

## Amendment offered by \_\_\_\_\_

### Brief Summary

Amendment would repurpose 23% of the total spending in the bill, excluding the assistance for Socially Disadvantaged Farmers (Secs. 1005 and 1006) and the extension of the 15% increase in SNAP (Sec. 1011(a), and direct the savings to address the urgent needs for rural families, businesses, and communities including:

- Providing assistance through The Renewable Fuel Reimbursement Program, to help domestic biofuel producers who were in production in 2019 and experienced market losses from the COVID-19 Pandemic.
- \$200 million for the Distance Learning and Telemedicine Program, to help rural schools, hospitals, and health providers offer critical services to in rural communities through the pandemic.
- \$335 million in additional funding for longterm investments in needed broadband infrastructure, by funding the broadband programs developed in the 2018 Farm Bill, including \$200 million for the Broadband Access Program, \$50 million for the Middle Mile Broadband Program, and \$85 Million for Community Connect Grants.
- \$500 million in critical new assistance for rural residents unable to pay their utility bills and rural utility operators hard hit by lost revenues due to the pandemic. The amendment provides debt forgiveness for subscribers who are unable to pay their bills and low interest loans to utility providers to help the bridge this temporary shortfall in revenues.
- \$400 million to help rural hospitals and essential facility operators restructure, refinance, and reduce their existing debts, fund their ongoing operations, and address the challenges of COVID-19.
- \$45 million to provide relief for borrowers under the Rural Business Service programs equal to the relief provided to businesses under the Small Business Administration programs.

**AMENDMENT TO THE COMMITTEE PRINT  
OFFERED BY MR. THOMPSON OF  
PENNSYLVANIA**

At the end, add the following:

1 **Subtitle C—Assistance for Rural**  
2 **Families, Businesses, and Com-**  
3 **munities**

4 **SEC. 1021. REDUCTION OF CERTAIN DOLLAR AMOUNTS.**

5 Each dollar amount that is specified in any preceding  
6 provision of this title, other than section 1005 or 1006,  
7 and that is to be made available by reason of the provision,  
8 is hereby reduced by half.

9 **SEC. 1022. RENEWABLE FUEL REIMBURSEMENT PROGRAM.**

10 (a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary of Agriculture (in  
11 this section referred to as the “Secretary”) shall make  
12 payments in accordance with this section to eligible enti-  
13 ties that experienced unexpected market losses as a result  
14 of the COVID–19 pandemic during the applicable period.

15 (b) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

16 (1) APPLICABLE PERIOD.—The term “applica-  
17 ble period” means January 1, 2020, through May 1,  
18 2020.

1           (2) ELIGIBLE ENTITY.—The term “eligible enti-  
2           ty” means any domestic entity or facility that pro-  
3           duced any qualified fuel in the calendar year 2019.

4           (3) QUALIFIED FUEL.—The term “qualified  
5           fuel” means any advanced biofuel, biomass-based  
6           diesel, cellulosic biofuel, conventional biofuel, or re-  
7           newable fuel, as such terms are defined in section  
8           211(o)(1) of the Clean Air Act (42 U.S.C.  
9           7545(o)(1)), that is produced in the United States.

10          (c) AMOUNT OF PAYMENT.—The amount of the pay-  
11          ment payable to an eligible entity shall be the sum of—

12               (1) \$0.45 multiplied by the number of gallons  
13               of qualified fuel produced by the eligible entity dur-  
14               ing the applicable period; and

15               (2) if the Secretary determines that the eligible  
16               entity was unable to produce any qualified fuel  
17               throughout 1 or more calendar months during the  
18               applicable period due to the COVID-19 pandemic,  
19               \$0.45 multiplied by 50 percent of the number of gal-  
20               lons produced by the eligible entity in the cor-  
21               responding month or months in calendar year 2019.

22          (d) REPORT.—Not later than 180 days after the date  
23          of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary shall submit  
24          to the Committee on Agriculture of the House of Rep-  
25          resentatives and the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition,

1 and Forestry of the Senate a report on the payments made  
2 under this section, including the identity of each payment  
3 recipient and the amount of the payment paid to the pay-  
4 ment recipient.

5 (e) FUNDING.—There is appropriated, out of any  
6 funds in the Treasury not otherwise appropriated, such  
7 sums as may be necessary for payments to eligible entities  
8 under this section.

9 (f) ADMINISTRATION.—

10 (1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall use the  
11 funds, facilities, and authorities of the Commodity  
12 Credit Corporation to carry out this section.

