

Amendment offered by Mr. Vasquez of New Mexico

Amendment description

The amendment would strengthen USDA programs to support wildlife habitat connectivity and migration corridors, increase payment limits for private land owners, and provide technical support for voluntary practices that improve landscape resilience while maintaining producer flexibility, like the Habitat Connectivity on Working Lands Act.

AMENDMENT TO H.R. 7567
OFFERED BY MR. VASQUEZ OF NEW MEXICO

Page 30, strike line 18.

Page 32, line 8, strike the period at the end and insert “; and”.

Page 32, insert after line 8 the following:

1 (5) by adding at the end the following:
2 “(30) WILDLIFE HABITAT CONNECTIVITY.—
3 The term ‘wildlife habitat connectivity’ means the
4 degree to which landscape or habitat elements facili-
5 tate native species movement among seasonal habi-
6 tats.”.

Page 34, insert after line 24 the following:

7 (1) SPECIAL RULE INVOLVING PAYMENTS FOR
8 FOREGONE INCOME.—Section 1240B(d)(3)(F) of the
9 Food Security Act of 1985 (16 U.S.C. 3839aa–
10 2(d)(3)(F)) is amended by inserting “and wildlife
11 habitat connectivity” before “; or”.

Page 35, line 7, strike “A producer” and insert “Except as provided in paragraph (9), a producer”.

Page 36, line 12, strike “and inserting ‘; or’” and insert “and inserting a semicolon”.

Page 36, insert after line 14 the following:

1 “(v) addresses the conservation and
2 restoration of wildlife habitat, including
3 wildlife habitat connectivity and wildlife
4 migration corridors; or

Page 36, line 15, strike “(v)” and insert “(vi)”.

Page 37, after line 6, insert the following:

5 (4) COST-SHARE PAYMENTS FOR GRASSLAND.—
6 Section 1240B(d) of the Food Security Act of 1985
7 (16 U.S.C. 3839aa-2(d)) is further amended by
8 adding at the end the following:

9 “(9) COST-SHARE PAYMENTS FOR GRASSLAND
10 ENROLLED IN THE CONSERVATION RESERVE PRO-
11 GRAM.—

12 “(A) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary may
13 provide payments under the program for costs
14 associated with planning, design, materials,
15 equipment, installation, labor, management,
16 maintenance, or training, for the purpose of a
17 wildlife corridor, with respect to eligible land
18 that is—

1 “(i) enrolled in the conservation re-
2 serve program under section
3 1231(d)(2)(A); and

4 “(ii) of ecological significance, as de-
5 scribed in section 1231(d)(2)(B)(iii).

6 “(B) LIMITATION.—A producer shall not
7 be eligible for payments under subparagraph
8 (A) for a practice if the producer receives pay-
9 ments or other benefits for the same practice on
10 the same land under this title.”.

Page 41, after line 14, insert the following:

11 **SEC. 2301. CONSERVATION STEWARDSHIP PROGRAM.**

12 Section 1240J(b) of the Food Security Act of 1985
13 (16 U.S.C. 3839aa–22(b)) is amended—

14 (1) in paragraph (1), in the matter preceding
15 subparagraph (A), by inserting “and except as pro-
16 vided in paragraph (3),” after “paragraph (2),”; and
17 (2) by adding at the end the following:

18 “(3) COST-SHARE PAYMENTS FOR GRASSLAND
19 ENROLLED IN THE CONSERVATION RESERVE PRO-
20 GRAM.—

21 “(A) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary may
22 provide payments under the program for costs
23 associated with planning, design, materials,
24 equipment, installation, labor, management,

1 maintenance, or training, for the purpose of a
2 wildlife corridor, with respect to eligible land
3 that is—

4 “(i) enrolled in the conservation re-
5 serve program under section
6 1231(d)(2)(A); and

7 “(ii) of ecological significance, as de-
8 scribed in section 1231(d)(2)(B)(iii).

9 “(B) LIMITATION.—A producer shall not
10 be eligible for payments under subparagraph
11 (A) for a conservation activity if the producer
12 receives payments or other benefits for the
13 same conservation activity on the same land
14 under this title.

15 “(C) EMERGENCY GRAZING AND HAYING
16 ACCESS PRESERVED.—No priority resource con-
17 cern, practice, or incentive pertaining to res-
18 toration and enhancement of wildlife habitat
19 connectivity and wildlife migration corridors on
20 the acres described above will prevent or alter
21 emergency grazing and haying access for grass-
22 land acres enrolled in the conservation reserve
23 program.”.

Page 85, after line 10, insert the following:

1 (h) ADDRESSING BARRIERS TO WILDLIFE HABITAT
2 CONNECTIVITY.—Section 1242 of the Food Security Act
3 of 1985 (16 U.S.C. 3842) is further amended by adding
4 at the end the following:

5 “(k) ADDRESSING BARRIERS TO WILDLIFE HABITAT
6 CONNECTIVITY.—

7 “(1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall—

8 “(A) to the maximum extent practicable,
9 fully incorporate nonstructural methods to con-
10 trol livestock distribution, such as virtual fence-
11 ing, into the conservation practice standards;
12 and

13 “(B) provide for the appropriate range of
14 conservation practices and resource mitigation
15 measures available to landowners using non-
16 structural methods described in subparagraph
17 (A).

18 “(2) AVAILABILITY OF ADEQUATE TECHNICAL
19 ASSISTANCE.—The Secretary shall ensure that ade-
20 quate technical assistance is available for the imple-
21 mentation of—

22 “(A) nonstructural methods described in
23 paragraph (1)(A); and

1 “(B) other practices that support wildlife
2 habitat connectivity through Federal conserva-
3 tion programs.”.

