Amendment No.

Offered by Rep. Gabe Vasquez (NM-02)

Amendment Description:

Re-instates the Inflation Reduction Act's climate sideboards by permanently ensuring the IRA funding rolled into the conservation baseline is focused on climate-smart practices.

Revision: The amendment updates the percentage of program funding USDA must spend on climate-smart practices.
AMENDMENT TO H.R. 8467
OFFERED BY MR. VASQUEZ OF NEW MEXICO

Beginning on page 142, strike line 19 and all that follows through page 144, line 4 and insert the following:

(3) by amending paragraph (2) to read as follows:

"(2)(A) Subject to subparagraph (B), the agricultural conservation easement program under subtitle II, using, to the maximum extent practicable—

"(i) $600,000,000 for fiscal year 2025;

"(ii) $625,000,000 for fiscal year 2026;

"(iii) $650,000,000 for fiscal year 2027;

"(iv) $675,000,000 for fiscal year 2028;

and

"(v) $700,000,000 for fiscal year 2029.

"(B) Of the funds made available under subparagraph (A), for each fiscal year, a percentage of such funds, which is not less than the percentage of funds made available to carry out the agricultural conservation easement program for the preceding fiscal year that was expended on easements or interests in land that would reduce, capture, avoid, or sequester carbon dioxide, methane, or nitrous oxide..."
emissions, shall be available for easements or interests in land that will most reduce, capture, avoid, or sequester carbon dioxide, methane, or nitrous oxide emissions associated with land eligible under the program.”;

(4) by amending paragraph (3) to read as follows:

“(3) The programs under chapter 4, using, to the maximum extent practicable, the following:

“(A)(i) Subject to clause (ii), for the environmental quality incentives program under subchapter A of chapter 4—

“(I) $2,400,000,000 for fiscal year 2025;

“(II) $2,600,000,000 for fiscal year 2026;

“(III) $2,800,000,000 for fiscal year 2027;

“(IV) $3,100,000,000 for fiscal year 2028; and

“(V) $3,120,000,000 for fiscal year 2029.

“(ii) Of the funds made available under clause (i), for each fiscal year, a percentage of such funds, which is not less than the percent-
age of funds made available to carry out the en-
vironmental quality incentives program for the
preceding fiscal year that was expended on pay-
ments for the implementation of 1 or more ag-
gricultural conservation practices or enhance-
ments that the Secretary determined would di-
rectly improve soil carbon, reduce nitrogen
losses, or reduce, capture, avoid, or sequester
carbon dioxide, methane, or nitrous oxide emis-
sions, associated with agricultural production,
shall—

“(I) be available for payments for the
implementation of 1 or more agricultural
conservation practices or enhancements
that the Secretary determines directly im-
prove soil carbon, reduce nitrogen losses,
or reduce, capture, avoid, or sequester car-
bondioxide, methane, or nitrous oxide emis-
sions, associated with agricultural pro-
duction; and

“(II) not be included in the amount
made available for payments under the
program for purposes of calculating the
percentage required to be targeted under
section 1240B(f)(1).
“(B)(i) Subject to clause (ii), for the con-
servation stewardship program under sub-
chapter B of chapter 4—

“(I) $1,275,000,000 for fiscal year
2025;

“(II) $1,300,000,000 for fiscal year
2026;

“(III) $1,325,000,000 for fiscal year
2027;

“(IV) $1,350,000,000 for fiscal year
2028; and

“(V) $1,375,000,000 for fiscal year
2029.

“(ii) Of the funds made available under
clause (i), for each fiscal year, a percentage of
such funds, which is not less than the percent-
age of funds made available to carry out the
conservation stewardship program for the pre-
ceding fiscal year that was expended on con-
tracts for 1 or more agricultural conservation
practices, enhancements, or bundles that the
Secretary determined would directly improve
soil carbon, reduce nitrogen losses, or reduce,
capture, avoid, or sequester carbon dioxide,
methane, or nitrous oxide emissions, associated
with agricultural production, shall be available for contracts for 1 or more agricultural conservation practices, enhancements, or bundles that the Secretary determines directly improve soil carbon, reduce nitrogen losses, or reduce, capture, avoid, or sequester carbon dioxide, methane, or nitrous oxide emissions, associated with agricultural production.”; and

Beginning on page 144, strike lines 15 through 23 and insert the following:

“(6)(A) Subject to subparagraph (B), the regional conservation partnership program under subtitle J, using, to the maximum extent practicable—

“(i) $400,000,000 for fiscal year 2025;
“(ii) $425,000,000 for fiscal year 2026;
“(iii) $450,000,000 for fiscal year 2027;
“(iv) $450,000,000 for fiscal year 2028;
and
“(v) $450,000,000 for fiscal year 2029.

“(B) For each fiscal year—

“(i) of the funds made available under subparagraph (A), a percentage of such funds, which is not less than the percentage of funds made available to carry out the regional conservation partnership program for the preceding
fiscal year that was expended to fund partnership agreements under section 1271C(d) to support the implementation of conservation projects to assist agricultural producers and nonindustrial private forestland owners in directly improving soil carbon, reducing nitrogen losses, or reducing, capturing, avoiding, or sequestering carbon dioxide, methane, or nitrous oxide emissions, associated with agricultural production, shall be available for the Secretary for partnership agreements under section 1271C(d) that support the implementation of conservation projects that assist agricultural producers and nonindustrial private forestland owners in directly improving soil carbon, reducing nitrogen losses, or reducing, capturing, avoiding, or sequestering carbon dioxide, methane, or nitrous oxide emissions, associated with agricultural production; and

“(ii) partnership agreements described in clause (i) funded by the funds available under such clause shall not apply toward the limitation described in section 1271C(d)(2)(B).”