “(30) TRIBAL ORGANIZATION.—The term ‘Trib-
2 al organization’ has the meaning given the term in
3 section 4 of the Indian Self-Determination and Edu-
4 cation Assistance Act (25 U.S.C. 5304).”.

5 **Subtitle A—Wetland Conservation**

6 **SEC. 2101. MITIGATION BANKING.**

7 Section 1222(k)(1)(B) of the Food Security Act of
8 1985 (16 U.S.C. 3822(k)(1)(B)) is amended by striking
9 “each of fiscal years 2019 through 2023” and inserting
10 “fiscal year 2019 and each fiscal year thereafter”.

11 **Subtitle B—Conservation Reserve** 12 **Program (including Farmable** 13 **Wetland Program)**

14 **SEC. 2201. CONSERVATION RESERVE.**

15 (a) IN GENERAL.—Section 1231(a) of the Food Se-
16 curity Act of 1985 (16 U.S.C. 3831(a)) is amended by
17 striking “Through the 2023 fiscal year, the” and inserting
18 “The”.

19 (b) ELIGIBLE LAND.—Section 1231(b) of the Food
20 Security Act of 1985 (16 U.S.C. 3831(b)) is amended—

21 (1) in paragraph (1)(B), by striking “the Agri-
22 culture Improvement Act of 2018” and inserting
23 “the Rural Prosperity and Food Security Act of
24 2024”;

1 (2) in paragraph (3)(A), by striking “rangeland
2 and pastureland)” and inserting “rangeland,
3 pastureland, and pastureland devoted to
4 silvopasture, as determined by the Secretary”;

5 (3) in paragraph (5)(B)(ii), by inserting “,
6 prairie strip, or filterstrip” after “contour grass sod
7 strip”;

8 (4) in paragraph (6)(B)(ii), by striking “or” at
9 the end;

10 (5) in paragraph (7)(C), by striking the period
11 at the end and inserting a semicolon; and

12 (6) by adding at the end the following:

13 “(8) cropland, marginal pastureland, grass-
14 lands, and other rural land that will—

15 “(A) have a positive impact on water qual-
16 ity in furtherance of the goals of the Conserva-
17 tion Reserve Enhancement Program established
18 by the Secretary under section 1231A; and

19 “(B) be devoted to a riparian buffer; or

20 “(9) land that is otherwise eligible for enroll-
21 ment and for which a Tribal, State, or local govern-
22 ment law, ordinance, or regulation requires any re-
23 source-conserving or environmental protection meas-
24 ure or practice, unless the requirement to implement
25 such a measure or practice has been imposed by an

1 administrative order or a court order, in which case
2 that land shall not be eligible for enrollment.”.

3 (c) ENROLLMENT.—Section 1231(d) of the Food Se-
4 curity Act of 1985 (16 U.S.C. 3831(d)) is amended—

5 (1) in paragraph (1), by striking subparagraphs
6 (A) through (E) and inserting the following:

7 “(A) fiscal years 2025 through 2027, not
8 more than 27,500,000 acres;

9 “(B) fiscal year 2028, not more than
10 28,000,000 acres; and

11 “(C) fiscal year 2029 and each fiscal year
12 thereafter, not more than 29,000,000 acres.”;

13 (2) in paragraph (2)—

14 (A) in subparagraph (A)—

15 (i) in clause (i)—

16 (I) by striking “2,000,000” and
17 inserting “10,000,000”; and

18 (II) by striking “2023; and” and
19 inserting “2029;”; and

20 (ii) by striking clause (ii) and insert-
21 ing the following:

22 “(ii) in carrying out clause (i), to the
23 maximum extent practicable, the Secretary
24 shall maintain in the conservation reserve
25 at any one time during—

1 “(I) fiscal year 2025, 7,000,000

2 acres;

3 “(II) fiscal year 2026, 8,500,000

4 acres; and

5 “(III) fiscal year 2027 and each

6 fiscal year thereafter, 10,000,000

7 acres; and

8 “(iii) in carrying out clause (i), the

9 Secretary may maintain in the conserva-

10 tion reserve at any time during fiscal year

11 2025 and each fiscal year thereafter not

12 more than 12,000,000 acres.”; and

13 (B) in subparagraph (B)—

14 (i) in the matter preceding clause (i),

15 by striking “may” and inserting “shall”;

16 (ii) in clause (ii), by striking “or” at

17 the end;

18 (iii) in clause (iii)(III), by striking the

19 period at the end and inserting “; or”; and

20 (iv) by adding at the end the fol-

21 lowing:

22 “(iv) that comprises native grass-

23 lands.”;

24 (3) in paragraph (3)—

1 (A) in subparagraph (A), by inserting “es-
2 tablish a Clean Lakes, Estuaries, and Rivers
3 (CLEAR) Initiative to” after “Secretary shall”;
4 and

5 (B) in subparagraph (C)(i), by striking
6 “40 percent” and inserting “45 percent”;

7 (4) in paragraph (4), by striking “each of fiscal
8 years 2019 through 2023” each place it appears and
9 inserting “fiscal year 2019 and each fiscal year
10 thereafter”; and

11 (5) in paragraph (6)—

12 (A) in subparagraph (A)—

13 (i) in clause (i)—

14 (I) in subclause (II), by striking
15 “and” at the end; and

16 (II) by adding at the end the fol-
17 lowing:

18 “(IV) land that will be enrolled
19 under the State acres for wildlife en-
20 hancement practice established by the
21 Secretary;”;

22 (ii) in clause (ii), by striking the pe-
23 riod at the end and inserting a semicolon;
24 and

1 (iii) by adding at the end the fol-
2 lowing:

3 “(iii) the farmable wetland program
4 under section 1231B; and

5 “(iv) the CLEAR 30 and soil health
6 and income protection programs under
7 subsections (a) and (b), respectively, of
8 section 1231C.”; and

9 (B) in subparagraph (B)—

10 (i) in clause (i), by striking “2023”
11 and inserting “2029”; and

12 (ii) in clause (ii)(IV), by striking “fis-
13 cal years 2022 and 2023” and inserting
14 “fiscal year 2022 and each fiscal year
15 thereafter”.

16 (d) DURATION OF CONTRACT.—Section 1231(e)(2)
17 of the Food Security Act of 1985 (16 U.S.C. 3831(e)(2))
18 is amended by inserting “riparian buffers, forest farm-
19 ing,” after “windbreaks,”.

20 (e) MULTI-YEAR GRASSES AND LEGUMES.—Section
21 1231(g)(2) of the Food Security Act of 1985 (16 U.S.C.
22 3831(g)(2)) is amended by inserting “and other multi-
23 year grasses and legumes” after “Alfalfa”.

1 (f) ELIGIBILITY FOR CONSIDERATION.—Section
2 1231(h) of the Food Security Act of 1985 (16 U.S.C.
3 3831(h)) is amended—

4 (1) in paragraph (2)(B)(iii), by inserting “and
5 windbreaks” after “shelterbelts”; and

6 (2) by adding at the end the following:

7 “(3) LAND WITH GRAZING INFRASTRUCTURE.—
8 On the expiration of a contract entered into under
9 this subchapter that covers land that includes graz-
10 ing infrastructure established with cost sharing as-
11 sistance under section 1234(b)(1)(B)—

12 “(A) the Secretary shall consider that land
13 to be planted for purposes of subsection
14 (b)(1)(B); and

15 “(B) that land shall be eligible for reenroll-
16 ment in the conservation reserve, subject to the
17 requirements of this subchapter.”.

18 (g) BALANCE OF NATURAL RESOURCE PURPOSES.—
19 Section 1231(i) of the Food Security Act of 1985 (16
20 U.S.C. 3831(i)) is amended by striking “and wildlife habi-
21 tat” and inserting “drought resilience, wildlife habitat,
22 and climate change adaptation, mitigation, and resil-
23 ience”.

1 **SEC. 2202. CONSERVATION RESERVE ENHANCEMENT PRO-**
2 **GRAM.**

3 Section 1231A of the Food Security Act of 1985 (16
4 U.S.C. 3831a) is amended—

5 (1) in subsection (a)—

6 (A) in paragraph (3)—

7 (i) by redesignating subparagraph (D)
8 as subparagraph (E); and

9 (ii) by striking subparagraph (C) and
10 inserting the following:

11 “(C) an Indian Tribe or a Tribal organiza-
12 tion;

13 “(D) a Native Hawaiian organization; or”;

14 (B) in paragraph (4), in the matter pre-
15 ceding subparagraph (A), by inserting “(other
16 than an agreement described in subsection (e))”
17 after “this subchapter”;

18 (2) in subsection (b)—

19 (A) in paragraph (2)(A)(vi), by inserting
20 “or other appropriate practices, such as dryland
21 agricultural uses and grazing,” after “conserva-
22 tion practices”; and

23 (B) in paragraph (3), by adding at the end
24 the following:

25 “(C) UPDATES TO EXISTING AGREE-
26 MENTS.—

1 “(i) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary
2 shall provide an option to signatories to an
3 agreement under this subsection to update
4 the agreement, without renegotiating other
5 provisions of the agreement, to include new
6 incentives made available under this sub-
7 chapter beginning on January 1, 2018,
8 such as riparian forest buffer management
9 payments.

10 “(ii) MATCHING FUNDS.—Require-
11 ments for matching funds described in
12 paragraph (2)(B) shall not apply to the
13 updates to an agreement described in
14 clause (i).”;

15 (3) in subsection (c), by adding at the end the
16 following:

17 “(5) DROUGHT AND WATER CONSERVATION
18 AGREEMENTS.—

19 “(A) RETIREMENT OF WATER RIGHTS.—In
20 the case of an agreement described in sub-
21 section (e) that includes a permanent retire-
22 ment of water rights, the payment rates for an-
23 nual payments shall be equal to the irrigated
24 acre payment rates determined by the Sec-
25 retary.

1 “(B) DRYLAND AGRICULTURAL USES.—In
2 the case of an agreement described in sub-
3 section (e) that permits dryland agricultural
4 uses pursuant to paragraph (2) of that sub-
5 section, the payment rates for annual payments
6 shall be equal to the difference between—

7 “(i) the irrigated acre payment rates
8 determined by the Secretary; and

9 “(ii) the dryland acre payment rates
10 determined by the Secretary.”;

11 (4) in subsection (e)—

12 (A) in the matter preceding paragraph
13 (1)—

14 (i) by inserting “through the long-
15 term reduction of consumptive water use,
16 as measured by an evapotranspiration data
17 program or other monitoring tools” after
18 “regional drought concerns”; and

19 (ii) by striking “may” and inserting
20 “shall”;

21 (B) in paragraph (1), by inserting “(in-
22 cluding agricultural land on which a continuous
23 crop or crop rotation is maintained)” after “ag-
24 ricultural land”;

25 (C) in paragraph (2)—

1 (i) by striking “with the adoption of
2 best management practices on” and insert-
3 ing “in accordance with a conservation
4 plan adopted with respect to”; and

5 (ii) by striking “and” at the end;

6 (D) in paragraph (3)—

7 (i) by inserting “subject to subsection
8 (c)(5),” before “calculate”; and

9 (ii) by striking the period at the end
10 and inserting a semicolon; and

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

12 “(4) provide financial support for an eligible
13 partner to develop and deploy monitoring tools for
14 measuring the reduction in consumptive water use,
15 at the discretion of the Secretary;

16 “(5) notwithstanding section 1234(b)(5), con-
17 sider funds contributed by another Federal agency
18 as part of a matching contribution required from an
19 eligible partner under subsection (b)(2)(B) and de-
20 scribed in subsection (c)(1);

21 “(6) accept, in lieu of the conservation plan of
22 the Secretary, the conservation plan of an eligible
23 partner with an owner or operator with respect to
24 land enrolled under a CREP, at the discretion of the
25 Secretary; and

1 “(7) limit the number of acres added as en-
2 rolled under this subsection to not more than
3 100,000 acres for the period of fiscal years 2025
4 through 2029.”; and

5 (5) in subsection (f)—

6 (A) in paragraph (3), by striking “and” at
7 the end;

8 (B) in paragraph (4), by striking the pe-
9 riod at the end and inserting “; and”; and

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

11 “(5) any activity under subsection (e), includ-
12 ing—

13 “(A) any obstacles to finalizing an agree-
14 ment in accordance with that subsection and
15 any recommendations to address those obsta-
16 cles; and

17 “(B) any innovations from a CREP that
18 advance the purposes of subsection (e).”.

19 **SEC. 2203. FARMABLE WETLAND PROGRAM.**

20 Section 1231B(a)(1) of the Food Security Act of
21 1985 (16 U.S.C. 3831b(a)(1)) is amended by striking “the
22 2008 through 2023 fiscal years” and inserting “fiscal year
23 2008 and each fiscal year thereafter”.

1 **SEC. 2204. SPECIAL PROGRAMS.**

2 (a) IN GENERAL.—Section 1231C of the Food Secu-
3 rity Act of 1985 (16 U.S.C. 3831c) is amended by striking
4 the section heading and inserting “**SPECIAL PRO-**
5 **GRAMS.**”.

6 (b) CLEAR 30.—Section 1231C(a) of the Food Se-
7 curity Act of 1985 (16 U.S.C. 3831c(a)) is amended—

8 (1) in paragraph (1)(A), by striking “pilot”;

9 (2) in paragraph (2)—

10 (A) in subparagraph (A)—

11 (i) in clause (i), by striking “Agri-
12 culture Improvement Act of 2018” and in-
13 serting “Rural Prosperity and Food Secu-
14 rity Act of 2024”; and

15 (ii) in clause (ii), by striking “priority
16 described in section 1231(d)(3) (or the
17 predecessor practices that constitute the
18 priority” and inserting “initiative described
19 in section 1231(d)(3) (or predecessor prac-
20 tices that provided similar priority”; and

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

22 “(C) TRANSFER.—Prior to the expiration
23 of a covered contract, an owner or operator
24 party to the covered contract may elect to ter-
25minate the contract and to enroll that land

1 through a CLEAR 30 contract under this sub-
2 section.”;

3 (3) by striking paragraph (3) and inserting the
4 following:

5 “(3) ELIGIBLE LAND.—Eligible land for enroll-
6 ment through a CLEAR 30 contract is—

7 “(A) land under a covered contract; or

8 “(B) any eligible land described in section
9 1231(d)(3).”;

10 (4) in paragraph (8)(B), by striking “or Indian
11 Tribe” and inserting “Indian Tribe, or Tribal orga-
12 nization”; and

13 (5) in paragraph (9)(B)(i)—

14 (A) in the clause heading, by inserting

15 “TRIBAL,” after “STATE,”; and

16 (B) by inserting “Tribal,” after “State,”.

17 (c) SOIL HEALTH AND INCOME PROTECTION PRO-
18 GRAM.—Section 1231C(b) of the Food Security Act of
19 1985 (16 U.S.C. 3831c(b)) is amended—

20 (1) in the subsection heading, by striking
21 “PILOT”;

22 (2) by striking “pilot” each place it appears;

23 (3) in paragraph (1)(A)(ii)—

24 (A) by striking subclause (I) and inserting

25 the following:

1 “(I) is in a location in which the
2 program established under this sub-
3 section can be carried out in a man-
4 ner such that the amount of rental
5 payments made under a contract en-
6 tered into under this subsection is less
7 than the total amount of commodity
8 payments, crop insurance indemnities,
9 and crop insurance subsidies that
10 would otherwise be provided with re-
11 spect to the acres to be enrolled in the
12 program;” and

13 (B) in subclause (III)—

14 (i) by striking “verified to be”; and

15 (ii) by inserting “, as determined by
16 the owner or operator” before the period at
17 the end;

18 (4) in paragraph (2)—

19 (A) by striking the paragraph designation
20 and heading and all that follows through “The
21 Secretary” in subparagraph (A) and inserting
22 the following:

23 “(2) ESTABLISHMENT.—The Secretary”; and

24 (B) by striking subparagraph (B);

25 (5) in paragraph (3)—

1 (A) in subparagraph (A)(ii)—

2 (i) by striking subclause (II) and in-
3 sserting the following:

4 “(II) except as provided in sub-
5 paragraph (E), of the actual cost of
6 establishment of the conserving use
7 cover crop under subclause (I)—

8 “(aa) using the funds of the
9 Commodity Credit Corporation,
10 the Secretary shall pay 50 per-
11 cent; and

12 “(bb) the owner or operator
13 of the eligible land shall pay 50
14 percent;”;

15 (ii) in subclause (III), by striking
16 “seed, hayed,” and inserting “seed”; and

17 (iii) in subclause (V), by striking “a
18 nonprofit wildlife organization” and insert-
19 ing “a nonprofit conservation organization,
20 State agency, or other non-Federal entity”;

21 (B) in subparagraph (B)—

22 (i) by striking “subparagraphs (E)
23 and” and inserting “subparagraph”; and

24 (ii) by striking “50 percent” and in-
25 sserting “75 percent”;

1 (C) in subparagraph (E)—

2 (i) by striking “the Secretary—” in
3 the matter preceding clause (i) and all that
4 follows through “a contract” in the matter
5 preceding subclause (I) of clause (i) and
6 inserting “the Secretary, a contract”;

7 (ii) by striking clause (ii);

8 (iii) by redesignating subclauses (I)
9 and (II) as clauses (i) and (ii), respec-
10 tively, and indenting appropriately;

11 (iv) in clause (i) (as so redesignated),
12 by striking “50 percent” and inserting “75
13 percent”; and

14 (v) in clause (ii) (as so redesignated),
15 by striking “50 percent” and inserting “25
16 percent”; and

17 (D) in subparagraph (F)—

18 (i) in the subparagraph heading, by
19 striking “HARVESTING, HAYING, AND” and
20 inserting “HARVESTING AND”;

21 (ii) in the matter preceding clause (i),
22 by striking “seed, haying, or” and insert-
23 ing “seed or”; and

24 (iii) in clause (i), by striking “hayed
25 or”;

1 (6) by striking paragraph (4); and

2 (7) by redesignating paragraph (5) as para-
3 graph (4).

4 (d) AGROFORESTRY PILOT PROGRAM.—Section 1231C
5 of the Food Security Act of 1985 (16 U.S.C. 3831c) is
6 amended by adding at the end the following:

7 “(c) AGROFORESTRY PILOT PROGRAM.—

8 “(1) DEFINITION OF ELIGIBLE LAND.—In this
9 subsection, the term ‘eligible land’ means cropland—

10 “(A) that is selected by the owner or oper-
11 ator of the land for proposed enrollment in the
12 pilot program under this subsection;

13 “(B) that—

14 “(i) is located within 1 or more of the
15 States of Iowa, Minnesota, Illinois, Wis-
16 consin, Michigan, Ohio, Indiana, and
17 Pennsylvania; or

18 “(ii) is in a location selected by the
19 Secretary based on consultation with State
20 Committees of the Farm Service Agency
21 and State technical committees established
22 under section 1261(a);

23 “(C) that had a cropping history or was
24 considered to be planted at least 3 of the 10

1 crop years preceding enrollment, as determined
2 by the Secretary;

3 “(D) that is located in an area that his-
4 torically maintained trees, as determined by the
5 Secretary; and

6 “(E) on which trees and shrubs are to be
7 planted as part of an agroforestry system.

8 “(2) ESTABLISHMENT.—

9 “(A) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall
10 establish a voluntary agroforestry pilot program
11 (referred to in this subsection as the ‘pilot pro-
12 gram’) under which eligible land is enrolled
13 through the use of contracts to assist owners
14 and operators of eligible land in implementing
15 and maintaining agroforestry systems to con-
16 serve and improve the soil, water, or wildlife re-
17 sources of the eligible land.

18 “(B) DUTIES OF THE SECRETARY.—Under
19 a contract entered into with an owner or oper-
20 ator under the pilot program, the Secretary
21 shall—

22 “(i) make payments to the owner or
23 operator based on rental rates for the eligi-
24 ble land enrolled in the pilot program; and

1 State conservationist after considering
2 the advice of the applicable State
3 technical committee established under
4 section 1261(a), shall be planted on
5 the eligible land;

6 “(II) except as provided in sub-
7 paragraph (E), the owner or operator
8 of the eligible land shall pay the cost
9 of planting the conservation cover
10 under subclause (I);

11 “(III) subject to subparagraph
12 (F), the eligible land may be har-
13 vested or grazed outside the primary
14 nesting season established for the ap-
15 plicable county; and

16 “(IV) on notification to the Sec-
17 retary, a nonprofit wildlife organiza-
18 tion may provide to the owner or op-
19 erator of the eligible land a payment
20 in exchange for an agreement by the
21 owner or operator not to harvest the
22 conservation cover.

23 “(B) PAYMENTS.—Except as provided in
24 subparagraphs (E) and (F)(iv), the annual
25 rental rate for a payment under a contract en-

1 tered into under the pilot program shall be
2 equal to 90 percent of the average rental rate
3 for the applicable county under section 1234(d),
4 as determined by the Secretary.

5 “(C) LIMITATION ON ENROLLED LAND.—
6 Not more than 20 percent of the eligible land
7 on an agricultural operation may be enrolled in
8 the pilot program under this subsection.

9 “(D) TERM.—

10 “(i) IN GENERAL.—Except as pro-
11 vided in clause (ii), each contract entered
12 into under the pilot program shall be for a
13 term of 10 or 15 years, as determined by
14 the parties to the contract.

15 “(ii) EARLY TERMINATION.—

16 “(I) SECRETARY.—The Secretary
17 may terminate a contract entered into
18 under the pilot program before the
19 end of the term described in clause (i)
20 if the Secretary determines that the
21 early termination of the contract is
22 necessary.

23 “(II) OWNERS AND OPERA-
24 TORS.—An owner and (if applicable)
25 an operator of eligible land enrolled in

1 the pilot program may terminate a
2 contract entered into under the pilot
3 program before the end of the term
4 described in clause (i) if the owner
5 and (if applicable) the operator pay to
6 the Secretary an amount equal to the
7 amount of rental payments received
8 under the contract.

9 “(E) COST-SHARE AND RENTAL RATE.—

10 With respect to a contract entered into under
11 the pilot program with an owner or operator de-
12 scribed in subsection (b)(3)(E), as determined
13 by the Secretary—

14 “(i) the contract shall provide that,
15 during the term of the contract, of the ac-
16 tual cost of establishment of the conserva-
17 tion cover under subparagraph (A)(ii)(I)—

18 “(I) using the funds of the Com-
19 modity Credit Corporation, the Sec-
20 retary shall pay 50 percent; and

21 “(II) the owner or operator shall
22 pay 50 percent; and

23 “(ii) the annual rental rate for a pay-
24 ment under the contract shall be equal to
25 100 percent of the average rental rate for

1 the applicable county under section
2 1234(d), as determined by the Secretary.

3 “(F) HARVESTING AND GRAZING.—The
4 harvesting or grazing of eligible land under sub-
5 paragraph (A)(ii)(III) outside of the primary
6 nesting season established for the applicable
7 county shall be subject to the conditions that—

8 “(i) any harvesting shall not damage
9 the conservation cover or other conserva-
10 tion benefits of the enrollment of the eligi-
11 ble land in the pilot program;

12 “(ii) any harvesting does not include
13 the production of wood products;

14 “(iii) any grazing is consistent with
15 the long-term protection and enhancement
16 of the conservation resources of the eligible
17 land; and

18 “(iv) the owner or operator shall be
19 subject to a reduction in the rental rate of
20 50 percent, unless the Secretary deter-
21 mines that the harvesting or grazing will
22 cause no reduction in the environmental
23 benefits of the established conservation
24 cover on the eligible land.

1 “(4) ACREAGE LIMITATION.—Of the number of
2 acres available for enrollment in the conservation re-
3 serve under section 1231(d)(1), not more than
4 50,000 total acres of eligible land may be enrolled
5 under the pilot program.

6 “(5) COORDINATION.—For the purpose of en-
7 rolling acres under the pilot program, the Adminis-
8 trator of the Farm Service Agency shall coordinate
9 with the Chief of the Natural Resources Conserva-
10 tion Service, the Chief of the Forest Service, the Di-
11 rector of the National Agroforestry Center, regional
12 agroforestry working groups, State technical com-
13 mittees established under section 1261(a), applicable
14 State forestry agencies, and nongovernmental orga-
15 nizations with demonstrated expertise.

16 “(6) TRANSITION.—The Secretary shall provide
17 an opportunity to enroll in the pilot program land
18 described in section 1231(b)(5) that is enrolled in
19 the conservation reserve on the date of enactment of
20 this subsection.

21 “(7) REPORT.—Not later than 4 years after the
22 date of enactment of this subsection, and not less
23 frequently than once every 5 years thereafter, the
24 Secretary shall submit to the Committee on Agri-
25 culture of the House of Representatives and the

1 Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry
2 of the Senate a report describing the viability of
3 transitioning eligible land enrolled in the pilot pro-
4 gram to agroforestry systems, including—

5 “(A) the estimated conservation value of
6 the eligible land enrolled in the pilot program;

7 “(B) the estimated economic value of the
8 trees and shrubs planted as part of the pilot
9 program; and

10 “(C) estimated savings for the Federal
11 Government, including savings from reduced
12 commodity payments, crop insurance indem-
13 nities, and crop insurance premium subsidies.”.

14 **SEC. 2205. CONSERVATION RESERVE EASEMENTS.**

15 Subchapter B of chapter 1 of subtitle D of title XII
16 of the Food Security Act of 1985 is amended by inserting
17 after section 1231C (16 U.S.C. 3831c) the following:

18 **“SEC. 1231D. CONSERVATION RESERVE EASEMENTS.**

19 “(a) IN GENERAL.—

20 “(1) ENROLLMENT.—The Secretary shall offer
21 to enroll land in the conservation reserve program
22 through a conservation reserve easement in accord-
23 ance with this section.

24 “(2) EXCLUSION OF ACREAGE LIMITATION.—

25 For purposes of applying the limitations in section

1 1231(d)(1), the Secretary shall not count acres of
2 land enrolled under this section.

3 “(b) ELIGIBLE LAND.—Only land subject to an ex-
4 pired covered contract (as defined in section 1235(i)(1))
5 shall be eligible for enrollment through a conservation re-
6 serve easement under this section.

7 “(c) TERM.—The term of a conservation reserve
8 easement shall be—

9 “(1) permanent; or

10 “(2) the maximum period allowed by State law.

11 “(d) AGREEMENTS.—To be eligible to enroll land in
12 the conservation reserve program through a conservation
13 reserve easement, the owner of the land shall enter into
14 an agreement with the Secretary—

15 “(1) to grant an easement on the land to the
16 Secretary;

17 “(2) to implement a conservation reserve ease-
18 ment plan developed for the land under subsection
19 (h)(1);

20 “(3) to create and record an appropriate deed
21 restriction in accordance with applicable State law to
22 reflect the easement;

23 “(4) to provide a written statement of consent
24 to the easement signed by any person holding a se-
25 curity interest in the land;

1 “(5) to comply with the terms and conditions of
2 the easement and any related agreements; and

3 “(6) to permanently retire any existing base
4 acres (as defined in section 1111 of the Agricultural
5 Act of 2014 (7 U.S.C. 9011)) history for the land
6 covered by the easement.

7 “(e) TERMS AND CONDITIONS OF EASEMENTS.—

8 “(1) IN GENERAL.—A conservation reserve
9 easement shall include terms and conditions that—

10 “(A) permit—

11 “(i) repairs, improvements, and in-
12 spections on the land that are necessary to
13 maintain existing public drainage systems;
14 and

15 “(ii) owners to control public access
16 on the land while identifying access routes
17 to be used for restoration activities and
18 management and easement monitoring;

19 “(B) prohibit—

20 “(i) the alteration of wildlife habitat
21 and other natural features of the land, un-
22 less specifically authorized by the Secretary
23 as part of the conservation reserve ease-
24 ment plan under subsection (h)(1);

1 “(ii) the spraying of the land with
2 chemicals or the mowing of the land, ex-
3 cept where the spraying or mowing is au-
4 thorized by the Secretary or is necessary—

5 “(I) to comply with Federal or
6 State noxious weed control laws;

7 “(II) to comply with a Federal or
8 State emergency pest treatment pro-
9 gram; or

10 “(III) to meet habitat needs of
11 specific wildlife species;

12 “(iii) any activity to be carried out on
13 the land of the owner or successor that is
14 immediately adjacent to, and functionally
15 related to, the land that is subject to the
16 easement if the activity will alter, degrade,
17 or otherwise diminish the functional value
18 of the land; and

19 “(iv) the adoption of any other prac-
20 tice that would tend to defeat the purposes
21 of the conservation reserve program, as de-
22 termined by the Secretary; and

23 “(C) include any additional provision that
24 the Secretary determines is appropriate to carry

1 out this section or facilitate the practical ad-
2 ministration of this section.

3 “(2) VIOLATION.—On the violation of a term or
4 condition of a conservation reserve easement—

5 “(A) the conservation reserve easement
6 shall remain in force; and

7 “(B) the Secretary may require the owner
8 to refund all or part of any payments received
9 by the owner under the program, with interest
10 on payments, as determined appropriate by the
11 Secretary.

12 “(3) COMPATIBLE USES.—Land subject to a
13 conservation reserve easement may be used for com-
14 patible economic uses, including hunting and fishing,
15 managed timber harvest, periodic haying outside of
16 the primary nesting season, or periodic grazing, if
17 the use—

18 “(A) is specifically permitted by the con-
19 servation reserve easement plan developed for
20 the land under subsection (h)(1); and

21 “(B) is consistent with the long-term pro-
22 tection and enhancement of the conservation re-
23 sources for which the easement was established.

24 “(f) COMPENSATION.—

25 “(1) DETERMINATION.—

1 “(A) PERMANENT EASEMENTS.—The Sec-
2 retary shall pay as compensation for a perma-
3 nent conservation reserve easement acquired
4 under this section an amount necessary to en-
5 courage enrollment of land in such a conserva-
6 tion reserve easement, based on the lowest of—

7 “(i) the fair market value of the land,
8 as determined by the Secretary, using the
9 Uniform Standards of Professional Ap-
10 praisal Practice or an areawide market
11 analysis or survey;

12 “(ii) the amount corresponding to a
13 geographical limitation, as determined by
14 the Secretary in regulations prescribed by
15 the Secretary; or

16 “(iii) the offer made by the land-
17 owner.

18 “(B) OTHER.—Compensation for a con-
19 servation reserve easement that is not perma-
20 nent due to a restriction in applicable State law
21 shall be not less than 50 percent, but not more
22 than 75 percent, of the compensation that
23 would be paid for a permanent conservation re-
24 serve easement.

1 “(2) FORM OF PAYMENT.—Compensation for a
2 conservation reserve easement shall be provided by
3 the Secretary in the form of a cash payment, in an
4 amount determined under paragraph (1).

5 “(3) PAYMENTS.—The Secretary may provide
6 payment under this subsection to a landowner
7 using—

8 “(A) 10 annual payments; or

9 “(B) 1 payment.

10 “(4) TIMING.—The Secretary shall provide any
11 annual easement payment obligation under para-
12 graph (3)(A) as early as practicable in each fiscal
13 year.

14 “(5) PAYMENTS TO OTHERS.—The Secretary
15 shall make a payment, in accordance with regula-
16 tions prescribed by the Secretary, in a manner as
17 the Secretary determines is fair and reasonable
18 under the circumstances, if an owner who is entitled
19 to a payment under this section—

20 “(A) dies;

21 “(B) becomes incompetent;

22 “(C) is succeeded by another person or en-
23 tity who renders or completes the required per-
24 formance; or

1 “(D) is otherwise unable to receive the
2 payment.

3 “(g) TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE.—

4 “(1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall assist
5 owners in complying with the terms and conditions
6 of a conservation reserve easement.

7 “(2) CONTRACTS OR AGREEMENTS.—The Sec-
8 retary may enter into 1 or more contracts with pri-
9 vate entities or agreements with a State, nongovern-
10 mental organization, Indian Tribe, or Tribal organi-
11 zation to carry out necessary restoration, mainte-
12 nance, repair, assessment, or monitoring of a con-
13 servation reserve easement if the Secretary deter-
14 mines that the contract or agreement will advance
15 the purposes of the conservation reserve program.

16 “(h) ADMINISTRATION.—

17 “(1) CONSERVATION RESERVE EASEMENT
18 PLAN.—The Secretary shall develop a conservation
19 reserve easement plan for any land subject to a con-
20 servation reserve easement, which shall include prac-
21 tices and activities necessary to maintain, protect,
22 and enhance the conservation value of the enrolled
23 land.

24 “(2) DELEGATION OF EASEMENT ADMINISTRA-
25 TION.—

1 “(A) FEDERAL, STATE, TRIBAL, OR LOCAL
2 GOVERNMENT AGENCIES.—The Secretary may
3 delegate any of the management, monitoring,
4 and enforcement responsibilities of the Sec-
5 retary under this section to other Federal,
6 State, Tribal, or local government agencies that
7 have the appropriate authority, expertise, and
8 resources necessary to carry out those delegated
9 responsibilities.

10 “(B) CONSERVATION ORGANIZATIONS.—
11 The Secretary may delegate any management
12 responsibilities of the Secretary under this sec-
13 tion to conservation organizations, including
14 Tribal organizations dedicated to conservation
15 and natural resource management, if the Sec-
16 retary determines the conservation organization
17 has similar expertise and resources.”.

18 **SEC. 2206. DUTIES OF THE SECRETARY.**

19 (a) SPECIFIC ACTIVITIES PERMITTED.—Section
20 1233(b)(1) of the Food Security Act of 1985 (16 U.S.C.
21 3833(b)(1)) is amended—

22 (1) in subparagraph (A)(ii), by inserting “sub-
23 ject to clause (i)(III), and subclauses (I) and (II) of
24 clause (ii), of subparagraph (B),” before “are sub-
25 ject to”; and

1 (2) in subparagraph (B)(i)—

2 (A) by striking subclause (III);

3 (B) by redesignating subclauses (I) and
4 (II) as subclauses (II) and (III), respectively;

5 (C) by inserting before subclause (II) (as
6 so redesignated) the following:

7 “(I) emergency haying in re-
8 sponse to a localized or regional
9 drought, flooding, wildfire, or other
10 emergency, on certain practices, out-
11 side the primary nesting season on
12 not more than 50 percent of contract
13 acres, as identified in the site-specific
14 plan, when—

15 “(aa) the county is des-
16 igned as D2 (severe drought)
17 or greater according to the
18 United States Drought Monitor
19 during the primary nesting sea-
20 son;

21 “(bb) there is at least a 40
22 percent loss in forage production
23 in the county; or

24 “(cc) the Secretary, in co-
25 ordination with the State tech-

1 nical committee, determines that
2 the program can assist in the re-
3 sponse to a natural disaster event
4 without permanent damage to
5 the established cover;”;

6 (D) in subclause (II) (as so redesign-
7 nated)—

8 (i) by striking the matter preceding
9 item (aa) and inserting the following:

10 “(II) emergency grazing on all
11 practices, outside the primary nesting
12 season, on not more than 50 percent
13 of contract acres or subject to a 50
14 percent reduction in the stocking rate,
15 as identified in the site-specific plan,
16 in response to a localized or regional
17 drought, flooding, wildfire, or other
18 emergency, when—”; and

19 (ii) in item (aa), by striking “Mon-
20 itor;” and inserting “Monitor during the
21 primary nesting season;”; and

22 (E) in subclause (III) (as so redesignated),
23 by striking “payments are authorized for a
24 county under the livestock forage disaster pro-
25 gram under clause (ii) of section 1501(c)(3)(D)

1 of the Agricultural Act of 2014 (7 U.S.C.
2 9081(c)(3)(D))” and inserting “the county is
3 designated as D3 (extreme drought) or greater
4 according to the United States Drought Mon-
5 itor during the primary nesting season”.

6 (b) AUTHORIZED ACTIVITIES ON GRASSLANDS.—
7 Section 1233(c)(3) of the Food Security Act of 1985 (16
8 U.S.C. 3833(c)(3)) is amended by inserting “restoration
9 of native plant species, prescribed burning (in consultation
10 with the applicable State technical committee established
11 under section 1261(a)),” before “and construction”.

12 (c) CONSERVATION OUTCOMES MONITORING.—Sec-
13 tion 1233 of the Food Security Act of 1985 (16 U.S.C.
14 3833) is amended by adding at the end the following:

15 “(f) CONSERVATION OUTCOMES MONITORING.—

16 “(1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall estab-
17 lish long-term monitoring of conservation outcomes
18 of program enrollments, including pilot projects, to
19 determine program results with respect to—

20 “(A) soil conservation, soil health, and car-
21 bon sequestration;

22 “(B) water quality and quantity; and

23 “(C) biodiversity and wildlife habitat.

24 “(2) REPORT ON OUTCOMES.—Not later than 2
25 years after the date of enactment of this subsection,

1 and every 3 years thereafter, the Secretary shall
2 submit to Congress, and make publicly available, a
3 report that includes—

4 “(A) a description of conservation out-
5 comes achieved;

6 “(B) a description of the approaches, tools,
7 and methods used to measure or model the con-
8 servation outcomes reported; and

9 “(C) recommendations and guidance to im-
10 prove conservation outcomes.”.

11 **SEC. 2207. PAYMENTS.**

12 (a) **COST SHARING PAYMENTS.**—Section 1234(b) of
13 the Food Security Act of 1985 (16 U.S.C. 3834(b)) is
14 amended—

15 (1) in paragraph (1)—

16 (A) by striking “50 percent” and inserting
17 “a portion”; and

18 (B) by inserting “, including seed cost,”
19 after “conservation measures and practices”;

20 (2) by redesignating paragraphs (2) through
21 (4) as paragraphs (4) through (6), respectively;

22 (3) by inserting after paragraph (1) the fol-
23 lowing:

24 “(2) **RATE FOR CERTAIN MEASURES AND PRAC-**
25 **TICES.**—The portion of the establishment cost de-

1 scribed in paragraph (1) that the Secretary shall pay
2 shall be—

3 “(A) in the case of water quality and con-
4 servation measures and practices that focus on
5 establishing non-native habitat, 35 percent; and

6 “(B) notwithstanding paragraph (5) and
7 subject to paragraph (3), in the case of all
8 other water quality and conservation measures
9 and practices, 50 percent.

10 “(3) STATE HIGH-PRIORITY CONSERVATION
11 PRACTICES.—

12 “(A) IN GENERAL.—Each State technical
13 committee established under section 1261(a)
14 may select up to 3 conservation practices de-
15 scribed in subparagraph (B) that shall be eligi-
16 ble for payment by the Secretary of 65 percent
17 of the establishment cost described in para-
18 graph (1).

19 “(B) CONSERVATION PRACTICES DE-
20 SCRIBED.—A conservation practice referred to
21 in subparagraph (A) is a conservation practice
22 described in paragraph (2)(B) that provides 1
23 or more of the following benefits:

1 (B) by striking “In addition” and inserting
2 the following:

3 “(A) IN GENERAL.—In addition”; and

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

5 “(B) MINIMUM PAYMENT FOR CERTAIN
6 CONTRACTS.—In the case of a contract updated
7 under section 1231A(b)(3)(C)(i), the incentive
8 payment under subparagraph (A) shall be in an
9 amount that is not less than 40 percent of the
10 actual costs described in that subparagraph.”.

11 (b) SUPPLEMENTAL PRACTICE PAYMENTS.—Section
12 1234 of the Food Security Act of 1985 (16 U.S.C. 3834)
13 is amended by striking subsection (c) and inserting the
14 following:

15 “(c) SUPPLEMENTAL PRACTICE PAYMENTS.—

16 “(1) IN GENERAL.—Using funds made available
17 under section 1241(a)(2), the Secretary may make
18 available—

19 “(A) additional incentive payments to an
20 owner or operator of eligible land in an amount
21 sufficient to encourage—

22 “(i) proper thinning and other prac-
23 tices to improve the condition of resources,
24 promote forest management, or enhance
25 wildlife habitat on the land;

1 “(ii) establishment of grazing infra-
2 structure, including interior cross fencing,
3 perimeter fencing, and water infrastructure
4 (such as rural water connections, water
5 wells, pipelines, and water tanks), under
6 each contract, for all practices, if grazing
7 is included in the conservation plan and
8 addresses a resource concern;

9 “(iii) prescribed burning, including for
10 the cost of liability insurance, necessary to
11 promote the quality and resiliency of native
12 habitat established on enrolled land; and

13 “(iv) any management activity de-
14 scribed in section 1232(a)(5), except for
15 those management activities relating to
16 emergency haying or grazing; and

17 “(B) funds to carry out section 1235(f) to
18 facilitate the transfer of land subject to con-
19 tracts from contract holders to covered farmers
20 or ranchers (as defined in section 1235(f)(1)),
21 including to provide outreach and technical as-
22 sistance to facilitate such transfers.

23 “(2) LIMITATION.—A payment described in
24 paragraph (1)(A) may not exceed 100 percent of the

1 total cost of practices conducted by the owner or op-
2 erator.”.

3 (c) ANNUAL RENTAL PAYMENTS.—Section 1234(d)
4 of the Food Security Act of 1985 (16 U.S.C. 3834(d))
5 is amended—

6 (1) in paragraph (1)—

7 (A) by redesignating subparagraphs (A)
8 through (C) as clauses (i) through (iii), respec-
9 tively, and indenting appropriately;

10 (B) in the matter preceding clause (i) (as
11 so redesignated), by striking “In determining”
12 and inserting the following:

13 “(A) DETERMINATION.—In determining”;
14 and

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

16 “(B) ADJUSTMENT.—The Secretary shall
17 adjust the annual rental payment determined
18 under subparagraph (A) based on an analysis
19 of local rental rate trends such that—

20 “(i) the annual rental payment re-
21 flects the likely changes in market rental
22 rates over the term of the contract; and

23 “(ii) the inflation adjustment does not
24 increase the annual rental payment by
25 more than 10 percent.”;

1 (2) in paragraph (2)(B)(i)—

2 (A) by striking “85 percent” and inserting

3 “95 percent”; and

4 (B) by striking “90 percent” and inserting

5 “100 percent”; and

6 (3) in paragraph (4)(E)—

7 (A) in clause (i), by striking “85 percent”

8 and inserting “95 percent”; and

9 (B) in clause (ii), by striking “90 percent”

10 and inserting “100 percent”.

11 (d) PAYMENT LIMITATION FOR RENTAL PAY-
12 MENTS.—Section 1234(g)(1) of the Food Security Act of
13 1985 (16 U.S.C. 3834(g)(1)) is amended by striking
14 “\$50,000” and inserting “\$125,000”.

15 **SEC. 2208. CONTRACTS.**

16 Section 1235 of the Food Security Act of 1985 (16
17 U.S.C. 3835) is amended—

18 (1) in subsection (c)(1)(B)(iii), by inserting “,
19 including agroforestry and other productive peren-
20 nial systems” after “methods”;

21 (2) in subsection (f)(1)(A)(i), by inserting “or
22 establishing agroforestry and other productive peren-
23 nial systems” after “crop”; and

24 (3) by adding at the end the following:

1 “(i) OWNER OR OPERATOR ELECTION RELATING TO
2 CONSERVATION RESERVE EASEMENTS.—

3 “(1) DEFINITION OF COVERED CONTRACT.—In
4 this subsection, the term ‘covered contract’ means a
5 contract entered into under this subchapter—

6 “(A) during the period beginning on the
7 date of enactment of this subsection and ending
8 on September 30, 2029; and

9 “(B) that covers land enrolled in the con-
10 servation reserve program—

11 “(i) under the Clean Lakes, Estu-
12 aries, and Rivers (CLEAR) Initiative es-
13 tablished under section 1231(d)(3); or

14 “(ii) that is located in a State acres
15 for wildlife enhancement area established
16 by the Secretary.

17 “(2) ELECTION.—On the expiration of a cov-
18 ered contract, an owner or operator party to the cov-
19 ered contract shall elect—

20 “(A) not to reenroll the land under the
21 contract;

22 “(B) to reenroll the land under the con-
23 tract, subject to the conditions that—

24 “(i) the annual rental payment shall
25 be decreased by 40 percent; and

1 “(ii) no incentive payments shall be
2 provided under the contract; or

3 “(C) not to reenroll the land under the
4 contract and to enroll the land under the con-
5 tract in a conservation reserve easement under
6 section 1231D.

7 “(3) EXCEPTION.—On the expiration of a cov-
8 ered contract, if land enrolled in the conservation re-
9 serve program under that contract is determined by
10 the Secretary to not be suitable for permanent pro-
11 tection through a conservation reserve easement
12 under section 1231D, notwithstanding paragraph
13 (2)(B), the Secretary shall allow the land to be re-
14 enrolled under the terms of the conservation reserve
15 program in effect on the date of expiration.

16 “(j) ENROLLMENT IN OTHER CONSERVATION PRO-
17 GRAMS.—

18 “(1) IN GENERAL.—Subject to paragraph (2),
19 an owner or operator party to a contract entered
20 into under this subchapter may—

21 “(A) subject to section 1240B(d)(6), enroll
22 the land enrolled under the contract in the envi-
23 ronmental quality incentives program estab-
24 lished under subchapter A of chapter 4;

1 “(B) subject to section 1271B(g), receive
2 cost-share assistance under the regional con-
3 servation partnership program established
4 under subtitle I with respect to the land en-
5 rolled under the contract; or

6 “(C) both enroll land in accordance with
7 subparagraph (A) and receive cost-share assist-
8 ance in accordance with subparagraph (B).

9 “(2) RULE OF CONSTRUCTION.—Nothing in
10 this subsection shall be construed to prevent an
11 owner or operator party to a contract entered into
12 under this subchapter from simultaneously receiving
13 a rental payment under the terms of that contract
14 and cost-share assistance under the environmental
15 quality incentives program established under sub-
16 chapter A of chapter 4 or the regional conservation
17 partnership program established under subtitle I.

18 “(3) LIMITATION.—An owner or operator party
19 to a contract entered into under this subchapter
20 shall not be eligible to receive a cost-share payment
21 under more than 1 program established under this
22 title for the same activity carried out on the same
23 land.”.

1 **Subtitle C—Environmental Quality**
2 **Incentives Program and Con-**
3 **servation Stewardship Program**

4 **PART I—ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY INCENTIVES**
5 **PROGRAM**

6 **SEC. 2301. PURPOSES.**

7 Section 1240 of the Food Security Act of 1985 (16
8 U.S.C. 3839aa) is amended—

9 (1) in the matter preceding paragraph (1), by
10 striking “and environmental quality” and inserting
11 “environmental quality, and climate change adapta-
12 tion and mitigation”;

13 (2) in paragraph (1)—

14 (A) in subparagraph (B), by striking
15 “and” at the end;

16 (B) in subparagraph (C), by inserting
17 “and” at the end; and

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

19 “(D) climate change adaptation, mitiga-
20 tion, and resilience.”;

21 (3) in paragraph (3)(C), by inserting “seques-
22 tering carbon, increasing drought resilience, reduc-
23 ing greenhouse gas emissions, and” before “con-
24 serving energy”; and

1 (4) in paragraph (4), by inserting “climate
2 change and” before “increasing weather volatility”.

3 **SEC. 2302. DEFINITIONS.**

4 Section 1240A of the Food Security Act of 1985 (16
5 U.S.C. 3839aa–1) is amended—

6 (1) in paragraph (3), by striking “a practice”
7 and inserting “a management practice, including a
8 land or livestock management practice,”;

9 (2) in paragraph (6)—

10 (A) in subparagraph (A)—

11 (i) in clause (ii), by inserting “or live-
12 stock” before “management”;

13 (ii) by redesignating clauses (v)
14 through (vii) as clauses (vi) through (viii),
15 respectively; and

16 (iii) by inserting after clause (iv) the
17 following:

18 “(v) native habitat restoration;” and

19 (B) in subparagraph (B)—

20 (i) in clause (i), by striking “plan-
21 ning;” and inserting “planning that, where
22 practicable, incorporates planning for re-
23 ductions in greenhouse gas emissions;”;

24 (ii) in clause (v)—

1 (I) by inserting “(including plan-
2 ning for the adoption of precision ag-
3 riculture practices and precision agri-
4 culture technology)” after “planning”;
5 and

6 (II) by striking “and” at the end;

7 (iii) by redesignating clause (vi) as
8 clause (vii); and

9 (iv) by inserting after clause (v) the
10 following:

11 “(vi) greenhouse gas emissions reduc-
12 tion planning; and”; and

13 (3) in paragraph (7)—

14 (A) in subparagraph (A), by inserting
15 “Tribal,” before “or local”; and

16 (B) in subparagraph (B), by striking
17 “State or region” and inserting “State, at a re-
18 gional scale, or on Indian land”.

19 **SEC. 2303. ESTABLISHMENT AND ADMINISTRATION.**

20 (a) PAYMENTS.—Section 1240B(d) of the Food Se-
21 curity Act of 1985 (16 U.S.C. 3839aa–2(d)) is amended—

22 (1) by striking paragraph (6) and inserting the
23 following:

24 “(6) OTHER PAYMENTS.—

1 “(A) ENROLLMENT IN OTHER CONSERVA-
2 TION PROGRAMS.—Subject to subparagraph
3 (B), a producer party to a contract entered into
4 under this subchapter may—

5 “(i) subject to section 1235(j), enroll
6 the eligible land enrolled under the con-
7 tract in the conservation reserve program
8 established under subchapter B of chapter
9 1;

10 “(ii) subject to section 1271B(g), re-
11 ceive cost-share assistance under the re-
12 gional conservation partnership program
13 established under subtitle I with respect to
14 the eligible land enrolled under the con-
15 tract; or

16 “(iii) both enroll land in accordance
17 with clause (i) and receive cost-share as-
18 sistance in accordance with clause (ii).

19 “(B) LIMITATION.—A producer shall not
20 be eligible for payments for practices on eligible
21 land under the program if the producer receives
22 payments or other benefits for the same prac-
23 tice on the same land under another program
24 under this subtitle.

1 “(C) CONSERVATION LOAN AND LOAN
2 GUARANTEE PROGRAM PAYMENTS.—

3 “(i) IN GENERAL.—A producer receiv-
4 ing payments for practices on eligible land
5 under the program may also receive a loan
6 or loan guarantee under section 304 of the
7 Consolidated Farm and Rural Develop-
8 ment Act (7 U.S.C. 1924) to cover costs
9 for the same practices on the same land.

10 “(ii) NOTICE TO PRODUCERS.—The
11 Secretary shall inform a producer partici-
12 pating in the program in writing of the
13 availability of a loan or loan guarantee
14 under section 304 of the Consolidated
15 Farm and Rural Development Act (7
16 U.S.C. 1924) as it relates to the costs of
17 implementing practices under the pro-
18 gram.”;

19 (2) in paragraph (7)(A)—

20 (A) in the matter preceding clause (i)—

21 (i) by striking “Each State” and in-
22 serting “The designee of the Secretary in
23 each State”; and

24 (ii) by striking “the State,” and in-
25 serting “the State and, in the case of In-

1 dian land, the applicable Tribal conserva-
2 tion advisory council,”;

3 (B) in clause (iii), by striking “; or” and
4 inserting a semicolon;

5 (C) in clause (iv), by striking the period at
6 the end and inserting a semicolon; and

7 (D) by adding at the end the following:

8 “(v) provides a reduction of green-
9 house gas emissions, including enteric
10 methane emissions from livestock, or se-
11 questers carbon; or

12 “(vi) furthers efforts to implement the
13 climate adaptation and resilience plan of a
14 State, Indian Tribe, or local government.”;
15 and

16 (3) by adding at the end the following:

17 “(8) ENTERIC METHANE EMISSIONS REDUCING
18 PRACTICES.—Notwithstanding paragraph (2), in the
19 case of a practice relating to the management of
20 livestock to reduce enteric methane emissions, the
21 Secretary shall increase the amount that would oth-
22 erwise be provided for a practice under this sub-
23 section to not more than 75 percent of the costs as-
24 sociated with that management, including the cost of
25 methane-inhibiting products for livestock.”.

1 (b) ALLOCATION OF FUNDING.—Section 1240B(f) of
2 the Food Security Act of 1985 (16 U.S.C. 3839aa–2(f))
3 is amended—

4 (1) in paragraph (1), by striking “each of fiscal
5 years 2019 through 2023” and inserting “fiscal year
6 2019 and each fiscal year thereafter”;

7 (2) in paragraph (2), by striking the paragraph
8 designation and heading and all that follows through
9 “For each of fiscal years 2019 through 2031” in
10 subparagraph (B) and inserting the following:

11 “(2) WILDLIFE HABITAT.—For fiscal year
12 2019 and each fiscal year thereafter”; and

13 (3) by adding at the end the following:

14 “(3) SMALL FARMS.—For fiscal year 2025 and
15 each fiscal year thereafter, at least 10 percent of the
16 funds made available for payments under the pro-
17 gram shall be targeted at practices implemented on
18 small farms, as determined by the Secretary.”.

19 (c) WATER CONSERVATION OR IRRIGATION EFFI-
20 CIENCY PRACTICE.—Section 1240B(h)(2) of the Food Se-
21 curity Act of 1985 (16 U.S.C. 3839aa–2(h)(2)) is amend-
22 ed by striking subparagraphs (C) and (D) and inserting
23 the following:

24 “(C) WAIVER AUTHORITY.—The Secretary
25 shall waive the applicability of the limitations in

1 sections 1001D(b) and 1240G for a payment
2 made under a contract entered into under this
3 paragraph if the total amount of payments re-
4 ceived by the person or legal entity under the
5 contract during either of the period of fiscal
6 years 2025 through 2029 or the period of fiscal
7 years 2030 and 2031 does not exceed—

8 “(i) the product obtained by multi-
9 plying—

10 “(I) the maximum payment for
11 the applicable period under section
12 1240G; and

13 “(II) the number of producers
14 served by the contract through the en-
15 tity that is party to the contract; less

16 “(ii) the sum of any other payments
17 received under the program during either
18 of the period of fiscal years 2025 through
19 2029 or the period of fiscal years 2030
20 and 2031 by—

21 “(I) producers served by the con-
22 tract; and

23 “(II) the entity that is party to
24 the contract, limited to the proportion

1 of those payments that benefit those
2 producers served by the contract.”.

3 (d) PAYMENTS FOR CONSERVATION PRACTICES RE-
4 LATED TO ORGANIC PRODUCTION.—Section
5 1240B(i)(3)(A) of the Food Security Act of 1985 (16
6 U.S.C. 3839aa–2(i)(3)(A)) is amended—

7 (1) in clause (i)(II), by striking “and” at the
8 end;

9 (2) in clause (ii), by striking the period at the
10 end and inserting a semicolon; and

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

12 “(iii) during the period of fiscal years
13 2025 through 2029, \$450,000; and

14 “(iv) during each 5-fiscal-year period
15 thereafter, \$450,000.”.

16 (e) CONSERVATION INCENTIVE CONTRACTS.—Sec-
17 tion 1240B(j) of the Food Security Act of 1985 (16
18 U.S.C. 3839aa–2(j)) is amended—

19 (1) in paragraph (1)(A), by striking “concerns”
20 and inserting “concerns, which may include emis-
21 sions of nitrous oxide or methane (referred to in this
22 subsection as ‘greenhouse gas emissions’) or storage
23 of carbon in plants or soil (referred to in this sub-
24 section as ‘carbon storage’),”; and

25 (2) in paragraph (2)—

1 (A) in subparagraph (A)(ii)(I), by striking
2 “conservation” and inserting “conservation, re-
3 ductions of greenhouse gas emissions, or in-
4 creased levels of carbon storage”; and

5 (B) by striking subparagraph (B) and in-
6 serting the following:

7 “(B) TERM.—

8 “(i) IN GENERAL.—Subject to clause
9 (ii), a contract under this subsection shall
10 have a term of not less than 5, and not
11 more than 10, years.

12 “(ii) GRADUATION OPTION.—The Sec-
13 retary may reduce the term of a contract
14 under this subsection if the producer en-
15 ters into a conservation stewardship con-
16 tract under section 1240K with respect to
17 the eligible land that is subject to the con-
18 tract under this subsection.”.

19 (f) ANNUAL REPORT TO CONGRESS.—Section 1240B
20 of the Food Security Act of 1985 (16 U.S.C. 3839aa–2)
21 is amended by adding at the end the following:

22 “(k) ANNUAL REPORT TO CONGRESS.—Not less fre-
23 quently than once each year, the Secretary shall submit
24 to Congress a report describing—

1 “(1) the amount obligated under the program
2 with respect to each category of practice, with infor-
3 mation categorized by fiscal year and State; and

4 “(2) the amount obligated under the program
5 in each State, with information categorized by fiscal
6 year and the size of the operation of each pro-
7 ducer.”.

8 (g) STREAMLINING AND COORDINATION.—Section
9 1240B of the Food Security Act of 1985 (16 U.S.C.
10 3839aa–2) (as amended by subsection (f)) is amended by
11 adding at the end the following:

12 “(l) STREAMLINING AND COORDINATION.—To the
13 maximum extent feasible, the Secretary shall provide for
14 streamlined and coordinated procedures for the program
15 and the conservation stewardship program under sub-
16 chapter B, including applications, contracting, conserva-
17 tion planning, conservation practices, and related adminis-
18 trative procedures.”.

19 **SEC. 2304. ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY INCENTIVES PRO-**
20 **GRAM PLAN.**

21 Section 1240E(a)(3) of the Food Security Act of
22 1985 (16 U.S.C. 3839aa–5(a)(3)) is amended by inserting
23 “, and a greenhouse gas emissions reduction plan” after
24 “if applicable”.

1 **SEC. 2305. LIMITATION ON PAYMENTS.**

2 Section 1240G of the Food Security Act of 1985 (16
3 U.S.C. 3839aa-7) is amended by striking “exceed” and
4 all that follows through the period at the end and inserting
5 the following: “for all contracts entered into under this
6 subchapter by the person or legal entity (regardless of the
7 number of such contracts entered into by such person or
8 legal entity), exceed \$450,000 during—

9 “(1) the period of fiscal years 2014 through
10 2018;

11 “(2) the period of fiscal years 2019 through
12 2023;

13 “(3) the period of fiscal years 2025 through
14 2029; or

15 “(4) each 5-fiscal-year period thereafter.”.

16 **SEC. 2306. CONSERVATION INNOVATION GRANTS AND PAY-**
17 **MENTS.**

18 (a) **COMPETITIVE GRANTS FOR INNOVATIVE CON-**
19 **SERVATION APPROACHES.**—Section 1240H(a)(1) of the
20 Food Security Act of 1985 (16 U.S.C. 3839aa-8(a)(1))
21 is amended—

22 (1) by striking “pay the cost of” and inserting
23 “award”;

24 (2) by inserting “the development and evalua-
25 tion of new and” before “innovative approaches”;
26 and

1 (3) by inserting “, including for the purpose of
2 incorporating innovation and new technologies into
3 existing conservation practice standards or estab-
4 lishing new conservation practice standards” before
5 the period at the end.

6 (b) ON-FARM CONSERVATION INNOVATION
7 TRIALS.—Section 1240H(c) of the Food Security Act of
8 1985 (16 U.S.C. 3839aa–8(c)) is amended—

9 (1) in paragraph (1)(B)(i)—

10 (A) in subclause (II), by inserting “on-
11 farm nutrient recycling,” after “plans,”;

12 (B) in each of subclauses (VI) and (VII),
13 by striking “and” at the end; and

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

15 “(VII) perennial production sys-
16 tems, including agroforestry and pe-
17 rennial forages and grain crops; and

18 “(VIII) livestock-related practices
19 that reduce greenhouse gas emissions,
20 including enteric methane emissions;
21 and”;

22 (2) in paragraph (2)—

23 (A) by redesignating subparagraphs (A)
24 and (B) as clauses (i) and (ii), respectively, and
25 indenting appropriately;

1 (B) in the matter preceding clause (i) (as
2 so redesignated)—

3 (i) by striking “2019 through 2031,
4 the Secretary” and inserting “2019
5 through 2024 and \$50,000,000 of the
6 funds made available to carry out this sub-
7 chapter for fiscal year 2025 and each fiscal
8 year thereafter, the Secretary”; and

9 (ii) by striking “Using” and inserting
10 the following:

11 “(A) IN GENERAL.—Using”; and

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

13 “(B) ALLOCATION OF FUNDING.—Of the
14 funds made available under subparagraph (A)
15 for fiscal year 2025 and each fiscal year there-
16 after, the Secretary shall use 50 percent to pro-
17 vide grants for soil health demonstration trials
18 established under paragraph (7).”; and

19 (3) by adding at the end the following:

20 “(8) ENTERIC METHANE EMISSIONS STUD-
21 IES.—

22 “(A) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 2 years
23 after the date of enactment of this paragraph,
24 the Secretary shall carry out one or more stud-
25 ies on changes in methane emissions and, if fea-

1 sible, economic outcomes, generated as a result
2 of livestock-related practices that reduce green-
3 house gas emissions, including enteric methane
4 emissions.

5 “(B) REPORTS.—Not later than 2 years
6 after the date of enactment of this paragraph,
7 and annually thereafter, the Secretary shall
8 submit to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutri-
9 tion, and Forestry of the Senate and the Com-
10 mittee on Agriculture of the House of Rep-
11 resentatives a report on the progress and re-
12 sults under subparagraph (A).”.

13 (c) REPORTING AND DATABASE.—Section 1240H(d)
14 of the Food Security Act of 1985 (16 U.S.C. 3839aa-
15 8(d)) is amended—

16 (1) in paragraph (1)(B), by striking “including,
17 if feasible” and inserting “including any barriers to
18 or best practices for the adoption of new and innova-
19 tive conservation approaches identified through the
20 activities, opportunities for future research, and, if
21 feasible”;

22 (2) by redesignating paragraph (2) as para-
23 graph (3);

24 (3) by inserting after paragraph (1) the fol-
25 lowing:

1 “(F) any support needed to encourage
2 adoption of the new or innovative conservation
3 approach by producers, including the level of
4 technical assistance required to adopt the new
5 or innovative conservation approach; and

6 “(G) as appropriate, other outcomes of the
7 project and lessons learned through the imple-
8 mentation of the project.”; and

9 (4) in paragraph (3) (as so redesignated), in
10 subparagraph (A)—

11 (A) in clause (i)—

12 (i) by striking “practices” and insert-
13 ing “practices, including both management
14 and structural practices,”; and

15 (ii) by striking “and” at the end;

16 (B) by redesignating clause (ii) as clause
17 (iii);

18 (C) by inserting after clause (i) the fol-
19 lowing:

20 “(ii) evaluation data for new and
21 emerging technology and recommendations
22 for State and regional applications; and”;
23 and

24 (D) in clause (iii) (as so redesignated), by
25 striking “practices.” and inserting “practices

1 for consideration through the process estab-
2 lished under section 1242(h)(3).”.

3 **PART II—CONSERVATION STEWARDSHIP**
4 **PROGRAM**

5 **SEC. 2311. DEFINITIONS.**

6 Section 1240I of the Food Security Act of 1985 (16
7 U.S.C. 3839aa–21) is amended—

8 (1) in paragraph (2)—

9 (A) in subparagraph (A), by inserting “en-
10 hancements,” after “practices,”; and

11 (B) in subparagraph (B)—

12 (i) in clause (iv), by striking “and” at
13 the end;

14 (ii) in clause (v), by striking the pe-
15 riod at the end and inserting “; and”; and

16 (iii) by adding at the end the fol-
17 lowing:

18 “(vi) activities that will assist a pro-
19 ducer in mitigating greenhouse gas emis-
20 sions, including enteric methane emis-
21 sions.”;

22 (2) in paragraph (4)(A)(i), by striking “tribal
23 land” and inserting “Tribal land”; and

24 (3) in paragraph (5)—

1 (A) in subparagraph (A), by striking
2 “State, or local level as a priority for a par-
3 ticular area of a State” and inserting “State,
4 Tribal, or local level as a priority for a par-
5 ticular area”; and

6 (B) in subparagraph (B), by striking
7 “State or region” and inserting “State, at a re-
8 gional scale, or on Indian land”.

9 **SEC. 2312. STEWARDSHIP CONTRACTS.**

10 Section 1240K(b)(1)(A) of the Food Security Act of
11 1985 (16 U.S.C. 3839aa–23(b)(1)(A)) is amended by
12 striking clause (iii) and inserting the following:

13 “(iii) other consistent criteria that the
14 Secretary determines are necessary to en-
15 sure that the program effectively—

16 “(I) targets improvements to soil
17 health, increases carbon sequestration,
18 and reduces greenhouse gas emissions;
19 and

20 “(II) addresses other national,
21 State, Tribal, and local priority re-
22 source concerns.”.

1 **SEC. 2313. DUTIES OF THE SECRETARY.**

2 (a) CONSERVATION STEWARDSHIP PAYMENTS.—Sec-
3 tion 1240L(c) of the Food Security Act of 1985 (16
4 U.S.C. 3839aa–24(c)) is amended—

5 (1) in paragraph (1)(A), by inserting “on 1 or
6 more types of eligible land covered by the contract”
7 after “activities”;

8 (2) in paragraph (2)—

9 (A) by redesignating subparagraphs (A)
10 through (G) as clauses (i) through (vii), respec-
11 tively, and indenting appropriately;

12 (B) in the matter preceding clause (i) (as
13 so redesignated), by striking “The amount” and
14 inserting the following:

15 “(A) IN GENERAL.—The amount”;

16 (C) in subparagraph (A) (as so redesign-
17 ated), by striking clause (ii) (as so redesign-
18 ated) and inserting the following:

19 “(ii) Income forgone by the producer,
20 including amounts that reflect—

21 “(I) increased economic risk; and

22 “(II) loss in revenue due to—

23 “(aa) production changes;

24 “(bb) anticipated reductions
25 in yield;

1 “(cc) transitioning to an or-
2 ganic, resource-conserving crop-
3 ping or grazing, or perennial pro-
4 duction system; or

5 “(dd) acreage converted to
6 conservation uses.”; and

7 (D) by adding at the end the following:

8 “(B) MINIMUM PAYMENT.—In carrying
9 out subparagraph (A), the Secretary shall es-
10 tablish a minimum payment of not less than
11 \$4,000, to be reviewed regularly and increased
12 at the discretion of the Secretary.”; and

13 (3) by adding at the end the following:

14 “(6) PAYMENTS FOR CONSERVATION ACTIVI-
15 TIES RELATED TO ORGANIC PRODUCTION SYS-
16 TEMS.—

17 “(A) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall
18 provide payments under this subsection for con-
19 servation activities relating to—

20 “(i) organic production; and

21 “(ii) transitioning to organic produc-
22 tion.

23 “(B) CONSERVATION ACTIVITIES.—Con-
24 servation activities described in subparagraph
25 (A) may include—

1 “(i) generally available and specifically
2 tailored conservation activities; and

3 “(ii) individual conservation activities
4 and bundles of conservation activities.”.

5 (b) SUPPLEMENTAL PAYMENTS FOR RESOURCE-CON-
6 SERVING CROP ROTATIONS, ADVANCED GRAZING MAN-
7 AGEMENT, AND LIVESTOCK FEED MANAGEMENT.—Sec-
8 tion 1240L(d) of the Food Security Act of 1985 (16
9 U.S.C. 3839aa-24(d)) is amended—

10 (1) in the subsection heading, by striking “RO-
11 TATIONS AND ADVANCED GRAZING MANAGEMENT”
12 and inserting “ROTATIONS, ADVANCED GRAZING
13 MANAGEMENT, AND LIVESTOCK FEED MANAGE-
14 MENT”;

15 (2) in paragraph (1)—

16 (A) by redesignating subparagraphs (B)
17 and (C) as subparagraphs (C) and (D), respec-
18 tively; and

19 (B) by inserting after subparagraph (A)
20 the following:

21 “(B) LIVESTOCK FEED MANAGEMENT.—
22 The term ‘livestock feed management’ means
23 providing livestock with forage and feed that—

24 “(i) manipulates and controls the
25 quantity and quality of available nutrients,

1 feedstuffs, ingredients, or additives fed to
2 livestock;

3 “(ii) minimizes excess nutrients in
4 surface water and groundwater by reduc-
5 ing the quantity of nitrogen, phosphorus,
6 sulfur, salts, or other nutrients excreted in
7 manure; or

8 “(iii) reduces emissions of ammonia,
9 odors, greenhouse gases, volatile organic
10 components, or dust from animal feeding
11 operations.”;

12 (3) in paragraph (2)—

13 (A) in subparagraph (A), by striking “or”
14 at the end;

15 (B) in subparagraph (B), by striking the
16 period at the end and inserting “; or”; and

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

18 “(C) livestock feed management.”; and

19 (4) in paragraph (3), by striking “rotations or
20 advanced” and inserting “rotations, livestock feed
21 management, or advanced”.

22 (c) PAYMENT FOR COMPREHENSIVE CONSERVATION
23 PLAN.—Section 1240L(e)(1) of the Food Security Act of
24 1985 (16 U.S.C. 3839aa–24(e)(1)) is amended—

1 (1) by striking the period at the end and insert-
2 ing the following: “; and

3 “(B) with respect to an organic production
4 system—

5 “(i) is integrated with an organic sys-
6 tem plan approved under the national or-
7 ganic program established under the Or-
8 ganic Foods Production Act of 1990 (7
9 U.S.C. 6501 et seq.); or

10 “(ii) allows a producer to transition to
11 organic production systems and pursue
12 certification under that Act.”; and

13 (2) in the matter preceding subparagraph (B)
14 (as added by paragraph (1)), by striking “plan that
15 meets” and inserting the following: “plan that—

16 “(A) meets”.

17 (d) PAYMENT LIMITATIONS.—Section 1240L(f) of
18 the Food Security Act of 1985 (16 U.S.C. 3839aa–24(f))
19 is amended by striking “fiscal years 2019 through 2023”
20 and inserting “the period of fiscal years 2025 through
21 2029 and each 5-fiscal-year period thereafter”.

22 (e) SPECIALTY CROP AND ORGANIC PRODUCERS.—
23 Section 1240L(g) of the Food Security Act of 1985 (16
24 U.S.C. 3839aa–24(g)) is amended by inserting “, and pro-

1 ducers transitioning to organic production systems,” after
2 “organic producers”.

3 (f) ORGANIC CERTIFICATION.—Section
4 1240L(h)(2)(A) of the Food Security Act of 1985 (16
5 U.S.C. 3839aa–24(h)(2)(A)) is amended by inserting “,
6 including by providing payments for conservation activities
7 relating to organic production and transitioning to organic
8 production under subsection (c)(6)” before the period at
9 the end.

10 (g) SOIL HEALTH.—Section 1240L(k) of the Food
11 Security Act of 1985 (16 U.S.C. 3839aa–24(k)) is amend-
12 ed—

13 (1) by striking “To the maximum” and insert-
14 ing the following:

15 “(1) IN GENERAL.—To the maximum”; and

16 (2) by adding at the end the following:

17 “(2) SOIL TESTING.—Soil testing (as defined in
18 section 1240A) shall be eligible as a conservation ac-
19 tivity on its own under a conservation stewardship
20 contract under this subchapter, if the results of the
21 soil testing are intended to be used to develop speci-
22 fications or design elements required for imple-
23 menting another conservation activity under the con-
24 tract.

1 “(3) NATIONWIDE SOIL TESTING.—The Sec-
2 retary shall prioritize nationwide collection of data to
3 make possible site-specific interpretations of soil
4 health test results for producers at the local level.”.

5 **SEC. 2314. ON-FARM CONSERVATION STEWARDSHIP INNO-**
6 **VATION GRANTS.**

7 Subchapter B of chapter 4 of subtitle D of title XII
8 of the Food Security Act of 1985 (16 U.S.C. 3839aa–21
9 et seq.) is amended by adding at the end the following:

10 **“SEC. 1240L–2. PASTURELAND CONSERVATION AND GULF**
11 **HYPOXIA REDUCTION INITIATIVE.**

12 “(a) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

13 “(1) ELIGIBLE LAND.—Notwithstanding section
14 1240I(4), the term ‘eligible land’ means private land
15 or Indian land that—

16 “(A) is in use for livestock grazing and
17 production purposes as of the date of enactment
18 of this section;

19 “(B)(i) is native or improved pastureland
20 with permanent vegetative cover; or

21 “(ii) is planted to a crop planted specifi-
22 cally for the purpose of providing grazing for
23 livestock, such as forage sorghum, small grains,
24 annual planted ryegrass, or annual planted
25 crabgrass; and

1 “(C) is located within 1 or more States in
2 the Lower Mississippi River Valley that encom-
3 pass the Ouachita, Yazoo, or Atchafalaya River
4 drainage basins.

5 “(2) INITIATIVE.—The term ‘initiative’ means
6 the voluntary pastureland conservation and gulf hy-
7 poxia reduction initiative established under sub-
8 section (b).

9 “(b) ESTABLISHMENT AND PURPOSE.—The Sec-
10 retary shall establish within the program a voluntary
11 pastureland conservation and hypoxia reduction initiative
12 for the purposes of, by conserving eligible land through
13 pastureland conservation contracts under subsection (e)—

14 “(1) assisting livestock producers in conserving
15 and protecting soil, water, and wildlife resources;
16 and

17 “(2) reducing nutrient loading into the Gulf of
18 Mexico.

19 “(c) ELECTION.—Beginning in fiscal year 2024, the
20 Secretary shall provide a 1-time election to enroll eligible
21 land in the initiative under a contract described in sub-
22 section (e).

23 “(d) METHOD OF ENROLLMENT.—Subject to sub-
24 section (h), the Secretary shall—

1 “(1) notwithstanding subsection (b) of section
2 1240K, determine under subsection (c) of that sec-
3 tion that eligible land ranks sufficiently high under
4 the evaluation criteria described in subsection (b) of
5 that section; and

6 “(2) enroll the eligible land in the initiative
7 under a contract described in subsection (e).

8 “(e) PASTURELAND CONSERVATION CONTRACT.—

9 “(1) IN GENERAL.—Notwithstanding section
10 1240K(a)(1), to enroll eligible land in the initiative
11 under a pastureland conservation contract, a live-
12 stock producer shall agree—

13 “(A) to meet or exceed the stewardship
14 threshold for not less than 2 priority resource
15 concerns by the date on which the contract ex-
16 pires; and

17 “(B) to comply with the terms and condi-
18 tions of the contract.

19 “(2) TERMS.—A pastureland conservation con-
20 tract shall be for a single 5-year term.

21 “(f) PAYMENTS.—

22 “(1) IN GENERAL.—Beginning in fiscal year
23 2024, of the funds made available for this sub-
24 chapter under section 1241(a)(3)(B), and notwith-
25 standing any payment under section 1240L(c), the

1 Secretary shall make annual pastureland conserva-
2 tion contract payments to the livestock producer of
3 any eligible land that is the subject of a pastureland
4 conservation contract under this section.

5 “(2) PAYMENT NONELIGIBILITY.—A
6 pastureland conservation contract under this section
7 shall not be subject to the payment limitations under
8 this subchapter.

9 “(3) AMOUNT.—The amount of an annual pay-
10 ment under this subsection shall be \$20 per acre.

11 “(g) ACREAGE LIMITATION.—Not more than
12 500,000 total acres of eligible land may be enrolled in the
13 initiative.

14 “(h) EVALUATION OF CONTRACT OFFERS.—Notwith-
15 standing subsection (d), the Secretary may rank applica-
16 tions relating to contract offers to enroll eligible land in
17 the initiative based on the degree to which the proposed
18 conservation activities increase natural resource conserva-
19 tion and environmental benefits if—

20 “(1) contract offers are submitted to enroll
21 more than 400,000 acres of eligible land; and

22 “(2) the Secretary determines such ranking of
23 applications to be necessary to comply with the acre-
24 age limitation established by subsection (g).”.

1 **Subtitle D—Other Conservation**
2 **Programs**

3 **SEC. 2401. WATERSHED PROTECTION AND FLOOD PREVEN-**
4 **TION ACT.**

5 (a) **SHORT TITLE; FINDINGS; DECLARATION OF POL-**
6 **ICY.**—The first section of the Watershed Protection and
7 Flood Prevention Act (16 U.S.C. 1001) is amended to
8 read as follows:

9 **“SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE; FINDINGS; DECLARATION OF**
10 **POLICY.**

11 “(a) **SHORT TITLE.**—This Act may be cited as the
12 ‘Watershed Protection and Flood Prevention Act’.

13 “(b) **FINDINGS.**—Congress finds that erosion, flood-
14 water, drought, and sediment damages in the watersheds
15 of the rivers and streams of the United States cause loss
16 of life, declines in agricultural production, harm to fish,
17 birds, wildlife, and recreation opportunities, and damage
18 to property, thereby constituting a menace to the national
19 welfare.

20 “(c) **SENSE OF CONGRESS.**—It is the sense of Con-
21 gress that the Federal Government should cooperate with
22 local organizations for the purposes of—

23 “(1) preventing the damages described in sub-
24 section (b);

1 “(B) any irrigation district or reservoir
2 company, water users’ association, canal com-
3 pany, ditch association, acequia, or similar enti-
4 ty, or nongovernmental organization that is not
5 being operated for profit, with—

6 “(i) the capacity to engage in the
7 planning or implementation of land treat-
8 ment and related conservation measures;
9 or

10 “(ii) the authority to construct and
11 maintain structural measures; or

12 “(C) any Indian Tribe or Tribal organiza-
13 tion (as those terms are defined in section 4 of
14 the Indian Self-Determination and Education
15 Assistance Act (25 U.S.C. 5304)) having au-
16 thority under Federal, State, or Indian Tribal
17 law to carry out, maintain, and operate a work
18 of improvement.

19 “(3) MANAGEMENT OF WATER.—The term
20 ‘management of water’ means any project or activity
21 carried out to increase the efficiency of water use,
22 transfer, diversion, or conveyance.

23 “(4) SECRETARY.—The term ‘Secretary’ means
24 the Secretary of Agriculture.

25 “(5) WORK OF IMPROVEMENT.—

1 “(A) IN GENERAL.—The term ‘work of im-
2 provement’ means any undertaking carried out
3 in a watershed or subwatershed area not ex-
4 ceeding 250,000 acres (including on Federal
5 land necessary to accomplish the purposes of
6 the undertaking) for—

7 “(i) flood prevention (including struc-
8 tural and land treatment measures);

9 “(ii) the conservation, management,
10 development, utilization, and disposal of
11 water; or

12 “(iii) the conservation and proper uti-
13 lization of land.

14 “(B) EXCLUSION.—The term ‘work of im-
15 provement’ does not include any single struc-
16 ture that provides—

17 “(i) more than 12,500 acre-feet of
18 floodwater detention capacity; and

19 “(ii) more than 25,000 acre-feet of
20 total capacity.

21 “(C) REQUIREMENT FOR AGRICULTURE
22 BENEFITS.—Each undertaking described in
23 subparagraph (A) shall contain benefits directly
24 related to agriculture, including communities in
25 rural areas (as defined in section 343(a) of the

1 Consolidated Farm and Rural Development Act
2 (7 U.S.C. 1991(a)), that account for at least
3 20 percent of the total benefits of the under-
4 taking.

5 “(D) CONSOLIDATED PLANNING.—1 or
6 more subwatersheds, when the subwatersheds
7 are components of a larger watershed, may be
8 planned together at the discretion of the local
9 organization sponsoring the applicable under-
10 taking.

11 “(E) MULTIBENEFIT INCLUSION.—A work
12 of improvement may provide 2 or more public
13 benefits or ecosystem services in addition to a
14 purpose described in subparagraph (A).”.

15 (c) ASSISTANCE TO LOCAL ORGANIZATIONS.—Sec-
16 tion 3 of the Watershed Protection and Flood Prevention
17 Act (16 U.S.C. 1003) is amended—

18 (1) by redesignating subsection (b) as sub-
19 section (f);

20 (2) in subsection (a)(6), in the first sentence,
21 by striking “occupiers, individually” and inserting
22 the following: “occupiers in accordance with sub-
23 section (b).

24 “(b) AGREEMENTS WITH LANDOWNERS, OPERA-
25 TORS, AND OCCUPIERS.—

1 “(1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary may enter
2 into agreements under subsection (a)(6) with land-
3 owners, operators, and occupiers, individually”;

4 (3) in subsection (b) (as so designated)—

5 (A) by striking “supplemented. Applica-
6 tions” and inserting the following: “supple-
7 mented.

8 “(2) APPLICATIONS.—Applications”;

9 (B) in paragraph (2) (as so designated)—

10 (i) in the first sentence, by striking
11 “such conservation plans” and inserting
12 “conservation plans described in paragraph
13 (1)”; and

14 (ii) by striking “such district. In re-
15 turn” and all that follows through “inter-
16 est. The portion” and inserting the fol-
17 lowing: “that district.

18 “(3) COST SHARING.—

19 “(A) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary may
20 agree to share the costs of carrying out a work
21 of improvement, or specific practices and meas-
22 ures described in such an agreement, if the Sec-
23 retary determines that cost sharing is appro-
24 priate and in the public interest.”;

1 “(B) PORTION OF COSTS.—The portion”;

2 and

3 (iii) in subparagraph (B) (as so des-
4 ignated)—

5 (I) by striking “programs. The
6 Secretary” and inserting the fol-
7 lowing: “programs.

8 “(4) TERMINATION; MODIFICATIONS.—The Sec-
9 retary”;

10 (C) in paragraph (4) (as so designated)—

11 (i) in the first sentence, by striking
12 “hereunder, as he” and inserting “under
13 this subsection, as the Secretary”; and

14 (ii) by striking “herein. Notwith-
15 standing” and inserting the following:
16 “under this subsection.

17 “(5) PRESERVATION OR SURRENDER OF HIS-
18 TORY.—Notwithstanding”; and

19 (D) in paragraph (5) (as so designated)—

20 (i) by striking “he” and inserting “the
21 Secretary”;

22 (ii) by striking “paragraph” and in-
23 serting “subsection”;

1 (iii) by striking “hereunder for (1)
2 preservation” and inserting the following:

3 “under this paragraph for—

4 “(A) preservation”; and

5 (iv) in subparagraph (A) (as so des-
6 ignated), by striking “crop; or (2) sur-
7 render” and inserting the following: “crop;

8 or

9 “(B) surrender”; and

10 (4) by inserting after subsection (b) (as so des-
11 ignated) the following:

12 “(c) DELEGATION OF AUTHORITIES.—

13 “(1) FINAL AUTHORITY.—The Secretary shall
14 provide a State Conservationist final authority to ap-
15 prove watershed plans for works of improvement
16 within the State.

17 “(2) APPROVAL OF OUTSOURCING PRELIMINARY
18 ACTIVITIES.—The Secretary and a State Conserva-
19 tionist shall, on the approval of the State Conserva-
20 tionist, allow a local organization sponsoring a work
21 of improvement to use funds made available under
22 this Act to pay a third party to conduct preliminary
23 investigations and pre-planning activities relating to
24 the work of improvement.

1 “(3) ADDITIONAL AUTHORITIES.—The Sec-
2 retary may provide authority to a State Conserva-
3 tionist to support a streamlined process.

4 “(d) DEADLINE FOR APPROVAL OR DISAPPROVAL.—

5 “(1) IN GENERAL.—Subject to paragraph (2),
6 not later than 45 days after the date on which an
7 application for a work of improvement is submitted
8 to the Secretary, the Secretary shall approve or dis-
9 approve the application.

10 “(2) EXTENSIONS.—The Secretary may extend
11 the deadline described in paragraph (1) by 45 days,
12 if necessary.

13 “(e) APPROVED WATERSHED PLAN REQUIRED.—

14 “(1) IN GENERAL.—Subject to paragraph (2),
15 the Secretary may not provide funds under this Act
16 for the costs of designing or constructing a work of
17 improvement without an approved watershed plan.

18 “(2) EXCEPTIONS.—Paragraph (1) shall not
19 apply if—

20 “(A) the Secretary determines that the cir-
21 cumstances are so exigent that not providing
22 funds is against the public interest; or

23 “(B) the Secretary has waived the require-
24 ment for a watershed plan under subsection
25 (f).”.

1 (d) COST SHARE ASSISTANCE.—Section 3A of the
2 Watershed Protection and Flood Prevention Act (16
3 U.S.C. 1003a) is amended—

4 (1) in subsection (a), by inserting “, as deter-
5 mined by the Secretary,” after “assistance”; and

6 (2) by adding at the end the following:

7 “(c) TREATMENT OF OTHER FEDERAL FUNDS FOR
8 WORKS OF IMPROVEMENT.—Any funds provided for a
9 work of improvement through any Federal department or
10 agency other than the Department of Agriculture shall be
11 considered to be part of the non-Federal share of the cost
12 of the work of improvement provided by the sponsor of
13 the work of improvement.”.

14 (e) CONDITIONS FOR FEDERAL ASSISTANCE.—Sec-
15 tion 4(2) of the Watershed Protection and Flood Preven-
16 tion Act (16 U.S.C. 1004(2)) is amended by inserting
17 “management,” after “conservation,”

18 (f) LIMITATION.—The Watershed Protection and
19 Flood Prevention Act is amended by inserting after section
20 4 (16 U.S.C. 1004) the following:

21 **“SEC. 4A. NOTIFICATION REQUIREMENT.**

22 “(a) IN GENERAL.—No amounts shall be provided
23 under this Act for any plan for a work of improvement
24 involving an estimated Federal contribution to construc-
25 tion costs in excess of \$50,000,000, or that includes any

1 structure that provides more than 2,500 acre-feet of total
2 capacity, unless, not less than 90 days before amounts are
3 provided for the plan, the Secretary submits to the appro-
4 priate committees of Congress described in subsection (b)
5 a notice of the approval of the plan, including a description
6 of the justification for the approval and a copy of the plan.

7 “(b) COMMITTEES DESCRIBED.—The appropriate
8 committees of Congress referred to in subsection (a) are—

9 “(1) in the case of a plan involving no single
10 structure providing more than 4,000 acre-feet of
11 total capacity, the Committee on Agriculture, Nutri-
12 tion, and Forestry of the Senate and the Committee
13 on Agriculture of the House of Representatives; and

14 “(2) in the case of a plan involving any single
15 structure providing more than 4,000 acre-feet of
16 total capacity, the Committee on Environment and
17 Public Works of the Senate and the Committee on
18 Transportation and Infrastructure of the House of
19 Representatives.”.

20 (g) CONSTRUCTION STANDARDS.—The Watershed
21 Protection and Flood Prevention Act (16 U.S.C. 1001 et
22 seq.) is amended by inserting after section 4A (as added
23 by subsection (f)) the following:

1 **“SEC. 4B. CONSTRUCTION STANDARDS.**

2 “(a) IN GENERAL.—Subject to the requirements of
3 this Act, the Secretary shall—

4 “(1) review and update as necessary the engi-
5 neering standards and requirements to be used for
6 works of improvement under this Act; and

7 “(2) in collaboration with each State Conserva-
8 tionist and State technical committee established
9 under section 1261(a) of the Food Security Act of
10 1985 (16 U.S.C. 3861(a)), review and update as
11 necessary the acceptable variances from national en-
12 gineering standards that are appropriate alternatives
13 suited to the geomorphology of, and purpose for
14 which works of improvement are established within,
15 each State.

16 “(b) LOCAL CONSULTATION.—A State Conserva-
17 tionist and State technical committee engaged in collabo-
18 ration pursuant to subsection (a)(2) may consult with
19 local municipalities undertaking works of improvement
20 within that State under this Act.”.

21 (h) MONETIZATION.—Section 5(1) of the Watershed
22 Protection and Flood Prevention Act (16 U.S.C. 1005(1))
23 is amended—

24 (1) by inserting “, in consultation with the
25 State Conservationist,” after “and the Secretary”;
26 and

1 (2) by inserting “: *Provided further*, That if in-
2 sufficient data exists to monetize the benefits of
3 wildlife habitat or water quality improvement
4 against the costs, these benefits shall be quantified
5 to the extent practicable and described in sufficient
6 detail to be considered against the cost” before the
7 period at the end.

8 (i) CERTAIN AUTHORITIES.—Section 7 of the Water-
9 shed Protection and Flood Prevention Act (68 Stat. 668,
10 chapter 656; 74 Stat. 131; 76 Stat. 610) is amended, in
11 the last proviso, by inserting “management,” after “con-
12 servation,”.

13 (j) LOAN AND ADVANCEMENT AMOUNTS.—Section 8
14 of the Watershed Protection and Flood Prevention Act (16
15 U.S.C. 1006a) is amended, in the last sentence, by strik-
16 ing “five million dollars” and inserting “\$10,000,000”.

17 (k) DATA.—Section 13 of the Watershed Protection
18 and Flood Prevention Act (16 U.S.C. 1010) is amended—

19 (1) in the matter preceding paragraph (1), by
20 striking “collect and maintain” and inserting “col-
21 lect, maintain, and publish on the website of the De-
22 partment of Agriculture”; and

23 (2) in paragraph (1), by striking “control and
24 conservation” and inserting “control, conservation,
25 and drought resilience”.

1 (l) CONFORMING AMENDMENT.—Section 11 of the
2 Watershed Protection and Flood Prevention Act (16
3 U.S.C. 1001 note; 68 Stat. 668; 70 Stat. 1090) is re-
4 pealed.

5 **SEC. 2402. SOIL AND WATER RESOURCES CONSERVATION.**

6 (a) IN GENERAL.—The Soil and Water Resources
7 Conservation Act of 1977 (16 U.S.C. 2001 et seq.) is
8 amended—

9 (1) in section 5(e) (16 U.S.C. 2004(e)), by
10 striking “and December 31, 2022” and inserting
11 “December 31, 2022, and December 31, 2028, and
12 every 5 years thereafter”;

13 (2) in section 6(d) (16 U.S.C. 2005(d)), by in-
14 serting “, and December 31, 2029, and every 5
15 years thereafter” after “2023”; and

16 (3) in section 7 (16 U.S.C. 2006)—

17 (A) in subsection (a), by striking “and
18 2022” and inserting “2022, 2028, and every 5
19 years thereafter”; and

20 (B) in subsection (b), in the matter pre-
21 ceding paragraph (1), by striking “and 2023”
22 and inserting “2023, 2029, and every 5 years
23 thereafter”; and

1 (b) REPEAL OF TERMINATION.—Section 10 of the
2 Soil and Water Resources Conservation Act of 1977 (16
3 U.S.C. 2009) is repealed.

4 **SEC. 2403. EMERGENCY CONSERVATION PROGRAMS.**

5 (a) EMERGENCY CONSERVATION PROGRAM.—Section
6 401 of the Agricultural Credit Act of 1978 (16 U.S.C.
7 2201) is amended—

8 (1) in subsection (b)—

9 (A) in the subsection heading, by inserting
10 “AND OTHER EMERGENCY CONSERVATION
11 MEASURES” after “FENCING”;

12 (B) in paragraph (1)—

13 (i) by inserting “or other emergency
14 measures to restore farmland or replace
15 conservation structures requiring an imme-
16 diate response (as determined by the Sec-
17 retary),” after “replacement of fencing,”;
18 and

19 (ii) by striking “option of receiving”
20 and all that follows through the period at
21 the end and inserting the following: “op-
22 tion of receiving, before the agricultural
23 producer carries out the repair, replace-
24 ment, or restoration—

1 “(A) with respect to a payment to the agri-
2 cultural producer for a replacement, 75 percent
3 of the cost of the replacement, as determined by
4 the Secretary based on the fair market value of
5 the cost of the replacement using the estimated
6 cost of the applicable practice published in the
7 Field Office Technical Guide of each State by
8 the Natural Resources Conservation Service or
9 other appropriate and comparable guidance doc-
10 ument, as determined by the Secretary; and

11 “(B) with respect to a payment to the ag-
12 ricultural producer for a repair or restoration,
13 50 percent of the cost of the repair or restora-
14 tion, as determined by the Secretary based on
15 the fair market value of the cost of the repair
16 or restoration using the estimated cost of the
17 applicable practice published in the Field Office
18 Technical Guide of each State by the Natural
19 Resources Conservation Service or other appro-
20 priate and comparable guidance document, as
21 determined by the Secretary.”; and

22 (C) in paragraph (2), by striking “60-day”
23 and inserting “180-day”; and
24 (2) by adding at the end the following:

1 “(c) WILDFIRE DETERMINATION.—A wildfire that
2 causes damage eligible for a payment under subsection (a)
3 includes—

4 “(1) a wildfire that is not caused naturally if
5 the damage is caused by the spread of the wildfire
6 due to natural causes; and

7 “(2) a wildfire that is caused by an action di-
8 rectly performed by the Federal Government.”.

9 (b) ADDITIONAL REQUIREMENTS FOR THE EMER-
10 GENCY CONSERVATION PROGRAM.—Title IV of the Agri-
11 cultural Credit Act of 1978 is amended by inserting after
12 section 402B (16 U.S.C. 2202b) the following:

13 **“SEC. 402C. ADDITIONAL REQUIREMENTS FOR THE EMER-
14 GENCY CONSERVATION PROGRAM.**

15 “(a) ELIGIBILITY OF FEDERAL, STATE, AND LOCAL
16 LAND USERS.—

17 “(1) IN GENERAL.—An agricultural producer
18 eligible to receive payments under sections 401 and
19 402 includes a person that—

20 “(A) holds a permit or lease from the Fed-
21 eral Government to conduct agricultural pro-
22 duction or grazing on Federal land; or

23 “(B) holds a permit or leases land from a
24 State or unit of local government to conduct ag-
25 ricultural production or grazing on that land.

1 “(2) EFFECT.—Nothing in this subsection au-
2 thorizes the Secretary to make a payment under sec-
3 tion 401 or 402 to the Federal Government, a State,
4 or a unit of local government.

5 “(b) PERMANENT AND TEMPORARY IMPROVE-
6 MENTS.—Emergency measures eligible for payments
7 under sections 401 and 402 include—

8 “(1) new permanent or temporary measures, in-
9 cluding permanent water wells and permanent or
10 temporary surface or aboveground pipelines and wa-
11 tering facilities; and

12 “(2) replacement or restoration of existing
13 emergency measures with permanent or temporary
14 measures, including permanent water wells and per-
15 manent or temporary surface or aboveground pipe-
16 lines and watering facilities.”.

17 (c) EMERGENCY WATERSHED PROGRAM.—Section
18 403 of the Agricultural Credit Act of 1978 (16 U.S.C.
19 2203) is amended—

20 (1) in subsection (a)—

21 (A) by striking the subsection designation
22 and heading and all that follows through “The
23 Secretary” and inserting the following:

24 “(a) AUTHORIZATIONS.—

25 “(1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary”; and

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

2 “(2) ELIGIBLE PURPOSES OF FLOODPLAIN
3 EASEMENTS.—A floodplain easement acquired by the
4 Secretary under this section may be used—

5 “(A) to restore, protect, maintain, and en-
6 hance the hydrologic and other functions of
7 wetlands and associated land, riparian areas,
8 and stream channels;

9 “(B) to conserve natural values, including
10 fish and wildlife habitat, water quality, flood
11 water retention, and groundwater recharge; and

12 “(C) to safeguard lives and property from
13 floods, drought, and the products of erosion.

14 “(3) EASEMENT RESTORATION.—The Secretary
15 may restore the hydrologic and other functions and
16 values of wetlands on floodplain easements acquired
17 by the Secretary under this section.

18 “(4) EASEMENT MANAGEMENT.—

19 “(A) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall
20 restore, protect, manage, maintain, enhance,
21 and monitor floodplain easements acquired by
22 the Secretary under this section.

23 “(B) ALLOWABLE USES.—The Secretary
24 may authorize, in writing and subject to such
25 terms and conditions as the Secretary may pre-

1 scribe in the sole discretion of the Secretary,
2 the use by the landowner for compatible uses of
3 the area of a floodplain easement acquired by
4 the Secretary under this section, if the Sec-
5 retary determines that the use is consistent
6 with the long-term protection and enhancement
7 of the floodplain, riparian, wetland, and associ-
8 ated land, and other natural values of the ease-
9 ment area.

10 “(5) DEADLINES.—

11 “(A) IN GENERAL.—Except in the case of
12 a floodplain easement acquired by the Secretary
13 under this section and as provided in subpara-
14 graph (B), not later than 1 year after the date
15 on which funds are obligated to a State Con-
16 servationist for emergency watershed protection
17 measures under this section, construction of the
18 emergency watershed protection measures shall
19 be completed.

20 “(B) EXIGENT SITUATIONS.—If the Sec-
21 retary determines that an exigent situation ex-
22 ists, subparagraph (A) shall be applied by sub-
23 stituting ‘30 days’ for ‘1 year.’”;

24 (2) in subsection (b), by striking the subsection
25 designation and heading and all that follows through

1 the “The Secretary” in the matter preceding sub-
2 paragraph (A) of paragraph (1) and inserting the
3 following:

4 “(b) MODIFICATION AND TERMINATION OF FLOOD-
5 PLAIN EASEMENTS.—

6 “(1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary”; and
7 (3) by adding at the end the following:

8 “(c) PREAGREEMENT COSTS.—

9 “(1) DEFINITION OF SPONSOR.—In this sub-
10 section, the term ‘sponsor’ means—

11 “(A) a State or local government; and

12 “(B) an Indian Tribe (as defined in section
13 4 of the Indian Self-Determination and Edu-
14 cation Assistance Act (25 U.S.C. 5304)).

15 “(2) PREAGREEMENT PROJECT COSTS.—Not
16 later than 180 days after the date of enactment of
17 this subsection, the Secretary shall—

18 “(A) identify a list of emergency watershed
19 protection measures the cost of which may be
20 incurred by a sponsor prior to entering into an
21 agreement with the Secretary under this sec-
22 tion; and

23 “(B) develop a procedure, including appro-
24 priate deadlines, to be implemented at the State
25 level, through which a sponsor may request, for

1 a specified natural disaster, additional emer-
2 gency watershed protection measures the cost of
3 which may be incurred by a sponsor prior to en-
4 tering into an agreement with the Secretary
5 under this section.

6 “(3) AGREEMENT CONTRIBUTION.—If the Sec-
7 retary and a sponsor enter into an agreement under
8 this section, the Secretary shall consider any appli-
9 cable preagreement costs incurred by the sponsor for
10 undertaking emergency watershed protection meas-
11 ures identified under paragraph (2) as meeting part
12 of the contribution of the sponsor toward the cost of
13 the project.

14 “(4) ASSUMPTION OF RISK.—A sponsor that
15 undertakes emergency watershed protection meas-
16 ures prior to entering into an agreement with the
17 Secretary under this section shall assume the risk of
18 incurring any cost of undertaking those measures.

19 “(5) EFFECT.—Nothing in this subsection re-
20 quires the Secretary to enter into an agreement with
21 a sponsor.”.

22 (d) EMERGENCY FOREST RESTORATION PRO-
23 GRAM.—Section 407 of the Agricultural Credit Act of
24 1978 (16 U.S.C. 2206) is amended—

25 (1) in subsection (a)—

1 (A) by redesignating paragraphs (1)
2 through (3) as paragraphs (3) through (5), re-
3 spectively;

4 (B) by inserting before paragraph (3) (as
5 so redesignated) the following:

6 “(1) ELIGIBLE ENTITY.—The term ‘eligible en-
7 tity’ means—

8 “(A) with respect to nonindustrial private
9 forest land or industrial private forest land—

10 “(i) an owner of the nonindustrial pri-
11 vate forest land or industrial private forest
12 land; or

13 “(ii) a person that—

14 “(I) receives concurrence from
15 the landowner to carry out emergency
16 measures in lieu of the owner; and

17 “(II) holds a lease on the land
18 for a minimum of 10 years;

19 “(B) with respect to Federal forest land, a
20 person that holds a permit or lease from the
21 Federal Government to conduct livestock graz-
22 ing on the Federal forest land; and

23 “(C) with respect to forest land owned by
24 a State or a unit of local government, a person
25 that holds a permit or leases land from the

1 State or unit of local government to conduct
2 livestock grazing on that forest land.

3 “(2) ELIGIBLE LAND.—The term ‘eligible land’
4 means—

5 “(A) nonindustrial private forest land or
6 industrial private forest land;

7 “(B) Federal forest land on which livestock
8 grazing is authorized through a permit or lease;
9 and

10 “(C) forest land owned by a State or unit
11 of local government on which livestock grazing
12 is authorized through a permit or lease.”;

13 (C) in paragraph (3) (as so redesignated),
14 in subparagraph (A), in the matter preceding
15 clause (i), by striking “nonindustrial private
16 forest land” and inserting “eligible land”; and

17 (D) in paragraph (4) (as so redesignated),
18 by striking “wildfires,” and inserting “wildfires
19 (including a wildfire that is not caused natu-
20 rally if the damage is caused by the spread of
21 the wildfire due to natural causes and a wildfire
22 that is caused by the Federal Government),”;

23 (2) in subsection (b)—

1 (A) by striking “an owner of nonindustrial
2 private forest land who” and inserting “an eli-
3 gible entity that”; and

4 (B) by striking “restore the land” and in-
5 serting “restore eligible land”;

6 (3) in subsection (c)—

7 (A) by striking “owner must” and insert-
8 ing “eligible entity shall”; and

9 (B) by striking “nonindustrial private for-
10 est land” and inserting “eligible land”;

11 (4) in subsection (d), by striking “an owner of
12 nonindustrial private forest land” and inserting “an
13 eligible entity”;

14 (5) by redesignating subsection (e) as sub-
15 section (g); and

16 (6) by inserting after subsection (d) the fol-
17 lowing:

18 “(e) ADVANCE PAYMENTS.—

19 “(1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall give an
20 eligible entity the option of receiving, before the eli-
21 gible entity carries out emergency measures under
22 this section, not more than 75 percent of the cost of
23 the emergency measures, as determined by the Sec-
24 retary based on the fair market value of the cost of
25 the emergency measures using the estimated cost of

1 the applicable practice published in the Field Office
2 Technical Guide of each State by the Natural Re-
3 sources Conservation Service or other appropriate
4 and comparable guidance document, as determined
5 by the Secretary.

6 “(2) RETURN OF FUNDS.—If the funds pro-
7 vided under paragraph (1) are not expended by the
8 end of the 2-year period beginning on the date on
9 which the eligible entity receives those funds, the
10 funds shall be returned within a reasonable time-
11 frame, as determined by the Secretary.

12 “(f) EFFECT.—Nothing in this section authorizes the
13 Secretary to make a payment under this section to the
14 Federal Government, a State, or a unit of local govern-
15 ment.”.

16 **SEC. 2404. CONSERVATION OF PRIVATE GRAZING LAND.**

17 Section 1240M of the Food Security Act of 1985 (16
18 U.S.C. 3839bb) is amended—

19 (1) in subsection (c)(1)—

20 (A) in subparagraph (H), by striking
21 “and” at the end;

22 (B) in subparagraph (I), by striking the
23 period at the end and inserting “; and”; and

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

1 “(J) supporting planning, management,
2 and coordination of grazing in agrivoltaic sys-
3 tems.”; and

4 (2) in subsection (e), by striking “each of fiscal
5 years 2002 through 2023” and inserting “fiscal year
6 2002 and each fiscal year thereafter”.

7 **SEC. 2405. GRASSROOTS SOURCE WATER PROTECTION**
8 **PROGRAM.**

9 Section 12400(b) of the Food Security Act of 1985
10 (16 U.S.C. 3839bb–2(b)) is amended—

11 (1) in paragraph (1), by striking “each of fiscal
12 years 2008 through 2023” and inserting “fiscal year
13 2008 and each fiscal year thereafter”; and

14 (2) in paragraph (3)—

15 (A) in subparagraph (A), by striking
16 “and” at the end;

17 (B) in subparagraph (B), by striking the
18 period at the end and inserting “; and”; and

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

20 “(C) \$5,000,000 beginning in fiscal year
21 2025 and every 5 fiscal years thereafter, to re-
22 main available until expended.”.

1 **SEC. 2406. VOLUNTARY PUBLIC ACCESS AND HABITAT IN-**
2 **CENTIVE PROGRAM.**

3 Section 1240R(f) of the Food Security Act of 1985
4 (16 U.S.C. 3839bb–5(f)(1)) is amended—

5 (1) in paragraph (1)—

6 (A) by striking “and” after “2023,”; and

7 (B) by inserting “, and \$50,000,000 for
8 each of fiscal years 2025 through 2029” before
9 the period at the end; and

10 (2) in paragraph (2), by inserting “and
11 \$3,000,000 for the period of fiscal years 2025
12 through 2029” after “2023”.

13 **SEC. 2407. FERAL SWINE ERADICATION AND CONTROL PRO-**
14 **GRAM.**

15 (a) IN GENERAL.—Section 2408 of the Agriculture
16 Improvement Act of 2018 (7 U.S.C. 8351 note; Public
17 Law 115–334) is amended—

18 (1) in the section heading, by striking
19 “**PILOT**”;

20 (2) in subsection (a), by striking “pilot pro-
21 gram” and inserting “program (referred to in this
22 section as the ‘program’)”;

23 (3) in subsection (b)—

24 (A) in the matter preceding paragraph (1),
25 by striking “pilot”;

1 (B) in each of paragraphs (1) and (2), by
2 striking “the pilot areas” and inserting “eligible
3 areas”;

4 (C) in paragraph (4), by striking “pilot”
5 and inserting “eligible”;

6 (D) by redesignating paragraphs (3) and
7 (4) as paragraphs (4) and (5), respectively; and

8 (E) by inserting after paragraph (2) the
9 following:

10 “(3) after the Secretary determines that feral
11 swine have been eradicated from an eligible area, en-
12 sure that the Animal and Plant Health Inspection
13 Service and the Natural Resources Conservation
14 Service continue monitoring that area for the reoc-
15 currence of feral swine for a period of 1 year;”;

16 (4) in each of subsections (c), (e), (f), and (g),
17 by striking “pilot program” each place it appears
18 and inserting “program”;

19 (5) in subsection (c)(1), by striking “the pilot
20 areas” and inserting “eligible areas”;

21 (6) in subsection (e), in the subsection heading,
22 by striking “PILOT” and inserting “ELIGIBLE”;

23 (7) in subsection (g)(1)—

24 (A) by striking “2023 and” and inserting
25 “2023,”; and

1 (B) by inserting “, and \$75,000,000 for
2 the period of fiscal years 2025 through 2029”
3 before the period at the end; and

4 (8) by adding at the end the following:

5 “(h) REPORTS.—Not less than 2 years, and not later
6 than 4 years and 6 months, after the date of enactment
7 of this subsection, the Administrator of the Animal and
8 Plant Health Inspection Service and the Chief of the Nat-
9 ural Resources Conservation Service, acting jointly, shall
10 submit to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and
11 Forestry of the Senate and the Committee on Agriculture
12 of the House of Representatives and make publicly avail-
13 able on the website of the Department of Agriculture a
14 report that—

15 “(1) describes, for the period beginning on the
16 date of the establishment of the program and ending
17 on the date of the submission of the report—

18 “(A) activities carried out under the pro-
19 gram, including—

20 “(i) the number of counties in which
21 feral swine are no longer present; and

22 “(ii) estimated reductions in agri-
23 culture and natural resource damage, and
24 improvements to human and livestock

1 health and safety, as a result of feral swine
2 removal;

3 “(B) the use of funding made available
4 under this section, including the number of
5 counties in each State provided funding; and

6 “(C) the roles of the Animal and Plant
7 Health Inspection Service and the Natural Re-
8 sources Conservation Service and agricultural
9 producers provided financial assistance under
10 this section in carrying out activities under the
11 program; and

12 “(2) includes—

13 “(A) a determination by the Administrator
14 of the Animal and Plant Health Inspection
15 Service and the Chief of the Natural Resources
16 Conservation Service as to the extent to which
17 the program has been successful; and

18 “(B) any recommendations for improve-
19 ments to the program.”.

20 (b) CONFORMING AMENDMENT.—The table of con-
21 tents for the Agriculture Improvement Act of 2018 (Public
22 Law 115–334; 132 Stat. 4491) is amended by striking
23 the item relating to section 2408 and inserting the fol-
24 lowing:

“Sec. 2408. Feral swine eradication and control program.”.

1 **SEC. 2408. REPORT ON SMALL WETLANDS.**

2 Section 2409(a) of the Agriculture Improvement Act
3 of 2018 (Public Law 115–334; 132 Stat. 4575) is amend-
4 ed by striking “2014 through 2018” and inserting “2019
5 through 2023”.

6 **SEC. 2409. TERMINAL LAKES ASSISTANCE.**

7 Section 2507 of the Farm Security and Rural Invest-
8 ment Act of 2002 (16 U.S.C. 3839bb–6) is amended—
9 (1) in subsection (e), by striking paragraph (2)
10 and inserting the following:

11 “(2) **ADDITIONAL FUNDS.**—

12 “(A) **AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIA-**
13 **TIONS.**—There is authorized to be appropriated
14 to carry out this section \$10,000,000 for fiscal
15 year 2025 and each fiscal year thereafter, to re-
16 main available until expended.

17 “(B) **AVAILABILITY OF FUNDS.**—Any
18 funds made available to carry out this section
19 before December 20, 2018, may remain avail-
20 able until expended.”; and

21 (2) by striking subsection (f).

22 **SEC. 2410. COLORADO SALINITY CONTROL UNITS.**

23 Section 205 of the Colorado River Basin Salinity
24 Control Act (43 U.S.C. 1595) is amended—

1 each unit or separable feature of a
2 unit authorized by section 202(a)(1),
3 including 90 percent of—

4 “(aa) the costs of operation
5 and maintenance of each unit or
6 separable feature of a unit au-
7 thorized by that section; and

8 “(bb) the total costs of con-
9 struction, operation, and mainte-
10 nance of the associated measures
11 to replace incidental fish and
12 wildlife values foregone.

13 “(II) 75 percent of the total costs
14 of construction and replacement of
15 each unit or separable feature of a
16 unit authorized by section 202(a)(2),
17 including 100 percent of—

18 “(aa) the costs of operation
19 and maintenance of each unit or
20 separable feature of a unit au-
21 thorized by that section; and

22 “(bb) the total costs of con-
23 struction, operation, and mainte-
24 nance of the associated measures

1 to replace incidental fish and
2 wildlife values foregone.

3 “(III) 75 percent of the total
4 costs of construction, operation, main-
5 tenance, and replacement of each unit
6 or separable feature of a unit author-
7 ized by section 202(a)(3), including
8 75 percent of the total costs of con-
9 struction, operation, and maintenance
10 of the associated measures to replace
11 incidental fish and wildlife values fore-
12 gone.

13 “(IV) 70 percent of the total
14 costs of construction, operation, main-
15 tenance, and replacement of each unit
16 or separable feature of a unit author-
17 ized by paragraphs (4) and (6) of sec-
18 tion 202(a), including 70 percent of
19 the total costs of construction, oper-
20 ation, and maintenance of the associ-
21 ated measures to replace incidental
22 fish and wildlife values foregone.

23 “(V) 70 percent of the total costs
24 of construction and replacement of
25 each unit or separable feature of a

1 unit authorized by section 202(a)(5),
2 including 100 percent of—

3 “(aa) the costs of operation
4 and maintenance of each unit or
5 separable feature of a unit au-
6 thorized by that section; and

7 “(bb) the total costs of con-
8 struction, operation, and mainte-
9 nance of the associated measures
10 to replace incidental fish and
11 wildlife values foregone.

12 “(VI) 85 percent of the total
13 costs of implementation of the on-
14 farm measures authorized by section
15 202(c), including 85 percent of the
16 total costs of the associated measures
17 to replace incidental fish and wildlife
18 values foregone.

19 “(ii) SPECIAL RULE FOR NONREIM-
20 BURSABLE COSTS FOR FISCAL YEARS 2024
21 AND 2025.—Notwithstanding clause (i), for
22 each of fiscal years 2024 and 2025, the
23 following shall be nonreimbursable:

24 “(I) 75 percent of all costs de-
25 scribed in clause (i)(I).

1 “(II) 75 percent of all costs de-
2 scribed in clause (i)(II).

3 “(III) 70 percent of all costs de-
4 scribed in clause (i)(V).

5 “(IV) The percentages of all
6 costs described in subclauses (III),
7 (IV), and (VI) of clause (i).

8 “(B) REIMBURSABLE COSTS.—The total
9 costs remaining after the allocations under
10 clauses (i) and (ii) of subparagraph (A) shall be
11 reimbursable as provided for in paragraphs (2),
12 (3), (4), and (5).”;

13 (3) in subsection (b), by striking the subsection
14 designation and all that follows through “Costs of
15 construction” in paragraph (1) and inserting the fol-
16 lowing:

17 “(b) COSTS PAYABLE FROM LOWER COLORADO
18 RIVER BASIN DEVELOPMENT FUND.—

19 “(1) IN GENERAL.—Costs of construction”;

20 (4) in subsection (c), by striking “(c) Costs of
21 construction” and inserting the following:

22 “(c) COSTS PAYABLE FROM UPPER COLORADO
23 RIVER BASIN FUND.—Costs of construction”; and

24 (5) in subsection (e), by striking “(e) The Sec-
25 retary is” and inserting the following:

1 “(e) UPWARD ADJUSTMENT OF RATES FOR ELEC-
2 TRICAL ENERGY.—The Secretary is”.

3 **SEC. 2411. CHESAPEAKE BAY STATES’ PARTNERSHIP INI-**
4 **TIATIVE.**

5 Chapter 5 of subtitle D of title XII of the Food Secu-
6 rity Act of 1985 is amended by inserting after section
7 12400 (16 U.S.C. 3939bb–2) the following:

8 **“SEC. 1240Q. CHESAPEAKE BAY STATES’ PARTNERSHIP INI-**
9 **TIATIVE.**

10 “(a) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

11 “(1) CHESAPEAKE BAY WATERSHED.—the term
12 ‘Chesapeake Bay watershed’ means—

13 “(A) the portions of the States of Dela-
14 ware, Maryland, New York, Pennsylvania, Vir-
15 ginia, and West Virginia that contain the tribu-
16 taries, backwaters, and side channels, including
17 their watersheds, that drain into the Chesa-
18 peake Bay; and

19 “(B) the District of Columbia.

20 “(2) MOST EFFECTIVE BASINS.—The term
21 ‘most effective basins’ means the local rivers and
22 streams located within the Chesapeake Bay water-
23 shed that are identified by the Administrator of the
24 Environmental Protection Agency as being most

1 beneficial to the downstream Chesapeake Bay if
2 prioritized for water quality improvement.

3 “(b) ESTABLISHMENT AND PURPOSE.—The Sec-
4 retary shall carry out a Chesapeake Bay States’ Partner-
5 ship Initiative (referred to in this section as the ‘Initia-
6 tive’) to assist producers in implementing conservation ac-
7 tivities on agricultural land in the Chesapeake Bay water-
8 shed for the purposes of—

9 “(1) improving water quality and quantity in
10 the Chesapeake Bay watershed;

11 “(2) restoring, enhancing, and preserving soil,
12 air, and related resources in the Chesapeake Bay
13 watershed; and

14 “(3) increasing the resilience of agricultural
15 production in the Chesapeake Bay watershed to
16 withstand the impacts of climate change.

17 “(c) CONSERVATION ACTIVITIES.—The Secretary
18 shall deliver the funds made available to carry out this
19 section through applicable programs under this subtitle,
20 including by providing enrollment opportunities that are
21 targeted to the Chesapeake Bay watershed, to assist pro-
22 ducers in enhancing land and water resources—

23 “(1) by controlling erosion and reducing sedi-
24 ment and nutrient levels in ground and surface
25 water; and

1 “(2) by planning, designing, implementing, and
2 evaluating habitat conservation, restoration, and en-
3 hancement measures where there is significant eco-
4 logical value if the land is—

5 “(A) retained in its current use; or

6 “(B) restored to its natural condition.

7 “(d) CONSIDERATIONS.—In delivering the funds
8 made available to carry out this section, the Secretary
9 shall give special consideration to applications—

10 “(1) submitted by producers in the most effec-
11 tive basins; or

12 “(2) to carry out conservation activities that re-
13 duce nitrogen and sediment, improve management of
14 livestock and waste, and conserve wetlands.

15 “(e) DUTIES OF THE SECRETARY.—In carrying out
16 this section, the Secretary shall—

17 “(1) where available, use existing plans, models,
18 and assessments to assist producers in implementing
19 conservation activities; and

20 “(2) proceed expeditiously to deliver funding to
21 a producer to implement conservation activities that
22 are consistent with State strategies for the restora-
23 tion of the Chesapeake Bay watershed.

24 “(f) CONSULTATION AND COORDINATION.—The Sec-
25 retary shall—

1 “(1) in consultation with appropriate Federal
2 agencies, ensure conservation activities carried out
3 under this section complement Federal, State, and
4 local programs, including programs that address
5 water quality, in the Chesapeake Bay watershed;
6 and

7 “(2) in carrying out this section, coordinate
8 with the Farm Service Agency to identify needs and
9 opportunities for buffer management on land subject
10 to a contract under the conservation reserve pro-
11 gram under subchapter B of chapter 1 that may be
12 expiring soon.

13 “(g) TASK FORCE.—

14 “(1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary and the Ad-
15 ministrator of the Environmental Protection Agency
16 shall jointly establish a Federal task force, to be
17 known as the ‘Task Force on Crediting Chesapeake
18 Bay Conservation Investments’ (referred to in this
19 subsection as the ‘task force’).

20 “(2) ACTION PLAN.—The task force shall de-
21 velop an action plan that—

22 “(A) identifies improvements to the proc-
23 esses of analyzing, reporting, and quantifying
24 nutrient reductions from the conservation ac-
25 tivities in the Chesapeake Bay watershed;

1 “(B) is responsive to the needs of States in
2 the Chesapeake Bay watershed (including the
3 District of Columbia) and the agricultural com-
4 munity;

5 “(C) maintains the scientific integrity of
6 the decision-making process and accounting
7 tools under the Initiative and the Chesapeake
8 Bay Program (as defined in section 117(a) of
9 the Federal Water Pollution Control Act (33
10 U.S.C. 1267(a))); and

11 “(D) ensures producer privacy is protected.

12 “(3) IDENTIFICATION OF OPPORTUNITIES.—
13 The task force shall leverage findings from success-
14 ful data sharing pilots to identify opportunities to
15 integrate time-saving technologies for the implemen-
16 tation of conservation activities under this section.

17 “(h) FUNDING.—

18 “(1) MANDATORY FUNDING.—Of amounts in
19 the Treasury not otherwise appropriated, there is
20 appropriated to the Secretary to carry out this sec-
21 tion \$375,000,000 for fiscal year 2025, to remain
22 available until expended.

23 “(2) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—
24 There are authorized to be appropriated to the Sec-

1 retary such sums as are necessary to carry out this
2 section for each fiscal year.

3 “(3) UNOBLIGATED FUNDS.—The Secretary
4 may use to carry out this section amounts made
5 available for the programs described in paragraphs
6 (3) through (6) of section 1241(a) for any fiscal
7 year that remain unobligated at the end of that fis-
8 cal year.”.

9 **SEC. 2412. DRIFTLESS AREA LANDSCAPE CONSERVATION**
10 **INITIATIVE.**

11 Chapter 5 of subtitle D of title XII of the Food Secu-
12 rity Act of 1985 (16 U.S.C. 3839bb et seq.) is amended
13 by adding at the end the following:

14 **“SEC. 1240S. DRIFTLESS AREA LANDSCAPE CONSERVATION**
15 **INITIATIVE.**

16 “(a) ESTABLISHMENT.—The Secretary shall estab-
17 lish a Driftless Area Landscape Conservation Initiative to
18 reduce erosion and restore cold water stream corridors in
19 the Driftless Area of the Midwestern United States, with
20 a focus on climate-smart agriculture, carbon sequestra-
21 tion, soil health, and ecological restoration.

22 “(b) INITIATIVE ELEMENTS.—

23 “(1) IN GENERAL.—In carrying out the initia-
24 tive established under this section, the Secretary

1 shall provide assistance to producers to implement
2 practices—

3 “(A) to manage working land for year-
4 round ground cover to rebuild soil, sequester
5 carbon, improve water quality, increase water
6 holding capacity of soil, reduce soil erosion, and
7 mitigate flooding and other climate impacts;

8 “(B) to manage woodland for increased
9 biodiversity to improve the health of the wood-
10 land to provide habitat and sequester carbon;

11 “(C) to restore prairies and manage grass-
12 land, oak savannas, and barrens to expand
13 habitat and sequester carbon; and

14 “(D) to restore cold water streams by re-
15 ducing stream bank erosion and threats of
16 flooding while improving trout habitat.

17 “(2) PARTNERSHIPS.—In carrying out the ini-
18 tiative established under this section, the Secretary
19 shall provide assistance to partnerships to educate
20 landowners and operators on the benefits of climate-
21 smart agriculture, soil health, and holistic grazing,
22 with a focus on equity.

23 “(3) TYPES OF ASSISTANCE.—The Secretary
24 may provide assistance under this section in the
25 form of financial assistance, technical assistance,

1 and payments for the conveyance of easements to
2 the Secretary, under such terms as the Secretary
3 may establish.

4 “(c) FUNDING.—

5 “(1) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—

6 There are authorized to be appropriated to the Sec-
7 retary such sums as are necessary to carry out this
8 section for each fiscal year.

9 “(2) UNOBLIGATED FUNDS.—The Secretary
10 may use to carry out this section amounts made
11 available for the programs described in paragraphs
12 (3) through (6) of section 1241(a) for any fiscal
13 year that remain unobligated at the end of that fis-
14 cal year.”.

15 **SEC. 2413. EXPANSION OF NRCS SNOW SURVEY AND WATER**
16 **SUPPLY FORECASTING.**

17 (a) DEFINITION OF NORTHEASTERN UNITED
18 STATES.—In this section, the term “Northeastern United
19 States” means the States of Maine, New Hampshire,
20 Vermont, New York, and any other States determined by
21 the Secretary.

22 (b) EXPANSION.—The Secretary, acting through the
23 Chief of the Natural Resources Conservation Service, shall
24 expand the snow survey and water supply forecasting pro-

1 gram carried out by the Natural Resources Conservation
2 Service to serve the Northeastern United States.

3 **Subtitle E—Funding and**
4 **Administration**

5 **SEC. 2501. COMMODITY CREDIT CORPORATION.**

6 (a) IN GENERAL.—Section 1241 of the Food Security
7 Act of 1985 (16 U.S.C. 3841) is amended—

8 (1) by striking subsection (a) and inserting the
9 following:

10 “(a) ANNUAL FUNDING.—

11 “(1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall use the
12 funds, facilities, and authorities of the Commodity
13 Credit Corporation to carry out the programs de-
14 scribed in this subsection, including the provision of
15 technical assistance.

16 “(2) CONSERVATION RESERVE.—For fiscal year
17 2025 and each fiscal year thereafter, using the funds
18 of the Commodity Credit Corporation, the Secretary
19 shall carry out the conservation reserve program
20 under subchapter B of chapter 1 of subtitle D, to
21 the maximum extent practicable, including using
22 \$60,000,000 to provide payments under section
23 1234(e).

24 “(3) AGRICULTURAL CONSERVATION EASEMENT
25 PROGRAM.—

1 “(A) FUNDING.—Of the funds of the Com-
2 modity Credit Corporation, the Secretary shall
3 use to carry out the agricultural conservation
4 easement program under subtitle H, to the
5 maximum extent practicable—

6 “(i) \$450,000,000 for fiscal year
7 2024;

8 “(ii) \$540,000,000 for fiscal year
9 2025;

10 “(iii) \$540,000,000 for fiscal year
11 2026;

12 “(iv) \$570,000,000 for fiscal year
13 2027;

14 “(v) \$570,000,000 for fiscal year
15 2028;

16 “(vi) \$600,000,000 for fiscal year
17 2029;

18 “(vii) \$600,000,000 for fiscal year
19 2030;

20 “(viii) \$675,000,000 for fiscal year
21 2031;

22 “(ix) \$675,000,000 for fiscal year
23 2032; and

24 “(x) \$750,000,000 for fiscal year
25 2033 and each fiscal year thereafter.

1 “(B) USE OF FUNDS.—Of the funds made
2 available by subparagraph (A) for fiscal year
3 2025 and each fiscal year thereafter, the Sec-
4 retary shall use not less than 80 percent to
5 carry out the purposes described in section
6 21001(a)(3) of Public Law 117–169 (136 Stat.
7 2016).

8 “(4) ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY INCENTIVES
9 PROGRAM.—

10 “(A) FUNDING.—Of the funds of the Com-
11 modity Credit Corporation, the Secretary shall
12 use to carry out the environmental quality in-
13 centives program under subchapter A of chap-
14 ter 4 of subtitle D, to the maximum extent
15 practicable—

16 “(i) \$2,025,000,000 for fiscal year
17 2024;

18 “(ii) \$2,575,000,000 for fiscal year
19 2025;

20 “(iii) \$2,575,000,000 for fiscal year
21 2026;

22 “(iv) \$2,675,000,000 for fiscal year
23 2027;

24 “(v) \$2,675,000,000 for fiscal year
25 2028;

1 “(vi) \$2,775,000,000 for fiscal year
2 2029;

3 “(vii) \$2,775,000,000 for fiscal year
4 2030;

5 “(viii) \$2,975,000,000 for fiscal year
6 2031;

7 “(ix) \$2,975,000,000 for fiscal year
8 2032; and

9 “(x) \$3,225,000,000 for fiscal year
10 2033 and each fiscal year thereafter.

11 “(B) USE OF FUNDS.—Of the funds made
12 available by subparagraph (A) for fiscal year
13 2025 and each fiscal year thereafter, the Sec-
14 retary shall use not less than 60 percent to
15 carry out the purposes described in section
16 21001(a)(1) of Public Law 117–169 (136 Stat.
17 2015).

18 “(C) CONDITIONS.—The use of amounts
19 described in subparagraph (B) shall be subject
20 to the conditions described in section
21 21001(a)(1)(B) of Public Law 117–169 (136
22 Stat. 2015).

23 “(5) CONSERVATION STEWARDSHIP PRO-
24 GRAM.—

1 “(A) FUNDING.—Of the funds of the Com-
2 modity Credit Corporation, the Secretary shall
3 use to carry out the conservation stewardship
4 program under subchapter B of chapter 4 of
5 subtitle D, to the maximum extent prac-
6 ticable—

7 “(i) \$1,000,000,000 for fiscal year
8 2024;

9 “(ii) \$1,200,000,000 for fiscal year
10 2025;

11 “(iii) \$1,200,000,000 for fiscal year
12 2026;

13 “(iv) \$1,250,000,000 for fiscal year
14 2027;

15 “(v) \$1,250,000,000 for fiscal year
16 2028;

17 “(vi) \$1,325,000,000 for fiscal year
18 2029;

19 “(vii) \$1,325,000,000 for fiscal year
20 2030;

21 “(viii) \$1,450,000,000 for fiscal year
22 2031;

23 “(ix) \$1,450,000,000 for fiscal year
24 2032; and

1 “(x) \$1,550,000,000 for fiscal year
2 2033 and each fiscal year thereafter.

3 “(B) USE OF FUNDS.—Of the funds made
4 available by subparagraph (A) for fiscal year
5 2025 and each fiscal year thereafter, the Sec-
6 retary shall use not less than 50 percent to
7 carry out the purposes described in section
8 21001(a)(2) of Public Law 117–169 (136 Stat.
9 2016).

10 “(C) CONDITIONS.—The use of amounts
11 described in subparagraph (B) shall be subject
12 to the conditions described in section
13 21001(a)(2)(B) of Public Law 117–169 (136
14 Stat. 2016).

15 “(D) CONTRACTS PREVIOUSLY ENTERED
16 INTO.—Of the funds of the Commodity Credit
17 Corporation, the Secretary shall use such sums
18 as are necessary to administer contracts entered
19 into before December 20, 2018, under the con-
20 servation stewardship program under sub-
21 chapter B of chapter 2 of subtitle D (as in ef-
22 fect on December 19, 2018).

23 “(6) REGIONAL CONSERVATION PARTNERSHIP
24 PROGRAM.—

1 “(A) FUNDING.—Of the funds of the Com-
2 modity Credit Corporation, the Secretary shall
3 use to carry out the regional conservation part-
4 nership program under subtitle I, to the max-
5 imum extent practicable—

6 “(i) \$300,000,000 for fiscal year
7 2024;

8 “(ii) \$600,000,000 for fiscal year
9 2025;

10 “(iii) \$600,000,000 for fiscal year
11 2026;

12 “(iv) \$700,000,000 for fiscal year
13 2027;

14 “(v) \$700,000,000 for fiscal year
15 2028;

16 “(vi) \$800,000,000 for fiscal year
17 2029;

18 “(vii) \$800,000,000 for fiscal year
19 2030;

20 “(viii) \$900,000,000 for fiscal year
21 2031;

22 “(ix) \$900,000,000 for fiscal year
23 2032; and

24 “(x) \$1,050,000,000 for fiscal year
25 2033 and each fiscal year thereafter.

1 “(B) USE OF FUNDS.—Of the funds made
2 available by subparagraph (A) for fiscal year
3 2025 and each fiscal year thereafter, the Sec-
4 retary shall use not less than 80 percent to
5 carry out the purposes described in section
6 21001(a)(4) of Public Law 117–169 (136 Stat.
7 2016).

8 “(C) CONDITIONS.—The use of amounts
9 described in subparagraph (B) shall be subject
10 to the conditions described in section
11 21001(a)(4)(B) of Public Law 117–169 (136
12 Stat. 2016).”; and

13 (2) in subsection (b), by striking “fiscal years
14 2014 through 2031” and inserting “fiscal year 2014
15 and each fiscal year thereafter”.

16 (b) RESCISSION.—The unobligated balances of
17 amounts appropriated by section 21001(a) of Public Law
18 117–169 (136 Stat. 2015) are rescinded.

19 (c) ASSISTANCE TO CERTAIN FARMERS OR RANCH-
20 ERS FOR CONSERVATION ACCESS.—Section 1241(h) of
21 the Food Security Act of 1985 (16 U.S.C. 3841(h)) is
22 amended—

23 (1) in paragraph (1)(B)—

1 (A) in the subparagraph heading, by strik-
2 ing “FISCAL YEARS 2019 THROUGH 2031” and
3 inserting “SUBSEQUENT FISCAL YEARS”; and

4 (B) in the matter preceding clause (i), by
5 striking “each of fiscal years 2019 through
6 2031” and inserting “fiscal year 2019 and each
7 fiscal year thereafter”; and

8 (2) in paragraph (2), by striking “and, in the
9 case of fiscal years 2019 through 2031,” and insert-
10 ing “and”.

11 (d) REPORT ON PROGRAM ENROLLMENTS AND AS-
12 SISTANCE.—Section 1241(i) of the Food Security Act of
13 1985 (16 U.S.C. 3841(i)) is amended, in the matter pre-
14 ceding paragraph (1), by striking “each of calendar years
15 2019 through 2023” and inserting “calendar year 2019
16 and each calendar year thereafter”.

17 (e) CONSERVATION STANDARDS AND REQUIRE-
18 MENTS.—Section 1241(j)(1) of the Food Security Act of
19 1985 (16 U.S.C. 3841(j)(1)) is amended—

20 (1) in subparagraph (B), by striking “and” at
21 the end;

22 (2) in subparagraph (C), by striking the period
23 at the end and inserting “; and”; and

24 (3) by adding at the end the following:

1 “(D) a schedule for the revision of exist-
2 ing, and establishment of new, conservation
3 practice standards under section 1242(h).”.

4 **SEC. 2502. DELIVERY OF TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE.**

5 Section 1242 of the Food Security Act of 1985 (16
6 U.S.C. 3842) is amended—

7 (1) in subsection (a)—

8 (A) by redesignating paragraphs (1) and
9 (2) as paragraphs (2) and (4), respectively;

10 (B) by inserting before paragraph (2) (as
11 so redesignated) the following:

12 “(1) APPROVED NON-FEDERAL CERTIFYING EN-
13 TITY.—The term ‘approved non-Federal certifying
14 entity’ means a non-Federal entity approved by the
15 Secretary under subsection (e)(5)(C)(ii) to perform
16 certifications of third-party providers under this sec-
17 tion.”; and

18 (C) by inserting after paragraph (2) (as so
19 redesignated) the following:

20 “(3) FARMER-TO-FARMER NETWORK.—The
21 term ‘farmer-to-farmer network’ means any affli-
22 ation or association of farmers that share informa-
23 tion, technical assistance, or any other type of mutu-
24 ally beneficial support.”;

1 (2) in subsection (b), by striking “science-
2 based, site-specific practices designed” and inserting
3 “timely, science-based, and site-specific practice de-
4 sign and implementation assistance”;

5 (3) in subsection (d), by inserting “(including
6 private sector entities)” after “non-Federal entities”;

7 (4) in subsection (e)—

8 (A) in paragraph (2), by striking “Food,
9 Conservation, and Energy Act of 2008” and in-
10 serting “Rural Prosperity and Food Security
11 Act of 2024”;

12 (B) in paragraph (3)(A), by striking “en-
13 sure” and all that follows through “engineer-
14 ing,” and inserting “ensure that third-party
15 providers with expertise in the technical aspects
16 of conservation planning, watershed planning,
17 environmental engineering, conservation prac-
18 tice design, implementation, and evaluation, or
19 other technical skills, as determined by the Sec-
20 retary,”; and

21 (C) by striking paragraphs (4) and (5) and
22 inserting the following:

23 “(4) CERTIFICATION.—The Secretary shall cer-
24 tify a third-party provider through—

1 “(A) a certification process administered
2 by the Secretary, acting through the Chief of
3 the Natural Resources Conservation Service;

4 “(B) a non-Federal entity (other than a
5 State agency) approved by the Secretary to per-
6 form the certification; or

7 “(C) a State agency with State statutory
8 authority to certify, administer, or license pro-
9 fessionals in one or more fields of natural re-
10 sources, agriculture, or engineering approved by
11 the Secretary to perform the certification.

12 “(5) NON-FEDERAL CERTIFYING ENTITY PROC-
13 ESS.—

14 “(A) ESTABLISHMENT.—Not later than
15 180 days after the date of enactment of the
16 Rural Prosperity and Food Security Act of
17 2024, the Secretary shall establish a process for
18 the certification of third-party providers
19 through approved non-Federal certifying enti-
20 ties, with the goal of increasing third-party pro-
21 vider capacity, including the certification of
22 qualified agricultural retailers, cooperatives,
23 professional societies, service providers, and or-
24 ganizations described in section 1265A(3)(B)(i).

1 “(B) ELIGIBILITY OF NON-FEDERAL ENTI-
2 TIES.—In determining the eligibility of an enti-
3 ty described in subparagraph (B) or (C) of
4 paragraph (4) (referred to in this paragraph as
5 a ‘non-Federal entity’) to perform certifications,
6 the Secretary shall consider—

7 “(i) the ability and capacity of the
8 non-Federal entity to assess qualifications
9 of a third-party provider and certify third-
10 party providers at scale;

11 “(ii) the experience of the non-Federal
12 entity in working with third-party pro-
13 viders and eligible participants;

14 “(iii) the expertise of the non-Federal
15 entity in the technical and science-based
16 aspects of conservation delivery described
17 in paragraph (3)(A);

18 “(iv) the history of the non-Federal
19 entity in working with agricultural pro-
20 ducers; and

21 “(v) such other qualifications as the
22 Secretary determines to be appropriate.

23 “(C) APPROVAL.—Not later than 40 busi-
24 ness days after the date on which the Secretary
25 receives an application submitted by a non-Fed-

1 eral entity to perform certifications of third-
2 party providers under this section, the Sec-
3 retary shall—

4 “(i) determine if the non-Federal enti-
5 ty meets the eligibility requirements estab-
6 lished under subparagraph (B); and

7 “(ii) if the Secretary makes a positive
8 determination under clause (i), approve the
9 non-Federal entity to perform certifications
10 of third-party providers under this section.

11 “(D) TIMELY DECISIONS.—Not later than
12 10 business days after the date on which the
13 Secretary receives a notification submitted by a
14 third-party provider that the third-party pro-
15 vider has been certified by an approved non-
16 Federal certifying entity to provide technical as-
17 sistance for specified practices and conservation
18 activities, the Secretary shall—

19 “(i) review the certification; and

20 “(ii) if the certification is satisfactory
21 to the Secretary, include the name of the
22 third-party provider on the registry of cer-
23 tified third-party providers maintained by
24 the Secretary.

1 “(E) DUTIES OF APPROVED NON-FEDERAL
2 CERTIFYING ENTITIES.—An approved non-Fed-
3 eral certifying entity shall—

4 “(i) assess the ability of a third-party
5 provider to appropriately provide technical
6 assistance to eligible participants for speci-
7 fied practices and conservation activities;
8 and

9 “(ii) provide to third-party providers
10 certified by the approved non-Federal cer-
11 tifying entity—

12 “(I) training to ensure that the
13 third-party providers are qualified to
14 provide the technical assistance de-
15 scribed in clause (i); and

16 “(II) continuing education, as
17 appropriate, to ensure that the third-
18 party providers are educated in the
19 most recent technical- and science-
20 based aspects of conservation delivery.

21 “(6) STREAMLINED CERTIFICATION.—Not later
22 than 180 days after the date of enactment of the
23 Rural Prosperity and Food Security Act of 2024,
24 the Secretary shall provide a streamlined certifi-
25 cation process for a third-party provider that has an

1 appropriate specialty certification, including a cer-
2 tified crop advisor certified by the American Society
3 of Agronomy, a professional engineer, or a holder of
4 a technical certification approved by the Secretary.”;

5 (5) in subsection (f)—

6 (A) in paragraph (1), by inserting “and for
7 the purpose of carrying out subsection (k)” be-
8 fore the period at the end;

9 (B) in paragraph (2), in the matter pre-
10 ceeding subparagraph (A), by inserting “or an
11 approved non-Federal certifying entity” after
12 “third-party provider”;

13 (C) by striking paragraph (3) and insert-
14 ing the following:

15 “(3) REVIEW.—Not later than 1 year after the
16 date of enactment of the Rural Prosperity and Food
17 Security Act of 2024, and additionally thereafter at
18 the discretion of the Secretary, the Secretary shall—

19 “(A) review certification requirements for
20 third-party providers;

21 “(B) make any adjustments considered
22 necessary by the Secretary to improve participa-
23 tion and the quality and effectiveness of con-
24 servation practices implemented and adopted

1 with support from technical service providers;
2 and

3 “(C) conduct outreach to and receive input
4 from third-party providers, both that currently
5 participate in the program under this section
6 and those that no longer participate in the pro-
7 gram, and entities, organizations, and associa-
8 tions providing or supporting consultative serv-
9 ices to agriculture, livestock, and forest pro-
10 ducers to assess barriers and opportunities for
11 the use of third-party provider assistance for
12 improved conservation program delivery.”;

13 (D) in paragraph (4)(A)(i), by inserting
14 “maintenance,” after “outreach,”; and

15 (E) by striking paragraph (5) and insert-
16 ing the following:

17 “(5) PAYMENT AMOUNTS.—

18 “(A) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall
19 establish fair and reasonable amounts of pay-
20 ments for technical services provided by third-
21 party providers at rates equivalent to, but that
22 do not exceed, technical assistance provided by
23 the Secretary.

24 “(B) CONSIDERATIONS.—In determining
25 fair and reasonable payment amounts under

1 subparagraph (A), the Secretary shall consider
2 specialized equipment, frequency of site visits,
3 training, travel and transportation, and such
4 other factors as the Secretary determines to be
5 appropriate.

6 “(C) EXCLUSION.—A payment provided
7 under another Federal program directly to an
8 eligible participant for technical assistance pro-
9 vided by a third-party provider certified under
10 this section shall be—

11 “(i) excluded from cost-sharing re-
12 quirements under the program under
13 which the payment was provided; and

14 “(ii) equal to not more than 100 per-
15 cent of the fair and reasonable payment
16 amount for the applicable technical assist-
17 ance determined under subparagraph (B).

18 “(6) TRANSPARENCY.—Not later than 1 year
19 after the date of establishment of the processes
20 under paragraphs (5)(A) and (6) of subsection (e),
21 and routinely thereafter, the Secretary shall provide
22 accessible public information on—

23 “(A) funds obligated to third-party pro-
24 viders through—

1 “(i) contracts entered into between el-
2 igible participants and individual third-
3 party providers; and

4 “(ii) agreements with public and pri-
5 vate sector entities to secure third-party
6 technical assistance;

7 “(B) certification results, including—

8 “(i) the number of third-party pro-
9 viders certified by the Secretary;

10 “(ii) the number of approved non-
11 Federal certifying entities;

12 “(iii) the number of third-party pro-
13 viders certified through approved non-Fed-
14 eral certifying entities; and

15 “(iv) the number of third-party pro-
16 viders certified based on State agency or
17 professional association credentialing; and

18 “(C) the estimated number of staff hours
19 or full-time equivalents saved through work ac-
20 complished by third-party providers.”;

21 (6) in subsection (h)—

22 (A) in the subsection heading, by inserting
23 “ESTABLISHMENT AND” before “REVIEW”;

24 (B) in paragraph (1)—

25 (i) in subparagraph (A)—

1 (I) by striking “not later than 1
2 year after the date of enactment of
3 the Agriculture Improvement Act of
4 2018” and inserting “not less fre-
5 quently than once every 5 years”;

6 (II) by inserting “on a rolling
7 basis,” after “standard,”; and

8 (III) by striking “that Act” and
9 inserting “the Rural Prosperity and
10 Food Security Act of 2024”;

11 (ii) in subparagraph (C), by striking
12 “and” at the end;

13 (iii) in subparagraph (D), by striking
14 the period at the end and inserting a semi-
15 colon; and

16 (iv) by adding at the end the fol-
17 lowing:

18 “(E) provide an opportunity for public
19 input on each conservation practice standard
20 under review;

21 “(F) publicly post a summary of comments
22 received under subparagraph (E) and decisions
23 made or not made due to those comments; and

24 “(G) publish each revised conservation
25 practice standard.”;

1 (C) in paragraph (2), by inserting “Indian
2 Tribes, Tribal organizations, Native Hawaiian
3 organizations,” after “nongovernmental organi-
4 zations,”;

5 (D) by striking paragraph (3) and insert-
6 ing the following:

7 “(3) ESTABLISHMENT OF CONSERVATION PRAC-
8 TICE STANDARDS.—

9 “(A) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 1 year
10 after the date of enactment of the Rural Pros-
11 perity and Food Security Act of 2024, the Sec-
12 retary shall—

13 “(i) develop, for the programs under
14 this title, a streamlined, publicly accessible,
15 administrative process for establishing, in-
16 cluding proposing, reviewing, and adopting,
17 interim conservation practice standards
18 and conservation practice standards; and

19 “(ii) publish a detailed description of
20 the process developed under clause (i), in-
21 cluding—

22 “(I) specific thresholds appro-
23 priate for expedited review; and

24 “(II) an associated timeline for
25 the implementation of the review.

1 “(B) REQUIREMENTS.—Under the process
2 established under subparagraph (A), the Sec-
3 retary shall—

4 “(i) consider conservation innovations,
5 scientific and technological advancements,
6 and traditional ecological knowledge, in-
7 cluding from projects developed under sec-
8 tion 1240H;

9 “(ii) allow State, local, and Tribal
10 flexibility in the creation of—

11 “(I) interim conservation practice
12 standards and supplements to existing
13 conservation practice standards to ad-
14 dress the considerations described in
15 clause (i); and

16 “(II) partnership-led proposals
17 for new and innovative techniques to
18 facilitate implementing agreements
19 and grants under this title;

20 “(iii) solicit regular input from State
21 technical committees established under sec-
22 tion 1261(a) for recommendations that
23 identify innovations or advancements de-
24 scribed in clause (i); and

1 “(iv) allow for public submission of
2 proposals for consideration as interim con-
3 servation practice standards.

4 “(C) PUBLIC INFORMATION.—Under the
5 process established under subparagraph (A),
6 the Secretary shall make publicly available in-
7 formation describing—

8 “(i) what constitutes—

9 “(I) a conservation practice
10 standard; and

11 “(II) an interim conservation
12 practice standard;

13 “(ii) the process by which the public
14 can submit to the Secretary proposals for
15 consideration as interim conservation prac-
16 tice standards, including a template and
17 written instructions for how to submit a
18 conservation practice for consideration;

19 “(iii) the data, metrics, third-party or
20 scientific information, and other relevant
21 information that the Secretary needs to
22 consider in the establishment of interim
23 conservation practice standards;

1 “(iv) the process by which an interim
2 conservation practice standard becomes a
3 conservation practice standard;

4 “(v) the means by which the public
5 can engage State technical committees es-
6 tablished under section 1261(a) to consider
7 interim conservation practice standards al-
8 ready in effect in other States; and

9 “(vi) such other information as the
10 Secretary determines to be appropriate.”;

11 (E) in paragraph (4)—

12 (i) in the matter preceding subpara-
13 graph (A)—

14 (I) by striking “Agriculture Im-
15 provement Act of 2018” and inserting
16 “Rural Prosperity and Food Security
17 Act of 2024”; and

18 (II) by striking “Congress a re-
19 port on—” and inserting “Congress
20 and make publicly available on a
21 website of the Department of Agri-
22 culture a report describing—”;

23 (ii) in subparagraph (A), by inserting
24 “a detailed description of” before “the ad-
25 ministrative”;

- 1 (iii) in subparagraph (B)—
- 2 (I) by striking “or revised”; and
- 3 (II) by striking “and” at the end;
- 4 (iv) in subparagraph (C), by striking
- 5 the period at the end and inserting “;
- 6 and”; and
- 7 (v) by adding at the end the following:
- 8 “(D) such other information as the Sec-
- 9 retary determines to be appropriate with re-
- 10 spect to improving the process for reviewing
- 11 and establishing conservation practice stand-
- 12 ards.”; and
- 13 (F) by adding at the end the following:
- 14 “(5) ENTERIC METHANE EMISSIONS.—Not later
- 15 than 180 days after the date of enactment of this
- 16 paragraph, the Secretary shall—
- 17 “(A) complete a review of conservation
- 18 practice standards in effect on the day before
- 19 the date of enactment of this paragraph to con-
- 20 sider any revisions to conservation practice
- 21 standards, including for feed management, or
- 22 new conservation practice standards that would
- 23 be appropriate to assist in reducing enteric
- 24 methane emissions;

1 “(B) revise appropriate conservation prac-
2 tice standards in effect on the day before the
3 date of enactment of this paragraph as nec-
4 essary to assist in reducing enteric methane
5 emissions; and

6 “(C) establish any appropriate new con-
7 servation practice standards to assist in reduc-
8 ing enteric methane emissions.”; and

9 (7) by adding at the end the following:

10 “(j) NATIVE TRADITIONAL ECOLOGICAL KNOWL-
11 EDGE.—

12 “(1) DEFINITION OF NATIVE ENTITY.—In this
13 subsection, the term ‘Native entity’ means—

14 “(A) an Indian Tribe; and

15 “(B) a conservation-focused Native Hawai-
16 ian organization.

17 “(2) INCORPORATING NATIVE TRADITIONAL EC-
18 OLOGICAL KNOWLEDGE.—The Secretary shall, to the
19 maximum extent practicable, fully incorporate Na-
20 tive traditional ecological knowledge into the con-
21 servation practice standards, including the Native
22 conservation practice standards developed under
23 paragraph (3).

24 “(3) NATIVE CONSERVATION PRACTICE STAND-
25 ARDS.—

1 “(A) WORKING GROUPS.—Not later than 1
2 year after the date of enactment of this sub-
3 section, the Secretary shall establish in each
4 service area office of the Natural Resources
5 Conservation Service a working group con-
6 sisting of—

7 “(i) a representative from the applica-
8 ble State technical committee established
9 under section 1261(a);

10 “(ii) the applicable State Conserva-
11 tionist of the Natural Resources Conserva-
12 tion Service; and

13 “(iii) a designated representative from
14 each Native entity within the service area
15 that elects to participate.

16 “(B) DEVELOPMENT OF STANDARDS.—
17 Each working group established under subpara-
18 graph (A) shall develop technical standards
19 based on Native traditional ecological knowl-
20 edge to be—

21 “(i) recognized as Native conservation
22 practice standards for the applicable serv-
23 ice area; and

24 “(ii) incorporated into the Natural
25 Resources Conservation Service field office

1 technical guide for the applicable service
2 area.

3 “(k) PROVISION OF ASSISTANCE TO FARMER-TO-
4 FARMER NETWORKS.—

5 “(1) PURPOSES.—The purposes of this sub-
6 section are—

7 “(A) to build capacity for farmer-to-farmer
8 networks, connect farmers with mentors or
9 group learning opportunities, and support goal
10 setting to increase long-term adoption of con-
11 sistent, science-based, site-specific practices de-
12 signed to achieve conservation objectives on
13 land active in agricultural, forestry, or related
14 uses;

15 “(B) to increase the provision of technical
16 assistance that meets the specific needs of, and
17 is accessible to, farmers, ranchers, and forest
18 owners using different farming models, prac-
19 tices, and scales; and

20 “(C) to establish and steward farmer-to-
21 farmer networks.

22 “(2) COOPERATIVE AGREEMENTS.—

23 “(A) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary may
24 enter into cooperative agreements with eligible

1 entities to carry out the purposes described in
2 paragraph (1).

3 “(B) ELIGIBLE ENTITIES.—An entity eligi-
4 ble to enter into a cooperative agreement with
5 the Secretary under subparagraph (A) is—

6 “(i) a nonprofit entity described in
7 section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue
8 Code of 1986 and exempt from taxation
9 under section 501(a) of that Code;

10 “(ii) a farmer-to-farmer network;

11 “(iii) an Indian Tribe;

12 “(iv) a Tribal organization;

13 “(v) a Native Hawaiian organization,
14 including the Department of Hawaiian
15 Home Lands and the Office of Hawaiian
16 Affairs;

17 “(vi) a unit of local government (in-
18 cluding a conservation district and a con-
19 servation district association);

20 “(vii) an institution of higher edu-
21 cation;

22 “(viii) a State; and

23 “(ix) any other entity designated by
24 the Secretary.

1 “(C) PRIORITIZATION.—In selecting eligi-
2 ble entities with which to enter into cooperative
3 agreements under subparagraph (A), the Sec-
4 retary shall give priority to eligible entities that
5 seek to meet the specific needs of, and are ac-
6 cessible to—

7 “(i) historically underserved farmers,
8 ranchers, and forest owners, including lim-
9 ited-resource farmers, ranchers, and forest
10 owners; or

11 “(ii) farmers, ranchers, and forest
12 owners operating in high-poverty areas.

13 “(3) RESPONSIBILITIES OF PROVIDERS OF AS-
14 SISTANCE TO FARMER-TO-FARMER NETWORKS.—

15 “(A) IN GENERAL.—If an eligible entity
16 provides assistance to establish a farmer-to-
17 farmer network using assistance provided
18 through a cooperative agreement under para-
19 graph (2), the eligible entity shall be responsible
20 for not less than 2 of the following actions:

21 “(i) Facilitating and increasing farm-
22 er access to farmer-to-farmer networks.

23 “(ii) Facilitating mentor and mentee
24 matchmaking among farmers.

1 “(iii) Coordinating training and re-
2 sources to build the skills of farmer-to-
3 farmer network leaders and participants
4 for effective education, grassroots-based
5 learning, and cross-training with respect to
6 the facilitation of, information about, and
7 other skills with respect to building effec-
8 tive farmer-to-farmer networks.

9 “(iv) Maintaining and promulgating a
10 list of relevant entities, associations, and
11 individuals that are supporting, or have an
12 interest in supporting, farmer-to-farmer
13 networks.

14 “(v) Administering subawards to in-
15 crease farmer access to farmer-to-farmer
16 assistance in accordance with paragraph
17 (4).

18 “(vi) Other actions determined appro-
19 priate by the Secretary.

20 “(B) LANGUAGE ASSISTANCE.—If an eligi-
21 ble entity provides assistance described in sub-
22 paragraph (A) to a non-English speaking farm-
23 er, rancher, or forest owner, the eligible entity
24 shall, to the greatest extent practicable, provide

1 that assistance in the native language of the
2 farmer, rancher, or forest owner.

3 “(4) SUBAWARDS.—

4 “(A) IN GENERAL.—If an eligible entity
5 awards a subaward pursuant to paragraph
6 (3)(A)(v) to an eligible subawardee described in
7 subparagraph (B), the eligible subawardee shall
8 use that award—

9 “(i) to plan and conduct events, and
10 identify and develop innovative activities,
11 to support building capacity for farmer-to-
12 farmer networks, connecting farmers with
13 mentors or group learning opportunities,
14 and supporting goal setting to increase
15 long-term adoption of consistent, science-
16 based, site-specific conservation objectives
17 on land active in agricultural, forestry, or
18 related uses; and

19 “(ii) to compensate participants in the
20 events and activities described in clause (i)
21 at market rates.

22 “(B) ELIGIBLE SUBAWARDEES.—An entity
23 eligible for a subaward under paragraph
24 (3)(A)(v) is—

1 “(i) a nonprofit entity described in
2 section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue
3 Code of 1986 and exempt from taxation
4 under section 501(a) of that Code;

5 “(ii) a farmer-to-farmer network;

6 “(iii) an Indian Tribe;

7 “(iv) a Tribal organization;

8 “(v) a Native Hawaiian organization
9 (as defined in section 6207 of the Native
10 Hawaiian Education Act (20 U.S.C.
11 7517));

12 “(vi) a unit of local government (in-
13 cluding a conservation district and a con-
14 servation district association);

15 “(vii) an institution of higher edu-
16 cation;

17 “(viii) an individual; and

18 “(ix) any other entity designated by
19 the Secretary.

20 “(C) REQUIREMENTS.—The Secretary, in
21 conjunction with the Chief of the Natural Re-
22 sources Conservation Service, shall establish
23 any necessary additional requirements for sub-
24 awards under paragraph (3)(A)(v).

1 “(1) TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE ON AGRIVOLTAICS.—In
2 carrying out the conservation programs under this title,
3 the Secretary may provide technical assistance under
4 those programs to farmers growing crops below or in tan-
5 dem with solar energy systems.”.

6 **SEC. 2503. ADMINISTRATIVE REQUIREMENTS FOR CON-**
7 **SERVATION PROGRAMS.**

8 Section 1244 of the Food Security Act of 1985 (16
9 U.S.C. 3844) is amended—

10 (1) in subsection (f)(4), by adding at the end
11 the following:

12 “(C) STATE ACRES FOR WILDLIFE EN-
13 HANCEMENT.—The limitations established
14 under paragraph (1) shall not apply to land en-
15 rolled in the State acres for wildlife enhance-
16 ment practice under section
17 1231(d)(6)(A)(i)(IV).”;

18 (2) in subsection (m), in the matter preceding
19 paragraph (1), by striking “subtitle D and” and all
20 that follows through “the Secretary shall” and in-
21 serting “subtitle D, the environmental quality incen-
22 tives program under subchapter A of chapter 4 of
23 subtitle D, and the agricultural conservation ease-
24 ment program under subtitle H, and in entering into
25 alternative funding arrangements under the regional

1 conservation partnership program under section
2 1271C(d), the Secretary shall”; and

3 (3) by adding at the end the following:

4 “(q) ENCOURAGEMENT OF HABITAT CONNECTIVITY
5 AND WILDLIFE MIGRATION CORRIDORS.—In carrying out
6 any conservation program administered by the Secretary,
7 the Secretary may, as appropriate, encourage—

8 “(1) the conservation of landscape corridors
9 and hydrologic connectivity, where native fish, wild-
10 life, and plant species and ecological processes can
11 transition from one habitat to another, in order to
12 conserve native biodiversity and ensure resiliency
13 against impacts from a range of stressors; and

14 “(2) the use of conservation practices that sup-
15 port the development, restoration, and maintenance
16 of landscape corridors and hydrologic connectivity.”.

17 **SEC. 2504. BEST PRACTICES GUIDANCE FOR SOLAR EN-**
18 **ERGY LAND MANAGEMENT.**

19 Subtitle E of title XII of the Food Security Act of
20 1985 (16 U.S.C. 3841 et seq.) is amended by adding at
21 the end the following:

22 **“SEC. 1248. BEST PRACTICES GUIDANCE FOR SOLAR EN-**
23 **ERGY LAND MANAGEMENT.**

24 “(a) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 1 year after the
25 date of enactment of this section, the Secretary, acting

1 through the Chief of the Natural Resources Conservation
2 Service (referred to in this section as the ‘Secretary’), in
3 collaboration with the Secretary of Energy (including the
4 Solar Energy Technologies Office) and the Under Sec-
5 retary of Agriculture for Rural Development, shall—

6 “(1) develop both national and regionally rel-
7 evant guidance on best practices for protection of
8 soil health and productivity during the siting, con-
9 struction, operation, and decommissioning of solar
10 energy systems on agricultural land, which shall in-
11 clude—

12 “(A) guidance for—

13 “(i) soil carbon and soil health;

14 “(ii) water management;

15 “(iii) vegetation management, includ-
16 ing types of plants best suited for polli-
17 nators; and

18 “(iv) other practices, as determined
19 appropriate by the Secretary; and

20 “(B) regional considerations for each type
21 of guidance described in clauses (i) through (iv)
22 of subparagraph (A); and

23 “(2) make the guidance developed under para-
24 graph (1) publicly available on the website of the
25 Natural Resources Conservation Service.

1 “(b) REVIEW REQUIRED.—The Secretary, in coordi-
2 nation with the Secretary of Energy, shall—

3 “(1) update guidance developed under sub-
4 section (a)(1) not less frequently than once every 2
5 years; and

6 “(2) ensure, to the maximum extent prac-
7 ticable, the completeness and relevance of that guid-
8 ance.

9 “(c) CONSULTATION.—In conducting the review
10 under subsection (b), the Secretary shall consult with eligi-
11 ble participants, State technical committees established
12 under section 1261(a), crop consultants, cooperative ex-
13 tension and land grant universities, nongovernmental or-
14 ganizations, industry, and other qualified entities.”.

15 **Subtitle F—Agricultural**
16 **Conservation Easement Program**

17 **SEC. 2601. DEFINITIONS.**

18 (a) IN GENERAL.—Section 1265A of the Food Secu-
19 rity Act of 1985 (16 U.S.C. 3865a) is amended—

20 (1) in paragraph (2)—

21 (A) in subparagraph (A)—

22 (i) in clause (i)—

23 (I) by striking “an eligible enti-
24 ty” the first place it appears and in-

1 serting “one or more eligible entities”;
2 and

3 (II) by striking “an eligible entity
4 owns or is” and inserting “one or
5 more of those eligible entities own or
6 are”;

7 (ii) in clause (ii)—

8 (I) in the matter preceding sub-
9 clause (I), by striking “the eligible en-
10 tity certifies to the Secretary that
11 the” and inserting “each eligible enti-
12 ty certifies to the Secretary that an”;

13 (II) in subclause (I)—

14 (aa) by striking the sub-
15 clause designation and all that
16 follows through “hold” in item
17 (bb) and inserting the following:
18 “(I) hold”;

19 (bb) by striking “transfer
20 ownership of the land” and in-
21 serting “ownership of the land
22 will be transferred”; and

23 (cc) by striking “and” at the
24 end;

1 (III) in subclause (II), by insert-
2 ing “that owns the land subject to the
3 agricultural land easement held by an-
4 other eligible entity” after “eligible
5 entity”; and

6 (IV) by adding at the end the fol-
7 lowing:

8 “(III) at no time hold both an
9 agricultural land easement and owner-
10 ship of the land subject to that agri-
11 cultural land easement; and”; and

12 (iii) in clause (iii), by striking “by the
13 eligible entity” and all that follows through
14 the period at the end and inserting “by
15 one or more eligible entities if such an eli-
16 gible entity fails to transfer ownership
17 under clause (ii).”; and

18 (B) in subparagraph (B), by striking
19 “(A)(ii)(I)(bb)” and inserting “(A)(ii)(I)”;

20 (2) by redesignating paragraphs (3) through
21 (7) as paragraphs (4) through (8), respectively;

22 (3) by inserting after paragraph (2) the fol-
23 lowing:

1 “(3) BUY-SELL-PROTECT TRANSACTION.—The
2 term ‘buy-sell-protect transaction’ means a legal ar-
3 rangement—

4 “(A) between one or more eligible entities
5 and the Secretary relating to land that one or
6 more of those eligible entities own or are going
7 to purchase prior to acquisition of an agricul-
8 tural land easement; and

9 “(B) under which each eligible entity cer-
10 tifies to the Secretary that an eligible entity
11 shall hold an agricultural land easement on that
12 land, but ownership of the land will be trans-
13 ferred to a farmer or rancher that is not an eli-
14 gible entity prior to or on acquisition of the ag-
15 ricultural land easement.”; and

16 (4) in paragraph (5) (as so redesignated)—

17 (A) in the matter preceding subparagraph
18 (A), by striking “tribal land” and inserting
19 “Tribal land”; and

20 (B) in subparagraph (A)(i)—

21 (i) in subclause (I), by striking “or”
22 at the end;

23 (ii) in subclause (II), by adding “or”
24 at the end; and

1 (iii) by adding at the end the fol-
2 lowing:

3 “(III) a buy-sell-protect trans-
4 action;”.

5 (b) CONFORMING AMENDMENT.—Section
6 1271A(4)(I) of the Food Security Act of 1985 (16 U.S.C.
7 3871a(4)(I)) is amended by striking “1265A(3)(B)” and
8 inserting “1265A(4)(B)”.

9 **SEC. 2602. AGRICULTURAL LAND EASEMENTS.**

10 (a) AVAILABILITY OF ASSISTANCE.—Section
11 1265B(a) of the Food Security Act of 1985 (16 U.S.C.
12 3865b(a)) is amended—

13 (1) in paragraph (2), by striking “and” at the
14 end;

15 (2) in paragraph (3), by striking the period at
16 the end and inserting “; and”; and

17 (3) by adding at the end the following:

18 “(4) buy-sell-protect transactions.”.