13 (2) REGULATIONS.—

14 (A) IN GENERAL.—Except as otherwise  
15 provided in this section, not later than 30 days  
16 after the date of the enactment of this Act, the  
17 Secretary and the Commodity Credit Corpora-  
18 tion, as appropriate, shall prescribe such regu-  
19 lations as are necessary to carry out this sec-  
20 tion.

21 (B) PROCEDURE.—The promulgation of  
22 regulations under, and administration of, this  
23 section shall be made without regard to—

1 (i) the notice and comment provisions  
2 of section 553 of title 5, United States  
3 Code; and

4 (ii) chapter 35 of title 44, United  
5 States Code (commonly known as the “Pa-  
6 perwork Reduction Act”).

7 **SEC. 1023. ASSISTANCE FOR RURAL BROADBAND**  
8 **CONNECTIVITY.**

9 In addition to amounts otherwise available, there is  
10 appropriated out of any money in the Treasury not other-  
11 wise appropriated—

12 (1) \$200,000,000 to carry out chapter 1 of sub-  
13 title D of title XXIII of the Food, Agriculture, Con-  
14 servation, and Trade Act of 1990, to remain avail-  
15 able through September 30, 2022;

16 (2) \$200,000,000, to carry out section 601 of  
17 the Rural Electrification Act of 1936, to remain  
18 available through September 30, 2026;

19 (3) \$50,000,000 to carry out section 602 of the  
20 Rural Electrification Act of 1936, to remain avail-  
21 able through September 30, 2026; and

22 (4) \$85,000,000 to carry out section 604 of the  
23 Rural Electrification Act of 1936, to remain avail-  
24 able through September 30, 2026.

1 **SEC. 1024. ASSISTANCE FOR RURAL BUSINESSES.**

2 (a) DEFINITION OF COVERED LOAN.—In this sec-  
3 tion, the term “covered loan” means a loan that is—

4 (1) made by an intermediary lender to an ulti-  
5 mate recipient using a loan received under section  
6 1323 of the Food Security Act of 1985 (7 U.S.C.  
7 1932 note; Public Law 99–198) or section 310H of  
8 the Consolidated Farm and Rural Development Act  
9 (7 U.S.C. 1936b; Public Law 113–79);

10 (2) made by a microenterprise development or-  
11 ganization to a microentrepreneur under section  
12 379E of the Consolidated Farm and Rural Develop-  
13 ment Act (7 U.S.C. 2008s); or

14 (3) guaranteed under section 310B(g) of the  
15 Consolidated Farm and Rural Development Act.

16 (b) PRINCIPAL AND INTEREST PAYMENTS.—

17 (1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary of Agriculture  
18 (referred to in this section as the “Secretary”) shall,  
19 subject to paragraph (2), pay the principal, interest,  
20 and any associated fees that are owed on a covered  
21 loan in a regular servicing status—

22 (A) with respect to a covered loan made  
23 before the date of enactment of this Act and  
24 not on deferment, for the 9-month period begin-  
25 ning with the next payment due on the covered  
26 loan;

1 (B) with respect to a covered loan made  
2 before the date of enactment of this Act and on  
3 deferment, for the 9-month period beginning  
4 with the next payment due on the covered loan  
5 after the deferment period; and

6 (C) with respect to a covered loan made  
7 during the period beginning on the date of en-  
8 actment of this Act and ending on the date that  
9 is 6 months after that date of enactment, for  
10 the 9-month period beginning with the first  
11 payment due on the covered loan.

12 (2) LIMITATION ON PAYMENT.—A single  
13 monthly payment of principal, interest, and associ-  
14 ated fees made under paragraph (1) with respect to  
15 a covered loan in the last 3 months of the 9-month  
16 period described in paragraph (1) shall not exceed  
17 \$9,000.

18 (3) TIMING OF PAYMENT.—The Secretary shall  
19 begin making payments under paragraph (1) on a  
20 covered loan not later than 30 days after the date  
21 on which the first payment described in that para-  
22 graph is due.

23 (4) APPLICATION OF PAYMENT.—Any payment  
24 made by the Secretary under paragraph (1) shall be

1 applied to the covered loan such that the borrower  
2 is relieved of the obligation to pay that amount.

