

Representative Matthew Rosendale
Agriculture Committee Member Day Hearing
December 6, 2023

Thank you, Chairman Thompson for holding this hearing today. I introduced five bills that have been referred to your Committee and I would like to touch briefly on each of them today.

First, I'll talk about H.R. 3755 the Industrial Hemp Act. This bill would cut red tape and streamline the regulatory framework for industrial hemp. Simply put, industrial hemp is different from cannabis and deserves different regulations. Industrial hemp does not need the same testing requirements—inspectors and farmers can tell that it's different from recreational marijuana simply by looking at it. Current burdensome regulations prevent farmers across the country from capitalizing on this crop. It's estimated that industrial hemp has a potential global market worth as much as \$15 trillion.

Industrial hemp has a wide range of uses: it can be used as a cover crop, animal feed, bio fuel, animal bedding, insulation, and much more. It also has properties that make it attractive to farmers—for example, it's actually advantageous for it to sit in the field and get damp, giving farmers more leeway in harvesting it.

My bill would keep the federal inspection guidelines for cannabis in place, while cutting red tape for industrial hemp. This legislation is pivotal for empowering farmers and fostering a robust agricultural sector, eliminating red tape and creating job

opportunities. By balancing regulation and freedom, it unlocks the potential of industrial hemp, benefiting both Montana farmers and the nation.

Second, I introduced H.R. 6580 the Land And National Defense Act to protect American farm land from our enemies. My bill would establish reciprocity by imposing the same restrictions on foreign citizens and companies purchasing land in the U.S. as Americans face in those respective countries. For example, Americans are not allowed to buy agricultural land in China. Under my bill, Chinese citizens and companies would not be allowed to purchase American land as long as those restrictions stay in place.

I believe this is the best approach because it can stand up in Court. Earlier this year, when Florida tried to ban China from buying land, they were immediately sued for discrimination. This approach doesn't have that same problem, but still effectively prevents our enemies from purchasing our land.

Protecting our food supply chain is critical to our national security. Congress must act to stop China from purchasing our farm land and I hope that this Committee will take a serious look at my bill.

Third, I introduced H.R. 1604, the U.S.A. Beef Act. This bill is a bipartisan solution to protect American beef producers. The bill ensures that only beef that is raised, slaughtered, and packaged in the U.S. can be labeled "Product of the U.S.A."

The big four multinational meat packers routinely raise or slaughter cattle overseas and then package it in the U.S. and call

it a product of this country. This undercuts our American ranchers, confuses consumers, and distorts the market.

Unlike other beef packaging bills, my bill doesn't impose more labeling requirements which could be burdensome for ranchers and meat processors. Instead, my bill restricts who can use the "made in America" label so that it is an accurate identifier of American beef.

By striking a balance between regulatory oversight and ranchers' freedom of choice, it empowers small American ranchers, promotes competition, and guarantees the authenticity of American beef.

Fourth, H.R. 636 the Forest Litigation Reform Act would address the endless litigation that blocks responsible forest management. Activist environmentalist groups seek to tie up forest management in the courts. This prevents states like Montana from effectively managing wildfires and our public lands.

My bill would fix this by preventing taxpayer dollars from being used to finance these absurd claims. It would also streamline the litigation process by limiting injunctions or stays to 60 days pending appeal. My bill creates an alternative dispute process to resolve claims through arbitration instead of the tedious judicial process.

I look forward to the Agriculture Committee considering this bill to protect responsible forest management practices from activists who abuse our Courts.

Lastly, I would like to touch on H.R. 200, the Forest Information Reform, or FIR, Act. I was glad to see my bill passed by the House Natural Resources Committee, but still wanted to mention it today.

This bill is a commonsense piece of legislation that would reverse the disastrous Cottonwood decision. The Cottonwood decision requires the U.S. Forest Service to repeatedly consult with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service on ESA decisions, creating unnecessary delays in forest management. My bill would stop the perpetual cycle of litigation and promote forest and wildlife conservation. This legislation has bipartisan support and was passed by the Senate. I welcome any questions from my colleagues on the Agriculture Committee about this bill or any others I testified on.

Thank you.