19 (b) COST-SHARE ASSISTANCE.—Section 1265B(b) of
20 the Food Security Act of 1985 (16 U.S.C. 3865b(b)) is
21 amended—

22 (1) in paragraph (2)—

23 (A) in subparagraph (A), in the matter
24 preceding clause (i), by striking “50 percent”

1 and inserting “60 percent, except as provided in
2 subparagraph (B)(ii)(I),”; and

3 (B) in subparagraph (B)—

4 (i) in clause (i), by striking “that is at
5 least equivalent to that provided by the
6 Secretary” and inserting “of not less than
7 40 percent, except as provided in clause
8 (ii)(II), of the fair market value of the ag-
9 ricultural land easement”; and

10 (ii) in clause (ii)—

11 (I) by striking “Secretary, the
12 Secretary” and inserting the fol-
13 lowing: “Secretary—

14 “(I) the Secretary”;

15 (II) in subclause (I) (as so des-
16 ignated)—

17 (aa) by striking “75 per-
18 cent” and inserting “80 per-
19 cent”; and

20 (bb) by striking the period
21 at the end and inserting “; and”;

22 and

23 (III) by adding at the end the
24 following:

1 “(II) the eligible entity shall pro-
2 vide a share that is not less than 20
3 percent of the fair market value of the
4 agricultural land easement.”; and

5 (2) by striking paragraph (5) and inserting the
6 following:

7 “(5) CERTIFICATION OF ELIGIBLE ENTITIES.—

8 “(A) CERTIFICATION PURPOSE.—The pur-
9 pose of the certification of eligible entities
10 under this paragraph is—

11 “(i) to minimize administrative bur-
12 dens on the Secretary; and

13 “(ii) to recognize the ability of experi-
14 enced eligible entities to carry out the pur-
15 poses of the program with minimal over-
16 sight by the Secretary.

17 “(B) CERTIFICATION PROCESS.—The Sec-
18 retary shall establish a process under which the
19 Secretary—

20 “(i) directly certifies eligible entities
21 that meet established criteria described in
22 subparagraph (C) or (D);

23 “(ii) enters into long-term agreements
24 with certified eligible entities;

1 “(iii) accepts proposals for cost-share
2 assistance for the purchase of agricultural
3 land easements throughout the duration of
4 such agreements;

5 “(iv) allows a certified eligible entity
6 to use its own terms and conditions, not-
7 withstanding paragraph (4)(C), as long as
8 the terms and conditions are consistent
9 with the purposes of the program;

10 “(v) may allow a certified eligible enti-
11 ty to include the minimum deed terms es-
12 tablished by the Secretary under para-
13 graph (4)(C); and

14 “(vi) may allow a certified eligible en-
15 tity to assist a non-certified eligible entity
16 in the purchase and stewardship of an ag-
17 ricultural land easement.

18 “(C) CERTIFICATION CRITERIA FOR ELIGI-
19 BLE ENTITIES.—To be certified through the
20 process established under subparagraph (B), an
21 eligible entity shall demonstrate to the Sec-
22 retary that the eligible entity—

23 “(i) will maintain, at a minimum, for
24 the duration of the agreement and the du-

1 ration of each agricultural land easement
2 acquired under the agreement—

3 “(I) a plan for administering ag-
4 ricultural land easements that is con-
5 sistent with the purposes of the pro-
6 gram;

7 “(II) the capacity and resources
8 to monitor and enforce agricultural
9 land easements consistent with the
10 purposes of the program; and

11 “(III) policies and procedures to
12 ensure—

13 “(aa) the long-term integrity
14 of agricultural land easements on
15 eligible land consistent with the
16 purposes of the program;

17 “(bb) timely completion of
18 acquisitions of such agricultural
19 land easements;

20 “(cc) timely and complete
21 evaluation and reporting to the
22 Secretary on the use of funds
23 provided under the program; and

24 “(dd) compliance with pro-
25 gram requirements, including

1 timely notifications to the Sec-
2 retary required under the pro-
3 gram, such as notifications of de-
4 minimis adjustments in accord-
5 ance with section
6 1265D(c)(6)(B)(iii); and

7 “(ii) has—

8 “(I) acquired not fewer than 10
9 agricultural land easements under the
10 program; and

11 “(II) successfully met the respon-
12 sibilities of the eligible entity under
13 the applicable agreements with the
14 Secretary, as determined by the Sec-
15 retary, relating to agricultural land
16 easements that the eligible entity has
17 acquired under the program or any
18 predecessor program.

19 “(D) EXPEDITED CERTIFICATION OF PUB-
20 LIC ENTITIES AND ACCREDITED LAND
21 TRUSTS.—The Secretary may certify an eligible
22 entity using an expedited certification process
23 under subparagraph (B) if the eligible entity
24 demonstrates that it—

25 “(i) is—

1 “(I) accredited by the Land
2 Trust Accreditation Commission, or
3 by an equivalent accrediting body, as
4 determined by the Secretary; or

5 “(II) a public agency with statu-
6 tory authority for farm and ranchland
7 protection;

8 “(ii) has acquired not fewer than 5
9 agricultural land easements under the pro-
10 gram or any predecessor program;

11 “(iii) has successfully met the respon-
12 sibilities of the eligible entity under the ap-
13 plicable agreements with the Secretary, as
14 determined by the Secretary, relating to
15 agricultural land easements that the eligi-
16 ble entity has acquired under the program
17 or any predecessor program; and

18 “(iv) meets the requirements of sub-
19 paragraph (C)(i).

20 “(E) APPLICABILITY TO REGIONAL CON-
21 SERVATION PARTNERSHIP PROGRAM.—The cer-
22 tification of an eligible entity under this para-
23 graph, and the authorities under this paragraph
24 resulting from that certification, shall apply to
25 the establishment by the eligible entity of agri-

1 cultural land easements under the regional con-
2 servation partnership program under subtitle I.

3 “(F) REVIEW; REVOCATION.—

4 “(i) REVIEW.—

5 “(I) IN GENERAL.—The Sec-
6 retary shall conduct a review of eligi-
7 ble entities certified under subpara-
8 graph (B) every 3 years to ensure
9 that such certified eligible entities are
10 meeting the criteria established under
11 subparagraphs (C) and (D).

12 “(II) DE MINIMIS ADJUST-
13 MENTS.—Each review under subclause
14 (I) shall include a review of any de
15 minimis adjustments made by each
16 certified eligible entity under section
17 1265D(c)(6)(B), including a review of
18 whether timely notification of each de
19 minimis adjustment was made to the
20 Secretary in accordance with clause
21 (iii)(I) of that section.

22 “(III) NOTIFICATION OF AC-
23 CREDITATION ENTITY.—If the Sec-
24 retary determines in a review under
25 subclause (I) that an eligible entity is

1 not in compliance, the Secretary shall
2 notify the appropriate accrediting or
3 governing body overseeing the certifi-
4 cation of the eligible entity under sub-
5 paragraph (D) of the noncompliance
6 of the eligible entity.

7 “(ii) REVOCATION.—

8 “(I) BASED ON ELIGIBILITY CRI-
9 TERIA.—If the Secretary finds that a
10 certified eligible entity no longer
11 meets the criteria established under
12 subparagraph (C) or (D), as applica-
13 ble, the Secretary may—

14 “(aa) allow the certified eli-
15 gible entity a specified period of
16 time, at a minimum 180 days, in
17 which to take such actions as
18 may be necessary to meet the cri-
19 teria; and

20 “(bb) revoke the certifi-
21 cation of the eligible entity, if,
22 after the specified period of time,
23 the certified eligible entity does
24 not meet such criteria.

1 “(II) FAILURE TO COMPLY WITH
2 DE MINIMIS NOTIFICATIONS.—If an
3 eligible entity fails to comply with no-
4 tification requirements under section
5 1265D(c)(6)(B)(iii), the Secretary
6 may—

7 “(aa) immediately revoke
8 the certification of the eligible en-
9 tity under this paragraph; and

10 “(bb) pursue any other rem-
11 edies available to the Secretary.”.

12 **SEC. 2603. WETLAND RESERVE EASEMENTS.**

13 Section 1265C of the Food Security Act of 1985 (16
14 U.S.C. 3865c) is amended—

15 (1) by striking “subsection (f)” each place it
16 appears and inserting “subsection (g)”;

17 (2) in subsection (c)(1), by inserting “technical
18 and” before “financial”;

19 (3) by redesignating subsections (e) through (g)
20 as subsections (f) through (h), respectively;

21 (4) by striking subsection (d) and inserting the
22 following:

23 “(d) EASEMENT STEWARDSHIP.—

24 “(1) IN GENERAL.—Using amounts made avail-
25 able to carry out the program, the Secretary shall,

1 with respect to eligible land enrolled under this sec-
2 tion—

3 “(A) regularly assess and monitor the en-
4 rolled land;

5 “(B) provide technical and financial assist-
6 ance for the repair, necessary maintenance, and
7 enhancement activities described in the wetland
8 reserve easement plan developed for the eligible
9 land under subsection (g)(1); and

10 “(C) create and execute a 5-year steward-
11 ship plan for assessment, capacity, and per-
12 formance, ensuring the monitoring, repair,
13 maintenance, and enhancement activities de-
14 scribed in subparagraphs (A) and (B) are com-
15 pleted to ensure wetland reserve easements ful-
16 fill the purposes of—

17 “(i) the program; and

18 “(ii) the wetland reserve easement
19 plans described in subparagraph (B).

20 “(2) PAYMENTS.—In carrying out this sub-
21 section, the Secretary shall make payments in
22 amounts that are not more than 100 percent of the
23 eligible costs, as determined by the Secretary.

24 “(3) REPORT.—Not later 2 years after the date
25 of enactment of the Rural Prosperity and Food Se-

1 security Act of 2024, the Secretary shall submit to the
2 Committee on Agriculture of the House of Rep-
3 resentatives and the Committee on Agriculture, Nu-
4 trition, and Forestry of the Senate a report describ-
5 ing—

6 “(A) an inventory of the existing steward-
7 ship needs of all wetland reserve easements;

8 “(B) a plan to address the stewardship
9 needs described in that inventory;

10 “(C) the amounts the Secretary will allo-
11 cate to address those stewardship needs; and

12 “(D) the planned use of compatible uses
13 under subsection (b)(5)(C), contracts or agree-
14 ments under subsection (e)(2), or wetland re-
15 serve easement plans under subsection (g)(1) to
16 ensure that each of those stewardship needs is
17 addressed.

18 “(e) ASSISTANCE.—

19 “(1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall assist
20 owners in complying with the terms and conditions
21 of a wetland reserve easement.

22 “(2) CONTRACTS OR AGREEMENTS.—The Sec-
23 retary may enter into 1 or more contracts or agree-
24 ments with a Federal, State, or local government
25 agency, nongovernmental organization, Indian tribe

1 or Tribal organization, or private entity to carry out
2 necessary restoration, enhancement, maintenance,
3 repair, assessment, or monitoring of a wetland re-
4 serve easement if the Secretary determines that the
5 contract or agreement will advance the purposes of
6 the program.”; and

7 (5) in subsection (g) (as so redesignated), in
8 paragraph (3)(A), by striking “Federal or State”
9 and inserting “Federal, State, or Tribal”.

10 **SEC. 2604. ADMINISTRATION.**

11 (a) IN GENERAL.—Section 1265D of the Food Secu-
12 rity Act of 1985 (16 U.S.C. 3865d) is amended—

13 (1) in subsection (c), by adding at the end the
14 following:

15 “(6) DE MINIMIS ADJUSTMENTS.—

16 “(A) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary may
17 approve and make a de minimis adjustment, as
18 determined by the Secretary and subject to con-
19 ditions determined by the Secretary, to any in-
20 terest in land, or portion of such interest, ad-
21 ministered by the Secretary, directly or on be-
22 half of the Commodity Credit Corporation,
23 under the program if the Secretary determines
24 that the adjustment—

1 “(i) increases conservation values or
2 has a neutral or limited negative effect on
3 conservation values;

4 “(ii) is in the public interest or fur-
5 thers the practical administration of the
6 program; and

7 “(iii) is not a subordination, modifica-
8 tion, exchange, or termination, as deter-
9 mined by the Secretary.

10 “(B) DE MINIMIS ADJUSTMENTS BY CER-
11 TIFIED ELIGIBLE ENTITIES.—

12 “(i) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary
13 may authorize an eligible entity certified
14 under section 1265B(b)(5) that has dem-
15 onstrated the ability to make easement
16 management decisions consistent with the
17 purposes of the program to approve and
18 make de minimis adjustments described in
19 clause (ii) to any interest in eligible land
20 held by the certified eligible entity if the
21 certified eligible entity determines that the
22 adjustment—

23 “(I) increases conservation values
24 or has a neutral or limited negative
25 effect on conservation values;

1 “(II) is consistent with the pro-
2 gram purposes for which the interest
3 was originally acquired and furthers
4 the practical administration of the
5 program;

6 “(III) is not made to resolve a
7 violation or a potential violation; and

8 “(IV) is not made with respect to
9 an easement that is co-held by the
10 United States.

11 “(ii) TYPES OF DE MINIMIS ADJUST-
12 MENTS.—The de minimis adjustments re-
13 ferred to in clause (i) are limited to—

14 “(I) title corrections;

15 “(II) corrections to typographical
16 errors;

17 “(III) changes in legal descrip-
18 tions as a result of minor survey or
19 mapping errors;

20 “(IV) changes to a building enve-
21 lope boundary that do not increase
22 the total square footage of the imper-
23 vious surface of the original building
24 envelope boundary; and

1 “(V) relocation of easement ac-
2 cess.

3 “(iii) NOTIFICATION.—Not later than
4 30 days after the date on which a certified
5 eligible entity records a de minimis adjust-
6 ment under clause (i), the certified eligible
7 entity shall provide to the Secretary a no-
8 tice of the de minimis adjustment and a
9 copy of the recorded instrument.

10 “(iv) RULE OF CONSTRUCTION.—
11 Nothing in this subparagraph requires the
12 Secretary to determine whether each eligi-
13 ble entity seeking certification under sec-
14 tion 1265B(b)(5) meets the requirements
15 to make de minimis adjustments under
16 this subparagraph.”; and

17 (2) by striking subsection (e) and inserting the
18 following:

19 “(e) COMPLIANCE WITH CERTAIN REQUIRE-
20 MENTS.—

21 “(1) CONSERVATION AND WETLAND PROTEC-
22 TION REQUIREMENTS.—The Secretary may not pro-
23 vide assistance under this subtitle to an eligible enti-
24 ty or owner of eligible land unless the owner of the
25 eligible land, at the time of acquisition of an ease-

1 ment under this subtitle, is in compliance with appli-
2 cable requirements under subtitles B and C.

3 “(2) **EQUITABLE TREATMENT.**—The Secretary
4 shall ensure the equitable treatment of a purchaser
5 of eligible land under a purchase agreement, an in-
6 stallment land contract, or a lease-to-own agreement
7 by—

8 “(A) identifying the purchaser of the land
9 as the owner of the land;

10 “(B) appropriately identifying the seller of
11 the land based on the instrument; and

12 “(C) addressing the interests of the parties
13 described in subparagraphs (A) and (B), as de-
14 termined necessary by the Secretary, by the
15 time of acquisition of an easement under this
16 subtitle.”.

17 (b) **REPORT ON GROUNDWATER CONSERVATION**
18 **EASEMENT PROGRAM.**—

19 (1) **IN GENERAL.**—The Secretary shall conduct
20 a study to determine the feasibility of establishing a
21 groundwater conservation easement program within
22 the agricultural conservation easement program es-
23 tablished under subtitle H of title XII of the Food
24 Security Act of 1985 (16 U.S.C. 3865 et seq.).

1 (2) CONTENTS.—The study conducted under
2 paragraph (1) shall—

3 (A) examine the impact of legal regimes
4 governing water rights on the establishment of
5 easements across the United States, particu-
6 larly focused on how water rights under State
7 laws can be purchased or regulated by the Fed-
8 eral Government as a property right;

9 (B) examine the feasibility of establishing
10 an easement program devoted to purchasing eli-
11 gible water rights either in perpetuity or for a
12 term, which may include establishing easements
13 on eligible land associated with such water
14 rights, through groundwater conservation ease-
15 ments;

16 (C) analyze how the establishment of a
17 groundwater conservation easement program
18 would incentivize farmers and ranchers to dis-
19 continue irrigation practices and to adopt
20 groundwater conservation management prac-
21 tices;

22 (D) consider what potential effects a
23 groundwater conservation easement program
24 would have on sustainable groundwater man-
25 agement, the recharging of declining aquifers,

1 and the reduction of reliance on groundwater
2 water supply;

3 (E) assess the effectiveness of a ground-
4 water conservation easement program if the
5 landowner or eligible entity has the right to
6 continue agricultural production and other uses
7 compatible with sustainable groundwater man-
8 agement while participating in the program;

9 (F) analyze the elements of the ground-
10 water conservation easement program that may
11 not be consistent with the agricultural conserva-
12 tion easement program, such as—

13 (i) the length of an easement agree-
14 ment to restore and enhance groundwater-
15 dependent ecosystems; and

16 (ii) geographic scope; and

17 (G) consider the costs of—

18 (i) the fair market value of a ground-
19 water conservation easement;

20 (ii) technical assistance to implement
21 the groundwater conservation easement
22 program; and

23 (iii) revegetating land with plants that
24 can survive drought and do not require ir-
25 rigation.

1 (3) REPORT.—Not later than 1 year after the
2 date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary shall
3 submit to the Committee on Agriculture of the
4 House of Representatives and the Committee on Ag-
5 riculture, Nutrition, and Forestry of the Senate a
6 report describing the findings of the study conducted
7 under paragraph (1), including findings relating to
8 each of the matters described in paragraph (2).

9 **Subtitle G—Regional Conservation**
10 **Partnership Program**

11 **SEC. 2701. ESTABLISHMENT AND PURPOSES.**

12 Section 1271(b) of the Food Security Act of 1985
13 (16 U.S.C. 3871(b)) is amended—

14 (1) in paragraph (1)—

15 (A) by redesignating subparagraphs (A)
16 through (D) as clauses (i) through (iv), respec-
17 tively, and indenting appropriately;

18 (B) in the matter preceding clause (i) (as
19 so redesignated)—

20 (i) by striking “eligible activities to”
21 and inserting “projects that”; and

22 (ii) by striking “programs, as” and
23 inserting the following: “programs:

24 “(A) The following programs, as”; and

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

1 “(B) The following programs, as in effect
2 on the day before the date of enactment of the
3 Rural Prosperity and Food Security Act of
4 2024:

5 “(i) The water bank program estab-
6 lished under the Water Bank Act (16
7 U.S.C. 1301 et seq.).

8 “(ii) The agricultural management as-
9 sistance program established under section
10 524(b) of the Federal Crop Insurance Act
11 (7 U.S.C. 1524(b)).”;

12 (2) by redesignating paragraphs (3) through
13 (5) as paragraphs (4) through (6), respectively;

14 (3) by inserting after paragraph (2) the fol-
15 lowing:

16 “(3) To encourage the reduction of greenhouse
17 gases, and the adaptation to and mitigation of cli-
18 mate change, through the coordinated efforts of eli-
19 gible partners, producers, and Federal, State, local,
20 and Tribal governments.”;

21 (4) in paragraph (4) (as so redesignated)—

22 (A) in subparagraph (A), by striking
23 “and” at the end;

24 (B) in subparagraph (B)—

1 (i) by striking “affect” and inserting
2 “create conservation benefits across”; and

3 (ii) by striking the period at the end
4 and inserting “; and”; and

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

6 “(C) implementing or establishing a soil
7 health plan or program of a State or Tribal
8 government.”;

9 (5) in paragraph (5) (as so redesignated), by
10 striking “through partnership agreements”;

11 (6) in paragraph (6) (as so redesignated)—

12 (A) by striking “conservation projects to
13 achieve” and inserting “innovative methods of
14 conservation delivery that generate”; and

15 (B) by striking “outcomes and”; and

16 (7) by adding at the end the following:

17 “(7) To facilitate the conversion from con-
18 centrated animal feeding operations to climate-
19 friendly agricultural production systems, including
20 regenerative grazing, agroforestry, organic, and di-
21 versified crop and livestock production systems.”.

22 **SEC. 2702. DEFINITIONS.**

23 Section 1271A of the Food Security Act of 1985 (16
24 U.S.C. 3871a) is amended—

1 (1) by redesignating paragraphs (1) through
2 (5), (6), and (7) as paragraphs (2) through (6), (8),
3 and (9), respectively;

4 (2) by inserting before paragraph (2) (as so re-
5 designated) the following:

6 “(1) CONSERVATION BENEFIT.—

7 “(A) IN GENERAL.—The term ‘conserva-
8 tion benefit’ means, with respect to an eligible
9 activity, the resulting—

10 “(i) improvement of—

11 “(I) agricultural or nonindustrial
12 forest land;

13 “(II) water, air, or soil quality;

14 “(III) water quantity; or

15 “(IV) the condition of habitat for
16 fish or wildlife;

17 “(ii) protection of agricultural or non-
18 industrial forest land; or

19 “(iii) reduction in consumptive water
20 use.

21 “(B) MEASUREMENT.—A conservation
22 benefit (as defined in subparagraph (A)) may
23 be measured or modeled by an eligible partner
24 for the purposes of reporting a verifiable, quan-
25 tifiable improvement in the natural resource

1 concern targeted by the applicable eligible activ-
2 ity.”;

3 (3) by striking paragraph (3) (as so redesign-
4 nated) and inserting the following:

5 “(3) ELIGIBLE ACTIVITY.—The term ‘eligible
6 activity’ means—

7 “(A) a practice, activity, agreement, ease-
8 ment, or related conservation measure that is
9 available under the statutory authority for a
10 covered program; and

11 “(B) a practice, activity, agreement, ease-
12 ment, or related conservation measure that—

13 “(i) is consistent with the purposes of
14 at least one covered program; and

15 “(ii) proposes an innovative—

16 “(I) conservation approach;

17 “(II) method of conservation
18 funding delivery; or

19 “(III) approach to leveraging the
20 Federal investment.”;

21 (4) in paragraph (4) (as so redesignated)—

22 (A) by striking “The term” and inserting
23 the following:

24 “(A) IN GENERAL.—The term”; and

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

1 “(B) RULE OF CONSTRUCTION.—The term
2 ‘eligible land’ may include other spaces on
3 which identified or expected resource concerns
4 related to agricultural production could be ad-
5 dressed under the program, as determined by
6 the Secretary, such as urban agriculture and
7 other innovative production methods.”;

8 (5) in paragraph (5) (as so redesignated)—

9 (A) in subparagraph (C), by striking
10 “tribe” and inserting “Tribe or Tribal organiza-
11 tion”;

12 (B) by striking subparagraph (H);

13 (C) by redesignating subparagraphs (D)
14 through (G) as subparagraphs (E) through (H),
15 respectively;

16 (D) by inserting after subparagraph (C)
17 the following:

18 “(D) A Native Hawaiian organization.”;

19 and

20 (E) by adding at the end the following:

21 “(K) A not-for-profit conservation organi-
22 zation.

23 “(L) An agricultural retailer (including an
24 agrichemical business and a farm retail outlet
25 or supplier).

1 “(M) Any other entity that the Secretary
2 determines to be appropriate.”; and

3 (6) by inserting after paragraph (6) (as so re-
4 designated) the following:

5 “(7) PERFORMANCE-BASED PAYMENTS.—The
6 term ‘performance-based payments’ means payments
7 to a producer by an eligible partner under section
8 1271C(d) to purchase quantified and verified con-
9 servation benefits.”.

10 **SEC. 2703. REGIONAL CONSERVATION PARTNERSHIPS.**

11 Section 1271B of the Food Security Act of 1985 (16
12 U.S.C. 3871b) is amended—

13 (1) in subsection (b)—

14 (A) by striking paragraph (1) and insert-
15 ing the following:

16 “(1) IN GENERAL.—A partnership agreement
17 shall be for a period not to exceed 5 years, subject
18 to renewal or extension.”;

19 (B) in paragraph (2), by inserting “not
20 more than one time” after “renewed under sub-
21 section (e)(5)”;

22 (C) in paragraph (3), by striking “of a
23 partnership agreement” and all that follows
24 through “12 months,” and inserting “thereof,
25 may each be extended under subsection (e)(6)

1 not more than 2 times for a period of not
2 longer than 24 months each,”; and

3 (D) by adding at the end the following:

4 “(4) EFFECT ON EXISTING AGREEMENTS.—

5 “(A) IN GENERAL.—A partnership agree-
6 ment entered into on or after the date of enact-
7 ment of the Rural Prosperity and Food Secu-
8 rity Act of 2024 shall not affect, modify, or
9 interfere with any partnership agreement in ef-
10 fect on the day before that date of enactment.

11 “(B) MODIFICATION OF EXISTING AGREE-
12 MENTS.—To implement the amendments made
13 to this subsection by the Rural Prosperity and
14 Food Security Act of 2024—

15 “(i) the signatories to a partnership
16 agreement in effect on the day before the
17 date of enactment of that Act may mutu-
18 ally agree to a modification of the length
19 of, and options for renewals and extensions
20 available for, that partnership agreement;
21 and

22 “(ii) the Secretary shall provide an
23 opportunity for the signatories to a part-
24 nership agreement described in clause (i)
25 to modify the partnership agreement pur-

1 suant to that clause without requiring the
2 renegotiation of any other provision of the
3 partnership agreement.”;

4 (2) in subsection (c)—

5 (A) in paragraph (1)—

6 (i) in the paragraph heading, by strik-
7 ing “IN GENERAL” and inserting “MANDA-
8 TORY DUTIES”; and

9 (ii) in subparagraph (E)—

10 (I) in clause (i), by striking
11 “each conservation benefit” and all
12 that follows through “; and” and in-
13 serting “the conservation benefits of
14 the partnership agreement;”;

15 (II) by redesignating clause (ii)
16 as clause (iii);

17 (III) by inserting after clause (i)
18 the following:

19 “(ii) any barriers that prevented the
20 project from achieving the conservation
21 benefits of the partnership agreement;
22 and”;

23 (IV) in clause (iii) (as so redesign-
24 ated), by striking “project” and in-
25 serting “project and lessons learned

1 through the implementation of the
2 project”;

3 (B) by redesignating paragraph (2) as
4 paragraph (3);

5 (C) by inserting after paragraph (1) the
6 following:

7 “(2) DISCRETIONARY DUTIES.—Under a part-
8 nership agreement, the eligible partner may—

9 “(A) provide technical and financial assist-
10 ance to producers to design, implement, and
11 monitor eligible activities on eligible land; and

12 “(B) contract or establish sub-agreements
13 or grants for financial or technical assistance,
14 including performance-based payments, with
15 producers or other entities to carry out the
16 project.”; and

17 (D) in paragraph (3) (as so redesign-
18 nated)—

19 (i) by striking subparagraph (A) and
20 inserting the following:

21 “(A) IN GENERAL.—

22 “(i) REQUIREMENT.—An eligible part-
23 ner shall provide a significant contribution
24 towards the implementation of the project
25 that is the subject of the agreement en-

1 tered into under subsection (a), as deter-
2 mined by the Secretary.

3 “(ii) RULE OF CONSTRUCTION.—Not-
4 withstanding any other provision of law, a
5 contribution of an eligible partner under
6 this paragraph may be used to meet
7 matching or cost participation require-
8 ments under other Federal programs
9 (other than Department of Agriculture
10 programs) and non-Federal programs.”;
11 and

12 (ii) in subparagraph (B)—

13 (I) in clause (ii), by striking “or”
14 at the end;

15 (II) by redesignating clause (iii)
16 as clause (iv);

17 (III) by inserting after clause (ii)
18 the following:

19 “(iii) project financing that helps ex-
20 pedite project implementation; or”; and

21 (IV) in clause (iv) (as so redesi-
22 gnated) by striking “and in-kind sup-
23 port” and inserting “, in-kind sup-
24 port, or financing”;

25 (3) in subsection (d)—

1 (A) in paragraph (1), by striking subpara-
2 graphs (A) through (C) and inserting the fol-
3 lowing:

4 “(A) finalizing the partnership agreement
5 not later than 180 days after the date on which
6 the Secretary announces the awarding of the
7 partnership agreement;

8 “(B) finalizing renewal or extension agree-
9 ments not later than 120 days after the date of
10 approval of the renewal or extension;

11 “(C) reimbursing eligible partners not later
12 than 30 days after the date of submission of a
13 complete reimbursement request;

14 “(D) in the case of a partnership agree-
15 ment that is funded through an alternative
16 funding arrangement or grant agreement under
17 section 1271C(b), reimbursing eligible partners
18 not later than 30 days after the date of a com-
19 plete submission of receipts for the payments
20 made to producers by the eligible partner for
21 carrying out eligible activities;

22 “(E) in the case of a project focused on
23 delivering eligible activities described in section
24 1271A(3)(B), identifying appropriate timelines
25 to finalize partnership agreements, renewals,

1 and extensions based on the innovative nature
2 of the eligible activities proposed for the project
3 while ensuring that review of agreements, re-
4 newals, and extensions takes place as soon as
5 practicable;

6 “(F) providing payments to an eligible
7 partner for goods and services that support pro-
8 gram implementation, as identified by the Sec-
9 retary; and

10 “(G) in the case of a cost-share agreement
11 with an eligible entity (as defined in section
12 1265A) in an approved project area, provide
13 payments to the eligible entity to assist with the
14 purchase of an easement on eligible land with
15 a producer;”;

16 (B) by striking paragraphs (4) and (5);

17 (C) by redesignating paragraph (3) as
18 paragraph (4);

19 (D) by inserting after paragraph (2) the
20 following:

21 “(3) make covered program authorities, such as
22 entity certification under section 1265B(b)(5), avail-
23 able, but not required, in the implementation of a
24 partnership agreement;”;

1 (E) in paragraph (4) (as so redesignated),
2 by striking “guidance” and inserting “guidance,
3 including suggested quantification models,”;
4 and

5 (F) by adding at the end the following:

6 “(5) make funding available to not-for-profit
7 entities and land-grant colleges and universities (as
8 defined in section 1404 of the National Agricultural
9 Research, Extension, and Teaching Policy Act of
10 1977 (7 U.S.C. 3103)) to make assessment tools
11 more broadly available to eligible partners; and

12 “(6) publish public-facing reports submitted by
13 the eligible partner under subsection (c)(1)(F) not
14 later than 90 days after the date of expiration of the
15 term of the partnership agreement.”;

16 (4) in subsection (e)—

17 (A) in paragraph (3)(B), by striking
18 “project’s objectives” and inserting “objectives,
19 including the conservation benefits, of the
20 project”;

21 (B) in paragraph (4)—

22 (i) by striking subparagraphs (B),
23 (C), and (E);

1 (ii) by redesignating subparagraphs
2 (D), (F), (G), and (H) as subparagraphs
3 (B), (D), (E), and (F), respectively;

4 (iii) in subparagraph (B) (as so redesi-
5 gnated), by inserting “Tribal,” after
6 “State,”;

7 (iv) by inserting after subparagraph
8 (B) (as so redesignated) the following:

9 “(C) demonstrate that a significant num-
10 ber of historically underserved producers will
11 benefit from the project;”;

12 (v) in subparagraph (D) (as so redesi-
13 gnated), by striking “area restoration
14 plans” and inserting “area-wide plans”;
15 and

16 (vi) in subparagraph (F) (as so redesi-
17 gnated), by inserting “emerging” before
18 “factors”; and

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

20 “(6) EXTENSIONS.—If the Secretary deter-
21 mines that a project that is the subject of a partner-
22 ship agreement has made substantial progress to-
23 wards meeting the objectives of the project, the Sec-
24 retary may extend the partnership agreement if the
25 1 or more eligible partners that are parties to the

1 partnership agreement request the extension in
2 order to continue to implement the project under an
3 extension of the partnership agreement.

4 “(7) NONEXCLUSIVITY OF RENEWALS AND EX-
5 TENSIONS.—The granting of an extension under
6 paragraph (6) does not preclude the subsequent
7 granting of a renewal under paragraph (5), and vice
8 versa.”;

9 (5) by redesignating subsection (f) as sub-
10 section (h); and

11 (6) by inserting after subsection (e) the fol-
12 lowing:

13 “(f) AMOUNT.—

14 “(1) LIMITATION.—Except as provided in para-
15 graph (2), the Secretary shall not provide more than
16 \$25,000,000 under a partnership agreement.

17 “(2) RENEWALS.—In the case of a partnership
18 agreement renewed under subsection (e)(5), the Sec-
19 retary may provide not more than an additional
20 \$25,000,000 under the partnership agreement.

21 “(g) ENROLLMENT IN OTHER CONSERVATION PRO-
22 GRAMS.—

23 “(1) IN GENERAL.—Subject to paragraph (2), a
24 producer party to a contract entered into under this
25 subtitle may—

1 “(A) subject to section 1235(j), enroll the
2 land enrolled under the contract in the con-
3 servation reserve program established under
4 subchapter B of chapter 1 of subtitle D;

5 “(B) subject to section 1240B(d)(6), enroll
6 the land enrolled under the contract in the envi-
7 ronmental quality incentives program estab-
8 lished under subchapter A of chapter 4 of sub-
9 title D; or

10 “(C) both enroll land in accordance with
11 subparagraph (A) and receive a cost-share as-
12 sistance in accordance with subparagraph (B).

13 “(2) LIMITATION.—A producer shall not be eli-
14 gible for payments for practices on eligible land
15 under the program if the producer receives payments
16 or other benefits for the same practice on the same
17 land under another program under this title.”.

18 **SEC. 2704. ASSISTANCE TO PRODUCERS.**

19 Section 1271C of the Food Security Act of 1985 (16
20 U.S.C. 3871c) is amended—

21 (1) in subsection (c)—

22 (A) in paragraph (2), in the matter pre-
23 ceeding subparagraph (A), by striking “for a pe-
24 riod of 5 years”;

1 (B) by redesignating paragraph (3) as
2 paragraph (5); and

3 (C) by inserting after paragraph (2) the
4 following:

5 “(3) ADVANCE PAYMENTS TO PRODUCERS.—

6 “(A) IN GENERAL.—On an election by a
7 producer, the Secretary may provide an advance
8 payment for costs related to purchasing mate-
9 rials or contracting associated with imple-
10 menting an eligible activity.

11 “(B) RETURN OF FUNDS.—If the funds
12 provided under subparagraph (A) are not ex-
13 pended within 120 days, the Secretary may—

14 “(i) determine that the producer is in
15 violation of the program contract; and

16 “(ii) require the funds to be returned
17 within a reasonable period, as determined
18 by the Secretary.

19 “(4) ADVANCE PAYMENTS TO ELIGIBLE PART-
20 NERS.—

21 “(A) IN GENERAL.—On an election by an
22 eligible partner, the Secretary may provide an
23 advance payment to the eligible partner related
24 to project implementation, as provided in the

1 partnership agreement, including an alternative
2 funding arrangement under subsection (d)(1).

3 “(B) TIMEFRAME.—If the funds provided
4 under subparagraph (A) are not expended with-
5 in the period specified in the partnership agree-
6 ment, but not more than 120 days, the Sec-
7 retary shall not provide any additional advance
8 payment under that paragraph until the eligible
9 partner demonstrates the ability to expend the
10 funds within the applicable period.

11 “(C) RETURN OF FUNDS.—The Secretary
12 may determine that an eligible partner is in vio-
13 lation of the partnership agreement and require
14 the funds to be returned within a reasonable
15 period, as determined by the Secretary, if the
16 eligible partner—

17 “(i) fails to expend the funds within
18 the applicable period; or

19 “(ii) otherwise fails to manage any
20 funds in accordance with the terms of the
21 partnership agreement.”;

22 (2) in subsection (d)—

23 (A) in paragraph (2)—

24 (i) by striking subparagraph (B);

1 (ii) by striking “shall—” in the mat-
2 ter preceding subparagraph (A) and all
3 that follows through “under a” in the mat-
4 ter preceding clause (i) of subparagraph
5 (A) and inserting “shall, under a”;

6 (iii) by redesignating clauses (i) and
7 (ii) as subparagraphs (A) and (B), respec-
8 tively, and indenting appropriately;

9 (iv) in subparagraph (A) (as so reded-
10 icated), by striking “and” at the end; and

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

12 “(C) in the case of an agreement with an
13 Indian Tribe or a Tribal organization, provide
14 an opportunity for the Indian Tribe or Tribal
15 organization to develop with the Secretary
16 projects that—

17 “(i) address eligible resource concerns
18 on Indian land; and

19 “(ii) allow for flexibility in conserva-
20 tion implementation and administration.”;
21 and

22 (B) in paragraph (3)(A)(iii)—

23 (i) in the matter preceding subclause
24 (I), by striking “in conservation with pri-
25 vate financial mechanisms, in conjunction

1 with agricultural production or forest re-
2 source management, such as” and insert-
3 ing “, or innovative approaches to deliv-
4 ering conservation funding to producers,
5 including”;

6 (ii) in subclause (I)—

7 (I) by striking “provision of” and
8 inserting “use of innovative con-
9 tracting or”; and

10 (II) by striking “and” at the end;

11 (iii) in subclause (II)—

12 (I) by striking “support for” and
13 inserting “supporting”; and

14 (II) by striking “or” at the end
15 and inserting “and”; and

16 (iv) by adding at the end the fol-
17 lowing:

18 “(III) accelerating the adoption
19 and use of agricultural or processing
20 equipment by producers that achieve
21 conservation benefits; and”.

22 **SEC. 2705. FUNDING.**

23 Section 1271D of the Food Security Act of 1985 (16
24 U.S.C. 3871d) is amended—

1 (1) by striking subsections (a) through (d) and
2 inserting the following:

3 “(a) ALLOCATION OF FUNDING.—

4 “(1) IN GENERAL.—Of the funds made avail-
5 able for the program under section 1241(a)(6), the
6 Secretary shall allocate, to the extent practicable in
7 order to maximize conservation benefits—

8 “(A) \$10,000,000 for each of fiscal years
9 2025 through 2029 for projects focused on es-
10 tablishing groundwater conservation easements
11 that—

12 “(i) are held by an eligible entity (as
13 defined in section 1265A) participating in
14 the partnership agreement; and

15 “(ii) meet the criteria described in
16 paragraph (2); and

17 “(B) of the remaining funds, for fiscal
18 year 2025 and each fiscal year thereafter—

19 “(i) 46 percent to projects based on a
20 State or multistate competitive process ad-
21 ministered by the Secretary at the local
22 level with the advice of the applicable State
23 technical committees established under
24 subtitle G;

1 “(ii) 50 percent to projects for critical
2 conservation areas designated under sec-
3 tion 1271F;

4 “(iii) 3 percent to carry out activities
5 described in section 1271B(d)(5); and

6 “(iv) 1 percent to carry out activities
7 described in subsection (d).

8 “(2) GROUNDWATER CONSERVATION EASEMENT
9 CRITERIA.—The criteria referred to in paragraph
10 (1)(A)(ii) are the following:

11 “(A) The terms of the groundwater con-
12 servation easement shall contain terms that en-
13 cumber and sufficiently address the manage-
14 ment, monitoring, and enforcement of surface
15 water uses and groundwater rights and uses.

16 “(B) The eligible partner shall—

17 “(i) identify the applicable legal
18 framework that would allow for a ground-
19 water conservation easement to be estab-
20 lished in the applicable jurisdiction;

21 “(ii) outline the specific attributes of
22 the proposed groundwater conservation
23 easement;

1 “(iii) identify the regulating organiza-
2 tion that meters or monitors groundwater
3 in the applicable jurisdiction; and

4 “(iv) identify the proposed valuation
5 methodology.

6 “(C) The eligible partner shall provide a
7 letter of support from the applicable State Con-
8 servationist and a letter of compatibility from
9 the appropriate State, local, and Tribal agencies
10 responsible for oversight of conservation ease-
11 ments and groundwater use and regulation in
12 the applicable jurisdiction.

13 “(b) LIMITATION ON ADMINISTRATIVE EXPENSES.—

14 “(1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary may provide
15 to an eligible partner a payment for indirect costs to
16 cover administrative expenses of the eligible partner
17 under a partnership agreement.

18 “(2) RATE.—

19 “(A) IN GENERAL.—Subject to subpara-
20 graph (B), the rate of a payment for indirect
21 costs under paragraph (1) shall be—

22 “(i) an indirect cost rate negotiated
23 by the Secretary and the eligible partner,
24 which shall not exceed 20 percent of the
25 total project cost; or

1 “(B) TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE BY THE
2 SECRETARY.—The Secretary shall not use
3 amounts provided under a partnership agree-
4 ment for technical assistance provided by the
5 Secretary without providing explicit notification
6 to the eligible partner.

7 “(C) TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE BY ELIGIBLE
8 PARTNERS.—The Federal share of the cost of
9 technical assistance provided by an eligible
10 partner shall be not more than 30 percent of
11 the total cost of the project.”; and

12 (B) in paragraph (3), by striking “pursu-
13 ant to a partnership agreement” and inserting
14 “and producers participating in the program”;
15 and

16 (4) by adding at the end the following:

17 “(d) INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY AND AUTOMATED
18 PROGRAMMATIC TOOLS.—

19 “(1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall ensure
20 the timely development and availability of integrated
21 information technology and automated pro-
22 grammatic tools to support program implementation.

23 “(2) PROGRAM ACCESS.—Subject to section
24 1244(b) of this Act and section 1619 of the Food,
25 Conservation, and Energy Act of 2008 (7 U.S.C.

1 8791), the Secretary may develop protocols for eligi-
2 ble partners to access automatic programmatic tools
3 of the Department of Agriculture in a manner that
4 supports the implementation of an approved
5 project.”.

6 **SEC. 2706. ADMINISTRATION.**

7 Section 1271E of the Food Security Act of 1985 (16
8 U.S.C. 3871e) is amended—

9 (1) in subsection (b)—

10 (A) in the matter preceding paragraph (1),
11 by striking “2019, and every two” and insert-
12 ing “2025, and not less frequently than once
13 every 2”;

14 (B) in paragraph (1), by striking subpara-
15 graphs (A) and (B) and inserting the following:

16 “(A) the characteristics of ongoing
17 projects;

18 “(B) the progress made towards achieving
19 the conservation goals of completed projects
20 and renewed projects;

21 “(C) any other related outcomes of com-
22 pleted projects and renewed projects; and

23 “(D) conservation benefits purchased
24 through performance-based payments and the
25 per-unit prices of those conservation benefits;”;

1 (C) in paragraph (3), by inserting “ap-
2 proximate” before “number”; and

3 (D) in paragraph (5), by striking “admin-
4 istered” in the matter preceding subparagraph
5 (A) and all that follows through the end of sub-
6 paragraph (C) and inserting “administered;
7 and”; and

8 (2) in subsection (e), in the matter preceding
9 paragraph (1), by striking “The Secretary may not”
10 and inserting “Neither an eligible partner nor the
11 Secretary may”.

12 **SEC. 2707. CRITICAL CONSERVATION AREAS.**

13 Section 1271F of the Food Security Act of 1985 (16
14 U.S.C. 3871f) is amended—

15 (1) in subsection (a)(2)—

16 (A) in the matter preceding subparagraph
17 (A), by inserting “or substantially affecting”
18 after “located in”; and

19 (B) in subparagraph (C), by inserting “,
20 including restoration and enhancement of wild-
21 life habitat connectivity and wildlife migration
22 corridors” after “local level”; and

23 (2) in subsection (b), by striking “In admin-
24 istering funds under section 1271D(d)(2), the Sec-
25 retary” and inserting “The Secretary”.

1 **TITLE III—TRADE**
2 **Subtitle A—Food for Peace Act**

3 **SEC. 3101. UNITED STATES POLICY.**

4 Section 2(1) of the Food for Peace Act (7 U.S.C.
5 1691(1)) is amended by striking “hunger and malnutri-
6 tion” and inserting “hunger, malnutrition, child wast-
7 ing,”.

8 **SEC. 3102. PROVISION OF AGRICULTURAL COMMODITIES.**

9 (a) IN GENERAL.—Section 202 of the Food for Peace
10 Act (7 U.S.C. 1722) is amended—

11 (1) in subsection (a), by striking “governments
12 and public or private agencies, including intergov-
13 ernmental organizations such as the World Food
14 Program and other multilateral organizations” and
15 inserting “eligible organizations”;

16 (2) in subsection (b)(1)—

17 (A) by striking “agricultural commodities
18 for nonemergency assistance” and inserting
19 “assistance, including in the form of agricul-
20 tural commodities, for nonemergency purposes”;

21 (B) by striking “(as described in sub-
22 section (d))”; and

23 (C) by striking “to use the commodities”;

24 (3) by striking subsection (d);

1 (4) by redesignating subsections (e) through (h)
2 as subsections (d) through (g), respectively;

3 (5) in subsection (d) (as so redesignated)—

4 (A) in paragraph (1)—

5 (i) in the matter preceding subpara-
6 graph (A), by striking “Of the funds” and
7 all that follows through “subsection (d),”
8 and inserting “Using funds made available
9 under this title, the Administrator may
10 provide funds to eligible organizations”;
11 and

12 (ii) in subparagraph (C), by striking
13 “developmental” and inserting “resilience”;

14 (B) by redesignating paragraphs (2)
15 through (4) as paragraphs (3) through (5), re-
16 spectively;

17 (C) by inserting after paragraph (1) the
18 following:

19 “(2) AGRICULTURAL COMMODITIES.—Using
20 funds made available under this title, the Adminis-
21 trator may—

22 “(A) acquire and make available to eligible
23 organizations such agricultural commodities as
24 are necessary to carry out agreements under
25 this title; and

1 “(B) pay all associated and incidental costs
2 of those commodities, including—

3 “(i) the cost of acquiring those com-
4 modities;

5 “(ii) the costs associated with pack-
6 aging, enrichment, preservation, and for-
7 tification of those commodities, including
8 the costs of carrying out section 415 with
9 respect to the commodities;

10 “(iii) the cost of processing, milling,
11 handling, storage, distribution, and pro-
12 gram implementation to use the commod-
13 ities; and

14 “(iv) the cost of transportation to
15 move the commodities from the United
16 States to pre-positioning sites, ports of
17 entry abroad, and distribution sites within
18 and between foreign countries, including
19 ocean and inland freight charges, and the
20 charges for general average contributions
21 arising out of ocean transportation of those
22 commodities.”; and

23 (D) in paragraph (3) (as so redesign-
24 nated)—

1 (i) in the paragraph heading, by in-
2 sserting “OR AGRICULTURAL COMMODITIES”
3 after “FOR FUNDS”;

4 (ii) by inserting “or agricultural com-
5 modities” after “To receive funds”;

6 (iii) by inserting “or (2)” after “para-
7 graph (1)”;

8 (iv) by striking “described in sub-
9 section (d)”;

10 (6) in paragraph (3) of subsection (g) (as so re-
11 designated)—

12 (A) by striking “, for fiscal years 2014
13 through 2023”;

14 (B) by inserting “for each fiscal year”
15 after “may be used”.

16 (b) CONFORMING AMENDMENTS.—

17 (1) Section 205 of the Food for Peace Act (7
18 U.S.C. 1725) is amended—

19 (A) in subsection (a)—

20 (i) by striking “hereinafter”; and

21 (ii) by striking “described in section
22 202(d)(1)”;

23 (B) in subsection (d)(2), by striking
24 “202(h)” and inserting “202(g)”.

1 (2) Section 207(f)(4)(A) of the Food for Peace
2 Act (7 U.S.C. 1726a(f)(4)(A)) is amended by strik-
3 ing “202(h)(3)” and inserting “202(g)(3)”.

4 (3) Section 407(f)(2)(I) of the Food for Peace
5 Act (7 U.S.C. 1736a(f)(2)(I)) is amended by strik-
6 ing “section 202(e),” and inserting “sections
7 202(d),”.

8 (4) Section 412(e)(2) of the Food for Peace Act
9 (7 U.S.C. 1736f(e)(2)) is amended by striking
10 “202(e)(1)(C)” and inserting “202(d)(1)(C)”.

11 **SEC. 3103. LEVELS OF ASSISTANCE.**

12 Section 204 of the Food for Peace Act (7 U.S.C.
13 1724) is amended—

14 (1) in subsection (a)—

15 (A) by striking paragraphs (1) and (2) and
16 inserting the following:

17 “(1) MINIMUM ASSISTANCE.—

18 “(A) IN GENERAL.—Except as provided in
19 paragraph (2), the Administrator shall make
20 agricultural commodities available for food dis-
21 tribution under this title for emergency assist-
22 ance under section 202(a) for each fiscal year
23 in a quantity that results in the amount de-
24 scribed in subparagraph (B) being not less than
25 40 percent of the funds made available through

1 annual appropriations in that fiscal year for
2 this title.

3 “(B) AMOUNT DESCRIBED.—The amount
4 referred to in subparagraph (A) is the sum ob-
5 tained by adding—

6 “(i) the value of the agricultural com-
7 modities made available pursuant to that
8 subparagraph; and

9 “(ii) the cost of ocean shipping for
10 those agricultural commodities.”; and

11 (B) in paragraph (3)—

12 (i) by striking the third sentence;

13 (ii) in the second sentence, by striking
14 “In making a waiver” and all that follows
15 through “House of Representatives” and
16 inserting the following:

17 “(C) REPORT.—If the Administrator pro-
18 vides a waiver under subparagraph (A), the Ad-
19 ministrator shall submit to the Committees on
20 Agriculture, Appropriations, and Foreign Af-
21 fairs of the House of Representatives”; and

22 (iii) by striking the paragraph des-
23 ignation and heading and all that follows
24 through the period at the end of the first
25 sentence and inserting the following:

1 “(2) WAIVER.—

2 “(A) IN GENERAL.—Subject to subpara-
3 graph (B), the Administrator may waive the re-
4 quirements of paragraph (1) for any fiscal year
5 if, after the beginning of the applicable fiscal
6 year, the Administrator determines that—

7 “(i) such quantities of commodities
8 cannot be used effectively to carry out this
9 title or in order to meet an emergency; or

10 “(ii) the requirements of that para-
11 graph cannot otherwise be met due to cir-
12 cumstances beyond the control of the Ad-
13 ministrator.

14 “(B) SUBSEQUENT YEAR MINIMUM ASSIST-
15 ANCE.—In the first fiscal year beginning after
16 the date on which a waiver is provided under
17 subparagraph (A), the Administrator shall
18 make agricultural commodities available for
19 food distribution under this title for emergency
20 assistance under section 202(a) in a quantity
21 that represents—

22 “(i) the quantity of agricultural com-
23 modities needed to meet the requirement
24 under paragraph (1)(A); and

1 “(ii) the quantity of agricultural com-
2 modities covered by the waiver under sub-
3 paragraph (A) for the preceding fiscal
4 year.”; and

5 (2) in subsection (b)(1), by striking “subsection
6 (a)(2) be” and inserting “subsection (a)(1) is”.

7 **SEC. 3104. FOOD AID CONSULTATIVE GROUP.**

8 Section 205(f) of the Food for Peace Act (7 U.S.C.
9 1725(f)) is amended by striking “2023” and inserting
10 “2029”.

11 **SEC. 3105. ISSUANCE OF REGULATIONS.**

12 Section 207(c)(1) of the Food for Peace Act (7
13 U.S.C. 1726a(c)(1)) is amended, in the second sentence,
14 by striking “the enactment of the Agriculture Improve-
15 ment Act of 2018” and inserting “enactment of the Rural
16 Prosperity and Food Security Act of 2024”.

17 **SEC. 3106. OVERSIGHT, MONITORING, AND EVALUATION.**

18 Section 207(f)(4) of the Food for Peace Act (7
19 U.S.C. 1726a(f)(4)) is amended, in subparagraphs (A)
20 and (B)(i), by striking “2023” each place it appears and
21 inserting “2029”.

1 **SEC. 3107. ASSISTANCE FOR STOCKPILING AND RAPID**
2 **TRANSPORTATION, DELIVERY, AND DIS-**
3 **TRIBUTION OF SHELF-STABLE PRE-**
4 **PACKAGED FOODS.**

5 Section 208(f) of the Food for Peace Act (7 U.S.C.
6 1726b(f)) is amended by striking “2023” and inserting
7 “2024, and \$15,000,000 for each of fiscal years 2025
8 through 2029”.

9 **SEC. 3108. DEFINITIONS.**

10 (a) **IN GENERAL.**—Section 402 of the Food for Peace
11 Act (7 U.S.C. 1732) is amended—

12 (1) in the matter preceding paragraph (1), by
13 striking “As used in” and inserting “In”;

14 (2) in paragraph (2)—

15 (A) in the second sentence, by striking
16 “Effective” and inserting the following:

17 “(B) **TREATMENT.**—Effective”; and

18 (B) in the first sentence—

19 (i) by striking “and livestock as well
20 as” and inserting “livestock, specialized
21 nutrition products, and”; and

22 (ii) by striking “The term” and in-
23 sserting the following:

24 “(A) **IN GENERAL.**—The term”;

25 (3) by striking paragraph (3);

1 (4) by redesignating paragraphs (4) and (5) as
2 paragraphs (3) and (4), respectively; and

3 (5) by inserting after paragraph (4) (as so re-
4 designated) the following:

5 “(5) ELIGIBLE ORGANIZATION.—The term ‘eli-
6 gible organization’ means—

7 “(A) a government of a foreign country;

8 “(B) a private voluntary organization or
9 cooperative;

10 “(C) an intergovernmental organization,
11 such as the World Food Program; and

12 “(D) any other organization, as deter-
13 mined by the Administrator.”.

14 (b) CONFORMING AMENDMENT.—Section 407(f)(1)
15 of the Food for Peace Act (7 U.S.C. 1736a(f)(1)) is
16 amended by striking “appropriate committees of Con-
17 gress” and inserting “Committee on Agriculture, Nutri-
18 tion, and Forestry of the Senate and the Committees on
19 Agriculture and Foreign Affairs of the House of Rep-
20 resentatives”.

21 **SEC. 3109. USE OF COMMODITY CREDIT CORPORATION.**

22 Section 406(b)(6) of the Food for Peace Act (7
23 U.S.C. 1736(b)(6)) is amended by striking “in the case
24 of commodities for urgent and extraordinary relief require-
25 ments (including pre-positioned commodities)”.

1 **SEC. 3110. ADMINISTRATIVE PROVISIONS.**

2 (a) IN GENERAL.—Section 407 of the Food for Peace
3 Act (7 U.S.C. 1736a) is amended—

4 (1) in subsection (c)(4)(A)—

5 (A) by striking “for fiscal years 2001
6 through 2023”;

7 (B) by striking “for each of fiscal years
8 2001 through 2013 not more than \$10,000,000
9 of such funds and”; and

10 (C) by striking “of fiscal years 2014
11 through 2023” and inserting “fiscal year”; and

12 (2) in subsection (f)(2), by adding at the end
13 the following:

14 “(J) An assessment of activities specifi-
15 cally targeting women and girls and the impact
16 of those activities in addressing the unique
17 needs of women and girls.”.

18 (b) CLERICAL CORRECTION.—

19 (1) IN GENERAL.—Section 216 of the Federal
20 Agriculture Improvement and Reform Act of 1996
21 (Public Law 104–127; 110 Stat. 957) is amended—

22 (A) in the matter preceding paragraph (1),
23 by inserting “(as amended by section 1011(e)
24 of Public Law 104–66 (109 Stat. 709))” after
25 “(7 U.S.C. 1736a)”;

1 (B) in paragraph (2), in the matter pre-
2 ceding subparagraph (A), by striking “(c)” and
3 inserting “(b)”;

4 (C) in paragraph (3), in the matter pre-
5 ceding subparagraph (A), by striking “(d)” and
6 inserting “(c)”;

7 (D) in paragraph (4), in the matter pre-
8 ceding subparagraph (A), by striking “(g)(2)”
9 and inserting “(f)(2)”;

10 (E) in paragraph (5), by striking “(h)”
11 and inserting “(g)”.

12 (2) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendments made
13 by paragraph (1) shall take effect as if enacted in
14 the Federal Agriculture Improvement and Reform
15 Act of 1996 (Public Law 104–127; 110 Stat. 888).

16 **SEC. 3111. DEADLINE FOR AGREEMENTS TO FINANCE**
17 **SALES OR TO PROVIDE OTHER ASSISTANCE.**

18 Section 408 of the Food for Peace Act (7 U.S.C.
19 1736b) is amended by striking “2023” and inserting
20 “2029”.

21 **SEC. 3112. FUNDS FOR EMERGENCY AND NONEMERGENCY**
22 **FOOD ASSISTANCE.**

23 Section 412(e)(1) of the Food for Peace Act (7
24 U.S.C. 1736f(e)(1)) is amended by striking “2019

1 through 2023, not less than \$365,000,000” and inserting
2 “2025 through 2029, not less than 18 percent”.

3 **SEC. 3113. MICRONUTRIENT FORTIFICATION PROGRAMS.**

4 Section 415(c) of the Food for Peace Act (7 U.S.C.
5 1736g-2(c)) is amended by striking “2023” and inserting
6 “2029”.

7 **SEC. 3114. JOHN OGWONSKI AND DOUG BEREUTER FARM-**
8 **ER-TO-FARMER PROGRAM.**

9 Section 501 of the Food for Peace Act (7 U.S.C.
10 1737) is amended—

11 (1) in subsection (b)(2)—

12 (A) in the matter preceding subparagraph
13 (A), by striking “18” and inserting “(18)”; and

14 (B) in clause (viii) of subparagraph (A), by
15 adding a semicolon at the end;

16 (2) in subsection (d), in the matter preceding
17 paragraph (1), by striking “2023” and inserting
18 “2029”;

19 (3) in subsection (e)(1), in the matter preceding
20 subparagraph (A), by striking “2023” and inserting
21 “2029”; and

22 (4) in subsection (f)(1), by striking “2023” and
23 inserting “2029”.

1 **SEC. 3115. TECHNICAL CORRECTIONS.**

2 (a) FOOD FOR PEACE ACT.—Section 414(b) of the
3 Food for Peace Act (7 U.S.C. 1736g–1(b)) is amended
4 by striking “(as defined” and all that follows through
5 “1961)” and inserting “(as defined in section 481(e) of
6 the Foreign Assistance Act of 1961 (22 U.S.C.
7 2291(e)))”.

8 (b) PRESIDENT’S EMERGENCY FOOD ASSISTANCE
9 ACT OF 1984.—Section 303(c) of the President’s Emer-
10 gency Food Assistance Act of 1984 (7 U.S.C. 1728a(e))
11 is amended by striking “expanded” and inserting “ex-
12 pended”.

13 **Subtitle B—Agricultural Trade Act**
14 **of 1978**

15 **SEC. 3201. PRESERVING FOREIGN MARKETS FOR GOODS**
16 **USING COMMON NAMES.**

17 (a) DEFINITIONS.—Section 102 of the Agricultural
18 Trade Act of 1978 (7 U.S.C. 5602) is amended—

19 (1) in the matter preceding paragraph (1), by
20 striking “As used in this Act—” and inserting “In
21 this Act:”;

22 (2) by redesignating paragraphs (2) through
23 (8) as paragraphs (3), (5), (6), (7), (8), (9), and
24 (4), respectively, and moving the paragraphs so as
25 to appear in numerical order;

1 Federal Regulations (or successor reg-
2 ulations); and

3 “(iv) the use of which is consistent
4 with standards of the Codex Alimentarius
5 Commission.

6 “(B) CONSIDERATIONS.—In making a de-
7 termination under subparagraph (A), the Sec-
8 retary may take into account—

9 “(i) competent sources, such as dic-
10 tionaries, newspapers, professional journals
11 and literature, and information posted on
12 websites that are determined by the Sec-
13 retary to be reliable in reporting market
14 information;

15 “(ii) the use of the common name in
16 a domestic, regional, or international prod-
17 uct standard, including a standard promul-
18 gated by the Codex Alimentarius Commis-
19 sion, for the agricultural commodity or
20 food product; and

21 “(iii) the ordinary and customary use
22 of the common name in the production or
23 marketing of the agricultural commodity or
24 food product in the United States or in
25 other countries.”;

1 (4) in paragraph (7) (as so redesignated), in
2 subparagraph (A)—

3 (A) in clause (v), by striking “or” at the
4 end;

5 (B) in clause (vi), by striking the period at
6 the end and inserting “; or”; and

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

8 “(vii) prohibits or disallows the use of
9 the common name of an agricultural com-
10 modity or food product of the United
11 States.”; and

12 (5) in paragraph (9) (as so redesignated)—

13 (A) in subparagraph (B), by redesignating
14 clauses (i) and (ii) as subclauses (I) and (II),
15 respectively, and indenting appropriately;

16 (B) by redesignating subparagraphs (A)
17 and (B) as clauses (i) and (ii), respectively, and
18 indenting appropriately;

19 (C) in the matter preceding clause (i) (as
20 so redesignated), by striking “The term” and
21 inserting the following:

22 “(A) IN GENERAL.—The term”; and

23 (D) in the undesignated matter at the end,
24 by striking “For purposes” and inserting the
25 following:

1 “(B) INCLUSION.—For purposes”.

2 (b) NEGOTIATIONS TO DEFEND USE OF COMMON
3 NAMES.—Title III of the Agricultural Trade Act of 1978
4 (7 U.S.C. 5652 et seq.) is amended by adding at the end
5 the following:

6 **“SEC. 303. NEGOTIATIONS TO DEFEND USE OF COMMON**
7 **NAMES.**

8 “(a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall coordinate
9 efforts with the United States Trade Representative to se-
10 cure the right of United States agricultural producers,
11 processors, and exporters to use common names for agri-
12 cultural commodities or food products in foreign markets
13 through the negotiation of bilateral, plurilateral, or multi-
14 lateral agreements, memoranda of understanding, or ex-
15 changes of letters that assure the current and future use
16 of each common name identified by the Secretary in con-
17 nection with United States agricultural commodities or
18 food products.

19 “(b) REPORT.—The Secretary and the United States
20 Trade Representative shall submit to Congress a report
21 every 2 years regarding efforts and successes in carrying
22 out subsection (a).”.

1 **SEC. 3202. TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE TO IMPROVE INFRA-**
2 **STRUCTURE IN FOREIGN MARKETS FOR**
3 **UNITED STATES AGRICULTURAL COMMOD-**
4 **ITIES.**

5 Section 203(c) of the Agricultural Trade Act of 1978
6 (7 U.S.C. 5623(c)) is amended by adding at the end the
7 following:

8 “(4) TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE TO IMPROVE IN-
9 FRASTRUCTURE IN FOREIGN MARKETS FOR UNITED
10 STATES AGRICULTURAL COMMODITIES.—

11 “(A) IN GENERAL.—As part of the pro-
12 gram established under this subsection, the Sec-
13 retary shall enter into contracts or other agree-
14 ments with eligible trade organizations to pro-
15 vide needs assessment, training, and other tech-
16 nical assistance—

17 “(i) to enhance the capabilities of in-
18 frastructure in new and developing foreign
19 markets, including infrastructure relating
20 to cold chain capacity, port improvements,
21 and other developments; and

22 “(ii) to ensure United States agricul-
23 tural commodities are not damaged or lost
24 due to deficiencies in the infrastructure de-
25 scribed in clause (i).

1 “(B) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIA-
2 TIONS.—

3 “(i) IN GENERAL.—There is author-
4 ized to be appropriated to carry out this
5 paragraph \$1,000,000 for each of fiscal
6 years 2025 through 2029.

7 “(ii) RULE OF CONSTRUCTION.—Ex-
8 cept as provided in clause (iii), amounts
9 authorized to be appropriated under this
10 subparagraph may be used only to carry
11 out subparagraph (A).

12 “(iii) AVAILABILITY.—If the Secretary
13 determines that the total amount made
14 available pursuant to this subparagraph
15 for a fiscal year is not necessary to carry
16 out subparagraph (A), any excess amounts
17 may be used to carry out the program es-
18 tablished under this subsection.”.

19 **SEC. 3203. REPORT ON COMPETITIVENESS OF UNITED**
20 **STATES EXPORTS OF SPECIALTY CROPS.**

21 Section 203(e) of the Agricultural Trade Act of 1978
22 (7 U.S.C. 5623(e)) is amended by striking paragraph (7)
23 and inserting the following:

24 “(7) ANNUAL REPORT.—

1 specialty crops of any act, policy, or
2 practice identified under clause (i);
3 and

4 “(II) if feasible, the value of ad-
5 ditional specialty crops that would,
6 during the year preceding submission
7 of the report, have been exported from
8 the United States to each foreign
9 country an act, policy, or practice of
10 which is identified under clause (i) if
11 each such act, policy, or practice of
12 that country did not exist;

13 “(iii) assess the extent to which each
14 act, policy, or practice identified under
15 clause (i) is subject to international agree-
16 ments to which the United States is a
17 party;

18 “(iv) include information with respect
19 to any action taken by the executive
20 branch during the year preceding submis-
21 sion of the report, or expected to be taken
22 after submission of the report, to eliminate
23 any act, policy, or practice identified under
24 clause (i), including—

1 from the public and the Agricultural Tech-
2 nical Advisory Committee for Trade in
3 Fruits and Vegetables; and

4 “(ii) take such comments into account
5 in preparing the report.

6 “(D) FORM OF REPORT.—

7 “(i) IN GENERAL.—The report re-
8 quired by subparagraph (A) shall be sub-
9 mitted in unclassified form, but may in-
10 clude a classified annex.

11 “(ii) PUBLIC AVAILABILITY.—The un-
12 classified portion of the report required by
13 subparagraph (A) shall be made available
14 to the public in machine readable format.”.

15 **SEC. 3204. AGRICULTURAL TRADE PROMOTION AND FA-**
16 **CILITATION.**

17 Section 203(f) of the Agricultural Trade Act of 1978
18 (7 U.S.C. 5623(f)) is amended—

19 (1) in paragraph (2)—

20 (A) by striking “For each of fiscal years
21 2019 through 2023, of” and inserting “Of”;
22 and

23 (B) by striking “section” and all that fol-
24 lows through the period at the end and insert-

1 ing the following: “section, to remain available
2 until expended—

3 “(A) for each of fiscal years 2019 through
4 2027, \$255,000,000; and

5 “(B) for each of fiscal years 2028 and
6 2029, \$495,500,000.”;

7 (2) in paragraph (3)—

8 (A) in subparagraph (A)—

9 (i) in the subparagraph heading, by
10 striking “IN GENERAL” and inserting
11 “FISCAL YEARS 2019 THROUGH 2027”; and

12 (ii) in the matter preceding clause (i),
13 by striking “2023” and inserting “2027”;

14 (B) by redesignating subparagraph (B) as
15 subparagraph (C);

16 (C) by inserting after subparagraph (A)
17 the following:

18 “(B) FISCAL YEARS 2028 AND 2029.—For
19 each of fiscal years 2028 and 2029, the Sec-
20 retary shall allocate funds to carry out this sec-
21 tion in accordance with the following:

22 “(i) MARKET ACCESS PROGRAM.—For
23 market access activities authorized under
24 subsection (b), of the funds of, or an equal
25 value of commodities owned by, the Com-

1 modity Credit Corporation, not less than
2 \$400,000,000 for each fiscal year.

3 “(ii) FOREIGN MARKET DEVELOP-
4 MENT COOPERATOR PROGRAM.—To carry
5 out subsection (c), of the funds of, or an
6 equal value of commodities owned by, the
7 Commodity Credit Corporation, not less
8 than \$69,000,000 for each fiscal year.

9 “(iii) E (KIKI) DE LA GARZA EMERG-
10 ING MARKETS PROGRAM.—To provide as-
11 sistance under subsection (d), of the funds
12 of, or an equal value of commodities owned
13 by, the Commodity Credit Corporation, not
14 more than \$8,000,000 for each fiscal year.

15 “(iv) TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE FOR
16 SPECIALTY CROPS.—To carry out sub-
17 section (e), of the funds of, or an equal
18 value of the commodities owned by, the
19 Commodity Credit Corporation,
20 \$15,000,000 for each fiscal year.

21 “(v) PRIORITY TRADE FUND.—

22 “(I) IN GENERAL.—In addition
23 to the amounts allocated under
24 clauses (i) through (iv), and notwith-
25 standing any limitations in those

1 clauses, as determined by the Sec-
2 retary, for 1 or more programs under
3 this section for authorized activities to
4 access, develop, maintain, and expand
5 markets for United States agricultural
6 commodities, \$3,500,000 for each fis-
7 cal year.

8 “(II) CONSIDERATIONS.—In allo-
9 cating funds made available under
10 subclause (I), the Secretary may con-
11 sider providing a greater allocation to
12 1 or more programs under this section
13 for which the amounts requested
14 under applications exceed the funding
15 for 1 or more programs.”; and

16 (D) in subparagraph (C) (as so redesign-
17 nated)—

18 (i) in the first sentence—

19 (I) by inserting “or (B)” after
20 “of subparagraph (A)”;

21 (II) by striking “subparagraph
22 (A)(v)” and inserting “clause (v) of
23 subparagraph (A) or (B), as applica-
24 ble”;

1 (ii) in the second sentence, by insert-
2 ing “or (B), as applicable” before the pe-
3 riod at the end; and

4 (3) in paragraph (4), by striking the second
5 sentence.

6 **SEC. 3205. INTERAGENCY SEASONAL AND PERISHABLE**
7 **FRUITS AND VEGETABLE WORKING GROUP.**

8 Subtitle B of title IV of the Agricultural Trade Act
9 of 1978 (7 U.S.C. 5671 et seq.) is amended by adding
10 at the end the following:

11 **“SEC. 418. INTERAGENCY SEASONAL AND PERISHABLE**
12 **FRUITS AND VEGETABLES WORKING GROUP.**

13 “(a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary, acting through
14 the Under Secretary of Agriculture for Trade and Foreign
15 Agricultural Affairs, the United States Trade Representa-
16 tive, the Secretary of Commerce, and the heads of other
17 Federal agencies or entities, as determined to be appro-
18 priate by the Secretary, shall jointly establish an inter-
19 agency working group (referred to in this section as the
20 ‘working group’) composed of representatives from each
21 agency to monitor and assess, on an ongoing basis, sea-
22 sonal and perishable fruits and vegetables trade data and
23 related information.

24 “(b) TRADE ACTIONS AND INVESTIGATIONS.—The
25 working group shall coordinate as appropriate regarding

1 potential additional trade actions and investigations with
2 respect to any seasonal or perishable agricultural prod-
3 ucts, as determined to be advisable by the working group.

4 “(c) CONSULTATION.—The working group shall con-
5 sult with the Agricultural Trade Advisory Committee, rel-
6 evant seasonal or perishable agricultural producers, and
7 other relevant trade associations to identify threats that
8 imports pose to domestic producers of seasonal and perish-
9 able fruits and vegetables.

10 “(d) RECOMMENDATIONS TO SECRETARY.—The
11 working group shall recommend programs or assistance
12 that the Secretary could provide to producers of seasonal
13 and perishable fruits and vegetables to address market im-
14 pacts.”.

15 **Subtitle C—Other Agricultural** 16 **Trade Laws**

17 **SEC. 3301. FOOD FOR PROGRESS ACT OF 1985.**

18 The Food for Progress Act of 1985 (7 U.S.C. 1736o)
19 is amended—

20 (1) in subsection (f)—

21 (A) by striking paragraph (3) and insert-
22 ing the following:

23 “(3) COMMODITIES TO PREVENT WASTE.—Un-
24 less authorized in advance in appropriation Acts, no
25 funds of the Corporation may be used to carry out

1 this section with respect to eligible commodities
2 made available under section 416(b) of the Agricul-
3 tural Act of 1949 (7 U.S.C. 1431(b)) in excess of
4 (exclusive of the cost of eligible commodities)—

5 “(A) \$40,000,000 for each of fiscal years
6 2023 and 2024;

7 “(B) \$52,000,000 for fiscal year 2025;

8 “(C) \$55,000,000 for fiscal year 2026;

9 “(D) \$58,000,000 for fiscal years 2027;

10 “(E) \$61,000,000 for fiscal year 2028; and

11 “(F) \$64,000,000 for fiscal year 2029.”;

12 and

13 (B) in paragraph (5), by striking “eligible
14 eligible commodities” and inserting “eligible
15 commodities”;

16 (2) in subsection (g), by striking “2023” and
17 inserting “2029”;

18 (3) in subsection (j), by adding at the end the
19 following:

20 “(4) PROHIBITION.—The Secretary shall not
21 enter into any agreement pursuant to this section
22 under which more than 50 percent of the amounts
23 made available to carry out the program for a fiscal
24 year are awarded to a single entity.”;

1 (4) in subsection (k), by striking “2023” and
2 inserting “2029”;

3 (5) in subsection (l)(1), by striking “2023” and
4 inserting “2029”; and

5 (6) in subsection (p)—

6 (A) in paragraphs (1) and (3), by striking
7 “2023” each place it appears and inserting
8 “2029”; and

9 (B) in paragraph (2), by striking “2024”
10 and inserting “2030”.

11 **SEC. 3302. BILL EMERSON HUMANITARIAN TRUST ACT.**

12 Section 302 of the Bill Emerson Humanitarian Trust
13 Act (7 U.S.C. 1736f–1) is amended—

14 (1) in subsection (d)(2)—

15 (A) in subparagraph (B), by adding “and”
16 after the semicolon at the end; and

17 (B) in subparagraph (C), by striking “;
18 and” at the end and inserting a period; and

19 (2) in subsection (e), by striking “shall not
20 be—” in the matter preceding paragraph (1) and all
21 that follows through the period at the end of para-
22 graph (2) and inserting the following: “shall not be
23 considered to be a part of the total domestic supply
24 (including carryover) for the purpose of—

25 “(1) subsection (c); or

1 “(2) administering the Food for Peace Act (7
2 U.S.C. 1691 et seq.).”.

3 **SEC. 3303. PROMOTION OF AGRICULTURAL EXPORTS TO**
4 **EMERGING MARKETS.**

5 Section 1542(a) of the Food, Agriculture, Conserva-
6 tion, and Trade Act of 1990 (7 U.S.C. 5622 note; Public
7 Law 101–624) is amended by striking “2023” and insert-
8 ing “2029”.

9 **SEC. 3304. GROWING AMERICAN FOOD EXPORTS.**

10 Section 1543A(d) of the Food, Agriculture, Conserva-
11 tion, and Trade Act of 1990 (7 U.S.C. 5679(d)) is amend-
12 ed by striking “2023” and inserting “2029”.

13 **SEC. 3305. INTERNATIONAL FOOD SECURITY TECHNICAL**
14 **ASSISTANCE.**

15 Section 1543B(f) of the Food, Agriculture, Conserva-
16 tion, and Trade Act of 1990 (7 U.S.C. 1736dd(f)) is
17 amended by striking “2023” and inserting “2029”.

18 **SEC. 3306. MCGOVERN-DOLE INTERNATIONAL FOOD FOR**
19 **EDUCATION AND CHILD NUTRITION PRO-**
20 **GRAM.**

21 Section 3107 of the Farm Security and Rural Invest-
22 ment Act of 2002 (7 U.S.C. 1736o–1) is amended—

23 (1) in subsection (f)(2)(C), by striking “indige-
24 nous institutions as well as local” and inserting “in-

1 digenous institutions, women-led and women-owned
2 organizations, and local”; and

3 (2) in subsection (l)—

4 (A) in paragraph (2), by striking “2023”
5 and inserting “2029”;

6 (B) in paragraph (4), by striking “not
7 more than 10 percent” and inserting “not less
8 than 10 percent, but not more than 20 per-
9 cent,”; and

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

11 “(5) CAPACITY-BUILDING ACTIVITIES.—Of the
12 amounts described in paragraph (4), the Secretary
13 may provide funds for capacity-building activities to
14 support the purchase of agricultural commodities de-
15 scribed in subsection (a)(2)(A).”.

16 **SEC. 3307. GLOBAL CROP DIVERSITY TRUST.**

17 Section 3202 of the Food, Conservation, and Energy
18 Act of 2008 (22 U.S.C. 2220a note; Public Law 110–246)
19 is amended—

20 (1) in subsection (b)(2), by striking “2023”
21 and inserting “2029”; and

22 (2) in subsection (c), by striking “2023” and
23 inserting “2029”.

1 **SEC. 3308. LOCAL AND REGIONAL FOOD AID PROCURE-**
2 **MENT PROJECTS.**

3 Section 3206(e)(1) of the Food, Conservation, and
4 Energy Act of 2008 (7 U.S.C. 1726c(e)(1)) is amended
5 by striking “2023” and inserting “2029”.

6 **SEC. 3309. INTERNATIONAL AGRICULTURAL EDUCATION**
7 **FELLOWSHIP PROGRAM.**

8 Section 3307(g)(1) of the Agriculture Improvement
9 Act of 2018 (7 U.S.C. 3295(g)(1)) is amended by striking
10 “2023” and inserting “2029”.

11 **TITLE IV—NUTRITION**
12 **Subtitle A—Supplemental**
13 **Nutrition Assistance Program**

14 **SEC. 4101. ENSURING TRANSPARENCY AND ACCOUNT-**
15 **ABILITY IN THRIFTY FOOD PLAN.**

16 (a) IN GENERAL.—Section 3(u) of the Food and Nu-
17 trition Act of 2008 (7 U.S.C. 2012(u)) is amended, in the
18 matter preceding paragraph (1), by inserting after the sec-
19 ond sentence the following: “Those re-evaluations shall in-
20 clude an external peer review process and be submitted
21 to Congress and the Comptroller General of the United
22 States in accordance with section 801 of title 5, United
23 States Code. To the extent legally allowable, the computer
24 code and data used for the re-evaluations to generate the
25 market baskets shall be made publicly available.”.

26 (b) HAWAII.—

1 (1) INTERIM FINAL RULE.—Notwithstanding
2 section 273.10(e)(4)(i) of title 7, Code of Federal
3 Regulations (as in effect on the date of enactment
4 of this Act), not later than January 1, 2025, the
5 Secretary shall promulgate an interim final rule to
6 use food price data throughout the State of Hawaii
7 to calculate the cost of the thrifty food plan (as de-
8 fined in section 3 of the Food and Nutrition Act of
9 2008 (7 U.S.C. 2012)) for that State.

10 (2) COST ADJUSTMENT.—

11 (A) IN GENERAL.—Except as provided in
12 subparagraph (B), on October 1, 2025, and on
13 October 1 of each fiscal year thereafter, the
14 Secretary shall apply the cost estimate for the
15 thrifty food plan (as defined in section 3 of the
16 Food and Nutrition Act of 2008 (7 U.S.C.
17 2012)) for the State of Hawaii pursuant to the
18 interim final rule promulgated under paragraph
19 (1).

20 (B) EXCEPTION FOR FISCAL YEARS 2026
21 THROUGH 2030.—For each of fiscal years 2026
22 through 2030, the Secretary may not apply the
23 cost estimate described in subparagraph (A) if
24 that application would result in the cost of the
25 diet under the thrifty food plan (as so defined)

1 being below the amount of the cost of that diet
2 as calculated using the method of calculating
3 the cost of the diet under the thrifty food plan
4 for the State of Hawaii for each of fiscal years
5 2024 and 2025.

6 **SEC. 4102. FOOD DISTRIBUTION PROGRAM ON INDIAN RES-**
7 **ERVATIONS.**

8 (a) IN GENERAL.—Section 4(b) of the Food and Nu-
9 trition Act of 2008 (7 U.S.C. 2013(b)) is amended—

10 (1) in paragraph (2), by striking subparagraph
11 (C) and inserting the following:

12 “(C) PARTICIPATION IN SNAP.—Any
13 household eligible to participate or participating
14 in the program established under this sub-
15 section may simultaneously participate in the
16 supplemental nutrition assistance program.”;

17 (2) in paragraph (4)—

18 (A) by striking subparagraphs (B) through
19 (D); and

20 (B) in subparagraph (A), by striking the
21 designation and heading and all that follows
22 through “80 percent” and inserting the fol-
23 lowing: “The Secretary shall pay 100 percent”;

24 (3) in paragraph (6)(E), by striking “2023”
25 and inserting “2029”; and

1 (4) by adding at the end the following:

2 “(8) TRIBAL PROCUREMENT.—

3 “(A) DEFINITIONS.—In this paragraph:

4 “(i) ELIGIBLE TRIBAL ORGANIZA-
5 TION.—The term ‘eligible Tribal organiza-
6 tion’ means a Tribal organization that
7 meets the requirements for a participating
8 Tribal organization under clause (ii), ex-
9 cept that the Tribal organization does not
10 satisfy the requirement described in sub-
11 clause (II) of that clause.

12 “(ii) PARTICIPATING TRIBAL ORGANI-
13 ZATION.—The term ‘participating Tribal
14 organization’ means a Tribal organization
15 that—

16 “(I) is successfully administering
17 the food distribution program of the
18 Tribal organization established under
19 this subsection;

20 “(II) has entered into a self-de-
21 termination contract to procure agri-
22 cultural commodities for distribution
23 under that food distribution program
24 for not less than 12 months of dis-
25 tribution across the contract period;

1 “(III) has the capacity to pur-
2 chase agricultural commodities in ac-
3 cordance with subparagraph (C); and

4 “(IV) meets any other criteria
5 determined by the Secretary, in con-
6 sultation with Indian tribes.

7 “(iii) SELF-DETERMINATION CON-
8 TRACT.—The term ‘self-determination con-
9 tract’ means a self-determination contract
10 (as defined in section 4 of the Indian Self-
11 Determination and Education Assistance
12 Act (25 U.S.C. 5304)) as implemented
13 under the demonstration project estab-
14 lished under section 4003(b) of the Agri-
15 culture Improvement Act of 2018 (7
16 U.S.C. 2013 note; Public Law 115–334),
17 with modifications as determined by the
18 Secretary.

19 “(B) TRIBAL COMMODITY PURCHASES.—
20 The Secretary shall—

21 “(i) subject to the availability of ap-
22 propriations under subparagraph (E)(i),
23 enter into self-determination contracts with
24 eligible Tribal organizations to allow those
25 eligible Tribal organizations to directly

1 purchase agricultural commodities for dis-
2 tribution under the food distribution pro-
3 gram of the eligible Tribal organization es-
4 tablished under this subsection; and

5 “(ii) subject to the availability of ap-
6 propriations under subparagraph (E)(ii),
7 enter into self-determination contracts with
8 participating Tribal organizations to allow
9 those participating Tribal organizations to
10 directly purchase agricultural commodities
11 for distribution under the food distribution
12 program of the participating Tribal organi-
13 zation established under this subsection.

14 “(C) PROCUREMENT REQUIREMENTS.—
15 Any agricultural commodity purchased by a
16 Tribal organization under a self-determination
17 contract entered into under subparagraph
18 (B)—

19 “(i) shall be domestically produced;

20 “(ii) shall supplant, not supplement,
21 the types of agricultural commodities in ex-
22 isting food packages for that Tribal organi-
23 zation;

24 “(iii) shall be—

1 “(I) of a similar or higher nutri-
2 tional value as the types of agricul-
3 tural commodities that would be sup-
4 planted in the existing food package
5 of the Tribal organization; or

6 “(II) an agricultural commodity
7 with Tribal significance to that Indian
8 Tribe;

9 “(iv) shall not result in a material in-
10 crease in the total amount of food in the
11 food package of that Tribal organization,
12 as compared to the amount of food author-
13 ized under the monthly distribution guide
14 rates established by the Food and Nutri-
15 tion Service; and

16 “(v) shall meet any other criteria de-
17 termined by the Secretary.

18 “(D) PUBLIC AVAILABILITY.—The Sec-
19 retary shall make publicly available on the
20 website of the Department of Agriculture a list
21 of each Tribal organization purchasing agricul-
22 tural commodities in accordance with a self-de-
23 termination contract entered into under sub-
24 paragraph (B).

25 “(E) FUNDING.—

1 “(i) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIA-
2 TIONS FOR ELIGIBLE TRIBAL ORGANIZA-
3 TIONS.—

4 “(I) IN GENERAL.—There is au-
5 thorized to be appropriated to the
6 Secretary \$10,000,000 for each fiscal
7 year, to remain available until ex-
8 pended, to enter into self-determina-
9 tion contracts under subparagraph
10 (B)(i) with eligible Tribal organiza-
11 tions.

12 “(II) APPROPRIATIONS IN AD-
13 VANCE.—Only funds appropriated
14 pursuant to subclause (I) in advance
15 specifically to the Secretary to enter
16 into self-determination contracts
17 under subparagraph (B)(i) with eligi-
18 ble Tribal organizations shall be avail-
19 able for that purpose.

20 “(III) OPTION.—If any funds de-
21 scribed in subclause (II) are remain-
22 ing in a fiscal year after requests to
23 enter into self-determination contracts
24 from eligible Tribal organizations for
25 that fiscal year have been met, the

1 Secretary may use those remaining
2 funds to enter into self-determination
3 contracts under subparagraph (B)(ii)
4 with participating Tribal organiza-
5 tions.

6 “(ii) FUNDING FOR PARTICIPATING
7 TRIBAL ORGANIZATIONS.—Of the funds
8 made available under section 18(a), not
9 more than \$20,000,000 shall be made
10 available to the Secretary for each fiscal
11 year, to remain available for 2 fiscal years,
12 to enter into self-determination contracts
13 under subparagraph (B)(ii) with partici-
14 pating Tribal organizations.

15 “(F) LIMITATION.—Notwithstanding any
16 provision of the Indian Self-Determination and
17 Education Assistance Act (25 U.S.C. 5301 et
18 seq.), the Secretary shall not be liable, or use
19 any amounts made available under subpara-
20 graph (E)(i) or section 18(a) for purposes of
21 carrying out this paragraph, for contract sup-
22 port costs or other costs not expressly author-
23 ized in this paragraph.

24 “(9) EMERGENCIES AND DISASTERS.—

1 “(A) DEFINITION OF EMERGENCY PE-
2 RIOD.—In this paragraph, the term ‘emergency
3 period’ means a period during which there ex-
4 ists—

5 “(i) a public health emergency de-
6 clared by the Secretary of Health and
7 Human Services under section 319 of the
8 Public Health Service Act (42 U.S.C.
9 247d) or a renewal of such a public health
10 emergency declaration;

11 “(ii) a major disaster declared by the
12 President under section 401 of the Robert
13 T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency
14 Assistance Act (42 U.S.C. 5170); or

15 “(iii) an emergency declared by the
16 President under section 501 of that Act
17 (42 U.S.C. 5191).

18 “(B) MODIFICATION OR WAIVER.—Not-
19 withstanding any other provision of this sub-
20 section, during an emergency period, the Sec-
21 retary may modify or waive any regulatory re-
22 quirement promulgated pursuant to this section
23 for a Tribal organization or State agency ad-
24 ministering the program under this section if—

1 “(i) the regulatory requirement can-
2 not be met by the Tribal organization or
3 State agency during any portion of the
4 emergency period under the conditions that
5 prompted the emergency period; and

6 “(ii) the modification or waiver of
7 such a requirement is necessary to provide
8 assistance to that Tribal organization or
9 State agency under this subsection.

10 “(C) DURATION.—A modification or waiv-
11 er made under subparagraph (B) may be avail-
12 able for not more than 2 calendar months after
13 the end of the applicable emergency period.”.

14 (b) RESEARCH, DEMONSTRATION, AND EVALUA-
15 TIONS.—Section 17(a)(1) of the Food and Nutrition Act
16 of 2008 (7 U.S.C. 2026(a)(1)) is amended in the first sen-
17 tence by striking “program” and inserting “program, the
18 food distribution program on Indian Reservations carried
19 out under section 4(b), and the emergency food assistance
20 program established under the Emergency Food Assist-
21 ance Act of 1983 (7 U.S.C. 7501 et seq.)”.

22 (c) DEMONSTRATION PROJECT FOR TRIBAL ORGANI-
23 ZATIONS TERMINATION.—Section 4003(b) of the Agri-
24 culture Improvement Act of 2018 (7 U.S.C. 2013 note;

1 Public Law 115–334) is amended by adding at the end
2 the following:

3 “(7) **TERMINATION OF AUTHORITY.**—The dem-
4 onstration project under this subsection shall termi-
5 nate on the date on which the Secretary certifies
6 that paragraph (8) of section 4(b) of the Food and
7 Nutrition Act of 2008 (7 U.S.C. 2013(b)) has been
8 implemented.”.

9 **SEC. 4103. INCOME EXCLUSION FOR MILITARY BASIC AL-**
10 **LOWANCE FOR HOUSING.**

11 Section 5(d) of the Food and Nutrition Act of 2008
12 (7 U.S.C. 2014(d)) is amended—

13 (1) in paragraph (18), by striking “and” at the
14 end;

15 (2) in paragraph (19)(B), by striking the period
16 at the end and inserting “; and”; and

17 (3) by adding at the end the following:

18 “(20) the value of an allowance received under
19 section 403 of title 37, United States Code.”.

20 **SEC. 4104. SNAP MATERIALS FOR HEALTH CARE PROFES-**
21 **SIONALS.**

22 Section 5 of the Food and Nutrition Act of 2008 (7
23 U.S.C. 2014) is amended by adding at the end the fol-
24 lowing:

1 “(o) TRAINING MATERIALS FOR HEALTH CARE PRO-
2 FESSIONALS.—

3 “(1) DEFINITION OF HEALTH CARE PROFES-
4 SIONAL.—In this subsection, the term ‘health care
5 professional’ means an individual who is licensed,
6 registered, or certified under Federal or State law to
7 provide health care services.

8 “(2) TRAINING MATERIALS.—The Secretary, in
9 coordination with the Secretary of Health and
10 Human Services, shall—

11 “(A) develop and make available materials
12 designed to train health care professionals to
13 inform their patients about the availability of
14 benefits under the supplemental nutrition as-
15 sistance program and other nutrition assistance
16 programs administered by the Secretary; and

17 “(B) perform outreach to hospitals, univer-
18 sities, nursing associations, and similar entities
19 to ensure that health care professionals have
20 access to those materials and are informed
21 about the supplemental nutrition assistance
22 program and other nutrition assistance pro-
23 grams administered by the Secretary.”.

1 **SEC. 4105. COLLEGE STUDENTS.**

2 (a) COLLEGE STUDENTS.—Section 6(e) of the Food
3 and Nutrition Act of 2008 (7 U.S.C. 2015(e)) is amend-
4 ed—

5 (1) in paragraph (7), by striking “or” at the
6 end;

7 (2) in paragraph (8), by striking the period at
8 the end and inserting “; or”; and

9 (3) by adding at the end the following:

10 “(9) is 24 years of age or younger and was in
11 foster care under the responsibility of a State on the
12 date of attaining 18 years of age or such higher age
13 as the State has elected under section 475(8)(B)(iii)
14 of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C.
15 675(8)(B)(iii)).”.

16 (b) ENSURING COORDINATION.—Section 11 of the
17 Food and Nutrition Act of 2008 (7 U.S.C. 2020) is
18 amended by adding at the end the following:

19 “(y) COORDINATION TO SUPPORT SNAP ACCESS TO
20 COLLEGE STUDENTS.—

21 “(1) GUIDANCE AND OTHER MATERIALS.—The
22 Secretary, in consultation with the Secretary of Edu-
23 cation, shall issue—

24 “(A) clear, understandable, and easy-to-use
25 guidance on eligibility for the supplemental nu-

1 trition assistance program for students at insti-
2 tutions of higher education;

3 “(B) a template for institutions of higher
4 education to use to provide students with local
5 food assistance information, including contact
6 information for—

7 “(i) the appropriate State agency ad-
8 ministering the supplemental nutrition as-
9 sistance program;

10 “(ii) local and campus food pantries;
11 and

12 “(iii) any other local food assistance
13 facilities and services available to students
14 enrolled in the institution of higher edu-
15 cation; and

16 “(C) any other information or material, as
17 determined by the Secretary, that would assist
18 institutions of higher education with ensuring
19 that students who are likely to be eligible for
20 benefits under the supplemental nutrition as-
21 sistance program have access to—

22 “(i) those benefits; and

23 “(ii) available food assistance facilities
24 and services.

1 “(2) DISSEMINATION.—The Secretary shall co-
2 ordinate with the Secretary of Education—

3 “(A) to disseminate, not less frequently
4 than annually, the guidance and other materials
5 described in paragraph (1) to, as applicable—

6 “(i) institutions of higher education;
7 and

8 “(ii) low-income students and other
9 students at risk of experiencing food inse-
10 curity, as determined by the Secretary, at
11 institutions of higher education, including
12 students who—

13 “(I) are eligible to participate in
14 a State or federally financed work
15 study program during the regular
16 school year, as determined by the in-
17 stitution of higher education; or

18 “(II) for the current academic
19 year, have an expected family con-
20 tribution or student aid index of \$0 or
21 less, as determined in accordance with
22 part F of title IV of the Higher Edu-
23 cation Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 1087kk
24 et seq.); and

1 “(B) to make the guidance and other ma-
2 terials described in paragraph (1) publicly avail-
3 able on the websites of the Department of Agri-
4 culture and the Department of Education.”.

5 **SEC. 4106. IMPROVEMENTS TO SNAP EMPLOYMENT AND**
6 **TRAINING.**

7 (a) EXCLUSIONS FROM INCOME.—

8 (1) IN GENERAL.—Section 5 of the Food and
9 Nutrition Act of 2008 (7 U.S.C. 2014) is amend-
10 ed—

11 (A) in subsection (d) (as amended by sec-
12 tion 4103)—

13 (i) in paragraph (19)(B), by striking
14 “and” after the semicolon at the end;

15 (ii) in paragraph (20), by striking the
16 period at the end and inserting “; and”;
17 and

18 (iii) by adding at the end the fol-
19 lowing:

20 “(21) any payment, income, allowance, or earn-
21 ings made to household members provided under—

22 “(A) any work program (as defined in sec-
23 tion 6(o)(1));

24 “(B) any employment and training pro-
25 gram;

1 “(C) any vocational rehabilitation program
2 (as defined in section 3 of the Workforce Inno-
3 vation and Opportunity Act (29 U.S.C. 3102));
4 and

5 “(D) any refugee employment and training
6 program established under section 412(c) of the
7 Immigration and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C.
8 1522(c)).”;

9 (B) in subsection (g), by adding at the end
10 the following:

11 “(9) TIME-LIMITED EXCLUSION FOR CERTAIN
12 EMPLOYMENT AND TRAINING PROGRAMS.—The Sec-
13 retary shall exclude from financial resources under
14 this subsection any payment, income, allowance, or
15 earnings described in subsection (d)(21) received by
16 any member of a household for the month of receipt,
17 and each of the 11 months beginning after the
18 month of receipt, if that member was participating
19 in the supplemental nutrition assistance program at
20 the time the payment, income, allowance, or earning
21 was received.”;

22 (C) by striking subsection (l); and

23 (D) by redesignating subsections (m), (n),
24 and (o) (as added by section 4104) as sub-
25 sections (l), (m), and (n), respectively.

1 (2) CONFORMING AMENDMENT.—Section
2 6(s)(2) of the Food and Nutrition Act of 2008 (7
3 U.S.C. 2015(s)(2)) is amended by striking “(l), (m),
4 and (n)” and inserting “(l), and (m)”.

5 (b) EMPLOYMENT AND TRAINING.—Section 6 of the
6 Food and Nutrition Act of 2008 (7 U.S.C. 2015) is
7 amended—

8 (1) in subsection (d)(4)—

9 (A) in subparagraph (B)(i)—

10 (i) in subclause (VII), by striking
11 “90” and inserting “180”; and

12 (ii) by striking subclause (VIII) and
13 inserting the following:

14 “(VIII) Programs and activities
15 with demonstrated effectiveness in in-
16 creasing skills and improving the abil-
17 ity of participants to find and retain
18 employment that leads to increased
19 household income, as determined by
20 the Secretary.”;

21 (B) in subparagraph (I)(i)(I), by inserting
22 “addressing barriers to” after “directly related
23 to”;

24 (C) by striking subparagraph (L) and in-
25 serting the following:

1 “(L) STATE AGENCY REQUIREMENT.—

2 “(i) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary
3 shall ensure that each State agency com-
4 plies with—

5 “(I) the requirements of this
6 paragraph and section 11(e)(19); and

7 “(II) the plan of the State agen-
8 cy developed pursuant to that section.

9 “(ii) CERTIFICATION.—The chief ex-
10 ecutive officer of a State, in coordination
11 with the State agency, shall annually sub-
12 mit to the Secretary the following informa-
13 tion:

14 “(I) A statement certifying that
15 the State has cooperated with the Sec-
16 retary to ensure the compliance de-
17 scribed in clause (i).

18 “(II) The total number of partici-
19 pants served by the employment and
20 training program of the State under
21 this paragraph in the prior fiscal year.

22 “(III) The total amount of Fed-
23 eral and State funding expended on
24 the employment and training program
25 of the State under this paragraph, in-

1 cluding the total amount of payments
2 and reimbursements made under sub-
3 paragraph (I), in the prior fiscal
4 year.”;

5 (D) in subparagraph (M), by striking “title
6 I of the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity
7 Act” and inserting “the Workforce Innovation
8 and Opportunity Act (29 U.S.C. 3101 et seq.)”;

9 (E) in subparagraph (O)(i)—

10 (i) in the matter preceding subclause
11 (I), by striking “eligible for an exemption
12 under paragraph (2) and who” and insert-
13 ing “exempt from meeting a requirement
14 under paragraph (1)(A) and”;

15 (ii) in subclause (II), by adding “or”
16 at the end;

17 (iii) in subclause (III), by striking
18 “or” at the end; and

19 (iv) by redesignating subclauses (I),
20 (II), and (III) as subclauses (II), (III), and
21 (I), respectively, and moving the sub-
22 clauses so as to appear in numerical order;
23 and

24 (F) by adding at the end the following:

1 “(P) PROCEDURES FOR REFERRALS.—In
2 accordance with regulations issued by the Sec-
3 retary, the State agency shall establish proce-
4 dures to ensure that each referral results in di-
5 rectly connecting a participant with a service
6 provider or other appropriate entity to receive
7 appropriate support and services.”;

8 (2) in subsection (e)(3)(A), by striking “title I
9 of the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act”
10 and inserting “the Workforce Innovation and Oppor-
11 tunity Act (29 U.S.C. 3101 et seq.)”; and

12 (3) in subsection (o)(1)(A), by striking “title I
13 of the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act”
14 and inserting “the Workforce Innovation and Oppor-
15 tunity Act (29 U.S.C. 3102), other than a self-serv-
16 ice activity authorized under the Wagner-Peyser Act
17 (29 U.S.C. 49 et seq.)”.

18 (c) STATE PLANS.—Section 11 of the Food and Nu-
19 trition Act of 2008 (7 U.S.C. 2020) is amended—

20 (1) in subsection (e)(19), by striking “the ac-
21 tivities” and all that follows through the semicolon
22 at the end and inserting “appropriate activities car-
23 ried out under the Workforce Innovation and Oppor-
24 tunity Act (29 U.S.C. 3101 et seq.), as determined
25 by the Secretary, a description of the State agency’s

1 screening of individuals to determine whether an in-
2 dividual is exempt from meeting a requirement
3 under subsections (d)(1)(A) and (o)(2) of section 6
4 and the appropriateness of the employment and
5 training program for the skills and circumstances of
6 the individual prior to the referral of that individual
7 to an employment and training program, the basis,
8 including any cost information, for exemptions of
9 categories and individuals, and the justification for
10 the choice of employment and training program com-
11 ponents reflected in the plans, including how those
12 components address the skill needs of participants
13 and regional or local workforce needs;” and

14 (2) by striking subsection (w) and inserting the
15 following:

16 “(w) ADDITIONAL NOTIFICATION OF EMPLOYMENT
17 AND TRAINING OPPORTUNITIES.—

18 “(1) IN GENERAL.—For households containing
19 at least 1 individual between the ages specified in
20 section 6(d)(1), a State agency shall, at the time of
21 certification and recertification, be required to pro-
22 vide information to those individuals on available
23 employment and training services and local employ-
24 ment and training providers.

1 “(2) NOTIFICATION.—A State agency that does
2 not exempt all work registrants from participation in
3 an employment and training program shall notify, in
4 writing, households with members that are exempt
5 from the requirements of paragraph (1)(A) of sec-
6 tion 6(d) due to physical or mental unfitness or pur-
7 suant to paragraph (2) of that section that those
8 households are not required to contact the providers
9 or participate in the services described in paragraph
10 (1).

11 “(3) REQUEST FOR EMPLOYMENT AND TRAIN-
12 ING PROVIDER ASSESSMENT.—

13 “(A) IN GENERAL.—An individual who is
14 determined to be eligible to participate in the
15 supplemental nutrition assistance program by a
16 State agency that exempts all work registrants
17 from an employment and training program may
18 request that the provider of a component of the
19 employment and training program of the State
20 assess the individual for appropriateness for
21 participation in that component, notwith-
22 standing any determination by the State agency
23 of the eligibility of the individual for the em-
24 ployment and training program of that pro-
25 vider.

1 “(B) NOTIFICATION.—Each provider of a
2 component of an employment and training pro-
3 gram shall—

4 “(i) notify the applicable State agency
5 of each individual that the provider identi-
6 fies as appropriate for the component of
7 the employment and training program
8 under subparagraph (A); and

9 “(ii) verify other eligibility conditions
10 with the State agency prior to enrolling
11 each of those individuals in the component
12 of the employment and training program.”.

13 (d) SNAP EMPLOYMENT AND TRAINING REALLOCA-
14 TION.—Section 16(h)(1) of the Food and Nutrition Act
15 of 2008 (7 U.S.C. 2025(h)(1)) is amended—

16 (1) in subparagraph (A)—

17 (A) by striking “24” and inserting “36”;

18 and

19 (B) by striking “\$103,900,000” and in-
20 serting “\$110,000,000”; and

21 (2) in subparagraph (C)—

22 (A) in clause (i), by striking “(v)” and in-
23 serting “(iv)”; and

24 (B) by striking clauses (iv) and (v) and in-
25 serting the following:

1 “(iv) PRIORITY.—In reallocating un-
2 expended funds under clause (i), the Sec-
3 retary shall give priority to State agencies
4 requesting such funds for work-based
5 learning employment and training pro-
6 grams and activities that—

7 “(I) are coordinated with employ-
8 ers that can transition to unsubsidized
9 employment;

10 “(II) are targeted to—

11 “(aa) individuals 50 years of
12 age or older;

13 “(bb) formerly incarcerated
14 individuals;

15 “(cc) individuals partici-
16 pating or having recently partici-
17 pated in a substance abuse treat-
18 ment program;

19 “(dd) homeless individuals;

20 “(ee) individuals with dis-
21 abilities seeking to enter the
22 workforce;

23 “(ff) other individuals with
24 substantial barriers to employ-
25 ment;

1 “(gg) households facing
2 multigenerational poverty, to sup-
3 port employment and workforce
4 participation through an inte-
5 grated and family-focused ap-
6 proach in providing supportive
7 services; and

8 “(hh) members of Indian
9 tribes; and

10 “(III) meet any other criteria de-
11 termined by the Secretary.”.

12 (e) EMPLOYMENT AND TRAINING STUDY.—

13 (1) STUDY.—Not later than 3 years after the
14 date of enactment of this Act, the Comptroller Gen-
15 eral of the United States shall conduct a study on—

16 (A) the level of coordination among various
17 employment and training programs that are
18 federally funded and State- or locality-adminis-
19 tered, including—

20 (i) programs under sections 6(d) and
21 20 of the Food and Nutrition Act of 2008
22 (7 U.S.C. 2015(d), 2029);

23 (ii) programs under the Workforce In-
24 novation and Opportunity Act (29 U.S.C.
25 3101 et seq.);

1 (iii) work supports funded under a
2 State program funded under part A of title
3 IV of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C.
4 601 et seq.); and

5 (iv) the Jobs Plus Initiative Program
6 administered by the Department of Hous-
7 ing and Urban Development;

8 (B) differences in the populations served
9 by each program studied under subparagraph
10 (A);

11 (C) the different performance and report-
12 ing measures used in each program studied
13 under subparagraph (A) and opportunities for
14 aligning those performance measures; and

15 (D) to the maximum extent practicable,
16 the effectiveness of each of those programs in
17 serving individuals with substantial barriers to
18 employment, such as substance use disorders,
19 mental health issues, physical or mental disabil-
20 ities, unstable housing, lack of basic education
21 or life skills, or lack of childcare, transpor-
22 tation, or access to appropriate technologies, in-
23 cluding with respect to—

1 (i) assessing the suitability of those
2 individuals for the employment and train-
3 ing activities offered; and

4 (ii) improving the short-term and
5 long-term employment outcomes for those
6 individuals.

7 (2) REPORT.—Not later than 60 days after the
8 completion of the study under paragraph (1), the
9 Comptroller General of the United States shall sub-
10 mit to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and
11 Forestry of the Senate and the Committee on Agri-
12 culture of the House of Representatives a report de-
13 scribing the results of that study.

14 **SEC. 4107. ENSURING EBT INTEGRITY.**

15 (a) PROTECTING EBT CARDHOLDERS.—

16 (1) IN GENERAL.—Section 7 of the Food and
17 Nutrition Act of 2008 (7 U.S.C. 2016) is amend-
18 ed—

19 (A) in subsection (d), by inserting “and se-
20 curity, including completeness of fraud protec-
21 tion and prevention tools and coverage of infra-
22 structure cost” before the period at the end;

23 (B) in subsection (f), by adding at the end
24 the following:

25 “(6) UPDATING POINT-OF-SALE EQUIPMENT.—

1 “(A) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall
2 promulgate regulations to require retail food
3 stores to make any necessary and appropriate
4 upgrades to point-of-sale equipment to ensure a
5 more secure means of conducting transactions.

6 “(B) LIABILITY.—Except as otherwise pro-
7 vided by the Secretary, a retail food store shall
8 be liable to the Secretary for the value of bene-
9 fits redeemed via fraudulent on-site trans-
10 actions using an EBT card with a magnetic
11 stripe in lieu of more secure means, as deter-
12 mined by the Secretary, after the requirement
13 for those secure means is implemented nation-
14 wide by regulation.”;

15 (C) in subsection (h)—

16 (i) in paragraph (1), by adding at the
17 end the following:

18 “(E) STATE REVIEW.—Each State agency
19 shall review existing technology and contract re-
20 quirements before entering into or renewing an
21 electronic benefit transfer contract to ensure
22 the electronic benefit transfer technology of the
23 State agency reflects up-to-date standards to
24 ensure the security of benefits.”;

25 (ii) in paragraph (2)—

1 (I) in subparagraph (C)—
2 (aa) in clause (ii), by redesi-
3 gnating subclauses (I) and (II)
4 as items (aa) and (bb), respec-
5 tively, and indenting appro-
6 priately; and
7 (bb) by redesignating
8 clauses (i) and (ii) as subclauses
9 (I) and (II), respectively, and in-
10 denting appropriately;
11 (II) by redesignating subpara-
12 graphs (A) through (H) as clauses (i)
13 through (viii), respectively, and in-
14 denting appropriately;
15 (III) in the matter preceding
16 clause (i) (as so redesignated), by
17 striking “(2) The Secretary” and in-
18 serting the following:

19 “(2) FEDERAL STANDARDS.—

20 “(A) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary”; and

21 (IV) by adding at the end the fol-
22 lowing:

23 “(B) ADDITIONAL SPECIFICATIONS.—

24 “(i) IN GENERAL.—Not later than
25 240 days after the date of enactment of

1 the Rural Prosperity and Food Security
2 Act of 2024, the electronic benefit transfer
3 system of each State agency shall in-
4 clude—

5 “(I) a prohibition on the use of
6 common personal identification num-
7 bers;

8 “(II) an option for households to
9 temporarily lock all activity of the
10 EBT card of the household, with 2 or
11 more easy-to-use options to unlock the
12 EBT card before making a purchase;

13 “(III) validation of the card au-
14 thentication value of an EBT card;

15 “(IV) a means to authenticate
16 card balance inquiries;

17 “(V) a means for States and the
18 applicable benefit issuer to record and
19 track data on reports of stolen bene-
20 fits;

21 “(VI) an option for households to
22 view EBT card transaction history;
23 and

24 “(VII) the household option
25 under subsection (j)(5).

1 “(ii) RECIPIENT PROTECTION.—A
2 State agency may not deny a claim of a
3 household for replacement of stolen bene-
4 fits based on the decision of the household
5 not to use any of the options described in
6 subclauses (II), (VI), and (VII) of clause
7 (i).

8 “(iii) REGULATIONS.—

9 “(I) IN GENERAL.—Not later
10 than 120 days after the date of enact-
11 ment of the Rural Prosperity and
12 Food Security Act of 2024, the Sec-
13 retary shall promulgate interim final
14 rules to implement clauses (i) and (ii).

15 “(II) PROCEDURE.—Regulations
16 promulgated pursuant to subclause (I)
17 shall be made without regard to—

18 “(aa) the notice and com-
19 ment provisions of section 553 of
20 title 5, United States Code; or

21 “(bb) chapter 35 of title 44,
22 United States Code.

23 “(iv) SUBSEQUENT REVIEWS.—Not
24 less frequently than once every 5 years, the
25 Secretary shall—

1 “(I) review the requirements de-
2 scribed in clause (i); and

3 “(II) promulgate regulations to
4 make such revisions to those require-
5 ments as the Secretary determines to
6 be appropriate.

7 “(C) FAILURE TO COMPLY.—

8 “(i) IN GENERAL.—In addition to
9 compliance and enforcement required
10 under section 16, for each 30-day period
11 during which a State agency is not acting
12 in good faith to comply with subparagraph
13 (B), the Secretary may assess against the
14 State agency a fine in an amount equal to
15 \$250,000.

16 “(ii) ADMINISTRATIVE AND JUDICIAL
17 REVIEW.—Any amount assessed by the
18 Secretary under this subparagraph shall be
19 subject to administrative and judicial re-
20 view under section 14.”;

21 (iii) by striking paragraph (7) and in-
22 sserting the following:

23 “(7) REPLACEMENT OF BENEFITS.—

24 “(A) IN GENERAL.—Regulations issued by
25 the Secretary regarding the replacement of ben-

1 tions provided under section
2 11(e)(2)(C);

3 “(bb) criteria for deter-
4 mining whether a submitted
5 claim is valid;

6 “(cc) procedures for the doc-
7 umentation of replacement
8 issuances, including the sub-
9 mitted claims and findings from
10 the validation;

11 “(dd) the submission to the
12 Secretary of data reports relating
13 to benefit theft and replacement
14 activity;

15 “(ee) procedures to inform
16 households of the right to a fair
17 hearing, consistent with the pro-
18 cedures established under section
19 11(e) (including regulations) with
20 respect to replacement issuances;
21 and

22 “(ff) the use and planned
23 use by the State agency of ben-
24 efit theft prevention measures;
25 and

1 “(II) reporting to the Secretary
2 the scope and frequency of EBT card
3 skimming affecting households within
4 the State;

5 “(ii) the replacement of stolen benefits
6 for a household—

7 “(I) shall not exceed the lesser
8 of—

9 “(aa) the amount of benefits
10 stolen from the household; and

11 “(bb) an amount equal to 2
12 months of the monthly allotment
13 of the household immediately
14 prior to the date on which the
15 benefits were stolen;

16 “(II) shall not occur more than 2
17 times per fiscal year per household by
18 a single State agency; and

19 “(III) shall only apply to benefits
20 stolen on or after October 1, 2022;
21 and

22 “(iii) the replacement of stolen bene-
23 fits under this subparagraph shall not be
24 regarded as a loss for purposes of sub-
25 section (e), to the extent such replacement

1 is in accordance with an approved plan
2 that complies with this subparagraph.”;
3 and

4 (iv) in paragraph (13)—

5 (I) in subparagraph (B), by
6 striking “Effective through fiscal year
7 2023, neither” and inserting “Nei-
8 ther”; and

9 (II) by adding at the end the fol-
10 lowing:

11 “(C) ADDITIONAL EBT FEES.—Effective
12 through fiscal year 2029, no agent, contractor,
13 or subcontractor of a State who facilitates the
14 provision of benefits in that State may impose
15 a fee on retail food stores authorized under this
16 Act for costs to implement paragraph (1)(E),
17 subsection (d), or for other costs associated
18 with updating electronic benefit transfer proc-
19 essing infrastructure.”; and

20 (D) in subsection (j), by striking para-
21 graph (5) and inserting the following:

22 “(5) HOUSEHOLD OPTION.—

23 “(A) IN GENERAL.—Each State shall allow
24 a household to control the interoperability of
25 the EBT card of the household, including by al-

1 (I) in clause (iii), by adding
2 “and” at the end;

3 (II) by striking clause (iv); and

4 (III) by redesignating clause (v)
5 as clause (iv); and

6 (ii) by adding at the end the fol-
7 lowing:

8 “(E) EBT EQUIPMENT OR SERVICE PRO-
9 VIDER REQUIREMENT.—An applicant shall not
10 be authorized to accept and redeem benefits un-
11 less the applicant certifies that the applicant
12 will use an electronic benefit transfer equipment
13 and service provider that is included on the list
14 described in paragraph (4)(B).”; and

15 (B) by striking paragraph (4) and insert-
16 ing the following:

17 “(4) ELECTRONIC BENEFIT TRANSFER EQUIP-
18 MENT AND SERVICE PROVIDER STANDARDS.—

19 “(A) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 18
20 months after the date of enactment of the
21 Rural Prosperity and Food Security Act of
22 2024, the Secretary shall promulgate regula-
23 tions to establish standards for approving elec-
24 tronic benefit transfer equipment and service

1 providers to route electronic benefit transfer
2 transactions, which shall include—

3 “(i) requiring those providers to sub-
4 mit to benefit issuers sufficient transaction
5 information to minimize the risk of fraudu-
6 lent transactions and unauthorized re-
7 demptions;

8 “(ii) registration in the System for
9 Award Management maintained by the
10 General Services Administration;

11 “(iii) safeguarding confidential retail
12 food store identifiers necessary for proc-
13 essing and routing electronic benefit trans-
14 fer transactions; and

15 “(iv) other requirements to ensure the
16 security and stability of the electronic ben-
17 efit transfer system, as determined by the
18 Secretary.

19 “(B) LIST OF APPROVED PROVIDERS.—
20 The Secretary shall—

21 “(i) compile and publish a list of elec-
22 tronic benefit transfer equipment and serv-
23 ice providers that meet the standards es-
24 tablished under subparagraph (A); and

25 “(ii) regularly update that list.”; and

1 (2) in subsection (b), by adding at the end the
2 following:

3 “(3) SALE OR TRANSFER OF RETAIL FOOD
4 STORE.—

5 “(A) IN GENERAL.—A retail food store au-
6 thorized under this section to accept and re-
7 deem benefits or currently serving a period of
8 disqualification under the supplemental nutri-
9 tion assistance program shall—

10 “(i) notify the Secretary of a sale or
11 transfer of ownership of the retail food
12 store before the sale or transfer in a timely
13 manner, as determined by the Secretary;
14 and

15 “(ii) submit documentation to the
16 Secretary confirming the sale or transfer
17 in a timely manner, as determined by the
18 Secretary.

19 “(B) CERTIFICATION.—A retail food store
20 seeking authorization under this section shall
21 certify in the application of the retail food store
22 that the retail food store shall comply with the
23 requirements under subparagraph (A).

24 “(C) DISABLING SNAP FUNCTIONS.—The
25 Secretary shall ensure that any electronic ben-

1 efit transfer equipment used by a retail food
2 store described in subparagraph (A) that is sold
3 or transferred shall be disabled not later than
4 72 hours after the Secretary confirms the sale
5 or transfer.”.

6 (c) CIVIL PENALTIES, FLAGRANT VIOLATIONS, AND
7 SUSPENSIONS.—Section 12 of the Food and Nutrition Act
8 of 2008 (7 U.S.C. 2021) is amended—

9 (1) in subsection (a)(1)(B), by striking
10 “\$100,000” and inserting “\$150,000”;

11 (2) in subsection (c)(1), by striking “\$100,000”
12 and inserting “\$150,000”;

13 (3) in subsection (h)—

14 (A) in paragraph (1), by striking “estab-
15 lish procedures” and all that follows through
16 the period at the end and inserting “promulgate
17 regulations to establish procedures under which
18 benefit transactions likely to be in flagrant vio-
19 lation of this Act (including regulations promul-
20 gated pursuant to this Act), as determined
21 through the use of real-time transaction data,
22 may be blocked in real time, for the purpose of
23 the immediate protection of Federal funds.”;

24 (B) in paragraph (2), by striking “deter-
25 mines that” in the matter preceding subpara-

1 graph (A) and all that follows through the pe-
2 riod at the end of subparagraph (B)(ii) and in-
3 sserting “blocks a benefit transaction likely to be
4 in flagrant violation of this Act (including regu-
5 lations promulgated pursuant to this Act), the
6 Secretary shall provide prompt notification to
7 the affected retail food store, household, and
8 benefit issuer with an explanation for the block,
9 including an explanation of the necessity of the
10 block for the immediate protection of Federal
11 funds, and the suspected violation.”; and

12 (C) by striking paragraph (3) and insert-
13 ing the following:

14 “(3) NO LIABILITY.—The Secretary shall not
15 be liable for the value of any funds or interest on
16 funds blocked under this subsection.

17 “(4) REPORT.—The Secretary shall annually
18 submit to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition,
19 and Forestry of the Senate and the Committee on
20 Agriculture of the House of Representatives a report
21 describing the total number of benefits transactions
22 and the total benefits amount blocked under this
23 subsection in each State during the preceding year.

24 “(5) TERMINATION OF AUTHORITY.—The au-
25 thority under this subsection shall expire 5 years

1 after the effective date of regulations promulgated
2 pursuant to paragraph (1).”; and

3 (4) by adding at the end the following:

4 “(j) EBT EQUIPMENT AND SERVICE PROVIDERS.—

5 “(1) IN GENERAL.—An electronic benefit trans-
6 fer equipment or service provider that facilitates un-
7 authorized redemption of benefits or otherwise vio-
8 lates a provision of this Act (including regulations)
9 may be—

10 “(A) suspended or debarred in accordance
11 with the procedures under part 417 of title 2,
12 Code of Federal Regulations (or successor regu-
13 lations);

14 “(B) assessed a civil penalty in an amount
15 not to exceed \$150,000 per violation; or

16 “(C) both.

17 “(2) REVIEW AND APPEAL OF CIVIL PEN-
18 ALTY.—The imposition of a civil penalty under para-
19 graph (1) shall be subject to review, and may be ap-
20 pealed by the electronic benefit transfer equipment
21 or service provider, in accordance with section 14.”.

22 (d) ADMINISTRATIVE AND JUDICIAL REVIEW.—Sec-
23 tion 14(a)(1) of the Food and Nutrition Act of 2008 (7
24 U.S.C. 2023(a)(1)) is amended—

1 (1) by striking “of this Act” each place it ap-
2 pears;

3 (2) by inserting “or an electronic benefit trans-
4 fer equipment or service provider is assessed a civil
5 penalty under section 12(j),” before “or all or part
6 of”; and

7 (3) by inserting “or retail food store or whole-
8 sale food concern” before “is stated pursuant to”.

9 **SEC. 4108. RETAIL FOOD STORES.**

10 (a) STOCKING UNITS.—

11 (1) IN GENERAL.—Section 3(o)(1) of the Food
12 and Nutrition Act of 2008 (7 U.S.C. 2012(o)(1)) is
13 amended by striking subparagraph (A) and inserting
14 the following:

15 “(A) offers and displays for sale, on a con-
16 tinuous basis, at least 25 stockkeeping units of
17 foods in each of the 4 categories of staple foods
18 described in subsection (q)(1)—

19 “(i) including—

20 “(I) perishable foods in at least 3
21 of those categories; and

22 “(II) 7 varieties in the category
23 described in subparagraph (C) of that
24 subsection; and

1 “(ii) of which not less than 12 of the
2 stockkeeping units in each of those 4 cat-
3 egories of staple foods are identified for in-
4 creased consumption for any age group,
5 consistent with the most recent Dietary
6 Guidelines for Americans published under
7 section 301 of the National Nutrition Mon-
8 itoring and Related Research Act of 1990
9 (7 U.S.C. 5341), as determined by the
10 Secretary; or”.

11 (2) REGULATIONS.—

12 (A) PROMULGATION.—Not later than 18
13 months after the date of enactment of this Act,
14 the Secretary shall promulgate regulations to
15 implement the amendment made by paragraph
16 (1), which shall take effect not later than 180
17 days after publication of the regulation in the
18 Federal Register.

19 (B) LISTENING SESSIONS.—In promul-
20 gating regulations pursuant to subparagraph
21 (A), the Secretary shall conduct 2 or more pub-
22 lic listening sessions that shall—

23 (i) engage the full range of interested
24 groups, including, to the maximum extent
25 practicable—

1 (I) households participating in
2 the supplemental nutrition assistance
3 program established under the Food
4 and Nutrition Act of 2008 (7 U.S.C.
5 2011 et seq.); and

6 (II) different types of retail food
7 stores authorized to participate in
8 that program under section 9 of that
9 Act (7 U.S.C. 2018); and

10 (ii) be included in the rulemaking
11 record.

12 (3) REPORT.—Not later than 2 years after the
13 date on which regulations promulgated pursuant to
14 paragraph (2)(A) take effect, the Secretary shall
15 submit to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition,
16 and Forestry of the Senate and the Committee on
17 Agriculture of the House of Representatives a report
18 that assesses the compliance by retail food stores (as
19 defined in section 3 of the Food and Nutrition Act
20 of 2008 (7 U.S.C. 2012)), including small grocery
21 stores and convenience stores, with those regula-
22 tions, which shall include—

23 (A) a description of any challenges retail
24 food stores face with respect to meeting the re-
25 quirements in those regulations; and

1 (B) recommendations for additional ap-
2 proaches that small-scale retail food stores may
3 take to stock and promote healthy food options.

4 (b) ONLINE-ONLY ENTITIES.—

5 (1) DEFINITION OF RETAIL FOOD STORE.—Sec-
6 tion 3(o)(1) of the Food and Nutrition Act of 2008
7 (7 U.S.C. 2012(o)(1)) is amended, in the matter
8 preceding subparagraph (A), by striking “sells food”
9 and inserting “owns food inventory and sells that
10 food”.

11 (2) ADDITIONAL REQUIREMENTS FOR PARTICI-
12 PATION OF RETAIL FOOD STORES.—Section 9 of the
13 Food and Nutrition Act of 2008 (7 U.S.C. 2018) is
14 amended—

15 (A) in subsection (a)—

16 (i) in paragraph (2)—

17 (I) by striking “(2) The Sec-
18 retary” and inserting the following:

19 “(2) REGULATIONS.—The Secretary”; and

20 (II) by indenting subparagraphs

21 (A) and (B) appropriately; and

22 (ii) by conforming the margin of para-
23 graph (3) with the margin of paragraph
24 (4);

1 (B) in subsection (c), in the third sentence,
2 by inserting “(42 U.S.C. 1786)” after “Act of
3 1966”; and

4 (C) by striking subsection (f) and inserting
5 the following:

6 “(f) ADDITIONAL REQUIREMENTS FOR PARTICIPA-
7 TION.—

8 “(1) HOUSE-TO-HOUSE TRADE ROUTES, ON-
9 LINE-ONLY ENTITIES.—

10 “(A) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall
11 limit participation in the supplemental nutrition
12 assistance program of house-to-house trade
13 routes and entities that operate solely online
14 (referred to in this paragraph as ‘online-only
15 entities’) to include only such routes and online-
16 only entities that support the purposes of the
17 supplemental nutrition assistance program.

18 “(B) TERMS AND CONDITIONS.—The Sec-
19 retary shall establish terms and conditions for
20 participation of house-to-house trade routes and
21 online-only entities in the supplemental nutri-
22 tion assistance program, which shall include, at
23 a minimum—

24 “(i) a requirement to be fully oper-
25 ational with respect to sales to the public

1 for not less than 1 year before receiving
2 authorization under this section, including,
3 for online-only entities, operation in e-com-
4 merce for not less than that 1-year period;

5 “(ii) a requirement to provide to the
6 Secretary, on request—

7 “(I) documentation to establish
8 inventory ownership, such as business
9 records; and

10 “(II) evidence of sufficient and
11 consistent minimum inventory levels,
12 such as business records, inventory
13 storage facility visit reports, and other
14 means, including, for online-only enti-
15 ties, documentation matching owned
16 inventory with online offerings, as the
17 Secretary determines to be sufficient
18 to qualify continuously as a retail food
19 store; and

20 “(iii) a requirement to demonstrate
21 sales consistent with inventory, as deter-
22 mined by the Secretary, for not less than
23 1 year before receiving authorization under
24 this section and periodically thereafter, as
25 the Secretary determines to be appropriate.

1 “(2) ENTITIES WITHOUT INVENTORY.—An enti-
2 ty (including a product aggregator) that does not
3 qualify as a retail food store described in section
4 3(o)(1) because the entity does not own food inven-
5 tory may not participate in the supplemental nutri-
6 tion assistance program.

7 “(3) THIRD-PARTY ENTITIES AND INVEN-
8 TORY.—

9 “(A) RETAILERS.—An entity that is not
10 an approved retail food store may not offer food
11 for sale in exchange for benefits through an ap-
12 proved retail food store.

13 “(B) INVENTORY.—An approved retail
14 food store may not offer inventory for sale in
15 exchange for benefits if that inventory is owned
16 by an entity that is not an approved retail food
17 store.”.

18 (3) REVIEW AND PILOT PROJECT.—Section 17
19 of the Food and Nutrition Act of 2008 (7 U.S.C.
20 2026) is amended by adding at the end the fol-
21 lowing:

22 “(o) REPORT ON ENTITIES THAT SELL FOOD BUT
23 DO NOT OWN THEIR OWN FOOD INVENTORY; PILOT
24 PROJECT.—

1 “(1) REPORT.—The Secretary shall conduct,
2 and make publicly available a report describing the
3 results of, a study that assesses—

4 “(A) the types of entities that sell food but
5 do not own their own food inventory (referred
6 to in this subsection as ‘covered entities’);

7 “(B) vulnerabilities that covered entities
8 may pose to the supplemental nutrition assist-
9 ance program if covered entities are authorized
10 to accept and redeem benefits under that pro-
11 gram;

12 “(C) opportunities that covered entities
13 may provide to participants of the supplemental
14 nutrition assistance program if covered entities
15 are authorized to accept and redeem benefits
16 under that program;

17 “(D) recommendations for additional over-
18 sight of covered entities under the supplemental
19 nutrition assistance program if covered entities
20 are authorized to accept and redeem benefits
21 under that program;

22 “(E) standards that may be established to
23 ensure the integrity of the supplemental nutri-
24 tion assistance program with respect to covered
25 entities if covered entities are authorized to ac-

1 cept and redeem benefits under that program,
2 including—

3 “(i) ensuring that covered entities are
4 able—

5 “(I) to provide to the customer
6 the food purchased using benefits by
7 customers in a timely manner; and

8 “(II) to continuously meet the re-
9 quirements described in subparagraph
10 (A) or (B) of section 3(o)(1); and

11 “(ii) ensuring that the Department of
12 Agriculture has sufficient information to
13 conduct appropriate oversight over covered
14 entities; and

15 “(F) any other considerations, as deter-
16 mined by the Secretary.

17 “(2) PILOT PROJECT.—After the Secretary
18 makes publicly available the report described in
19 paragraph (1), the Secretary—

20 “(A) may conduct a pilot project to au-
21 thorize entities that sell food but do not own
22 their own food inventory, but otherwise meet
23 the definition of the term ‘retail food store’
24 under section 3(o) and meet the standards de-
25 scribed in paragraph (1)(E), to accept and re-

1 deem benefits to test the effectiveness of those
2 standards—

3 “(i) in protecting and increasing
4 healthy food access for households partici-
5 pating in the supplemental nutrition assist-
6 ance program; and

7 “(ii) in providing sufficient informa-
8 tion for the Secretary to conduct appro-
9 priate oversight over those entities; and

10 “(B) shall make publicly available a report
11 describing the results of the pilot project con-
12 ducted under subparagraph (A).”.

13 (c) ONLINE DELIVERY STANDARDS.—Section 7(k) of
14 the Food and Nutrition Act of 2008 (7 U.S.C. 2016(k))
15 is amended—

16 (1) by striking “on-line” each place it appears
17 and inserting “online”;

18 (2) in paragraph (2)—

19 (A) in subparagraph (D), by striking
20 “and” at the end;

21 (B) by redesignating subparagraph (E) as
22 subparagraph (F); and

23 (C) by inserting after subparagraph (D)
24 the following:

1 “(E) meet the delivery and data submis-
2 sion standards established under paragraph (5);
3 and”;

4 (3) in paragraph (4), in the paragraph heading,
5 by striking “ON-LINE” and inserting “ONLINE”; and
6 (4) by adding at the end the following:

7 “(5) SAFE DELIVERY STANDARDS.—

8 “(A) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary, acting
9 through the Administrator of the Food and Nu-
10 trition Service, in consultation with the Admin-
11 istrator of the Food Safety and Inspection
12 Service, shall promulgate regulations that, for
13 any retail food store that accepts benefits
14 through an online transaction and offers deliv-
15 ery services for the food purchased using those
16 benefits—

17 “(i) establish standards for delivery
18 conditions and practices that ensure the
19 preservation of the quality of the food, in-
20 cluding perishable food, to prevent con-
21 tamination and food-borne illnesses; and

22 “(ii) describe the manner in which
23 data, and the type of data that, should be
24 submitted by retail food stores so that the

1 Secretary may verify compliance with the
2 standards described in clause (i).

3 “(B) LISTENING SESSIONS.—In promul-
4 gating regulations pursuant to subparagraph
5 (A), the Secretary, acting through the Adminis-
6 trator of the Food and Nutrition Service, shall
7 conduct 2 or more public listening sessions
8 that—

9 “(i) engage the full range of inter-
10 ested groups; and

11 “(ii) shall be included in the rule-
12 making record.

13 “(C) COMPLIANCE.—Not later than 1 year
14 after regulations are promulgated pursuant to
15 subparagraph (A), the Secretary shall ensure
16 compliance with those regulations.”.

17 **SEC. 4109. IMPROVING CUSTOMER SERVICE TO RETAIL**
18 **FOOD STORES.**

19 Section 9 of the Food and Nutrition Act of 2008 (7
20 U.S.C. 2018) is amended by adding at the end the fol-
21 lowing:

22 “(k) IMPROVING CUSTOMER SERVICE.—

23 “(1) IN GENERAL.—The Administrator of the
24 Food and Nutrition Service, in coordination with of-
25 fices of the Food and Nutrition Service that oversee

1 retail food store operations or policies, shall develop
2 a plan that considers store owner and operator
3 training and agency timeliness to enhance customer
4 service for applicant and authorized retail food
5 stores.

6 “(2) PUBLIC AVAILABILITY.—The Secretary
7 shall—

8 “(A) not later than 240 days after the date
9 of enactment of this subsection, make publicly
10 available on the website of the Food and Nutri-
11 tion Service the plan developed under para-
12 graph (1); and

13 “(B) post periodic updates on the imple-
14 mentation of that plan on that website.”.

15 **SEC. 4110. RESTORING SNAP BENEFITS FOR DRUG-RE-**
16 **LATED CONVICTIONS.**

17 (a) IN GENERAL.—Section 11(e)(2)(B) of the Food
18 and Nutrition Act of 2008 (7 U.S.C. 2020(e)(2)(B)) is
19 amended—

20 (1) in clause (vi), by striking “and” at the end;

21 (2) in clause (vii), by striking the period at the
22 end and inserting “; and”; and

23 (3) by adding at the end the following:

24 “(viii) notwithstanding clause (iii) and
25 section 3(m)(4), may consider an applica-

1 tion from an incarcerated individual to be
2 filed on the date that the incarcerated indi-
3 vidual is released, subject to the condition
4 that the application is received not more
5 than 30 days prior to the scheduled release
6 date of the incarcerated individual.”.

7 (b) AMENDMENT TO PRWORA.—Section 115 of the
8 Personal Responsibility and Work Opportunity Reconcili-
9 ation Act of 1996 (21 U.S.C. 862a) is amended—

10 (1) in subsection (a), in the matter preceding
11 paragraph (1), by striking “for—” and all that fol-
12 lows through the period at the end of paragraph (2)
13 and inserting “for assistance under any State pro-
14 gram funded under part A of title IV of the Social
15 Security Act (42 U.S.C. 601 et seq.)”;

16 (2) in subsection (b)—

17 (A) by striking paragraph (2);

18 (B) by striking the subsection designation
19 and heading and all that follows through “The
20 amount of” in paragraph (1) and inserting the
21 following:

22 “(b) EFFECTS ON ASSISTANCE FOR OTHERS.—The
23 amount of”; and

24 (C) by inserting “(42 U.S.C. 601 et seq.)”
25 after “Social Security Act”; and

1 (3) in subsection (e)—

2 (A) by striking paragraph (2); and

3 (B) by striking the subsection designation
4 and heading and all that follows through “,
5 and” in paragraph (1) and inserting the fol-
6 lowing:

7 “(e) DEFINITION OF STATE.—In this section, the
8 term ‘State’ has the meaning given the term in section
9 419 of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 619), when re-
10 ferring to assistance provided under a State program
11 funded under part A of title IV of the Social Security Act
12 (42 U.S.C. 601 et seq.).”.

13 (c) STATE LAW EFFECTS.—Any State law limita-
14 tions enacted in accordance with section 115(d) of the
15 Personal Responsibility and Work Opportunity Reconcili-
16 ation Act of 1996 (21 U.S.C. 862a(d)) (as in effect on
17 the day before the date of enactment of this Act) with
18 respect to benefits under the supplemental nutrition as-
19 sistance program established under the Food and Nutri-
20 tion Act of 2008 (7 U.S.C. 2011 et seq.) or any State
21 program carried out under that Act shall have no force
22 or effect.

23 (d) EFFECTIVE DATE.—This section and the amend-
24 ments made by this section shall take effect on October
25 1, 2025.

1 **SEC. 4111. STREAMLINING SNAP APPLICATIONS.**

2 Section 11(e)(2)(C) of the Food and Nutrition of
3 2008 (7 U.S.C. 2020(e)(2)(C)) is amended—

4 (1) in clause (ii)—

5 (A) in the clause heading, by inserting “OR
6 GESTURED” after “TELEPHONIC”; and

7 (B) by inserting “or, for hearing impaired
8 applicants, by gesture over a video phone or in
9 person” before the period at the end; and

10 (2) in clause (iii)(I), by striking “record for fu-
11 ture reference the verbal assent” and inserting
12 “record, as audio or video or in writing, for future
13 reference the verbal or gestured assent”.

14 **SEC. 4112. IMPROVING STATE ADMINISTRATION AND QUAL-**
15 **ITY CONTROL.**

16 Section 16 of the Food and Nutrition Act of 2008
17 (7 U.S.C. 2025) is amended—

18 (1) in subsection (a), by striking “(a) Subject
19 to subsection (k)” and inserting the following:

20 “(a) ADMINISTRATIVE COST-SHARE.—Subject to
21 subsections (k) and (l)”;

22 (2) in subsection (c)—

23 (A) in paragraph (1)(G)—

24 (i) by striking “The Secretary” and
25 inserting the following:

26 “(i) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary”;

1 (ii) in clause (i) (as so designated), by
2 inserting “to improve the accuracy of eligi-
3 bility and benefit determinations” before
4 “to reduce payment errors”; and

5 (iii) by adding at the end the fol-
6 lowing:

7 “(ii) EARLY ROOT CAUSE ANALYSIS.—

8 “(I) NOTIFICATION.—Not later
9 than the end of the second quarter of
10 each fiscal year, the Secretary shall
11 notify State agencies if a preliminary
12 review of data from the most recent
13 6-month period conducted in accord-
14 ance with the system established
15 under subparagraph (A) indicates that
16 the payment error rate of the State
17 agency for that fiscal year is trending
18 higher than 6 percent.

19 “(II) ROOT CAUSE ANALYSIS.—

20 The Secretary, acting through the Of-
21 fice of Technical Assistance within the
22 Food and Nutrition Service, shall pro-
23 vide 1-on-1 technical assistance to
24 State agencies that receive a notifica-
25 tion under subclause (I)—

1 “(aa) to identify the causes
2 of the payment errors; and

3 “(bb) to develop a strategy
4 to improve the accuracy of the
5 eligibility and benefit determina-
6 tions of the State agency to re-
7 duce payment errors.”; and

8 (B) in paragraph (2)—

9 (i) in each of subparagraphs (A)
10 through (C), by striking “the term” and
11 inserting “The term”; and

12 (ii) by striking the paragraph designa-
13 tion and all that follows through “sec-
14 tion—” and inserting the following:

15 “(2) DEFINITION OF ERROR RATES.—In this
16 section:”;

17 (3) in subsection (d)—

18 (A) by striking paragraphs (1) through
19 (5);

20 (B) in paragraph (6), by striking the para-
21 graph designation and heading and all that fol-
22 lows through “each fiscal year thereafter” in
23 the matter preceding clause (i) in subparagraph
24 (A) and inserting the following:

25 “(1) PERFORMANCE CRITERIA.—

1 “(A) IN GENERAL.—With respect to each
2 fiscal year”;

3 (C) in paragraph (1) (as so redesignated),
4 by striking subparagraph (B) and inserting the
5 following:

6 “(B) PUBLICLY AVAILABLE.—For each fis-
7 cal year, the Secretary shall make publicly
8 available on the website of the Department of
9 Agriculture each of the performance criteria es-
10 tablished under subparagraph (A) for each
11 State.”; and

12 (D) by adding at the end the following:

13 “(2) REPORTING REQUIREMENTS FOR ADDI-
14 TIONAL PERFORMANCE INDICATORS.—

15 “(A) IN GENERAL.—Beginning in fiscal
16 year 2027, each month, each State agency shall
17 submit to the Secretary a report on the activi-
18 ties of the State agency carried out during the
19 immediately preceding month relating to appli-
20 cation processing and certifications for the sup-
21 plemental nutrition assistance program, which
22 shall include, with respect to the month covered
23 by the report—

24 “(i) the number and percentage of ap-
25 plications and recertifications completed

1 within the applicable timeframe required
2 under this Act;

3 “(ii) the number and percentage of
4 households that were denied benefits, the
5 cases of which were closed, or the certifi-
6 cation periods of which expired due to
7 missed interviews, missing verifications,
8 unreturned recertification or interim re-
9 porting forms, and other similar reasons,
10 as determined by the Secretary;

11 “(iii) the number of applications, peri-
12 odic reports, and recertifications that re-
13 mained pending past the date on which
14 those documents were due;

15 “(iv) the number and percentage of
16 cases due for recertification or periodic re-
17 porting that lost benefits and reapplied
18 within the following 30 days, 60 days, and
19 90 days;

20 “(v) the total call center volume, aver-
21 age wait time, and average answer rate, as
22 determined by the Secretary, for—

23 “(I) each call center of the State
24 agency responsible for administering

1 the supplemental nutrition assistance
2 program; and

3 “(II) any additional call center
4 operated by a county in the State to
5 support the operations of that pro-
6 gram; and

7 “(vi) any other relevant information
8 relating to the application or certification
9 process of the supplemental nutrition as-
10 sistance program, as determined by the
11 Secretary.

12 “(B) STANDARDIZED REQUIREMENTS FOR
13 MONTHLY REPORTING.—

14 “(i) IN GENERAL.—For fiscal year
15 2027 and each fiscal year thereafter, the
16 Secretary shall establish standardized re-
17 quirements for the monthly reporting re-
18 quired under subparagraph (A) that shall
19 be used to develop customer service metrics
20 that track and assist State agencies with
21 the administration of the supplemental nu-
22 trition assistance program.

23 “(ii) GRACE PERIOD.—During fiscal
24 year 2027, a State agency shall not be re-
25 quired to comply with the standardized re-

1 requirements established under clause (i) in
2 carrying out the monthly reporting re-
3 quired under subparagraph (A).

4 “(C) REVISION AND STREAMLINING OF EX-
5 ISTING REQUIREMENTS.—In establishing the re-
6 porting system under this paragraph, the Sec-
7 retary shall—

8 “(i) review existing State agency per-
9 formance criteria and reporting require-
10 ments; and

11 “(ii) make necessary modifications to
12 ensure that data collection for those exist-
13 ing performance criteria and reporting re-
14 quirements are not duplicative of the re-
15 quirements under subparagraph (A).

16 “(D) ENFORCEMENT.—

17 “(i) IN GENERAL.—If a State agency
18 fails to act in good faith to meet the re-
19 porting requirements established under
20 this paragraph, the Secretary may assess
21 that State agency a civil penalty for each
22 monthly report described in subparagraph
23 (A) that is not submitted by the date that
24 is 60 days after the end of the month cov-
25 ered by the report.

1 “(ii) AMOUNT.—The amount of a civil
2 penalty assessed under clause (i) shall be
3 \$250,000 for each 30-day period during
4 which the applicable monthly report de-
5 scribed in subparagraph (A) is overdue.

6 “(iii) APPEAL.—The amount of the
7 civil penalty assessed under this subpara-
8 graph shall be subject to administrative
9 and judicial review under section 14.

10 “(E) ANNUAL CUSTOMER SERVICE
11 METRICS.—

12 “(i) IN GENERAL.—Using the infor-
13 mation submitted by a State agency each
14 month, the Secretary shall calculate annual
15 customer service metrics of the State agen-
16 cy, in a manner to be determined by the
17 Secretary.

18 “(ii) CUSTOMER SERVICE STAND-
19 ARDS.—The Secretary shall notify a State
20 agency of the annual customer service
21 metrics of that State agency at the time of
22 notification to the State agency of the pay-
23 ment error rate of the State agency.

24 “(3) PUBLICLY AVAILABLE STATE DATA.—

1 “(A) QUARTERLY REPORTS FOR FISCAL
2 YEARS 2025 AND 2026.—For each of fiscal years
3 2025 and 2026, the Secretary shall make pub-
4 licly available on the website of the Department
5 of Agriculture, not later than 60 days after re-
6 ceipt from each State agency, the quarterly
7 data that each State agency reports to the Sec-
8 retary relating to the total number of—

9 “(i) initial applications that are ap-
10 proved, denied, or overdue, including appli-
11 cations that are subject to expedited serv-
12 ice; and

13 “(ii) recertifications that are ap-
14 proved, denied, or overdue.

15 “(B) MONTHLY REPORTS.—For fiscal year
16 2027 and each fiscal year thereafter, the Sec-
17 retary shall make publicly available on the
18 website of the Department of Agriculture, not
19 later than 60 days after receipt from each State
20 agency, the monthly data that each State agen-
21 cy reports under paragraph (2)(A).”;

22 (4) in subsection (i)(1), by striking “(as defined
23 in subsection (d)(1))”; and

24 (5) by adding at the end the following:

1 “(1) COST-SHARE FOR MONTHLY REPORTING.—Not-
2 withstanding section 16(a), the Secretary shall pay to each
3 State agency an amount equal to 90 percent of all admin-
4 istrative costs related to the implementation by the State
5 agency of the reporting requirements under subsection
6 (d)(2).”.

7 **SEC. 4113. PROCESS AND TECHNOLOGY INNOVATION**
8 **GRANTS.**

9 Section 11(t) of the Food and Nutrition Act of 2008
10 (7 U.S.C. 2020(t)) is amended—

11 (1) in paragraph (1), by striking “\$5,000,000”
12 and inserting “\$25,000,000”;

13 (2) in paragraph (4)—

14 (A) in subparagraph (D), by striking “or”
15 at the end;

16 (B) in subparagraph (E), by striking the
17 period at the end and inserting “; or”; and

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

19 “(F) the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico,
20 American Samoa, or the Commonwealth of the
21 Northern Mariana Islands, including the gov-
22 ernmental agency in each of those territories
23 that administers a nutrition assistance program
24 under section 19 or Public Law 96–597 (94
25 Stat. 3477), as applicable.”; and

1 (3) by adding at the end the following:

2 “(6) MULTIYEAR AWARDS.—A grant may be
3 awarded under this section for a project that spans
4 up to 6 years.”.

5 **SEC. 4114. ELDERLY SIMPLIFIED APPLICATION OPTION.**

6 Section 11 of the Food and Nutrition Act of 2008
7 (7 U.S.C. 2020) (as amended by section 4105(b)) is
8 amended by adding at the end the following:

9 “(z) ELDERLY SIMPLIFIED APPLICATION OPTION.—

10 “(1) IN GENERAL.—In carrying out the supple-
11 mental nutrition assistance program, a State may
12 elect to implement a streamlined application and
13 certification process (referred to in this subsection
14 as a ‘covered process’) for households in which all
15 adult members—

16 “(A) are elderly or disabled members; and

17 “(B) have no earned income.

18 “(2) CERTIFICATION PERIOD.—The certifi-
19 cation period for a household participating through
20 a covered process shall be 36 months.

21 “(3) INCOME AND OTHER DATA
22 VERIFICATION.—

23 “(A) IN GENERAL.—A State agency deter-
24 mining the eligibility of an applicant household
25 under a covered process shall, notwithstanding

1 subsection (e)(3), to the maximum extent prac-
2 ticable—

3 “(i) use data matching for income
4 verification and household size; and

5 “(ii) allow self-declaration by the ap-
6 plicant of the information required under
7 section 273.2(f) of title 7, Code of Federal
8 Regulations (or a successor regulation),
9 but verify, prior to certification of the
10 household, factors of eligibility required
11 under this Act or that are provided by the
12 applicant that the State agency determines
13 are questionable.

14 “(B) ACCOUNTABILITY AND FRAUD PRE-
15 VENTION.—In carrying out subparagraph (A), a
16 State agency shall, subject to the approval of
17 the Secretary, establish accountability and
18 fraud protection measures to deter fraud and
19 ensure the integrity of the supplemental nutri-
20 tion assistance program.

21 “(4) INTERVIEWS.—Notwithstanding subsection
22 (e)(6)(A), for recertification of a household under a
23 covered process, the State agency shall not require
24 an interview unless requested by the household,

1 which may be conducted in-person, if requested by
2 the household, or virtually.

3 “(5) GUIDANCE.—Prior to allowing States to
4 implement a covered process, the Administrator of
5 the Food and Nutrition Service shall develop guid-
6 ance for States, including by consulting with States,
7 to carry out a covered process, which shall include—

8 “(A) general implementation guidelines;

9 “(B) reporting requirements;

10 “(C) quality control requirements; and

11 “(D) best practices.”.

12 **SEC. 4115. HOT FOODS.**

13 Section 17 of the Food and Nutrition Act of 2008
14 (7 U.S.C. 2026) (as amended by section 4108(b)(3)) is
15 amended by adding at the end the following:

16 “(p) REPORT ON TREATMENT OF HOT FOOD PROD-
17 UCTS; PILOT PROJECTS.—

18 “(1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 3 years
19 after the date of enactment of this subsection, the
20 Secretary shall conduct, and make publicly available
21 a report describing the results of, a study that as-
22 sesses the potential impacts to the supplemental nu-
23 trition assistance program of a statutory change to
24 the definition of the term ‘food’ in section 3 that
25 would—

1 “(A) include hot foods and hot food prod-
2 ucts ready for immediate consumption at retail
3 food stores authorized to participate in the sup-
4 plemental nutrition assistance program; and

5 “(B) exclude hot foods and hot food prod-
6 ucts ready for immediate consumption from the
7 definition of the term ‘staple food’ in that sec-
8 tion.

9 “(2) CONTENTS.—The study under paragraph
10 (1) shall include an assessment of—

11 “(A) the types of hot and prepared foods
12 that would be available at authorized retail food
13 stores (including co-located entities at those re-
14 tail food stores) for purchase using supple-
15 mental nutrition assistance program benefits,
16 for different types of authorized retail food
17 stores;

18 “(B) of the total gross sales of an author-
19 ized retail food store, the percentage of sales of
20 hot and prepared foods not intended for home
21 preparation or home consumption, for different
22 types of authorized retail food stores;

23 “(C) the potential impact of the statutory
24 change described in paragraph (1) on retail
25 food store eligibility under section

1 278.1(b)(1)(i)(A) of title 7, Code of Federal
2 Regulations (or a successor regulation); and

3 “(D) any other considerations, as deter-
4 mined by the Secretary.

5 “(3) PILOT PROJECTS.—After the report de-
6 scribed in paragraph (1) is made publicly available,
7 the Secretary—

8 “(A) may conduct not more than 5 pilot
9 projects designed to test the effectiveness and
10 efficiency of supplemental nutrition assistance
11 program changes to allow households to pur-
12 chase hot and prepared foods using benefits;
13 and

14 “(B) shall make publicly available a report
15 describing the results of each pilot project con-
16 ducted under subparagraph (A).”.

17 **SEC. 4116. AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.**

18 Section 18(a)(1) of the Food and Nutrition Act of
19 2008 (7 U.S.C. 2027(a)(1)) is amended, in the first sen-
20 tence, by striking “2023” and inserting “2029”.

21 **SEC. 4117. INCLUSION OF PUERTO RICO IN SUPPLEMENTAL**
22 **NUTRITION ASSISTANCE PROGRAM.**

23 (a) DEFINITIONS.—Section 3 of the Food and Nutri-
24 tion Act of 2008 (7 U.S.C. 2012) is amended—

1 (1) in subsection (r), by inserting “the Com-
2 monwealth of Puerto Rico,” after “Guam,”; and

3 (2) in subsection (u)(2), by striking “Hawaii
4 and the urban and rural parts of Alaska to reflect
5 the cost of food in Hawaii and urban and rural Alas-
6 ka” and inserting “Hawaii, the urban and rural
7 parts of Alaska, and the Commonwealth of Puerto
8 Rico to reflect the cost of food in Hawaii, urban and
9 rural Alaska, and the Commonwealth of Puerto
10 Rico, respectively”.

11 (b) ELIGIBLE HOUSEHOLDS.—Section 5 of the Food
12 and Nutrition Act of 2008 (7 U.S.C. 2014) is amended—

13 (1) in subsection (b), in the first sentence, by
14 inserting “the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico,” after
15 “Guam,”;

16 (2) in subsection (c)—

17 (A) in paragraph (1), by striking “and
18 Guam,” and inserting “Guam, and the Com-
19 monwealth of Puerto Rico,”; and

20 (B) in the undesignated matter after para-
21 graph (2), by striking “States or Guam” and
22 inserting “States, Guam, or the Commonwealth
23 of Puerto Rico”; and

24 (3) in subsection (e)—

1 (A) in paragraph (1)(A), by inserting “and
2 the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico” after “Ha-
3 waii” each place it appears; and

4 (B) in paragraph (6)(B), in the matter
5 preceding clause (i), by inserting “and the
6 Commonwealth of Puerto Rico” after “Colum-
7 bia”.

8 (c) REGULATIONS.—Not later than 3 years after the
9 date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary shall promul-
10 gate regulations to carry out the amendments made by
11 subsections (a) and (b), which regulations shall not take
12 effect until the effective date of the amendments made by
13 those subsections, as described in subsection (d).

14 (d) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendments made by
15 subsections (a) and (b) shall be effective with respect to
16 the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico on the covered start
17 date (as defined in subsection (f)(1) of section 19 of the
18 Food and Nutrition Act of 2008 (7 U.S.C. 2028)) if a
19 certification under subsection (f)(8)(C) of that section (7
20 U.S.C. 2028) has been submitted to Congress.

21 (e) TRANSITION OF PUERTO RICO TO SUPPLE-
22 MENTAL NUTRITION ASSISTANCE PROGRAM.—Section 19
23 of the Food and Nutrition Act of 2008 (7 U.S.C. 2028)
24 is amended—

1 (1) in subsection (a)(2)(B), in the subpara-
2 graph heading, by striking “COMMONWEALTH OF
3 PUERTO RICO” and inserting “COMMONWEALTH OF
4 PUERTO RICO”; and

5 (2) by adding at the end the following:

6 “(f) TRANSITION OF PUERTO RICO TO SUPPLE-
7 MENTAL NUTRITION ASSISTANCE PROGRAM.—

8 “(1) DEFINITIONS.—In this subsection:

9 “(A) COVERED START DATE.—The term
10 ‘covered start date’ means the date on which
11 the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico intends for
12 all eligible households participating in the pro-
13 gram under subsections (a) through (e) to have
14 been transitioned to the supplemental nutrition
15 assistance program.

16 “(B) PHASE-IN PERIOD.—The term
17 ‘phase-in period’ means a period of not less
18 than 2 years and not more than 5 years begin-
19 ning not earlier than 9 years and not later than
20 15 years after the date on which the transition
21 plan is approved under paragraph (3)(A).

22 “(C) PLAN OF OPERATION.—The term
23 ‘plan of operation’ means a plan of operation
24 for the supplemental nutrition assistance pro-

1 timeline in which the Commonwealth of
2 Puerto Rico will implement the statutory
3 changes and regulatory development, pro-
4 gram design, and planning steps described
5 in the report of the Department of Agri-
6 culture entitled ‘Update to Feasibility
7 Study on Implementing SNAP in Puerto
8 Rico, Final Report’ and dated July 2022
9 (or a subsequent feasibility study); and

10 “(iii) a description of plans for the
11 phase-in period, which shall include a de-
12 tailed description of the manner and
13 timeline in which the Commonwealth of
14 Puerto Rico will implement the testing,
15 training, and rollout steps described in the
16 report described in clause (ii) (or a subse-
17 quent feasibility study) and carry out ac-
18 tivities required under paragraph (6).

19 “(3) DETERMINATION OF TRANSITION PLAN.—

20 “(A) APPROVAL.—Not later than 180 days
21 after the date on which the Commonwealth of
22 Puerto Rico submits a transition plan with a
23 request under paragraph (2)(A), the Secretary
24 shall approve the transition plan if the transi-
25 tion plan—

1 “(i) meets the requirements described
2 in paragraph (2)(B); and

3 “(ii) provides a reasonable strategy
4 and timeline for the planning, develop-
5 ment, and rollout of the supplemental nu-
6 trition assistance program that is likely to
7 ensure successful implementation of the
8 program, as determined by the Secretary.

9 “(B) DISAPPROVAL.—If the Secretary does
10 not approve the transition plan under subpara-
11 graph (A), the Secretary shall provide a state-
12 ment that describes—

13 “(i) each requirement under para-
14 graph (2)(B) or this paragraph that is not
15 satisfied by the transition plan; and

16 “(ii) the changes that the Common-
17 wealth of Puerto Rico may make to the
18 transition plan for the Secretary to ap-
19 prove the transition plan.

20 “(4) ACTION BY SECRETARY.—Not later than
21 180 days after the date on which the Secretary ap-
22 proves the transition plan under paragraph (3), the
23 Secretary shall make publicly available a report de-
24 scribing the steps that the Secretary shall take to
25 assist the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico during the

1 planning period and phase-in period and the timeline
2 for those steps.

3 “(5) PLANNING PERIOD.—During the planning
4 period, the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico shall
5 carry out activities, as described in the transition
6 plan pursuant to paragraph (2)(B)(ii), to prepare
7 for the phase-in period.

8 “(6) PHASE-IN PERIOD.—

9 “(A) PURPOSE.—The purpose of the
10 phase-in period is to allow the Commonwealth
11 of Puerto Rico to test new systems and make
12 real-time updates to improve accuracy and
13 maintain program integrity while transitioning
14 to the supplemental nutrition assistance pro-
15 gram.

16 “(B) UPDATED PLAN.—

17 “(i) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 1
18 year before the anticipated start date of
19 the phase-in period, the Commonwealth of
20 Puerto Rico shall submit to the Sec-
21 retary—

22 “(I) an updated plan for the
23 phase-in period described in para-
24 graph (2)(B)(iii);

1 “(II) the anticipated covered
2 start date; and

3 “(III) a draft plan of operation.

4 “(ii) DETERMINATION.—The Sec-
5 retary shall approve or disapprove the up-
6 dated plan for the phase-in period and the
7 draft plan of operation submitted under
8 clause (i) in accordance with paragraph
9 (3).

10 “(C) REQUIREMENTS.—During the phase-
11 in period, the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico
12 shall carry out the plans described in the tran-
13 sition plan pursuant to paragraph (2)(B)(iii)
14 and the updated plan submitted under subpara-
15 graph (B)(i)(I), including—

16 “(i) implementing the supplemental
17 nutrition assistance program in a stag-
18 gered manner throughout the Common-
19 wealth of Puerto Rico;

20 “(ii) coordinating with the Secretary
21 to carry out subparagraph (D); and

22 “(iii) ensuring that activities carried
23 out during the phase-in period substan-
24 tially meet the requirements for the supple-

1 mental nutrition assistance program under
2 this Act, as determined by the Secretary.

3 “(D) APPROVAL OF RETAIL FOOD
4 STORES.—On the date that is 270 days before
5 the start date of the phase-in period, the Sec-
6 retary shall begin accepting applications from
7 retail food stores located in the Commonwealth
8 of Puerto Rico to be authorized under section
9 9 to participate in the supplemental nutrition
10 assistance program.

11 “(E) ADMINISTRATION.—During the
12 phase-in period, the Commonwealth of Puerto
13 Rico—

14 “(i) may concurrently operate the pro-
15 gram under subsections (a) through (e)
16 until September 30 of the fiscal year of the
17 covered start date;

18 “(ii) shall not be subject to the re-
19 quirements of section 16(c); and

20 “(iii) shall be eligible for funding in
21 accordance with section 16(a) for adminis-
22 trative costs relating to carrying out the
23 supplemental nutrition assistance program.

24 “(7) REQUEST FOR IMPLEMENTATION.—

1 “(A) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 1 year
2 before the anticipated covered start date, the
3 Commonwealth of Puerto Rico shall submit to
4 the Secretary a request to implement the sup-
5 plemental nutrition assistance program, which
6 shall include—

7 “(i) the covered start date; and

8 “(ii) an updated plan of operation.

9 “(B) DETERMINATION OF UPDATED PLAN
10 OF OPERATION.—

11 “(i) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 90
12 days after the date on which the Common-
13 wealth of Puerto Rico submits the updated
14 plan of operation under subparagraph
15 (A)(ii), the Secretary shall approve the up-
16 dated plan of operation if the Secretary de-
17 termines that—

18 “(I) the updated plan of oper-
19 ation meets the requirements of this
20 Act; and

21 “(II) the Commonwealth of Puer-
22 to Rico has successfully completed a
23 significant majority of the activities
24 under the plan for the phase-in pe-
25 riod.

1 “(B) CERTIFICATION DECISION.—The Sec-
2 retary shall certify or deny the request of the
3 Commonwealth of Puerto Rico under subpara-
4 graph (A) as soon as practicable after the Sec-
5 retary receives the request.

6 “(C) SUBMISSION TO CONGRESS.—The
7 Secretary shall submit a certification under
8 subparagraph (B) to Congress.

9 “(9) QUALITY CONTROL LIABILITY WAIVER.—
10 Notwithstanding section 16(c), any payment error
11 rates by the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico during
12 the first 3 years following the covered start date
13 shall not count towards assessing a liability amount
14 under that section.

15 “(10) FAMILY MARKET PROGRAM.—Notwith-
16 standing subsection (g), the Secretary shall allow the
17 Commonwealth of Puerto Rico to continue to carry
18 out under the supplemental nutrition assistance pro-
19 gram the Family Market Program established pur-
20 suant to this section, under terms and conditions ap-
21 proved by the Secretary.

22 “(11) ANNUAL REPORT.—Not later than 1 year
23 after the Secretary makes publicly available the re-
24 port under paragraph (4), and each year thereafter
25 until the end of the phase-in period, the Secretary

1 shall make publicly available a report with respect to
2 the progress of the transition of the Commonwealth
3 of Puerto Rico to the supplemental nutrition assist-
4 ance program.

5 “(12) TRANSITION FUNDING.—Of amounts
6 made available under section 18(a)(1), the Secretary
7 shall use such sums as are necessary to carry out
8 this subsection, to remain available until expended.

9 “(g) TERMINATION OF EFFECTIVENESS.—Sub-
10 sections (a) through (e) shall cease to be effective with
11 respect to the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico on the cov-
12 ered start date (as defined in subsection (f)(1)) if a certifi-
13 cation under subsection (f)(8)(C) has been submitted to
14 Congress.”.

15 **SEC. 4118. ASSISTANCE FOR COMMUNITY FOOD PROJECTS.**

16 Section 25(b)(2) of the Food and Nutrition Act of
17 2008 (7 U.S.C. 2034(b)(2)) is amended—

18 (1) in subparagraph (C), by striking “and” at
19 the end;

20 (2) in subparagraph (D), by striking “fiscal
21 year 2019 and each fiscal year thereafter.” and in-
22 serting “each of fiscal years 2019 through 2024;
23 and”; and

24 (3) by adding at the end the following:

1 “(E) \$10,000,000 for fiscal year 2025 and
2 each fiscal year thereafter.”.