3 (c) OTHER REQUIREMENTS.—The Secretary shall—

4 (1) communicate and coordinate with the Fed-  
5 eral Deposit Insurance Corporation, the Office of the  
6 Comptroller of the Currency, and State bank regu-  
7 lators to encourage those entities to not require  
8 lenders to increase their reserves on account of re-  
9 ceiving payments made by the Secretary under sub-  
10 section (b);

11 (2) waive statutory limits on maximum loan  
12 maturities for any covered loan durations where the  
13 lender provides a deferral and extends the maturity  
14 of covered loans during the 1-year period following  
15 the date of enactment of this Act; and

16 (3) when necessary to provide more time be-  
17 cause of the potential of higher volumes, travel re-  
18 strictions, and the inability to access some properties  
19 during the COVID-19 pandemic, extend lender site  
20 visit requirements to—

21 (A) not more than 60 days (which may be  
22 extended at the discretion of the Secretary)  
23 after the occurrence of an adverse event, other  
24 than a payment default, causing a loan to be  
25 classified as in liquidation; and



1 (B) not more than 90 days after a pay-  
2 ment default.

3 (d) EFFECT.—Nothing in this section limits the au-  
4 thority of the Secretary to make payments pursuant to  
5 subsection (b) with respect to a covered loan solely because  
6 the covered loan has been sold in the secondary market.

7 (e) APPROPRIATION.—There is appropriated, out of  
8 any funds in the Treasury not otherwise appropriated,  
9 \$45,000,000 for activities authorized by this section.

10 **SEC. 1025. ASSISTANCE FOR RURAL FAMILIES AND ESSEN-**  
11 **TIAL UTILITY PROVIDERS.**

12 (a) IN GENERAL.—Title VII of the Rural Electrifica-  
13 tion Act of 1936 (7 U.S.C. 950cc–950cc-2) is amended  
14 by adding at the end the following:

15 **“SEC. 704. RURAL UTILITY BRIDGE LOANS.**

16 **“(a) LINE OF CREDIT.—**

17 **“(1) IN GENERAL.—**The Secretary may provide  
18 an eligible borrower with a line of credit from which  
19 a loan may be made to replace qualified losses as a  
20 result of a covered emergency.

21 **“(2) AMOUNT.—**The amount of the line of cred-  
22 it shall be the lesser of—

23 **“(A)** 25 percent of the total revenue re-  
24 ceived by the borrower during the 12-month pe-  
25 riod ending with the day before the date of the

1 determination referred to in subsection (c)(3)

2 with respect to the covered emergency; or

3 “(B) \$5,000,000.

4 “(b) LOANS.—

5 “(1) IN GENERAL.—On receipt by the Secretary  
6 of documentation that the eligible borrower has a  
7 qualified loss as a result of a covered emergency, the  
8 Secretary shall make a loan to the borrower from  
9 the line of credit in an amount equal to the lesser  
10 of—

11 “(A) the qualified loss; or

12 “(B) the unused amount of the line of  
13 credit.

14 “(2) ELIGIBILITY OF QUALIFIED LOSS.—

15 “(A) IN GENERAL.—Except as provided in  
16 subparagraph (B) of this paragraph, a qualified  
17 loss is eligible for a loan made from the line of  
18 credit if the loss is incurred not more than 180  
19 days after the date of the determination re-  
20 ferred to in subsection (c)(3) with respect to  
21 the covered emergency.

22 “(B) AUTHORITY TO ADJUST.—The Sec-  
23 retary may—

1           “(i) on request of the eligible bor-  
2           rower, reduce the length of eligibility pe-  
3           riod described in subparagraph (A); or

4           “(ii) on a determination that the bor-  
5           rower is continuing to incur significant  
6           qualified losses as a result of a covered  
7           emergency, increase the length of the pe-  
8           riod.

9           “(3) LOAN TERMS.—

10           “(A) NO PAYMENT REQUIRED DURING  
11           EMERGENCY.—During the covered emergency,  
12           interest on the loan shall not accrue, and repay-  
13           ment of principal on the loan shall not be re-  
14           quired.

15           “(B) LOAN CONSOLIDATION AFTER EMER-  
16           GENCY ENDS.—Unless the Secretary determines  
17           that the borrower requires additional time to  
18           submit documentation of qualified losses, on the  
19           date that is 60 days after the eligibility period  
20           described in paragraph (2) ends, the Secretary  
21           shall close the line of credit, and consolidate all  
22           loans made to the borrower under this section  
23           with respect to the emergency into a single loan  
24           with the following terms:

1                   “(i) GRACE PERIOD.—During the 2-  
2                   year period that begins with the date the  
3                   consolidated loan is made, interest on the  
4                   consolidated loan shall not accrue, and re-  
5                   payment of principal on the consolidated  
6                   loan shall not be required.

7                   “(ii) INTEREST.—Interest on the con-  
8                   solidated loan shall accrue at a rate of 1  
9                   percent per year during the 3-year period  
10                  that begins at the end of that 2-year pe-  
11                  riod.

