

**Amendment offered by Derrick Van Orden (WI-03)**

**Amendment description**

The amendment will create the Domestic Organic Investment Program, which will issue competitive USDA grants to expand storage, processing, aggregation, and distribution capacity for U.S. organic products; modernize manufacturing, tracking, storage, and information technology systems; and strengthen businesses' ability to meet organic certification and quality standards.

**AMENDMENT**

**OFFERED BY MR. VAN ORDEN OF WISCONSIN**

At the end of subtitle B of title X, add the following:

1 **SEC. \_\_\_\_ . DOMESTIC ORGANIC INVESTMENT PROGRAM.**

2 Subtitle A of the Agricultural Marketing Act of 1946  
3 (7 U.S.C. 1621 et seq.) is amended by adding at the end  
4 the following:

5 **“SEC. 210B. DOMESTIC ORGANIC INVESTMENT PROGRAM.**

6 “(a) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

7 “(1) CERTIFIED ORGANIC PRODUCT.—The term  
8 ‘certified organic product’ means an agricultural  
9 product (as defined in section 2103 of the Organic  
10 Foods Production Act of 1990 (7 U.S.C. 6502))  
11 that is organically produced (as defined in that sec-  
12 tion).

13 “(2) ELIGIBLE ENTITY.—

14 “(A) IN GENERAL.—The term ‘eligible en-  
15 tity’ means an entity described in subparagraph  
16 (B) that—

17 “(i) is owned and operated within—

18 “(I) a State;

19 “(II) the District of Columbia;

1                   “(III) any territory or possession  
2                   of the United States; or

3                   “(IV) the jurisdiction of an In-  
4                   dian Tribe; and

5                   “(ii)(I) is certified in accordance with  
6                   subpart E of part 205 of title 7, Code of  
7                   Federal Regulations (or successor regula-  
8                   tions); or

9                   “(II) is in transition to certification,  
10                  as defined by the Secretary.

11                  “(B) ENTITIES DESCRIBED.—An entity re-  
12                  ferred to in subparagraph (A) is—

13                   “(i) a producer, producer cooperative,  
14                   or other commercial entity that produces  
15                   or handles certified organic products;

16                   “(ii) a unit of Tribal government; or

17                   “(iii) such other entity as the Sec-  
18                   retary may designate.

19                  “(C) EXCLUSION.—The term ‘eligible enti-  
20                  ty’ does not include an entity described in sub-  
21                  paragraph (B) the operations of which are sus-  
22                  pended or revoked under section 205.662 of  
23                  title 7, Code of Federal Regulations (or a suc-  
24                  cessor regulation).

1           “(3) INDIAN TRIBE.—The term ‘Indian Tribe’  
2           has the meaning given the term in section 4 of the  
3           Indian Self-Determination and Education Assistance  
4           Act (25 U.S.C. 5304).

5           “(4) SECRETARY.—The term ‘Secretary’ means  
6           the Secretary of Agriculture, acting through the Ad-  
7           ministrators of the Agricultural Marketing Service.

8           “(5) TRIBAL GOVERNMENT.—The term ‘Tribal  
9           government’ means the governing body of an Indian  
10          Tribe.

11          “(b) ESTABLISHMENT AND PURPOSE.—The Sec-  
12          retary shall establish a program, to be known as the ‘Do-  
13          mestic Organic Investment Program’, that—

14               “(1) increases the capacity of the domestic or-  
15               ganic product supply chain for producers, handlers,  
16               suppliers, and processors of certified organic prod-  
17               ucts;

18               “(2) modernizes manufacturing, tracking, stor-  
19               age, and information technology systems specific to  
20               the purposes described in this subsection, such as  
21               process control or organic product ingredient track-  
22               ing systems;

23               “(3) improves the capacity of eligible entities to  
24               comply with applicable regulatory requirements or  
25               quality standards required to access markets, such

1 as requirements and standards relating to food safe-  
2 ty and organic product certification;

3 “(4) expands capacity for storage, processing,  
4 aggregation, and distribution of certified organic  
5 products to create more and better markets for pro-  
6 ducers of certified organic products;

7 “(5) facilitates market development for domesti-  
8 cally produced certified organic products currently  
9 being serviced by organic imports; and

10 “(6) addresses additional barriers and bottle-  
11 necks in the domestic organic product supply chain  
12 for producers, handlers, suppliers, and processors of  
13 certified organic products, as determined by the Sec-  
14 retary.