3 **SEC. 4119. NUTRITION EDUCATION AND OBESITY PREVEN-**
4 **TION GRANT PROGRAM.**

5 (a) IN GENERAL.—Section 28 of the Food and Nutri-
6 tion Act of 2008 (7 U.S.C. 2036a) is amended—

7 (1) in subsection (c)—

8 (A) in paragraph (1)(B), by striking “or
9 community organizations” and inserting “com-
10 munity-based, nongovernmental, or nonprofit
11 organizations”;

12 (B) in paragraph (2)(B)—

13 (i) in clause (iii)(II)(ii), by striking
14 “and” at the end;

15 (ii) in clause (iv)—

16 (I) by inserting “, including
17 standards for reporting and evalu-
18 ating the effectiveness of different
19 projects,” before “established”; and

20 (II) by striking the period at the
21 end and inserting “; and”; and

22 (iii) by adding at the end the fol-
23 lowing:

24 “(v) ensure, to the maximum extent
25 practicable, that interventions consider tra-

1 ditional and cultural foodways appropriate
2 for the target populations of the interven-
3 tions.”;

4 (C) in paragraph (4), by inserting “and
5 any entity that enters into an agreement with
6 a State agency to deliver services under this
7 subsection” after “State agencies”;

8 (D) in paragraph (6)—

9 (i) by striking “and community orga-
10 nizations” and inserting “community-
11 based, nongovernmental, and nonprofit or-
12 ganizations”; and

13 (ii) by striking the period at the end
14 and inserting “, including the consider-
15 ation of traditional and cultural foodways
16 appropriate for the target population of
17 the project.”; and

18 (E) by adding at the end the following:

19 “(10) OPTION IN ELECTRONIC REPORTING SYS-
20 TEM.—The Secretary shall provide an option for
21 State agencies to submit information describing the
22 successes and challenges of projects and interven-
23 tions through the electronic reporting system de-
24 scribed in paragraph (2)(B)(iii).”;

25 (2) in subsection (d)(1)—

1 (A) in subparagraph (E), by striking
2 “and” at the end;

3 (B) in subparagraph (F)—

4 (i) by striking “fiscal year 2016 and
5 each subsequent fiscal year” and inserting
6 “each of fiscal years 2016 through 2029”;
7 and

8 (ii) by striking the period at the end
9 and inserting a semicolon; and

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

11 “(G) for each of fiscal years 2025 through
12 2028, in addition to the amount described in
13 subparagraph (F) for each of those fiscal
14 years—

15 “(i) for fiscal year 2025, \$10,000,000;

16 “(ii) for fiscal year 2026,
17 \$12,000,000;

18 “(iii) for fiscal year 2027,
19 \$14,000,000; and

20 “(iv) for fiscal year 2028,
21 \$16,000,000; and

22 “(H) for fiscal year 2029 and each fiscal
23 year thereafter, the total amount reserved for
24 the preceding fiscal year, as adjusted to reflect
25 any increases for the 12-month period ending

1 the preceding June 30 in the Consumer Price
2 Index for All Urban Consumers published by
3 the Bureau of Labor Statistics of the Depart-
4 ment of Labor.”; and

5 (3) by striking subsection (e) and inserting the
6 following:

7 “(e) EMERGENCIES AND DISASTERS.—

8 “(1) DEFINITIONS.—In this subsection:

9 “(A) EMERGENCY PERIOD.—The term
10 ‘emergency period’ means a period during which
11 there exists—

12 “(i) a public health emergency de-
13 clared by the Secretary of Health and
14 Human Services under section 319 of the
15 Public Health Service Act (42 U.S.C.
16 247d) or a renewal of such a public health
17 emergency declaration;

18 “(ii) a major disaster declared by the
19 President under section 401 of the Robert
20 T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency
21 Assistance Act (42 U.S.C. 5170); or

22 “(iii) an emergency declared by the
23 President under section 501 of that Act
24 (42 U.S.C. 5191).

1 “(B) QUALIFIED ADMINISTRATIVE RE-
2 QUIREMENT.—The term ‘qualified administra-
3 tive requirement’ means a requirement under
4 this section or a regulatory requirement pro-
5 mulgated pursuant to this section.

6 “(2) MODIFICATION OR WAIVER.—Notwith-
7 standing any other provision in this Act, during an
8 emergency period, the Secretary may modify or
9 waive for a State agency any qualified administra-
10 tive requirement if—

11 “(A) the qualified administrative require-
12 ment cannot be met by the State agency; and

13 “(B) the modification or waiver of the re-
14 quirement is necessary to provide modified nu-
15 trition education and obesity prevention pro-
16 gramming to eligible individuals during the
17 emergency period, including by offering that
18 programming in conjunction with other nutri-
19 tion assistance programs.

20 “(3) DURATION.—A modification or waiver
21 made under paragraph (2) may be available until
22 the date that is 60 days after the end of the applica-
23 ble emergency period.”.

24 (b) IMPLEMENTATION.—

1 (1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 2 years after
2 the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary
3 shall promulgate such regulations as are necessary
4 to implement this section and the amendments made
5 by this section.

6 (2) COMMENTS.—In promulgating the regula-
7 tions required under paragraph (1), the Secretary
8 shall request and consider public comments on the
9 usability of the electronic reporting system described
10 in section 28(c) of the Food and Nutrition Act of
11 2008 (7 U.S.C. 2036a(c)).

12 **SEC. 4120. RETAIL FOOD STORE AND RECIPIENT TRAF-**
13 **FICKING.**

14 Section 29 of the Food and Nutrition Act of 2008
15 (7 U.S.C. 2036b) is amended—

16 (1) in the section heading, by striking “**RETAIL**
17 **FOOD STORE AND RECIPIENT TRAFFICKING**”
18 and inserting “**PREVENTION OF TRAFFICKING**
19 **AND BENEFIT THEFT**”;

20 (2) in subsection (a)—

21 (A) by inserting “, including benefit theft,”
22 before “in violation”; and

23 (B) by striking “recipient and retail food
24 store program” and inserting “recipient, retail

1 food store, and electronic benefit transfer sys-
2 tem”;

3 (3) in subsection (b)(1), by striking “store and
4 recipient” and inserting “store, recipient, and elec-
5 tronic benefit transfer system”; and

6 (4) in subsection (c)(1), by striking
7 “\$5,000,000 for each of fiscal years 2014 through
8 2023” and inserting “\$10,000,000 for each of fiscal
9 years 2025 through 2029”.

10 **Subtitle B—Emergency Food** 11 **Assistance Program**

12 **SEC. 4201. TEFAP FARM-TO-FOOD BANK PROJECTS.**

13 Section 203D(d) of the Emergency Food Assistance
14 Act of 1983 (7 U.S.C. 7507(d)) is amended—

15 (1) in paragraph (2)(B), by striking “50” and
16 inserting “90”; and

17 (2) in paragraph (5), by striking “\$4,000,000
18 for each of fiscal years 2019 through 2023” and in-
19 serting “\$8,000,000 for fiscal year 2025 and each
20 fiscal year thereafter”.

21 **SEC. 4202. KOSHER, HALAL, AND CULTURALLY RELEVANT** 22 **FOODS PROJECTS.**

23 Section 203D of the Emergency Food Assistance Act
24 of 1983 (7 U.S.C. 7507) is amended by adding at the end
25 the following:

1 “(g) KOSHER, HALAL, AND CULTURALLY RELEVANT
2 FOOD PROJECTS.—

3 “(1) DEFINITION OF ELIGIBLE ENTITY.—In
4 this subsection, the term ‘eligible entity’ means—

5 “(A) a State agency administering the pro-
6 gram established under this Act; and

7 “(B) a private nonprofit entity, such as a
8 community-based organization, food bank, or
9 other emergency feeding organization.

10 “(2) GRANTS.—The Secretary shall award
11 grants on a competitive basis to eligible entities to
12 carry out the projects described in paragraph (3).

13 “(3) PROJECTS DESCRIBED.—A project re-
14 ferred to in paragraph (2) is a project to purchase
15 for distribution under the program established under
16 this Act food that—

17 “(A) meets 1 or more demonstrated spe-
18 cific needs of the area served by the eligible en-
19 tity; and

20 “(B) as applicable, is—

21 “(i) Kosher food bearing a Kosher
22 certification;

23 “(ii) Halal food bearing a Halal cer-
24 tification; or

1 “(iii) another culturally relevant food,
2 as determined by the Secretary.

3 “(4) VERIFICATION.—An eligible entity car-
4 rying out a project using a grant awarded under
5 paragraph (2) shall verify, in accordance with a
6 process established by the Secretary, that foods pur-
7 chased under the project are domestically produced.

8 “(5) FUNDING.—

9 “(A) MANDATORY FUNDING.—There is ap-
10 propriated, out of any funds in the Treasury
11 not otherwise appropriated, to the Secretary to
12 carry out this subsection \$8,000,000 for fiscal
13 year 2025 and each fiscal year thereafter, to re-
14 main available until the end of the subsequent
15 fiscal year.

16 “(B) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIA-
17 TIONS.—In addition to amounts made available
18 under subparagraph (A), there is authorized to
19 be appropriated to the Secretary to carry out
20 this subsection \$8,000,000 for fiscal year 2025
21 and each fiscal year thereafter, to remain avail-
22 able until the end of the subsequent fiscal
23 year.”.

1 **SEC. 4203. FLEXIBILITIES FOR GEOGRAPHICALLY ISO-**
2 **LATED STATES AND INDIAN TRIBES.**

3 Section 214(c) of the Emergency Food Assistance
4 Act of 1983 (7 U.S.C. 7515(c)) is amended by adding at
5 the end the following:

6 “(3) FLEXIBILITIES FOR GEOGRAPHICALLY ISO-
7 LATED STATES AND INDIAN TRIBES.—

8 “(A) DEFINITION OF GEOGRAPHICALLY
9 ISOLATED STATE.—In this paragraph, the term
10 ‘geographically isolated State’ means—

11 “(i) the State of Hawaii;

12 “(ii) the State of Alaska;

13 “(iii) the Commonwealth of Puerto
14 Rico;

15 “(iv) Guam;

16 “(v) the Commonwealth of the North-
17 ern Mariana Islands; and

18 “(vi) the Virgin Islands of the United
19 States.

20 “(B) ALTERNATIVE DELIVERY OPTIONS.—

21 At the request of a State agency of a geo-
22 graphically isolated State or a Tribal organiza-
23 tion, the Secretary shall coordinate with the
24 State agency or Tribal organization to establish
25 alternative delivery options for commodities al-
26 located to that State agency or Tribal organiza-

1 tion under this section to ensure that the geo-
2 graphically isolated State or Tribal organization
3 is able to receive those commodities.

4 “(C) DIRECT PURCHASE OPTION.—

5 “(i) IN GENERAL.—At the request of
6 a State agency of a geographically isolated
7 State or a Tribal organization, the Sec-
8 retary may transfer to the State agency or
9 Tribal organization the cash value of not
10 more than 100 percent of the commodities
11 allocated to that State agency or Tribal or-
12 ganization under this section to be used by
13 the State agency or Tribal organization to
14 procure domestically grown food in lieu of
15 receipt of those commodities.

16 “(ii) PLAN.—A State agency or Tribal
17 organization making a request under
18 clause (i) shall submit to the Secretary a
19 plan that describes how the State agency
20 or Tribal organization will track and regu-
21 larly report to the Secretary the com-
22 modity purchases made with the funds re-
23 ceived under clause (i).”.

1 **SEC. 4204. FRESH PRODUCE PROCUREMENT OPTION.**

2 Section 214(c) of the Emergency Food Assistance
3 Act of 1983 (7 U.S.C. 7515(c)) (as amended by section
4 4203) is amended by adding at the end the following:

5 “(4) OPTION FOR PURCHASING THROUGH DOD
6 FRESH.—At the request of a State agency, the Sec-
7 retary may allow the State agency to use not more
8 than 20 percent of the cost of the commodities allo-
9 cated to that State agency under this section to
10 order commodities through the Department of De-
11 fense Fresh Fruit and Vegetable Program.”.

12 **SEC. 4205. EMERGENCY FOOD ASSISTANCE FOR INDIAN**
13 **TRIBES.**

14 (a) DEFINITIONS.—Section 201A of the Emergency
15 Food Assistance Act of 1983 (7 U.S.C. 7501) is amend-
16 ed—

17 (1) in paragraph (3)(A)—

18 (A) in clause (iv), by striking “or” at the
19 end;

20 (B) in clause (v), by adding “or” at the
21 end; and

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

23 “(vi) a Tribal organization, including
24 any Tribal organization participating in
25 the food distribution program on Indian
26 reservations under section 4(b) of the Food

1 and Nutrition Act of 2008 (7 U.S.C.
2 2013(b));”;

3 (2) by redesignating paragraph (10) as para-
4 graph (11); and

5 (3) by inserting after paragraph (9) the fol-
6 lowing:

7 “(10) TRIBAL ORGANIZATION.—The term ‘Trib-
8 al organization’ has the meaning given the term in
9 section 3 of the Food and Nutrition Act of 2008 (7
10 U.S.C. 2012).”.

11 (b) INDIAN TRIBES.—The Emergency Food Assist-
12 ance Act of 1983 is amended by inserting after section
13 202A (7 U.S.C. 7503) the following:

14 **“SEC. 203. TRIBAL ORGANIZATION PLAN.**

15 “(a) PLANS.—

16 “(1) IN GENERAL.—To receive commodities
17 under this Act, a Tribal organization shall submit to
18 the Secretary an operation and administration plan
19 for the provision of benefits under this Act.

20 “(2) UPDATES.—A Tribal organization shall
21 submit to the Secretary for approval any amendment
22 to a plan submitted under paragraph (1) in any case
23 in which the Tribal organization proposes to make a
24 change to the operation or administration of a pro-
25 gram described in the plan.

1 “(b) REQUIREMENTS.—Each plan submitted under
2 subsection (a) shall—

3 “(1) designate the Tribal entity responsible for
4 distributing the commodities received under this Act;

5 “(2) set forth a plan of operation and adminis-
6 tration to expeditiously distribute commodities under
7 this Act, which may include the use of warehouses
8 and facilities used to store food under the program
9 established under section 4(b) of the Food and Nu-
10 trition Act of 2008 (7 U.S.C. 2013(b));

11 “(3) set forth the standards of eligibility for re-
12 cipient agencies; and

13 “(4) set forth the standards of eligibility for in-
14 dividual or household recipients of commodities,
15 which shall require—

16 “(A) individuals that are, or households to
17 be composed of, needy persons; and

18 “(B) individual or household members to
19 be residing in the geographic location served by
20 the distributing agency at the time of applying
21 for assistance.

22 “(c) APPLICABILITY.—

23 “(1) IN GENERAL.—Except as otherwise pro-
24 vided in this Act or section 27 of the Food and Nu-
25 trition Act of 2008 (7 U.S.C. 2036), the provisions

1 of this Act that apply to States with plans approved
2 under section 202A, shall, to the maximum extent
3 practicable, be applicable to Tribal organizations
4 with plans approved under this section.

5 “(2) ALLOTMENTS.—

6 “(A) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall
7 apply the allocation formula under section
8 214(a) to allot additional commodities using
9 funding under section 27(a)(3) of the Food and
10 Nutrition Act of 2008 (7 U.S.C. 2036(a)(3)) to
11 Tribal organizations with approved plans under
12 this section using the best available data, as de-
13 termined by the Secretary in accordance with
14 subparagraph (B), on—

15 “(i) with respect to each applicable
16 Indian Tribe—

17 “(I) the number of persons in
18 households that have incomes below
19 the poverty line; and

20 “(II) the average monthly num-
21 ber of unemployed persons in the In-
22 dian Tribe; and

23 “(ii) with respect to all applicable In-
24 dian Tribes—

1 “(I) the number of persons in
2 households that have incomes below
3 the poverty line; and

4 “(II) the average monthly num-
5 ber of unemployed persons in all the
6 Indian Tribes.

7 “(B) BEST AVAILABLE DATA.—The Sec-
8 retary shall determine the best available data
9 for purposes of subparagraph (A) by consulting
10 with other Federal agencies with responsibilities
11 relating to collection of data on Tribal popu-
12 lations, such as the Bureau of the Census, the
13 Indian Health Service, the Office of Minority
14 Health, the Administration on Native Ameri-
15 cans at the Department of Health and Human
16 Services, the Department of Housing and
17 Urban Development, the Center for Indian
18 Country Development at the Federal Reserve,
19 the Department of Labor, and the Department
20 of Transportation.”.

21 **SEC. 4206. EMERGENCY FOOD ASSISTANCE.**

22 (a) AVAILABILITY OF COMMODITIES FOR EMER-
23 GENCY FOOD ASSISTANCE PROGRAM.—Section 27(a) of
24 the Food and Nutrition Act of 2008 (7 U.S.C. 2036(a))
25 is amended—

1 “(D) for fiscal year 2028, \$61,000,000;
2 and

3 “(E) for fiscal year 2029 and each subse-
4 quent fiscal year, the total dollar amount of
5 commodities specified in subparagraph (D) ad-
6 justed by the percentage by which the thrifty
7 food plan has been adjusted under section
8 3(u)(4) to reflect changes between June 30,
9 2027, and June 30 of the immediately pre-
10 ceding fiscal year.

11 “(4) FUNDS AVAILABILITY.—For purposes of
12 the funds described in this subsection, the Secretary
13 shall—

14 “(A) make the funds available for 2 fiscal
15 years; and

16 “(B) allow States and Tribal organizations
17 to carry over unexpended balances to the next
18 fiscal year pursuant to such terms and condi-
19 tions as are determined by the Secretary.

20 “(5) CONVERSION.—

21 “(A) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary may
22 use not more than 20 percent of the funds
23 made available under paragraph (2) for costs
24 associated with the distribution of commodities.

25 “(B) TRIBAL ORGANIZATIONS.—

1 “(i) FISCAL YEARS 2025 THROUGH
2 2028.—For each of fiscal years 2025
3 through 2028, the Secretary may use not
4 more than 30 percent of the funds made
5 available under paragraph (3) for costs as-
6 sociated with the distribution of commod-
7 ities by Tribal organizations with plans ap-
8 proved under section 203 of the Emer-
9 gency Food Assistance Act of 1983.

10 “(ii) FISCAL YEAR 2029 AND THERE-
11 AFTER.—For fiscal year 2029 and each
12 fiscal year thereafter, the Secretary may
13 use not more than 20 percent of the funds
14 made available under paragraph (3) for
15 costs associated with the distribution of
16 commodities by Tribal organizations with
17 plans approved under section 203 of the
18 Emergency Food Assistance Act of 1983.”.

19 (b) STORAGE, DISTRIBUTION, AND INFRASTRUCTURE
20 FUNDING.—

21 (1) AUTHORIZATION AND APPROPRIATIONS.—
22 Section 204(a)(1) of the Emergency Food Assistance
23 Act of 1983 (7 U.S.C. 7508(a)(1)) is amended—

24 (A) by striking “(a)(1) There are” and in-
25 serting the following:

1 “(a) IN GENERAL.—

2 “(1) FUNDS.—

3 “(A) STATES.—There are”;

4 (B) in subparagraph (A) (as so des-
5 ignated), by striking “Funds appropriated” in
6 the second sentence and inserting the following:

7 “(B) TRIBAL ORGANIZATIONS.—In addi-
8 tion to the amounts authorized to be appro-
9 priated in subparagraph (A), there is author-
10 ized to be appropriated \$50,000,000 for fiscal
11 year 2025 and each fiscal year thereafter for
12 the Secretary to make available to Tribal orga-
13 nizations with plans approved under section
14 203 to pay for the direct and indirect costs of
15 the Tribal organization related to the proc-
16 essing, storage, transportation, and distribution
17 to eligible recipient agencies of commodities
18 provided by the Secretary under this Act and
19 commodities secured from other sources, includ-
20 ing commodities secured by gleaning (as defined
21 in section 111(a) of the Hunger Prevention Act
22 of 1988 (7 U.S.C. 612c note; Public Law 100-
23 435)) and donated wild game.

24 “(C) ALLOCATION.—Funds appropriated”;

1 (C) in subparagraph (C) (as so des-
2 ignated)—

3 (i) by inserting “and Tribal organiza-
4 tions” after “States” the first two places it
5 appears; and

6 (ii) by striking “States. If a State
7 agency” and inserting the following:
8 “States or Tribal organizations.

9 “(D) UNUSED FUNDS.—If a State agency
10 or Tribal organization”; and

11 (D) in subparagraph (D) (as so des-
12 ignated), by inserting “or Tribal organizations”
13 before the period at the end.

14 (2) EMERGENCY FOOD PROGRAM INFRASTRUC-
15 TURE GRANTS.—Section 209 of the Emergency Food
16 Assistance Act of 1983 (7 U.S.C. 7511a) is amend-
17 ed by striking subsections (a) through (d) and in-
18 serting the following:

19 “(a) IN GENERAL.—For fiscal year 2025 and each
20 fiscal year thereafter, the Secretary shall use funds made
21 available under subsection (e) to make grants to States
22 and Tribal organizations to pay the costs of activities de-
23 scribed in subsection (d) and to pay State and Tribal costs
24 associated with administering the grant.

1 “(b) AMOUNT OF GRANT.—The amount of a grant
2 received by States and Tribal organizations under sub-
3 section (a) shall be based on a formula determined by the
4 Secretary.

5 “(c) RURAL, UNDERSERVED, AND TRIBAL AREA
6 PREFERENCE.—The Secretary shall ensure that a State
7 or Tribal organization shall apply not less than 50 percent
8 of the grant received under subsection (a), in each fiscal
9 year, to support efforts that strengthen and expand emer-
10 gency food assistance in rural, underserved, or Tribal com-
11 munities, as applicable.

12 “(d) USE OF FUNDS.—A State or Tribal organiza-
13 tion shall use a grant received under subsection (a) in any
14 fiscal year to carry out activities of the State or Tribal
15 organization authorized under this Act or to make funds
16 available for eligible recipient agencies to carry out such
17 activities, including—

18 “(1) developing and maintaining computerized
19 systems needed to safely and efficiently distribute
20 food to people in need;

21 “(2) providing capital, infrastructure, and oper-
22 ating costs associated with the collection, storage,
23 distribution, and transportation of commodities pro-
24 vided by the Secretary under this Act and commod-
25 ities secured from other sources;

1 “(3) improving the security and diversity of the
2 emergency food distribution and recovery systems of
3 the United States;

4 “(4) providing recovered foods to food banks
5 and similar nonprofit, governmental, or Tribal emer-
6 gency food providers to reduce hunger in the United
7 States;

8 “(5) improving the identification of—

9 “(A) potential providers of donated foods;

10 “(B) potential nonprofit, governmental, or
11 Tribal emergency food providers; and

12 “(C) persons in need of emergency food as-
13 sistance; and

14 “(6) renovating, expanding, or repairing a facil-
15 ity or equipment to support hunger relief agencies in
16 the community.

17 “(e) FUNDING.—There are authorized to be appro-
18 priated to carry out this section \$25,000,000 for each of
19 fiscal years 2025 through 2029, to remain available until
20 the end of the subsequent fiscal year.”.

21 **Subtitle C—Commodity**
22 **Distribution Programs**

23 **SEC. 4301. COMMODITY DISTRIBUTION PROGRAM.**

24 Section 4(a) of the Agriculture and Consumer Protec-
25 tion Act of 1973 (7 U.S.C. 612c note; Public Law 93–

1 86) is amended, in the first sentence, by striking “2023”
2 and inserting “2029”.

3 **SEC. 4302. COMMODITY SUPPLEMENTAL FOOD PROGRAM.**

4 Section 5 of the Agriculture and Consumer Protec-
5 tion Act of 1973 (7 U.S.C. 612e note; Public Law 93-
6 86) is amended—

7 (1) in subsection (a), in each of paragraphs (1)
8 and (2)(B), by striking “2023” each place it appears
9 and inserting “2029”;

10 (2) in subsection (d)(2), in the first sentence,
11 by striking “2023” and inserting “2029”; and

12 (3) in subsection (g), by adding at the end the
13 following:

14 “(3) EXCLUSION OF VALUE OF MEDICARE BEN-
15 EFITS FROM INCOME.—In determining the income of
16 an individual for purposes of eligibility for assistance
17 under the commodity supplemental food program, a
18 State shall exclude the value of any benefits provided
19 to the individual (or a member of the individual’s
20 household) under the Medicare program under title
21 XVIII of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 1395 et
22 seq.).”.

1 **SEC. 4303. DISTRIBUTION OF SURPLUS COMMODITIES TO**
2 **SPECIAL NUTRITION PROJECTS.**

3 Section 1114(a)(2)(A) of the Agriculture and Food
4 Act of 1981 (7 U.S.C. 1431e(a)(2)(A)) is amended, in the
5 first sentence, by striking “2023” and inserting “2029”.

6 **Subtitle D—Miscellaneous**

7 **SEC. 4401. SENIOR FARMERS’ MARKET NUTRITION PRO-**
8 **GRAM.**

9 Section 4402 of the Farm Security and Rural Invest-
10 ment Act of 2002 (7 U.S.C. 3007) is amended—

11 (1) in the section heading, by striking “**SEN-**
12 **IORES**” and inserting “**SENIOR**”;

13 (2) by striking “seniors farmers’ market” each
14 place it appears and inserting “senior farmers’ mar-
15 ket”;

16 (3) in subsection (a)—

17 (A) by striking “Of the funds” and insert-
18 ing the following:

19 “(1) IN GENERAL.—Of the funds”;

20 (B) in paragraph (1) (as so designated)—

21 (i) by inserting “(referred to in this
22 section as the ‘Secretary’)” after “Sec-
23 retary of Agriculture”; and

24 (ii) by striking “2008 through 2023”
25 and inserting “2025 through 2029”; and

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

1 “(2) ADDITIONAL FUNDING.—In addition to the
2 funds made available under paragraph (1), of the
3 funds of the Commodity Credit Corporation, the
4 Secretary shall use to carry out this section
5 \$10,000,000 for fiscal year 2025 and each fiscal
6 year thereafter, with priority given to expanding the
7 senior farmers’ market nutrition program to States,
8 territories, and Indian Tribes that are not partici-
9 pants of that program as of the date of enactment
10 of the Rural Prosperity and Food Security Act of
11 2024.”;

12 (4) in subsection (b)(1), by inserting “maple
13 syrup,” after “honey,”; and

14 (5) in subsection (e)—

15 (A) by striking “The Secretary” and in-
16 serting the following:

17 “(1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary”; and

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

19 “(2) WAIVER AND MODIFICATION AUTHORI-
20 TIES.—

21 “(A) INNOVATION AND PROGRAM MOD-
22 ERNIZATION.—

23 “(i) IN GENERAL.—Subject to clause
24 (ii), on request of a State, the Secretary
25 may waive or modify a requirement under

1 regulations promulgated pursuant to this
2 section if the Secretary determines that the
3 waiver or modification of the requirement
4 would facilitate the ability of the State to
5 carry out innovation and program mod-
6 ernization efforts that would improve serv-
7 ices and redemption of benefits under the
8 senior farmers' market nutrition program.

9 “(ii) EXCEPTIONS.—The Secretary
10 may not waive or modify under clause
11 (i)—

12 “(I) any requirement under sec-
13 tion 249.7 of title 7, Code of Federal
14 Regulations (or a successor regula-
15 tion); or

16 “(II) any requirement under sec-
17 tion 249.8(a) of title 7, Code of Fed-
18 eral Regulations (or a successor regu-
19 lation).

20 “(iii) REQUEST.—To request a waiver
21 or modification under clause (i), a State
22 shall submit to the Secretary an applica-
23 tion that—

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1 “(I) identifies the requirement
2 that is requested to be waived or
3 modified; and

4 “(II) describes—

5 “(aa) the goal of the waiver
6 or modification to improve serv-
7 ices under the senior farmers’
8 market nutrition program; and

9 “(bb) the expected outcomes
10 of the waiver or modification.

11 “(B) EMERGENCIES AND DISASTERS.—

12 “(i) DEFINITION OF EMERGENCY PE-
13 RIOD.—In this subparagraph, the term
14 ‘emergency period’ means a period during
15 which there exists—

16 “(I) a public health emergency
17 declared by the Secretary of Health
18 and Human Services under section
19 319 of the Public Health Service Act
20 (42 U.S.C. 247d) or a renewal of such
21 a public health emergency declaration;

22 “(II) a major disaster declared
23 by the President under section 401 of
24 the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief

1 and Emergency Assistance Act (42
2 U.S.C. 5170); or

3 “(III) an emergency declared by
4 the President under section 501 of
5 that Act (42 U.S.C. 5191).

6 “(ii) MODIFICATION OR WAIVER.—
7 The Secretary may modify or waive for a
8 State agency any requirement under regu-
9 lations promulgated pursuant to this sec-
10 tion if—

11 “(I) the requirement cannot be
12 met by the State agency during—

13 “(aa) any portion of an
14 emergency period under the con-
15 ditions that prompted the emer-
16 gency period; or

17 “(bb) a supply chain disrup-
18 tion that significantly affects the
19 availability of food eligible for
20 purchase; and

21 “(II) the modification or waiver
22 of the requirement is necessary to
23 provide assistance under this section.

24 “(iii) LIMITATIONS.—A modification
25 or waiver made under clause (ii)—

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1 “(I) may be available until the
2 date that is 60 days after the end of
3 the applicable emergency period or
4 supply chain disruption;

5 “(II) shall not modify or waive
6 any requirement under section 249.7
7 of title 7, Code of Federal Regulations
8 (or a successor regulation); and

9 “(III) shall not substantially
10 change the types of foods eligible for
11 purchase in accordance with section
12 249.8(a) of title 7, Code of Federal
13 Regulations (or a successor regula-
14 tion).”.

15 **SEC. 4402. PURCHASE OF FRESH FRUITS AND VEGETABLES**
16 **FOR DISTRIBUTION TO SCHOOLS AND SERV-**
17 **ICE INSTITUTIONS.**

18 Section 10603(b) of the Farm Security and Rural In-
19 vestment Act of 2002 (7 U.S.C. 612c-4(b)) is amended
20 by striking “2023” and inserting “2029”.

21 **SEC. 4403. GUS SCHUMACHER NUTRITION INCENTIVE PRO-**
22 **GRAM.**

23 Section 4405 of the Food, Conservation, and Energy
24 Act of 2008 (7 U.S.C. 7517) is amended—

1 (1) in subsection (a), by redesignating para-
2 graphs (3), (4), and (5) as paragraphs (5), (3), and
3 (4), respectively, and moving the paragraphs so as
4 to appear in numerical order;

5 (2) in subsection (b)—

6 (A) in paragraph (1)—

7 (i) in subparagraph (A), by striking
8 “subsection (c)” and inserting “subsection
9 (g)”;

10 (ii) in subparagraph (C)—

11 (I) by striking “(D)(iii)” and in-
12 serting “(D)(ii)”;

13 (II) by striking “50” and insert-
14 ing “80”;

15 (iii) in subparagraph (D)—

16 (I) in clause (i)(I), by striking
17 “or services” and inserting “services,
18 or retailer associate wages”;

19 (II) by striking clause (ii); and

20 (III) by redesignating clause (iii)
21 as clause (ii);

22 (B) in paragraph (2), by adding at the end
23 the following:

1 “(C) RESTRICTION.—The Secretary may
2 not require that projects test innovative or
3 promising strategies or technologies.”; and

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

5 “(3) COOPERATIVE AGREEMENTS FOR EXPAN-
6 SION PROJECTS.—

7 “(A) IN GENERAL.—Subject to the criteria
8 and priorities described in subparagraphs (A)
9 and (B) of paragraph (2), respectively, begin-
10 ning in fiscal year 2025, the Secretary may
11 enter into a cooperative agreement with a State
12 agency administering the supplemental nutri-
13 tion assistance program, or a nonprofit entity
14 in partnership with such a State agency, for a
15 project that—

16 “(i) is proposed by a State agency or
17 nonprofit entity that—

18 “(I) has previously received a
19 large-scale grant under this sub-
20 section;

21 “(II) has a demonstrated record
22 for launching and maintaining
23 projects described in paragraph
24 (2)(A)(ii); and

1 “(III) has the project design, in-
2 frastructure, and administrative sup-
3 port necessary for project implementa-
4 tion in, as applicable, a State, region,
5 or Indian lands;

6 “(ii) will expand participation and ac-
7 cess levels in a State, region, or land of an
8 Indian Tribe compared to the existing
9 project carried out by the State agency or
10 nonprofit entity using the grant described
11 in clause (i)(I);

12 “(iii) will allocate, by the fourth year
13 of the cooperative agreement, not less than
14 90 percent of the amount of the coopera-
15 tive agreement to providing direct incen-
16 tives to households participating in the
17 supplemental nutrition assistance program;

18 “(iv) will be carried out in a variety of
19 retail settings; and

20 “(v) will be for a duration of not less
21 than 4 years.

22 “(B) LIMITATION.—For the period of fis-
23 cal years 2025 through 2029, the Secretary
24 may enter into new cooperative agreements

1 under this paragraph for a total of not more
2 than 15 projects.”;

3 (3) in subsection (c)—

4 (A) by redesignating paragraphs (2)
5 through (5) as paragraphs (3) through (6), re-
6 spectively;

7 (B) by striking paragraph (1) and insert-
8 ing the following:

9 “(1) ESTABLISHMENT.—The Secretary shall es-
10 tablish a grant program—

11 “(A) that meets the purposes described in
12 paragraph (2); and

13 “(B) under which the Secretary shall—

14 “(i) award grants of not more than
15 \$400,000 per project to 1 or more eligible
16 entities—

17 “(I) to study previously unknown
18 facts about designing produce pre-
19 scription projects;

20 “(II) to establish or validate best
21 practices for produce prescription
22 projects; or

23 “(III) to establish infrastructure
24 that aids Federally-qualified health
25 centers described in subsection

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1 (a)(3)(B) and independent produce re-
2 tailers, including direct marketing
3 farmers, in carrying out produce pre-
4 scription projects; and

5 “(ii) award grants of not less than
6 \$1,000,000 per project to 1 or more eligi-
7 ble entities—

8 “(I) that have a demonstrated
9 ability to expand clinical research on
10 the value of delivering a produce pre-
11 scription project through healthcare
12 partners; and

13 “(II) to carry out produce pre-
14 scription projects that—

15 “(aa) demonstrate and
16 evaluate the impact of the
17 projects on each of the purposes
18 of the program described in para-
19 graph (2);

20 “(bb) have a minimum
21 intervention cohort of 300 pa-
22 tients;

23 “(cc) compare intervention
24 results to a control group;

1 “(dd) have an intervention
2 duration of not less than 12
3 months; and

4 “(ee) have demonstrated the
5 ability to scale when delivered
6 through healthcare partners.

7 “(2) PROGRAM PURPOSES.—The purposes of
8 the grant program established under paragraph (1)
9 are—

10 “(A) to improve dietary health through in-
11 creased consumption of fruits and vegetables;

12 “(B) to reduce individual and household
13 food insecurity; and

14 “(C) to optimize healthcare use and associ-
15 ated costs.”;

16 (C) in paragraph (4) (as so redesign-
17 ated)—

18 (i) by striking subparagraph (A) and
19 inserting the following:

20 “(A) IN GENERAL.—An eligible entity
21 seeking a grant under paragraph (1) shall sub-
22 mit to the Secretary an application containing
23 such information as the Secretary may require,
24 including the information described in subpara-
25 graph (B).”;

1 (ii) in subparagraph (B)—

2 (I) in clause (i), by striking
3 “paragraph (2)” and inserting “para-
4 graph (3)”; and

5 (II) in clause (ii)(I)(cc), by strik-
6 ing “subparagraphs (A) through (C)
7 of paragraph (1)” and inserting
8 “items (aa) through (dd) of para-
9 graph (1)(B)(ii)(II), if applicable”;
10 and

11 (iii) by adding at the end the fol-
12 lowing:

13 “(C) PRIORITY.—In awarding grants
14 under this subsection, the Secretary shall give
15 priority to produce prescription projects that in-
16 clude multiple locations or a variety of locations
17 at which produce prescriptions may be re-
18 deemed.

19 “(D) PANEL TO REVIEW APPLICATIONS.—

20 “(i) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary
21 shall establish a panel—

22 “(I) to review applications sub-
23 mitted to the Secretary pursuant to
24 this paragraph; and

1 “(II) to make recommendations
2 to the Secretary with respect to those
3 applications.

4 “(ii) REVIEWERS.—The panel estab-
5 lished under clause (i) shall include—

6 “(I) at least 1 individual with ex-
7 perience as a healthcare provider;

8 “(II) at least 1 individual with
9 experience administering health plans;
10 and

11 “(III) at least 1 individual with
12 experience providing healthcare in
13 community-based health clinics.”; and

14 (D) by adding at the end the following:

15 “(7) DEFINITION OF PRODUCE PRESCRIPTION
16 PROJECT.—In this subsection, the term ‘produce
17 prescription project’ means a project under which an
18 eligible entity—

19 “(A) prescribes fruits and vegetables to
20 members;

21 “(B) provides financial or nonfinancial in-
22 centives for members to purchase or procure
23 fruits and vegetables; and

24 “(C) may—

1 “(i) provide educational resources on
2 nutrition to members; and

3 “(ii) establish additional accessible lo-
4 cations for members to procure fruits and
5 vegetables.”;

6 (4) in subsection (e)—

7 (A) in paragraph (2)—

8 (i) in the matter preceding subpara-
9 graph (A)—

10 (I) by inserting “and cooperative
11 agreements” after “grants”; and

12 (II) by inserting “as applicable,”
13 before “including”;

14 (ii) in subparagraph (A)—

15 (I) in the matter preceding clause
16 (i), by striking “grantees” and insert-
17 ing “recipients of grants and coopera-
18 tive agreements”;

19 (II) in clause (ii), by striking
20 “grantee projects” and inserting “the
21 projects of those recipients”;

22 (III) in clause (iii)—

23 (aa) by striking “grantees”
24 and inserting “those recipients”;

25 and

1 (bb) by striking “and” at
2 the end;

3 (IV) by redesignating clauses (iv)
4 and (v) as clauses (v) and (vi), respec-
5 tively; and

6 (V) by inserting after clause (iii)
7 the following:

8 “(iv) developing training and guid-
9 ance, in conjunction with the Food and
10 Nutrition Service, on providing, and pro-
11 moting the provision of, direct incentives to
12 participants electronically, such as through
13 the electronic benefit transfer system of a
14 State agency;”; and

15 (iii) in subparagraph (B)(iii)—

16 (I) in the matter preceding sub-
17 clause (I)—

18 (aa) by striking “grantees”
19 and inserting “those recipients”;
20 and

21 (bb) by striking “grant out-
22 comes” and inserting “project
23 outcomes”; and

1 (II) in subclause (II), by insert-
2 ing “or cooperative agreement” after
3 “grant”; and

4 (B) in paragraph (3), by adding at the end
5 the following:

6 “(C) COMMITMENT.—Any organization en-
7 tering into a cooperative agreement with the
8 Secretary under this paragraph shall commit—

9 “(i) to working collaboratively and
10 sharing appropriate data with any other
11 organization entering into a cooperative
12 agreement with the Secretary under this
13 paragraph; and

14 “(ii) to the maximum extent prac-
15 ticable, to providing 1-on-1 technical as-
16 sistance to applicants for grants and coop-
17 erative agreements under subsections (b)
18 and (c).”;

19 (5) by redesignating subsection (f) as sub-
20 section (g);

21 (6) by inserting after subsection (e) the fol-
22 lowing:

23 “(f) POLICIES AND PROCEDURES.—The Secretary
24 shall establish policies and procedures—

1 “(1) to require coordination between the appro-
2 priate partner agencies within the Department of
3 Agriculture—

4 “(A) that allows reasonable timeframes for
5 each agency to review applications for grants
6 and cooperative agreements under subsections
7 (b) and (c) to ensure that eligible entities re-
8 ceiving those grants or cooperative agree-
9 ments—

10 “(i) meet the grant administration re-
11 quirements; and

12 “(ii) comply with the applicable statu-
13 tory and regulatory requirements for the
14 supplemental nutrition assistance program;
15 and

16 “(2) relating to conflicts of interest, including
17 prohibiting any individual from reviewing or select-
18 ing eligible entities to receive grants under this sec-
19 tion if the financial interest of that individual would
20 directly or predictably be affected by such a grant.”;
21 and

22 (7) in subsection (g) (as so redesignated)—

23 (A) in paragraph (2)—

24 (i) by redesignating the second sub-
25 paragraph (C) (relating to fiscal year

1 2019) through subparagraph (G) as sub-
2 paragraphs (D) through (H), respectively;

3 (ii) in subparagraph (G) (as so reded-
4 igned), by striking “and” at the end;

5 (iii) in subparagraph (H) (as so reded-
6 igned), by striking “fiscal year 2023 and
7 each fiscal year thereafter.” and inserting
8 “each of fiscal years 2023 and 2024; and”;
9 and

10 (iv) by adding at the end the fol-
11 lowing:

12 “(I) \$150,000,000 for fiscal year 2025 and
13 each fiscal year thereafter.”; and

14 (B) in paragraph (3)—

15 (i) in the matter preceding subpara-
16 graph (A), by striking “2023” and insert-
17 ing “2029”;

18 (ii) in subparagraph (B), by striking
19 “and” at the end;

20 (iii) in subparagraph (C)(ii), by strik-
21 ing “2023.” and inserting “2029; and”;
22 and

23 (iv) by adding at the end the fol-
24 lowing:

1 “(D) the Secretary shall, to the maximum
2 extent practicable, use for cooperative agree-
3 ments under subsection (b)(3) not less than
4 \$75,000,000 for fiscal year 2025 and each fis-
5 cal year thereafter.”.

6 **SEC. 4404. HEALTHY DAIRY NUTRITION INCENTIVES**
7 **PROJECTS.**

8 (a) IN GENERAL.—Section 4208 of the Agriculture
9 Improvement Act of 2018 (7 U.S.C. 2026a) is amended—

10 (1) in the section heading, by striking “**FLUID**
11 **MILK**” and inserting “**DAIRY NUTRITION**”;

12 (2) in subsection (a)—

13 (A) in each of paragraphs (1) through (3),
14 by striking the comma and inserting a semi-
15 colon;

16 (B) in paragraph (2), by inserting “for any
17 age group” after “recommendations”;

18 (C) by redesignating paragraphs (1)
19 through (4) as clauses (i) through (iv), respec-
20 tively, and indenting appropriately; and

21 (D) by striking the subsection designation
22 and heading and all that follows through “the
23 term” in the matter preceding paragraph (1)
24 and inserting the following:

25 “(a) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

1 “(1) DAIRY PRODUCT.—The term ‘dairy prod-
2 uct’ means a product—

3 “(A) for which cow’s milk is listed as—

4 “(i) the first ingredient on the labeled
5 ingredients list of the product; or

6 “(ii) the second ingredient on the la-
7 beled ingredients list of the product, if the
8 first listed ingredient is water;

9 “(B) that is consistent with the most re-
10 cent dietary recommendations for any age
11 group; and

12 “(C) that is without flavoring or sweet-
13 eners.

14 “(2) FLUID MILK.—The term”;

15 (3) in subsection (b)—

16 (A) by striking “of Agriculture”;

17 (B) by striking “healthy fluid milk incen-
18 tive projects” and inserting “healthy dairy nu-
19 trition incentive projects”;

20 (C) by inserting “and dairy products” be-
21 fore “by members of households”; and

22 (D) by inserting “and dairy products” be-
23 fore “at the point of purchase”;

24 (4) in subsection (c)(3), by inserting “and dairy
25 products” after “fluid milk”;

1 (5) in subsection (d)—

2 (A) in paragraph (1)(B), by striking “fluid
3 milk” and inserting “dairy nutrition”; and

4 (B) in paragraph (2)—

5 (i) in the matter preceding subpara-
6 graph (A), by striking “31 of 2020” and
7 inserting “31, 2026”; and

8 (ii) in subparagraphs (A) and (B)—

9 (I) by striking “fluid milk” each
10 place it appears and inserting “dairy
11 nutrition”; and

12 (II) by striking “, and” each
13 place it appears and inserting “;
14 and”; and

15 (6) in subsection (e)(1), by inserting “for each
16 of fiscal years 2025 through 2029” before “to carry
17 out”.

18 (b) EFFECT ON HEALTHY FLUID MILK INCENTIVE
19 PROJECTS.—In carrying out the amendments made by
20 subsection (a), the Secretary shall ensure that there is no
21 interruption in any project carried out under section 4208
22 of the Agriculture Improvement Act of 2018 (7 U.S.C.
23 2026a) (as in effect before October 1, 2025) until the con-
24 clusion of the grant terms of that project.

1 (c) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendments made by
2 subsection (a) shall take effect on October 1, 2025.

3 **SEC. 4405. HEALTHY FOOD FINANCING INITIATIVE.**

4 Section 243 of the Department of Agriculture Reor-
5 ganization Act (7 U.S.C. 6953) is amended—

6 (1) by striking subsection (d) and inserting the
7 following:

8 “(d) PROGRAM EVALUATION.—Not later than 4
9 years after the date of enactment of the Rural Prosperity
10 and Food Security Act of 2024, the Secretary, in coordi-
11 nation with the national fund manager and the Adminis-
12 trator of the Food and Nutrition Service, shall complete
13 and publish an evaluation of the program established
14 under this section—

15 “(1) based on a random sample of funded
16 projects; and

17 “(2) that measures, at a minimum, the short-
18 term and long-term impacts of a funded project on
19 access to healthy foods in the applicable community.

20 “(e) FUNDING.—

21 “(1) IN GENERAL.—There is appropriated to
22 carry out this section, out of any funds in the Treas-
23 ury not otherwise appropriated, \$5,000,000 for fiscal
24 year 2025 and each fiscal year thereafter.

1 “(2) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—In
2 addition to amounts made available under paragraph
3 (1), there is authorized to be appropriated to the
4 Secretary to carry out this section \$125,000,000, to
5 remain available until expended.

6 “(3) USE OF FUNDS.—Of the funds made avail-
7 able under this subsection, the Secretary shall use
8 not more than \$2,000,000 to carry out subsection
9 (d) for each of fiscal years 2025 through 2029.”.

10 **SEC. 4406. MICROGRANTS FOR FOOD SECURITY.**

11 Section 4206 of the Agriculture Improvement Act of
12 2018 (7 U.S.C. 7518) is amended—

13 (1) in subsection (c), by striking “distribution
14 of subgrants” and inserting “and noncompetitive
15 distribution of subgrants or other financial assist-
16 ance”;

17 (2) in subsection (d), by striking paragraph (3);

18 (3) in subsection (e)—

19 (A) in the subsection heading, by inserting
20 “AND OTHER FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE” after
21 “SUBGRANTS”;

22 (B) in paragraph (1)—

23 (i) in subparagraph (A), in the matter
24 preceding clause (i), by inserting “or other

1 financial assistance provided” after
2 “subgrant”;

3 (ii) by striking subparagraph (B);

4 (iii) by redesignating subparagraph
5 (C) as subparagraph (B); and

6 (iv) in subparagraph (B) (as so reded-
7 igned), by inserting “or other financial
8 assistance provided” after “subgrant”;

9 (C) in paragraph (2)—

10 (i) in the matter preceding subpara-
11 graph (A), by striking “distribution of sub-
12 grants under subsection (c)” and inserting
13 “and noncompetitive distribution of sub-
14 grants or other financial assistance under
15 this section”; and

16 (ii) in subparagraph (A), by inserting
17 “or other financial assistance provided”
18 after “subgrant”;

19 (D) in paragraph (3), by inserting “or
20 other financial assistance under this section”
21 after “subgrants”;

22 (E) in paragraph (4), in the matter pre-
23 ceding subparagraph (A), by inserting “or other
24 financial assistance provided” after “subgrant”;

25 and

1 (F) in paragraph (5), by inserting “or
2 other financial assistance” after “subgrant”;

3 (4) in subsection (f)(1)—

4 (A) by inserting “or other financial assist-
5 ance” after “subgrant” each place it appears;
6 and

7 (B) in subparagraph (B), by striking “sub-
8 grants by eligible entities” and inserting
9 “subgrant or other financial assistance by the
10 eligible entity”; and

11 (5) in subsection (g)(1), by striking “fiscal year
12 2019 and” and inserting “each of fiscal years 2019
13 through 2024, and \$30,000,000 for”.

14 **SEC. 4407. STUDY AND REPORT ON NUTRITION PROGRAMS**
15 **IN GEOGRAPHICALLY ISOLATED STATES.**

16 (a) DEFINITION OF GEOGRAPHICALLY ISOLATED
17 STATE.—In this section, the term “geographically isolated
18 State” has the meaning given the term in paragraph
19 (3)(A) of section 214(c) of the Emergency Food Assist-
20 ance Act of 1983 (7 U.S.C. 7515(c)) (as added by section
21 4203).

22 (b) STUDY.—Not later than 18 months after the date
23 of enactment of this Act, the Comptroller General of the
24 United States shall conduct a study on all nutrition pro-
25 grams (excluding child nutrition programs) administered

1 by the Secretary to evaluate whether those nutrition pro-
2 grams are working effectively and equitably within geo-
3 graphically isolated States, as compared to those nutrition
4 programs operating within the continental United States,
5 including whether—

6 (1) there are unique challenges that result from
7 the particular location of a geographically isolated
8 State, including the availability of food price data
9 and whether the food price data used by the Depart-
10 ment of Agriculture are reflective of food costs in
11 the geographically isolated State;

12 (2) the needs of different communities are
13 being addressed by those nutrition programs; and

14 (3) language barriers are preventing individuals
15 in any geographically isolated State from accessing
16 a nutrition program.

17 (c) REPORT.—

18 (1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 60 days after
19 the date of completion of the study under subsection
20 (b), the Comptroller General of the United States
21 shall submit to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutri-
22 tion, and Forestry of the Senate and the Committee
23 on Agriculture of the House of Representatives a re-
24 port describing the results of the study.

1 (2) RECOMMENDATIONS.—If the Comptroller
2 General of the United States determines under the
3 study under subsection (b) that nutrition programs
4 administered by the Secretary are not working effec-
5 tively and equitably within geographically isolated
6 States, as compared to the operation of those nutri-
7 tion programs within the continental United States
8 (including with respect to food price data and
9 whether the food price data used by the Department
10 of Agriculture accurately reflect food costs in each
11 geographically isolated State), the report under
12 paragraph (1) shall include such legislative and
13 other recommendations as the Comptroller General
14 determines would result in those programs working
15 effectively and equitably within geographically iso-
16 lated States.

17 **SEC. 4408. STREAMLINING APPLICATION PROCESS FOR DI-**
18 **RECT MARKETING FARMERS IN NUTRITION**
19 **PROGRAMS.**

20 (a) DEFINITION OF COVERED NUTRITION PRO-
21 GRAM.—In this section, the term “covered nutrition pro-
22 gram” means—

23 (1) the supplemental nutrition assistance pro-
24 gram established under the Food and Nutrition Act
25 of 2008 (7 U.S.C. 2011 et seq.);

1 (2) the senior farmers' market nutrition pro-
2 gram established under section 4402 of the Farm
3 Security and Rural Investment Act of 2002 (7
4 U.S.C. 3007); and

5 (3) any other nutrition program, as determined
6 by the Secretary.

7 (b) STREAMLINED APPLICATION PROCESS.—Not
8 later than 2 years after the date of enactment of this Act,
9 the Secretary shall establish a streamlined application
10 process for direct marketing farmers to apply to be au-
11 thorized to sell eligible foods under each of the covered
12 nutrition programs by developing, to the maximum extent
13 practicable—

14 (1) a single application that a direct marketing
15 farmer may use to apply to each of the covered nu-
16 trition programs; or

17 (2) an information-sharing system that—

18 (A) notifies and shares the necessary and
19 appropriate information of a direct marketing
20 farmer who is approved to be authorized to sell
21 eligible foods under a covered nutrition program
22 with each of the other covered nutrition pro-
23 grams such that another covered nutrition pro-
24 gram is prompted to determine the eligibility of
25 the direct marketing farmer to be authorized to

1 sell eligible foods under that covered nutrition
2 program; and

3 (B) meets appropriate security standards,
4 as established by the Secretary.

5 (c) REPORT.—Not later than 30 months after the
6 date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary shall submit
7 to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry
8 of the Senate and the Committee on Agriculture of the
9 House of Representatives a report that—

10 (1) describes the extent to which the Secretary
11 was able to develop a single application or informa-
12 tion-sharing system under subsection (b); and

13 (2) identifies any statutory, regulatory, and
14 operational barriers to implementing subsection (b).

15 (d) COORDINATION.—The Secretary shall carry out
16 this section in coordination with the Office of Customer
17 Experience and the Office of Digital Services of the De-
18 partment of Agriculture.

19 (e) FUNDING.—

20 (1) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—
21 There is authorized to be appropriated to the Sec-
22 retary to carry out this section \$5,000,000 for the
23 period of fiscal years 2025 through 2029.

24 (2) APPROPRIATION IN ADVANCE.—Only funds
25 appropriated under paragraph (1) in advance specifi-

1 cally to carry out this section shall be available to
2 carry out this section.

3 **SEC. 4409. NUTRITION SECURITY REPORT.**

4 (a) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

5 (1) FOOD SECURITY.—The term “food secu-
6 rity” means access by all people at all times to
7 enough food for an active, healthy life.

8 (2) NUTRITION SECURITY.—The term “nutri-
9 tion security” means consistent and equitable access
10 to healthy, safe, and affordable foods essential to op-
11 timal health and well-being.

12 (3) SUPPLEMENTAL NUTRITION ASSISTANCE
13 PROGRAM.—The term “supplemental nutrition as-
14 sistance program” means the supplemental nutrition
15 assistance program established under the Food and
16 Nutrition Act of 2008 (7 U.S.C. 2011 et seq.).

17 (b) REPORT.—Not later than 1 year after the date
18 of enactment of this Act, and annually thereafter, the Sec-
19 retary shall submit to the Committee on Agriculture, Nu-
20 trition, and Forestry of the Senate and the Committee on
21 Agriculture of the House of Representatives, and make
22 publicly available on the website of the Department of Ag-
23 riculture, a report on food security and nutrition security
24 in the United States.

1 (c) CONTENTS.—Each report submitted under sub-
2 section (b) shall include, for the period covered by the re-
3 port—

4 (1) an analysis of the food security, nutrition
5 security, and diet quality of participants and non-
6 participants in the supplemental nutrition assistance
7 program;

8 (2)(A) a summary of changes made to the sup-
9 plemental nutrition assistance program that are in-
10 tended to improve food security, nutrition security,
11 and diet quality; and

12 (B) an analysis of the impact and effectiveness
13 of those changes on food security, nutrition security,
14 and diet quality; and

15 (3) recommendations for additional authority to
16 be provided to the Secretary to improve food secu-
17 rity, nutrition security, and diet quality for partici-
18 pants in the supplemental nutrition assistance pro-
19 gram.

20 (d) APPROPRIATIONS.—There are appropriated, out
21 of any funds in the Treasury not otherwise appropriated,
22 such sums as are necessary to carry out this section for
23 fiscal year 2025 and each fiscal year thereafter.

24 **SEC. 4410. SENIOR NUTRITION TASK FORCE.**

25 (a) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

1 (1) DISABILITY.—The term “disability” has the
2 meaning given the term in section 3 of the Ameri-
3 cans with Disabilities Act of 1990 (42 U.S.C.
4 12102).

5 (2) OLDER PERSON.—The term “older person”
6 has the meaning given the term “older individual”
7 in section 102 of the Older Americans Act of 1965
8 (42 U.S.C. 3002).

9 (3) TASK FORCE.—The term “Task Force”
10 means the Interagency Task Force to Address Hun-
11 ger and Promote Access to Healthy Food Among
12 Older Adults and Adults with Disabilities established
13 by subsection (b).

14 (b) ESTABLISHMENT.—There is established a task
15 force, to be known as the “Interagency Task Force to Ad-
16 dress Hunger and Promote Access to Healthy Food
17 Among Older Adults and Adults with Disabilities”.

18 (c) MEMBERS.—

19 (1) IN GENERAL.—The members of the Task
20 Force shall be the following:

21 (A) The Secretary (or a designee).

22 (B) The Secretary of Health and Human
23 Services (or a designee).

24 (C) The Secretary of Transportation (or a
25 designee).

1 (D) The Secretary of Veterans Affairs (or
2 a designee).

3 (E) The Administrator of the Food and
4 Nutrition Service (or a designee).

5 (F) The Administrator of the Administra-
6 tion for Community Living (or a designee).

7 (G) The Administrator for Independent
8 Living within the Administration for Commu-
9 nity Living (or a designee).

10 (H) The Administrator of the Health Re-
11 sources and Services Administration (or a des-
12 igned).

13 (I) The Secretary of Housing and Urban
14 Development (or a designee).

15 (J) The Commissioner of the Social Secu-
16 rity Administration (or a designee).

17 (K) The Assistant Secretary for Planning
18 and Evaluation (or a designee).

19 (L) The Director of the Centers for Dis-
20 ease Control and Prevention (or a designee).

21 (M) The Assistant Secretary for Mental
22 Health and Substance Use (or a designee).

23 (N) The Surgeon General (or a designee).

24 (O) The Deputy Administrator for Medi-
25 care and Medicaid Innovation (or a designee).

1 (P) The Director of the Office on Nutri-
2 tion Research of the National Institutes of
3 Health (or a designee).

4 (Q) The Director of the Indian Health
5 Service (or a designee).

6 (R) The Administrator of the Federal
7 Emergency Management Agency (or a des-
8 ignee).

9 (S) The head of any other relevant Federal
10 department or agency, as determined appro-
11 priate by the Secretary, and appointed by the
12 President.

13 (T) At least 2 older persons, appointed by
14 the President, who are recipients of Federal nu-
15 trition benefits, as determined by the President.

16 (U) At least 2 adults with disabilities, ap-
17 pointed by the President, who are recipients of
18 Federal nutrition benefits, as determined by the
19 President.

20 (V) At least 2 members of grandfamilies or
21 kinship families, appointed by the President,
22 who are recipients of Federal nutrition benefits,
23 as determined by the President.

1 (2) Measure and evaluate progress in—

2 (A) addressing hunger, food insecurity,
3 and malnutrition among older adults and adults
4 with disabilities; and

5 (B) increasing access to healthy, afford-
6 able, and local or regional food for older adults
7 and adults with disabilities.

8 (3) Examine interagency opportunities—

9 (A) to collaboratively address hunger, food
10 insecurity, and malnutrition among older adults
11 and adults with disabilities;

12 (B) to promote access to healthy, afford-
13 able, and local or regional food for older adults
14 and adults with disabilities; and

15 (C) to foster participation across Federal
16 nutrition services.

17 (4) Examine challenges to interagency efforts to
18 carry out subparagraphs (A) and (B) of paragraph
19 (3).

20 (e) REPORT.—Not later than September 30, 2027,
21 the Task Force shall submit to Congress a report that
22 describes—

23 (1) best practices for addressing hunger, food
24 insecurity, and malnutrition and promoting access to

1 healthy, affordable, and local or regional food among
2 older adults and adults with disabilities;

3 (2) recommendations to support interagency ef-
4 forts to address hunger, food insecurity, and mal-
5 nutrition and promote access to healthy, affordable,
6 and local or regional food among older adults and
7 adults with disabilities;

8 (3) existing barriers to promoting interagency
9 collaboration to address hunger, food insecurity, and
10 malnutrition and access to healthy, affordable, and
11 local or regional food among older adults and adults
12 with disabilities; and

13 (4) innovative practices to address hunger, food
14 insecurity, and malnutrition and promote access to
15 healthy, affordable, and local or regional food among
16 older adults and adults with disabilities.

17 **SEC. 4411. TECHNICAL CORRECTIONS.**

18 (a) Section 3 of the Food and Nutrition Act of 2008
19 (7 U.S.C. 2012) is amended by striking subsection (g) and
20 inserting the following:

21 “(g) RESERVED.—”.

22 (b) Section 5(d) of the Food and Nutrition Act of
23 2008 (7 U.S.C. 2014(d)) is amended—

1 (1) in paragraph (1), by striking “law)” and all
2 that follows through the semicolon at the end and
3 inserting “law);”; and

4 (2) in paragraph (12), by striking “3312” and
5 inserting “5312”.

6 (c) Section 6(r)(1)(A)(iv) of the Food and Nutrition
7 Act of 2008 (7 U.S.C. 2015(r)(1)(A)(iv)) is amended by
8 inserting “section” before “40002(a)”.

9 (d) Section 7 of the Food and Nutrition Act of 2008
10 (7 U.S.C. 2016) (as amended by section 4107(a)(1)) is
11 amended—

12 (1) in subsection (f)—

13 (A) in paragraph (2)(C), by striking “sub-
14 section (h)(13)” and inserting “subsection
15 (h)(12)”;

16 (B) by striking paragraph (3); and

17 (C) by redesignating paragraphs (4)
18 through (6) as paragraphs (3) through (5), re-
19 spectively;

20 (2) in subsection (h)—

21 (A) by striking paragraph (5);

22 (B) by redesignating paragraphs (6)
23 through (14) as paragraphs (5) through (13),
24 respectively; and

1 (C) in paragraph (11) (as so redesignated),
2 by striking subparagraph (D); and

3 (3) in subsection (j)(1)(A), by striking “sub-
4 section (h)(11)(A)” and inserting “subsection
5 (h)(10)(A)”.

6 (e) Section 12 of the Food and Nutrition Act of 2008
7 (7 U.S.C. 2021) is amended—

8 (1) in subsection (b)—

9 (A) in paragraph (3)—

10 (i) in subparagraph (B), in the matter
11 preceding clause (i)—

12 (I) by striking “the purchase of
13 coupons or trafficking in coupons or
14 authorization cards” and inserting
15 “trafficking related to benefits”; and

16 (II) by striking “such purchase
17 of coupons or trafficking in coupons
18 or cards” and inserting “such occa-
19 sion of trafficking related to benefits”;
20 and

21 (ii) in subparagraph (C), by striking
22 “coupons” and inserting “benefits”; and

23 (B) in paragraph (4), by striking “cou-
24 pons” and inserting “benefits”;

1 (2) in subsection (d)(4), by striking “coupons”
2 each place it appears and inserting “benefits”;

3 (3) in subsection (e), by striking paragraph (3);
4 and

5 (4) in subsection (f), in the first sentence, by
6 striking “food coupons” and inserting “benefits”.

7 (f) Section 3(9)(B) of the Congressional Budget Act
8 of 1974 (2 U.S.C. 622(9)(B)) is amended by striking “the
9 food stamp program” and inserting “the supplemental nu-
10 trition assistance program established under the Food and
11 Nutrition Act of 2008 (7 U.S.C. 2011 et seq.)”.

12 **SEC. 4412. EFFECTIVE DATE.**

13 Except as otherwise provided, this title and the
14 amendments made by this title shall take effect on October
15 1, 2025.

16 **TITLE V—CREDIT**

17 **Subtitle A—Farm Ownership Loans**

18 **SEC. 5101. MODIFICATION OF EXPERIENCE ELIGIBILITY RE-**

19 **QUIREMENT FOR FARM OWNERSHIP LOANS.**

20 (a) **PERSONS ELIGIBLE FOR REAL ESTATE**
21 **LOANS.**—Section 302 of the Consolidated Farm and
22 Rural Development Act (7 U.S.C. 1922) is amended—

23 (1) in subsection (a)(1), in the second sentence,
24 by striking “without regard to any lapse between
25 farming experiences,”; and

1 (2) in subsection (b)—

2 (A) by striking paragraph (1) and insert-
3 ing the following:

4 “(1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary may make a
5 direct loan under this subtitle only to a farmer or
6 rancher who has at least 1 year of experience sub-
7 stantially participating in the management and busi-
8 ness operations of a farm or ranch, as determined
9 by the Secretary, or has other acceptable education
10 or experience, as determined by the Secretary.”; and

11 (B) by striking paragraphs (3) and (4) and
12 inserting the following:

13 “(3) WAIVER AUTHORITY.—In the case of a
14 qualified beginning farmer or rancher, the Secretary
15 may waive the 1-year requirement described in para-
16 graph (1) if the qualified beginning farmer or ranch-
17 er has an established relationship with an individual
18 who has experience in farming or ranching, or with
19 a local farm or ranch operator or organization, ap-
20 proved by the Secretary and committed to mentoring
21 the qualified beginning farmer or rancher.”.

22 (b) ALLOWED PURPOSES OF LOANS.—Section 303(a)
23 of the Consolidated Farm and Rural Development Act (7
24 U.S.C. 1923(a)) is amended—

1 (1) in paragraph (1)(D), by striking “described
2 in section 304”; and

3 (2) in paragraph (2)(D), by striking “described
4 in section 304”.

5 **SEC. 5102. CONSERVATION AND PRECISION AGRICULTURE**
6 **LOAN AND LOAN GUARANTEE PROGRAM.**

7 (a) CONSERVATION PLAN.—Section 304(b)(3) of the
8 Consolidated Farm and Rural Development Act (7 U.S.C.
9 1924(b)(3)) is amended by—

10 (1) redesignating subparagraphs (F) and (G) as
11 subparagraphs (G) and (H), respectively; and

12 (2) by inserting after subparagraph (E) the fol-
13 lowing:

14 “(F) the adoption of precision agriculture
15 practices and the acquisition of precision agri-
16 culture technology;”.

17 (b) PRIORITY.—Section 304(d) of the Consolidated
18 Farm and Rural Development Act (7 U.S.C. 1924(d)) is
19 amended—

20 (1) in paragraph (2), by striking “and” at the
21 end;

22 (2) in paragraph (3), by striking “1985.” and
23 inserting “1985 (16 U.S.C. 3812); and”; and

24 (3) by adding at the end the following:

1 “(4) producers who use the loans to adopt pre-
2 cision agriculture practices or acquire precision agri-
3 culture technology, including adoption or acquisition
4 for the purpose of participating in the environmental
5 quality incentives program under subchapter A of
6 chapter 4 of subtitle D of title XII of the Food Se-
7 curity Act of 1985 (16 U.S.C. 3839aa et seq.).”.

8 (c) **AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.**—Section
9 304(h) of the Consolidated Farm and Rural Development
10 Act (7 U.S.C. 1924(h)) is amended by striking “2023”
11 and inserting “2029”.

12 (d) **CONFORMING AMENDMENT.**—Section 304 of the
13 Consolidated Farm and Rural Development Act (7 U.S.C.
14 1924) is amended, in the section heading, by inserting
15 “**AND PRECISION AGRICULTURE**” after “**CONSERVA-**
16 **TION**”.

17 **SEC. 5103. LIMITATIONS ON AMOUNT OF FARM OWNERSHIP**
18 **LOANS.**

19 (a) **IN GENERAL.**—Section 305 of the Consolidated
20 Farm and Rural Development Act (7 U.S.C. 1925) is
21 amended—

22 (1) by redesignating subsections (b) and (c) as
23 subsections (c) and (d), respectively;

24 (2) in subsection (a)—

1 (A) in the matter preceding paragraph (1),
2 by striking “The Secretary” and inserting “Ex-
3 cept as provided in subsection (b), the Sec-
4 retary”; and

5 (B) in paragraph (2), by striking
6 “\$600,000, or, in the case of a loan guaranteed
7 by the Secretary, \$1,750,000 (increased, begin-
8 ning with fiscal year 2019” and inserting
9 “\$850,000, or, in the case of a loan guaranteed
10 by the Secretary, \$3,000,000 (increased, begin-
11 ning with fiscal year 2025”; and

12 (3) by inserting after subsection (a) the fol-
13 lowing:

14 “(b) REFINANCED GUARANTEED LOANS.—In the
15 case of a direct loan refinancing a guaranteed loan pursu-
16 ant to section 303(a)(1)(F), the Secretary may make a
17 loan equal to the unpaid indebtedness of the borrower.”.

18 (b) INFLATION PERCENTAGE.—Section 305 of the
19 Consolidated Farm and Rural Development Act (7 U.S.C.
20 1925) is amended, in subsection (d) (as redesignated by
21 subsection (a)(1))—

22 (1) in paragraph (1), by striking “of the Prices
23 Paid By Farmers Index (as compiled by the Na-
24 tional Agricultural Statistics Service of the Depart-
25 ment of Agriculture) for the 12-month period ending

1 on July 31 of the immediately preceding fiscal year”
2 and inserting “of the per acre average United States
3 farm real estate value for the preceding year (as
4 published in the applicable Agricultural Land Values
5 report of the National Agricultural Statistics Service
6 of the Department of Agriculture)”; and

7 (2) in paragraph (2), by striking “of such index
8 (as so defined) for the 12-month period that imme-
9 diately precedes the 12-month period described in
10 paragraph (1)” and inserting “of the per acre aver-
11 age United States farm real estate value for the year
12 immediately preceding the year described in para-
13 graph (1) (as so published)”.

14 **SEC. 5104. REFINANCING OF GUARANTEED LOANS INTO DI-**
15 **RECT LOANS.**

16 (a) IN GENERAL.—Section 303(a)(1) of the Consoli-
17 dated Farm and Rural Development Act (7 U.S.C.
18 1923(a)(1)) is amended —

19 (1) in subparagraph (D), by striking “or” at
20 the end;

21 (2) in subparagraph (E)(ii), by striking the pe-
22 riod at the end and inserting “; or”; and

23 (3) by adding at the end the following:

1 “(F) refinancing a guaranteed loan de-
2 scribed in paragraph (2), if the Secretary deter-
3 mines that—

4 “(i) the guaranteed loan is distressed;

5 “(ii) the borrower on that guaranteed
6 loan has attempted to work with the lender
7 and has been unsuccessful;

8 “(iii) the borrower has a reasonable
9 chance for success of the operation fi-
10 nanced by the guaranteed loan; and

11 “(iv) the refinanced loan will have no
12 more than a minimal impact on the loan
13 programs of the Farm Service Agency.”.

14 (b) GUARANTEED LOANS.—Section 309(h) of the
15 Consolidated Farm and Rural Development Act (7 U.S.C.
16 1929(h)) is amended—

17 (1) in paragraph (4), by striking “the principal
18 and interest due on”; and

19 (2) in paragraph (6), by striking the paragraph
20 heading and inserting “GUARANTEED LOANS TO
21 DOWN PAYMENT LOAN PROGRAM PARTICIPANTS
22 GUARANTEED UP TO 95 PERCENT”.

1 **SEC. 5105. DOWN PAYMENT LOAN PROGRAM.**

2 Section 310E(b)(1) of the Consolidated Farm and
3 Rural Development Act (7 U.S.C. 1935(b)(1)) is amend-
4 ed—

5 (1) in the matter preceding subparagraph (A)—

6 (A) by inserting “, subject to section
7 305(a),” after “exceed”; and

8 (B) by striking “least” and inserting “less-
9 er”;

10 (2) in subparagraph (A), by adding “or” after
11 the semicolon at the end;

12 (3) in subparagraph (B), by striking “; or” and
13 inserting a period; and

14 (4) by striking subparagraph (C).

15 **SEC. 5106. SUPPORT FOR RESOLVING OWNERSHIP AND**
16 **SUCCESSION ISSUES RELATING TO FARM-**
17 **LAND.**

18 Section 310I of the Consolidated Farm and Rural
19 Development Act (7 U.S.C. 1936e) is amended—

20 (1) in subsection (a), by striking “relend the
21 funds to individuals and entities” and inserting “use
22 the funds”;

23 (2) by striking subsection (c) and inserting the
24 following:

1 “(c) ELIGIBLE PURPOSES.—An eligible entity that
2 receives a loan made by the Secretary pursuant to sub-
3 section (a)—

4 “(1) shall relend the proceeds from the loan for
5 projects that assist heirs with undivided ownership
6 interests to resolve ownership and succession on
7 farmland that has multiple owners; and

8 “(2) may use not more than 25 percent of the
9 amount of the loan to pay administrative costs of re-
10 lending the proceeds.”; and

11 (3) in subsection (e)—

12 (A) in paragraph (3)(B), by striking “be”;

13 and

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

15 “(4) The Secretary may forgive, as the Sec-
16 retary determines appropriate, the amount of a loan
17 used to pay administrative costs of relending the
18 proceeds from the loan.”.

19 (4) by striking subsection (f) and inserting the
20 following:

21 “(f) REPORTS.—

22 “(1) REPORTS OF ELIGIBLE ENTITIES.—Each
23 eligible entity that receives a loan under this section
24 shall submit to the Secretary an annual report
25 that—

1 “(A) describes the progress and outcomes
2 of the activities conducted by the eligible entity
3 pursuant to the loan using funding provided
4 under this section, including—

5 “(i) the number of individuals who re-
6 ceived assistance from the eligible entity;

7 “(ii) the number of individuals whose
8 farm ownership interests were resolved;
9 and

10 “(iii) the number of individual heirs
11 involved in each case involving undivided
12 ownership; and

13 “(B) the number of requests for assistance
14 received by the eligible entity.

15 “(2) REPORT BY THE SECRETARY.—Not later
16 than September 30, 2027, the Secretary shall make
17 publicly available a report that—

18 “(A) identifies—

19 “(i) each eligible entity that received a
20 loan under this section;

21 “(ii) the number of individuals whose
22 farmland ownership interests were resolved
23 by each eligible entity identified under
24 clause (i); and

1 “(iii) the number of individual heirs
2 affected by the resolution of those owner-
3 ship interests;

4 “(B) describes the operation and outcomes
5 of the projects and activities carried out by eli-
6 gible entities under this section; and

7 “(C) includes recommendations on how to
8 strengthen the programs carried out by the Sec-
9 retary under subsection (a).”;

10 (5) in subsection (g)—

11 (A) by striking “2023” and inserting
12 “2029”; and

13 (B) by striking the subsection designation
14 and heading and all that follows through
15 “‘There’” and inserting the following:

16 “(g) FUNDING.—

17 “(1) MANDATORY FUNDING.—Of the funds of
18 the Commodity Credit Corporation, the Secretary
19 shall make available to carry out this section
20 \$20,000,000 for fiscal year 2025 and each fiscal
21 year thereafter, to remain available until expended.

22 “(2) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—In
23 addition to other amounts available to the Secretary,
24 there”.

1 **Subtitle B—Operating Loans**

2 **SEC. 5201. LIMITATION ON AMOUNT OF OPERATING LOANS.**

3 Section 313(a)(1) of the Consolidated Farm and
4 Rural Development Act (7 U.S.C. 1943(a)(1)) is amended
5 by striking “\$400,000, or, in the case of a loan guaranteed
6 by the Secretary, \$1,750,000 (increased, beginning with
7 fiscal year 2019” and inserting “\$750,000, or, in the case
8 of a loan guaranteed by the Secretary, \$2,600,000 (in-
9 creased, beginning with fiscal year 2026”.

10 **SEC. 5202. ELIGIBILITY FOR OPERATING LOANS.**

11 Section 311 of the Consolidated Farm and Rural De-
12 velopment Act (7 U.S.C. 1941) is amended—

13 (1) in subsection (a)(1), in the second sentence,
14 by striking “without regard to any lapse between
15 farming experiences,”;

16 (2) in subsection (b)(1), by striking “4-H
17 Clubs, Future Farmers of America” and inserting
18 “4-H clubs, National FFA Organization chapters”;
19 and

20 (3) by striking subsection (c).

21 **SEC. 5203. MICROLOANS.**

22 (a) IN GENERAL.—Section 313(c) of the Consoli-
23 dated Farm and Rural Development Act (7 U.S.C.
24 1943(c)) is amended—

1 (1) in paragraph (2), by striking “\$50,000”
2 and inserting “\$100,000”; and

3 (2) in paragraph (4)(A), in the matter pre-
4 ceding clause (i), by striking “2023” and inserting
5 “2029”.

6 (b) INTEREST RATE.—Section 316(a)(2) of the Con-
7 solidated Farm and Rural Development Act (7 U.S.C.
8 1946(a)(2)) is amended—

9 (1) in the matter preceding subparagraph (A)—

10 (A) by striking “2501(e)” and inserting
11 “2501(a)”; and

12 (B) by striking “2279(e),” and inserting
13 “2279(a),”; and

14 (2) by striking “not be—” in the matter pre-
15 ceding subparagraph (A) and all that follows
16 through the period at the end of subparagraph (B)
17 and inserting “be equal to the interest rate for di-
18 rect farm operating loans under this subtitle, not to
19 exceed 5 percent per year.”.

20 **Subtitle C—Emergency Loans**

21 **SEC. 5301. EMERGENCY LOAN DETERMINATION FACTORS.**

22 Section 322 of the Consolidated Farm and Rural De-
23 velopment Act (7 U.S.C. 1962) is amended—

1 (1) by striking the section designation and all
2 that follows through “For” in subsection (a) and in-
3 serting the following:

4 **“SEC. 322. LOAN DETERMINATION FACTORS.**

5 “For”; and

6 (2) by striking subsection (b).

7 **SEC. 5302. ELIGIBILITY FOR ASSISTANCE BASED ON PRO-**
8 **DUCTION LOSS.**

9 Section 329 of the Consolidated Farm and Rural De-
10 velopment Act (7 U.S.C. 1970) is amended, in the first
11 sentence, by striking “at least a 30 per centum loss of
12 normal per acre or per animal production, or such lesser
13 per centum of loss as the Secretary may determine, as
14 a result of the disaster based upon the average monthly
15 price in effect for the previous year” and inserting “a
16 qualifying production loss, as determined by the Secretary,
17 as a result of a disaster,”.

18 **Subtitle D—Administrative**
19 **Provisions**

20 **SEC. 5401. DISTRESSED BORROWERS.**

21 Section 331 of the Consolidated Farm and Rural De-
22 velopment Act (7 U.S.C. 1981) is amended by adding at
23 the end the following:

24 “(g) DISTRESSED BORROWERS.—

1 “(1) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—In
2 addition to amounts otherwise available, there is au-
3 thorized to be appropriated \$250,000,000 to provide
4 payments to, for the cost of loan modifications for,
5 or to carry out subsection (b)(4) with respect to dis-
6 tressed borrowers of direct or guaranteed loans ad-
7 ministered by the Farm Service Agency under sub-
8 title A, B, or C.

9 “(2) CASH FLOW-BASED ASSISTANCE.—In
10 using funds appropriated under paragraph (1), the
11 Secretary shall provide relief to those borrowers
12 whose agricultural operations are at financial risk as
13 expeditiously as possible, including through indefi-
14 nite extension of the Cash Flow-Based Assistance
15 and Distressed Borrower Set-Aside Program, as de-
16 termined by the Secretary.”.

17 **SEC. 5402. BEGINNING FARMER AND RANCHER INDIVIDUAL**
18 **DEVELOPMENT ACCOUNTS PILOT PROGRAM.**

19 Section 333B(h) of the Consolidated Farm and Rural
20 Development Act (7 U.S.C. 1983b(h)) is amended by
21 striking “2023” and inserting “2029”.

22 **SEC. 5403. LOAN AUTHORIZATION LEVELS.**

23 Section 346(b)(1) of the Consolidated Farm and
24 Rural Development Act (7 U.S.C. 1994(b)(1)) is amend-

1 ed, in the matter preceding subparagraph (A), by striking
2 “2023” and inserting “2029”.

3 **SEC. 5404. DEFINITION OF QUALIFIED BEGINNING FARMER**
4 **OR RANCHER.**

5 Section 343(a)(11) of the Consolidated Farm and
6 Rural Development Act (7 U.S.C. 1991(a)(11)) is amend-
7 ed—

8 (1) by striking subparagraphs (C) and (D) and
9 inserting the following:

10 “(C) who—

11 “(i) in the case of a loan made to an
12 individual, individually or with the imme-
13 diate family of the applicant—

14 “(I) materially and substantially
15 participates (in the case of an owner
16 and operator of a farm or ranch) or
17 will materially and substantially par-
18 ticipate (in the case of an applicant
19 seeking to own and operate a farm or
20 ranch) in the operation of the farm or
21 ranch; and

22 “(II) provides (in the case of an
23 owner and operator of a farm or
24 ranch) or will provide (in the case of
25 an applicant seeking to own and oper-

1 ate a farm or ranch) substantial day-
2 to-day labor and management of the
3 farm or ranch, consistent with the
4 practices in the State or county in
5 which the farm or ranch is located; or

6 “(ii) in the case of a loan made to a
7 cooperative, corporation, partnership, joint
8 operation, or such other legal entity as the
9 Secretary considers appropriate—

10 “(I) has members, stockholders,
11 partners, joint operators, or owners,
12 all of whom are qualified beginning
13 farmers or ranchers; and

14 “(II) has (in the case of an
15 owner and operator of a farm or
16 ranch) or will have (in the case of an
17 applicant seeking to own and operate
18 a farm or ranch) members, stock-
19 holders, partners, joint operators, or
20 owners materially and substantially
21 participate in the operation of the
22 farm or ranch;”; and

23 (2) by redesignating subparagraphs (E)
24 through (G) as subparagraphs (D) through (F), re-
25 spectively.

1 **SEC. 5405. LOAN FUND SET-ASIDES.**

2 Section 346 of the Consolidated Farm and Rural De-
3 velopment Act (7 U.S.C. 1994) is amended—

4 (1) in subsection (b)(2)—

5 (A) in subparagraph (A)—

6 (i) in clause (i)(II), by inserting “, to
7 the extent practicable” after “April 1 of
8 the fiscal year”;

9 (ii) in clause (ii)(III), by striking
10 “2023” and inserting “2029”; and

11 (iii) in clause (iii), by inserting “, to
12 the extent practicable” after “September 1
13 of the fiscal year”; and

14 (B) in subparagraph (B)(iii), by inserting
15 “, to the extent practicable” after “April 1 of
16 the fiscal year”; and

17 (2) by striking subsections (c) and (d).

18 **SEC. 5406. TEMPORARY PROHIBITION OF LOANS TO BOR-**
19 **ROWERS THAT HAVE RECEIVED DEBT FOR-**
20 **GIVENESS.**

21 Section 373(b) of the Consolidated Farm and Rural
22 Development Act (7 U.S.C. 2008h(b)) is amended—

23 (1) by striking paragraph (1) and inserting the
24 following:

25 “(1) PROHIBITION.—Except as provided in
26 paragraph (2), the Secretary may not make or guar-

1 antee a loan under this title to a borrower for a pe-
2 riod of 7 years after the borrower has received debt
3 forgiveness.”; and

4 (2) in paragraph (2)(A)(ii), by striking “chap-
5 ters” and inserting “chapter”.

6 **SEC. 5407. GUARANTEED FARMER PROGRAM LOAN APPLI-**
7 **CATIONS.**

8 (a) IN GENERAL.—Section 333A(g) of the Consoli-
9 dated Farm and Rural Development Act (7 U.S.C.
10 1983a(g)) is amended—

11 (1) in paragraph (1)(A), by striking “\$125,000
12 or less” and inserting “less than a limit determined
13 by the Secretary”;

14 (2) by redesignating paragraphs (2) and (3) as
15 paragraphs (3) and (4), respectively; and

16 (3) by inserting after paragraph (1) the fol-
17 lowing:

18 “(2) ACCELERATED CONSIDERATION FOR CER-
19 TAIN GUARANTEED FARMER PROGRAM LOANS.—

20 “(A) OPTION FOR ACCELERATED CONSID-
21 ERATION.—The Secretary shall provide to cer-
22 tified lenders (within the meaning of section
23 339(c)) and Preferred Certified Lenders (within
24 the meaning of section 339(d)) the option to
25 submit for accelerated consideration an applica-

1 tion to guarantee a farmer program loan the
2 principal amount of which is \$1,000,000 or
3 less.

4 “(B) NOTICE.—Not later than 5 business
5 days after receipt of an application to guar-
6 antee a farmer program loan originated by a
7 certified lender (within the meaning of section
8 339(c)) or a Preferred Certified Lender (within
9 the meaning of section 339(d)) that is sub-
10 mitted for accelerated consideration under sub-
11 paragraph (A), the Secretary shall notify the
12 lender as to whether the application is approved
13 or disapproved.

14 “(C) FAILURE TO PROVIDE TIMELY NO-
15 TICE.—If the Secretary fails to provide the no-
16 tice required under subparagraph (B), the Sec-
17 retary shall approve the application submitted
18 for accelerated consideration.

19 “(D) MAXIMUM GUARANTEE.—Notwith-
20 standing any other provision of this title, the
21 percentage of the principal amount of a loan
22 that may be guaranteed pursuant to this para-
23 graph shall not exceed—

24 “(i) 75 percent, in the case of a loan
25 of \$500,000 or less; or

1 “(ii) 50 percent, in the case of a loan
2 of more than \$500,000 but less than or
3 equal to \$1,000,000.”.

4 (b) CONFORMING AMENDMENT.—Section 333A(h) of
5 the Consolidated Farm and Rural Development Act (7
6 U.S.C. 1983a(h)) is amended by striking “subsection
7 (g)(2)” and inserting “subsection (g)(3)”.

8 **Subtitle E—Miscellaneous**

9 **SEC. 5501. TECHNICAL CORRECTIONS.**

10 (a) TECHNICAL CORRECTIONS TO TITLE I OF THE
11 AGRICULTURAL ACT OF 1961.—

12 (1) Section 102 of the Agricultural Act of 1961
13 (7 U.S.C. 1911) is amended—

14 (A) in subsection (a), by striking “he” and
15 inserting “the Secretary”;

16 (B) in subsection (b), by striking “he” and
17 inserting “the Secretary of Agriculture”; and

18 (C) in subsection (c), by striking “he is au-
19 thorized, whenever he” and inserting “the Sec-
20 retary is authorized, whenever the Secretary”.

21 (2) Section 103 of the Agricultural Act of 1961
22 (7 U.S.C. 1912) is amended by striking “he” and
23 inserting “the Secretary”.

24 (b) TECHNICAL CORRECTIONS TO THE CONSOLI-
25 DATED FARM AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT ACT.—

1 (1) Section 307 of the Consolidated Farm and
2 Rural Development Act (7 U.S.C. 1927) is amend-
3 ed—

4 (A) in subsection (a)(3)(B), by striking
5 “not be—” in the matter preceding clause (i)
6 and all that follows through the period at the
7 end of clause (ii) and inserting “be equal to the
8 interest rate for direct farm ownership loans
9 under this subtitle, not to exceed 5 percent per
10 year.”; and

11 (B) in subsection (c), in the first sentence,
12 by striking “he” and inserting “the Secretary”.

13 (2) Section 310D(a) of the Consolidated Farm
14 and Rural Development Act (7 U.S.C. 1934(a)) is
15 amended, in the first sentence—

16 (A) by striking “, or paragraphs (1)
17 through (5) of section 304(a),” and inserting
18 “or section 304(a)”; and

19 (B) by striking “paragraphs (2) through
20 (4) of section 302” and inserting “subpara-
21 graphs (B) through (D) of the second sentence
22 of section 302(a)(1)”.

23 (3) Section 310E(d)(4)(C) of the Consolidated
24 Farm and Rural Development Act (7 U.S.C.

1 1935(d)(4)(C)) is amended by striking “and; and”
2 and inserting “and”.

3 (4) Section 312 of the Consolidated Farm and
4 Rural Development Act (7 U.S.C. 1942) is amend-
5 ed—

6 (A) by striking subsection (d); and

7 (B) by redesignating subsection (e) as sub-
8 section (d).

9 (5) Section 319 of the Consolidated Farm and
10 Rural Development Act (7 U.S.C. 1949) is amend-
11 ed—

12 (A) in the section heading, by striking “**OR**
13 **GUARANTEES**”; and

14 (B) by striking “or with respect to whom
15 there is an outstanding guarantee under this
16 subtitle”.

17 (6) Section 331(b) of the Consolidated Farm
18 and Rural Development Act (7 U.S.C. 1981(b)) is
19 amended—

20 (A) in paragraph (1)—

21 (i) by striking “his powers and du-
22 ties” and inserting “the powers and duties
23 of the Secretary”;

1 (ii) by striking “he determines” each
2 place it appears and inserting “the Sec-
3 retary determines”; and

4 (iii) by striking “, and until January”
5 and everything that follows through “see
6 fit”);

7 (B) in paragraph (3), by striking “he” and
8 inserting “the Secretary”;

9 (C) in paragraph (4)—

10 (i) by striking “subsection. After con-
11 sultation with a local or area county com-
12 mittee, the Secretary” and inserting the
13 following: “subsection; and
14 “(C) the Secretary”;

15 (ii) by striking “paragraph. The Sec-
16 retary” and inserting the following: “para-
17 graph;
18 “(B) the Secretary”;

19 (iii) by striking “1949. In” and in-
20 serting “1949 (42 U.S.C. 1441 et seq.),
21 subject to the conditions that—
22 “(A) in”;

23 (iv) in the matter preceding subpara-
24 graph (A) (as so designated)—

1 (I) by striking “Consolidated”;

2 and

3 (II) by striking “the Rural Devel-
4 opment Administration” and inserting
5 “Rural Development”; and

6 (v) in subparagraph (C) (as so des-
7 ignated), by striking “1949,” and inserting
8 “1949 (42 U.S.C. 1441 et seq.),”;

9 (D) in paragraph (5)—

10 (i) by striking “1949,” and inserting
11 “1949 (42 U.S.C. 1441 et seq.),”;

12 (ii) by striking “administered by the
13 Farmers Home Administration,” and in-
14 serting “administered under this title,”;
15 and

16 (iii) by striking “by the Farmers
17 Home Administration and, if in his judg-
18 ment” and inserting “under this title, and,
19 if the Secretary determines”;

20 (E) in paragraph (7), by striking “Farm-
21 ers Home Administration” and all that follows
22 through “thereof” and inserting “Farm Service
23 Agency and Rural Development”; and

24 (F) in paragraph (8)—

1 (i) by striking “Rural Development
2 Administration or by the Farmers Home
3 Administration” and inserting “Farm
4 Service Agency or Rural Development”;
5 and

6 (ii) by striking “he” and inserting
7 “the Secretary”.

8 (7) Section 331A(a) of the Consolidated Farm
9 and Rural Development Act (7 U.S.C. 1981a(a)) is
10 amended, in the first sentence, by striking “Farmers
11 Home Administration or by the Rural Development
12 Administration” and inserting “Farm Service Agen-
13 cy or Rural Development”.

14 (8) Section 333(1) of the Consolidated Farm
15 and Rural Development Act (7 U.S.C. 1983(1)) is
16 amended—

17 (A) by striking “he” and inserting “the
18 applicant”; and

19 (B) by striking “his actual needs” and in-
20 serting “the actual needs of the applicant”.

21 (9) Section 333A of the Consolidated Farm and
22 Rural Development Act (7 U.S.C. 1983a) is amend-
23 ed—

24 (A) in subsection (a)(2)(B)—

1 (i) in clause (iii), by striking “district
2 office of the Farmers Home Administra-
3 tion” and inserting “District Director of
4 the Farm Service Agency”;

5 (ii) in clause (iv), by striking “district
6 office of the Farmers Home Administra-
7 tion” and inserting “District Director of
8 the Farm Service Agency”;

9 (iii) in clause (v), by striking “district
10 office” and inserting “District Director”;

11 and

12 (iv) in clause (vi)—

13 (I) by striking “district office”
14 and inserting “District Director”;

15 (II) by striking “Farmers Home
16 Administration” and inserting “Farm
17 Service Agency”; and

18 (III) by striking “by the county
19 committee” and inserting “of the ap-
20 plication”; and

21 (B) in subsection (e)(1), by striking
22 “Farmers Home Administration” each place it
23 appears and inserting “Farm Service Agency”.

24 (10) Section 333D(a) of the Consolidated Farm
25 and Rural Development Act (7 U.S.C. 1983d(a)) is

1 amended by striking “that are consistent with sub-
2 title A through this subtitle”.

3 (11) Section 335 of the Consolidated Farm and
4 Rural Development Act (7 U.S.C. 1985) is amend-
5 ed—

6 (A) in subsection (a), by striking “Farmers
7 Home Administration or the Rural Develop-
8 ment Administration” and inserting “Farm
9 Service Agency or Rural Development”;

10 (B) in subsection (c)(1)—

11 (i) in subparagraph (A), by striking
12 “15” and inserting “60”;

13 (ii) in subparagraph (B)(i)—

14 (I) by striking “135” and insert-
15 ing “180”; and

16 (II) by inserting “suitable for
17 farming or ranching, as determined by
18 the Secretary,” after “acquiring real
19 property”; and

20 (iii) in subparagraph (C), by striking
21 “not later than 135 days” and all that fol-
22 lows through “135-day period, sell” and
23 inserting “, or if the property is not suit-
24 able for farming or ranching, as deter-
25 mined by the Secretary, not later than 60

1 days after the 180-day period described in
2 subparagraph (B)(i), the Secretary shall
3 sell”;

4 (C) in subsection (d), in the second sen-
5 tence, by striking “Farmers Home Administra-
6 tion” and inserting “Farm Service Agency”;
7 and

8 (D) in subsection (f)—

9 (i) in paragraph (1)—

10 (I) by striking “Agricultural Sta-
11 bilization and Conservation Service”
12 and inserting “Farm Service Agency
13 farm program”;

14 (II) by striking “Farmers Home
15 Administration liens” and inserting
16 “liens for a farmer program loan”;
17 and

18 (III) by striking “Farmers Home
19 Administration farmer” and inserting
20 “Farm Service Agency farmer”;

21 (ii) by striking paragraphs (3)
22 through (5);

23 (iii) by redesignating paragraphs (6)
24 and (7) as paragraphs (3) and (4), respec-
25 tively; and

1 (iv) in paragraph (4) (as so redesignig-
2 nated), by striking “that—” in the matter
3 preceding subparagraph (A) and all that
4 follows through the period at the end of
5 subparagraph (B) and inserting “that en-
6 sure the release of funds to each borrower,
7 consistent with this section.”.

8 (12) Section 336 of the Consolidated Farm and
9 Rural Development Act (7 U.S.C. 1986) is amend-
10 ed—

11 (A) in subsection (a)—

12 (i) by striking “of the Secretary” and
13 inserting “of the Department of Agri-
14 culture”; and

15 (ii) by striking “he” and inserting
16 “the officer, attorney, or employee”;

17 (B) in subsection (b), by striking the sec-
18 ond sentence;

19 (C) by striking subsection (c); and

20 (D) by redesignating subsection (d) as sub-
21 section (c).

22 (13) Section 338(a) of the Consolidated Farm
23 and Rural Development Act (7 U.S.C. 1988(a)) is
24 amended by striking “Farmers Home Administra-
25 tion or the Rural Development Administration” and

1 inserting “Farm Service Agency or Rural Develop-
2 ment”.

3 (14) Section 339 of the Consolidated Farm and
4 Rural Development Act (7 U.S.C. 1989) is amend-
5 ed—

6 (A) in subsection (a), by striking “he” and
7 inserting “the Secretary”;

8 (B) in subsection (c)(4)(A), by striking
9 “county committee certification that the bor-
10 rower of the loan meets the eligibility require-
11 ments and” and inserting “the borrower meet-
12 ing”; and

13 (C) in subsection (d)(4)(A), by striking
14 “county committee certification that the bor-
15 rower meets the eligibility requirements or” and
16 inserting “the borrower meeting”.

17 (15) Section 340 of the Consolidated Farm and
18 Rural Development Act (7 U.S.C. 1990) is amended
19 by striking “in his discretion” and inserting “the
20 President determines to be appropriate”.

21 (16) Section 343(a) of the Consolidated Farm
22 and Rural Development Act (7 U.S.C. 1991(a)) is
23 amended—

24 (A) in paragraph (6), by striking “Trust
25 Territory of the Pacific Islands” and inserting

1 “Federated States of Micronesia, the Republic
2 of the Marshall Islands, and the Republic of
3 Palau”; and

4 (B) in paragraph (10)—

5 (i) by striking “section 304,” and in-
6 serting “section 304 prior to June 18,
7 2008, conservation loan (CL) under section
8 304 on or after June 18, 2008,”;

9 (ii) by striking “section 1254 of the
10 Food Security Act of 1985” and inserting
11 “section 608 of the Agricultural Programs
12 Adjustment Act of 1984 (7 U.S.C. 1981
13 note; Public Law 98–258)”; and

14 (iii) by striking “of 1949” and insert-
15 ing “of 1949 (42 U.S.C. 1472)”.

16 (17) Section 347 of the Consolidated Farm and
17 Rural Development Act (7 U.S.C. 1995) is amended,
18 in the first sentence, by striking “Farmers Home
19 Administration” and inserting “Farm Service Agen-
20 cy or Rural Development”.

21 (18) Section 349(e)(1)(B) of the Consolidated
22 Farm and Rural Development Act (7 U.S.C.
23 1997(e)(1)(B)) is amended by striking “Farmers
24 Home Administration” and inserting “Farm Service
25 Agency”.

1 (19) Section 352(c)(3) of the Consolidated
2 Farm and Rural Development Act (7 U.S.C.
3 2000(c)(3)) is amended, in the second sentence, by
4 striking “section 333B” and inserting “subtitle H of
5 title II of the Department of Agriculture Reorga-
6 nization Act of 1994 (7 U.S.C. 6991 et seq.)”.

7 (20) Section 353 of the Consolidated Farm and
8 Rural Development Act (7 U.S.C. 2001) is amend-
9 ed—

10 (A) in subsection (h), by striking “under
11 section 333B”;

12 (B) in subsection (i)(1), by striking “reg-
13 istered or certified mail” and inserting “any
14 method that provides documentation of deliv-
15 ery”;

16 (C) in subsection (j)—

17 (i) in the first sentence, by striking
18 “filed with the appeals division under sec-
19 tion 333B” and inserting “to the National
20 Appeals Division”; and

21 (ii) in the second sentence—

22 (I) by striking “appeals division”
23 and inserting “Secretary”; and

24 (II) by striking “county super-
25 visor” and inserting “Secretary”; and

1 (D) in subsection (o), by striking
2 “\$300,000” and inserting “\$600,000”.

3 (21) Section 356 of the Consolidated Farm and
4 Rural Development Act (7 U.S.C. 2004) is amended,
5 in the first sentence—

6 (A) by striking “The Farmers Home Ad-
7 ministration” and inserting “The Farm Service
8 Agency and Rural Development”; and

9 (B) by striking “the inventory of the
10 Farmers Home Administration” and inserting
11 “inventory”.

12 (22) Section 359(c)(1) of the Consolidated
13 Farm and Rural Development Act (7 U.S.C.
14 2006a(c)(1)) is amended by striking “(as determined
15 by the appropriate county committee during the de-
16 termination of eligibility for the loan)”.

17 (23) Section 360(d)(1) of the Consolidated
18 Farm and Rural Development Act (7 U.S.C.
19 2006b(d)(1)) is amended by striking “annual review
20 of direct loans, and periodic review (as determined
21 necessary by the Secretary) of guaranteed loans,”
22 and inserting “periodic review (as determined nec-
23 essary by the Secretary) of direct loans and guaran-
24 teed loans”.

1 (24) Section 361 of the Consolidated Farm and
 2 Rural Development Act (7 U.S.C. 2006c) is amend-
 3 ed, in the matter preceding paragraph (1), by strik-
 4 ing “Farmers Home Administration” and inserting
 5 “Farm Service Agency”.

6 **SEC. 5502. QUALIFYING AGRICULTURAL MEDIATION PRO-**
 7 **GRAMS.**

8 (a) QUALIFYING STATES AND TRIBES.—Section 501
 9 of the Agricultural Credit Act of 1987 (7 U.S.C. 5101)
 10 is amended—

11 (1) in the section heading, by inserting “**AND**
 12 **TRIBES**” after “**STATES**”;

13 (2) in subsection (a), by inserting “or Tribe”
 14 after “State” each place it appears;

15 (3) by striking subsection (b) and inserting the
 16 following:

17 “(b) DETERMINATION BY SECRETARY.—Not later
 18 than 30 days after the Secretary receives from the Gov-
 19 ernor, or comparable executive official or officials, of a
 20 State or Tribe a description of the mediation program of
 21 the State or Tribe and a statement certifying that the
 22 State or Tribe has met all the requirements of subsection
 23 (c), the Secretary shall determine whether the State or
 24 Tribe is a qualifying State or Tribe.”;

25 (4) in subsection (c)—

1 (A) in the subsection heading, by striking
2 “STATE” and inserting “QUALIFYING”;

3 (B) in paragraph (1)—

4 (i) by inserting “or Tribe” after
5 “State” each place it appears; and

6 (ii) in subparagraph (B)(x), by insert-
7 ing “or comparable agency” after “agri-
8 culture”;

9 (C) in paragraph (2)(B)(ii), by inserting
10 “or Tribal” after “State”; and

11 (D) in paragraph (3)—

12 (i) in the matter preceding subpara-
13 graph (A), by inserting “or Tribe” after
14 “State” each place it appears; and

15 (ii) by striking subparagraph (B) and
16 inserting the following:

17 “(B) is authorized or administered by—

18 “(i) an agency of the State or Tribal
19 government; or

20 “(ii) the Governor, or comparable ex-
21 ecutive official or officials, of the State or
22 Tribe;”; and

23 (5) in subsection (d)(3), by inserting “or Trib-
24 al” after “State”.

1 (b) MATCHING GRANTS.—Section 502 of the Agricul-
2 tural Credit Act of 1987 (7 U.S.C. 5102) is amended—

3 (1) in the section heading, by inserting “**AND**
4 **TRIBES**” after “**STATES**”;

5 (2) in subsection (b)(2), by striking “\$500,000”
6 and inserting “\$700,000”; and

7 (3) by inserting “or Tribe” after “State” each
8 place it appears.

9 (c) DUTIES OF THE SECRETARY.—Section
10 503(a)(1)(A) of the Agricultural Credit Act of 1987 (7
11 U.S.C. 5103(a)(1)(A)) is amended by inserting “or Trib-
12 al” after “State”.

13 (d) REGULATIONS.—Section 504 of the Agricultural
14 Credit Act of 1987 (7 U.S.C. 5104) is amended, in the
15 second sentence—

16 (1) by inserting “or Tribes” after “States”; and

17 (2) by inserting “or Tribe” after “State”.

18 (e) DEFINITIONS.—Subtitle A of title V of the Agri-
19 cultural Credit Act of 1987 (7 U.S.C. 5101 et seq.) is
20 amended—

21 (1) by redesignating section 506 as section 507;

22 and

23 (2) by inserting after section 505 the following:

24 **“SEC. 506. DEFINITIONS.**

25 “In this subtitle:

1 “(1) INSULAR AREA.—The term ‘insular area’
2 means—

3 “(A) the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico;

4 “(B) Guam;

5 “(C) America Samoa;

6 “(D) the Commonwealth of the Northern
7 Mariana Islands;

8 “(E) the Federated States of Micronesia;

9 “(F) the Republic of the Marshall Islands;

10 “(G) the Republic of Palau; and

11 “(H) the Virgin Islands of the United
12 States.

13 “(2) STATE.—The term ‘State’ means—

14 “(A) a State;

15 “(B) the District of Columbia; and

16 “(C) any insular area.

17 “(3) TRIBE.—The term ‘Tribe’ has the mean-
18 ing given the term ‘Indian Tribe’ in section 4 of the
19 Indian Self-Determination and Education Assistance
20 Act (25 U.S.C. 5304).”.

21 (f) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—Section
22 507 of the Agricultural Credit Act of 1987 (as redesign-
23 nated by subsection (e)(1)) is amended by inserting “and
24 \$10,000,000 for each of fiscal years 2025 through 2029”
25 after “2023”.

1 (g) CONFORMING AMENDMENTS.—

2 (1) Title V of the Agricultural Credit Act of
3 1987 (7 U.S.C. 5101 et seq.) is amended—

4 (A) in the title heading, by striking
5 “**STATE**” and inserting “**QUALIFYING**”;
6 and

7 (B) in subtitle A, in the subtitle heading,
8 by striking “**State**” and inserting “**Quali-**
9 **fyng**”.

10 (2) Section 4.14E of the Farm Credit Act of
11 1971 (12 U.S.C. 2202E) is amended by inserting
12 “or Indian Tribe (as defined in section 4 of the In-
13 dian Self-Determination and Education Assistance
14 Act (25 U.S.C. 5304))” before the period at the end.

15 (3) Section 358 of the Consolidated Farm and
16 Rural Development Act (7 U.S.C. 2006) is amended
17 by inserting “or Indian Tribe (as defined in section
18 4 of the Indian Self-Determination and Education
19 Assistance Act (25 U.S.C. 5304))” before the period
20 at the end.

21 **SEC. 5503. FINANCING FOR ESSENTIAL RURAL COMMUNITY**
22 **FACILITIES.**

23 Title IV of the Farm Credit Act of 1971 (12 U.S.C.
24 2153 et seq.) is amended by adding at the end the fol-
25 lowing:

1 **“PART H—SUPPORT FOR RURAL AND TRIBAL**
2 **ESSENTIAL COMMUNITY FACILITIES PROJECTS**
3 **“SEC. 4.40. ESSENTIAL COMMUNITY FACILITIES.**

4 “(a) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

5 “(1) ESSENTIAL COMMUNITY FACILITY.—

6 “(A) IN GENERAL.—The term ‘essential
7 community facility’ means a public improve-
8 ment that—

9 “(i) is owned by 1 or more—

10 “(I) Indian Tribes or Tribal or-
11 ganizations;

12 “(II) towns, cities, counties, or
13 other political subdivisions of States,
14 Indian Tribes, or Tribal organiza-
15 tions; or

16 “(III) nonprofit organizations,
17 including Native Hawaiian Organiza-
18 tions (as defined in section 6207 of
19 the Elementary and Secondary Edu-
20 cation Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 7517));
21 and

22 “(ii) is needed for the orderly develop-
23 ment of a rural community.

24 “(B) INCLUSIONS.—

25 “(i) IN GENERAL.—The term ‘essen-
26 tial community facility’ includes a commu-

1 nity center, a library, a firehouse, a
2 healthcare facility, a senior living facility, a
3 childcare facility, an education facility, and
4 a transportation facility.

5 “(ii) PROPORTIONATE USE.—The
6 term ‘essential community facility’ may in-
7 clude, at the determination of the Farm
8 Credit Administration, a multi-use facility
9 that provides services, including healthcare
10 services, senior living services, childcare
11 services, education services, or transpor-
12 tation services, in the proportion that—

13 “(I) the use of the applicable fa-
14 cility to provide such services; bears to

15 “(II) all other uses of the facility.

16 “(2) INDIAN TRIBE.—The term ‘Indian Tribe’
17 has the meaning given the term in section 4 of the
18 Indian Self-Determination and Education Assistance
19 Act (25 U.S.C. 5304).

20 “(3) RURAL COMMUNITY.—The term ‘rural
21 community’ means any area other than an area de-
22 scribed in clause (i) or (ii) of section 343(a)(13)(A)
23 of the Consolidated Farm and Rural Development
24 Act (7 U.S.C. 1991(a)(13)(A)).

1 “(4) TRIBAL ORGANIZATION.—The term ‘Tribal
2 organization’ has the meaning given the term in sec-
3 tion 4 of the Indian Self-Determination and Edu-
4 cation Assistance Act (25 U.S.C. 5304).

5 “(b) FINANCING AND TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE.—In
6 order to make available private capital to develop, build,
7 maintain, improve, or provide related equipment or other
8 support for essential community facilities in rural commu-
9 nities, Farm Credit System institutions chartered and op-
10 erating under title I, II, or III may provide financing and
11 technical assistance for essential community facilities.

12 “(c) LIMITATIONS.—

13 “(1) AMOUNT OF FINANCING.—A Farm Credit
14 System institution shall not provide financing under
15 this section in an aggregate amount that exceeds 15
16 percent of the total of all outstanding loans of the
17 Farm Credit System institution.

18 “(2) OFFER REQUIREMENT.—

19 “(A) IN GENERAL.—A Farm Credit Sys-
20 tem institution shall not provide financing
21 under this section unless the Farm Credit Sys-
22 tem institution has—

23 “(i) offered, under reasonable terms
24 and conditions acceptable to the owner of
25 the essential community facility involved,

1 an interest in the financing to at least 1
2 nongovernmental lending institution that is
3 not chartered and operating under this
4 Act; and

5 “(ii) reported that offer, including the
6 terms and conditions of the offer, to the
7 Farm Credit Administration.

8 “(B) RURAL COMMUNITY BANK PARITY.—
9 In offering an interest in the applicable financ-
10 ing to a nongovernmental lending institution
11 under subparagraph (A)(i), the Farm Credit
12 System institution shall give priority to commu-
13 nity banks located in the service area of the es-
14 sential community facility being financed.

15 “(d) REPORT TO CONGRESS.—

16 “(1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 2 years
17 after the date of enactment of this section, and an-
18 nually thereafter, the Farm Credit Administration
19 shall submit to Congress a report on the activities
20 undertaken pursuant to this section by Farm Credit
21 System institutions during the period covered by the
22 report, including activities undertaken through part-
23 nerships between Farm Credit System institutions
24 and other nongovernmental lending institutions.

1 “(2) PUBLICATION.—The Farm Credit Admin-
2 istration shall publish on the website of the Adminis-
3 tration a copy of each report submitted to Congress
4 under paragraph (1).”.

5 **SEC. 5504. QUALIFIED LOAN DEFINITION.**

6 Section 8.0(7) of the Farm Credit Act of 1971 (12
7 U.S.C. 2279aa(7)) is amended—

8 (1) in subparagraph (B)—

9 (A) in the matter preceding clause (i), by
10 striking “pursuant to the Consolidated Farm
11 and Rural Development Act (7 U.S.C. 1921 et
12 seq.)”; and

13 (B) in clause (ii), by striking “or” at the
14 end;

15 (2) in subparagraph (C)—

16 (A) by striking “for an electric or tele-
17 phone facility by a cooperative lender to a bor-
18 rower that has received, or is eligible to receive,
19 a loan under” and inserting “made or guaran-
20 teed for a purpose provided in”; and

21 (B) by striking the period at the end and
22 inserting “or title IX of the Farm Security and
23 Rural Investment Act of 2002 (7 U.S.C. 8101
24 et seq.); or”; and

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

1 “(D) that is a loan, or an interest in a
2 loan, to a borrower residing in the United
3 States for aggregating, processing, manufac-
4 turing, storing, transporting, wholesaling, or
5 distributing an agricultural commodity or prod-
6 uct within the United States.”.

7 **SEC. 5505. ELIGIBILITY FOR WATER AND WASTEWATER DIS-**
8 **POSAL FACILITY LOANS.**

9 Section 3.7(f) of the Farm Credit Act of 1971 (12
10 U.S.C. 2128(f)) is amended, in the undesignated matter
11 following paragraph (2), by inserting “or, in the case of
12 such loans, commitments, and assistance that are guaran-
13 teed, means an area described in section 343(a)(13)(A)
14 of the Consolidated Farm and Rural Development Act (7
15 U.S.C. 1991(a)(13)(A))” before the period at the end.

16 **TITLE VI—RURAL**
17 **DEVELOPMENT**
18 **Subtitle A—Rural Healthcare and**
19 **Childcare**

20 **SEC. 6101. IMPROVING RURAL HEALTHCARE.**

21 Section 6101 of the Agriculture Improvement Act of
22 2018 (Public Law 115–334; 132 Stat. 4725) is amend-
23 ed—

24 (1) in the section heading, by striking “**COM-**
25 **BATING SUBSTANCE USE DISORDER IN RURAL**

1 **AMERICA**” and inserting “**IMPROVING THE**
2 **RURAL CARE ECONOMY**”; and

3 (2) in subsection (a), by striking the subsection
4 designation and heading and all that follows through
5 period at the end of paragraph (1) and inserting the
6 following:

7 “(a) **IMPROVING RURAL HEALTHCARE.**—

8 “(1) **IMPROVING RURAL HEALTHCARE AC-**
9 **CESS.**—

10 “(A) **PRIORITIZATIONS.**—The Secretary
11 shall make the following prioritizations for fis-
12 cal years 2025 through 2031:

13 “(i) **DISTANCE LEARNING AND TELE-**
14 **MEDICINE.**—In addition to the priorities
15 under section 2333(d) of the Food, Agri-
16 culture, Conservation, and Trade Act of
17 1990 (7 U.S.C. 950aaa–2(d)), in selecting
18 recipients of financial assistance under
19 chapter 1 of subtitle D of title XXIII of
20 that Act (7 U.S.C. 950aaa et seq.), the
21 Secretary shall give priority to telemedicine
22 projects that—

23 “(I) provide substance use dis-
24 order prevention services, treatment

1 services, recovery services, or any
2 combination of those services; or

3 “(II) provide mental or behav-
4 ioral health services.

5 “(ii) COMMUNITY FACILITIES DIRECT
6 LOANS AND GRANTS.—

7 “(I) IN GENERAL.—In selecting
8 recipients of direct loans or grants for
9 the development of essential commu-
10 nity facilities under section 306(a) of
11 the Consolidated Farm and Rural De-
12 velopment Act (7 U.S.C. 1926(a)), the
13 Secretary shall give priority to entities
14 eligible for those direct loans or
15 grants to develop—

16 “(aa) healthcare facilities; or

17 “(bb) mental or behavioral
18 health facilities, including cer-
19 tified community behavioral
20 health clinics described in section
21 223 of the Protecting Access to
22 Medicare Act of 2014 (42 U.S.C.
23 1396a note; Public Law 113–93).

24 “(II) USE OF FUNDS.—In addi-
25 tion to the eligible uses of direct loans

1 or grants for the development of es-
2 sential community facilities under sec-
3 tion 306(a) of the Consolidated Farm
4 and Rural Development Act (7 U.S.C.
5 1926(a)), an entity described in sub-
6 clause (I) that receives a direct loan
7 or grant for a purpose described in
8 that subclause may use the direct loan
9 or grant funds for—

10 “(aa) providing medical sup-
11 plies to increase medical surge
12 capacity;

13 “(bb) increasing telehealth
14 capabilities, including underlying
15 healthcare information systems;

16 “(cc) supporting staffing
17 needs of the facility described in
18 that subclause, subject to the
19 condition that the eligible entity
20 shall not use more than 25 per-
21 cent of the direct loan or grant
22 funds for the purpose described
23 in this item; and

24 “(dd) engaging in any other
25 efforts to support rural develop-

1 ment determined to be critical to
2 address the healthcare or mental
3 or behavioral health needs of
4 rural areas, as determined by the
5 Secretary.

6 “(B) LIMITATION ON OTHER
7 REPRIORITIZATIONS.—For fiscal years 2025
8 through 2031, the Secretary shall not make any
9 national reprioritizations within the Community
10 Facilities direct loan and grant programs or the
11 Distance Learning and Telemedicine programs
12 under section 608 of the Rural Development
13 Act of 1972 (7 U.S.C. 2204b-2).”.

14 **SEC. 6102. IMPROVING RURAL CHILDCARE.**

15 (a) IN GENERAL.—Section 6101(a) of the Agri-
16 culture Improvement Act of 2018 (Public Law 115-334;
17 132 Stat. 4725) (as amended by section 6101(2)) is
18 amended by striking paragraph (2) and inserting the fol-
19 lowing:

20 “(2) IMPROVING CHILDCARE IN RURAL
21 AMERICA.—

22 “(A) DEFINITION OF CHILDCARE PRO-
23 GRAM.—

1 “(i) IN GENERAL.—In this paragraph,
2 the term ‘childcare program’ means a pro-
3 gram that—

4 “(I) provides quality care and
5 early education for children who—

6 “(aa) are in elementary
7 school or secondary school (as
8 those terms are defined in section
9 8101 of the Elementary and Sec-
10 ondary Education Act of 1965
11 (20 U.S.C. 7801)); or

12 “(bb) have not yet entered
13 elementary school (as so defined);
14 and

15 “(II) is operated by—

16 “(aa) an eligible childcare
17 provider described in section
18 658P(6)(A) of the Child Care
19 and Development Block Grant
20 Act of 1990 (42 U.S.C.
21 9858n(6)(A)); or

22 “(bb) a childcare provider
23 that, on the date of enactment of
24 this Act—

1 “(AA) is licensed, regu-
2 lated, or registered in the
3 State, territory, or Indian
4 Tribe in which the provider
5 is located; and

6 “(BB) meets applicable
7 State, Tribal, territorial, and
8 local health and safety re-
9 quirements.

10 “(ii) INCLUSIONS.—In this paragraph,
11 the term ‘childcare program’ includes—

12 “(I) a school-based program de-
13 scribed in clause (i);

14 “(II) a program described in
15 clause (i) that accommodates non-
16 traditional working hours;

17 “(III) a program described in
18 clause (i) that is an Early Head Start
19 or Head Start program, including a
20 migrant and seasonal Head Start pro-
21 gram, carried out under the Head
22 Start Act (42 U.S.C. 9831 et seq.);

23 “(IV) a facility used for a pro-
24 gram described in clause (i); and

1 “(V) a service provided under a
2 program described in clause (i).

3 “(B) PRIORITIZATIONS.—The Secretary
4 shall make the following prioritizations for fis-
5 cal years 2025 through 2031:

6 “(i) COMMUNITY FACILITIES DIRECT
7 LOANS AND GRANTS.—

8 “(I) IN GENERAL.—In addition
9 to the priorities described in para-
10 graph (1)(A)(ii), in selecting recipi-
11 ents of direct loans or grants for the
12 development of essential community
13 facilities under section 306(a) of the
14 Consolidated Farm and Rural Devel-
15 opment Act (7 U.S.C. 1926(a)), the
16 Secretary shall give priority to entities
17 eligible for those direct loans or
18 grants to develop facilities used for a
19 childcare program, subject to the con-
20 dition that the childcare program that
21 uses those facilities shall employ staff
22 that have appropriate expertise and
23 training in childcare.

24 “(II) USE OF FUNDS.—In addi-
25 tion to the eligible uses of direct loans

1 or grants for the development of es-
2 sential community facilities under sec-
3 tion 306(a) of the Consolidated Farm
4 and Rural Development Act (7 U.S.C.
5 1926(a)), an entity described in sub-
6 clause (I) that receives a direct loan
7 or grant for the purpose described in
8 that subclause may use the direct loan
9 or grant funds to support the staffing
10 needs of the facility described in that
11 subclause, subject to the condition
12 that the eligible entity shall not use
13 more than 25 percent of the direct
14 loan or grant funds for staffing pur-
15 poses.

16 “(ii) RURAL BUSINESS PROGRAMS.—
17 In selecting recipients of financial assist-
18 ance under the rural business development
19 grant program under section 310B(c) of
20 the Consolidated Farm and Rural Develop-
21 ment Act (7 U.S.C. 1932(c)), the rural co-
22 operative development grant program
23 under section 310B(e) of that Act (7
24 U.S.C. 1932(e)), the rural microentre-
25 preneur assistance program under section

1 379E of that Act (7 U.S.C. 2008s), and
2 the rural innovation stronger economy
3 (RISE) grant program under section 379I
4 of that Act (7 U.S.C. 2008w), the Sec-
5 retary may give priority to entities eligible
6 for financial assistance under those sec-
7 tions—

8 “(I) to provide technical or finan-
9 cial assistance for the acquisition, con-
10 struction, renovation, or improvement
11 of facilities used for a childcare pro-
12 gram;

13 “(II) to provide technical, finan-
14 cial, or managerial assistance to
15 childcare programs;

16 “(III) to assist in securing pri-
17 vate sources of capital financing for
18 childcare programs or other low-in-
19 come community development; or

20 “(IV) to address the needs of li-
21 censed childcare programs located in
22 the home of the childcare program
23 provider.

24 “(C) EVALUATION.—Not later than 2
25 years after the date of enactment of the Rural

1 Prosperity and Food Security Act of 2024, the
2 Secretary shall conduct a comprehensive quan-
3 titative and qualitative evaluation of the
4 projects carried out under this paragraph to im-
5 prove access to childcare programs in rural
6 areas, including a description of—

7 “(i) the types of projects carried out
8 under this paragraph;

9 “(ii) the communities in which those
10 projects are carried out;

11 “(iii) the organizations and entities
12 participating in those projects;

13 “(iv) the types of partnerships devel-
14 oped to carry out those projects; and

15 “(v) the economic and social impacts
16 of investments in rural childcare pro-
17 grams.”.

18 (b) INTERAGENCY COORDINATION ON RURAL
19 CHILDCARE.—Beginning not later than 180 days after the
20 date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary and the Sec-
21 retary of Health and Human Services shall—

22 (1) regularly coordinate to provide user-friendly
23 resources to stakeholders in rural communities with
24 information to improve access to childcare facilities

1 in those communities, including information relating
2 to—

3 (A) programs and funding opportunities at
4 the Department of Agriculture and the Depart-
5 ment of Health and Human Services that can
6 be used to improve childcare access in rural
7 communities;

8 (B) eligibility requirements for the pro-
9 grams described in subparagraph (A); and

10 (C) considerations in leveraging Federal
11 resources; and

12 (2) not less frequently than once every 2 years,
13 publish or update a joint resource guide that con-
14 tains the information described in paragraph (1).

15 **SEC. 6103. ACCESS TO CREDIT FOR RURAL HEALTHCARE**
16 **AND CHILDCARE.**

17 Section 6101 of the Agriculture Improvement Act of
18 2018 (Public Law 115–334; 132 Stat. 4725) is amended
19 by adding at the end the following:

20 “(c) ACCESS TO CREDIT FOR CARE INDUSTRIES.—
21 Of the amount made available for business and industry
22 guaranteed loans under section 310B(g) of the Consoli-
23 dated Farm and Rural Development Act (7 U.S.C.
24 1932(g)) for each of fiscal years 2025 through 2031, the
25 Secretary shall make available not less than 10 percent

1 for supporting childcare programs (as defined in sub-
2 section (a)(2)(A)) and healthcare.”.

3 **Subtitle B—Rural Partnerships**
4 **and Prosperity**

5 **SEC. 6201. DEFINITIONS.**

6 In this subtitle:

7 (1) INDIAN TRIBE.—The term “Indian Tribe”
8 means an Indian Tribe or Tribal organization (as
9 those terms are defined in section 4 of the Indian
10 Self-Determination and Education Assistance Act
11 (25 U.S.C. 5304)), including a wholly or majority
12 owned Tribal entity or corporation that provides
13 services or programs consistent with the purposes of
14 the applicable program under this subtitle.

15 (2) RURAL; RURAL AREA.—The terms “rural”
16 and “rural area” have the meaning given those
17 terms in section 343(a)(13)(A) of the Consolidated
18 Farm and Rural Development Act (7 U.S.C.
19 1991(a)(13)(A)).

20 **SEC. 6202. RURAL PARTNERSHIP PROGRAM GRANTS.**

21 (a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall establish a
22 program to make multiyear grant awards to coordinate
23 Federal, nonprofit, and for-profit investment in rural
24 areas.

25 (b) GRANT REQUIREMENTS.—

1 (1) TERM.—The term of a grant awarded
2 under subsection (a) shall be not less than 2 years
3 and not more than 5 years.

4 (2) AWARDS.—Except as provided in para-
5 graphs (3) and (4), the State offices of the rural de-
6 velopment mission area shall be responsible for re-
7 viewing applications for grant awards under sub-
8 section (a) and selecting eligible applicants described
9 in subsection (d) for those grant awards.

10 (3) TRIBAL AWARDS.—Except as provided in
11 paragraph (4), in the case of grants under sub-
12 section (a) allocated to Indian Tribes under sub-
13 section (c)(1)(B), the national office of the rural de-
14 velopment mission area shall be responsible for re-
15 viewing applications for grant awards under sub-
16 section (a) and selecting eligible applicants described
17 in subsection (d) for those grant awards.

18 (4) COMPETITIVE PROCESS.—If the amount
19 made available to carry out this section for a fiscal
20 year under section 6205 is less than \$50,000,000,
21 the national office of the rural development mission
22 area shall be responsible for reviewing applications
23 for grant awards under subsection (a) and selecting
24 eligible applicants described in subsection (d) for
25 those grant awards—

1 (A) on a competitive basis; and

2 (B) by giving priority to areas that have
3 higher nonmetropolitan poverty levels and lower
4 population levels, while ensuring that grants
5 under this section are awarded in diverse geo-
6 graphic regions of the United States.

7 (c) GRANT ALLOCATION.—

8 (1) IN GENERAL.—Except as provided in sub-
9 section (b)(4), the Secretary shall allocate funding
10 for grants under subsection (a)—

11 (A) for each State based on a formula de-
12 termined by the Secretary in accordance with
13 paragraph (2); and

14 (B) for Indian Tribes in such amounts as
15 the Secretary determines to be appropriate,
16 subject to the condition that the total amount
17 allocated to Indian Tribes under this subpara-
18 graph shall not be less than 5 percent of the
19 amount made available to carry out this section
20 for a fiscal year under section 6205, with In-
21 dian Tribes located in areas that have higher
22 poverty levels and lower populations receiving
23 higher levels of funding.

24 (2) ALLOCATION REQUIREMENTS.—

1 (A) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall de-
2 velop a graduated scale to allocate funding for
3 States under paragraph (1)(A) based on the
4 nonmetropolitan poverty and population levels
5 in each State.

6 (B) LIMITATION.—The amount allocated
7 to any State under subparagraph (A) shall not
8 exceed 5 percent of the amount made available
9 to carry out this section for a fiscal year under
10 section 6205.

11 (3) SMALL STATE EXCEPTION TO FORMULA.—
12 Notwithstanding paragraphs (1)(A) and (2)(A), the
13 Secretary shall ensure that each State is allocated
14 an amount for grants under this subsection that is
15 sufficient to fulfill the purposes of the program es-
16 tablished under this section, as determined by the
17 Secretary.

18 (4) REALLOCATION.—If a State or Indian Tribe
19 does not use funds allocated to the State or Indian
20 Tribe under this subsection, the Secretary may re-
21 allocate the unused funds to 1 or more other States
22 or Indian Tribes, each of which has used all of the
23 funding allocated to the State or Indian Tribe under
24 this subsection.

1 (d) ELIGIBLE APPLICANTS.—To be eligible to receive
2 a grant under subsection (a), an applicant shall—

3 (1) propose to serve a rural area;

4 (2) be composed of a partnership of 2 or more
5 of—

6 (A) an instrumentality or political subdivi-
7 sion of a State, such as a municipality, county,
8 district, or authority;

9 (B) a nonprofit corporation or association
10 with significant ties to the rural area described
11 in paragraph (1), including through—

12 (i) association with, or control by, 1
13 or more public bodies in the rural area;

14 (ii) broadly based ownership and con-
15 trol by members of the rural area; or

16 (iii) a substantial public funding con-
17 tribution to the rural area through taxes,
18 revenue bonds, other local government
19 sources, or substantial voluntary commu-
20 nity funding;

21 (C) a cooperative with significant ties to
22 the rural area described in paragraph (1);

23 (D) a for-profit entity with a significant
24 presence in the rural area described in para-
25 graph (1);

1 (E) an institution of higher education—

2 (i) with a significant contribution to
3 or presence in the rural area described in
4 paragraph (1); and

5 (ii) that includes representatives who
6 are members of the rural area; and

7 (F) an Indian Tribe—

8 (i) in a rural area described in para-
9 graph (1); and

10 (ii) with demonstrated support from
11 the Tribal council or duly elected Tribal
12 executive of the appropriate Tribal govern-
13 ment; and

14 (3) demonstrate cooperation among the mem-
15 bers of the partnership described in paragraph (2)
16 necessary to complete comprehensive, asset-based
17 rural development through eligible activities de-
18 scribed in subsection (e).

19 (e) ELIGIBLE ACTIVITIES.—An eligible applicant de-
20 scribed in subsection (d) that receives a grant under sub-
21 section (a) may use the grant funds in rural areas—

22 (1) to coordinate Federal, State, regional, or
23 Tribal initiatives to reduce duplicative efforts with
24 respect to Federal investments;

1 (2) to leverage non-Federal financial and tech-
2 nical resources;

3 (3) to complete comprehensive predevelopment
4 activities and planning;

5 (4) to create public-private partnerships and at-
6 tract private investment;

7 (5) to support eligible operational activities, in-
8 cluding staffing, of the eligible applicants, except
9 that a for-profit entity may not use the grant funds
10 for the purpose described in this paragraph;

11 (6) to provide capital to existing or new
12 projects, subject to the condition that not more than
13 50 percent of the grant funds may be used for that
14 purpose;

15 (7) to support regional projects and initiatives;

16 (8) to address economic recovery from emer-
17 gencies and natural or man-made disasters; and

18 (9) to develop strategic community investment
19 plans described in section 379H(d) of the Consoli-
20 dated Farm and Rural Development Act (7 U.S.C.
21 2008v(d)).

22 (f) INELIGIBLE ACTIVITIES.—An eligible applicant
23 described in subsection (d) that receives a grant under
24 subsection (a) may not use the grant funds—

1 (1) to fund operational activities, including
2 staffing, at a for-profit institution;

3 (2) to purchase or lease real property; or

4 (3) to support a non-rural area.

5 (g) SELECTION CRITERIA.—In awarding grants
6 under subsection (b), the Secretary shall give priority to
7 an eligible applicant described in subsection (d) that pro-
8 poses to serve—

9 (1) a rural area with a significant change in
10 population, as determined by the Secretary;

11 (2) a rural area with significant workforce
12 changes or changes in major employers, as deter-
13 mined by the Secretary;

14 (3) an economically distressed rural area, as de-
15 termined by the Secretary;

16 (4) a rural area that has historically received
17 minimal Federal funding, as determined by the Sec-
18 retary; or

19 (5) a rural area for the purpose of job retention
20 and economic stabilization, as determined by the
21 Secretary.

22 (h) MATCHING FUNDS.—

23 (1) IN GENERAL.—Subject to paragraph (2), an
24 eligible applicant described in subsection (d) that re-
25 ceives a grant under subsection (a) shall provide

1 non-Federal matching funds in the form of cash or
2 an in-kind contribution in an amount that is not less
3 than 25 percent of the amount of the grant.

4 (2) WAIVER.—

5 (A) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary may
6 waive the requirement under paragraph (1)
7 based on the demonstrated need of the eligible
8 applicant or the population served by the eligi-
9 ble applicant, as determined by the Secretary,
10 including—

11 (i) an eligible applicant serving an
12 area with a higher nonmetropolitan poverty
13 level;

14 (ii) an eligible applicant serving a
15 Tribal population; and

16 (iii) an eligible applicant composed of
17 a partnership that includes an entity de-
18 scribed in subsection (d)(2)(A).

19 (B) JUSTIFICATION.—The Secretary shall
20 provide to the Committee on Agriculture of the
21 House of Representatives and the Committee
22 on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry of the
23 Senate a justification for each waiver provided
24 under subparagraph (A).

1 (3) PROVIDERS.—Non-Federal matching funds
2 under paragraph (1) may be provided by any mem-
3 ber of the applicable partnership described in sub-
4 section (d)(2).

5 (i) COORDINATION.—The Secretary shall carry out
6 this section in coordination with the Rural Partners Net-
7 work established by section 6306 of the Agriculture Im-
8 provement Act of 2018 (7 U.S.C. 2204b–3).

9 (j) ADMINISTRATION.—The Secretary may retain not
10 more than 2 percent of the amounts made available to
11 carry out this section for administration of the program
12 established under this section.

13 **SEC. 6203. RURAL PARTNERSHIP TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE**
14 **GRANTS.**

15 (a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall establish a
16 program to award grants, on a competitive basis, for up
17 to a 5-year period, to be administered at the national level
18 through the Under Secretary for Rural Development, for
19 the purpose of advising on and assisting rural community
20 organizations with—

21 (1) Federal grant management and the develop-
22 ment of financial management systems;

23 (2) housing or community economic develop-
24 ment projects; and

1 (3) the development of placemaking plans and
2 applications for Federal grants.

3 (b) ELIGIBLE APPLICANTS.—To be eligible to receive
4 a grant under subsection (a), an applicant shall be a quali-
5 fied private or nonprofit intermediary organization, includ-
6 ing an institution of higher education with an existing
7 community development and planning program, including
8 an extension program, that has demonstrated experience
9 and capacity to provide technical assistance on community
10 development and planning in rural areas.

11 (c) ELIGIBLE ACTIVITIES.—An eligible applicant de-
12 scribed in subsection (b) that receives a grant under sub-
13 section (a) may use the grant funds to support the capac-
14 ity building and economic development of identified rural
15 areas and local partners in those rural areas through one
16 or more of the following activities:

17 (1) Training and supporting local staff, includ-
18 ing relating to systems development and support.

19 (2) Identifying vetted technical consultants for
20 planning and designing physical infrastructure.

21 (3) Facilitating coordination between Federal
22 agencies and local partners.

23 (4) Providing expertise on developing public-pri-
24 vate partnerships.

1 (5) Development and project predevelopment
2 activities.

3 (6) Grant writing and grant management ac-
4 tivities.

5 (d) INELIGIBLE ACTIVITIES.—An eligible applicant
6 described in subsection (b) that receives a grant under
7 subsection (a) may not use the grant funds—

8 (1) to fund staffing at a for-profit entity;

9 (2) to purchase or lease real property, build-
10 ings, or equipment;

11 (3) to support a non-rural area; or

12 (4) for research and development.

13 (e) PRIORITY.—In awarding grants under subsection
14 (a), the Secretary may give priority to an eligible applicant
15 described in subsection (b) that serves—

16 (1) a nonmetropolitan area with a high poverty
17 level, as determined by the Secretary; or

18 (2) an Indian Tribe with demonstrated support
19 from the Tribal council or duly elected Tribal execu-
20 tive of the appropriate Tribal government.

21 (f) MATCHING FUNDS.—

22 (1) IN GENERAL.—Subject to paragraph (2), an
23 eligible applicant described in subsection (b) that re-
24 ceives a grant under subsection (a) shall provide

1 non-Federal matching funds in an amount that is
2 not less than 30 percent of the amount of the grant.

3 (2) WAIVER.—

4 (A) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary may
5 waive the requirement under paragraph (1)
6 based on the demonstrated need of the area in
7 which activities using the grant are to be car-
8 ried out, as determined by the Secretary.

9 (B) JUSTIFICATION.—The Secretary shall
10 provide to the Committee on Agriculture of the
11 House of Representatives and the Committee
12 on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry of the
13 Senate a justification for each waiver provided
14 under subparagraph (A).

15 (g) ADMINISTRATION.—The Secretary may retain not
16 more than 2 percent of the amounts made available to
17 carry out this section for administration of the program
18 established under this section.

19 **SEC. 6204. RURAL PARTNERS NETWORK.**

20 Section 6306 of the Agriculture Improvement Act of
21 2018 (7 U.S.C. 2204b–3) is amended—

22 (1) in the section heading, by striking “**COUN-**
23 **CIL ON RURAL COMMUNITY INNOVATION AND**
24 **ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT**” and inserting
25 “**RURAL PARTNERS NETWORK**”;

1 (2) in subsection (a)(1), by striking “council”
2 and inserting “network”;

3 (3) by striking subsection (b) and inserting the
4 following:

5 “(b) ESTABLISHMENT.—

6 “(1) IN GENERAL.—There is established a
7 Rural Partners Network (referred to in this section
8 as the ‘Network’).

9 “(2) SUCCESSOR.—The Network shall be the
10 successor to the Council on Rural Community Inno-
11 vation and Economic Development established by
12 this section (as in effect on the day before the date
13 of enactment of the Rural Prosperity and Food Se-
14 curity Act of 2024).”;

15 (4) in subsection (c)—

16 (A) in paragraph (1)—

17 (i) by striking subparagraphs (C),
18 (D), (N), (Q), (R), (S), (T), (V), (X), (Y),
19 and (Z);

20 (ii) by redesignating subparagraphs
21 (E) through (M), (O), (P), (U), (W), and
22 (AA) as subparagraphs (C) through (K),
23 (L), (M), (N), (O), and (X), respectively;
24 and

1 (iii) by inserting after subparagraph

2 (O) (as so redesignated) the following:

3 “(P) The Federal Deposit Insurance Cor-
4 poration.

5 “(Q) The Appalachian Regional Commis-
6 sion.

7 “(R) The Consumer Financial Protection
8 Bureau.

9 “(S) The Social Security Administration.

10 “(T) The Delta Regional Authority.

11 “(U) The Denali Commission.

12 “(V) The Northern Border Regional Com-
13 mission.

14 “(W) The Southeast Crescent Regional
15 Commission.”; and

16 (B) in paragraphs (2) through (4), by
17 striking “Council” each place it appears and in-
18 serting “Network”;

19 (5) by striking subsection (d);

20 (6) by redesignating subsections (e) through (h)
21 as subsections (d) through (g), respectively;

22 (7) in subsection (d) (as so redesignated)—

23 (A) in the subsection heading, by striking
24 “COUNCIL” and inserting “NETWORK”;

1 (B) in the matter preceding paragraph (1),
2 by striking “Council” and inserting “Network”;

3 (C) in paragraph (2), by striking “and” at
4 the end;

5 (D) in paragraph (3), by striking the pe-
6 riod at the end and inserting “; and”; and

7 (E) by adding at the end the following:

8 “(4) to improve the efficiency of Federal assist-
9 ance to rural communities by—

10 “(A) reducing administrative burdens on
11 rural communities to pursue Federal funding;

12 “(B) improving the administrative effi-
13 ciency of Federal economic development pro-
14 grams serving rural communities; and

15 “(C) streamlining and simplifying the ap-
16 plication process for Federal funding opportuni-
17 ties for rural communities.”;

18 (8) in subsection (e) (as so redesignated), in the
19 matter preceding paragraph (1), by striking “Coun-
20 cil” and inserting “Network”;

21 (9) in subsection (f) (as so redesignated), by
22 striking “Council” each place it appears and insert-
23 ing “Network”; and

24 (10) by striking subsection (g) (as so redesign-
25 ated) and inserting the following:

1 “(g) INNOVATIVE CROSS-AGENCY COORDINATION.—

2 “(1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary, acting as
3 Chair of the Network, may carry out innovative
4 strategies for coordinating with other Federal de-
5 partments and agencies with respect to programs
6 that serve rural areas.

7 “(2) PRIORITIES.—In carrying out paragraph
8 (1), the Secretary shall prioritize—

9 “(A) improving ease of access to Federal
10 programs for resource-constrained rural com-
11 munities;

12 “(B) utilizing early technical assistance to
13 reduce duplicative applications and administra-
14 tive costs at the Federal level;

15 “(C) leveraging partnerships with local,
16 State, philanthropic, and private entities to
17 maximize returns on Federal investments;

18 “(D) integrating stakeholder and program
19 user experience into program design; and

20 “(E) targeting areas experiencing economic
21 distress, as determined by the Secretary.”.

22 **SEC. 6205. FUNDING.**

23 (a) MANDATORY FUNDING.—There is appropriated,
24 out of amounts in the Treasury not otherwise appro-

1 priated, \$100,000,000 for fiscal year 2025 and each fiscal
2 year thereafter to carry out—

3 (1) sections 6201 through 6203; and

4 (2) section 6306 of the Agriculture Improve-
5 ment Act of 2018 (7 U.S.C. 2204b-3).

6 (b) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—In addi-
7 tion to the funds made available under subsection (a),
8 there are authorized to be appropriated such sums as nec-
9 essary for each of fiscal years 2025 through 2029 to carry
10 out—

11 (1) sections 6201 through 6203; and

12 (2) section 6306 of the Agriculture Improve-
13 ment Act of 2018 (7 U.S.C. 2204b-3).

14 (c) LIMITATION.—Of the funds made available by
15 and pursuant to subsections (a) and (b), respectively, for
16 a fiscal year—

17 (1) not more than 25 percent may be used to
18 carry out section 6203; and

19 (2) not more than 5 percent may be used to
20 carry out section 6306 of the Agriculture Improve-
21 ment Act of 2018 (7 U.S.C. 2204b-3).

1 **Subtitle C—Rural Electrification**
2 **Act of 1936**

3 **PART I—RURAL BROADBAND ACCESS**

4 **SEC. 6301. RECONNECT PROGRAM.**

5 (a) IN GENERAL.—Section 601 of the Rural Elec-
6 trification Act of 1936 (7 U.S.C. 950bb) is amended—

7 (1) by striking the section designation and
8 heading and all that follows through the period at
9 the end of subsection (f) and inserting the following:

10 **“SEC. 601. RECONNECT PROGRAM.**

11 “(a) PURPOSE.—The purpose of this section is to
12 provide assistance in the form of grants, loans, and com-
13 binations of grants and loans for the costs of the construc-
14 tion, improvement, and acquisition of facilities and equip-
15 ment for broadband service in rural areas.

16 “(b) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

17 “(1) BROADBAND SERVICE.—The term
18 ‘broadband service’ means any technology identified
19 by the Secretary as having the capacity to transmit
20 data to enable a subscriber to the service to origi-
21 nate and receive high-quality voice, data, graphics,
22 and video.

23 “(2) RURAL AREA.—

24 “(A) IN GENERAL.—The term ‘rural area’
25 means any area other than—

1 “(i) an area described in clause (i) or
2 (ii) of section 343(a)(13)(A) of the Con-
3 solidated Farm and Rural Development
4 Act (7 U.S.C. 1991(a)(13)(A)); and

5 “(ii) a city, town, or incorporated area
6 that has a population of greater than
7 20,000 inhabitants.

8 “(B) URBAN AREA GROWTH.—The Sec-
9 retary may, by regulation only, consider an area
10 described in section 343(a)(13)(F)(i)(I) of that
11 Act to not be a rural area for purposes of this
12 section.

13 “(C) EXCLUSION OF CERTAIN POPU-
14 LATIONS.—The term ‘rural area’ does not in-
15 clude any population described in subparagraph
16 (H) or (I) of section 343(a)(13) of the Consoli-
17 dated Farm and Rural Development Act (7
18 U.S.C. 1991(a)(13)).

19 “(c) GRANTS, LOANS, AND COMBINATIONS.—

20 “(1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall make
21 grants, loans, and combinations of grants and loans
22 to eligible entities described in subsection (d) to pro-
23 vide funds for the construction, improvement, or ac-
24 quisition of facilities and equipment for the provision
25 of broadband service in rural areas.

1 “(2) PROJECT ELIGIBILITY.—To be eligible for
2 a grant, loan, or grant and loan combination under
3 paragraph (1), in addition to the requirements of
4 subsection (d), the project that is the subject of the
5 grant, loan, or grant and loan combination shall—

6 “(A) provide broadband service of at
7 least—

8 “(i) a 100-Mbps downstream trans-
9 mission capacity; and

10 “(ii) a 100-Mbps upstream trans-
11 mission capacity; and

12 “(B) subject to paragraph (4), be carried
13 out in a proposed service territory in which at
14 least 75 percent of the households lack access
15 to broadband service of at least—

16 “(i) a 100-Mbps downstream trans-
17 mission capacity; and

18 “(ii) a 20-Mbps upstream trans-
19 mission capacity.

20 “(3) PRIORITY.—In making grants, loans, and
21 grant and loan combinations under paragraph (1),
22 the Secretary—

23 “(A) shall give priority to applications for
24 projects to provide broadband service in a pro-
25 posed service territory in which at least 90 per-

1 cent of households lack access to broadband
2 service of at least—

3 “(i) a 100-Mbps downstream trans-
4 mission capacity; and

5 “(ii) a 20-Mbps upstream trans-
6 mission capacity; and

7 “(B) may give priority to applications for
8 projects to provide broadband service—

9 “(i) in proposed service territories—

10 “(I) with a population of less
11 than 10,000 permanent residents;

12 “(II) that are experiencing out-
13 migration and have adopted a stra-
14 tegic community investment plan
15 under section 379H(d) of the Consoli-
16 dated Farm and Rural Development
17 Act (7 U.S.C. 2008v(d)) that includes
18 considerations for improving and ex-
19 panding broadband service;

20 “(III) with a high percentage of
21 low income families or persons (as de-
22 fined in section 501(b) of the Housing
23 Act of 1949 (42 U.S.C. 1471(b));

1 “(IV) that are isolated from
2 other significant population centers;
3 or

4 “(V) that have systems vulner-
5 able to cybersecurity attacks;

6 “(ii) that would ensure that all labor-
7 ers and mechanics employed by contractors
8 or subcontractors on the construction work
9 performed on projects financed, in whole or
10 in part, with the grant, loan, or grant and
11 loan combination shall be paid wages at
12 rates not less than those prevailing on
13 similar construction in the immediate local-
14 ity as determined by the Secretary of
15 Labor in accordance with sections 3141
16 through 3144, 3146, and 3147 of title 40,
17 United States Code;

18 “(iii) that would provide rapid and ex-
19 panded deployment of fixed and mobile
20 broadband service on cropland and ranch-
21 land within the service territory for use in
22 various applications of precision agri-
23 culture; or

24 “(iv) submitted by an eligible entity
25 that has provided broadband service or

1 other utility service for not less than 5
2 years in rural areas in the State in which
3 the project would be carried out.

4 “(4) ADDITIONAL REQUIREMENTS FOR GRANT-
5 ONLY AWARDS.—To be eligible for assistance under
6 paragraph (1) in the form of a grant only, in addi-
7 tion to the requirements of subsection (d)—

8 “(A) an entity shall be—

9 “(i) a federally recognized Indian
10 Tribe or Tribal organization, including any
11 wholly or majority owned Tribal entity or
12 corporation that provides services or pro-
13 grams consistent with the purposes of the
14 program under this section; or

15 “(ii) an entity serving—

16 “(I) a colonia;

17 “(II) a persistent poverty county,
18 as determined by the Secretary; or

19 “(III) a socially vulnerable com-
20 munity, as determined by the Sec-
21 retary; or

22 “(B) the project that is the subject of the
23 grant shall be carried out in a proposed service
24 territory in which at least 90 percent of house-

1 holds lack access to broadband service of at
2 least—

3 “(i) a 100-Mbps downstream trans-
4 mission capacity; and

5 “(ii) a 20-Mbps upstream trans-
6 mission capacity.

7 “(5) APPLICATION COSTS.—An entity to which
8 a grant or grant and loan combination is made
9 under this subsection may use such funding to pay
10 for up to 5 percent of the costs associated with ap-
11 plying for the program under this section.

12 “(d) ELIGIBILITY.—

13 “(1) ELIGIBILITY FOR ASSISTANCE.—

14 “(A) IN GENERAL.—To be eligible to ob-
15 tain a grant, loan, or grant and loan combina-
16 tion under subsection (c), an entity shall—

17 “(i) submit to the Secretary an appli-
18 cation at such time, in such manner, and
19 containing such information as the Sec-
20 retary may require;

21 “(ii) agree to complete buildout of the
22 broadband infrastructure described in the
23 application by not later than 5 years after
24 the initial date on which assistance under
25 subsection (c) is made available; and

1 “(iii) participate or agree to partici-
2 pate in—

3 “(I) the Affordable Connectivity
4 Program established under section
5 904(b) of division N of the Consoli-
6 dated Appropriations Act, 2021 (47
7 U.S.C. 1752(b));

8 “(II) the Lifeline program under
9 subpart E of part 54 of title 47, Code
10 of Federal Regulations (or any suc-
11 cessor regulation); or

12 “(III) any successor Federal
13 internet affordability assistance pro-
14 gram.

15 “(B) INCLUSIONS.—An entity eligible to
16 obtain a grant, loan, or grant and loan com-
17 bination under subsection (c) may include—

18 “(i) a State or local government, in-
19 cluding any agency, subdivision, instru-
20 mentality, or political subdivision of a
21 State or local government;

22 “(ii) a territory or possession of the
23 United States;

24 “(iii) a federally recognized Indian
25 Tribe or Tribal organization, including any

1 wholly or majority owned Tribal entity or
2 corporation that provides services or pro-
3 grams consistent with the purposes of the
4 program under this section;

5 “(iv) a cooperative or mutual organi-
6 zation;

7 “(v) an organization of 2 or more in-
8 corporated areas that have established an
9 intermunicipal legal agreement for the pur-
10 pose of delivering communication services
11 to residents;

12 “(vi) a corporation; and

13 “(vii) a limited liability company or
14 limited liability partnership.

15 “(C) INELIGIBLE ENTITIES.—An indi-
16 vidual or legal general partnership that is
17 formed with individuals shall not be eligible to
18 obtain a grant, loan, or grant and loan com-
19 bination under subsection (c).

20 “(D) LIMITATION.—

21 “(i) IN GENERAL.—An eligible entity
22 described in this paragraph that provides
23 telecommunications or broadband service
24 to at least 20 percent of the households in
25 the United States may not receive an

1 amount of funds under this section for a
2 fiscal year in excess of 15 percent of the
3 funds authorized and appropriated under
4 subsection (i) for the fiscal year.

5 “(ii) STATES AND STATE AGENCIES
6 AND INSTRUMENTALITIES.—A State or an
7 agency or instrumentality of a State may
8 not, in total, receive an amount of funds
9 under this section for a fiscal year in ex-
10 cess of 15 percent of the funds authorized
11 and appropriated under subsection (i) for
12 the fiscal year.

13 “(E) PREVIOUS AWARDS.—

14 “(i) IN GENERAL.—An entity to which
15 a grant or grant and loan combination is
16 made under subsection (c) shall not use
17 the grant or grant and loan combination to
18 deploy broadband service in a service area
19 in which broadband service is deployed by
20 any other entity that has received, prior to
21 the date on which the application window
22 is opened by the Rural Utilities Service
23 with respect to that grant or grant and
24 loan combination, a broadband grant or
25 loan from the Rural Utilities Service, the

1 National Telecommunications and Infor-
2 mation Administration, the Department of
3 the Treasury, the Federal Communications
4 Commission, or a State broadband grant
5 program, unless the service provided by the
6 other entity does not provide to at least 75
7 percent of the households in the service
8 area access to broadband service of at
9 least—

10 “(I) a 100-Mbps downstream
11 transmission capacity; and

12 “(II) a 20-Mbps upstream trans-
13 mission capacity.

14 “(ii) CONSIDERATION.—In carrying
15 out clause (i), the Secretary shall, at a
16 minimum, consider the maps created by
17 the Federal Communications Commission
18 pursuant to section 802(c)(1) of the Com-
19 munications Act of 1934 (47 U.S.C.
20 642(c)(1)).

21 “(2) EQUITY REQUIREMENTS.—

22 “(A) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary may re-
23 quire an entity to provide a cost share in an
24 amount not to exceed 25 percent of the amount
25 of the grant (including the grant in a grant and

1 loan combination) under subsection (c) re-
2 quested in the application of the entity.

3 “(B) WAIVER.—The Secretary may waive
4 the cost share requirement under subparagraph
5 (A) for entities or projects described in sub-
6 section (c)(4).

7 “(3) TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE AND TRAINING.—

8 “(A) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary may
9 provide to eligible entities described in para-
10 graph (1) that are applying for assistance
11 under this section for a project described in
12 subsection (c)(3)(A) technical assistance and
13 training—

14 “(i) to prepare reports and surveys
15 necessary to request grants, loans, and
16 grant and loan combinations under this
17 section for broadband deployment;

18 “(ii) to improve management, includ-
19 ing financial management, relating to the
20 proposed broadband deployment;

21 “(iii) to prepare applications for
22 grants, loans, and grant and loan combina-
23 tions under this section; or

24 “(iv) to assist with other areas of
25 need identified by the Secretary.

1 “(B) FUNDING.—Not less than 3 percent
2 and not more than 5 percent of amounts appro-
3 priated under subsection (i) to carry out this
4 section for a fiscal year shall be used for tech-
5 nical assistance and training under this para-
6 graph.

7 “(e) BROADBAND SERVICE.—

8 “(1) IN GENERAL.—Subject to paragraph (2),
9 for purposes of this section, the minimum acceptable
10 level of broadband service for a rural area shall be
11 at least—

12 “(A) a 100-Mbps downstream transmission
13 capacity; and

14 “(B) a 100-Mbps upstream transmission
15 capacity.

16 “(2) ADJUSTMENTS.—At least once every 2
17 years, the Secretary shall review, and may adjust
18 through notice published in the Federal Register,
19 the minimum acceptable level of broadband service
20 established under paragraph (1) and broadband
21 buildout requirements under paragraph (3) to en-
22 sure that high quality, cost-effective broadband serv-
23 ice is provided to rural areas over time.

24 “(3) BROADBAND BUILDOUT REQUIREMENTS.—

1 “(A) DEFINITION OF BROADBAND BUILD-
2 OUT REQUIREMENT.—In this paragraph, the
3 term ‘broadband buildout requirement’ means
4 the level of internet service an applicant receiv-
5 ing assistance under this section must agree, at
6 the time the application is finalized, to provide
7 for the duration of any project-related agree-
8 ment between the applicant and the Depart-
9 ment.

10 “(B) ESTABLISHMENT OF BROADBAND
11 BUILDOUT REQUIREMENTS.—The Secretary
12 shall establish broadband buildout requirements
13 that—

14 “(i) utilize the same metrics used to
15 define the minimum acceptable level of
16 broadband service under paragraph (1);
17 and

18 “(ii) reasonably ensure—

19 “(I) the repayment of all loans;
20 and

21 “(II) the financed network is
22 technically capable of providing
23 broadband service for the lifetime of
24 any project-related agreement.

1 “(C) SUBSTITUTE SERVICE STANDARDS
2 FOR UNIQUE SERVICE TERRITORIES.—

3 “(i) IN GENERAL.—If an applicant
4 shows that it would be cost prohibitive to
5 meet the broadband buildout requirements
6 established under this paragraph for the
7 entirety of a proposed service territory due
8 to the unique characteristics of the pro-
9 posed service territory, the Secretary and
10 the applicant may agree to utilize sub-
11 stitute standards for any unserved portion
12 of the project.

13 “(ii) REQUIREMENT.—Any substitute
14 service standards described in clause (i)
15 should continue to consider the best tech-
16 nology available to meet the needs of the
17 residents in the unserved area.”;

18 (2) by redesignating subsections (g), (h), and
19 (i) as subsections (f), (g), and (h), respectively;

20 (3) in subsection (f) (as so redesignated)—

21 (A) in the subsection heading, by striking
22 “LOANS AND LOAN GUARANTEES.—” and in-
23 serting “LOANS.—”; and

24 (B) in paragraph (1)—

1 (i) in the matter preceding subpara-
2 graph (A), by striking “or loan guar-
3 antee”; and

4 (ii) in subparagraph (A)—

5 (I) by striking clause (ii);

6 (II) by striking “Secretary—” in
7 the matter preceding clause (i) and all
8 that follows through “in the case” in
9 the matter preceding subclause (I) of
10 clause (i) and inserting “Secretary in
11 the case”; and

12 (III) by redesignating subclauses
13 (I) and (II) as clauses (i) and (ii), re-
14 spectively, and indenting appro-
15 priately;

16 (4) in subsection (g) (as so redesignated), by
17 striking “or loan guarantee” each place it appears;

18 (5) in subsection (h) (as so redesignated), in
19 paragraph (1), by striking “1974)” and inserting
20 “1974 (2 U.S.C. 661a))”; and

21 (6) by striking subsections (j) and (k) and in-
22 serting the following:

23 “(i) FUNDING.—

24 “(1) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—

25 There is authorized to be appropriated to the Sec-

1 retary to carry out subsections (a) through (h)
2 \$650,000,000 for each of fiscal years 2025 through
3 2029, to remain available until expended.

4 “(2) MANDATORY FUNDING.—There is appro-
5 priated to the Secretary, out of amounts in the
6 Treasury not otherwise appropriated, \$100,000,000
7 for fiscal year 2025 and each fiscal year thereafter
8 to carry out subsections (a) through (h), to remain
9 available until expended.

10 “(3) DIRECT FUNDING.—

11 “(A) RESCISSION.—There is rescinded the
12 unobligated balance of amounts made available
13 to carry out section 779 of division A of the
14 Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2018 (Public
15 Law 115–141; 132 Stat. 399).

16 “(B) DIRECT FUNDING.—On the day after
17 the execution of the rescission in subparagraph
18 (A), there is appropriated to the Secretary, out
19 of amounts in the Treasury not otherwise ap-
20 propriated, an amount equal to the amount re-
21 scinded in subparagraph (A), to carry out sub-
22 sections (a) through (h), to remain available
23 until expended.

24 “(4) ADMINISTRATION.—Not more than 5 per-
25 cent of the amounts made available under para-

1 graphs (1) through (3) shall be available to the Sec-
2 retary for the administration of subsections (a)
3 through (h).

4 “(j) ADDITIONAL RURAL BROADBAND PROGRAM
5 LOANS.—

6 “(1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary may provide
7 direct and guaranteed loans in accordance with the
8 requirements under this section, as in effect on the
9 day before the date of enactment of the Rural Pros-
10 perity and Food Security Act of 2024.

11 “(2) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—
12 There is authorized to be appropriated to the Sec-
13 retary to carry out this subsection \$350,000,000 for
14 each of fiscal years 2025 through 2029, to remain
15 available until expended.”.

16 (b) SUNSET.—Beginning on the date that is 120 days
17 after the date of enactment of this Act, section 779 of
18 division A of the Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2018
19 (Public Law 115–141; 132 Stat. 399), shall have no force
20 or effect.

21 (c) CONFORMING AMENDMENT.—Section 701(b)(2)
22 of the Rural Electrification Act of 1936 (7 U.S.C.
23 950cc(b)(2)) is amended, in the matter preceding subpara-
24 graph (A), by striking “section 601(c)(2)(A)(i)” and in-
25 serting “section 601(c)(3)(A)”.

1 (d) IMPROVING FEDERAL BROADBAND PROGRAM CO-
2 ORDINATION.—Section 6212 of the Agriculture Improve-
3 ment Act of 2018 (7 U.S.C. 950bb–6) is amended—

4 (1) by redesignating subsections (a), (b), (c),
5 and (d) as subsections (b), (c), (e), and (a), respec-
6 tively, and moving the subsections so as to appear
7 in alphabetical order;

8 (2) in subsection (a) (as so redesignated), in
9 paragraph (3), by striking “section 601(b)(3) of the
10 Rural Electrification Act of 1936” and inserting
11 “section 601(b) of the Rural Electrification Act of
12 1936 (7 U.S.C. 950bb(b))”;

13 (3) in subsection (c) (as so redesignated), in
14 paragraph (1)—

15 (A) by striking “The Secretary” and in-
16 serting the following:

17 “(A) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary”; and

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

19 “(B) ACCESS TO BROADBAND TELE-
20 COMMUNICATIONS SERVICES IN RURAL
21 AREAS.—On awarding a grant or loan under
22 section 601 of the Rural Electrification Act of
23 1936 (7 U.S.C. 950bb), the Secretary shall no-
24 tify the Commission of that award.”; and

1 (4) by inserting after subsection (c) (as so re-
2 designated) the following:

3 “(d) MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING RELATING
4 TO OUTREACH.—The Secretary shall enter into a memo-
5 randum of understanding with the Assistant Secretary
6 and the Commission to facilitate outreach to residents and
7 businesses in rural areas, including—

8 “(1) to evaluate the broadband service needs in
9 rural areas;

10 “(2) to inform residents and businesses in rural
11 areas of available Federal programs that promote
12 broadband access, broadband affordability, and
13 broadband inclusion; and

14 “(3) for such additional goals as the Secretary,
15 the Assistant Secretary, and the Commission deter-
16 mine to be appropriate.”.

17 **SEC. 6302. EXPANSION OF MIDDLE MILE INFRASTRUCTURE**
18 **INTO RURAL AREAS.**

19 Section 602(g) of the Rural Electrification Act of
20 1936 (7 U.S.C. 950bb–1(g)) is amended by striking
21 “2023” and inserting “2029”.

1 **SEC. 6303. INNOVATIVE BROADBAND ADVANCEMENT PRO-**
2 **GRAM.**

3 Section 603(e) of the Rural Electrification Act of
4 1936 (7 U.S.C. 950bb-2(e)) is amended by striking
5 “2023” and inserting “2029”.

6 **SEC. 6304. COMMUNITY CONNECT GRANT PROGRAM.**

7 Section 604 of the Rural Electrification Act of 1936
8 (7 U.S.C. 950bb-3) is amended—

9 (1) in subsection (a)—

10 (A) in paragraph (1), by striking “less
11 than the” and all that follows through the pe-
12 riod at the end and inserting the following:

13 “less than—

14 “(A) a 100-Mbps downstream transmission
15 capacity; and

16 “(B) a 20-Mbps upstream transmission ca-
17 pacity.”; and

18 (B) in paragraph (2)—

19 (i) in the matter preceding subpara-
20 graph (A), by striking “an area” and in-
21 serting “a rural area”;

22 (ii) in subparagraph (A), by striking
23 “10-Mbps” and inserting “25-Mbps”; and

24 (iii) in subparagraph (B), by striking
25 “1-Mbps” and inserting “3-Mbps”;

1 (2) in subsection (d)(2)(A), by striking “area;
2 or” and inserting “area (including any eligible
3 broadband service that will be provided in the future
4 in the eligible service area pursuant to enforceable
5 commitments for network deployment applicable
6 under another broadband funding program); or”;
7 and

8 (3) in subsection (g), by striking “2023” and
9 inserting “2029”.

10 **PART II—ADDITIONAL AMENDMENTS**

11 **SEC. 6311. GUARANTEES FOR BONDS AND NOTES ISSUED**
12 **FOR ELECTRIFICATION OR TELEPHONE PUR-**
13 **POSES.**

14 Section 313A(f) of the Rural Electrification Act of
15 1936 (7 U.S.C. 940c-1(f)) is amended by striking “2023”
16 and inserting “2029”.

17 **SEC. 6312. RURAL DEVELOPMENT LOANS AND GRANTS.**

18 Section 313B(e)(1) of the Rural Electrification Act
19 of 1936 (7 U.S.C. 940c-2(e)(1)) is amended by striking
20 “\$10,000,000 for each of fiscal years 2019 through 2023”
21 and inserting “\$15,000,000 for each of fiscal years 2025
22 through 2029”.

1 **SEC. 6313. EXPANSION OF 911 ACCESS.**

2 Section 315(d) of the Rural Electrification Act of
3 1936 (7 U.S.C. 940e(d)) is amended by striking “2023”
4 and inserting “2029”.

5 **Subtitle D—Consolidated Farm and**
6 **Rural Development Act**

7 **SEC. 6401. WATER, WASTE DISPOSAL, AND WASTEWATER**
8 **FACILITY GRANTS.**

9 (a) IN GENERAL.—Section 306(a) of the Consoli-
10 dated Farm and Rural Development Act (7 U.S.C.
11 1926(a)) is amended—

12 (1) in paragraph (1), in the first sentence—

13 (A) by striking “Indian tribes on” and in-
14 serting “Indian Tribes on”; and

15 (B) by striking “tribes, and” and inserting
16 “Tribes and Tribal organizations, including
17 wholly or majority owned Tribal entities or cor-
18 porations that provide services or programs
19 consistent with the purposes of the applicable
20 program under this section, and”; and

21 (2) in paragraph (2)—

22 (A) in subparagraph (A)(ii)—

23 (i) by striking “per centum” and in-
24 serting “percent”; and

25 (ii) by striking “area.” and inserting
26 “area, except that in the case of dem-

1 onstrated need, as determined by the Sec-
2 retary, the amount of a grant made under
3 the authority of this subparagraph for nec-
4 essary expenses of developing a complete
5 application to carry out an eligible project
6 under this subparagraph may exceed 75
7 percent, but shall not exceed 100 percent,
8 of those expenses to be incurred.”; and

9 (B) in subparagraph (B)—

10 (i) in clause (iii), by striking
11 “\$200,000” each place it appears and in-
12 serting “\$500,000”; and

13 (ii) in clause (vii), by striking
14 “\$15,000,000 for each of fiscal years 2019
15 through 2023” and inserting “\$30,000,000
16 for each of fiscal years 2025 through
17 2029”.