12                  “(iii) REPAYMENT PERIOD.—The loan  
13                  shall be repayable in full by the end of the  
14                  5-year period that begins with the date the  
15                  consolidated loan is made.

16                  “(C) NO FEE OR PREPAYMENT PEN-  
17                  ALTY.—The Secretary may not impose a fee or  
18                  prepayment penalty with respect to any loan  
19                  made under this section.

20                  “(4) FORGIVENESS.—

21                  “(A) IN GENERAL.—Except as provided in  
22                  subparagraph (B), if the borrower makes 1 or  
23                  more qualified write-offs after the 1-year period  
24                  that begins with the date a consolidated loan is  
25                  made to the borrower under this section, the

1 Secretary shall forgive repayment of a portion  
2 of the loan, in an amount equal to—

3 “(i) 90 percent of the first \$500,000  
4 of the total amount of the qualified write-  
5 offs;

6 “(ii) 60 percent of the next  
7 \$1,000,000 of the total amount of the  
8 qualified write-offs; and

9 “(iii) 30 percent of the next  
10 \$1,000,000 of the total amount of the  
11 qualified write-offs.

12 “(B) INELIGIBILITY OF BORROWER WHO  
13 INTERRUPTS SERVICE DURING EMERGENCY.—  
14 Subparagraph (A) shall not apply with respect  
15 to the borrower if, during the covered emer-  
16 gency, the borrower suspends or interrupts util-  
17 ity service to any customer or subscriber of the  
18 borrower for non-payment of an amount owed  
19 to the borrower.

20 “(c) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

21 “(1) ELIGIBLE BORROWER.—The term ‘eligible  
22 borrower’ means an entity that—

23 “(A) provides electric, telecommunications,  
24 clean water, waste water, or waste disposal  
25 services; and

1 “(B) is eligible for assistance under—

2 “(i) section 4, 201, or 601 of the  
3 Rural Electrification Act of 1936; or

4 “(ii) section 306(a) of the Consoli-  
5 dated Farm and Rural Development Act.

6 “(2) QUALIFIED LOSS.—

7 “(A) IN GENERAL.—Subject to subpara-  
8 graph (B), the term ‘qualified loss’ means, with  
9 respect to a borrower and a covered emer-  
10 gency—

11 “(i) an amount owed to the borrower  
12 for services provided during the emergency,  
13 which are more than 15 days past due; and

14 “(ii) an amount not received by the  
15 borrower because of reduced demand for  
16 services sold by the borrower on a per-unit  
17 basis, to the extent that the reduction is  
18 attributable to the emergency.

19 “(B) REDUCTION.—The total amount de-  
20 termined under subparagraph (A) shall be re-  
21 duced by the fair market value of any assist-  
22 ance received by the borrower from any source  
23 while the line of credit is open, for the purpose  
24 of offsetting the loss of routine operating rev-  
25 enue or covering the cost of routine operating

1 expenses, during the covered emergency, exclud-  
2 ing any assistance provided to repair, recover,  
3 or rebuild from damage due to the emergency.

4 “(3) COVERED EMERGENCY.—The term ‘cov-  
5 ered emergency’ means—

6 “(A) a major disaster or emergency, as de-  
7 termined by the President under the Robert T.  
8 Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assist-  
9 ance Act;

10 “(B) a natural disaster, as determined by  
11 the Secretary of Agriculture; or

12 “(C) an emergency involving Federal pri-  
13 mary responsibility determined to exist by the  
14 President under the section 501(b) of such Act.

15 “(4) QUALIFIED WRITE-OFF.—The term ‘quali-  
16 fied write-off’ means, with respect to a borrower—

17 “(A) an amount described in paragraph  
18 (2)(A)(i), if the borrower assigns to the Sec-  
19 retary the right to any payment of the amount;  
20 and

21 “(B) 90 percent of an amount described in  
22 paragraph (2)(A)(ii).

23 “(d) REGULATIONS.—The Secretary may, on an ex-  
24 pedited basis, prescribe such regulations as are necessary  
25 to carry out the preceding provisions of this section.

1 “(e) RURAL UTILITY BRIDGE LOAN FUND.—

2 “(1) ESTABLISHMENT.—There is established in  
3 the Treasury of the United States a revolving fund  
4 to be known as the ‘Rural Utility Bridge Loan  
5 Fund’ (in this subsection referred to as the ‘Fund’).

6 “(2) DEPOSITS AND CREDITS.—There shall be  
7 deposited in, or credited to, the Fund the following:

8 “(A) All amounts appropriated to the  
9 Fund.

10 “(B) All amounts paid as principal or in-  
11 terest on a loan made under this section.