15 “(c) GRANTS.—For each fiscal year for which  
16 amounts are made available to carry out this section under  
17 subsection (j), the Secretary shall provide grants to sup-  
18 port eligible entities in conducting activities in accordance  
19 with the purposes of the program described in subsection  
20 (b).

21 “(d) APPLICATIONS.—

22 “(1) IN GENERAL.—To be eligible to receive a  
23 grant under this section, an eligible entity shall sub-  
24 mit to the Secretary an application at such time, in

1 such manner, and containing such information as  
2 the Secretary may require.

3 “(2) SIMPLIFIED PROCESS.—The Secretary  
4 shall implement a simplified application and award  
5 process under this section for use by any eligible en-  
6 tity seeking to carry out an equipment-only project.

7 “(3) PRIORITY.—The Secretary may establish  
8 an annual priority for grants under this section  
9 based in part on—

10 “(A) imbalance of trade and reliance on  
11 organic imports;

12 “(B) National Organic Standards Board  
13 recommendations; and

14 “(C) identified organic processing and sup-  
15 ply chain bottlenecks inhibiting market growth  
16 and efficiency.

17 “(4) COMPETITIVE PROCESS.—The Secretary—

18 “(A) shall conduct a competitive process to  
19 select applications submitted under this sub-  
20 section;

21 “(B) may assess and rank applications  
22 with similar purposes as a group; and

23 “(C) before accepting any application  
24 under this subsection, shall make publicly avail-

1           able the criteria to be used in evaluating the ap-  
2           plications.

3           “(e) PROJECT TYPES.—An eligible entity may use  
4 amounts received under this section to carry out, in ac-  
5 cordance with such goals and deadlines for completion as  
6 the Secretary may establish, the following types of  
7 projects:

8           “(1) Certified organic product storage (includ-  
9           ing cold storage), aggregation, processing, and dis-  
10          tribution capacity expansion.

11          “(2) Equipment-only.

12          “(f) TERM.—Unless otherwise determined by the  
13 Secretary, a grant provided under this section shall have  
14 a term of not longer than 3 years.

15          “(g) MAXIMUM AMOUNT.—

16           “(1) IN GENERAL.—The amount of a grant  
17 provided under this section for a project described in  
18 subsection (e)(1) shall be not more than \$2,000,000.

19           “(2) EQUIPMENT-ONLY PROJECTS.—The  
20 amount of a grant provided under this section for a  
21 project described in subsection (e)(2) shall be not  
22 more than \$100,000.

23          “(h) MATCHING FUNDS.—

24           “(1) IN GENERAL.—An eligible entity that re-  
25 ceives a grant under this section to carry out a

1 project described in subsection (e)(1) shall provide a  
2 non-Federal share equal to not less than 50 percent  
3 of the cost of the project.

4 “(2) EQUIPMENT-ONLY PROJECTS.—An eligible  
5 entity that receives a grant under this section to  
6 carry out a project described in subsection (e)(2)  
7 shall provide a non-Federal share equal to not less  
8 than 25 percent of the cost of the project.

9 “(3) RULE FOR CERTAIN APPLICATIONS.—The  
10 Secretary shall waive or lower the non-Federal share  
11 required under this subsection for beginning farmers  
12 and ranchers and veterans applying for a grant  
13 under this section.

14 “(i) TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE.—The Secretary may  
15 provide to eligible entities technical assistance under this  
16 section, directly or through 1 or more cooperative agree-  
17 ments.

18 “(j) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—In addi-  
19 tion to amounts otherwise available, there are authorized  
20 to be appropriated to the Secretary such sums as are nec-  
21 essary to carry out this section for each of fiscal years  
22 2027 through 2031, to remain available until expended.”.