18 (b) CONFORMING AMENDMENTS.—Section 306(a) of
19 the Consolidated Farm and Rural Development Act (7
20 U.S.C. 1926(a)) is amended—

21 (1) in paragraph (13), in the first sentence, by
22 striking “(including an Indian tribe” and all that
23 follows through “tribal group)” and inserting “(in-
24 cluding Indian Tribes and Tribal organizations de-
25 scribed in paragraph (1))”;

1 (2) in paragraph (19)(A), by striking “Indian
2 Tribes” and all that follows through “federally rec-
3 ognized Indian tribes” and inserting “and Indian
4 Tribes and Tribal organizations described in para-
5 graph (1)”;

6 (3) paragraph (20)(B), in the matter preceding
7 clause (i), by striking “Indian tribes” and all that
8 follows through “450b))” and inserting “Indian
9 Tribes and Tribal organizations described in para-
10 graph (1)”;

11 (4) paragraph (21)(A)—

12 (A) in the matter preceding clause (i), by
13 striking “Indian tribes” and all that follows
14 through “450b))” and inserting “Indian Tribes
15 and Tribal organizations described in para-
16 graph (1)”;

17 (B) in clause (i)—

18 (i) in subclause (I), by adding “or”
19 after the semicolon; and

20 (ii) by striking subclauses (II) and
21 (III) and inserting the following:

22 “(II) an Indian Tribe or Tribal
23 organization described in paragraph
24 (1);”.

1 (5) paragraph (26)(A), in the matter preceding
2 clause (i), by striking “Indian tribes on Federal and
3 State reservations” and inserting “Indian Tribes
4 and Tribal organizations described in paragraph
5 (1)”.

6 **SEC. 6402. SEARCH GRANTS.**

7 Section 306(a)(2)(C)(ii) of the Consolidated Farm
8 and Rural Development Act (7 U.S.C. 1926(a)(2)(C)(ii))
9 is amended by adding at the end the following:

10 “(III) IN-KIND CONTRIBUTION.—

11 In the case of demonstrated need, as
12 determined by the Secretary, the non-
13 Federal share of the cost of a project
14 funded under this subparagraph may
15 be provided in the form of in-kind
16 contributions.”.

17 **SEC. 6403. RURAL WATER AND WASTEWATER TECHNICAL**
18 **ASSISTANCE AND TRAINING PROGRAMS.**

19 Section 306(a)(14) of the Consolidated Farm and
20 Rural Development Act (7 U.S.C. 1926(a)(14)) is amend-
21 ed by adding at the end the following:

22 “(D) MULTIYEAR GRANTS.—The Secretary
23 may award grants under subparagraph (A) for
24 a period of more than 1 year, but not more
25 than 5 years, to private nonprofit organizations

605

1 described in subparagraph (B), as determined
2 by the Secretary.”.

3 **SEC. 6404. RURAL WATER AND WASTEWATER CIRCUIT**
4 **RIDER PROGRAM.**

5 Section 306(a)(22)(B) of the Consolidated Farm and
6 Rural Development Act (7 U.S.C. 1926(a)(22)(B)) is
7 amended by striking “\$25,000,000 for each of fiscal years
8 2019 through 2023” and inserting “\$30,000,000 for each
9 of fiscal years 2025 through 2029”.

10 **SEC. 6405. RURAL WATER AND WASTEWATER CYBERSECU-**
11 **RITY CIRCUIT RIDER PROGRAM.**

12 Section 306(a) of the Consolidated Farm and Rural
13 Development Act (7 U.S.C. 1926(a)) is amended by in-
14 serting after paragraph (22) the following:

15 “(23) RURAL WATER AND WASTEWATER CY-
16 BERSECURITY CIRCUIT RIDER PROGRAM.—

17 “(A) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall
18 establish a cybersecurity circuit rider program,
19 which shall be structured similar to the general
20 authorities under paragraph (22), to provide
21 technical assistance to associations described in
22 paragraph (1) that operate rural water or
23 wastewater systems—

1 “(i) to provide rapid assessments of
2 the current ability or inability of those as-
3 sociations—

4 “(I) to respond to cybersecurity
5 threats; and

6 “(II) to protect the
7 cyberinfrastructure of those associa-
8 tions and public health;

9 “(ii) to develop reasonable protocols to
10 enhance cybersecurity protection;

11 “(iii) to provide assistance to address
12 inadequate cyber protection plans; and

13 “(iv) to document the state of cyber
14 protection with respect to the water sup-
15 plies of those associations.

16 “(B) REPORT REQUIREMENT.—A circuit
17 rider that receives funding under this para-
18 graph shall submit to the Secretary an annual
19 report documenting—

20 “(i) the associations served by the cir-
21 cuit rider under this paragraph; and

22 “(ii) the activities performed by the
23 circuit rider under this paragraph.

24 “(C) REQUIREMENTS FOR CIRCUIT RID-
25 ERS.—To provide technical assistance under

1 subparagraph (A), a circuit rider shall possess
2 the necessary experience and certification to ef-
3 fectively carry out the activities described in
4 that subparagraph, as determined by the Sec-
5 retary.

6 “(D) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIA-
7 TIONS.—There is authorized to be appropriated
8 to carry out this paragraph \$10,000,000 for
9 each of fiscal years 2025 through 2029.”.

10 **SEC. 6406. TRIBAL COLLEGE AND UNIVERSITY ESSENTIAL**
11 **COMMUNITY FACILITIES.**

12 Section 306(a)(25)(C) of the Consolidated Farm and
13 Rural Development Act (7 U.S.C. 1926(a)(25)(C)) is
14 amended by striking “2023” and inserting “2029”.

15 **SEC. 6407. ESSENTIAL COMMUNITY FACILITIES TECHNICAL**
16 **ASSISTANCE AND TRAINING.**

17 Section 306(a)(26) of the Consolidated Farm and
18 Rural Development Act (7 U.S.C. 1926(a)(26)) is amend-
19 ed by adding at the end the following:

20 “(D) NATIONAL OR MULTI-STATE
21 AWARDS.—Of the amounts available to carry
22 out this paragraph for a fiscal year, the Sec-
23 retary shall use not less than 2 percent to
24 award grants under this paragraph to 1 or
25 more of the entities described in subparagraph

1 (A) for the purpose of providing on-site tech-
2 nical assistance and training on a national or
3 multi-State regional basis.”.

4 **SEC. 6408. EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS AND RESPONSE**
5 **TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE PROGRAM.**

6 Section 306(a) of the Consolidated Farm and Rural
7 Development Act (7 U.S.C. 1926(a)) is amended by add-
8 ing at the end the following:

9 “(27) EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS AND RE-
10 SPONSE TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE PROGRAM.—

11 “(A) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall
12 establish an emergency preparedness and re-
13 sponse technical assistance program to provide
14 grants to eligible entities to assist associations
15 described in paragraph (1) that operate rural
16 water or wastewater systems in preparing for
17 and responding to natural or man-made disas-
18 ters, as determined by the Secretary.

19 “(B) ELIGIBLE ENTITIES.—An entity eligi-
20 ble to receive a grant under subparagraph (A)
21 is a nonprofit organization that—

22 “(i) has demonstrated experience pro-
23 viding emergency technical assistance for
24 disaster preparation, recovery, and re-

1 sponse activities to water and wastewater
2 utilities nationwide; and

3 “(ii) has the capacity to deploy per-
4 sonnel that possess—

5 “(I) an active water or waste-
6 water system operators’ license; or

7 “(II) documented knowledge of
8 water and wastewater utilities nec-
9 essary to carry out activities described
10 in subparagraph (C).

11 “(C) ELIGIBLE ACTIVITIES.—An eligible
12 entity that receives a grant under subparagraph
13 (A) shall use the grant—

14 “(i) to provide on-site personnel and
15 equipment to assist with water and waste-
16 water systems in the event of a disaster;

17 “(ii) to coordinate with statewide
18 emergency response networks to assist with
19 water and wastewater systems;

20 “(iii) to facilitate the development of
21 disaster action plans between associations
22 described in subparagraph (A), units of
23 local government, the Federal Emergency
24 Management Agency, and State emergency
25 management agencies;

1 “(iv) to improve resiliency and mitiga-
2 tion planning with respect to water or
3 wastewater systems;

4 “(v) to provide geographic information
5 system mapping of water and wastewater
6 systems;

7 “(vi) to prepare or update predisaster
8 risk and resiliency assessments, emergency
9 response plans, communication protocols,
10 or hazard recognition and evaluation skills
11 with respect to water and wastewater sys-
12 tems;

13 “(vii) to conduct preliminary damage
14 assessments of critical infrastructure in the
15 event of a disaster;

16 “(viii) to provide emergency services
17 with respect to water and wastewater sys-
18 tems to restore service in the event of a
19 disaster, including—

20 “(I) pump and motor evaluation
21 and repair;

22 “(II) water disinfection and
23 flushing;

24 “(III) leak detection;

25 “(IV) line repair;

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1 “(V) water main and valve loca-
2 tion;

3 “(VI) emergency power genera-
4 tion;

5 “(VII) bypass pumping;

6 “(VIII) water treatment; and

7 “(IX) maintaining safety meas-
8 ures;

9 “(ix) to address outstanding defi-
10 ciencies focused on resolving health-based
11 regulatory, operational, financial, and man-
12 agerial deficiencies that impact the sus-
13 tainability of water and wastewater sys-
14 tems;

15 “(x) to assist with application and re-
16 porting requirements for Federal and State
17 agencies, including the Federal Emergency
18 Management Agency and insurance recov-
19 ery claims, with respect to water and
20 wastewater systems; and

21 “(xi) to provide for disaster prepara-
22 tion, support, and response activities tar-
23 geted to disadvantaged communities that
24 lack the financial resources and human
25 capital necessary to adequately address

1 significant health, safety, or sanitary con-
2 cerns with respect to the water and waste-
3 water systems of those communities.

4 “(D) USE OF FUNDS.—

5 “(i) IN GENERAL.—An eligible entity
6 that receives a grant under subparagraph
7 (A) may use the grant for salaries, sup-
8 plies, and expenses relating to the activities
9 described in subparagraph (C).

10 “(ii) LIMITATION.—Not more than 25
11 percent of the amount of a grant under
12 subparagraph (A) may be used to purchase
13 or reimburse the rental costs of appro-
14 priate emergency equipment, as determined
15 by the Secretary.

16 “(E) RESTRICTION.—An eligible entity
17 that receives a grant under subparagraph (A)
18 may not use the grant funds to pay for eligible
19 activities for which the eligible entity receives
20 other Federal funds.

21 “(F) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIA-
22 TIONS.—There is authorized to be appropriated
23 to carry out this paragraph \$20,000,000 for
24 each of fiscal years 2025 through 2029.”.

1 **SEC. 6409. ASSISTANCE TO PROVIDE WATER AND WASTE-**
2 **WATER SERVICES IN FINANCIALLY DIS-**
3 **TRESSED RURAL AREAS.**

4 Section 306(a) of the Consolidated Farm and Rural
5 Development Act (7 U.S.C. 1926(a)) (as amended by sec-
6 tion 6408) is amended by adding at the end the following:

7 “(28) ASSISTANCE TO PROVIDE WATER AND
8 WASTEWATER SERVICES IN FINANCIALLY DIS-
9 TRESSED RURAL AREAS.—

10 “(A) DEFINITIONS.—In this paragraph:

11 “(i) ELIGIBLE AREA.—The term ‘eli-
12 gible area’ means a rural area that—

13 “(I) is a low-income community,
14 as determined by the Secretary;

15 “(II) is unable to provide water
16 and wastewater services to the resi-
17 dents of the rural area because the
18 rural area—

19 “(aa) lacks the capacity—

20 “(AA) to operate, main-
21 tain, or manage water and
22 wastewater facilities or serv-
23 ices; or

24 “(BB) to provide for
25 the continued availability
26 and use of those facilities or

1 services at reasonable user
2 rates and charges; or

3 “(bb) lacks the financial,
4 technical, or managerial capa-
5 bility to consistently comply with
6 pertinent Federal and State laws
7 and requirements; and

8 “(III) voluntarily agrees to the
9 provision of water or wastewater serv-
10 ices in the rural area by an eligible as-
11 sociation the service area of which is
12 contiguous to, or in the locality of, the
13 rural area.

14 “(ii) ELIGIBLE ASSOCIATION.—The
15 term ‘eligible association’ means an asso-
16 ciation described in paragraph (1) that—

17 “(I) currently receives, or is eligi-
18 ble for, assistance under a rural water
19 or wastewater program; and

20 “(II) is experienced in, and cur-
21 rently, providing functioning water
22 and wastewater services to the resi-
23 dents of a rural area.

24 “(iii) RURAL WATER OR WASTEWATER
25 PROGRAM.—The term ‘rural water or

1 wastewater program' means a water or
2 wastewater program under this subsection.

3 “(B) ASSISTANCE.—The Secretary may
4 provide financial or technical assistance under a
5 rural water or wastewater program to an eligi-
6 ble association for the purpose of providing
7 water and wastewater services to the residents
8 of an eligible area that is contiguous to, or in
9 the locality of, the service area of the eligible
10 association.

11 “(C) CONSOLIDATION AND REGIONALIZA-
12 TION.—

13 “(i) IN GENERAL.—For purposes of
14 providing water and wastewater services
15 using assistance provided under subpara-
16 graph (B), an eligible association and an
17 eligible area may—

18 “(I) consolidate governance,
19 management, and financial functions;
20 or

21 “(II) enter into a regional part-
22 nership.

23 “(ii) EFFECT ON POPULATION LIM-
24 TATION.—If an eligible association and an
25 eligible area consolidate or enter into a re-

1 regional partnership pursuant to clause (i),
2 the Secretary shall only consider the popu-
3 lation of the eligible area for purposes of
4 eligibility for assistance under subpara-
5 graph (B).

6 “(iii) USE OF SYSTEMS.—Notwith-
7 standing any other provision of law, an eli-
8 gible association may use assistance pro-
9 vided under subparagraph (B) to provide
10 water or wastewater services to an eligible
11 area using—

12 “(I) the system of the eligible as-
13 sociation;

14 “(II) a system located in the eli-
15 gible area; or

16 “(III) a combination of both sys-
17 tems.

18 “(D) LIMITATION.—An eligible association
19 that receives financial assistance under sub-
20 paragraph (B) shall only use that financial as-
21 sistance for the benefit of the residents of the
22 eligible area with respect to which the financial
23 assistance is provided.”.

1 **SEC. 6410. EMERGENCY AND IMMINENT COMMUNITY**
2 **WATER ASSISTANCE GRANT PROGRAM.**

3 Section 306A of the Consolidated Farm and Rural
4 Development Act (7 U.S.C. 1926a) is amended—

5 (1) in subsection (c)(1), by striking “entity;”
6 and inserting “entity or federally recognized Indian
7 Tribe or Tribal organization (including wholly or
8 majority owned Tribal entities or corporations that
9 provide services or programs consistent with the
10 purposes of the program under this section);”; and

11 (2) in subsection (i)(2), by striking “2023” and
12 inserting “2029”.

13 **SEC. 6411. ADDITIONAL ASSISTANCE FOR RURAL WATER**
14 **SYSTEMS.**

15 Subtitle A of the Consolidated Farm and Rural De-
16 velopment Act is amended by inserting after section 306A
17 (7 U.S.C. 1926a) the following:

18 **“SEC. 306B. ADDITIONAL ASSISTANCE FOR RURAL WATER**
19 **SYSTEMS.**

20 “(a) DEFINITION OF ELIGIBLE ENTITY.—In this sec-
21 tion, the term ‘eligible entity’ means a rural water, waste-
22 water, or waste disposal facility with respect to which as-
23 sistance may be provided under a water, wastewater, or
24 waste disposal program under section 306(a), 306A,
25 306C, or 306D.

26 “(b) ADDITIONAL ASSISTANCE.—

1 “(1) GRANTS AND LOANS.—The Secretary may
2 provide a grant, a zero percent interest loan, or a 1
3 percent interest loan to an eligible entity.

4 “(2) EXISTING LOANS.—The Secretary may—
5 “(A) forgive principal or interest or modify
6 any term or condition of an outstanding loan
7 made to an eligible entity; or

8 “(B) refinance part or all of any other loan
9 (if the purpose of the loan is an eligible purpose
10 under section 306(a)(1) or 306C) made to an
11 eligible entity.

12 “(3) LIMITATION.—The Secretary may not pro-
13 vide forgiveness under paragraph (2)(A) with respect
14 to a loan made under paragraph (1).

15 “(c) ELIGIBLE PURPOSES.—The Secretary may pro-
16 vide assistance to an eligible entity under subsection (b)
17 as the Secretary determines is necessary—

18 “(1) to ensure that the eligible entity has the
19 necessary resources to improve or construct public
20 utilities or to otherwise maintain or enhance public
21 health, safety, affordability, or order; or

22 “(2) to address financial hardships of the eligi-
23 ble entity, if the eligible entity is located in a dis-
24 advantaged or economically distressed area, as deter-
25 mined under subsection (d).

1 “(d) DETERMINATION.—To determine whether an el-
2 igible entity may receive assistance pursuant to subsection
3 (c)(2), the Secretary shall establish and use—

4 “(1) a residential indicator of affordable water
5 services in each State or local or geographic area,
6 calculated using the cost per household as a percent-
7 age of median household income; and

8 “(2) factors relating to disadvantaged or eco-
9 nomically distressed areas.”.

10 **SEC. 6412. WATER SYSTEMS FOR RURAL AND NATIVE VIL-**
11 **LAGES IN ALASKA.**

12 Section 306D of the Consolidated Farm and Rural
13 Development Act (7 U.S.C. 1926d) is amended—

14 (1) in subsection (a), by striking “construction
15 of water and wastewater systems” and inserting
16 “construction of water systems and wastewater sys-
17 tems, including community-based systems,”;

18 (2) in subsection (c), by inserting “and the
19 Alaska Native Tribal Health Consortium” after
20 “State of Alaska”; and

21 (3) in subsection (d)(1), by striking “2023”
22 and inserting “2029”.

23 **SEC. 6413. RURAL DECENTRALIZED WATER SYSTEMS.**

24 Section 306E of the Consolidated Farm and Rural
25 Development Act (7 U.S.C. 1926e) is amended—

1 (1) by redesignating subsections (c) and (d) as
2 subsections (d) and (e), respectively;

3 (2) by striking subsection (a) and all that fol-
4 lows through the period at the end of subsection
5 (b)(1) and inserting the following:

6 “(a) DEFINITION OF ELIGIBLE ENTITY.—In this sec-
7 tion, the term ‘eligible entity’ means—

8 “(1) a private nonprofit organization; and

9 “(2) a federally recognized Indian Tribe or
10 Tribal organization, including any wholly or majority
11 owned Tribal entity or corporation that provides
12 services or programs consistent with the purposes of
13 the program under this section.

14 “(b) GRANTS TO ELIGIBLE ENTITIES.—The Sec-
15 retary may provide grants to eligible entities for the pur-
16 pose of providing subgrants and loans in accordance with
17 subsection (c) to individuals for the construction, refur-
18 bishing, and servicing of individual household water well
19 systems and individually owned household decentralized
20 wastewater systems in rural areas that are or will be
21 owned by the individuals.

22 “(c) LOANS AND SUBGRANTS TO INDIVIDUALS.—

23 “(1) IN GENERAL.—An eligible entity shall use
24 grant amounts received under subsection (b) to pro-
25 vide—

1 “(A) subgrants for use in accordance with
2 this section to individuals residing in the service
3 area of the eligible entity who are members of
4 a household with a combined income (for the
5 most recent 12-month period for which the in-
6 formation is available) that is less than 60 per-
7 cent of the median nonmetropolitan household
8 income for the area, according to the most re-
9 cent decennial census; and

10 “(B) loans for use in accordance with this
11 section to individuals residing in the service
12 area of the eligible entity who are members of
13 a household with a combined income (for the
14 most recent 12-month period for which the in-
15 formation is available) that is not more than
16 100 percent of the median nonmetropolitan
17 household income for the area, according to the
18 most recent decennial census.”;

19 (3) in subsection (c) (as so designated)—

20 (A) by striking “this section” each place it
21 appears and inserting “subsection (b)”;

22 (B) in paragraph (2)(B), by striking
23 “\$15,000” and inserting “\$25,000”; and

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

1 “(5) FUNDING TO COVER COST OF PERFORM-
2 ANCE WARRANTIES.—A subgrant provided to an in-
3 dividual under this subsection for an individually
4 owned household decentralized wastewater system
5 may include sufficient additional funding to cover
6 the cost of a performance warranty with a duration
7 of at least 5 years.

8 “(6) TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE AND SUPPORT.—
9 An eligible entity that receives a grant under sub-
10 section (b) may use an amount equal to not more
11 than 10 percent of the grant to provide technical as-
12 sistance and support to individuals eligible for a
13 subgrant or loan under this subsection relating to
14 the installation and maintenance of household decen-
15 tralized water and wastewater systems.

16 “(7) DETERMINATION OF OWNERSHIP.—An eli-
17 gible entity that receives a grant under subsection
18 (b) shall allow for multiple methods to determine
19 ownership under that subsection to account for undi-
20 vided ownership interests.”;

21 (4) in subsection (d) (as so redesignated), by
22 striking “this section, the Secretary shall give pri-
23 ority to an applicant” and inserting “subsection (b),
24 the Secretary shall give priority to an eligible enti-
25 ty”; and

1 (5) in subsection (e) (as so redesignated), by
2 striking “2019 through 2023” and inserting “2025
3 through 2029”.

4 **SEC. 6414. HEALTHY DRINKING WATER AFFORDABILITY AS-**
5 **SISTANCE PROGRAM.**

6 Subtitle A of the Consolidated Farm and Rural De-
7 velopment Act is amended by inserting after section 306E
8 (7 U.S.C. 1926e) the following:

9 **“SEC. 306F. HEALTHY DRINKING WATER AFFORDABILITY**
10 **ASSISTANCE PROGRAM.**

11 “(a) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

12 “(1) APPROVED INSTALLATION.—The term ‘ap-
13 proved installation’ means the installation of an eli-
14 gible drinking water quality improvement product or
15 a certified filter component by a qualified third-party
16 installer that—

17 “(A) complies with all local and State reg-
18 ulations; and

19 “(B) follows the installation instructions of
20 the manufacturer.

21 “(2) APPROVED MAINTENANCE.—The term ‘ap-
22 proved maintenance’ means required maintenance—

23 “(A) performed on an eligible drinking
24 water quality improvement product that in-

1 includes maintenance and replacement of the cer-
2 tified filter component;

3 “(B) performed by a service technician
4 who—

5 “(i) is—

6 “(I) professionally qualified, cer-
7 tified, or licensed as a water treat-
8 ment product maintenance profes-
9 sional, including a professional
10 credentialed through a manufacturer
11 or third party;

12 “(II) operating under the super-
13 vision of a service technician described
14 in subclause (I);

15 “(III) a licensed plumber or a
16 plumber operating under the super-
17 vision of a licensed plumbing con-
18 tractor; or

19 “(IV) an individual who holds a
20 license or certification related to water
21 treatment technologies issued by a
22 State or local government; and

23 “(ii) regularly completes continuing
24 education on water treatment technology

1 and other subjects that enhance the serv-
2 ices provided under this section;

3 “(C) that complies with all local and State
4 regulations; and

5 “(D) that follows the maintenance instruc-
6 tions of the manufacturer.

7 “(3) CERTIFIED FILTER COMPONENT.—The
8 term ‘certified filter component’ means a replaceable
9 or replacement filter component—

10 “(A) for which approved maintenance can
11 be performed; and

12 “(B) that is certified by a third-party cer-
13 tifier as compliant with—

14 “(i) NSF P231;

15 “(ii) NSF/ANSI Standard 42, 44, 53,
16 55, 58, or 401; or

17 “(iii) another successor or relevant
18 consensus-based standard for drinking
19 water treatment units or systems that ad-
20 dresses health contaminant reduction, as
21 determined by the Secretary.

22 “(4) ELIGIBLE DRINKING WATER QUALITY IM-
23 PROVEMENT PRODUCT.—The term ‘eligible drinking
24 water quality improvement product’ means a point-
25 of-use or point-of-entry system—

1 “(A) incorporating a certified filter compo-
2 nent; and

3 “(B) that is certified by a third-party cer-
4 tifier to meet standards described in paragraph
5 (3)(B)—

6 “(i) for material safety and perform-
7 ance; and

8 “(ii) to improve drinking water qual-
9 ity.

10 “(5) ELIGIBLE END USER.—The term ‘eligible
11 end user’ means a person or entity located in a rural
12 area (as defined in section 343(a)(13)(B)) that is—

13 “(A)(i) a homeowner;

14 “(ii) an individual lessee or renter of a
15 home, apartment, or other dwelling;

16 “(iii) a property owner of a multi-unit resi-
17 dential building with 25 or fewer owned, leased,
18 or rented dwelling units;

19 “(iv) a licensed child-care facility; or

20 “(v) an owned, leased, or rented facility;

21 and

22 “(B) supported by a finding of need
23 through—

1 “(i) a qualified water quality test
2 demonstrating the presence of 1 or more
3 health contaminants; or

4 “(ii) other documentation determined
5 to be satisfactory by the Secretary dem-
6 onstrating the presence of 1 or more
7 health contaminants.

8 “(6) ELIGIBLE GRANT RECIPIENT.—The term
9 ‘eligible grant recipient’ means—

10 “(A) an eligible end user; and

11 “(B) a nonprofit organization that uses a
12 grant provided under this section for the pur-
13 poses described in subsection (c)(2).

14 “(7) HEALTH CONTAMINANT.—The term
15 ‘health contaminant’ means—

16 “(A) a health contaminant found in drink-
17 ing water, including lead, arsenic, nitrate,
18 perfluoroalkyl and polyfluoroalkyl substances,
19 hexavalent chromium (chrome-6), and volatile
20 organic compounds; and

21 “(B) any other contaminant—

22 “(i) that can be reduced by an eligible
23 drinking water quality improvement prod-
24 uct or a certified filter component in ac-

1 cordance with the standards described in
2 paragraph (3)(B); and

3 “(ii)(I) with respect to which the Ad-
4 ministrator of the Environmental Protec-
5 tion Agency has established—

6 “(aa) a primary drinking water
7 regulation (as defined in section 1401
8 of the Safe Drinking Water Act (42
9 U.S.C. 300f));

10 “(bb) a maximum contaminant
11 level goal established in accordance
12 with section 1412(b) of that Act (42
13 U.S.C. 300g-1(b)); or

14 “(cc) a health advisory issued
15 pursuant to section 1412(b)(1)(F) of
16 that Act (42 U.S.C. 300g-
17 1(b)(1)(F)); or

18 “(II) that is regulated by a State
19 agency.

20 “(8) IMPROVE DRINKING WATER QUALITY.—

21 The term ‘improve drinking water quality’ means to
22 improve the quality of the water supplied between its
23 source and human consumption by reducing or re-
24 moving 1 or more health contaminants.

1 “(9) QUALIFIED THIRD-PARTY INSTALLER.—

2 The term ‘qualified third-party installer’ means a
3 person who—

4 “(A) is—

5 “(i) a professionally qualified, cer-
6 tified, or licensed water treatment product
7 installation professional, including such a
8 professional credentialed through a manu-
9 facturer or third party;

10 “(ii) a licensed plumber or individual
11 who holds a license or certification related
12 to water treatment technologies issued by a
13 State or local government; or

14 “(iii) a company or plumbing con-
15 tractor employing individuals described in
16 clause (i) or (ii); and

17 “(B) regularly completes, or requires appli-
18 cable employees to complete, continuing edu-
19 cation on water treatment technology and other
20 subjects that enhance the services provided
21 under this section.

22 “(10) QUALIFIED WATER QUALITY TEST.—The
23 term ‘qualified water quality test’ means a baseline
24 analysis of the bacterial and chemical characteristics
25 of concern from a drinking water sample collected at

1 the point of consumption and tested by a laboratory
2 certified to conduct water quality testing—

3 “(A) that is provided to—

4 “(i) the Secretary; and

5 “(ii) as applicable—

6 “(I) a person seeking a grant
7 under this section;

8 “(II) an eligible end user receiv-
9 ing a grant under this section; or

10 “(III) an eligible grant recipient
11 receiving a grant under this section
12 and any eligible end users served by
13 the eligible grant recipient; and

14 “(B) that includes information that pro-
15 vides—

16 “(i) guidance on test interpretation,
17 including whether the bacteria or chemical
18 characteristic of concern meets or exceeds
19 a prescribed health-based contaminant
20 level; and

21 “(ii) sources and citations that eligible
22 grant recipients, independent third-party
23 organizations and institutions, and govern-
24 ment agencies may review and consult—

1 “(I) to determine available eligi-
2 ble drinking water quality improve-
3 ment products for addressing detected
4 contaminants; and

5 “(II) to evaluate efficacy across
6 eligible drinking water quality im-
7 provement products.

8 “(11) THIRD-PARTY CERTIFIER.—The term
9 ‘third-party certifier’ means an independent certifi-
10 cation body accredited to ISO Standard 17065,
11 ‘Conformity assessment — Requirements for bodies
12 certifying products, processes and services’, by an
13 entity domiciled in the United States that is a signa-
14 tory to the International Accreditation Forum Multi-
15 lateral Recognition Arrangement, such as the Water
16 Quality Association, NSF International, the Inter-
17 national Association of Plumbing and Mechanical
18 Officials, and the International Code Council Eval-
19 uation Service.

20 “(b) ESTABLISHMENT OF PROGRAM.—Not later than
21 120 days after the date of enactment of this section, the
22 Secretary shall promulgate regulations to establish, and
23 shall carry out, a clean drinking water program to provide
24 grants to eligible grant recipients to improve drinking
25 water quality of eligible end users.

1 “(c) ELIGIBLE USES OF GRANTS.—

2 “(1) IN GENERAL.—A grant under this section
3 shall be used, as directed by the Secretary, for—

4 “(A) the purchase of an eligible drinking
5 water quality improvement product or a re-
6 placement certified filter component;

7 “(B) the approved installation by a quali-
8 fied third-party installer of an eligible drinking
9 water quality improvement product;

10 “(C) the purchase and approved installa-
11 tion by a qualified third-party installer of a re-
12 placement certified filter component;

13 “(D) the approved maintenance of an eligi-
14 ble drinking water quality improvement prod-
15 uct; or

16 “(E) qualified water quality tests to sup-
17 port products and services described in sub-
18 paragraphs (A) through (D).

19 “(2) NONPROFIT ORGANIZATIONS.—A nonprofit
20 organization that receives a grant under this section
21 shall use the grant, in a manner consistent with the
22 uses described in paragraph (1) and as directed by
23 the Secretary—

24 “(A) to offer qualified water quality tests
25 for eligible end users on a voluntary basis;

1 “(B) to facilitate the analysis of qualified
2 water quality test results for eligible end users;

3 “(C) to assist an eligible end user in deter-
4 mining the response options available and sup-
5 porting the selection by the eligible end user of
6 a response that best fits the needs of the eligi-
7 ble end user, informed by—

8 “(i) a qualified water quality test; and

9 “(ii) an understanding of the relevant
10 plumbing systems and environmental fac-
11 tors that will impact point-of-use or point-
12 of-entry water safety; and

13 “(D) to coordinate or facilitate the ap-
14 proved installation by a qualified third-party in-
15 staller of the eligible drinking water quality im-
16 provement product selected by an eligible end
17 user.

18 “(d) GRANT LIMITATIONS.—

19 “(1) AMOUNT.—The amount of a grant under
20 this section shall not exceed the reasonable costs, as
21 determined by the Secretary, of the purposes de-
22 scribed in subsection (c) for which the grant is pro-
23 vided.

24 “(2) INCOME.—No grant provided under this
25 section shall be used to assist an eligible end user

1 who is a member of a household the members of
2 which have a combined income, or an eligible end
3 user with business income, for the most recent 12-
4 month period for which the information is available,
5 that is more than 150 percent of the median non-
6 metropolitan household income for the State or terri-
7 tory in which the eligible end user resides, according
8 to the most recent decennial census of the United
9 States.

10 “(e) GRANT ADMINISTRATOR.—The Secretary shall
11 appoint an officer or employee of the Department of Agri-
12 culture to administer and manage grants provided under
13 this section.

14 “(f) GRANT ALLOCATION.—In providing grants
15 under this section to eligible grant recipients, the Sec-
16 retary shall allocate funds and make grants available in
17 a manner that—

18 “(1) responds to a range of water quality chal-
19 lenges;

20 “(2) prioritizes funding to eligible end-users the
21 sources of drinking water of which are private wells;

22 “(3) improves local and regional capacity to re-
23 spond to contamination; and

24 “(4) ensures reasonable access to funds for—

1 “(A) eligible end users seeking a grant
2 under this section; and

3 “(B) nonprofit organizations seeking a
4 grant under this section.

5 “(g) REPORTS.—Not later than 1 year after the date
6 of enactment of this section, and not less frequently than
7 annually thereafter, the Secretary shall submit to Con-
8 gress, and make publicly available, a report—

9 “(1) identifying ongoing barriers to universal
10 safe drinking water prior to and after filtration or
11 other treatment;

12 “(2) analyzing conditions impacting eligible
13 grant recipients, including—

14 “(A) sources of contamination or degrada-
15 tion of water resources, especially groundwater
16 resources or upstream resources that recharge
17 stores of drinking water;

18 “(B) trends in bioaccumulation and at-
19 tenuation of contaminants and nutrients; and

20 “(C) impacts of infrastructure materials,
21 crop and land management practices, waste
22 management, and other factors that impact
23 drinking water quantity and quality;

24 “(3) providing a comprehensive analysis of—

1 “(A) technologies available to and pur-
2 chased by eligible grant recipients; and

3 “(B) the emerging safe drinking water
4 needs of rural and other homeowners, renters,
5 residential multi-unit property owners, licensed
6 child-care facilities, and other groups, as deter-
7 mined by the Secretary;

8 “(4) that includes information describing—

9 “(A) the types of treatment systems and
10 filter components used under the program es-
11 tablished under this section;

12 “(B) the number of qualified water quality
13 tests conducted under the program established
14 under this section;

15 “(C) emerging and changing trends relat-
16 ing to steps taken to ensure safe drinking water
17 in communities and households; and

18 “(D) trends relating to the availability and
19 use of eligible drinking water quality improve-
20 ment products, including—

21 “(i) affordability at purchase and
22 through the lifecycle of the products;

23 “(ii) consistency of operation as in-
24 tended by the manufacturer and installer,
25 including effectiveness across systems and

1 technologies at achieving stated health pro-
2 tectations; and

3 “(iii) lifecycle product performance,
4 energy use, and environmental impact;

5 “(5) providing recommendations regarding the
6 best methods to increase access to—

7 “(A) grants under this section; and

8 “(B) the products and services described in
9 subsection (c);

10 “(6) that incorporates input from relevant—

11 “(A) nongovernmental organizations; and

12 “(B) certification institutions that oversee
13 the criteria for products and training of instal-
14 lation and maintenance professionals; and

15 “(7) the purposes of which are—

16 “(A) to improve data on health contami-
17 nants in drinking water;

18 “(B) to provide educational resources on
19 water testing and water quality improvement
20 products and services to eligible grant recipients
21 with drinking water contamination issues;

22 “(C) to collect information that improves
23 understanding of water testing and water qual-
24 ity improvement products and services, includ-

1 ing their associated health and economic bene-
2 fits; and

3 “(D) to increase public awareness of water
4 quality issues and treatment options.

5 “(h) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There
6 is authorized to be appropriated to the Secretary to carry
7 out this section \$10,000,000 for each of fiscal years 2025
8 through 2029.”.

9 **SEC. 6415. RURAL BUSINESS AND INDUSTRY GUARANTEED**
10 **LOANS.**

11 (a) IN GENERAL.—Section 310B of the Consolidated
12 Farm and Rural Development Act (7 U.S.C. 1932) is
13 amended—

14 (1) in subsection (a)(2)—

15 (A) in the matter preceding subparagraph
16 (A), by striking “reservations or other federally
17 recognized Indian tribal groups” and inserting
18 “reservations or Tribal organizations (including
19 any wholly or majority owned Tribal entity or
20 corporation that provides services or programs
21 consistent with the purposes of the program
22 under this subsection or the program under
23 subsection (g), as applicable)”; and

1 (B) in subparagraph (A), by inserting
2 “workforce housing and” before “pollution
3 abatement”; and

4 (2) in subsection (g), by adding at the end the
5 following:

6 “(10) REPORT.—Not later than December 31,
7 2025, and each December 31 thereafter, the Sec-
8 retary shall submit to the Committee on Agriculture,
9 Nutrition, and Forestry of the Senate and the Com-
10 mittee on Agriculture of the House of Representa-
11 tives and make publicly available a report that in-
12 cludes, with respect to the immediately preceding fis-
13 cal year, the following:

14 “(A) The name and description of each un-
15 derlying loan recipient that closed on a business
16 and industry loan under this subsection, includ-
17 ing whether the loan recipient is a minority-
18 owned, Tribal-owned, or woman-owned entity.

19 “(B) A description of the project funded
20 by that loan, including the location of the
21 project.

22 “(C) The amount of that loan.”.

23 (b) REVIEW AND REVISION.—Not later than 1 year
24 after the date of enactment of this Act, to ensure that
25 entities less likely to have private funding opportunities

1 have adequate access to business and industry direct and
2 guaranteed loans under section 310B(g) of the Consoli-
3 dated Farm and Rural Development Act (7 U.S.C.
4 1932(g)), the Secretary shall review and revise section
5 4279.117 of title 7, Code of Federal Regulations (or a suc-
6 cessor regulation), to include such additional ineligible
7 purposes and entity types as the Secretary determines to
8 be appropriate.

9 **SEC. 6416. SOLID WASTE MANAGEMENT GRANTS.**

10 Section 310B(b) of the Consolidated Farm and Rural
11 Development Act (7 U.S.C. 1932(b)) is amended—

12 (1) in paragraph (1), in the first sentence, by
13 inserting “and federally recognized Indian Tribes
14 and Tribal organizations (including any wholly or
15 majority owned Tribal entity or corporation that
16 provides services or programs consistent with the
17 purposes of the program under this subsection)”
18 after “related agencies”; and

19 (2) in paragraph (2), by striking “\$10,000,000
20 for each of fiscal years 2014 through 2023” and in-
21 serting “\$20,000,000 for each of fiscal years 2025
22 through 2029”.

23 **SEC. 6417. RURAL BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT GRANTS.**

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

1 (1) in paragraph (2), by striking subparagraph
2 (B) and inserting the following:

3 “(B) federally recognized Indian Tribes,
4 Tribal organizations (including wholly or major-
5 ity owned Tribal entities or corporations that
6 provide services or programs consistent with the
7 purposes of the program under this subsection),
8 Alaska Native Corporations, or Native Hawai-
9 ian organizations; and”;

10 (2) in paragraph (3)(A)—

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

13 (B) in clause (v), by striking “or” at the
14 end and inserting “and”; and

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

16 “(vi) support outdoor recreation; or”;

17 (3) in paragraph (4)(A), by striking “2023”
18 and inserting “2029”;

19 (4) by redesignating paragraph (4) as para-
20 graph (5); and

21 (5) by inserting after paragraph (3) the fol-
22 lowing:

23 “(4) MULTIYEAR GRANTS.—The Secretary may
24 award grants under this subsection for a period of
25 more than 1 year, but not more than 5 years.”.

1 **SEC. 6418. RURAL COOPERATIVE DEVELOPMENT GRANTS.**

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

4 (1) in paragraph (1)—

5 (A) by redesignating subparagraphs (A)
6 and (B) as subparagraphs (B) and (C), respec-
7 tively; and

8 (B) by inserting before subparagraph (B)
9 (as so redesignated) the following:

10 “(A) COOPERATIVE DEVELOPMENT.—The
11 term ‘cooperative development’ means activities,
12 including outreach, education, training, and
13 technical assistance, to support the startup, ex-
14 pansion, or ongoing sustainability of new and
15 existing cooperatives.”;

16 (2) in paragraph (5)(F), by striking “contribu-
17 tions,” and inserting “contributions by awarding ap-
18 plications that meet the criterion described in this
19 subparagraph the maximum points for this subpara-
20 graph in the scoring criteria,”;

21 (3) in paragraph (6)(B), by striking “If the
22 Secretary determines it to be in the best interest of
23 the program, the” and inserting “The”;

24 (4) in paragraph (12)—

25 (A) by striking “Not later” and inserting
26 the following:

1 “(A) IN GENERAL.—Not later”; and

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

3 “(B) REPORT.—Not later than 180 days
4 after the date of enactment of the Rural Pros-
5 perity and Food Security Act of 2024, and an-
6 nually thereafter, the interagency working
7 group established under subparagraph (A) shall
8 make publicly available and submit to the Com-
9 mittee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry
10 of the Senate and the Committee on Agri-
11 culture of the House of Representatives a re-
12 port describing—

13 “(i) research and analysis based on
14 data from the latest available Economic
15 Census conducted by the Bureau of the
16 Census on the effects of all types of co-
17 operatives on the national economy; and

18 “(ii) the activities carried out by the
19 interagency working group in the prior fis-
20 cal year.”; and

21 (5) in paragraph (13), by striking “2023” and
22 inserting “2029”.

1 **SEC. 6419. LOCALLY OR REGIONALLY PRODUCED AGRICUL-**
2 **TURAL FOOD PRODUCTS.**

3 Section 310B(g)(9)(B) of the Consolidated Farm and
4 Rural Development Act (7 U.S.C. 1932(g)(9)(B)) is
5 amended—

6 (1) in clause (i), by inserting “wholly or major-
7 ity owned Tribal entities or corporations that pro-
8 vide services or programs consistent with the pur-
9 poses of the program under this paragraph,” after
10 “businesses”; and

11 (2) in clause (iv)(I), by striking “2023” and in-
12 serting “2029”.

13 **SEC. 6420. APPROPRIATE TECHNOLOGY TRANSFER FOR**
14 **RURAL AREAS PROGRAM.**

15 Section 310B(i)(4) of the Consolidated Farm and
16 Rural Development Act (7 U.S.C. 1932(i)(4)) is amended
17 by striking “2023” and inserting “2029”.

18 **SEC. 6421. RURAL ECONOMIC AREA PARTNERSHIP ZONES.**

19 Section 310B(j) of the Consolidated Farm and Rural
20 Development Act (7 U.S.C. 1932(j)) is amended by strik-
21 ing “2023” and inserting “2029”.

22 **SEC. 6422. INTERMEDIARY RELENDING PROGRAM.**

23 Section 310H of the Consolidated Farm and Rural
24 Development Act (7 U.S.C. 1936b(i)) is amended—

25 (1) in subsection (b)(2), by striking “Indian
26 tribes” and inserting “federally recognized Indian

1 Tribes and Tribal organizations (which shall include
2 wholly or majority owned Tribal entities or corpora-
3 tions that provide services or programs consistent
4 with the purposes of the program under this sec-
5 tion)”; and

6 (2) in subsection (i)—

7 (A) by striking “subsection” and inserting
8 “section”; and

9 (B) by striking “2023” and inserting
10 “2029”.

11 **SEC. 6423. RURAL BUSINESS-COOPERATIVE SERVICE PRO-**
12 **GRAMS TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE AND TRAIN-**
13 **ING.**

14 Section 368(d)(1) of the Consolidated Farm and
15 Rural Development Act (7 U.S.C. 2008c(d)(1)) is amend-
16 ed by striking “2023” and inserting “2029”.

17 **SEC. 6424. NATIONAL RURAL DEVELOPMENT PARTNER-**
18 **SHIP.**

19 Section 378 of the Consolidated Farm and Rural De-
20 velopment Act (7 U.S.C. 2008m) is amended—

21 (1) in subsection (g)(1), by striking “2023”
22 and inserting “2029”; and

23 (2) in subsection (h), by striking “2023” and
24 inserting “2029”.

1 **SEC. 6425. GRANTS FOR NOAA WEATHER RADIO TRANSMIT-**
2 **TERS.**

3 Section 379B(d) of the Consolidated Farm and Rural
4 Development Act (7 U.S.C. 2008p(d)) is amended by
5 striking “2023” and inserting “2029”.

6 **SEC. 6426. RURAL MICROENTREPRENEUR ASSISTANCE**
7 **PROGRAM.**

8 Section 379E of the Consolidated Farm and Rural
9 Development Act (7 U.S.C. 2008s) is amended—

10 (1) in subsection (a)—

11 (A) by striking paragraph (1) and insert-
12 ing the following:

13 “(2) INDIAN TRIBE.—The term ‘Indian tribe’
14 means an Indian Tribe or a Tribal organization (as
15 those terms are defined in section 4 of the Indian
16 Self-Determination and Education Assistance Act
17 (25 U.S.C. 5304)).”; and

18 (B) in paragraph (4), by striking
19 “\$50,000” and inserting “\$75,000”;

20 (2) in subsection (b)(3), by adding at the end
21 the following:

22 “(E) USE OF LOANS.—A loan made by the
23 Secretary to a microenterprise development or-
24 ganization under this paragraph may—

25 “(i) be used for 100 percent of a loan
26 to a rural microenterprise; and

1 “(ii) provide up to 50 percent of the
2 cost of demolition and construction and re-
3 lated costs of real estate.”; and

4 (3) in subsection (d), by striking “2023” and
5 inserting “2029”.

6 **SEC. 6427. HEALTH CARE SERVICES.**

7 Section 379G(e) of the Consolidated Farm and Rural
8 Development Act (7 U.S.C. 2008u(e)) is amended by
9 striking “2023” and inserting “2029”.

10 **SEC. 6428. STRATEGIC COMMUNITY INVESTMENT PLANS.**

11 Section 379H(d)(4) of the Consolidated Farm and
12 Rural Development Act (7 U.S.C. 2008v(d)(4)) is amend-
13 ed by striking “2023” and inserting “2029”.

14 **SEC. 6429. RURAL INNOVATION STRONGER ECONOMY**
15 **GRANT PROGRAM.**

16 Section 379I of the Consolidated Farm and Rural
17 Development Act (7 U.S.C. 2008w) is amended—

18 (1) by striking “jobs accelerator” each place it
19 appears and inserting “jobs and technology accel-
20 erator”;

21 (2) by striking “industry clusters” each place it
22 appears and inserting “industries”;

23 (3) by striking “industry cluster” each place it
24 appears and inserting “industry”;

25 (4) in subsection (a)—

1 (A) in paragraph (1)—

2 (i) in subparagraph (A)(iv), by strik-
3 ing subclause (II) and inserting the fol-
4 lowing:

5 “(II) a federally recognized In-
6 dian Tribe or Tribal organization (in-
7 cluding any wholly or majority owned
8 Tribal entity or corporation that pro-
9 vides services or programs consistent
10 with the purposes of the program
11 under this section) or a consortium of
12 federally recognized Indian Tribes.”;
13 and

14 (ii) in subparagraph (B)(ii)—

15 (I) by striking subclause (II);
16 and

17 (II) by redesignating subclauses
18 (III) and (IV) as subclauses (II) and
19 (III), respectively;

20 (B) by striking paragraph (2);

21 (C) by striking paragraph (4) and insert-
22 ing the following:

23 “(4) JOBS AND TECHNOLOGY ACCELERATOR.—

24 The term ‘jobs and technology accelerator’ means a
25 jobs and technology accelerator center or program

1 located in or serving a low-income rural community
2 that—

3 “(A) may provide co-working space, in-de-
4 mand skills training, entrepreneurship support,
5 and any other services described in subsection
6 (d)(1)(B); and

7 “(B) increases jobs in that low-income
8 rural community.”; and

9 (D) by redesignating paragraphs (3)
10 through (5) as paragraphs (2) through (4), re-
11 spectively;

12 (5) in subsection (b)—

13 (A) in paragraph (1), in the matter pre-
14 ceding subparagraph (A), by striking “jobs ac-
15 celerators,” and inserting “jobs and technology
16 accelerators,”; and

17 (B) in paragraph (5), by striking “not
18 fewer than 25 States at any time” and insert-
19 ing “a geographically diverse manner and tak-
20 ing into account different methods of measuring
21 distress in rural communities”; and

22 (6) in subsection (f), by striking “2023” and
23 inserting “2029”.

1 **SEC. 6430. RURAL BUSINESS INVESTMENT PROGRAM.**

2 Section 384S of the Consolidated Farm and Rural
3 Development Act (7 U.S.C. 2009cc–18) is amended by
4 striking “2023” and inserting “2029”.

5 **SEC. 6431. INVESTMENTS IN RURAL INFRASTRUCTURE.**

6 There is appropriated, out of amounts in the Treas-
7 ury not otherwise appropriated—

8 (1) \$100,000,000 for fiscal year 2025 and each
9 fiscal year thereafter, to remain available until ex-
10 pended, for rural water and waste disposal grants
11 under section 306(a)(2) of the Consolidated Farm
12 and Rural Development Act (7 U.S.C. 1926(a)(2));
13 and

14 (2) \$100,000,000 for fiscal year 2025 and each
15 fiscal year thereafter, to remain available until ex-
16 pended, for community facilities grants under sec-
17 tion 306(a)(19) of that Act (7 U.S.C. 1926(a)(19)),
18 to remain available until expended.

19 **Subtitle E—Miscellaneous**

20 **SEC. 6501. DISTANCE LEARNING AND TELEMEDICINE.**

21 (a) USE OF GRANTS FOR OPERATING EXPENSES.—
22 Section 2333 of the Food, Agriculture, Conservation, and
23 Trade Act of 1990 (7 U.S.C. 950aaa–2) is amended—

24 (1) in subsection (a), by inserting “and oper-
25 ation” after “construction”;

26 (2) in subsection (c)—

1 (A) in paragraph (1)(B), by adding “and”
2 at the end; and

3 (B) in paragraph (2)(A), by striking “or
4 extend” each place it appears and inserting
5 “extend, or operate”;

6 (3) in subsection (f)—

7 (A) in paragraph (3), by striking “or” at
8 the end;

9 (B) by redesignating paragraph (4) as
10 paragraph (5); and

11 (C) by inserting after paragraph (3) the
12 following:

13 “(4) operation of the programming, equipment,
14 or facilities referred to in paragraphs (1) and (2);
15 or”; and

16 (4) by striking subsection (g) and inserting the
17 following:

18 “(g) OPERATING EXPENSES.—Not more than 15
19 percent of the amount of financial assistance provided to
20 a recipient under this chapter may be used for operating
21 expenses, including salaries or administrative expenses,
22 that are reasonable and allocable to the project carried
23 out by the recipient.”.

24 (b) WAIVER OF MATCHING REQUIREMENT.—Section
25 2334 of the Food, Agriculture, Conservation, and Trade

1 Act of 1990 (7 U.S.C. 950aaa–3) is amended by adding
2 at the end the following:

3 “(g) WAIVER OF MATCHING REQUIREMENT.—The
4 Secretary shall waive any requirement for a recipient of
5 financial assistance under this chapter to provide non-
6 Federal matching funds—

7 “(1) in a case of demonstrated need or if the
8 matching requirement would create a substantial
9 burden, as determined by the Secretary; or

10 “(2) if the recipient is a federally recognized In-
11 dian Tribe.”.

12 (c) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—Section
13 2335A of the Food, Agriculture, Conservation, and Trade
14 Act of 1990 (7 U.S.C. 950aaa–5) is amended by striking
15 “2019 through 2023” and inserting “2025 through
16 2029”.

17 (d) CONFORMING AMENDMENT.—Section 1(b) of
18 Public Law 102–551 (7 U.S.C. 950aaa note) is amended
19 by striking “2023” and inserting “2029”.

20 **SEC. 6502. LAST ACRE PROJECTS.**

21 (a) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

22 (1) BROADBAND SERVICE.—The term
23 “broadband service” has the meaning given the term
24 in section 601(b) of the Rural Electrification Act of
25 1936 (7 U.S.C. 950bb(b)).

1 (2) CONFIGURATION MANAGEMENT PLAN.—The
2 term “configuration management plan”, with respect
3 to a covered provider, means a comprehensive de-
4 scription of the roles, responsibilities, policies, and
5 procedures intended to improve the integrity of the
6 systems and networks of the covered provider.

7 (3) COVERED PRODUCER.—

8 (A) IN GENERAL.—The term “covered pro-
9 ducer” means a person or entity that is directly
10 engaged in the production of agricultural prod-
11 ucts, including crops or livestock, on eligible
12 land that is unserved or underserved, such that
13 a majority of the gross income of the person or
14 entity is derived from those products.

15 (B) INCLUSION.—The term “covered pro-
16 ducer” includes agricultural research centers of
17 the Agricultural Research Service.

18 (4) COVERED PROVIDER.—The term “covered
19 provider” means—

20 (A) with respect to the provision of quali-
21 fying connectivity to eligible land, a provider of
22 broadband service; or

23 (B) with respect to the provision of wire-
24 less solutions using or extending the range of
25 network connectivity, a provider of wireless

1 equipment or communications services, in asso-
2 ciation with an entity described in subpara-
3 graph (A).

4 (5) ELIGIBLE LAND.—The term “eligible land”
5 means cropland, grassland, rangeland, pastureland,
6 farm sites, and other agricultural land used for the
7 active production of agricultural commodities or live-
8 stock.

9 (6) FARM SITE.—The term “farm site” means
10 a portion of land contiguous to land actively devoted
11 to agricultural production and that includes im-
12 provements that are agricultural or horticultural in
13 nature.

14 (7) PRECISION AGRICULTURE.—The term “pre-
15 cision agriculture” means managing, tracking, or re-
16 ducing crop or livestock production inputs, including
17 seed, feed, fertilizer, chemicals, water, and time, at
18 a heightened level of spatial and temporal granu-
19 larity to improve efficiencies, reduce waste, and
20 maintain or improve environmental quality.

21 (8) QUALIFYING CONNECTIVITY.—

22 (A) IN GENERAL.—The term “qualifying
23 connectivity” means the service offered by a
24 covered provider as a result of assistance under
25 this section that—

1 (i) is capable of a speed of not less
2 than—

3 (I) a 100-Mbps downstream
4 transmission capacity; and

5 (II) a 20-Mbps upstream trans-
6 mission capacity; and

7 (ii) carries out not less than 1 of the
8 activities described in subparagraph (B).

9 (B) ACTIVITIES DESCRIBED.—The activi-
10 ties referred to in subparagraph (A)(ii) are—

11 (i) providing broadband service by any
12 technology to structures and devices on eli-
13 gible land, including tractors, combines, ir-
14 rrigation systems, drones, under-soil sen-
15 sors, livestock facilities, and farm offices;

16 (ii) providing multipoint wireless net-
17 work connectivity that facilitates data
18 transmission between structures and de-
19 vices on eligible land, including structures
20 and devices described in clause (i); and

21 (iii) supporting—

22 (I) the construction of wireless
23 infrastructure, including poles, towers,
24 base stations, or other structures, re-
25 gardless of whether the structure has

1 an existing antenna facility, that is
2 used or will be used for the provision
3 of wireless service; or

4 (II) the retrofitting of existing
5 towers or vertical structures, such as
6 water towers, grain elevators, or cen-
7 ter pivots, to accommodate wireless
8 infrastructure.

9 (9) REMOTE AREA.—The term “remote area”
10 means the frontier and remote ZIP Code areas pub-
11 lished by the Economic Research Service.

12 (10) UNDERSERVED.—The term “underserved”
13 means, with respect to eligible land, that the eligible
14 land lacks access to broadband service that is capa-
15 ble of a speed of not less than—

16 (A) a 100-Mbps downstream transmission
17 capacity; and

18 (B) a 20-Mbps upstream transmission ca-
19 pacity.

20 (11) UNSERVED.—The term “unserved” means,
21 with respect to eligible land, eligible land that lacks
22 access to broadband service that is capable of a
23 speed of not less than—

24 (A) a 25-Mbps downstream transmission
25 capacity; and

1 (B) a 3-Mbps upstream transmission ca-
2 pacity.

3 (b) PURPOSES.—Not later than 1 year after the date
4 of enactment of this Act, the Secretary shall carry out,
5 under terms and conditions as the Secretary considers to
6 be appropriate, projects—

7 (1) to advance precision agriculture connectivity
8 nationwide; and

9 (2) to augment last mile broadband service de-
10 ployment for agricultural producers by expanding
11 high-speed internet access across the last acre.

12 (c) GRANTS AND LOANS.—

13 (1) IN GENERAL.—In carrying out this section,
14 the Secretary shall make grants and make loans to
15 covered providers to provide qualifying connectivity
16 to covered producers on unserved and underserved
17 eligible land.

18 (2) LIMITATION.—Of the amounts made avail-
19 able under subsection (k) for a fiscal year for assist-
20 ance under this section, the Secretary may award
21 not more than 10 percent to provide qualifying
22 connectivity to agricultural research centers de-
23 scribed in subsection (a)(3)(B).

24 (3) USE OF FUNDS.—

1 (A) CYBERSECURITY.—The Secretary may
2 allow a covered provider to use a portion of the
3 assistance provided to the covered provider
4 under this section, as necessary, to address the
5 cybersecurity requirements under subsection
6 (g).

7 (B) PROHIBITION.—The Secretary shall
8 not award any assistance under this section for
9 broadband service to an inhabitable residence
10 that is identified as serviceable or has to be
11 served due to an enforceable commitment to de-
12 ploy on the broadband maps (as determined by
13 the Secretary).

14 (4) FEDERAL SHARE.—

15 (A) IN GENERAL.—Except as provided in
16 subparagraph (B), the Federal share of a
17 project carried out using assistance under this
18 section shall be not more than 80 percent of the
19 total cost of the project.

20 (B) LIMITED RESOURCE FARMERS OR
21 RANCHERS.—The Secretary may increase the
22 Federal share described in subparagraph (A) to
23 90 percent if the covered producer on the appli-
24 cable eligible land is a limited resource farmer
25 or rancher.

1 (d) APPLICATION.—To apply for assistance under
2 this section, a covered provider shall submit to the Sec-
3 retary an application in such manner and containing such
4 information as the Secretary may require, including—

5 (1) the measures by which the covered producer
6 has engaged with the covered provider to identify the
7 appropriate qualifying connectivity plan to serve the
8 eligible land of the covered producer;

9 (2) a description of how the assistance provided
10 under this section would be used to establish quali-
11 fying connectivity on the unserved or underserved el-
12 igible land of a covered producer, including the en-
13 tire acreage in need of qualifying connectivity;

14 (3) a description of how the assistance provided
15 under this section could be used to provide
16 broadband service to residents or essential commu-
17 nity facilities (if any) in areas near or adjacent to
18 unserved or underserved eligible land of a covered
19 producer;

20 (4) the amount of the Federal share for the
21 project and the amount of the non-Federal share for
22 the project;

23 (5) information necessary for the covered pro-
24 vider to demonstrate to the Secretary that the cov-
25 ered provider—

1 (A) is capable of carrying out the specific
2 activities for which assistance is provided under
3 this section in compliance with all applicable
4 Federal, State, and local laws;

5 (B) has the financial and managerial ca-
6 pacity to meet the specific commitments con-
7 tained in the application, including buildout ob-
8 ligations; and

9 (C) has the technical and operational capa-
10 bility—

11 (i) to construct and operate
12 broadband networks; and

13 (ii) to meet the requirement described
14 in paragraph (1) of subsection (g) and pro-
15 vide the cybersecurity certification required
16 under paragraph (2) of that subsection;

17 (6) whether the eligible land of the covered pro-
18 ducer—

19 (A) is unserved or underserved; and

20 (B) is not subject to an enforceable com-
21 mitment to deploy broadband by the applicant
22 or another covered provider, as determined ac-
23 cording to the broadband maps (as determined
24 by the Secretary);

1 (7) a description of the means by which the
2 covered provider will provide to the Secretary the in-
3 formation necessary for the Secretary to prepare the
4 annual reports under subsection (i); and

5 (8) any additional information that the Sec-
6 retary determines necessary to ensure the effective
7 function of the program under this section.

8 (e) TIMELINE.—

9 (1) IN GENERAL.—For each project for which
10 assistance is provided under this section, the Sec-
11 retary shall establish service buildout milestones and
12 periodic certifications by recipients of the assistance
13 for purposes of project compliance and implementa-
14 tion.

15 (2) REQUIREMENT.—The milestones required
16 under paragraph (1) shall establish a maximum
17 buildout timeframe of not more than 4 years from
18 the date on which the assistance is provided.

19 (3) PENALTIES.—The Secretary shall establish
20 and enforce standardized penalties, fines, and sanc-
21 tions for noncompliance with a milestone or certifi-
22 cation established under paragraph (1).

23 (f) PRIORITY.—

24 (1) IN GENERAL.—In selecting applicants for
25 assistance under this section, the Secretary shall

1 give priority to applicants that propose to carry out
2 projects in the following order:

3 (A) Unserved eligible land in remote areas.

4 (B) Other unserved eligible land.

5 (C) Underserved eligible land in remote
6 areas.

7 (D) Other underserved eligible land.

8 (2) RESIDENTS AND ESSENTIAL COMMUNITY
9 FACILITIES.—The Secretary may give priority to ap-
10 plicants for assistance under this section that pro-
11 pose to carry out projects that would also provide
12 broadband service at speeds higher than the speeds
13 described in subclauses (I) and (II) of subsection
14 (a)(8)(A)(i) to residents or essential community fa-
15 cilities (if any) in areas that—

16 (A) are near or adjacent to unserved or
17 underserved eligible land; and

18 (B) lack access to broadband service that
19 is capable of those higher speeds.

20 (3) ENHANCED SPEEDS.—

21 (A) FINDING.—Congress finds that there
22 are unique connectivity needs to support the
23 adoption of precision agriculture.

24 (B) PRIORITIZATION.—In selecting appli-
25 cants for assistance under this section, the Sec-

1 retary may give priority to an applicant that
2 proposes to carry out a project to provide
3 broadband service speeds that are greater than
4 the speeds described in subclauses (I) and (II)
5 of subsection (a)(8)(A)(i), if the applicant dem-
6 onstrates that the proposal to serve the eligible
7 land of a covered producer that is unserved or
8 underserved requires those greater speeds.

9 (g) CYBERSECURITY.—As a condition on receipt of
10 assistance under this section, a covered provider shall—

11 (1) ensure that any structure, device, or system
12 provided or constructed using the assistance incor-
13 porates a layered defense strategy as a means of de-
14 fensible security architecture; and

15 (2) certify to the Secretary that the covered
16 provider maintains a regularly updated configuration
17 management plan.

18 (h) PUBLIC NOTICE AND ASSESSMENTS.—Sub-
19 sections (a) and (b)(1) of section 701 of the Rural Elec-
20 trification Act of 1936 (7 U.S.C. 950cc) shall apply to
21 assistance and applications for assistance under this sec-
22 tion.

23 (i) REPORT TO CONGRESS.—For fiscal year 2026
24 and each fiscal year thereafter through the fiscal year that
25 is 2 fiscal years after the fiscal year during which the last

1 project funded under this section is completed, the Sec-
2 retary shall—

3 (1) submit to the Committee on Agriculture,
4 Nutrition, and Forestry of the Senate and the Com-
5 mittee on Agriculture of the House of Representa-
6 tives a report that describes—

7 (A) applications for assistance under this
8 section submitted during the previous fiscal
9 year, including the number of parcels of eligible
10 land for which applications were submitted dur-
11 ing the previous fiscal year;

12 (B) the amount of assistance awarded for
13 each project under this section during the pre-
14 vious fiscal year;

15 (C) the number of projects for which as-
16 sistance is provided under this section, includ-
17 ing the number of parcels of eligible land on
18 which those projects were carried out, that were
19 successfully completed during the previous fis-
20 cal year; and

21 (D)(i) the number of covered producers
22 subscribing to the broadband service provided
23 under each project for which assistance is pro-
24 vided under this section;

1 (ii) the download and upload speeds of the
2 broadband service provided under each such
3 project; and

4 (iii) the purposes for which the broadband
5 service under each such project is used, includ-
6 ing the use of precision agriculture; and

7 (2) make the report required under paragraph
8 (1) publicly available on the website of the Sec-
9 retary.

10 (j) **TERMINATION OF AUTHORITY.**—The authority to
11 make grants and to make loans under this section shall
12 terminate on September 30, 2029.

13 (k) **AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.**—There is
14 authorized to be appropriated to carry out this section
15 \$160,000,000 for each of fiscal years 2025 through 2029,
16 to remain available until expended.

17 **SEC. 6503. FOOD SUPPLY CHAIN GUARANTEED LOAN AND**
18 **GRANT PROGRAM.**

19 (a) **DEFINITIONS.**—In this section:

20 (1) **COMMERCIAL FOOD PRODUCT.**—The term
21 “commercial food product” means a product derived
22 from domestically grown food in regular production
23 that is routinely sold in significant quantities to the
24 general public or industry.

1 (2) ELIGIBLE ENTITY.—The term “eligible enti-
2 ty” means—

3 (A) a cooperative organization;

4 (B) a for-profit entity;

5 (C) a Tribal entity;

6 (D) a public body;

7 (E) an individual; and

8 (F) a nonprofit organization.

9 (3) TRIBAL ENTITY.—

10 (A) IN GENERAL.—The term “Tribal enti-
11 ty” means—

12 (i) an Indian Tribe (as defined in sec-
13 tion 4 of the Indian Self-Determination
14 and Education Assistance Act (25 U.S.C.
15 5304));

16 (ii) any other Tribe (as determined by
17 the Secretary); and

18 (iii) a Tribal organization (as defined
19 in section 4 of the Indian Self-Determina-
20 tion and Education Assistance Act (25
21 U.S.C. 5304)).

22 (B) INCLUSIONS.—The term “Tribal enti-
23 ty” includes an entity or a corporation that—

24 (i) is wholly or majority owned by one
25 or more Tribal entities described in sub-

1 paragraph (A) or one or more members
2 thereof; and

3 (ii) provides services or programs con-
4 sistent with the purposes of the program
5 under this section.

6 (b) **AUTHORITY.**—The Secretary shall guarantee
7 loans and make grants to eligible entities to support the
8 commencement or expansion of projects in the United
9 States to increase the capacity of the food supply chain
10 in the United States to aggregate, process, manufacture,
11 store, transport, wholesale, or distribute domestically
12 grown food for commercial food products.

13 (c) **ELIGIBILITY.**—

14 (1) **IN GENERAL.**—To be eligible for a loan
15 guarantee or grant under this section, an eligible en-
16 tity shall be engaged in or propose to engage in ag-
17 gregating, processing, manufacturing, storing, trans-
18 porting, wholesaling, or distributing domestically
19 grown food for a commercial food product project—

20 (A) directly; or

21 (B) through a contractual, lease, or service
22 agreement with another entity.

23 (2) **RESTRICTIONS.**—To be eligible for a loan
24 guarantee or grant under this section—

1 (A) an eligible entity engaged in or pro-
2 posing to engage in the processing of meat,
3 poultry, processed egg products, or fish of the
4 order Siluriformes shall comply with the re-
5 quirements of the Food Safety and Inspection
6 Service;

7 (B) an eligible entity engaged in or pro-
8 posing to engage in the processing of any food
9 or food ingredient not described in subpara-
10 graph (A) shall comply with the requirements of
11 the Food and Drug Administration; and

12 (C) an eligible entity engaged in or pro-
13 posing to engage in beef, pork, chicken, or tur-
14 key processing, including an affiliate of such an
15 eligible entity, shall not hold a market share
16 greater than or equal to the entity that holds
17 the fourth-largest share of the market for the
18 species addressed in the loan guarantee or
19 grant award.

20 (3) REQUIREMENT.—The Secretary shall not
21 limit the eligibility of an eligible entity for a loan
22 guarantee or grant under this section based on the
23 availability of credit from any other source.

24 (d) APPLICATIONS.—

1 (1) IN GENERAL.—To be eligible for a loan
2 guarantee or grant under this section, an eligible en-
3 tity shall submit to the Secretary an application in
4 such form, at such time, and containing such infor-
5 mation as the Secretary determines to be appro-
6 priate.

7 (2) INCLUSION.—An application submitted
8 under paragraph (1) shall demonstrate that the loan
9 or grant funds will be used in the United States to
10 carry out a project described in subsection (b).

11 (3) FEASIBILITY STUDY.—

12 (A) IN GENERAL.—An application sub-
13 mitted under paragraph (1) shall include a fea-
14 sibility study that meets criteria established by
15 the Secretary.

16 (B) REQUIREMENT.—The Secretary may
17 not approve an application submitted under
18 paragraph (1) unless the Secretary determines
19 that the project described in the application is
20 technically and economically feasible, based on
21 the feasibility study described in subparagraph
22 (A).

23 (4) COMBINATION.—An eligible entity may
24 apply for both a loan guarantee and a grant under
25 this section using the same application.

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1 (e) LOAN GUARANTEES.—

2 (1) ELIGIBLE USES.—A loan guaranteed under
3 this section may be used by the eligible entity—

4 (A) to purchase or develop real property;

5 (B) to expand, renovate, construct, or oth-
6 erwise improve leased or owned property;

7 (C) to purchase machinery or equipment;

8 (D) for—

9 (i) debt refinancing;

10 (ii) interim financing;

11 (iii) the purchase of membership into
12 the Farm Credit System;

13 (iv) the purchase of cooperative stock
14 or taxable corporate bonds;

15 (v) the financing of working capital;

16 or

17 (vi) to cover interest or fees;

18 (E) to conduct a feasibility study under
19 subsection (d)(3)(A);

20 (F) for education and training facilities or
21 equipment; or

22 (G) for pollution control or abatement.

23 (2) AMOUNT.—The principal amount of a loan
24 guaranteed under this section may not exceed
25 \$80,000,000.

1 (f) GRANTS.—

2 (1) ELIGIBLE USES.—A grant made under this
3 section may be used by the eligible entity receiving
4 the grant for—

5 (A) technical assistance;

6 (B) employee training and certification;

7 (C) costs of an environmental assessment;

8 or

9 (D) food safety certification and training.

10 (2) AMOUNT.—The amount of a grant made
11 under this section may not exceed \$500,000.

12 (3) FUNDING.—

13 (A) IN GENERAL.—Of the amount made
14 available to carry out this section for each fiscal
15 year, the Secretary shall reserve not less than
16 10 percent to make grants under this section.

17 (B) AVAILABILITY.—If amounts reserved
18 under subparagraph (A) are not obligated by
19 September 30 of the fiscal year for which the
20 amounts are reserved, the amounts shall be
21 available for other purposes authorized under
22 this section.

23 (g) PRIORITIES.—In guaranteeing loans and making
24 grants under this section, when the amount available to
25 carry out this section is less than the total of the amounts

1 requested by applications under this section that are eligi-
2 ble for approval, the Secretary shall give preference to ap-
3 plications for projects that—

4 (1) would create jobs in economically distressed
5 communities, as determined by the Secretary;

6 (2) are submitted by eligible entities that are
7 small food processors (as determined by the Sec-
8 retary) and are small business concerns (within the
9 meaning of section 3 of the Small Business Act (15
10 U.S.C. 632));

11 (3) would support local or regional foods; or

12 (4) would help to create a more resilient, di-
13 verse, and secure United States food supply chain,
14 as determined by the Secretary.

15 (h) NONSUPPLANTATION OF OTHER FUNDS.—The
16 Secretary shall use the amounts made available to carry
17 out this section to supplement, and not supplant, funds
18 provided under other Federal law or State or local law.

19 (i) REQUIREMENT.—

20 (1) IN GENERAL.—As a condition of receiving a
21 loan guarantee or grant under this section, an eligi-
22 ble entity shall ensure that all laborers and mechan-
23 ics employed by contractors or subcontractors in the
24 performance of construction work financed in whole
25 or in part by the loan guarantee or grant shall be

1 paid wages at rates not less than those prevailing on
2 similar construction in the locality, as determined by
3 the Secretary of Labor in accordance with sections
4 3141 through 3144, 3146, and 3147 of title 40,
5 United States Code.

6 (2) AUTHORITY AND FUNCTIONS.—The Sec-
7 retary of Labor shall have, with respect to the labor
8 standards described in paragraph (1), the authority
9 and functions set forth in Reorganization Plan
10 Numbered 14 of 1950 (64 Stat. 1267; 5 U.S.C.
11 App) and section 3145 of title 40, United States
12 Code.

13 (j) FUNDING.—

14 (1) MANDATORY FUNDING.—There is appro-
15 priated, out of amounts in the Treasury not other-
16 wise appropriated, \$30,000,000 for fiscal year 2025
17 and each fiscal year thereafter to carry out this sec-
18 tion, to remain available until expended.

19 (2) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—
20 There is authorized to be appropriated to the Sec-
21 retary to carry out this section not more than
22 \$30,000,000 for each of fiscal years 2025 through
23 2029, to remain available until expended.

24 (3) ADMINISTRATION.—Of the amount made
25 available to carry out this section for each fiscal

1 year, the Secretary may use not more than 5 percent
2 for administrative purposes.

3 **SEC. 6504. AGRICULTURE INNOVATION CENTER DEM-**
4 **ONSTRATION PROGRAM.**

5 Section 6402 of the Farm Security and Rural Invest-
6 ment Act of 2002 (7 U.S.C. 1632b) is amended—

7 (1) by striking “agricultural producers” each
8 place it appears and inserting “eligible partici-
9 pants”;

10 (2) in subsection (b)—

11 (A) by redesignating paragraphs (1) and
12 (2) as paragraphs (2) and (3), respectively; and

13 (B) by inserting before paragraph (2) (as
14 so redesignated) the following:

15 “(1) ELIGIBLE PARTICIPANT.—The term ‘eligi-
16 ble participant’ means—

17 “(A) an agricultural producer;

18 “(B) an agricultural enterprise (as defined
19 in section 18(b) of the Small Business Act (15
20 U.S.C. 647(b))); and

21 “(C) a small business concern (within the
22 meaning of section 3 of the Small Business Act
23 (15 U.S.C. 632)) engaged in manufacturing
24 value-added agricultural products.”;

25 (3) in subsection (d)—

1 (A) in paragraph (1)(C), by striking “(in
2 cash or in kind)”; and

3 (B) by striking paragraph (2) and insert-
4 ing the following:

5 “(2) ADVISORY BOARD.—

6 “(A) IN GENERAL.—Each Agriculture In-
7 novation Center of an eligible entity shall have
8 an advisory board.

9 “(B) REQUIREMENTS.—An advisory board
10 described in subparagraph (A) shall be com-
11 posed of a diverse group of representatives of
12 public and private entities in the State in which
13 the eligible entity is located (or the region in
14 which the eligible entity is located if the service
15 area of the eligible entity comprises more than
16 1 State), including the following:

17 “(i) General agricultural organiza-
18 tions.

19 “(ii) Entities representing commod-
20 ities produced in the State or region, as
21 applicable.”; and

22 (4) in subsection (g), by striking “\$15,000,000
23 for each of fiscal years 2019 through 2023” and in-
24 serting “\$25,000,000 for each of fiscal years 2025
25 through 2029”.

1 **SEC. 6505. RURAL ENERGY SAVINGS PROGRAM.**

2 Section 6407 of the Farm Security and Rural Invest-
3 ment Act of 2002 (7 U.S.C. 8107a) is amended—

4 (1) in subsection (b)—

5 (A) in paragraph (1)—

6 (i) in subparagraph (B), by striking
7 “or” at the end;

8 (ii) by redesignating subparagraph
9 (C) as subparagraph (E); and

10 (iii) by inserting after subparagraph
11 (B) the following:

12 “(C) any Indian Tribe (as defined in sec-
13 tion 4 of the Indian Self-Determination and
14 Education Assistance Act (25 U.S.C. 5304));

15 “(D) any public, quasipublic, or nonprofit
16 entity that uses innovative financing techniques
17 and market development tools to accelerate the
18 deployment of clean energy technology (com-
19 monly known as a ‘green bank’); and”;

20 (B) by striking paragraph (2) and insert-
21 ing the following:

22 “(2) **ENERGY EFFICIENCY MEASURE.**—The
23 term ‘energy efficiency measure’, with respect to any
24 property served by an eligible entity, means—

25 “(A) a structural improvement or invest-
26 ment in a cost-effective, commercial technology

1 to increase energy efficiency (including cost-ef-
2 fective on- or off-grid renewable energy or en-
3 ergy storage systems); and

4 “(B) the replacement of a manufactured
5 housing unit or large appliance with a substan-
6 tially similar manufactured housing unit or ap-
7 pliance, respectively, if that replacement is a
8 cost-effective option with respect to energy sav-
9 ings.”;

10 (2) in subsection (c)—

11 (A) in the subsection heading, by inserting
12 “AND GRANTS” after “LOANS”;

13 (B) by striking paragraph (1) and insert-
14 ing the following:

15 “(1) IN GENERAL.—Subject to the require-
16 ments of this subsection, the Secretary shall pro-
17 vide—

18 “(A) loans to eligible entities that agree to
19 use the loan funds to make loans under sub-
20 section (d) to qualified consumers for the pur-
21 pose of implementing energy efficiency meas-
22 ures; and

23 “(B) at the election of any eligible entity
24 that receives a loan under subparagraph (A), a
25 grant in accordance with paragraph (10).”;

1 (C) in paragraph (2)—

2 (i) in the paragraph heading, by in-
3 sserting “FOR LOANS” after “REQUIRE-
4 MENTS”; and

5 (ii) in subparagraph (A)(i), by strik-
6 ing “that is”;

7 (D) in paragraph (5)—

8 (i) by redesignating subparagraphs
9 (A) and (B) as clauses (i) and (ii), respec-
10 tively, and indenting the clauses appro-
11 priately;

12 (ii) in the matter preceding clause (i)
13 (as so redesignated), by striking “With re-
14 spect to a loan under paragraph (1)” and
15 inserting the following:

16 “(A) IN GENERAL.—Subject to subpara-
17 graph (B), with respect to a loan under para-
18 graph (1)(A)”;

19 (iii) by adding at the end the fol-
20 lowing:

21 “(B) EXTENSIONS.—The Secretary may
22 extend the term of a loan under subparagraph
23 (A)(i), or the deadline for the repayment of an
24 advance under subparagraph (A)(ii), as the Sec-
25 retary determines to be appropriate.”;

1 (E) in paragraph (7)—

2 (i) in subparagraph (B), by striking
3 “paragraph (1)” and inserting “paragraph
4 (1)(A)”; and

5 (ii) in subparagraph (C), in the mat-
6 ter preceding clause (i), by striking “Re-
7 payment of the special advance” and in-
8 serting “Subject to an applicable extension
9 under paragraph (5)(B), repayment of a
10 special advance under this paragraph”;

11 (F) in paragraph (8), by striking “para-
12 graph (1)” and inserting “paragraph (1)(A)”;
13 and

14 (G) by adding at the end the following:

15 “(10) GRANTS.—

16 “(A) IN GENERAL.—At the election of an
17 eligible entity that receives a loan under this
18 subsection, the Secretary shall provide to the el-
19 igible entity a grant to pay for a portion of the
20 costs incurred in—

21 “(i) applying for the loan;

22 “(ii) making a loan to a qualified con-
23 sumer under subsection (d);

24 “(iii) making repairs to the property
25 of a qualified consumer that facilitate the

1 energy efficiency measures for the property
2 financed through a loan provided to the
3 qualified consumer under subsection (d);

4 “(iv) entering into a contract under
5 subsection (e); or

6 “(v) carrying out any other duties of
7 the eligible entity under this section.

8 “(B) AMOUNT.—

9 “(i) IN GENERAL.—Except as pro-
10 vided in clause (ii), the amount of a grant
11 provided to an eligible entity under this
12 paragraph shall be equal to not more than
13 5 percent of the amount of the loan pro-
14 vided to the eligible entity under this sub-
15 section.

16 “(ii) PERSISTENT POVERTY COUN-
17 TIES.—The amount of a grant provided
18 under this paragraph to an eligible entity
19 that will use the grant to make loans
20 under subsection (d) to qualified con-
21 sumers located in a persistent poverty
22 county (as determined by the Secretary)
23 shall be equal to 10 percent of the amount
24 of the loan provided to the eligible entity
25 under this subsection.”;

1 (3) in subsection (d)—

2 (A) in paragraph (1)—

3 (i) in the matter preceding subpara-
4 graph (A), by inserting “or grant” before
5 “funds”;

6 (ii) in subparagraph (B)—

7 (I) by striking “(B) shall fi-
8 nance” and inserting the following:

9 “(B)(i) may have a term and amortization
10 schedule the length of which is the useful life
11 of the energy efficiency measures implemented
12 using the loan, provided that the loan to the
13 qualified consumer does not exceed 20 years;
14 and

15 “(ii) shall finance”; and

16 (II) in clause (ii) (as so des-
17 ignated), by striking “a loan term of
18 not more than 10 years” and insert-
19 ing “the applicable loan term de-
20 scribed in clause (i)”; and

21 (iii) in subparagraph (C), by striking
22 “unless the personal property is or be-
23 comes attached to real property (including
24 a manufactured home) as a fixture;” and
25 inserting “unless the personal property—

1 “(i) is a manufactured housing unit or
2 large appliance described in subsection
3 (b)(2)(B); or

4 “(ii) is or becomes attached to real
5 property as a fixture;” and

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

7 “(3) CLARIFICATION OF ELIGIBILITY.—Not-
8 withstanding any other provision of law (including
9 regulations), an eligible entity may make a loan
10 under this subsection to any qualified consumer lo-
11 cated within the service territory of the eligible enti-
12 ty, regardless of whether the qualified consumer is
13 located in a rural area.”;

14 (4) in subsection (e)—

15 (A) in the subsection heading, by inserting
16 “OUTREACH,” after “TRAINING,”;

17 (B) in paragraph (1)—

18 (i) in subparagraph (A), by striking
19 “and technical assistance of the program”
20 and inserting “outreach, and technical as-
21 sistance relating to the program under this
22 section”; and

23 (ii) in subparagraph (B)(ii), by insert-
24 ing “, outreach,” after “technical assist-
25 ance”; and

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

2 “(3) FUNDING.—Of the amounts made avail-
3 able under subsection (i), the Secretary may use
4 such sums as are necessary to provide outreach,
5 training, and technical assistance under this sub-
6 section.”; and

7 (5) in subsection (i), by striking “2023” and in-
8 serting “2029”.

9 **SEC. 6506. TECHNICAL CORRECTIONS.**

10 Section 306 of the Consolidated Farm and Rural De-
11 velopment Act (7 U.S.C. 1926) is amended—

12 (1) by striking the section designation and all
13 that follows through “The Secretary” in the first
14 sentence of subsection (a)(1) and inserting the fol-
15 lowing:

16 **“SEC. 306. WATER AND WASTE FACILITY LOANS AND**
17 **GRANTS.**

18 “(a) AUTHORITY.—

19 “(1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary”;

20 (2) in subsection (a)—

21 (A) in paragraph (3), by striking “(3) No”
22 and inserting the following:

23 “(3) DETERMINATION; REQUIREMENT.—No”;

24 (B) in paragraph (4)—

1 (i) by striking “(4) (A) The term”
2 and inserting the following:

3 “(4) DEFINITIONS.—In this subsection:

4 “(A) DEVELOPMENT COST.—The term”;

5 and

6 (ii) in subparagraph (B), by striking
7 “(B) The term” and inserting the fol-
8 lowing:

9 “(B) PROJECT.—The term”;

10 (C) in paragraph (6), by striking “(6)
11 The” and inserting the following:

12 “(6) GRANTS FOR CERTAIN DEVELOPMENT
13 PLANS.—The”;

14 (D) in paragraph (8)—

15 (i) by striking “(8) In” and inserting
16 the following:

17 “(8) PROJECTS PROPOSED TO SERVE THE SAME
18 RESIDENTS.—In”; and

19 (ii) by striking “he” and inserting
20 “the Secretary”;

21 (E) in paragraph (12)—

22 (i) by striking “(12)(A) The” and in-
23 sserting the following:

24 “(12) INFORMATIONAL SYSTEM FOR CERTAIN
25 INSTITUTIONS.—(A) The”; and

1 (ii) by indenting subparagraphs (B)
2 through (D) appropriately;
3 (F) in paragraph (13)—

4 (i) by striking “(13) In” and inserting
5 the following:

6 “(13) PRIORITY.—In”; and

7 (ii) in the second sentence—

8 (I) by striking “Soil Conservation
9 Service” and inserting “Natural Re-
10 sources Conservation Service”; and

11 (II) by striking “he” and insert-
12 ing “the Secretary”;

13 (G) in paragraph (15), by striking “(15)
14 In” and inserting the following:

15 “(15) PROJECTS SERVING MULTIPLE COMMU-
16 NITIES.—In”;

17 (H) in paragraph (16), by striking “(16)
18 Grants” and inserting the following:

19 “(16) USE OF GRANTS FOR LOCAL SHARE RE-
20 QUIREMENTS.—Grants”;

21 (I) in paragraph (17)—

22 (i) by striking “(17)(A) In” and in-
23 sserting the following:

24 “(17) DESIGN AND MATERIALS.—(A) In”; and

1 (ii) by indenting subparagraph (B)

2 appropriately; and

3 (J) in paragraph (18), by striking “(18)

4 In” and inserting the following:

5 “(18) PROHIBITION OF ADDITIONAL CONDI-

6 TIONS.—In”; and

7 (3) in subsection (b), by striking “(b) The” and

8 inserting the following:

9 “(b) CURTAILMENT OR LIMITATION OF SERVICE

10 PROHIBITED.—The”; and

11 (4) in subsection (d), by striking “(d) Any” and

12 inserting the following:

13 “(c) AVAILABILITY OF AMOUNTS; CARRYOVER OF

14 AUTHORIZATIONS.—Any”.

1 **TITLE VII—RESEARCH, EXTEN-**
2 **SION, AND RELATED MAT-**
3 **TERS**

4 **Subtitle A—National Agricultural**
5 **Research, Extension, and Teach-**
6 **ing Policy Act of 1977**

7 **SEC. 7101. NATIONAL AGRICULTURAL RESEARCH, EXTEN-**
8 **SION, EDUCATION, AND ECONOMICS ADVI-**
9 **SORY BOARD.**

10 Section 1408 of the National Agricultural Research,
11 Extension, and Teaching Policy Act of 1977 (7 U.S.C.
12 3123) is amended—

13 (1) in subsection (b)(5), by striking “7 addi-
14 tional members” and inserting “3 additional mem-
15 bers”;

16 (2) in subsection (g)(1), by striking “\$500,000”
17 and inserting “\$750,000”; and

18 (3) in subsection (h), by striking “2023” and
19 inserting “2029”.

20 **SEC. 7102. SPECIALTY CROP COMMITTEE.**

21 (a) IN GENERAL.—Section 1408A of the National
22 Agricultural Research, Extension, and Teaching Policy
23 Act of 1977 (7 U.S.C. 3123a) is amended—

24 (1) in subsection (a)(2)—

25 (A) in subparagraph (B)—

1 (i) in the matter preceding clause (i),
2 by striking “11 members” and inserting
3 “12 members”; and

4 (ii) adding at the end the following:

5 “(iv) One of such members shall rep-
6 resent a State with not less than 1,000
7 acres of citrus production, and shall be a
8 nonvoting member.”; and

9 (B) in subparagraph (D), by striking
10 “2023” and inserting “2029”;

11 (2) in subsection (b), by striking paragraph (2)
12 and inserting the following:

13 “(2) APPOINTMENT; SERVICE.—Members of the
14 specialty crops committee shall—

15 “(A) be appointed by the Secretary; and

16 “(B) serve at the discretion of the Sec-
17 retary.”; and

18 (3) in subsection (g)—

19 (A) by redesignating paragraph (5) and
20 (6) as paragraph (6) and (7), respectively; and

21 (B) by inserting after paragraph (4) the
22 following:

23 “(5) review grant applications under such sub-
24 section and submit a summary of comments, includ-
25 ing the relevancy of the applications to the annual

1 priorities established under paragraph (4), to the Di-
2 rector of the National Institute of Food and Agri-
3 culture for consideration prior to the awarding of
4 grants under such subsection;”.

5 (b) CONFORMING AMENDMENT.—Section 412(d) of
6 the Agricultural Research, Extension, and Education Re-
7 form Act of 1998 (7 U.S.C. 7632(d)) is amended—

8 (1) in paragraph (1), by striking “; and” and
9 inserting a semicolon;

10 (2) in paragraph (2), by striking the period at
11 the end and inserting “; and”; and

12 (3) by adding at the end the following:

13 “(3) for competitive grants under subsection
14 (j), the review and summary submitted to the Direc-
15 tor of the National Institute of Food and Agri-
16 culture under section 1408A(g)(5) of the National
17 Agricultural Research, Extension, and Teaching Pol-
18 icy Act of 1977 (7 U.S.C. 3123a(g)(5)).”.

19 (c) EFFECT.—The amendments made by subsection
20 (a)—

21 (1) shall take effect on October 1 of the first
22 fiscal year that begins after the date of enactment
23 of this Act; and

24 (2) shall not affect the terms of the members
25 of the citrus disease subcommittee established under

1 section 1408A(a)(2) of the National Agricultural Re-
2 search, Extension, and Teaching Policy Act of 1977
3 (7 U.S.C. 3123a(a)(2)) who are—

4 (A) appointed by the Secretary before the
5 effective date described in paragraph (1); and

6 (B) members of that subcommittee on that
7 effective date.

8 **SEC. 7103. GRANTS AND FELLOWSHIPS FOR FOOD AND AG-**
9 **RICULTURE SCIENCES EDUCATION.**

10 Section 1417 of the National Agricultural Research,
11 Extension, and Teaching Policy Act of 1977 (7 U.S.C.
12 3152) is amended—

13 (1) in subsection (j)(3)—

14 (A) in subparagraph (F), by striking
15 “and” at the end;

16 (B) in subparagraph (G), by striking the
17 period at the end and inserting “; and”; and

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

19 “(H) to conduct workforce training, edu-
20 cation, research, and outreach activities relating
21 to the food and agricultural sciences.”; and

22 (2) in subsection (m)—

23 (A) in paragraph (1), by striking “and” at
24 the end;

1 (B) in paragraph (2), by striking “2023.”
2 and inserting “2024; and”; and

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

4 “(3) \$60,000,000 for each of fiscal years 2025
5 through 2029.”.

6 **SEC. 7104. AGRICULTURAL AND FOOD POLICY RESEARCH**
7 **CENTERS.**

8 Section 1419A(e) of the National Agricultural Re-
9 search, Extension, and Teaching Policy Act of 1977 (7
10 U.S.C. 3155(e)) is amended by striking “2023” and in-
11 serting “2029”.

12 **SEC. 7105. EDUCATION GRANTS TO ALASKA NATIVE SERV-**
13 **ING INSTITUTIONS AND NATIVE HAWAIIAN**
14 **SERVING INSTITUTIONS.**

15 Section 1419B of the National Agricultural Research,
16 Extension, and Teaching Policy Act of 1977 (7 U.S.C.
17 3156) is amended—

18 (1) in subsection (a)(3), by striking
19 “\$10,000,000 in fiscal years 2001 through 2023”
20 and inserting “\$15,000,000 for each of fiscal years
21 2025 through 2029”; and

22 (2) in subsection (b)(3), by striking
23 “\$10,000,000 for each of fiscal years 2001 through
24 2023” and inserting “\$15,000,000 for each of fiscal
25 years 2025 through 2029”.

1 **SEC. 7106. NUTRITION EDUCATION PROGRAM.**

2 Section 1425(g) of the National Agricultural Re-
3 search, Extension, and Teaching Policy Act of 1977 (7
4 U.S.C. 3175(g)) is amended by striking “2023” and in-
5 serting “2029”.

6 **SEC. 7107. CONTINUING ANIMAL HEALTH AND DISEASE RE-**
7 **SEARCH PROGRAMS.**

8 Section 1433 of the National Agricultural Research,
9 Extension, and Teaching Policy Act of 1977 (7 U.S.C.
10 3195) is amended—

11 (1) in subsection (a), by adding at the end the
12 following:

13 “(4) CARRYOVER.—The balance of any annual
14 funds provided to an eligible institution for a fiscal
15 year under this subsection that remains unexpended
16 at the end of the fiscal year may be carried over for
17 use during the following fiscal year.”; and

18 (2) in subsection (c)(1), by striking “2023” and
19 inserting “2029”.

20 **SEC. 7108. EXTENSION AT 1890 LAND-GRANT COLLEGES, IN-**
21 **CLUDING TUSKEGEE UNIVERSITY.**

22 Section 1444(a)(2) of the National Agricultural Re-
23 search, Extension, and Teaching Policy Act of 1977 (7
24 U.S.C. 3221(a)(2)) is amended—

25 (1) by striking “2003” and inserting “2025”;
26 and

1 (B) by inserting “agricultural” before
2 “chief administrative officer”.

3 **SEC. 7110. SCHOLARSHIPS FOR STUDENTS AT 1890 INSTITU-**
4 **TIONS.**

5 Section 1446 of the National Agricultural Research,
6 Extension, and Teaching Policy Act of 1977 (7 U.S.C.
7 3222a) is amended—

8 (1) in subsection (a)(3), by striking “2020, and
9 each of the 4 succeeding academic years” and insert-
10 ing “2025, and each succeeding academic year”; and

11 (2) in subsection (b)—

12 (A) in paragraph (1)(A), by striking
13 “\$40,000,000 not later than October 1, 2019,”
14 and inserting “\$10,000,000 for fiscal year 2025
15 and each fiscal year thereafter,”; and

16 (B) in paragraph (2), by striking “2023”
17 and inserting “2029”.

18 **SEC. 7111. GRANTS TO UPGRADE AGRICULTURAL AND**
19 **FOOD SCIENCES FACILITIES AT 1890 LAND-**
20 **GRANT COLLEGES, INCLUDING TUSKEGEE**
21 **UNIVERSITY.**

22 Section 1447(b) of the National Agricultural Re-
23 search, Extension, and Teaching Policy Act of 1977 (7
24 U.S.C. 3222b(b)) is amended by striking “2023” and in-
25 serting “2029”.

1 **SEC. 7112. GRANTS TO UPGRADE AGRICULTURE AND FOOD**
2 **SCIENCES FACILITIES AND EQUIPMENT AT**
3 **INSULAR AREA LAND-GRANT INSTITUTIONS.**

4 Section 1447B(d) of the National Agricultural Re-
5 search, Extension, and Teaching Policy Act of 1977 (7
6 U.S.C. 3222b–2(d)) is amended by striking “2023” and
7 inserting “2029”.

8 **SEC. 7113. RESEARCH AND EXTENSION ACTIVITIES AT 1890**
9 **INSTITUTIONS.**

10 Section 1449 of the National Agricultural Research,
11 Extension, and Teaching Policy Act of 1977 (7 U.S.C.
12 3222d) is amended by adding at the end the following:

13 “(g) ATTESTATION TO THE SECRETARY.—

14 “(1) IN GENERAL.—Not less frequently than
15 once each fiscal year, a State shall submit to the
16 Secretary an attestation that describes whether the
17 State—

18 “(A) plans to fulfill the matching funds re-
19 quirement under subsection (c) for that fiscal
20 year; or

21 “(B) is unable to fulfill that matching
22 funds requirement for that fiscal year.

23 “(2) LETTER.—Not later than December 31,
24 2025, and each year thereafter, the Secretary shall
25 submit to each Governor whose State did not fulfill

1 the matching funds requirement under subsection
2 (c) for the prior fiscal year a letter that shall—

3 “(A) notify the Governor that the State
4 did not fulfill that matching funds requirement;
5 and

6 “(B) describe the amounts of matching
7 funds received by 1890 Institutions and 1862
8 Institutions (as those terms are defined in sec-
9 tion 2 of the Agricultural Research, Extension,
10 and Education Reform Act of 1998 (7 U.S.C.
11 7601)) in that State for each of the agricultural
12 research, extension, education, and related pro-
13 grams described in paragraphs (1) through (3)
14 of section 7116 of the Agriculture Improvement
15 Act of 2018 (7 U.S.C. 2207d).

16 “(3) PUBLICATION.—The Secretary shall make
17 publicly available, on an annual basis, each attesta-
18 tion submitted under paragraph (1) and each letter
19 submitted under paragraph (2).”.

20 **SEC. 7114. NEW BEGINNING FOR TRIBAL STUDENTS.**

21 Section 1450(d) of the National Agricultural Re-
22 search, Extension, and Teaching Policy Act of 1977 (7
23 U.S.C. 3222e(d)) is amended by striking “2023” and in-
24 serting “2029”.

1 **SEC. 7115. HISPANIC-SERVING INSTITUTIONS.**

2 Section 1455(c) of the National Agricultural Re-
3 search, Extension, and Teaching Policy Act of 1977 (7
4 U.S.C. 3241(c)) is amended by striking “2023” and in-
5 serting “2029”.

6 **SEC. 7116. INTERNATIONAL AGRICULTURE PARTNERSHIPS**
7 **AND GRANTS PROGRAM.**

8 (a) IN GENERAL.—Section 1458A of the National
9 Agricultural Research, Extension, and Teaching Policy
10 Act of 1977 (7 U.S.C. 3292) is amended—

11 (1) by striking the section heading and insert-
12 ing “**INTERNATIONAL AGRICULTURE PARTNER-**
13 **SHIPS AND GRANTS PROGRAM**”;

14 (2) by redesignating subsection (d) as sub-
15 section (e);

16 (3) by inserting after subsection (c) the fol-
17 lowing:

18 “(d) COMPETITIVE GRANTS FOR INTERNATIONAL
19 AGRICULTURAL SCIENCE AND EDUCATION PROGRAMS.—

20 “(1) COMPETITIVE GRANTS AUTHORIZED.—The
21 Secretary may make competitive grants to colleges
22 and universities in order to strengthen United States
23 economic competitiveness and to promote inter-
24 national market development.

1 “(2) PURPOSE OF GRANTS.—Grants under this
2 subsection shall be directed to agricultural research,
3 extension, and teaching activities that will—

4 “(A) enhance the international content of
5 the curricula in colleges and universities so as
6 to ensure that United States students acquire
7 an understanding of the international dimen-
8 sions and trade implications of their studies;

9 “(B) ensure that United States scientists,
10 extension agents, and educators involved in ag-
11 ricultural research and development activities
12 outside of the United States have the oppor-
13 tunity to convey the implications of their activi-
14 ties and findings to their peers and students in
15 the United States and to the users of agricul-
16 tural research, extension, and teaching;

17 “(C) enhance the capabilities of colleges
18 and universities to do collaborative research
19 with other countries, in cooperation with other
20 Federal agencies, on issues relevant to United
21 States agricultural competitiveness;

22 “(D) enhance the capabilities of colleges
23 and universities to provide cooperative extension
24 education to promote the application of new

1 technology developed in foreign countries to
2 United States agriculture; and

3 “(E) enhance the capability of United
4 States colleges and universities, in cooperation
5 with other Federal agencies, to provide leader-
6 ship and educational programs that will assist
7 United States natural resources and food pro-
8 duction, processing, and distribution businesses
9 and industries to compete internationally, in-
10 cluding product market identification, inter-
11 national policies limiting or enhancing market
12 production, development of new or enhancement
13 of existing markets, and production effi-
14 ciencies.”; and

15 (4) in subsection (e) (as so redesignated), by
16 striking “\$10,000,000 for each of fiscal years 2019
17 through 2023” and inserting “\$20,000,000 for each
18 of fiscal years 2025 through 2029”.

19 (b) CONFORMING AMENDMENTS.—

20 (1) Section 1459A of the National Agricultural
21 Research, Extension, and Teaching Policy Act of
22 1977 (7 U.S.C. 3292b) is repealed.

23 (2) Section 251(f)(1)(D)(vii) of the Department
24 of Agriculture Reorganization Act of 1994 (7 U.S.C.
25 6971(f)(1)(D)(vii)) is amended by striking “section

1 1459A of the National Agricultural Research, Ex-
2 tension, and Teaching Policy Act of 1977 (7 U.S.C.
3 3292b)” and inserting “subsection (d) of section
4 1458A of the National Agricultural Research, Ex-
5 tension, and Teaching Policy Act of 1977 (7 U.S.C.
6 3292)”.

7 **SEC. 7117. RESEARCH EQUIPMENT GRANTS.**

8 Section 1462A(e) of the National Agricultural Re-
9 search, Extension, and Teaching Policy Act of 1977 (7
10 U.S.C. 3310a(e)) is amended by striking “2023” and in-
11 serting “2029”.

12 **SEC. 7118. UNIVERSITY RESEARCH.**

13 Section 1463 of the National Agricultural Research,
14 Extension, and Teaching Policy Act of 1977 (7 U.S.C.
15 3311) is amended by striking “2023” each place it ap-
16 pears in subsections (a) and (b) and inserting “2029”.

17 **SEC. 7119. COOPERATIVE EXTENSION SERVICE.**

18 Section 1464 of the National Agricultural Research,
19 Extension, and Teaching Policy Act of 1977 (7 U.S.C.
20 3312) is amended by striking “2023” and inserting
21 “2029”.

22 **SEC. 7120. SUPPLEMENTAL AND ALTERNATIVE CROPS.**

23 Section 1473D of the National Agricultural Re-
24 search, Extension, and Teaching Policy Act of 1977 (7
25 U.S.C. 3319d) is amended—

1 (1) in subsection (a), by striking “2023” and
2 inserting “2029”; and

3 (2) in subsection (e)(3), by striking “2023” and
4 inserting “2029”.

5 **SEC. 7121. NEW ERA RURAL TECHNOLOGY PROGRAM.**

6 Section 1473E(d) of the National Agricultural Re-
7 search, Extension, and Teaching Policy Act of 1977 (7
8 U.S.C. 3319e(d)) is amended by striking “2023” and in-
9 serting “2029”.

10 **SEC. 7122. CAPACITY BUILDING GRANTS FOR NLGCA INSTI-
11 TUTIONS.**

12 Section 1473F(b) of the National Agricultural Re-
13 search, Extension, and Teaching Policy Act of 1977 (7
14 U.S.C. 3319i(b)) is amended by striking “2023” and in-
15 serting “2029”.

16 **SEC. 7123. AGRICULTURE ADVANCED RESEARCH AND DE-
17 VELOPMENT AUTHORITY.**

18 Section 1473H of the National Agricultural Re-
19 search, Extension, and Teaching Policy Act of 1977 (7
20 U.S.C. 3319k) is amended—

21 (1) in the section heading, by striking
22 “**PILOT**”;

23 (2) in subsection (a)(6)(A), by striking “grow-
24 ing,” and inserting “growing (including water con-
25 servation technologies and innovation),”;

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1 (3) in subsection (b)—

2 (A) by striking “pilot program” each place
3 it appears and inserting “program”;

4 (B) in paragraph (2)—

5 (i) in subparagraph (B)—

6 (I) by inserting “the long-term
7 and high-risk technological” before
8 “barriers”; and

9 (II) by striking “and resilience to
10 extreme weather;” and inserting
11 “water conservation, the reduction,
12 avoidance, sequestration, or mitigation
13 of greenhouse gas emissions from the
14 agriculture sector, and resilience to
15 extreme weather, drought, infectious
16 diseases, plant and animal pathogens,
17 and plant and animal pests;”; and

18 (ii) in subparagraph (D), by inserting
19 “or economic cost” before the period at the
20 end;

21 (C) in paragraph (3)(B)—

22 (i) in clause (ii), in the matter pre-
23 ceding subclause (I), by striking “advise
24 the Chief Scientist on, and”; and

1 (ii) by striking clause (iii) and insert-
2 ing the following:

3 “(iii) RELATIONSHIP WITHIN THE DE-
4 PARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE.—

5 “(I) CHIEF SCIENTIST.—The Di-
6 rector shall work in close collaboration
7 with the Office of the Chief Scientist.

8 “(II) OTHER PROGRAMS.—No
9 other official who is the head of any
10 other program of the Department of
11 Agriculture shall report to the Direc-
12 tor.”; and

13 (D) in paragraph (9), by striking the para-
14 graph designation and heading and all that fol-
15 lows through “In carrying out” and inserting
16 the following:

17 “(9) PERSONNEL MATTERS.—

18 “(A) IN GENERAL.—The Director shall es-
19 tablish and maintain within the AGARDA a
20 staff with sufficient qualifications and expertise
21 to enable the AGARDA to carry out the respon-
22 sibilities of the AGARDA under this section in
23 conjunction with other operations of the De-
24 partment of Agriculture.

1 “(B) USE OF EXISTING PERSONNEL AU-
2 THORITIES.—In carrying out”;

3 (4) in subsection (c), by adding at the end the
4 following:

5 “(4) USE OF STRATEGIC PLAN.—The Secretary
6 shall use the strategic plan developed under para-
7 graph (1) and dated 2022 to inform the administra-
8 tion of the AGARDA under this section.”;

9 (5) in subsection (d), by striking paragraph (3)
10 and inserting the following:

11 “(3) FUNDING.—In addition to funds otherwise
12 deposited in the Fund under paragraph (1) or (2)—

13 “(A) there is appropriated to the Fund,
14 out of any money in the Treasury not otherwise
15 appropriated, \$100,000,000 for fiscal year
16 2025, to remain available until expended; and

17 “(B) there is authorized to be appropriated
18 to the Fund \$100,000,000 for each of fiscal
19 years 2025 through 2029, to remain available
20 until expended.”; and

21 (6) by striking subsection (e).

1 **SEC. 7124. CAPACITY BUILDING GRANTS FOR COMMUNITY**
2 **COLLEGE AGRICULTURAL PROGRAMS.**

3 Subtitle K of the National Agricultural Research, Ex-
4 tension, and Teaching Policy Act of 1977 (7 U.S.C. 3310
5 et seq.) is amended by adding at the end the following:

6 **“SEC. 1473I. CAPACITY BUILDING GRANTS FOR COMMUNITY**
7 **COLLEGE AGRICULTURAL PROGRAMS.**

8 “(a) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

9 “(1) ELIGIBLE ENTITY.—The term ‘eligible en-
10 tity’ means—

11 “(A) a junior or community college sup-
12 porting agriculture advancement; and

13 “(B) a consortium or alliance of 2-year
14 public colleges supporting agriculture advance-
15 ment.

16 “(2) JUNIOR OR COMMUNITY COLLEGE.—The
17 term ‘junior or community college’ has the meaning
18 given the term in section 312 of the Higher Edu-
19 cation Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 1058).

20 “(b) COMPETITIVE GRANTS.—The Secretary shall
21 make competitive grants to eligible entities to assist the
22 eligible entities in maintaining and expanding the capacity
23 of the eligible entities to conduct workforce training, edu-
24 cation, research, and outreach activities relating to the fol-
25 lowing disciplines:

26 “(1) Food and agricultural sciences.

1 “(2) Agribusiness and farm business manage-
2 ment.

3 “(3) Meat and poultry processing.

4 “(4) Related disciplines, as determined by the
5 Secretary.

6 “(c) PRIORITY.—In making grants under subsection
7 (b), the Secretary shall give priority to an eligible entity
8 coordinating with a local stakeholder engaged in activities
9 relating to 1 or more of the disciplines described in that
10 subsection to provide experiential training and other op-
11 portunities for students.

12 “(d) USE OF FUNDS.—An eligible entity that receives
13 a grant under subsection (b) may use the funds made
14 available through the grant to expand and maintain the
15 capacity of the eligible entity to conduct workforce train-
16 ing, education, research, and outreach activities relating
17 to the disciplines described in that subsection by—

18 “(1) successfully competing for funds from Fed-
19 eral grants and other sources to carry out workforce
20 training, education, research, and outreach activities
21 relating to those disciplines;

22 “(2) disseminating information relating to those
23 disciplines to interested members of the food and ag-
24 ricultural sciences, agribusiness, and farm business
25 management communities and to the public;

1 “(3) encouraging members of those commu-
2 nities to participate in workforce training, education,
3 research, and outreach activities relating to those
4 disciplines through providing matching funding from
5 sources other than funds received through the grant;
6 and

7 “(4) through—

8 “(A) the purchase or other acquisition of
9 equipment and other infrastructure (not includ-
10 ing the alteration, repair, renovation, or con-
11 struction of buildings);

12 “(B) the professional growth and develop-
13 ment of faculty; and

14 “(C) the development of apprenticeships
15 and other work-based learning opportunities.

16 “(e) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There
17 is authorized to be appropriated to carry out this section
18 \$20,000,000 for each of fiscal years 2025 through 2029.”.

19 **SEC. 7125. AGRICULTURAL INNOVATION CORRIDORS.**

20 Subtitle K of the National Agricultural Research, Ex-
21 tension, and Teaching Policy Act of 1977 (7 U.S.C. 3310
22 et seq.) (as amended by section 7124) is amended by add-
23 ing at the end the following:

24 **“SEC. 1473J. AGRICULTURAL INNOVATION CORRIDORS.**

25 “(a) IN GENERAL.—

1 “(1) ESTABLISHMENT.—The Secretary, acting
2 through the Director of the National Institute of
3 Food and Agriculture, shall provide for the estab-
4 lishment and maintenance of a network of research
5 corridors, each operated by an institution described
6 in paragraph (2), for research and development on
7 agricultural technology, to be known as ‘Agricultural
8 Innovation Corridors’ (referred to in this section as
9 ‘Ag Innovation Corridors’).

10 “(2) ELIGIBLE INSTITUTIONS.—An Ag Innova-
11 tion Corridor shall be operated by any of the fol-
12 lowing institutions:

13 “(A) An 1862 Institution, an 1890 Institu-
14 tion, or a 1994 Institution (as those terms are
15 defined in section 2 of the Agricultural Re-
16 search, Extension, and Education Reform Act
17 of 1998 (7 U.S.C. 7601)).

18 “(B) An institution described in section
19 371(a) of the Higher Education Act of 1965
20 (20 U.S.C. 1067q(a)).

21 “(3) GEOGRAPHIC AREAS.—An Ag Innovation
22 Corridor shall be established in each of the following
23 geographic areas of the United States:

24 “(A) Northeast.

25 “(B) North Central.

1 “(C) Southeast.

2 “(D) Great Plains.

3 “(E) Rocky Mountain West.

4 “(b) GOALS.—The Ag Innovation Corridors shall
5 have the following goals:

6 “(1) To demonstrate new and emerging tech-
7 nologies as applied to agricultural and natural re-
8 source practices.

9 “(2) To demonstrate benefits of—

10 “(A) providing farms with internet service
11 that is capable of a speed of not less than—

12 “(i) a 100-Mbps downstream trans-
13 mission capacity; and

14 “(ii) a 20-Mbps upstream trans-
15 mission capacity;

16 “(B) controlled-environment food and agri-
17 cultural production; and

18 “(C) agrivoltaics systems for collocated ag-
19 ricultural and solar energy production.

20 “(3) To engage with rural and urban audiences
21 regarding emerging agricultural technologies and
22 educational opportunities.

23 “(4) To cooperate and collaborate with agricul-
24 tural industry partners on emerging agricultural
25 technologies and opportunities.

1 “(5) To advance research to find new tech-
2 nologies and practices to apply to agriculture and
3 natural resources to increase sustainability, profit-
4 ability, and conservation of resources.

5 “(6) To connect industry, researchers, and
6 practitioners across geographical areas to share re-
7 search, new ideas, and practices.

8 “(c) ACTIVITIES.—The activities of the Ag Innova-
9 tion Corridors shall include—

10 “(1) long-term research—

11 “(A) to develop novel agricultural tech-
12 nologies for use at regional and national scales;
13 and

14 “(B) to evaluate the applicability and
15 adaptability of those technologies to local condi-
16 tions;

17 “(2) the establishment and maintenance of mul-
18 tiple sites or research centers that capture the diver-
19 sity of agricultural production systems that function
20 as a network;

21 “(3) engagement and education of rural and
22 urban audiences regarding agricultural technologies;
23 and

24 “(4) collaboration with agricultural industry
25 partners at research centers and sites to develop and

1 research new agricultural technologies and practices
2 that increase sustainability, profitability, and con-
3 servation.

4 “(d) COORDINATION OF RESEARCH.—In carrying out
5 this section, the Secretary shall—

6 “(1) coordinate long-term agricultural tech-
7 nology research to improve understanding within the
8 Department of Agriculture of how technologies func-
9 tion at the field, regional, and national scales;

10 “(2) ensure that each research site included
11 within an Ag Innovation Corridor conducts experi-
12 ments with common goals and methods—

13 “(A) to increase agricultural productivity
14 and profitability;

15 “(B) to enhance agricultural resilience and
16 the capacity to mitigate and adapt to climate
17 change;

18 “(C) to work with the agricultural industry
19 to develop technologies that address the goals
20 described in subparagraphs (A) and (B); and

21 “(D) to educate both rural and urban au-
22 diences on agriculture and new agricultural
23 technologies;

24 “(3) make data collected at research sites in-
25 cluded in Ag Innovation Corridors open to research-

1 ers and the public whenever practicable, and inte-
2 grate data across the network and partner sites; and

3 “(4) provide infrastructure to research sites in-
4 cluded in the Ag Innovation Corridors for data col-
5 lection, common measurements, and data streams
6 that complement other national networks, such as
7 the National Ecological Observatory Network and
8 the Long-Term Ecological Research Network.

9 “(e) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There
10 is authorized to be appropriated to carry out this section
11 \$50,000,000 for the period of fiscal years 2025 through
12 2029.”.

13 **SEC. 7126. NATIONAL AGROFORESTRY SURVEY.**

14 Subtitle K of the National Agricultural Research, Ex-
15 tension, and Teaching Policy Act of 1977 (7 U.S.C. 3310
16 et seq.) (as amended by section 7125) is amended by add-
17 ing at the end the following:

18 **“SEC. 1473K. NATIONAL AGROFORESTRY SURVEY.**

19 “(a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary, in cooperation
20 with the Forest Service, the National Agroforestry Center,
21 the Natural Resources Conservation Service, the Agricul-
22 tural Research Service, and the National Agricultural Sta-
23 tistics Service, shall conduct a national agroforestry sur-
24 vey every 3 years beginning in 2026.

1 “(b) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There
2 is authorized to be appropriated to carry out this section
3 \$1,000,000 for each of fiscal years 2025 through 2029.”.

4 **SEC. 7127. AQUACULTURE ASSISTANCE PROGRAMS.**

5 (a) IN GENERAL.—Section 1477(a) of the National
6 Agricultural Research, Extension, and Teaching Policy
7 Act of 1977 (7 U.S.C. 3324(a)) is amended—

8 (1) in paragraph (1), by striking “and” at the
9 end;

10 (2) in paragraph (2), by striking “2023.” and
11 inserting “2024; and”; and

12 (3) by adding at the end the following:

13 “(3) \$15,000,000 for each of fiscal years 2025
14 through 2029.”.

15 (b) INDIRECT COSTS.—Section 1477 of the National
16 Agricultural Research, Extension, and Teaching Policy
17 Act of 1977 (7 U.S.C. 3324) is amended by adding at
18 the end the following:

19 “(c) INDIRECT COSTS.—Effective beginning on the
20 date of enactment of this subsection—

21 “(1) the limitation with respect to indirect costs
22 under section 1462 shall apply with respect to
23 awards made under this subtitle; and

1 “(2) the limitation with respect to indirect costs
2 under section 1473 shall not apply with respect to
3 those awards.”.

4 **SEC. 7128. RANGELAND RESEARCH PROGRAMS.**

5 Section 1483(a)(2) of the National Agricultural Re-
6 search, Extension, and Teaching Policy Act of 1977 (7
7 U.S.C. 3336(a)(2)) is amended by striking “2023” and
8 inserting “2029”.

9 **SEC. 7129. SPECIAL AUTHORIZATION FOR BIOSECURITY**
10 **PLANNING AND RESPONSE.**

11 Section 1484(a)(3) of the National Agricultural Re-
12 search, Extension, and Teaching Policy Act of 1977 (7
13 U.S.C. 3351(a)(3)) is amended by striking “2023” and
14 inserting “2029”.

15 **SEC. 7130. DISTANCE EDUCATION AND RESIDENT INSTRU-**
16 **CTION GRANTS PROGRAM FOR INSULAR AREA**
17 **INSTITUTIONS OF HIGHER EDUCATION.**

18 (a) DISTANCE EDUCATION GRANTS FOR INSULAR
19 AREAS.—Section 1490(f)(2) of the National Agricultural
20 Research, Extension, and Teaching Policy Act of 1977 (7
21 U.S.C. 3362(f)(2)) is amended by striking “2023” and in-
22 serting “2029”.

23 (b) RESIDENT INSTRUCTION GRANTS FOR INSULAR
24 AREAS.—Section 1491(c)(2) of the National Agricultural
25 Research, Extension, and Teaching Policy Act of 1977 (7

1 U.S.C. 3363(c)(2)) is amended by striking “2023” and
2 inserting “2029”.

3 **Subtitle B—Food, Agriculture, Con-**
4 **servation, and Trade Act of 1990**

5 **SEC. 7201. BEST UTILIZATION OF BIOLOGICAL APPLICA-**
6 **TIONS.**

7 Section 1624 of the Food, Agriculture, Conservation,
8 and Trade Act of 1990 (7 U.S.C. 5814) is amended in
9 the first sentence by striking “2023” and inserting
10 “2029”.

11 **SEC. 7202. INTEGRATED MANAGEMENT SYSTEMS.**

12 Section 1627(d) of the Food, Agriculture, Conserva-
13 tion, and Trade Act of 1990 (7 U.S.C. 5821(d)) is amend-
14 ed by striking “2023” and inserting “2029”.

15 **SEC. 7203. SUSTAINABLE AGRICULTURE TECHNOLOGY DE-**
16 **VELOPMENT AND TRANSFER PROGRAM.**

17 Section 1628(f)(2) of the Food, Agriculture, Con-
18 servation, and Trade Act of 1990 (7 U.S.C. 5831(f)(2))
19 is amended by striking “2023” and inserting “2029”.

20 **SEC. 7204. NATIONAL TRAINING PROGRAM.**

21 Section 1629(i) of the Food, Agriculture, Conserva-
22 tion, and Trade Act of 1990 (7 U.S.C. 5832(i)) is amend-
23 ed by striking “2023” and inserting “2029”.

1 **SEC. 7205. NATIONAL GENETICS RESOURCES PROGRAM.**

2 Section 1635(b)(2) of the Food, Agriculture, Con-
3 servation, and Trade Act of 1990 (7 U.S.C. 5844(b)(2))
4 is amended by striking “2023” and inserting “2029”.

5 **SEC. 7206. NATIONAL AGRICULTURAL WEATHER INFORMA-**
6 **TION SYSTEM.**

7 Section 1641(c) of the Food, Agriculture, Conserva-
8 tion, and Trade Act of 1990 (7 U.S.C. 5855(c)) is amend-
9 ed by striking “2023” and inserting “2029”.

10 **SEC. 7207. AGRICULTURAL GENOME TO PHENOME INITIA-**
11 **TIVE.**

12 Section 1671(g) of the Food, Agriculture, Conserva-
13 tion, and Trade Act of 1990 (7 U.S.C. 5924(g)) is amend-
14 ed by striking “2023” and inserting “2029”.

15 **SEC. 7208. HIGH-PRIORITY RESEARCH AND EXTENSION INI-**
16 **TIATIVES.**

17 (a) IN GENERAL.—Section 1672(d) of the Food, Ag-
18 riculture, Conservation, and Trade Act of 1990 (7 U.S.C.
19 5925(d)) is amended—

20 (1) by striking paragraph (9) and inserting the
21 following:

22 “(9) COFFEE PLANT HEALTH INITIATIVE.—Re-
23 search and extension grants may be made under this
24 section for the purposes of—

25 “(A) developing and disseminating science-
26 based tools and treatments to combat plant

1 pests and noxious weeds (as those terms are de-
2 fined in section 403 of the Plant Protection Act
3 (7 U.S.C. 7702)) that impact coffee plants;

4 “(B) establishing an areawide integrated
5 pest management program in areas affected by,
6 or areas at risk of being affected by, plant pests
7 or noxious weeds (as so defined) that impact
8 coffee plants;

9 “(C) surveying and collecting data on cof-
10 fee plant production and health;

11 “(D) investigating coffee plant biology, im-
12 munology, ecology, genomics, and
13 bioinformatics; and

14 “(E) conducting research on—

15 “(i) factors that may contribute to or
16 be associated with coffee plant immune
17 systems;

18 “(ii) other serious threats to coffee
19 plants, including the sublethal effects of in-
20 secticides, herbicides, and fungicides on in-
21 sects and plants beneficial to coffee plant
22 growth; and

23 “(iii) the development of mitigating
24 and preventative measures to improve

1 habitat conservation and best management
2 practices in coffee-growing regions.”;

3 (2) by striking paragraph (11) and inserting
4 the following:

5 “(11) MACADAMIA TREE HEALTH INITIATIVE.—
6 Research and extension grants may be made under
7 this section for the purposes of—

8 “(A) developing and disseminating science-
9 based tools and treatments to combat plant
10 pests and noxious weeds (as those terms are de-
11 fined in section 403 of the Plant Protection Act
12 (7 U.S.C. 7702)) that impact macadamia trees;

13 “(B) establishing an areawide integrated
14 pest management program in areas affected by,
15 or areas at risk of being affected by, invasive
16 plant pests or noxious weeds (as so defined);

17 “(C) surveying and collecting data on mac-
18 adamia tree production and health;

19 “(D) investigating macadamia tree biology,
20 immunology, ecology, genomics, and
21 bioinformatics; and

22 “(E) conducting research on various fac-
23 tors that may contribute to or be associated
24 with macadamia tree immune systems, and

1 other serious threats to macadamia trees, in-
2 cluding—

3 “(i) the sublethal effects of insecti-
4 cides, herbicides, and fungicides on bene-
5 ficial insects and plants to macadamia tree
6 growth; and

7 “(ii) the development of mitigative
8 and preventative measures to improve
9 habitat conservation and best management
10 practices in macadamia tree growing re-
11 gions.”;

12 (3) in paragraph (14)—

13 (A) by redesignating subparagraphs (B)
14 through (F) as subparagraphs (C) through (G),
15 respectively; and

16 (B) by inserting after subparagraph (A)
17 the following:

18 “(B) to review the effectiveness of current
19 cattle fever tick eradication efforts in pre-
20 venting and reducing the spread of cattle fever
21 ticks;”;

22 (4) by adding at the end the following:

23 “(21) PFAS AGRICULTURAL EFFECTS RE-
24 SEARCH INITIATIVE.—Research and extension grants

1 may be made under this section for the purposes of
2 carrying out research relating to—

3 “(A) the effects of perfluoroalkyl sub-
4 stances and polyfluoroalkyl substances (as those
5 terms are defined in section 7331(2)(B) of the
6 PFAS Act of 2019 (15 U.S.C. 8931(2)(B))) on
7 agricultural land used for the production of
8 crops and livestock, including cropland, grass-
9 land, rangeland, pasture land, cropped wood-
10 land, marshes, environmentally sensitive areas,
11 and other land related to agricultural produc-
12 tion, as determined by the Secretary; and

13 “(B) identifying methods to mitigate and
14 remediate the impacts of perfluoroalkyl sub-
15 stances and polyfluoroalkyl substances (as so
16 defined).

17 “(22) PEANUT AFLATOXIN RESEARCH INITIA-
18 TIVE.—Research and extension grants may be made
19 under this section for the purposes of—

20 “(A) pre- and post-harvest improvements
21 in the peanut production, handling, and proc-
22 essing sectors to improve efficiency and manage
23 aflatoxin;

1 “(B) advanced curing systems to minimize
2 moisture variation of individual peanut kernels;
3 and

4 “(C) other efforts that can lead to a reduc-
5 tion in the risk of losses due to mold and poten-
6 tial aflatoxin contamination in storage.

7 “(23) BIOCHAR RESEARCH INITIATIVE.—Re-
8 search and extension grants may be made under this
9 section for the purposes of—

10 “(A) assessing the soil carbon sequestra-
11 tion potential of various biochars and manage-
12 ment systems integrating biochar use;

13 “(B) understanding how to use biochar
14 productively to contribute to climate mitigation,
15 crop production, resilience to extreme weather
16 events, ecosystem and soil health, natural re-
17 source conservation, and farm profitability; and

18 “(C) delivering science-based, region-spe-
19 cific, cost-effective, and practical information to
20 farmers, ranchers, foresters, land reclamation
21 managers, urban land managers, and other land
22 and natural resource managers and businesses
23 on sustainable biochar production and applica-
24 tion.

1 “(24) SPOTTED WING DROSOPHILA INITIA-
2 TIVE.—Research and extension grants may be made
3 and cooperative agreements may be entered into
4 under this section to mitigate the negative effects of
5 spotted wing drosophila.

6 “(25) SPOTTED LANTERNFLY CONTROL INITIA-
7 TIVE.—Research and extension grants may be made
8 under this section for the purposes of developing and
9 disseminating research-based tools and treatments to
10 combat the Spotted Lanternfly (*Lycorma delicatula*).

11 “(26) WHEAT RESILIENCY INITIATIVE.—Re-
12 search and extension grants may be made under this
13 section for the purpose of building capacity to ad-
14 dress emerging pest and disease challenges to wheat
15 production throughout the United States.

16 “(27) INVASIVE SPECIES RESEARCH AND EX-
17 TENSION.—Research and extension grants may be
18 made under this section for the purpose of sup-
19 porting research projects at land-grant colleges and
20 universities (as defined in section 1404 of the Na-
21 tional Agricultural Research, Extension, and Teach-
22 ing Policy Act of 1977 (7 U.S.C. 3103)) to develop
23 and apply methods to manage and eradicate invasive
24 species of plants and animals, including through
25 methods of biocontrol.

1 “(28) ADVANCED MECHANIZED HARVESTER
2 TECHNOLOGIES RESEARCH AND EXTENSION.—

3 “(A) IN GENERAL.—Research and exten-
4 sion grants may be made under this section for
5 the purpose of developing and evaluating tech-
6 nologies to mechanize agricultural processes.

7 “(B) EMPHASIS.—In awarding grants
8 under subparagraph (A), the Secretary may
9 place emphasis on mechanizing the process for
10 harvesting specialty crops.

11 “(29) AGRICULTURAL APPLICATION OF ARTIFI-
12 CIAL INTELLIGENCE RESEARCH AND EXTENSION.—

13 “(A) IN GENERAL.—Research and exten-
14 sion grants may be made under this section for
15 the purpose of developing and evaluating agri-
16 cultural uses of artificial intelligence.

17 “(B) EMPHASIS.—In awarding grants
18 under subparagraph (A), the Secretary may
19 place emphasis on uses of artificial intelligence
20 that improve specialty crop production.

21 “(30) AQUACULTURE RESEARCH AND EXTEN-
22 SION.—Research and extension grants may be made
23 under this section for the purpose of supporting re-
24 search projects at land-grant colleges and univer-
25 sities (as defined in section 1404 of the National Ag-

1 ricultural Research, Extension, and Teaching Policy
2 Act of 1977 (7 U.S.C. 3103)) to develop and apply
3 aquaculture methods, including through the propa-
4 gation and rearing of economically and ecologically
5 valuable aquatic and marine species.

6 “(31) WHITE OAK RESEARCH INITIATIVE.—

7 “(A) IN GENERAL.—Research grants may
8 be made under this section to a land-grant col-
9 lege or university (as defined in section 1404 of
10 the National Agricultural Research, Extension,
11 and Teaching Policy Act of 1977 (7 U.S.C.
12 3103)) for the purpose of improving white oak
13 species resiliency, health, and preservation.

14 “(B) PRIORITIES.—In awarding grants
15 under subparagraph (A), the Secretary shall
16 prioritize research relating to the resistance of
17 white oak to disease, pests, heat, and drought
18 in cultivated, new, and old-growth white oak
19 timber stands.

20 “(32) SUNFLOWER BREEDING INITIATIVE.—Re-
21 search and extension grants may be made under this
22 section for the purpose of developing sunflower hy-
23 brids adapted for United States growing regions.”.

24 (b) PULSE CROP HEALTH INITIATIVE.—Section
25 1672(e)(5) of the Food, Agriculture, Conservation, and

1 Trade Act of 1990 (7 U.S.C. 5925(e)(5)) is amended by
2 striking “2023” and inserting “2029”.

3 (c) TRAINING COORDINATION FOR FOOD AND AGRI-
4 CULTURE PROTECTION.—Section 1672(f)(5) of the Food,
5 Agriculture, Conservation, and Trade Act of 1990 (7
6 U.S.C. 5925(f)(5)) is amended by striking “2023” and in-
7 serting “2029”.

8 (d) POLLINATOR PROTECTION.—Section 1672(g) of
9 the Food, Agriculture, Conservation, and Trade Act of
10 1990 (7 U.S.C. 5925(g)) is amended in paragraphs
11 (1)(B), (2)(B), and (3) by striking “2023” each place it
12 appears and inserting “2029”.

13 (e) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—Section
14 1672(h) of the Food, Agriculture, Conservation, and
15 Trade Act of 1990 (7 U.S.C. 5925(h)) is amended by
16 striking “2023” and inserting “2029”.

17 **SEC. 7209. ORGANIC AGRICULTURE RESEARCH AND EXTEN-**
18 **SION INITIATIVE.**

19 Section 1672B of the Food, Agriculture, Conserva-
20 tion, and Trade Act of 1990 (7 U.S.C. 5925b) is amend-
21 ed—

22 (1) in subsection (a), in the matter preceding
23 paragraph (1), by striking “in each of fiscal years
24 2019 through 2023”; and

25 (2) in subsection (f)—

1 (A) in paragraph (1), by striking subpara-
2 graphs (A) through (G) and inserting the fol-
3 lowing:

4 “(A) \$20,000,000 for each of fiscal years
5 2019 and 2020;

6 “(B) \$25,000,000 for fiscal year 2021;

7 “(C) \$30,000,000 for fiscal year 2022;

8 “(D) \$50,000,000 for each of fiscal years
9 2023 and 2024;

10 “(E) \$60,000,000 for fiscal year 2025;

11 “(F) \$70,000,000 for fiscal year 2026;

12 “(G) \$80,000,000 for fiscal year 2027;

13 “(H) \$90,000,000 for fiscal year 2028;

14 and

15 “(I) \$100,000,000 for fiscal year 2029 and
16 each fiscal year thereafter.”; and

17 (B) in paragraph (2), by striking “2023”
18 and inserting “2029”.

19 **SEC. 7210. ENHANCED COORDINATION OF ORGANIC AGRI-**
20 **CULTURE RESEARCH.**

21 The Food, Agriculture, Conservation, and Trade Act
22 of 1990 is amended by inserting after section 1672B (7
23 U.S.C. 5925b) the following:

1 **“SEC. 1672C. ENHANCED COORDINATION OF ORGANIC AG-**
2 **RICULTURE RESEARCH.**

3 “(a) IN GENERAL.—The Chief Scientist of the De-
4 partment of Agriculture shall coordinate research, exten-
5 sion, education, and economic activities in the Department
6 of Agriculture relating to organic agriculture.

7 “(b) DUTIES.—In carrying out subsection (a), the
8 Chief Scientist shall—

9 “(1) assign an individual to serve in the Office
10 of the Chief Scientist as an Organic Agriculture Re-
11 search Coordinator (referred to in this section as the
12 ‘Coordinator’) who shall be responsible for leading
13 the efforts of the Chief Scientist in carrying out that
14 subsection;

15 “(2) implement and coordinate organic agri-
16 culture research efforts of the Department of Agri-
17 culture;

18 “(3) establish annual strategic priorities and
19 goals for the Department of Agriculture for organic
20 agriculture research;

21 “(4) communicate such priorities and goals to
22 each agency or office of the Department of Agri-
23 culture, organic agriculture stakeholders, and rel-
24 evant grant recipients under programs administered
25 by the Secretary; and

1 “(5) coordinate and identify all research on or-
2 ganic agriculture research needed and conducted by
3 the Department of Agriculture and relevant grant
4 recipients under programs administered by the Sec-
5 retary to ensure consistency and reduce unintended
6 duplication of effort.

7 “(c) SURVEYS; REPORTS.—

8 “(1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 18 months
9 after the date of enactment of the Rural Prosperity
10 and Food Security Act of 2024, and every 5 years
11 thereafter, in coordination with the roadmap for ag-
12 ricultural research, education, and extension de-
13 scribed in section 7504 of the Food, Conservation,
14 and Energy Act of 2008 (7 U.S.C. 7614a), the Co-
15 ordinator shall—

16 “(A) conduct a survey of all research of
17 the Secretary relating to organic agriculture, in-
18 cluding a survey of the acreage of certified or-
19 ganic agricultural land used by the Agricultural
20 Research Service; and

21 “(B) submit to the Secretary a report con-
22 taining the findings of the survey conducted
23 under subparagraph (A), which shall include
24 sections relating to the Agricultural Research
25 Service, the National Institute of Food and Ag-

1 riculture, the Economic Research Service, the
2 National Agricultural Statistics Service, and
3 such other agencies of the Department of Agri-
4 culture as the Secretary determines to be ap-
5 propriate.

6 “(2) RECOMMENDATIONS.—The Coordinator
7 shall include in each report submitted under para-
8 graph (1)(B) recommendations relating to—

9 “(A) enhancing the research conducted by
10 the Secretary that—

11 “(i) is applicable to agricultural pro-
12 ducers that adhere to the requirements
13 under the national organic program estab-
14 lished under the Organic Foods Production
15 Act of 1990 (7 U.S.C. 6501 et seq.); and

16 “(ii) would explore the new or en-
17 hanced research opportunities that could
18 lead to new discoveries, foster innovation,
19 improve technologies, and promote inte-
20 grated systems approaches to assist—

21 “(I) organic agricultural pro-
22 ducers;

23 “(II) consumers of organic food
24 products;

1 “(III) organic marketing and dis-
2 tribution channels;

3 “(IV) transitioning-to-organic ag-
4 ricultural producers, including with
5 respect to barriers to transitioning to
6 organic production and producers who
7 have considered transitioning to or-
8 ganic production but decided not to
9 do so; and

10 “(V) the organic food industry;
11 and

12 “(B) strategies to increase the coordination
13 and effectiveness of projects carried out by the
14 Secretary that are applicable to organic produc-
15 tion and that would improve the efficiency, pro-
16 ductivity, profitability, and ecosystem services
17 of organic crop and livestock production.

18 “(3) REVIEW OF PRIOR REPORT.—The Coordi-
19 nator shall include in each report submitted under
20 paragraph (1)(B)—

21 “(A) a review of the recommendations de-
22 scribed in paragraph (2) included in the prior
23 report submitted under paragraph (1)(B); and

24 “(B) the actions taken by the Secretary to
25 implement those recommendations.

1 “(4) PUBLIC AVAILABILITY.—The Secretary
2 shall make each report received under paragraph
3 (1)(B) publicly available.”.

4 **SEC. 7211. FARM BUSINESS MANAGEMENT.**

5 Section 1672D(d)(2) of the Food, Agriculture, Con-
6 servation, and Trade Act of 1990 (7 U.S.C. 5925f(d)(2))
7 is amended by striking “2023” and inserting “2029”.

8 **SEC. 7212. URBAN, INDOOR, AND OTHER EMERGING AGRICULTURAL**
9 **CULTURAL PRODUCTION RESEARCH, EDUCATION,**
10 **AND EXTENSION INITIATIVE.**

11 (a) IN GENERAL.—Section 1672E of the Food, Agri-
12 culture, Conservation, and Trade Act of 1990 (7 U.S.C.
13 5925g) is amended—

14 (1) in subsection (a)—

15 (A) in paragraph (7), by striking “or” at
16 the end;

17 (B) in paragraph (8), by striking the pe-
18 riod at the end and inserting “; or”; and

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

20 “(9) managing waste streams of production
21 practices to improve the environmental impact of
22 urban, indoor, and other emerging agricultural prac-
23 tices.”; and

24 (2) in subsection (d)(2), by striking “2023”
25 and inserting “2029”.

1 (b) DATA COLLECTION.—Section 7212(b) of the Ag-
2 riculture Improvement Act of 2018 (Public Law 115–334;
3 132 Stat. 4812) is amended—

4 (1) in paragraph (1), in the matter preceding
5 subparagraph (A)—

6 (A) by striking “Not later than one year
7 after the date of enactment of this Act, the”
8 and inserting “The”; and

9 (B) by striking “the census of agriculture
10 conducted in the calendar year 2017” and in-
11 serting “each census of agriculture”; and

12 (2) in paragraph (2), by striking “\$14,000,000
13 for the period of fiscal years 2019 through 2021”
14 and inserting “\$18,000,000 for each of fiscal years
15 2025 through 2029, to remain available until ex-
16 pended”.

17 **SEC. 7213. CENTERS OF EXCELLENCE AT 1890 INSTITU-**
18 **TIONS.**

19 Section 1673 of the Food, Agriculture, Conservation,
20 and Trade Act of 1990 (7 U.S.C. 5926) is amended—

21 (1) in the section heading, by striking “**EXCEL-**
22 **LENCE.**” and inserting “**EXCELLENCE AT 1890 IN-**
23 **STITUTIONS.**”;

24 (2) by striking subsections (a) through (c);

1 (3) in subsection (d), by striking the subsection
2 designation and heading and all that follows through
3 “The Secretary” in paragraph (1) and inserting the
4 following:

5 “(a) RECOGNITION.—The Secretary”;

6 (4) in subsection (a) (as so designated)—

7 (A) by inserting “and not more than 10”
8 after “not less than 3”;

9 (B) by striking “paragraph (2)” and in-
10 sserting “subsection (b)”; and

11 (C) by redesignating paragraphs (2)
12 through (4) as subsections (b) through (d), re-
13 spectively, and indenting appropriately;

14 (5) in subsection (b) (as so redesignated)—

15 (A) by redesignating subparagraphs (A)
16 through (F) as paragraphs (1) through (6), re-
17 spectively, and indenting appropriately;

18 (B) by striking “paragraph (1)” each place
19 it appears and inserting “subsection (a)”; and

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

21 “(7) CLIMATE CHANGE.—A center of excellence
22 established under subsection (a) may focus on cli-
23 mate change adaption and mitigation, soil health
24 and carbon sequestration, nutrient and manure man-
25 agement, advanced grazing management and crop-

1 livestock integration, perennial production systems,
2 agroforestry, on-farm and food system energy effi-
3 ciency and renewable energy production, and food
4 waste reduction.

5 “(8) FORESTRY RESILIENCE AND CONSERVA-
6 TION.—A center of excellence established under sub-
7 section (a) may focus on fostering forest conserva-
8 tion, agroforestry, enhancing forest resilience, and
9 urban and community forestry programs to promote
10 biodiversity and environmental health.

11 “(9) FOOD SAFETY, BIOPROCESSING, AND
12 VALUE-ADDED AGRICULTURE.—A center of excel-
13 lence established under subsection (a) may focus on
14 food safety, bioprocessing, value-added agriculture
15 enterprise development, and innovative food and ag-
16 riculture product development.

17 “(10) FOOD AND AGRICULTURAL SCIENCES
18 AND THE SOCIAL SCIENCES.—A center of excellence
19 established under subsection (a) may focus on the
20 integration of the social sciences, including econom-
21 ics, psychology, rural sociology, and other social
22 sciences and data sciences, into the food and agricul-
23 tural sciences to develop comprehensive solutions to
24 issues impacting underserved farmers and commu-
25 nities.”;

1 (6) in subsection (c) (as so redesignated), by
2 striking “\$10,000,000 for each of fiscal years 2019
3 through 2023” and inserting “\$50,000,000 for each
4 of fiscal years 2025 through 2029”; and

5 (7) in subsection (d) (as so redesignated)—

6 (A) by redesignating subparagraphs (A)
7 and (B) as paragraphs (1) and (2), respectively,
8 and indenting appropriately; and

9 (B) in paragraph (1) (as so redesignated),
10 by striking “paragraph (1)” and inserting “sub-
11 section (a)”.

12 **SEC. 7214. ASSISTIVE TECHNOLOGY PROGRAM FOR FARM-**
13 **ERS WITH DISABILITIES.**

14 Section 1680(c)(1)(B) of the Food, Agriculture, Con-
15 servation, and Trade Act of 1990 (7 U.S.C.
16 5933(c)(1)(B)) is amended by striking “2023” and insert-
17 ing “2029”.

18 **SEC. 7215. NATIONAL RURAL INFORMATION CENTER**
19 **CLEARINGHOUSE.**

20 Section 2381(e) of the Food, Agriculture, Conserva-
21 tion, and Trade Act of 1990 (7 U.S.C. 3125b(e)) is
22 amended by striking “2023” and inserting “2029”.

1 **Subtitle C—Agricultural Research,**
2 **Extension, and Education Re-**
3 **form Act of 1998**

4 **SEC. 7301. NATIONAL FOOD SAFETY TRAINING, EDUCATION,**
5 **EXTENSION, OUTREACH, AND TECHNICAL AS-**
6 **SISTANCE PROGRAM.**

7 Section 405(j) of the Agricultural Research, Exten-
8 sion, and Education Reform Act of 1998 (7 U.S.C.
9 7625(j)) is amended by striking “2023” and inserting
10 “2029”.

11 **SEC. 7302. INTEGRATED RESEARCH, EDUCATION, AND EX-**
12 **TENSION COMPETITIVE GRANTS PROGRAM.**

13 Section 406(f) of the Agricultural Research, Exten-
14 sion, and Education Reform Act of 1998 (7 U.S.C.
15 7626(f)) is amended by striking “2023” and inserting
16 “2029”.

17 **SEC. 7303. SUPPORT FOR RESEARCH REGARDING DISEASES**
18 **OF WHEAT, TRITICALE, AND BARLEY CAUSED**
19 **BY FUSARIUM GRAMINEARUM OR BY**
20 **TILLETIA INDICA.**

21 Section 408(e) of the Agricultural Research, Exten-
22 sion, and Education Reform Act of 1998 (7 U.S.C.
23 7628(e)) is amended—

24 (1) in paragraph (2), by striking “and” at the
25 end;

1 (3) by redesignating subsections (j) and (k) as
2 subsections (k) and (l), respectively;

3 (4) by inserting after subsection (i) the fol-
4 lowing:

5 “(j) SPECIALTY CROP MECHANIZATION AND AUTO-
6 MATION RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM.—

7 “(1) ESTABLISHMENT AND PURPOSE.—The
8 Secretary shall establish a competitive research and
9 extension grant program to increase the competitive-
10 ness of specialty crops in the United States through
11 the advancement and acceleration of mechanization
12 and automation, under which the Secretary awards
13 competitive grants to eligible entities—

14 “(A) to create or improve cost-effective
15 mechanization, automation, and other innova-
16 tions and technologies—

17 “(i) to reduce the manual labor re-
18 quirements of a specialty crop grower;

19 “(ii) to improve specialty crop farm-
20 worker safety and health or working condi-
21 tions; or

22 “(iii) to increase the efficiency of spe-
23 cialty crop—

24 “(I) production;

25 “(II) resource management;

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1 “(III) harvesting;

2 “(IV) processing;

3 “(V) postharvest technologies; or

4 “(VI) packaging;

5 “(B) to increase the adoption of specialty
6 crop mechanization, automation, and other in-
7 novations and technologies by—

8 “(i) emphasizing adoption drivers,
9 which may include connectivity, autonomy,
10 reliability, durability, in-field validation,
11 and cost-effectiveness; or

12 “(ii) investing in and developing
13 human capital to increase the capacity of
14 the specialty crop sector to work with new
15 technologies; or

16 “(C) to accelerate specialty crop mecha-
17 nization and automation through—

18 “(i) prototype development;

19 “(ii) in-field trial testing;

20 “(iii) ongoing industry engagement; or

21 “(iv) rapid commercialization.

22 “(2) PRIORITY.—In awarding grants under this
23 subsection, the Secretary shall give priority to pro-
24 posals for projects that—

1 “(A) address the training or retraining of
2 farmworkers to operate, repair, program, or
3 otherwise maintain mechanization and automa-
4 tion solutions involved in the project; and

5 “(B) include explicit mechanisms to com-
6 municate the results of the project to producers
7 and the public.

8 “(3) APPLICABILITY.—Subsections (a), (c)
9 through (g), (i), and (l) shall apply to the program
10 established under this subsection.”;

11 (5) in subsection (k) (as so redesignated), in
12 paragraph (5), by striking “In addition to the
13 amounts reserved under subsection (k)(1)(C), there”
14 and inserting “There”; and

15 (6) in subsection (l) (as so redesignated)—

16 (A) in paragraph (1)—

17 (i) in subparagraph (B)—

18 (I) in the subparagraph heading,
19 by striking “SUBSEQUENT FUNDING”
20 and inserting “FISCAL YEARS 2014
21 THROUGH 2024”; and

22 (II) by striking “fiscal year 2014
23 and each fiscal year thereafter” and
24 inserting “each of fiscal years 2014
25 through 2024”; and

1 (ii) by striking subparagraphs (C) and
2 (D) and inserting the following:

3 “(C) SUBSEQUENT FUNDING.—

4 “(i) IN GENERAL.—Of the funds of
5 the Commodity Credit Corporation, the
6 Secretary shall make available to carry out
7 this section \$170,000,000 for fiscal year
8 2025 and each fiscal year thereafter.

9 “(ii) ALLOCATION.—The Secretary
10 shall allocate funds made available under
11 clause (i) in accordance with the following:

12 “(I) SPECIALTY CROP RESEARCH
13 AND EXTENSION INITIATIVE.—For
14 the Initiative, not less than—

15 “(aa) \$150,000,000 for each
16 of fiscal years 2025 through
17 2029; and

18 “(bb) \$170,000,000 for fis-
19 cal year 2030 and each fiscal
20 year thereafter.

21 “(II) SPECIALTY CROP MECHA-
22 NIZATION AND AUTOMATION RE-
23 SEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT PRO-
24 GRAM.—For the specialty crop mecha-
25 nization and automation research and

1 development program established
2 under subsection (j), \$20,000,000 for
3 each of fiscal years 2025 through
4 2029.

5 “(iii) REALLOCATION.—Any funds al-
6 located under clause (ii)(II) that remain
7 unobligated on the date that is 1 year after
8 the last day of the fiscal year in which
9 those funds are first made available shall
10 be reallocated for the purposes described in
11 clause (ii)(I).

12 “(iv) AVAILABILITY OF MECHANIZA-
13 TION AND AUTOMATION FUNDS.—

14 “(I) IN GENERAL.—Notwith-
15 standing paragraph (4), funds made
16 available under clause (i) and allo-
17 cated under clause (ii)(II) shall re-
18 main available until expended.

19 “(II) REALLOCATED FUNDS.—
20 For purposes of paragraph (4),
21 amounts reallocated under clause (iii)
22 shall be considered to be made avail-
23 able for the fiscal year for which the
24 amounts are reallocated.”;

25 (B) in paragraph (2)—

1 (i) in the paragraph heading, by strik-
2 ing “FOR FISCAL YEARS 2014 THROUGH
3 2023”;

4 (ii) by striking “In addition” and in-
5 serting the following:

6 “(A) IN GENERAL.—In addition”; and

7 (iii) in subparagraph (A) (as so des-
8 ignated), by striking “2023” and inserting
9 “2029”;

10 (C) by redesignating paragraph (3) as sub-
11 subparagraph (B) of paragraph (2) and indenting
12 appropriately; and

13 (D) by redesignating paragraphs (4) and
14 (5) as paragraphs (3) and (4), respectively.

15 (b) TECHNICAL AND CONFORMING AMENDMENTS.—

16 (1) Section 1408A of the National Agricultural
17 Research, Extension, and Teaching Policy Act of
18 1977 (7 U.S.C. 3123a) is amended—

19 (A) in subsection (a)(2)(A), by striking
20 “(j)(3)” and inserting “(k)(3)”;

21 (B) in subsection (c)(5), by striking “spe-
22 cialty crop research initiative” and inserting
23 “programs”; and

1 (C) in subsection (g), in the matter pre-
2 ceding paragraph (1), by striking “(j)” and in-
3 serting “(k)”.

4 (2) Section 251(f)(1)(D)(x) of the Department
5 of Agriculture Reorganization Act of 1994 (7 U.S.C.
6 6971(f)(1)(D)(x)) is amended by striking “specialty
7 crop research initiative under section 412 of the Ag-
8 ricultural Research, Extension, and Education Re-
9 form Act of 1998” and inserting “programs under
10 section 412 of the Agricultural Research, Extension,
11 and Education Reform Act of 1998 (7 U.S.C.
12 7632)”.

13 (3) Section 12605(c) of the Agriculture Im-
14 provement Act of 2018 (7 U.S.C. 7632 note; Public
15 Law 115–334) is amended—

16 (A) by striking “412(j)” and inserting
17 “412(k)”; and

18 (B) by striking “7632(j))” and inserting
19 “7632(k))”.

20 **SEC. 7306. FOOD ANIMAL RESIDUE AVOIDANCE DATABASE**
21 **PROGRAM.**

22 Section 604(e) of the Agricultural Research, Exten-
23 sion, and Education Reform Act of 1998 (7 U.S.C.
24 7642(e)) is amended by striking “\$2,500,000 for each of

1 fiscal years 2008 through 2023” and inserting
2 “\$5,000,000 for each of fiscal years 2025 through 2029”.

3 **SEC. 7307. OFFICE OF PEST MANAGEMENT POLICY.**

4 Section 614(f) of the Agricultural Research, Exten-
5 sion, and Education Reform Act of 1998 (7 U.S.C.
6 7653(f)) is amended—

7 (1) in paragraph (1), by striking “and” at the
8 end;

9 (2) in paragraph (2), by striking “2023.” and
10 inserting “2024; and”; and

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

12 “(3) \$8,000,000 for each of fiscal years 2025
13 through 2029.”.

14 **SEC. 7308. FORESTRY PRODUCTS ADVANCED UTILIZATION**
15 **RESEARCH.**

16 Section 617(f)(1) of the Agricultural Research, Ex-
17 tension, and Education Reform Act of 1998 (7 U.S.C.
18 7655b(f)(1)) is amended by striking “2023” and inserting
19 “2029”.

1 **Subtitle D—Food, Conservation,**
2 **and Energy Act of 2008**

3 **PART I—AGRICULTURAL SECURITY**

4 **SEC. 7401. AGRICULTURAL BIOSECURITY COMMUNICATION**
5 **CENTER.**

6 Section 14112(c)(2) of the Food, Conservation, and
7 Energy Act of 2008 (7 U.S.C. 8912(c)(2)) is amended by
8 striking “2023” and inserting “2029”.

9 **SEC. 7402. ASSISTANCE TO BUILD LOCAL CAPACITY IN AG-**
10 **RICULTURAL BIOSECURITY PLANNING, PREP-**
11 **ARATION, AND RESPONSE.**

12 Section 14113 of the Food, Conservation, and En-
13 ergy Act of 2008 (7 U.S.C. 8913) is amended—

14 (1) in subsection (a)(2)(B), by striking “2023”
15 and inserting “2029”; and

16 (2) in subsection (b)(2)(B), by striking “2023”
17 and inserting “2029”.

18 **SEC. 7403. RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT OF AGRICUL-**
19 **TURAL COUNTERMEASURES.**

20 Section 14121(b)(2) of the Food, Conservation, and
21 Energy Act of 2008 (7 U.S.C. 8921(b)(2)) is amended by
22 striking “2023” and inserting “2029”.

1 **SEC. 7404. AGRICULTURAL BIOSECURITY GRANT PROGRAM.**

2 Section 14122(e)(2) of the Food, Conservation, and
3 Energy Act of 2008 (7 U.S.C. 8922(e)(2)) is amended by
4 striking “2023” and inserting “2029”.

5 **PART II—MISCELLANEOUS PROVISIONS**

6 **SEC. 7411. GRAZINGLANDS RESEARCH LABORATORY.**

7 Section 7502 of the Food, Conservation, and Energy
8 Act of 2008 (Public Law 110–246; 122 Stat. 2019; 128
9 Stat. 901; 132 Stat. 4817) is amended by striking “15-
10 year period beginning on the date of enactment of this
11 Act” and inserting “period beginning on the date of enact-
12 ment of this Act and ending on September 30, 2029”.

13 **SEC. 7412. FARM AND RANCH STRESS ASSISTANCE NET-**
14 **WORK.**

15 Section 7522 of the Food, Conservation, and Energy
16 Act of 2008 (7 U.S.C. 5936) is amended—

17 (1) in subsection (b)(1)(A), by inserting “, in-
18 cluding crisis lines” before the semicolon at the end;

19 (2) in subsection (d), by striking “\$10,000,000
20 for each of fiscal years 2019 through 2023” and in-
21 serting “\$15,000,000 for each of fiscal years 2025
22 through 2029”;

23 (3) by redesignating subsection (f) as sub-
24 section (g); and

25 (4) by striking subsection (e) and inserting the
26 following:

1 “(e) REFERRALS TO PROVIDERS.—As part of the ef-
2 forts of the recipient of a grant under subsection (a) to
3 connect individuals to behavioral health counseling and
4 wellness support and to ensure individuals have access to
5 a comprehensive scope of mental health and substance use
6 treatments and supports, when applicable, the grant re-
7 cipient may establish referral relationships with—

8 “(1) certified community behavioral health clin-
9 ics (as defined in section 1905(jj)(2) of the Social
10 Security Act (42 U.S.C. 1396d(jj)(2));

11 “(2) health centers (as defined in section
12 330(a) of the Public Health Service Act (42 U.S.C.
13 254b(a)));

14 “(3) rural health clinics (as defined in section
15 1861(aa) of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C.
16 1395x(aa)));

17 “(4) Federally qualified health centers (as de-
18 fined in that section); and

19 “(5) critical access hospitals (as defined in sec-
20 tion 1861(mm) of the Social Security Act (42
21 U.S.C. 1395x(mm))).

22 “(f) REPORT.—Not later than 1 year after the date
23 of enactment of the Rural Prosperity and Food Security
24 Act of 2024, the Secretary, in coordination with the Sec-
25 retary of Health and Human Services, shall submit to

1 Congress and any other relevant Federal department or
2 agency, and make publicly available, a report describing—

3 “(1) the state of behavioral and mental health
4 of individuals who are engaged in farming, ranching,
5 and other occupations relating to agriculture, includ-
6 ing farmworkers and food system workers; and

7 “(2) how the Department of Agriculture can
8 improve coordination and cooperation with Federal
9 health departments and agencies, including the Sub-
10 stance Abuse and Mental Health Services Adminis-
11 tration, to better address the behavioral and mental
12 health of individuals who are engaged in farming,
13 ranching, and other occupations relating to agri-
14 culture (including farmworkers and food system
15 workers), such as coordination and cooperation on
16 serving those individuals through existing national
17 hotlines.”.

18 **SEC. 7413. NATURAL PRODUCTS RESEARCH PROGRAM.**

19 Section 7525(e) of the Food, Conservation, and En-
20 ergy Act of 2008 (7 U.S.C. 5937(e)) is amended by strik-
21 ing “2023” and inserting “2029”.

22 **SEC. 7414. SUN GRANT PROGRAM.**

23 Section 7526(g) of the Food, Conservation, and En-
24 ergy Act of 2008 (7 U.S.C. 8114(g)) is amended by strik-
25 ing “2023” and inserting “2029”.

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1 that were conducted in the pre-
2 ceding fiscal year.”; and

3 (ii) by striking clauses (iii) and (iv)
4 and inserting the following:

5 “(iii) STAKEHOLDER NOTICE AND EN-
6 GAGEMENT.—The Foundation shall publish
7 an annual notice with a description of agri-
8 cultural research priorities under this sec-
9 tion for the upcoming fiscal year, includ-
10 ing—

11 “(I) a schedule for funding com-
12 petitions;

13 “(II) a discussion of how applica-
14 tions for funding will be evaluated;

15 “(III) how the Foundation will
16 communicate information about fund-
17 ed awards to the public to ensure that
18 grantees and partners understand the
19 objectives of the Foundation; and

20 “(IV) virtual and in-person op-
21 portunities for collaborative stake-
22 holder engagement to provide input on
23 agricultural research priorities.

24 “(iv) STRATEGIC PLAN.—Not later
25 than 2 years after the date of enactment

1 of the Rural Prosperity and Food Security
2 Act of 2024, and every 5 years thereafter,
3 the Foundation shall submit to the Com-
4 mittee on Agriculture of the House of Rep-
5 resentatives and the Committee on Agri-
6 culture, Nutrition, and Forestry of the
7 Senate a strategic plan describing—

8 “(I) a forecast of major agricul-
9 tural challenge opportunities identified
10 by the scientific advisory councils of
11 the Foundation and approved by the
12 Board, including short- and long-term
13 objectives;

14 “(II) an overview of the efforts
15 that the Foundation has taken to be
16 transparent in each of the processes
17 of the Foundation, including—

18 “(aa) processes relating to
19 grant awards, including the selec-
20 tion, review, and notification
21 processes;

22 “(bb) communication of
23 past, current, and future re-
24 search priorities;

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1 “(cc) coordination with the
2 Department of Agriculture to
3 minimize duplication and avoid
4 conflicts; and

5 “(dd) plans to solicit and re-
6 spond to public input on the op-
7 portunities identified in the stra-
8 tegic plan;

9 “(III) the financial goals and
10 benchmarks for the next 5 years, in-
11 cluding a detailed plan for—

12 “(aa) raising funds in
13 amounts greater than the
14 amounts required under sub-
15 section (g)(1)(B);

16 “(bb) soliciting additional
17 resources pursuant to subsection
18 (e)(4)(A)(iv) and paragraph
19 (2)(A)(iii); and

20 “(cc) managing and
21 leveraging such resources pursu-
22 ant to paragraph (2)(A)(vii);

23 “(IV) the goals for the next 5
24 years relating to engaging stake-

1 holders in providing input on agricul-
2 tural research priorities; and

3 “(V) other related issues, as de-
4 termined by the Board.”; and

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

6 “(7) TRANSPARENCY.—To ensure transparency
7 in the decision-making and grant-making process of
8 the Foundation, the Foundation shall—

9 “(A) provide feedback to an individual or
10 entity that submits a completed research con-
11 cept for which the individual or entity has pri-
12 vate funding but that does not receive a public
13 match from the Foundation for the program or
14 initiative;

15 “(B) provide feedback to one or more re-
16 searchers who apply for but do not receive a re-
17 search grant within a Foundation-led program
18 or initiative; and

19 “(C) not later than 3 years after the date
20 of enactment of this paragraph, undergo a
21 third-party strategic review to solicit feedback
22 from the food and agricultural community on
23 the quality of feedback provided by the Founda-
24 tion.”; and

25 (3) in subsection (g)(1)(A)—

1 (A) by striking clauses (i) and (ii) and in-
2 serting the following:

3 “(i) GENERAL FUNDING.—Of the
4 funds of the Commodity Credit Corpora-
5 tion, the Secretary shall transfer to the
6 Foundation to carry out this section
7 \$100,000,000 for fiscal year 2025 and
8 each fiscal year thereafter, to remain avail-
9 able until expended.”; and

10 (B) by redesignating clause (iii) as clause
11 (ii).

12 **SEC. 7502. HEIRS PROPERTY AND FRACTIONATED LAND**
13 **LEGAL CLINICS.**

14 Subtitle F of title VII of the Agricultural Act of 2014
15 is amended by inserting after section 7603 (7 U.S.C.
16 3125a–1) the following:

17 **“SEC. 7603A. HEIRS PROPERTY AND FRACTIONATED LAND**
18 **LEGAL CLINICS.**

19 “(a) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

20 “(1) 1862 INSTITUTION; 1890 INSTITUTION.—
21 The terms ‘1862 Institution’ and ‘1890 Institution’
22 have the meanings given those terms in section 2 of
23 the Agricultural Research, Extension, and Education
24 Reform Act of 1998 (7 U.S.C. 7601).

1 “(2) 1994 INSTITUTION.—The term ‘1994 In-
2 stitution’ has the meaning given the term in section
3 532 of the Equity in Educational Land-Grant Sta-
4 tus Act of 1994 (7 U.S.C. 301 note; Public Law
5 103–382).

6 “(b) COOPERATIVE AGREEMENTS.—The Secretary
7 shall support the provision of legal services to resolve own-
8 ership and succession on farmland, including heirs prop-
9 erty and fractionated land, by entering into cooperative
10 agreements with 1890 Institutions, 1994 Institutions, and
11 1862 Institutions that demonstrate the ability to provide
12 such legal services through—

13 “(1) the law school of the 1890 Institution,
14 1994 Institution, or 1862 Institution; or

15 “(2) a partnership with—

16 “(A) a nonprofit legal organization or com-
17 munity-based organization with experience pro-
18 viding such legal services; or

19 “(B) an accredited law school of another
20 institution of higher education.

21 “(c) PRIORITY.—In entering into cooperative agree-
22 ments under subsection (b), the Secretary shall give pri-
23 ority to 1890 Institutions and 1994 Institutions.

24 “(d) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There
25 is authorized to be appropriated to carry out this section

1 \$10,000,000 for fiscal year 2025 and each fiscal year
2 thereafter.”.

3 **SEC. 7503. CRITICAL AGRICULTURAL MATERIALS ACT.**

4 Section 16(a)(2) of the Critical Agricultural Mate-
5 rials Act (7 U.S.C. 178n(a)(2)) is amended by striking
6 “2023” and inserting “2029”.

7 **SEC. 7504. EQUITY IN EDUCATIONAL LAND-GRANT STATUS**
8 **ACT OF 1994.**

9 (a) ENDOWMENT FOR 1994 INSTITUTIONS.—Section
10 533(b) of the Equity in Educational Land-Grant Status
11 Act of 1994 (7 U.S.C. 301 note; Public Law 103–382)
12 is amended in the first sentence by striking “2023” and
13 inserting “2029”.

14 (b) APPROPRIATIONS.—Section 534(a)(1) of the Eq-
15 uity in Educational Land-Grant Status Act of 1994 (7
16 U.S.C. 301 note; Public Law 103–382) is amended, in the
17 matter preceding subparagraph (A)—

18 (1) by striking “1996” and inserting “2025”;

19 and

20 (2) by striking “equal to” and inserting “not
21 less than”.