12 “(C) All interest on, and proceeds from the  
13 sale or redemption of, any obligations invested  
14 in under paragraph (4).

15 “(3) USE OF FUNDS.—

16 “(A) IN GENERAL.—The amounts in the  
17 Fund shall be available for the cost of making  
18 loans under this section without further appro-  
19 priation.

20 “(B) ADMINISTRATIVE EXPENSES.—With  
21 respect to each covered emergency, the Sec-  
22 retary may use amounts in the Fund for admin-  
23 istrative expenses, as follows:

24 “(i) ESTABLISHMENT OF LINES OF  
25 CREDIT.—For expenses incurred in estab-



1           lishing lines of credit under this section, an  
2           amount equal to 1 percent of the Fund  
3           balance as of the date of the determination  
4           referred to in subsection (c)(3) with re-  
5           spect to the covered emergency.

6           “(ii) MAKING AND SERVICING OF  
7           LOANS.—During each fiscal year, for ex-  
8           penses incurred in making and servicing  
9           loans (including consolidated loans) under  
10          this section, an amount equal to 3 percent  
11          of the average total amount of loans out-  
12          standing under this section during the fis-  
13          cal year with respect to the covered emer-  
14          gency.

15          “(iii) LIMITATION.—In addition, the  
16          Secretary may not use more than  
17          \$30,000,000 during each fiscal year for  
18          any administrative expense incurred in car-  
19          rying out this section.

20          “(4) INVESTMENTS.—

21                 “(A) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary may re-  
22                 quest the Secretary of the Treasury to invest  
23                 the portion of the Fund that is not, in the judg-  
24                 ment of the Secretary of Agriculture, required  
25                 to meet the current needs of the Fund.



1       opment Act and is located in a rural area (within  
2       the meaning of section 343(a)(13)(C) of such Act,  
3       subject to sections 343(a)(13)(II) and 343(a)(13)(I)  
4       of such Act);

5           (2) provide a zero interest loan or a 1 percent  
6       loan to, forgive principal or interest or modify any  
7       term or condition of an outstanding loan made to,  
8       or refinance part or all of any other loan if the pur-  
9       pose of the loan or loan part is an eligible purpose  
10      under such section 306(a)(1) to any hospital, health  
11      facility, public safety facility, or education facility  
12      that is eligible for a direct loan under such section  
13      306(a)(1); and

14          (3) reduce or eliminate any fee that is would  
15      otherwise be required to be paid under such section  
16      306(a)(1) or 310B(g) with respect to a loan guar-  
17      antee provided to any hospital, health facility, public  
18      safety facility, or education facility, on the condition  
19      that the borrower receives the benefit resulting from  
20      the reduction or elimination of the fee.

21      (b) LEVEL OF ASSISTANCE.—The Secretary may pro-  
22      vide assistance to an entity under this section as the Sec-  
23      retary determines is necessary to—

24          (1) ensure that the entity has the necessary re-  
25      sources to maintain public health, safety, or order;

1           (2) address financial hardships of the entity  
2           due to the COVID-19 public health emergency; or

3           (3) promote the financial stability of the entity.

4           (c) USE OF FUNDS.—An entity to which assistance  
5 is provided under this section may use the assistance—

6           (1) for any purpose for which the entity is eligi-  
7 ble for assistance under such section 306(a)(1) or  
8 310B; or

9           (2) for any eligible direct operational expenses  
10 of the entity, as determined by the Secretary.

11          (d) NOTICE.—The Secretary may disburse funds  
12 under this section pursuant to 1 or more notices in the  
13 Federal Register, without regard to publication of any  
14 final rulemaking.

15          (e) APPROPRIATION.—

16           (1) IN GENERAL.—Out of any money in the  
17 Treasury of the United States not otherwise appro-  
18 priated, there are appropriated \$400,000,000 to  
19 carry out this section.

20           (2) RESERVATION FOR ASSISTANCE TO HOS-  
21 PITALS AND HEALTH FACILITIES.—The Secretary  
22 shall reserve \$200,000,000 of the amount appro-  
23 priated by paragraph (1) for assistance to hospitals  
24 and health facilities eligible for assistance under this  
25 section.

1           (3) RESERVATION FOR ADMINISTRATIVE EX-  
2           PENSES.—The Secretary shall reserve 3 percent of  
3           the amount appropriated by paragraph (1) for ad-  
4           ministrative expenses incurred in carrying out this  
5           section.

6           (4) AVAILABILITY.—The amount appropriated  
7           in paragraph (1) shall remain available through De-  
8           cember 31, 2022.