22 (c) INSTITUTIONAL CAPACITY BUILDING GRANTS.—
23 Section 535 of the Equity in Educational Land-Grant Sta-
24 tus Act of 1994 (7 U.S.C. 301 note; Public Law 103–

1 382) is amended by striking “2023” each place it appears
2 in subsections (b)(1) and (c) and inserting “2029”.

3 (d) RESEARCH GRANTS.— Section 536 of the Equity
4 in Educational Land-Grant Status Act of 1994 (7 U.S.C.
5 301 note; Public Law 103–382) is amended—

6 (1) in subsection (b)—

7 (A) by striking the subsection designation
8 and heading and all that follows through
9 “with—” in the matter preceding paragraph (1)
10 and inserting the following:

11 “(b) COOPERATIVE AGREEMENTS.—A 1994 Institu-
12 tion that receives a grant under subsection (a) may con-
13 duct research described in that subsection under a cooper-
14 ative agreement with—”; and

15 (B) in paragraph (2), in the matter pre-
16 ceding subparagraph (A), by striking “at least
17 1” and inserting “1 or more”; and

18 (2) in subsection (c), in the first sentence, by
19 striking “2023” and inserting “2029”.

20 **SEC. 7505. REPORT ON THE EXTENSION SERVICE NEEDS OF**
21 **TRIBAL LANDS AND POPULATIONS.**

22 (a) STUDY.—Not later than 18 months after the date
23 of enactment of this Act, the Comptroller General of the
24 United States (referred to in this section as the “Comp-
25 troller General”) shall conduct a study of—

1 (1) the extension service needs with respect to
2 Tribal lands and Tribal populations, regardless of
3 the location of those populations;

4 (2) whether the cooperative extension program
5 and the Federally Recognized Tribes Extension Pro-
6 gram established under section 1677 of the Food,
7 Agriculture, Conservation, and Trade Act of 1990 (7
8 U.S.C. 5930) are meeting those needs, including by
9 examining, for the most recent 20 years—

10 (A) the total amount of Federal funding
11 received in each State for extension services;

12 (B) the types of extension services, includ-
13 ing extension services on agriculture, serving
14 the Tribal population in each State and the
15 amount of funding spent on each type of exten-
16 sion service in the State; and

17 (C) the Tribal population in each State;
18 and

19 (3) how the program established under section
20 1677 of the Food, Agriculture, Conservation, and
21 Trade Act of 1990 (7 U.S.C. 5930) was established
22 when that section was enacted by Congress and the
23 significant changes to the operation and funding of
24 that program since that enactment.

25 (b) REPORT.—

1 (1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 60 days after
2 the completion of the study under subsection (a), the
3 Comptroller General shall submit a report describing
4 the results of the study to the Committee on Agri-
5 culture, Nutrition, and Forestry of the Senate and
6 the Committee on Agriculture of the House of Rep-
7 resentatives.

8 (2) RECOMMENDATIONS.—If the Comptroller
9 General finds under the study under subsection (a)
10 that the existing cooperative extension program and
11 the Federally Recognized Tribes Extension Program
12 are not meeting the needs described in subsection
13 (a)(1), the report under paragraph (1) shall include
14 such legislative and other recommendations as the
15 Comptroller General determines would result in a
16 system under which those needs are met in an equi-
17 table and effective manner.

18 **SEC. 7506. RESTORATION OF 4-H NAME AND EMBLEM AU-**
19 **THORITY.**

20 (a) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

21 (1) 4-H CLUB.—

22 (A) IN GENERAL.—The term “4-H club”
23 means a 4-H club recognized under the 4-H
24 Program.

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1 (B) INCLUSION.—The term “4-H club” in-
2 cludes an authorized agent of a 4-H club.

3 (2) 4-H EMBLEM OR NAME.—The term “4-H
4 emblem or name” means the 4-H sign or emblem,
5 consisting of a green four-leaf clover with stem and
6 the letter “H” in white or gold on each leaflet, and
7 the words “4-H”, “4-H Club”, and “4-H Clubs”,
8 used to identify and distinguish the 4-H Program
9 and the activities, clubs, members, goods, and serv-
10 ices of the 4-H Program.

11 (3) 4-H PROGRAM.—

12 (A) IN GENERAL.—The term “4-H Pro-
13 gram” means the youth development program
14 of the land-grant colleges or universities, the
15 Cooperative Extension System (as defined by
16 the Secretary), and the Department of Agri-
17 culture.

18 (B) INCLUSION.—The term “4-H Pro-
19 gram” includes an authorized agent of the 4-H
20 Program.

21 (4) LAND-GRANT COLLEGE OR UNIVERSITY.—

22 (A) IN GENERAL.—The term “land-grant
23 college or university” means an 1862 Institu-
24 tion, an 1890 Institution, or a 1994 Institution
25 (as those terms are defined in section 2 of the

1 Agricultural Research, Extension, and Edu-
2 cation Reform Act of 1998 (7 U.S.C. 7601)).

3 (B) INCLUSION.—The term “land-grant
4 college or university” includes an authorized
5 agent of a land-grant college or university.

6 (b) EFFECT OF REPEAL; RATIFICATION.—

7 (1) CIVIL ACTS.—Any civil act or action of the
8 4-H Program, a 4-H club, the Secretary, or a land-
9 grant college or university taken with respect to the
10 use of the 4-H emblem or name, or the recognition
11 of any 4-H club, during the period beginning on
12 May 8, 1914, and ending on the date of enactment
13 of this Act, is deemed to be of legal force and effect
14 and ratified as if section 1002(3) of the Clean Up
15 the Code Act of 2019 (title X of division O of Public
16 Law 116–260; 134 Stat. 2155) had not been en-
17 acted into law.

18 (2) EFFECT ON CRIMINAL LAW.—Nothing in
19 this subsection affects the effect on criminal law of
20 the repeal made by section 1002(3) of the Clean Up
21 the Code Act of 2019 (title X of division O of Public
22 Law 116–260; 134 Stat. 2155).

23 (c) AUTHORIZATIONS FOR USE OF 4-H EMBLEM OR
24 NAME; FEES; DEPOSITS.—

25 (1) AUTHORIZATION.—The Secretary may—

1 (A) use the 4-H emblem or name; and

2 (B) grant authorizations to use the 4-H
3 emblem or name, as provided by regulations
4 issued by the Secretary.

5 (2) FEES.—An authorization under paragraph
6 (1) may be granted—

7 (A) without a fee or other consideration; or

8 (B) for a fee or other consideration.

9 (3) USE OF FEES.—The Secretary shall deposit
10 into a special account any fees collected under para-
11 graph (2)(B), the amounts in which shall remain
12 available to the Secretary until expended, without
13 further appropriation, for furthering the 4-H Pro-
14 gram.

15 (d) UNAUTHORIZED USE OF 4-H EMBLEM OR
16 NAME.—

17 (1) PROHIBITION.—Whoever, other than the 4-
18 H Program, a 4-H club, the Department of Agri-
19 culture, a land-grant college or university, and those
20 authorized by them, uses in commerce the 4-H em-
21 blem or name or any reproduction, counterfeit, copy,
22 or colorable imitation of the 4-H emblem or name to
23 indicate membership in an association, organization,
24 or other collective group, or in connection with the
25 sale, offering for sale, distribution, or advertising of

1 goods or services, on or in connection with which
2 that use is likely to cause confusion, to cause mis-
3 take, or to deceive as to membership or participation
4 in, an affiliation, connection, or association with, or
5 authorization or approval by, a 4-H club or the 4-
6 H Program, shall be subject to the civil action in
7 paragraph (2).

8 (2) CIVIL ACTION.—The Attorney General on
9 behalf of the Secretary, or contract counsel procured
10 by the Secretary, may bring a civil action in an ap-
11 propriate district court of the United States against
12 whoever engages in any of the prohibited acts de-
13 scribed in paragraph (1) for the remedies provided
14 in the Act of July 5, 1946 (commonly known as the
15 “Trademark Act of 1946” or the “Lanham Act”)
16 (15 U.S.C. 1051 et seq.).

17 (e) SAVINGS CLAUSES.—

18 (1) PRIOR AUTHORIZED USES.—Nothing in this
19 section makes unlawful the use of any emblem,
20 name, sign, symbol, insignia, or words that was law-
21 ful on December 26, 2020.

22 (2) DELEGATION.—Nothing in this section lim-
23 its the authority of the Secretary to delegate author-
24 ity of the Secretary as otherwise authorized by law.

1 **SEC. 7507. AMENDMENTS TO THE HATCH ACT.**

2 (a) **MATCHING FUNDS.**—Section 3(d)(1) of the
3 Hatch Act of 1887 (7 U.S.C. 361c(d)(1)) is amended by
4 striking “agricultural research” and inserting “agricul-
5 tural research, for graduate student tuition and fees,”.

6 (b) **USE OF FUNDS.**—Section 4 of the Hatch Act of
7 1887 (7 U.S.C. 361d) is amended, in the first sentence,
8 by striking “administrative planning” and inserting
9 “graduate student tuition and fees, administrative plan-
10 ning”.

11 (c) **PAYMENT OF ALLOTMENTS TO STATE AGRICUL-**
12 **TURAL EXPERIMENT STATIONS.**—Section 5 of the Hatch
13 Act of 1887 (7 U.S.C. 361e) is amended—

14 (1) in the second sentence, by striking “officer
15 known as a director, and a treasurer or other officer
16 appointed by the government board of the station”
17 and inserting “officer, to be known as a ‘State Agri-
18 cultural Experiment Station Director’, and a treas-
19 urer”; and

20 (2) in the third sentence—

21 (A) by striking “or other officer”; and

22 (B) by striking “director” and inserting
23 “State Agricultural Experiment Station Direc-
24 tor,”.

1 **SEC. 7508. RESEARCH FACILITIES ACT.**

2 Section 6 of the Research Facilities Act (7 U.S.C.
3 390d) is amended—

4 (1) by striking the section designation and
5 heading and all that follows through “Subject to” in
6 subsection (a) and inserting the following:

7 **“SEC. 6. FUNDING.**

8 **“(a) IN GENERAL.—**

9 **“(1) MANDATORY FUNDING.—**Subject to sub-
10 sections (b), (c), and (d), out of amounts in the
11 Treasury not otherwise appropriated, there is appro-
12 priated to the Secretary to carry out the competitive
13 grant program under section 4 \$2,500,000,000 for
14 fiscal year 2025, to remain available until expended.

15 **“(2) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—**
16 Subject to”;

17 (2) in subsection (a)(2) (as so designated), in
18 the first sentence, by striking “2023” and inserting
19 “2029”.

20 **SEC. 7509. PUBLIC CULTIVAR DEVELOPMENT.**

21 (a) IN GENERAL.—Subsection (b)(2) of the Competi-
22 tive, Special, and Facilities Research Grant Act (7 U.S.C.
23 3157(b)(2)) is amended—

24 (1) in subparagraph (A)(iii), by inserting “re-
25 gionally adapted cultivar and breed development,”
26 before “selection theory,”; and

1 (2) in subparagraph (B)(iv), by inserting “re-
2 gionally adapted breed development,” before “selec-
3 tion theory,”.

4 (b) REPORT.—Not later than October 1, 2026, the
5 Secretary shall submit to the Committee on Agriculture,
6 Nutrition, and Forestry of the Senate and the Committee
7 on Agriculture of the House of Representatives a report
8 that provides information on all public cultivar and animal
9 germplasm research funded by the Department of Agri-
10 culture, including—

11 (1) an assessment of the research funded by the
12 Department of Agriculture relating to public cultivar
13 and animal germplasm development;

14 (2) identified research gaps relating to public
15 cultivar and animal germplasm development; and

16 (3) recommendations to improve coordination of
17 all public cultivar and animal germplasm work
18 across the Department of Agriculture, including en-
19 gagement with relevant stakeholders.

20 **SEC. 7510. AGRICULTURE AND FOOD RESEARCH INITIA-**
21 **TIVE.**

22 Subsection (b) of the Competitive, Special, and Fa-
23 cilities Research Grant Act (7 U.S.C. 3157(b)) is amend-
24 ed—

25 (1) in paragraph (2)—

1 (A) in subparagraph (B)(i), by inserting “,
2 including shellfish” before the semicolon;

3 (B) in subparagraph (D)—

4 (i) in clause (vii), by striking “and” at
5 the end;

6 (ii) in clause (viii), by striking the pe-
7 riod at the end and inserting “; and”; and

8 (iii) by adding at the end the fol-
9 lowing:

10 “(ix) measuring, monitoring, report-
11 ing, and verifying greenhouse gas emis-
12 sions and carbon sequestration.”;

13 (C) in subparagraph (E)—

14 (i) in clause (iv), by striking “and” at
15 the end;

16 (ii) in clause (v), by striking the pe-
17 riod at the end and inserting a semicolon;
18 and

19 (iii) by adding at the end the fol-
20 lowing:

21 “(vi) precision agriculture tech-
22 nologies;

23 “(vii) hydroponics, aquaponics,
24 aeroponics, and other production tech-

1 nologies used in controlled-environment ag-
2 ricultural production; and

3 “(viii) food loss and waste prevention
4 and reduction, including new technologies
5 to extend shelf life and new opportunities
6 for new upcycled food products.”;

7 (D) in subparagraph (F)—

8 (i) in clause (vii), by striking “and” at
9 the end;

10 (ii) in clause (viii), by striking the pe-
11 riod at the end and inserting “; and”; and

12 (iii) by adding at the end the fol-
13 lowing:

14 “(ix) workforce training, education,
15 research, and outreach activities relating to
16 the food and agricultural sciences (as de-
17 fined in section 1404 of the National Agri-
18 cultural Research, Extension, and Teach-
19 ing Policy Act of 1977 (7 U.S.C. 3103)).”;
20 and

21 (E) adding at the end the following:

22 “(G) AGRICULTURAL CLIMATE ADAPTA-
23 TION AND MITIGATION.—Agricultural climate
24 adaptation and mitigation, including—

1 “(i) strategies for agricultural adapta-
2 tion to climate change and drought, includ-
3 ing strategies for small and medium-sized
4 farms and ranches;

5 “(ii) on-farm mitigation strategies and
6 solutions, including infrastructure, equip-
7 ment, and ecosystems-based strategies;

8 “(iii) economic and social costs and
9 benefits of adopting conservation practices
10 to mitigate and adapt to climate change;

11 “(iv) ecosystem service co-benefits of
12 reducing net greenhouse gas emissions and
13 adapting to climate change;

14 “(v) new technologies, methods, and
15 models to measure and predict greenhouse
16 gas emissions and soil carbon sequestra-
17 tion; and

18 “(vi) the intersection of agricultural
19 production, soil health, climate change, and
20 human health.”;

21 (2) in paragraph (6)—

22 (A) by redesignating subparagraphs (E)
23 and (F) as subparagraphs (F) and (G), respec-
24 tively; and

1 (B) by inserting after subparagraph (D)
2 the following:

3 “(E) to a consortium of junior or commu-
4 nity colleges (as defined in section 312 of the
5 Higher Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C.
6 1058)) that may partner with land-grant col-
7 leges or universities (as defined in section 1404
8 of the National Agricultural Research, Exten-
9 sion, and Teaching Policy Act of 1977 (7
10 U.S.C. 3103)), to carry out workforce training,
11 education, research, and outreach priorities de-
12 scribed in paragraph (2)(F)(ix).”; and

13 (3) in paragraph (11)(A), in the matter pre-
14 ceding clause (i), by striking “2023” and inserting
15 “2029”.

16 **SEC. 7511. EXTENSION DESIGN AND DEMONSTRATION INI-**
17 **TIATIVE.**

18 Subsection (d)(6) of the Competitive, Special, and
19 Facilities Research Grant Act (7 U.S.C. 3157(d)(6)) is
20 amended by striking “2023” and inserting “2029”.

21 **SEC. 7512. BIOMASS RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT.**

22 Section 9008(h)(2) of the Farm Security and Rural
23 Investment Act of 2002 (7 U.S.C. 8108(h)(2)) is amended
24 by striking “2023” and inserting “2029”.

1 **SEC. 7513. RENEWABLE RESOURCES EXTENSION ACT OF**
2 **1978.**

3 (a) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—Section
4 6 of the Renewable Resources Extension Act of 1978 (16
5 U.S.C. 1675) is amended in the first sentence by striking
6 “2023” and inserting “2029”.

7 (b) TERMINATION DATE.—Section 8 of the Renew-
8 able Resources Extension Act of 1978 (16 U.S.C. 1671
9 note; Public Law 95–306) is amended by striking “2023”
10 and inserting “2029”.

11 **SEC. 7514. NATIONAL AQUACULTURE ACT OF 1980.**

12 Section 10 of the National Aquaculture Act of 1980
13 (16 U.S.C. 2809) is amended—

14 (1) by striking “2023” each place it appears
15 and inserting “2029”; and

16 (2) in paragraph (3), by inserting “the” before
17 “Interior”.

18 **SEC. 7515. FEDERAL AGRICULTURE RESEARCH FACILITIES.**

19 Section 1431 of the National Agricultural Research,
20 Extension, and Teaching Policy Act Amendments of 1985
21 (title XIV of Public Law 99–198; 99 Stat. 1556) is
22 amended in the matter preceding paragraph (1) by strik-
23 ing “2023” and inserting “2029”.

24 **SEC. 7516. ENHANCED USE LEASE AUTHORITY PROGRAM.**

25 Section 308(b)(6)(A) of the Federal Crop Insurance
26 Reform and Department of Agriculture Reorganization

1 Act of 1994 (7 U.S.C. 3125a note; Public Law 103–354)
2 is amended by striking “2023” and inserting “2029”.

3 **SEC. 7517. AGRIVOLTAIC SYSTEMS.**

4 (a) DEFINITION OF AGRIVOLTAIC SYSTEM.—In this
5 section, the term “agrivoltaic system” means a system
6 under which solar energy production and agricultural pro-
7 duction, including crop or animal production, occurs in an
8 integrated manner on the same piece of land through the
9 duration of a project.

10 (b) STUDY.—

11 (1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary, in coordina-
12 tion with the Secretary of Energy and relevant ex-
13 perts, shall conduct a study on agrivoltaic systems
14 that shall include—

15 (A) a review of the current research and
16 gaps in research relating to the regional com-
17 patibility of different species of livestock with
18 different agrivoltaic panel and agrivoltaic sys-
19 tem designs, including—

20 (i) the optimal height of and distance
21 between solar panels for—

22 (I) livestock grazing; and

23 (II) shade for livestock;

24 (ii) manure management consider-
25 ations;

1 (iii) fencing requirements;

2 (iv) other animal handling consider-
3 ations; and

4 (v) the incorporation of apiculture;

5 (B) an assessment of animal breeding re-
6 search needs with respect to beneficial and com-
7 patible characteristics and behaviors of different
8 species of grazing animals in agrivoltaic sys-
9 tems;

10 (C) a review of the current research and
11 gaps in research relating to the regional com-
12 patibility of different crop types with different
13 agrivoltaic system designs, including—

14 (i) the optimal height of and distance
15 between solar panels for—

16 (I) plant shading; and

17 (II) farm equipment use;

18 (ii) the impact on crop yield;

19 (iii) the impact on soil moisture and
20 water availability; and

21 (iv) market opportunities to sell crops
22 at a premium price;

23 (D) an assessment of plant breeding re-
24 search needs with respect to beneficial and com-
25 patible characteristics of different crops, includ-

1 ing specialty and perennial crops, in agrivoltaic
2 systems;

3 (E) a risk-benefit analysis of agrivoltaic
4 systems in different regions of the United
5 States, including a comparison between the
6 total greenhouse gas impact of agrivoltaic sys-
7 tems and solar energy systems that displace ag-
8 ricultural production;

9 (F) an assessment of the economic
10 scalability of agrivoltaic systems across dif-
11 ferent agricultural land types, production sys-
12 tems, and regional markets;

13 (G) an assessment of the types of agricul-
14 tural land best suited and worst suited for
15 agrivoltaic systems;

16 (H) an assessment of how to best develop
17 agrivoltaic systems on a national and local scale
18 consistent with—

19 (i) maintaining or increasing agricul-
20 tural production;

21 (ii) increasing agricultural resilience;

22 (iii) retaining prime farmland;

23 (iv) increasing economic opportunities
24 in farming and rural communities;

1 (v) reducing nonfarmer ownership of
2 farmland; and

3 (vi) enhancing biodiversity;

4 (I) an assessment of the unique risk man-
5 agement and crop insurance needs of agrivoltaic
6 systems;

7 (J) an assessment of how Federal procure-
8 ment of agricultural products could help build
9 a market for agricultural products from farms
10 with agrivoltaic systems; and

11 (K) an assessment of appropriate modifica-
12 tions to better incorporate agrivoltaic systems
13 into existing Federal—

14 (i) agricultural conservation pro-
15 grams;

16 (ii) agricultural risk management pro-
17 grams, including Federal crop insurance;

18 (iii) renewable energy programs;

19 (iv) agricultural procurement pro-
20 grams; and

21 (v) investment tax credits.

22 (2) 5-YEAR PLAN.—Based on the study under
23 paragraph (1), the Secretary shall develop a 5-year
24 plan for using the research, extension, outreach, con-
25 servation, and renewable energy activities of the De-

1 partment of Agriculture to better support agrivoltaic
2 systems that do not displace agricultural production.

3 (3) REPORT.—Not later than 3 years after the
4 date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary shall
5 submit to the Committee on Agriculture of the
6 House of Representatives and the Committee on Ag-
7 riculture, Nutrition, and Forestry of the Senate a
8 report containing the results of the study conducted
9 under paragraph (1).

10 **SEC. 7518. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE, DEPARTMENT**
11 **OF ENERGY, AND NATIONAL SCIENCE FOUN-**
12 **DATION JOINT RESEARCH AND DEVELOP-**
13 **MENT ACTIVITIES.**

14 (a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall carry out,
15 with the Secretary of Energy and the Director of the Na-
16 tional Science Foundation, cross-cutting and collaborative
17 research and development activities focused on the joint
18 advancement of Department of Agriculture, Department
19 of Energy, and National Science Foundation mission re-
20 quirements and priorities.

21 (b) MEMORANDA OF UNDERSTANDING.—The Sec-
22 retary shall carry out and coordinate the activities under
23 subsection (a) through the establishment of one or more
24 memoranda of understanding, or other appropriate inter-

1 agency agreements, with the Secretary of Energy and the
2 Director of the National Science Foundation.

3 (c) COORDINATION.—In carrying out the activities
4 under subsection (a), the Secretary, the Secretary of En-
5 ergy, and the Director of the National Science Foundation
6 may—

7 (1) conduct collaborative research over a variety
8 of focus areas, such as—

9 (A) modeling and simulation, machine
10 learning, artificial intelligence, data assimila-
11 tion, large-scale data analytics, and predictive
12 analysis in order to optimize algorithms for
13 purposes relating to agriculture and rural en-
14 ergy, such as life cycle analysis of agricultural
15 or rural energy systems;

16 (B) fundamental agricultural, biological,
17 computational, and environmental science and
18 engineering, including advanced crop science,
19 crop protection, breeding, and biological pest
20 control;

21 (C) integrated natural resources and the
22 energy-water nexus in agricultural or rural
23 communities;

24 (D) advanced biomass, biobased products,
25 and biofuels, including in collaboration with the

1 activities authorized under title IX of the Farm
2 Security and Rural Investment Act of 2002 (7
3 U.S.C. 8101 et seq.);

4 (E) diverse feedstocks for economically and
5 environmentally sustainable fuels, including
6 aviation and naval fuels;

7 (F) colocation of agricultural resources and
8 activities and ecosystem services with diverse
9 energy technologies and resources, such as geo-
10 thermal energy, nuclear energy, solar energy,
11 wind energy, natural gas, hydropower, and en-
12 ergy storage;

13 (G) colocation of agricultural resources
14 and activities with carbon storage and utiliza-
15 tion technologies;

16 (H) invasive species management to fur-
17 ther the work done by the Federal Interagency
18 Committee for the Management of Noxious and
19 Exotic Weeds;

20 (I) long-term and high-risk technological
21 barriers in the development of transformative
22 science and technology solutions in the agri-
23 culture and energy sectors, including in collabo-
24 ration with the programs authorized under sec-
25 tion 1473H of the National Agricultural Re-

1 search, Extension, and Teaching Policy Act of
2 1977 (7 U.S.C. 3319k) and section 5012 of the
3 America COMPETES Act (42 U.S.C. 16538);

4 (J) grid modernization and grid security
5 and resiliency for the purpose of improving and
6 strengthening electric service in rural areas;

7 (K) agricultural and rural technology de-
8 velopment, including manufacturing, precision
9 agriculture technologies, mechanization and au-
10 tomation technologies, and technologies that
11 strengthen the food supply chain;

12 (L) wildfire risks and prevention, including
13 the power sector's role in fire prevention and
14 mitigation and wildfire impacts on energy infra-
15 structure;

16 (M) technologies to address food and nutri-
17 tion security, including food loss and waste; and

18 (N) other relevant topics, as jointly agreed
19 to by the Secretary, the Secretary of Energy,
20 and the Director of the National Science Foun-
21 dation;

22 (2) develop methods to accommodate large vol-
23 untary standardized and integrated data sets on ag-
24 ricultural, environmental, supply chain, and eco-
25 nomic information with variable accuracy and scale;

1 (3) promote collaboration, open community-
2 based development, and data and information shar-
3 ing between Federal agencies, National Labora-
4 tories, institutions of higher education, nonprofit in-
5 stitutions, industry partners, and other appropriate
6 entities by providing reliable access to secure data
7 and information that are in compliance with Federal
8 rules and regulations;

9 (4) support research infrastructure and work-
10 force development as the Secretary, the Secretary of
11 Energy, and the Director of the National Science
12 Foundation determine necessary; and

13 (5) conduct collaborative research, development,
14 and demonstration of methods and technologies—

15 (A) to improve the efficiency of agriculture
16 operations and processing of agricultural prod-
17 ucts; and

18 (B) to reduce greenhouse gas emissions as-
19 sociated with such operations and such proc-
20 essing.

21 (d) AGREEMENTS.—In carrying out the activities
22 under subsection (a), the Secretary, the Secretary of En-
23 ergy, and the Director of the National Science Foundation
24 may—

1 (1) carry out reimbursable agreements between
2 the Department of Agriculture, the Department of
3 Energy, the National Science Foundation, and other
4 entities in order to maximize the effectiveness of re-
5 search and development; and

6 (2) collaborate with other Federal agencies as
7 appropriate.

8 (e) REPORT.—Not later than 2 years after the date
9 of enactment of this Act, the Secretary, the Secretary of
10 Energy, and the Director of the National Science Founda-
11 tion shall jointly submit to the Committee on Agriculture,
12 Nutrition, and Forestry, the Committee on Commerce,
13 Science, and Transportation, and the Committee on En-
14 ergy and Natural Resources of the Senate and the Com-
15 mittee on Agriculture and the Committee on Science,
16 Space, and Technology of the House of Representatives
17 a report detailing the following:

18 (1) Interagency coordination between each Fed-
19 eral agency involved in the research and development
20 activities carried out under this section.

21 (2) Potential opportunities to expand the tech-
22 nical capabilities of the Department of Agriculture,
23 the Department of Energy, and the National Science
24 Foundation.

25 (3) Collaborative research achievements.

1 (4) Areas of future mutually beneficial suc-
2 cesses.

3 (5) Continuation of coordination activities be-
4 tween the Department of Agriculture, the Depart-
5 ment of Energy, and the National Science Founda-
6 tion.

7 (f) RESEARCH SECURITY.—The activities authorized
8 under this section shall be carried out in a manner con-
9 sistent with subtitle D of title VI of the Research and De-
10 velopment, Competition, and Innovation Act (42 U.S.C.
11 19231 et seq.).

12 **SEC. 7519. NATIONAL INSTITUTE OF FOOD AND AGRICULTURE AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT ADMINISTRATION PARTNERSHIP ON COOPERATIVE EXTENSION ACTIVITIES.**

16 Not later than 1 year after the date of enactment
17 of this Act, the Secretary shall enter into a memorandum
18 of understanding with the Secretary of Commerce that
19 provides for coordination and collaboration between the
20 National Institute of Food and Agriculture and the Eco-
21 nomic Development Administration to—

22 (1) identify Economic Development Administra-
23 tion funding opportunities for cooperative extension
24 activities at State cooperative institutions (as de-
25 fined in section 1404 of the National Agricultural

1 Research, Extension, and Teaching Policy Act of
2 1977 (7 U.S.C. 3103));

3 (2) publish a list of the funding opportunities
4 identified under paragraph (1); and

5 (3) provide targeted outreach to State coopera-
6 tive institutions (as so defined) to ensure that the
7 State cooperative institutions are aware of the fund-
8 ing opportunities identified under paragraph (1).

9 **TITLE VIII—FORESTRY**

10 **Subtitle A—Forest Data**

11 **Modernization**

12 **SEC. 8101. FOREST INVENTORY AND ANALYSIS.**

13 (a) IN GENERAL.—Section 3(e) of the Forest and
14 Rangeland Renewable Resources Research Act of 1978
15 (16 U.S.C. 1642(e)) is amended—

16 (1) in paragraph (1)—

17 (A) by striking “their resources” and in-
18 serting “the resources of those forests, includ-
19 ing forest carbon,”;

20 (B) by striking “In compliance” and in-
21 serting the following:

22 “(A) IN GENERAL.—In compliance”; and

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

1 “(B) ADDITIONAL METHODS.—Under the
2 program under this subsection, the Secretary
3 shall carry out, as a data collection method—

4 “(i) a national timber products output
5 survey; and

6 “(ii) a national woodland owner sur-
7 vey.”;

8 (2) in paragraph (3)(C), by inserting “including
9 with respect to available forest carbon data,” after
10 “2 decades,”;

11 (3) in paragraph (4)—

12 (A) in the second sentence, by striking
13 “The standards” and inserting the following:

14 “(B) INCLUSIONS.—The standards de-
15 scribed in subparagraph (A)”;

16 (B) by striking “(4) NATIONAL STAND-
17 ARDS AND DEFINITIONS.—To ensure” and in-
18 serting the following:

19 “(4) NATIONAL CONSISTENCY.—

20 “(A) STANDARDS AND DEFINITIONS.—To
21 ensure”; and

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

23 “(C) TERMINOLOGY.—The Secretary shall
24 include a clear description of the definition of
25 ‘forest’ used for purposes of reporting data

1 from inventories and analyses of forests and the
2 resources of forests under this subsection
3 with—

4 “(i) any data or report provided under
5 the program under this subsection;

6 “(ii) Renewable Resource Assessments
7 prepared under section 3(a) of the Forest
8 and Rangeland Renewable Resources Plan-
9 ning Act of 1974 (16 U.S.C. 1601(a)); and

10 “(iii) any data or report provided to
11 an entity outside the United States.”;

12 (4) in paragraph (6)—

13 (A) in the matter preceding subparagraph
14 (A), by striking “Not later than 180 days after
15 the date of enactment of this subsection,” and
16 inserting “In accordance with paragraph (7),”;
17 and

18 (B) by striking subparagraphs (D) and (E)
19 and inserting the following:

20 “(D) the organization and procedures nec-
21 essary to understand and report on changes in
22 land cover and use;

23 “(E) the organization and procedures nec-
24 essary to evaluate carbon-related data variables,
25 including soil carbon, collected from forest in-

1 ventory and analysis plots, timber products out-
2 put studies, and national woodland owner sur-
3 veys to ensure that carbon accounting informa-
4 tion needs can be met; and”;

5 (5) by adding at the end the following:

6 “(7) UPDATES TO STRATEGIC PLAN.—

7 “(A) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall
8 prepare an update to the strategic plan under
9 paragraph (6) to include—

10 “(i) a plan to implement nationally
11 consistent data collection protocols and
12 procedures to improve the statistical preci-
13 sion of base program estimates;

14 “(ii) pathways to integrate and report
15 on status and trends in—

16 “(I) forest carbon pools, includ-
17 ing below-ground carbon; and

18 “(II) rangeland, wetland, wet
19 meadow, and aquatic carbon sinks;

20 “(iii) plans, including the identifica-
21 tion of challenges, to collaborate with other
22 Federal agencies, non-Federal partners,
23 and the private sector to integrate existing
24 nationally available data sets and best
25 available commercial technologies, such as

1 remote sensing, spatial analysis techniques,
2 and other new technologies;

3 “(iv) a plan to increase transparency
4 and clarity in reporting in accordance with
5 paragraph (4)(C);

6 “(v) a plan to expand current data
7 collection, further integrate remote sensing
8 technology, or both, to include procedures
9 to improve the statistical precision of esti-
10 mates at the sub-State level;

11 “(vi) a plan to expand current data
12 collection, further integrate remote sensing
13 technology, or both, to include information
14 on renewable biomass supplies and carbon
15 stocks at the local, State, regional, and na-
16 tional levels, including by ownership type;
17 and

18 “(vii) such other matters as the Sec-
19 retary determines to be appropriate based
20 on recommendations of the Forest Inven-
21 tory and Analysis National User Group.

22 “(B) SUBMISSION.—Not later than 180
23 days after the date of enactment of this para-
24 graph, the Secretary shall submit to the Com-
25 mittee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry

1 of the Senate and the Committee on Agri-
2 culture of the House of Representatives the up-
3 date to the strategic plan prepared under sub-
4 paragraph (A).

5 “(C) FURTHER UPDATES.—Not later than
6 5 years after the date on which the update is
7 submitted under subparagraph (B), and every 5
8 years thereafter, the Secretary shall—

9 “(i) prepare an additional update to
10 the strategic plan; and

11 “(ii) submit the additional update to
12 the committees described in subparagraph
13 (B).

14 “(8) ACCESSIBILITY.—The Secretary shall en-
15 sure that data collected under this subsection is—

16 “(A) presented in a manner that is easily
17 accessible to the general public and technical
18 experts, including through tools to deliver
19 smaller area estimates; and

20 “(B) collected and made accessible using
21 means that ensure the confidentiality, in ac-
22 cordance with section 1770 of the Food Secu-
23 rity Act of 1985 (7 U.S.C. 2276), of—

24 “(i) plot locations;

1 “(ii) nonaggregated data of woodland
2 owners; and

3 “(iii) nonaggregated data from the
4 timber products output survey carried out
5 under paragraph (1)(B)(i).

6 “(9) CONFIDENTIALITY OF INFORMATION.—All
7 data collected through the national timber products
8 output survey and the national woodland owners
9 survey under paragraph (1)(B) shall be considered
10 confidential in accordance with section 1770 of the
11 Food Security Act of 1985 (7 U.S.C. 2276).

12 “(10) ANNUAL COMPILATIONS.—Annually, the
13 Secretary shall prepare and make publicly available
14 a compilation of national forest inventory and anal-
15 ysis forest statistics, which shall be similar to the ta-
16 bles contained in the Renewable Resource Assess-
17 ments prepared under section 3(a) of the Forest and
18 Rangeland Renewable Resources Planning Act of
19 1974 (16 U.S.C. 1601(a)) and accompanied by rel-
20 evant geospatial products.

21 “(11) REPORTS.—Each year, the Secretary
22 shall publish as part of the forest inventory and
23 analysis business report a detailed description of the
24 progress of the Secretary in implementing the pro-

1 grammatic elements of the strategic plan described
2 in paragraph (6), including—

3 “(A) the costs and priorities of the stra-
4 tegic plan; and

5 “(B) how the program under this sub-
6 section leverages new technology, improves and
7 standardizes collection protocols, and increases
8 workforce capacity.”.

9 (b) TECHNICAL AMENDMENT.—Section 2(c) of the
10 Forest and Rangeland Renewable Resources Research Act
11 of 1978 (16 U.S.C. 1641(c)) is amended by inserting “of
12 Agriculture (referred to in this Act as the ‘Secretary’)”
13 after “the Secretary”.

14 (c) REMOTE SENSING TECHNOLOGIES.—Section
15 8632(1) of the Agriculture Improvement Act of 2018 (16
16 U.S.C. 1642 note; Public Law 115–334) is amended by
17 striking “technologies” and inserting “technologies, such
18 as microwave, LiDAR, hyperspectral, and high-resolution
19 remote sensing data, and advanced computing tech-
20 nologies, such as machine learning, for improved mod-
21 eling, including to provide tabular statistical estimates and
22 geospatial products,”.

23 (d) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—In addi-
24 tion to amounts otherwise available, there are authorized
25 to be appropriated to the Secretary such sums as are nec-

1 essary to carry out the amendments made by this section
2 for each fiscal year.

3 **SEC. 8102. DATA ON FOREST MANAGEMENT PROJECTS.**

4 Section 3 of the Forest and Rangeland Renewable
5 Resources Research Act of 1978 (16 U.S.C. 1642) is
6 amended by adding at the end the following:

7 “(f) DATA ON FOREST MANAGEMENT PROJECTS.—

8 “(1) DATA COLLECTION AND MAPPING.—The
9 Secretary, in coordination with the Secretary of the
10 Interior, shall—

11 “(A) create a publicly available database
12 of—

13 “(i) forest management activities con-
14 ducted by the Secretary or the Secretary of
15 the Interior, including fuel breaks and haz-
16 ardous fuel reduction projects; and

17 “(ii) features on Federal land that are
18 relevant in the event of a wildland fire, in-
19 cluding functional roads and bridges, in-
20 tact wetlands, and wet meadow systems;
21 and

22 “(B) develop a publicly available map that
23 indicates the management activities and fea-
24 tures described in subparagraph (A).

25 “(2) UPDATES.—

1 “(A) DATABASE.—The database created
2 under paragraph (1)(A) shall track the progress
3 of the forest management activities described in
4 clause (i) of that paragraph, including antici-
5 pated completion dates.

6 “(B) MAP.—The map developed under
7 paragraph (1)(B) shall be updated biannually
8 to indicate the status of the management activi-
9 ties and features described in that paragraph.

10 “(3) NON-FEDERAL COORDINATION.—The Sec-
11 retary shall coordinate with non-Federal entities, in-
12 cluding affected State fire protection agencies, to in-
13 corporate in the map developed under paragraph
14 (1)(B) management activities or features referred to
15 in that paragraph that were developed, are main-
16 tained, or otherwise occur on non-Federal land.

17 “(4) PROTECTED TRIBAL INFORMATION.—In-
18 formation prohibited from disclosure under section
19 8106 of the Food, Conservation, and Energy Act of
20 2008 (25 U.S.C. 3056) that is included in the data-
21 base created under paragraph (1)(A) shall not be
22 made public.

23 “(5) TIMEFRAME.—To the maximum extent
24 practicable, the Secretary shall establish the data-

1 base and map under paragraph (1) not later than 2
2 years after the date of enactment of this subsection.

3 “(6) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—In
4 addition to amounts otherwise available, there are
5 authorized to be appropriated to the Secretary such
6 sums as are necessary to carry out this subsection
7 for each fiscal year.”.

8 **SEC. 8103. FOREST AND WOOD PRODUCTS CARBON PROVI-**
9 **SION.**

10 (a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary, acting through the
11 Chief of the Forest Service, in collaboration with the Chief
12 of the Natural Resources Conservation Service, State for-
13 esters, and private sector partners, and in consultation
14 with Indian Tribes, shall establish a publicly available
15 platform to provide measurement, monitoring, verification,
16 and reporting of data regarding the carbon emissions, se-
17 questration, storage, and related atmospheric impacts of
18 forest management and wood products.

19 (b) ACTIVITIES.—In carrying out subsection (a), the
20 Secretary shall source data, information, and analyses
21 from Department of Agriculture programs, including—

22 (1) the Forest Inventory and Analysis program,
23 including the Timber Products Output Survey;

24 (2) Forest Service and Natural Resources Con-
25 servation Service soil carbon estimations;

1 (3) the Forest Products Laboratory;

2 (4) the Federal Life Cycle Assessment Com-
3 mons;

4 (5) Department of Agriculture entity-level
5 guidelines and subsequent revisions; and

6 (6) other relevant programmatic data, emerging
7 science, and information sources that are published
8 and made available by the Department of Agri-
9 culture.

10 (c) PRIORITIES.—The platform established by sub-
11 section (a) shall provide tools that calculate—

12 (1) the above- and below-ground forest carbon
13 stocks and stock changes associated with species
14 composition, forest management regime, and land-
15 owner types, including small area estimations for re-
16 gional and localized geographies across the United
17 States, which shall be made available through the
18 Forest Inventory and Analysis program updates and
19 annual reports;

20 (2) the embodied carbon involved in the manu-
21 facturing of products, using data from published en-
22 vironmental product declarations and life cycle as-
23 sessments, which shall be updated as new and more
24 refined data becomes available;

1 (3) the long-term stored carbon in manufac-
2 tured timber products; and

3 (4) the carbon displacement of wood products,
4 compared to other materials, using substitution fac-
5 tors.

6 (d) TIMEFRAME.—To the maximum extent prac-
7 ticable, the Secretary shall establish the platform under
8 subsection (a) not later than 2 years after the date of en-
9 actment of this Act.

10 (e) DATA COLLECTION.—The platform established by
11 subsection (a) shall be distinct from the database estab-
12 lished under subsection (f)(1)(A) of section 3 of the Forest
13 and Rangeland Renewable Resources Research Act of
14 1978 (16 U.S.C. 1642).

15 (f) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There
16 are authorized to be appropriated such sums as are nec-
17 essary to carry out this section.

18 **Subtitle B—Forest Health and**
19 **Management**

20 **SEC. 8201. DEFINITION OF NATIONAL FOREST SYSTEM.**

21 In this subtitle, the term “National Forest System”
22 has the meaning given the term in section 11(a) of the
23 Forest and Rangeland Renewable Resources Planning Act
24 of 1974 (16 U.S.C. 1609(a)).

1 **PART I—FOREST SERVICE MANAGEMENT**

2 **SEC. 8211. HAZARDOUS FUEL REDUCTION ON FEDERAL**
3 **LAND.**

4 Section 108 of the Healthy Forests Restoration Act
5 of 2003 (16 U.S.C. 6518) is amended in the matter pre-
6 ceding paragraph (1) by striking “2023” and inserting
7 “2029”.

8 **SEC. 8212. INSECT INFESTATIONS AND RELATED DISEASES.**

9 Section 406 of the Healthy Forests Restoration Act
10 of 2003 (16 U.S.C. 6556) is amended by striking “2023”
11 and inserting “2029”.

12 **SEC. 8213. INSECT AND DISEASE TREATMENT AREAS.**

13 Section 602(d)(2) of the Healthy Forests Restoration
14 Act of 2003 (16 U.S.C. 6591a(d)(2)) is amended by strik-
15 ing “2023” and inserting “2029”.

16 **SEC. 8214. STUDY ON PROTECTION OF FORESTS FROM**
17 **INVASIVE SPECIES.**

18 (a) STUDY.—The Secretary shall seek to enter into
19 a contract (referred to in this section as the “Contract”)
20 with the National Academy of Sciences, or another non-
21 governmental entity that the Secretary determines to be
22 most appropriate, under which the National Academy of
23 Sciences or other entity, as applicable, not later than 1
24 year after the date of enactment of this Act, shall conduct,
25 and submit to the Committee on Agriculture of the House
26 of Representatives and the Committee on Agriculture, Nu-

1 trition, and Forestry of the Senate a report describing the
2 results of, a study to analyze the available resources that
3 Federal agencies have to research, and find solutions to,
4 nonnative invasive plants, insects, and pathogens.

5 (b) RECOMMENDATIONS.—The report submitted pur-
6 suant to subsection (a) shall include recommendations—

7 (1) with respect to—

8 (A) establishing a national policy to effec-
9 tively counter the threat posed to tree species
10 and forest ecosystems by invasive species (as
11 defined in section 1 of Executive Order 13112
12 (42 U.S.C. 4321 note; relating to invasive spe-
13 cies)), including plants, insects, and pathogens,
14 including preventing the introduction and
15 spread of those invasive species, minimizing the
16 damage caused by those invasive species, and
17 restoring affected tree species to forest eco-
18 systems;

19 (B) improving coordination and coopera-
20 tion among Federal agencies with responsibility
21 for management and repair of the decimation of
22 tree species affected by invasive species and as-
23 sociated ecological destruction, including
24 through activities of the National Invasive Spe-
25 cies Council;

1 (C) addressing the low prioritization by the
2 Federal agencies described in subparagraph (B)
3 of invasive species affecting forests and trees;

4 (D)(i) identifying expertise and site and fa-
5 cility resources within the Federal agencies de-
6 scribed in subparagraph (B); and

7 (ii) improving coordination among those
8 agencies with respect to the management and
9 repair described in subparagraph (B), including
10 coordination with academic institutions and
11 other appropriate nonprofit organizations;

12 (E) identifying opportunities for the Na-
13 tional Invasive Species Council to increase the
14 provision of advice and technical assistance re-
15 lating to the control or prevention of invasive
16 species and the restoration of native species,
17 with an emphasis on services that are available,
18 or could be made available through additional
19 legislation, to the Department of Agriculture,
20 including the Animal and Plant Health Inspec-
21 tion Service, the Agricultural Research Service,
22 the National Institute of Food and Agriculture,
23 the Natural Resources Conservation Service,
24 and the Forest Service; and

1 (F)(i) giving priority to the emergency re-
2 sponse of the Department of Agriculture to an
3 emergency relating to invasive species;

4 (ii) clarifying the coordination of the De-
5 partment of Agriculture with other Federal
6 agencies in responding to those emergencies;
7 and

8 (iii) identifying funding levels sufficient to
9 carry out responses to those emergencies; and
10 (2) that—

11 (A) take into account existing Federal re-
12 sources; and

13 (B) may be implemented through further
14 legislative and administrative action.

15 (c) CONSULTATION.—The Contract shall require the
16 National Academy of Sciences or other entity, as applica-
17 ble, to consult with specialists in entomology, genetics, for-
18 est pathology, tree breeding, forest and urban ecology, and
19 invasive species management.

20 **SEC. 8215. FOREST SERVICE PARTICIPATION IN ACES PRO-**
21 **GRAM.**

22 Section 8302(b) of the Agricultural Act of 2014 (16
23 U.S.C. 3851a(b)) is amended by striking “2023” and in-
24 serting “2029”.

1 **SEC. 8216. TRIBAL CONSULTATION IN LAND USE PLANS.**

2 Section 202 of the Federal Land Policy and Manage-
3 ment Act of 1976 (43 U.S.C. 1712) is amended—

4 (1) in subsection (b), by inserting before the pe-
5 riod at the end the following: “, in consultation with
6 the governing body of any Indian tribe or Alaska
7 Native Corporation that has—

8 “(1) rights or interests on the National Forest
9 System land that may be impacted; or

10 “(2) access to participate in traditional or cul-
11 tural practices, or in the protection of scared sites
12 or resources, on the National Forest System land.”;
13 and

14 (2) in subsection (c)(9)—

15 (A) in the second sentence, by inserting
16 “and consultation with the governing bodies of
17 Indian tribes and Alaska Native Corporations,”
18 after “appointed,”; and

19 (B) in the fourth sentence, by striking
20 “State” and inserting “State, tribal,”.

21 **SEC. 8217. PRESCRIBED FIRE CENTERS.**

22 (a) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

23 (1) CENTER.—The term “center” means a cen-
24 ter established under subsection (b).

1 (2) SECRETARY.—The term “Secretary” means
2 the Secretary, in consultation with the Secretary of
3 the Interior.

4 (b) ESTABLISHMENT.—The Secretary shall establish
5 1 or more centers to train individuals in prescribed fire
6 methods and other methods relevant to the mitigation of
7 wildfire risk.

8 (c) HOST INSTITUTIONS.—The 1 or more centers
9 shall be developed in collaboration with 1 or more institu-
10 tions of higher education and located at—

11 (1) 1 or more institutions of higher education;

12 or

13 (2) an existing Federal land management facil-
14 ity.

15 (d) GOALS.—The 1 or more centers shall advance the
16 following goals:

17 (1) Training individuals, including wildland
18 firefighters, foresters, scientists, and land managers,
19 to safely and effectively plan and conduct prescribed
20 fires and vegetation management activities.

21 (2) Conducting research on the use of pre-
22 scribed fire methods in tandem with other forest res-
23 toration methods to achieve greater forest health
24 and resiliency outcomes, including coordinating with
25 research stations, institutions of higher education,

1 and Indian Tribes to include the latest research
2 on—

3 (A) social science, human dimensions, and
4 traditional ecological knowledge to best inform
5 those aspects of prescribed fire; and

6 (B) fuels, forest health, and resiliency.

7 (3) Developing and advancing interdisciplinary
8 science relating to wildfire, including social science
9 and human dimensions of wildfire, in consultation
10 with stakeholders who—

11 (A) will benefit from the outcomes of that
12 science or use it to benefit populations at risk
13 from wildfire; and

14 (B) will coordinate with 1 or more other
15 centers in developing and advancing that
16 science.

17 (4) Conducting ongoing and forward-looking
18 needs assessments among stakeholders, including
19 Federal and State agencies and Indian Tribes, to de-
20 termine common need requirements and emerging
21 challenges to reduce wildfire risk and adapt commu-
22 nities to increased risk from wildfire, including the
23 following hazard-related focus areas:

24 (A) Increasing disaster resilience.

25 (B) Mitigation and management methods.

1 (C) Air quality.

2 (D) Firestorm weather forecasting and
3 burn-area debris flow forecasting, including em-
4 pirical and modeling research.

5 (5) Collaborating with Federal wildfire sci-
6 entists at the Forest Service, the Department of the
7 Interior, and other relevant agencies.

8 (6) Identifying, through a detailed engagement
9 process targeting defined end-users, the require-
10 ments and delivery mechanisms for products and
11 services that are practical and will have an impact
12 on mitigating wildfire risk.

13 (7) Promoting technology transfer with path-
14 ways for dissemination, implementation, and applica-
15 tion of research results on the ground, using and en-
16 hancing previous research.

17 (8) Ensuring the connectivity and interoper-
18 ability of distributed services to maximize synergies
19 and benefits across services.

20 (9) Developing open digital infrastructure to
21 make research data, science, and models open for all
22 sectors to use.

23 (10) Understanding the effectiveness of histor-
24 ical and current wildfire management and suppres-
25 sion strategies, including on wildfires that start in

1 wilderness areas, wilderness study areas, or inven-
2 toried roadless areas.

3 (e) LOCATION.—

4 (1) IN GENERAL.—In selecting the locations for
5 the 1 or more centers, the Secretary shall prioritize
6 locations—

7 (A) with no nearby Federal prescribed fire
8 training center;

9 (B) with high wildfire risk; and

10 (C) that would offer prescribed training in
11 forest types not accessible through other Fed-
12 eral prescribed fire training centers.

13 (2) CONSULTATION.—The Secretary shall con-
14 sult with the Joint Fire Science Program to solicit
15 and evaluate proposals for the locations of the 1 or
16 more centers.

17 (3) SELECTION.—Not later than 1 year after
18 the date of enactment of this Act, based on the con-
19 sultation under paragraph (2), the Secretary shall
20 select locations for the 1 or more centers.

21 (f) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There
22 are authorized to be appropriated to the Secretary such
23 sums as are necessary to carry out this section for each
24 fiscal year.

1 **SEC. 8218. COST-SHARE WAIVER FOR REHABILITATION**
2 **FROM WILDLAND FIRES.**

3 (a) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

4 (1) COVERED MATCHING REQUIREMENT.—The
5 term “covered matching requirement” means a re-
6 quirement under a program of the Secretary for
7 wildland fire recovery for a State, Indian Tribe, lo-
8 cality, or individual to provide matching funds, in
9 cash, for a project.

10 (2) COVERED WILDLAND FIRE.—The term
11 “covered wildland fire” means a wildland fire that
12 the Secretary determines to be a result of manage-
13 ment activities conducted by the Secretary on Na-
14 tional Forest System land.

15 (3) WILDLAND FIRE.—

16 (A) IN GENERAL.—The term “wildland
17 fire” means any non-structure fire that occurs
18 in vegetation or natural fuels.

19 (B) INCLUSIONS.—The term “wildland
20 fire” includes wildfire, prescribed fire, and any
21 direct or indirect damage resulting in watershed
22 impairment.

23 (b) WAIVER.—Notwithstanding any other provision
24 of law, the Secretary may waive any covered matching re-
25 quirement for a project in response to a covered wildland

1 fire that is in an area affected by that covered wildland
2 fire.

3 **SEC. 8219. UTILITY INFRASTRUCTURE RIGHTS-OF-WAY**
4 **VEGETATION MANAGEMENT PILOT PRO-**
5 **GRAM.**

6 Section 8630(j) of the Agriculture Improvement Act
7 of 2018 (43 U.S.C. 1772 note; Public Law 115–334) is
8 amended by striking “2023” and inserting “2029”.

9 **SEC. 8220. PERMITS AND AGREEMENTS WITH ELECTRIC**
10 **UTILITIES.**

11 (a) IN GENERAL.—In any special use permit or ease-
12 ment on National Forest System land provided to an elec-
13 tric utility, the Secretary may provide permission to cut
14 and remove trees or other vegetation, including hazardous
15 vegetation that increases fire risk, from within 150 feet
16 of distribution lines or transmission lines without requir-
17 ing a separate timber sale, if that cutting and removal
18 is consistent with—

19 (1) the applicable land management plan; and
20 (2) other applicable environmental laws (includ-
21 ing regulations).

22 (b) USE OF PROCEEDS.—A special use permit or
23 easement that includes permission for cutting and removal
24 described in subsection (a) shall include a requirement
25 that, if the applicable electric utility sells any portion of

1 the material removed under the permit or easement, the
2 electric utility shall provide to the Secretary, acting
3 through the Chief of the Forest Service, any proceeds re-
4 ceived from the sale, less any transportation costs incurred
5 in the sale.

6 (c) EFFECT.—Nothing in subsection (b) shall require
7 the sale of any material removed under a permit or ease-
8 ment that includes permission for cutting and removal de-
9 scribed in subsection (a).

10 **PART II—STATE, PRIVATE, AND TRIBAL**
11 **PARTNERSHIPS**

12 **SEC. 8231. SUPPORT FOR STATE ASSESSMENTS AND STRAT-**
13 **EGIES FOR FOREST RESOURCES.**

14 Section 2A(f)(1) of the Cooperative Forestry Assist-
15 ance Act of 1978 (16 U.S.C. 2101a(f)(1)) is amended by
16 striking “2023” and inserting “2029”.

17 **SEC. 8232. STATE AND PRIVATE FOREST LANDSCAPE-SCALE**
18 **RESTORATION PROGRAM.**

19 Section 13A(l)(3) of the Cooperative Forestry Assist-
20 ance Act of 1978 (16 U.S.C. 2109a(l)(3)) is amended by
21 striking “2023” and inserting “2029”.

1 **SEC. 8233. PROMOTING CROSS-BOUNDARY WILDFIRE MITI-**
2 **GATION.**

3 Section 103(e)(5) of the Healthy Forests Restoration
4 Act of 2003 (16 U.S.C. 6513(e)(5)) is amended by strik-
5 ing “2023” and inserting “2029”.

6 **SEC. 8234. WATER SOURCE PROTECTION PROGRAM.**

7 Section 303 of the Healthy Forests Restoration Act
8 of 2003 (16 U.S.C. 6542) is amended—

9 (1) in subsection (a)—

10 (A) in paragraph (1)—

11 (i) by redesignating subparagraphs
12 (G) and (H) as subparagraphs (K) and
13 (L), respectively; and

14 (ii) by inserting after subparagraph
15 (F) the following:

16 “(G) an acequia association;

17 “(H) a local, regional, or other public enti-
18 ty that manages stormwater or wastewater re-
19 sources or other related water infrastructure;

20 “(I) a land-grant mercedes;

21 “(J) a local, regional, or other private enti-
22 ty that has water delivery authority;”;

23 (B) by redesignating paragraphs (1)
24 through (7) as paragraphs (2) through (8), re-
25 spectively; and

1 (C) by inserting before paragraph (2) (as
2 so redesignated) the following:

3 “(1) ADJACENT LAND.—The term ‘adjacent
4 land’ means non-Federal land, including State, local,
5 and private land—

6 “(A) that is adjacent to, and within the
7 same watershed as, National Forest System
8 land on which a watershed protection and res-
9 toration project is carried out under this sec-
10 tion; and

11 “(B) the landowner of which consents to
12 carrying out a watershed protection and res-
13 toration project on the land under this sec-
14 tion.”;

15 (2) in subsection (b)—

16 (A) by inserting “and adjacent land” be-
17 fore the period at the end;

18 (B) by striking “The Secretary shall” and
19 inserting the following:

20 “(1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall”; and

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

22 “(2) REQUIREMENTS.—A watershed protection
23 and restoration project under the Program shall be
24 designed to—

1 “(A) protect and restore watershed health,
2 water supply and quality, a municipal or agri-
3 cultural water supply system, and water-related
4 infrastructure;

5 “(B) protect and restore forest health from
6 insect infestation and disease or wildfire; or

7 “(C) advance any combination of the pur-
8 poses described in subparagraphs (A) and (B).

9 “(3) PRIORITIES.—In selecting watershed pro-
10 tection and restoration projects under the Program,
11 the Secretary shall give priority to projects that
12 would—

13 “(A) provide risk management benefits as-
14 sociated with drought, wildfire, post-wildfire
15 conditions, extreme weather, or flooding, includ-
16 ing minimizing risks to watershed health, water
17 supply and quality, and water-related infra-
18 structure, including municipal and agricultural
19 water supply systems;

20 “(B) support aquatic restoration and con-
21 servation efforts that complement existing or
22 planned forest restoration or wildfire risk re-
23 duction efforts;

24 “(C) provide quantifiable benefits to water
25 supply or quality and include the use of nature-

1 based solutions, such as restoring wetland and
2 riparian ecosystems;

3 “(D) improve—

4 “(i) resilience to climate change; or

5 “(ii) watershed and fire resilience;

6 “(E) include—

7 “(i) partners with demonstrated ca-
8 pacity and success in designing and imple-
9 menting ecological restoration projects,
10 wildfire risk reduction efforts, or post-wild-
11 fire restoration projects; or

12 “(ii) in the case of communities that
13 have historically lacked access to adequate
14 resources, partners with a strong likelihood
15 of success in designing and implementing a
16 watershed protection and restoration
17 project;

18 “(F) include a contribution of funds or in-
19 kind support from non-Federal partners in an
20 amount greater than the amount required
21 under subsection (g)(2); or

22 “(G) include such other characteristics as
23 the Secretary determines to be appropriate.

24 “(4) CONDITIONS FOR PROJECTS ON ADJACENT
25 LAND.—

1 “(A) IN GENERAL.—No project or activity
2 may be carried out under this section on adja-
3 cent land unless the owner of the adjacent land
4 provides express support for, and is a willing
5 and engaged partner in, carrying out that
6 project or activity.

7 “(B) EFFECT.—Nothing in this section
8 authorizes any change in—

9 “(i) the ownership of adjacent land on
10 which a project or activity is carried out
11 under this section; or

12 “(ii) the management of adjacent land
13 on which a project or activity is carried out
14 under this section, except during the car-
15 rying out of that project or activity.”;

16 (3) in subsection (c)—

17 (A) in paragraph (1)—

18 (i) by inserting “and adjacent land”
19 after “watersheds”;

20 (ii) by striking the period at the end
21 and inserting “; or”;

22 (iii) by striking “with end water
23 users” and inserting the following: “with—
24 “(A) end water users”; and

1 (iv) by adding at the end the fol-
2 lowing:

3 “(B) end waters users to protect and re-
4 store the condition of National Forest water-
5 sheds and adjacent land that provide water for
6 the benefit of another end water user.”;

7 (B) in paragraph (2)—

8 (i) in subparagraph (C), by striking
9 “or” after the semicolon;

10 (ii) by redesignating subparagraph
11 (D) as subparagraph (E); and

12 (iii) by inserting after subparagraph
13 (C) the following:

14 “(D) in the case of an agreement with a
15 State, a county, or an Indian tribe for a project
16 carried out on National Forest System land, a
17 good neighbor agreement entered into under
18 section 8206 of the Agricultural Act of 2014
19 (16 U.S.C. 2113a); or”; and

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

21 “(3) COOPERATION WITH NON-FEDERAL PART-
22 NERS.—The Secretary shall cooperate with non-Fed-
23 eral partners in carrying out assessments, planning,
24 project design, and project implementation under
25 this section.”;

1 (4) in subsection (d)—

2 (A) in paragraph (2), by striking “shall be
3 conducted” and inserting the following: “shall
4 be—

5 “(A) designed to protect and restore eco-
6 logical integrity (as defined in section 219.19 of
7 title 36, Code of Federal Regulations (as in ef-
8 fect on the date of enactment of this subpara-
9 graph));

10 “(B) based on the best available scientific
11 information; and

12 “(C) conducted”; and

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

14 “(4) REDUCING REDUNDANCY.—An existing
15 watershed plan, such as a watershed protection and
16 restoration action plan developed under section
17 304(a)(3), or other applicable watershed planning
18 documents may be used as the basis for a water
19 source management plan under this subsection.”;

20 (5) in subsection (e)(1), by striking “purpose
21 of—” in the matter preceding subparagraph (A) and
22 all that follows through the period at the end of sub-
23 paragraph (C) and inserting “purpose of advancing
24 any of the purposes described in subsection (b)(2).”;
25 and

1 (6) in subsection (g)—

2 (A) in paragraph (2)—

3 (i) by striking “at least equal to” and
4 inserting “not less than 20 percent of”;

5 (ii) by striking “The Secretary” and
6 inserting the following:

7 “(A) IN GENERAL.—Subject to subpara-
8 graph (B), the Secretary”; and

9 (iii) by adding at the end the fol-
10 lowing:

11 “(B) WAIVER.—The Secretary may waive
12 the requirement under subparagraph (A) at the
13 discretion of the Secretary.”;

14 (B) in paragraph (4)—

15 (i) in subparagraph (B), by striking
16 “\$10,000,000 for each of fiscal years 2019
17 through 2023” and inserting “\$30,000,000
18 for each of fiscal years 2025 through
19 2029”;

20 (ii) by redesignating subparagraph
21 (C) as subparagraph (E); and

22 (iii) by inserting after subparagraph
23 (B) the following:

24 “(C) MANDATORY FUNDING.—There is ap-
25 propriated, out of amounts in the Treasury not

1 otherwise appropriated, \$10,000,000 for fiscal
2 year 2025 and each fiscal year thereafter to
3 carry out this section, to remain available until
4 expended.

5 “(D) SET-ASIDE FOR PARTNER PARTICIPA-
6 TION IN PLANNING AND CAPACITY.—Of the
7 amounts made available under subparagraphs
8 (B) and (C) to carry out this section for each
9 fiscal year, the Secretary shall use not less than
10 10 percent for non-Federal partner technical
11 assistance participation and capacity-building
12 efforts in developing or implementing a water
13 source management plan under subsection
14 (d).”; and

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

16 “(5) IN-KIND CONTRIBUTIONS.—The Secretary
17 may include the value of forest restoration and wa-
18 tershed improvement work implemented on adjacent
19 land in the project area in determining in-kind con-
20 tributions from non-Federal partners under para-
21 graph (4)(A).”.

22 **SEC. 8235. WATERSHED CONDITION FRAMEWORK.**

23 Section 304 of the Healthy Forests Restoration Act
24 of 2003 (16 U.S.C. 6543) is amended—

25 (1) in subsection (a)—

1 (A) in paragraph (5), by striking “and” at
2 the end;

3 (B) in paragraph (6), by striking the pe-
4 riod at the end and inserting “; and”; and

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

6 “(7) that ensures that management activities
7 and authorizations do not result in long-term deg-
8 radation of watershed health or lower the classifica-
9 tion under paragraph (1) of any watershed in a Na-
10 tional Forest.”; and

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

12 “(d) FUNDING.—

13 “(1) MANDATORY FUNDING.—There is appro-
14 priated, out of amounts in the Treasury not other-
15 wise appropriated, \$10,000,000 for fiscal year 2025
16 and each fiscal year thereafter to carry out this sec-
17 tion, to remain available until expended.

18 “(2) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—

19 There is authorized to be appropriated to carry out
20 this section \$30,000,000 for each of fiscal years
21 2025 through 2029.”.

22 **SEC. 8236. TRIBAL FOREST PROTECTION MANAGEMENT AC-**
23 **TIVITIES AND PROJECTS.**

24 Section 8703 of the Agriculture Improvement Act of
25 2018 (25 U.S.C. 3115b) is amended—

1 (1) in the section heading, by striking “**MAN-**
2 **AGEMENT DEMONSTRATION PROJECT**” and in-
3 sserting “**PROTECTION MANAGEMENT ACTIVI-**
4 **TIES AND PROJECTS**”;

5 (2) by redesignating subsection (b) as sub-
6 section (c);

7 (3) in subsection (a)—

8 (A) by striking “demonstration”;

9 (B) by striking “federally recognized”;

10 (C) by striking “programs of” and insert-
11 ing “activities and projects under”; and

12 (D) by striking the subsection designation
13 and heading and all that follows through “The
14 Secretary” and inserting the following:

15 “(b) **ACTIVITIES AND PROJECTS.—**The Secretary”;

16 (4) by inserting before subsection (b) (as so re-
17 designated) the following:

18 “(a) **DEFINITIONS.—**In this section:

19 “(1) **INDIAN TRIBE.—**The term ‘Indian Tribe’
20 means an Indian tribe included on the list published
21 by the Secretary of the Interior under section 104
22 of the Federally Recognized Indian Tribe List Act of
23 1994 (25 U.S.C. 5131).

24 “(2) **TRIBAL ORGANIZATION.—**The term ‘Tribal
25 organization’ has the meaning given the term in sec-

1 tion 4 of the Indian Self-Determination and Edu-
2 cation Assistance Act (25 U.S.C. 5304).”;

3 (5) in subsection (c) (as so redesignated), in the
4 matter preceding paragraph (1), by striking “sub-
5 section (a)” and inserting “subsection (b)”; and

6 (6) by adding at the end the following:

7 “(d) PUBLICATION OF INFORMATION.—The Sec-
8 retary of the Interior and the Secretary shall—

9 “(1) not later than 180 days after the date of
10 enactment of this subsection, make available on the
11 website of the Department of the Interior and the
12 Department of Agriculture in an easily accessible
13 format and location a list of the types of activities
14 and projects that Indian Tribes and Tribal organiza-
15 tions may contract to perform under subsection (b);
16 and

17 “(2) update the list made available under para-
18 graph (1) as necessary.”.

19 **SEC. 8237. INCORPORATION OF TRIBAL MANAGEMENT**
20 **PLANS.**

21 (a) IN GENERAL.—Section 2(b) of the Tribal Forest
22 Protection Act of 2004 (25 U.S.C. 3115a(b)) is amended
23 by adding at the end the following:

24 “(4) INCORPORATION OF TRIBAL MANAGEMENT
25 PLANS.—In developing and carrying out an agree-

1 ment or contract under this section on receipt of a
2 request from an Indian tribe, the Secretary shall in-
3 corporate into the agreement or contract, to the
4 maximum extent that the Secretary determines is
5 consistent with Federal law and the purposes of this
6 Act—

7 “(A) Tribal forest land, agriculture, and
8 rangeland management plans, including forest
9 management plans (as defined in section 304 of
10 the National Indian Forest Resources Manage-
11 ment Act (25 U.S.C. 3103)); and

12 “(B) integrated resource management
13 plans (as defined in section 4 of the American
14 Indian Agricultural Resource Management Act
15 (25 U.S.C. 3703)), excluding any Tribal codes
16 that are expressly incorporated into such a
17 plan, in effect on the Indian forest land or
18 rangeland of the applicable Indian tribe.”.

19 (b) TECHNICAL AMENDMENT.—Section 2(a)(3) of
20 the Tribal Forest Protection Act of 2004 (25 U.S.C.
21 3115a(a)(3)) is amended by striking “(25 U.S.C. 450b).”
22 and inserting “(25 U.S.C. 5304).”.

23 **SEC. 8238. HEALTHY FORESTS RESERVE PROGRAM.**

24 Section 508 of the Healthy Forests Restoration Act
25 of 2003 (16 U.S.C. 6578) is amended—

1 (1) in subsection (a), by inserting “, to remain
2 available until expended” before the period at the
3 end;

4 (2) in subsection (b), by striking “2023” and
5 inserting “2029”; and

6 (3) by striking subsection (d) and inserting the
7 following:

8 “(d) MANDATORY FUNDING.—There is appropriated,
9 out of amounts in the Treasury not otherwise appro-
10 priated, \$10,000,000 for fiscal year 2025 and each fiscal
11 year thereafter to carry out this section, to remain avail-
12 able until expended.”.

13 **SEC. 8239. AUTHORIZATION FOR LEASE OF FOREST SERV-**
14 **ICE SITES.**

15 Section 8623 of the Agriculture Improvement Act of
16 2018 (16 U.S.C. 580d note; Public Law 115–334) is
17 amended—

18 (1) in subsection (c), by striking “Secretary”
19 and inserting “Chief of the Forest Service”;

20 (2) in subsection (e)—

21 (A) in paragraph (3)(B)(ii)—

22 (i) in the matter preceding subclause
23 (I), by inserting “subject to the terms of a
24 lease under this section,” after “in-kind,”;

1 (ii) in subclause (II), by striking
2 “and” at the end;

3 (iii) in subclause (III), by striking
4 “or” at the end and inserting “and”; and

5 (iv) by adding at the end the fol-
6 lowing:

7 “(IV) services occurring outside
8 of the administrative site that—

9 “(aa) occur—

10 “(AA) at another ad-
11 ministrative site; or

12 “(BB) on the unit and
13 within the region of the Na-
14 tional Forest System in
15 which the administrative site
16 is located; and

17 “(bb) support Forest Service
18 activities occurring within the
19 unit of the National Forest Sys-
20 tem in which the administrative
21 site is located; or”; and

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

23 “(6) LEASE TERM.—The term of a lease of an
24 administrative site under this section shall be up to
25 100 years.”;

1 (3) in subsection (g)—

2 (A) by inserting “(or other party)” after
3 “leaseholder”; and

4 (B) by inserting “or constructed” after
5 “improved”; and

6 (4) in subsection (i), by striking “2023” each
7 place it appears and inserting “2029”.

8 **SEC. 8240. MODIFICATION OF GOOD NEIGHBOR AUTHOR-**
9 **ITY.**

10 (a) IN GENERAL.—Section 8206 of the Agricultural
11 Act of 2014 (16 U.S.C. 2113a) is amended—

12 (1) in subsection (a)—

13 (A) in paragraph (4)(A)(iii), by inserting
14 “, including activities by the Governor, Indian
15 tribe, or county to build capacity to administer
16 programs under good neighbor agreements,”
17 after “any other activities”; and

18 (B) in paragraph (6), by striking “or In-
19 dian tribe”; and

20 (2) in subsection (b)—

21 (A) in paragraph (1)(A), by inserting “,
22 Indian tribe,” after “Governor”;

23 (B) in paragraph (2)—

24 (i) in subparagraph (C)—

1 (I) by striking clause (i) and in-
2 sserting the following:

3 “(i) IN GENERAL.—Funds received
4 from the sale of timber by a Governor, an
5 Indian tribe, or a county under a good
6 neighbor agreement shall be retained and
7 used by the Governor, Indian tribe, or
8 county, as applicable—

9 “(I) to carry out authorized res-
10 toration services under the good
11 neighbor agreement; and

12 “(II) if there are funds remain-
13 ing after carrying out subclause (I),
14 to carry out authorized restoration
15 services under other good neighbor
16 agreements.”; and

17 (II) in clause (ii), by striking
18 “2023” and inserting “2029”; and

19 (ii) by adding at the end the fol-
20 lowing:

21 “(D) LIMITATIONS.—

22 “(i) NON-FEDERAL LAND.—Any au-
23 thorized restoration services under a good
24 neighbor agreement that are carried out on

1 non-Federal land using funds received
2 under subparagraph (C) shall be—

3 “(I) for the benefit of Federal
4 land; and

5 “(II) similar and complementary
6 to services being performed on adja-
7 cent Federal land under the good
8 neighbor agreement, which may in-
9 clude activities to build capacity to ad-
10 minister programs under good neigh-
11 bor agreements.

12 “(ii) MAJORITY FEDERAL LAND.—At
13 any time, not less than 51 percent of the
14 land on which authorized restoration serv-
15 ices are carried out under a good neighbor
16 agreement shall be Federal land.”; and

17 (C) in paragraph (3), by inserting “, In-
18 dian tribe,” after “Governor”.

19 (b) CONFORMING AMENDMENTS.—Section 8206(a)
20 of the Agricultural Act of 2014 (16 U.S.C. 2113a(a)) is
21 amended—

22 (1) in paragraph (1)(B), by inserting “, Indian
23 tribe,” after “Governor”; and

24 (2) in paragraph (5), by inserting “, Indian
25 tribe,” after “Governor”.

1 (c) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendments made by
2 this section apply to any project initiated pursuant to a
3 good neighbor agreement (as defined in section 8206(a)
4 of the Agricultural Act of 2014 (16 U.S.C. 2113a(a)))
5 after the date of enactment of the Agriculture Improve-
6 ment Act of 2018 (Public Law 115–334; 132 Stat. 4490).

7 **SEC. 8241. GAO REPORTS ON GOOD NEIGHBOR AUTHORITY.**

8 Section 8206 of the Agricultural Act of 2014 (16
9 U.S.C. 2113a) is amended by adding at the end the fol-
10 lowing:

11 “(c) GAO REPORTS.—

12 “(1) DEFINITIONS.—In this subsection:

13 “(A) COMPTROLLER GENERAL.—The term
14 ‘Comptroller General’ means the Comptroller
15 General of the United States.

16 “(B) PROJECT TYPE.—The term ‘project
17 type’ means the type of activities described in
18 clause (i), (ii), or (iii) of subsection (a)(4)(A).

19 “(2) STUDY.—Not later than 180 days after
20 the date of enactment of this subsection, and once
21 every 3 years thereafter, the Comptroller General
22 shall conduct a study—

23 “(A) describing each project conducted
24 under a good neighbor agreement since the date
25 of enactment of this Act (Public Law 113–79;

1 128 Stat. 649) or the date of the last study
2 conducted under this paragraph, if applicable,
3 categorized by the project type;

4 “(B) identifying—

5 “(i) the number of projects described
6 in subparagraph (A) that have occurred
7 exclusively on Federal land; and

8 “(ii) the number of those projects that
9 have occurred on both Federal land and
10 State, local, Tribal, or private land;

11 “(C) determining whether authorized res-
12 toration services were carried out under each
13 project described in subparagraph (A), as re-
14 quired by subsection (b)(1)(A);

15 “(D) comparing the acreage of timber har-
16 vested under each project conducted under a
17 good neighbor agreement with the total acreage
18 treated under that project;

19 “(E) assessing how non-Federal partners
20 use funds retained from the sale of timber
21 under subsection (b)(2)(C), including—

22 “(i) a description of the projects con-
23 ducted using those funds, categorized by
24 the project type; and

1 “(ii) which projects described in
2 clause (i), if any, have occurred on non-
3 Federal land, including State, local, Tribal,
4 and private land;

5 “(F) comparing the workforce conditions,
6 pay, and diversity metrics for workers hired
7 under Federal procurement authority, including
8 those hired under the H-2B nonimmigrant pro-
9 gram, to the workforce conditions, pay, and di-
10 versity metrics for workers hired under good
11 neighbor agreements; and

12 “(G) assessing how good neighbor agree-
13 ments contribute to ecosystem health and com-
14 munity safety.

15 “(3) REPORT.—Not later than 90 days after
16 the completion of each study conducted under para-
17 graph (2), the Comptroller General shall prepare
18 and submit to the Committee on Agriculture of the
19 House of Representatives and the Committee on Ag-
20 riculture, Nutrition, and Forestry of the Senate a
21 report that contains the findings of that study.”.

22 **SEC. 8242. COLLABORATIVE FOREST LANDSCAPE RESTORA-**
23 **TION PROGRAM.**

24 Section 4003 of the Omnibus Public Land Manage-
25 ment Act of 2009 (16 U.S.C. 7303) is amended—

1 (1) in subsection (b)(3)(D), by striking “spe-
2 cies;” and inserting “species or pathogens;”;

3 (2) in subsection (c)(3)(A)—

4 (A) in clause (i), by striking “and” at the
5 end;

6 (B) in clause (ii), by adding “and” at the
7 end; and

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

9 “(iii) include a Federal Government
10 staffing plan for providing staff to support
11 collaborative engagement and implementa-
12 tion of the strategy;”;

13 (3) in subsection (d)—

14 (A) in paragraph (2)—

15 (i) in subparagraph (E), by striking
16 “and” at the end;

17 (ii) in subparagraph (F), by striking
18 the period at the end and inserting a semi-
19 colon; and

20 (iii) by adding at the end the fol-
21 lowing:

22 “(G) proposals that seek to reduce the risk
23 of uncharacteristic wildfire or increase ecologi-
24 cal restoration activities—

1 “(i) within areas across land owner-
2 ships, including State, Tribal, and private
3 land; and

4 “(ii) within the wildland-urban inter-
5 face (as defined in section 101 of the
6 Healthy Forests Restoration Act of 2003
7 (16 U.S.C. 6511)); and

8 “(H) proposals that seek to enhance water-
9 shed health and drinking water sources.”; and
10 (B) in paragraph (3)—

11 (i) in subparagraph (A), by striking
12 “10” and inserting “20”; and

13 (ii) in subparagraph (B), by striking
14 “2” and inserting “4”;

15 (4) in subsection (e)(3), by inserting “conflict
16 resolution or collaborative governance,” before “and
17 woody”; and

18 (5) in subsection (f)—

19 (A) in paragraph (4)(B)(ii), by striking
20 “\$4,000,000” and inserting “\$8,000,000”; and

21 (B) in paragraph (6), by striking “2023”
22 and inserting “2029”.

1 **SEC. 8243. JOINT CHIEFS LANDSCAPE RESTORATION PART-**
2 **NERSHIP PROGRAM.**

3 (a) IN GENERAL.—Title VI of the Healthy Forests
4 Restoration Act of 2003 (16 U.S.C. 6591 et seq.) is
5 amended by adding at the end the following:

6 **“SEC. 607. JOINT CHIEFS LANDSCAPE RESTORATION PART-**
7 **NERSHIP PROGRAM.**

8 “(a) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

9 “(1) CHIEFS.—The term ‘Chiefs’ means the
10 Chief of the Forest Service and the Chief of the
11 Natural Resources Conservation Service.

12 “(2) ELIGIBLE ACTIVITY.—The term ‘eligible
13 activity’ means an activity—

14 “(A) to reduce the risk of wildfire;

15 “(B) to protect water quality and supply;

16 “(C) to improve wildlife habitat for at-risk
17 species;

18 “(D) to recover from wildfire; or

19 “(E) to enhance soil, water, and related
20 natural resources.

21 “(3) PROGRAM.—The term ‘Program’ means
22 the Joint Chiefs Landscape Restoration Partnership
23 program established under subsection (b)(1).

24 “(4) SECRETARY.—The term ‘Secretary’ means
25 the Secretary of Agriculture.

1 “(5) WILDLAND-URBAN INTERFACE.—The term
2 ‘wildland-urban interface’ has the meaning given the
3 term in section 101.

4 “(b) ESTABLISHMENT.—

5 “(1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall estab-
6 lish a Joint Chiefs Landscape Restoration Partner-
7 ship program to improve the health and resilience of
8 forest landscapes across National Forest System
9 land and State, Tribal, and private land.

10 “(2) ADMINISTRATION.—The Secretary shall
11 administer the Program by coordinating eligible ac-
12 tivities conducted on National Forest System land
13 and State, Tribal, or private land across a forest
14 landscape to improve the health and resilience of the
15 forest landscape by—

16 “(A) assisting producers and landowners in
17 implementing eligible activities on eligible pri-
18 vate or Tribal land using the applicable pro-
19 grams and authorities administered by the
20 Chief of the Natural Resources Conservation
21 Service under title XII of the Food Security Act
22 of 1985 (16 U.S.C. 3801 et seq.), not including
23 the conservation reserve program established
24 under subchapter B of chapter 1 of subtitle D
25 of that title (16 U.S.C. 3831 et seq.); and

1 “(B) conducting eligible activities on Na-
2 tional Forest System land or assisting land-
3 owners in implementing eligible activities on
4 State, Tribal, or private land using the applica-
5 ble programs and authorities administered by
6 the Chief of the Forest Service.

7 “(3) AGENCY COORDINATION.—In carrying out
8 the Program, the Chief of the Natural Resources
9 Conservation Service shall—

10 “(A) consider corresponding management
11 plans from the Chief of the Forest Service; and

12 “(B) collaborate with the Chief of the For-
13 est Service on forestry science and practice,
14 using the best available science.

15 “(c) SELECTION OF ELIGIBLE ACTIVITIES.—The ap-
16 propriate Regional Forester and State Conservationist
17 shall jointly submit to the Chiefs on an annual basis pro-
18 posals for eligible activities under the Program.

19 “(d) EVALUATION CRITERIA.—In evaluating and se-
20 lecting proposals submitted under subsection (c), the
21 Chiefs shall consider—

22 “(1) criteria including whether the proposal—

23 “(A) reduces wildfire risk and post-wildfire
24 impacts in a municipal watershed or the
25 wildland-urban interface;

1 “(B) was developed through a collaborative
2 process with participation from diverse stake-
3 holders;

4 “(C) increases forest workforce capacity or
5 forest business infrastructure and development;

6 “(D) leverages existing authorities and
7 non-Federal funding;

8 “(E) provides measurable outcomes; or

9 “(F) supports established State and re-
10 gional priorities identified in the corresponding
11 State forest action plan or a similar priority
12 plan (such as a State wildlife or water plan);
13 and

14 “(2) such other criteria relating to the merits of
15 the proposals as the Chiefs determine to be appro-
16 priate.

17 “(e) OUTREACH.—The Secretary shall provide—

18 “(1) public notice on the websites of the Forest
19 Service and the Natural Resources Conservation
20 Service describing—

21 “(A) the solicitation of proposals under
22 subsection (c); and

23 “(B) the criteria for selecting proposals in
24 accordance with subsection (d); and

1 “(2) information relating to the Program and
2 activities funded under the Program to States, In-
3 dian tribes, units of local government, and private
4 landowners.

5 “(f) EXCLUSIONS.—An eligible activity may not be
6 carried out under the Program—

7 “(1) in a wilderness area or designated wilder-
8 ness study area;

9 “(2) in an inventoried roadless area;

10 “(3) on any Federal land on which, by Act of
11 Congress or Presidential proclamation, the removal
12 of vegetation is restricted or prohibited; or

13 “(4) in an area in which the eligible activity
14 would be inconsistent with the applicable land and
15 resource management plan.

16 “(g) REPORTS.—For each of fiscal years 2025
17 through 2029, the Chiefs shall submit to the Committee
18 on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry and the Com-
19 mittee on Appropriations of the Senate and the Committee
20 on Agriculture and the Committee on Appropriations of
21 the House of Representatives a report describing projects
22 for which funding is provided under the Program, includ-
23 ing the status and outcomes of those projects.

24 “(h) FUNDING.—

1 “(1) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—

2 There is authorized to be appropriated to the Sec-
3 retary to carry out the Program \$90,000,000 for
4 each of fiscal years 2025 through 2029.

5 “(2) ADDITIONAL FUNDS.—In addition to the
6 funds described in paragraph (1), the Secretary may
7 obligate available funds from accounts used to carry
8 out the existing Joint Chiefs’ Landscape Restoration
9 Partnership prior to November 15, 2021, to carry
10 out the Program.

11 “(3) DISTRIBUTION OF FUNDS.—Of the funds
12 made available under paragraph (1)—

13 “(A) not less than 40 percent shall be allo-
14 cated to carry out eligible activities through the
15 Natural Resources Conservation Service;

16 “(B) not less than 40 percent shall be allo-
17 cated to carry out eligible activities through the
18 Forest Service; and

19 “(C) the remaining funds shall be allocated
20 by the Chiefs to the Natural Resources Con-
21 servation Service or the Forest Service—

22 “(i) to carry out eligible activities; or

23 “(ii) for other purposes, such as tech-
24 nical assistance, project development, or
25 local capacity building.”.

1 (b) CONFORMING AMENDMENT.—Section 40808 of
2 the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (16 U.S.C.
3 6592d) is repealed.

4 **SEC. 8244. EMERGENCY FOREST WATERSHED PROGRAM.**

5 (a) FUNDING AND ADMINISTRATION.—Section
6 404(b) of the Agricultural Credit Act of 1978 (16 U.S.C.
7 2204(b)) is amended by inserting “to carry out section
8 401” after “for a fiscal year”.

9 (b) EMERGENCY FOREST WATERSHED PROGRAM.—
10 Title IV of the Agricultural Credit Act of 1978 (16 U.S.C.
11 2201 et seq.) is amended by adding at the end the fol-
12 lowing:

13 **“SEC. 408. EMERGENCY FOREST WATERSHED PROGRAM.**

14 “(a) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

15 “(1) EMERGENCY WATERSHED PROTECTION
16 MEASURES.—The term ‘emergency watershed pro-
17 tection measures’ means measures that—

18 “(A) are necessary to address runoff, soil
19 erosion, and flooding caused by a natural dis-
20 aster or any other natural occurrence that has
21 caused a sudden impairment to natural re-
22 sources on National Forest System land, and
23 the damage, if not treated—

1 “(i) would significantly impair or en-
2 danger the natural resources on the Na-
3 tional Forest System land; and

4 “(ii) would pose an immediate risk to
5 water resources or loss of life or property
6 downstream of the National Forest System
7 land; and

8 “(B) would maintain or restore forest
9 health and forest-related resources on the Na-
10 tional Forest System land.

11 “(2) NATURAL DISASTER.—The term ‘natural
12 disaster’ has the meaning given the term in section
13 407(a).

14 “(3) SECRETARY.—The term ‘Secretary’ means
15 the Secretary, acting through the Chief of the For-
16 est Service.

17 “(4) SPONSOR.—The term ‘sponsor’ means—

18 “(A) a State or local government;

19 “(B) an Indian Tribe (as defined in section
20 4 of the Indian Self-Determination and Edu-
21 cation Assistance Act (25 U.S.C. 5304)); and

22 “(C) a water district, water conservation
23 district, water utility, or special district.

24 “(b) AUTHORIZATION.—The Secretary, acting
25 through a sponsor, is authorized to undertake emergency

1 watershed protection measures on National Forest System
2 land.

3 “(c) AGREEMENTS; PAYMENTS.—

4 “(1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary may enter
5 into an agreement with a sponsor, notwithstanding
6 chapter 63 of title 31, United States Code, and
7 make payments to the sponsor, on request of the
8 sponsor, to carry out emergency watershed protec-
9 tion measures.

10 “(2) REQUIREMENTS.—

11 “(A) PROJECT TIMELINES.—

12 “(i) IN GENERAL.—Following a nat-
13 ural disaster or natural occurrence that ne-
14 cessitates the carrying out of emergency
15 watershed protection measures, the Sec-
16 retary shall execute agreements under
17 paragraph (1) as expeditiously as possible.

18 “(ii) TIMELINE.—An agreement
19 under paragraph (1) shall contain a
20 timeline for the sponsor to complete all
21 emergency watershed protection measures
22 not later than 2 years after the conclusion
23 of the applicable natural disaster or nat-
24 ural occurrence, as determined by the Sec-

1 retary, that necessitated the carrying out
2 of those measures.

3 “(iii) CONTINUED MONITORING.—A
4 sponsor that has entered into an agree-
5 ment under paragraph (1) may monitor,
6 maintain, repair, or replace emergency wa-
7 tershed protection measures for a period of
8 not more than 3 years following the con-
9 clusion of the natural disaster or natural
10 occurrence, as determined by the Sec-
11 retary, that necessitated the carrying out
12 of those measures when failure to do so
13 would result in unacceptable risk to Na-
14 tional Forest System land or downstream
15 water users.

16 “(B) PAYMENTS.—The Secretary, in ac-
17 cordance with an agreement entered into under
18 paragraph (1)—

19 “(i) may make partial payments prior
20 to completion of the applicable project; and

21 “(ii) shall make final payment for the
22 project not later than 30 days after the
23 date on which the project is completed.

1 “(d) WAIVED MATCHING REQUIREMENTS.—The Sec-
2 retary shall waive any matching requirements for pay-
3 ments made under subsection (c)(1).

4 “(e) LIABILITY.—

5 “(1) IN GENERAL.—A sponsor that carries out
6 emergency watershed protection measures pursuant
7 to an agreement under subsection (c)(1) shall not be
8 required to indemnify the United States for any li-
9 ability resulting from carrying out emergency water-
10 shed protection measures pursuant to that agree-
11 ment.

12 “(2) SAVINGS PROVISION.—Nothing in this sub-
13 section precludes liability for damages or costs relat-
14 ing to the carrying out of emergency watershed pro-
15 tection measures by a sponsor pursuant to an agree-
16 ment entered into under subsection (c)(1) if the
17 sponsor acted with willful or wanton negligence or
18 reckless conduct in carrying out those measures.

19 “(f) ASSUMPTION OF RISK.—A sponsor that carries
20 out emergency watershed protection measures prior to en-
21 tering into an agreement under subsection (c)(1) shall as-
22 sume the risk of incurring any cost or liability resulting
23 from carrying out those measures.

1 “(g) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There
2 are authorized to be appropriated to the Secretary such
3 sums as are necessary to carry out this section.”.

4 **SEC. 8245. EMERGENCY FOREST RESTORATION PROGRAM.**

5 Section 407 of the Agricultural Credit Act of 1978
6 (16 U.S.C. 2206) (as amended by section 2403(d)) is
7 amended—

8 (1) by redesignating subsection (g) as sub-
9 section (h); and

10 (2) by inserting after subsection (f) the fol-
11 lowing:

12 “(g) PUBLICATION OF INFORMATION.—The Sec-
13 retary shall—

14 “(1) not later than 180 days after the date of
15 enactment of the Rural Prosperity and Food Secu-
16 rity Act of 2024, make available in an easily acces-
17 sible format and location on the website of the De-
18 partment of Agriculture a list of emergency meas-
19 ures for which nonindustrial private forest land own-
20 ers may receive a payment under subsection (b); and

21 “(2) update the list described in paragraph (1)
22 as necessary.”.

23 **SEC. 8246. NURSERY AND SEED ORCHARD SUPPORT.**

24 (a) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

1 (1) ELIGIBLE RECIPIENT.—The term “eligible
2 recipient” means—

3 (A) a State forestry agency;

4 (B) an Indian Tribe; and

5 (C) a private nursery that has experience,
6 as determined by the Secretary, growing high-
7 quality native trees of appropriate genetic
8 sources in bareroot or container stocktypes spe-
9 cific for reforestation, restoration, or conserva-
10 tion, including native plants and seeds that are
11 of cultural significance to Indian Tribes.

12 (2) NURSERY.—The term “nursery” means a
13 tree or native plant nursery.

14 (3) SEED ORCHARD.—The term “seed orchard”
15 means a tree or native plant seed orchard.

16 (4) STATE.—The term “State” means—

17 (A) each of the several States;

18 (B) the District of Columbia;

19 (C) the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico;

20 and

21 (D) any territory or possession of the
22 United States.

23 (b) PARTNERSHIPS, COLLABORATION, AND OTHER
24 ASSISTANCE IN SUPPORT OF NURSERIES.—The Sec-

1 retary, acting through the Chief of the Forest Service,
2 shall—

3 (1) partner with Federal and State agencies,
4 Indian Tribes, institutions of higher education, and
5 private nurseries to provide training, technical as-
6 sistance, and research to nursery and tree establish-
7 ment programs that support natural regeneration,
8 reforestation, agroforestry, and afforestation;

9 (2) promote information-sharing to improve
10 technical knowledge and practices and understand
11 demands, climate change impacts, and other issues
12 as necessary to address all facets of the reforestation
13 supply chain;

14 (3) provide technical and financial assistance to
15 international nursery and tree establishment pro-
16 grams through the Forest Service International Pro-
17 grams, the Institute of Pacific Islands Forestry, and
18 the International Institute of Tropical Forestry;

19 (4) collaborate with other relevant Federal de-
20 partments and agencies, including the Foreign Agri-
21 cultural Service, the United States Agency for Inter-
22 national Development, and the United States Fish
23 and Wildlife Service, and international organiza-
24 tions, including the Food and Agriculture Organiza-
25 tion of the United Nations, to provide technical and

1 financial assistance relating to nurseries and refor-
2 estation;

3 (5) coordinate the efforts of the Department of
4 Agriculture to—

5 (A) address the challenges associated with
6 the reforestation supply chain; and

7 (B) leverage economic development assist-
8 ance for work with private nurseries; and

9 (6) expand climate-informed reforestation sup-
10 ply chains through science and research, seed collec-
11 tion and storage, and nursery infrastructure and op-
12 erations.

13 (c) NURSERY AND SEED ORCHARD GRANTS.—

14 (1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 2 years after
15 the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary
16 shall establish a program to provide grants to eligi-
17 ble recipients to support nurseries and seed or-
18 chards.

19 (2) ELIGIBLE PROJECTS.—An eligible recipient
20 that receives a grant under paragraph (1) shall
21 carry out a project that comprises one or more of
22 the following activities:

23 (A) The development, expansion, enhance-
24 ment, or improvement of nursery production ca-
25 pacity or other infrastructure—

1 (i) to improve seed collection and stor-
2 age;

3 (ii) to increase seedling production,
4 storage, and distribution; or

5 (iii) to enhance seedling survival and
6 properly manage tree genetic resources.

7 (B) The establishment or expansion of a
8 nursery or seed orchard, including by acquiring
9 equipment for a nursery or seed orchard.

10 (C) The development or implementation of
11 quality control measures at nurseries or seed
12 orchards.

13 (D) The promotion of workforce develop-
14 ment within any facet of the reforestation sup-
15 ply chain.

16 (E) Such other activities as the Secretary
17 determines to be appropriate.

18 (d) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There is
19 authorized to be appropriated to carry out this section
20 \$25,000,000 for each of fiscal years 2025 through 2029.

1 **SEC. 8247. CONTRACTS, GRANTS, AND AGREEMENTS TO**
2 **CARRY OUT CERTAIN ECOSYSTEM RESTORA-**
3 **TION ACTIVITIES.**

4 Section 40804 of the Infrastructure Investment and
5 Jobs Act (16 U.S.C. 6592a) is amended by adding at the
6 end the following:

7 “(g) **CONTRACTS, GRANTS, AND AGREEMENTS.**—To
8 carry out the ecosystem restoration activities described in
9 subsection (b), the Secretary of Agriculture, acting
10 through the Chief of the Forest Service, may enter into
11 contracts, grants, or agreements, as appropriate, with
12 State agencies, Indian Tribes, institutions of higher edu-
13 cation (as defined in section 101(a) of the Higher Edu-
14 cation Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 1001(a))), and multistate
15 coalitions—

16 “(1) for the collection and maintenance of na-
17 tive plant materials, including material from man-
18 aged seed orchards; and

19 “(2) for the production of native plant mate-
20 rials for revegetation.”.

21 **PART III—TIMBER INNOVATION**

22 **SEC. 8261. WOOD INNOVATIONS GRANT PROGRAM.**

23 Section 8643 of the Agriculture Improvement Act of
24 2018 (7 U.S.C. 7655d) is amended—

25 (1) in the section heading, by striking “**INNO-**
26 **VATION**” and inserting “**INNOVATIONS**”;

1 (2) in subsection (d), by striking “equal to the
2 amount” and inserting “in an amount that is not
3 less than 50 percent of the amount of Federal
4 funds”; and

5 (3) by adding at the end the following:

6 “(e) MANDATORY FUNDING.—There is appropriated,
7 out of amounts in the Treasury not otherwise appro-
8 priated, \$80,000,000 for fiscal year 2025 to carry out this
9 section, to remain available until expended.”.

10 **SEC. 8262. COMMUNITY WOOD FACILITIES GRANT PRO-**
11 **GRAM.**

12 Section 9013 of the Farm Security and Rural Invest-
13 ment Act of 2002 (7 U.S.C. 8113) is amended—

14 (1) in the section heading, by striking “**EN-**
15 **ERGY AND WOOD INNOVATION**” and inserting
16 **“FACILITIES GRANT”**;

17 (2) in subsection (a)(4), by striking “Energy
18 and Wood Innovation” and inserting “Facilities
19 Grant”;

20 (3) in subsection (b), by striking “Energy and
21 Wood Innovation” and inserting “Facilities Grant”;

22 (4) in subsection (c)—

23 (A) in paragraph (1), by striking “35” and
24 inserting “50”;

25 (B) by striking paragraph (2); and

1 (C) by redesignating paragraph (3) as
2 paragraph (2);

3 (5) in subsection (d), by striking “exceed—” in
4 the matter preceding paragraph (1) and all that fol-
5 lows through the period at the end of paragraph (2)
6 and inserting “exceed \$3,000,000.”;

7 (6) in subsection (g)(2), by striking “25 per-
8 cent” and inserting “50 percent”; and

9 (7) by striking subsection (h) and inserting the
10 following:

11 “(h) FUNDING.—

12 “(1) MANDATORY FUNDING.—There is appro-
13 priated, out of amounts in the Treasury not other-
14 wise appropriated, \$50,000,000 for fiscal year 2025
15 to carry out this section, to remain available until
16 expended.

17 “(2) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—

18 There is authorized to be appropriated to carry out
19 this section \$50,000,000 for each of fiscal years
20 2025 through 2029.”.

21 **SEC. 8263. REPORT ON USE OF MASS TIMBER IN CON-**
22 **STRUCTION OF FEDERAL FACILITIES.**

23 Not later than 180 days after the date of enactment
24 of this Act, the Secretary shall submit to the Committee
25 on Agriculture of the House of Representatives and the

1 Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry of the
2 Senate a report—

3 (1) describing the projects in which the Depart-
4 ment of Agriculture has used mass timber in the
5 construction of Department of Agriculture facilities;

6 (2) describing the factors considered when de-
7 termining whether to use mass timber in the con-
8 struction of a Department of Agriculture facility;
9 and

10 (3) identifying opportunities for the use of mass
11 timber in the construction of new Department of Ag-
12 riculture facilities and other Federal structures.

13 **Subtitle C—Forest Conservation**

14 **SEC. 8301. NATIONAL AND REGIONAL AGROFORESTRY CEN-** 15 **TERS.**

16 Section 1243 of the Food, Agriculture, Conservation,
17 and Trade Act of 1990 (16 U.S.C. 1642 note; Public Law
18 101–624) is amended—

19 (1) by striking the section heading and insert-
20 ing “**NATIONAL AND REGIONAL AGRO-**
21 **FORESTRY CENTERS**”;

22 (2) by redesignating subsections (a), (b), (c),
23 and (d) as subsections (b), (d), (e), and (g), respec-
24 tively;

1 (3) by inserting before subsection (b) (as so re-
2 designated) the following:

3 “(a) DEFINITION OF AGROFORESTRY.—In this sec-
4 tion, the term ‘agroforestry’ means a management system
5 that intentionally integrates trees and shrubs into crop
6 and animal farming systems to build more profitable and
7 weather-resilient farms, ranches, and communities, ad-
8 dress natural resource concerns and conservation needs,
9 and establish productive and sustainable land use prac-
10 tices, including—

11 “(1) riparian forest buffers;

12 “(2) alley cropping;

13 “(3) silvopasture;

14 “(4) forest farming and multistory cropping;

15 and

16 “(5) windbreaks, shelterbelts, hedgerows, and
17 living snow fences.”;

18 (4) in subsection (b) (as so redesignated)—

19 (A) in the subsection heading, by striking
20 “SEMIARID” and inserting “NATIONAL”;

21 (B) by inserting “(referred to in this sec-
22 tion as the ‘Secretary’)” after “Secretary of Ag-
23 riculture”;

24 (C) by striking “Semiarid Agroforestry Re-
25 search, Development, and Demonstration Cen-

1 ter (hereafter referred to in this section as the
2 ‘Center’)” and inserting “National Agroforestry
3 Research, Development, and Demonstration
4 Center”; and

5 (D) by striking “subsection (b)” and in-
6 serting “subsection (d)”;

7 (5) by inserting after subsection (b) (as so re-
8 designated) the following:

9 “(c) REGIONAL AGROFORESTRY CENTERS.—

10 “(1) ESTABLISHMENT.—The Secretary, acting
11 through the Chief of the Forest Service and in co-
12 operation with the Natural Resources Conservation
13 Service, shall, subject to the availability of appro-
14 priations, establish 1 or more regional agroforestry
15 centers to advance agroforestry research, outreach,
16 technical assistance, and adoption.

17 “(2) REGIONAL DIRECTORS.—The Secretary,
18 acting through the Chief of the Forest Service and
19 in cooperation with the Natural Resources Conserva-
20 tion Service, shall appoint a regional director to
21 manage and coordinate each regional agroforestry
22 center established under paragraph (1).

23 “(3) LOCATION.—In selecting the locations for
24 the 1 or more regional agroforestry centers under
25 paragraph (1), the Secretary shall prioritize loca-

1 tions at which the Department has, on the date of
2 enactment of the Rural Prosperity and Food Secu-
3 rity Act of 2024, at least 1 employee providing co-
4 ordination among a diverse group of research insti-
5 tutions and other partners.”;

6 (6) in subsection (d) (as so redesignated)—

7 (A) in the matter preceding paragraph

8 (1)—

9 (i) by striking “Center” and inserting
10 “centers established under subsections (b)
11 and (c) (referred to in this section as the
12 ‘Centers’)”;

13 (ii) by inserting “and organizations”
14 after “nonprofit foundations”; and

15 (iii) by inserting “demonstration
16 projects,” after “studies,”;

17 (B) in paragraph (1)—

18 (i) by striking “on semiarid lands
19 that” and inserting “that build soil health
20 and”; and

21 (ii) by inserting “, including agro-
22 forestry systems on semiarid land and
23 other fragile agroecosystems where perma-
24 nent woody perennial plant communities
25 can enhance carbon sequestration and re-

1 duce greenhouse gas emissions” before the
2 semicolon;

3 (C) in paragraph (3), by striking “forestry
4 products for commercial sale from semiarid
5 land” and inserting “agroforestry products for
6 commercial sale”;

7 (D) in paragraph (4)—

8 (i) by striking “in semiarid regions”;

9 and

10 (ii) by striking “the Great Plains re-
11 gion” and inserting “particular regions”;

12 (E) in paragraph (5), by inserting “tech-
13 nical assistance, demonstration projects, and”
14 before “technology”;

15 (F) by redesignating paragraphs (7)
16 through (11) as paragraphs (8) through (12),
17 respectively;

18 (G) by striking paragraph (6) and insert-
19 ing the following:

20 “(6) develop improved silvopasture, alley crop-
21 ping, forest farming, multistory cropping, riparian
22 buffer, windbreak and shelterbelt, and other peren-
23 nial production and conservation systems and tech-
24 nologies to improve soil health, carbon sequestration,

1 drought preparedness, soil and water conservation,
2 environmental quality, and biological diversity;

3 “(7) address barriers to the adoption of agro-
4 forestry practices, including—

5 “(A) insufficient access to plant material;

6 “(B) insufficient infrastructure to contain
7 equipment and plant material;

8 “(C) insufficient machinery to implement
9 agroforestry practices;

10 “(D) insufficient technical service assist-
11 ance; and

12 “(E) insufficient research related to agro-
13 forestry systems, including silvopasture and
14 alley cropping;”;

15 (H) in paragraph (8) (as so redesignated),
16 by striking “on semiarid lands”;

17 (I) in paragraph (9) (as so redesignated),
18 by striking “on semiarid lands worldwide” and
19 inserting “worldwide, including on semiarid
20 land”; and

21 (J) in paragraph (10) (as so redesign-
22 ated)—

23 (i) by striking “on semiarid lands”;

24 and

1 (ii) by inserting “and climate change”
2 after “pollution”;

3 (7) in subsection (e) (as so redesignated)—

4 (A) in the subsection heading, by inserting
5 “AND DATA” after “INFORMATION”;

6 (B) in the matter preceding paragraph
7 (1)—

8 (i) by striking “Secretary shall estab-
9 lish at the Center” and inserting “Sec-
10 retary, in collaboration with the Economic
11 Research Service and the National Agricul-
12 tural Statistics Service, shall establish at
13 the Centers”; and

14 (ii) by striking “Promotion” and in-
15 serting “Promotion,”;

16 (C) in paragraph (1)—

17 (i) by inserting “and data” after “in-
18 formation”; and

19 (ii) by striking “and” at the end;

20 (D) in paragraph (2)—

21 (i) by inserting “and data” after “in-
22 formation”;

23 (ii) by striking “forestry” and insert-
24 ing “forestry, agroforestry,”; and

1 (iii) by striking the period at the end
2 and inserting “; and”; and

3 (E) by adding at the end the following:

4 “(3) facilitate agroforestry adoption by dissemi-
5 nating comprehensive information and data on Fed-
6 eral, State, local, and Tribal programs that provide
7 support for agroforestry.”;

8 (8) by inserting after subsection (e) (as so re-
9 designated) the following:

10 “(f) GRANTS.—The Secretary shall establish at the
11 Centers regional grant programs to support agroforestry
12 projects, including demonstration farms.”; and

13 (9) in subsection (g) (as so redesignated)—

14 (A) by striking “There are” and inserting
15 “In addition to amounts otherwise available,
16 there is”; and

17 (B) by striking “\$5,000,000 for each of
18 fiscal years 2019 through 2023” and inserting
19 “\$10,000,000 for each of fiscal years 2025
20 through 2029”.

21 **SEC. 8302. AMERICAN FOREST FARMING ASSOCIATION.**

22 (a) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

23 (1) ASSOCIATION.—The term “Association”
24 means the American Forest Farming Association de-
25 scribed in subsection (b).

1 (2) PARTNER INSTITUTIONS.—The term “part-
2 ner institutions” means the 1 or more institutions of
3 higher education with which the Secretary collabo-
4 rates to establish the Association under subsection
5 (b).

6 (3) SECRETARY.—The term “Secretary” means
7 the Secretary, acting through the National Agro-
8 forestry Center.

9 (b) ESTABLISHMENT.—The Secretary shall collabo-
10 rate with 1 or more institutions of higher education with
11 a history of engagement in agroforestry to establish an
12 American Forest Farming Association.

13 (c) COMPOSITION AND TYPE.—The Association
14 shall—

15 (1) be composed of a network of forest farmers,
16 institutions of higher education, governmental and
17 nongovernmental organizations, and private indus-
18 try; and

19 (2) not be an agency or instrumentality of the
20 United States.

21 (d) PURPOSES AND ACTIVITIES.—

22 (1) PURPOSES.—The purposes of the Associa-
23 tion shall be—

1 (A) to support the advancement of agro-
2 forestry production opportunities and capabili-
3 ties among forest farmers; and

4 (B) to increase awareness, capacity, and
5 long-term viability for the forest farming indus-
6 try through education, networking, and con-
7 servation practices.

8 (2) ACTIVITIES.—The Association may carry
9 out activities including—

10 (A) convening regional and local agro-
11 forestry stakeholders to spread awareness of
12 agroforestry-related activities nationwide;

13 (B) crafting policy notes to share best
14 practices in cultivating various nontimber forest
15 products across different regions;

16 (C) development of business planning and
17 marketing programs;

18 (D) drafting science and technical agendas
19 and working group training initiatives;

20 (E) leveraging production methods to im-
21 prove price points in an emerging value-added
22 market; and

23 (F) such other activities as the Secretary
24 and the partner institutions determine to be ap-
25 propriate.

1 (e) CONSULTATION.—In carrying out this section, the
2 Secretary and the partner institutions shall consult with—

3 (1) staff of institutions of higher education with
4 experience in the agroforestry sector; and

5 (2) individuals from nongovernmental organiza-
6 tions and private industry that work with agro-
7 forestry products.

8 (f) USE OF FUNDS.—The Secretary shall use funds
9 made available under subsection (g) to support the estab-
10 lishment and operation of the Association in accordance
11 with this section, including for salaries and expenses of—

12 (1) an executive director of the Association;

13 (2) other staff of the Association;

14 (3) operations;

15 (4) technical assistance; and

16 (5) other expenses necessary to support the As-
17 sociation.

18 (g) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There is
19 authorized to be appropriated to carry out this section
20 \$200,000 for each of fiscal years 2025 through 2029.

21 **SEC. 8303. RURAL FOREST MARKET INVESTMENT PRO-**
22 **GRAM.**

23 (a) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

24 (1) COVERED ENTITY.—The term “covered en-
25 tity” means an eligible entity for which a bond, loan,

1 or other investment vehicle is guaranteed under the
2 program.

3 (2) ELIGIBLE ENTITY.—The term “eligible enti-
4 ty” means a private entity, State forestry agency, or
5 publicly supported, charitable nonprofit organization
6 described in section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Rev-
7 enue Code of 1986 and exempt from taxation under
8 section 501(a) of that Code engaged in or seeking to
9 engage in the aggregation of sustainable forestry
10 practices implemented by rural private forest land-
11 owners to facilitate the sale of environmental credits
12 in voluntary environmental credit markets.

13 (3) PROGRAM.—The term “program” means
14 the Rural Forest Market Investment Program estab-
15 lished under subsection (b)(1).

16 (4) RURAL.—The term “rural” has the mean-
17 ing given the term in section 343(a) of the Consoli-
18 dated Farm and Rural Development Act (7 U.S.C.
19 1991(a)).

20 (5) VOLUNTARY ENVIRONMENTAL CREDIT MAR-
21 KET.—The term “voluntary environmental credit
22 market” means a voluntary market through which
23 environmental credits may be bought or sold.

24 (b) ESTABLISHMENT OF PROGRAM.—

1 (1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall establish
2 a program, to be known as the “Rural Forest Mar-
3 ket Investment Program”, to guarantee environ-
4 mental impact bonds, loans, or other investment ve-
5 hicles, as determined by the Secretary, issued for the
6 sole purpose of financing eligible projects described
7 in subsection (c), to enable rural private forest land-
8 owners and covered entities to participate in vol-
9 untary environmental credit markets.

10 (2) ADMINISTRATION.—

11 (A) LOAN GUARANTEES.—The Secretary
12 shall make available and administer guarantees
13 on environmental impact bonds, loans, or other
14 investment vehicles, as determined by the Sec-
15 retary, through the facilities and authorities of
16 the Under Secretary for Rural Development.

17 (B) FORESTRY RELATED MATTERS.—

18 (i) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall
19 carry out through the facilities and au-
20 thorities of the Under Secretary for Nat-
21 ural Resources and Environment the re-
22 quirements and administration under this
23 section of matters relating to forests, for-
24 estry, tree planting activities, forest prod-
25 uct markets, the timber supply, appro-

1 appropriate activities to develop and carry out
2 an eligible project, and activities to facili-
3 tate the participation of a rural private
4 forest landowner or a covered entity in vol-
5 untary environmental credit markets, and
6 as otherwise provided in this section, as
7 determined appropriate by the Secretary.

8 (ii) COLLABORATION.—The Under
9 Secretary for Natural Resources and Envi-
10 ronment shall collaborate with the Under
11 Secretary for Rural Development, includ-
12 ing by providing information and technical
13 assistance, to ensure that the making and
14 administration of guarantees under this
15 section is fully informed by the matters de-
16 scribed in clause (i) and as otherwise pro-
17 vided in this section, as determined appro-
18 priate by the Secretary.

19 (3) CONSIDERATION.—In establishing the pro-
20 gram, the Secretary shall consider ways to ensure
21 that the program—

22 (A) minimizes disruptions to traditional
23 forest products markets, including by—

1 (i) collecting data on commercially
2 available timber that serves wood proc-
3 essing facilities, including—

4 (I) the quantity and species of
5 timber supply available to wood prod-
6 ucts facilities in each of the 4 regions
7 described in the most recent Renew-
8 able Resource Assessment prepared
9 under section 3 of the Forest and
10 Rangeland Renewable Resources
11 Planning Act of 1974 (16 U.S.C.
12 1601); and

13 (II) any additional information,
14 as identified by the Secretary; and

15 (ii) using data collected under clause
16 (i) to make a determination on whether fi-
17 nancing each eligible project described in
18 subsection (c) may impact commercially
19 available timber supply;

20 (B) allows for the continued production of
21 sustainable timber supplies by utilizing meth-
22 odologies that consider the carbon storage bene-
23 fits of wood products;

24 (C) allows for landowners who are not cur-
25 rently involved in traditional forest products

1 markets, including those who have not histori-
2 cally accessed Department of Agriculture assist-
3 ance programs, to participate in the program
4 through activities such as conservation ease-
5 ments, reforestation, and other appropriate ac-
6 tivities, as determined by the Secretary;

7 (D) facilitates participation opportunities
8 for forest landowners, and ensures program ac-
9 cess for those who have not historically accessed
10 Department of Agriculture assistance programs;
11 and

12 (E) is carried out in a manner that in-
13 creases forestland values for participating land-
14 owners in ways that enable landowners of
15 small-acreage forests to maintain—

16 (i) ownership of the land in the family
17 of the landowner; and

18 (ii) forest use of the land.

19 (c) ELIGIBLE PROJECTS.—

20 (1) IN GENERAL.—Subject to paragraph (2), an
21 eligible project referred to in subsection (b)(1) is a
22 project developed by an eligible entity using meth-
23 odologies that, as determined by the Secretary—

24 (A) are approved by a credible, third-party
25 entity; and

1 (B) meet global benchmarks for high-integ-
2 rity.

3 (2) USES OF FINANCING.—

4 (A) IN GENERAL.—A covered entity shall
5 use the bond, loan, or other investment vehicle
6 guaranteed for the covered entity under the
7 program for appropriate activities to develop
8 and carry out an eligible project described in
9 paragraph (1), as determined by the Secretary.

10 (B) ADDITIONAL ACTIVITIES FOR CERTAIN
11 ORGANIZATIONS.—In the case of a bond, loan,
12 or other investment vehicle guaranteed under
13 the program that supports an eligible project
14 described in paragraph (1), the Secretary may
15 allow a portion of the amount of the bond, loan,
16 or other investment vehicle to cover additional
17 activities to facilitate the participation of the
18 covered entity or a rural private forest land-
19 owner in voluntary environmental credit mar-
20 kets.

21 (C) PROHIBITION.—A bond, loan, or other
22 investment vehicle guaranteed under the pro-
23 gram shall not be used to create a floor price
24 or artificial demand for the environmental cred-

1 its generated under eligible projects described
2 in paragraph (1).

3 (d) REQUIREMENTS.—A project described in sub-
4 section (c) that includes the practice of tree planting may
5 only be carried out, as determined by the Secretary—

6 (1) on land that was historically forested, as de-
7 termined based on—

8 (A) data collected through the Forest In-
9 ventory and Analysis Program of the Forest
10 Service; and

11 (B) other appropriate scientific resources,
12 as determined by the Secretary;

13 (2) using tree species that are native to the re-
14 gion and at ecologically appropriate densities; and

15 (3) in a manner that does not create other neg-
16 ative impacts to biodiversity or the environment.

17 (e) GUARANTEE AMOUNT.—With respect to bonds,
18 loans, and other investment vehicles guaranteed under the
19 program, the Secretary shall guarantee not more than
20 \$150,000,000 in the aggregate.

21 (f) IMPLEMENTATION.—

22 (1) APPRAISALS.—The Secretary may require
23 an appraisal of an eligible entity requesting a guar-
24 antee under the program, including to assess the
25 creditworthiness of the eligible entity, by a special-

1 (1) in subsection (c)(2)—

2 (A) by striking subparagraph (B) and in-
3 serting the following:

4 “(B) solicit and consider public input re-
5 gionally in selecting projects for funding under
6 the Program by—

7 “(i) publishing annually for each re-
8 gion the list of projects considered for
9 funding under the Program;

10 “(ii) accepting public comments on
11 the projects listed under clause (i); and

12 “(iii) considering public comments re-
13 ceived under clause (ii) in selecting
14 projects for funding;”; and

15 (B) in subparagraph (D)—

16 (i) in the matter preceding clause (i),
17 by inserting “annually for each region,”
18 before “publish”; and

19 (ii) in clause (ii)—

20 (I) by striking “description and
21 the proposed” and inserting the fol-
22 lowing: “description of—

23 “(I) each project considered for
24 funding under the Program;

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1 “(II) the public comments re-
 2 ceived with respect to each project
 3 considered for funding under the Pro-
 4 gram;

5 “(III) the ranking in the applica-
 6 ble region of each project considered
 7 for funding under the Program; and

8 “(IV) the proposed”; and

9 (II) in subclause (IV) (as so des-
 10 ignated), by striking “each fiscal” and
 11 inserting “the applicable fiscal”; and

12 (2) by adding at the end the following:

13 “(f) DEFINITION OF REGION.—In this section, the
 14 term ‘region’ means 1 of the 9 regions of the Forest Serv-
 15 ice.”.

16 **Subtitle D—Land Designations**

17 **SEC. 8401. CHESTER COUNTY REVERSIONARY AND MIN- 18 ERAL INTERESTS RELEASE.**

19 (a) FINDINGS.—Congress finds that—

20 (1) within the parcel of State forest land, lo-
 21 cated in Henderson, Chester County, Tennessee, a
 22 recent survey by the State determined that Bethel
 23 Baptist Church is encroaching on State-owned land
 24 in Chickasaw State Forest by roughly 19 inches;

1 (2) that parcel was conveyed to the State by the
2 United States Department of Agriculture, which re-
3 tained a reversionary interest in the land; and

4 (3) it is necessary to release the interests of the
5 United States in and to that land to resolve the en-
6 croachment issue described in paragraph (1).

7 (b) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

8 (1) STATE.—The term “State” means the State
9 of Tennessee.

10 (2) STATE FOREST LAND.—The term “State
11 forest land” means the approximately 0.62-acre par-
12 cel of land in Chickasaw State Forest that is identi-
13 fied as “State Forest Land” on the map prepared
14 by the Forest Service entitled “State Forest Land
15 Detail Map” and dated December 13, 2019.

16 (c) RELEASE OF REVERSIONARY INTEREST.—

17 (1) RELEASE.—

18 (A) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall re-
19 lease, without consideration, the reversionary
20 interest of the United States in and to the
21 State forest land described in paragraph (2).

22 (B) REQUIREMENTS.—Notwithstanding
23 any requirements for any grant of land under
24 section 32(c) of The Bankhead-Jones Farm
25 Tenant Act (7 U.S.C. 1011(c)) or any other

1 provision of law, the release under subpara-
2 graph (A) shall occur without any appraisal,
3 other reports, or environmental or similar re-
4 views being undertaken.

5 (2) DESCRIPTION OF REVERSIONARY INTER-
6 EST.—The reversionary interest referred to in para-
7 graph (1)(A) is the reversionary interest of the
8 United States in and to the State forest land that—

9 (A) takes effect on the State forest land
10 ceasing to be used for public purposes; and

11 (B) was created by the deed—

12 (i) granting from the United States to
13 the State the State forest land;

14 (ii) dated August 12, 1955; and

15 (iii) registered on pages 588 through
16 591 of book 48 of the record of deeds for
17 Chester County, Tennessee.

18 (3) PAYMENT OF COSTS.—As a condition on
19 the release under paragraph (1)(A), the State shall
20 pay to the United States any administrative costs in-
21 curred by the United States in carrying out the re-
22 lease.

23 (d) CONVEYANCE OF MINERAL RIGHTS.—

24 (1) IN GENERAL.—Notwithstanding any re-
25 quirements for conveyance of Federal mineral inter-

1 ests in section 209 of the Federal Land Policy and
2 Management Act of 1976 (43 U.S.C. 1719), part
3 2720 of title 43, Code of Federal Regulations (or
4 successor regulations), or any other provision of law,
5 the Secretary shall convey to the State, by quitclaim
6 deed, without warranty, and without consideration,
7 the mineral interest owned in the State forest land
8 by the United States.

9 (2) REQUIREMENTS.—Notwithstanding any
10 other provision of law, the conveyance under para-
11 graph (1) shall occur—

12 (A) without any exploratory program as to
13 the character of the mineral deposits in the
14 land;

15 (B) without any findings as to known min-
16 eral values and mineral development of the
17 land; and

18 (C) without any appraisal, other reports,
19 or environmental or similar reviews being un-
20 dertaken by the Secretary.

21 (3) PAYMENT OF COSTS.—As a condition on
22 the conveyance under paragraph (1), the State shall
23 pay to the United States any administrative costs in-
24 curred by the United States in carrying out the con-
25 veyance.

1 **SEC. 8402. ROUGH MOUNTAIN WILDERNESS AND RICH**
2 **HOLE WILDERNESS DESIGNATIONS.**

3 (a) ROUGH MOUNTAIN ADDITION.—Section 1 of
4 Public Law 100–326 (16 U.S.C. 1132 note; 102 Stat.
5 584; 114 Stat. 2057; 123 Stat. 1002) is amended by add-
6 ing at the end the following:

7 “(21) ROUGH MOUNTAIN ADDITION.—Certain
8 land in the George Washington National Forest
9 comprising approximately 1,000 acres, as generally
10 depicted as the ‘Rough Mountain Addition’ on the
11 map entitled ‘GEORGE WASHINGTON NA-
12 TIONAL FOREST – South half – Alternative I –
13 Selected Alternative Management Prescriptions –
14 Land and Resources Management Plan Final Envi-
15 ronmental Impact Statement’ and dated March 4,
16 2014, which is incorporated in the Rough Mountain
17 Wilderness Area designated by paragraph (1).”.

18 (b) RICH HOLE ADDITION.—

19 (1) POTENTIAL WILDERNESS DESIGNATION.—
20 In furtherance of the purposes of the Wilderness Act
21 (16 U.S.C. 1131 et seq.), certain land in the George
22 Washington National Forest comprising approxi-
23 mately 4,600 acres, as generally depicted as the
24 “Rich Hole Addition” on the map entitled
25 “GEORGE WASHINGTON NATIONAL FOREST
26 – South half – Alternative I – Selected Alternative

1 Management Prescriptions – Land and Resources
2 Management Plan Final Environmental Impact
3 Statement” and dated March 4, 2014, is designated
4 as a potential wilderness area for incorporation in
5 the Rich Hole Wilderness Area designated by section
6 1(2) of Public Law 100–326 (16 U.S.C. 1132 note;
7 102 Stat. 584).

8 (2) WILDERNESS DESIGNATION.—The potential
9 wilderness area designated by paragraph (1) shall be
10 designated as wilderness and incorporated in the
11 Rich Hole Wilderness Area designated by section
12 1(2) of Public Law 100–326 (16 U.S.C. 1132 note;
13 102 Stat. 584) on the earlier of—

14 (A) the date on which the Secretary pub-
15 lishes in the Federal Register notice that the
16 activities permitted under paragraph (4) have
17 been completed; or

18 (B) the date that is 5 years after the date
19 of enactment of this Act.

20 (3) MANAGEMENT.—Except as provided in
21 paragraph (4), the Secretary shall manage the po-
22 tential wilderness area designated by paragraph (1)
23 in accordance with the Wilderness Act (16 U.S.C.
24 1131 et seq.).

1 (4) WATER QUALITY IMPROVEMENT ACTIVI-
2 TIES.—

3 (A) IN GENERAL.—To enhance natural
4 ecosystems within the potential wilderness area
5 designated by paragraph (1) by implementing
6 certain activities to improve water quality and
7 aquatic passage, as set forth in the Forest
8 Service document entitled “Decision Notice for
9 the Lower Cowpasture Restoration and Man-
10 agement Project” and dated December 2015,
11 the Secretary may use motorized equipment
12 and mechanized transport in the potential wil-
13 derness area until the date on which the poten-
14 tial wilderness area is incorporated into the
15 Rich Hole Wilderness Area under paragraph
16 (2).

17 (B) REQUIREMENT.—In carrying out sub-
18 paragraph (A), the Secretary, to the maximum
19 extent practicable, shall use the minimum tool
20 or administrative practice necessary to carry
21 out that subparagraph with the least amount of
22 adverse impact on wilderness character and re-
23 sources.

1 **SEC. 8403. BENJAMIN HARRISON NATIONAL RECREATION**
2 **AREA AND WILDERNESS.**

3 (a) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

4 (1) ADVISORY COMMITTEE.—The term “Advi-
5 sory Committee” means the advisory committee for
6 the National Recreation Area established under sub-
7 section (c)(1)(A).

8 (2) MANAGEMENT PLAN.—The term “Manage-
9 ment Plan” means the management plan for the Na-
10 tional Recreation Area and Wilderness developed
11 under subsection (c)(2).

12 (3) MAP.—The term “map” means the map en-
13 titled “Benjamin Harrison National Recreation Area
14 and Wilderness Establishment Act of 2023” and
15 dated March 27, 2024.

16 (4) NATIONAL RECREATION AREA.—The term
17 “National Recreation Area” means the Benjamin
18 Harrison National Recreation Area established by
19 subsection (b)(1)(B).

20 (5) NATIONAL RECREATION AREA AND WILDER-
21 NESS.—The term “National Recreation Area and
22 Wilderness” means the Benjamin Harrison National
23 Recreation Area and Wilderness established by sub-
24 section (b)(1)(A).

25 (6) NONWILDERNESS CORRIDOR.—The term
26 “nonwilderness corridor” means the land 100 feet in

1 width from either side of the centerline of the exist-
2 ing trails and roads, as depicted on the map as
3 “Non-Wilderness Corridor”, which is not included as
4 part of the “Proposed Wilderness”, as depicted on
5 the map.

6 (7) SECRETARY.—The term “Secretary” means
7 the Secretary, acting through the Chief of the For-
8 est Service.

9 (8) STATE.—The term “State” means the State
10 of Indiana.

11 (9) WILDERNESS ADDITION.—The term “Wil-
12 derness addition” means the land added to the
13 Charles C. Deam Wilderness by subsection
14 (b)(1)(C).

15 (b) BENJAMIN HARRISON NATIONAL RECREATION
16 AREA AND WILDERNESS.—

17 (1) ESTABLISHMENT.—

18 (A) IN GENERAL.—There is established in
19 the State the Benjamin Harrison National
20 Recreation Area and Wilderness as a subunit of
21 the Hoosier National Forest, consisting of—

22 (i) the National Recreation Area; and
23 (ii) the Wilderness addition.

24 (B) BENJAMIN HARRISON NATIONAL
25 RECREATION AREA.—There is established in the

1 State the Benjamin Harrison National Recre-
2 ation Area, consisting of approximately 29,382
3 acres of National Forest System land depicted
4 on the map as “Proposed National Recreation
5 Area (NRA)”.

6 (C) CHARLES C. DEAM WILDERNESS ADDI-
7 TION.—The approximately 15,300 acres of Na-
8 tional Forest System land in the State generally
9 depicted on the map as “Proposed Wilderness”
10 shall be added to and administered as part of
11 the Charles C. Deam Wilderness in accordance
12 with Public Law 97–384 (16 U.S.C. 1132 note;
13 96 Stat. 1942), consisting of—

14 (i) the approximately 2,028.8 acres of
15 National Forest System land in the State
16 generally depicted on the map as the
17 “Deckard Ridge Units A, B, and C”;

18 (ii) the approximately 2,633 acres of
19 National Forest System land in the State
20 generally depicted on the map as the
21 “Panther Creek Units A and B”;

22 (iii) the approximately 5,456.9 acres
23 of National Forest System land in the
24 State generally depicted on the map as the
25 “Nebo Ridge Units A, B, C, D, and E”;

1 (iv) the approximately 2,141.4 acres
2 of National Forest System land in the
3 State generally depicted on the map as the
4 “Browning Mountain Unit”;

5 (v) the approximately 2,161.9 acres of
6 National Forest System land in the State
7 generally depicted on the map as the
8 “Hickory Ridge Units A, B, C, D, and E”;
9 and

10 (vi) the approximately 878.3 acres of
11 National Forest System land in the State
12 generally depicted on the map as the
13 “Mose Ray Branch Unit”.

14 (D) AVAILABILITY OF MAP.—Not later
15 than 30 days after the date of enactment of
16 this Act, the Secretary shall file the map, and
17 make the map available for public inspection, in
18 the appropriate offices of the Forest Service.

19 (2) ADMINISTRATION.—The Secretary shall
20 manage—

21 (A) the Wilderness addition (other than
22 the nonwilderness corridors) in a manner that
23 is consistent with the Wilderness Act (16
24 U.S.C. 1131 et seq.); and

1 (B) the National Recreation Area in a
2 manner that ensures—

3 (i) the protection of the water quality
4 of the public water supply of Monroe Res-
5 ervoir in the State in accordance with sec-
6 tion 303(e)(1) of the Healthy Forests Res-
7 toration Act of 2003 (16 U.S.C.
8 6542(e)(1)); and

9 (ii) the promotion of recreational op-
10 portunities in the National Recreation
11 Area.

12 (C) HUNTING, FISHING, AND TRAPPING.—

13 (i) IN GENERAL.—Subject to clause
14 (ii), the Secretary shall allow hunting, fish-
15 ing, and trapping in the National Recre-
16 ation Area and Wilderness.

17 (ii) LIMITATIONS.—The Secretary, in
18 consultation with designees from the State
19 Department of Natural Resources and the
20 Corps of Engineers, may, for reasons of
21 public safety, species enhancement, or
22 management of a species listed as endan-
23 gered or threatened under the Endangered
24 Species Act of 1973 (16 U.S.C. 1531 et
25 seq.), designate areas in which, and estab-

1 lish seasons during which, no hunting,
2 fishing, or trapping is permitted in the Na-
3 tional Recreation Area and Wilderness.

4 (iii) EFFECT.—Nothing in this section
5 affects the jurisdiction of the State with
6 respect to fish and wildlife in the National
7 Recreation Area and Wilderness.

8 (D) RECREATION.—

9 (i) IN GENERAL.—Subject to clause
10 (ii), the Secretary shall—

11 (I) in the National Recreation
12 Area, continue to permit and provide
13 for appropriate nonmotorized and mo-
14 torized recreational uses, including
15 hiking, viewing of nature and wildlife,
16 camping, horseback riding, mountain
17 biking, and other existing recreational
18 uses; and

19 (II) permit the nonmechanized
20 recreational use of the Wilderness ad-
21 dition, in accordance with the Wilder-
22 ness Act (16 U.S.C. 1131 et seq.)
23 within the boundary of the “Proposed
24 Wilderness” indicated on the map.

1 (ii) LIMITATIONS.—The Secretary, in
2 consultation with designees from the State
3 Department of Natural Resources and the
4 Corps of Engineers, may designate zones
5 in which, and establish periods during
6 which, a recreational use shall not be per-
7 mitted in the National Recreation Area
8 and Wilderness under clause (i) for rea-
9 sons of public safety, species enhancement,
10 or management of a species listed as en-
11 dangered or threatened under the Endan-
12 gered Species Act of 1973 (16 U.S.C.
13 1531 et seq.).

14 (iii) TRAIL PLAN.—Notwithstanding
15 any provisions of the Wilderness Act (16
16 U.S.C. 1131 et seq.) or any other provision
17 of law, the Secretary, in consultation with
18 interested parties, shall establish a trail
19 plan—

20 (I) to maintain existing mountain
21 biking, hiking, and equestrian trails in
22 the nonwilderness corridors; and

23 (II) to develop mountain biking,
24 hiking, and equestrian trails in the
25 National Recreation Area.

1 (E) VEGETATION MANAGEMENT.—

2 (i) WILDERNESS ADDITION.—Con-
3 sistent with the Wilderness Act (16 U.S.C.
4 1131 et seq.), timber removal or manage-
5 ment shall not be permitted in the Wilder-
6 ness addition, except as the Secretary de-
7 termines to be necessary for public safety
8 and management of diseases, as described
9 in section 293.3 of title 36, Code of Fed-
10 eral Regulations (or a successor regula-
11 tion).

12 (ii) NATIONAL RECREATION AREA.—
13 Vegetation management within the Na-
14 tional Recreation Area shall be consistent
15 with—

16 (I) the Management Plan; and

17 (II) any applicable Forest Service
18 land management plan.

19 (c) NATIONAL RECREATION AREA ADVISORY COM-
20 MITTEE; MANAGEMENT PLAN.—

21 (1) NATIONAL RECREATION AREA FEDERAL AD-
22 VISORY COMMITTEE.—

23 (A) ESTABLISHMENT.—As soon as prac-
24 ticable after the date of enactment of this Act,
25 the Secretary shall establish an advisory com-

1 mittee to advise the Secretary with respect to
2 the management of the National Recreation
3 Area.

4 (B) MEMBERSHIP.—The Advisory Com-
5 mittee shall be composed of members appointed
6 by the Secretary, from among—

7 (i) representatives of local govern-
8 ment;

9 (ii) forest ecologists;

10 (iii) experts in dispersed recreation;

11 (iv) local residents who own or reside
12 in property located not more than 2 miles
13 from the boundary of the National Recre-
14 ation Area;

15 (v) representatives of conservation
16 and outdoor recreation groups;

17 (vi) consulting foresters;

18 (vii) the Director of the State Depart-
19 ment of Natural Resources (or designees);

20 (viii) wildlife experts; and

21 (ix) designees from the Corps of Engi-
22 neers.

23 (2) MANAGEMENT PLAN.—

24 (A) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 5 years
25 after the date of enactment of this Act, the Sec-

1 retary shall develop a comprehensive manage-
2 ment plan for the long-term protection and
3 management of the National Recreation Area.

4 (B) REQUIREMENTS.—The Management
5 Plan shall—

6 (i) be developed—

7 (I) in consultation with the Advi-
8 sory Committee;

9 (II) after providing an oppor-
10 tunity for public comment; and

11 (III) after engaging with inter-
12 ested or affected federally recognized
13 Indian Tribes, other Federal agencies,
14 and State and local governments, in-
15 cluding the State Department of Nat-
16 ural Resources;

17 (ii) address management issues associ-
18 ated with the National Recreation Area,
19 including—

20 (I) fires;

21 (II) invasive species;

22 (III) the response to insect and
23 disease infestations;

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1 (IV) measures needed to protect
2 the public water supply provided by
3 Monroe Reservoir;

4 (V) the establishment, mainte-
5 nance, and closure of camp sites,
6 campgrounds, trails, and roadways;
7 and

8 (VI) any other issues identified
9 by the Advisory Committee; and

10 (iii) include—

11 (I) measures to preserve and pro-
12 tect native and historical resources,
13 flora, fauna, and recreational, scenic,
14 and aesthetic values within the Na-
15 tional Recreation Area; and

16 (II) measures to prevent deg-
17 radation of the public water supply
18 provided by Monroe Reservoir.

19 (d) FUNDING.—

20 (1) NO ADDITIONAL FUNDS.—No additional
21 funds are authorized to be appropriated to carry out
22 this section.

23 (2) USE OF EXISTING FUNDS.—This section
24 shall be carried out using amounts otherwise made
25 available to the Secretary.

1 (e) EFFECT.—Nothing in this section—

2 (1) affects the Corps of Engineers use permits
3 for flowage rights within the National Recreation
4 Area and Wilderness established by the order enti-
5 tled “Joint Order Interchanging Administrative Ju-
6 risdiction of Department of the Army Lands and
7 National Forest Lands” (35 Fed. Reg. 10382 (June
8 25, 1970));

9 (2) prevents the Corps of Engineers from car-
10 rying out the water control management plan of the
11 Corps of Engineers within the National Recreation
12 Area and Wilderness as described in the Corps of
13 Engineers water control manual;

14 (3) prevents the Corps of Engineers from—

15 (A) disposing of, or otherwise managing,
16 real estate interests held by the Corps of Engi-
17 neers as of the date of enactment of this Act;
18 or

19 (B) acquiring additional real estate inter-
20 ests required to support the operation or main-
21 tenance of Monroe Lake;

22 (4) affects the use of motor vessels (as defined
23 in section 2101 of title 46, United States Code) on
24 Monroe Lake;

1 (5) results in the closure of any State or county
2 roadway in the National Recreation Area and the
3 nonwilderness corridors;

4 (6) precludes the ownership, use, or enjoyment
5 of private land within the National Recreation Area
6 and Wilderness;

7 (7) otherwise affects access to private land or
8 cemeteries within the National Recreation Area and
9 Wilderness;

10 (8) affects the access to land within the non-
11 wilderness corridors and within 100 feet of the outer
12 boundary of the Wilderness addition by any State or
13 private entity or organization with a permit, special
14 use authorization, or other right to access land with-
15 in the Wilderness addition, as described in section
16 5(a) of the Wilderness Act (16 U.S.C. 1134(a)), for
17 the purpose of maintaining infrastructure located
18 within the Wilderness addition, including access
19 by—

20 (A) the Smithville Telephone Company;

21 (B) Jackson County Water Utility;

22 (C) Jackson County Rural Electric;

23 (D) the ANR Pipeline Company;

24 (E) the Monroe County commissioners;

25 (F) Hoosier Trails Council, BSA; and

1 (G) the State Department of Natural Re-
2 sources; or

3 (9) affects the access to land within the Wilder-
4 ness addition by the State Department of Natural
5 Resources or appropriate public safety officers with
6 the use of motor vehicles, mechanized equipment, or
7 motorboats for emergencies involving the health and
8 safety of persons within the Wilderness addition, in
9 accordance with section 4(c) of the Wilderness Act
10 (16 U.S.C. 1133(c)).

11 **SEC. 8404. SHENANDOAH MOUNTAIN NATIONAL SCENIC**
12 **AREA.**

13 (a) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

14 (1) NATIONAL SCENIC AREA.—

15 (A) IN GENERAL.—The term “National
16 Scenic Area” means the Shenandoah Mountain
17 National Scenic Area established by subsection
18 (b)(1).

19 (B) INCLUSIONS.—The term “National
20 Scenic Area” includes—

21 (i) any National Forest System land
22 within the boundary of the National Scenic
23 Area that is administered as part of the
24 National Scenic Area; and

1 (ii) any National Forest System land
2 within the boundary of the National Scenic
3 Area that is administered as a component
4 of the National Wilderness Preservation
5 System under the amendments made by
6 subsection (c).

7 (2) SECRETARY.—The term “Secretary” means
8 the Secretary, acting through the Chief of the For-
9 est Service.

10 (3) STATE.—The term “State” means the State
11 of Virginia.

12 (4) WILDERNESS AREA.—The term “Wilderness
13 Area” means a wilderness area designated by para-
14 graphs (22) through (26) of section 1 of Public Law
15 100–326 (16 U.S.C. 1132 note; 102 Stat. 584; 114
16 Stat. 2057; 123 Stat. 1002) (as added by subsection
17 (c)).

18 (b) ESTABLISHMENT OF THE SHENANDOAH MOUN-
19 TAIN NATIONAL SCENIC AREA.—

20 (1) ESTABLISHMENT.—Subject to valid existing
21 rights, there is established the Shenandoah Moun-
22 tain National Scenic Area, consisting of approxi-
23 mately 92,562 acres of National Forest System land
24 in the George Washington and Jefferson National

1 Forests, as generally depicted on the map filed
2 under subsection (d)(1)(A).

3 (2) PURPOSES.—The purposes of the National
4 Scenic Area are—

5 (A) to ensure the protection and preserva-
6 tion of the scenic quality, water quality, natural
7 characteristics, and water resources of the Na-
8 tional Scenic Area;

9 (B) to protect wildlife, fish, and plant
10 habitat in the National Scenic Area;

11 (C) to protect outstanding natural biologi-
12 cal values and habitat for plant and animal spe-
13 cies along the Shenandoah Mountain crest
14 above 3,000 feet above sea level elevation, in-
15 cluding the Cow Knob salamander;

16 (D) to protect forests in the National Sce-
17 nic Area that may develop characteristics of
18 old-growth forests;

19 (E) to protect the Wilderness Areas; and

20 (F) to provide for a variety of, and im-
21 prove existing, recreation settings and opportu-
22 nities in the National Scenic Area in a manner
23 consistent with the purposes of the National
24 Scenic Area described in subparagraphs (A)
25 through (E).

1 (3) ADMINISTRATION.—

2 (A) IN GENERAL.—Except as provided in
3 subparagraph (B), the Secretary shall admin-
4 ister the National Scenic Area in accordance
5 with—

6 (i) this subsection; and

7 (ii) the laws (including regulations)
8 generally applicable to the National Forest
9 System.

10 (B) EXCEPTION.—Subject to valid existing
11 rights, the Secretary shall administer the Wil-
12 derness Areas in accordance with the Wilder-
13 ness Act (16 U.S.C. 1131 et seq.) and any
14 other laws applicable to the Wilderness Areas,
15 except that any reference in that Act to the ef-
16 fective date of that Act shall be considered to
17 be a reference to the date of enactment of this
18 Act for purposes of administering the Wilder-
19 ness Areas.

20 (C) EFFECT; CONFLICTS.—

21 (i) EFFECT.—The establishment of
22 the National Scenic Area shall not affect
23 the administration of the Wilderness
24 Areas.

1 (ii) CONFLICTS.—In the case of any
2 conflict between the laws applicable to the
3 Wilderness Areas, the Wilderness Act (16
4 U.S.C. 1131 et seq.) shall control.

5 (D) NO BUFFER ZONES.—

6 (i) IN GENERAL.—Nothing in this
7 subsection creates a protective perimeter or
8 buffer zone around the National Scenic
9 Area or a Wilderness Area.

10 (ii) ACTIVITIES OUTSIDE NATIONAL
11 SCENIC AREA OR WILDERNESS AREAS.—
12 The fact that an activity or use on land
13 outside the National Scenic Area or a Wil-
14 derness Area can be seen or heard by hu-
15 mans within the National Scenic Area or
16 Wilderness Area shall not preclude the ac-
17 tivity or use outside the boundaries of the
18 National Scenic Area or Wilderness Area.

19 (4) RECREATIONAL USES.—

20 (A) IN GENERAL.—Except as otherwise
21 provided in this subsection or under applicable
22 law, the Secretary shall authorize the continu-
23 ation of, or seek to improve, authorized rec-
24 reational uses of the National Scenic Area in
25 existence on the date of enactment of this Act.

1 (B) EFFECT.—Nothing in this subsection
2 interferes with the authority of the Secretary—

3 (i) to maintain or improve non-
4 motorized trails and recreation sites within
5 the National Scenic Area;

6 (ii) to construct new nonmotorized
7 trails and recreation sites within the Na-
8 tional Scenic Area;

9 (iii) to adjust recreational uses within
10 the National Scenic Area for reasons of
11 sound resource management or public safe-
12 ty; and

13 (iv) to evaluate applications for, and
14 issue or deny, special use authorizations in
15 connection with recreation within the Na-
16 tional Scenic Area.

17 (C) REQUIREMENT.—Recreation within the
18 National Scenic Area shall be conducted in a
19 manner consistent with the purposes of the Na-
20 tional Scenic Area described in paragraph (2).

21 (5) NATIONAL FOREST SYSTEM TRAIL PLAN.—

22 (A) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 2 years
23 after the date of enactment of this Act, the Sec-
24 retary shall develop a National Forest System
25 trail plan for National Forest System land in

1 the National Scenic Area that is not located in
2 a Wilderness Area in order to construct, main-
3 tain, and improve nonmotorized recreation Na-
4 tional Forest System trails in a manner con-
5 sistent with the purposes of the National Scenic
6 Area described in paragraph (2).

7 (B) POTENTIAL INCLUSION.—The Sec-
8 retary may address in the National Forest Sys-
9 tem trail plan developed under subparagraph
10 (A) National Forest System land that is near,
11 but not within the boundary of, the National
12 Scenic Area.

13 (C) PUBLIC INPUT.—In developing the Na-
14 tional Forest System trail plan under subpara-
15 graph (A), the Secretary shall seek input from
16 interested parties, including members of the
17 public.

18 (D) REQUIREMENTS.—The National For-
19 est System trail plan developed under subpara-
20 graph (A) shall—

21 (i) promote sustainable trail manage-
22 ment that protects natural resources and
23 provides diverse, high-quality safe recre-
24 ation opportunities, which may include loop
25 trails for nonmotorized uses;

1 (ii) consider natural resource protec-
2 tion, trail sustainability, and trail mainte-
3 nance needs as primary factors in deter-
4 mining the location or relocation of Na-
5 tional Forest System trails; and

6 (iii) develop a National Forest System
7 trail outside the Little River Wilderness
8 Area in the area of the Tillman Road cor-
9 ridor (along National Forest System road
10 101) to connect the Wolf Ridge Trail park-
11 ing area to the Wild Oak National Recre-
12 ation Trail, as generally depicted on the
13 applicable map filed under subsection
14 (d)(1)(B), pending completion of the re-
15 quired environmental analysis.

16 (E) IMPLEMENTATION REPORT.—Not later
17 than 2 years after the date of enactment of this
18 Act, the Secretary shall submit to Congress a
19 report that describes the implementation of the
20 National Forest System trail plan developed
21 under subparagraph (A), including the identi-
22 fication of the National Forest System trail de-
23 scribed in subparagraph (D)(iii) and any other
24 priority National Forest System trails identified
25 for development.

1 (6) ROADS.—

2 (A) IN GENERAL.—The establishment of
3 the National Scenic Area shall not—

4 (i) result in the closure of any Na-
5 tional Forest System roads, as generally
6 depicted on the map filed under subsection
7 (d)(1)(A); or

8 (ii) modify public access within the
9 National Scenic Area.

10 (B) NO NEW ROADS.—No new roads shall
11 be constructed in the National Scenic Area
12 after the date of enactment of this Act.

13 (C) EFFECT.—Nothing in this sub-
14 section—

15 (i) denies any owner of private land or
16 an interest in private land that is located
17 within the National Scenic Area the right
18 to access the private land;

19 (ii) alters the authority of the Sec-
20 retary to open or close roads in the Na-
21 tional Scenic Area in existence on the date
22 of enactment of this Act in furtherance of
23 the purposes of this section; or

24 (iii) alters the authority of the
25 State—

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1 (I) to maintain the access road to
2 the crest of Shenandoah Mountain
3 (Route 924); or

4 (II) to realign the access road de-
5 scribed in subclause (I) if necessary
6 for reasons of sound resource manage-
7 ment or public safety.

8 (D) PARKING AREAS.—

9 (i) IN GENERAL.—Subject to clause
10 (ii), the reconstruction, minor relocation,
11 and construction of parking areas and re-
12 lated facilities within the National Scenic
13 Area are authorized in a manner consistent
14 with the purposes of the National Scenic
15 Area described in paragraph (2).

16 (ii) LIMITATION.—Additional trail-
17 head parking areas authorized in the Na-
18 tional Scenic Area under clause (i) may be
19 constructed only along National Forest
20 System roads.

21 (7) MOTORIZED TRAVEL.—Motorized travel
22 shall be allowed only on roads within the portions of
23 the National Scenic Area that are not Wilderness
24 Areas, in a manner consistent with paragraph (6).

1 (8) WATER.—The Secretary shall administer
2 the National Scenic Area in a manner that main-
3 tains and enhances water quality.

4 (9) WATER IMPOUNDMENTS.—The establish-
5 ment of the National Scenic Area shall not pro-
6 hibit—

7 (A) the operation, maintenance, or im-
8 provement of, or access to, dams, reservoirs, or
9 related infrastructure in existence on the date
10 of enactment of this Act, as generally depicted
11 on the map filed under subsection (d)(1)(A); or

12 (B) the establishment of new dams, res-
13 ervoirs, or related infrastructure if necessary
14 for municipal use.

15 (10) TIMBER HARVEST.—

16 (A) IN GENERAL.—Except as provided in
17 subparagraph (B), no harvesting of timber shall
18 be allowed within the National Scenic Area.

19 (B) EXCEPTIONS.—

20 (i) NECESSARY HARVESTING.—The
21 Secretary may authorize harvesting of tim-
22 ber in the National Scenic Area if the Sec-
23 retary determines that the harvesting is
24 necessary—

25 (I) to control fire;

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1 (II) to provide for public safety
2 or trail access;

3 (III) to construct or maintain
4 overlooks and vistas; or

5 (IV) to control insect or disease
6 outbreaks.

7 (ii) FIREWOOD FOR PERSONAL USE.—
8 Firewood may be harvested for personal
9 use along roads within the National Scenic
10 Area, subject to any conditions that the
11 Secretary may require.

12 (11) INSECT AND DISEASE OUTBREAKS.—

13 (A) IN GENERAL.—Subject to subpara-
14 graph (B), the Secretary may carry out activi-
15 ties necessary to control insect and disease out-
16 breaks in a manner consistent with the pur-
17 poses of the National Scenic Area described in
18 paragraph (2)—

19 (i) to maintain scenic quality;

20 (ii) to reduce hazards to visitors; or

21 (iii) to protect National Forest Sys-
22 tem land or private land.

23 (B) LIMITATIONS.—For purposes of activi-
24 ties carried out under subparagraph (A)—

1 (i) native forest insect and disease
2 outbreaks shall be controlled only—

3 (I) to prevent unacceptable dam-
4 age to resources on adjacent land; or

5 (II) to protect threatened, endan-
6 gered, sensitive, or locally rare spe-
7 cies, with biological control methods
8 being favored; and

9 (ii) nonnative insects and diseases
10 may be eradicated or suppressed only in
11 order to prevent a loss of a speciali-
12 cal community.

13 (12) VEGETATION MANAGEMENT.—The Sec-
14 retary may engage in vegetation management prac-
15 tices within the National Scenic Area in a manner
16 consistent with the purposes of the National Scenic
17 Area described in paragraph (2)—

18 (A) to maintain wildlife clearings and sce-
19 nic enhancements in existence on the date of
20 enactment of this Act; or

21 (B) to construct not more than 100 acres
22 of additional wildlife clearings by—

23 (i) expanding wildlife clearings in ex-
24 istence on the date of enactment of this
25 Act; or

1 (ii) constructing new wildlife clearings
2 of approximately 2 to 5 acres.

3 (13) WILDFIRE SUPPRESSION.—

4 (A) IN GENERAL.—Nothing in this sub-
5 section prohibits the Secretary, in cooperation
6 with other Federal, State, and local agencies, as
7 appropriate, from carrying out wildfire suppres-
8 sion activities within the National Scenic Area.

9 (B) REQUIREMENTS.—Wildfire suppres-
10 sion activities within the National Scenic Area
11 shall be carried out—

12 (i) in a manner consistent with the
13 purposes of the National Scenic Area de-
14 scribed in paragraph (2); and

15 (ii) using such means as the Secretary
16 determines to be appropriate.

17 (14) PRESCRIBED FIRE.—Nothing in this sub-
18 section prohibits the Secretary from conducting pre-
19 scribed burns and necessary burn unit preparation
20 within the National Scenic Area in a manner con-
21 sistent with the purposes of the National Scenic
22 Area described in paragraph (2).

23 (15) WITHDRAWAL.—

1 (A) IN GENERAL.—Subject to valid exist-
2 ing rights, all Federal land within the National
3 Scenic Area is withdrawn from—

4 (i) entry, appropriation, or disposal
5 under the public land laws;

6 (ii) location, entry, and patent under
7 the mining laws;

8 (iii) operation of the mineral leasing
9 and geothermal leasing laws;

10 (iv) wind, solar, or other renewable
11 energy development; and

12 (v) designation of new utility cor-
13 ridors, utility rights-of-way, or communica-
14 tions sites.

15 (B) EFFECT.—Consistent with paragraph
16 (6)(C)(i), the withdrawal under subparagraph
17 (A) shall not deny access to private land or an
18 interest in private land within the National Sce-
19 nic Area.

20 (16) MANAGEMENT PLAN.—

21 (A) IN GENERAL.—As soon as practicable
22 after the date of the completion of the National
23 Forest System trail plan under paragraph (5),
24 but not later than 2 years after the date of en-
25 actment of this Act, the Secretary shall develop

1 as an amendment to the land management plan
2 for the George Washington and Jefferson Na-
3 tional Forests a management plan for the Na-
4 tional Scenic Area that is consistent with this
5 subsection.

6 (B) EFFECT.—Nothing in this paragraph
7 requires the Secretary to revise the land man-
8 agement plan for the George Washington and
9 Jefferson National Forests under section 6 of
10 the Forest and Rangeland Renewable Resources
11 Planning Act of 1974 (16 U.S.C. 1604).

12 (c) DESIGNATION OF WILDERNESS AREAS.—Section
13 1 of Public Law 100–326 (16 U.S.C. 1132 note; 102 Stat.
14 584; 114 Stat. 2057; 123 Stat. 1002) (as amended by sec-
15 tion 8402(a)) is amended by adding at the end the fol-
16 lowing:

17 “(22) SKIDMORE FORK WILDERNESS.—Certain
18 National Forest System land in the George Wash-
19 ington and Jefferson National Forests comprising
20 approximately 5,088 acres, as generally depicted on
21 the applicable map filed under section 8404(d)(1)(B)
22 of the Rural Prosperity and Food Security Act of
23 2024, which shall be known as the ‘Skidmore Fork
24 Wilderness’.

1 “(23) RAMSEYS DRAFT WILDERNESS ADDI-
2 TION.—Certain National Forest System land in the
3 George Washington and Jefferson National Forests
4 comprising approximately 6,961 acres, as generally
5 depicted on the applicable map filed under section
6 8404(d)(1)(B) of the Rural Prosperity and Food Se-
7 curity Act of 2024, which shall be incorporated into
8 the Ramseys Draft Wilderness designated by Public
9 Law 98–586 (16 U.S.C. 1132 note; 98 Stat. 3106).

10 “(24) LYNN HOLLOW WILDERNESS.—Certain
11 National Forest System land in the George Wash-
12 ington and Jefferson National Forests comprising
13 approximately 3,568 acres, as generally depicted on
14 the applicable map filed under section 8404(d)(1)(B)
15 of the Rural Prosperity and Food Security Act of
16 2024, which shall be known as the ‘Lynn Hollow
17 Wilderness’.

18 “(25) LITTLE RIVER WILDERNESS.—Certain
19 National Forest System land in the George Wash-
20 ington and Jefferson National Forests comprising
21 approximately 12,461 acres, as generally depicted on
22 the applicable map filed under section 8404(d)(1)(B)
23 of the Rural Prosperity and Food Security Act of
24 2024, which shall be known as the ‘Little River Wil-
25 derness’.

1 “(26) BEECH LICK KNOB WILDERNESS.—Cer-
2 tain National Forest System land in the George
3 Washington and Jefferson National Forests com-
4 prising approximately 5,779 acres, as generally de-
5 picted on the applicable map filed under section
6 8404(d)(1)(B) of the Rural Prosperity and Food Se-
7 curity Act of 2024, which shall be known as the
8 ‘Beech Lick Knob Wilderness’.”.

9 (d) MAPS AND BOUNDARY DESCRIPTIONS.—

10 (1) FILING.—As soon as practicable after the
11 date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary shall
12 file with the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition,
13 and Forestry of the Senate and the Committee on
14 Natural Resources and the Committee on Agri-
15 culture of the House of Representatives maps and
16 boundary descriptions of—

17 (A) the National Scenic Area; and

18 (B) each of the Wilderness Areas.

19 (2) FORCE AND EFFECT.—The maps and
20 boundary descriptions filed under paragraph (1)
21 shall have the same force and effect as if included
22 in this section, except that the Secretary may correct
23 clerical and typographical errors in the maps and
24 boundary descriptions.

1 (3) MAPS CONTROL.—In the case of any dis-
2 crepancy between the acreage of the National Scenic
3 Area or a Wilderness Area and the applicable map
4 filed under paragraph (1), the applicable map filed
5 under that paragraph shall control.

6 (4) AVAILABILITY.—The maps and boundary
7 descriptions filed under paragraph (1) shall be on
8 file and available for public inspection in the office
9 of the Chief of the Forest Service.

10 **SEC. 8405. FLATSIDE-BETHUNE WILDERNESS.**

11 (a) ADDITIONS TO FLATSIDE WILDERNESS.—Section
12 3(d) of Arkansas Wilderness Act of 1984 (Public Law 98–
13 508; 98 Stat. 2349; 132 Stat. 5520) is amended—

14 (1) by striking “1984 and” and inserting
15 “1984,”; and

16 (2) by inserting “and certain land in the
17 Ouachita National Forest, which comprise approxi-
18 mately 2,215 acres, generally depicted as ‘Land Pro-
19 posed for Wilderness Designation’ on the map enti-
20 tled ‘Flatside Wilderness, Proposed Addition Des-
21 ignation’, dated September 29, 2022,” after
22 “2018,”.

23 (b) FIRE, INSECTS, AND DISEASES.—Nothing in this
24 section or the amendment made by subsection (a) shall
25 be construed to limit the authority of the Secretary under

1 section 4(d)(1) of the Wilderness Act (16 U.S.C.
2 1133(d)(1)) in accordance with existing laws (including
3 regulations).

4 (c) DESIGNATION OF WILDERNESS ADDITION.—

5 (1) IN GENERAL.—The wilderness designated
6 by section 3(d) of Arkansas Wilderness Act of 1984
7 (Public Law 98–508; 98 Stat. 2349) shall be known
8 as the “Flatside-Bethune Wilderness”.

9 (2) REFERENCES.—Any reference in a law,
10 map, regulation, document, paper, or other record of
11 the United States to the Flatside Wilderness shall be
12 deemed to be a reference to the “Flatside-Bethune
13 Wilderness”.

14 **SEC. 8406. SHAWNEE NATIONAL FOREST DESIGNATIONS.**

15 (a) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

16 (1) DESIGNATED NATURAL AREA.—The term
17 “designated natural area” means an area deter-
18 mined to be of exceptional ecological, botanical, geo-
19 logic, scenic, or archeological value by—

20 (A) the Secretary; and

21 (B)(i) the State of Illinois; or

22 (ii) the Secretary of the Interior, acting
23 through the Director of the National Park
24 Service.

1 (2) DESIGNATED RESEARCH NATURAL AREA.—

2 The term “designated research natural area” means
3 an area that has been selected by the Secretary, and
4 is managed by the Forest Service, for scientific re-
5 search value.

6 (3) MAP.—The term “map” means the map
7 prepared and submitted by the Forest Service under
8 subsection (e)(1).

9 (4) SECRETARY.—The term “Secretary” means
10 the Secretary, acting through the Chief of the For-
11 est Service.

12 (5) SPECIAL MANAGEMENT AREA.—The term
13 “Special Management Area” means a Special Man-
14 agement Area established by subsection (c)(1).

15 (b) CAMP HUTCHINS WILDERNESS.—

16 (1) ADDITION TO THE NATIONAL WILDERNESS
17 PRESERVATION SYSTEM.—In accordance with the
18 Wilderness Act (16 U.S.C. 1131 et seq.), certain
19 land in the Shawnee National Forest in the State of
20 Illinois managed by the Forest Service, comprising
21 approximately 750 acres and generally depicted on
22 the map, is designated as wilderness and as a com-
23 ponent of the National Wilderness Preservation Sys-
24 tem, and shall be known as the “Camp Hutchins
25 Wilderness”.

1 (2) MANAGEMENT.—Subject to valid existing
2 rights, the Camp Hutchins Wilderness shall be ad-
3 ministered by the Secretary in accordance with the
4 Wilderness Act (16 U.S.C. 1131 et seq.), except that
5 any reference in that Act to the effective date shall
6 be considered to be a reference to the date of enact-
7 ment of this Act.

8 (3) HIKING TRAIL.—Forest Road 211 shall be
9 closed to public vehicular traffic and shall be main-
10 tained as a hiking trail, including the eastern exten-
11 sion of Forest Road 211 formerly known as the
12 “Hutchins Creek Spur” up to the area known as
13 “Hutchins Creek Corridor”, as generally depicted on
14 the map.

15 (4) WITHDRAWAL.—Subject to valid existing
16 rights, all Federal land within the Camp Hutchins
17 Wilderness, including any land or interest in land
18 that is acquired by the United States within the
19 Camp Hutchins Wilderness after the date of enact-
20 ment of this Act, is withdrawn from—

21 (A) entry, appropriation, or disposal under
22 the public land laws;

23 (B) location, entry, and patent under the
24 mining laws; and

1 (C) operation of the mineral leasing, min-
2 eral materials, and geothermal leasing laws.

3 (c) ESTABLISHMENT OF SPECIAL MANAGEMENT
4 AREAS.—

5 (1) ESTABLISHMENT.—Subject to valid existing
6 rights, the following Special Management Areas
7 within the Shawnee National Forest in the State of
8 Illinois are established:

9 (A) CAMP HUTCHINS SPECIAL MANAGE-
10 MENT AREA.—Certain Federal land managed by
11 the Forest Service, comprising approximately
12 2,953 acres and generally depicted on the map.

13 (B) RIPPLE HOLLOW SPECIAL MANAGE-
14 MENT AREA.—Certain Federal land managed by
15 the Forest Service, comprising approximately
16 3,445 acres and generally depicted on the map.

17 (C) BURKE BRANCH SPECIAL MANAGE-
18 MENT AREA.—Certain Federal land managed by
19 the Forest Service, comprising approximately
20 6,310 acres and generally depicted on the map.

21 (2) PURPOSES.—The purposes of the Special
22 Management Areas are—

23 (A) to conserve, protect, and enhance the
24 ecological, scenic, wildlife, recreational, cultural,
25 historic, educational, and scientific resources of

1 the Special Management Areas for the benefit
2 and enjoyment of present and future genera-
3 tions;

4 (B) to promote biodiversity and control
5 invasive species; and

6 (C) to allow for the continuation of res-
7 toration efforts and scientific study of the des-
8 igned natural areas and designated research
9 natural areas within the Special Management
10 Areas.

11 (d) ADMINISTRATION OF SPECIAL MANAGEMENT
12 AREAS.—

13 (1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall admin-
14 ister the Special Management Areas—

15 (A) in a manner that conserves, protects,
16 and enhances the purposes for which the Spe-
17 cial Management Areas are established; and

18 (B) in accordance with—

19 (i) this subsection; and

20 (ii) other applicable laws.

21 (2) MANAGEMENT PLAN.—Not later than 3
22 years after the date of enactment of this Act, the
23 Secretary shall develop a comprehensive manage-
24 ment plan for the long-term protection and manage-
25 ment of the Special Management Areas.

1 (3) USES.—

2 (A) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall
3 allow only uses of the Special Management
4 Areas that are consistent with the purposes for
5 which the Special Management Areas are estab-
6 lished.

7 (B) PRESCRIBED FIRE.—The Secretary
8 may use prescribed fire to sustain the ecological
9 structure and composition of the Special Man-
10 agement Areas to sustain the biodiversity of the
11 Special Management Areas.

12 (C) MANAGEMENT TOOLS.—

13 (i) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary may
14 use herbicides, insecticides, and mecha-
15 nized equipment in the control of fire, in-
16 sects, disease, and invasive species, includ-
17 ing the use of chainsaws, drones, aircraft,
18 pickup trucks, all-terrain vehicles, and rub-
19 ber and tracked vehicles to carry out man-
20 agement of the Special Management Areas
21 approved by the Secretary.

22 (ii) REQUIREMENT.—In carrying out
23 management of the Special Management
24 Areas, the Secretary shall use the best
25 available technology and science.

1 (D) MOTORIZED VEHICLES.—Except in
2 cases in which motorized vehicles are needed for
3 administrative purposes, emergency response, or
4 access on established roads accessing trailheads,
5 or are essential to provide off-road access for
6 ecosystem management of habitat, the use of
7 motor vehicles in the Special Management
8 Areas shall be prohibited.

9 (E) ROADS.—The Secretary shall decom-
10 mission and remove roads within the Special
11 Management Areas, except roads needed for
12 management or access to trailheads, as soon as
13 practicable.

14 (F) TIMBER.—

15 (i) IN GENERAL.—Commercial timber
16 harvesting, except as needed for fire, in-
17 sect, and disease control, and for visitor
18 and administrative safety, in the Special
19 Management Areas shall be prohibited.

20 (ii) ACTIVITIES PERMITTED.—
21 Thinning of trees and other vegetation in
22 the Special Management Areas shall be
23 permitted for restoration of the designated
24 natural areas and designated research nat-

1 ural areas and to further the management
2 objectives described in this subsection.

3 (G) INHOLDINGS.—

4 (i) IN GENERAL.—Access to private
5 inholdings in the Special Management
6 Areas shall be preserved.

7 (ii) ACQUISITIONS.—The Secretary
8 shall acquire any private inholdings in the
9 Special Management Areas by purchase or
10 exchange as soon as feasible.

11 (H) HUNTING AND TRAPPING.—

12 (i) HUNTING.—Hunting shall be per-
13 mitted in the Special Management Areas
14 as permitted by the State of Illinois and in
15 accordance with regulations of the State of
16 Illinois and regulations of the Forest Serv-
17 ice.

18 (ii) TRAPPING.—Trapping shall not be
19 permitted in the Special Management
20 Areas.

21 (iii) ACCESS BY MOTORIZED VEHI-
22 CLES.—Access within the Special Manage-
23 ment Areas by hunters in motorized vehi-
24 cles shall be prohibited.

1 (I) VOLUNTEER RESTORATION AND RE-
2 SEARCH.—

3 (i) VOLUNTEERS.—The Secretary
4 shall allow organized groups of volunteers
5 to participate in ecological restoration ac-
6 tivities under the guidance of Forest Serv-
7 ice ecologists and botanists within the Spe-
8 cial Management Areas through coopera-
9 tive agreements.

10 (ii) ACCESS FOR RESEARCH PUR-
11 POSES.—The Secretary shall allow access
12 to the Special Management Areas for sci-
13 entific research by qualified individuals
14 and organizations, as determined by the
15 Secretary.

16 (J) ONGOING MANAGEMENT DECISIONS.—
17 The Supervisor of the Shawnee National Forest
18 shall have the authority, without requiring the
19 permission of the Secretary, to make manage-
20 ment decisions concerning any designated nat-
21 ural area or designated research natural area
22 within the Special Management Areas pursuant
23 to the land and resource management plan for
24 the Shawnee National Forest.

1 (4) WITHDRAWAL.—Subject to valid existing
2 rights, all Federal land within the Special Manage-
3 ment Areas, including any land or interest in land
4 that is acquired by the United States within the
5 Special Management Areas after the date of enact-
6 ment of this Act, is withdrawn from—

7 (A) entry, appropriation, or disposal under
8 the public land laws;

9 (B) location, entry, and patent under the
10 mining laws; and

11 (C) operation of the mineral leasing, min-
12 eral materials, and geothermal leasing laws.

13 (5) MAPS AND LEGAL DESCRIPTIONS.—As soon
14 as practicable after the date of enactment of this
15 Act, the Secretary shall transmit to the Committee
16 on Energy and Natural Resources of the Senate and
17 the Committee on Natural Resources of the House
18 of Representatives the maps and legal descriptions
19 of each of the Special Management Areas filed under
20 subsection (e)(1).

21 (6) PUBLIC INFORMATION.—Annually, the Sec-
22 retary shall make publicly available on the website of
23 the Shawnee National Forest information describing
24 the progress in achieving the management objectives
25 described in this subsection.

1 (e) MAP AND LEGAL DESCRIPTION.—

2 (1) IN GENERAL.—As soon as practicable after
3 the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary
4 shall file with the Committee on Agriculture, Nutri-
5 tion, and Forestry of the Senate and the Committee
6 on Agriculture of the House of Representatives a
7 map and legal description that contains maps and
8 boundary descriptions of—

9 (A) the Camp Hutchins Wilderness; and

10 (B) each of the Special Management
11 Areas.

12 (2) EFFECT.—The map and legal description
13 filed under paragraph (1) shall have the same force
14 and effect as if included in this Act, except that the
15 Secretary may correct clerical and typographical er-
16 rors in the map and legal description.

17 (3) AVAILABILITY.—The map and legal descrip-
18 tion filed under paragraph (1) shall be on file and
19 available for public inspection in the appropriate of-
20 fice of the Secretary and on the Forest Service
21 website.

22 **SEC. 8407. PATRICK LEAHY WILDERNESS.**

23 (a) DESIGNATION OF PATRICK LEAHY WILDER-
24 NESS.—

1 (1) VERMONT WILDERNESS ACT OF 1984
2 AMENDMENT.—Section 102(1) of the Vermont Wil-
3 derness Act of 1984 (16 U.S.C. 1132 note; Public
4 Law 98–322; 98 Stat. 254) is amended by striking
5 “known as the Breadloaf Wilderness” and inserting
6 “known as the ‘Patrick Leahy Wilderness’”.

7 (2) NEW ENGLAND WILDERNESS ACT OF 2006
8 AMENDMENT.—Section 211(3) of the New England
9 Wilderness Act of 2006 (16 U.S.C. 1132 note; Pub-
10 lic Law 109–382; 120 Stat. 2675) is amended by
11 striking “known as the ‘Breadloaf Wilderness’” and
12 inserting “known as the ‘Patrick Leahy Wilder-
13 ness’”.

14 (b) REFERENCES.—Any reference in any law, map,
15 regulation, order, document, paper, or other record of the
16 United States to the Breadloaf Wilderness shall be deemed
17 to be a reference to the “Patrick Leahy Wilderness”.

18 **SEC. 8408. BLACK RIVER STATE FOREST RELEASE OF RE-**
19 **VERSIONARY INTEREST.**

20 (a) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

21 (1) DELI, INC.—The term “Deli, Inc.” means
22 Deli, Inc., a sphagnum moss production business lo-
23 cated in Millston, Wisconsin.

24 (2) DELI LAND.—The term “Deli land” means
25 the approximately 37.27 acres of land owned or

1 of 222 feet, thence south 57° east 31’
2 a distance of 1359 feet; and

3 (iii) subject to—

4 (I) any public water use or ease-
5 ments on Lee Lake; and

6 (II) any easements or restrictions
7 of record, public roadways, zoning and
8 use ordinances, and the railroad right-
9 of-way.

10 (B) A parcel of real property containing
11 approximately 5.97 acres located in the
12 SW¹/₄SW¹/₄ sec. 20, T. 20 N., R. 4 W., Town
13 of Millston, Jackson County, Wisconsin, com-
14 prising lot 7 of Certified Survey Map No. 4483,
15 as recorded in volume 19S of the certified sur-
16 vey maps, page 334, as Document No. 413440
17 in the Jackson County Register of Deeds.

18 (3) MAP.—The term “map” means the map en-
19 titled “Black River State Forest – Deli, Inc.” and
20 dated June 26, 2023.

21 (4) STATE.—The term “State” means the State
22 of Wisconsin.

23 (5) STATE FOREST LAND.—The term “State
24 forest land” means the approximately 31.83 acres of
25 land located in the Black River State Forest in

1 Millston, Wisconsin, as depicted on the map and as
2 described as follows:

3 (A) A parcel containing 23.13 acres—

4 (i) comprising the portion of the
5 E¹/₂SE¹/₄ sec. 20, T. 20 N., R. 2. W.,
6 Town of Millston, Jackson County, Wis-
7 consin, lying south of the Interstate High-
8 way 94 southern right-of-way; and

9 (ii) excluding a triangular parcel in
10 the southwest corner described as com-
11 mencing at the southwest corner, thence
12 east 260 feet, thence northwesterly to a
13 point on the west boundary thereof 200
14 feet north of the southwest corner, thence
15 south to the place of beginning.

16 (B) A parcel containing 8.70 acres com-
17 prising the portion of the NE¹/₄NE¹/₄ sec. 29,
18 T. 20 N., R. 2. W., Town of Millston, Jackson
19 County, Wisconsin, lying north of the railroad
20 right-of-way, forming a triangular piece and de-
21 scribed as commencing at the northeast corner
22 of that quarter-quarter section, thence west
23 1010 feet to the north line of the railroad right-
24 of-way, thence southeasterly along the boundary
25 of the railroad to the east line of that quarter-

1 quarter section, thence north on the east line
2 750 feet to the place of beginning.

3 (b) CONDITIONAL RELEASE.—

4 (1) FINDINGS.—Congress finds that—

5 (A) the State forest land is subject to a re-
6 versionary interest of the United States pursu-
7 ant to section 32(c) of The Bankhead-Jones
8 Farm Tenant Act (7 U.S.C. 1011(c)), requiring
9 that the State forest land be used for public
10 purposes in perpetuity; and

11 (B) the State and Deli, Inc. have agreed
12 that the State will convey the State forest land
13 in exchange for the Deli land, and the Deli land
14 will be added to Black River State Forest in the
15 State.

16 (2) CONDITIONAL RELEASE.—If the State of-
17 fers in a written agreement to convey the State for-
18 est land to Deli, Inc., in exchange for the conveyance
19 of the Deli land to the State—

20 (A) the reversionary interest of the United
21 States in the State forest land shall be released;
22 and

23 (B) the Secretary shall provide, as expedi-
24 tiously as possible, recordable evidence of the

1 release under subparagraph (A) in the form of
2 a quitclaim deed, which shall—

3 (i) convey any interest of the United
4 States in the State forest land without
5 consideration; and

6 (ii) be provided to the State for re-
7 cording before the exchange deeds are re-
8 corded.

9 (3) CORRECTIONS.—The Secretary, in consulta-
10 tion with the State, may make any necessary correc-
11 tions to the legal description of the State forest land
12 for purposes of the quitclaim deed described in para-
13 graph (2)(B).

14 **SEC. 8409. BENTON MACKAYE NATIONAL SCENIC TRAIL**
15 **FEASIBILITY STUDY.**

16 (a) FINDINGS.—Congress finds that the Benton
17 MacKaye Trail—

18 (1) is a scenic, nonmotorized trail that traverses
19 approximately 287 miles over some of the most re-
20 nowned forests and mountains in the States of Geor-
21 gia, Tennessee, and North Carolina;

22 (2) showcases a wide variety of scenic views, in-
23 cluding high-elevation peaks, mature forests, and se-
24 cluded waterfalls;

1 (3) passes through wilderness that is rich with
2 biodiversity;

3 (4) passes through 6 designated wilderness
4 areas, the Great Smoky Mountains National Park,
5 and the Chattahoochee-Oconee, Cherokee, and
6 Nantahala National Forests;

7 (5) provides a wide array of easily accessible
8 hikes for novice and intermediate hikers, as well as
9 more challenging trails for backpacking;

10 (6) supports economic opportunities for numer-
11 ous rural communities that benefit from the visitors
12 to the Benton MacKaye Trail spending their money
13 on accommodations, food, and outdoor supplies;

14 (7) runs from Springer Mountain in the State
15 of Georgia, through the State of Tennessee, and ex-
16 tends through the Great Smoky Mountains National
17 Park in the State of North Carolina;

18 (8) is physically accessible; and

19 (9) can be maintained at a minimal cost be-
20 cause—

21 (A) the Benton MacKaye Trail has been
22 maintained at the same length since 2005;

23 (B) 95 percent of the Benton MacKaye
24 Trail is located on Federal land; and

1 (C) the Benton MacKaye Trail has been
2 successfully constructed, maintained, and man-
3 aged by the Benton MacKaye Trail Association
4 since 1980.

5 (b) FEASIBILITY STUDY.—Section 5(c) of the Na-
6 tional Trails System Act (16 U.S.C. 1244(c)) is amended
7 by adding at the end the following:

8 “(50) BENTON MACKAYE TRAIL.—

9 “(A) IN GENERAL.—The Benton MacKaye
10 Trail, a scenic, nonmotorized trail that tra-
11 verses approximately 287 miles in the States of
12 Georgia, Tennessee, and North Carolina.

13 “(B) STUDY.—Not later than 1 year after
14 the date of enactment of this paragraph, the
15 Secretary of Agriculture, in consultation with
16 interested organizations (including the Benton
17 MacKaye Trail Association), shall complete and
18 submit to Congress the feasibility study for des-
19 ignating the Benton MacKaye Trail as a na-
20 tional scenic trail.”.

21 **Subtitle E—Other Matters**

22 **SEC. 8501. URBAN AND COMMUNITY FORESTRY.**

23 (a) IN GENERAL.—Section 9 of the Cooperative For-
24 estry Assistance Act of 1978 (16 U.S.C. 2105) is amend-
25 ed—

1 (1) in subsection (a)—

2 (A) by redesignating paragraphs (3), (4),
3 (5), and (6) as subparagraphs (A), (D), (E),
4 and (F), respectively, and indenting appro-
5 priately;

6 (B) in paragraph (2)—

7 (i) in the matter preceding subpara-
8 graph (A) (as so redesignated), by striking
9 “residents” and inserting “residents be-
10 cause—”;

11 (ii) by inserting after subparagraph
12 (A) (as so redesignated) the following:

13 “(B) the maintenance and management of
14 an urban forest offers additional opportunities
15 relating to workforce development and job cre-
16 ation;

17 “(C) the presence of a healthy and well-
18 maintained urban forest can support
19 stormwater management;”;

20 (iii) in subparagraph (E) (as so redesi-
21 gnated)—

22 (I) by inserting “improving air
23 quality,” after “heat island effect;”;
24 and

1 (II) by adding “and” after the
2 semicolon at the end; and

3 (iv) in subparagraph (F) (as so reded-
4 igned), by striking “; and” and inserting
5 “, including by improving the physical and
6 mental health of community residents;”;

7 (C) in paragraph (7), by striking “commu-
8 nities.” and inserting “communities;”;

9 (D) by redesignating paragraph (7) as
10 paragraph (3); and

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

12 “(4) according to research by the Forest Serv-
13 ice, the estimated value of benefits described in
14 paragraph (2) exceeds \$18,000,000,000;

15 “(5) urban forest canopy cover is inequitably
16 distributed among racial groups and income levels,
17 exacerbating disparities in exposure, for example, to
18 the urban heat island effect, and increasing related
19 health risks and financial burdens relating to cool-
20 ing;

21 “(6) the effects of historical discriminatory poli-
22 cies, such as redlining, continue to have effects on
23 urban environments;

24 “(7) a recent analysis shows that—

1 “(A) urbanized neighborhoods with mostly
2 people of color have 33 percent less tree canopy
3 on average than majority white neighborhoods;
4 and

5 “(B) low-income neighborhoods have 41
6 percent less tree cover than neighborhoods with
7 low rates of poverty;

8 “(8) additional analyses of cities in the United
9 States found that—

10 “(A) communities primarily inhabited by
11 United States-born, white populations contain
12 more than twice the urban forest canopy cover
13 of communities primarily inhabited by racial
14 and ethnic minorities; and

15 “(B) there were elevated land tempera-
16 tures in formerly redlined areas compared to
17 their nonredlined counterparts, by an average
18 2.6 degrees Celsius and up to 7 degrees Celsius;
19 and

20 “(9) to reduce disparities in the enjoyment of
21 the social, environmental, and economic benefits of
22 healthy and well-maintained urban forests and to
23 manage risks relating to heat exposure and other
24 urban stressors, the Federal Government should ac-
25 celerate actions to enhance the health and resilience

1 of urban forests, with investment in priority commu-
2 nities.”;

3 (2) in subsection (c)—

4 (A) in the first sentence, by striking “The
5 Secretary” and inserting the following:

6 “(1) ASSISTANCE FOR STATES.—

7 “(A) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary”;

8 (B) in paragraph (1) (as so designated)—

9 (i) in subparagraph (A) (as so des-
10 ignated), in the second sentence, by strik-
11 ing “In providing such assistance” and in-
12 serting the following:

13 “(B) COOPERATION WITH THE PUBLIC.—

14 In providing assistance under subparagraph
15 (A)”;

16 (ii) in subparagraph (B) (as so des-
17 ignated), by striking “organizations. The
18 Secretary” and inserting the following:
19 “organizations and institutions of higher
20 education.

21 “(C) DIRECT COOPERATION WITH LOCAL
22 GOVERNMENTS.—The Secretary”;

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

24 “(2) OFFICE OF URBAN AND COMMUNITY FOR-
25 ESTRY.—

1 “(A) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall
2 establish in the Forest Service an Office of
3 Urban and Community Forestry.

4 “(B) DIRECTOR.—The Chief of the Forest
5 Service shall appoint a senior official to serve as
6 the Director of the Office of Urban and Com-
7 munity Forestry, which shall not be required to
8 be a Senior Executive Service position (as de-
9 fined in section 3132(a) of title 5, United
10 States Code).

11 “(C) MISSION.—The mission of the Office
12 of Urban and Community Forestry shall be to
13 promote the purposes described in subsection
14 (b), including administering the programs and
15 requirements described in this section.

16 “(D) DUTIES.—The Director of the Office
17 of Urban and Community Forestry shall be re-
18 sponsible for carrying out the mission described
19 in subparagraph (C), including by—

20 “(i) managing urban and community
21 forest programs, including programs for
22 State and local tree planting and mainte-
23 nance;

24 “(ii) engaging in stakeholder relations
25 and developing external partnerships in

1 support of urban and community forest
2 programs;

3 “(iii) identifying common State and
4 municipal best practices for navigating
5 local policies for urban and community for-
6 estry;

7 “(iv) coordinating the nationwide net-
8 works of urban and community forest pro-
9 grams;

10 “(v) providing strategic guidance for
11 workforce development for urban and com-
12 munity forest programs and longevity of
13 urban forests;

14 “(vi) administering awards provided
15 under this section;

16 “(vii) advising the Chief of the Forest
17 Service on urban and community forestry;
18 and

19 “(viii) coordinating with agencies and
20 officials of the Department of Agriculture
21 and the Forest Service to administer or
22 update urban and community forest pro-
23 grams.”;

24 (3) in subsection (d)—

1 (A) in the matter preceding paragraph (1),
2 in the first sentence, by striking “organiza-
3 tions,” and inserting “organizations and insti-
4 tutions of higher education,”;

5 (B) in paragraph (1)—

6 (i) by striking “and determining” and
7 inserting “determining”; and

8 (ii) by inserting “, and measuring and
9 monitoring the atmospheric impacts of
10 urban and community forests” before the
11 semicolon at the end;

12 (C) in paragraph (4), by striking “and” at
13 the end;

14 (D) in paragraph (5), by striking the pe-
15 riod at the end and inserting “; and”; and

16 (E) by adding at the end the following:

17 “(6) in connection with the Forest and Inven-
18 tory Analysis program, analyze data regarding the
19 carbon emissions, sequestration, storage, and related
20 atmospheric impacts of urban and community for-
21 ests.”;

22 (4) in subsection (g)—

23 (A) in paragraph (2)(A)—

24 (i) in the matter preceding clause (i),
25 by striking “15” and inserting “16”;

1 (ii) in each of clauses (i) through
2 (viii), by striking the comma at the end
3 and inserting a period;

4 (iii) in clause (ix), by striking “, and”
5 at the end and inserting a period; and

6 (iv) by striking clause (x) and insert-
7 ing the following:

8 “(x) 3 members who are not officers
9 or employees of any governmental body
10 and who have expertise and have been ac-
11 tive in urban and community forestry, of
12 whom—

13 “(I) 1 is a resident of a commu-
14 nity with a population of less than
15 50,000 as of the most recent census;
16 and

17 “(II) 1 is a resident of an under-
18 served community, as determined by
19 the Secretary, with a population of
20 greater than 50,000 as of the most re-
21 cent census.”; and

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

23 “(7) MEETINGS.—The Council shall meet not
24 less frequently than annually.”;

25 (5) by striking subsection (i);

1 (6) by redesignating subsection (h) as sub-
2 section (j);

3 (7) by inserting after subsection (g) the fol-
4 lowing:

5 “(h) MICROFOREST FUNDING.—

6 “(1) AMOUNTS AWARDED.—Of the amount
7 made available under subsection (k) for each fiscal
8 year, not less than \$150,000, but not more than 1
9 percent, shall be awarded for projects that establish
10 microforests and used for other expenses necessary
11 to support those microforests, as determined by the
12 Secretary.

13 “(2) CONSIDERATIONS.—In selecting projects
14 under paragraph (1), the Secretary shall give pref-
15 erence to eligible parcels that—

16 “(A) are underutilized, degraded,
17 deindustrialized, barren, or fractional;

18 “(B) are located in an area where green
19 space is lacking;

20 “(C) provide ecological benefits, including
21 storm water management, heat reduction, and
22 wildlife habitat; and

23 “(D) are geographically, economically, and
24 ecologically diverse.

25 “(i) WAIVER OF COST SHARE REQUIREMENTS.—

1 “(1) IN GENERAL.—Any non-Federal cost-share
2 requirement otherwise applicable to projects carried
3 out under this section may be waived at the discre-
4 tion of the Secretary.

5 “(2) PRIORITY.—In providing waivers under
6 paragraph (1), the Secretary shall give priority to a
7 project carried out by a nonprofit organization or an
8 Indian Tribe (as defined in section 4 of the Indian
9 Self-Determination and Education Assistance Act
10 (25 U.S.C. 5304)) that benefits an underserved com-
11 munity.”; and

12 (8) by adding at the end the following:

13 “(k) FUNDING.—

14 “(1) MANDATORY FUNDING.—There is appro-
15 priated, out of amounts in the Treasury not other-
16 wise appropriated, \$100,000,000 for fiscal year
17 2025 to carry out this section, to remain available
18 until expended.

19 “(2) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—
20 There is authorized to be appropriated to carry out
21 this section \$80,000,000 for each of fiscal years
22 2025 through 2029.”.

23 (b) AVAILABILITY OF FUNDS.—Nothing in the
24 amendments made by subsection (a) affects the avail-
25 ability of funds made available for the program under sec-

1 tion 9(c) of the Cooperative Forestry Assistance Act of
2 1978 (16 U.S.C. 2105(e)) before the date of enactment
3 of this Act.

4 (c) DEFINITION OF MICROFOREST.—Section 13(d) of
5 the Cooperative Forestry Assistance Act of 1978 (16
6 U.S.C. 2109(d)) is amended—

7 (1) by redesignating paragraphs (1), (2), and
8 (3) as paragraphs (3), (1), and (4), respectively; and

9 (2) by inserting after paragraph (1) (as so re-
10 designated) the following:

11 “(2) MICROFOREST.—The term ‘microforest’
12 means a dense planting of diverse, native trees and
13 related shrubs and vegetative ground covering
14 that—

15 “(A) is no greater than 1 acre;

16 “(B) is suitable for local conditions; and

17 “(C) provides ecological benefits.”.

18 **SEC. 8502. NATIONAL FOREST FOUNDATION ACT.**

19 (a) MATCHING FUNDS.—Section 405(b) of the Na-
20 tional Forest Foundation Act (16 U.S.C. 583j–3(b)) is
21 amended by striking “2023” and inserting “2029”.

22 (b) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—Section
23 410(b) of the National Forest Foundation Act (16 U.S.C.
24 583j–8(b)) is amended by striking “2023” and inserting
25 “2029”.

1 **SEC. 8503. CONVEYANCE OF FOREST SERVICE ADMINISTRA-**
2 **TIVE SITES.**

3 Section 503 of the Forest Service Facility Realign-
4 ment and Enhancement Act of 2005 (16 U.S.C. 580d
5 note; Public Law 109–54) is amended by striking sub-
6 section (f).

7 **SEC. 8504. RURAL REVITALIZATION TECHNOLOGIES.**

8 Section 2371(d)(2) of the Food, Agriculture, Con-
9 servation, and Trade Act of 1990 (7 U.S.C. 6601(d)(2))
10 is amended by striking “2023” and inserting “2029”.

11 **SEC. 8505. RESOURCE ADVISORY COMMITTEES.**

12 Section 205 of the Secure Rural Schools and Commu-
13 nity Self-Determination Act of 2000 (16 U.S.C. 7125) is
14 amended—

15 (1) in subsection (a)(4), by striking “2023”
16 each place it appears and inserting “2029”;

17 (2) in subsection (d)(6)(C), by striking “2023”
18 and inserting “2029”; and

19 (3) in subsection (g)(5), by striking “2023”
20 and inserting “2029”.

21 **SEC. 8506. RAPID OHIA DEATH.**

22 (a) DEFINITION OF RAPID OHIA DEATH.—In this
23 section, the term “Rapid Ohia Death” means the disease
24 caused by the fungal pathogen known as *Ceratocystis*
25 *fimbriata* that affects the tree of the species *Metrosideros*
26 *polymorpha*.

1 (b) COLLABORATION.—The Secretary shall collabo-
2 rate with the Secretary of the Interior and the Governors
3 of affected States and territories to address Rapid Ohia
4 Death.

5 (c) TRANSMISSION.—The Chief of the Forest Service,
6 acting through the Forest Service Institute of Pacific Is-
7 lands Forestry, and in collaboration with the Secretary of
8 the Interior, acting through the Director of the United
9 States Geological Survey, shall continue to conduct re-
10 search on Rapid Ohia Death vectors and transmission.

11 (d) UNGULATE MANAGEMENT.—The Chief of the
12 Forest Service, acting through the Forest Service Institute
13 of Pacific Islands Forestry, shall continue to collaborate
14 with the Secretary of the Interior, acting through the Di-
15 rector of the United States Fish and Wildlife Service, the
16 Governors of affected States and territories, and local
17 stakeholders to manage ungulates in Rapid Ohia Death
18 control areas on—

19 (1) Federal, State, and territorial land; and

20 (2) private land with the consent of private
21 landowners.

22 (e) RESTORATION AND RESEARCH.—The Secretary,
23 acting through the Chief of the Forest Service, shall con-
24 tinue to provide—

1 (1) financial assistance, including through
2 agreements with the Secretary of the Interior—

3 (A) to prevent the spread of Rapid Ohia
4 Death; and

5 (B) to restore the native forests of affected
6 States and territories; and

7 (2) staff and necessary infrastructure funding
8 to the Forest Service Institute of Pacific Islands
9 Forestry to conduct research on Rapid Ohia Death.

10 (f) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—For each
11 of fiscal years 2025 through 2029, there is authorized to
12 be appropriated \$5,000,000 to carry out this section, in-
13 cluding for activities carried out by the Secretary, the
14 Chief of the Forest Service, or the Secretary of the Inte-
15 rior.

16 **SEC. 8507. CIVILIAN CONSERVATION CENTERS.**

17 Public Law 91–378 (16 U.S.C. 1701 et seq.) is
18 amended by adding at the end the following:

19 **“TITLE III—CIVILIAN**
20 **CONSERVATION CENTERS**

21 **“SEC. 301. DEFINITIONS.**

22 “In this title:

23 “(1) CIVILIAN CONSERVATION CENTER.—The
24 term ‘Civilian Conservation Center’ means any resi-
25 dential workforce development or training facility for

1 underserved youth operated by the Department of
2 Agriculture or the Department of the Interior.

3 “(2) COVERED GRADUATE.—The term ‘covered
4 graduate’ means an individual who successfully com-
5 pleted a training program at a Civilian Conservation
6 Center.

7 “(3) COVERED STUDENT.—The term ‘covered
8 student’ means an individual who is enrolled in a
9 training program at a Civilian Conservation Center.

10 “(4) SECRETARY.—The term ‘Secretary’ means
11 the Secretary of Agriculture.

12 **“SEC. 302. CIVILIAN CONSERVATION CENTERS WILDFIRE**
13 **AND CONSERVATION TRAINING PROGRAM.**

14 “(a) SPECIALIZED TRAINING PROGRAMS.—The Sec-
15 retary, in coordination with the Secretary of Labor, shall
16 offer at Civilian Conservation Centers specialized training
17 programs focused on—

18 “(1) forestry and rangeland management;

19 “(2) wildland firefighting; or

20 “(3) any other topic relating to the mission of
21 the Forest Service or the public interest.

22 “(b) PRIORITIZATION.—The Secretary shall prioritize
23 offering specialized training programs under subsection
24 (a) at facilities described in section 147(d) of the Work-

1 force Innovation and Opportunity Act (29 U.S.C.
2 3197(d)).

3 **“SEC. 303. WILDLAND FIREFIGHTING WORKFORCE DEVEL-**
4 **OPMENT PILOT.**

5 “(a) IN GENERAL.—

6 “(1) EXPERIMENT, RESEARCH, OR DEMONSTRA-
7 TION PILOTS.—The Secretary, in coordination with
8 the Secretary of Labor, may carry out experimental,
9 research, or demonstration pilots to provide career
10 and technical curricula and course offerings to ad-
11 vance the missions of the Department of Agriculture
12 at Civilian Conservation Centers operated by the De-
13 partment of Agriculture under section 147(d) of the
14 Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (29
15 U.S.C. 3197(d)).

16 “(2) CURRICULA AND COURSES.—Curricula and
17 courses described in paragraph (1) include—

18 “(A) incident management and emergency
19 response logistics;

20 “(B) disaster response;

21 “(C) forest products measurement;

22 “(D) timber sale administration and prepa-
23 ration;

24 “(E) heavy equipment operation;

25 “(F) equipment and mechanical services;

- 1 “(G) industrial electrical systems;
2 “(H) machining;
3 “(I) mill operations;
4 “(J) forest restoration;
5 “(K) habitat and water quality monitoring;
6 “(L) watershed and habitat enhancement;
7 “(M) range management;
8 “(N) recreation access improvement;
9 “(O) volunteer and visitor enhancement;
10 and
11 “(P) historic preservation.

12 “(b) REQUIREMENTS.—In carrying out subsection
13 (a), the Secretary shall—

14 “(1) identify, after consulting with State gov-
15 ernments and agencies, Federal emergency manage-
16 ment and land management agencies, local commu-
17 nities, institutions of higher education, and Indian
18 Tribes, workforce needs in—

19 “(A) land management agencies;
20 “(B) forest, conservation, and recreation
21 industries; and

22 “(C) rural communities;

23 “(2) develop marketing, recruitment, and reten-
24 tion materials for the curricula and courses offered
25 under subsection (a); and

1 “(3) to the extent practicable, provide special-
2 ized staff necessary to teach curricula and courses
3 offered under subsection (a).

4 **“SEC. 304. WILDLAND FIREFIGHTING WORKFORCE EN-**
5 **HANCEMENT.**

6 “(a) RECRUITMENT GOALS AND INVESTMENTS.—

7 “(1) RECRUITMENT GOAL.—The Secretary—

8 “(A) shall set goals of—

9 “(i) hiring 300 covered graduates an-
10 nually to contribute to wildland firefighting
11 or other critical workforce needs within the
12 Department of Agriculture;

13 “(ii) a certain percentage of covered
14 graduates annually attaining employment
15 in wildland firefighting, natural resources,
16 forestry, or a related field; and

17 “(iii) a certain percentage of covered
18 graduates annually attaining employment;
19 and

20 “(B) may make investments to support the
21 recruitment, training, hiring, and retention of
22 covered graduates.

23 “(2) SIGNING BONUS.—The Secretary may pro-
24 vide for a signing bonus to enable the successful em-
25 ployment and transition of covered graduates, in-

1 including for the purpose of securing housing in rural
2 and remote communities.

3 “(b) DIRECT HIRE AUTHORITY.—For fiscal year
4 2025 and each fiscal year thereafter, the Secretary may
5 appoint, without regard to the provisions of subchapter I
6 of chapter 33 of title 5, United States Code, other than
7 sections 3303 and 3328 of that title, a covered graduate
8 directly to a position for which the covered graduate meets
9 Office of Personnel Management qualification standards.

10 “(c) PATHWAYS TO EMPLOYMENT.—The Secretary
11 shall ensure that appropriate career pathways are devel-
12 oped for covered graduates of Civilian Conservation Cen-
13 ter training programs.

14 “(d) UNDERSERVED YOUTH EMPLOYMENT.—Not-
15 withstanding any other provision of law, the Secretary
16 may employ covered students at regular rates of pay for
17 necessary hours of work.

18 “(e) USE OF COVERED STUDENTS FOR CONTRACTS,
19 AGREEMENTS, AND GRANTS.—To the maximum extent
20 practicable, the Secretary shall encourage the use of cov-
21 ered students to fulfill obligations under contracts, agree-
22 ments, and grants relevant to the training provided at a
23 Civilian Conservation Center.

1 **“SEC. 305. WILDLAND FIREFIGHTING HOUSING PILOT PRO-**
2 **GRAM.**

3 “(a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall establish a
4 pilot program to employ covered students to improve and
5 expand the housing stock owned by the Federal Govern-
6 ment for the purpose of housing wildland firefighters, vol-
7 unteers, partner crewmembers, interns, and other Federal
8 agency employees.

9 “(b) REQUIREMENTS.—In carrying out the pilot pro-
10 gram under subsection (a), the Secretary shall—

11 “(1) identify properties currently owned by the
12 Federal Government that would be appropriate
13 housing for wildland firefighters, volunteers, partner
14 crewmembers, interns, and other Federal agency em-
15 ployees;

16 “(2) identify areas where the construction of
17 new housing described in paragraph (1) would be
18 appropriate and sustainable; and

19 “(3) submit to Congress a prioritized list of
20 projects for renovation with a plan for how the Sec-
21 retary will employ covered students to repair, ren-
22 ovate, and remediate the properties identified under
23 paragraph (1).

24 **“SEC. 306. REPORT.**

25 “Not later than 1 year after the date of enactment
26 of this title, the Secretary shall submit to the Committee

1 on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry of the Senate and
2 the Committee on Agriculture of the House of Representa-
3 tives a report—

4 “(1) describing underutilized capacity at Civil-
5 ian Conservation Centers, based on an assessment
6 conducted by the Secretary; and

7 “(2) identifying the investments, improvements,
8 and efficiencies necessary to utilize the full capacity
9 of Civilian Conservation Centers.

10 **“SEC. 307. AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.**

11 “There are authorized to be appropriated to the Sec-
12 retary such sums as are necessary to carry out this title
13 for each fiscal year.”.

14 **SEC. 8508. SPECIAL USE AUTHORIZATION RENTAL FEE**
15 **WAIVERS.**

16 Section 504(g) of the Federal Land Policy and Man-
17 agement Act of 1976 (43 U.S.C. 1764(g)) is amended—

18 (1) by striking “(g) The holder” and inserting
19 the following:

20 “(g) RENTAL PAYMENTS.—

21 “(1) IN GENERAL.—The holder”; and

22 (2) by adding at the end the following:

23 “(2) WAIVER.—The rental fee and other fees
24 related to a special use authorization for the use and
25 occupancy of National Forest System land shall be

1 waived by the Secretary of Agriculture, acting
2 through the Chief of the Forest Service, when equi-
3 table and in the public interest, in any of the fol-
4 lowing circumstances:

5 “(A) The holder of the special use author-
6 ization is a State or local government or any
7 agency or instrumentality thereof, excluding
8 municipal utilities and cooperatives whose prin-
9 cipal source of revenue from the authorized use
10 is customer charges.

11 “(B) The holder of the special use author-
12 ization—

13 “(i) is a nonprofit association or non-
14 profit corporation that—

15 “(I) is not controlled or owned by
16 a profitmaking corporation or busi-
17 ness enterprise; and

18 “(II) is engaged in public or
19 semi-public activity to further public
20 health, safety, or welfare; and

21 “(ii) does not use funds derived
22 through the special use authorization—

23 “(I) to increase the value of the
24 authorized improvements owned by
25 the holder; or

1 “(II) to support other activities
2 of the holder.

3 “(C) The holder of the special use author-
4 ization is an amateur station, is an amateur op-
5 erator, or provides amateur radio services (as
6 those terms are defined in section 97.3 of title
7 47, Code of Federal Regulations (or successor
8 regulations)).

9 “(D) Such other circumstances as the Sec-
10 retary of Agriculture, acting through the Chief
11 of the Forest Service, may establish by regula-
12 tion.”.

13 **SEC. 8509. SPECIAL FOREST PRODUCTS PROGRAM.**

14 (a) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

15 (1) FOREST BOTANICAL PRODUCT.—

16 (A) IN GENERAL.—The term “forest bo-
17 tanical product” means any naturally occurring
18 mushroom, fungus, flower, seed, root, bark,
19 leaf, berry, bough, bryophyte, bulb, burl, cone,
20 epiphyte, fern, forb, grass, moss, nut, pine
21 straw, sedge, shrub, transplant, tree sap, or
22 other vegetation (or portion thereof) that grows
23 on National Forest System land.

24 (B) EXCLUSIONS.—The term “forest bo-
25 tanical product” does not include trees, or por-

1 tions of trees, except as provided in regulations
2 issued under section 339 of the Department of
3 the Interior and Related Agencies Appropria-
4 tions Act, 2000 (16 U.S.C. 528 note; Public
5 Law 106–113), by the Secretary before the date
6 of enactment of this Act.

7 (2) NATIONAL FOREST SYSTEM.—The term
8 “National Forest System” has the meaning given
9 the term in section 11(a) of the Forest and Range-
10 land Renewable Resources Planning Act of 1974 (16
11 U.S.C. 1609(a)).

12 (b) RECOVERY OF FAIR MARKET VALUE FOR PROD-
13 UCTS.—

14 (1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary, acting
15 through the Chief of the Forest Service, shall estab-
16 lish and carry out a program to charge and collect
17 fees under subsection (c) for forest botanical prod-
18 ucts harvested on National Forest System land.

19 (2) APPRAISAL METHODS; BIDDING PROCE-
20 DURES.—The Secretary, acting through the Chief of
21 the Forest Service, shall establish a fee system based
22 on fair market value for forest botanical products
23 harvested on National Forest System land.

24 (c) FEES.—

1 (1) IMPOSITION AND COLLECTION.—The Sec-
2 retary shall charge and collect fees from persons who
3 harvest forest botanical products on National Forest
4 System land.

5 (2) AMOUNT OF FEE.—The fees collected under
6 paragraph (1) shall be based on the fair market
7 value of the harvested forest botanical products de-
8 scribed in that paragraph and the costs incurred by
9 the Secretary associated with the administration of
10 the program under this section, including the costs
11 of granting, modifying, monitoring, and other envi-
12 ronmental or other analyses.

13 (3) SECURITY.—The Secretary, acting through
14 the Chief of the Forest Service, may require a per-
15 son assessed a fee under this subsection to provide
16 security to ensure that the Secretary receives the
17 fees imposed under this subsection from the person.

18 (d) SUSTAINABLE HARVEST LEVELS FOR FOREST
19 BOTANICAL PRODUCTS.—

20 (1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary, acting
21 through the Chief of the Forest Service, shall—

22 (A) conduct appropriate analyses to deter-
23 mine whether and how the harvest of forest bo-
24 tanical products on National Forest System

1 land can be conducted on a sustainable basis;
2 and

3 (B) establish procedures and timeframes to
4 monitor and revise the harvest levels established
5 for forest botanical products.

6 (2) PROHIBITION ON HARVEST IN EXCESS OF
7 SUSTAINABLE LEVELS.—The Secretary, acting
8 through the Chief of the Forest Service, may not
9 permit under the program under this section the
10 harvest of forest botanical products on National
11 Forest System land at levels in excess of the sus-
12 tained yield of the several products and services (as
13 defined in section 4 of the Multiple-Use Sustained-
14 Yield Act of 1960 (16 U.S.C. 531)).

15 (e) WAIVER AUTHORITY.—

16 (1) PERSONAL USE.—The Secretary, acting
17 through the Chief of the Forest Service, shall estab-
18 lish a personal use harvest level for each forest bo-
19 tanical product, and the harvest of a forest botanical
20 product below that level by a person for personal use
21 shall not be subject to charges and fees under sub-
22 sections (b) and (c).

23 (2) OTHER EXCEPTIONS.—The Secretary, act-
24 ing through the Chief of the Forest Service, may
25 also waive the application of subsection (b) or (c)

1 pursuant to such regulations as the Secretary may
2 prescribe.

3 (f) DEPOSIT AND USE OF FUNDS.—

4 (1) DEPOSIT.—Funds collected under the pro-
5 gram in accordance with subsections (b) and (c)
6 shall be deposited into a special account in the
7 United States Treasury.

8 (2) FUNDS AVAILABLE.—Funds deposited into
9 the special account in accordance with paragraph (1)
10 shall remain available until expended without further
11 appropriation.

12 (3) AUTHORIZED USES.—The funds made avail-
13 able under paragraph (2) shall be expended at units
14 of the National Forest System in proportion to the
15 charges and fees collected at that unit under the
16 program under this section to pay for—

17 (A) the costs of conducting inventories of
18 forest botanical products, determining sustain-
19 able levels of harvest, monitoring and assessing
20 the impacts of harvest levels and methods, and
21 for restoration activities, including any nec-
22 essary revegetation; and

23 (B) the costs described in subsection
24 (c)(2).

1 (4) TREATMENT OF FEES.—Funds collected
2 under the program in accordance with subsections
3 (b) and (c) shall not be taken into account for the
4 purposes of the following laws:

5 (A) The sixth paragraph under the head-
6 ing “FOREST SERVICE” in the Act of May 23,
7 1908 (35 Stat. 260, chapter 192; 16 U.S.C.
8 500), and section 13 of the Act of March 1,
9 1911 (commonly known as the “Weeks Act”)
10 (36 Stat. 963, chapter 186; 16 U.S.C. 500).

11 (B) The fourteenth paragraph under the
12 heading “FOREST SERVICE” in the Act of
13 March 4, 1913 (37 Stat. 843, chapter 145; 16
14 U.S.C. 501).

15 (C) Section 33 of the Bankhead-Jones
16 Farm Tenant Act (7 U.S.C. 1012).

17 (D) The Act of August 28, 1937 (50 Stat.
18 874, chapter 876; 43 U.S.C. 2601 et seq.), and
19 the Act of May 24, 1939 (53 Stat. 753, chapter
20 144; 43 U.S.C. 2621 et seq.).

21 (E) Section 6 of the Act of June 14, 1926
22 (commonly known as the Recreation and Public
23 Purposes Act) (44 Stat. 741, chapter 578; 73
24 Stat. 111; 43 U.S.C. 869–4).

1 (F) Chapter 69 of title 31, United States
2 Code.

3 (G) Section 401 of the Act of June 15,
4 1935 (49 Stat. 383, chapter 261;16 U.S.C.
5 715s).

6 (H) Section 100904 of title 54, United
7 States Code.

8 (I) Any other provision of law relating to
9 revenue allocation.

10 (g) REPORTING REQUIREMENTS.—As soon as prac-
11 ticable after the end of each fiscal year in which the Sec-
12 retary collects charges and fees under the program in ac-
13 cordance with subsections (b) and (c) or expends funds
14 from the special account under subsection (f), the Sec-
15 retary, acting through the Chief of the Forest Service,
16 shall submit to Congress a report summarizing the activi-
17 ties of the Secretary under the program under this section,
18 including—

19 (1) the funds collected under the program in
20 accordance with subsections (a) and (b);

21 (2) the expenses incurred to carry out the pro-
22 gram under this section; and

23 (3) the expenditures made from the special ac-
24 count during that fiscal year.

1 **SEC. 8510. TECHNICAL CORRECTIONS.**

2 Section 7(l) of the Cooperative Forestry Assistance
3 Act of 1978 (16 U.S.C. 2103c(l)) is amended—

4 (1) by striking “of Vermont” each place it ap-
5 pears; and

6 (2) in paragraph (3)(B)(i)(II), by adding “and”
7 after the semicolon at the end.

8 **TITLE IX—ENERGY**

9 **SEC. 9001. DEFINITIONS.**

10 Section 9001 of the Farm Security and Rural Invest-
11 ment Act of 2002 (7 U.S.C. 8101) is amended—

12 (1) by redesignating paragraphs (13) through
13 (17) as paragraphs (14) through (18), respectively;

14 (2) by inserting after paragraph (12) the fol-
15 lowing:

16 “(13) **LIFECYCLE GREENHOUSE GAS EMIS-**
17 **SIONS.**—The term ‘lifecycle greenhouse gas emis-

18 sions’ means the aggregate quantity of greenhouse
19 gas related to the full fuel lifecycle, as determined
20 under the most recent Greenhouse gases, Regulated
21 Emissions, and Energy use in Transportation model
22 (commonly referred to as the ‘GREET model’) de-
23 veloped by Argonne National Laboratory.”; and

24 (3) by adding at the end the following:

1 “(19) ULTRA-LOW-CARBON BIOETHANOL.—The
2 term ‘ultra-low-carbon bioethanol’ means ethanol
3 that—

4 “(A) has a carbon intensity of 30 kilo-
5 grams of carbon dioxide equivalent per MMBtu
6 or less; and

7 “(B) to reduce the carbon intensity of the
8 ethanol produced, uses 1 or more of—

9 “(i) carbon capture, utilization, or se-
10 questration;

11 “(ii) renewable electricity;

12 “(iii) biomass energy;

13 “(iv) renewable natural gas thermal
14 energy;

15 “(v) low-carbon farming practices;

16 “(vi) cover crops; or

17 “(vii) any other practice recognized
18 under the model described in paragraph
19 (13) to reduce the carbon intensity of eth-
20 anol production.

21 “(20) ZERO-CARBON BIOETHANOL.—The term
22 ‘zero-carbon bioethanol’ means ethanol that—

23 “(A) has a carbon intensity of 0 kilograms
24 or less of carbon dioxide equivalent per MMBtu;
25 and

1 “(B) to reduce the carbon intensity of the
2 ethanol produced, uses 1 or more of the prac-
3 tices described in clauses (i) through (vii) of
4 paragraph (19)(B).”.

5 **SEC. 9002. BIOBASED MARKETS PROGRAM.**

6 Section 9002 of the Farm Security and Rural Invest-
7 ment Act of 2002 (7 U.S.C. 8102) is amended—

8 (1) in subsection (a)—

9 (A) in paragraph (2)—

10 (i) in subparagraph (A)(i)—

11 (I) in subclause (II)(bb), by
12 striking “and” at the end;

13 (II) in subclause (III), by strik-
14 ing the period at the end and insert-
15 ing “; and”; and

16 (III) by adding at the end the
17 following:

18 “(IV) on an annual basis, update
19 the procurement requirement de-
20 scribed in subclause (III) by increas-
21 ing the number of biobased-only con-
22 tracts or the volume purchased under
23 those contracts by not less than 5 per-
24 cent above the requirement applicable
25 for the previous year.”;

1 (ii) in subparagraph (B), by striking
2 clause (iii) and inserting the following:

3 “(iii) are available only at prices that
4 exceed the price preferences established
5 under paragraph (3)(B)(viii) for those
6 items.”; and

7 (iii) by adding at the end the fol-
8 lowing:

9 “(G) GUIDANCE.—The Secretary, in co-
10 ordination with the Office of Federal Procure-
11 ment Policy, shall issue guidance to procuring
12 agencies to consider product lifespan, savings,
13 and efficacy when making procurement deci-
14 sions under this subsection.”;

15 (B) in paragraph (3)—

16 (i) in subparagraph (B)—

17 (I) in clause (vii), by striking
18 “and” at the end;

19 (II) by redesignating clause (viii)
20 as clause (ix); and

21 (III) by inserting after clause
22 (vii) the following:

23 “(viii) establish price preferences for
24 different types of biobased products; and”;
25 and

1 (ii) by adding at the end the fol-
2 lowing:

3 “(G) MINIMUM BIOBASED CONTENT LEV-
4 ELS.—

5 “(i) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary
6 shall determine whether to increase the
7 minimum biobased content for each des-
8 ignated product category by up to 5 per-
9 cent by the end of the 5-year period fol-
10 lowing the date of enactment of this sub-
11 paragraph and every 5 years thereafter.

12 “(ii) NOTICE AND COMMENT RULE-
13 MAKING.—The Secretary shall issue regu-
14 lations in accordance with section 553 of
15 title 5, United States Code, to carry out
16 clause (i) and implement any increase in
17 the minimum biobased content for a des-
18 ignated product category pursuant to a de-
19 termination made under clause (i).”;

20 (C) in paragraph (4)—

21 (i) in subparagraph (A)—

22 (I) by striking clause (ii); and

23 (II) by redesignating clauses (iii)

24 and (iv) as clauses (ii) and (iii), re-

25 spectively;

- 1 (ii) in subparagraph (B)(i)—
2 (I) in the matter preceding sub-
3 clause (I)—
4 (aa) by inserting “and the
5 Secretary” after “Policy”; and
6 (bb) by striking “informa-
7 tion concerning—” and inserting
8 “a report that describes, for the
9 year covered by the report—”;
10 (II) in subclause (I), by inserting
11 “, including the actions taken by the
12 procuring agency to establish and im-
13 plement the biobased procurement
14 program of the procuring agency
15 under that paragraph” before the
16 semicolon;
17 (III) in subclause (IV), by strik-
18 ing “and” at the end;
19 (IV) in subclause (V), by striking
20 “and” at the end; and
21 (V) by adding at the end the fol-
22 lowing:
23 “(VI)(aa) the specific categories
24 of biobased products that are unavail-

1 able to meet the procurement needs of
2 the procuring agency; and

3 “(bb) the desired performance
4 standards and other relevant speci-
5 fications for those products; and

6 “(VII) if applicable, the procure-
7 ment requirement or updated procure-
8 ment requirement established under
9 paragraph (2)(A)(i) that the pro-
10 curing agency failed to meet and rea-
11 sons for the failure; and”;

12 (iii) by adding at the end the fol-
13 lowing:

14 “(D) VERIFICATION.—The Office of Fed-
15 eral Procurement Policy, in consultation with
16 the Secretary, shall annually—

17 “(i) collect the information required to
18 be reported under subparagraph (B) and
19 make the information publicly available;
20 and

21 “(ii) verify, using the information col-
22 lected under clause (i), that each procuring
23 agency under paragraph (2)(A)(i), as ap-
24 plicable, has established a procurement

1 program in accordance with subclause (I)
2 of that paragraph.

3 “(E) TRAINING.—

4 “(i) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 2
5 years after the date of enactment of this
6 subparagraph, each procuring agency shall
7 have completed training on biobased prod-
8 uct purchasing for the appropriate staff of
9 the procuring agency, including contracting
10 officers, purchase card managers, and pur-
11 chase card holders.

12 “(ii) MATERIALS.—The Office of Fed-
13 eral Procurement Policy, in cooperation
14 with the Secretary, shall provide training
15 materials for procuring agencies con-
16 ducting training pursuant to clause (i).

17 “(F) FEDERAL CATALOG UPDATES.—Not
18 later than 2 years after the date of the enact-
19 ment of this subparagraph, the Administrator
20 for Federal Procurement Policy, in cooperation
21 with the Secretary, shall—

22 “(i) direct the Administrator of Gen-
23 eral Services to update the Federal Pro-
24 curement Data System described in section
25 1122(a)(4) of title 41, United States Code,

1 or any successor system, to include
2 biobased product designations;

3 “(ii) direct that the System for Award
4 Management collect biobased product pur-
5 chasing data;

6 “(iii) direct that Federal online pro-
7 curement systems, including GSA Advan-
8 tage! and FedMall, include designations for
9 products that meet the guidelines under
10 paragraph (3);

11 “(iv) require, to the maximum extent
12 practicable, that Federal online procure-
13 ment systems, including GSA Advantage!
14 and FedMall, use North American Indus-
15 try Classification System codes, North
16 American Product Classification System-
17 based product codes, and other product
18 codes, as determined in consultation with
19 the Secretary, when identifying products
20 that meet the guidelines under paragraph
21 (3); and

22 “(v) require agencies with online Fed-
23 eral sales platforms to include reporting of
24 those purchases in their reporting on prod-

1 ucts that meet the guidelines under para-
2 graph (3).”;

3 (2) in subsection (b)—

4 (A) in paragraph (3), by adding at the end
5 the following:

6 “(C) REVIEW AND REGULATIONS.—

7 “(i) REVIEW.—Not later than 180
8 days after the date of enactment of the
9 Rural Prosperity and Food Security Act of
10 2024, the Secretary shall conduct a review
11 of the use of the terms ‘bio-attributed plas-
12 tic’, ‘bio-attributed product’, ‘biobased
13 plastic’, ‘biobased product’, ‘renewable
14 chemical’, and any other similar terms, to
15 determine—

16 “(I) how those terms are used on
17 products with the label described in
18 paragraph (1) and products without
19 that label; and

20 “(II) the extent to which there is
21 public confusion regarding the use of
22 those terms.

23 “(ii) REGULATIONS.—The Secretary
24 shall promulgate such regulations as the
25 Secretary determines to be appropriate to

1 ensure the integrity of the label described
2 in paragraph (1), including regulations to
3 define additional terms necessary to avoid
4 or reduce public confusion relating to the
5 label.”; and

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

7 “(5) PUBLIC MARKETING AND EDUCATION.—
8 The Secretary may conduct outreach to educate the
9 public on, and promote the use of, biobased prod-
10 ucts, including by—

11 “(A) conducting outreach to small busi-
12 nesses producing biobased products that seek a
13 label under this subsection;

14 “(B) providing information about biobased
15 product procurement preferences to State pro-
16 curement agencies; and

17 “(C) establishing public-private partner-
18 ships to further increase awareness and use of
19 biobased products.

20 “(6) ACCEPTANCE AND USE OF CONTRIBU-
21 TIONS.—

22 “(A) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary may es-
23 tablish an account to accept contributions of
24 non-Federal funds to carry out public mar-
25 keting and education under paragraph (5).

1 “(B) DEPOSIT AND USE OF CONTRIBU-
2 TIONS.—Contributions of non-Federal funds re-
3 ceived to carry out the activities under para-
4 graph (5) shall—

5 “(i) be deposited into the account es-
6 tablished under this paragraph for those
7 activities;

8 “(ii) be available to, and subject to
9 the control of, the Secretary, without fur-
10 ther appropriation and until expended, to
11 carry out those activities; and

12 “(iii) supplement any funding made
13 available under subsection (k) and allo-
14 cated by the Secretary for those activities.

15 “(7) REPORT.—Not later than December 31,
16 2025, and annually thereafter, the Secretary shall
17 make publicly available on the website of the De-
18 partment of Agriculture and submit to the Com-
19 mittee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry of
20 the Senate and the Committee on Agriculture of the
21 House of Representatives a report that includes—

22 “(A) a list of the biobased products that
23 were authorized to use the label described in
24 paragraph (1) during the preceding fiscal year;

1 “(B) a description of the audit and compli-
2 ance activities conducted under paragraph
3 (3)(B) during the preceding fiscal year, includ-
4 ing any findings of noncompliance and any ac-
5 tions taken by the Secretary to address the
6 noncompliance;

7 “(C)(i) a description of the public mar-
8 keting and education conducted by the Sec-
9 retary under paragraph (5); and

10 “(ii) a plan for conducting public mar-
11 keting and education under that paragraph for
12 the following 2 fiscal years that is designed to
13 increase the use of the label described in para-
14 graph (1) and the purchase of biobased prod-
15 ucts; and

16 “(D) the total amount of contributions of
17 non-Federal funds accepted into the account es-
18 tablished under paragraph (6).”;

19 (3) in subsection (f)(1), in the matter preceding
20 subparagraph (A), by striking “The Secretary and
21 the Secretary of Commerce shall jointly” and insert-
22 ing “The Secretary of Commerce, in consultation
23 with the Secretary, shall”;

24 (4) in subsection (j)(3)—

25 (A) in subparagraph (A)—

1 (i) in clause (v), by striking “; and”
2 and inserting “, including greenhouse gas
3 emissions reduced and avoided;”;

4 (ii) in clause (vi), by striking the pe-
5 riod at the end and inserting “; and”; and

6 (iii) by adding at the end the fol-
7 lowing:

8 “(vii) identifying available industry
9 methodologies to establish a lifecycle
10 greenhouse gas emissions assessment
11 methodology for biobased products.”; and

12 (B) in subparagraph (B), by striking “this
13 subparagraph” and inserting “the Rural Pros-
14 perity and Food Security Act of 2024 and every
15 5 years thereafter”;

16 (5) in subsection (k)—

17 (A) in paragraph (1), by striking
18 “\$3,000,000 for each of fiscal years 2014
19 through 2024” and inserting “\$10,000,000 for
20 fiscal year 2025 and each fiscal year there-
21 after”; and

22 (B) in paragraph (2), by striking “2019
23 through 2023” and inserting “2025 through
24 2029”; and

25 (6) in subsection (l)—

1 (A) by striking “In this section” and in-
2 serting the following:

3 “(1) IN GENERAL.—In this section”; and

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

5 “(2) STANDARD.—

6 “(A) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall
7 use the most recent version of the ASTM Inter-
8 national Standard D6866 to determine the con-
9 tents of biobased products.

10 “(B) ALTERNATIVE STANDARDS.—In addi-
11 tion to the standard described in subparagraph
12 (A), the Secretary may, by notice and comment
13 rulemaking under section 553 of title 5, United
14 States Code, establish alternative standards to
15 determine the contents of biobased products.”.

16 **SEC. 9003. BIOREFINERY, RENEWABLE CHEMICAL, AND**
17 **BIOBASED PRODUCT MANUFACTURING AS-**
18 **SISTANCE.**

19 Section 9003 of the Farm Security and Rural Invest-
20 ment Act of 2002 (7 U.S.C. 8103) is amended—

21 (1) in subsection (a), in the matter preceding
22 paragraph (1), by striking “to assist” and inserting
23 “to develop advanced biofuels (which, for purposes
24 of this section, shall include ultra-low-carbon bioeth-
25 anol and zero-carbon bioethanol), renewable chemi-

1 cals, and biobased product manufacturing and as-
2 sist”;

3 (2) in subsection (b)—

4 (A) in paragraph (1)—

5 (i) by striking “technologically new”;

6 and

7 (ii) by striking “end-user products”

8 and inserting “end-user products, renew-

9 able chemicals, and biobased products”;

10 and

11 (B) in paragraph (3)—

12 (i) in subparagraph (A)—

13 (I) by indenting the margins of

14 clauses (i) through (iii) appropriately;

15 (II) in clause (ii), by striking

16 “or” at the end;

17 (III) in clause (iii), by striking

18 “and” at the end and inserting “or”;

19 and

20 (IV) by adding at the end the fol-

21 lowing:

22 “(iv) sustainable aviation fuel; and”;

23 and

24 (ii) in subparagraph (B)—

1 (I) by indenting the margins of
2 clauses (i) through (iii) appropriately;

3 (II) in clause (ii), by striking
4 “or” at the end;

5 (III) in clause (iii), by striking
6 the period at the end and inserting “;
7 or”; and

8 (IV) by adding at the end the fol-
9 lowing:

10 “(iv) sustainable aviation fuel.”;

11 (3) in subsection (c)—

12 (A) by striking “The Secretary shall make
13 available to eligible entities guarantees” and in-
14 serting the following: “Subject to the avail-
15 ability of funding, the Secretary shall make
16 available to eligible entities—

17 “(1) on a year-round basis, guarantees”;

18 (B) in paragraph (1) (as so designated), by
19 striking the period at the end and inserting “,
20 in accordance with subsection (d); and”;

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

22 “(2) grants, on a competitive basis, to develop
23 and construct demonstration-scale biorefineries to
24 demonstrate the commercial viability of 1 or more
25 processes for converting renewable biomass to 1 or

1 more of the products described in clauses (i) through
2 (iv) of subsection (b)(3)(A), in accordance with sub-
3 section (e).”;

4 (4) in subsection (d)—

5 (A) in paragraph (1)—

6 (i) by striking subparagraphs (A) and
7 (C);

8 (ii) by redesignating subparagraphs
9 (B) and (D) as subparagraphs (A) and
10 (B), respectively;

11 (iii) in subparagraph (A) (as so reded-
12 igned)—

13 (I) by striking “In approving a
14 loan guarantee application” and in-
15 serting the following:

16 “(i) IN GENERAL.—In approving an
17 application for a loan guarantee under sub-
18 section (c)(1)”;

19 (II) by adding at the end the fol-
20 lowing:

21 “(ii) WAIVER.—The Secretary may
22 waive the feasibility study under clause (i)
23 for proven or otherwise commercially avail-
24 able technologies.”; and

1 (iv) in subparagraph (B) (as so reded-
2 igned), by striking “loan guarantee ap-
3 plications” and inserting “applications for
4 loan guarantees under subsection (c)(1)”;
5 and

6 (B) in paragraph (2)—

7 (i) in subparagraph (A), by striking
8 “\$250,000,000” and inserting
9 “\$400,000,000”; and

10 (ii) by striking “subsection (c)” each
11 place it appears and inserting “subsection
12 (c)(1)”;

13 (5) by redesignating subsection (e) as sub-
14 section (k) and moving the subsection so as to ap-
15 pear after subsection (j);

16 (6) by inserting after subsection (d) the fol-
17 lowing:

18 “(e) GRANTS.—

19 “(1) SELECTION CRITERIA.—

20 “(A) IN GENERAL.—In approving applica-
21 tions for grants under subsection (c)(2), the
22 Secretary shall establish a priority scoring sys-
23 tem that assigns priority scores to each applica-
24 tion and only approve applications that exceed

1 a specified minimum score, as determined by
2 the Secretary.

3 “(B) FEASIBILITY.—

4 “(i) IN GENERAL.—In approving an
5 application for a grant under subsection
6 (c)(2), the Secretary shall determine the
7 technical and economic feasibility of the
8 project based on a feasibility study of the
9 project described in the application con-
10 ducted by an independent third party.

11 “(ii) WAIVER.—The Secretary may
12 waive the feasibility study under clause (i)
13 for proven or otherwise commercially avail-
14 able technologies.

15 “(C) SCORING SYSTEM.—The priority scor-
16 ing system established under subparagraph (A)
17 shall consider, with respect to a project pro-
18 posed in an application for a grant under sub-
19 section (c)(2)—

20 “(i) the potential market for the ad-
21 vanced biofuel and the byproducts pro-
22 duced;

23 “(ii) the level of financial participation
24 by the eligible entity, including support
25 from non-Federal and private sources;

1 “(iii) whether the eligible entity is
2 proposing to use—

3 “(I) a feedstock not previously
4 used in the production of advanced
5 biofuels or sustainable aviation fuels;
6 or

7 “(II) a feedstock, process, or
8 technology not widely used in the pro-
9 duction of renewable chemicals or
10 biobased products;

11 “(iv) whether the eligible entity is pro-
12 posing to work with producer associations
13 or cooperatives;

14 “(v) whether the eligible entity has es-
15 tablished that the adoption of the process
16 proposed in the application will have a
17 positive impact on resource conservation,
18 public health, and the environment;

19 “(vi) the potential for rural economic
20 development;

21 “(vii) whether the project can be rep-
22 licated; and

23 “(viii) scalability for commercial use.

24 “(2) COST SHARING.—

1 “(A) LIMITS.—The amount of a grant
2 awarded under subsection (c)(2) shall not ex-
3 ceed an amount that is 30 percent of the cost
4 of the project carried out using the grant.

5 “(B) NON-FEDERAL SHARE.—The non-
6 Federal share of the cost of a project may be
7 provided in the form of cash or material, sub-
8 ject to the condition that the material provided
9 does not exceed 15 percent of the non-Federal
10 share.”;

11 (7) in subsection (g)—

12 (A) in paragraph (1)—

13 (i) in subparagraph (A)—

14 (I) in the matter preceding clause
15 (i), by inserting “and grants” after
16 “loan guarantees”;

17 (II) in clause (iii), by striking
18 “and” at the end;

19 (III) in clause (iv), by striking
20 the period at the end and inserting “;
21 and”;

22 (IV) by adding at the end the fol-
23 lowing:

24 “(v) \$200,000,000 for fiscal year
25 2025.”; and

1 (ii) in subparagraph (B), by striking
2 “Of the total” and all that follows through
3 “subparagraph (A)” and inserting “Of the
4 total amount of funds made available for
5 fiscal year 2025 under subparagraph (A)”;
6 and

7 (B) in paragraph (2), by striking “2014
8 through 2023” and inserting “2025 through
9 2029”;

10 (8) in subsection (h)(1), by striking “sub-
11 sections (a) through (e), and (g)” and inserting
12 “subsections (a) through (e), (g), and (k)”;

13 (9) in subsection (i)(1), by striking “subsections
14 (a) through (e) and subsection (g)” and inserting
15 “subsections (a) through (e), (g), and (k)”;

16 (10) in subsection (j)(1), by striking “sub-
17 sections (a) through (e) and (g)” and inserting
18 “subsections (a) through (e), (g), and (k)”.

19 **SEC. 9004. BIOENERGY PROGRAM FOR ADVANCED**
20 **BIOFUELS.**

21 Section 9005(g)(2) of the Farm Security and Rural
22 Investment Act of 2002 (7 U.S.C. 8105(g)(2)) is amended
23 by striking “2019 through 2023” and inserting “2025
24 through 2029”.

1 **SEC. 9005. BIODIESEL FUEL EDUCATION PROGRAM.**

2 Section 9006(d) of the Farm Security and Rural In-
3 vestment Act of 2002 (7 U.S.C. 8106(d)) is amended by
4 striking “2019 through 2023” and inserting “2025
5 through 2029”.

6 **SEC. 9006. RURAL ENERGY FOR AMERICA PROGRAM.**

7 (a) IN GENERAL.—Section 9007 of the Farm Secu-
8 rity and Rural Investment Act of 2002 (7 U.S.C. 8107)
9 is amended—

10 (1) in subsection (b)—

11 (A) in the subsection heading, by striking
12 “ENERGY AUDITS AND RENEWABLE ENERGY”
13 and inserting “PROJECT”;

14 (B) in paragraph (1)—

15 (i) by redesignating subparagraphs
16 (A) and (B) as clauses (i) and (ii), respec-
17 tively, and indenting appropriately;

18 (ii) in the matter preceding clause (i)
19 (as so redesignated), by striking “provide
20 assistance” and inserting the following:

21 “provide—

22 “(A) assistance”;

23 (iii) in subparagraph (A)(ii) (as so re-
24 designated), by striking the period at the
25 end and inserting “; and”; and

1 (iv) by adding at the end the fol-
2 lowing:

3 “(B) technical assistance to agricultural
4 producers and rural small businesses to apply
5 for financial assistance under subsection (c).”;

6 (C) in paragraph (2)—

7 (i) in subparagraph (D), by striking
8 “and” at the end;

9 (ii) by redesignating subparagraph
10 (E) as subparagraph (F); and

11 (iii) by inserting after subparagraph
12 (D) the following:

13 “(E) an agricultural producer cooperative;
14 and”;

15 (D) in paragraph (3)—

16 (i) in subparagraph (A), by striking
17 “audits and” and inserting “audits, rel-
18 evant technical assistance, and”;

19 (ii) by redesignating subparagraphs
20 (A) through (F) as clauses (i) through (vi),
21 respectively, and indenting appropriately;
22 and

23 (iii) by striking the paragraph des-
24 ignation and heading and all that follows
25 through “In reviewing applications” in the

1 matter preceding clause (i) (as so redesign-
2 nated) and inserting the following:

3 “(3) APPLICATION AND SELECTION CRI-
4 TERIA.—

5 “(A) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall
6 use a single application for grants under this
7 subsection for 1 or more of the activities de-
8 scribed in paragraph (4).

9 “(B) SELECTION CRITERIA.—In reviewing
10 applications”; and

11 (E) in paragraph (4)—

12 (i) in subparagraph (B), by redesign-
13 nating clauses (i) and (ii) as subclauses (I)
14 and (II), respectively, and indenting appro-
15 priately;

16 (ii) by redesignating subparagraphs
17 (A) and (B) as clauses (i) and (ii), respec-
18 tively, and indenting appropriately;

19 (iii) in the matter preceding clause (i)
20 (as so redesignated), by striking “funds to
21 assist” and inserting the following:

22 “funds—

23 “(A) to assist”;

24 (iv) in subparagraph (A)(ii) (as so re-
25 designated)—

1 (I) in subclause (I) (as so rededesignated), by striking “and” at the
2 end;
3

4 (II) in subclause (II) (as so redesignated), by striking the period at
5 the end and inserting “; and”; and
6

7 (III) by adding at the end the
8 following:

9 “(III) to apply for assistance
10 under subsection (c); and”; and

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

12 “(B) to provide training for individuals to
13 perform the activities described in subpara-
14 graph (A).”;

15 (2) in subsection (c)—

16 (A) in paragraph (1)(A)(i)(II), by inserting
17 “that result in a significant reduction in
18 lifecycle greenhouse gas emissions” after “im-
19 provements”;

20 (B) in paragraph (3)—

21 (i) in subparagraph (A), by striking
22 “25” and inserting “50”;

23 (ii) in subparagraph (B), by striking
24 “\$25,000,000” and inserting
25 “\$50,000,000”; and

1 (iii) in subparagraph (D), by striking
2 “subsection (f)” and inserting “subsection
3 (g)”; and

4 (C) by striking paragraph (4) and insert-
5 ing the following:

6 “(4) APPLICATION PROCESS.—

7 “(A) IN GENERAL.—For projects carried
8 out using assistance under this subsection, the
9 Secretary shall establish an application, evalua-
10 tion, and oversight process that is—

11 “(i) the most simplified for projects
12 for which the cost of the activity funded
13 under this subsection is less than \$50,000;
14 and

15 “(ii) more comprehensive for projects
16 for which the cost of the activity funded
17 under this subsection is more than
18 \$50,000.

19 “(B) SINGLE APPLICATION.—The Sec-
20 retary shall use a single application for assist-
21 ance under this subsection for agricultural pro-
22 ducers seeking assistance under clauses (i) and
23 (ii) of paragraph (1)(A).”;

24 (3) by redesignating subsections (d), (e), and
25 (f) as subsections (e), (f), and (g), respectively;

1 (4) by inserting after subsection (c) the fol-
2 lowing:

3 “(d) REGIONAL DEMONSTRATION PROJECTS.—

4 “(1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall carry
5 out regional demonstration projects that incentivize
6 agricultural producers to reduce their carbon foot-
7 print or overall carbon equivalent emissions to the
8 maximum extent practicable through the use of en-
9 ergy efficiency improvements and renewable energy
10 systems.

11 “(2) STUDY.—The Secretary shall conduct, and
12 make publicly available on the website of the De-
13 partment of Agriculture a report describing the re-
14 sults of, a study on the results of the regional dem-
15 onstration projects carried out under paragraph
16 (1).”;

17 (5) in subsection (e) (as so redesignated)—

18 (A) by striking “conducted at the” and in-
19 serting the following: “conducted—

20 “(1) at the”;

21 (B) in paragraph (1) (as so designated), by
22 striking the period at the end and inserting “;
23 and”; and

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

25 “(2) toward limited resource producers.”;

- 1 (6) in subsection (f) (as so redesignated)—
- 2 (A) in paragraph (1)—
- 3 (i) by striking “20” and inserting
- 4 “25”; and
- 5 (ii) by striking “subsection (f) to pro-
- 6 vide grants of \$20,000” and inserting
- 7 “subsection (g) to provide grants of
- 8 \$50,000”;
- 9 (B) in paragraph (2), by striking “sub-
- 10 section (f)” and inserting “subsection (g)”; and
- 11 (C) by adding at the end the following:
- 12 “(3) REBATE PILOT PROJECT.—
- 13 “(A) DEFINITIONS.—In this paragraph:
- 14 “(i) COVERED REBATE.—The term
- 15 ‘covered rebate’ means a rebate provided
- 16 by the Secretary to an eligible entity for
- 17 the purchase of certain energy efficient
- 18 equipment described in subsection
- 19 (c)(1)(A), to be determined by the Sec-
- 20 retary, that was made by an eligible enti-
- 21 ty—
- 22 “(I) as part of a project com-
- 23 pleted not more than 12 months be-
- 24 fore the provision of the rebate; and

1 “(II) to meet the immediate
2 needs of the eligible entity, which were
3 not anticipated while the application
4 period for assistance under subsection
5 (c) was open but would otherwise
6 meet the requirements for projects eli-
7 gible for assistance under that sub-
8 section.

9 “(ii) ELIGIBLE ENTITY.—The term
10 ‘eligible entity’ means any entity eligible to
11 receive financial assistance under sub-
12 section (c).

13 “(iii) PILOT PROJECT.—The term
14 ‘pilot project’ means the pilot project es-
15 tablished under subparagraph (B).

16 “(B) ESTABLISHMENT.—Using not more
17 than 2 percent of the funds made available to
18 carry out subsection (c) for each of fiscal years
19 2025 and 2026, the Secretary shall carry out a
20 pilot project under which the Secretary shall—

21 “(i) award covered rebates to eligible
22 entities; and

23 “(ii) test and evaluate a simplified ap-
24 plication process for eligible entities to
25 apply for those covered rebates.

1 covered rebate was submitted, and the
2 total number of each type of equipment for
3 which a covered rebate was provided; and

4 “(ii) the extent to which applications
5 for covered rebates exceeded the avail-
6 ability of funding, if applicable.

7 “(E) PROCEDURES.—The administration
8 of this paragraph shall be—

9 “(i) made without regard to chapter
10 35 of title 44, United States Code; and

11 “(ii) carried out by the Secretary
12 using the authority provided under section
13 808 of title 5, United States Code.”; and

14 (7) in subsection (g) (as so redesignated)—

15 (A) in paragraph (1)—

16 (i) in subparagraph (D), by striking
17 “and” at the end;

18 (ii) in subparagraph (E), by striking
19 “fiscal year 2014 and each fiscal year
20 thereafter.” and inserting “each of fiscal
21 years 2014 through 2024; and”;

22 (iii) by adding at the end the fol-
23 lowing:

24 “(F) \$130,000,000 for fiscal year 2025
25 and each fiscal year thereafter.”;

1 (B) in paragraph (2)(A), by striking
2 “paragraph (1), 4 percent” and inserting “this
3 subsection, 5 percent”;

4 (C) in paragraph (3), by striking “2019
5 through 2023” and inserting “2025 through
6 2029”; and

7 (D) by adding at the end the following:

8 “(4) RESERVATION OF FUNDS.—Of the funds
9 made available to carry out this section for a fiscal
10 year, the Secretary may reserve—

11 “(A) not more than 10 percent for award-
12 ing grants under subsection (c) that support
13 the adoption of underutilized but proven com-
14 mercial technologies;

15 “(B) not more than 5 percent to carry out
16 subsection (d); and

17 “(C) not more than 5 percent for adminis-
18 trative costs.”.

19 (b) RESCISSION.—The amounts made available by
20 section 22002 of Public Law 117–169 (136 Stat. 2019)
21 that are unobligated or unawarded as of the date of enact-
22 ment of this Act are rescinded.

1 **SEC. 9007. FEEDSTOCK FLEXIBILITY PROGRAM FOR BIO-**
2 **ENERGY PRODUCERS.**

3 Section 9010(b) of the Farm Security and Rural In-
4 vestment Act of 2002 (7 U.S.C. 8110(b)) is amended, in
5 paragraphs (1)(A) and (2)(A), by striking “2024” each
6 place it appears and inserting “2029”.

7 **SEC. 9008. BIOMASS CROP ASSISTANCE PROGRAM.**

8 Section 9011(f)(1) of the Farm Security and Rural
9 Investment Act of 2002 (7 U.S.C. 8111(f)(1)) is amended
10 by striking “2019 through 2023” and inserting “2025
11 through 2029”.

12 **SEC. 9009. CARBON UTILIZATION AND BIOGAS EDUCATION**
13 **PROGRAM.**

14 Section 9014(c) of the Farm Security and Rural In-
15 vestment Act of 2002 (7 U.S.C. 8115(c)) is amended, in
16 the matter preceding paragraph (1), by striking “2019
17 through 2023” and inserting “2025 through 2029”.

18 **SEC. 9010. AGRIVOLTAIC SYSTEM PROJECTS.**

19 Title IX of the Farm Security and Rural Investment
20 Act of 2002 (7 U.S.C. 8101 et seq.) is amended by adding
21 at the end the following:

22 **“SEC. 9015. AGRIVOLTAIC SYSTEM PROJECTS.**

23 “(a) DEFINITION OF AGRIVOLTAIC SYSTEM.—In this
24 section, the term ‘agrivoltaic system’ means a system
25 under which solar energy production and agricultural pro-
26 duction, including crop or animal production, occurs in an

1 integrated manner on the same piece of land for the dura-
2 tion of the production of solar energy.

3 “(b) OUTREACH.—The Secretary shall ensure that
4 outreach and education relating to agrivoltaic systems is
5 conducted at the State and local levels for—

6 “(1) programs that provide financial assistance
7 under section 9007; and

8 “(2) applicable programs administered by the
9 Rural Utilities Service and the Rural Business-Coop-
10 erative Service.

11 “(c) REPORT.—Not later than December 31, 2025,
12 and each December 31 of the 4 years thereafter, the Sec-
13 retary shall make publicly available a report that de-
14 scribes—

15 “(1) each project that incorporates an
16 agrivoltaic system carried out by recipients of a pro-
17 gram described in paragraph (1) or (2) of subsection
18 (b) during the preceding fiscal year; and

19 “(2) the total amount of funding expended on
20 those projects during the preceding fiscal year.

21 “(d) COORDINATION.—Not later than December 31,
22 2027, the Secretary shall coordinate with the Secretary
23 of Energy to issue guidance on best practices for
24 agrivoltaic systems, which shall incorporate lessons
25 learned from the projects described in subsection (c)(1).”.

1 **SEC. 9011. INDUSTRIAL HEAT PUMP PROGRAM.**

2 (a) ESTABLISHMENT.—The Secretary shall establish
3 a program—

4 (1) to raise awareness of the use of industrial
5 heat pumps;

6 (2) to create materials for, and provide tech-
7 nical support to, farmers, ranchers, and rural small
8 businesses relating to—

9 (A) the use of industrial heat pumps; and

10 (B) the availability of Federal programs to
11 assist in the adoption of industrial heat pumps;

12 (3) to support an improved technical under-
13 standing of the opportunities for, and applications
14 of, industrial heat pumps in the agricultural experi-
15 ment station network at land-grant colleges and uni-
16 versities for the purpose of providing training and
17 assistance to State-level programs serving farmers,
18 ranchers, and rural small businesses;

19 (4) to increase knowledge of industrial heat
20 pump applications and benefits for rural utilities to
21 support applications of industrial heat pumps for
22 farmers, ranchers, and rural small businesses; and

23 (5) to support education on, and awareness of,
24 industrial heat pump opportunities, applications, and
25 benefits among extension specialists and extension
26 agents.

1 (b) COORDINATION.—In carrying out this section, the
2 Secretary—

3 (1) shall coordinate with the Administrator of
4 the Rural Utilities Service; and

5 (2) may coordinate with the Secretary of En-
6 ergy.

7 (c) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There
8 are authorized to be appropriated to carry out this section
9 such sums as are necessary for each of fiscal years 2025
10 through 2029.

11 **TITLE X—HORTICULTURE**

12 **SEC. 10001. SPECIALTY CROPS MARKET NEWS ALLOCATION.**

13 Section 10107(b) of the Food, Conservation, and En-
14 ergy Act of 2008 (7 U.S.C. 1622b(b)) is amended by strik-
15 ing “2023” and inserting “2029”.

16 **SEC. 10002. FOOD LOSS AND WASTE PROCESS** 17 **VERIFICATION.**

18 Section 203(h) of the Agricultural Marketing Act of
19 1946 (7 U.S.C. 1622(h)) is amended—

20 (1) by striking the subsection designation and
21 all that follows through “To inspect” in paragraph
22 (1) and inserting the following:
23 “(h) To inspect”;

1 (2) in the matter preceding paragraph (2), by
2 striking “subsection.” and inserting the following:
3 “subsection, and subject to the following:

4 “(1) SCOPE OF AUTHORITY.—In interpreting
5 the authority of the Secretary of Agriculture under
6 this subsection, the class, quality, quantity, and con-
7 dition of agricultural products that the Secretary
8 may inspect, certify, and identify shall be interpreted
9 to include process-related claims related to avoided
10 food loss and food waste achieved through the pro-
11 duction of such agricultural products.”;

12 (3) in paragraph (2)—

13 (A) by striking the paragraph designation
14 and all that follows through “Any” in subpara-
15 graph (A) and inserting the following:

16 “(2) FEES.—

17 “(A) IN GENERAL.—Any”; and

18 (B) by striking “services.” in subpara-
19 graph (A) and all that follows through “Such”
20 in subparagraph (B) and inserting the fol-
21 lowing: “services.

22 “(B) INVESTMENT.—Such”;

23 (4) in paragraph (3), by striking the paragraph
24 designation and all that follows through “Any” and
25 inserting the following:

1 “(3) REQUIREMENT.—Any”;

2 (5) in paragraph (4), by striking the paragraph
3 designation and all that follows through “Whoever”
4 and inserting the following:

5 “(4) PENALTIES.—Whoever”; and

6 (6) in paragraph (5), by striking the paragraph
7 designation and all that follows through “Shell” and
8 inserting the following:

9 “(5) SHELL EGGS.—Shell”.

10 **SEC. 10003. LOCAL AGRICULTURE MARKET PROGRAM.**

11 Section 210A of the Agricultural Marketing Act of
12 1946 (7 U.S.C. 1627c) is amended—

13 (1) in subsection (a)—

14 (A) by redesignating paragraphs (5)
15 through (13) as paragraphs (6) through (14),
16 respectively; and

17 (B) by inserting after paragraph (4), the
18 following:

19 “(5) FOOD HUB.—The term ‘food hub’ means
20 a business or organization that actively manages the
21 aggregation, distribution, and marketing of source-
22 identified food products to multiple buyers from
23 multiple producers, who are primarily local and re-
24 gional producers, to strengthen the ability of those

1 producers to satisfy local and regional wholesale, re-
2 tail, and institutional demands.”;

3 (2) in subsection (b)(4), by striking “collabora-
4 tion” and inserting “collaboration, regional food
5 chain coordination,”;

6 (3) in subsection (c)—

7 (A) by striking paragraph (2); and

8 (B) by redesignating paragraphs (3) and
9 (4) as paragraphs (2) and (3), respectively;

10 (4) in subsection (d)—

11 (A) in paragraph (1), by striking “2023”
12 and inserting “2029”;

13 (B) in paragraph (5), by striking subpara-
14 graph (E); and

15 (C) in paragraph (6)—

16 (i) in subparagraph (B)—

17 (I) by redesignating clauses (vii)
18 and (viii) as clauses (viii) and (ix), re-
19 spectively; and

20 (II) by inserting after clause (vi)
21 the following:

22 “(vii) a food hub;”;

23 (ii) in subparagraph (C)—

24 (I) in clause (i), by striking “or”
25 at the end;

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1 (II) by redesignating clause (ii)
2 as clause (iii); and

3 (III) by inserting after clause (i)
4 the following:

5 “(ii) provide geographic balance,
6 among States and within each State, rel-
7 ative to the benefits of the Program; or”;

8 (iii) by striking subparagraph (E);

9 (iv) by redesignating subparagraph
10 (D) as subparagraph (E);

11 (v) by inserting after subparagraph
12 (C) the following:

13 “(D) SIMPLIFIED APPLICATIONS.—

14 “(i) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary
15 shall establish a simplified application form
16 for eligible entities described in subpara-
17 graph (B) that—

18 “(I) request less than \$100,000;

19 and

20 “(II) choose from the project cat-
21 egories described in clause (ii), which
22 shall include a specific, limited set of
23 key activities with predefined require-
24 ments established by the Secretary.

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1 “(ii) PROJECT CATEGORIES.—The
2 Secretary shall establish a simplified appli-
3 cation form for the following project cat-
4 egories, but may include additional project
5 categories as necessary:

6 “(I) DIRECT-TO-CONSUMER
7 PROJECTS.—In the case of a direct-to-
8 consumer project, an application form
9 described in clause (i) may be avail-
10 able for the following categories of
11 projects:

12 “(aa) An outreach and pro-
13 motion project.

14 “(bb) A project to provide
15 funding for farmers market man-
16 ager staff time.

17 “(cc) A project to provide
18 vendor training.

19 “(dd) A planning and design
20 project.

21 “(ee) A data collection and
22 evaluation project.

23 “(II) LOCAL AND REGIONAL
24 FOOD MARKET AND ENTERPRISE
25 PROJECTS.—In the case of a local or

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1 regional food market or enterprise
2 project, an application form described
3 in clause (i) may be available for the
4 following categories of projects:

5 “(aa) A food hub feasibility
6 study project.

7 “(bb) A project to provide
8 funding for regional food chain
9 coordination staff time.

10 “(cc) A project to provide
11 technical assistance.

12 “(dd) A data collection and
13 evaluation project.

14 “(ee) A project to support
15 the purchase of special purpose
16 equipment.”; and

17 (vi) in subparagraph (E) (as so reded-
18 igned)—

19 (I) by striking clause (ii); and

20 (II) by striking the subparagraph
21 designation and heading and all that
22 follows through “Except as provided
23 in clause (ii), an” in clause (i) and in-
24 serting the following:

1002

1 “(E) LIMITATION ON USE OF FUNDS.—
2 An”;

3 (5) in subsection (e)—

4 (A) in paragraph (1)(A)—

5 (i) by redesignating clauses (x) and
6 (xi) as clauses (xi) and (xii), respectively;
7 and

8 (ii) by inserting after clause (ix) the
9 following:

10 “(x) a food hub;”;

11 (B) in paragraph (2)(A), by striking
12 “2023” and inserting “2029”; and

13 (C) in paragraph (3)—

14 (i) in subparagraph (A)—

15 (I) by striking “determine the”
16 and inserting the following: “deter-
17 mine—

18 “(i) the geographical”; and

19 (II) in clause (i) (as so des-
20 ignated), by striking “, including
21 goals” and inserting the following: “;
22 and

23 “(ii) goals”;

24 (ii) by striking subparagraph (B); and

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1 (iii) by redesignating subparagraphs
2 (C) through (H) as subparagraphs (B)
3 through (G), respectively;

4 (6) in subsection (f)—

5 (A) in paragraph (1)(A), by striking
6 “\$50,000” and inserting “\$100,000”; and

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

8 “(3) STAKEHOLDER INPUT.—In developing the
9 simplified application and reporting process under
10 this subsection, the Secretary shall engage with
11 stakeholders to receive input on how the simplified
12 application and reporting process can be streamlined
13 for eligible entities without affecting program integ-
14 rity.”;

15 (7) in subsection (h)(2), by striking “this sec-
16 tion” and inserting “the Rural Prosperity and Food
17 Security Act of 2024”; and

18 (8) in subsection (i)—

19 (A) in paragraph (1), by striking
20 “\$50,000,000 for fiscal year 2019” and insert-
21 ing “\$75,000,000 for fiscal year 2025”;

22 (B) in paragraph (2), by striking
23 “\$20,000,000 for fiscal year 2019” and insert-
24 ing “\$30,000,000 for fiscal year 2025”; and

25 (C) in paragraph (3)(B)—

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1 (i) by striking “Of the funds” and in-
2 serting the following:

3 “(i) IN GENERAL.—Of the funds”;
4 and

5 (ii) by adding at the end the fol-
6 lowing:

7 “(ii) SIMPLIFIED APPLICATIONS.—Of
8 the funds made available for grants under
9 subsection (d)(6) for a fiscal year, not
10 more than 50 percent shall be used to pro-
11 vide grants to eligible entities that submit
12 an application in accordance with sub-
13 section (d)(6)(D).”.

14 **SEC. 10004. LOCAL FOOD PURCHASE ASSISTANCE COOPER-**
15 **ATIVE AGREEMENTS.**

16 Subtitle A of the Agricultural Marketing Act of 1946
17 (7 U.S.C. 1621 et seq.) is amended by adding at the end
18 the following:

19 **“SEC. 210B. LOCAL FOOD PURCHASE ASSISTANCE.**

20 “(a) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

21 “(1) COOPERATING PARTNER.—The term ‘co-
22 operating partner’ means any of the following enti-
23 ties partnering with an eligible entity:

24 “(A) A State agency.

1 “(B) A Tribal government agency, Tribal
2 organization, or Native Hawaiian organization.

3 “(C) A nonprofit organization engaged in
4 food distribution.

5 “(D) Any other entity that, in the deter-
6 mination of the Secretary, is capable of ensur-
7 ing that the requirements of this section are
8 met.

9 “(2) ELIGIBLE ENTITY.—The term ‘eligible en-
10 tity’ means—

11 “(A) a State agency that has demonstrated
12 partnerships with farmers and target audiences
13 within the State; and

14 “(B) a Tribal government agency that has
15 demonstrated partnerships with farmers and
16 target audiences within the area under the ju-
17 risdiction of the applicable Tribal government.

18 “(3) INDIAN TRIBE.—The term ‘Indian Tribe’
19 has the meaning given the term in section 4 of the
20 Indian Self-Determination and Education Assistance
21 Act (25 U.S.C. 5304).

22 “(4) NATIVE HAWAIIAN ORGANIZATION.—The
23 term ‘Native Hawaiian organization’ has the mean-
24 ing given the term in section 6207 of the Native Ha-
25 waiian Education Act (20 U.S.C. 7517).

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1 “(5) SECRETARY.—The term ‘Secretary’ means
2 the Secretary of Agriculture, acting through the Ad-
3 ministrator of the Agricultural Marketing Service.

4 “(6) STATE.—The term ‘State’ means—

5 “(A) a State;

6 “(B) the District of Columbia;

7 “(C) the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico;

8 and

9 “(D) any other territory or possession of
10 the United States.

11 “(7) TARGET AUDIENCE.—The term ‘target au-
12 dience’ means—

13 “(A) members of food insecure commu-
14 nities, including, as determined by the Sec-
15 retary—

16 “(i) rural, remote, and underserved
17 communities; and

18 “(ii) communities not normally served
19 through traditional food distribution net-
20 works;

21 “(B) representatives of food insecure com-
22 munities;

23 “(C) nonprofit organizations engaged in
24 food distribution to members of food insecure
25 communities; and

1 “(D) any other appropriate individuals or
2 entities, as determined by the Secretary.

3 “(8) TRIBAL GOVERNMENT.—The term ‘Tribal
4 government’ means the governing body of an Indian
5 Tribe, including—

6 “(A) any applicable Tribal organization;
7 and

8 “(B) any agency of the governing body of
9 an Indian Tribe.

10 “(9) TRIBAL ORGANIZATION.—The term ‘Tribal
11 organization’ has the meaning given the term in sec-
12 tion 4 of the Indian Self-Determination and Edu-
13 cation Assistance Act (25 U.S.C. 5304).

14 “(b) AVAILABILITY AND PURPOSE OF COOPERATIVE
15 AGREEMENTS.—The Secretary shall enter into cooperative
16 agreements with eligible entities—

17 “(1) for the purposes of—

18 “(A) providing an opportunity for States
19 and Tribal governments to build capacity to
20 support their local and regional food systems;

21 “(B) building and expanding economic op-
22 portunities for small producers, local and re-
23 gional producers, and historically underserved
24 producers;

1 “(C) establishing and broadening partner-
2 ships with farmers, producers, the food dis-
3 tribution community, and local food networks,
4 including nonprofit organizations, to ensure dis-
5 tribution of fresh and nutritious foods to target
6 audiences;

7 “(D) strengthening local and regional food
8 supply chains; and

9 “(E) increasing the use of Federal funds
10 to procure local and regional food, including
11 fresh fruits and vegetables; and

12 “(2) pursuant to which the Secretary shall
13 make awards, in accordance with subsection (f), for
14 the purposes described in paragraph (1).

15 “(c) COOPERATIVE AGREEMENTS.—

16 “(1) DUTIES OF ELIGIBLE ENTITIES.—An eligi-
17 ble entity entering into a cooperative agreement
18 under subsection (b) shall—

19 “(A) procure locally and regionally pro-
20 duced food, as defined by the Secretary; and

21 “(B) distribute food procured under this
22 section to members of food insecure commu-
23 nities, as determined by the Secretary.

24 “(2) LIMITATION.—

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1 “(A) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary may be
2 a party to—

3 “(i) not more than 1 cooperative
4 agreement under this section per State at
5 any 1 time; and

6 “(ii) not more than 1 cooperative
7 agreement under this section per Indian
8 Tribe at any 1 time.

9 “(B) COORDINATION.—If more than 1 eli-
10 gible entity of the same State or Indian Tribe
11 desires to enter into a cooperative agreement
12 under this section for a fiscal year, the eligible
13 entities shall coordinate, with 1 eligible entity
14 serving as the lead agency and each other eligi-
15 ble entity participating as a cooperating part-
16 ner.

17 “(C) CLARIFICATION.—A cooperative
18 agreement entered into with an eligible entity
19 described in subsection (a)(2)(B) shall not be
20 considered to be a cooperative agreement in or
21 relating to a State for purposes of subpara-
22 graph (A)(i).

23 “(d) APPLICATIONS.—

24 “(1) IN GENERAL.—An eligible entity desiring
25 to enter into a cooperative agreement under this sec-

1 tion shall submit to the Secretary an application at
2 such time, in such a manner, and containing such
3 information as the Secretary may require, includ-
4 ing—

5 “(A) a plan to purchase and distribute lo-
6 cally and regionally produced food as required
7 under subsection (c)(1);

8 “(B) an assurance that the eligible entity
9 will comply with the requirements of the plan;
10 and

11 “(C) an assurance that Federal funds re-
12 ceived under this section shall supplement, and
13 not supplant, the expenditure of State or Tribal
14 funds in support of local and regional food pro-
15 duction in the applicable State or the area
16 under the jurisdiction of the applicable Tribal
17 government.

18 “(2) PLAN REQUIREMENTS.—A plan submitted
19 by an eligible entity under paragraph (1)(A) shall—

20 “(A) identify the lead agency charged with
21 the responsibility of carrying out the plan; and

22 “(B) indicate how funds provided pursuant
23 to a cooperative agreement under this section
24 will be used to carry out the purposes described
25 in subsection (b)(1).

1011

1 “(3) PRIORITY FOR CERTAIN APPLICATIONS.—

2 “(A) IN GENERAL.—In entering into coop-
3 erative agreements under this section, the Sec-
4 retary shall prioritize applications for coopera-
5 tive agreements that prioritize—

6 “(i) establishing food purchasing con-
7 tracts with producers and distributors
8 that—

9 “(I) grow, process, or distribute
10 local and regional food, as defined by
11 the Secretary; and

12 “(II) are, or source from—

13 “(aa) beginning farmers or
14 ranchers (as defined in section
15 2501(a) of the Food, Agriculture,
16 Conservation, and Trade Act of
17 1990 (7 U.S.C. 2279(a)));

18 “(bb) small or mid-sized
19 farms; or

20 “(cc) historically under-
21 served farmers, as defined by the
22 Secretary; and

23 “(ii) targeting distributions of food
24 purchased pursuant to those contracts to

1 underserved communities, as determined
2 by the Secretary.

3 “(B) CONSIDERATION.—In determining
4 whether an application prioritizes targeting dis-
5 tributions of food to underserved communities
6 under subparagraph (A)(ii), the Secretary may
7 consider socioeconomic metrics maintained by
8 the Federal Government, including the social
9 vulnerability index and area deprivation index
10 maintained by the Department of Health and
11 Human Services.

12 “(4) NONCOMPETITIVE PROCESS.—The Sec-
13 retary shall establish a simplified, noncompetitive
14 process for the submission and selection of applica-
15 tions for establishing cooperative agreements under
16 this section.

17 “(e) DISTRIBUTION OF PURCHASED FOOD.—An eli-
18 gible entity may distribute food procured pursuant to a
19 cooperative agreement entered into under this section to
20 members of food insecure communities—

21 “(1) directly; or

22 “(2) through cooperative agreements, sub-
23 contracts, or subawards with 1 or more cooperating
24 partners.

25 “(f) AWARDS AND DISTRIBUTION OF FUNDS.—

1013

1 “(1) AWARDS TO STATE AGENCIES.—

2 “(A) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall
3 establish a noncompetitive process for deter-
4 mining the amount to be awarded, from the
5 amounts made available under subsection (h)
6 for a fiscal year, to eligible entities described in
7 subsection (a)(2)(A) with which the Secretary
8 has entered or plans to enter into a cooperative
9 agreement under this section.

10 “(B) REQUIREMENTS.—

11 “(i) CORRESPONDENCE TO NUTRITION
12 ASSISTANCE NEEDS.—To ensure that the
13 distribution of awards under this section
14 corresponds to the nutrition assistance
15 needs in each State, the noncompetitive
16 process established under subparagraph
17 (A) shall take into consideration—

18 “(I) the poverty rate and unem-
19 ployment levels in each State; and

20 “(II) other socioeconomic metrics
21 maintained by the Federal Govern-
22 ment, including the social vulner-
23 ability index and area deprivation
24 index maintained by the Department
25 of Health and Human Services.

1 “(ii) CONSIDERATION.—The Secretary
2 shall take into consideration the funding
3 formula of the emergency food assistance
4 program established under the Emergency
5 Food Assistance Act of 1983 (7 U.S.C.
6 7501 et seq.) in ensuring that the non-
7 competitive process established under sub-
8 paragraph (A) complies with the require-
9 ment described in clause (i).

10 “(2) AWARDS TO TRIBAL GOVERNMENTS.—

11 “(A) IN GENERAL.—Before applying the
12 process established under paragraph (1) for a
13 fiscal year, the Secretary shall reserve 15 per-
14 cent of the total amount made available to
15 carry out this section for that fiscal year for
16 making awards to eligible entities described in
17 subsection (a)(2)(B) with which the Secretary
18 has entered or plans to enter into a cooperative
19 agreement under this section.

20 “(B) REQUIREMENT.—The Secretary shall
21 make awards to eligible entities described in
22 subsection (a)(2)(B)—

23 “(i) through a noncompetitive process;
24 and

1 “(ii) at a prorated amount based on
2 the proposals submitted by eligible entities
3 described in that subsection.

4 “(3) TIMING OF DISTRIBUTIONS FOR INITIAL
5 AGREEMENTS.—The Secretary shall distribute funds
6 awarded in accordance with paragraphs (1) and (2)
7 incrementally in order to ensure that all interested
8 eligible entities have an opportunity to be selected
9 for entering into a cooperative agreement and receiv-
10 ing an award under this section.

11 “(4) ADJUSTMENTS AND DISTRIBUTION OF RE-
12 MAINING FUNDS.—

13 “(A) ADJUSTMENT OF AWARD
14 AMOUNTS.—The total amount of an award
15 made or proposed to be made to an eligible en-
16 tity under this subsection may be amended or
17 adjusted, or additional amounts may be sepa-
18 rately awarded to that eligible entity, depending
19 on—

20 “(i) demand for cooperative agree-
21 ments, as determined by the Secretary
22 based on the number of applications sub-
23 mitted or other factors; and

24 “(ii) the availability of funds.

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1 “(B) POST-APPLICATION ADJUSTMENTS.—

2 The Secretary may adjust the amount of an
3 award made or proposed to be made under this
4 section after the application period has closed.

5 “(g) TERM OF AGREEMENT; COMPLETION OF
6 PROJECTS.—

7 “(1) IN GENERAL.—Subject to paragraph (2)—

8 “(A) a cooperative agreement under this
9 section shall be for a term of not more than 2
10 years; and

11 “(B) any projects carried out pursuant to
12 that cooperative agreement shall be completed
13 by the end of that term.

14 “(2) EXTENSION.—The Secretary may, as the
15 Secretary determines to be appropriate, extend the
16 term of a cooperative agreement entered into under
17 this section for not more than 2 additional years.

18 “(h) FUNDING.—

19 “(1) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—In
20 addition to any other amounts available to the Sec-
21 retary, there is authorized to be appropriated to
22 carry out this section \$40,000,000 for each of fiscal
23 years 2025 through 2029, to remain available until
24 expended.

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1 “(III) the Commonwealth of
2 Puerto Rico;

3 “(IV) the United States Virgin
4 Islands;

5 “(V) Guam;

6 “(VI) American Samoa;

7 “(VII) the Commonwealth of the
8 Northern Mariana Islands; or

9 “(VIII) the jurisdiction of an In-
10 dian Tribe; and

11 “(ii)(I) is certified in accordance with
12 subpart E of part 205 of title 7, Code of
13 Federal Regulations (or successor regula-
14 tions); or

15 “(II) is in transition to certification,
16 as defined by the Secretary.

17 “(B) ENTITIES DESCRIBED.—An entity re-
18 ferred to in subparagraph (A) is—

19 “(i) a producer, producer cooperative,
20 or other commercial entity that produces
21 or handles certified organic products;

22 “(ii) a nonprofit corporation;

23 “(iii) a trade association;

24 “(iv) a public benefit corporation;

25 “(v) a philanthropic organization;

1 “(vi) a unit of Tribal, State, terri-
2 torial, or local government; or

3 “(vii) such other entity as the Sec-
4 retary may designate.

5 “(C) EXCLUSION.—The term ‘eligible enti-
6 ty’ does not include an entity described in sub-
7 paragraph (B) the operations of which are sus-
8 pended or revoked under section 205.662 of
9 title 7, Code of Federal Regulations (or a suc-
10 cessor regulation).

11 “(3) INDIAN TRIBE.—The term ‘Indian Tribe’
12 has the meanings given the term in section 4 of the
13 Indian Self-Determination and Education Assistance
14 Act (25 U.S.C. 5304).

15 “(4) SECRETARY.—The term ‘Secretary’ means
16 the Secretary of Agriculture, acting through the Ad-
17 ministrator of the Agricultural Marketing Service.

18 “(5) TRIBAL GOVERNMENT.—The term ‘Tribal
19 government’ means the governing body of an Indian
20 Tribe.

21 “(b) ESTABLISHMENT AND PURPOSE.—The Sec-
22 retary shall establish a program, to be known as the ‘Or-
23 ganic Market Development Grant Program’, that—

24 “(1) increases the capacity of the domestic or-
25 ganic product supply chain for producers, handlers,

1020

1 suppliers, and processors of certified organic prod-
2 ucts;

3 “(2) modernizes manufacturing, tracking, stor-
4 age, and information technology systems specific to
5 the purposes described in this subsection, such as
6 process control or organic product ingredient track-
7 ing systems;

8 “(3) improves the capacity of eligible entities to
9 comply with applicable regulatory requirements or
10 quality standards required to access markets, such
11 as requirements and standards relating to food safe-
12 ty and organic product certification;

13 “(4) expands capacity for storage, processing,
14 aggregation, and distribution of certified organic
15 products to create more and better markets for pro-
16 ducers of certified organic products;

17 “(5) facilitates market development for domesti-
18 cally produced certified organic products;

19 “(6) provides for the conduct of feasibility stud-
20 ies and market viability assessments to inform or-
21 ganic transition strategies and opportunities;

22 “(7) ameliorates barriers to entry to organic
23 product certification for historically underserved en-
24 tities;

1 “(8) supports market and promotional activities
2 that help build commercial markets for certified or-
3 ganic products in the United States;

4 “(9) provides technical assistance and outreach
5 to program stakeholders and participants; and

6 “(10) addresses additional barriers and bottle-
7 necks in the domestic organic product supply chain
8 for producers, handlers, suppliers, and processors of
9 certified organic products, as determined by the Sec-
10 retary.

11 “(c) GRANTS.—For each fiscal year for which
12 amounts are made available to carry out this section under
13 subsection (k), the Secretary shall provide grants to sup-
14 port eligible entities in conducting activities in accordance
15 with the purposes of the program described in subsection
16 (b).

17 “(d) APPLICATIONS.—

18 “(1) IN GENERAL.—To be eligible to receive a
19 grant under this section, an eligible entity shall sub-
20 mit to the Secretary an application at such time, in
21 such manner, and containing such information as
22 the Secretary may require.

23 “(2) SIMPLIFIED PROCESS.—The Secretary
24 shall implement a simplified application and award

1 process under this section for use by any eligible en-
2 tity seeking to carry out an equipment-only project.

3 “(3) BENEFITS.—

4 “(A) IN GENERAL.—Except as provided in
5 subparagraph (B), an application submitted
6 under this subsection shall include a description
7 of the direct or indirect producer or food busi-
8 ness benefits intended by the eligible entity to
9 result from the proposed project within a rea-
10 sonable period of time after the receipt of a
11 grant under this section.

12 “(B) EXCEPTION.—Subparagraph (A)
13 shall not apply to any feasibility study or mar-
14 ket viability assessment conducted pursuant to
15 this section.

16 “(4) CRITERIA.—The Secretary shall establish
17 such criteria for the evaluation and funding of pro-
18 posed projects under this section as the Secretary
19 determines to be appropriate.

20 “(5) COMPETITIVE PROCESS.—The Secretary—

21 “(A) shall conduct a competitive process to
22 select applications submitted under this sub-
23 section;

24 “(B) may assess and rank applications
25 with similar purposes as a group; and

1 “(C) before accepting any application
2 under this subsection, shall make publicly avail-
3 able the criteria to be used in evaluating the ap-
4 plications.

5 “(e) PROJECT TYPES.—An eligible entity may use
6 amounts received under this section to carry out, in ac-
7 cordance with such goals and deadlines for completion as
8 the Secretary may establish, the following types of
9 projects:

10 “(1) Market development and promotion of cer-
11 tified organic products.

12 “(2) Certified organic product storage (includ-
13 ing cold storage), aggregation, processing, and dis-
14 tribution capacity expansion.

15 “(3) Equipment-only.

16 “(f) TERM.—Unless otherwise determined by the
17 Secretary, a grant provided under this section shall have
18 a term of not longer than 3 years.

19 “(g) MAXIMUM AMOUNT.—

20 “(1) IN GENERAL.—The amount of a grant
21 provided under this section for a project described in
22 paragraph (1) or (2) of subsection (e) shall be not
23 more than \$3,000,000.

24 “(2) SIMPLIFIED EQUIPMENT-ONLY
25 PROJECTS.—The amount of a grant provided under

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1 this section for a project described in subsection
2 (e)(3) shall be not more than \$100,000.

3 “(h) MATCHING FUNDS.—

4 “(1) IN GENERAL.—An eligible entity that re-
5 ceives a grant under this section to carry out a
6 project described in paragraph (1) or (2) of sub-
7 section (e) shall provide a non-Federal share equal
8 to not less than 50 percent of the cost of the project.

9 “(2) SIMPLIFIED EQUIPMENT-ONLY
10 PROJECTS.—An eligible entity that receives a grant
11 under this section to carry out a project described
12 in subsection (e)(3) shall not be required to con-
13 tribute a non-Federal share to the cost of the
14 project.

15 “(3) RULE FOR CERTAIN APPLICATIONS.—The
16 Secretary may waive or lower the non-Federal share
17 required under this subsection for small and under-
18 served eligible entities applying for a grant under
19 this section.

20 “(i) AWARDS TO MULTIPLE ENTITIES.—The Sec-
21 retary may provide a grant under this section to more
22 than 1 eligible entity, as the Secretary determines to be
23 appropriate.

24 “(j) TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE.—The Secretary may
25 provide to eligible entities technical assistance under this

1 section, directly or through 1 or more cooperative agree-
2 ments.

3 “(k) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—In ad-
4 dition to amounts otherwise available, there is authorized
5 to be appropriated to the Secretary to carry out this sec-
6 tion \$50,000,000 for each of fiscal years 2025 through
7 2029, to remain available until expended.”.

8 **SEC. 10006. ORGANIC PRODUCTION AND MARKET DATA INI-**
9 **TIATIVES.**

10 Section 7407(d) of the Farm Security and Rural In-
11 vestment Act of 2002 (7 U.S.C. 5925c(d)) is amended—

12 (1) in paragraph (1)—

13 (A) in subparagraph (B), by striking
14 “and” at the end;

15 (B) in subparagraph (C), by striking the
16 period at the end and inserting “; and”; and

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

18 “(D) \$10,000,000 for the period of fiscal
19 years 2025 through 2029.”; and

20 (2) in paragraph (2), by striking “2023” and
21 inserting “2029”.

22 **SEC. 10007. NATIONAL ORGANIC PROGRAM.**

23 (a) TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE.—Section 2107 of the
24 Organic Foods Production Act of 1990 (7 U.S.C. 6506)
25 is amended—

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1 (1) by redesignating subsections (e) through (e)
2 as subsections (d) through (f), respectively; and

3 (2) by inserting after subsection (b) the fol-
4 lowing:

5 “(c) TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE.—

6 “(1) IN GENERAL.—As part of the national or-
7 ganic program established under this title, the Sec-
8 retary may provide technical assistance, education,
9 and outreach to—

10 “(A) farmers on certified organic farms;
11 and

12 “(B) farmers who are transitioning to or-
13 ganic (as determined by the Secretary).

14 “(2) ACTIVITIES.—In carrying out paragraph
15 (1), the Secretary may—

16 “(A) coordinate with the heads of agencies
17 within the Department of Agriculture, including
18 the Administrator of the Farm Service Agency,
19 the Chief of the Natural Resources Conserva-
20 tion Service, the Administrator of the Risk
21 Management Agency, and the Director of the
22 National Institute of Food and Agriculture; and

23 “(B) enter into cooperative agreements
24 with, or provide grants to, nonprofit organiza-
25 tions, State cooperative extension services, or

1 other qualified entities with expertise in work-
2 ing with organic stakeholders to provide region-
3 ally-specific training, education, and outreach.”.

4 (b) IMPROVEMENT OF ORGANIC STANDARDS.—Sec-
5 tion 2122 of the Organic Foods Production Act of 1990
6 (7 U.S.C. 6521) is amended—

7 (1) by striking subsection (a) and inserting the
8 following:

9 “(a) IMPROVEMENT OF ORGANIC STANDARDS.—Not
10 later than 180 days after the date of enactment of the
11 Rural Prosperity and Food Security Act of 2024, the Sec-
12 retary shall publish in the Federal Register a request for
13 information soliciting public input on which regulations
14 promulgated pursuant to this Act should be prioritized for
15 revision.”;

16 (2) in subsection (d)—

17 (A) by redesignating paragraphs (1)
18 through (3) as subparagraphs (A) through (C),
19 respectively, and indenting appropriately;

20 (B) by inserting before subparagraph (A)
21 (as so redesignated) the following:

22 “(1) INVESTIGATIONS AND COMPLIANCE RE-
23 PORT.—”; and

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

1 “(2) BOARD RECOMMENDATIONS REPORT.—Not
2 later than January 1, 2026, and each fiscal year
3 thereafter through fiscal year 2029, the Secretary
4 shall submit to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutri-
5 tion, and Forestry of the Senate and the Committee
6 on Agriculture of the House of Representatives, and
7 make publicly available on the website of the De-
8 partment of Agriculture, a report—

9 “(A) listing all recommendations received
10 by the Secretary, acting through the Deputy
11 Administrator of the national organic program,
12 under section 2119(k);

13 “(B) describing all regulatory and adminis-
14 trative actions taken to implement those rec-
15 ommendations, including the status of each rec-
16 ommendation at the time of the report; and

17 “(C) any relevant justifications from the
18 Secretary, acting through the Deputy Adminis-
19 trator of the national organic program or the
20 Administrator of the Agricultural Marketing
21 Service, for the implementation status of those
22 recommendations, particularly for recommenda-
23 tions not yet acted on by the Secretary, acting
24 through the Deputy Administrator of the na-
25 tional organic program.”; and

1 (3) by adding at the end the following:

2 “(e) GOVERNMENT ACCOUNTABILITY OFFICE RE-
3 PORT ON ORGANIC RULEMAKING.—Not later than 1 year
4 after the date of enactment of the Rural Prosperity and
5 Food Security Act of 2024, the Comptroller General of
6 the United States shall—

7 “(1) conduct a study on the efforts of the Sec-
8 retary, acting through the Deputy Administrator of
9 the national organic program, to improve organic
10 standards, including—

11 “(A) the recommendations received from
12 the National Organic Standards Board that
13 were implemented through rulemaking, the
14 issuance of guidance, or other administrative
15 actions;

16 “(B) any instances in which the Secretary,
17 acting through the Deputy Administrator of the
18 national organic program, formally declined to
19 take action on any recommendations received
20 from the National Organic Standards Board;

21 “(C) for the 20-year period ending on that
22 date of enactment, the average length of time
23 between—

24 “(i) the receipt by the Secretary, act-
25 ing through the Deputy Administrator of

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1 the national organic program, of a rec-
2 ommendation from the National Organic
3 Standards Board; and

4 “(ii) as applicable—

5 “(I) the initiation of the rule-
6 making requested by the recommenda-
7 tion;

8 “(II) the issuance of guidance or
9 the taking of other administrative ac-
10 tions based on the recommendation;
11 or

12 “(III) formally declining to act
13 on the recommendation; and

14 “(D) for all matters identified under sub-
15 paragraph (B), any justifications of the Sec-
16 retary, acting through the Deputy Adminis-
17 trator of the national organic program, for de-
18 clining to take action on the applicable rec-
19 ommendation; and

20 “(2) based on the results of the study con-
21 ducted under paragraph (1), provide recommenda-
22 tions on how the Secretary, acting through the Dep-
23 uty Administrator of the national organic program,
24 in consultation with the National Organic Standards

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1 Board, can ensure that national organic program
2 standards evolve in a timely manner—

3 “(A) to assure consumers that organically
4 produced products meet a consistent standard;
5 and

6 “(B) to benefit organic producers.”.

7 (c) FUNDING.—Section 2123 of the Organic Foods
8 Production Act of 1990 (7 U.S.C. 6522) is amended—

9 (1) by striking subsection (b) and inserting the
10 following:

11 “(b) NATIONAL ORGANIC PROGRAM.—

12 “(1) IN GENERAL.—Notwithstanding any other
13 provision of law, in order to carry out activities
14 under the national organic program established
15 under this title, there are authorized to be appro-
16 priated—

17 “(A) \$26,000,000 for fiscal year 2025;

18 “(B) \$28,000,000 for fiscal year 2026;

19 “(C) \$30,000,000 for fiscal year 2027;

20 “(D) \$32,000,000 for fiscal year 2028;

21 and

22 “(E) \$34,000,000 for fiscal year 2029.

23 “(2) TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE.—Notwith-
24 standing any other provision of law, in order to
25 carry out activities under section 2107(c), there is

1 authorized to be appropriated \$50,000,000 for each
2 of fiscal years 2025 through 2029.”; and

3 (2) in subsection (c)(4), in the matter preceding
4 subparagraph (A), by striking “\$5,000,000 for fiscal
5 year 2019 and \$1,000,000 for fiscal year 2024” and
6 inserting “\$5,000,000 for fiscal year 2019,
7 \$1,000,000 for fiscal year 2024, and \$10,000,000
8 for fiscal year 2025”.

9 **SEC. 10008. ASSESSMENT OF NATIONAL ORGANIC PRO-**
10 **GRAM ENFORCEMENT AUTHORITY.**

11 The Organic Foods Production Act of 1990 (7 U.S.C.
12 6501 et seq.) is amended by inserting after section 2120
13 the following:

14 **“SEC. 2120A. ASSESSMENT OF FRAUDULENT ORGANIC CER-**
15 **TIFICATES.**

16 “(a) ASSESSMENT.—

17 “(1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 180 days
18 after the date of enactment of this section, the Sec-
19 retary shall complete—

20 “(A) an assessment of all fraudulent or-
21 ganic certificates issued for a dietary supple-
22 ment (as defined in section 201 of the Federal
23 Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act (21 U.S.C.
24 321)); and

1 “(B) an assessment of any fraudulent la-
2 bels, complaints, and other data considered as
3 part of drafting the assessment under subpara-
4 graph (A).

5 “(2) REQUIREMENTS.—In carrying out para-
6 graph (1), the Secretary shall assess—

7 “(A) the number of complaints received by
8 the Secretary, a State organic certification pro-
9 gram, or a certifying agent pertaining to—

10 “(i) suspected fraudulent use of a
11 label or other market information de-
12 scribed in section 2106(a)(2); or

13 “(ii) suspected fraudulent representa-
14 tions claiming that products meet organic
15 standards established under the national
16 organic program despite those products
17 falling outside of the enforcement authority
18 of the national organic program;

19 “(B) staffing and resource needs within
20 the national organic program if the enforcement
21 responsibilities of the national organic program
22 were broadened to include the products identi-
23 fied under paragraph (1); and

24 “(C) any potential effects of broadening
25 the enforcement authority of the national or-

1 ganic program on domestic organic farmers,
2 handlers, and consumers.

3 “(b) REPORT.—Not later than 45 days after the date
4 on which the assessment under subsection (a) is com-
5 pleted, the Secretary shall submit to Congress and make
6 publicly available on the website of the Department of Ag-
7 riculture a report that—

8 “(1) describes in detail the results of the as-
9 sessment required by subsection (a); and

10 “(2) makes recommendations to Congress based
11 on that assessment.

12 “(c) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There
13 is authorized to be appropriated to the Secretary to carry
14 out this section \$1,000,000 for the period of fiscal years
15 2025 through 2029, to remain available until expended.”.

16 **SEC. 10009. NATIONAL ORGANIC CERTIFICATION COST-**
17 **SHARE PROGRAM.**

18 Section 10606 of the Farm Security and Rural In-
19 vestment Act of 2002 (7 U.S.C. 6523) is amended—

20 (1) in subsection (b)(2), by striking “\$750”
21 and inserting \$1,500; and

22 (2) in subsection (d)(1), by striking subpara-
23 graphs (A) through (C) and inserting the following:

24 “(A) \$8,000,000 for each of fiscal years
25 2022 through 2024; and

1 “(B) such sums as are necessary for the
2 Secretary to carry out this section for fiscal
3 year 2025 and each fiscal year thereafter.”.

4 **SEC. 10010. FOOD SAFETY EDUCATION INITIATIVES.**

5 Section 10105(c) of the Food, Conservation, and En-
6 ergy Act of 2008 (7 U.S.C. 7655a(c)) is amended by strik-
7 ing “2023” and inserting “2029”.

8 **SEC. 10011. SPECIALTY CROP BLOCK GRANTS.**

9 Section 101 of the Specialty Crops Competitiveness
10 Act of 2004 (7 U.S.C. 1621 note; Public Law 108–465)
11 is amended—

12 (1) in subsection (a), in the matter preceding
13 paragraph (1), by striking “2023” and inserting
14 “2029”;

15 (2) in subsection (i)—

16 (A) in paragraph (1)—

17 (i) by striking “in accordance with
18 paragraph (2)”; and

19 (ii) by inserting “, by adding such un-
20 obligated or unexpended amounts to the al-
21 location funding pool for the current or fol-
22 lowing fiscal year, as determined by the
23 Secretary” after “determined by the Sec-
24 retary”;

25 (B) in paragraph (2)—

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1 (i) by striking “funds described in
2 paragraph (1)” and inserting “such
3 funds”; and

4 (ii) by striking “The Secretary” and
5 inserting “If funds described in paragraph
6 (1) are distributed in the current fiscal
7 year, the Secretary”; and

8 (C) in paragraph (3), by striking “this
9 subsection” and inserting “paragraph (2)”;
10 (3) in subsection (k)—

11 (A) by redesignating paragraph (3) as
12 paragraph (4); and

13 (B) by inserting after paragraph (2) the
14 following—

15 “(3) CONSULTATIONS.—The Secretary of Agri-
16 culture shall encourage State departments of agri-
17 culture to consult annually with specialty crop pro-
18 ducers and producer groups in establishing pro-
19 grammatic and funding priorities for the fiscal
20 year.”; and

21 (4) in subsection (l)(1)—

22 (A) in subparagraph (D), by striking
23 “and” at the end; and

24 (B) by striking subparagraph (E) and in-
25 serting the following:

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1 “(E) \$85,000,000 for each of fiscal years
2 2018 through 2024; and

3 “(F) \$170,000,000 for fiscal year 2025
4 and each fiscal year thereafter, to remain avail-
5 able until expended by the Secretary.”.

6 **SEC. 10012. MULTIPLE CROP AND PESTICIDE USE SURVEY.**

7 Section 10109(c)(1) of the Agriculture Improvement
8 Act of 2018 (Public Law 115–334; 132 Stat. 4907; 137
9 Stat. 118) is amended by striking “2019 and \$100,000
10 for fiscal year 2024” and inserting “2019, \$100,000 for
11 fiscal year 2024, and \$500,000 for fiscal year 2025”.

12 **SEC. 10013. DEFINING PLANT BIOSTIMULANTS.**

13 Section 2 of the Federal Insecticide, Fungicide, and
14 Rodenticide Act (7 U.S.C. 136) is amended—

15 (1) by striking subsection (v) and inserting the
16 following:

17 “(v) PLANT REGULATOR.—

18 “(1) IN GENERAL.—The term ‘plant regulator’
19 means any substance or mixture of substances in-
20 tended, through physiological action, for accelerating
21 or retarding the rate of growth or rate of matura-
22 tion, or for otherwise altering the behavior, of plants
23 or the produce thereof.

24 “(2) EXCLUSIONS.—The term ‘plant regulator’
25 does not include—

1 “(A) substances to the extent that they are
2 intended as plant nutrients, trace elements, nu-
3 tritional chemicals, plant inoculants, soil
4 amendments, or vitamin hormone products; or

5 “(B) plant biostimulants that—

6 “(i) have a low-hazard profile in rela-
7 tion to humans and other microorganisms,
8 as determined by the Administrator; and

9 “(ii)(I) are of biological origin; or

10 “(II) include chemical compounds that
11 are synthetically derived but are struc-
12 turally similar and functionally identical to
13 substances of biological origin.”;

14 (2) in subsection (hh)—

15 (A) in paragraph (2), by striking “or” at
16 the end;

17 (B) in paragraph (3)—

18 (i) in the matter preceding subpara-
19 graph (A), by striking “substances.” and
20 inserting “substances”;

21 (ii) in subparagraph (B)—

22 (I) by inserting “, or” after “vol-
23 atilization”; and

24 (II) by striking the period at the
25 end and inserting a semicolon; and

1 (C) by inserting before the undesignated
2 matter following paragraph (3) the following:

3 “(4) a plant biostimulant; or

4 “(5) a nutritional chemical.”; and

5 (3) by adding at the end the following:

6 “(pp) PLANT BIOSTIMULANT.—The term ‘plant bio-
7 stimulant’ means any substance or mixture of substances
8 that, when applied to seeds, plants, the rhizosphere, or soil
9 or other growth media, acts to support the natural nutri-
10 tion processes of a plant independently of the nutrient con-
11 tent of that substance or mixture of substances, and that
12 thereby improves—

13 “(1) nutrient availability, uptake, or use effi-
14 ciency;

15 “(2) tolerance to abiotic stress; or

16 “(3) consequent growth, development, quality,
17 or yield.

18 “(qq) NUTRITIONAL CHEMICAL.—The term ‘nutri-
19 tional chemical’ means any substance or mixture of sub-
20 stances that interacts with plant nutrients in a manner
21 that improves nutrient availability or aids the plant in ac-
22 quiring or utilizing plant nutrients.

23 “(rr) VITAMIN HORMONE PRODUCT.—The term ‘vi-
24 tamin hormone product’ means a product that—

1 “(1) consists of a mixture of plant hormones,
2 plant nutrients, plant inoculants, soil amendments,
3 trace elements, nutritional chemicals, plant biostimu-
4 lants, or vitamins that is intended for the improve-
5 ment, maintenance, survival, health, and propaga-
6 tion of plants;

7 “(2) is nontoxic and nonpoisonous in the undi-
8 luted packaged concentrations of the product; and

9 “(3) is not intended for use on food crop sites
10 and is labeled accordingly.”.

11 **SEC. 10014. SOIL HEALTH STUDY.**

12 (a) **STUDY.**—The Secretary shall conduct a study to
13 assess the types of, and practices using, plant biostimu-
14 lants (as defined in section 2 of the Federal Insecticide,
15 Fungicide, and Rodenticide Act (7 U.S.C. 136)) that best
16 achieve the following:

17 (1) Increasing organic matter content.

18 (2) Reducing atmospheric volatilization.

19 (3) Promotion of nutrient management prac-
20 tices.

21 (4) Limiting or eliminating runoff or leaching
22 of soil or nutrients, such as phosphorus and nitro-
23 gen, into groundwater or other water sources.

24 (5) Restoring beneficial bioactivity or healthy
25 nutrients to the soil.

1 (6) Aiding in carbon sequestration, nutrient use
2 efficiency, and other climate-related benefits.

3 (7) Supporting innovative approaches to im-
4 proving agricultural sustainability, including the
5 adoption of performance-based outcome standards
6 and criteria.

7 (b) REPORT.—Not later than 4 years after the date
8 on which funds are first made available for the study
9 under subsection (a), the Secretary shall make publicly
10 available and submit to the Committee on Agriculture of
11 the House of Representatives and the Committee on Agri-
12 culture, Nutrition, and Forestry of the Senate a report
13 that describes the results of the study.

14 **SEC. 10015. REPORT ON PLANT-INCORPORATED**
15 **PROTECTANTS.**

16 (a) REPORT.—

17 (1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 1 year after
18 the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary
19 shall submit to the Committee on Agriculture of the
20 House of Representatives and the Committee on Agri-
21 culture, Nutrition, and Forestry of the Senate a
22 report that identifies any potential regulatory, non-
23 regulatory, and legislative recommendations, includ-
24 ing the appropriateness of any definitions for plant-
25 incorporated protectants, to ensure the efficient and

1 appropriate review, approval, and availability of
2 plant-incorporated protectants for use in agricultural
3 and horticultural production.

4 (2) INCLUSIONS.—In compiling the report re-
5 quired under paragraph (1), the Secretary shall in-
6 clude an assessment of the potential impacts of
7 plant-incorporated protectants on—

8 (A) the environment, including nearby eco-
9 systems that may be affected by the production
10 of plants that contain plant-incorporated
11 protectants;

12 (B) wildlife, including pollinator species;
13 and

14 (C) human health, including potential im-
15 pacts on human health through food tolerances
16 or residues of plant-incorporated protectants in-
17 troduced into the food supply or other commer-
18 cial products through processing.

19 (b) CONSULTATION.—The Secretary shall prepare
20 the report required by subsection (a) in consultation with
21 the Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agen-
22 cy, the several States, industry stakeholders, and such
23 other public interest stakeholders as the Secretary deter-
24 mines necessary.

1 (c) PLANT-INCORPORATED PROTECTANT.—For the
2 purposes of the report under subsection (a), the Sec-
3 retary—

4 (1) shall consider “plant-incorporated protect-
5 ant” to be a pesticidal substance that is intended to
6 be produced and used in a living plant, or in the
7 produce of a living plant, and the genetic material
8 necessary for production of such a pesticidal sub-
9 stance, including any inert ingredient contained in
10 the applicable plant or produce; and

11 (2) may modify the description of plant-incor-
12 porated protectant, as appropriate.

13 **SEC. 10016. HEMP PRODUCTION.**

14 (a) DEFINITIONS.—

15 (1) IN GENERAL.—Section 297A of the Agricul-
16 tural Marketing Act of 1946 (7 U.S.C. 1639o) is
17 amended—

18 (A) in paragraph (1)—

19 (i) by striking “delta-9” and inserting
20 “total”;

21 (ii) by striking “concentration” and
22 inserting “concentration (including
23 tetrahydrocannabinolic acid)”;

24 (iii) by striking the period at the end
25 and inserting “; and”;

1 (iv) by striking “means the plant”

2 and inserting the following: “means—

3 “(A) the plant”; and

4 (v) by adding at the end the following:

5 “(B) industrial hemp.”;

6 (B) by redesignating paragraphs (3)

7 through (6) as paragraphs (4) through (7), re-

8 spectively; and

9 (C) by inserting after paragraph (2) the

10 following:

11 “(3) INDUSTRIAL HEMP.—The term ‘industrial

12 hemp’ means the plant *Cannabis sativa* L. if the

13 harvested material—

14 “(A) is only—

15 “(i) the stalks of that plant, fiber pro-

16 duced from those stalks, or any other man-

17 ufactured product, derivative, mixture, or

18 preparation of those stalks (except

19 cannabinoid resin extracted from those

20 stalks);

21 “(ii) whole grain, oil, cake, nut, hull,

22 or any other compound, manufactured

23 product, derivative, mixture, or preparation

24 of the seeds of that plant (except

1 cannabinoid resin extracted from the seeds
2 of that plant); or

3 “(iii) viable seeds of that plant pro-
4 duced solely for production or manufacture
5 of any material described in clause (i) or
6 (ii); and

7 “(B) will not be used in the manufacturing
8 or synthesis of natural or synthetic cannabinoid
9 products.”.

10 (2) CONFORMING AMENDMENTS.—

11 (A) Section 297B of the Agricultural Mar-
12 keting Act of 1946 (7 U.S.C. 1639p) is amend-
13 ed—

14 (i) in subsection (a)(2)(A)(ii)—

15 (I) by striking “delta-9” and in-
16 serting “total”; and

17 (II) by striking “concentration”
18 and inserting “concentration (includ-
19 ing tetrahydrocannabinolic acid)”; and

20 (ii) in subsection (e)(2)(A)(iii)—

21 (I) by striking “delta-9” and in-
22 serting “total”; and

23 (II) by striking “concentration”
24 and inserting “concentration (includ-
25 ing tetrahydrocannabinolic acid)”.

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1 (B) Section 297C(a)(2)(B) of the Agricul-
2 tural Marketing Act of 1946 (7 U.S.C.
3 1639q(a)(2)(B)) is amended—

4 (i) by striking “delta-9” and inserting
5 “total”; and

6 (ii) by striking “concentration” and
7 inserting “concentration (including
8 tetrahydrocannabinolic acid)”.

9 (b) INDUSTRIAL HEMP.—

10 (1) STATE AND TRIBAL PLANS.—Section 297B
11 of the Agricultural Marketing Act of 1946 (7 U.S.C.
12 1639p) is amended—

13 (A) in subsection (a)—

14 (i) paragraph (2)(A)—

15 (I) by redesignating clauses (ii)
16 through (vii) as clauses (iii) through
17 (viii), respectively;

18 (II) by inserting after clause (i)
19 the following:

20 “(ii) a procedure by which a hemp
21 producer may be licensed to produce—

22 “(I) only industrial hemp, in
23 which case the industrial hemp pro-
24 ducer shall not be required to undergo

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1 a background check to apply for the
2 license; or

3 “(II) hemp for any purpose;”;

4 (III) in clause (iii) (as so redesign-
5 nated)—

6 (aa) by inserting “, exclud-
7 ing industrial hemp,” after
8 “hemp”;

9 (bb) by adding “and” after
10 the semicolon at the end;

11 (cc) by striking “(iii) a pro-
12 cedure” and inserting “(iii)(I) a
13 procedure”; and

14 (dd) by adding at the end
15 the following:

16 “(II) in the case of a producer li-
17 censed to produce only industrial hemp
18 under clause (ii)(I), a procedure for testing
19 compliance with the definition of industrial
20 hemp in section 297A using relaxed regu-
21 latory requirements, which may include—

22 “(aa) visual inspections;

23 “(bb) performance-based sam-
24 pling methodologies;

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1 “(cc) certified seed, if the appli-
2 cable State or Indian tribe is partici-
3 pating in the pilot program estab-
4 lished under paragraph (4); or

5 “(dd) any other similar proce-
6 dure, as approved by the Secretary,
7 when developing sampling plans for
8 any producer that elects to be des-
9 ignated as a producer of only indus-
10 trial hemp under clause (ii)(I);” and
11 (IV) in clause (viii) (as so redes-
12 ignated), by striking “(vi)” and in-
13 serting “(vii);” and

14 (ii) by adding at the end the fol-
15 lowing:

16 “(4) CERTIFIED SEED PILOT PROGRAM.—

17 “(A) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary may, in
18 up to 5 States or Indian tribes, establish a pilot
19 program under which the State department of
20 agriculture of a selected State, or the equivalent
21 Tribal government agency, may certify genetic
22 purity (within the meaning of the Federal Seed
23 Act (7 U.S.C. 1551 et seq.)) and identity as to
24 variety (as defined in section 101 of that Act (7
25 U.S.C. 1561)) of varieties of seeds that have

1 been bred to produce plants with a total
2 tetrahydrocannabinol concentration (including
3 tetrahydrocannabinolic acid) of not more than
4 0.3 percent on a dry weight basis.

5 “(B) EXEMPTION.—

6 “(i) IN GENERAL.—A hemp producer
7 that produces hemp using a variety of seed
8 certified under subparagraph (A) in the
9 State or on the land of the Indian tribe by
10 which the variety of seed is certified may
11 submit to the applicable State department
12 of agriculture, or equivalent Tribal govern-
13 ment agency, an application for an exemp-
14 tion from the testing requirements under
15 paragraph (2)(A)(iii)(I).

16 “(ii) EXPIRATION.—An exemption ap-
17 proved under clause (i) shall expire on the
18 date that is 3 years after the date of the
19 approval.

20 “(iii) REAPPLICATION.—A hemp pro-
21 ducer may reapply under clause (i) to be
22 exempt under that clause after the expira-
23 tion of the exemption under clause (ii).

24 “(C) APPROVAL.—If the State department
25 of agriculture approves an application sub-

1 mitted under subparagraph (B)(i), the applica-
2 ble hemp producer shall not be subject to the
3 testing requirements under paragraph
4 (2)(A)(iii)(I).

5 “(D) REGULATION OF VENDORS.—Each
6 State or Indian tribe selected to participate in
7 the pilot program under this paragraph shall
8 regulate vendors of seed certified under sub-
9 paragraph (A) operating in that State or on the
10 land of that Indian tribe.”; and

11 (B) in subsection (e)(3)—

12 (i) by striking subparagraph (B);

13 (ii) by redesignating subparagraph
14 (C) as subparagraph (B); and

15 (iii) by adding at the end the fol-
16 lowing:

17 “(C) PRODUCTION INCONSISTENT WITH
18 INDUSTRIAL HEMP DESIGNATION.—Any person
19 licensed to produce only industrial hemp as de-
20 scribed in subsection (a)(2)(A)(ii)(I) who, with
21 a culpable mental state greater than negligence,
22 produces a crop of hemp that is inconsistent
23 with that license shall be ineligible to partici-
24 pate in the program established under this sec-
25 tion for a period of 5 years beginning on the

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1 date of the violation, as determined by the Sec-
2 retary.”.

3 (2) DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE PLAN.—
4 Section 297C(a)(2) of the Agricultural Marketing
5 Act of 1946 (7 U.S.C. 1639q(a)(2)) is amended—

6 (A) by redesignating subparagraphs (B)
7 through (F) as subparagraphs (C) through (G),
8 respectively;

9 (B) by inserting after subparagraph (A)
10 the following:

11 “(B) a procedure by which a hemp pro-
12 ducer may be licensed to produce—

13 “(i) only industrial hemp, in which
14 case the industrial hemp producer shall not
15 be required to undergo a background check
16 to apply for the license; or

17 “(ii) hemp for any purpose;” and

18 (C) in subparagraph (C) (as so redesi-
19 gnated)—

20 (i) by inserting “, excluding industrial
21 hemp,” after “hemp”;

22 (ii) by adding “and” after the semi-
23 colon at the end;

24 (iii) by striking “(C) a procedure”
25 and inserting “(C)(i) a procedure”; and

1 (iv) by adding at the end the fol-
2 lowing:

3 “(ii) in the case of a producer licensed to
4 produce only industrial hemp under subpara-
5 graph (B)(i), a procedure for testing compliance
6 with the definition of industrial hemp in section
7 297A using relaxed regulatory requirements,
8 which may include—

9 “(I) visual inspections;

10 “(II) performance-based sampling
11 methodologies;

12 “(III) certified seed, if the applicable
13 State or Indian tribe is participating in the
14 pilot program established under section
15 297B(a)(4); or

16 “(IV) any other similar procedure, as
17 approved by the Secretary, when devel-
18 oping sampling plans for any producer that
19 elects to be designated as a producer of
20 only industrial hemp under subparagraph
21 (B)(i);”.

22 (3) REGULATIONS AND GUIDELINES; EFFECT
23 ON OTHER LAW.—Section 297D of the Agricultural
24 Marketing Act of 1946 (7 U.S.C. 1639r) is amended
25 by adding at the end the following:

1 “(d) EFFECT ON STATE OR TRIBAL LAW.—Except
2 as provided in section 297B, nothing in this subtitle pre-
3 empts or limits any law of a State or Indian tribe that
4 regulates any activity involving hemp or hemp products,
5 including with respect to the production, manufacture, or
6 sale of hemp or hemp products.”.

7 **SEC. 10017. FIFRA INTERAGENCY WORKING GROUP.**

8 Section 3(c)(11)(D)(iv) of the Federal Insecticide,
9 Fungicide, and Rodenticide Act (7 U.S.C.
10 136a(c)(11)(D)(iv)) is amended, in the matter preceding
11 subclause (I), by striking “Not later than” and all that
12 follows through “beginning on that date” and inserting
13 “Not less frequently than annually for each of fiscal years
14 2025 through 2029”.

15 **SEC. 10018. INTERSTATE MOVEMENT OUTSIDE OF THE CON-**
16 **TINENTAL UNITED STATES.**

17 Section 433(c)(1) of the Plant Protection Act (7
18 U.S.C. 7753(c)(1)) is amended by inserting “or interstate
19 movement from areas outside of the continental United
20 States,” after “United States,”.

21 **SEC. 10019. PLANT PEST AND DISEASE MANAGEMENT AND**
22 **DISASTER PREVENTION.**

23 Section 420(f) of the Plant Protection Act (7 U.S.C.
24 7721(f)) is amended—

1 (1) in paragraph (5), by striking “and” at the
2 end;

3 (2) by redesignating paragraph (6) as para-
4 graph (7);

5 (3) by inserting after paragraph (5) the fol-
6 lowing:

7 “(6) \$75,000,000 for each of fiscal years 2018
8 through 2024; and”; and

9 (4) in paragraph (7) (as so redesignated), by
10 striking “\$75,000,000 for fiscal year 2018” and in-
11 serting “\$90,000,000 for fiscal year 2025”.

12 **SEC. 10020. AGRICULTURE QUARANTINE AND INSPECTION**
13 **PROGRAM RESERVE FEE.**

14 Section 2509(a)(1) of the Food, Agriculture, Con-
15 servation, and Trade Act of 1990 (21 U.S.C. 136a(a)(1))
16 is amended by striking subparagraph (C) and inserting
17 the following:

18 “(C) to maintain a reasonable balance in
19 the Department of Agriculture accounts de-
20 scribed in paragraph (6).”.

21 **TITLE XI—CROP INSURANCE**

22 **Subtitle A—Producer Affordability**

23 **SEC. 11101. ENHANCING SUBSIDIES FOR BEGINNING AND**
24 **VETERAN FARMERS AND RANCHERS.**

25 (a) DEFINITIONS.—

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1 (1) BEGINNING FARMER OR RANCHER.—

2 (A) IN GENERAL.—Section 502(b)(3) of
3 the Federal Crop Insurance Act (7 U.S.C.
4 1502(b)(3)) is amended by striking “5” and in-
5 serting “10”.

6 (B) CONFORMING AMENDMENT.—Section
7 522(c)(7) of the Federal Crop Insurance Act (7
8 U.S.C. 1522(c)(7)) is amended by striking sub-
9 paragraph (F).

10 (2) VETERAN FARMER OR RANCHER.—Section
11 502(b)(14)(B) of the Federal Crop Insurance Act (7
12 U.S.C. 1502(b)(14)(B)) is amended—

13 (A) in clause (ii), by striking “5 years”
14 and inserting “10 years”; and

15 (B) in clause (iii), by striking “5-year”
16 and inserting “10-year”.

17 (b) INCREASE IN ASSISTANCE.—Section 508(e)(8) of
18 the Federal Crop Insurance Act (7 U.S.C. 1508(e)(8)) is
19 amended—

20 (1) by striking “Notwithstanding” and insert-
21 ing the following:

22 “(A) IN GENERAL.—Notwithstanding”;

23 (2) in subparagraph (A) (as so designated), by
24 striking “is 10 percentage points greater than” and

1 inserting “is the number of percentage points speci-
2 fied in subparagraph (B) greater than”; and

3 (3) by adding at the end the following:

4 “(B) PERCENTAGE POINTS ADJUST-
5 MENTS.—The percentage points referred to in
6 subparagraph (A) are the following:

7 “(i) For each of the first and second
8 reinsurance years that a beginning farmer
9 or rancher or veteran farmer or rancher
10 participates as a beginning farmer or
11 rancher or veteran farmer or rancher, re-
12 spectively, in the applicable policy or plan
13 of insurance, 15 percentage points.

14 “(ii) For the third reinsurance year
15 that a beginning farmer or rancher or vet-
16 eran farmer or rancher participates as a
17 beginning farmer or rancher or veteran
18 farmer or rancher, respectively, in the ap-
19 plicable policy or plan of insurance, 13 per-
20 centage points.

21 “(iii) For the fourth reinsurance year
22 that a beginning farmer or rancher or vet-
23 eran farmer or rancher participates as a
24 beginning farmer or rancher or veteran
25 farmer or rancher, respectively, in the ap-

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1 applicable policy or plan of insurance, 11 per-
2 centage points.

3 “(iv) For each of the fifth through
4 tenth reinsurance years that a beginning
5 farmer or rancher or veteran farmer or
6 rancher participates as a beginning farmer
7 or rancher or veteran farmer or rancher,
8 respectively, in the applicable policy or
9 plan of insurance, 10 percentage points.”.

10 **SEC. 11102. HIGHER AREA-BASED PREMIUM SUBSIDY OP-**
11 **TION.**

12 Section 508 of the Federal Crop Insurance Act (7
13 U.S.C. 1508) is amended—

14 (1) in subsection (c)(4)(C)—

15 (A) in clause (ii), by striking “14” and in-
16 serting “12”;

17 (B) in clause (iii)(I), by striking “86” and
18 inserting “88”;

19 (C) by redesignating clause (v) as clause
20 (vi); and

21 (D) by inserting after clause (iv) the fol-
22 lowing:

23 “(v) PRIORITIES FOR EXPANSION OF
24 COVERAGE.—The Corporation shall
25 prioritize expansion of coverage under this

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1 section or similar coverage options to crops
2 for which, and regions of the United States
3 in which—

4 “(I) insurance options are lim-
5 ited; and

6 “(II) average buy-up levels on in-
7 dividual insurance policies are less
8 than 75 percent.”; and

9 (2) in subsection (e)(2)(H)(i), by striking “65”
10 and inserting “80”.

11 **SEC. 11103. EXPANSION OF PERFORMANCE-BASED DIS-**
12 **COUNT.**

13 Section 508(d)(3) of the Federal Crop Insurance Act
14 (7 U.S.C. 1508(d)(3)) is amended—

15 (1) by striking “The Corporation” and insert-
16 ing the following:

17 “(A) IN GENERAL.—The Corporation”;

18 and

19 (2) by adding at the end the following:

20 “(B) RISK-REDUCING PRACTICE DIS-
21 COUNT.—

22 “(i) IN GENERAL.—Beginning with
23 the 2026 reinsurance year, the Corporation
24 may offer discounts under subparagraph

1 (A) for practices that can be demonstrated
2 to reduce risk, relative to other practices.

3 “(ii) REVIEW.—In determining prac-
4 tices for which to offer discounts under
5 clause (i), the Corporation shall—

6 “(I) for the 2026 reinsurance
7 year, consider precision irrigation or
8 fertilization, crop rotations, cover
9 crops, and any other practices deter-
10 mined to be appropriate by the Cor-
11 poration; and

12 “(II) on an annual basis, seek ex-
13 pert opinions and consider additional
14 practices based on new evidence.”.

15 **SEC. 11104. HIGHER PREMIUM SUBSIDY RATES.**

16 (a) IN GENERAL.—Section 508(e)(2) of the Federal
17 Crop Insurance Act (7 U.S.C. 1508(e)(2)) is amended—

18 (1) in subparagraph (B)(i), by striking “67”
19 and inserting “80”;

20 (2) in subparagraph (C)(i), by striking “64”
21 and inserting “70”;

22 (3) in subparagraph (D)(i), by striking “59”
23 and inserting “62”;

24 (4) in subparagraph (E)(i), by striking “55”
25 and inserting “58”;

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1 (5) in subparagraph (F)(i), by striking “48”
2 and inserting “50”; and

3 (6) in subparagraph (G)(i), by striking “38”
4 and inserting “40”.

5 (b) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The higher premium subsidy
6 rates specified in the amendments made by subsection (a)
7 shall be implemented by the Secretary beginning with the
8 2024 reinsurance year.

9 **Subtitle B—Producer Accessibility**
10 **and Representation**

11 **SEC. 11201. COMPOSITION OF FEDERAL CROP INSURANCE**
12 **CORPORATION BOARD.**

13 Section 505 of the Federal Crop Insurance Act (7
14 U.S.C. 1505) is amended—

15 (1) in subsection (a)(2)—

16 (A) in subparagraph (C), by striking “One
17 additional Under Secretary of Agriculture (as
18 designated by the Secretary)” and inserting
19 “The Under Secretary of Agriculture respon-
20 sible for marketing and regulatory programs”;

21 (B) in each of subparagraphs (E) and (F),
22 by striking “One” and inserting “1”; and

23 (C) in subparagraph (G)—

24 (i) by striking “Four” and inserting
25 “5”; and

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1 (ii) by striking “including at least one
2 specialty crop producer.” and inserting the
3 following: “including at least—

4 “(i) 1 specialty crop producer;

5 “(ii) 1 producer that actively engages
6 in both livestock production and crop pro-
7 duction of agricultural commodities; and

8 “(iii) 1 underserved producer.”;

9 (2) by striking subsection (b) and inserting the
10 following:

11 “(b) VACANCIES.—

12 “(1) IN GENERAL.—Vacancies in the Board
13 shall not impair the power of the Board to execute
14 the functions of the Corporation, subject to the con-
15 dition that there are at least 6 members in office.

16 “(2) QUORUM.—6 of the members in office
17 shall constitute a quorum for the transaction of the
18 business of the Board.”;

19 (3) in subsection (c), by striking “(c) The Di-
20 rectors” and inserting the following:

21 “(c) COMPENSATION FOR DIRECTORS.—The Direc-
22 tors”;

23 (4) in subsection (d), by striking “(d) The man-
24 ager” and inserting the following:

1 “(d) MANAGER OF CORPORATION.—The manager”;

2 and

3 (5) in subsection (e)—

4 (A) in paragraph (1)—

5 (i) by striking “The Board” and in-
6 serting the following:

7 “(A) IN GENERAL.—The Board”; and

8 (ii) by adding at the end the fol-
9 lowing:

10 “(B) SUBJECT MATTER EXPERTISE.—To
11 the maximum extent practicable, the Board
12 shall seek to include at least 1 expert reviewer
13 with subject matter expertise on the policy, plan
14 of insurance, or related material being re-
15 viewed.”;

16 (B) in paragraph (2)—

17 (i) in the matter preceding subpara-
18 graph (A), by striking “five” and inserting
19 “5”;

20 (ii) by striking “one” each place it ap-
21 pears and inserting “1”;

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

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1 (iv) in subparagraph (B), by striking
2 the period at the end and inserting “;
3 and”; and

4 (v) by adding at the end the following:
5 “(C) at least 1 person shall be a licensed
6 actuary.”; and

7 (C) in paragraph (3)(A)—

8 (i) in clause (i)—

9 (I) by striking “one” and insert-
10 ing “1”; and

11 (II) by striking “and” at the end;

12 and

13 (ii) by adding at the end the fol-
14 lowing:

15 “(iii) at least 1 person shall be a li-
16 censed actuary; and”.

17 **SEC. 11202. ENSURING ACCESS FOR PRODUCERS.**

18 Section 520 of the Federal Crop Insurance Act (7
19 U.S.C. 1520) is amended—

20 (1) in the matter preceding paragraph (1), by
21 striking “Except as” and inserting the following:

22 “(a) IN GENERAL.—Except as”; and

23 (2) by adding at the end the following:

24 “(b) ACCESS FOR PRODUCERS.—

1 “(1) IN GENERAL.—An approved insurance pro-
2 vider shall—

3 “(A) offer and market all plans of insur-
4 ance for all agricultural commodities in any
5 State in which actuarial documents are avail-
6 able and in which the approved insurance pro-
7 vider writes an eligible crop insurance or live-
8 stock price insurance contract; and

9 “(B) shall accept and approve applications
10 from all eligible producers.

11 “(2) CANCELLATION.—An approved insurance
12 provider may not cancel an eligible crop insurance or
13 livestock price insurance contract held by a policy-
14 holder so long as the policyholder remains an eligible
15 producer and the approved insurance provider con-
16 tinues to write eligible crop insurance or livestock
17 price insurance contracts within the State, except—

18 “(A) as authorized by the Corporation; or

19 “(B) as required by law.

20 “(3) OFFERING OF PLANS.—The approved in-
21 surance provider is not required to offer such plans
22 of insurance as may be approved by the Corporation
23 under the authority of section 508(h), except that if
24 the approved insurance provider chooses to offer any
25 such plan, the approved insurance provider shall—

1 “(A) offer the plan in all approved States
2 in which the approved insurance provider writes
3 an eligible crop insurance or livestock price in-
4 surance contract where such plan is made avail-
5 able; and

6 “(B) comply with all provisions of this sub-
7 section as to such plan.

8 “(4) COMPLIANCE.—

9 “(A) SANCTIONS.—The procedural require-
10 ments and sanctions prescribed in section
11 515(h) shall apply to the prosecution of a viola-
12 tion of this subsection.

13 “(B) MATERIAL BREACH.—Beginning with
14 reinsurance year 2026, failure of an approved
15 insurance provider to comply with this sub-
16 section may be considered a material breach
17 under the Standard Reinsurance Agreement
18 and the Livestock Price Reinsurance Agree-
19 ment, as determined by the Corporation.”.

20 **SEC. 11203. IMPROVEMENTS TO WHOLE FARM AND MICRO**
21 **FARM INSURANCE PLANS.**

22 Section 522(c) of the Federal Crop Insurance Act (7
23 U.S.C. 1522(c)) is amended—

24 (1) in paragraph (1)—

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1 (A) in subparagraph (B), by striking
2 “and” at the end;

3 (B) in subparagraph (C), by striking the
4 period at the end and inserting “; and”; and

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

6 “(D) increase participation by producers
7 marketing products direct-to-consumer in local
8 and regional markets or using farm identity-
9 preserved marketing, including by undertaking
10 producer education on how to use direct market
11 prices.”;

12 (2) in paragraph (7) (as amended by section
13 11101(a)(1)(B))—

14 (A) in subparagraph (A), by striking
15 “plan, with a liability limitation of
16 \$1,500,000,” and inserting “plan”;

17 (B) in subparagraph (C), in the matter
18 preceding clause (i), by striking “may” and in-
19 serting “shall”;

20 (C) in subparagraph (D), by striking
21 “may” and inserting “shall”;

22 (D) in subparagraph (E)—

23 (i) in clause (i), in the matter pre-
24 ceding subclause (I), by striking “18
25 months after the date of enactment of the

1 Agriculture Improvement Act of 2018”
2 and inserting “1 year after the date of en-
3 actment of the Rural Prosperity and Food
4 Security Act of 2024”;

5 (ii) in clause (ii), in the matter pre-
6 ceding subclause (I), by striking “sub-
7 clause” and inserting “clause”; and

8 (iii) by adding at the end the fol-
9 lowing:

10 “(iii) ADDITIONAL REVIEW.—Not
11 later than 1 year after the date of enact-
12 ment of the Rural Prosperity and Food Se-
13 curity Act of 2024, and annually there-
14 after, the Corporation shall—

15 “(I) review any limitations on in-
16 surable revenue (including the overall
17 limitation and limitations specific to
18 animals, animal products, greenhouse
19 and nursery, and aquaculture) to en-
20 sure the limitations are adequate to
21 cover the financial risks associated
22 with the production of high-value agri-
23 cultural products; and

24 “(II) submit to the Committee on
25 Agriculture of the House of Rep-

1 representatives and the Committee on
2 Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry
3 of the Senate a report that includes a
4 summary of the most recent review
5 conducted under subclause (I) and
6 any expected changes to the policy for
7 the following reinsurance year.

8 “(iv) PUBLIC REPORT.—Not later
9 than 18 months after the date of enact-
10 ment of the Rural Prosperity and Food Se-
11 curity Act of 2024, the Board shall make
12 publicly available a report describing the
13 decisions made by the Board with respect
14 to each factor described in clause (ii).”;
15 and

16 (E) by adding at the end the following:

17 “(F) MODIFICATIONS TO IMPROVE EFFEC-
18 TIVENESS FOR SPECIALTY CROPS AND DIVERSI-
19 FIED FARMS.—Not later than 180 days after
20 the date of enactment of the Rural Prosperity
21 and Food Security Act of 2024, the Corpora-
22 tion shall implement the following modifications
23 to the plans developed under subparagraph (A)
24 and paragraph (18):

1 “(i) Establish that appropriate income
2 reported on Internal Revenue Service Tax
3 Form Schedule F, or successor forms, shall
4 be sufficient for the establishment of his-
5 torical adjusted revenue, subject to the
6 condition that insurance providers may re-
7 quest additional verifiable records in cases
8 where there is documented evidence, made
9 clear to the applicant, that farm tax
10 records are incomplete.

11 “(ii) Require that the adjustment of
12 the revenue guarantee by an approved in-
13 surance provider, after the approved insur-
14 ance provider accepts the revised farm op-
15 eration report, is contingent on approval
16 from the Risk Management Agency, and
17 allow the insured an opportunity to appeal
18 decisions to the National Appeals Division.

19 “(iii) Presume that declines in local
20 market price are due to unavoidable nat-
21 ural causes, unless the Corporation can
22 prove the extent to which the decline in
23 local market price is the direct result of an
24 uninsured manmade event.

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1 “(iv) With respect to whole farm rev-
2 enue protection policies, raise the limit on
3 growth expansion for all producers to the
4 lower of—

5 “(I) 100 percent of historic rev-
6 enue; and

7 “(II) \$500,000.

8 “(v)(I) Require approved insurance
9 providers to accept or reject applications,
10 by written decision, within 75 days of re-
11 ceipt of the application, with failure to do
12 so resulting in a reduction by 15 percent
13 of the amount of the administrative and
14 operating subsidy that the approved insur-
15 ance provider receives from the Corpora-
16 tion for that policy.

17 “(II) A rejection of an application
18 shall include a written rationale with suffi-
19 cient detail for the producer to understand
20 any deficiencies in the application and how
21 to cure those deficiencies.

22 “(vi) Require the Risk Management
23 Agency and approved insurance providers
24 to treat different cultivation cycles of a
25 single crop, such as peppers, as separate

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1 crops to recognize the difference in perils
2 at different periods of the year for pur-
3 poses of calculating the diversification pre-
4 mium discount.

5 “(vii) Provide additional educational
6 and training opportunities to approved in-
7 surance providers and insurance agents,
8 which may include entering into agree-
9 ments with 1 or more entities—

10 “(I) to provide technical assist-
11 ance to producers interested in a
12 whole farm revenue protection policy
13 similar to the plan described in this
14 paragraph;

15 “(II) to conduct education and
16 outreach to agents and insurance pro-
17 viders for a whole farm revenue pro-
18 tection policy similar to the plan de-
19 scribed in this paragraph; and

20 “(III) to develop best practices
21 for underwriting.

22 “(viii)(I) Conduct a pilot program to
23 create a pricing library for agents and in-
24 surance providers using data from—

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1 “(aa) the Agricultural Marketing
2 Service;

3 “(bb) the noninsured crop dis-
4 aster assistance program established
5 by section 196 of the Federal Agri-
6 culture Improvement and Reform Act
7 of 1996 (7 U.S.C. 7333);

8 “(cc) approved policies of the
9 Board;

10 “(dd) land-grant colleges or uni-
11 versities and other institutions of
12 higher education;

13 “(ee) grower boards or commis-
14 sions; or

15 “(ff) other relevant sources, as
16 determined by the Secretary.

17 “(II) The Risk Management Agency
18 may, as determined by the Secretary, offer
19 the pricing library described in subclause
20 (I) to agents and insurance providers in
21 connection with policies other than policies
22 developed under subparagraph (A) or para-
23 graph (18).

24 “(ix) Allow prices and yields used to
25 establish coverage in other Federal crop in-

1 surance policies to be used as prices and
2 yields for whole farm revenue protection
3 policies.

4 “(x) Establish a process for records
5 and acreage reports submitted by pro-
6 ducers for the noninsured crop assistance
7 program under section 196 of the Federal
8 Agriculture Improvement and Reform Act
9 of 1996 (7 U.S.C. 7333) to be accepted as
10 documentation for the requisite actual pro-
11 duction history for whole farm revenue
12 protection policies.

13 “(xi) Create a web-accessible tool for
14 producers to locate agents experienced in
15 selling a whole farm revenue protection
16 policy.

17 “(G) DISASTER YEARS.—The Corporation
18 shall moderate the impact of disaster years, as
19 determined by the Secretary, on historic rev-
20 enue by considering—

21 “(i) using an average of the historic
22 and projected revenue;

23 “(ii) counting indemnities as historic
24 revenue for loss years;

1 “(iii) counting payments under section
2 196 of the Federal Agriculture Improve-
3 ment and Reform Act of 1996 (7 U.S.C.
4 7333) as historic revenue for loss years;
5 and

6 “(iv) using an assigned yield floor
7 similar to the limitation described in sec-
8 tion 508(g)(6)(A)(i), as determined by the
9 Secretary.

10 “(H) REVENUE GUARANTEES.—

11 “(i) IN GENERAL.—The Corporation
12 shall carry out research and development,
13 or offer to enter into 1 or more contracts
14 with 1 or more qualified persons to carry
15 out research and development, regarding
16 the use of alternative records for estab-
17 lishing a revenue guarantee of a producer,
18 including—

19 “(I) any farm loan records, in-
20 cluding business plans or other mate-
21 rials, to establish expected revenue
22 and cash flow used for a Farm Serv-
23 ice Agency direct or guaranteed loan;
24 and

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1 “(II) any business plans devel-
2 oped in consultation with an accept-
3 able source, as determined by the Sec-
4 retary, such as an extension service, a
5 farm business management service, a
6 Farm Credit System institution, a
7 community development financial in-
8 stitution, or a private lender.

9 “(ii) REPORT.—Not later than 1 year
10 after the date of enactment of the Rural
11 Prosperity and Food Security Act of 2024,
12 the Corporation shall submit to the Com-
13 mittee on Agriculture of the House of Rep-
14 resentatives and the Committee on Agri-
15 culture, Nutrition, and Forestry of the
16 Senate a report that describes—

17 “(I) the results of the research
18 and development carried out under
19 clause (i);

20 “(II) any changes being imple-
21 mented by the Corporation, either
22 permanently or on a pilot basis; and

23 “(III) any recommendations to
24 Congress with respect to those re-
25 sults.”; and

1 (3) in paragraph (18), by adding at the end the
2 following:

3 “(D) CONTINUATION OF PLAN.—The Ad-
4 ministrators of the Risk Management Agency
5 shall continue to offer the micro farm insurance
6 plan offered pursuant to subparagraph (A)(ii)
7 in all States and counties of the United States.

8 “(E) REVIEW OF MODIFICATION TO IM-
9 PROVE EFFECTIVENESS OF MICRO FARM
10 PLAN.—

11 “(i) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 1
12 year after the date of enactment of the
13 Rural Prosperity and Food Security Act of
14 2024, the Administrator of the Risk Man-
15 agement Agency shall—

16 “(I) conduct stakeholder meet-
17 ings to solicit producer and agent
18 feedback on the performance of, chal-
19 lenges in purchasing and servicing,
20 and opportunities for improving, the
21 micro farm insurance plan offered
22 pursuant to subparagraph (A)(ii); and

23 “(II) review procedure and pa-
24 perwork requirements for agents and
25 producers and make modifications, as

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1 appropriate, to decrease burdens and
2 increase flexibility and effectiveness of
3 that plan.

4 “(ii) REPORT.—Not later than 18
5 months after the date of enactment of the
6 Rural Prosperity and Food Security Act of
7 2024, the Corporation shall submit to the
8 Committee on Agriculture of the House of
9 Representatives and the Committee on Ag-
10 riculture, Nutrition, and Forestry of the
11 Senate a report that describes—

12 “(I) any feedback received under
13 clause (i)(I);

14 “(II) the results of the review
15 carried out under clause (i)(II); and

16 “(III) any recommendations with
17 respect to that feedback or those re-
18 sults.

19 “(F) MODIFICATIONS TO IMPROVE EFFEC-
20 TIVENESS FOR MICRO FARM.—

21 “(i) IN GENERAL.—Not later than
22 180 days after the date of enactment of
23 the Rural Prosperity and Food Security
24 Act of 2024, the Corporation shall imple-
25 ment the following modifications to the

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1 micro farm insurance plan offered pursu-
2 ant to subparagraph (A)(ii):

3 “(I) Allow vertically integrated
4 operations to access coverage under a
5 micro farm policy.

6 “(II) Allow producers with a
7 micro farm policy to also purchase
8 crop-specific Federal crop insurance
9 policies for crops insured under the
10 micro farm policy.

11 “(ii) LESS PAPERWORK.—Not later
12 than 1 year after the date of enactment of
13 the Rural Prosperity and Food Security
14 Act of 2024, under the micro farm insur-
15 ance plan offered pursuant to subpara-
16 graph (A)(ii), the Corporation shall imple-
17 ment an option for producers with not
18 more than \$1,000,000 in gross revenue
19 that requires significantly less paperwork
20 and recordkeeping.”.

21 **SEC. 11204. RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT OF NEW CROPS**
22 **AND COVERAGES.**

23 Section 522(c) of the Federal Crop Insurance Act (7
24 U.S.C. 1522(c)) is amended by adding at the end the fol-
25 lowing:

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1 “(20) WALNUTS.—

2 “(A) IN GENERAL.—The Corporation shall
3 carry out research and development, or offer to
4 enter into 1 or more contracts with 1 or more
5 qualified persons to carry out research and de-
6 velopment—

7 “(i) regarding improvements to 1 or
8 more policies to insure walnuts, includ-
9 ing—

10 “(I) coverage for shelled walnuts;
11 and

12 “(II) quality issues, including
13 revenue losses, caused by heat and
14 other factors for both in-shell and
15 shelled walnuts; and

16 “(ii) to assess, by county, the dif-
17 ference in the rate, average yield, and cov-
18 erage level of walnut policies compared to
19 policies for other nuts in that county.

20 “(B) REPORT.—Not later than 18 months
21 after the date of enactment of the Rural Pros-
22 perity and Food Security Act of 2024, the Cor-
23 poration shall publish a report that describes—

1 “(i) the results of the research and
2 development carried out under subpara-
3 graph (A); and

4 “(ii) any recommendations with re-
5 spect to those results.

6 “(21) WINE GRAPES.—

7 “(A) IN GENERAL.—The Corporation shall
8 carry out research and development, or offer to
9 enter into 1 or more contracts with 1 or more
10 qualified persons to carry out research and de-
11 velopment, regarding a policy to insure wine
12 grapes (including wine grapes produced in the
13 States of California, Oregon, and Washington)
14 against losses due to wildfire smoke exposure.

15 “(B) AVAILABILITY OF POLICY.—Notwith-
16 standing the second sentence of section
17 508(a)(1) and section 508(a)(2), not later than
18 18 months after the date of enactment of the
19 Rural Prosperity and Food Security Act of
20 2024, the Corporation shall make available a
21 policy described in subparagraph (A) if the re-
22 quirements of section 508(h) are met with re-
23 spect to that policy.

24 “(C) REPORT.—If the Corporation does
25 not offer a policy described in subparagraph (A)

1 by the date that is 2 years after the date of en-
2 actment of the Rural Prosperity and Food Se-
3 curity Act of 2024, the Corporation shall pub-
4 lish a report that includes the results of the re-
5 search and development carried out under that
6 subparagraph.

7 “(22) CUT FLOWERS.—

8 “(A) IN GENERAL.—The Corporation shall
9 carry out research and development, or offer to
10 enter into 1 or more contracts with 1 or more
11 qualified persons to carry out research and de-
12 velopment, regarding a policy to insure cut
13 flowers.

14 “(B) REPORT.—Not later than 18 months
15 after the date of enactment of the Rural Pros-
16 perity and Food Security Act of 2024, the Cor-
17 poration shall publish a report that describes—

18 “(i) the results of the research and
19 development carried out under subpara-
20 graph (A); and

21 “(ii) any recommendations with re-
22 spect to those results.

23 “(23) MUSHROOMS.—

24 “(A) IN GENERAL.—The Corporation shall
25 carry out research and development, or offer to

1 enter into 1 or more contracts with 1 or more
2 qualified persons to carry out research and de-
3 velopment, regarding a policy to insure the pro-
4 duction of mushrooms or revenue derived from
5 the production of mushrooms.

6 “(B) REPORT.—Not later than 1 year
7 after the date of enactment of the Rural Pros-
8 perity and Food Security Act of 2024, the Cor-
9 poration shall publish a report that describes—

10 “(i) the results of the research and
11 development carried out under subpara-
12 graph (A); and

13 “(ii) any recommendations with re-
14 spect to those results.

15 “(24) DOUBLE CROPPING OF CERTAIN OILSEED
16 CROPS.—

17 “(A) DEFINITION OF COVERED OILSEED
18 CROPS.—In this paragraph, the term ‘covered
19 oilseed crops’ means rapeseed, canola, carinata,
20 camelina, and other oilseed crops, as deter-
21 mined by the Corporation.

22 “(B) RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT.—
23 The Corporation shall carry out research and
24 development, or offer to enter into 1 or more
25 contracts with 1 or more qualified persons to

1 carry out research and development, regarding
2 the inclusion of covered oilseed crops under
3 double cropping practices.

4 “(C) REQUIREMENTS.—The research
5 under subparagraph (B) shall be carried out in
6 consultation with stakeholders to evaluate—

7 “(i) the economic and environmental
8 benefits of incorporating covered oilseed
9 crops into double cropping practices; and

10 “(ii) the potential risks associated
11 with incorporating covered oilseed crops
12 into double cropping practices, specifically
13 with respect to winter-planted covered oil-
14 seed crops, including risks to soil health,
15 biodiversity, and the profitability of farm-
16 ing operations.

17 “(D) PRIORITY.—In awarding contracts
18 under subparagraph (B), the Corporation may
19 give priority to persons and institutions that—

20 “(i) have previous research experience
21 with covered oilseed crops; and

22 “(ii) have access to a facility with the
23 capacity to do the applicable research.

24 “(E) REPORT.—Not later than 13 months
25 after the date of enactment of the Rural Pros-

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1 “(C) INDEX.—The alfalfa price index for
2 purposes of the research and development under
3 this paragraph shall use—

4 “(i) a combination of commodities
5 traded on the futures market that provides
6 an indication of feed market value; or

7 “(ii) other alternatives that provide a
8 similar indication, as determined by the
9 Corporation.

10 “(D) REPORT.—Not later than 18 months
11 after the date of enactment of the Rural Pros-
12 perity and Food Security Act of 2024, the Cor-
13 poration shall publish a report that describes—

14 “(i) the results of the research and
15 development carried out under subpara-
16 graph (A); and

17 “(ii) any decisions made in connection
18 with those results.

19 “(26) AQUACULTURE PRODUCTS.—

20 “(A) IN GENERAL.—The Corporation shall
21 carry out research and development, or offer to
22 enter into 1 or more contracts with 1 or more
23 qualified persons to carry out research and de-
24 velopment, regarding a policy to insure aqua-
25 culture products with a market.

1 “(B) REPORT.—Not later than 18 months
2 after the date of enactment of the Rural Pros-
3 perity and Food Security Act of 2024, the Cor-
4 poration shall publish a report that describes—

5 “(i) the results of the research and
6 development carried out under subpara-
7 graph (A); and

8 “(ii) any decisions made in connection
9 with those results.

10 “(27) TRADITIONAL FOODS.—

11 “(A) IN GENERAL.—The Corporation shall
12 carry out research and development, or offer to
13 enter into 1 or more contracts with 1 or more
14 qualified persons to carry out research and de-
15 velopment, regarding a policy to insure tradi-
16 tional foods.

17 “(B) REPORT.—Not later than 18 months
18 after the date of enactment of the Rural Pros-
19 perity and Food Security Act of 2024, the Cor-
20 poration shall publish a report that describes—

21 “(i) the results of the research and
22 development carried out under subpara-
23 graph (A); and

24 “(ii) any decisions made in connection
25 with those results.

1 “(28) MULTIPERIL INDEX.—

2 “(A) IN GENERAL.—The Corporation shall
3 carry out research and development, or offer to
4 enter into 1 or more contracts with 1 or more
5 qualified persons to carry out research and de-
6 velopment, regarding an index insurance policy
7 to insure crops, including specialty crops,
8 against losses due to—

9 “(i) abnormal quantities of rainfall;

10 “(ii) extreme heat;

11 “(iii) wildfire;

12 “(iv) hail;

13 “(v) drought; and

14 “(vi) any other severe weather or
15 growing condition, as determined by the
16 Secretary.

17 “(B) RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT.—

18 The research and development under subpara-
19 graph (A) shall—

20 “(i) evaluate the feasibility of devel-
21 oping a single index policy to insure
22 against multiple hazards, such as drought
23 and excessive moisture;

24 “(ii) consider the ability to insure
25 commodities for which—

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1 “(I) a policy or plan of insurance
2 does not exist; or

3 “(II) an existing policy or plan of
4 insurance does not cover all counties;

5 “(iii) study and evaluate potentially
6 relevant data sources, such as the National
7 Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
8 or other federally or State-certified weath-
9 er sources, public and private satellite
10 data, and weather and climate data and
11 models; and

12 “(iv) consider consultation with li-
13 censed actuaries with experience in devel-
14 oping index policies insuring agricultural
15 production.

16 “(C) REPORT.—Not later than 18 months
17 after the date of enactment of the Rural Pros-
18 perity and Food Security Act of 2024, the Cor-
19 poration shall publish a report that describes—

20 “(i) the results of the research and
21 development carried out under subpara-
22 graph (A); and

23 “(ii) any recommendations with re-
24 spect to those results, including—

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1 “(I) any challenges to developing
2 the policy described in subparagraph
3 (A); and

4 “(II) options to address those
5 challenges.

6 “(29) FROST, FREEZE, OR COLD WEATHER IN-
7 SURANCE.—

8 “(A) IN GENERAL.—The Corporation shall
9 carry out research and development, or offer to
10 enter into 1 or more contracts with 1 or more
11 qualified persons to carry out research and de-
12 velopment, regarding an index-based policy to
13 insure crops during the growing season and
14 prior to harvest (such as apples, blueberries,
15 cherries, citrus, melons, peaches, peppers,
16 strawberries, sugarcane, and tomatoes) against
17 losses due to a frost, freeze, or cold weather
18 event.

19 “(B) RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT.—
20 The research and development under subpara-
21 graph (A) shall—

22 “(i) evaluate the effectiveness of risk
23 management tools, such as the use of an
24 index, with respect to low-frequency and
25 catastrophic loss weather events; and

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1 “(ii) if the requirements of section
2 508(h) are met, make available a policy de-
3 scribed in subparagraph (A) that provides
4 protection for at least 1 of the following:

5 “(I) Production loss.

6 “(II) Revenue loss.

7 “(C) REPORT.—Not later than 18 months
8 after the date of enactment of the Rural Pros-
9 perity and Food Security Act of 2024, the Cor-
10 poration shall publish a report that describes—

11 “(i) the results of the research and
12 development carried out under subpara-
13 graph (A); and

14 “(ii) any recommendations with re-
15 spect to those results.

16 “(30) COVER CROPS.—

17 “(A) IN GENERAL.—The Corporation shall
18 carry out research and development, or offer to
19 enter into 1 or more contracts with 1 or more
20 qualified persons to carry out research and de-
21 velopment, regarding a policy to insure crops on
22 fields that regularly use cover crops.

23 “(B) REQUIREMENTS.—The research and
24 development under subparagraph (A) shall in-
25 clude—

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1 “(i) a review of prevented planting
2 coverage factors and an evaluation of
3 whether to include cover crop seed costs
4 and costs relating to grazing in the cal-
5 culation of a factor;

6 “(ii) the extent to which cover crops
7 reduce the risk of subsequent prevented
8 planting;

9 “(iii) the extent to which cover crops
10 make crops more resilient to, or otherwise
11 reduce the risk of, loss resulting from nat-
12 ural disasters such as drought;

13 “(iv) the extent to which consistent
14 use of cover crops, type of cover crop,
15 cover crop management, or interactions
16 with other practices, such as tillage or ro-
17 tation, affects risk reduction;

18 “(v) whether rotational, adaptive, or
19 other prescribed grazing of cover crops can
20 maintain or improve risk reduction; and

21 “(vi) the best method to account for
22 any reduced risk associated with using
23 cover crops, and to provide a benefit to
24 producers using cover crops, through prac-
25 tice-based rating.

1 “(C) REPORT.—Not later than 18 months
2 after the date of enactment of the Rural Pros-
3 perity and Food Security Act of 2024, the Cor-
4 poration shall make available on the website of
5 the Corporation, and submit to the Committee
6 on Agriculture of the House of Representatives
7 and the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition,
8 and Forestry of the Senate, a report that de-
9 scribes—

10 “(i) the results of the research and
11 development carried out under subpara-
12 graph (A); and

13 “(ii) any recommendations with re-
14 spect to those results.

15 “(31) ORGANIC CROP INSURANCE.—

16 “(A) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 1 year
17 after the date of enactment of the Rural Pros-
18 perity and Food Security Act of 2024, the Cor-
19 poration shall carry out research and develop-
20 ment, or offer to enter into 1 or more contracts
21 with 1 or more qualified persons to carry out
22 research and development, regarding—

23 “(i) ways to increase participation of
24 organic producers in Federal crop insur-
25 ance; and

1 “(ii) impediments that organic pro-
2 ducers face in participating in Federal
3 crop insurance.

4 “(B) CONTENTS.—The research and devel-
5 opment under subparagraph (A) shall include
6 research relating to, with respect to organic
7 crops—

8 “(i) production history;

9 “(ii) contract price addendums;

10 “(iii) pesticide drift;

11 “(iv) revenue history;

12 “(v) crop termination dates, as com-
13 pared with summer fallow eligibility;

14 “(vi) the compatibility of Federal crop
15 insurance requirements with organic stand-
16 ards; and

17 “(vii) other factors, as determined by
18 the Secretary.

19 “(C) REGULATIONS.—Notwithstanding the
20 second sentence of section 508(a)(1) and sec-
21 tion 508(a)(2), the Secretary shall revise appli-
22 cable regulations based on the findings of the
23 research and development carried out under
24 subparagraph (A) if the results of that research
25 and development are viable.

1 “(D) REPORT.—Not later than 18 months
2 after the date of enactment of the Rural Pros-
3 perity and Food Security Act of 2024, the Cor-
4 poration shall publish a report that describes—

5 “(i) the results of the research and
6 development carried out under subpara-
7 graph (A); and

8 “(ii) any decisions made in connection
9 with those results

10 “(32) LARGE COUNTIES.—

11 “(A) IN GENERAL.—The Corporation shall
12 carry out research and development, or offer to
13 enter into 1 or more contracts with 1 or more
14 qualified persons to carry out research and de-
15 velopment, regarding the feasibility of dividing
16 large counties into smaller administrative units
17 for purposes of plans of insurance that trigger
18 indemnities based on an area-wide loss.

19 “(B) REPORT.—Not later than 18 months
20 after the date of enactment of the Rural Pros-
21 perity and Food Security Act of 2024, the Cor-
22 poration shall publish a report that describes—

23 “(i) the results of the research and
24 development carried out under subpara-
25 graph (A); and

1 “(ii) any decisions made in connection
2 with those results.

3 “(33) CLIMATE-SMART COMMODITIES AND
4 OTHER ECOSYSTEM SERVICES.—

5 “(A) IN GENERAL.—The Corporation shall
6 carry out research and development, or offer to
7 enter into 1 or more contracts with 1 or more
8 qualified persons to carry out research and de-
9 velopment, regarding a policy or endorsement to
10 insure the additional value of climate-smart
11 commodities and other commodities with eco-
12 system markets or other value-added opportuni-
13 ties, including consideration of 1 or more of the
14 following factors:

15 “(i) Inability to complete climate-
16 smart practices, such as tillage to control
17 weeds, due to factors outside the control of
18 a producer.

19 “(ii) Weather-related factors affecting
20 conservation rotation, use of a cover crop,
21 or use of split nitrogen fertilization.

22 “(iii) Other factors, as determined by
23 the Secretary.

24 “(B) AVAILABILITY OF POLICY.—Notwith-
25 standing the second sentence of section

1 508(a)(1) and section 508(a)(2), not later than
2 18 months after the date of enactment of the
3 Rural Prosperity and Food Security Act of
4 2024, the Corporation shall make available 1 or
5 more policies or endorsements described in sub-
6 paragraph (A) if the requirements of section
7 508(h) are met with respect to that policy.

8 “(C) REPORT.—If the Corporation does
9 not offer a policy described in subparagraph (A)
10 by the date that is 2 years after the date of en-
11 actment of the Rural Prosperity and Food Se-
12 curity Act of 2024, the Corporation shall pub-
13 lish a report that includes the results of the re-
14 search and development carried out under that
15 subparagraph.”.

16 **SEC. 11205. RISK MANAGEMENT EDUCATION AND OUT-**
17 **REACH.**

18 (a) CONTINUING EDUCATION FOR LOSS ADJUST-
19 ERS.—Section 515(k)(2)(C) of the Federal Crop Insur-
20 ance Act (7 U.S.C. 1515(k)(2)(C)) is amended—

21 (1) by striking “including conservation” and in-
22 serting the following: “including—

23 “(i) conservation”;

24 (2) in clause (i) (as so designated), by striking
25 the period at the end and inserting a semicolon; and

1 (3) by adding at the end the following:

2 “(ii) policies and plans of insurance
3 for specialty crop producers (including
4 whole farm revenue protection policies de-
5 veloped under section 522(c)(7) and indi-
6 vidual plans of insurance); and

7 “(iii) language translation services, as
8 appropriate.”.

9 (b) PARTNERSHIPS FOR RISK MANAGEMENT DEVEL-
10 OPMENT AND IMPLEMENTATION.—Section 522 of the
11 Federal Crop Insurance Act (7 U.S.C. 1522) is amend-
12 ed—

13 (1) in subsection (d)—

14 (A) in paragraph (2), by striking “The
15 Corporation may” and inserting the following:

16 “The Corporation—

17 “(A) shall enter into 1 or more partner-
18 ships with appropriate public and private enti-
19 ties with demonstrated capabilities—

20 “(i) in developing and implementing
21 risk management and marketing opportu-
22 nities for underserved agricultural pro-
23 ducers; and

1 “(ii) in training and credentialing
2 crop insurance agents and adjusters within
3 underserved agricultural communities; and
4 “(B) may”; and
5 (B) in paragraph (3)—

6 (i) by redesignating subparagraphs
7 (A) through (H) as clauses (i) through
8 (viii), respectively, and indenting appro-
9 priately; and

10 (ii) in the matter preceding clause (i)
11 (as so redesignated), by striking “The Cor-
12 poration may enter into a partnership
13 under paragraph (2)—” and inserting the
14 following: “The Corporation—

15 “(A) shall enter into 1 or more partner-
16 ships under paragraph (2)(A)—

17 “(i) to provide strategic outreach and
18 engage underserved agricultural popu-
19 lations about crop insurance;

20 “(ii) to increase adoption of risk man-
21 agement tools in underserved agricultural
22 communities; and

23 “(iii) to increase the representation of
24 underserved insurance agents and loss ad-

1 justers providing service to underserved
2 communities; and

3 “(B) may enter into 1 or more partner-
4 ships under paragraph (2)(B)—”; and
5 (2) in subsection (e)(2)—

6 (A) in clause (i), by striking “and” at the
7 end;

8 (B) in clause (ii), by striking “fiscal year
9 2019 and each fiscal year thereafter.” and in-
10 sserting “for each of fiscal years 2019 through
11 2024; and”; and

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

13 “(iii) \$14,000,000 for fiscal year 2025
14 and each fiscal year thereafter.”.

15 (e) EDUCATION ASSISTANCE.—Section 524(a) of the
16 Federal Crop Insurance Act (7 U.S.C. 1524(a)) is amend-
17 ed—

18 (1) in paragraph (2)(A), by striking “for the
19 purpose of educating agricultural producers and pro-
20 viding technical assistance to agricultural producers”
21 and inserting “for the purpose of educating and pro-
22 viding technical assistance to agricultural producers,
23 including language translation services, as appro-
24 priate,”;

25 (2) in paragraph (3)—

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1 (A) in the matter preceding subparagraph
2 (A), by striking “and outreach” and inserting
3 “outreach, and language translation services, as
4 appropriate,”;

5 (B) in subparagraph (D)—

6 (i) in clause (ii), by adding “and” at
7 the end; and

8 (ii) in clause (iii), by striking “and”
9 at the end;

10 (C) in subparagraph (E), by striking
11 “and” at the end;

12 (D) in subparagraph (F), by striking the
13 period at the end and inserting a semicolon;
14 and

15 (E) by adding at the end the following:

16 “(G) specialty crop farmers; and

17 “(H) approved insurance providers and
18 agents, for the purpose of facilitating the selling
19 and servicing of whole farm revenue protection
20 policies developed under section 522(c)(7).”;
21 and

22 (3) by adding at the end the following:

23 “(5) REPORT.—The Secretary shall make pub-
24 licly available an annual report that contains, with
25 respect to the year covered by the report—

1 “(B) that was enrolled in a qualifying
2 cover crop or similar in-field soil health con-
3 servation practice program administered by a
4 State to provide premium subsidies under an
5 agreement or memorandum of understanding
6 with the Risk Management Agency pursuant to
7 section 508(c)(8).

8 “(2) REPORT.—A producer that receives an ad-
9 ditional premium subsidy under paragraph (1) for a
10 crop year shall submit to the Secretary a report of
11 acreage form for each acre described in paragraph
12 (1) with respect to that crop year.

13 “(c) PREMIUM SUBSIDY AMOUNT.—

14 “(1) IN GENERAL.—Subject to paragraphs (2)
15 and (3), an additional premium subsidy provided to
16 a producer under subsection (b)(1) shall be—

17 “(A) calculated on a common land unit
18 basis or an equivalent or more-precise basis;
19 and

20 “(B) in an amount equal to the product
21 obtained by multiplying—

22 “(i) the number of acres of the pro-
23 ducer for which the additional premium
24 subsidy is provided; and

1 “(ii) the amount of the premium sub-
2 sidy provided by the State program per
3 acre, up to \$5 per acre.

4 “(2) LIMITATION.—An additional premium sub-
5 sidy provided to a producer under subsection (b)(1)
6 for an acre described in that subsection shall not ex-
7 ceed the amount of the premium owed by the pro-
8 ducer with respect to that acre.

9 “(3) PRODUCER-SHARES.—The amount of an
10 additional premium subsidy provided to a producer
11 under subsection (b)(1) shall be modified to reflect
12 the individual producer-share of the acres covered by
13 the subsidy.

14 “(4) INCLUSION.—Participation by a producer
15 in a State program that provides premium subsidies
16 for conservation practices, including cover crops,
17 shall not disqualify a producer from receiving assist-
18 ance under this section.

19 “(d) FUNDING.—

20 “(1) MANDATORY FUNDING.—Of the funds of
21 the Corporation, the Secretary shall use such sums
22 as are necessary to carry out this section.

23 “(2) TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE, OUTREACH, AND
24 PROGRAM SUPPORT.—Of the amounts made avail-
25 able under paragraph (1) for a fiscal year, the Sec-

1 retary shall use not more than \$5,000,000 to pro-
2 vide technical assistance, outreach, and program
3 support with respect to this section.”.

4 **SEC. 11209. ENTERPRISE UNITS FOR FALLOW AND CONTIN-**
5 **UOUS PRACTICES.**

6 Section 508(e)(5) of the Federal Crop Insurance Act
7 (7 U.S.C. 1508(e)(5)) is amended by adding at the end
8 the following:

9 “(F) ENTERPRISE UNITS FOR FALLOW
10 AND CONTINUOUS ROTATIONS.—Beginning with
11 the 2026 crop year, the Corporation may allow
12 a producer to establish separate enterprise units
13 for fallow and continuous practices of crops.”.

14 **SEC. 11210. ELIGIBILITY FOR PREVENTED PLANTING IN-**
15 **SURANCE UNDER CERTAIN DROUGHT CONDI-**
16 **TIONS.**

17 Section 508A(c) of the Federal Crop Insurance Act
18 (7 U.S.C. 1508a(c)) is amended by adding at the end the
19 following:

20 “(6) WAIVER FOR CERTAIN DROUGHT CONDI-
21 TIONS.—

22 “(A) DEFINITIONS.—In this paragraph:

23 “(i) COVERED COUNTY.—The term
24 ‘covered county’ means a county that expe-
25 rienced, in each of 3 consecutive years, in

1 any area of the county, extreme drought
2 (D3 or worse intensity), as measured by,
3 and indicated in a report of, the United
4 States Drought Monitor, that may impact
5 the ability of a producer to plant during
6 the normal planting period, as determined
7 by the Secretary.

8 “(ii) COVERED RULE.—The term ‘cov-
9 ered rule’ means the eligibility requirement
10 for prevented planting insurance, as de-
11 scribed in section 17(f)(8) of the most re-
12 cent version of the Common Crop Insur-
13 ance Policy Basic Provisions, under which
14 planting of a crop must have occurred once
15 in the 4 most recent crop years preceding
16 the current crop year (commonly referred
17 to as the ‘1-in-4 rule’).

18 “(B) WAIVER.—The covered rule may be
19 waived in a covered county in response to ex-
20 traordinary circumstances, as determined by
21 the Secretary.”.

1 **Subtitle C—Agent Incentives and**
2 **Options**

3 **SEC. 11301. OPTION FOR CORPORATION TO UNDERWRITE**
4 **POLICIES.**

5 Section 508(a)(7) of the Federal Crop Insurance Act
6 (7 U.S.C. 1508(a)(7)) (as amended by section 11206) is
7 amended by adding at the end the following:

8 “(D) PILOT PROGRAM FOR CORPORATION
9 TO UNDERWRITE POLICIES.—

10 “(i) IN GENERAL.—Notwithstanding
11 subsections (b)(4), (c)(1), and (c)(2), not
12 later than 1 year after the date of enact-
13 ment of the Rural Prosperity and Food Se-
14 curity Act of 2024, the Corporation shall
15 establish a pilot program under which the
16 Corporation may underwrite whole farm
17 revenue protection, micro farm, and other
18 policies, as determined by the Secretary.

19 “(ii) PRIORITIES.—In carrying out
20 the pilot program under clause (i), the
21 Corporation shall give priority to under-
22 served producers, commodities, and geo-
23 graphic areas, including underserved pro-
24 ducers, commodities, and geographic areas

1 identified in the most recent report sub-
2 mitted under subparagraph (C)(i).

3 “(iii) INAPPLICABILITY OF SRA OR
4 LPRA.—A policy underwritten pursuant to
5 the pilot program under clause (i) shall not
6 be subject to the terms of the Standard
7 Reinsurance Agreement or the Livestock
8 Price Reinsurance Agreement.

9 “(iv) A&O SUBSIDY.—The Corpora-
10 tion may pay agents that sell a policy un-
11 derwritten pursuant to the pilot program
12 under clause (i) up to the total amount of
13 the administrative and operating subsidy
14 that the Corporation would have paid an
15 approved insurance provider if the policy
16 were subject to the Standard Reinsurance
17 Agreement or the Livestock Price Reinsur-
18 ance Agreement.”.

19 **SEC. 11302. UPDATES TO ADMINISTRATIVE AND OPER-**
20 **ATING SUBSIDIES.**

21 (a) MINIMUM PAID TO AGENCY OR AGENTS.—Sec-
22 tion 508(a)(10) of the Federal Crop Insurance Act (7
23 U.S.C. 1508(a)(10)) is amended by adding at the end the
24 following:

1 “(ii) for the 2026 reinsurance year,
2 and each reinsurance year thereafter, the
3 reimbursement rate for area policies and
4 plans of insurance widely available as of
5 the date of enactment of the Rural Pros-
6 perity and Food Security Act of 2024 or
7 authorized under subsection (c)(4)(C) or
8 section 508B shall be 17 percent of the
9 premium used to define loss ratio for that
10 reinsurance year.”.

11 (c) WHOLE FARM REVENUE PROTECTION, MICRO
12 FARM, AND PRODUCERS NOT ADEQUATELY SERVED.—
13 Section 508(k)(4) of the Federal Crop Insurance Act (7
14 U.S.C. 1508(k)(4)) is amended by adding at the end the
15 following:

16 “(G) WHOLE FARM REVENUE PROTECTION
17 AND MICRO FARM AGENT INCENTIVES.—Begin-
18 ning with the 2026 reinsurance year, in the
19 case of an agent that sells a whole farm revenue
20 or micro farm policy (or a successor policy), the
21 Corporation shall provide to the approved insur-
22 ance provider, to pay entirely to the agent, an
23 additional amount, determined in accordance
24 with the following:

1 “(i) If the maximum compensation of
2 the agent authorized under the Standard
3 Reinsurance Agreement, the Livestock
4 Price Reinsurance Agreement, or a suc-
5 cessor agreement for the policy is less than
6 \$1,000, the additional amount of agent
7 compensation shall be equal to the dif-
8 ference between—

9 “(I) \$1,000; and

10 “(II) the maximum amount au-
11 thorized under the Standard Reinsur-
12 ance Agreement, the Livestock Price
13 Reinsurance Agreement, or a suc-
14 cessor agreement for the policy, as ap-
15 plicable.

16 “(ii) If the producer, or any entity in
17 which the producer has an insurable inter-
18 est, has never previously obtained coverage
19 under a whole farm revenue or micro farm
20 policy (or a successor policy), the addi-
21 tional amount of agent compensation shall
22 be \$300 for each whole farm revenue or
23 micro farm policy (or successor policy), in
24 addition to any amount authorized under
25 clause (i).

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1 “(H) ADDITIONAL AGENT INCENTIVES.—

2 “(i) DEFINITION OF COVERED
3 AGENT.—In this subparagraph, the term
4 ‘covered agent’ means an agent that sells
5 a policy to—

6 “(I) an underserved producer; or

7 “(II) a producer of an agricul-
8 tural commodity in a State identified
9 as not adequately served in the most
10 recent review required under sub-
11 section (a)(7)(B).

12 “(ii) ADDITIONAL INCENTIVE.—Be-
13 ginning with the 2026 reinsurance year, if
14 the maximum compensation of a covered
15 agent authorized under the Standard Rein-
16 surance Agreement, the Livestock Price
17 Reinsurance Agreement, or a successor
18 agreement for a policy described in clause
19 (i) is less than \$500, the Corporation shall
20 provide to the approved insurance provider,
21 to pay entirely to the covered agent, an ad-
22 ditional amount equal to the difference be-
23 tween—

24 “(I) \$500; and

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1 “(II) the maximum amount au-
2 thorized under the Standard Reinsur-
3 ance Agreement, the Livestock Price
4 Reinsurance Agreement, or a suc-
5 cessor agreement for the policy, as ap-
6 plicable.”.

7 (d) REIMBURSEMENT FOR ADMINISTRATIVE AND OP-
8 ERATING EXPENSES WITH RESPECT TO SPECIALTY
9 CROPS CONTRACTS.—Section 508(k) of the Federal Crop
10 Insurance Act (7 U.S.C. 1508(k)) is amended by adding
11 at the end the following:

12 “(10) SPECIALTY CROPS.—

13 “(A) MINIMUM REIMBURSEMENT.—Begin-
14 ning with the 2025 reinsurance year and for
15 each reinsurance year thereafter, the rate of re-
16 imbursement to approved insurance providers
17 for administrative and operating expenses with
18 respect to crop insurance contracts covering ag-
19 ricultural commodities described in section 101
20 of the Specialty Crops Competitiveness Act of
21 2004 (7 U.S.C. 1621 note; Public Law 108–
22 465) shall be equal to or greater than the per-
23 cent that is the greater of—

24 “(i) 17 percent of the premium used
25 to define loss ratio; and

1 “(ii) the percent of the premium used
2 to define loss ratio that is otherwise appli-
3 cable for the reinsurance year under the
4 terms of the Standard Reinsurance Agree-
5 ment in effect for that reinsurance year.

6 “(B) OTHER CONTRACTS.—In carrying out
7 subparagraph (A), the Corporation shall not re-
8 duce, with respect to any reinsurance year, the
9 amount or the rate of reimbursement to ap-
10 proved insurance providers under the Standard
11 Reinsurance Agreement described in clause (ii)
12 of that subparagraph for administrative and op-
13 erating expenses with respect to contracts cov-
14 ering agricultural commodities that are not sub-
15 ject to that subparagraph.

16 “(C) ADMINISTRATION.—No adjustment
17 made pursuant to this paragraph shall be con-
18 sidered a renegotiation under paragraph
19 (8)(A).”.

20 (e) COMPENSATION DATA COLLECTION.—Section
21 508(k) of the Federal Crop Insurance Act (7 U.S.C.
22 1508(k)) (as amended by subsection (d)) is amended by
23 adding at the end the following:

24 “(11) COMPENSATION DATA COLLECTION.—

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1 “(A) DATA FROM CORPORATION.—The
2 Corporation shall submit to the Secretary, on
3 an annual basis, such data as are required by
4 the Secretary relating to the subsidies for ad-
5 ministrative and operating expenses paid during
6 the relevant year by the Corporation on behalf
7 of a policyholder to the applicable approved in-
8 surance provider for eligible crop insurance con-
9 tracts for additional coverage levels, in accord-
10 ance with paragraph (4).

11 “(B) DATA FROM APPROVED INSURANCE
12 PROVIDERS.—An approved insurance provider
13 shall submit to the Secretary, on an annual
14 basis, such data relating to agent compensation
15 as are required by the Secretary.”.

16 (f) INFLATION ADJUSTMENT.—Section 516 of the
17 Federal Crop Insurance Act (7 U.S.C. 1516) is amended
18 by adding at the end the following:

19 “(d) LIMITATION ON ADMINISTRATIVE AND OPER-
20 ATING COSTS AND EXPENSES.—

21 “(1) IN GENERAL.—Subject to paragraph (2),
22 the combined total amount of reimbursements for
23 administrative and operating costs provided by the
24 Corporation under section 508(k)(4), administrative
25 and operating expenses of the Corporation described

1 in subsection (a)(2)(A), and administrative and op-
2 erating expenses of an approved insurance provider
3 described in subsection (a)(2)(B) shall not exceed—

4 “(A) for reinsurance year 2026,
5 \$1,900,000,000; and

6 “(B) for each reinsurance year thereafter,
7 an amount equal to 101.5 percent of the max-
8 imum allowable amount for the preceding rein-
9 surance year.

10 “(2) EXCLUSIONS FROM CALCULATION.—A
11 payment made pursuant to subparagraph (G) or (H)
12 of section 508(k)(4) shall not be included in calcu-
13 lating the combined total amount of reimbursements
14 for a reinsurance year under paragraph (1).”.

15 **Subtitle D—Specialty Crops**

16 **SEC. 11401. SPECIALTY CROP INSURANCE ADVISORY COM- 17 MITTEE.**

18 Section 507 of the Federal Crop Insurance Act (7
19 U.S.C. 1507) is amended—

20 (1) in subsection (a), by striking “the Classi-
21 fication Act of 1923, as amended” each place it ap-
22 pears and inserting “chapter 51 and subchapter III
23 of chapter 53 of title 5, United States Code”;

24 (2) in subsection (g), by indenting paragraphs
25 (2) and (3) appropriately; and

1 (3) by adding at the end the following:

2 “(h) SPECIALTY CROP INSURANCE ADVISORY COM-
3 MITTEE.—

4 “(1) ESTABLISHMENT.—The Corporation shall
5 establish a committee, to be known as the ‘Specialty
6 Crop Insurance Advisory Committee’ (referred to in
7 this subsection as the ‘Committee’).

8 “(2) COMPOSITION.—The Committee shall con-
9 sist of not more than 10 members who represent the
10 interests of a wide range of specialty crop insurance
11 stakeholders in different geographical areas of the
12 United States, including with respect to—

13 “(A) different types and sizes of agricul-
14 tural operations; and

15 “(B) a variety of specialty crops.

16 “(3) APPOINTMENT.—The members of the
17 Committee—

18 “(A) shall be appointed by the Secretary;

19 “(B) shall be appointed to staggered 4-
20 year terms, as determined by the Secretary; and

21 “(C) may serve not more than 2 consecu-
22 tive terms.

23 “(4) COMPENSATION.—A member of the Com-
24 mittee shall serve without compensation.

1 “(5) ENGAGEMENT WITH OTHER SPECIALTY
2 CROP POSITIONS.—The Committee shall regularly
3 engage with the Specialty Crops Coordinator and
4 Specialty Crop Liaisons under subsection (g)—

5 “(A) to discuss the crop insurance needs of
6 specialty crop producers; and

7 “(B) to explore opportunities for the De-
8 partment to better serve specialty crop pro-
9 ducers.

10 “(6) RECOMMENDATIONS TO BOARD.—The
11 Committee may submit to the Board recommenda-
12 tions regarding consideration by the Board of new
13 specialty crop policies, or the expansion of available
14 specialty crop policies, on a broad range of issues re-
15 lating to specialty crops, including—

16 “(A) the selection of expert reviewers for
17 proposals to develop new specialty crop policies;
18 and

19 “(B) the percentage of advance payment
20 approved to be paid to the developer of a spe-
21 cialty crop policy.”.

22 **SEC. 11402. ADDITION AND EXPANSION OF SPECIALTY**
23 **CROP POLICIES.**

24 Section 508(a)(6) of the Federal Crop Insurance Act
25 (7 U.S.C. 1508(a)(6)) is amended—

1 (1) in subparagraph (A), in the matter pre-
2 ceding clause (i), by striking “1 of each” and insert-
3 ing “2 of each”;

4 (2) in subparagraph (B), by striking “report to
5 Congress on” and inserting “publish a report with
6 respect to”;

7 (3) by redesignating subparagraph (B) as sub-
8 paragraph (C); and

9 (4) by inserting after subparagraph (A) the fol-
10 lowing:

11 “(B) CONSULTATION WITH SPECIALTY
12 CROP INSURANCE ADVISORY COMMITTEE.—To
13 the maximum extent practicable, the Corpora-
14 tion shall consult with the Specialty Crop Insur-
15 ance Advisory Committee established under sec-
16 tion 507(h)(1) regarding—

17 “(i) the expansion of existing policies
18 or plans of insurance for specialty crops;
19 and

20 “(ii) research and development of new
21 policies or plans of insurance for specialty
22 crops.”.

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1 **SEC. 11403. PRIORITIES FOR PRIVATE DEVELOPMENT OF**
2 **NEW POLICIES AND EXPANSION OF EXISTING**
3 **POLICIES.**

4 Section 508(h)(3) of the Federal Crop Insurance Act
5 (7 U.S.C. 1508(h)(3)) is amended—

6 (1) in subparagraph (B)(i), by striking “includ-
7 ing commodities for which there is no insurance;”
8 and inserting the following: “including—

9 “(I) commodities for which there
10 is no insurance; and

11 “(II) specialty crops;”; and

12 (2) in subparagraph (C), by striking “approval,
13 the Board” in the matter preceding clause (i) and
14 all that follows through the period at the end of
15 clause (iv) and inserting the following: “approval,
16 the Board shall prioritize the development, improve-
17 ment, expansion, and approval of coverage for—

18 “(i) specialty crop producers to ensure
19 that coverage for at least 1 new specialty
20 crop and 1 new State is available to pro-
21 ducers each year; and

22 “(ii) cost-of-production risk to ensure
23 that such coverage options are available to
24 additional producers.”.

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1 **SEC. 11404. ADVANCE PAYMENTS FOR SPECIALTY CROP IN-**
2 **SURANCE POLICIES IN DEVELOPMENT.**

3 Section 522(b)(2)(E)(ii) of the Federal Crop Insur-
4 ance Act (7 U.S.C. 1522(b)(2)(E)(ii)) is amended—

5 (1) in subclause (I), by striking “(I) the in-
6 tended” and inserting “(I)(aa) the intended”;

7 (2) in subclause (II)—

8 (A) by striking the period at the end and
9 inserting “; or”; and

10 (B) by striking “(II) the submitter” and
11 inserting the following:

12 “(bb) the submitter”; and

13 (3) by adding at the end the following:

14 “(II) the Specialty Crop Insur-
15 ance Advisory Committee established
16 under section 507(h)(1) has rec-
17 ommended the policy or plan of insur-
18 ance for development.”.

19 **SEC. 11405. PRIORITIES FOR INTERNAL DEVELOPMENT OF**
20 **NEW POLICIES AND EXPANSION OF EXISTING**
21 **POLICIES.**

22 Section 522(c) of the Federal Crop Insurance Act (7
23 U.S.C. 1522(c)) is amended by striking paragraph (6) and
24 inserting the following:

25 “(6) PRIORITIES.—The Corporation shall gen-
26 erally prioritize the development and expansion of

1 policies that increase participation by underserved
2 producers and producers of underserved agricultural
3 commodities (such as sweet sorghum, biomass sor-
4 ghum, rice, peanuts, sugarcane, alfalfa, pennycress,
5 dedicated energy crops, and specialty crops), includ-
6 ing, with respect to specialty crops—

7 “(A) expansion of the production revenue
8 history policy or similar policies to additional
9 specialty crops and States to ensure that cov-
10 erage is available to producers for at least 1
11 new specialty crop and 1 new State each year;
12 and

13 “(B) increasing participation in whole-farm
14 revenue protection policies by addressing bar-
15 riers to producers from purchasing whole-farm
16 revenue protection and micro farm policies, in-
17 cluding barriers between agents and approved
18 insurance providers in marketing and servicing
19 those policies.”.

20 **Subtitle E—Program Integrity**

21 **SEC. 11501. ACTUARIAL SOUNDNESS OF FEDERAL CROP IN-** 22 **SURANCE PROGRAM.**

23 (a) IN GENERAL.—Section 506(n) of the Federal
24 Crop Insurance Act (7 U.S.C. 1506(n)) is amended by
25 adding at the end the following:

1 “(4) NEW POLICIES OR MATERIALS.—The Cor-
2 poration shall—

3 “(A) not less frequently than once each
4 year, review for actuarial soundness any policies
5 or plans of insurance developed pursuant to sec-
6 tion 508(h) that had more than \$500,000,000
7 in liability annually;

8 “(B) take necessary actions to align those
9 policies or plans of insurance with the applica-
10 ble standard for actuarial soundness, if needed;
11 and

12 “(C) make publicly available a report that
13 describes—

14 “(i) the results of the review con-
15 ducted under subparagraph (A);

16 “(ii) the performance of the policies or
17 plans of insurance described in that sub-
18 paragraph; and

19 “(iii) any actions carried out under
20 subparagraph (B).”.

21 (b) SPECIALIZED EXPERTS.—Section 507 of the Fed-
22 eral Crop Insurance Act (7 U.S.C. 1507) (as amended by
23 section 11401(3)) is amended by adding at the end the
24 following:

1 “(i) SPECIALIZED EXPERTS.—The annual rate of
2 basic pay for up to 3 specialized experts, such as actuaries,
3 as determined by the Administrator of the Risk Manage-
4 ment Agency, may be established and adjusted by the Ad-
5 ministrator of the Risk Management Agency without re-
6 gard to the provisions of chapter 51 and subchapter III
7 of chapter 53 of title 5, United States Code.”.

8 (c) SUBMISSION OF POLICIES AND MATERIALS TO
9 BOARD.—Section 508(h) of the Federal Crop Insurance
10 Act (7 U.S.C. 1508(h)) is amended—

11 (1) in paragraph (1)(B)—

12 (A) in clause (i)(I), by striking “clause
13 (ii)” and inserting “clauses (ii) and (iii)”; and
14 (B) by adding at the end the following:

15 “(iii) WAIVER FOR CERTAIN POLICIES
16 FOR SPECIALTY CROPS PRODUCERS.—The
17 Corporation may waive the viability and
18 marketability requirement under clause
19 (i)(I) in the case of a policy or pilot pro-
20 gram for which an urgent need has been
21 identified, or recommendation has been
22 provided, by a majority of members of the
23 Specialty Crop Insurance Advisory Com-
24 mittee established under section 507(h).”;

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1 of insurance, or material will address
2 an urgent need of producers.

3 “(III) FINALIZATION.—The fi-
4 nalization of a policy, plan of insur-
5 ance, or material under subclause (I)
6 shall include making available hand-
7 books, training materials, and other
8 resources required for the effective
9 sale of approved policies, plans of in-
10 surance, or materials.”; and

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

12 “(F) MARKETABILITY ASSESSMENT.—For
13 purposes of determining marketability under
14 paragraph (3)(A)(ii)(I), if a policy or plan of in-
15 surance submitted to the Board under this sub-
16 section includes a favorable marketability as-
17 sessment from an approved insurance provider,
18 not earlier than 30 days before the Board takes
19 final action on that policy or plan of insurance,
20 that approved insurance provider shall have an
21 opportunity to provide to the Board an updated
22 marketability assessment.”.

1 **SEC. 11502. RATING METHODOLOGY AND DATA REPORTING**
2 **UPDATES.**

3 Section 508(i) of the Federal Crop Insurance Act (7
4 U.S.C. 1508(i)) is amended—

5 (1) by striking paragraphs (1), (2), and (4);

6 (2) by redesignating paragraph (3) as para-
7 graph (2);

8 (3) by inserting before paragraph (2) (as so re-
9 designated) the following:

10 “(1) REVIEW OF RATING METHODOLOGIES.—

11 “(A) IN GENERAL.—To maximize partici-
12 pation in the Federal crop insurance program
13 and to ensure equity for producers, the Cor-
14 poration shall review the methodologies em-
15 ployed for rating plans of insurance under this
16 Act in accordance with section 507(c)(2)—

17 “(i) not later than December 31,
18 2025; and

19 “(ii) not less frequently than once
20 every 9 years thereafter.

21 “(B) FACTORS FOR CONSIDERATION.—In
22 conducting a review under subparagraph (A),
23 the Corporation shall ensure that the rating
24 methodology used by the Corporation—

1 “(i) achieves regionally consistent out-
2 comes in insurance participation and rein-
3 surance;

4 “(ii) appropriately models and weighs
5 changes in risk from—

6 “(I) crop genetics;

7 “(II) increasing frequency of ex-
8 treme weather events and climatic im-
9 pacts; and

10 “(III) other factors known to be
11 changing farm risks; and

12 “(iii) engenders premium rates region-
13 ally and on a national basis in accordance
14 with subsection (d)(1).

15 “(C) EXPERT REVIEW.—The Corporation
16 shall make the rating methodology used by the
17 Corporation, and any changes to that method-
18 ology, available for review and comment by at
19 least 3 outside experts before implementing a
20 change.”;

21 (4) in paragraph (2) (as so redesignated), by
22 inserting “and coverage level” before the period at
23 the end; and

24 (5) by adding at the end the following:

25 “(3) RATE REVIEW AND ADJUSTMENT.—

1 “(A) REVIEW.—

2 “(i) IN GENERAL.—Not later than
3 January 1, 2026, and not less frequently
4 than once every 3 years thereafter, subject
5 to clause (ii), the Administrator of the
6 Risk Management Agency (referred to in
7 this paragraph as the ‘Administrator’)
8 shall review the premium rates for all
9 crops and policies and plans of insurance,
10 by county.

11 “(ii) MORE FREQUENT REVIEWS.—
12 The Administrator shall conduct a review
13 under clause (i) more frequently for any
14 policy, plan of insurance, or region of the
15 United States that meets 1 or more of the
16 following criteria:

17 “(I) Policies or plans of insur-
18 ance with more than \$500,000,000 in
19 liability annually.

20 “(II) Policies, plans of insurance,
21 or regions with consistently high or
22 low loss ratios, as determined by the
23 Administrator.

24 “(III) Policies, plans of insur-
25 ance, or regions that, as determined

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1 by the Administrator, have been con-
2 sistently placed in the assigned risk
3 pool.

4 “(IV) Such other criteria as the
5 Administrator determines to be appro-
6 priate.

7 “(B) RATE ADJUSTMENTS.—In conducting
8 rate reviews under subparagraph (A), the Ad-
9 ministrator shall—

10 “(i) take necessary actions to align
11 the reviewed policies or plans of insurance
12 with standards for actuarial soundness, if
13 needed, including by modifying rates by
14 the percentage indicated by the rating
15 model of the Risk Management Agency,
16 subject to the conditions that—

17 “(I) if the rating model of the
18 Risk Management Agency indicates
19 that rates must increase, the Adminis-
20 trator shall increase the rates by not
21 more than 20 percent, as compared to
22 the comparable rate of the preceding
23 crop year; and

24 “(II) if the rating model of the
25 Risk Management Agency indicates

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1 that rates must decrease, the Admin-
2 istrator shall decrease the rates by the
3 full amount indicated; and

4 “(ii) make publicly available a report
5 that describes—

6 “(I) each review under subpara-
7 graph (A);

8 “(II) the performance of the poli-
9 cies and plans of insurance subject to
10 the review; and

11 “(III) any actions carried out
12 pursuant to clause (i).”.

13 **SEC. 11503. DATA ANALYTICS AND IMPROVEMENT.**

14 Section 515 of the Federal Crop Insurance Act (7
15 U.S.C. 1515) is amended—

16 (1) in subsection (j)(2)—

17 (A) in the paragraph heading, by striking
18 “TECHNOLOGIES” and inserting “TECH-
19 NOLOGIES; DATA ANALYTICS AND IMPROVE-
20 MENT”;

21 (B) by striking “shall use” and inserting
22 the following: “shall—

23 “(A) use”;

1 (C) in subparagraph (A) (as so des-
2 ignated), by striking the period at the end and
3 inserting “; and”; and

4 (D) by adding at the end the following:

5 “(B) support advancing and improving the
6 development and application of remote sensing,
7 machine learning, and computational modeling
8 to continually improve the administration and
9 enforcement of this subtitle.”; and

10 (2) in subsection (l)(2)—

11 (A) in the paragraph heading, by inserting
12 “AND DATA ANALYTICS INNOVATION AND IM-
13 PROVEMENT” after “MINING”;

14 (B) by striking “\$4,000,000 for fiscal year
15 2009” and inserting “\$10,000,000 for fiscal
16 year 2025”; and

17 (C) by inserting “, of which not less than
18 \$4,000,000 shall be used in each fiscal year to
19 carry out subparagraph (B) of that subsection”
20 before the period at the end.

21 **SEC. 11504. REIMBURSEMENT OF PRIVATELY DEVELOPED**
22 **PLANS.**

23 Section 522(b) of the Federal Crop Insurance Act (7
24 U.S.C. 1522(b)) is amended—

25 (1) in paragraph (1)(B)—

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- 1 (A) in clause (ii)—
- 2 (i) in the matter preceding subclause
- 3 (I), by striking “costs of the applicant
- 4 shall be considered reasonable costs if the
- 5 costs are based on” and inserting “reason-
- 6 able costs may include”; and
- 7 (ii) in subclause (I)—
- 8 (I) by striking “wage rates equal
- 9 to not more than” and inserting “ac-
- 10 tual wage rates up to”; and
- 11 (II) by striking “incurred,” and
- 12 all that follows through “2016” and
- 13 inserting “incurred”; and
- 14 (B) by adding at the end the following:
- 15 “(iii) SUPPORTING DOCUMENTS.—On
- 16 the request of the Board, applicants shall
- 17 provide third-party documents, such as tax
- 18 documents and receipts, as support for a
- 19 request for reimbursement of actual
- 20 costs.”;
- 21 (2) in paragraph (2), by striking subparagraph
- 22 (K);
- 23 (3) in paragraph (4) adding at the end the fol-
- 24 lowing:

1 “(E) MAINTENANCE BY CORPORATION.—

2 The Corporation may assume responsibility for
3 maintenance of the policy if the Corporation de-
4 termines that the applicant has failed to main-
5 tain the policy, or to make adjustments to im-
6 prove actuarial soundness, after appropriate no-
7 tice and due process.”; and

8 (4) in paragraph (6)—

9 (A) by striking “based on the complexity”
10 and inserting the following: “based on—

11 “(A) the complexity”;

12 (B) in subparagraph (A) (as so des-
13 ignated), by striking the period at the end and
14 inserting a semicolon; and

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

16 “(B) the quantity of work required to
17 maintain the policy;

18 “(C) whether the policy has had consistent,
19 unexplainable, and high loss ratios; and

20 “(D) whether the developer has dem-
21 onstrated a pattern or practice of noncompli-
22 ance with requests from the Board or the De-
23 partment.”.

1 **SEC. 11505. STANDARD REINSURANCE AGREEMENT NEGOTIATION.**
2

3 Section 508(k)(8) of the Federal Crop Insurance Act
4 (7 U.S.C. 1508(k)(8)) is amended by adding at the end
5 the following:

6 “(G) ENGAGEMENT WITH CROP INSURANCE AGENTS.—The Corporation shall engage
7 with entities representing crop insurance agents
8 during any renegotiation under subparagraph
9 (A).”
10

11 **SEC. 11506. PROTECTION AGAINST RETALIATION.**

12 Section 515 of the Federal Crop Insurance Act (7
13 U.S.C. 1515) is amended by adding at the end the fol-
14 lowing:

15 “(m) PROTECTION AGAINST RETALIATION.—

16 “(1) PROHIBITION.—

17 “(A) IN GENERAL.—No person may take
18 any action, including an action described in
19 subparagraph (B)—

20 “(i) to impede an individual, including
21 an agent, a loss adjuster, or a producer,
22 from reporting to the Secretary, the Cor-
23 poration, or the Risk Management Agen-
24 cy—

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1 “(I) a possible violation of this
2 subtitle or the regulations promul-
3 gated thereunder; or

4 “(II) fraud, waste, or abuse re-
5 lating to the Federal crop insurance
6 program; or

7 “(ii) to penalize or discriminate
8 against an individual for reporting under
9 clause (i).

10 “(B) ACTIONS.—An action referred to in
11 subparagraph (A) includes—

12 “(i) any action relating to the terms
13 and conditions of employment of an indi-
14 vidual described in clause (i) of that sub-
15 paragraph;

16 “(ii) any action relating to the obtain-
17 ing of any policy or plan of insurance by
18 such an individual; and

19 “(iii) any changes to the compensa-
20 tion of such an individual for the sale or
21 service of a policy or plan of insurance.

22 “(2) ENFORCEMENT.—

23 “(A) CAUSE OF ACTION.—

24 “(i) IN GENERAL.—Except as pro-
25 vided in clause (ii), an individual who al-

1 leges that a person has taken an action in
2 violation of paragraph (1) may bring an
3 action under this subsection against that
4 person in the appropriate district court of
5 the United States for the relief provided in
6 paragraph (3).

7 “(ii) FEDERAL EMPLOYEE.—If the in-
8 dividual who is alleging that a person has
9 taken an action in violation of paragraph
10 (1) is an employee of the Federal Govern-
11 ment, the individual may only bring an ac-
12 tion under section 1221 of title 5, United
13 States Code.

14 “(B) SUBPOENAS.—A subpoena requiring
15 the attendance of a witness at a trial or hearing
16 conducted pursuant to this subsection may be
17 served at any place in the United States.

18 “(C) STATUTE OF LIMITATIONS.—An ac-
19 tion under this subsection may not be brought
20 more than 2 years after the date on which the
21 alleged violation of paragraph (1) is committed.

22 “(3) RELIEF.—Relief for an individual pre-
23 vailing in an action brought under paragraph (2)
24 shall include—

1 “(A) reinstatement with the same seniority
2 status that the individual would have had but
3 for the discrimination;

4 “(B) the amount of back pay or compensa-
5 tion otherwise owed to the individual, with in-
6 terest; and

7 “(C) compensation for any special damages
8 sustained as a result of prohibited action, in-
9 cluding litigation costs, expert witness fees, and
10 reasonable attorney’s fees.

11 “(4) CONFIDENTIALITY.—

12 “(A) IN GENERAL.—Except as provided in
13 subparagraph (B), the Secretary, the Corpora-
14 tion, and the Risk Management Agency shall
15 not disclose any information that may reason-
16 ably be expected to reveal the identity of an in-
17 dividual who reports a possible violation or
18 fraud, waste, or abuse described in subclauses
19 (I) and (II) of paragraph (1)(A)(i), respectively,
20 including information provided by that indi-
21 vidual.

22 “(B) EXCEPTIONS.—

23 “(i) RECORDS MAINTAINED ON INDI-
24 VIDUALS.—The Secretary, the Corporation,
25 and the Risk Management Agency shall

1 only disclose information described in sub-
2 paragraph (A) in accordance with section
3 552a of title 5, United States Code.

4 “(ii) PUBLIC PROCEEDING.—The Sec-
5 retary, the Corporation, and the Risk Man-
6 agement Agency shall disclose information
7 described in subparagraph (A) if that in-
8 formation is required to be disclosed to a
9 defendant or respondent in connection with
10 a public proceeding instituted by the Com-
11 mission or any entity described in items
12 (aa) through (dd) of clause (iii)(I).

13 “(iii) AVAILABILITY TO GOVERNMENT
14 AGENCIES.—

15 “(I) IN GENERAL.—The Sec-
16 retary, the Corporation, and the Risk
17 Management Agency may, if deter-
18 mined by the Secretary to be nec-
19 essary or appropriate to accomplish
20 the purposes of this subtitle, make the
21 information described in subpara-
22 graph (A) available to—

23 “(aa) the Department of
24 Justice;

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1 “(bb) an appropriate depart-
2 ment or agency of the Federal
3 Government;

4 “(cc) a State attorney gen-
5 eral in connection with any crimi-
6 nal investigation; and

7 “(dd) an appropriate depart-
8 ment or agency of any State.

9 “(II) CONFIDENTIAL STATUS.—
10 The provision of information under
11 subclause (I) to the entities described
12 in that subclause shall not affect the
13 status of the information as confiden-
14 tial.

15 “(III) MAINTENANCE OF INFOR-
16 MATION.—Each entity described in
17 items (aa) through (dd) of subclause
18 (I) shall maintain the information
19 provided under that subclause as con-
20 fidential in the same manner as the
21 information is maintained by the Sec-
22 retary, the Corporation, and the Risk
23 Management Agency under subpara-
24 graph (A).

1 “(C) RULE OF CONSTRUCTION.—Nothing
2 in this paragraph limits the ability of the Attor-
3 ney General to present evidence containing in-
4 formation described in subparagraph (A) to a
5 grand jury or share such evidence with poten-
6 tial witnesses or defendants in the course of an
7 ongoing criminal investigation.

8 “(D) APPLICABILITY.—For purposes of
9 subparagraph (A), this section shall be consid-
10 ered a statute described in section 552(b)(3)(B)
11 of title 5, United States Code.

12 “(5) RIGHTS RETAINED.—Nothing in this sub-
13 section shall diminish the rights, privileges, or rem-
14 edies of any whistleblower under any Federal or
15 State law or any collective bargaining agreement.

16 “(6) NONENFORCEABILITY OF CERTAIN PROVI-
17 SIONS WAIVING RIGHTS AND REMEDIES OR REQUIR-
18 ING ARBITRATION OF DISPUTES.—

19 “(A) WAIVER OF RIGHTS AND REM-
20 EDIES.—The rights and remedies provided for
21 in this subsection may not be waived by any
22 agreement, policy form, or condition of employ-
23 ment, including a predispute arbitration agree-
24 ment.

1 “(B) PREDISPUTE ARBITRATION AGREE-
2 MENTS.—A predispute arbitration agreement
3 shall not be valid or enforceable if the
4 predispute arbitration agreement requires arbi-
5 tration of a dispute arising under this sub-
6 section.”.

7 **Subtitle F—Other Matters**

8 **SEC. 11601. NATIVE SOD.**

9 Section 508(o) of the Federal Crop Insurance Act (7
10 U.S.C. 1508(o)) is amended by striking paragraph (3) and
11 inserting the following:

12 “(3) NATIVE SOD CONVERSION CERTIFI-
13 CATION.—

14 “(A) CERTIFICATION.—As a condition on
15 the receipt of benefits under this subtitle, a pro-
16 ducer that has tilled native sod acreage for the
17 production of an insurable crop as described in
18 paragraph (2)(A) shall certify to the Secretary
19 that acreage using—

20 “(i) an acreage report form of the
21 Farm Service Agency (FSA-578 or any
22 successor form); and

23 “(ii) 1 or more maps.

24 “(B) CORRECTIONS.—Beginning on the
25 date on which a producer submits a certifi-

1 cation under subparagraph (A), as soon as
2 practicable after the producer discovers a
3 change in tilled native sod acreage described in
4 that subparagraph, the producer shall submit to
5 the Secretary any appropriate corrections to a
6 form or map described in clause (i) or (ii) of
7 that subparagraph.

8 “(C) ANNUAL REPORTS.—Not later than
9 January 1, 2026, and each January 1 there-
10 after, the Secretary shall submit to the Com-
11 mittee on Agriculture of the House of Rep-
12 resentatives and the Committee on Agriculture,
13 Nutrition, and Forestry of the Senate a report
14 that describes the tilled native sod acreage that
15 has been certified under subparagraph (A) in
16 each county and State as of the date of submis-
17 sion of the report.”.

18 **SEC. 11602. TECHNICAL AMENDMENTS.**

19 (a) Section 508 of the Federal Crop Insurance Act
20 (7 U.S.C. 1508) is amended—

21 (1) in subsection (b)—

22 (A) in paragraph (2)(A), in the matter
23 preceding clause (i), by striking “subparagraph
24 (B)—” and all that follows through “cata-

1 strophic” in clause (ii) and inserting “subpara-
2 graph (B), for each crop year, catastrophic”;

3 (B) by striking paragraph (8); and

4 (C) by redesignating paragraphs (9) and
5 (10) as paragraphs (8) and (9), respectively;

6 (2) in subsection (d)(1), in the matter pre-
7 ceding subparagraph (A), by striking “than—” and
8 all that follows through the period at the end and
9 inserting “than 1.0.”; and

10 (3) in subsection (k)(4)(A), in the matter pre-
11 ceding clause (i), by striking “exceed—” and all that
12 follows through “24.5” in clause (ii) and inserting
13 “exceed, for each insurance year, 24.5”.

14 (b) Subsection (a) of section 520 of the Federal Crop
15 Insurance Act (7 U.S.C. 1520) (as designated by section
16 11202(1)) is amended, in paragraph (2), by inserting “not
17 less than” before “18”.

18 (c) Section 523 of the Federal Crop Insurance Act
19 (7 U.S.C. 1523) is amended—

20 (1) by striking subsections (e) and (f); and

21 (2) by redesignating subsections (g) through (i)
22 as subsections (e) through (g), respectively.

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TITLE XII—MISCELLANEOUS**Subtitle A—Livestock****SEC. 12101. ANIMAL DISEASE PREVENTION AND MANAGEMENT.**

Section 10409A(d) of the Animal Health Protection Act (7 U.S.C. 8308a(d)) is amended—

(1) in paragraph (1)—

(A) in subparagraph (B)—

(i) in the heading, by striking “SUBSEQUENT FISCAL YEARS” and inserting “FISCAL YEARS 2023 AND 2024”; and

(ii) by striking “fiscal year 2023 and each fiscal year thereafter” and inserting “each of fiscal years 2023 and 2024”; and
(B) by adding at the end the following:

“(C) SUBSEQUENT FISCAL YEARS.—Of the funds of the Commodity Credit Corporation, the Secretary shall make available to carry out this section \$60,000,000 for fiscal year 2025 and each fiscal year thereafter, of which not less than \$18,000,000 shall be made available for each of those fiscal years to carry out subsection (b).”;

(2) in paragraph (2) by striking “2023” each place it appears and inserting “2029”.

1 **SEC. 12102. SHEEP PRODUCTION AND MARKETING GRANT**
2 **PROGRAM.**

3 Section 209(c) of the Agricultural Marketing Act of
4 1946 (7 U.S.C. 1627a(c)) is amended by striking “and
5 \$400,000 for fiscal year 2024” and inserting “\$400,000
6 for fiscal year 2024, and \$3,000,0000 for fiscal year
7 2025”.

8 **SEC. 12103. RESOURCES AND GRANT PROGRAM FOR SMALL**
9 **AND MEDIUM POULTRY AND MEAT ESTAB-**
10 **LISHMENTS.**

11 (a) HACCP GUIDANCE.—

12 (1) POULTRY ESTABLISHMENTS.—The Poultry
13 Products Inspection Act is amended by inserting
14 after section 14 (21 U.S.C. 463) the following:

15 **“SEC. 14A. SMALL AND MEDIUM ESTABLISHMENT GUID-**
16 **ANCE AND RESOURCES.**

17 “(a) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

18 “(1) MEDIUM ESTABLISHMENT.—The term
19 ‘medium establishment’ means an official establish-
20 ment that has fewer than 500 employees but more
21 than 50 employees.

22 “(2) SMALL ESTABLISHMENT.—The term
23 ‘small establishment’ means an official establishment
24 that has fewer than 50 employees.

1 “(b) DATABASE OF STUDIES; MODEL PLANS.—Not
2 later than 18 months after the date of enactment of this
3 section, the Secretary shall—

4 “(1) establish a free, searchable database of ap-
5 proved peer-reviewed validation studies accessible to
6 small establishments and medium establishments
7 subject to inspection under this Act for use in devel-
8 oping a Hazard Analysis and Critical Control Points
9 plan; and

10 “(2) publish online scale-appropriate model
11 Hazard Analysis and Critical Control Points plans
12 for small establishments and medium establish-
13 ments, including model plans for—

14 “(A) slaughter-only establishments;

15 “(B) processing-only establishments; and

16 “(C) slaughter and processing establish-
17 ments.

18 “(c) GUIDANCE.—Not later than 2 years after the
19 date of enactment of this section, the Secretary shall pub-
20 lish a guidance document, after notice and an opportunity
21 for public comment, providing information on the require-
22 ments that need to be met for small establishments and
23 medium establishments to receive approval for a Hazard
24 Analysis and Critical Control Points plan pursuant to this
25 Act.

1 “(d) DATA CONFIDENTIALITY.—In carrying out sub-
2 sections (b) and (c), the Secretary shall not publish con-
3 fidential business information, including a Hazard Anal-
4 ysis and Critical Control Points plan of an establishment,
5 unless the establishment provides express written consent
6 to publish the applicable information, which shall be pub-
7 lished in a manner that does not identify the applicable
8 establishment.”.

9 (2) MEAT ESTABLISHMENTS.—The Federal
10 Meat Inspection Act is amended by inserting after
11 section 25 (21 U.S.C. 625) the following:

12 **“SEC. 26. SMALL AND MEDIUM ESTABLISHMENT GUIDANCE**
13 **AND RESOURCES.**

14 “(a) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

15 “(1) MEDIUM ESTABLISHMENT.—The term
16 ‘medium establishment’ means a slaughtering or
17 meat processing establishment that has fewer than
18 500 employees but more than 50 employees.

19 “(2) SMALL ESTABLISHMENT.—The term
20 ‘small establishment’ means a slaughtering or meat
21 processing establishment that has fewer than 50 em-
22 ployees.

23 “(b) DATABASE OF STUDIES; MODEL PLANS.—Not
24 later than 18 months after the date of enactment of this
25 section, the Secretary shall—

1 “(1) establish a free, searchable database of ap-
2 proved peer-reviewed validation studies accessible to
3 small establishments and medium establishments
4 subject to inspection under this Act for use in devel-
5 oping a Hazard Analysis and Critical Control Points
6 plan; and

7 “(2) publish online scale-appropriate model
8 Hazard Analysis and Critical Control Points plans
9 for small establishments and medium establish-
10 ments, including model plans for—

11 “(A) slaughter-only establishments;

12 “(B) processing-only establishments; and

13 “(C) slaughter and processing establish-
14 ments.

15 “(c) GUIDANCE.—Not later than 2 years after the
16 date of enactment of this section, the Secretary shall pub-
17 lish a guidance document, after notice and an opportunity
18 for public comment, providing information on the require-
19 ments that need to be met for small establishments and
20 medium establishments to receive approval for a Hazard
21 Analysis and Critical Control Points plan pursuant to this
22 Act.

23 “(d) DATA CONFIDENTIALITY.—In carrying out sub-
24 sections (b) and (c), the Secretary shall not publish con-
25 fidential business information, including a Hazard Anal-

1 ysis and Critical Control Points plan of an establishment,
2 unless the establishment provides express written consent
3 to publish the applicable information, which shall be pub-
4 lished in a manner that does not identify the applicable
5 establishment.”.

6 (b) INCREASING MAXIMUM FEDERAL SHARE FOR
7 EXPENSES OF STATE INSPECTION.—

8 (1) POULTRY PRODUCTS.—Section 5(a)(3) of
9 the Poultry Products Inspection Act (21 U.S.C.
10 454(a)(3)) is amended in the second sentence by
11 striking “50 per centum” and inserting “55 per-
12 cent”.

13 (2) MEAT AND MEAT FOOD PRODUCTS.—Sec-
14 tion 301(a)(3) of the Federal Meat Inspection Act
15 (21 U.S.C. 661(a)(3)) is amended in the second sen-
16 tence by striking “50 per centum” and inserting “55
17 percent”.

18 (c) COOPERATIVE INTERSTATE SHIPMENT OF POUL-
19 TRY AND MEAT.—

20 (1) POULTRY PRODUCTS.—Section 31 of the
21 Poultry Products Inspection Act (21 U.S.C. 472) is
22 amended—

23 (A) in subsection (b)—

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- 1 (i) in paragraph (2), by striking “25
2 employees” each place it appears and in-
3 serting “50 employees”; and
- 4 (ii) in paragraph (3)—
- 5 (I) in the paragraph heading, by
6 striking “25” and inserting “50”;
- 7 (II) in subparagraph (A), by
8 striking “25” and inserting “50”; and
- 9 (III) in subparagraph (B)—
- 10 (aa) in clause (i), by striking
11 “more than 25 employees but
12 less than 35 employees” and in-
13 serting “more than 50 employees
14 but less than 70 employees”; and
- 15 (bb) in clause (ii), by strik-
16 ing “subsection (i)” and inserting
17 “subsection (j)”;
- 18 (B) in subsection (c), by striking “60 per-
19 cent” and inserting “80 percent”;
- 20 (C) in subsection (e)(1), by striking “sub-
21 section (i)” and inserting “subsection (j)”;
- 22 (D) by redesignating subsections (f)
23 through (i) as subsections (g) through (j), re-
24 spectively; and

1 (E) by inserting after subsection (e) the
2 following:

3 “(f) FEDERAL OUTREACH.—

4 “(1) IN GENERAL.—In each of fiscal years
5 2025 through 2029, for the purpose of State partici-
6 pation in the Cooperative Interstate Shipment pro-
7 gram, the Secretary shall conduct outreach to, and,
8 as appropriate, subsequent negotiation with, not
9 fewer than 25 percent of the States that—

10 “(A) have a State poultry product inspec-
11 tion program pursuant to section 5; but

12 “(B) do not have a selected establishment.

13 “(2) REPORT.—At the conclusion of each of fis-
14 cal years 2025 through 2029, the Secretary shall
15 submit a report detailing the activities and results of
16 the outreach conducted during that fiscal year under
17 paragraph (1) to—

18 “(A) the Committee on Agriculture of the
19 House of Representatives;

20 “(B) the Committee on Agriculture, Nutri-
21 tion, and Forestry of the Senate;

22 “(C) the Subcommittee on Agriculture,
23 Rural Development, Food and Drug Adminis-
24 tration, and Related Agencies of the Committee

1 on Appropriations of the House of Representa-
2 tives; and

3 “(D) the Subcommittee on Agriculture,
4 Rural Development, Food and Drug Adminis-
5 tration, and Related Agencies of the Committee
6 on Appropriations of the Senate.”.

7 (2) MEAT AND MEAT FOOD PRODUCTS.—Sec-
8 tion 501 of the Federal Meat Inspection Act (21
9 U.S.C. 683) is amended—

10 (A) in subsection (b)—

11 (i) in paragraph (2), by striking “25
12 employees” each place it appears and in-
13 serting “50 employees”; and

14 (ii) in paragraph (3)—

15 (I) in the paragraph heading, by
16 striking “25” and inserting “50”;

17 (II) in subparagraph (A), by
18 striking “25” and inserting “50”; and

19 (III) in subparagraph (B)(i), by
20 striking “more than 25 employees but
21 fewer than 35 employees” and insert-
22 ing “more than 50 employees but
23 fewer than 70 employees”;

24 (B) in subsection (c), by striking “60 per-
25 cent” and inserting “80 percent”; and

1 (C) in subsection (f), by adding at the end
2 the following:

3 “(3) FEDERAL OUTREACH.—

4 “(A) IN GENERAL.—In each of fiscal years
5 2025 through 2029, for the purpose of State
6 participation in the Cooperative Interstate Ship-
7 ment program, the Secretary shall conduct out-
8 reach to, and, as appropriate, subsequent nego-
9 tiation with, not fewer than 25 percent of the
10 States that—

11 “(i) have a State meat inspection pro-
12 gram pursuant to section 301; but

13 “(ii) do not have a selected establish-
14 ment.

15 “(B) REPORT.—At the conclusion of each
16 of fiscal years 2025 through 2029, the Sec-
17 retary shall submit a report detailing the activi-
18 ties and results of the outreach conducted dur-
19 ing that fiscal year under paragraph (1) to—

20 “(i) the Committee on Agriculture of
21 the House of Representatives;

22 “(ii) the Committee on Agriculture,
23 Nutrition, and Forestry of the Senate;

24 “(iii) the Subcommittee on Agri-
25 culture, Rural Development, Food and

1 Drug Administration, and Related Agen-
2 cies of the Committee on Appropriations of
3 the House of Representatives; and

4 “(iv) the Subcommittee on Agri-
5 culture, Rural Development, Food and
6 Drug Administration, and Related Agen-
7 cies of the Committee on Appropriations of
8 the Senate.”.

9 (d) PROCESSING RESILIENCE GRANT PROGRAM.—
10 Subtitle A of the Agricultural Marketing Act of 1946 (7
11 U.S.C. 1621 et seq.) (as amended by section 10005) is
12 amended by adding at the end the following:

13 **“SEC. 210D. PROCESSING RESILIENCE GRANT PROGRAM.**

14 “(a) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

15 “(1) BUSINESS ENTERPRISE OWNED AND CON-
16 TROLLED BY SOCIALLY AND ECONOMICALLY DIS-
17 ADVANTAGED INDIVIDUALS.—The term ‘business en-
18 terprise owned and controlled by socially and eco-
19 nomically disadvantaged individuals’ has the mean-
20 ing given the term in section 3002 of the State
21 Small Business Credit Initiative Act of 2010 (12
22 U.S.C. 5701).

23 “(2) ELIGIBLE ENTITY.—The term ‘eligible en-
24 tity’ means—

1 “(A) a slaughtering or processing estab-
2 lishment with fewer than 500 employees;

3 “(B) a slaughtering or processing estab-
4 lishment subject to—

5 “(i) a State meat inspection program
6 pursuant to section 301 of the Federal
7 Meat Inspection Act (21 U.S.C. 661); or

8 “(ii) a State poultry product inspec-
9 tion program pursuant to section 5 of the
10 Poultry Products Inspection Act (21
11 U.S.C. 454);

12 “(C) a person engaging in custom oper-
13 ations that is exempt from inspection under—

14 “(i) section 23 of the Federal Meat
15 Inspection Act (21 U.S.C. 623); or

16 “(ii) section 15 of the Poultry Prod-
17 ucts Inspection Act (21 U.S.C. 464); and

18 “(D) a person seeking—

19 “(i) to establish and operate an estab-
20 lishment described in subparagraph (A) or
21 (B); or

22 “(ii) to engage in custom operations
23 described in subparagraph (C).

1 “(3) SECRETARY.—The term ‘Secretary’ means
2 the Secretary of Agriculture, acting through the Ad-
3 ministrator of the Agricultural Marketing Service.

4 “(b) GRANTS.—

5 “(1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 60 days
6 after the date of enactment of this section, the Sec-
7 retary shall award competitive grants to eligible enti-
8 ties for activities to increase resiliency and diver-
9 sification of the meat processing system, including
10 activities that—

11 “(A) support the health and safety of meat
12 and poultry plant employees, suppliers, and cus-
13 tomers;

14 “(B) support increased processing capac-
15 ity; and

16 “(C) otherwise support the resilience of the
17 small meat and poultry processing sector.

18 “(2) MAXIMUM AMOUNT.—The maximum
19 amount of a grant awarded under this section shall
20 not exceed \$500,000.

21 “(3) DURATION.—The term of a grant awarded
22 under this section shall not exceed 3 years.

23 “(c) APPLICATIONS.—

24 “(1) IN GENERAL.—An eligible entity desiring a
25 grant under this section shall submit to the Sec-

1 retary an application at such time, in such manner,
2 and containing such information as the Secretary
3 may require.

4 “(2) APPLICATIONS FOR SMALL GRANTS.—The
5 Secretary shall establish a separate, simplified appli-
6 cation process for eligible entities applying for a
7 grant under this section of not more than \$100,000.

8 “(3) REQUIREMENTS.—The Secretary shall en-
9 sure that any application for a grant under this sec-
10 tion is—

11 “(A) simple and practicable;

12 “(B) accessible online; and

13 “(C) available through local staff of the
14 Department of Agriculture.

15 “(4) NOTICE.—Not later than 14 days before
16 the date on which the Secretary begins to accept ap-
17 plications under paragraph (1), the Secretary shall
18 publish a notice of funding opportunity with respect
19 to the grants available under this section.

20 “(5) REAPPLICATION.—If an application of an
21 eligible entity under this subsection is denied by the
22 Secretary, the eligible entity may submit a revised
23 application.

1 “(6) PRIORITY.—In reviewing applications sub-
2 mitted under this subsection, the Secretary shall
3 give priority to proposals that will—

4 “(A) increase farmer and rancher access to
5 animal slaughter options within a 200-mile ra-
6 dius of the location of the farmer or rancher;

7 “(B) support an eligible entity described in
8 subsection (a)(2)(A); or

9 “(C) support an eligible entity that is a
10 business enterprise owned and controlled by so-
11 cially and economically disadvantaged individ-
12 uals.

13 “(d) USE OF GRANT.—An eligible entity that receives
14 a grant under this section shall use the grant funds to
15 carry out activities in support of the purposes described
16 in subsection (b)(1), including through—

17 “(1) the development and issuance of a Hazard
18 Analysis and Critical Control Points plan for the eli-
19 gible entity, which may be developed by a consultant;

20 “(2) the purchase or establishment, as applica-
21 ble, of facilities, equipment, processes, and oper-
22 ations necessary for the eligible entity to comply
23 with applicable requirements under the Federal
24 Meat Inspection Act (21 U.S.C. 601 et seq.) or the

1 Poultry Products Inspection Act (21 U.S.C. 451 et
2 seq.);

3 “(3) the purchase of cold storage, equipment, or
4 transportation services;

5 “(4) the purchase of temperature screening
6 supplies, testing for communicable diseases, dis-
7 infectant, sanitation systems, hand washing stations,
8 and other sanitizing supplies;

9 “(5) the purchase and decontamination of per-
10 sonal protective equipment;

11 “(6) the construction or purchase of humane
12 handling infrastructure, including holding space for
13 livestock prior to slaughter, shade structures, and
14 knock box structures;

15 “(7)(A) the purchase of software and computer
16 equipment for record keeping, production data, Haz-
17 ard Analysis and Critical Control Points record re-
18 view, and facilitation of marketing and sales of prod-
19 ucts in a manner consistent with the social
20 distancing guidelines of the Centers for Disease Con-
21 trol and Prevention; and

22 “(B) the provision of guidelines and training re-
23 lating to that software and computer equipment;

1 “(8) the provision of staff time and training for
2 implementing and monitoring health and safety pro-
3 cedures;

4 “(9) the development of a feasibility study or
5 business plan for, or the carrying out of any other
6 activity associated with, establishing or expanding a
7 small meat or poultry processing facility;

8 “(10) the purchase of equipment that enables
9 the further use or value-added sale of coproducts or
10 byproducts, such as organs, hides, and other rel-
11 evant products; and

12 “(11) other activities associated with expanding
13 or establishing an eligible entity described in sub-
14 section (a)(2)(A), as determined by the Secretary.

15 “(e) OUTREACH.—During the period beginning on
16 the date on which the Secretary publishes the notice under
17 subsection (c)(4) and ending on the date on which the Sec-
18 retary begins to accept applications under subsection
19 (c)(1), the Secretary shall perform outreach to States and
20 eligible entities relating to grants under this section.

21 “(f) FEDERAL SHARE.—The Federal share of the ac-
22 tivities carried out using a grant awarded under this sec-
23 tion shall not exceed—

24 “(1) 90 percent in the case of a grant in the
25 amount of \$100,000 or less; or

1 “(2) 75 percent in the case of a grant in an
2 amount greater than \$100,000.

3 “(g) ADMINISTRATION.—The promulgation of regula-
4 tions under, and administration of, this section shall be
5 made without regard to—

6 “(1) the notice and comment provisions of sec-
7 tion 553 of title 5, United States Code; and

8 “(2) chapter 35 of title 44, United States Code
9 (commonly known as the ‘Paperwork Reduction
10 Act’).

11 “(h) FUNDING.—

12 “(1) MANDATORY FUNDING.—There is appro-
13 priated, out of amounts in the Treasury not other-
14 wise appropriated, to the Secretary of Agriculture to
15 carry out this section \$25,000,000 for fiscal year
16 2025 and each fiscal year thereafter, to remain
17 available until expended.

18 “(2) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—In
19 addition to amounts made available under paragraph
20 (1), there is authorized to be appropriated to the
21 Secretary of Agriculture to carry out this section
22 \$20,000,000 for each of fiscal years 2025 through
23 2029.”.

1 **SEC. 12104. EXEMPTION FOR MEAT PROCESSORS OF LIVE-**
2 **STOCK MARKET OWNERSHIP UNDER THE**
3 **PACKERS AND STOCKYARDS ACT, 1921.**

4 (a) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 1 year after the
5 date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary shall revise
6 section 201.67 of title 9, Code of Federal Regulations (as
7 in effect on the date of enactment of this Act), to exempt
8 the packers described in subsection (b) from the prohibi-
9 tion described in that section.

10 (b) PACKERS DESCRIBED.—A packer referred to in
11 subsection (a) is a packer that—

12 (1) purchases live animals per year for a total
13 amount that is less than \$50,000,000; or

14 (2) owns less than 10 percent of a packer that
15 purchases live animals per year for a total amount
16 that is not less than \$50,000,000.

17 **SEC. 12105. PROMPT PAYMENT.**

18 Section 409 of the Packers and Stockyards Act, 1921
19 (7 U.S.C. 228b), is amended to read as follows:

20 **“SEC. 409. PROMPT PAYMENT FOR PURCHASE OF LIVE-**
21 **STOCK.**

22 “(a) DEFINITION OF COVERED PAYER.—In this sec-
23 tion, the term ‘covered payer’ means—

24 “(1) a packer;

25 “(2) a market agency; and

26 “(3) a dealer.

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1 “(b) PROMPT PAYMENT FOR LIVESTOCK.—Except as
2 provided in subsection (c), each covered payer that pur-
3 chases livestock shall promptly deliver to the seller or their
4 duly authorized representative the full amount owed for
5 that livestock by the close of—

6 “(1) the next business day following price deter-
7 mination and transfer of possession of the livestock,
8 if payment for the full amount owed is made by—

9 “(A) presenting a check or cash to the sell-
10 er;

11 “(B) placing a check in the United States
12 mail (or equivalent mail service) properly ad-
13 dressed to the seller; or

14 “(C) transferring the full amount by any
15 other expeditious method determined appro-
16 priate by the Secretary; or

17 “(2) the third business day following price de-
18 termination and transfer of possession of the live-
19 stock, if payment for the full amount owed is made
20 by—

21 “(A) Automated Clearing House; or

22 “(B) wire transfer.

23 “(c) WAIVER OF PROMPT PAYMENT.—

24 “(1) IN GENERAL.—Subject to such terms and
25 conditions as the Secretary may require, a covered

1 payer and seller may expressly agree in writing, be-
2 fore a purchase or sale of livestock, to effect pay-
3 ment in a manner other than a manner required
4 under subsection (b).

5 “(2) DISCLOSURE.—Any agreement under
6 paragraph (1) shall be disclosed in the records of the
7 covered payer and the seller, including any docu-
8 ments issued by the covered payer relating to the
9 transaction.

10 “(d) RULE OF CONSTRUCTION.—A payment made by
11 a covered payer pursuant to subsection (b) shall be consid-
12 ered—

13 “(1) a cash sale for purposes of this Act; and

14 “(2) to be made in contemporaneous exchange
15 for new value for other relevant purposes.

16 “(e) UNFAIR PRACTICE.—

17 “(1) DELAY IN PAYMENT OR ATTEMPT TO
18 DELAY.—Any delay in making, or attempt to delay
19 making, full payment for livestock by a covered
20 payer in accordance with this section, including any
21 such delay or attempt to delay for the purpose of,
22 or that results in, extending the required period of
23 payment under this section, shall be considered an
24 unfair practice in violation of this Act.

1 “(2) RULE OF CONSTRUCTION.—Nothing in
2 this section limits the meaning of the term ‘unfair
3 practice’ as used in this Act.”.

4 **SEC. 12106. ANIMAL DISEASE REGIONAL EXPORT BAN**
5 **AGREEMENTS.**

6 (a) IN GENERAL.—Section 10405 of the Animal
7 Health Protection Act (7 U.S.C. 8304) is amended—

8 (1) by redesignating subsection (d) as sub-
9 section (e); and

10 (2) by inserting after subsection (c) the fol-
11 lowing:

12 “(d) ENGAGEMENT WITH KEY EXPORT MARKETS.—

13 “(1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary, acting
14 through the Administrator of the Animal and Plant
15 Health Inspection Service and the Under Secretary
16 of Agriculture for Trade and Foreign Agricultural
17 Affairs, in coordination with the Administrator of
18 the Food Safety and Inspection Service, may pre-
19 emptively negotiate, to the extent practicable, re-
20 gionalization agreements regarding outbreaks of
21 known animal disease threats with the governments
22 of countries with key export markets for any animal,
23 article, or associated means of conveyance from the
24 United States.

1 “(2) RESEARCH.—A negotiation carried out
2 under paragraph (1) is encouraged to take into ac-
3 count accepted global research advances.”.

4 (b) RULE OF CONSTRUCTION.—Nothing in this sec-
5 tion or the amendments made by this section—

6 (1) limits the ability of the Secretary to nego-
7 tiate trade agreements; or

8 (2) requires the Secretary to condition other
9 trade agreements on the inclusion of language relat-
10 ing to regionalization as described in subsection
11 (d)(1) of section 10405 of the Animal Health Pro-
12 tection Act (7 U.S.C. 3804).

13 **SEC. 12107. OFFICE OF THE SPECIAL INVESTIGATOR FOR**
14 **COMPETITION MATTERS.**

15 The Department of Agriculture Reorganization Act
16 of 1994 is amended by inserting after section 216 (7
17 U.S.C. 6916) the following:

18 **“SEC. 217. OFFICE OF THE SPECIAL INVESTIGATOR FOR**
19 **COMPETITION MATTERS.**

20 “(a) ESTABLISHMENT.—There is established in the
21 Department an office, to be known as the ‘Office of the
22 Special Investigator for Competition Matters’ (referred to
23 in this section as the ‘Office’).

24 “(b) SPECIAL INVESTIGATOR FOR COMPETITION
25 MATTERS.—The Office shall be headed by the Special In-

1 vestigator for Competition Matters (referred to in this sec-
2 tion as the ‘Special Investigator’), who shall be a senior
3 career employee appointed by the Secretary.

4 “(c) DUTIES.—The Special Investigator shall—

5 “(1) use all available tools, including subpoenas,
6 to investigate and prosecute violations of the Pack-
7 ers and Stockyards Act, 1921 (7 U.S.C. 181 et
8 seq.), by packers and live poultry dealers with re-
9 spect to competition and trade practices in the food
10 and agriculture sector;

11 “(2) serve as a Department liaison to, and act
12 in consultation with, the Department of Justice and
13 the Federal Trade Commission with respect to com-
14 petition and trade practices in the food and agricul-
15 tural sector;

16 “(3) act in consultation with the Department of
17 Homeland Security with respect to national security
18 and critical infrastructure security in the food and
19 agricultural sector;

20 “(4) maintain a staff of attorneys and other
21 professionals with appropriate expertise; and

22 “(5) in carrying out paragraphs (1) through
23 (4), coordinate with the Office of the General Coun-
24 sel and the Packers and Stockyards Division of the
25 Agricultural Marketing Service.

1 “(d) PROSECUTORIAL AUTHORITY.—

2 “(1) IN GENERAL.—Notwithstanding title 28,
3 United States Code, the Special Investigator shall
4 have the authority to bring any civil or administra-
5 tive action authorized under the Packers and Stock-
6 yards Act, 1921 (7 U.S.C. 181 et seq.), against a
7 packer or a live poultry dealer.

8 “(2) NOTIFICATION.—With respect to any ac-
9 tion brought under this section in Federal district
10 court, the Special Investigator shall notify the Attor-
11 ney General.

12 “(3) EFFECT.—Nothing in this section alters
13 the authority of the Secretary to issue a subpoena
14 pursuant to the Packers and Stockyards Act, 1921
15 (7 U.S.C. 181 et seq.).

16 “(e) LIMITATION ON SCOPE.—The Special Investi-
17 gator may not bring an action under this section with re-
18 spect to an entity that is not regulated under the Packers
19 and Stockyards Act, 1921 (7 U.S.C. 181 et seq.).”.

20 **SEC. 12108. PRODUCT OF USA LABEL.**

21 The final rule of the Food Safety and Inspection
22 Service entitled “Voluntary Labeling of FSIS-Regulated
23 Products with U.S.-Origin Claims” (89 Fed. Reg. 19470
24 (March 18, 2024)) shall have the force and effect of law.

1 **SEC. 12109. CATTLE CONTRACTS LIBRARY.**

2 The Agricultural Marketing Act of 1946 is amend-
3 ed—

4 (1) by redesignating section 223 (7 U.S.C.
5 1635f) as section 224; and

6 (2) by inserting after section 222 (7 U.S.C.
7 1635e) the following:

8 **“SEC. 223. CATTLE CONTRACTS LIBRARY.**

9 “(a) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 120 days after
10 the date of enactment of the Rural Prosperity and Food
11 Security Act of 2024, the Secretary shall establish and
12 maintain, through the Livestock Mandatory Price Report-
13 ing program, a library or catalog (referred to in this sec-
14 tion as the ‘library’), of each type of covered contract en-
15 tered into between packers and producers for the purchase
16 of fed cattle (including cattle that are purchased or com-
17 mitted for delivery), including any schedules of premiums
18 or discounts associated with the covered contract.

19 “(b) INFORMATION COLLECTION.—

20 “(1) IN GENERAL.—To maintain the library,
21 the Secretary shall obtain information from each
22 packer on each type of existing covered contract of
23 the packer by requiring a filing or other form of in-
24 formation submission from each packer.

25 “(2) CONTRACT INFORMATION.—Information
26 submitted to the Secretary by a packer under para-

1 graph (1) shall include, with respect to each existing
2 covered contract of a packer—

3 “(A) the type of contract;

4 “(B) the duration of the contract;

5 “(C) a summary of the contract terms;

6 “(D) provisions in the contract that may
7 affect the price of cattle covered by the con-
8 tract, including schedules, premiums and dis-
9 counts, financing and risk-sharing arrange-
10 ments, and transportation arrangements;

11 “(E) the total number of cattle covered by
12 the contract solely committed to the packer
13 each week within the 6-month and 12-month
14 periods following the date of the contract and
15 the percentage of cattle each week that may
16 vary for delivery or nondelivery at the discretion
17 of the packer, organized by reporting region or
18 in such other manner as the Secretary may de-
19 termine;

20 “(F) in the case of a contract in which a
21 specific number of cattle are not solely com-
22 mitted to the packer—

23 “(i) an indication that the contract is
24 an open commitment; and

1 “(ii) any weekly, monthly, annual, or
2 other limitations or requirements on the
3 number of cattle that may be delivered to
4 the packer under the contract, including
5 the percentage of cattle that may vary for
6 delivery or nondelivery in a given time pe-
7 riod at the discretion of the packer; and

8 “(G) a description of the provisions in the
9 contract that provide for expansion in the num-
10 bers of fed cattle to be delivered under the con-
11 tract for the 6-month and 12-month periods fol-
12 lowing the date of the contract.

13 “(c) AVAILABILITY OF INFORMATION.—

14 “(1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall make
15 publicly available to producers and other interested
16 persons information (including the information de-
17 scribed in subsection (b)(2)), in a user-friendly for-
18 mat, on the types of covered contracts in the library,
19 including notice (on a real-time basis, if practicable)
20 of the types of covered contracts that are entered
21 into between packers and producers for the purchase
22 of fed cattle.

23 “(2) MONTHLY REPORT.—

24 “(A) IN GENERAL.—Beginning 30 days
25 after the library is established, the Secretary

1 shall make the information obtained each
2 month in the library available in a monthly re-
3 port to producers and other interested persons.

4 “(B) CONTENTS.—The monthly report de-
5 scribed in subparagraph (A) shall include—

6 “(i) based on the information collected
7 under subsection (b)(2)(E), an estimate by
8 the Secretary of the total number of fed
9 cattle committed under covered contracts
10 for delivery to packers within the 6-month
11 and 12-month periods following the date of
12 the report, organized by reporting region
13 and type of contract;

14 “(ii) based on the information col-
15 lected under subsection (b)(2)(F), the
16 number of covered contracts with an open
17 commitment and any weekly, monthly, an-
18 nual, or other limitations or requirements
19 on the number of cattle that may be deliv-
20 ered under such contracts, including the
21 percentage of cattle that may vary for de-
22 livery or nondelivery in a given time period
23 at the discretion of the packer; and

24 “(iii) based on the information col-
25 lected under subsection (b)(2)(G), an esti-

1 mate by the Secretary of the total max-
2 imum number of fed cattle that may be de-
3 livered within the 6-month and 12-month
4 periods following the date of the report, or-
5 ganized by reporting region and type of
6 contract.

7 “(d) MAINTENANCE OF LIBRARY.—Information in
8 the library about types of contracts that are no longer of-
9 fered or in use shall be removed from the library.

10 “(e) CONFIDENTIALITY.—The reporting require-
11 ments for packers under this section shall be subject to
12 the confidentiality protections provided under section 251.

13 “(f) VIOLATIONS.—It shall be unlawful and a viola-
14 tion of this Act for any packer to willfully fail or refuse—

15 “(1) to provide to the Secretary accurate infor-
16 mation required under this section; or

17 “(2) to comply with any other requirement of
18 this section.

19 “(g) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There
20 are authorized to be appropriated to the Secretary such
21 sums as are necessary to carry out this section.”.

22 **SEC. 12110. LIVESTOCK CONSOLIDATION RESEARCH.**

23 (a) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 1 year after the
24 date on which each latest Census of Agriculture is made
25 publicly available, the Administrator of the Economic Re-

1 search Service shall publish a report on consolidation and
2 concentration in the livestock industry, including—

3 (1) changes in the size and location of ranches,
4 farms, processing facilities, and packers throughout
5 the United States; and

6 (2) the impact of the changes described in para-
7 graph (1) on farmers, ranchers, and downstream
8 consumers, including—

9 (A) financial impacts;

10 (B) market entry impacts; and

11 (C) access to resources and inputs, includ-
12 ing processing facilities.

13 (b) SOURCES OF INFORMATION.—In preparing a re-
14 port under subsection (a), the Administrator of the Eco-
15 nomic Research Service shall draw on data available to
16 the Secretary of Agriculture, including the Census of Agri-
17 culture, inspection records of the Food Safety and Inspec-
18 tion Service, and the packing plant data of the Packers
19 and Stockyards Division of the Agricultural Marketing
20 Service.

21 (c) REPORT ORGANIZATION.—The report under sub-
22 section (a) shall separate information on beef cattle by
23 cow-calf and fed cattle operations.

1 (d) CONFIDENTIALITY.—A report published under
2 subsection (a) shall not contain any confidential business
3 information.

4 (e) DEFINITION OF LIVESTOCK.—In this section, the
5 term “livestock” includes beef, dairy, pork, lamb, and
6 poultry production (including broilers, eggs, and turkeys).

7 **Subtitle B—Historically**
8 **Underserved Producers**

9 **SEC. 12201. FARMING OPPORTUNITIES TRAINING AND OUT-**
10 **REACH.**

11 (a) IN GENERAL.—Section 2501 of the Food, Agri-
12 culture, Conservation, and Trade Act of 1990 (7 U.S.C.
13 2279) is amended—

14 (1) in subsection (c)—

15 (A) in paragraph (2), in the matter pre-
16 ceding subparagraph (A)—

17 (i) by striking “Secretary of Agri-
18 culture” and inserting “Secretary, acting
19 through the Director of the National Insti-
20 tute of Food and Agriculture,”; and

21 (ii) by striking “2023” and inserting
22 “2029”; and

23 (B) in paragraph (3)—

24 (i) in subparagraph (A), by inserting
25 “, including those efforts to resolve owner-

1 ship and succession on farmland that has
2 multiple owners” after “programs”; and

3 (ii) in subparagraph (B)(i), by insert-
4 ing “, including by providing interpretation
5 and translation services when appropriate”
6 before “; and”;

7 (2) in subsection (d)—

8 (A) in paragraph (1), by striking “2023”
9 and inserting “2029”; and

10 (B) in paragraph (2)—

11 (i) in the matter preceding subpara-
12 graph (A), by striking “services,” and in-
13 sserting “services (including interpretation
14 and translation services),”;

15 (ii) in subparagraph (B), by inserting
16 “, including strategies to resolve ownership
17 and succession on land that has multiple
18 owners” after “strategies”; and

19 (iii) in subparagraph (D)—

20 (I) by striking “ranchers ac-
21 quire” and inserting the following:

22 “ranchers—

23 “(i) acquire”;

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1 (II) in clause (i) (as so des-
2 ignated), by adding “and” after the
3 semicolon; and

4 (III) by adding at the end the
5 following:

6 “(ii) with other land access issues;”;

7 and

8 (3) in subsection (l)—

9 (A) in paragraph (1)—

10 (i) in subparagraph (C), by striking
11 “and” at the end; and

12 (ii) in subparagraph (D), by striking
13 “fiscal year 2023” and inserting the fol-
14 lowing: “each of fiscal years 2023 and
15 2024; and

16 “(E) \$75,000,000 for fiscal year 2025”;

17 and

18 (B) in paragraph (2), by striking “2023”
19 and inserting “2029”.

20 (b) TECHNICAL AND CONFORMING AMENDMENTS.—

21 (1) Section 226B(d) of the Department of Agri-
22 culture Reorganization Act of 1994 (7 U.S.C.
23 6934(d)) is amended—

24 (A) by striking paragraph (2); and

1 (B) by redesignating paragraphs (3) and
2 (4) as paragraphs (2) and (3), respectively.

3 (2) Section 201(a)(3)(D) of division HH of the
4 Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2023 (7 U.S.C.
5 6712(a)(3)(D)), is amended—

6 (A) by striking “2501” and inserting
7 “2501(a)”; and

8 (B) by striking “2279).” and inserting
9 “2279(a)).”.

10 (3) Section 1235(f)(1) of the Food Security Act
11 of 1985 (16 U.S.C. 3835(f)(1)) is amended, in the
12 matter preceding subparagraph (A)—

13 (A) by striking “2501(e)” and inserting
14 “2501(a)”; and

15 (B) by striking “2279(e)),” and inserting
16 “2279(a)),”.

17 (4) Section 1240B(d)(4)(A) of the Food Secu-
18 rity Act of 1985 (16 U.S.C. 3839aa-2(d)(4)(A)) is
19 amended, in the matter preceding clause (i)—

20 (A) by striking “2501(e)” and inserting
21 “2501(a)”; and

22 (B) by striking “2279(e)),” and inserting
23 “2279(a)),”.

24 (5) Section 1241(h)(4) of the Food Security
25 Act of 1985 (16 U.S.C. 3841(h)(4)) is amended—

1 (A) by striking “2501(e)” and inserting
2 “2501(a)”;

3 (B) by striking “2279(e))” and inserting
4 “2279(a))”.

5 (6) Section 1244(a)(2)(E) of the Food Security
6 Act of 1985 (16 U.S.C. 3844(a)(2)(E)) is amend-
7 ed—

8 (A) by striking “2501(e)” and inserting
9 “2501(a)”;

10 (B) by striking “2279(e))” and inserting
11 “2279(a))”.

12 **SEC. 12202. STRENGTHENING THE TRANSPARENCY AND AC-**
13 **COUNTABILITY REPORT.**

14 Section 2501A(c)(4) of the Food, Agriculture, Con-
15 servation, and Trade Act of 1990 (7 U.S.C. 2279–1(c)(4))
16 is amended—

17 (1) by striking “The Secretary” and inserting
18 the following:

19 “(A) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary”; and

20 (2) by adding at the end the following:

21 “(B) ACCESSIBILITY.—Not later than 1
22 year after the date of enactment of this sub-
23 paragraph, the Secretary shall, in coordination
24 with the Office of Customer Experience and the
25 Office of Digital Service, ensure that the design

1 of the report described in paragraph (3) is user-
2 friendly, such that the data in the report is easy
3 for users to use and analyze.

4 “(C) SUBMISSION TO CONGRESS.—The
5 Secretary shall annually submit to the Com-
6 mittee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry
7 of the Senate and the Committee on Agri-
8 culture of the House of Representatives, as the
9 Secretary determines to be appropriate—

10 “(i) the report described in paragraph
11 (3); or

12 “(ii) the web address of the website
13 described in subparagraph (A).”.

14 **SEC. 12203. USDA OMBUDSPERSON.**

15 (a) IN GENERAL.—Subtitle A of the Department of
16 Agriculture Reorganization Act of 1994 (7 U.S.C. 6912
17 et seq.) is amended by adding at the end the following:

18 **“SEC. 224B. USDA OMBUDSPERSON.**

19 “(a) ESTABLISHMENT.—

20 “(1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall estab-
21 lish in the Department the position of USDA
22 Ombudsperson (referred to in this section as the
23 ‘Ombudsperson’), which shall be a career reserved
24 position (as defined in section 3132(a) of title 5,
25 United States Code) in the Senior Executive Service.

1 “(2) INDEPENDENT POSITION.—The Secretary
2 shall take appropriate actions to ensure the inde-
3 pendence of the Ombudsperson within the Depart-
4 ment, including ensuring that the Ombudsperson
5 shall be independent of other Department agencies
6 and offices.

7 “(b) QUALIFICATIONS.—The Ombudsperson shall
8 have—

9 “(1) a background in civil rights and agri-
10 culture; and

11 “(2) comprehensive knowledge of or experience
12 working with the Department.

13 “(c) FUNCTIONS.—The functions of the
14 Ombudsperson shall be—

15 “(1) to assist farmers, ranchers, and forest
16 landowners with navigating agencies and offices
17 within the Department, including—

18 “(A) the civil rights offices within the farm
19 production and conservation mission area and
20 the Forest Service; and

21 “(B) the Office of the Assistant Secretary
22 for Civil Rights;

23 “(2) to work with the Office of the Assistant
24 Secretary for Civil Rights to review progress of com-
25 plaints referred by the Ombudsperson;

1 “(3) to track the response of the Department
2 to, and the progress of the Department with respect
3 to implementing, recommendations made by Depart-
4 ment advisory committees, including—

5 “(A) the Advisory Committee on Minority
6 Farmers;

7 “(B) the Tribal Advisory Committee; and

8 “(C) the Advisory Committee on Beginning
9 Farmers and Ranchers; and

10 “(4) to ensure that the functions performed by
11 the Ombudsperson are complementary to existing
12 functions within the Department.

13 “(d) REFERRALS.—

14 “(1) OFFICE OF THE INSPECTOR GENERAL.—
15 The Ombudsperson shall refer to the Office of the
16 Inspector General of the Department systemic issues
17 that may affect the program delivery by the Depart-
18 ment to members of protected classes.

19 “(2) OFFICE OF CIVIL RIGHTS.—The
20 Ombudsperson shall refer individual complaints of
21 discrimination to the Office of the Assistant Sec-
22 retary for Civil Rights for processing.

23 “(e) ANNUAL REPORTS.—

24 “(1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than January 31,
25 2025, and annually thereafter, the Ombudsperson

1 shall submit to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutri-
2 tion, and Forestry of the Senate and the Committee
3 on Agriculture of the House of Representatives,
4 without prior comment or amendment from the Sec-
5 retary or any other officer or employee of the De-
6 partment, or any officer or employee of the Office of
7 Management and Budget, a report that describes the
8 activities of the Ombudsperson during the preceding
9 fiscal year, including—

10 “(A) the number of program complaints
11 received by the Ombudsperson;

12 “(B) the number of program complaints
13 referred to the Office of the Assistant Secretary
14 for Civil Rights by the Ombudsperson; and

15 “(C) the final determinations of the com-
16 plaints described in subparagraphs (A) and (B).

17 “(2) PUBLIC AVAILABILITY.—The annual re-
18 port described in paragraph (1) shall be made pub-
19 licly available on the website of the Department.

20 “(f) FUNDING.—

21 “(1) IN GENERAL.—There is appropriated, out
22 of amounts in the Treasury not otherwise appro-
23 priated, \$10,000,000 for the period of fiscal years
24 2025 through 2029 to carry out this section, to re-
25 main available until expended.

1 “(2) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—In
2 addition to amounts otherwise made available, there
3 is authorized to be appropriated to carry out this
4 section \$2,000,000 for each of fiscal years 2025
5 through 2029, to remain available until expended.”.

6 (b) CONFORMING AMENDMENT.—Subtitle A of the
7 Department of Agriculture Reorganization Act of 1994 is
8 amended by redesignating section 225 (7 U.S.C. 6925)
9 (relating to the Food Access Liaison) as section 224A.

10 **SEC. 12204. FARMLAND OWNERSHIP.**

11 Section 12607(c) of the Agriculture Improvement Act
12 of 2018 (7 U.S.C. 2204i(c)) is amended—

13 (1) by inserting “of” before “fiscal”; and

14 (2) by striking “2023” and inserting “2029”.

15 **SEC. 12205. CIVIL RIGHTS ACCOUNTABILITY FOR USDA EM-**
16 **PLOYEES.**

17 (a) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

18 (1) CORRECTIVE ACTION.—The term “correc-
19 tive action” means any action taken to respond to
20 any covered action, violation, or misconduct that—

21 (A) would enhance civil rights at the De-
22 partment of Agriculture, including any policy or
23 programmatic changes to prevent similar mis-
24 conduct from occurring in the future; and

1 (B) may include disciplinary actions, in-
2 cluding—

- 3 (i) removal from Federal service;
4 (ii) suspension without pay;
5 (iii) any reduction in grade or pay;
6 and
7 (iv) a letter of reprimand.

8 (2) COVERED ACTION, VIOLATION, OR MIS-
9 CONDUCT.—The term “covered action, violation, or
10 misconduct” means a discriminatory action, a retal-
11 iatory action, harassment, a civil rights violation, or
12 related misconduct, including the following:

13 (A) Failure to provide a receipt for service
14 in accordance with section 2501A(e) of the
15 Food, Agriculture, Conservation, and Trade Act
16 of 1990 (7 U.S.C. 2279–1(e)) to any current or
17 prospective applicant for, or participant in, a
18 Department of Agriculture program.

19 (B) Providing an inaccurate receipt for
20 service under such section 2501A(e) to any
21 such current or prospective applicant or partici-
22 pant.

23 (C) Failure to provide appropriate infor-
24 mation regarding relevant programs and serv-
25 ices at the Department of Agriculture, when re-

1 requested by any such current or prospective ap-
2 plicant or participant.

3 (D) Failure to timely process applications
4 or otherwise delaying program services to any
5 such current or prospective applicant or partici-
6 pant.

7 (b) REQUIREMENT.—The Secretary shall ensure that
8 appropriate corrective action is taken with respect to any
9 official or employee of the Department of Agriculture who
10 has been found to have engaged in any covered action,
11 violation, or misconduct while in the course of the employ-
12 ment of such official or employee or in administering a
13 Department of Agriculture program or service—

14 (1) in any administrative finding by the Depart-
15 ment of Agriculture, including any final agency deci-
16 sion issued by the Assistant Secretary for Civil
17 Rights and any civil rights compliance review or mis-
18 conduct investigation conducted by the Department
19 of Agriculture;

20 (2) in any Federal administrative or judicial
21 proceeding;

22 (3) in any settlement with respect to civil
23 rights;

1 (4) in any audit or investigation conducted by
2 the Office of the Inspector General of the Depart-
3 ment of Agriculture; or

4 (5) in any investigation conducted by the Office
5 of the Special Counsel.

6 **SEC. 12206. EQUITABLE RELIEF RECOMMENDATIONS BY**
7 **THE ASSISTANT SECRETARY FOR CIVIL**
8 **RIGHTS.**

9 (a) EQUITABLE RELIEF FROM INELIGIBILITY FOR
10 LOANS, PAYMENTS, OR OTHER BENEFITS.—Section 1613
11 of the Farm Security and Rural Investment Act of 2002
12 (7 U.S.C. 7996) is amended—

13 (1) by redesignating subsections (f), (g), and
14 (h) as subsections (g), (h), and (k), respectively;

15 (2) by inserting after subsection (e) the fol-
16 lowing:

17 “(f) EQUITABLE RELIEF RECOMMENDATIONS BY
18 THE ASSISTANT SECRETARY FOR CIVIL RIGHTS.—

19 “(1) IN GENERAL.—The Assistant Secretary for
20 Civil Rights (or a designee of the Secretary in the
21 Office of the Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights, if
22 no Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights is appointed
23 and confirmed in accordance with section 218(b) of
24 the Department of Agriculture Reorganization Act
25 of 1994 (7 U.S.C. 6918(b))) may recommend that

1 the Secretary grant relief in accordance with sub-
2 sections (b) through (d) to a participant who files a
3 civil rights program complaint.

4 “(2) DECISIONS.—The Secretary shall provide
5 a written explanation describing in detail why equi-
6 table relief was not granted to a participant who
7 filed a civil rights program complaint if the Assist-
8 ant Secretary for Civil Rights (or the designee of the
9 Secretary) makes a recommendation to the Sec-
10 retary to grant relief to that participant in accord-
11 ance with paragraph (1) and such relief was not
12 granted.

13 “(3) OTHER AUTHORITY.—The authority pro-
14 vided to the Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights (or
15 the designee of the Secretary) under this subsection
16 is in addition to any other applicable authority and
17 does not limit other authority provided to the Assist-
18 ant Secretary for Civil Rights by law or by the Sec-
19 retary.”; and

20 (3) in subsection (h) (as so redesignated)—

21 (A) in paragraph (1), by striking “and
22 (e)” and all that follows through the semicolon
23 and inserting “and (e), the number of rec-
24 ommendations for equitable relief under sub-

1 section (f), and the dispositions of those re-
2 quests and those recommendations;” and

3 (B) in paragraph (2), by striking “for eq-
4 uitable relief” and all that follows through the
5 period at the end and inserting “and rec-
6 ommendations for equitable relief under section
7 366 of the Consolidated Farm and Rural Devel-
8 opment Act (7 U.S.C. 2008a) and the dispo-
9 sition of those requests and those recommenda-
10 tions.”.

11 (b) **EQUITABLE RELIEF FOR ACTIONS TAKEN IN**
12 **GOOD FAITH.**—Section 366 of the Consolidated Farm and
13 Rural Development Act (7 U.S.C. 2008a) is amended—

14 (1) by striking subsection (b) and inserting the
15 following:

16 “(b) **LIMITATION.**—The Secretary may only provide
17 relief to a farmer or rancher under subsection (a) if the
18 Secretary determines that the farmer or rancher—

19 “(1) acted in good faith and relied on an action
20 of, or the advice of, the Secretary (including any au-
21 thorized representative of the Secretary) to the det-
22 riment of the farming or ranching operation of the
23 farmer or rancher; or

24 “(2)(A) failed to comply fully with the require-
25 ments to receive a loan described in subsection

1 (a)(1), but made a good faith effort to comply with
2 the requirements; and

3 “(B) is otherwise in compliance with the eligi-
4 bility requirements for a direct farm ownership loan
5 under subtitle A, a direct operating loan under sub-
6 title B, or an emergency loan under subtitle C.”;

7 (2) by redesignating subsection (e) as sub-
8 section (f); and

9 (3) by inserting after subsection (d) the fol-
10 lowing:

11 “(e) **EQUITABLE RELIEF RECOMMENDATIONS BY**
12 **THE ASSISTANT SECRETARY FOR CIVIL RIGHTS.—**

13 “(1) **IN GENERAL.—**The Assistant Secretary for
14 Civil Rights (or a designee of the Secretary in the
15 Office of the Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights, if
16 no Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights is appointed
17 and confirmed in accordance with section 218(b) of
18 the Department of Agriculture Reorganization Act
19 of 1994 (7 U.S.C. 6918(b))) may recommend that
20 the Secretary grant relief in accordance with sub-
21 sections (a) through (d) to an individual who files a
22 complaint with respect to civil rights regarding a di-
23 rect farm ownership, operating, or emergency loan
24 under this title.

1 “(2) DECISIONS.—The Secretary shall provide
2 a written explanation describing in detail why equi-
3 table relief was not granted to an individual who
4 filed a complaint described in paragraph (1) if the
5 Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights (or the designee
6 of the Secretary) makes a recommendation to the
7 Secretary to grant relief to the individual in accord-
8 ance with paragraph (1) and such relief was not
9 granted.

10 “(3) OTHER AUTHORITY.—The authority pro-
11 vided to the Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights (or
12 the designee of the Secretary) under this subsection
13 is in addition to any other applicable authority and
14 does not limit other authority provided to the Assist-
15 ant Secretary for Civil Rights by law or by the Sec-
16 retary.”.

17 **SEC. 12207. ADVISORY COMMITTEE IMPROVEMENTS AND**
18 **TRANSPARENCY.**

19 (a) MINORITY FARMER ADVISORY COMMITTEE.—
20 Section 14008 of the Food, Conservation, and Energy Act
21 of 2008 (7 U.S.C. 2279 note; Public Law 110–246) is
22 amended—

23 (1) in subsection (b)—

24 (A) in the matter preceding paragraph (1),
25 by inserting “, and make recommendations to

1 the Secretary with respect to” after “Secretary
2 on”;

3 (B) in paragraph (2), by striking “and” at
4 the end;

5 (C) in paragraph (3), by striking the pe-
6 riod at the end and inserting a semicolon; and

7 (D) by adding at the end the following:

8 “(4) ways to eliminate systemic issues and bar-
9 riers that contribute to limited participation among
10 minority farmers and ranchers in such programs;
11 and

12 “(5) engagement with community-based organi-
13 zations, civil rights organizations, institutions of
14 higher education, and faith-based organizations to
15 improve outreach and technical assistance to minor-
16 ity farmers and ranchers.”; and

17 (2) by adding at the end the following:

18 “(d) REPORTS.—

19 “(1) IN GENERAL.—Not less frequently than
20 once each year, the Committee shall submit to the
21 Secretary a report that describes—

22 “(A) the advice provided and recommenda-
23 tions made to the Secretary under subsection
24 (b) during the previous year;

1 “(B) the activities of the Committee dur-
2 ing the previous year; and

3 “(C) recommendations for legislative or ad-
4 ministrative action for the following year.

5 “(2) RESPONSE FROM THE SECRETARY.—Not
6 later than 90 days after the date on which the Sec-
7 retary receives a report under paragraph (1), the
8 Secretary shall submit a written response to that re-
9 port to the Committee.

10 “(3) PUBLIC AVAILABILITY.—The Secretary
11 shall make the report under paragraph (1) and the
12 written responses under paragraph (2) publicly
13 available on the website of the Department of Agri-
14 culture.”.

15 (b) ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON BEGINNING FARMERS
16 AND RANCHERS.—Section 5(b) of the Agricultural Credit
17 Improvement Act of 1992 (7 U.S.C. 1929 note; Public
18 Law 102–554) is amended—

19 (1) in paragraph (1)—

20 (A) in the matter preceding subparagraph
21 (A), by inserting “(referred to in this subsection
22 as the ‘Advisory Committee’)” after “Ranch-
23 ers’”; and

24 (B) by striking subparagraphs (A) through
25 (E) and inserting the following:

1 “(A) improvements to—

2 “(i) the program of coordinated as-
3 sistance to qualified beginning farmers and
4 ranchers under section 309(i) of the Con-
5 solidated Farm and Rural Development
6 Act (7 U.S.C. 1929(i));

7 “(ii) the Beginning Farmer and
8 Rancher Development Grant Program
9 under section 2501(d) of the Food, Agri-
10 culture, Conservation, and Trade Act of
11 1990 (7 U.S.C. 2279(d));

12 “(iii) direct operating loans under
13 subtitle B of the Consolidated Farm and
14 Rural Development Act (7 U.S.C. 1941 et
15 seq.) provided to qualified beginning farm-
16 ers and ranchers (as defined in section
17 343(a) of that Act (7 U.S.C. 1991(a)));

18 “(iv) the Local Agriculture Market
19 Program under section 210A of the Agri-
20 cultural Marketing Act of 1946 (7 U.S.C.
21 1627c); and

22 “(v) other programs administered by
23 the Department of Agriculture with the po-
24 tential to serve primarily beginning farm-

1 ers and ranchers, as identified by the Advi-
2 sory Committee;

3 “(B) methods of maximizing the number of
4 new farming and ranching opportunities created
5 through the programs described in subpara-
6 graph (A); and

7 “(C) other methods of creating new farm-
8 ing or ranching opportunities.”;

9 (2) in paragraph (2)(A), by striking “Farmers
10 Home Administration” and inserting “Farm Service
11 Agency”; and

12 (3) by adding at the end the following:

13 “(3) REPORTS.—

14 “(A) IN GENERAL.—Not less frequently
15 than once each year, the Advisory Committee
16 shall submit to the Secretary a report that de-
17 scribes—

18 “(i) the advice provided to the Sec-
19 retary under paragraph (1) during the pre-
20 vious year;

21 “(ii) the activities of the Advisory
22 Committee during the previous year; and

23 “(iii) recommendations for legislative
24 or administrative action for the following
25 year.

1 (C) in subparagraph (G) (as so redesignated), by striking “and” at the end;

2
3 (D) in subparagraph (H) (as so redesignated), by striking the period at the end and inserting “; and”; and

4
5
6 (E) by adding the following at the end:

7 “(I) promoting conservation techniques unique to urban agriculture
8 and urban environmental impacts.”;
9
10 and

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

12 “(5) COOPERATIVE AGREEMENTS.—

13 “(A) DEFINITION OF ELIGIBLE ENTITY.—

14 In this paragraph, the term ‘eligible entity’
15 means any of the following:

16 “(i) A nonprofit organization.

17 “(ii) An agricultural cooperative.

18 “(iii) A unit of local government.

19 “(iv) An Indian Tribe or Tribal organization (as those terms are defined in section 4 of the Indian Self-Determination and Education Assistance Act (25 U.S.C. 5304)).

20
21
22
23
24 “(v) Any other Tribal entity (as determined by the Secretary).
25

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1 “(vi) A Native Hawaiian organization
2 (as defined in section 6207 of the Elemen-
3 tary and Secondary Education Act of 1965
4 (20 U.S.C. 7517)).

5 “(vii) An agricultural producer group,
6 farmer or rancher cooperative, or majority-
7 controlled producer-based business venture
8 (as determined by the Secretary).

9 “(viii) Any school that serves any of
10 grades kindergarten through grade 12.

11 “(B) REQUIREMENT.—

12 “(i) COOPERATIVE AGREEMENTS.—
13 The Director shall enter into cooperative
14 agreements with eligible entities to support
15 the implementation of 1 or more respon-
16 sibilities described in paragraph (4)
17 through outreach, education, technical as-
18 sistance, or other activities that support
19 the expansion and success of urban agri-
20 culture and innovative production oper-
21 ations.

22 “(ii) STREAMLINING.—To the max-
23 imum extent practicable, the Director shall
24 utilize any existing cooperative agreements
25 or collaborations with eligible entities to

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1 fulfill the responsibilities described in para-
2 graph (4) effectively and efficiently.

3 “(C) PRIORITY.—In entering into coopera-
4 tive agreements under subparagraph (B), the
5 Director shall give priority to cooperative agree-
6 ments with an eligible entity that—

7 “(i) serves geographic areas with high
8 concentrations of urban or suburban
9 farms;

10 “(ii) has established relationships
11 with, or a history of serving, historically
12 underserved populations;

13 “(iii) has experience working with in-
14 dividuals with limited English proficiency;
15 or

16 “(iv) demonstrates experience pro-
17 viding urban agriculture technical assist-
18 ance in their geographic region.

19 “(D) MICROGRANTS.—

20 “(i) IN GENERAL.—An eligible entity
21 may use funds from a cooperative agree-
22 ment established under this paragraph to
23 provide microgrants to urban and innova-
24 tive producers for purchases of farm and
25 production equipment, water infrastruc-

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1 ture, or other investments to support the
2 growth of the farm or farm business of the
3 urban or innovative producer.

4 “(ii) LIMITATION ON USE OF
5 FUNDS.—An urban or innovative producer
6 receiving a microgrant under clause (i)
7 may not use the grant for the purchase or
8 construction of—

9 “(I) a building;

10 “(II) general purpose equipment;

11 or

12 “(III) a nonagricultural struc-
13 ture.”.

14 (b) URBAN AGRICULTURE AND INNOVATIVE PRO-
15 DUCTION ADVISORY COMMITTEE.—Section 222(b) of the
16 Department of Agriculture Reorganization Act of 1994 (7
17 U.S.C. 6923(b)) is amended—

18 (1) in paragraph (5)(B), by striking “1 year
19 after the date on which the Committee is estab-
20 lished, and every 2 years through 2023” and insert-
21 ing “2 years after the date of enactment of the
22 Rural Prosperity and Food Security Act of 2024,
23 and every 2 years thereafter through 2029”; and

1 (2) in paragraph (7)(A), by striking “the date
2 that” and all that follows through the period at the
3 end and inserting “September 30, 2029.”.

4 (c) GRANTS.—Section 222 of the Department of Ag-
5 riculture Reorganization Act of 1994 (7 U.S.C. 6923) is
6 amended by striking subsection (c) and inserting the fol-
7 lowing:

8 “(c) GRANTS.—

9 “(1) AUTHORIZATION.—

10 “(A) IN GENERAL.—The Director shall
11 award competitive grants to support the devel-
12 opment of urban agriculture and innovative pro-
13 duction, such as community gardens, urban
14 farms, rooftop farms, indoor farms, controlled-
15 environment agriculture, urban agroforestry,
16 and vertical production.

17 “(B) PRIORITY.—In awarding competitive
18 grants under this subsection, the Director shall
19 prioritize projects that improve access to local
20 foods in areas where access to fresh, healthy
21 food is limited.

22 “(2) ELIGIBLE ENTITIES.—An entity eligible to
23 receive a grant under paragraph (1)(A) is any of the
24 following:

25 “(A) A nonprofit organization.

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1 “(B) A unit of local government.

2 “(C) An Indian Tribe or Tribal organiza-
3 tion (as those terms are defined in section 4 of
4 the Indian Self-Determination and Education
5 Assistance Act (25 U.S.C. 5304)).

6 “(D) Any other Tribal entity (as deter-
7 mined by the Secretary).

8 “(E) A Native Hawaiian organization (as
9 defined in section 6207 of the Elementary and
10 Secondary Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C.
11 7517)).

12 “(F) An agricultural producer group,
13 farmer or rancher cooperative, or majority-con-
14 trolled producer-based business venture (as de-
15 termined by the Secretary).

16 “(G) Any school that serves any of grades
17 kindergarten through grade 12.”.

18 (d) URBAN AND SUBURBAN COMMITTEES.—Section
19 222(d) of the Department of Agriculture Reorganization
20 Act of 1994 (7 U.S.C. 6923(d)) is amended—

21 (1) in the subsection heading, by striking
22 “PILOT PROJECTS” and inserting “PROJECTS”; and

23 (2) by striking paragraph (1) and inserting the
24 following:

25 “(1) URBAN AND SUBURBAN COMMITTEES.—

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1 “(A) DEFINITION OF URBAN AND SUBUR-
2 BAN COMMITTEE.—In this paragraph, the term
3 ‘urban and suburban committee’ means a coun-
4 ty committee in an urban or suburban area es-
5 tablished under—

6 “(i) this subparagraph (as in effect on
7 the day before the date of enactment of the
8 Rural Prosperity and Food Security Act of
9 2024) before that date of enactment; or

10 “(ii) subparagraph (B)(ii) on or after
11 that date of enactment.

12 “(B) MAINTENANCE AND ESTABLISHMENT
13 OF URBAN AND SUBURBAN COMMITTEES.—

14 “(i) MAINTENANCE OF EXISTING
15 URBAN AND SUBURBAN COMMITTEES.—

16 The Secretary shall maintain—

17 “(I) each urban and suburban
18 committee existing as of the date of
19 enactment of the Rural Prosperity
20 and Food Security Act of 2024; and

21 “(II) each urban and suburban
22 committee established under clause
23 (ii).

24 “(ii) ESTABLISHMENT OF NEW URBAN
25 AND SUBURBAN COMMITTEES.—Not later

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1 than 1 year after the date of enactment of
2 the Rural Prosperity and Food Security
3 Act of 2024, and annually thereafter, as
4 appropriate, the Secretary shall establish
5 new urban and suburban committees in ac-
6 cordance with subparagraph (C).

7 “(iii) PHYSICAL OFFICE LOCATIONS
8 FOR URBAN AND SUBURBAN COMMIT-
9 TEES.—The Secretary shall ensure that
10 each urban and suburban committee has a
11 physical office location to service the needs
12 of urban, suburban, or innovative agricul-
13 tural producers.

14 “(C) REQUIREMENTS FOR MAINTENANCE
15 AND ESTABLISHMENT OF URBAN AND SUBUR-
16 BAN COMMITTEES.—

17 “(i) IN GENERAL.—The maintenance
18 and establishment of urban and suburban
19 committees under subparagraph (B) shall
20 be carried out in accordance with section
21 8(b)(5)(B) of the Soil Conservation and
22 Domestic Allotment Act (16 U.S.C.
23 590h(b)(5)(B)).

24 “(ii) STAKEHOLDER INPUT.—In de-
25 termining where to establish a new urban

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1 and suburban committee under subpara-
2 graph (B)(ii), the Secretary shall consider
3 feedback from local stakeholders on the
4 need for a new urban and suburban com-
5 mittee in the applicable area.

6 “(D) PURPOSE OF URBAN AND SUBURBAN
7 COMMITTEES.—The purpose of an urban and
8 suburban committee shall be—

9 “(i) to operate in an urban or subur-
10 ban area with a high concentration of
11 urban, suburban, or innovative farms;

12 “(ii) to carry out the responsibilities
13 described in subparagraph (G); and

14 “(iii) to operate with a committee
15 membership that is fairly representative of
16 the producers in the applicable urban or
17 suburban area.

18 “(E) OFFICES OF URBAN AND SUBURBAN
19 COMMITTEES.—

20 “(i) STRUCTURE.—The office of an
21 urban and suburban committee shall be
22 structured—

23 “(I) as a non-regional office that
24 serves—

25 “(aa) a single county;

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1 “(bb) a group of contiguous
2 counties; or

3 “(cc) a contiguous area that
4 includes portions of 2 or more
5 counties; or

6 “(II) as a regional office that
7 serves a group of noncontiguous
8 urban or suburban areas that cover a
9 region.

10 “(ii) MINIMUM STAFF ALLOCATIONS
11 IN NON-REGIONAL OFFICES OF URBAN AND
12 SUBURBAN COMMITTEES.—

13 “(I) IN GENERAL.—The staff in
14 the physical office of an urban and
15 suburban committee structured as de-
16 scribed in clause (i)(I) shall include,
17 at a minimum—

18 “(aa) urban and suburban
19 committee members based on
20 whether the office serves a single
21 county or multiple counties;

22 “(bb) an Executive Director;

23 “(cc) at least 1 employee of
24 the Natural Resources Conserva-
25 tion Service;

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1 “(dd) subject to subclause
2 (II), a farm loan officer; and

3 “(ee) such additional staff
4 equal to the national average
5 number of additional staff of
6 county offices.

7 “(II) FARM LOAN OFFICER.—In
8 lieu of having a farm loan officer on
9 staff under subclause (I)(dd), the of-
10 fice of an urban and suburban com-
11 mittee may provide dedicated weekly,
12 publicly advertised, office hours by a
13 farm loan officer that is not on the
14 staff of the urban and suburban com-
15 mittee.

16 “(iii) MINIMUM STAFF ALLOCATIONS
17 IN REGIONAL OFFICES OF URBAN AND
18 SUBURBAN COMMITTEES.—The staff in the
19 physical office of an urban and suburban
20 committee structured as described in
21 clause (i)(II) shall include, at a min-
22 imum—

23 “(I) urban and suburban com-
24 mittee members, the number of which
25 shall be based on standards estab-

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1 lished by the Secretary for combined
2 county offices;

3 “(II) an Executive Director of
4 the office established in an area
5 served by the urban and suburban
6 committee;

7 “(III) at least 2 employees of the
8 Natural Resources Conservation Serv-
9 ice;

10 “(IV) a farm loan officer; and

11 “(V) such additional staff as are
12 necessary to equal the national aver-
13 age number of staff present in com-
14 bined offices nationwide.

15 “(iv) DEDICATED SPACE FOR DUTY
16 STATIONS.—

17 “(I) IN GENERAL.—The office of
18 an urban and suburban committee
19 shall maintain at least 1 dedicated,
20 publicly accessible space in the area
21 served by the urban and suburban
22 committee—

23 “(aa) to act as the duty sta-
24 tion for the staff of the office;
25 and

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1 “(bb) at which the staff of
2 the office may meet with and
3 serve customers of the office.

4 “(II) ACCEPTABLE FORMS.—A
5 dedicated space described in subclause
6 (I) may be—

7 “(aa) a space colocated with
8 the offices of—

9 “(AA) a State, local, or
10 Tribal government; or

11 “(BB) a nonprofit or-
12 ganization; or

13 “(bb) a space, including a
14 shared space, at which a staff
15 member of the office is present at
16 least 1 day each week pursuant
17 to a rotational schedule type of
18 arrangement.

19 “(F) STATE OFFICES.—

20 “(i) STATES WITH MULTIPLE OFFICES
21 OF URBAN AND SUBURBAN COMMIT-
22 TEES.—

23 “(I) DISTRICT DIRECTORS.—The
24 Secretary shall ensure that an urban
25 district director is stationed at each

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1 Farm Service Agency State office that
2 serves a State in which more than 1
3 office described in subparagraph (E)
4 is established.

5 “(II) FSA STATE SPECIALISTS.—
6 In order to provide specialized support
7 for outreach and technical assistance
8 to urban and suburban committees
9 and offices established under this sub-
10 section, the Secretary may station a
11 State specialist in the Farm Service
12 Agency State office of a State de-
13 scribed in subclause (I).

14 “(III) SERVICE OF MULTIPLE
15 STATES.—Subject to subclause (II), a
16 State specialist stationed at a Farm
17 Service Agency State office described
18 in that subclause may serve 1 or more
19 States described in clause (ii)(I) in
20 addition to the State described in that
21 subclause.

22 “(ii) NRCS STATE SPECIALISTS.—

23 “(I) IN GENERAL.—The Sec-
24 retary may station an urban agri-
25 culture and innovative production

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1 State specialist in a State office of the
2 Natural Resources Conservation Serv-
3 ice that serves a State in which only
4 1 office described in subparagraph
5 (E) is established.

6 “(II) SERVICE OF MULTIPLE
7 STATES.—The Secretary may require
8 a State specialist described in sub-
9 clause (I) stationed at a State office
10 described in that subclause to serve 1
11 or more States described in that sub-
12 clause.

13 “(G) RESPONSIBILITIES OF URBAN AND
14 SUBURBAN COMMITTEES.—Each urban and
15 suburban committee shall—

16 “(i) assist the Department in improv-
17 ing the delivery and performance of pro-
18 grams administered by the Secretary for
19 urban, suburban, and innovative producers
20 by identifying local, urban, and suburban
21 agriculture and innovative production
22 needs;

23 “(ii) conduct, in coordination with the
24 Farm Service Agency and the Natural Re-
25 sources Conservation Service, outreach to

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1 local stakeholders to provide education on
2 and promote Department programs and
3 services, with an emphasis on field level
4 Farm Service Agency and Natural Re-
5 sources Conservation Service programs in
6 urban and suburban areas;

7 “(iii) advise the staff of the office of
8 the urban and suburban committee;

9 “(iv) select an Executive Director,
10 who shall—

11 “(I) execute the policies estab-
12 lished by the urban and suburban
13 committee; and

14 “(II) be responsible for the day-
15 to-day operations of the office of the
16 urban and suburban committee;

17 “(v) recommend and review local ad-
18 ministrative area boundaries based on the
19 structure of the office of the urban and
20 suburban committee, as described in sub-
21 paragraph (E)(i);

22 “(vi) facilitate general session meet-
23 ings at least once per quarter;

24 “(vii) make recommendations on pro-
25 ducer applications, as appropriate;

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1 “(viii) provide committee data to
2 other government agencies, on request;

3 “(ix) inform State committees and
4 others in the Farm Service Agency and the
5 Natural Resources Conservation Service
6 about suggestions made by agricultural
7 producers relating to Department pro-
8 grams; and

9 “(x) conduct hearings as directed by
10 the applicable Farm Service Agency State
11 committees.

12 “(H) URBAN AND SUBURBAN COMMITTEE
13 ELECTIONS.—

14 “(i) ELECTIONS.—The election of
15 members to an urban and suburban com-
16 mittee shall be administered according to
17 section 8(b)(5)(B)(iii) of the Soil Con-
18 servation and Domestic Allotment Act (16
19 U.S.C. 590h(b)(5)(B)(iii)).

20 “(ii) ELIGIBILITY.—To be eligible for
21 nomination and election to an urban and
22 suburban committee, an agricultural pro-
23 ducer—

24 “(I) shall—

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1 “(aa) be located within the
2 area under the jurisdiction of the
3 urban and suburban committee;

4 “(bb) participate in pro-
5 grams administered within that
6 area;

7 “(cc) produce, sell, or dis-
8 tribute goods using urban, in-
9 door, or other innovative and
10 emerging agricultural practices,
11 as determined by the Secretary;
12 and

13 “(II) shall not participate in any
14 other county committee established by
15 the Farm Service Agency.

16 “(iii) TEMPORARY APPOINTMENT.—In
17 establishing a new urban and suburban
18 committee under subparagraph (B)(ii), the
19 Secretary may appoint initial members of
20 that urban and suburban committee for an
21 initial term of office not to exceed 1 year,
22 until such time as the members of the
23 urban and suburban committee are elected
24 in accordance with clauses (i) and (ii).

25 “(I) EFFECT.—

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1 “(i) IN GENERAL.—Nothing in this
2 paragraph requires or precludes the estab-
3 lishment of a Farm Service Agency or Nat-
4 ural Resources Conservation Service office
5 in a county in which an urban and subur-
6 ban committee is established.

7 “(ii) COLOCATION.—In cases in which
8 the office of an urban and suburban com-
9 mittee is colocated with a county com-
10 mittee that is not an urban and suburban
11 committee, farm loan staff of the Farm
12 Service Agency shall provide assistance to
13 the urban, suburban, and innovative pro-
14 ducers in the service area of that urban
15 and suburban committee.

16 “(J) REPORT.—For fiscal year 2025 and
17 each fiscal year thereafter through fiscal year
18 2029, the Secretary shall submit to the Com-
19 mittee on Agriculture of the House of Rep-
20 resentatives and the Committee on Agriculture,
21 Nutrition, and Forestry of the Senate a report
22 describing—

23 “(i) the status of the urban and sub-
24 urban committees;

1 “(ii) any meetings and other activities
2 of the urban and suburban committees;
3 and

4 “(iii) the types and volume of assist-
5 ance and services provided to farmers in
6 counties in which urban and suburban
7 committees are established.

8 “(K) LIMITATION ON CLOSURE.—The of-
9 fice of an urban and suburban committee re-
10 ferred to in subparagraph (E) shall not be
11 closed unless an Act making appropriations for
12 the Department of Agriculture or another Act
13 of Congress specifically authorizes such clo-
14 sure.”.

15 (e) INCREASING COMMUNITY COMPOST AND REDUC-
16 ING FOOD WASTE.—Section 222(d) of the Department of
17 Agriculture Reorganization Act of 1994 (7 U.S.C.
18 6923(d)) is amended by striking paragraph (2) and insert-
19 ing the following—

20 “(2) INCREASING COMMUNITY COMPOST AND
21 REDUCING FOOD WASTE.—

22 “(A) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary, acting
23 through the Director, shall offer to enter into
24 cooperative agreements with eligible entities de-
25 scribed in subparagraph (C)(i) in not fewer

1 than 10 States to develop and test strategies
2 for—

3 “(i) planning and implementing mu-
4 nicipal compost plans and food waste re-
5 duction plans; and

6 “(ii) the construction of at-scale
7 composting or anaerobic digestion food
8 waste-to-energy facilities.

9 “(B) LIMITATION.—An entity that receives
10 assistance under this paragraph shall not use
11 that assistance for an anaerobic digester that
12 uses manure as the majority of its undigested
13 biomass.

14 “(C) ELIGIBLE ENTITIES AND PURPOSES
15 OF PROJECTS.—

16 “(i) ELIGIBLE ENTITIES.—An entity
17 eligible to enter into a cooperative agree-
18 ment under subparagraph (A) is—

19 “(I) a State, local, or municipal
20 government;

21 “(II) a special district govern-
22 ment (including a soil and water con-
23 servation district);

24 “(III) an Indian Tribe or Tribal
25 organization (as those terms are de-

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1 fined in section 4 of the Indian Self-
2 Determination and Education Assist-
3 ance Act (25 U.S.C. 5304));

4 “(IV) any other Tribal entity (as
5 determined by the Secretary); or

6 “(V) a Native Hawaiian organi-
7 zation (as defined in section 6207 of
8 the Elementary and Secondary Edu-
9 cation Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 7517)).

10 “(ii) PURPOSES OF PROJECTS.—
11 Under a cooperative agreement entered
12 into under this paragraph, the Secretary
13 shall provide assistance to eligible entities
14 described in clause (i), as the Secretary de-
15 termines to be appropriate, to carry out
16 planning and implementing activities that
17 will—

18 “(I) generate compost;

19 “(II) increase access to compost
20 for agricultural producers;

21 “(III) reduce reliance on, and
22 limit the use of, fertilizer;

23 “(IV) improve soil quality;

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1 “(V) encourage waste manage-
2 ment and permaculture business de-
3 velopment;

4 “(VI) develop food waste-to-en-
5 ergy operations;

6 “(VII) increase rainwater absorp-
7 tion;

8 “(VIII) reduce municipal food
9 waste; and

10 “(IX) divert food waste from
11 landfills.

12 “(D) EVALUATION AND RANKING OF AP-
13 PPLICATIONS.—

14 “(i) CRITERIA.—Not later than 180
15 days after the date of enactment of the
16 Rural Prosperity and Food Security Act of
17 2024, the Secretary shall establish criteria
18 for the selection of projects under this
19 paragraph.

20 “(ii) CONSIDERATION.—In selecting,
21 undertaking, or funding projects under this
22 paragraph, the Secretary shall consider
23 any commonly known significant impact on
24 existing food waste recovery and disposal

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1 by commercial, marketing, or business re-
2 lationships.

3 “(iii) PRIORITY.—In selecting a
4 project under this paragraph, the Sec-
5 retary shall give priority to an application
6 for a project that—

7 “(I) anticipates or demonstrates
8 economic benefits;

9 “(II) incorporates plans to make
10 compost easily accessible to agricul-
11 tural producers, including community
12 gardeners;

13 “(III) integrates other food waste
14 strategies, including food recovery ef-
15 forts; and

16 “(IV) provides for collaboration
17 with multiple partners.

18 “(iv) LIMITATION.—Each fiscal year,
19 not more than 40 percent of the amounts
20 awarded by the Secretary under this para-
21 graph for that fiscal year may be awarded
22 to State governments.

23 “(E) MATCHING REQUIREMENT.—The re-
24 cipient of assistance for a project under this
25 paragraph shall provide funds, in-kind contribu-

1 tions, or a combination of both from sources
2 other than funds provided through the grant in
3 an amount equal to not less than 25 percent of
4 the amount of the grant.

5 “(F) EVALUATION.—The Secretary shall
6 conduct an evaluation of the projects funded
7 under this paragraph to assess different solu-
8 tions for increasing access to compost and re-
9 ducing municipal food waste, including an eval-
10 uation of—

11 “(i) the amount of Federal funds used
12 for each project; and

13 “(ii) a measurement of the outcomes
14 of each project.”.

15 (f) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—Section
16 222 of the Department of Agriculture Reorganization Act
17 of 1994 (7 U.S.C. 6923) is amended by striking sub-
18 section (e) and inserting the following:

19 “(e) FUNDING.—

20 “(1) MANDATORY FUNDING.—Out of amounts
21 in the Treasury not otherwise appropriated, there is
22 appropriated to the Secretary to carry out sub-
23 sections (a), (b), (c), and (d)(2) \$15,000,000 for fis-
24 cal year 2025 and each fiscal year thereafter, to re-
25 main available until expended.

1 “(2) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—In
2 addition to any other amounts available to the Sec-
3 retary, there is authorized to be appropriated to
4 carry out the provisions referred to in paragraph (1)
5 \$50,000,000 for each of fiscal years 2025 through
6 2029, to remain available until expended.

7 “(3) EFFECT.—For purposes of any appropria-
8 tions and provisos thereto regarding the salaries and
9 expenses of the Farm Service Agency, an office of
10 an urban and suburban committee referred to in
11 subsection (d)(1)(E) shall be deemed to be a county
12 office unless that provision differentiates between a
13 county office and an office of an urban and subur-
14 ban committee.”.

15 **SEC. 12209. OFFICE OF SMALL FARMS.**

16 (a) ESTABLISHMENT.—Subtitle D of title VII of the
17 Farm Security and Rural Investment Act of 2002 is
18 amended by inserting after section 7404 (7 U.S.C. 6934a)
19 the following:

20 **“SEC. 7404A. OFFICE OF SMALL FARMS.**

21 “(a) DEFINITIONS.—

22 “(1) DIRECTOR.—The term ‘Director’ means
23 the Director of the Office of Small Farms estab-
24 lished under subsection (b)(2)(A).

1 “(2) STATE OFFICE.—The term ‘State office’
2 means—

3 “(A) a State office of—

4 “(i) the Farm Service Agency;

5 “(ii) the Natural Resources Conserva-
6 tion Service; or

7 “(iii) the rural development mission
8 area; or

9 “(B) a regional office of the Risk Manage-
10 ment Agency.

11 “(b) ESTABLISHMENT.—

12 “(1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall estab-
13 lish in the Department the Office of Small Farms.

14 “(2) DIRECTOR.—The Secretary shall establish
15 in the Office of Small Farms the position of Direc-
16 tor, who shall be appointed by the Secretary.

17 “(3) NATIONAL SMALL FARMS COORDINA-
18 TORS.—

19 “(A) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall
20 designate in each agency, office, and mission
21 area described in subparagraph (B) a National
22 Small Farms Coordinator.

23 “(B) AGENCIES, OFFICES, AND MISSION
24 AREAS DESCRIBED.—The agencies, offices, and

1 mission areas referred to in subparagraph (A)
2 are—

3 “(i) the Farm Service Agency;

4 “(ii) the Natural Resources Conserva-
5 tion Service;

6 “(iii) the Rural Business-Cooperative
7 Service;

8 “(iv) the Rural Utilities Service;

9 “(v) the Forest Service;

10 “(vi) the Agricultural Marketing Serv-
11 ice; and

12 “(vii) any other agency, office, or mis-
13 sion area of the Department that the Sec-
14 retary determines to be appropriate.

15 “(c) DUTIES OF THE DIRECTOR.—The Director—

16 “(1) shall, not later than 180 days after the
17 date of enactment of this section, coordinate with
18 the relevant agencies, offices, and mission areas of
19 the Department—

20 “(A) to examine and update the definitions
21 of ‘small farm’, ‘small-sized farm’, ‘small agri-
22 cultural operation’, ‘small-scale farmer’, ‘small
23 farmer’, and other similar terms, such that the
24 definitions include a limited resource farmer,
25 rancher, or forest landowner or a farm, a

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1 ranch, or forest land owned or operated by a
2 limited resource farmer, rancher, or forest land-
3 owner;

4 “(B) to examine, update, and streamline
5 the definition of ‘limited resource farmer or
6 rancher’, such that the definition includes—

7 “(i) farmers, ranchers, or forest land-
8 owners receiving assistance under—

9 “(I) the Food and Nutrition Act
10 of 2008 (7 U.S.C. 2011 et seq.);

11 “(II) title XIX of the Social Se-
12 curity Act (42 U.S.C. 1396 et seq.);

13 “(III) the low-income home en-
14 ergy assistance program established
15 under the Low-Income Home Energy
16 Assistance Act of 1981 (42 U.S.C.
17 8621 et seq.); or

18 “(IV) any other need-based Fed-
19 eral or State assistance programs; and

20 “(ii) other economically distressed
21 farmers, ranchers, or forest landowners, as
22 determined by the Secretary; and

23 “(C) to create a list of Department pro-
24 grams with set-asides, targeted funding, or pri-

1 orities for small farmers, ranchers, and forest
2 landowners;

3 “(2) shall advise the Secretary and coordinate
4 activities of the Department regarding programs,
5 policies, and issues relating to small farmers, ranch-
6 ers, and forest landowners;

7 “(3) shall track application and participation
8 rates of small farmers, ranchers, and forest land-
9 owners, including a breakdown of limited resource
10 farmers, ranchers, and forest landowners, for the
11 programs identified under paragraph (1)(C);

12 “(4) shall determine whether to approve a plan
13 submitted by a State small farms coordinator under
14 subsection (f)(3)(A)(ii);

15 “(5) shall facilitate interagency and inter-
16 departmental collaboration on issues relating to
17 small farmers, ranchers, and forest landowners at
18 the national level;

19 “(6) shall—

20 “(A) regularly review Department pro-
21 grams and policies and identify statutes, regula-
22 tions, policies, and guidance that disadvantage
23 small farm, ranch, or forest operation participa-
24 tion;

1 “(B) recommend changes to ensure that
2 those programs and policies adequately serve
3 small farms, ranches, and forest operations;
4 and

5 “(C) regularly review and update the list
6 created under paragraph (1)(C), in coordination
7 with the relevant agencies, offices, and mission
8 areas of the Department;

9 “(7) shall regularly review Department research
10 agendas and proposed research agendas on topics
11 that are of special interest to small farms, ranches,
12 and forest operations;

13 “(8) shall establish a program to provide grants
14 of not more than \$25,000, through the authority
15 under subsection (e), a State small farms coordi-
16 nator designated under subsection (f)(1)(A), or both,
17 to operators of small farms, ranches, and forest op-
18 erations for equipment and infrastructure repairs
19 and upgrades, uninsured losses, business planning
20 and market development assistance, conservation
21 practice adoption, down payments for land acquisi-
22 tion, and such other purposes as the Secretary de-
23 termines to be appropriate;

24 “(9) shall, not later than December 31, 2025,
25 and every 2 years thereafter, submit to the Sec-

1 retary a report that contains a summary of the re-
2 views and recommendations described in paragraphs
3 (6) and (7) and the total amount of grants awarded
4 under paragraph (8) to small farms, ranches, and
5 forest operations by State, which the Secretary shall
6 make publicly available on the website of the De-
7 partment; and

8 “(10) shall carry out other duties to improve
9 access to, and participation in, programs of the De-
10 partment by small farmers, ranchers, and forest
11 landowners.

12 “(d) DUTIES OF THE NATIONAL SMALL FARMS CO-
13 ORDINATORS.—Each National Small Farms Coordinator
14 shall—

15 “(1) coordinate with the Office of Small Farms
16 and the other National Small Farms Coordinators to
17 develop and implement new strategies for outreach
18 to and education of small farmers, ranchers, and
19 forest landowners;

20 “(2) coordinate within the agency, office, or
21 mission area of the National Small Farms Coordi-
22 nator on issues and outreach relating to small farm-
23 ers, ranchers, and forest landowners; and

24 “(3) assist the Director in tracking application
25 and participation rates pursuant to subsection (c)(3)

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1 within the agency, office, or mission area of the Na-
2 tional Small Farms Coordinator.

3 “(e) CONTRACTS AND COOPERATIVE AGREE-
4 MENTS.—In carrying out the duties under subsections (c)
5 and (d), the Director may enter into a contract or coopera-
6 tive agreement with an institution of higher education (as
7 defined in section 101 of the Higher Education Act of
8 1965 (20 U.S.C. 1001)), cooperative extension services (as
9 defined in section 1404 of the National Agricultural Re-
10 search, Extension, and Teaching Policy Act of 1977 (7
11 U.S.C. 3103)), or a nonprofit organization—

12 “(1) to develop educational materials;

13 “(2) to conduct workshops, courses, training, or
14 certified vocational training;

15 “(3) to conduct mentoring activities; or

16 “(4) to provide grants under subsection (c)(8).

17 “(f) STATE SMALL FARMS COORDINATORS.—

18 “(1) IN GENERAL.—

19 “(A) DESIGNATION.—

20 “(i) IN GENERAL.—The Director, in
21 consultation with State food and agri-
22 culture councils and directors of State of-
23 fices, shall designate in each State a State
24 small farms coordinator from among the
25 employees of State offices.

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1 “(ii) EMPLOYEES.—The employee of a
2 State office designated to be a State small
3 farms coordinator may be the same em-
4 ployee designated to be the State beginning
5 farmer and rancher coordinator under sec-
6 tion 7404(c).

7 “(B) REQUIREMENTS.—To be designated
8 as a State small farms coordinator, an employee
9 shall—

10 “(i) be familiar with issues relating to
11 small farmers, ranchers, and forest land-
12 owners; and

13 “(ii) have the ability to coordinate
14 with other Federal departments and agen-
15 cies.

16 “(2) TRAINING.—The Secretary shall develop a
17 training plan to provide to each State small farms
18 coordinator knowledge of programs and services
19 available from the Department for small farmers,
20 ranchers, and forest landowners, taking into consid-
21 eration the needs of all types of production methods.

22 “(3) DUTIES.—

23 “(A) IN GENERAL.—A State small farms
24 coordinator—

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1 “(i) shall coordinate technical assist-
2 ance at the State level to assist small
3 farmers, ranchers, and forest landowners
4 in accessing programs of the Department;

5 “(ii) shall develop and submit to the
6 Director for approval a State plan to im-
7 prove the coordination, delivery, and effi-
8 cacy of programs of the Department to
9 small farmers, ranchers, and forest land-
10 owners, taking into consideration the needs
11 of all types of production methods, at each
12 county and area office in the State;

13 “(iii) shall oversee implementation of
14 an approved State plan described in clause
15 (ii);

16 “(iv) may facilitate interagency and
17 interdepartmental collaboration on issues
18 relating to small farmers, ranchers, and
19 forest landowners at the State or regional
20 level;

21 “(v) shall work with outreach coordi-
22 nators in the State offices to ensure appro-
23 priate information about technical assist-
24 ance is available at outreach events and ac-
25 tivities;

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1 “(vi) shall coordinate partnerships
2 and joint outreach efforts with other orga-
3 nizations and government agencies serving
4 small farmers, ranchers, and forest land-
5 owners; and

6 “(vii) may provide grants under sub-
7 section (c)(8), in accordance with criteria
8 established by the Director.

9 “(B) INDIVIDUAL DUTIES.—Not less than
10 50 percent of the duties of an employee des-
11 ignated to be a State small farms coordinator
12 shall be the duties described in subparagraph
13 (A) or other duties relating to small farms,
14 ranches, and forest operations.

15 “(g) FUNDING FOR GRANTS.—

16 “(1) MANDATORY FUNDING.—Out of amounts
17 in the Treasury not otherwise appropriated, there is
18 appropriated to the Secretary for grants under sub-
19 section (c)(8) \$5,000,000 for fiscal year 2025 and
20 each fiscal year thereafter, to remain available until
21 expended.

22 “(2) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—
23 There is authorized to be appropriated to the Sec-
24 retary for grants under subsection (c)(8) \$5,000,000

1 for each of fiscal years 2025 through 2029, to re-
2 main available until expended.”.

3 (b) CONFORMING AMENDMENT.—Section 226B(e)(2)
4 of the Department of Agriculture Reorganization Act of
5 1994 (7 U.S.C. 6934(e)(2)) is amended—

6 (1) by striking subparagraph (A); and

7 (2) by redesignating subparagraphs (B)
8 through (D) as subparagraphs (A) through (C), re-
9 spectively.

10 **SEC. 12210. STRENGTHENING THE FARM AND FOOD SYS-**
11 **TEM WORKFORCE.**

12 (a) FARM AND FOOD SYSTEM WORKFORCE COORDI-
13 NATOR.—Section 226B of the Department of Agriculture
14 Reorganization Act of 1994 (7 U.S.C. 6934) is amended—

15 (1) in subsection (d)(2)(B) (as redesignated by
16 section 12201(b)(1)(B)), by striking “Farmworker
17 Coordinator” and inserting “Farm and Food System
18 Workforce Coordinator”; and

19 (2) in subsection (f)—

20 (A) in the subsection heading, by striking
21 “FARMWORKER” and inserting “FARM AND
22 FOOD SYSTEM WORKFORCE”;

23 (B) in paragraph (1), by striking “Farm-
24 worker Coordinator” and inserting “Farm and
25 Food System Workforce Coordinator”;

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1 (C) in paragraph (2)—

2 (i) in subparagraph (B), by striking
3 “organizations” and inserting “organiza-
4 tions, institutions of higher education, and
5 local educational agencies”;

6 (ii) in subparagraph (E), by striking
7 “institutions on research, program im-
8 provements, or agricultural education op-
9 portunities” and inserting “institutions or
10 community-based nonprofit organizations
11 on research, program improvements, agri-
12 cultural education opportunities, or tech-
13 nical skills and job training programs”;
14 and

15 (iii) by adding at the end the fol-
16 lowing:

17 “(G) Developing and implementing a plan
18 to coordinate outreach activities and services
19 provided by the Department with respect to
20 farmworkers and food system workers.

21 “(H) Collaborating with and providing
22 input to the agencies and offices of the Depart-
23 ment on programmatic and policy decisions re-
24 lating to farmworkers and food system workers.

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1 “(I) Communicating information to em-
2 ployers of farmworkers and food system work-
3 ers about Federal programs for which the em-
4 ployees of those employers may be eligible.

5 “(J) Collaborating with the agencies and
6 offices of the Department, as appropriate, to in-
7 form research priorities and activities of the
8 Department relating to farmworkers and food
9 system workers.

10 “(K) Measuring and analyzing outcomes of
11 the programs and activities, including outreach
12 programs and activities, of the Department on
13 farmworkers and food system workers.

14 “(L) Recommending new initiatives and
15 programs to the Secretary.

16 “(M) Carrying out any other related duties
17 that the Secretary determines to be appro-
18 priate.”; and

19 (D) by striking paragraph (3) and insert-
20 ing the following:

21 “(3) REPORT.—

22 “(A) IN GENERAL.—Not less frequently
23 than once each year, the Coordinator shall sub-
24 mit to the Secretary a report (in English, Span-
25 ish, and any other languages that the Coordi-

1 nator determines to be appropriate) that de-
2 scribes—

3 “(i) the activities of the Coordinator
4 during the previous year;

5 “(ii) any identified barriers that farm-
6 workers or food system workers face in ac-
7 cessing Department programs;

8 “(iii) recommendations for legislative
9 or administrative action for the following
10 year that will improve the work and liveli-
11 hoods of farmworkers or food system work-
12 ers; and

13 “(iv) any other appropriate informa-
14 tion, as determined by the Coordinator.

15 “(B) PUBLIC AVAILABILITY.—The Sec-
16 retary shall make each report under subpara-
17 graph (A) publicly available on the website of
18 the Department of Agriculture.

19 “(4) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—
20 There is authorized to be appropriated to carry out
21 this subsection \$5,000,000 for each of fiscal years
22 2025 through 2029.”.

23 (b) FARMWORKER AND FOOD SYSTEM WORKER AD-
24 VISORY COMMITTEE.—

1 (1) ESTABLISHMENT.—Not later than 2 years
2 after the date of enactment of this Act, the Sec-
3 retary shall establish an advisory committee, to be
4 known as the “Farmworker and Food System Work-
5 er Advisory Committee” (referred to in this sub-
6 section as the “Advisory Committee”).

7 (2) DUTIES.—The Advisory Committee shall
8 provide to the Secretary advice on—

9 (A) integrating farmworker and food sys-
10 tem worker perspectives, concerns, and interests
11 into the ongoing programs of the Department;
12 and

13 (B) improving—

14 (i) farmworker and food system work-
15 er safety;

16 (ii) research programs relating to
17 farmworkers and food system workers;

18 (iii) agricultural education and tech-
19 nical skills opportunities for farmworkers
20 and food system workers; and

21 (iv) job training programs that assist
22 farmworkers and food system workers.

23 (3) MEMBERSHIP.—The Advisory Committee
24 shall be composed of not more than 20 members,
25 who shall be appointed by the Secretary from among

1 individuals nominated by the public, and shall in-
2 clude—

3 (A) not fewer than 5 farmworkers or food
4 system workers;

5 (B) not fewer than 2 civil rights represent-
6 atives with a history of working on issues relat-
7 ing to farmworkers or food system workers;

8 (C) not fewer than 4 representatives of
9 nonprofit organizations with a history of work-
10 ing on issues faced by farmworkers or food sys-
11 tem workers, of whom 2 shall have focused ex-
12 pertise on issues faced by women farmworkers
13 or food system workers;

14 (D) not fewer than 2 representatives of
15 labor unions with a history of representing
16 farmworkers or food system workers;

17 (E) not fewer than 2 representatives of in-
18 stitutions of higher education with dem-
19 onstrated experience working with farmworkers
20 or food system workers; and

21 (F) such other individuals as the Secretary
22 considers to be appropriate.

23 (4) LIMITATION.—No member of the Advisory
24 Committee shall be an officer or employee of the
25 Federal Government.

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1 (5) PERIOD OF APPOINTMENT.—

2 (A) IN GENERAL.—Each member of the
3 Advisory Committee—

4 (i) subject to clause (ii) and subpara-
5 graph (B), shall be appointed to a 3-year
6 term; and

7 (ii) may be reappointed to not more
8 than 3 consecutive terms.

9 (B) INITIAL STAGGERING.—The first 6 ap-
10 pointments by the Secretary under paragraph
11 (3) shall be for a 2-year term.

12 (C) VACANCIES.—Any vacancy in the Advi-
13 sory Committee shall be filled—

14 (i) in the same manner as the original
15 appointment was made; and

16 (ii) not more than 90 days after the
17 date on which the position becomes vacant.

18 (6) MEETINGS.—

19 (A) IN-PERSON MEETINGS.—To the extent
20 practicable, not less than twice each year, the
21 Advisory Committee shall meet in person.

22 (B) FARM AND FOOD SYSTEM
23 WORKFORCE COORDINATOR.—The Farm and
24 Food System Workforce Coordinator shall be

1 present in a nonvoting capacity at each meeting
2 of the Advisory Committee.

3 (C) LANGUAGE ACCESS.—Each meeting of
4 the Advisory Committee shall include simulta-
5 neous interpretation and translation of the
6 meeting, and the provision of a copy of any
7 agenda of the meeting, in such languages as are
8 requested by—

9 (i) any member of the Advisory Com-
10 mittee; or

11 (ii) any member of the public observ-
12 ing the meeting.

13 (7) REPORTS.—

14 (A) IN GENERAL.—Not less frequently
15 than once each year, the Advisory Committee
16 shall submit to the Secretary, the Committee on
17 Agriculture of the House of Representatives,
18 and the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition,
19 and Forestry of the Senate a report that de-
20 scribes—

21 (i) the activities of the Advisory Com-
22 mittee during the previous year; and

23 (ii) recommendations for legislative or
24 administrative action for the following
25 year.

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1 (B) PUBLIC AVAILABILITY.—The Secretary
2 shall make the report under subparagraph (A)
3 publicly available (in English, Spanish, and any
4 other languages that the Farm and Food Sys-
5 tem Workforce Coordinator determines to be
6 appropriate) on the website of the Department
7 of Agriculture.

8 (c) FARM AND FOOD SYSTEM WORKFORCE INTER-
9 AGENCY COUNCIL.—

10 (1) ESTABLISHMENT.—The Secretary shall es-
11 tablish within the Department of Agriculture the
12 Farm and Food System Workforce Interagency
13 Council (referred to in this subsection as the “Inter-
14 agency Council”).

15 (2) PURPOSE.—The purpose of the Interagency
16 Council is to facilitate interagency, cabinet-level
17 leadership in planning, policymaking, coordination,
18 and program development for services available to
19 farmworkers and food system workers.

20 (3) MEMBERSHIP.—The Interagency Council
21 shall comprise—

22 (A) 1 representative from each of—

23 (i) the Department of Agriculture;

24 (ii) the Department of Health and
25 Human Services;

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- 1 (iii) the Department of Housing and
2 Urban Development;
3 (iv) the Department of Labor;
4 (v) the Department of Education;
5 (vi) the Environmental Protection
6 Agency;
7 (vii) the Department of Homeland Se-
8 curity;
9 (viii) the Department of Justice;
10 (ix) the Department of the Treasury;
11 (x) the Department of Commerce; and
12 (xi) the Department of State; and

13 (B) subject to paragraph (4)(B), the Farm
14 and Food System Workforce Coordinator.

15 (4) MEETINGS.—

16 (A) IN-PERSON MEETINGS.—To the extent
17 practicable, not less than twice each year, the
18 Interagency Council shall meet in person.

19 (B) FARM AND FOOD SYSTEM
20 WORKFORCE COORDINATOR.—The Farm and
21 Food System Workforce Coordinator shall be
22 present in a nonvoting capacity at each meeting
23 of the Interagency Council.

24 (5) REPORTS.—

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1 (A) IN GENERAL.—Not less frequently
2 than once each year, the Interagency Council
3 shall submit to the Secretary, the Committee on
4 Agriculture of the House of Representatives,
5 and the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition,
6 and Forestry of the Senate a report that de-
7 scribes recommendations for legislative or ad-
8 ministrative action to be taken during the fol-
9 lowing year to increase accountability, coordina-
10 tion, compliance, and culture changes at the
11 Federal level to address inequities faced by
12 farmworkers and food system workers.

13 (B) PUBLIC AVAILABILITY.—The Secretary
14 shall make the report under subparagraph (A)
15 publicly available (in English, Spanish, and any
16 other languages that the Farm and Food Sys-
17 tem Workforce Coordinator determines to be
18 appropriate) on the website of the Department
19 of Agriculture.

20 (d) FARMWORKER AND FOOD SYSTEM WORKER LI-
21 AISONS.—

22 (1) IN GENERAL.—The heads of each of the
23 agencies and offices of the Department of Agri-
24 culture described in paragraph (2) shall designate a

1 liaison within that agency or office on matters relat-
2 ing to farmworkers and food system workers.

3 (2) AGENCIES AND OFFICES DESCRIBED.—The
4 agencies and offices referred to in paragraph (1)
5 are—

6 (A) the Farm Service Agency;

7 (B) the Natural Resources Conservation
8 Service;

9 (C) each agency under the rural develop-
10 ment mission area;

11 (D) the National Institute of Food and Ag-
12 riculture;

13 (E) the Food and Nutrition Service;

14 (F) the Agricultural Marketing Service;

15 (G) the Forest Service;

16 (H) the National Agricultural Statistics
17 Service; and

18 (I) any other agency or office of the De-
19 partment of Agriculture, as determined by the
20 Secretary.

21 (3) RESPONSIBILITY.—Each liaison designated
22 under paragraph (1) shall be responsible for coordi-
23 nating with the Farm and Food System Workforce
24 Coordinator to increase information, awareness, ac-
25 cess, data, and accountability for meeting the needs

1 of farmworkers and food system workers relating to
2 the functions and beneficiaries of the agency or of-
3 fice from which the liaison is designated.

4 (e) FUNDING.—

5 (1) MANDATORY FUNDING.—Out of amounts in
6 the Treasury not otherwise appropriated, there is
7 appropriated to the Secretary to carry out sub-
8 sections (b) through (d) \$10,000,000 for the period
9 of fiscal years 2025 through 2029, to remain avail-
10 able until expended.

11 (2) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—In
12 addition to amounts otherwise available, there are
13 authorized to be appropriated such sums as are nec-
14 essary to carry out subsections (b) through (d) for
15 each of fiscal years 2025 through 2029.

16 **SEC. 12211. GROCERY, FARM, AND FOOD WORKER STA-**
17 **BILIZATION GRANT PROGRAM.**

18 (a) DEFINITION OF ELIGIBLE ENTITY.—In this sec-
19 tion, the term “eligible entity” means a membership orga-
20 nization, as determined by the Secretary, or labor union
21 representing farmworkers, meat processing workers, or
22 grocery workers.

23 (b) ESTABLISHMENT.—The Secretary, acting
24 through the Administrator of the Agricultural Marketing
25 Service, shall establish a grant program to provide funding

1 to eligible entities representing farmworkers, meat proc-
2 essing workers, and grocery workers for stabilization pay-
3 ments in the case of a natural disaster or other disaster,
4 as determined by the Secretary.

5 (c) REPORT.—Not later than 4 years after the date
6 of enactment of this Act, the Secretary shall submit to
7 the Committee on Agriculture of the House of Representa-
8 tives and the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and
9 Forestry of the Senate a report describing the outcomes
10 and evaluating the impacts of the program established
11 under subsection (b).

12 (d) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—In addi-
13 tion to amounts otherwise available, there is authorized
14 to be appropriated to carry out this section \$750,000,000,
15 to remain available until expended.

16 **SEC. 12212. TRIBAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE; TRIBAL SELF-**
17 **DETERMINATION PILOT PROJECTS.**

18 (a) IN GENERAL.—Section 309 of the Federal Crop
19 Insurance Reform and Department of Agriculture Reorga-
20 nization Act of 1994 (7 U.S.C. 6921) is amended—

21 (1) in subsection (a), by striking “The Sec-
22 retary shall” and inserting “The Secretary of Agri-
23 culture (referred to in this section as the ‘Secretary’)
24 shall”; and

25 (2) in subsection (b)—

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1 (A) in paragraph (1)—

2 (i) by redesignating subparagraphs

3 (A) through (C) as subparagraphs (C)

4 through (E), respectively; and

5 (ii) by inserting before subparagraph

6 (C) (as so redesignated) the following:

7 “(A) ACTIVITY OF THE DEPARTMENT.—

8 The term ‘activity of the Department’ means a
9 program, function, service, or activity of the
10 Department.

11 “(B) DEPARTMENT.—The term ‘Depart-
12 ment’ means the Department of Agriculture.”;

13 (B) in paragraph (2)(B), by striking “of
14 Agriculture (referred to in this subsection as
15 the ‘Department’)”;

16 (C) by redesignating paragraphs (5)
17 through (7) as paragraphs (6) through (8), re-
18 spectively;

19 (D) by inserting after paragraph (4) the
20 following:

21 “(5) RECOMMENDATION OF SELF-DETERMINA-
22 TION PILOT PROJECTS.—

23 “(A) IN GENERAL.—In carrying out the
24 duties of the Committee under paragraph (4),
25 the Committee shall—

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1 “(i) request input from Indian tribes
2 and Tribal organizations on the activities
3 of the Department that the Indian tribes
4 and Tribal organizations may be interested
5 in assuming and administering through a
6 self-determination agreement pilot project;

7 “(ii) consult with Indian tribes and
8 Tribal organizations that provide input
9 under clause (i) with respect to the input;
10 and

11 “(iii) make publicly available and sub-
12 mit in accordance with subparagraph (B) a
13 description of not more than 3 rec-
14 ommended pilot projects to further oppor-
15 tunities for Tribal assumption and admin-
16 istration of activities of the Department,
17 including—

18 “(I) an explanation of the rea-
19 soning for identifying those activities
20 of the Department for each rec-
21 ommended pilot project;

22 “(II) a description of the struc-
23 ture and scope of each recommended
24 pilot project, including the specific 1
25 or more activities of the Department

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1 to be assumed and administered by
2 the Indian tribe or Tribal organization
3 through a self-determination agree-
4 ment; and

5 “(III) with respect to input pro-
6 vided under clause (i), a description
7 of—

8 “(aa) the number of in-
9 stances of input provided;

10 “(bb) the types of assistance
11 or support requested through
12 consultation under clause (ii) for
13 purposes of assuming and admin-
14 istering the applicable activities
15 of the Department;

16 “(cc) the means by which
17 Indian tribes propose to assume
18 and administer the applicable ac-
19 tivities of the Department; and

20 “(dd) the regions from
21 which the input was received.

22 “(B) TIMING.—The Committee shall make
23 publicly available and submit to the Secretary
24 and the relevant committees of Congress a de-
25 scription of recommended pilot projects under

1 subparagraph (A)(iii) not later than 1 year
2 after the date of enactment of the Rural Pros-
3 perity and Food Security Act of 2024 and every
4 3 years thereafter.

5 “(C) DEPARTMENT RESPONSE.—

6 “(i) IN GENERAL.—Not later than
7 180 days after each submission of rec-
8 ommended pilot projects under subpara-
9 graph (A)(iii), the Secretary shall prepare
10 a response that explains, in detail, whether
11 and how the Department could, to the
12 maximum extent practicable, to establish
13 and implement those recommended pilot
14 projects.

15 “(ii) REPORT REQUIREMENTS.—In
16 preparing each response under clause (i),
17 the Secretary shall—

18 “(I) build on prior and related
19 studies and pilot programs, includ-
20 ing—

21 “(aa) the food distribution
22 program on Indian reservations
23 established under section 4(b) of
24 the Food and Nutrition Act of
25 2008 (7 U.S.C. 2013(b));

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1 “(bb) the good neighbor au-
2 thority established by section
3 8206 of the Agricultural Act of
4 2014 (16 U.S.C. 2113a);

5 “(cc) demonstration projects
6 under section 8703 of the Agri-
7 culture Improvement Act of 2018
8 (25 U.S.C. 3115b); and

9 “(dd) any pilot projects es-
10 tablished under this paragraph;

11 “(II) identify operational and
12 legal impediments to the implementa-
13 tion of the recommended pilot
14 projects;

15 “(III) identify any administrative
16 actions that may be taken to address
17 any operational and legal impediments
18 identified under subclause (II);

19 “(IV) identify the fiscal and
20 budgetary impacts of implementing
21 the recommended pilot projects;

22 “(V) include a description of nec-
23 essary administrative, operational,
24 and legislative changes needed to im-

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1 plement the recommended pilot
2 projects;

3 “(VI) with respect to necessary
4 legislative changes identified under
5 subclause (V), identify the non-Tribal
6 stakeholders that would be affected by
7 potential waivers of or modifications
8 to existing provisions of law; and

9 “(VII) include any other matters
10 that may be determined by the Sec-
11 retary and developed through con-
12 sultation with the Committee.

13 “(iii) PUBLIC AVAILABILITY; SUBMIS-
14 SION.—The Secretary shall—

15 “(I) make publicly available on
16 the website of the Department each
17 response prepared under clause (i);
18 and

19 “(II) submit each response pre-
20 pared under clause (i) to—

21 “(aa) the Office of Tribal
22 Relations;

23 “(bb) the Committee; and

24 “(cc) the relevant commit-
25 tees of Congress.”;

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1 (E) in paragraph (6) (as so redesignig-
2 nated)—

3 (i) in the paragraph heading, by strik-
4 ing “REPORTS” and inserting “COM-
5 MITTEE REPORTS”; and

6 (ii) by adding at the end the fol-
7 lowing:

8 “(C) PUBLIC AVAILABILITY.—The Sec-
9 retary shall make the reports submitted under
10 subparagraph (A) and the written responses
11 submitted under subparagraph (B) publicly
12 available on the website of the Department.”;
13 and

14 (F) in paragraph (8) (as so redesignated),
15 by striking “Section 14 of the Federal Advisory
16 Committee Act (5 U.S.C. App.)” and inserting
17 “Section 1013 of title 5, United States Code,”.

18 (b) SELF-DETERMINATION DEMONSTRATION
19 PROJECTS FOR TRIBAL ORGANIZATIONS.—

20 (1) DEFINITIONS.—In this subsection:

21 (A) COMMODITY SUPPLEMENTAL FOOD
22 PROGRAM.—The term “commodity supple-
23 mental food program” means the commodity
24 supplemental food program carried out under
25 section 5 of the Agriculture and Consumer Pro-

1 tection Act of 1973 (7 U.S.C. 612c note; Public
2 Law 93–86).

3 (B) FOOD DISTRIBUTION PROGRAM.—The
4 term “food distribution program” means the
5 food distribution program on Indian reserva-
6 tions under section 4(b) of the Food and Nutri-
7 tion Act of 2008 (7 U.S.C. 2013(b)).

8 (C) INDIAN TRIBE.—The term “Indian
9 Tribe” has the meaning given the term in sec-
10 tion 4 of the Indian Self-Determination and
11 Education Assistance Act (25 U.S.C. 5304).

12 (D) RESERVATION.—The term “reserva-
13 tion” has the meaning given the term in section
14 3 of the Food and Nutrition Act of 2008 (7
15 U.S.C. 2012).

16 (E) SELF-DETERMINATION CONTRACT.—
17 The term “self-determination contract” means
18 a self-determination contract (as defined in sec-
19 tion 4 of the Indian Self-Determination and
20 Education Assistance Act (25 U.S.C. 5304)), as
21 implemented under the demonstration project
22 established under section 4003(b) of the Agri-
23 culture Improvement Act of 2018 (7 U.S.C.
24 2013 note; Public Law 115–334), subject to

1 such modifications as may be determined by the
2 Secretary.

3 (F) TRIBAL ORGANIZATION.—The term
4 “tribal organization” has the meaning given the
5 term in section 3 of the Food and Nutrition Act
6 of 2008 (7 U.S.C. 2012).

7 (2) FOOD DISTRIBUTION PROGRAMS.—

8 (A) ESTABLISHMENT.—Subject to the
9 availability of appropriations under subpara-
10 graph (F), the Secretary shall establish a dem-
11 onstration project under which tribal organiza-
12 tions may enter into self-determination con-
13 tracts to administer food distribution programs
14 on the reservations served by the tribal organi-
15 zations.

16 (B) APPLICATIONS.—To be eligible to par-
17 ticipate in the demonstration project under this
18 paragraph, a tribal organization shall submit to
19 the Secretary an application at such time, in
20 such manner, and containing such information
21 as the Secretary may require.

22 (C) ELIGIBILITY.—

23 (i) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall
24 select for participation in the demonstra-

1 tribution program administered by the Sec-
2 retary; and

3 (ii) meet such other criteria as the
4 Secretary determines to be appropriate.

5 (E) REPORTS.—Not later than 1 year
6 after the date on which funds are initially ap-
7 propriated under subparagraph (F), and annu-
8 ally thereafter, the Secretary shall submit to
9 the Committee on Agriculture of the House of
10 Representatives and the Committee on Agri-
11 culture, Nutrition, and Forestry of the Senate
12 a report that includes, with respect to the pre-
13 ceding year—

14 (i) a list of each tribal organization
15 participating in the demonstration project
16 under this paragraph; and

17 (ii) a description of the activities car-
18 ried out by each participating tribal orga-
19 nization pursuant to the demonstration
20 project.

21 (F) FUNDING.—

22 (i) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIA-
23 TIONS.—There is authorized to be appro-
24 priated to the Secretary to carry out this

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1 paragraph \$5,000,000, to remain available
2 until expended.

3 (ii) APPROPRIATIONS IN ADVANCE.—

4 Only funds made available pursuant to
5 clause (i) in advance specifically to carry
6 out this paragraph shall be available to
7 carry out this paragraph.

8 (3) COMMODITY SUPPLEMENTAL FOOD PRO-
9 GRAMS.—

10 (A) ESTABLISHMENT.—Subject to the
11 availability of appropriations under subpara-
12 graph (F), the Secretary shall establish a dem-
13 onstration project under which tribal organiza-
14 tions may enter into self-determination con-
15 tracts to purchase agricultural commodities
16 under the commodity supplemental food pro-
17 gram for the reservations served by the tribal
18 organizations.

19 (B) APPLICATIONS.—To be eligible to par-
20 ticipate in the demonstration project under this
21 paragraph, a tribal organization shall submit to
22 the Secretary an application at such time, in
23 such manner, and containing such information
24 as the Secretary may require.

25 (C) ELIGIBILITY.—

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1 (i) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall
2 select for participation in the demonstra-
3 tion project under this paragraph tribal or-
4 ganizations that—

5 (I) are successfully administering
6 the commodity supplemental food pro-
7 gram on the reservation served by the
8 tribal organization;

9 (II) have the capacity to pur-
10 chase agricultural commodities in ac-
11 cordance with subparagraph (D) for
12 the commodity supplemental food pro-
13 gram; and

14 (III) meet such other criteria as
15 the Secretary may establish, subject
16 to clause (ii).

17 (ii) CONSULTATION.—The Secretary
18 shall consult with Indian Tribes to deter-
19 mine the process and criteria under which
20 tribal organizations may participate in the
21 demonstration project under this para-
22 graph.

23 (D) PROCUREMENT REQUIREMENTS.—
24 Each agricultural commodity purchased by a

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1 tribal organization pursuant to the demonstra-
2 tion project under this paragraph shall—

3 (i) be domestically produced;

4 (ii) supplant, and not supplement, the
5 type of agricultural commodities in existing
6 food packages for the tribal organization;

7 (iii) be of similar or higher nutritional
8 value as the type of agricultural commod-
9 ities in the existing food package for the
10 tribal organization that would be sup-
11 planted;

12 (iv) be nonperishable food appropriate
13 for distribution in monthly food packages;
14 and

15 (v) meet such other criteria as the
16 Secretary may establish.

17 (E) REPORTS.—Not later than 1 year
18 after the date on which funds are initially ap-
19 propriated under subparagraph (F), and annu-
20 ally thereafter, the Secretary shall submit to
21 the Committee on Agriculture of the House of
22 Representatives and the Committee on Agri-
23 culture, Nutrition, and Forestry of the Senate
24 a report that includes, with respect to the pre-
25 ceding year—

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1 (i) a list of each tribal organization
2 participating in the demonstration project
3 under this paragraph; and

4 (ii) a description of the activities car-
5 ried out by each participating tribal orga-
6 nization pursuant to the demonstration
7 project.

8 (F) FUNDING.—

9 (i) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIA-
10 TIONS.—There is authorized to be appro-
11 priated to the Secretary to carry out this
12 paragraph \$5,000,000, to remain available
13 until expended.

14 (ii) APPROPRIATIONS IN ADVANCE.—
15 Only funds made available pursuant to
16 clause (i) in advance specifically to carry
17 out this paragraph shall be available to
18 carry out this paragraph.

19 (c) MISSION-SPECIFIC SELF-DETERMINATION SUP-
20 PORT.—In each Department of Agriculture mission area
21 that administers self-determination contracts, the Sec-
22 retary shall designate a senior official within that mission
23 area or an office within that mission area to be responsible
24 for—

1 (1) oversight of the administration of self-deter-
2 mination contracts within the mission area; and

3 (2) coordination with a senior official in the Of-
4 fice of the Secretary designated to advise the Sec-
5 retary on opportunities for self-determination en-
6 hancement.

7 **SEC. 12213. TRIBAL PROMISE ZONES.**

8 Section 12510 of the Agriculture Improvement Act
9 of 2018 (25 U.S.C. 4301 note; Public Law 115–334) is
10 amended—

11 (1) in subsection (b), by striking “this Act” and
12 inserting “the Rural Prosperity and Food Security
13 Act of 2024”; and

14 (2) in subsection (c)(1), by striking “2020” and
15 inserting “2026”.

16 **Subtitle C—Department of Agri-**
17 **culture Reorganization Act of**
18 **1994 Amendments**

19 **SEC. 12301. COST-BENEFIT ANALYSES.**

20 Section 212(b) of the Department of Agriculture Re-
21 organization Act of 1994 (7 U.S.C. 6912(b)) is amend-
22 ed—

23 (1) in the subsection heading, by striking “RE-
24 QUIRED FOR NAME CHANGE.—” and inserting “RE-
25 QUIRED.—”;

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1 (2) in paragraph (1)—

2 (A) by striking the period at the end and
3 inserting “; or”;

4 (B) by striking “Except as provided in
5 paragraph (2), the Secretary shall conduct a
6 cost-benefit analysis before changing” and in-
7 serting the following: “The Secretary shall con-
8 duct a cost-benefit analysis before—

9 “(A) except as provided in paragraph (2),
10 changing”; and

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

12 “(B) relocating more than 50 percent of
13 the employees of any agency, office, division, or
14 other unit of the Department with 50 or more
15 employees outside of the commuting area of
16 that agency, office, division, or other unit to en-
17 sure that the benefits to be derived from the re-
18 location of the agency, office, division, or other
19 unit outweigh the costs of the relocation, in-
20 cluding—

21 “(i) costs associated with the attrition
22 of employees from the Department due to
23 the relocation;

24 “(ii) costs associated with the disrupt-
25 tion of the activities of the agency, office,

1 division, or other unit due to the reloca-
2 tion;

3 “(iii) the economic impact to the af-
4 fected local communities and regions;

5 “(iv) costs associated with any civil
6 rights impact due to the relocation; and

7 “(v) any other potential effects of the
8 relocation.”;

9 (3) in paragraph (2), by striking “(1)” and in-
10 sserting “(1)(A)”; and

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

12 “(3) STANDARD.—For a cost-benefit analysis
13 conducted under paragraph (1) with respect to a re-
14 location described in subparagraph (B) of that para-
15 graph, the Secretary shall identify and measure ben-
16 efits and costs, including identifying a baseline, eval-
17 uating alternatives, comparing return on investment
18 for alternatives, and documenting analyses.

19 “(4) NOTIFICATION.—In the case of a reloca-
20 tion described in paragraph (1)(B), the Secretary
21 shall provide notice to each affected employee not
22 less than 365 days before the date of the relocation
23 of the employee, including the new duty station loca-
24 tion of the employee.

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1 “(5) PUBLICATION.—To the extent allowable
2 under Federal law, the Secretary shall make publicly
3 available a cost-benefit analysis conducted under
4 paragraph (1) not later than—

5 “(A) 90 days before a name change de-
6 scribed in paragraph (1)(A); and

7 “(B) 90 days before notifying employees of
8 a relocation under paragraph (3).”.

9 **SEC. 12302. OFFICES OF CUSTOMER EXPERIENCE AND DIG-**
10 **ITAL SERVICE.**

11 (a) OFFICE OF DIGITAL SERVICE.—Subtitle A of the
12 Department of Agriculture Reorganization Act of 1994 (7
13 U.S.C. 6912 et seq.) is amended by inserting after section
14 217 (as added by section 12107) the following:

15 **“SEC. 217A. OFFICE OF THE CHIEF INFORMATION OFFICER.**

16 “(a) AUTHORIZATION.—The Chief Information Offi-
17 cer designated by the Secretary under section
18 3506(a)(2)(A) of title 44, United States Code, shall be the
19 Chief Information Officer of the Department.

20 “(b) DIGITAL SERVICE FUNCTIONS.—

21 “(1) DEFINITION OF DIGITAL SERVICE.—In
22 this subsection, the term ‘digital service’ means on-
23 line information resources or services, including the
24 delivery of digital information and transaction serv-
25 ices across a variety of platforms, devices, and deliv-

1 ery mechanisms, maintained or funded in whole or
2 in part by the Department.

3 “(2) OFFICE OF DIGITAL SERVICE.—

4 “(A) ESTABLISHMENT.—There is estab-
5 lished in the Office of the Chief Information Of-
6 ficer the Office of Digital Service.

7 “(B) EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR.—

8 “(i) IN GENERAL.—The Office of Dig-
9 ital Service shall be headed by an Execu-
10 tive Director, who shall serve under the di-
11 rection of the Chief Information Officer.

12 “(ii) FUNCTIONS.—The Executive Di-
13 rector of the Office of Digital Service shall
14 assist the Chief Information Officer in car-
15 rying out the functions under this sub-
16 section and in coordinating the digital
17 services functions of the Department.

18 “(3) SERVICES FOR DEPARTMENTAL AGENCIES
19 AND OFFICES.—In carrying out this subsection, the
20 responsibilities of the Chief Information Officer shall
21 include—

22 “(A) coordinating the digital service needs
23 and activities of the Department;

24 “(B) providing support using innovative
25 techniques and technology for the delivery of

1 digital services across the agencies and offices
2 of the Department in accordance with applica-
3 ble laws, regulations, and executive orders relat-
4 ing to digital services;

5 “(C) coordinating with the Office of Cus-
6 tomer Experience to ensure that the delivery of
7 digital services incorporates a human-centered
8 design process; and

9 “(D) coordinating with the United States
10 Digital Service and the agencies and offices of
11 the Department to promote efficiency and pre-
12 vent unnecessary duplication in digital services
13 activities.

14 “(4) USDA DIGITAL SERVICE FELLOWS.—

15 “(A) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary, acting
16 through the Chief Information Officer, shall es-
17 tablish a program for individuals who are highly
18 skilled in the technical planning, developing, de-
19 signing, or delivery of digital services to serve
20 as fellows to improve the Department’s digital
21 systems, information management, data accessi-
22 bility, and other digital or technological
23 functionalities.

24 “(B) EXPEDITED HIRING AUTHORITY.—
25 Notwithstanding subchapter I of chapter 33 of

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1 title 5, United States Code, governing appoint-
2 ments in the competitive or excepted service,
3 the Secretary may use noncompetitive term ap-
4 pointments for qualified individuals to serve as
5 fellows in the program established under sub-
6 paragraph (A).

7 “(C) TERMS.—Individuals participating in
8 the program established under subparagraph
9 (A), including individuals appointed under sub-
10 paragraph (B)—

11 “(i) may not serve a term that ex-
12 ceeds 5 years in length; and

13 “(ii) may be compensated at a rate
14 not to exceed the rate provided for level II
15 of the Executive Schedule under section
16 5313 of title 5, United States Code, for po-
17 sitions that require a high level of technical
18 expertise that is critical to the successful
19 development and delivery of digital serv-
20 ices.

21 “(5) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—In
22 addition to amounts otherwise made available, there
23 are authorized to be appropriated to the Secretary
24 such sums as are necessary to carry out this sub-
25 section for each fiscal year.”.

1 (b) OFFICE OF CUSTOMER EXPERIENCE.—Subtitle A
2 of the Department of Agriculture Reorganization Act of
3 1994 (7 U.S.C. 6912 et seq.) is amended by inserting
4 after section 217A (as added by subsection (a)) the fol-
5 lowing:

6 **“SEC. 217B. OFFICE OF CUSTOMER EXPERIENCE.**

7 “(a) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

8 “(1) CUSTOMER.—The term ‘customer’ means
9 any individual or entity, including any for-profit or
10 nonprofit entity, State, local, or Tribal entity, and
11 any other Federal entity, that interacts with the De-
12 partment or a Department program, either directly
13 or indirectly through a federally funded program ad-
14 ministered by a contractor, nonprofit entity, or State
15 or local entity.

16 “(2) CUSTOMER EXPERIENCE.—The term ‘cus-
17 tomer experience’ means the public’s perceptions of
18 and overall satisfaction with interactions with the
19 Department or programs, products, or services of
20 the Department.

21 “(b) AUTHORIZATION.—The Secretary shall establish
22 in the Department the Office of Customer Experience.

23 “(c) CHIEF CUSTOMER EXPERIENCE OFFICER.—

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1 “(1) IN GENERAL.—The Office of Customer
2 Experience shall be headed by the Chief Customer
3 Experience Officer.

4 “(2) APPOINTMENT.—The Secretary shall ap-
5 point a senior official to serve as the Chief Customer
6 Experience Officer.

7 “(3) DUTIES.—The Chief Customer Experience
8 Officer shall—

9 “(A) advise on policies of the Department
10 relating to the collection, processing, and anal-
11 ysis of customer feedback that would enable the
12 improvement and design of the programs of the
13 Department using a human-centered design
14 process;

15 “(B) partner with mission areas, offices,
16 and agencies of the Department to provide
17 training and support—

18 “(i) to identify, communicate, and vis-
19 ualize customer feedback on the programs
20 of the Department; and

21 “(ii) to use the analysis of customer
22 feedback to improve and design the pro-
23 grams of the Department using a human-
24 centered design process;

1 “(C) coordinate customer experience activi-
2 ties across the mission areas, offices, and agen-
3 cies of the Department, including advising and
4 coordinating on program application stream-
5 lining efforts;

6 “(D) act as the primary liaison on behalf
7 of the Department with other Federal depart-
8 ments and agencies in intergovernmental activi-
9 ties and initiatives relating to customer experi-
10 ence; and

11 “(E) carry out other responsibilities relat-
12 ing to customer experience, as determined by
13 the Secretary.

14 “(4) REPORTING.—The Chief Customer Experi-
15 ence Officer shall report to the Deputy Secretary.

16 “(d) LIAISONS.—

17 “(1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary may estab-
18 lish one or more customer experience liaisons within
19 each mission area, office, and agency of the Depart-
20 ment to coordinate with the Office of Customer Ex-
21 perience to provide services to improve customer ex-
22 perience for programs and services administered by
23 that mission area, office, or agency.

24 “(2) QUALIFICATIONS.—An individual occu-
25 pying the position of a customer experience liaison

1 established under paragraph (1) shall have dem-
2 onstrated skills or experience with identifying, com-
3 municating, and visualizing customer needs through
4 a human-centered design process.

5 “(e) REPORT.—Not later than December 31, 2026,
6 and each year thereafter, the Secretary shall make publicly
7 available and submit to the Committee on Agriculture,
8 Nutrition, and Forestry of the Senate and the Committee
9 on Agriculture of the House of Representatives a report
10 summarizing the activities of the Office of Customer Expe-
11 rience in the prior fiscal year, including—

12 “(1) the activities of any customer experience li-
13 aisons established under subsection (d)(1); and

14 “(2) a detailed description and the status of
15 any program application streamlining efforts at the
16 Department.

17 “(f) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—In addi-
18 tion to amounts otherwise made available, there are au-
19 thorized to be appropriated to the Secretary such sums
20 as are necessary to carry out this section for each fiscal
21 year.”.

22 (c) FUNDING.—Out of amounts in the Treasury not
23 otherwise appropriated, there is appropriated to the Sec-
24 retary for costs relating to services and projects provided
25 by the Office of Digital Service established by section

1 217A(b)(2) of the Department of Agriculture Reorganiza-
2 tion Act of 1994 and the Office of Customer Experience
3 established under section 217B(b) of that Act
4 \$20,000,000 for fiscal year 2025 and each fiscal year
5 thereafter, to remain available until expended.

6 **SEC. 12303. FOOD LOSS AND WASTE.**

7 (a) **FOOD LOSS AND WASTE REDUCTION LIAISON.**—
8 Section 224 of the Department of Agriculture Reorganiza-
9 tion Act of 1994 (7 U.S.C. 6924) is amended—

10 (1) by redesignating subsections (a) through (d)
11 and (e) as subsections (b) through (e) and (h), re-
12 spectively;

13 (2) by inserting before subsection (b) (as so re-
14 designated) the following:

15 “(a) **DEFINITIONS.**—In this section:

16 “(1) **FOOD.**—The term ‘food’ means any raw,
17 cooked, processed, or prepared substance, ice, bev-
18 erage, or ingredient used or intended for use in
19 whole or in part for human consumption.

20 “(2) **FOOD LOSS.**—The term ‘food loss’ means,
21 with respect to food, that the food does not reach a
22 consumer as a result of an issue in the production,
23 storage, processing, or distribution phase.

24 “(3) **FOOD RECOVERY.**—The term ‘food recov-
25 ery’ means the collection of wholesome food that

1 would otherwise go to waste and the redistribution
2 of that food to feed people.

3 “(4) FOOD WASTE.—The term ‘food waste’
4 means, with respect to food, that the food is in-
5 tended for human consumption but is unconsumed
6 by humans for any reason at the retail or consump-
7 tion phase.

8 “(5) UPCYCLED FOOD PRODUCT.—The term
9 ‘upcycled food product’ means a product that—

10 “(A) is created from surplus food, unmar-
11 ketable food, or edible or inedible food byprod-
12 ucts; and

13 “(B) is made with ingredients that—

14 “(i) otherwise would not have gone to
15 human consumption;

16 “(ii) are sourced and produced using
17 supply chains for which upstream data can
18 be verified and validated for accuracy; and

19 “(iii) have a positive impact on the
20 environment.”;

21 (3) in subsection (b) (as so redesignated), by
22 inserting “(referred to in this section as the ‘Liai-
23 son’)” after “Food Loss and Waste Reduction Liai-
24 son”;

25 (4) in subsection (c) (as so redesignated)—

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1 (A) by striking the subsection designation
2 and heading and all that follows through “Re-
3 duction” in the matter preceding paragraph (1)
4 and inserting the following:

5 “(c) DUTIES.—The”;

6 (B) in paragraph (4), by striking “and” at
7 the end;

8 (C) in paragraph (5), by striking the pe-
9 riod at the end and inserting “; and”; and

10 (D) by adding at the end the following:

11 “(6) carry out the consumer education cam-
12 paign under subsection (g).”;

13 (5) in subsection (d) (as so redesignated), in
14 the matter preceding paragraph (1), by striking
15 “subsection (b)” and inserting “subsection (c)”;

16 (6) in subsections (d) and (e) (as so redesi-
17 gnated), by striking “Food Loss and Waste Reduc-
18 tion” each place it appears;

19 (7) by inserting after subsection (e) (as so re-
20 designating) the following:

21 “(f) FOOD LOSS AND WASTE REGIONAL COORDINA-
22 TORS.—

23 “(1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall estab-
24 lish in the Department regional coordinators.

1 “(2) RESPONSIBILITIES.—The regional coordi-
2 nators established under paragraph (1) shall be re-
3 sponsible for—

4 “(A) partnering with food producers, food
5 processors, distributors, and food recovery orga-
6 nizations and acting as regional points of con-
7 tact to facilitate real-time food recovery;

8 “(B) understanding and developing the ca-
9 pacity needed for ongoing food recovery;

10 “(C) providing technical support to food
11 recovery organizations to improve the ability of
12 the food recovery organizations to pick up sur-
13 plus food, process that food, and deliver that
14 food to populations or communities; and

15 “(D) engaging with Department regional
16 food business centers to identify opportunities
17 for synergy and alignment with those centers.

18 “(3) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—
19 There is authorized to be appropriated to the Sec-
20 retary to carry out this subsection \$1,000,000 for
21 fiscal year 2025, to remain available until expended.

22 “(g) CONSUMER EDUCATION CAMPAIGN.—

23 “(1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary, acting
24 through the Liaison, in consultation with the Admin-
25 istrator of the Environmental Protection Agency,

1 shall initiate a national food waste education and
2 public awareness campaign (referred to in this sub-
3 section as the ‘campaign’).

4 “(2) REQUIREMENTS.—The campaign shall, at
5 a minimum—

6 “(A) illustrate how much food goes to
7 waste in the United States and households
8 across the United States;

9 “(B) highlight methods for preserving and
10 storing foods;

11 “(C) provide consumers tips to identify
12 whether food is still safe and edible, regardless
13 of any ‘BEST If Used By’ or the ‘USE By’
14 date on the label or food packaging indicating
15 quality and freshness;

16 “(D) teach consumers the differences be-
17 tween food freshness and food safety;

18 “(E) teach consumers how to compost food
19 scraps;

20 “(F) develop educational materials usable
21 by several different channels, including for spe-
22 cific industry sectors (including retail, food
23 service, and consumer packaged goods), local
24 governments, schools, community and faith-

1 based organizations, and other appropriate
2 channels;

3 “(G) educate consumers on food products
4 made with food waste, including upcycled food
5 products, or that use innovative technology to
6 prevent food loss and food waste;

7 “(H) include interactive elements; and

8 “(I) inform about intersectional issues of
9 food loss and food waste, including public
10 health, food insecurity, and climate change.

11 “(3) PRIORITIES.—In carrying out the cam-
12 paign, the Secretary shall prioritize—

13 “(A) evaluating existing scientific evidence,
14 and, if needed, conducting additional scientific
15 research, to determine what socioeconomic char-
16 acteristics are associated with food waste atti-
17 tudes and behaviors;

18 “(B) identifying population segments to
19 target;

20 “(C) understanding how to best target
21 those identified population segments; and

22 “(D) determining which strategies are
23 most effective in changing consumer behaviors.

24 “(4) DUAL FRAMEWORK CAMPAIGN.—

1 “(A) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall
2 carry out the campaign through—

3 “(i) community engagement, which al-
4 lows information to be delivered through
5 locally trusted sources, with locally tailored
6 solutions and partners (such as for dona-
7 tion or compost options); and

8 “(ii) national messaging appropriate
9 for raising awareness of—

10 “(I) nationally applicable issues
11 (such as the meaning of ‘best if used
12 by’ date labels, tips for meal planning,
13 or businesses that manufacture prod-
14 ucts using ingredients that would oth-
15 erwise go to waste, including upcycled
16 food products); and

17 “(II) such other issues as the
18 Secretary determines to be appro-
19 priate.

20 “(B) PILOT PROJECTS.—

21 “(i) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary
22 shall—

23 “(I) for the purpose of testing
24 methods and materials for carrying
25 out the campaign through community

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1 engagement under subparagraph
2 (A)(i), carry out pilot projects in com-
3 munities selected by the Secretary;
4 and

5 “(II) assess the results of those
6 pilot projects, including through waste
7 audits or other quantitative measure-
8 ments.

9 “(ii) REQUIREMENTS.—In carrying
10 out pilot projects under clause (i), the Sec-
11 retary shall—

12 “(I) ensure equity and diversity
13 of representation;

14 “(II) use science-based evidence,
15 including from behavioral science, in
16 designing and carrying out the cam-
17 paign to increase the effectiveness of
18 the campaign; and

19 “(III) in coordination with State,
20 local, Tribal, municipal, or territorial
21 governments, inform consumers in a
22 community of solutions, food prod-
23 ucts, or initiatives that are available
24 to help prevent or reduce food waste.

1 “(5) WASTE AUDITS.—The Secretary shall con-
2 duct audits to gather data relating to the impact of
3 the campaign in communities targeted by the cam-
4 paign for the purpose of informing future efforts
5 under the campaign, including by comparing out-
6 comes in communities targeted by the campaign to
7 outcomes in communities not targeted by the cam-
8 paign.

9 “(6) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—In
10 addition to amounts otherwise available, there is au-
11 thorized to be appropriated to carry out this sub-
12 section \$2,000,000 for each of fiscal years 2025
13 through 2029.”; and

14 (8) in subsection (h) (as so redesignated)—

15 (A) in paragraph (1)—

16 (i) by striking “Food Loss and
17 Waste”; and

18 (ii) by striking “subsection (d)” and
19 inserting “subsection (e)”;

20 (B) in paragraph (2), in the paragraph
21 heading, by striking “REPORT” and inserting
22 “SUBSEQUENT REPORT”; and

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

24 “(3) REPORTS ON PROGRESS.—The Liaison
25 shall submit to Congress and make publicly available

1 reports describing the progress of the United States
2 in advancing toward or achieving the goal of reduc-
3 ing food loss and food waste by 50 percent, com-
4 pared to 2016 levels, by 2030.”.

5 (b) INTERAGENCY COLLABORATION ON FOOD LOSS
6 AND WASTE.—

7 (1) DEFINITIONS.—In this subsection:

8 (A) ADMINISTRATOR.—The term “Admin-
9 istrator” means the Administrator of the Envi-
10 ronmental Protection Agency.

11 (B) COMMISSIONER.—The term “Commis-
12 sioner” means the Commissioner of Food and
13 Drugs.

14 (C) FOOD.—The term “food” means any
15 raw, cooked, processed, or prepared substance,
16 ice, beverage, or ingredient used or intended for
17 use in whole or in part for human consumption.

18 (D) FOOD LOSS.—The term “food loss”
19 means, with respect to food, that the food does
20 not reach a consumer as a result of an issue in
21 the production, storage, processing, or distribu-
22 tion phase.

23 (E) FOOD RECOVERY.—The term “food re-
24 covery” means the collection of wholesome food

1 that would otherwise go to waste and the redis-
2 tribution of that food to feed people.

3 (F) FOOD WASTE.—The term “food
4 waste” means, with respect to food, that the
5 food is intended for human consumption but is
6 unconsumed by humans for any reason at the
7 retail or consumption phase.

8 (G) LIAISON.—The term “Liaison” means
9 the Food Loss and Waste Reduction Liaison es-
10 tablished under section 224 of the Department
11 of Agriculture Reorganization Act of 1994 (7
12 U.S.C. 6924).

13 (2) INTERAGENCY COLLABORATION.—The Sec-
14 retary, in collaboration with the Administrator, the
15 Commissioner, and the Administrator of the United
16 States Agency for International Development, shall
17 collaborate to carry out the agreement relative to co-
18 operation and coordination on food loss and waste,
19 which took effect on May 15, 2024.

20 (3) REPORTS.—Every year, the Secretary, act-
21 ing through the Liaison, in consultation with the
22 Administrator, the Commissioner, and the Adminis-
23 trator of the United States Agency for International
24 Development, shall submit to Congress and make
25 publicly available a report describing the progress of

1 the Secretary in carrying out the agreement de-
2 scribed in paragraph (2).

3 (4) INTERAGENCY ENGAGEMENT.—Pursuant to
4 paragraph (2), the Secretary, the Administrator, the
5 Commissioner, and the Administrator of the United
6 States Agency for International Development shall
7 engage with the heads of other Federal departments
8 and agencies, including the Secretary of Defense, the
9 Secretary of Education, the Secretary of Transpor-
10 tation, the Secretary of Homeland Security, the Ad-
11 ministrator of General Services, and such other Fed-
12 eral departments and agencies as the Secretary, the
13 Administrator, the Commissioner, and the Adminis-
14 trator of the United States Agency for International
15 Development determine to be appropriate, to expand
16 work on food loss and food waste.

17 (5) CONSULTATION.—

18 (A) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall
19 consult with, and receive advice from, rep-
20 resentatives described in subparagraph (B) re-
21 lating to—

22 (i) programming and policy issues re-
23 lating to understanding existing and future
24 challenges relating to food loss and food
25 waste;

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1 (ii) acquiring the latest data relating
2 to food loss and food waste;

3 (iii) the latest innovative solutions re-
4 lating to food loss and food waste from
5 leading experts; and

6 (iv) sharing and developing procure-
7 ment best practices that will assist the
8 heads of Federal departments and agencies
9 described in paragraph (4) in—

10 (I) preventing food loss and
11 waste;

12 (II) reducing food loss and food
13 waste;

14 (III) leading by example in ad-
15 dressing issues relating to food loss
16 and food waste; and

17 (IV) engaging contractors in re-
18 ducing food loss and food waste in the
19 operations of the contractors.

20 (B) REPRESENTATIVES.—The representa-
21 tives referred to in subparagraph (A) are rep-
22 resentatives of—

23 (i) the private sector;

24 (ii) agricultural producers;

1 (iii) food industry members, such as
2 food safety trainers, food aggregators and
3 processors, food safety professionals, retail-
4 ers, and food service entities;

5 (iv) nonprofit organizations;

6 (v) food recovery organizations of
7 varying sizes; and

8 (vi) any other sector, as determined
9 by the Secretary.

10 (C) REPRESENTATION OF SMALLER PRO-

11 DUCERS AND FOOD INSECURE COMMUNITIES.—

12 In consulting and receiving advice under sub-
13 paragraph (A), the Secretary shall ensure par-
14 ticipation by smaller producers and organiza-
15 tions from communities most impacted by food
16 and nutrition insecurity and food loss and food
17 waste issues.

18 (D) FORMS OF CONSULTATION.—The Sec-
19 retary may consult and receive advice under
20 subparagraph (A) through—

21 (i) a meeting through which input is
22 sought, such as a workshop, town hall
23 meeting, or listening session;

24 (ii) a meeting described in clause (i)
25 with an existing group formed by rep-

1 representatives described in subparagraph
2 (B); and

3 (iii) such other means as the Sec-
4 retary determines to be appropriate.

5 (E) INTERAGENCY MEETINGS.—The Sec-
6 retary shall host quarterly meetings with the
7 Administrator, the Commissioner, the Adminis-
8 trator of the United States Agency for Inter-
9 national Development, and the heads of other
10 Federal agencies for the purpose of sharing
11 communications relating to consultation and ad-
12 vice received under subparagraph (A) with
13 those officials regularly.

14 (F) FACCA EXEMPTION.—Chapter 10 of
15 title 5, United States Code (commonly referred
16 to as the “Federal Advisory Committee Act”),
17 shall not apply to any group formed for pur-
18 poses of consultation or providing advice under
19 this paragraph.

20 (6) CONTINUATION OF EFFECT.—Nothing in
21 the subsection shall be affected by the expiration of
22 the agreement described in paragraph (2).

23 (7) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—
24 There is authorized to be appropriated to the Sec-

1 retary to carry out this subsection \$1,000,000 for
2 each of fiscal years 2025 through 2029.

3 **SEC. 12304. HOUSING AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT LIAISON.**

4 Subtitle A of the Department of Agriculture Reorga-
5 nization Act of 1994 (7 U.S.C. 6912 et seq.) (as amended
6 by section 12203(a)) is amended by adding at the end the
7 following:

8 **“SEC. 224C. HOUSING AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT LIAISON.**

9 “(a) AUTHORIZATION.—Not later than 180 days
10 after the date of enactment of this section, the Secretary
11 shall establish in the Department the position of Housing
12 and Urban Development Liaison.

13 “(b) DUTIES.—The Housing and Urban Develop-
14 ment Liaison shall—

15 “(1) in consultation with the Secretary of
16 Housing and Urban Development, identify—

17 “(A) programs and activities of the De-
18 partment that impact urban communities, in-
19 cluding urban agriculture, urban forestry, and
20 nutrition assistance programs; and

21 “(B) programs and activities of the De-
22 partment of Housing and Urban Development
23 that intersect with the programs and activities
24 identified under subparagraph (A);

1 “(2) coordinate and improve communications
2 relating to rural housing programs and the pro-
3 grams and activities identified under paragraph (1)
4 between the Department and the Department of
5 Housing and Urban Development;

6 “(3) integrate across the Department strategic
7 planning and coordination relating to rural housing
8 programs and the programs and activities identified
9 under paragraph (1); and

10 “(4) make recommendations with respect to
11 how to better—

12 “(A) serve the customers and stakeholders
13 of the Department and the Department of
14 Housing and Urban Development through in-
15 creased coordination; and

16 “(B) leverage existing Federal resources
17 for rural housing programs and the programs
18 and activities identified under paragraph (1).

19 “(c) REPORT.—Not later than December 31, 2025,
20 and each December 31 thereafter, the Secretary shall sub-
21 mit to the Committee on Agriculture of the House of Rep-
22 resentatives and the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition,
23 and Forestry of the Senate, and make publicly available
24 on the website of the Department, a report containing—

1 “(1) a description of the programs and activi-
2 ties identified under subsection (b)(1);

3 “(2) a description of the activities of the Hous-
4 ing and Urban Development Liaison in the most re-
5 cent fiscal year; and

6 “(3) the recommendations made by the Hous-
7 ing and Urban Development Liaison under sub-
8 section (b)(4).”.

9 **SEC. 12305. HUBS FOR MITIGATION OF AND ADAPTATION**
10 **TO CLIMATE CHANGE.**

11 Subtitle A of the Department of Agriculture Reorga-
12 nization Act of 1994 (7 U.S.C. 6912 et seq.) (as amended
13 by section 12304) is amended by adding at the end the
14 following:

15 **“SEC. 224D. HUBS FOR MITIGATION OF AND ADAPTATION**
16 **TO CLIMATE CHANGE.**

17 “(a) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

18 “(1) CLIMATE HUB.—The term ‘Climate Hub’
19 means an office established under subsection (b)(1).

20 “(2) CLIMATE HUBS PROGRAM.—The term ‘Cli-
21 mate Hubs Program’ means the Climate Hubs Pro-
22 gram established under subsection (b)(2).

23 “(3) EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE.—The term ‘Ex-
24 ecutive Committee’ means the Climate Hubs Execu-
25 tive Committee established under subsection (d)(5).

1 “(b) ESTABLISHMENT.—

2 “(1) CLIMATE HUBS.—The Secretary shall es-
3 tablish a national network of offices, each of which
4 shall have a specific geographic focus, including one
5 office focused on international collaboration and one
6 office based in the State of Hawaii, to serve the De-
7 partment in meeting the needs of farmers, ranchers,
8 forest landowners, and other agricultural and nat-
9 ural resource managers in addressing the causes and
10 consequences of climate change.

11 “(2) PROGRAM.—The Secretary shall establish
12 a Climate Hubs Program for the administration of
13 the Climate Hubs.

14 “(c) MISSION.—The mission of the Climate Hubs
15 Program is to develop and deliver—

16 “(1) support to Department programs and ac-
17 tivities at the regional and local levels in integrating
18 climate change into planning and decision making;

19 “(2) science-based, region-specific, cost-effec-
20 tive, and practical information and program support
21 for science-informed decision making in light of the
22 increased costs, opportunities, risks, and
23 vulnerabilities associated with a changing climate;

24 “(3) tools, guidance on technologies, and risk
25 management practices to maintain and strengthen

1 agricultural production, forest and natural resource
2 management, and rural economic development to ad-
3 dress the causes and consequences of climate
4 change; and

5 “(4) equitable access to information to imple-
6 ment the activities described in paragraphs (1), (2),
7 and (3) through engagement opportunities,
8 trainings, and outreach and educational materials.

9 “(d) ADMINISTRATION.—The Secretary shall—

10 “(1) determine the number and location of the
11 Climate Hubs;

12 “(2) establish a national office to administer
13 the Climate Hubs Program, including a National
14 Leader and staff sufficient to carry out the respon-
15 sibilities described in this section;

16 “(3) work through the National Leader estab-
17 lished under paragraph (2) to coordinate with com-
18 parable programs and initiatives in other Federal
19 departments and agencies, including—

20 “(A) the Department of the Interior, in-
21 cluding the United States Geological Survey;

22 “(B) the Department of Commerce, includ-
23 ing the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Ad-
24 ministration;

1 “(C) the Environmental Protection Agen-
2 cy;

3 “(D) the Department of Energy;

4 “(E) the National Aeronautics and Space
5 Administration;

6 “(F) the Department of State;

7 “(G) the United States Agency for Inter-
8 national Development; and

9 “(H) such other departments and agencies
10 as the Secretary determines to be appropriate;

11 “(4) identify opportunities to work with and
12 support university-based extension in carrying out
13 the activities of the Climate Hubs Program;

14 “(5) establish a Climate Hubs Executive Com-
15 mittee—

16 “(A) to guide and establish priorities for
17 the Climate Hubs Program; and

18 “(B) to conduct a review of the Climate
19 Hubs Program not less frequently than once
20 every 5 years; and

21 “(6) cooperate with partners and stakeholders,
22 including—

23 “(A) Federal and regional applied science
24 and service organizations, including—

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1 “(i) the United States Geological Sur-
2 vey Climate Adaptation Science Centers;

3 “(ii) the National Oceanic and Atmos-
4 pheric Administration Climate Adaptation
5 Partnerships; and

6 “(iii) such other organizations as the
7 Secretary determines to be appropriate;

8 “(B) interagency coordination bodies, such
9 as the United States Global Change Research
10 Program;

11 “(C) colleges and universities (as defined
12 in section 1404 of the National Agricultural Re-
13 search, Extension, and Teaching Policy Act of
14 1977 (7 U.S.C. 3103));

15 “(D) cooperative extension services (as de-
16 fined in that section);

17 “(E) State agricultural experiment stations
18 (as defined in that section);

19 “(F) State forestry experiment stations;

20 “(G) the private sector;

21 “(H) State, local, and regional govern-
22 ments;

23 “(I) Indian Tribes;

24 “(J) agriculture, forestry, and commodity
25 organizations;

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1 “(K) nonprofit and community-based orga-
2 nizations; and

3 “(L) other partners, as determined by the
4 Secretary.

5 “(e) EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEMBERSHIP.—The
6 Executive Committee shall be composed of the heads of
7 the following agencies, mission areas, or offices:

8 “(1) The Agricultural Research Service.

9 “(2) The Forest Service.

10 “(3) The Natural Resources Conservation Serv-
11 ice.

12 “(4) The National Institute of Food and Agri-
13 culture.

14 “(5) The Foreign Agricultural Service.

15 “(6) The Farm Service Agency.

16 “(7) The Economic Research Service.

17 “(8) The Risk Management Agency.

18 “(9) The rural development mission area.

19 “(10) The Office of Energy and Environmental
20 Policy of the Department.

21 “(11) The Animal and Plant Health Inspection
22 Service.

23 “(12) Such other agencies, mission areas, or of-
24 fices within the Department as the Secretary deter-
25 mines to be appropriate.

1 “(f) FUNDING.—

2 “(1) MANDATORY FUNDING.—Out of amounts
3 in the Treasury not otherwise appropriated, there is
4 appropriated to the Secretary to carry out this sec-
5 tion \$50,000,000 for each of fiscal years 2025
6 through 2029, to remain available until expended.

7 “(2) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—In
8 addition to amounts otherwise made available, there
9 is authorized to be appropriated to carry out this
10 section \$50,000,000 for each of fiscal years 2025
11 through 2029.”.

12 **SEC. 12306. NATURAL RESOURCES CONSERVATION SERV-**
13 **ICE.**

14 Section 228(g)(3) of the Department of Agriculture
15 Reorganization Act of 1994 (7 U.S.C. 6936(g)(3)) is
16 amended by striking “2023” and inserting “2029”.

17 **SEC. 12307. OFFICE OF THE CHIEF SCIENTIST.**

18 Section 251(e) of the Department of Agriculture Re-
19 organization Act of 1994 (7 U.S.C. 6971(e)) is amend-
20 ed—

21 (1) in paragraph (3)—

22 (A) by striking subparagraph (C); and

23 (B) by redesignating subparagraphs (D)

24 and (E) as subparagraphs (C) and (D), respec-

25 tively; and

1 (2) in paragraph (5)(B), by striking “prac-
2 ticable—” in the matter preceding clause (i) and all
3 that follows through the period at the end of clause
4 (ii) and inserting “practicable, at no time shall the
5 aggregate number of staff for all Divisions exceed 50
6 full-time equivalent positions.”.

7 **SEC. 12308. REGIONAL FOOD BUSINESS CENTERS.**

8 Subtitle A of the Department of Agriculture Reorga-
9 nization Act of 1994 (7 U.S.C. 6912 et seq.) (as amended
10 by section 12305) is amended by adding at the end the
11 following:

12 **“SEC. 224E. REGIONAL FOOD BUSINESS CENTERS.**

13 “(a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary, acting through
14 the Administrator of the Agricultural Marketing Service,
15 shall enter into cooperative agreements, including sub-
16 awards, with eligible entities, as determined by the Sec-
17 retary, for the purpose of establishing a national network
18 of not fewer than 12 regional food business centers that
19 collectively provide localized assistance to small and me-
20 dium-sized farms and food businesses throughout the
21 United States to improve local and regional supply chains,
22 including distribution and processing, through—

23 “(1) interagency and other coordination;

24 “(2) business technical assistance;

25 “(3) capacity building activities; or

1 “(4) other activities that facilitate the develop-
2 ment of a resilient domestic food system, as deter-
3 mined by the Secretary.

4 “(b) TARGETED ASSISTANCE.—

5 “(1) TRIBAL PRODUCERS AND BUSINESSES.—
6 Not fewer than 1 regional food business center de-
7 scribed in subsection (a) shall provide assistance ex-
8 clusively to all Tribal producers and businesses na-
9 tionally.

10 “(2) ISLANDS, REMOTE AREAS, AND
11 COLONIAS.—Not fewer than 2 regional food business
12 centers described in subsection (a) shall provide as-
13 sistance to producers and farm and food businesses
14 in the State of Hawaii, the State of Alaska, the
15 Commonwealth of Puerto Rico, other territories or
16 possessions of the United States, colonias, other re-
17 mote areas, and other, similar locations in the
18 United States, as determined by the Secretary.

19 “(3) UNDERSERVED AND LIMITED RESOURCE
20 PRODUCERS.—Any regional food business center de-
21 scribed in subsection (a) shall prioritize providing
22 service to underserved and limited resource pro-
23 ducers and farm and food businesses.

24 “(c) FUNDING.—

1 “(1) MANDATORY FUNDING.—Out of amounts
2 in the Treasury not otherwise appropriated, there is
3 appropriated to the Secretary to carry out this sec-
4 tion \$75,000,000 for fiscal year 2025 and each fiscal
5 year thereafter, to remain available until expended.

6 “(2) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—In
7 addition to other funds and authorities available to
8 the Secretary, in order to carry out activities under
9 this section, there is authorized to be appropriated
10 to the Secretary \$75,000,000 for each of fiscal years
11 2025 through 2029, to remain available until ex-
12 pended.”.

13 **SEC. 12309. AQUACULTURE LIAISON.**

14 Subtitle A of the Department of Agriculture Reorga-
15 nization Act of 1994 (7 U.S.C. 6912 et seq.) (as amended
16 by section 12308) is amended by adding at the end the
17 following:

18 **“SEC. 224F. AQUACULTURE LIAISON.**

19 “(a) DEFINITION OF AQUACULTURE.—In this sec-
20 tion, the term ‘aquaculture’ has the meaning given the
21 term in section 3 of the National Aquaculture Act of 1980
22 (16 U.S.C. 2802).

23 “(b) ESTABLISHMENT.—The Secretary shall estab-
24 lish in the Department the position of Aquaculture Liai-
25 son.

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1 “(c) DUTIES.—The Aquaculture Liaison shall—

2 “(1) develop and advance aquaculture best
3 practices, using the best available science, in con-
4 sultation with appropriate offices in the Department,
5 agricultural producers, and industry partners;

6 “(2) provide technical assistance on best prac-
7 tices to aquaculture farmers and businesses, includ-
8 ing for shellfish, algae, and land-based aquaculture
9 systems, using the best available science;

10 “(3) advise the Secretary with respect to aqua-
11 culture practices and programs, including applying
12 existing programs for risk mitigation (including in-
13 surance and purchasing programs), as applicable, to
14 aquaculture;

15 “(4) coordinate with the agencies and officials
16 of the Department to update and ensure support for
17 aquaculture in relevant programs;

18 “(5) engage in stakeholder relations and de-
19 velop external partnerships relating to aquaculture
20 practices and programs;

21 “(6) identify common State and municipal best
22 practices for navigating local policies relating to
23 aquaculture practices;

24 “(7) coordinate extension and outreach efforts
25 to support aquaculture producers and businesses;

1 “(8) collaborate and coordinate with other Fed-
2 eral agencies, including the National Oceanic and
3 Atmospheric Administration, the United States Fish
4 and Wildlife Service, the Environmental Protection
5 Agency, and the Office of Science and Technology
6 Policy, with respect to aquaculture practices;

7 “(9) convene a working group with relevant of-
8 ficials of the Department to coordinate programs
9 and share knowledge;

10 “(10) represent the Department on the Sub-
11 committee on Aquaculture of the National Science
12 and Technology Council;

13 “(11) gather and issue aquaculture production
14 data, in coordination with the National Oceanic and
15 Atmospheric Administration and other relevant Fed-
16 eral agencies; and

17 “(12) promote aquaculture practices that pro-
18 vide environmental, economic, and social benefits.”.

19 **SEC. 12310. TERMINATION OF AUTHORITY.**

20 Section 296(b) of the Department of Agriculture Re-
21 organization Act of 1994 (7 U.S.C. 7014(b)) is amended
22 by adding at the end the following:

23 “(11) The authority of the Secretary to carry
24 out the amendments made to this title by the Rural
25 Prosperity and Food Security Act of 2024.”.

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1 **Subtitle D—Agriculture and Food**
2 **Defense**

3 **SEC. 12401. AMENDMENTS TO THE AGRICULTURAL FOR-**
4 **EIGN INVESTMENT DISCLOSURE ACT OF 1978.**

5 (a) REPORTING REQUIREMENTS.—

6 (1) IN GENERAL.—Section 2(a) of the Agricul-
7 tural Foreign Investment Disclosure Act of 1978 (7
8 U.S.C. 3501(a)) is amended—

9 (A) in the first sentence of the matter pre-
10 ceding paragraph (1)—

11 (i) by inserting “, or enters into a
12 leasing agreement the period of which is
13 longer than 5 years with respect to agricul-
14 tural land,” after “agricultural land”; and

15 (ii) by striking “acquisition or trans-
16 fer” and inserting “acquisition, transfer, or
17 lease”; and

18 (B) in paragraph (4), by striking “ac-
19 quired or transferred” and inserting “acquired,
20 transferred, or leased”.

21 (2) MINIMUM OWNERSHIP.—Section 2 of the
22 Agricultural Foreign Investment Disclosure Act of
23 1978 (7 U.S.C. 3501) is amended by adding at the
24 end the following:

1 “(g) MINIMUM OWNERSHIP.—In the case of agricul-
2 tural land in which more than 1 foreign person acquires
3 or transfers any interest, other than a security interest,
4 the reporting requirements under this section shall apply
5 to each foreign person who holds at least a 1 percent inter-
6 est in that land—

7 “(1) directly through the first tier of ownership;

8 or

9 “(2) in the aggregate through an interest in
10 other entities at various tiers.”.

11 (b) CIVIL PENALTY.—

12 (1) IN GENERAL.—Section 3 of the Agricultural
13 Foreign Investment Disclosure Act of 1978 (7
14 U.S.C. 3502) is amended—

15 (A) in subsection (a), in the matter pre-
16 ceding paragraph (1), by striking “(a) If the”
17 and all that follows through “Any such civil
18 penalty” in the third sentence and inserting the
19 following:

20 “(a) IN GENERAL.—A person shall be subject to a
21 civil penalty imposed by the Secretary if the Secretary de-
22 termines that the person—

23 “(1) has failed to submit a report in accordance
24 with the provisions of section 2; or

1 “(2) has knowingly submitted a report under
2 section 2 that—

3 “(A) does not contain all the information
4 required to be in such report; or

5 “(B) contains information that is mis-
6 leading or false.

7 “(d) CIVIL ACTION.—Any civil penalty imposed by
8 the Secretary under subsection (a)”;

9 (B) by moving subsection (d) (as so des-
10 ignated) so as to appear after subsection (b);

11 (C) in subsection (b)—

12 (i) by striking the subsection designa-
13 tion and all that follows through “The
14 amount” and inserting the following:

15 “(b) AMOUNT OF PENALTY.—Except as provided in
16 subsection (c), the amount”;

17 (ii) by striking “of this section”; and

18 (iii) by striking “shall not exceed 25
19 percent” and inserting “shall be not less
20 than 5 percent, but not more than 25 per-
21 cent,”;

22 (D) by inserting after subsection (b) the
23 following:

24 “(c) PENALTY FOR SHELL CORPORATIONS.—

1 “(1) DEFINITION OF SHELL CORPORATION.—In
2 this subsection, the term ‘shell corporation’ means a
3 corporation, company, association, firm, partnership,
4 society, joint stock company, trust, estate, or any
5 other legal entity that has no or nominal operations.

6 “(2) AMOUNT OF PENALTY.—The amount of a
7 civil penalty under subsection (a) for a foreign-
8 owned shell corporation, as determined by the Sec-
9 retary, shall be 100 percent of the fair market value,
10 on the date of the assessment of the penalty, of the
11 interest in agricultural land with respect to which
12 the violation occurred.

13 “(3) NOTIFICATION OF PENALTY.—A shell cor-
14 poration shall not be subject to a civil penalty under
15 paragraph (2), but shall be subject to a civil penalty
16 under subsection (b), if the shell corporation rem-
17 edies a defective filing or failure to file not later
18 than 60 days after the Secretary provides notice to
19 the shell corporation of the defective filing or failure
20 to file.”; and

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

22 “(e) AVAILABILITY OF FUNDS FROM CIVIL PEN-
23 ALTIES.—A civil penalty collected under subsection (a)
24 shall be available to the Secretary without appropriation

1 and remain available until expended for the purpose of en-
2 forcing this Act.”.

3 (2) PUBLIC DISCLOSURE OF NONCOMPLIANT
4 PERSONS.—Section 3 of the Agricultural Foreign In-
5 vestment Disclosure Act of 1978 (7 U.S.C. 3502)
6 (as amended by paragraph (1)) is amended by add-
7 ing at the end the following:

8 “(f) PUBLIC DISCLOSURE OF NONCOMPLIANT PER-
9 SONS.—The Secretary shall publicly disclose the name of
10 each person who paid to the Secretary a civil penalty im-
11 posed under subsection (a), including, if applicable, after
12 the completion of an appeal of a civil penalty.”.

13 (3) PUBLICATION OF REPORTING REQUIRE-
14 MENTS.—Section 3 of the Agricultural Foreign In-
15 vestment Disclosure Act of 1978 (7 U.S.C. 3502)
16 (as amended by paragraph (2)) is amended by add-
17 ing at the end the following:

18 “(g) OUTREACH.—Using existing resources and ef-
19 forts to the maximum extent practicable, the Secretary
20 shall carry out a nationwide outreach program directed
21 primarily towards landlords, owners, operators, persons,
22 producers, and tenants (as those terms are defined in sec-
23 tion 718.2 of title 7, Code of Federal Regulations (as in
24 effect on the date of enactment of the Rural Prosperity
25 and Food Security Act of 2024)) of agricultural land and

1 county property appraiser offices, land appraisal compa-
2 nies, and real estate auction companies to increase public
3 awareness and provide education regarding the reporting
4 requirements under this section.”.

5 (c) INVESTIGATIVE ACTIONS.—Section 4 of the Agri-
6 cultural Foreign Investment Disclosure Act of 1978 (7
7 U.S.C. 3503) is amended—

8 (1) by striking the section designation and
9 heading and all that follows through “The Sec-
10 retary” and inserting the following:

11 **“SEC. 4. INVESTIGATIVE ACTIONS.**

12 “(a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary”; and

13 (2) by adding at the end the following:

14 “(b) SECURITY.—The Secretary shall—

15 “(1) in coordination with the office within the
16 Department of Agriculture established under section
17 7318 of the National Defense Authorization Act for
18 Fiscal Year 2024 (50 U.S.C. 3384), ensure the
19 availability of classified storage, meeting, and other
20 spaces, as necessary, for personnel to carry out this
21 section; and

22 “(2) assist personnel responsible for carrying
23 out this section in obtaining security clearances.

24 “(c) CHIEF OF OPERATIONS.—

1310

1 “(1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall appoint
2 an employee in the Senior Executive Service (as de-
3 scribed in section 3131 of title 5, United States
4 Code) of the Department of Agriculture to serve as
5 Chief of Operations of Investigative Actions (re-
6 ferred to in this section as the ‘Chief of Oper-
7 ations’), who shall hire, appoint, and maintain addi-
8 tional employees to monitor compliance with the pro-
9 visions of this Act.

10 “(2) SIMULTANEOUS SERVICE.—The Chief of
11 Operations may serve in such position simulta-
12 neously with a concurrent position within the De-
13 partment of Agriculture.

14 “(d) DUTIES.—The Chief of Operations shall—

15 “(1) be responsible for carrying out the author-
16 ity provided by subsection (a);

17 “(2) refer noncompliance with this Act to the
18 Secretary, the Farm Service Agency, and any other
19 appropriate authority;

20 “(3) coordinate with the Department of Justice,
21 the Federal Bureau of Investigation, the Depart-
22 ment of Homeland Security, the Department of the
23 Treasury, the National Security Council, and State
24 and local law enforcement agencies, on investigations
25 into malign efforts—

1 “(A) to steal agricultural knowledge and
2 technology; and

3 “(B) to disrupt the United States agricul-
4 tural base;

5 “(4) conduct an annual compliance audit of not
6 less than 10 percent of the reports submitted under
7 section 2 for the year covered by the audit to ensure
8 the completeness and accuracy of reports submitted
9 under that section;

10 “(5) provide annual training to State and coun-
11 ty-level personnel relating to identifying agricultural
12 land for which—

13 “(A) a report is required to be submitted
14 under section 2; but

15 “(B) no report has been submitted by the
16 applicable foreign person;

17 “(6) seek to enter into memoranda of agree-
18 ment and memoranda of understanding with the
19 Federal agencies described in paragraph (3)—

20 “(A) to ensure compliance with this Act;
21 and

22 “(B) to prevent the malign efforts de-
23 scribed in that paragraph;

24 “(7) refer to the Committee on Foreign Invest-
25 ment in the United States transactions that—

1313

1 “(f) ACTIONS BY FPAC–BC.—As part of the actions
2 taken under subsection (a), the Farm Production and
3 Conservation Business Center shall—

4 “(1) take such actions as are necessary to vali-
5 date the data collected under section 2, including re-
6 vising and validating information throughout the
7 data collection process;

8 “(2) take such actions as are necessary to en-
9 sure compliance with section 2(g); and

10 “(3) in coordination with the Farm Service
11 Agency, to the maximum extent practicable, identify
12 persons that have carried out an activity subject to
13 a civil penalty described in paragraph (1) or (2) of
14 section 3(a).”.

15 (d) REPORTS.—Section 6 of the Agricultural Foreign
16 Investment Disclosure Act of 1978 (7 U.S.C. 3505) is
17 amended—

18 (1) by striking the section designation and
19 heading and all that follows through “Not later
20 than” and inserting the following:

21 **“SEC. 6. REPORTS.**

22 “(a) TRANSMISSION OF REPORTS TO STATES.—Not
23 later than”; and

24 (2) by adding at the end the following:

1 “(b) ANNUAL REPORT.—Annually, the Secretary
2 shall prepare and make publicly available a report describ-
3 ing holdings of agricultural land by foreign persons, as
4 determined by reports submitted under section 2, includ-
5 ing—

6 “(1) on a State-by-State and county-by-county
7 basis; and

8 “(2) an analysis of the sectors and industries
9 for which the agricultural land holdings are used.

10 “(c) RESEARCH.—Not later than 1 year after the
11 date of enactment of this subsection, and once every 5
12 years thereafter, the Secretary shall—

13 “(1) carry out research on—

14 “(A) the agricultural leasing activities in
15 the United States of foreign persons, including
16 the impact of those activities on family farms,
17 rural communities, and the domestic food sup-
18 ply;

19 “(B) trends relating to the purchase of ag-
20 ricultural land in the United States by foreign-
21 owned shell corporations (as defined in section
22 3(e)(1));

23 “(C) foreign ownership of agricultural pro-
24 duction capacity and foreign participation in

1 agricultural economic activity in the United
2 States; and

3 “(D) in consultation with the Director of
4 the United States Geological Survey, foreign
5 ownership or leasing of water rights and min-
6 eral deposits on a State-by-State and county-by-
7 county basis; and

8 “(2) submit to Congress a report describing the
9 results of the research carried out under paragraph
10 (1).

11 “(d) REPORT OF TRACKING COVERED TRANS-
12 ACTIONS BY FOREIGN ENTITIES OF CONCERN.—Not later
13 than 1 year after the date of enactment of this subsection,
14 the Secretary shall submit to Congress a report on the
15 feasibility of establishing a mechanism for quantifying the
16 threats posed by foreign entities of concern to United
17 States food security, biosecurity, food safety, environ-
18 mental protection, and national defense.”.

19 (e) INTERNET DATABASE.—Section 7 of the Agricul-
20 tural Foreign Investment Disclosure Act of 1978 (7
21 U.S.C. 3506) is amended—

22 (1) by striking the section designation and
23 heading and all that follows through “Any report”
24 and inserting the following:

1 **“SEC. 7. PUBLIC INSPECTION.**

2 “(a) IN PERSON.—Any report”; and

3 (2) by adding at the end the following:

4 “(b) INTERNET DATABASE.—

5 “(1) IN GENERAL.—As soon as practicable
6 after the Secretary has established a streamlined
7 process for electronic submission and retention of
8 disclosures made under this Act required by section
9 773 of division A of the Consolidated Appropriations
10 Act, 2023 (7 U.S.C. 3501 note; 136 Stat. 4509), the
11 Secretary shall make publicly available an internet
12 database that contains disaggregated data from each
13 disclosure submitted under this Act as human-read-
14 able and machine-readable data sets.

15 “(2) INCLUDED DATA.—The data sets estab-
16 lished under paragraph (1) shall include—

17 “(A) a description of the purchase price
18 paid for, or any other consideration given for,
19 each interest in agricultural land for which a
20 report is submitted under section 2; and

21 “(B) in any case in which a foreign person
22 is not an individual or a government, the nature
23 of the legal entity holding the interest, the
24 country in which the foreign person is created
25 or organized, and the principal place of busi-
26 ness of the foreign person.”.

1 (f) DEFINITIONS.—Section 9 of the Agricultural For-
2 eign Investment Disclosure Act of 1978 (7 U.S.C. 3508)
3 is amended—

4 (1) in the matter preceding paragraph (1), by
5 striking “For purposes of this Act—” and inserting
6 “In this Act:”;

7 (2) in paragraph (1), by inserting “, subject to
8 the condition that the Secretary may not exclude
9 land from this definition based on the acreage of the
10 land” before the semicolon at the end;

11 (3) in each of paragraphs (1) through (6)—

12 (A) by striking “the term” and inserting
13 “The term”; and

14 (B) by inserting a paragraph heading, the
15 text of which comprises the term defined in that
16 paragraph;

17 (4) by redesignating paragraphs (2) through
18 (6) as paragraphs (3), (4), (6), (7), and (8), respec-
19 tively;

20 (5) by inserting after paragraph (1) the fol-
21 lowing:

22 “(2) FOREIGN ENTITY OF CONCERN.—The
23 term ‘foreign entity of concern’ has the meaning
24 given the term in section 9901 of the William M.

1 (Mac) Thornberry National Defense Authorization
2 Act for Fiscal Year 2021 (15 U.S.C. 4651).”; and

3 (6) by inserting after paragraph (4) (as so re-
4 designated) the following:

5 “(5) **MALIGN EFFORT.**—The term ‘malign ef-
6 fort’ means any hostile effort undertaken by, at the
7 direction of, on behalf of, or with the substantial
8 support of the government of a foreign entity of con-
9 cern.”.

10 **SEC. 12402. NATIONAL PLANT DIAGNOSTIC NETWORK.**

11 Section 12203(c)(5) of the Agriculture Improvement
12 Act of 2018 (7 U.S.C. 8914(c)(5)) is amended by striking
13 “2023” and inserting “2029”.

14 **SEC. 12403. OFFICE OF HOMELAND SECURITY.**

15 Section 221 of the Department of Agriculture Reor-
16 ganization Act of 1994 (7 U.S.C. 6922) is amended by
17 adding at the end the following:

18 “(f) **AGRICULTURE AND FOOD DEFENSE**
19 **INTRAGENCY COORDINATION.**—

20 “(1) **IN GENERAL.**—The Secretary shall ensure
21 that there are 1 or more career employees within the
22 agencies and offices of the Department, including
23 each of the agencies and offices described in para-
24 graph (2), that are designated—

1319

1 “(A) to coordinate on agriculture and food
2 defense with the Office of Homeland Security
3 and the office at the Department established
4 under section 7318 of the National Defense Au-
5 thorization Act for Fiscal Year 2024 (50 U.S.C.
6 3384); and

7 “(B) to receive information from the of-
8 fices described in subparagraph (A) on a need-
9 to-know basis.

10 “(2) AGENCIES AND OFFICES DESCRIBED.—

11 The agencies and offices referred to in paragraph
12 (1) are the Agricultural Research Service, the Ani-
13 mal and Plant Health Inspection Service, the Agri-
14 cultural Marketing Service, the Foreign Agricultural
15 Service, the National Institute of Food and Agri-
16 culture, the Food Safety and Inspection Service, the
17 Forest Service, the Farm Service Agency, the Risk
18 Management Agency, the Natural Resources Con-
19 servation Service, the Office of the Chief Informa-
20 tion Officer, the Office of the General Counsel, the
21 Office of the Chief Scientist, the Office of the Chief
22 Economist, and such other agencies and offices as
23 the Secretary determines to be appropriate.

24 “(3) QUALIFICATION OF DESIGNATED EMPLOY-
25 EES.—An employee designated pursuant to para-

1 graph (1) shall possess the appropriate security
2 clearance.

3 “(4) DETAILEES.—Notwithstanding any other
4 provision of law relating to the detailing and assign-
5 ment of Federal employees within the Department—

6 “(A) the Secretary shall increase
7 intraagency coordination on agriculture and
8 food defense by ensuring that there are not
9 fewer than 2 employees from agencies or offices
10 of the Department (other than the Office of
11 Homeland Security) detailed to the Office of
12 Homeland Security each for a period of not
13 more than 2 years; and

14 “(B) the Office of Homeland Security shall
15 not be required to fully or partially reimburse
16 the employing agency or office of an individual
17 detailed under subparagraph (A) for the period
18 of the assignment.”.

19 **SEC. 12404. AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.**

20 Section 12205 of the Agriculture Improvement Act
21 of 2018 (Public Law 115–334; 132 Stat. 4950) is amend-
22 ed by striking “2023” and inserting “2029”.

1321

1 **SEC. 12405. RISK ASSESSMENT ON CYBERSECURITY-RE-**
2 **LATED THREATS TO AGRICULTURE AND**
3 **FOOD SYSTEMS.**

4 Subtitle B of title XII of the Agriculture Improve-
5 ment Act of 2018 (Public Law 115–334; 132 Stat. 4944)
6 is amended by adding at the end the following:

7 **“SEC. 12206. CYBERSECURITY-RELATED THREATS TO AGRI-**
8 **CULTURE AND FOOD SYSTEMS.**

9 “(a) **RISK ASSESSMENT.**—The Secretary, in coordi-
10 nation with the Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security
11 Agency, the office at the Department of Agriculture estab-
12 lished under section 7318 of the National Defense Author-
13 ization Act for Fiscal Year 2024 (50 U.S.C. 3384), the
14 Commissioner of Food and Drugs, and the National Insti-
15 tute of Standards and Technology, shall conduct an as-
16 sessment, on a biennial basis, of cybersecurity-related
17 threats to and vulnerabilities in the agriculture and food
18 system, including—

19 “(1) the risk of cybersecurity attacks on the ag-
20 riculture and food system;

21 “(2) potential losses in the agriculture and food
22 system due to a cybersecurity attack;

23 “(3) the gaps, challenges, barriers, or opportu-
24 nities for improving defensive measures in the agri-
25 culture and food system;

1 (2) in subsection (a), in the matter preceding
2 paragraph (1), by striking “Secretary of Agriculture
3 may make” and inserting “Secretary shall establish
4 a program, to be known as the ‘Maple Research and
5 Market Promotion Program’, under which the Sec-
6 retary may make”;

7 (3) in subsection (e), by striking “of Agri-
8 culture”; and

9 (4) in subsection (f), by striking “2023” and
10 inserting “2029”.

11 **SEC. 12502. PROTECTING ANIMALS WITH SHELTER.**

12 Section 12502(b) of the Agriculture Improvement
13 Act of 2018 (34 U.S.C. 20127) is amended—

14 (1) in paragraph (1)(A), by striking “Office of
15 the” and inserting “Office on”; and

16 (2) in paragraph (8)(A), by striking “2023”
17 and inserting “2029”.

18 **SEC. 12503. BEAGLE BRIGADE.**

19 Subtitle C of the Plant Protection Act (7 U.S.C. 7751
20 et seq.) is amended by adding at the end the following:

21 **“SEC. 439. NATIONAL DETECTOR DOG TRAINING CENTER.**

22 “(a) IN GENERAL.—There is established a National
23 Detector Dog Training Center (referred to in this section
24 as the ‘Center’).

1 “(b) DUTIES.—The Center shall have the following
2 duties:

3 “(1) Training dogs for the purpose of safe-
4 guarding domestic agricultural and natural resources
5 from foreign and invasive pests and diseases.

6 “(2) Training human handlers to successfully
7 select and train dogs for the purpose described in
8 paragraph (1).

9 “(3) Collaborating with relevant Federal agen-
10 cies, including U.S. Customs and Border Protection,
11 to safeguard domestic agricultural and natural re-
12 sources.

13 “(4) Collaborating with external stakeholders,
14 including State departments of agriculture, local and
15 county agricultural officials, private sector entities,
16 and other relevant non-Federal partners.

17 “(5) Ensuring the health and welfare of all
18 dogs under the care of the Center, including by en-
19 suring access to necessary veterinary care, adequate
20 shelter, and proper nutrition.

21 “(6) Providing opportunities for private adop-
22 tion of retirement-age trained dogs and dogs that do
23 not complete training.

24 “(7) Any other duties necessary to safeguard
25 domestic agricultural and natural resources from

1 foreign and invasive pests and diseases, as deter-
2 mined by the Secretary, acting through the Adminis-
3 trator of the Animal and Plant Health Inspection
4 Service.

5 “(c) REPORT.—Not later than 1 year after the date
6 of enactment of this section, the Secretary, acting through
7 the Administrator of the Animal and Plant Health Inspec-
8 tion Service, shall submit to Congress a report that con-
9 tains—

10 “(1) a description of current and emerging
11 threats to domestic agricultural and natural re-
12 sources from foreign pests and diseases within the
13 purview of the operations of the Center;

14 “(2) an examination of the role that the Center
15 plays in the protection against foreign pests and dis-
16 eases;

17 “(3) a description of improvements needed in
18 Federal programs to minimize threats from foreign
19 pests and diseases within the purview of the oper-
20 ations of the Center, including strengthened coordi-
21 nation among the Animal and Plant Health Inspec-
22 tion Service, U.S. Customs and Border Protection,
23 and other relevant Federal agencies;

1 “(4) recommendations to strengthen the capa-
2 bilities of the Center in protecting against foreign
3 pests and diseases; and

4 “(5) recommendations to improve—

5 “(A) the dog procurement procedures of
6 the Center; and

7 “(B) private adoption opportunities for re-
8 tirement-age trained dogs and dogs that do not
9 complete training.”.

10 **SEC. 12504. IMPORTATION OF DOGS INTO THE UNITED**
11 **STATES.**

12 (a) IN GENERAL.—The Animal Health Protection
13 Act is amended by inserting after section 10404 (7 U.S.C.
14 8303) the following:

15 **“SEC. 10404A. IMPORTATION OF DOGS.**

16 “(a) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

17 “(1) COMPENSATION.—The term ‘compensa-
18 tion’ means any act, consideration, or thing of value
19 received by a person directly, including cash or
20 noncash benefits, cost-avoidance, obtaining positive
21 or avoiding negative publicity, an exchange of serv-
22 ices, or maintaining a license issued under any local,
23 State, or Federal government authority.

24 “(2) IMPORT TRANSPORTER.—The term ‘import
25 transporter’ means any person or entity who—

1 “(A) receives an imported dog from any
2 importer, dealer, research facility, exhibitor, op-
3 erator of an auction sale, or department, agen-
4 cy, or instrumentality of the United States or
5 of any State or local government; and

6 “(B) receives compensation for moving
7 that imported dog in commerce.

8 “(3) IMPORTER.—The term ‘importer’ means
9 any person who transports or causes the transpor-
10 tation of a dog into the United States from a foreign
11 country.

12 “(4) TRANSFER.—The term ‘transfer’ means a
13 change of ownership or control of an imported dog
14 to another person, including by sale, adoption, ex-
15 change, or donation.

16 “(b) REQUIREMENTS.—

17 “(1) IN GENERAL.—Except as provided in para-
18 graph (2), no person shall import a dog into the
19 United States unless, prior to transport to the
20 United States, the Secretary receives electronic doc-
21 umentation demonstrating, as determined by the
22 Secretary, that the dog—

23 “(A) is in good health;

24 “(B) has received all necessary vaccina-
25 tions and internal and external parasite treat-

1 ment and demonstrated negative test results, as
2 required by the Secretary and evidenced by a
3 certificate that—

4 “(i) is issued by a licensed veteri-
5 narian accredited by a competent veteri-
6 nary authority recognized by the Secretary;
7 and

8 “(ii) is endorsed by that authority in
9 a manner representing that the veteri-
10 narian issuing the certificate was author-
11 ized to do so;

12 “(C) is officially identified by a permanent
13 method approved by the Secretary; and

14 “(D) if intended for transfer—

15 “(i) is at least 6 months old; and

16 “(ii) is accompanied by an import per-
17 mit issued by the Secretary under this Act.

18 “(2) EXCEPTIONS.—The Secretary, by regula-
19 tion, shall provide an exception to any requirement
20 under this Act in any case in which a dog is im-
21 ported—

22 “(A) as a personal pet of United States or-
23 igin returning to the United States; or

24 “(B) for purposes of transfer for—

25 “(i) research purposes;

1 “(ii) veterinary treatment, paid for by
2 the importer, subject to the condition that
3 the dog—

4 “(I) is taken directly to a veteri-
5 nary facility for treatment with appro-
6 priate quarantine until the dog meets
7 the criteria described in paragraph
8 (1); and

9 “(II) is then exported to its coun-
10 try of origin; or

11 “(iii) in the case of a dog that is less
12 than 6 months old, lawful importation into
13 the State of Hawaii from the British Isles,
14 Australia, Guam, or New Zealand, in com-
15 pliance with the regulations of the State of
16 Hawaii and the other requirements of this
17 section, if the dog is not transported out of
18 the State of Hawaii for transfer at less
19 than 6 months of age.

20 “(c) IMPLEMENTATION AND REGULATIONS.—Not
21 later than 18 months after the date of enactment of the
22 Rural Prosperity and Food Security Act of 2024, the Sec-
23 retary, the Secretary of Health and Human Services, the
24 Secretary of Commerce, the Secretary of Homeland Secu-
25 rity, and the Secretary of Transportation shall promulgate

1 such regulations as the Secretaries determine to be nec-
2 essary to implement and enforce this section, including
3 regulations that—

4 “(1) facilitate electronic submission and inter-
5 agency sharing of all documentation required under
6 subsection (b)(1) prior to the arrival of a dog into
7 the United States;

8 “(2) establish any necessary postarrival
9 verification processes for imported dogs;

10 “(3) ensure the denial of entry into the United
11 States of any dog that fails to meet the require-
12 ments of subsection (b)(1);

13 “(4) require the Secretary to share with a State
14 veterinarian, on request of the State veterinarian,
15 the certificate described in subsection (b)(1)(B) for
16 the applicable imported dog; and

17 “(5) determine and establish such fees for the
18 verification of documentation and issuance of per-
19 mits with respect to dog importation as are nec-
20 essary to fund the implementation and enforcement
21 of this section.

22 “(d) RULE OF CONSTRUCTION.—Nothing in sub-
23 section (c)(5) limits the availability of funding made avail-
24 able under section 10417 to carry out this section.

25 “(e) ENFORCEMENT.—

1331

1 “(1) AUTHORITY.—The Secretary shall have
2 the authority granted under section 10414 to en-
3 force this section.

4 “(2) PENALTIES.—An importer or import
5 transporter that fails to comply with this section
6 shall—

7 “(A) be subject to penalties under section
8 10414; and

9 “(B) if the importer is a dealer, provide, as
10 the Secretary may determine, at the expense of
11 the importer, for—

12 “(i) the care (including appropriate
13 veterinary care), forfeiture, quarantine,
14 and removal from the United States of
15 each applicable dog; and

16 “(ii) the return of each applicable dog
17 to its place of export, with due care for the
18 welfare of each applicable dog.”.

19 (b) CONFORMING AMENDMENT.—Section 18 of the
20 Animal Welfare Act (7 U.S.C. 2148) is repealed.

21 (c) TRANSITION PERIOD.—Until the date on which
22 final regulations are issued under section 10404A(c) of the
23 Animal Health Protection Act (as added by subsection
24 (a)), the importation of live dogs shall be regulated in ac-
25 cordance with the regulations promulgated under section

1 18 of that Act (7 U.S.C. 2148) (as in effect on the day
2 before the date of enactment of this Act), but only to the
3 extent that those regulations are not in conflict with sec-
4 tion 10404A of that Act.

5 **SEC. 12505. VETERINARY MEDICINE LOAN REPAYMENT**
6 **PROGRAM AND VETERINARY SERVICES**
7 **GRANT PROGRAM.**

8 (a) VETERINARY MEDICINE LOAN REPAYMENT PRO-
9 GRAM.—

10 (1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall conduct
11 a study to review the veterinary medicine loan repay-
12 ment program established under section 1415A of
13 the National Agricultural Research, Extension, and
14 Teaching Policy Act of 1977 (7 U.S.C. 3151a) (re-
15 ferred to in this subsection as the “program”)—

16 (A) to determine if the program is achiev-
17 ing its purpose of ensuring that an adequate
18 supply of trained food animal veterinarians are
19 placed in identified veterinarian shortage situa-
20 tions (as determined under subsection (b) of
21 that section (7 U.S.C. 3151a(b))); and

22 (B) to identify recommendations for im-
23 provements to the program, including improve-
24 ments that may be implemented administra-
25 tively or that require statutory authorization.

1 (2) CONTENTS.—The study under paragraph

2 (1) shall include—

3 (A) retention and compensation data of
4 awardees;

5 (B) data on the student loan debt of appli-
6 cants and awardees;

7 (C) an examination of the seasonality of
8 practice type for food animal practitioners; and

9 (D) an estimate of the benefits of increas-
10 ing the maximum annual payment amount to-
11 wards qualified educational loans.

12 (3) COMMUNITY INPUT.—In carrying out the
13 study under paragraph (1), the Secretary shall seek
14 input from stakeholders on—

15 (A) whether the program is meeting its
16 short-term objective of matching specific area
17 needs with the knowledge, skills, abilities, expe-
18 riences, goals, and aspirations of applicants;

19 (B) whether the program is meeting its
20 long-term objective of providing educational
21 loan repayment support to veterinarians to sus-
22 tain clinical private and public practice in vet-
23 erinary shortage situations described in para-
24 graph (1)(A);

1 (C) identifying concerns and problems with
2 program implementation;

3 (D) providing solutions for problems iden-
4 tified in subparagraph (C), to include in rec-
5 ommendations under paragraph (1)(B); and

6 (E) any other issues that the Secretary de-
7 termines appropriate.

8 (4) REPORT.—The Secretary shall submit to
9 the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and For-
10 estry of the Senate and the Committee on Agri-
11 culture of the House of Representatives a report
12 that describes the results of the study conducted
13 under paragraph (1), including—

14 (A) the recommendations described in
15 paragraph (1)(B) and any other recommenda-
16 tions that the Secretary determines appropriate;
17 and

18 (B) any data and information gaps identi-
19 fied for applicants and awardees of the pro-
20 gram.

21 (b) VETERINARY SERVICES GRANT PROGRAM.—

22 (1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall conduct
23 a study to review the veterinary services grant pro-
24 gram established under section 1415B of the Na-
25 tional Agricultural Research, Extension, and Teach-

1 ing Policy Act of 1977 (7 U.S.C. 3151b) (referred
2 to in this subsection as the “program”)—

3 (A) to determine if the program is achiev-
4 ing its purpose of relieving veterinarian short-
5 age situations (as defined in subsection (a) of
6 that section (7 U.S.C. 3151b(a)) and sup-
7 porting veterinary services; and

8 (B) to identify recommendations for im-
9 provements to the program, including improve-
10 ments that may be implemented administra-
11 tively or that require statutory authorization.

12 (2) COMMUNITY INPUT.—In carrying out the
13 study under paragraph (1), the Secretary shall seek
14 input from stakeholders on—

15 (A) whether the education, extension, and
16 training grants are achieving their purpose of
17 developing, implementing, and sustaining veteri-
18 nary services through education, training, re-
19 cruitment, placement, and retention of veteri-
20 narians, veterinary technicians, and students of
21 veterinary medicine and veterinary technology;

22 (B) whether the rural practice enhance-
23 ment grants are achieving their purpose of es-
24 tablishing or expanding veterinary practices in
25 rural areas;

1 (C) identifying concerns and problems with
2 program implementation;

3 (D) providing solutions for problems iden-
4 tified under subparagraph (C), to include in
5 recommendations under paragraph (1)(B); and

6 (E) any other issues that the Secretary de-
7 termines appropriate.

8 (3) REPORT.—The Secretary shall submit to
9 the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and For-
10 estry of the Senate and the Committee on Agri-
11 culture of the House of Representatives a report
12 that describes the results of the study conducted
13 under paragraph (1), including the recommendations
14 described in paragraph (1)(B) and any other rec-
15 ommendations that the Secretary determines appro-
16 priate.

17 **SEC. 12506. REPORT ON ANIMAL DEPOPULATION.**

18 (a) DEFINITION OF MASS DEPOPULATION.—In this
19 section, the term “mass depopulation” means the method
20 by which large numbers of animals are destroyed quickly
21 and efficiently to contain, control, and eradicate disease.

22 (b) REPORT.—Not later than December 31 of each
23 year, the Administrator of the Animal and Plant Health
24 Inspection Service shall submit to the Secretary a report
25 that describes the mass depopulation activities carried out

1 or facilitated by the Animal and Plant Health Inspection
2 Service during the previous fiscal year, including the fol-
3 lowing information with regard to each mass depopulation:

4 (1) The dates of the mass depopulation.

5 (2) The general geographic region in which the
6 mass depopulation occurred.

7 (3) Reasons for the mass depopulation.

8 (4) The total number, species, and breed of the
9 depopulated animals.

10 (5) The depopulation and disposal methods that
11 were used.

12 (6) Any monitoring, testing, or sampling pro-
13 tocol used to monitor releases of environmental con-
14 taminants from the disposal location.

15 (7) The total cost associated with the mass de-
16 population and disposal.

17 (c) PUBLICLY SEARCHABLE DATABASE.—The Sec-
18 retary shall develop and make publicly available an elec-
19 tronically searchable and sortable database that contains
20 the information reported under subsection (b).

21 **SEC. 12507. RETIREMENT OF RESEARCH ANIMALS.**

22 (a) IN GENERAL.—Section 14 of the Animal Welfare
23 Act (7 U.S.C. 2144) is amended to read as follows:

24 **“SEC. 14. STANDARDS FOR FEDERAL FACILITIES.**

25 “(a) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

1 “(1) ANIMAL RESCUE ORGANIZATION.—The
2 term ‘animal rescue organization’ means a nonprofit
3 organization the purpose of which is to rescue cov-
4 ered animals and find permanent adoptive homes for
5 those animals.

6 “(2) ANIMAL SHELTER.—The term ‘animal
7 shelter’ means a facility that—

8 “(A) accepts or seizes covered animals—

9 “(i) to care for the animals;

10 “(ii) to place those animals in a per-
11 manent adoptive home; or

12 “(iii) for purposes of law enforcement;

13 and

14 “(B) does not—

15 “(i) engage in commercial trade of
16 covered animals;

17 “(ii) breed covered animals;

18 “(iii) allow the use of a covered ani-
19 mal for performance or exhibition pur-
20 poses; or

21 “(iv) conduct or permit research on a
22 covered animal other than noninvasive be-
23 havioral research.

24 “(3) COVERED ANIMAL.—The term ‘covered
25 animal’ means a dog or a cat that is unwanted,

1 abandoned, or otherwise in need of placement in a
2 home.

3 “(4) NONPROFIT ORGANIZATION.—The term
4 ‘nonprofit organization’ means an organization de-
5 scribed in section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue
6 Code of 1986 and exempt from taxation under sec-
7 tion 501(a) of that Code.

8 “(5) SUITABLE FOR RETIREMENT.—The term
9 ‘suitable for retirement’ means, with respect to an
10 animal, that the animal has been evaluated by a li-
11 censed veterinarian and is determined to be mentally
12 and physically healthy.

13 “(b) LABORATORY ANIMAL FACILITIES AND EXHIBI-
14 TORS.—Any department, agency, or instrumentality of the
15 United States that operates laboratory animal facilities or
16 exhibits animals shall comply with the standards and other
17 requirements promulgated by the Secretary under sub-
18 sections (a), (g), (h), and (i) of section 13.

19 “(c) RETIREMENT.—

20 “(1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 90 days
21 after the date of enactment of the Rural Prosperity
22 and Food Security Act of 2024, any department,
23 agency, or instrumentality of the United States op-
24 erating a Federal research facility shall, after public
25 notice and comment, promulgate regulations that,

1 with respect to any covered animal of the facility
2 that is no longer needed for research and is deter-
3 mined to be suitable for retirement—

4 “(A) facilitate and encourage the adoption
5 of the covered animal by, or placement of the
6 covered animal with, an animal rescue organiza-
7 tion, an animal shelter, or an individual who in-
8 tends to keep the covered animal as a pet; and

9 “(B) to the maximum extent practicable,
10 seek collaboration with appropriate nonprofit
11 organizations to carry out subparagraph (A).

12 “(2) NATIONAL PLACEMENT.—The regulations
13 promulgated to carry out paragraph (1)(A) shall in-
14 clude consideration of placing covered animals with
15 the entities described in that subparagraph that are
16 located beyond the immediate geographic vicinity of
17 the Federal research facility at which the covered
18 animal being retired is located.

19 “(d) EFFECT ON OTHER LAWS.—Nothing in this sec-
20 tion, including regulations promulgated under subsection
21 (c)(1), shall—

22 “(1) preempt any State or local law relating to
23 the adoption or placement of animals used in re-
24 search that is more stringent than the requirements
25 of this section; or

1 “(2) prevent a State or unit of local government
2 from adopting or enforcing an animal welfare law
3 that is more stringent than this section.”.

4 (b) **TECHNICAL AMENDMENTS.**—Section 13 of the
5 Animal Welfare Act (7 U.S.C. 2143) is amended—

6 (1) by redesignating subsections (g) and (h) as
7 subsections (h) and (i), respectively; and

8 (2) by redesignating the second subsection (f)
9 (relating to the certification requirement for the de-
10 livery of any animal) as subsection (g).

11 **SEC. 12508. STRENGTHENING ENFORCEMENT OF ANIMAL**
12 **WELFARE ACT.**

13 (a) **DEFINITIONS.**—Section 2 of the Animal Welfare
14 Act (7 U.S.C. 2132) is amended—

15 (1) in subsection (b), by striking “of the United
16 States or his representative who shall be an em-
17 ployee of the United States” and inserting “or a
18 representative of the Secretary of Agriculture, who
19 shall be an employee of the”;

20 (2) in subsection (c)(1), by adding “or” at the
21 end after the semicolon; and

22 (3) in each of subsections (a) through (o)—

23 (A) by inserting a subsection heading, the
24 text of which comprises the term defined in the
25 subsection;

1 (B) by reordering the subsections so as to
2 appear in alphabetical order based on the sub-
3 section headings (as so added); and

4 (C) by redesignating the subsections (as so
5 reordered) appropriately.

6 (b) SALE OR TRANSPORTATION WITHOUT LI-
7 CENSE.—Section 4 of the Animal Welfare Act (7 U.S.C.
8 2134) is amended to read as follows:

9 **“SEC. 4. SALE OR TRANSPORTATION WITHOUT LICENSE.**

10 “No dealer or exhibitor shall do any of the following
11 in commerce: exhibit, purchase, offer to purchase, sell,
12 offer to sell, transport, or offer for transportation any ani-
13 mal, unless the dealer or exhibitor has a valid license from
14 the Secretary that has not been suspended.”.

15 (c) INVESTIGATIONS AND INSPECTIONS.—Section
16 16(c) of the Animal Welfare Act (7 U.S.C. 2146(c)) is
17 amended in the fourth sentence by striking “enforce, and
18 to prevent and restrain violations of this Act,” and insert-
19 ing “enforce, prevent, and restrain violations of this Act,
20 or any rule, standard, or regulation promulgated pursuant
21 to this Act,”.

22 (d) CIVIL PENALTY.—Section 19 of the Animal Wel-
23 fare Act (7 U.S.C. 2149) is amended—

1 (1) in subsection (d), in the first sentence, by
2 inserting “, or any rule, standard, or regulation pro-
3 mulgated thereunder,” before “shall”; and

4 (2) by adding at the end the following:

5 “(e) REWARDS AND CERTAIN INCIDENTAL EX-
6 PENSES.—With respect to the sums received by the Sec-
7 retary or the Attorney General as penalties or fines for
8 any violation of this Act or any rule, standard, or regula-
9 tion promulgated thereunder, the Secretary or the Attor-
10 ney General, as applicable, shall use those sums to pay
11 the reasonable and necessary costs incurred by any person
12 in providing temporary care for any animal pending the
13 disposition of any civil or criminal proceeding alleging a
14 violation of this Act with respect to that animal.”.

15 (e) ENFORCEMENT BY ATTORNEY GENERAL.—The
16 Animal Welfare Act is amended by inserting after section
17 19 (7 U.S.C. 2149) the following:

18 **“SEC. 20. ENFORCEMENT BY ATTORNEY GENERAL.**

19 “(a) IN GENERAL.—The Attorney General may bring
20 a civil action in the appropriate district court of the
21 United States for appropriate relief, including a temporary
22 restraining order, preliminary or permanent injunction
23 (including for removal or relocation of animals), license
24 revocation, and civil penalties of up to \$10,000 for each
25 violation for each day during which the violation con-

1 tinues, against any person who violates any provision of
2 this Act or any rule, standard, or regulation promulgated
3 thereunder.

4 “(b) SEIZURE AND FORFEITURE OF ANIMALS.—

5 “(1) IN GENERAL.—Any animal that is sub-
6 jected to conduct that constitutes a violation of this
7 Act, or any rule, standard, or regulation promul-
8 gated thereunder, shall be subject to seizure and for-
9 feiture to the United States in accordance with
10 chapter 46 of title 18, United States Code.

11 “(2) COSTS.—Any person whose act or omis-
12 sion is the basis for a seizure authorized by subpara-
13 graph (1) may be charged a reasonable fee for ex-
14 penses to the United States relating to the transfer
15 and care of the seized animal.

16 “(c) WARRANTS.—The judges of the district courts
17 of the United States and United States magistrate judges
18 may, within their respective jurisdictions, on proper oath
19 or affirmation showing probable cause, issue such war-
20 rants or other processes as may be required for enforce-
21 ment of this Act and any rule, standard, or regulation pro-
22 mulgated thereunder.

23 “(d) SAVINGS CLAUSE.—

24 “(1) ATTORNEY GENERAL.—No action taken by
25 the Attorney General pursuant to this section shall

1 affect or limit the authority of the Secretary to en-
2 force any provision of this Act or any rule, standard,
3 or regulation thereunder.

4 “(2) SECRETARY.—No action taken by the Sec-
5 retary shall affect or limit the authority of the At-
6 torney General under this Act.”.

7 (f) AUTHORITY TO APPLY FOR INJUNCTIONS.—Sec-
8 tion 29(b) of the Animal Welfare Act (7 U.S.C. 2159(b))
9 is amended by striking the second sentence.

10 (g) SEVERABILITY.—The Animal Welfare Act (7
11 U.S.C. 2131 et seq.) is amended by adding at the end
12 the following:

13 **“SEC. 30. SEVERABILITY.**

14 “‘If any provision of this Act, or the application there-
15 of, is held invalid, the validity of the remainder of this
16 Act and the application of such provision to other persons
17 and circumstances shall not be affected.’”.

18 (h) MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING.—Not later
19 than 180 days after the date of enactment of this Act,
20 the Secretary shall enter into a memorandum of under-
21 standing with the Attorney General to carry out the au-
22 thorities granted by the amendments made by this section,
23 including an agreement to provide the Attorney General
24 with timely information about violators who have multiple

1 citations that seriously or adversely affect the health or
2 well-being of an animal.

3 (i) SENSE OF CONGRESS.—It is the sense of Con-
4 gress that—

5 (1) section 16(c) of the Animal Welfare Act (7
6 U.S.C. 2146(c)) establishes the jurisdiction of Fed-
7 eral courts to address violations of, and cases arising
8 from violations of, that Act and provides the Attor-
9 ney General with the authority to bring such cases
10 in Federal court; and

11 (2) the enforcement jurisdiction of the Federal
12 courts, and the corresponding enforcement authority
13 of the Attorney General, include violations of the
14 rules, standards, and regulations promulgated under
15 that Act.

16 **SEC. 12509. DAIRY BUSINESS INNOVATION INITIATIVES.**

17 Section 12513(i) of the Agriculture Improvement Act
18 of 2018 (7 U.S.C. 1632d(i)) is amended by striking
19 “\$20,000,000” and inserting “\$36,000,000”.

20 **SEC. 12510. MARKETING ORDERS.**

21 Section 8e(a) of the Agricultural Adjustment Act (7
22 U.S.C. 608e–1(a)), reenacted with amendments by the Ag-
23 ricultural Marketing Agreement Act of 1937, is amend-
24 ed—

1 (1) in the first sentence, by striking “dates, fil-
2 berts” and inserting “dates (including dates for
3 processing), filberts”;

4 (2) by striking “, other than dates for proc-
5 essing,” each place it appears; and

6 (3) by striking “he” each place it appears and
7 inserting “the Secretary of Agriculture”.

8 **SEC. 12511. FARMER SEED LIAISON.**

9 Subtitle I of the Department of Agriculture Reorga-
10 nization Act of 1994 (7 U.S.C. 7005) is amended by add-
11 ing at the end the following:

12 **“SEC. 286. FARMER SEED LIAISON.**

13 “(a) AUTHORIZATION.—The Secretary shall establish
14 in the Agricultural Marketing Service the position of
15 Farmer Seed Liaison.

16 “(b) DUTIES.—The Farmer Seed Liaison shall—

17 “(1) elevate the voices of farmers, small- and
18 mid-sized seed companies, and independent plant
19 breeders for the purpose of strengthening competi-
20 tion and choice in the seed marketplace;

21 “(2) serve as a point of contact within the De-
22 partment for stakeholders regarding all matters re-
23 lating to seeds;

24 “(3) liaise with the United States Patent and
25 Trademark Office and other relevant Federal and

1 State agencies and international bodies regarding
2 seed issues;

3 “(4) engage with farmers, seed companies,
4 plant breeders, and the public regarding trans-
5 parency and competition in seed markets, including
6 with respect to the Federal Seed Act (7 U.S.C. 1551
7 et seq.);

8 “(5) promote innovation by working with rel-
9 evant research agencies of the Department—

10 “(A) to identify priorities for public plant
11 breeding research and development; and

12 “(B) to promote research access to seed
13 germplasm;

14 “(6) review, and advise the Secretary regarding,
15 farmer and plant breeder rights and protections
16 under relevant laws (including the effectiveness of
17 compliance with, and enforcement of, those laws),
18 including the monitoring of—

19 “(A) any online materials that advertise
20 seeds regulated under the Federal Seed Act (7
21 U.S.C. 1551 et seq.);

22 “(B) contracting and data usage practices
23 that implicate farmer and plant breeder pri-
24 vacy, use rights, or competition; and

1 “(C) licensing or marketing arrangements
2 between seed companies and farmers or plant
3 breeders;

4 “(7) establish and periodically update the
5 website described in subsection (d); and

6 “(8) in carrying out the duties described in
7 paragraphs (1) through (7), consult with and pro-
8 vide technical assistance to any Federal department
9 or agency.

10 “(c) SUPPORT.—Notwithstanding any other provision
11 of law, the Secretary may authorize staff in other agencies
12 and offices of the Department, including the Plant Variety
13 Protection Office in the Agricultural Marketing Service,
14 to support the duties of the Farmer Seed Liaison under
15 this section.

16 “(d) WEBSITE REQUIRED.—The website referred to
17 in subsection (b)(7) shall include—

18 “(1) resources, either within the Department or
19 within other Federal departments or agencies, that
20 promote innovation and competition within the seed
21 marketplace; and

22 “(2) opportunities for stakeholder engagement
23 and feedback.

24 “(e) CONSULTATION REQUIRED.—In carrying out
25 this section, the Secretary shall consult with relevant

1 stakeholder organizations, including those that serve farm-
2 ers, small- and mid-sized seed companies, and independent
3 plant breeders.

4 “(f) REPORT.—

5 “(1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 1 year after
6 the date of enactment of this section, and annually
7 thereafter, the Secretary shall submit a report on
8 the activities of the Farmer Seed Liaison in the
9 prior fiscal year to—

10 “(A) the Committee on Agriculture of the
11 House of Representatives; and

12 “(B) the Committee on Agriculture, Nutri-
13 tion, and Forestry of the Senate.

14 “(2) PUBLICLY AVAILABLE.—The Secretary
15 shall make the report described in paragraph (1)
16 publicly available on the website of the Department.

17 “(g) FUNDING.—In addition to any amounts other-
18 wise available, there is authorized to be appropriated
19 \$3,500,000 for each fiscal year to carry out this section.”.

20 **SEC. 12512. PROCUREMENT STUDY AND REPORT.**

21 (a) STUDY.—The Secretary shall conduct a study to
22 examine barriers to and opportunities for commodity food
23 purchases by the Department of Agriculture (including
24 under programs funded by the Department of Agri-
25 culture), including—

1 (1) the barriers to and opportunities for com-
2 modity food purchases by the Department of Agri-
3 culture (including under programs funded by the
4 Department of Agriculture) with respect to—

5 (A) food produced by—

6 (i) beginning, veteran, limited re-
7 source, and underserved farmers and
8 ranchers;

9 (ii) small to mid-sized farm oper-
10 ations;

11 (iii) agricultural cooperatives; and

12 (iv) independent small and mid-sized
13 meat and poultry processors;

14 (B) food produced pursuant to certifi-
15 cations relating to—

16 (i) organic production;

17 (ii) animal welfare;

18 (iii) climate-smart practices;

19 (iv) using fair labor practices, such as
20 a fair trade certification; or

21 (v) other process-related or product
22 attribute certifications determined appro-
23 priate by the Secretary; and

1 (C) food produced by or supplied by pro-
2 viders of Kosher, Halal, Tribal, or other cul-
3 turally relevant agricultural products; and

4 (2) the extent to which existing procurement
5 channels, including the Local Food Purchase Assist-
6 ance Cooperative Agreement Program, have ad-
7 dressed barriers to and opportunities for commodity
8 food purchases by the Department of Agriculture
9 (including under programs funded by the Depart-
10 ment of Agriculture) for each of the barriers identi-
11 fied in paragraph (1).

12 (b) REPORT.—Not later than 18 months after the
13 date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary shall publish
14 and make publicly available on the website of the Depart-
15 ment of Agriculture a report describing in detail the re-
16 sults of the study conducted under subsection (a).

17 **SEC. 12513. PROMOTION OF FOOD AND AGRICULTURAL**
18 **WORKPLACE ACCOUNTABILITY.**

19 (a) REQUIRED REPRESENTATIONS AND CERTIFI-
20 CATIONS.—Not later than 18 months after the date of en-
21 actment of this Act, the Secretary shall—

22 (1) require any entity that enters into a con-
23 tract with the Department of Agriculture to rep-
24 resent, on an annual basis and to the best of the
25 knowledge of the entity, whether, within the pre-

1 ceding 3-year period, any final administrative merits
2 determination, arbitral award or decision, or civil
3 judgment, as defined in coordination with the Sec-
4 retary of Labor, has been issued against the entity
5 for any violation of section 12 of the Fair Labor
6 Standards Act of 1938 (29 U.S.C. 212), relating to
7 child labor;

8 (2) require that an offeror with respect to a
9 contract with the Department of Agriculture—

10 (A) certify, to the best of the knowledge of
11 the entity, whether, within the preceding 3-year
12 period, any final administrative merits deter-
13 mination, arbitral award or decision, or civil
14 judgment, as defined by the Secretary in coordi-
15 nation with the Secretary of Labor, for a viola-
16 tion described in paragraph (1) has been issued
17 against the entity; and

18 (B) require such a certification from each
19 of the subcontractors or service providers to be
20 used in performing, or that were considered for
21 the performance of, the contract for which the
22 offeror is submitting an offer and provide such
23 certifications with the certification by the offer-
24 or under subparagraph (A);

1 (3) prohibit the Department of Agriculture
2 from awarding a contract to—

3 (A) an entity that provides an affirmative
4 response to a representation under paragraph
5 (1) and has failed to implement any corrective
6 measure negotiated under subsection (b); or

7 (B) an offeror that—

8 (i) provides an affirmative response to
9 a certification under paragraph (2) and
10 has failed to implement any corrective
11 measure negotiated under subsection (b);

12 or

13 (ii) intends to use a subcontractor or
14 service provider in the performance of the
15 contract that was identified as having vio-
16 lations in such an affirmative response and
17 has failed to implement any corrective
18 measure negotiated under such subsection;

19 (4) require the name and address of each entity
20 that provides an affirmative response to a represen-
21 tation under paragraph (1), and the name and ad-
22 dress of each offeror, subcontractor, or service pro-
23 vider identified as having violations in an affirmative
24 response to a certification under paragraph (2), to
25 be referred to the Secretary of Labor for purposes

1 of negotiating with that entity, offeror, subcon-
2 tractor, or service provider on corrective measures
3 under subsection (b) and preparing the list and con-
4 ducting suspension and debarment proceedings
5 under subsection (c); and

6 (5) coordinate with the Secretary of Labor to
7 provide procedures for consultation with the Sec-
8 retary of Labor by an offeror described in paragraph
9 (2) to assist the offeror in evaluating the informa-
10 tion on compliance with section 12 of the Fair Labor
11 Standards Act of 1938 (29 U.S.C. 212), relating to
12 child labor, submitted to the offeror by a subcon-
13 tractor or service provider pursuant to such para-
14 graph.

15 (b) CORRECTIVE MEASURES.—An entity that makes
16 an affirmative response to a representation under sub-
17 section (a)(1) or offeror, subcontractor, or service provider
18 that makes an affirmative response in a certification under
19 subsection (a)(2)—

20 (1) shall update the representation or certifi-
21 cation, respectively, based on any steps taken by the
22 entity, offeror, subcontractor, or service provider to
23 correct violations of or improve compliance with sec-
24 tion 12 of the Fair Labor Standards Act of 1938
25 (29 U.S.C. 212), relating to child labor, including

1 any agreements entered into with the Secretary of
2 Labor; and

3 (2) may negotiate with the Secretary of Labor
4 regarding corrective measures that the entity, offer-
5 or, subcontractor, or service provider may take in
6 order to avoid being placed on the list under sub-
7 section (c) and referred for suspension and debar-
8 ment proceedings under such subsection, in the case
9 the entity, offeror, subcontractor, or service provider
10 meets the criteria for such list and proceedings
11 under such subsection.

12 (c) LIST OF INELIGIBLE ENTITIES.—

13 (1) IN GENERAL.—For each calendar year be-
14 ginning with the first calendar year that begins after
15 the date that is 2 years after the date of enactment
16 of this Act, the Secretary of Labor, in coordination
17 with the Secretary as necessary, shall prepare a list
18 and conduct suspension and debarment proceedings
19 for—

20 (A) each entity that provided an affirma-
21 tive response to a representation under sub-
22 section (a)(1) and has failed to implement any
23 corrective measure negotiated under subsection
24 (b) for the year of the list; and

1 (B) each offeror, subcontractor, or service
2 provider that was identified as having violations
3 in an affirmative response to a certification
4 under subsection (a)(2) and has failed to imple-
5 ment any corrective measure negotiated under
6 subsection (b) for the year of the list.

7 (2) INELIGIBILITY.—

8 (A) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall
9 not, during the period of time described in sub-
10 paragraph (B), solicit offers from, award con-
11 tracts to, or consent to subcontracts with any
12 entity, offeror, subcontractor, or service pro-
13 vider that is listed—

14 (i) under paragraph (1); and

15 (ii) as an active exclusion in the Sys-
16 tem for Award Management.

17 (B) PERIOD OF TIME.—The period of time
18 described in this subparagraph is a period of
19 time determined by the suspension and debar-
20 ment official that is not less than 4 years from
21 the date on which the entity, offeror, subcon-
22 tractor, or service provider is listed as an exclu-
23 sion in the System for Award Management.

24 (3) ADDITIONAL CONSIDERATIONS.—In deter-
25 mining the entities to consider for suspension and

1 debarment proceedings under paragraph (1), the
2 Secretary of Labor shall ensure procedures for such
3 determination are consistent with the procedures set
4 forth in subpart 9.4 of the Federal Acquisition Reg-
5 ulation for the suspension and debarment of Federal
6 contractors.

7 (d) PENALTIES FOR FAILURE TO REPORT.—

8 (1) OFFENSE.—It shall be unlawful for a per-
9 son to knowingly fail to make a representation or
10 certification required under paragraph (1) or (2), re-
11 spectively, of subsection (a).

12 (2) PENALTY.—

13 (A) IN GENERAL.—A violation of para-
14 graph (1) shall be referred by the Secretary for
15 suspension and debarment proceedings, to be
16 conducted by the suspension and debarment of-
17 ficial of the Department of Labor.

18 (B) LOSS TO GOVERNMENT.—A violation
19 of paragraph (1) shall be subject to the pen-
20 alties under sections 3729 through 3733 of title
21 31, United States Code (commonly known as
22 the “False Claims Act”).

23 (e) PUBLIC AVAILABILITY.—For each calendar year
24 beginning with the first calendar year that begins after
25 the date that is 2 years after the date of enactment of

1 this Act, the Secretary, in coordination with the Secretary
2 of Labor, shall make publicly available on a public website
3 a report that includes—

4 (1) the number of entities, offerors, subcontractors,
5 or service providers on the list under subsection
6 (c) for the year of the report;

7 (2) the number of entities, offerors, subcontractors,
8 or service providers that agreed to take correc-
9 tive measures under subsection (b) for such year;

10 (3) the amount of the applicable contracts with
11 the Department of Agriculture for the entities,
12 offerors, subcontractors, or service providers de-
13 scribed in paragraph (1) or (2); and

14 (4) an assessment of the effectiveness of the
15 implementation of this section for such year.

16 (f) GAO STUDY.—Not later than 2 years after the
17 date of enactment of this Act, the Comptroller General
18 of the United States shall—

19 (1) conduct a study on the prevalence of viola-
20 tions of section 12 of the Fair Labor Standards Act
21 of 1938 (29 U.S.C. 212), relating to child labor,
22 among entities that have entered into contracts with
23 the Department of Agriculture; and

24 (2) submit a report containing the findings of
25 the study conducted under paragraph (1) to—

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1 (A) the Committee on Agriculture, Nutri-
2 tion, and Forestry of the Senate;

3 (B) the Committee on Homeland Security
4 and Governmental Affairs of the Senate;

5 (C) the Committee on Agriculture of the
6 House of Representatives; and

7 (D) the Committee on Oversight and Ac-
8 countability of the House of Representatives.

9 **SEC. 12514. RELIEF FOR FARMERS.**

10 (a) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

11 (1) AGRICULTURAL LAND.—

12 (A) IN GENERAL.—The term “agricultural
13 land” means any land that is used, or capable
14 of use without substantial modification, for pro-
15 duction of farm products.

16 (B) INCLUSIONS.—The term “agricultural
17 land” includes irrigation water, livestock water,
18 surface water, groundwater, and agricultural in-
19 puts on or associated with land described in
20 subparagraph (A).

21 (2) COMMERCIAL FARM.—The term “commer-
22 cial farm” means a farm on which a person pro-
23 duces any farm product with the intent that the
24 farm product be sold or otherwise disposed of to
25 generate income.

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1 (3) ELIGIBLE GOVERNMENT.—The term “eligi-
2 ble government” means—

- 3 (A) a State;
4 (B) the District of Columbia;
5 (C) a territory of the United States; and
6 (D) an Indian Tribe.

7 (4) FARM PRODUCT.—

8 (A) IN GENERAL.—The term “farm prod-
9 uct” means any plant or animal that is useful
10 to humans.

11 (B) INCLUSIONS.—The term “farm prod-
12 uct” includes—

- 13 (i) forages;
14 (ii) sod crops;
15 (iii) grains;
16 (iv) food crops;
17 (v) dairy products;
18 (vi) poultry and poultry products;
19 (vii) bees;
20 (viii) livestock and livestock products;
21 (ix) products of aquaculture;
22 (x) fruits;
23 (xi) berries;
24 (xii) vegetables;
25 (xiii) flowers;

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- 1 (xiv) seeds;
2 (xv) grasses;
3 (xvi) Christmas trees; and
4 (xvii) other similar products, as deter-
5 mined by the Secretary.

6 (5) PERFLUOROALKYL OR POLYFLUOROALKYL
7 SUBSTANCE; PFAS.—The term “perfluoroalkyl or
8 polyfluoroalkyl substance” or “PFAS” means a
9 chemical that—

10 (A) contains at least one of—

11 (i) $R-(CF_2)-CF(R')R''$, where both
12 the CF_2 and CF moieties are saturated
13 carbons, and none of the R groups can be
14 hydrogen;

15 (ii) $R-CF_2OCF_2-R'$, where both the
16 CF_2 moieties are saturated carbons, and
17 none of the R groups can be hydrogen; or

18 (iii) $CF_3C(CF_3)RR'$, where all the
19 carbons are saturated, and none of the R
20 groups can be hydrogen; or

21 (B) is covered by the most recent working
22 definition of PFAS issued by the Administrator
23 of the Environmental Protection Agency.

24 (6) PROGRAM.—The term “program” means
25 the program established under subsection (b).

1 (7) SEPTAGE.—The term “septage” means
2 waste, refuse, effluent, sludge, and any other mate-
3 rials from septic tanks, cesspools, or any other simi-
4 lar facilities.

5 (8) SLUDGE.—The term “sludge” means—

6 (A) solid, semisolid, or liquid waste gen-
7 erated from a municipal, commercial, or indus-
8 trial—

9 (i) wastewater treatment plant;

10 (ii) water supply treatment plant; or

11 (iii) wet process air pollution control
12 facility; and

13 (B) any other waste having similar charac-
14 teristics and effect.

15 (b) ESTABLISHMENT.—The Secretary shall establish
16 a program under which the Secretary shall provide grants
17 to eligible governments for the purposes described in sub-
18 section (f).

19 (c) ELIGIBILITY.—

20 (1) IN GENERAL.—To be eligible to receive a
21 grant under the program, the territory of an eligible
22 government shall contain—

23 (A) agricultural land that contains any soil
24 with levels of PFAS that have been determined

1 to be unsafe pursuant to criteria established by
2 the Secretary; or

3 (B) water used for the production of farm
4 products with levels of PFAS that have been
5 determined to be unsafe pursuant to criteria es-
6 tablished by the Secretary.

7 (2) CONSIDERATION.—In determining the eligi-
8 bility of an eligible government for a grant under the
9 program, the Secretary, in consultation with the Ad-
10 ministrator of the Environmental Protection Agency,
11 shall consider State standards and limitations relat-
12 ing to soil and water.

13 (d) APPLICATIONS.—

14 (1) IN GENERAL.—To receive a grant under the
15 program, the department of agriculture or similar
16 agency of an eligible government shall submit to the
17 Secretary an application at such time, in such man-
18 ner, and containing such information as the Sec-
19 retary may require.

20 (2) SPEND PLAN.—An application submitted
21 under paragraph (1) shall contain a plan describing
22 how the eligible government will administer the
23 funding received under the program, including fund-
24 ing priorities and oversight.

1 (e) SET-ASIDE.—Each year, the Secretary shall pro-
2 vide not less than 30 percent of the total funding provided
3 under the program to 1 or more eligible governments with
4 a population of less than 3,000,000.

5 (f) PURPOSES AND USE OF GRANT FUNDS.—

6 (1) IN GENERAL.—An eligible government may
7 use a grant received under the program to provide
8 funding for any of the following purposes:

9 (A) Monitoring (including through blood
10 serum testing) the PFAS-related health com-
11 plications of a person, and members of the
12 household of that person, if agricultural land
13 the person lives or works on is found to be con-
14 taminated by PFAS.

15 (B) Buying, selling, or providing com-
16 pensation for agricultural land or farm products
17 found, through test results provided to the eligi-
18 ble government, to be contaminated by PFAS,
19 including costs associated with the depopulation
20 or disposal of farm products, premortem or
21 postmortem.

22 (C) Investing in agricultural equipment,
23 facilities, and infrastructure to ensure that agri-
24 cultural land that, or a commercial farm any
25 agricultural land of which, is found to be con-

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1 taminated by PFAS maintains profitability
2 while the producers on the agricultural land, in
3 response to the PFAS contamination—

4 (i) transition to an alternative produc-
5 tion system; or

6 (ii) implement remediation strategies
7 (including disposal), technological adapta-
8 tions, or other modifications to the oper-
9 ations of the agricultural land or commer-
10 cial farm.

11 (D) Assisting the producers on agricultural
12 land that, or a commercial farm any agricul-
13 tural land of which, is found to be contami-
14 nated by PFAS in developing an enterprise
15 budget for—

16 (i) alternative production systems;

17 (ii) remediation strategies;

18 (iii) technological adaptations;

19 (iv) transitioning to an alternative
20 revenue stream; or

21 (v) relocating a farming operation to
22 new agricultural land.

23 (E) Providing financial assistance to a per-
24 son the commercial farm of which is found to

1 be contaminated by PFAS, including income re-
2 placement.

3 (F) Evaluating and expanding the capacity
4 of PFAS testing and data management in the
5 territory of the eligible government.

6 (G) Conducting research that—

7 (i) supports short-term farm manage-
8 ment decisions with respect to agricultural
9 land that has been contaminated by PFAS;
10 and

11 (ii) assesses future options for viable
12 uses of agricultural land and water used
13 for agricultural production that has been
14 contaminated by PFAS.

15 (H) Conducting research that quantifies
16 the impact of PFAS on commercial farms and
17 agricultural communities in the territory of the
18 eligible government.

19 (I) Conducting research on—

20 (i) soil and water remediation sys-
21 tems;

22 (ii) the viability of those systems for
23 PFAS-contaminated commercial farms;

24 (iii) the composting or disposal of
25 PFAS-contaminated crops or livestock;

1 (iv) implementing alternative produc-
2 tion systems in response to PFAS contami-
3 nation;

4 (v) the PFAS uptake of various farm
5 products; and

6 (vi) food safety relating to PFAS con-
7 tamination.

8 (J) Developing and implementing edu-
9 cational programs for owners of agricultural
10 land, including determining best practices for—

11 (i) informing residents about the po-
12 tential of being near or on a site on which
13 sludge or septage application was licensed
14 or permitted by the eligible government or
15 the Federal Government; and

16 (ii) providing information and guid-
17 ance on buying or selling agricultural land
18 on which sludge or septage was applied.

19 (K) Long-term monitoring of agricultural
20 land contaminated by PFAS and establishing a
21 corresponding centralized data repository.

22 (L) Assisting owners and operators of com-
23 mercial farms not directly affected by PFAS
24 contamination with marketing efforts whose
25 branding and marketing may be affected by the

1 public perception of PFAS contamination in the
2 territory of the eligible government.

3 (M) Voluntary testing of farm products,
4 agricultural land, or other locations that are
5 suspected to be contaminated with PFAS.

6 (2) PRIORITY.—

7 (A) IN GENERAL.—In using funding re-
8 ceived under the program, an eligible govern-
9 ment shall prioritize purposes that directly as-
10 sist producers who are experiencing financial
11 losses due to agricultural PFAS contamination.

12 (B) DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE PRI-
13 ORITY.—In providing grants under the pro-
14 gram, the Secretary shall prioritize the provi-
15 sion of grants to eligible governments that will
16 use the grant funds for the purposes described
17 in subparagraphs (C) through (E) of paragraph
18 (1).

19 (g) REPORTS.—Each year of the period of a grant
20 received under the program, the department of agriculture
21 or similar agency of an eligible government shall submit
22 to the Secretary and Congress a report describing—

23 (1) the uses of the grant during the previous
24 year, including—

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1 (A) the purposes described in subsection
2 (f)(1) for which the grant was used;

3 (B) the amount of the grant allocated to
4 each purpose described in subsection (f)(1); and

5 (C) the extent to which the funding re-
6 ceived under the program, including funding
7 priorities and oversight, was administered in ac-
8 cordance with the plan described in subsection
9 (d)(2);

10 (2) any additional needs identified by agricul-
11 tural producers in the territory of the eligible gov-
12 ernment; and

13 (3) any additional information the Secretary de-
14 termines to be appropriate.

15 (h) FUNDING.—

16 (1) MANDATORY FUNDING.—Out of amounts in
17 the Treasury not otherwise appropriated, there is
18 appropriated to the Secretary to carry out this sec-
19 tion \$250,000,000 for fiscal year 2025, to remain
20 available until expended.

21 (2) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—In
22 addition to amounts otherwise available, there is au-
23 thorized to be appropriated to the Secretary to carry
24 out this section \$500,000,000 for the period of fiscal
25 years 2025 through 2029.

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1 **SEC. 12515. IMPROVEMENTS TO THE UNITED STATES**
2 **DROUGHT MONITOR.**

3 Section 12512 of the Agriculture Improvement Act
4 of 2018 (7 U.S.C. 5856) is amended—

5 (1) in subsection (c), in the matter preceding
6 paragraph (1), by striking “this Act” and inserting
7 “the Rural Prosperity and Food Security Act of
8 2024”;

9 (2) in subsection (d)(2), by striking “2023”
10 and inserting “2029”; and

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

12 “(e) DROUGHT MONITOR INTERAGENCY WORKING
13 GROUP.—

14 “(1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 180 days
15 after the date of enactment of the Rural Prosperity
16 and Food Security Act of 2024, the Secretary shall
17 establish an interagency working group (referred to
18 in this subsection as the ‘working group’) to improve
19 the availability of consistent, accurate, and reliable
20 data for use in producing the United States Drought
21 Monitor in accordance with this section.

22 “(2) MEMBERSHIP.—The working group shall
23 consist of not fewer than—

24 “(A) 4 representatives from the Depart-
25 ment of Agriculture, including 1 representative
26 from each of—

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1 “(i) the Office of the Chief Economist,
2 who shall serve as the Chair of the working
3 group;

4 “(ii) the Forest Service;

5 “(iii) the Farm Production and Con-
6 servation mission area; and

7 “(iv) the Office of the Chief Scientist;

8 “(B) 4 representatives from the National
9 Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, in-
10 cluding 1 representative from each of—

11 “(i) the Climate Prediction Center;

12 “(ii) the National Centers for Envi-
13 ronmental Information;

14 “(iii) the National Integrated Drought
15 Information System; and

16 “(iv) the National Mesonet Program;

17 “(C) 1 representative from the National
18 Drought Mitigation Center;

19 “(D) 1 representative from the Depart-
20 ment of the Interior; and

21 “(E) 3 representatives from mesonet pro-
22 grams in regions—

23 “(i) that have experienced severe
24 drought, as determined by the United
25 States Drought Monitor, in not less than 5

1 calendar years during the period of cal-
2 endar years 2012 through 2021; and

3 “(ii) more than 50 percent of the land
4 area of which is designated by the Eco-
5 nomic Research Service as a Level 1 fron-
6 tier and remote area.

7 “(3) DUTIES.—The working group shall—

8 “(A) develop a means for the inclusion of
9 additional in-situ data into the process of devel-
10 oping the United States Drought Monitor, in-
11 cluding—

12 “(i) determining minimum require-
13 ments for data to be included in the
14 United States Drought Monitor;

15 “(ii) identifying data available from
16 other government agencies, including
17 through portals managed by the National
18 Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration;
19 and

20 “(iii) identifying gaps in coverage and
21 determining solutions to address those
22 gaps;

23 “(B) identify and address potential bar-
24 riers to the use of existing data, including—

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1 “(i) identifying Federal datasets that
2 would be of immediate use in developing
3 the United States Drought Monitor where
4 access is restricted to some or all authors
5 of the United States Drought Monitor; and

6 “(ii) developing proposed accommoda-
7 tions, modifications to contractual agree-
8 ments, or updates to interagency memo-
9 randa of understanding to allow for incor-
10 poration of datasets identified under clause
11 (i);

12 “(C) develop an open and transparent
13 methodology for vetting data products devel-
14 oped using remote sensing or modeling;

15 “(D) if determined appropriate by the
16 working group, develop a methodology for inclu-
17 sion of data that may otherwise be excluded
18 from the United States Drought Monitor due to
19 shorter periods of record; and

20 “(E) identify and address any other issues
21 relating to data availability and quality, as de-
22 termined appropriate by the Chair of the work-
23 ing group.

24 “(4) REPORT.—

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1 “(A) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 1 year
2 after the date of enactment of the Rural Pros-
3 perity and Food Security Act of 2024, the
4 working group shall submit to the Secretary,
5 the Secretary of Commerce, the Secretary of
6 the Interior, and the relevant committees of
7 Congress a report containing recommendations
8 for changes in policies, regulations, guidance
9 documents, or existing law to meet the objec-
10 tives described in paragraph (3).

11 “(B) DEFINITION OF RELEVANT COMMIT-
12 TEES OF CONGRESS.—In this paragraph, the
13 term ‘relevant committees of Congress’
14 means—

15 “(i) the Committee on Agriculture,
16 Nutrition, and Forestry of the Senate;

17 “(ii) the Committee on Commerce,
18 Science, and Transportation of the Senate;

19 “(iii) the Committee on Agriculture of
20 the House of Representatives; and

21 “(iv) the Committee on Science,
22 Space, and Technology of the House of
23 Representatives.

24 “(5) ACTION BY THE SECRETARY.—Not later
25 than 180 days after the date of submission of the

1 report under paragraph (4), the Secretary, in coordi-
2 nation with the Secretary of Commerce and the Sec-
3 retary of the Interior, shall incorporate, to the ex-
4 tent practicable, the recommendations of the work-
5 ing group to improve the United States Drought
6 Monitor in accordance with this section.

7 “(6) TERMINATION.—The working group shall
8 terminate on the date that is 90 days after the date
9 on which the report is submitted under paragraph
10 (4).”.

11 **SEC. 12516. PROGRAM DATA PROTECTION AND ACCESS.**

12 (a) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

13 (1) DATA ASSET.—The term “data asset” has
14 the meaning given the term in section 3502 of title
15 44, United States Code.

16 (2) DEPARTMENT.—The term “Department”
17 means the Department of Agriculture.

18 (3) DESIGNATED STATISTICAL AGENCY.—The
19 term “designated statistical agency” means the sta-
20 tistical agency or unit designated by the Secretary
21 under subsection (c)(3).

22 (4) EVALUATION.—The term “evaluation” has
23 the meaning given the term in section 311 of title
24 5, United States Code.

1 (5) EVIDENCE.—The term “evidence” has the
2 meaning given the term in section 3561 of title 44,
3 United States Code.

4 (6) RESTRICTED USE DATA ASSET.—The term
5 “restricted use data asset” means a data asset in
6 the comprehensive data inventory developed by the
7 Secretary under section 3511(a) of title 44, United
8 States Code, that has been determined by the Sec-
9 retary to meet the criteria described in paragraph
10 (2)(A)(iii)(I)(dd) of that section.

11 (7) TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE.—The term “tech-
12 nical assistance” means information developed to im-
13 plement or administer a Department program, in-
14 cluding information provided to program partici-
15 pants, State, regional, or field office staff, and exter-
16 nal partners involved in implementing or admin-
17 istering the program.

18 (b) IDENTIFICATION OF DATA ASSETS AND PRIORITY
19 AREAS.—

20 (1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary, in consulta-
21 tion with the officers and entities described in para-
22 graph (2), shall identify data assets (including re-
23 stricted use data assets) that individuals or entities
24 with proposals meeting the requirements under the
25 process described in subsection (d) may use to build

1 evidence to support policymaking, including assess-
2 ment of program outcomes and developing technical
3 assistance, as required under section 312 of title 5,
4 United States Code, in the priority areas described
5 in paragraph (3).

6 (2) CONSULTATION.—The officers and entities
7 with which the Secretary shall consult under para-
8 graph (1) are—

9 (A) the Under Secretary for Farm Produc-
10 tion and Conservation;

11 (B) the Under Secretary for Rural Devel-
12 opment;

13 (C) the Under Secretary for Research,
14 Education, and Economics;

15 (D) the Under Secretary for Marketing
16 and Regulatory Programs;

17 (E) the Under Secretary for Natural Re-
18 sources and Environment;

19 (F) the designated Chief Data Officer of
20 the Department;

21 (G) the designated Evaluation Officer of
22 the Department;

23 (H) the heads of other agencies or offices
24 of the Department, as determined by the Sec-
25 retary; and

1 (I) stakeholders outside of the Depart-
2 ment.

3 (3) PRIORITY AREAS.—The priority areas re-
4 ferred to in paragraph (1) are the following:

5 (A) Farm profitability.

6 (B) Farm solvency.

7 (C) Conservation practice outcomes.

8 (D) Yield and income variability and risk.

9 (E) Climate resilience.

10 (F) Rural well-being.

11 (G) Any other areas identified by the Sec-
12 retary.

13 (4) INCLUSIONS.—The data assets identified
14 under paragraph (1) shall include information relat-
15 ing to—

16 (A) crop yields;

17 (B) production practices;

18 (C) conservation practices;

19 (D) rural development investments;

20 (E) Department program participation,
21 election, and enrollment, including demographic
22 data such as race, ethnicity, and gender of pro-
23 gram participants;

24 (F) Department program eligibility; and

1 (G) other information, as determined by
2 the Secretary.

3 (c) DATA ASSET TRANSFER AND LINKING.—

4 (1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall—

5 (A) transfer data assets identified under
6 subsection (b)(1) to the designated statistical
7 agency; and

8 (B) to the maximum extent practicable, de-
9 velop common approaches for linking data as-
10 sets identified under subsection (b)(1).

11 (2) FREQUENCY.—The Secretary shall—

12 (A) take the actions described in para-
13 graph (1) not later than 1 year after the date
14 of enactment of the Rural Prosperity and Food
15 Security Act of 2024; and

16 (B) establish a regular process to identify,
17 transfer, link, and update additional data assets
18 (including restricted use data assets) necessary
19 to develop evidence to support policymaking.

20 (3) DESIGNATION OF STATISTICAL AGENCY.—

21 The Secretary shall designate the statistical agency
22 or unit (as defined in section 3561 of title 44,
23 United States Code) responsible for carrying out this
24 section.

25 (d) STANDARD APPLICATION PROCESS.—

1 (1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary, acting
2 through the head of the designated statistical agen-
3 cy, shall make data assets identified under sub-
4 section (b)(1) available for research proposals
5 through the standard application process established
6 under section 3583 of title 44, United States Code.

7 (2) AGENCY TERMS.—For purposes of this sub-
8 section, the Secretary may incorporate any terms de-
9 veloped by the agencies and offices within the De-
10 partment responsible for the collection of data in the
11 data asset.

12 (3) CRITERIA.—For purposes of section
13 3583(a)(3) of title 44, United States Code, the cri-
14 teria established by the Secretary shall include meas-
15 ures to ensure that a research proposal described in
16 paragraph (1)—

17 (A) would have statistical results that pose
18 no risk of unauthorized disclosure of protected
19 data;

20 (B) is feasible given the features of the
21 data asset; and

22 (C) would be consistent with the purposes
23 for which the data were collected, including for
24 developing evidence that can be used for tech-

1 nical assistance and assessment of program out-
2 comes.

3 (e) SECURE DATA ACCESS AND DISCLOSURE RE-
4 VIEW.—

5 (1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 18 months
6 after the date of enactment of this Act, the Sec-
7 retary shall establish—

8 (A) a method to provide secure access to
9 data assets to researchers with approved re-
10 search proposals; and

11 (B) a method to provide disclosure review
12 of research resulting from each proposal for
13 which access is provided under subparagraph
14 (A) prior to public release to ensure that no in-
15 formation that is otherwise protected from dis-
16 closure by law is disclosed.

17 (2) MEANS OF SECURE ACCESS.—The Secretary
18 may provide secure access to data assets under para-
19 graph (1) through the use of a secure data center,
20 data enclave, or another arrangement that complies
21 with all applicable data privacy laws.

22 (3) FUNDING.—

23 (A) MANDATORY FUNDING.—Out of
24 amounts in the Treasury not otherwise appro-
25 priated, there is appropriated to the Secretary

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1 to establish and maintain the methods described
2 in paragraph (1)—

3 (i) \$5,000,000 for each of fiscal years
4 2025 and 2026, to remain available until
5 expended; and

6 (ii) \$3,000,000 for fiscal year 2027
7 and each fiscal year thereafter, to remain
8 available until expended.

9 (B) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIA-
10 TIONS.—In addition to amounts otherwise avail-
11 able to carry out this section, there are author-
12 ized to be appropriated to establish and main-
13 tain the methods described in paragraph (1)—

14 (i) \$4,000,000 for each of fiscal years
15 2025 and 2026; and

16 (ii) \$2,500,000 for each fiscal year
17 thereafter.

18 (C) ACCESS FEE.—

19 (i) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary may
20 charge individuals and entities a fee for
21 each approved research proposal for secure
22 access to data assets under this subsection.

23 (ii) LIMITATION.—The amount of a
24 fee charged under clause (i) shall not ex-
25 ceed the cost of providing the secure access

1 to the applicable individual or entity for
2 the approved research proposal.

3 (iii) USE OF FEES.—The fees col-
4 lected under clause (i) shall remain avail-
5 able to the Secretary, without further ap-
6 propriation, until expended to establish
7 and maintain the methods described in
8 paragraph (1).

9 (f) RESEARCH REVIEW AND PROCESS.—For each
10 proposal approved for research under subsection (d), the
11 Secretary shall—

12 (1) provide public access to primary research
13 results through journal open access fees or other
14 methods; and

15 (2) retain archived methods, code, documenta-
16 tion, and data to allow for research replication and
17 review for a period of at least 10 years.

18 (g) EFFECT ON OTHER LAWS.—

19 (1) PROGRAM EVALUATION.—Nothing in this
20 section shall affect or modify the authority of the
21 Secretary to conduct program evaluation studies
22 under section 1471 of the National Agricultural Re-
23 search, Extension, and Teaching Policy Act of 1977
24 (7 U.S.C. 3317) through means not authorized by
25 this section.

1 (2) EXISTING AUTHORIZATION.—Nothing in
2 this section shall affect or modify the authority of
3 the Secretary to make authorized disclosures under
4 section 1619(b)(3) of the Food, Conservation, and
5 Energy Act of 2008 (7 U.S.C. 8791(b)(3)).

6 **SEC. 12517. MEASUREMENT, MONITORING, REPORTING,**
7 **AND VERIFICATION OF GREENHOUSE GAS**
8 **EMISSIONS AND CARBON SEQUESTRATION.**

9 (a) STANDARD SOIL CARBON MEASUREMENT METH-
10 ODOLOGY.—

11 (1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 270 days
12 after the date of enactment of this Act, the Sec-
13 retary shall develop a standardized methodology to
14 directly measure soil carbon for research and con-
15 servation purposes.

16 (2) REVIEW.—In developing the methodology
17 under paragraph (1), the Secretary shall conduct a
18 review of widely used existing methodologies for di-
19 rect soil carbon measurement.

20 (3) CONSULTATION.—In developing the meth-
21 odology under paragraph (1) and conducting the re-
22 view under paragraph (2), the Secretary shall con-
23 sult with—

1 (A) agricultural producers and forest land-
2 owners, including historically underserved farm-
3 ers, ranchers, and foresters;

4 (B) soil carbon experts;

5 (C) nonprofit organizations;

6 (D) academic researchers; and

7 (E) other stakeholders who reflect the
8 operational, geographic, and socioeconomic di-
9 versity of United States agricultural operations.

10 (4) CONSIDERATIONS.—In developing the meth-
11 odology under paragraph (1), the Secretary shall
12 consider factors such as—

13 (A) usability at any location at which soil
14 carbon can be directly measured;

15 (B) calibration differences in soil analysis
16 between testing facilities; and

17 (C) differences in uncertainty between dif-
18 ferent measurement tools.

19 (5) UPDATES.—

20 (A) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall up-
21 date the methodology developed under para-
22 graph (1) as needed to reflect the best-available
23 data science.

24 (B) INTEROPERABILITY.—In making any
25 updates under subparagraph (A), the Secretary

1 shall ensure that data remains interoperable
2 with previously collected measurements.

3 (6) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—

4 (A) IN GENERAL.—There is authorized to
5 be appropriated to carry out this subsection
6 \$10,000,000.

7 (B) SET-ASIDE.—Of the amount appro-
8 priated under subparagraph (A), the Secretary
9 shall use not less than 30 percent to provide
10 culturally appropriate technical assistance and
11 guidance to historically underserved farmers,
12 ranchers, and foresters.

13 (b) SOIL CARBON INVENTORY AND ANALYSIS NET-
14 WORK.—Chapter 5 of subtitle D of title XII of the Food
15 Security Act of 1985 is amended by inserting after section
16 1240M (16 U.S.C. 3839bb) the following:

17 **“SEC. 1240N. SOIL CARBON INVENTORY AND ANALYSIS NET-**
18 **WORK.**

19 “(a) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

20 “(1) CONSERVATION ACTIVITIES.—The term
21 ‘conservation activities’ has the meaning given the
22 term in section 1240I.

23 “(2) ELIGIBLE LAND.—The term ‘eligible land’
24 means public and private cropland, rangeland,

1 pastureland, forestland, and wetlands in the United
2 States.

3 “(3) PROGRAM.—The term ‘program’ means
4 the program established under subsection (b)(1).

5 “(4) REGIONAL RESOURCE AREA.—The term
6 ‘regional resource area’ means a contiguous area of
7 eligible land that has similar resource characteris-
8 tics.

9 “(5) RESOURCE CHARACTERISTICS.—The term
10 ‘resource characteristics’ means—

11 “(A) geographic, climate, natural resource,
12 and soil type characteristics; and

13 “(B) any other characteristics that the
14 Secretary determines to be appropriate for the
15 purpose of carrying out the program.

16 “(6) SECRETARY.—The term ‘Secretary’ means
17 the Secretary, acting jointly through the Chief of the
18 Natural Resources Conservation Service, the Admin-
19 istrator of the Agricultural Research Service, and
20 the Chief of the Forest Service.

21 “(b) ESTABLISHMENT.—

22 “(1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall estab-
23 lish a program to inventory, monitor, and analyze
24 soil carbon changes on eligible land in the United
25 States.

1 “(2) PURPOSES.—The purposes of the program
2 are—

3 “(A) to analyze soil properties, including
4 soil organic carbon, across space, time, and
5 depth; and

6 “(B) to analyze the impacts of land man-
7 agement strategies, including conservation ac-
8 tivities, on soil carbon sequestration.

9 “(3) CONSULTATION.—In carrying out the pro-
10 gram, the Secretary shall consult with the Director
11 of the National Institute of Food and Agriculture,
12 the Chief of the Forest Service, the Chief Data Offi-
13 cer, the Administrator of the Environmental Protec-
14 tion Agency, the Secretary of Energy, and the head
15 of any other department or agency that the Sec-
16 retary determines to be appropriate.

17 “(c) SAMPLING.—

18 “(1) SAMPLE SITES.—The Secretary shall select
19 sample sites under the program by taking into con-
20 sideration—

21 “(A) the accessibility of sites;

22 “(B) the ease of collecting reported meas-
23 urements over time; and

24 “(C) such other factors as the Secretary
25 determines to be appropriate.

1 “(2) PREFERENCE.—In selecting sample sites
2 under paragraph (1), the Secretary shall give pref-
3 erence to sites that have been used for soil testing
4 previously.

5 “(3) NUMBER OF SAMPLE SITES.—The Sec-
6 retary shall select sufficient sample sites under para-
7 graph (1) to analyze changes in soil carbon across
8 regional resource areas, as determined by the Sec-
9 retary, over time, taking into account the geo-
10 graphical size and heterogeneity of each regional re-
11 source area.

12 “(d) INVENTORY.—

13 “(1) IN GENERAL.—Every 5 years, the Sec-
14 retary shall prepare an inventory of soil carbon
15 stocks on eligible land, under which the Secretary
16 shall collect measurements at each sample site se-
17 lected under subsection (c).

18 “(2) METHODOLOGY.—The Secretary shall en-
19 sure that the methodology developed under section
20 12517(a) of the Rural Prosperity and Food Security
21 Act of 2024 is used for purposes of conducting
22 measurements at each sample site under the pro-
23 gram.

24 “(3) MINIMUM NUMBER OF SAMPLES.—The
25 Secretary shall measure a sufficient number of sam-

1 ples to analyze changes in soil carbon at each sample
2 site selected under subsection (c) for each inventory
3 under paragraph (1).

4 “(4) CHARACTERISTICS.—In preparing each in-
5 ventory under paragraph (1), the Secretary shall
6 document the following characteristics for each sam-
7 ple site selected under subsection (c):

8 “(A) Soil type and texture.

9 “(B) Land use history, including conserva-
10 tion activities.

11 “(C) Environmental characteristics, such
12 as temperature and precipitation.

13 “(D) Land management practices imple-
14 mented on eligible land, including conservation
15 activities.

16 “(E) Other characteristics, as determined
17 by the Secretary.

18 “(e) REPORTS.—On completion of each inventory
19 under subsection (d)(1), the Secretary shall prepare, pub-
20 lish, and make available to the public a report that—

21 “(1) contains a description of soil carbon
22 trends, including by incorporating measurements
23 conducted under subsection (d) during the 5 years
24 covered by the report;

1 “(2) contains an analysis of the impact of dif-
2 ferent land management practices, including imple-
3 menting 1 or more conservation activities, on soil
4 carbon levels;

5 “(3) contains an analysis of the effect of weath-
6 er and climate variability on the observed trends;

7 “(4) contains an analysis of how land manage-
8 ment practices, including conservation activities,
9 that influence soil carbon sequestration may affect
10 the rate of emissions of other greenhouse gases in
11 the agricultural sector, including methane and ni-
12 trous oxide; and

13 “(5) establishes a benchmark for the baseline
14 soil carbon absent additional conservation activities.

15 “(f) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There
16 is authorized to be appropriated to carry out this section
17 \$40,000,000.”.

18 (c) PREDICTIVE MODELS.—

19 (1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 2 years after
20 the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary, in
21 consultation with the Secretary of Energy, the Ad-
22 ministrator of the Environmental Protection Agency,
23 and the head of any other Federal agency that the
24 Secretary determines to be appropriate, shall partner
25 with nongovernmental experts and researchers to de-

1 velop and maintain a modeling tool (or combination
2 of tools), as determined to be appropriate by the
3 Secretary, that shall predict the impacts of different
4 land management practices, including implementing
5 conservation activities, on greenhouse gas emissions
6 and soil carbon sequestration across the United
7 States.

8 (2) REQUIREMENTS.—The tool described in
9 paragraph (1) shall—

10 (A) be anchored in direct measurements of
11 land, including soil sampling;

12 (B) account for differences that could im-
13 pact land management outcomes, including—

14 (i) soil type;

15 (ii) type of land use;

16 (iii) type of crop;

17 (iv) species, maturity, and diversity of
18 tree stands;

19 (v) geography and local climate;

20 (vi) geographic size of the land-use
21 operation;

22 (vii) ongoing or existing conservation
23 activities; and

24 (viii) such other items as the Sec-
25 retary determines to be appropriate;

1 (C) allow a user of the tool to estimate the
2 changes in greenhouse gas emissions or soil car-
3 bon sequestration, and the uncertainty of those
4 estimated changes, that occur as a result of im-
5 plementing 1 or more conservation activities;
6 and

7 (D) be user-friendly and accessible—

8 (i) to producers and researchers; and

9 (ii) in multiple languages.

10 **SEC. 12518. REPORT ON PERSONNEL.**

11 Section 12506 of the Agriculture Improvement Act
12 of 2018 (Public Law 115–334; 132 Stat. 4989) is amend-
13 ed by striking “2023” and inserting “2029”.

14 **SEC. 12519. CONVERSION AUTHORITY.**

15 (a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary may, notwith-
16 standing subchapter I of chapter 33 of title 5, United
17 States Code, governing appointments in the competitive
18 or excepted service, noncompetitively convert to an ap-
19 pointment in the competitive service, in an agency or office
20 within the Department of Agriculture, an individual who
21 is—

22 (1) a recent graduate or student who has suc-
23 cessfully completed the requirements of a program of
24 the Department of Agriculture through which that
25 individual has completed 480 hours of work, not less

1 than 240 hours of which shall be under the super-
2 vision of the Department of Agriculture;

3 (2) a participant of the research associate post-
4 doctoral scientists program described in the notice of
5 the Office of Personnel Management entitled “Ex-
6 cepted Service; Consolidated Listing of Schedules A,
7 B, and C Exceptions” (77 Fed. Reg. 19366 (March
8 30, 2012)) under Schedule B, Department of Agri-
9 culture (Sch. B, 213.3213(b)(1));

10 (3) a participant in an internship program ad-
11 ministered by an eligible third party (as determined
12 by the Secretary) or a Federal agency, through
13 which that individual has completed 480 hours of
14 work, not less than 240 hours of which shall be
15 under the supervision of the Department of Agri-
16 culture; or

17 (4) a worker referenced in the notice of the Of-
18 fice of Personnel Management entitled “Excepted
19 Service; Consolidated Listing of Schedules A, B, and
20 C Exceptions” (77 Fed. Reg. 19366 (March 30,
21 2012)) under Schedule A, Department of Agri-
22 culture (Sch. A, 213.3113(a)(5)).

23 (b) REQUIREMENTS.—An individual may be con-
24 verted under subsection (a) only if the individual is a
25 United States citizen, meets the requirements for that

1 conversion, and meets Office of Personnel Management
2 qualification standards, as determined by the Secretary.

3 (c) LIMITATIONS.—

4 (1) EFFECT.—Nothing in subsection (a) re-
5 quires the Secretary to convert an individual under
6 that subsection.

7 (2) DEADLINE.—The Secretary shall not con-
8 vert an individual under subsection (a) more than 2
9 years after the date of completion of the event that
10 makes the individual eligible for the conversion.

11 **SEC. 12520. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE RECRUITMENT**
12 **AND RETENTION AUTHORITIES.**

13 (a) RECRUITMENT AND RETENTION AUTHORITIES
14 FOR VETERINARIANS.—

15 (1) STUDENT LOAN REPAYMENTS.—

16 (A) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary may
17 repay a student loan for employees in positions
18 in the veterinary medical science 0701 occupa-
19 tional series at the Department of Agriculture
20 pursuant to section 5379(b) of title 5, United
21 States Code, except that paragraph (2) of that
22 section shall not apply to such repayment.

23 (B) TERMS AND CONDITIONS.—Repayment
24 of a student loan under subparagraph (A) shall
25 be made subject to such terms, limitations, or

1 conditions as are mutually agreed to by the
2 Secretary and the employee concerned.

3 (C) MAXIMUM AMOUNT.—The Secretary
4 may not repay a student loan under subpara-
5 graph (A) in an amount that exceeds—

6 (i) \$30,000 for any employee in any
7 calendar year; or

8 (ii) a total of \$150,000 for any em-
9 ployee.

10 (2) SPECIAL PAY AUTHORITY.—The Secretary
11 may establish a rate for special pay for positions in
12 the veterinary medical science 0701 occupational se-
13 ries at the Department of Agriculture pursuant to
14 section 5305(a)(1) of title 5, United States Code, ex-
15 cept that, in that section—

16 (A) “50 percent” shall be substituted for
17 “30 percent”; and

18 (B) “level II of the Executive Schedule”
19 shall be substituted for “level IV of the Execu-
20 tive Schedule”.

21 (b) SPECIAL PAY AUTHORITY FOR FSA LOAN OFFI-
22 CERS.—The Secretary may establish a rate for special pay
23 for positions in the 1101 and 1165 occupational series re-
24 lating to lending at the Farm Service Agency pursuant
25 to section 5305(a)(1) of title 5, United States Code, except

1 that, in that section, “50 percent” shall be substituted for
2 “30 percent”.

3 (c) SPECIAL PAY AUTHORITY FOR CERTAIN NRCS
4 POSITIONS.—The Secretary may establish a rate for spe-
5 cial pay for positions in the civil engineering 0810 occupa-
6 tional series, the engineering technical 0802 occupational
7 series, the soil conservation 0457 occupational series, and
8 the soil conservation technician 0458 occupational series
9 at the Natural Resources Conservation Service pursuant
10 to section 5305(a)(1) of title 5, United States Code, except
11 that, in that section, “50 percent” shall be substituted for
12 “30 percent”.

13 (d) TERMINATION.—The authorities under sub-
14 sections (a) through (c) shall terminate on September 30,
15 2029.

16 **SEC. 12521. AUTHORIZATION OF PROTECTION OPERATIONS**
17 **FOR THE SECRETARY OF AGRICULTURE AND**
18 **OTHERS.**

19 Section 12520(d) of the Agriculture Improvement
20 Act of 2018 (7 U.S.C. 2279k(d)) is amended by striking
21 “2024” and inserting “2029”.

22 **SEC. 12522. COMMISSION ON FARM TRANSITIONS.**

23 Section 12609 of the Agriculture Improvement Act
24 of 2018 (Public Law 115–334; 132 Stat. 5009) is amend-
25 ed—

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1 (1) in subsection (b)—

2 (A) in the subsection heading, by inserting
3 “AND RECOMMENDATIONS” after “STUDY”;

4 (B) in the matter preceding paragraph (1),
5 by inserting “, and make recommendations re-
6 lating to,” after “study on”;

7 (C) in paragraph (1)—

8 (i) in subparagraph (B), by inserting
9 “and timely” after “affordable”; and

10 (ii) in subparagraph (D), by striking
11 “programs” and inserting “programs,
12 business training, and technical assist-
13 ance”;

14 (D) in paragraph (3)—

15 (i) in the matter preceding subpara-
16 graph (A), by striking “Federal tax poli-
17 cies” and inserting “State and Federal
18 policies, including tax policies”; and

19 (ii) in subparagraph (A), by inserting
20 “or impede” after “facilitate”;

21 (E) in paragraph (4), by striking “and” at
22 the end;

23 (F) in paragraph (5), by striking the pe-
24 riod at the end and inserting a semicolon; and

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

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1 “(6) any unique barriers faced by historically
2 underserved farmers and ranchers in the ability to
3 transfer, inherit, or purchase agricultural assets, in-
4 cluding land;

5 “(7) leasing and ownership trends, including
6 leasing and ownership trends by foreign persons or
7 entities; and

8 “(8) consolidation of farm and ranch oper-
9 ations.”;

10 (2) in subsection (f), by striking “Not later
11 than 1 year after the date of enactment of this Act”
12 and inserting “Not later than 2 years after the date
13 of enactment of the Rural Prosperity and Food Se-
14 curity Act of 2024”; and

15 (3) in subsection (m), by striking “2023” and
16 inserting “2029”.

17 **SEC. 12523. NOTIFICATIONS AND REPORTS FROM USDA.**

18 (a) COMMODITY CREDIT CORPORATION NOTIFICA-
19 TION.—The Secretary shall notify the Committee on Agri-
20 culture, Nutrition, and Forestry of the Senate and the
21 Committee on Agriculture of the House of Representatives
22 in writing at least 15 days prior to—

23 (1) any announcement on—

24 (A) the use of funds from the Commodity
25 Credit Corporation; or

1401

1 (B) the commitment of any emergency
2 funds from the Commodity Credit Corporation;

3 or

4 (2) the obligation or commitment of any emer-
5 gency funds from the Commodity Credit Corpora-
6 tion, including, if that obligation or commitment ex-
7 ceeds \$100,000,000—

8 (A) a detailed spend plan describing antici-
9 pated uses of those funds; and

10 (B) an expected timeline for program exe-
11 cution.

12 (b) USDA NOTIFICATIONS AND REPORTS IN AN-
13 NUAL APPROPRIATIONS ACTS.—With respect to each re-
14 port or notification required by an annual appropriations
15 Act to be submitted to both the Committee on Appropria-
16 tions of the Senate and the Committee on Appropriations
17 of the House of Representatives, the Secretary shall sub-
18 mit that report or notification to the Committee on Agri-
19 culture, Nutrition, and Forestry of the Senate and the
20 Committee on Agriculture of the House of Representatives
21 at the same time the Secretary submits that report or no-
22 tification to the Committees on Appropriations.

23 **SEC. 12524. STANDARDS FOR PRECISION AGRICULTURE.**

24 (a) INTERCONNECTIVITY STANDARDS FOR PRECI-
25 SION AGRICULTURE.—

1402

1 (1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 2 years after
2 the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary, in
3 consultation with the Director of the National Insti-
4 tute of Standards and Technology, shall—

5 (A) develop voluntary, consensus-based,
6 private sector-led interconnectivity standards,
7 guidelines, and best practices for precision agri-
8 culture that will promote economies of scale and
9 ease the burden of the adoption of precision agri-
10 culture; and

11 (B) in carrying out subparagraph (A)—

12 (i) coordinate with relevant public and
13 trusted private sector stakeholders and
14 other relevant industry organizations, in-
15 cluding voluntary consensus standards de-
16 velopment organizations; and

17 (ii) consult with sector-specific agen-
18 cies, other appropriate agencies, and State
19 and local governments.

20 (2) CONSIDERATIONS.—The Secretary, in car-
21 rying out paragraph (1), shall, in consultation with
22 the Federal Communications Commission and the
23 Director of the National Institute of Standards and
24 Technology, consider—

1403

1 (A) the evolving demands of precision agri-
2 culture;

3 (B) the connectivity needs of precision ag-
4 riculture equipment;

5 (C) the cybersecurity challenges facing pre-
6 cision agriculture, including cybersecurity
7 threats for agriculture producers and agri-
8 culture supply chains;

9 (D) the impact of advanced wireless com-
10 munications technology on precision agriculture;
11 and

12 (E) the impact of artificial intelligence on
13 precision agriculture.

14 (b) GAO ASSESSMENT OF PRECISION AGRICULTURE
15 STANDARDS.—

16 (1) STUDY.—Not later than 1 year after the
17 Secretary develops standards under subsection (a),
18 and every 2 years thereafter for the following 8
19 years, the Comptroller General of the United States
20 shall conduct a study that assesses those standards,
21 including the extent to which those standards, as ap-
22 plicable—

23 (A) are voluntary;

24 (B) were developed in coordination with
25 relevant industry organizations, including vol-

1 untary consensus standards development orga-
2 nizations; and

3 (C) have successfully encouraged the adop-
4 tion of precision agriculture.

5 (2) REPORT.—The Comptroller General of the
6 United States shall submit to the Committee on
7 Commerce, Science, and Transportation and the
8 Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry
9 of the Senate and the Committee on Science, Space,
10 and Technology and the Committee on Agriculture
11 of the House of Representatives a report that sum-
12 marizes the findings of each study conducted under
13 paragraph (1).

14 **SEC. 12525. PIMA AGRICULTURE COTTON TRUST FUND.**

15 Section 12314 of the Agricultural Act of 2014 (7
16 U.S.C. 2101 note; Public Law 113–79) is amended—

17 (1) in subsection (b), in the matter preceding
18 paragraph (1), by striking “2024” and inserting
19 “2029”; and

20 (2) in subsection (h), by striking “2024” and
21 inserting “2029”.

22 **SEC. 12526. AGRICULTURE WOOL APPAREL MANUFACTUR-**
23 **ERS TRUST FUND.**

24 Section 12315 of the Agricultural Act of 2014 (7
25 U.S.C. 7101 note; Public Law 113–79) is amended by

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1 striking “2024” each place it appears and inserting
2 “2029”.

3 **SEC. 12527. WOOL RESEARCH AND PROMOTION.**

4 Section 12316(a) of the Agricultural Act of 2014 (7
5 U.S.C. 7101 note; Public Law 113–79) is amended by
6 striking “2024” and inserting “2029”.

7 **SEC. 12528. EMERGENCY CITRUS DISEASE RESEARCH AND
8 DEVELOPMENT TRUST FUND.**

9 Section 12605(d) of the Agriculture Improvement
10 Act of 2018 (7 U.S.C. 7632 note; Public Law 115–334)
11 is amended by striking “2024” and inserting “2029”.